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# Gun salutes fired across UK to mark Prince Philip's death

## Amir condolences with Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles



LONDON: The Death Gun Salute is fired by the Honorable Artillery Company to mark the passing of Britain's Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (inset), at the Tower of London yesterday, a day after his death at the age of 99. —AFP

LONDON: Gun salutes echoed around the United Kingdom yesterday as the military paid solemn tribute to Queen Elizabeth II's husband Prince Philip after his death aged 99. The coordinated 41-round volleys to the former Royal Navy commander were fired at a rate of one per minute from 12:00 (1100 GMT) in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast, as well as at naval

bases, from warships at sea, and in the British territory Gibraltar. Similar salutes - the most according to military protocol - were also held in Canberra and Wellington, as the queen is head of state in Australia and New Zealand.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Queen Elizabeth II on the death of Prince Philip on Friday. HH the Amir hailed the efforts and support Prince Philip showed towards Kuwait's issues, adding that the UK lost one of its most influential figures. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Queen Elizabeth.

HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf also addressed a cable to Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, expressing deepest condolences on the demise of his father. HH the Amir, in the cable, wished Prince Philip forgiveness, and the Royal Family patience, recalling his noble stances towards Kuwait and the highly-esteemed stature he had enjoyed at the local and international levels, as well as his contributions for serving his homeland. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah sent similar cables to Prince Charles.

At the Tower of London, a crowd of more than 100 onlookers kept a respectful silence as they watched the Honorable Artillery Company fire shots on the banks of the River Thames. One onlooker, Heather Uttridge, said she had come to show her respects "for a superhuman". "It's a great loss to not just the Queen, but actually to the country. He represented stability for all of our lives," the 65-year-old told AFP.

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## Saudi executes three soldiers for 'high treason'

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia yesterday executed three soldiers for "high treason", the defense ministry said, in a rare public announcement that accused them of colluding with an unspecified enemy. The executions come as a Saudi-led military campaign intensifies in neighboring Yemen.

The soldiers were convicted of "the crime of high treason in cooperation with the enemy" in a way that threatens the kingdom and its military interests, the ministry said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. The statement named the three soldiers - Mohammed bin Ahmed, Shafer bin Issa and Hamoud bin Ibrahim - without identifying which enemy they were accused of aiding.

Saudi Arabia views Iran as its main regional foe and identifies Yemen's Tehran-aligned Houthi rebels as a major security threat to the oil-rich kingdom. The statement makes a rare announcement of military executions in the kingdom, which is known to be highly secretive about its armed forces.

"The fact that the names of the decedents were publicized means the Saudis must consider their alleged misconduct to be exceptionally egregious and thus worthy of exemplary punishment," David Des Roches, from the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies in Washington, told AFP.

The defense ministry said the soldiers were executed in the military's Southern Command, based close to the border with Yemen, where Saudi Arabia is leading a six-year campaign against the Houthi rebels. Riyadh led a military coalition into Yemen in March 2015 to prop up the internationally recognized government, but it has struggled to oust the Houthis. It has also faced a surge in missile and drone attacks against the kingdom.

Fighting has intensified for the key Yemeni region of Marib, with 53 pro-government and

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## Iran starts up advanced centrifuges

TEHRAN: Iran announced yesterday it has started up advanced uranium enrichment centrifuges in a breach of its undertakings under a troubled 2015 nuclear deal, days after the start of talks on rescuing the accord. The United States had said Friday that it had offered "very serious" ideas on

reviving the hobbled agreement but was waiting for Tehran to reciprocate, something yesterday's move signally failed to do.

President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated a cascade of 164 IR-6 centrifuges for producing enriched uranium, as well as two test cascades - of 30 IR-5 and 30 IR-6S devices respectively - at Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment plant, in a ceremony broadcast by state television. State TV aired no images of the injection of uranium hexafluoride gas into the cascades, but broadcast a link with

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A screen grab from a videoconference shows views of centrifuges and devices at Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment plant, as well as Iranian President Hassan Rouhani delivering a speech yesterday. — AFP

## Lockdowns as vaccine efforts stumble

MUMBAI: Fresh lockdowns and curfews were imposed on tens of millions of people from India to Argentina yesterday, as COVID-19 infections surged again and vaccine rollouts were hampered by shortages and scares. In India, the worst-hit state of Maharashtra was running out of vaccines as the health system buckled

under the weight of the contagion, which has killed 2.9 million people worldwide.

Having let its guard down with mass religious festivals, political rallies and spectators at cricket matches, the world's second-most populous nation has added more than a million new infections since late March. Every weekend from yesterday until the end of April, Maharashtra's 125 million people will be confined to their homes unless travelling or shopping for food or medicine.

"I'm not for the lockdown at all but I don't think the government has any

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MUMBAI: A Hindu priest is seen near the deserted Chowpatty beach during a weekend lockdown imposed by the state government amidst rising COVID-19 cases yesterday. — AFP

## Egypt unveils 3,000-yr-old 'lost' city

LUXOR, Egypt: Archaeologists yesterday showed off their finds at what they say is the "largest" ancient city ever found in Egypt, dating to a golden age of the pharaohs 3,000 years ago. At the site near Luxor, home of the legendary Valley of the Kings, workers

carefully carried ancient pots and showed human and animal remains dug up from the earth as members of the media toured around curved brick walls and rudimentary streets.

"This is a large city that was lost. It was connected with the god Aton and Amenhotep III," famed Egyptologist Zahi Hawass enthusiastically told reporters yesterday. "We found three major districts: one for administration, one for workers to sleep in and another for industry," he said. Spaces include workshops for drying meat, making

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LUXOR: A picture taken yesterday shows a view of a 3,000-year old-city, dubbed The Rise of Aten. — AFP