

1356

English forces under Edward the Black Prince defeat French at the Battle of Poitiers and capture the French King John II during the Hundred Years' War



1870

Siege of Paris by Prussian Forces begins (lasts until January 28 1871)

1893

New Zealand becomes the first country to grant all women the right to vote

1985

8.1 earthquake in Mexico City kills an estimated 10,000 and leaves 250,000 homeless

Prisoners after \$6bn deal

Transfer of \$6bn in unfrozen Iranian assets



Morad Tahbaz (R) are welcomed by people upon their arrival

...euros (\$5.95 billion) was deposited in six Iranian accounts with two Qatari banks yesterday, he said. "We're making a complaint on behalf of Iran against South Korea for not giving access to these funds and the reduction in value of these funds in order to receive damages," Mohammadreza Farzin said on state TV. The five Americans of Iranian descent -- all considered Iranian nationals by Tehran, which rejects dual nationality -- were released to house arrest when the deal was agreed last month. They included Namazi, a busi-

YOU KNOW WHAT

The prisoner exchange and fund release signify a rare diplomatic development between the US and Iran, with lingering disputes over the nature of the fund release and its impact on future negotiations

nessman arrested in 2015 on spying charges which his family has rejected. The others are wildlife conservationist Morad Tahbaz, venture capitalist Emad Sharqi, and two others who wished to remain anonymous. Last week, the official IRNA news agency identified the five Iranian prisoners. They include Reza Sarhangpour and Kam-biz Attar Kashani, both accused of violating US sanctions against Tehran. A third prisoner, Kaveh Lotfolah Afrasiabi, was detained at his home near Boston in 2021 and charged with being an Iranian government

Today, five innocent Americans who were imprisoned in Iran are finally coming home. As we celebrate the return of these Americans, we also remember those who did not return

JOE BIDEN

agent, according to US officials. The two others, Mehrdad Moein Ansari and Amin Hasanzadeh, were said to have links to Iranian security forces.

Nuclear dispute

Biden's administration has insisted Iran will only be allowed to use the unfrozen funds to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. Iran has denied any restrictions on use of the funds. Iran's Kanani has insisted the money will allow Tehran to "purchase all non-sanctioned goods", not just food and medicine. Biden took office with hopes of restoring the landmark 2015 nuclear agreement, under which Iran promised to constrain its contested nuclear work in return for sanctions relief.

Taiwan detects 103 Chinese warplanes around island



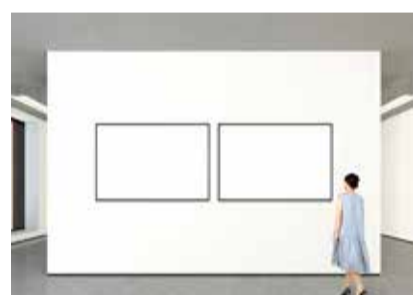
Chinese aircraft carrier Shandong (L) is seen being monitored by a Taiwanese Keelung class warship at sea

AFP | Taipei

Taiwan told China on Monday to stop its "destructive unilateral actions" after more than 100 Chinese warplanes and nine navy ships were detected in areas around the self-ruled island. Beijing claims Taiwan as its own territory to be seized one day, and has ramped up diplomatic and military pressure on Taipei in recent years. In the 24 hours between the morning of September 17 and 18, the defence ministry said it had detected a total of 103 Chinese warplanes, and it described the number as a "recent high". In a statement, it said the sorties "posed severe challenges to the security across the Taiwan Strait and in the region." Beijing's "continued military harassment can easily lead to a sharp escalation in tension and worsen regional security," the ministry said, as it called on Chi-

na to "immediately stop such destructive unilateral actions." Of the total number of warplanes detected, 40 crossed the so-called median line of the Taiwan Strait that separates the island from China, and entered its southwest and southeast air defence identification zone (ADIZ), the statement said. China's foreign ministry did not comment on the sorties, though its spokeswoman Mao Ning reaffirmed Beijing's position that Taiwan belongs to China. "What I would like to tell you is that Taiwan is part of China's territory, and the so-called median line does not exist," she said. Monday's announcement by Taipei came after an uptick in the number of incursions by Chinese warplanes and ships last week. Beijing said last week its troops were on "high alert" after two ships belonging to the United States and Canada sailed through the Taiwan Strait.

Danish artist ordered to return museum cash he took as 'art'



A visitor looks at two blank canvases entitled "Take the Money and Run," at Kunsten Museum

AFP | Copenhagen

A Danish court on Monday ordered an artist to refund a museum which gave him 70,000 euros in cash to incorporate into artworks and he delivered blank canvases entitled "Take the Money and Run". Jens Haaning was commissioned by the Kunsten Museum in the western city of Aalborg to reproduce two works using the cash -- Danish kroner and euros -- to represent the annual salary in Denmark and Austria. A Copenhagen court on Monday ordered Haaning, 58, to refund the museum 492,549 kroner (66,000 euros, \$70,480), equivalent to the sum the museum had given him minus the artist's fee and the mounting cost. Museum director Lasse Andersson previously told AFP that he laughed out loud when he first saw the two blank canvases in 2021, and decided to show the works anyway. He said they have a "humoristic approach" and were "a reflection on how we value work". But he said the museum would take Haaning to court if he didn't pay back the money, which he refused to do.

The Silent Threat of Rising Sea Levels



KOTA SRIRAJ

Amongst the myriad of environmental challenges, the most lethal and also the most silent threat happens to be the sea level rise. For an island nation like Bahrain, this natural threat assumes ever increasing proportions as land is already scarce and the prospect of the sea level rise usurping the coastal land seems daunting. Even a rise of 0.5 to 2 meters can submerge 5 to 18 percent of Bahrain's total area. In fact, Bahrain has already recorded sea level rises between 1.6 mm to 3.4 mm C every year since 1976. But this problem may get more difficult in the future. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change data, by year 2050 sea levels could rise by at least 0.5 meter which can not only threaten the coastal and low-lying areas but also pollute the quality of ground water.

The Kingdom is already battling with climate change and extreme heat. In this year alone temperatures in Bahrain have frequently breached the 44-degree Celsius mark sending the air-conditioners into overdrive. But Bahrain is bravely fighting the hostile climatic conditions and is taking effective measures to meet the challenges. In order to minimise the damage due to rising sea levels, Bahrain is planning to shore up its coastal defences by widening the beaches and constructing taller sea walls and elevating land. The nation is also taking commendable steps by aiming at reducing emissions by 30 percent by 2035 and scale up renewable energy to meet 10 percent of its energy needs. Bahrain is also looking to double the areas covered by greenery and quadruple the number of mangroves. As these areas then can absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over the next 12 years.

But there is another reason why Bahrain must not only put the multiplying of mangroves on fasttrack but should also add development and proliferation of salt marshes to the effort. Mangroves and salt marshes trap sediment and organic matter, allowing them to increase the land elevation. That affords rising protection against sea water inundation. In fact, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), just 15 horizontal feet of marshy terrain can absorb 50 percent of incoming wave energy. Similarly, Bahrain can also increase the focus on sea reefs as they grow faster and tend to outpace rising sea levels besides being good natural barriers. The rising sea levels are a silent threat globally and Bahrain is valiantly fighting with the same with resolve and determination. Adding the above initiatives to the efforts can help get even better results faster.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

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TOP 4 TWEETS

01



Monday marks two years since girls were banned from attending high school in Afghanistan. This is an unjustifiable violation of human rights that inflicts long-lasting damage on the entire country. Girls belong in school. Let them back in.

@antonioGuterres

02



We met today for the 4th meeting of the EU, @UN & @African-Union ahead of #UNGA78 to discuss the challenges & crises affecting our regions. The EU is strongly committed to strengthening our trilateral partnership across key areas - peace & security, climate change and migration.

@JosepBorrellF

03



We thank all participants for the super energizing Walk the Talk for #HealthForAll event in Central Park this morning to kick off the #UNGA in a healthy way. Special thanks to our youngest performers, who helped us to warm up...

@DrTedros

04



Nearly 70% of our kids who seek mental health care can't access it. When millions of young people are struggling, we owe them greater access. That's why we've invested billions to help schools hire and train mental health counselors and improve conditions for learning.

@POTUS

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