

King Charles III's coronation: His Majesty departs for UK

TDT | agencies

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday left for the United Kingdom to attend the coronation ceremony of King Charles III on Saturday.

His Majesty is taking part in the ceremony as invited by King Charles III, who succeeds Queen Elizabeth II, seven long decades after named heir to the throne at the age of just three.

The hour-long ceremony takes place eight months after the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II.

Born on November 14, 1948, Charles III is now the King of the United Kingdom, of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth.

The Coronation will be in the presence of some 2,000 people, from foreign leaders and royalty to elected officials and civil society representatives, inside Westminster Abbey.

The ceremony is also the first for UK in 70 years and only the



HM King departs for UK

second in history to be televised.

Turning up alongside HM King Hamad will be World leaders including the French President Emmanuel Macron; Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier; Polish President Andrzej Duda; President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos Jr; and Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission.

Royals including King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of

Spain; Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary of Denmark; Crown Prince Fumihito and Crown Princess Kiko of Japan; Prince Albert II and Princess Charlene of Monaco; and King Abdullah II and Queen Rania of Jordan are also invited.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty along with members of the cabinet will be present.

The day begins with the "King's Procession" -- a 1.3-mile (two-kilometre) trip from Buck-

ingham Palace in central London to Westminster Abbey.

The couple will travel in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach, drawn by six Windsor Grey horses, and escorted by members of the king's bodyguard, the Household Cavalry.

They will arrive for the start of the ceremony at 11:00 am (1000 GMT).

Charles will be crowned at 12:00 pm and the service, led by the highest-ranking cleric in the Church of England, Archbishop

of Canterbury Justin Welby, ends at 1:00 pm.

The ceremony has largely remained the same for more than 1,000 years.

The king will first be presented to the congregation, who respond with shouts of "God Save the King!"

Following the ceremonies, The king and queen will return to Buckingham Palace in the Gold State Coach in a larger ceremonial "Coronation Procession".

The coach, first used in 1762, weighs four tonnes and will be drawn by eight Windsor Greys, at walking pace.

They will be joined by other members of the royal family and some 4,000 British and Commonwealth troops in full regalia.

At the palace, they will appear on the balcony at about 2:15 pm to greet the crowd and watch a Royal Air Force fly-past.

Charles's two sons from his first marriage to Princess Diana -- heir apparent Prince William and Prince Harry -- will both be there.

Harry, attending without his wife, Meghan, or their two children, and Charles's brother Prince Andrew, are not expected to have a formal role to play.

But William's nine-year-old son Prince George, second in line to the throne, is one of the king's four pages.

Three of Camilla's grandchildren -- Gus, Louis and Freddy -- and her great-nephew Arthur are among her pages.



Charles will be the 40th reigning monarch to be crowned at the central London church since King William I in 1066.



Outside the UK, he is also king of 14 other Commonwealth countries, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Camilla, his second wife, will be crowned queen.



Elizabeth's coronation in 1953 cost £912,000 -- equivalent to £20.5 million (\$25.5 million) now. The most expensive was of Charles's grandfather, George VI in 1937. It cost £454,000, or £24.8 million in today's money.

Indian Minister hails steady growth in ties, holds talks with ministers

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

V. Muraleedharan, the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, yesterday held a series of meetings with ministers and top officials on boosting bilateral ties and cooperation in various sectors.

The minister arrived in Bahrain for a two-day official visit from Saudi Arabia, where he landed on the 1st of this month. This is also his second visit to Bahrain. He last visited Bahrain in August 2021. The latest visit also follows the minister's visit to Jeddah from 25 to 28 April to oversee Operation Kaveri for the evacuation of Indian citizens from Sudan.

Among those he met were Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Labour Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, and Social Development Minister Osama Bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfoor.

Talks were in the presence of top officials, including Piyush Srivastava, the Indian Ambassador to Bahrain.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Piyush Srivastava, the Ambassador of India to Bahrain, said that the Minister's visit to the Kingdom reflects the depth of bilateral relations between both countries.

"This is the Minister's second visit in less than two years, and this directly highlights the



Indian Minister V. Muraleedharan during talks with Labour Minister Humaidan (left), Minister of Finance and National Economy (right)



Minister Muraleedharan during meetings yesterday at the Indian Embassy

close bilateral interaction at the higher political level, and we are very confident that this visit will further progress our relations in all spheres, especially in trade and investment," the Ambassador said.

During his talks with Humaidan, Muraleedharan discussed ways of boosting cooperation, particularly in the labour sector and exchanging expertise in workforce training. The ministers also talked about efforts to align national labour laws with that of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Humaidan

highlighted the labour policies prioritising labour rights, healthy working conditions, and high productivity.

Muraleedharan praised the progress made by the Bahraini labour sector and expressed his interest in boosting cooperation in all sectors. Additionally, he discussed avenues of future cooperation, including skilling.

He expressed appreciation for ensuring the well-being of the Indian community, affirming interest in boosting cooperation in all sectors, especially in trade and investment.



Piyush Srivastava, Dr Shaikh Abdulla, V. Muraleedharan, and MP Abdulnabi Salman Ahmed

Separately, the minister met with Osama Bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfoor, Minister of Social Development of Bahrain and discussed ways to boost support to the Indian community.

Discussions with Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, were in the presence of Khalid Humaidan, the CEO of the Economic Development Board.

Earlier, following his arrival, the minister tweeted: "Arriving in the beautiful Kingdom of

Bahrain again. I look forward to interactions with the Bahraini leadership, dignitaries and the Indian community."

Indo-Bahrain Dance Festival

While in Bahrain, Muraleedharan will also inaugurate the Indo-Bahrain Dance and Music Festival organised by Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam and Embassy of India, with support of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). He will hold discussions with var-

ious Bahraini dignitaries and meet Indian community organisations, as well as Indians working in different sectors.

India-Bahrain enjoy strong ties

During a reception at The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, the minister said: "The Kingdom has welcomed the Indian community with open arms, creating a connected and integrated society that establishes deeper bonds and also furthers both countries' progression."

He highlighted the expanding economic and commercial partnership between the two nations in various domains, including IT, big data, Fintech, space technology, food security, and renewable energy. Additionally, the growing collaboration between the two countries encompasses the development and assistance of education, agriculture, healthcare, and pharmaceuticals.

"As our economic relations grow, we will only see steady growth and new records. Last year our bilateral trade reached a record figure of \$1.65 million (BD622,135), and I am happy to share that this year, we have already surpassed this figure," Muraleedharan said.

Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa remarked that the ongoing development and growth of relationships between nations is having a significant impact on both governmental institutions and the private sector.