

Kingdom condemns tearing of Quran copy in Netherlands

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The Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday strongly condemned the tearing of a copy of the Holy Quran in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the heinous act represents an incitement to enmity, religious and racial hatred.

It reiterated Bahrain's rejection of such provocative and extremist acts which violate international principles and laws, as well as ethical expression of opinion.

In a statement today, the ministry stressed the need to respect all religions, beliefs, sanctities and religious symbols and combat Islamophobia crimes.

It also urged international cooperation in spreading the values of tolerance, peace and dialogue between religions and civilisations.

Philippines plane crash kills pilots



Rescuers retrieve the bodies of two military pilots

Manila

Two Philippine military pilots were killed when their plane crashed during a training flight yesterday, the air force said.

The SF-260 TP Marchetti was seen going down into a paddy field in Bataan province west of the capital Manila 40 minutes after take-off, and an investigation was underway into the cause of the accident, the air force said.

It has temporality grounded its fleet of SF-260 TP trainer planes.

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Bahrain congratulates India on Republic Day

HM King greets President Murmu

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent

cables of congratulations to Indian President Droupadi Murmu on her country's Republic Day.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman expressed their best wishes of health and happiness to the president and further progress and prosperity to the people of India.

His Royal Highness sent a similar cable to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



HM the King



President Droupadi Murmu

His Majesty and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent cables of congratulations to the Commonwealth of Australia Governor-General David Hurley on Australia Day.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman expressed their best wishes of health and happiness to the Governor and wished Australian citizens further progress and prosperity.

HRH Prince Salman, Qatar Amir hold talks

Focus on strengthening bilateral relations, friendship and cooperation

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, held a phone call with Qatar Amir His Highness Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations, friendship and cooperation.

During the call, HRH Prince Salman conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to HH Shaikh



HRH Prince Salman



Qatar Amir

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad highlighted the brotherly relations that unite both countries and their peoples.

Tamim and HM's best wishes for further progress and prosperity to Qatar.

His Royal Highness and HH Shaikh Tamim emphasised the need to work together to settle issues in a way that meets the common goals of the people of

both nations, upholds the unity of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab states, as well as maintains the security and stability of the region.

They agreed to keep the channels of communication open for the benefit of both countries.

Despite concerns

US to send 31 Abrams battle tanks to Ukraine

Washington

The US will send 31 M1 Abrams battle tanks to Ukraine, senior administration officials said yesterday, reversing months of persistent arguments by the Biden administration that the tanks were too difficult for Ukrainian troops to operate and maintain.

The US decision came on the heels of Germany agreeing to send 14 Leopard 2 A6 tanks from its own stocks.

Germany had said the Leopards would not be sent unless

the US put its Abrams on the table, not wanting to incur Russia's wrath without the US similarly committing its own tanks.

Since then, both sides had participated in "good diplomatic conversations" that had made the difference and were part of the "extraordinary shift in Germany's security policy" over providing weapons to Ukraine since Russia invaded 11 months ago, said a senior administration official, who briefed reporters yesterday on the condition of anonymity to describe the new



M1 Abrams battle tanks

tank package in advance of the announcement.

The \$400 million package announced Wednesday also includes eight M88 recovery vehicles — tank-like tracked vehicles that can tow the Abrams if it gets stuck.

Altogether, France, the UK, the US, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden will send hundreds of tanks and heavy armored vehicles to fortify Ukraine as it enters a new phase of the war and attempts to break through entrenched Russian lines.

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