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Inmate swap terms in few days
Aden

Yemen's warring parties are expected to agree on the terms of a prisoner exchange in around 10 days, a representative of the internationally recognised Yemeni government said on Wednesday. Talks between the two sides took place in Jordan last week. Both parties need to agree on lists of prisoners to be swapped.

"We expect that in 10 days time the final signing will have happened," the head of the government delegation to the prisoner-exchange talks, Hadi Haig, told Reuters by telephone.

Conspiracy case linked to Qatar
London

Four former Barclays executives conspired to commit fraud by hiding £322 million of payments to Qatar in return for cash injections in 2008, a prosecutor alleged at the opening of one of London's most high-profile criminal trials.

Former chief executive John Varley and three former directors are the most senior bankers to be prosecuted in Britain over events during the financial crisis, when Barclays avoided a state bailout by raising more than £11 billion from mainly Gulf investors in two cash calls.



- 02 Busaiteen pays tribute to HRH Premier
- 03 'House, SCW co-operation vital'
- 04 Bapco attains major milestone as modernisation programme starts



Salaries ready for VRS first batch candidates
Manama

The President of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Ahmed Al Zayed, yesterday announced that the CSB will efficiently transfer the salaries of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)'s 773 successful candidates who are transitioning to retirement on

January 31. Mr Al Zayed went on noting that the salary transfer on January 24th will include additional purchased years of service, end of service entitlements, previous promotion differences, and the Periodic Annual Allowance in accordance with the Kingdom's 2019 Salaries and Benefits regulation.



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The CBB is committed to efficiently carry out the retirement of successful VRS candidates.
 MR AL ZAYED

He concluded by reiterating CSB's commitment to efficiently transition the remaining VRS's successful candidates to retirement, and reminded all human resource directorates that fall under the CSB to continue uploading all successful candidates' information to the 'Horizon' portal in accordance with the scheme's time plan.

Syria co-operation vow

Erdogan and Putin vow closer co-operation on Syria at Moscow talks

- The two leaders are on opposite sides of the Syria conflict.
- Russia and Turkey have agreed to coordinate ground operations in Syria.

Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan at a meeting in Moscow yesterday vowed to co-ordinate their actions more closely in Syria.

"Co-operation between Russia and Turkey is a touchstone



Putin with Erdogan after talks in Moscow.

for Syrian peace and stability," Erdogan said in translated comments at a joint press conference after their talks, which lasted around three hours. "With our Russian friends we intend to strengthen our coordination even more."

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We agreed how we'll coordinate our work in the near future.
 PUTIN

"We agreed how we'll coordinate our work in the near future," Putin said, calling the talks which included the countries' defence ministers "effective."

At the start of their meeting in the Kremlin, Putin addressed Erdogan as "dear friend," saying that their countries "work on issues of regional security and actively cooperate on Syria."

Erdogan used the same term for Putin and said "our solidarity makes a weighty contribution to the security of the region."

The two leaders are on opposite sides of the Syria conflict: Russia provides critical support to the Syrian government, while Turkey has backed rebel groups fighting President Bashar Assad's forces.

Despite this, they have worked closely to find a political solution to the seven-year conflict.

Russia and Turkey have agreed to co-ordinate ground operations in Syria following US President Donald Trump's shock announcement last month about pulling 2,000 American troops out of Syria.

Putin said that if carried out, the withdrawal of US troops from northeastern Syria "will be a positive step, it will help stabilise the situation in this restive area."

VEGAN ANGER

Hindus urge top Aussie bank to print beef-free notes
Canberra

The Hindu community is requesting the Reserve Bank of Australia print beef-free banknotes after it was revealed that cow fat is used in their production.

Newly designed banknotes are being introduced into the country, with the new \$5, \$10, and \$50 notes already in circulation.

The \$20 and \$100 notes will be introduced in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

This week, President of the Universal Society of Hinduism,

440,000
 Hindus live in the country, according to 2016 census Data revealed by the Australian Government.

Rajan Zed, asked the RBA to 'show respect to the feelings of Hindus and come up with a banknote production process which did not use beef as an ingredient'.

Small amounts of tallow,

which is rendered from beef or mutton fat, are used in the production of polymer currency to provide anti-static properties.

Cows are sacred to Hindus and the consumption of beef is highly conflicting to Hindu beliefs. It is banned in Hindu religious centres.

Mr Zed has urged RBA Governor Philip Lowe to take the issue seriously and for Scott Morrison to step in because it is 'highly insensitive on the part of RBA to continue with reportedly beef-laced banknotes'.

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