



Arab issues, Palestinian cause Bahrain's top priority: Speaker

TDT | Manama

Just causes of Arab nations, foremost being Palestinian cause, are always Bahrain's prime priority, said Parliament speaker and President of the Arab-Interparliamentary Union, Fawzia bin Abdullah Zainal.

"This is well evident from the Royal speeches of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, which confirms our firm position on the Palestinian issue," said the speaker.

She also pointed out the formation of a permanent qualitative parliamentary committee to support the Palestinian people.

The comments came as Zainal



Speaker Fawzia bin Abdullah Zainal in her inaugural speech of AIPU's 33rd conference

inaugurated the 33rd conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union in the Egyptian capital, Cairo. Themed "Al-Aqsa Mosque and All Muslim and Christian Sanctities are Our First Priority", the conference kick-start-

ed with the participation of the Arab member states.

Bahrain, she said, believes that regional peace depends on the activation of the Arab Peace Initiative for the establishment of an independent Palestinian

state. "The violations against the Palestinian brothers require a unified Arab parliamentary position that rejects the attacks on worshipers during Ramadan and repeated provocations against the people of Jerusalem," said Al Zainal.

"These violations are inconsistent with all religious, international charters and treaties and human rights principles."

The speaker also underlined the need for a unified parliamentary stance supporting the Palestinian cause and reiterated rejection of the violations and repetitive provocation by the Israeli authorities.

"The challenges the region

face requires a renewed determination."

The speaker also condemned the killing of the Palestinian Journalist, Sherine Abu Aqleh, near Jenin camp in the Palestinian territories while on duty.

"What happened is a flagrant violation of the rules and principles of international humanitarian law and a blatant transgression of the media and press freedom," she added.

Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal offered condolences to the ruling family in the UAE, the Federal National Council Speaker Saqr Ghobash, and the UAE people over the passing of late Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.



"Bahrain lost a prominent citizen"

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has lost a prominent person whose contributions are etched in various areas of national development, said His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday.

HM King was offering his condolences to Taqi Mohammed Al-Baharna over the demise of Sadiq Mohammed Al-Baharna in a telephone call.

HM King told Taqi Mohammed Al-Baharna that Sadiq's patriotic stances and contributions to the trade, endowments and administrative sectors benefitted Bahrain.

His Majesty further expressed pride in citizens who have served and contributed to Bahrain's comprehensive progress.

HM King prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest his soul in eternal peace and bless his relatives with patience and fortitude.

Taqi Mohammed Al-Baharna, extended, on behalf of the Al-Baharna family, thanks and gratitude to HM King Hamad for his condolences, noble feelings and sincere supplications.

He wished HM the King abundant health, wellness and long life to continue serving the Kingdom and its people.

WHO working on more monkeypox guidance as cases rise

Reuters | London

The World Health Organization is working on further guidance for countries on how to mitigate the spread of monkeypox, amid concerns cases could spike further in the summer months, a senior adviser for the U.N. agency told Reuters.

The WHO's working theory based on the cases identified so far is that the outbreak is being driven by sexual contact, said David Heymann, chair of the WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Infectious Hazards with Pandemic and Epidemic Potential. He led a meeting on the outbreak on Friday.

Monkeypox is an infectious disease that is usually mild, and is endemic in parts of west and central Africa.

Russia halts gas flow to Finland

● Weeks-long siege ends at Azovstal, Russia says

● Russia intensifies offensive in Donbas

● Russian military says destroyed Western arms in Zhytomyr region

Reuters | Kyiv/Oslo

Russia stopped delivering gas to Finland in an escalation of a dispute over energy payments with Western nations, and claimed victory in a weeks-long battle for Mariupol's devastated Azovstal steel plant as it presses for control of the Donbas.

Russia also launched what appeared to be a major assault to seize the last remaining Ukrainian-held territory in Luhansk, one of two provinces that make up the southeastern Donbas region: where Russian-backed separatists already controlled



A bus carrying service members of the Ukrainian armed forces, who surrendered at the besieged Azovstal steel mill, drives away under escort of the pro-Russian military

swathes of territory before the Feb. 24 invasion.

The last Ukrainian forces holed up in the Azovstal steelworks surrendered on Friday, Russia's defence ministry said, ending the bloodiest siege of the war.

The ministry said in a statement that 2,439 defenders had surrendered in the past few days, including 531 in the final group.

Earlier, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said

Ukraine's military had told the last defenders at the steelworks they could get out and save their lives. The Ukrainians did not

immediately confirm the figures on Azovstal. Ukraine's General Staff of Armed Forces did not comment on Russia's claim in its morning update yesterday.

Zelenskiy told local television that while the fighting would be bloody and victory difficult, the end would only come through diplomacy.

"For them, all these victories - the occupation of Crimea or Donbas - is very temporary. And all this will return - since this is our territory," he said on Saturday.

Finnish state-owned gas wholesaler Gasum, the Finnish government and individual gas consuming companies in Finland have said they were prepared for a shutdown of Russian flows and that the country will manage without.

Most European supply contracts are denominated in euros or dollars and Moscow cut off gas to Bulgaria and Poland last month after they refused to comply with the new payment terms.



Symbolic

Russia declares travel ban on 963 Americans including Biden and Blinken

Reuters | London

Russia said yesterday it had so far banned 963 Americans from entering the country - including previously announced moves against President Joe Biden and other top officials - and would continue to retaliate



Joe Biden speaks as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken listens

against what it called hostile US actions.

The largely symbolic travel bans form part of a downward spiral in Russia's relations with the West since its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, which prompted Washington and its allies to impose drastic sanctions on

Moscow and step up arms supplies to Ukraine.

Separately, the Foreign Ministry said it had added 26 new names to a list of Canadians it has barred from travelling to Russia, including defence chiefs, defence industry executives and Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, the

wife of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Publishing the full list of banned Americans for the first time, the ministry said: "We emphasise that the hostile actions taken by Washington, which boomerang against the United States itself, will continue to receive a proper rebuff."

Bahrain to participate in Davos 2022



P5

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

9811591

ACTIVE CASES

20

DEATHS

1480

DISCHARGED

574805

NEW CASES

451

CRITICAL

3

220 fils (includes VAT)



6 084010 110021 >