

Iran further escalates breaches of 2015 deal limits: IAEA

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 on Wednesday seen by AFP said.

The agency, however, noted progress in its cooperation with Iran and has decided to close the file on the presence of nuclear material at one of three undeclared sites, an issue which has poisoned relations between the two parties.

Eritrea releases 166 Yemeni fishermen held for months

AL-MUKALLA: Eritrean authorities have released 166 out of 267 detained Yemeni fishermen, but have refused to hand back their vessels or their personal belongings.

Locals said on Wednesday that the first group of 115 released fishermen arrived in the Red Sea town of Khokha on Tuesday, while a second group of 51 arrived on the same day in the coastal region south of the port city of Mocha.

The fishermen were detained by the Eritrean authorities five months ago while working in international waters.

Lebanon judge questions central bank chief over Munich arrest warrant

BEIRUT: A Lebanese judge questioned central bank chief Riad Salameh on Wednesday after Beirut received a second Interpol Red Notice targeting him, this time following an arrest warrant from Munich, a judicial official said. Salameh has been the subject of a series of judicial probes both at home and abroad into the fortune he has amassed during some three decades in the job. France earlier this month issued an arrest warrant for Salameh after he failed to appear for questioning in Paris.

[Iraq top court invalidates decisions of Kurdish parliament](#)

BAGHDAD: Iraq's supreme court on Tuesday ruled as unconstitutional the extended mandate of autonomous Kurdistan's parliament, rendering invalid votes taken by the chamber since last year.

It is the latest controversy between Iraq's federal authorities and Kurdistan whose leaders had on Saturday denounced amendments in the federal budget affecting oil sales from the region in Iraq's north.

[UAE launches training initiative for nation's diplomats](#)

ABU DHABI: The Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy in Abu Dhabi has launched a new training platform to enhance UAE diplomats' knowledge of international relations.

Known as TRAIN@AE, the initiative was created in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It aims to develop diplomats' skills in line with the UAE's foreign policy objectives and its international diplomatic profile, the Emirates News Agency reported on Tuesday.