



Sea urchins in Israel's Gulf of Eilat have been dying off at an alarming rate, researchers announced Wednesday...



United States announced at a UN conference nearly \$524 million in humanitarian aid for the Horn of Africa...

Germany gets tough with its climate activists

The raids were ordered in an investigation targeting 7 members of Last Generation

POLICE

BERLIN: German police on Wednesday raided homes of climate activists known for their controversial street blockade protests...

"organising a donations campaign to finance further criminal acts" for the group via its website. At least \$1.5 million had been collected in the campaign...

The authorities did not specify the "criminal action" they were referring to but said two of the suspects are alleged to have tried to sabotage an oil pipeline between Trieste, Italy, and Ingolstadt, Germany...

"They frighten us, but we must not persist in this fear. The government is steering us into a climate hell with our eyes wide open," she said.

"We must continue our resistance," she said, calling a demo next Wednesday.



HONOUR OF A LIFETIME

Sir Salman Rushdie poses after being made a Companion of Honour by Britain's Princess Anne during an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle.

Amid nuclear tensions, Iran to work with inspectors

ENERGY

DUBAI: The head of Iran's nuclear programme insisted on Wednesday that his government would cooperate with international inspectors on any "new activities."

His statement comes after a report about Tehran's new underground tunnel system near a nuclear enrichment facility was published.

The new tunnels near the Natanz facility are likely beyond the range of a last-ditch US weapon designed to destroy such sites.

The report sparked wider conversation across the Middle East about the construction,

with Israel's national security adviser saying on Tuesday the site would not be immune from attack even if its depth put it out of range of American airstrikes.

Speaking to journalists on Wednesday after a Cabinet meeting, Mohammad Eslami of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran sought to describe the interest in the site as a case of Israel feeling pressured.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is working under the IAEA safeguards, and whenever wants to start new activities, it will coordinate with the IAEA, and acts accordingly," Eslami said, using an acronym for the

Mother of Uvalde mass shooting victim perseveres through teaching

IN MEMORIAM

UVALDE: The first thing Veronica Mata sees when she wakes up each day is her 10-year-old daughter, Tess, smiling down at her from a photo perched on her bedside table.

Speaking to the silent image of the child she lost in one of the United States' most notorious mass shootings, Mata asks for the fortitude to go on and to be a good teacher.

"I just look at it and I just tell her, 'Tess, give me the strength,

baby girl. Help me get up."

Throughout the day, every day, Mata carries her daughter with her: "Tess 10" is written on her license plate. Dangling from the silver bracelet she wears on her left wrist is a charm that reads, "Uvalde Strong."

The slogan, adopted by other US cities after mass killings, became the mantra of her town after Tess, 18 other fourth-grade students and their two teachers were gunned down at Robb Elementary School on May 24,

2022. Mata, a kindergarten teacher at Dalton Elementary School, returned to the classroom at the start of the 2022-2023 school year for her 12th year. She wonders how she would keep her students safe if a shooter were to enter her classroom at a time when mass killings across the country are surpassing record levels.

"Where am I going to hide 20 students?" she remembers asking her husband when she cleaned out the room last summer.



Blame on Israel for explosion

Tehran blamed the explosion of above-ground centrifuge manufacturing centre at Natanz on Israel which is long suspected of running sabotage campaigns against its programme.

International Atomic Energy Agency. The IAEA did not respond to questions about the construction at Natanz, about 225 km south of Tehran. Natanz has been a point of international concern since its existence became known two decades ago.

Satellite photographs of the piles of dirt from the digging and experts who spoke to reporters suggest the new tunnels will be between 80 metres and 100 metres deep.

Such underground facilities led the US to create the GBU-57 bomb, which can plow through at least 60 meters of earth before detonating, according to the American military. US officials reportedly have discussed using two such bombs in succession to ensure a site is destroyed.

It is not clear that such a one-two punch would damage a facility as deep as the one at Natanz.

With such bombs potentially off the table, the US and its allies are left with fewer options to target the site. If diplomacy remains stalled as it has for months over Iran's tattered nuclear deal, sabotage attacks may resume.

Iran says the new construction will replace an above-ground centrifuge manufacturing centre at Natanz struck by an explosion and fire in July 2020.

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