

Treaty of Alcaçovas: Portugal gives the Canary Islands to Castile in exchange for claims in West Africa

Dred Scott Decision: US Supreme Court rules Africans cannot be US citizens



Dmitri Mendeleev presents the first periodic table of the elements to the Russian Chemical Society

"Aspirin" (acetylsalicylic acid) patented by Felix Hoffmann at German company Bayer

New cases of poisoning in different Iran regions: media

Tehran, Iran

More cases of mysterious poisoning of Iranian schoolgirls were reported yesterday in several provinces, local media reported, sparking calls for the authorities to act amid growing concern among parents.

Since late November, hundreds of cases have been reported, mainly in the holy city of Qom south of the capital Tehran, with at least 52 schools targeted, according to an official tally published on Saturday.

Some of the students have required hospitalisation.

The latest spate of poisonings affected several students in two high schools in the western city of Abhar and in the southwest-

ern city of Ahvaz, ISNA news agency said, quoting local health officials.

Schoolgirls at a primary school in the city of Zanjan in the west were also targeted, ISNA added.

More cases were reported in the holy city of Mashhad in the northeast, Isfahan in the centre and Shiraz in the south, according to Mehr and Ilna news agencies.

Dozens of schoolgirls were taken to local hospitals for treatment, the reports said.

On Friday, President Ebrahim Raisi said he had asked the ministers of intelligence and interior to follow up on the poisoning cases, dubbing them "the enemy's conspiracy to create fear and despair" among the

people.

Interviewed by the Fars news agency, Deputy Interior Minister Majid Mirahmadi said the "plotters of the poisoning of girls" were seeking "to close the schools".

He added, however, that those behind this action were also trying to spark more protests in the Islamic republic.

Mirahmadi was referring to the protest movement triggered in Iran by the September 16 death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a young ethnic Kurd arrested for an alleged breach of strict dress rules for women.

Mirahmadi said that most of the affected students suffered complications due to "anxiety and stress".

Three arrested over killing of Philippine governor

AFP | Pamplona

Three people have been arrested over the murder of a Philippine provincial governor and eight others, authorities said Sunday, adding another suspect was killed in a shootout.

Seventeen people were also wounded in the audacious attack on Saturday in the sugarcane-growing heartland of the Philippines.

At least six gunmen armed with rifles and wearing military-style uniforms opened fire in the governor's home in Pamplona municipality in the central province of Negros Oriental.

Governor Roel Degamo became the latest victim of a recent rash of assaults on local Philippine politicians.

Two of the three suspects arrested were former soldiers who were dishonourably discharged several years ago, the Philippine Army said in a statement.

A fourth suspect was killed in a shootout in a plantation on Saturday night, police spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Gerard Pelare told journalists.

Pelare said about 10 suspects were involved in the attack. Authorities believed they were still on the island after ports were closed to prevent their escape, he said.



Armed policemen man a check point in front of the municipal hall in Pamplona town in Negros Oriental

The previous death toll had been put at six but was raised to nine late Saturday, police said. Thirteen people were hospitalised for their wounds, while four others were treated for minor injuries.

Negros Oriental is one of two provinces on Negros island, which is the centre of the nation's sugar industry and home to some of the country's wealthiest landowners as well as some of its poorest farm workers.

Degamo, 56, was at least the third politician to be shot in the Philippines since last year's general election.

The Supreme Court declared him last month the rightful winner of the contest for the Negros Oriental governorship following a recount that unseat-

ed his rival, who had previously been proclaimed victor.

Degamo had campaigned for President Ferdinand Marcos during Marcos' run for the top job.

Marcos has condemned the "dastardly and heinous" assassination of his political ally and has sent his top officials, including police and military chiefs, to investigate.

Authorities presented evidence at a news conference on Sunday gathered from the suspects, including high-powered firearms and camouflage uniforms, and vowed to solve the case.

"We will capture the mastermind, I assure you that," Interior Secretary Benjamin Abalos said.

ent' from other UK royals

In his memoir, Harry acknowledges using cannabis regularly earlier in life, and cocaine on several occasions when he was a teenager, saying he was "willing to try almost anything that would alter the pre-established order".

"There are times when I catch myself when I should be smothering them with that love but I might not be."

He added that together with Meghan they were trying to learn "from our own past and overlapping those mistakes, perhaps, and growing to break that cycle".

In his memoir, Harry acknowledges using cannabis regularly earlier in life, and cocaine on several occasions when he was a teenager, saying he was "willing to try almost anything that would alter the pre-established order".

He reiterated to Mate that cocaine "didn't do anything for me" but said marijuana was "different".

-- the author of several books on trauma, addiction and illness -- publicly diagnosed Harry with attention deficit disorder (ADD). Summarising the prince's life, which has included losing his mother at the age of 12 and later serving with Britain's armed forces in Afghanistan, Mate said there was "a lot of trauma and suffering".

California-based Harry, who quit the UK and royal life with Meghan in 2020 amid a rift with the monarchy, opened up about his parenting style towards their two children, three-year-old Archie and one-year-old Lilibet. "I feel a huge responsibility not to pass on any trauma or negative experiences that I've had as a kid or as a man growing up," he said.



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TWEETS

01



Least Developed Countries contribute less than 4% of the world's greenhouse gases. Governments, businesses & civil society must deliver climate justice to those on the frontlines of the crisis. The era of broken promises must end now.

@antonioguterres

02



Delighted to meet @BillGates and have extensive discussions on key issues. His humility and passion to create a better as well as more sustainable planet are clearly visible.

@narendramodi

03



Aiming to roll out ability to reply to individual DMs, use any reaction emoji & encryption later this month

@elonmusk

04



School strike week 237. Today, hundreds of thousands of people were once again climate striking all over the world, demanding an end to fossil finance!

@GretaThunberg

LEGAL VIEWPOINT

Some legal issues about Family Companies



DR ABDELGADIR WARSAMA

Family companies exist in Bahrain and other Gulf Countries since long time and they took tremendous efforts to boost and develop trade and other related corporate issues. Those companies mostly started from zero balance, when established by older generations, but the founders were great, of exceptional determination and dedication that took the business to prominent future. Some of the family companies, in the region, are carefully doing remarkable work and good achievements from generation to generation. However, this legacy does not exist all through, in most cases, due to the fact that many family companies mostly diminish from the second or third generation.

There are many legal and corporate issues that could result in making certain obstacles in the pathway of many companies particularly family companies. However, we could say that some of the obstacles may arise for cultural or social reasons associated to the way of life in the region. And, this could happen in every part of the globe, the Gulf is not an exception by all means.

Apart from above instance, we believe that many family companies are lacking corporate governance rules. There is no clear segregation between the owners of the business and the business itself. They are all the same in one unit; the natural entity is not severed from the juristic entity. This could be one of the major setbacks facing family companies and leading to their diminishment. Corporate governance rules are essential for any corporate work activity otherwise the process will be greatly damaged and the whole system will reach a non-operating stage.

Founders of family companies, or in other words fathers of such companies, are required to establish and put in action a clear-cut corporate governance rules that are to be closely observed and monitored by all family members involved in the affairs of the company. The main concept emerging from application of the corporate rules relates to clear demarcation between the affairs of the company from one end and the affairs of the family from another end. No mixture or blending at all between the two affairs and each family member must understand and adhere to this concept. A built-in operational system within the family is required. This non-mixture includes, among other things, the financial matters and related administrative affairs while maintaining the juristic entity process. The company budget must always be different from personal wallet budget and vice versa ... etc. Also, family companies must have clear strategy, proper planning, standard accounting practices, different managerial levels including Board of Directors and executive body. The role of each must be clear and in order, however, they must support each other as observed in the "check-and-balance" concept.

The head(s) of the company must excel in giving good examples to younger generations and must plant family ego, values and traditions looking for good future harvest or, otherwise, deep roots in the tree of the family to face strong winds for survival. Nowadays, there is a legal requirement of injecting new ideas and brains by appointing good reliable independent outsiders in the Boards \ executives to play an independent active role in the affairs of the company, future plans and all other affairs for prosperous future.

Very clear succession plans in family companies are a must and should be carefully arranged for otherwise setbacks could happen and could lead to the end of the life of the company in very short span. Succession policy is not that difficult affair; however, it could cause a real headache and unnecessary havoc for the whole process and future prospects. The succession strategy in family companies will ultimately lead to trustful continuity among present and future generations. To achieve this goal, things must be put in action.

Family companies could be very strong or, in the other extreme, could be very fragile. In both cases, special intensive care is needed to go through for existence. Following legal corporate methods and solid corporate governance rules will yield in healthy and long-life family companies that will serve all family members and the community wherein they are existing. Thus, both ends will benefit. Better for all family companies to have a relook in their structure and to start reshaping for a new-look.

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