

KUWAIT (Reuters) – Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah has selected a new cabinet, state news agency KUNA reported on Sunday without giving further details.

Sheikh Ahmad was re-appointed as prime minister by the crown prince in March, more than a month after the government resigned due to renewed friction with parliament.

Those are the fortunate people who adopt piety as the principle of their lives and are fully attentive to their welfare for the Hereafter. They accept bare earth as the most comfortable bed and water as the most pleasant drink.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Rallies Held in U.S., UK in Support of Palestine

MANHATTAN (Dispatches) – Pro-Palestinian activists have held rallies in the U.S. and UK in protest against the Zionist regime's latest attack against the Palestinian worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied East Al-Quds.

The crowd gathered in the heart of Manhattan, New York, in Times Square, the commercial and tourism center of New York City, on Saturday, waving Palestinian flags and chanting slogans such as "Free Palestine" to condemn the violent raid and demand an end to Zionist attacks.

The protesters criticized the silence of international bodies against the obvious crimes of the Zionist regime and demanded an end to the apartheid regime's attacks on Palestinians.

They also called for global support for the oppressed people of Palestine.

The protesters carried placards reading "Defend Masjid Al-Aqsa" and "Hands off Al-Aqsa," and chanted slogans such as "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," "Resistance is justified when



Hundreds of people rally in Times Square, New York, to protest against the latest violence by Zionist troops against the Palestinian worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, on April 7, 2023.

people are colonized," and "There is only one solution; Intifada (uprising) revolution."

Moreover, for the second straight day in London, people rallied outside the Zionist regime's embassy in London after footage of Zionist troops attacking Muslim worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound went viral on social media. "Last night Israel also bombarded

the besieged Gaza Strip, damaging Durra Children's Hospital and injuring a 12-year-old child," said the UK-based Friends of Al-Aqsa on Sunday, a non-profit NGO concerned with defending the human rights of Palestinians.

"On Wednesday Israeli Occupation Forces beat worshippers with batons and rifles at the holiest site in Al-Quds for Muslims," FOA

said in a statement. "Yesterday Israeli forces attacked Palestinian men, women and children with tear gas, stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets."

Heavily armed Zionist forces stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque compound on Tuesday night before firing tear gas and stun grenades into the Qibli prayer hall, where hundreds of men, women, elderly people, and children were staying overnight to pray. Some eyewitnesses said rubber-coated steel bullets were also fired.

Zionist troops have wounded and rounded up hundreds of Palestinians during the attacks that have seen a rise since the beginning of the fasting month of Ramadan. Illegal Zionist settlers have, meanwhile, been freely violating the compound under the Israeli military and police force's protection.

Palestinian resistance movements in the nearby Gaza Strip have been warning the regime that it would have to bear the consequences of the flare-up that it has brought about in Al-Quds and beyond.

Saudi, Omani Delegations in Sana'a for Peace Talks With Yemeni Leaders



Saudi and Omani delegations are in Yemen's capital Sana'a to negotiate a permanent ceasefire deal with Yemeni officials.

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi and Omani delegations are in Yemen's capital Sana'a, media said on Sunday, to negotiate a permanent ceasefire deal with Yemeni government officials and end Riyadh's military aggression against the country.

The visit indicates progress in the Oman-mediated consultations between Riyadh and Sana'a, which run in parallel to UN peace efforts. Peace efforts have also gained momentum after Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed to reestablish ties in a deal brokered by China.

The envoys, who landed late on Saturday, were scheduled to meet with the head of Houthi Supreme Political Council, Mahdi al-Mashat, to hold talks on ending hostilities and lifting a Saudi-led "blockade" on Yemeni ports, SABA news agency reported.

Sources have told Reuters that the Saudi-Yemen talks are focused on a full reopening of ports and Sana'a airport, payment of wages for public servants, rebuilding efforts and a timeline for foreign forces to exit the country.

Earlier, Saudi Arabia freed more than a dozen Houthi detainees ahead of a wider prisoner release agreed upon by the warring sides, according to a spokesman for the Yemeni rebel group.

Abdul-Qader el-Murtaza, a Houthi official in charge of prisoner exchange talks in Yemen's conflict, said on Twitter that 13 prisoners have arrived in Sana'a.

On Sunday, Yemeni media outlets published pictures of a Saudi official shaking hands with Houthi in Sana'a.

The outlets added that the faces of the high-ranking Saudi officials involved in the talks with Ansarullah officials have not been publicized at their request.

Local news agencies said Saudi Arabia's

Ambassador to Yemen Mohammed Saeed al-Jaber, who resides in the southern port city of Aden, arrived in Sana'a at the head of the Saudi delegation to meet with officials from the Ansarullah movement and the National Salvation Government, hours after the arrival of an Omani delegation.

Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, a member of Ansarullah's political bureau told Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network late on Friday that "there is an understanding between Saudi Arabia and Yemen," without going into details.

He said that the understandings, as well as initiatives for peaceful settlement of the Yemen crisis, will be announced in two phases: One before Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, and the other at another time.

"We support any proposals and efforts by Saudi Arabia or other parties to pacify the Yemen crisis and reach a comprehensive political resolution of the conflict," the senior Ansarullah official said.

Saudi Arabia launched the bloody war against Yemen in March 2015 in collaboration with a number of its allies and with arms and logistics support from the U.S. and several Western states to reinstall Hadi, who resigned from the presidency in late 2014 and later fled to Riyadh amid a political conflict with the popular Houthi Ansarullah movement.

The war objective was also to crush the Ansarullah movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective government in Yemen.

However, it has stopped well shy of all of its goals, despite killing tens of thousands of Yemenis and turning the entire country into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Yemen Calls on Syria to Adopt 'Effective Deterrence' Against Zionist Attacks

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The leader of Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement has called on Syrian forces to adopt a policy of "effective deterrence" against the Zionist regime's acts of aggression, after the occupying regime's military said it had launched artillery attacks on southern Syria.

"Our Syrian brethren are expected to enforce a policy of effective deterrence that would stop the Zionist enemy from (taking) any kind of hostile measure against the country," Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said in a televised speech broadcast live from the Yemeni capital city of Sana'a late on Saturday.

He warned the occupying regime against its recurrent strikes on Syrian territories, asserting that its continued acts of aggression will not go unpunished.

"The Zionist regime should know that for every attack it carries out in Syria, it will be hit inside the occupied territories," Houthi said.

Syria's official news agency SANA reported that the country's air defenses had thwarted another Israeli act of aggression against

the war-ravaged Arab country, and shot down a number of "hostile" missiles in the skies over the southern sector of the nation.

The media outlet, citing a military source, reported that the Zionist regime's military fired several missiles from the direction of the occupied Golan Heights at areas in southern Syria at around 5 a.m. local time (0200 GMT) on Sunday, but most of the projectiles were intercepted and destroyed before hitting any of their targets.

It added that the missiles caused some material damage in the targeted areas.

The occupying regime's military said it had launched artillery attacks on Syria after several rockets were fired from Syrian territory toward northern parts of the occupied territories, none of which caused damage or casualties.

The cross-border exchanges early on Sunday came as violence escalates on multiple fronts, including in Gaza, Lebanon, occupied East Al-Quds and the occupied West Bank.

The rocket fire from Syria comes against the backdrop of

soaring Zionist-Palestinian tensions triggered by Zionist troops' raids on the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and Palestinian worshippers observing the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Violent scenes from the attacks prompted resistance fighters in Lebanon and in the Gaza Strip to fire a barrage of rockets into Israeli-occupied lands.

Lebanon Lodges Complaint

Meanwhile, Lebanese caretaker Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib filed a complaint with the UN Security Council (UNSC) and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres against the Zionist regime after the regime said it had struck positions belonging to the Palestinian resistance group Hamas in southern Lebanon.

According to Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA), Bou Habib held a meeting with caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati, after which he instructed the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations in New York to submit an official complaint to the UN Security Council

and the UN chief regarding the impact of the Zionist regime's bombing and deliberate aggression at Friday dawn in areas in southern Lebanon.

The top Lebanese diplomat called the Israeli aggression a flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and a deliberate breach of UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which brokered a ceasefire in the war of aggression Israel launched against Lebanon in 2006, calls on Tel Aviv to respect Beirut's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Zionist bombardment in the early hours of Friday followed a spate of rocket launches from southern Lebanon as tensions soared after Zionist troops stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of Al-Quds twice this week, and violently attacked Palestinian worshippers marking the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Hours earlier, there were explosions in the besieged Gaza Strip after the Zionist military launched air raids on several targets in the coastal enclave.

Quadrilateral Meeting on Syria Postponed to May

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Russian Ambassador to Damascus Alexander Efimov announced in an interview with the al-Watan newspaper that the meeting of foreign ministers of Russia, Iran, Turkey, and Syria, which was scheduled for Monday, has been postponed to early May.

"Contacts and consultations continue between the parties to achieve positive results on this issue," he said.

The representatives of the four countries agreed to continue consultations on preparing the meeting between their top diplomats, as previously reported by a source in the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

"On April 3-4, 2023, four-party consultations at the level of the deputy foreign ministers of Russia, Iran, Syria, and Turkey were held in Moscow. The parties discussed the issues related to the preparations for a meeting between foreign ministers, and each country expressed its stance and opinions in a transparent and open way. In this context, the parties agreed on continuing consultations," the source emphasized.

The defense ministers of Russia, Syria, and Turkey held consultations in Moscow on December 28, 2022, as part of efforts to normalize relations between Ankara and Damascus. The

participants reached an agreement to create a trilateral commission. A meeting between the three countries' top diplomats is expected to follow the consultations to discuss the possibility of talks between Presidents Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey and Bashar Assad of Syria. Later, Iran joined the consultations at the level of foreign ministries.

On December 15, 2022, Erdogan suggested that Russian President Vladimir Putin host a trilateral meeting involving the Syrian president, adding that the summit should be preceded by a meeting between officials from intelligence agencies, defense, and foreign ministries.

Turkish Prosecutors Launched Over 7,500 Cases for 'Insulting' President, State in 2022

ANKARA (Duvar) – Turkish prosecutors have launched 7,600 cases for "insulting" President Erdoğan, Turkish state, government or nation in 2022, the daily BirGün reported Sunday, citing data from the Justice Ministry.

The number of suspects in 7,600 cases was 7,712, who allegedly committed 8,071 "crimes."

The cases were launched in accordance with Articles 299 and 301 of the Turkish Penal Code. Under the "Offences against the Symbols of State Sovereignty and the Reputation of its Organs" heading, Article 299 reads "Any person who insults the President of the Republic shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of one to four years."

On the other hand, Article 301 lays out the sentences for "Degrading Turkish Nation, State of Turkish Re-

public, the Organs and Institutions of the State."

In 2022, the criminal courts convicted 1,872 cases over the charges in question, whereas they acquitted 2,226 people. The courts tried a total of 16,573 people in 2022 over these charges.

A tool commonly deployed by Ankara to reprimand critics of the government, insult charges often concern comments about the president.

In October 2021, the ECHR ruled that the crime of "insulting the president" was a violation of basic human rights and freedom of speech. It fined Turkey and told the country to change the law and pay recompense to those charged.

Despite the ruling, the Turkish judiciary continues to sentence people over these charges to suppress the opposition.