

Well-known Indian businessman Atlas Ramachandran dies



Atlas Ramachandran, 80

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Flamboyant Indian jeweller Atlas Ramachandran, whose life was punctuated by extraordinary ups and downs, died yesterday.

The 80 years old was suffering from age-related illness. Ramachandran, who hailed from the South Indian state of Kerala, started his career as a banker in Kuwait.

In the late eighties, he set up his first jewellery in Kuwait City, beginning the magnificent success odyssey as a trailblazing jeweller in the Mideast and India. His brand, Atlas, synonymous with his name, had showrooms across the GCC, including Bahrain (Manama Gold Souq) and many Indian cities.

Things took a challenging turn in 2015 when he was jailed in the UAE over accusations of non-payment of loans. He had to spend nearly four years in jail before his release. However, since his release, Ramachandran was seen with reverberating charm and confidence as he appeared in television interviews, signalling a significant comeback, for which he devised strategies.

An avid movie enthusiast, Ramachandran also produced a few movies apart from wearing the robes of an actor.

His death has shocked many in the region and Kerala, who see him with great inspiration and admiration. His life has come full circle, broadly carrying points of remarkable rise and fall.

He was also renowned for many charitable acts.

Gwyneth Paltrow jokes winning an Oscar messed up her mind

10 CELEBS

BUSINESS

5

Danube Supermarket opens at Al Liwan in Hamala

Promoting dialogue, peaceful coexistence

HM King Hamad welcomes Pope Francis and Al Azhar Grand Imam visit to Kingdom

● His Majesty hails HRH Prince Salman for 'dedication and fruitful efforts' to consolidate all development paths

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has welcomed the upcoming historic official visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as that of His Eminence Dr Ahmed Al Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al Azhar.

Both Pope Francis and Dr Al Tayeb are participating in the "Bahrain Forum for Dialogue: East and West for Human Co-existence", which will be held under the patronage of His Majesty the King on November 3-4.

HM King Hamad praised the major role played by them to promote the culture of dialogue, coexistence and tolerance, as well as support human fraternity.

While tackling regional and global issues, His Majesty reaffirmed the Kingdom's stance on the importance of activating the channels of dialogue, negotiations and peaceful solutions to achieve peace and progress for all countries.



HM the King and HRH Prince Salman hold a meeting yesterday

Pride

HM the King expressed pride in HRH Prince Salman's dedicated work and fruitful efforts to consolidate all development paths, and adopt plans and programmes to develop all government sectors, valuing highly the wide-ranging achievements attained by the government thanks to the dedication, hard work and solidarity of its competencies.

During the meeting, they reviewed a number of local issues, particularly ways to enhance the landmark achievements attained by the Kingdom under the comprehensive development and renaissance witnessed by Bahrain at all levels to better serve the nation and the citizens.

Outcomes

HM King Hamad lauded the outcomes of his recent visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, praising HM's fruitful talks with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and meeting with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

They play a major role in promoting the culture of dialogue, coexistence and tolerance, as well as supporting human fraternity

HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

praising HM's fruitful talks with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and meeting with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

HM the King stressed that the fraternal Saudi visit would strengthen the deep-rooted bilateral relations, bolster joint cooperation and coordination, as well as consolidate joint action in a way that would benefit both kingdoms and serve the aspirations of their brotherly peoples.

Bahrain is set to host two-day global interfaith forum next month

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Azhar, Shaikh Dr Ahmed Al Tayeb, the Chairman of the Muslim Council of Elders will take part in the forum.

The Bahrain Dialogue Forum will be held on November 3-4 under the theme "The East and The West for Human Coexistence".

It is expected to attract over 200 global faith leaders, renowned media personalities and scholars.

The forum is organised by the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Bahrain, in cooperation with the Muslim Council of Elders and the King Hamad

Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence.

The two-day event will feature a series of poignant discussions that aim to further cement the values of peace and tolerance.

Its sessions will include discussions on global coexistence

and human fraternity, dialogue in promoting coexistence (Bahrain Declaration as a model), the role of faith leaders in addressing current challenges, and global interfaith dialogue for world peace (Document on Human Fraternity as a model).

Bloody protests crackdown

92 people killed in Iran following Amini death

Oso

At least 92 people have been killed nationwide in Iran's crackdown on two weeks of protests that erupted following the death of Mahsa Amini who had been arrested by the morality police, the Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) NGO said yesterday.

"The international community has a duty to investigate this crime and prevent further crimes from being committed by the Islamic Republic," said IHR director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam.



Thousands of Iranians have taken to the streets over the last two weeks to protest the death of Mahsa Amini

Its previous toll had said 83 people were confirmed to have been killed in the protests.

Meanwhile in the city of Zahedan in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, at least 41 people were killed by the Iranian security forces in clashes that erupted last week, IHR NGO said.

IHR accused the security forces of "bloody repressing" a protest that erupted on Friday after prayers in Zahedan over accusations a police chief in the port city of Chabahar, also in Sistan-Baluchestan province, had raped a 15-year-old girl from the Sunni Baluch minority.

It said the identities of those killed had been confirmed by the regional NGO Baluch Activists Campaign (BAC). Iran says five members of the Revolutionary Guards were killed in Zahedan in what official media described as a "terrorist incident".

Ali Mousavi, IRGC intelligence chief of Sistan and Baluchestan, was shot during the confrontation with protesters. The IRGC-affiliated Tasnim News Agency reported that Mousavi was pronounced dead at a hospital.