

## Two Saudi astronauts land safely on earth

Riyadh

Saudi astronauts Rayyanah Barnawi and Ali Alqarni, and Americans Peggy Whitson and John Schoffner, made a safe splashdown off the coast of Florida early yesterday morning, after completing a successful eight-day Ax-2 mission on the International Space Station.

The 12-hour journey of the Dragon capsule back to Earth from the ISS was watched live by many Saudi citizens, who expressed pride at the contribution of the two Saudi astronauts to space research.

After 10 days in orbit, Dragon and the Ax-2 crew have returned to Earth.

Barnawi and Alqarni successfully completed 14 science experiments in space. Three were part of the education outreach microgravity experiments, which involved over 12,000 students from 47 locations across the Kingdom.

## Sudan army quits ceasefire talks

AFP | Khartoum

Sudanese army forces blasted paramilitary bases with artillery in Khartoum yesterday after pulling out of US and Saudi-brokered ceasefire talks, accusing their foes of failing to honour their commitments.

Mediators have blamed both sides for violating the truce which was supposed to enable secure corridors for delivering aid to an increasingly needy population.

In both the north and south of the capital, key bases of commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo's Rapid Support Forces came under attack by troops loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, residents said.



HM the King



President Erdogan

## HM King Hamad congratulates Turkey President on re-election

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday held a phone call with the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan and congratulated him on his

re-election.

HM the King wished President Erdogan success to continue leading Turkey to achieve further progress and prosperity, hailing long-standing relations binding the two countries.

President Erdogan expressed thanks and gratitude to HM the King on his congratulations, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain further progress and development, under his wise leadership.

# Iran 'increasing' nuclear stockpile

IAEA's separate confidential report shows progress in cooperation with Tehran

AFP | Vienna

Iran has significantly increased its stockpile of enriched uranium in recent months, continuing its nuclear escalation, a confidential report by the UN nuclear watchdog revealed yesterday.

The agency, however, noted progress in its cooperation with Iran in a separate report saying it has decided to close the file on nuclear material at an undeclared site, an issue which has long exacerbated relations between the two parties.

The two confidential reports come days before the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is due to meet to review progress in addressing the watchdog's remaining concerns.

The nuclear watchdog said in its quarterly report that Iran's estimated stockpile of enriched uranium had reached more than 23 times the limit set out in the

### Iran's nuclear sites



landmark 2015 accord between Tehran and world powers.

As of 13 May, Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile was estimated at 4,744.5 kilograms (10,459 pounds).

The limit in the 2015 deal was 202.8 kilograms.

The report also said that Iran is continuing its enrichment of uranium to levels higher than the 3.67 percent limit in the deal.

Efforts to revive the Iran nuclear deal - which was left in tatters by the unilateral withdrawal of the US in 2018 - have stalled since last summer.

The stockpile of uranium enriched up to 20 percent is now believed to be 470.9 kilograms - up 36.2 kg since the last report in February - while the amount enriched up to 60 percent stands at 114.1 kilograms, an increase of 26.6 kg.

Enrichment levels of around 90 percent are required for use in a nuclear weapon.

### Monitoring equipment

Meanwhile, the IAEA has been able to reinstall some monitoring equipment

set up under the 2015 nuclear deal - but which was later removed by Iran - the reports said.

"Iran has allowed the agency to install monitoring equipment at two declared enrichment facilities," it said.

Some additional surveillance cameras were also installed at workshops in Esfahan where "centrifuge rotor tubes and bellows are manufactured".

However, the agency said it awaits Iran's engagement to address "the completion of the installation of surveillance and monitoring equipment, access to data recordings and the gaps in the recordings."

On the detection of uranium particles enriched to near bomb-grade at the Fordo plant, the IAEA said it has "no further questions on the matter" for now.

"The Agency assessed that the information provided (by Iran) was not inconsistent with Iran's explanation for the origin of these particles," the report said.

### Audit company owner

## Three years in jail for failing to report suspicious transactions

TDT | Manama

An owner of a local audit company has been sentenced to three years in prison for failing to meet the money laundering requirements which compel him to report suspicious transactions.

According to a statement re-

leased by the Public Prosecution, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism reported the defendant after it was found that the company failed to live up to its obligations when auditing local establishments.

"The company had committed a number of violations when

it was assigned to perform the required audit procedures for various companies, including failure to implement the rules of due diligence towards clients and neglecting the application of the approach based on risks, keeping records and documents, and the obligation to submit re-

ports on suspicious operations," the statement explained.

The Public Prosecution heard the statements of the Head of Anti-Money Laundering Department at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce who discussed the pieces of proof that were collected against the

owner of the company, while the latter was questioned too and admitted to the violations he committed, revealed the Public Prosecution in the statement, warning against violating the regulations and laws of money laundering and financing terrorism.

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