

Local

Kuwait's Amir sends letter to Turkish president on boosting ties

Foreign Minister meets Turkish Parliament speaker



ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meets Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan receives a letter from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, delivered by Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.



Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets Speaker of the Grand Turkish National Assembly Mustafa Sentop.



Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah leads Kuwait's delegation during a meeting with Speaker of the Grand Turkish National Assembly Mustafa Sentop.

ANKARA: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has addressed a written message to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dealing with the close relations between the two friendly countries and means of boosting these ties in various spheres as well as issues of common concern. Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Minister of State for

Cabinet Affairs, delivered the message to the Turkish President during his official visit to the Turkish capital Ankara, where he headed the State of Kuwait delegation that took part in the second session of the Kuwaiti-Turkish Cooperation Committee on Thursday. The meeting with President Erdogan was attended by the State of Kuwait Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey Ghassan Al-Zawawi.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad met Speaker of the Grand Turkish National Assembly Mustafa Sentop, on the occasion of his official visit to Ankara, Turkey. Sheikh Dr Ahmad headed his accompanying delegation to chair the second session of the Kuwaiti-Turkish committee for cooperation in Ankara. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral relations, besides ways to

enhance joint cooperation in various fields. From the Kuwaiti side, the meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Ambassador Zawawi, General Consul in Istanbul Mohammed Fahad Al-Mohammed, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's Office Affairs Advisor Ahmad Al-Shuraim, Deputy Foreign Minister Assistant for Europe Affairs Counselor Mohammad Hayati and some Ministry's officials. — KUNA

Gun salutes fired across UK...

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Alexander Beaten, 30, said the royal couple, who had been married for 73 years, had been an integral part of British identity and culture. "We can disagree with the government, we can disagree with so many things that the country may or may not do, but the Queen and Prince Philip are just such a constant," he said.

Sporting events, including Premier League football matches and at English county championship cricket, held moments of silence as part of worldwide tributes to mark the death of the Duke of Edinburgh, during a period of national mourning. The death of the duke, the longest serving royal consort in British history, on Friday is a profound loss for the 94-year-old monarch, who once described her loyal husband as her "strength and stay" throughout her long reign.

Flags are flying at half-mast on government buildings and will do so until the morning after his funeral on April 17. The well-rehearsed protocol for the duke's death - codenamed "Forth Bridge" - includes the recall of parliament tomorrow. British television stations cleared their schedules for special broadcasts looking back on his life, although the BBC said it had received complaints about the blanket coverage.

Westminster Abbey, where the couple married in 1947, tolled its tenor bell 99 times on Friday, once for each year of the prince's life. Political campaigning for May local elections stopped, and loyalist leaders in Northern Ireland, who have been rioting for days amid heightening political tensions in the British province, urged a pause in violence on Friday.

The call - "as a mark of respect to the Queen" - was largely heeded. Marches that had been planned by members of the pro-UK unionist community in Belfast were cancelled yesterday. But despite the calls for calm, some lower-level disorder continued overnight.

Philip - who would have celebrated his 100th birthday in June - had been ill for some time, and spent more than a month in hospital from Feb 16 being treated for a pre-existing heart condition and an infection. Despite looking frail on his release from hospital on March 16, hopes were raised for his recovery.

But the queen announced Philip's passing "with deep sorrow" after he died peacefully on Friday morning at Windsor Castle, west of London. Philip's eldest son and the queen's heir, Prince Charles, reminisced about his father in pre-recorded comments aired in a special BBC program on Friday. "Well, you know he didn't suffer fools. So if you said anything that was in any way ambiguous - he'd say 'make up your mind!'" Charles said. The queen and the duke's two youngest children - Prince Andrew and Prince Edward - both visited Windsor Castle yesterday morning. Prince Charles saw his mother there on Friday.

The duke's death dominated Britain's newspapers yesterday. "We're all weeping with you Ma'am," The Sun tabloid said on its front page. The Daily Mail splashed a picture of the queen looking at her husband along with the headline "Farewell, my beloved" on the front page of its 144-page souvenir edition.

Tributes came in from home and abroad, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson giving "thanks, as a nation and a kingdom, for the extraordinary life and work of Prince Philip". Political and faith leaders in Britain, and from the United States, Europe and Commonwealth countries including Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and Pakistan also paid their respects. — Agencies

between the temples of Ramses III and Amenhotep III near Luxor, some 500 km south of Cairo. Amenhotep III inherited an empire that stretched from the Euphrates River in modern Iraq and Syria to Sudan and died around 1354 BC, ancient historians say. He ruled for nearly four decades, a reign known for its opulence and the grandeur of its monuments, including the Colossi of Memnon - two massive stone statues near Luxor that represent him and his wife.

Betsy Bryan, professor of Egyptian art and archaeology at Johns Hopkins University, had said in a statement this week that the find was the "second most important archaeological discovery since the tomb of Tutankhamun" nearly a century ago. "The archaeological layers have laid untouched for thousands of years, left by the ancient residents as if it were yesterday," the team's statement said. Archaeologists have unearthed items of jewelry, colored pottery vessels, scarab beetle amulets and mud bricks bearing seals of Amenhotep III. — AFP

Lockdowns as vaccine efforts...

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other choice," media professional Neha Tyagi, 27, told AFP in Maharashtra's megacity Mumbai. "This lockdown could have been totally avoided if people would take the virus seriously."

The crisis is being exacerbated by a shortage of vaccines. India has so far inoculated 94 million of its 1.3 billion people, but The Times of India reported Friday that states on average had just over five days of stock left, citing health ministry data, with some regions already grappling with severe shortages.

Iran starts up advanced...

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engineers at the plant who said they had started the process and showed rows of centrifuges.

Rouhani also launched tests on the "mechanical stability" of its latest-generation IR-9 centrifuges, and remotely opened a centrifuge assembly factory to replace a plant that was badly damaged in a July 2020 "terrorist" blast. Under the 2015 deal between Tehran and world powers, Iran is currently only allowed to use "first-generation" IR-1 centrifuges for production, and to test a limited number of IR-4 and IR-5 devices.

The US unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear deal in 2018 under then-president Donald Trump, who reimposed crippling sanctions on Tehran, which responded by stepping back from several of its commitments under the deal. Trump's successor Joe Biden has said he is prepared to return, arguing the deal had - until Washington's withdrawal - been successful in dramatically scaling back Iran's

Stay-at-home orders were also set to come into force for the eight million inhabitants of Bogota, as the Colombian capital battled a third wave of infections, adding to curfews already covering seven million across four other major cities. Elsewhere in South America, Argentina entered a night-time curfew Friday running from midnight to 06:00 am every day until April 30.

It will be in force in the country's highest-risk areas, mainly urban centers, where bars and restaurants will close at 11:00 pm. Both Argentina and Colombia have recorded about 2.5 million coronavirus cases, numbers surpassed only by Brazil in the region.

All of France is subject to restrictions of some form, while the German government's attempts to curb movement and commerce have been stymied by several states refusing to go along with the proposals. — AFP

nuclear activities.

Iran's latest move to step up uranium enrichment follows an opening round of talks in Vienna Tuesday with representatives of the remaining parties to the deal on bringing the US back into it. The Vienna talks are focused not only on lifting the crippling economic sanctions Trump reimposed, but also on bringing Iran back into compliance.

All sides said the talks, in which Washington is not participating directly but is relying on the European Union as an intermediary, got off to a good start. Iran has demanded that the US first lift all sanctions imposed by Trump, including a sweeping unilateral ban on its oil exports, before it falls back in line. The "US - which caused this crisis - should return to full compliance first," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted, adding that "Iran will reciprocate following rapid verification."

Washington has demanded movement from Tehran. "The United States team put forward a very serious idea and demonstrated a seriousness of purpose on coming back into compliance if Iran comes back into compliance," a US official told reporters as talks broke for the weekend. But the official said the United States was waiting for its efforts to be "reciprocated" by Iran. — AFP

Egypt unveils 3,000-yr-old...

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clothes and sandals, and crafting amulets and small statues.

Betsy Bryan, head of the country's Supreme Council of Antiquities said the site was not limited to buildings. "We can see... economic activity, workshops and ovens," he said. Hawass had announced earlier this week the discovery of a "lost golden city", and the archaeological team said the find was "the largest" ancient city ever uncovered in Egypt. "We found one portion of the city only," Hawass told AFP yesterday. "The city extends to the west and the north."

The team began excavations in September

Saudi executes three soldiers...

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Houthi rebel fighters dead in the past 24 hours, loyalist military officials said yesterday. The Houthis have been trying to seize oil-rich Marib, the government's last significant pocket of territory in the north, since February.

The kingdom has long faced criticism for one of

the world's highest rates of executions and what human rights campaigners call an opaque judicial system. But earlier this year, the government-backed Human Rights Commission (HRC) reported a sharp drop in executions in 2020, as the kingdom seeks to blunt international criticism of its human rights record.

The HRC said it documented 27 executions in 2020, a decrease of 85 percent over the previous year, due in part to a moratorium on the death penalty for drug-related offences. Since the beginning of this year, Saudi Arabia has carried out the death penalty against 20 people, according to a tally based on official figures published by state media. — AFP