

## World Leaders' Reaction to Saudi King's Death

**BARACK OBAMA, US President**  
As a leader, he was always candid and had the courage of his convictions...One of those convictions was his steadfast and passionate belief in the importance of the US-Saudi relationship as a force for stability and security in the Middle East and beyond.

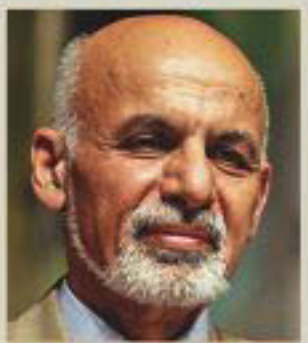
**BAN KI-MOON, UN Secretary-General**  
King Abdullah made major contributions to the development of the Kingdom. Under his leadership over many decades in different high-level positions in Government, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia achieved remarkable progress and prosperity for its people.

**REUVEN RIVLIN, Israeli President**  
I was saddened to hear of the passing of King Abdullah. He was an example of grounded, considered and responsible leadership, with a deep religious tradition. As 'Guardian of the Holy Places' of Islam, King Abdullah acted as a moderator, respecting the sensitivity and sanctity of Jerusalem and sought to promote a vision of prosperity for the region.

**NARENDRA MODI, Indian Prime Minister**  
In King Abdullah, we have lost an important voice who left a lasting impact on his country. I condole his demise. Our thoughts are with the people of Saudi Arabia, who have lost a guiding force in King Abdullah, during this hour of grief.

**ANGELA MERKEL, German Chancellor**  
King Abdullah's policies brought him and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia respect and recognition. With wisdom, foresight and great personal dedication, he strove for a cautious modernization of his country and for dialogue between the Islamic world and the West.

**ASHRAF GHANI, Afghan President**  
I offer my deepest condolences to Saudi Arabia and the family of King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz on this day of grief. Afghans will always remember King Abdullah as a great supporter of their jihad. He always supported the Afghan peace process.



SOURCE: AP



A handout picture released by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) shows foreign leaders, Saudi officials and visiting dignitaries at the funeral of King Adullah bin Abdul Aziz in the capital Riyadh yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## New Saudi ruler Saudi's next heir King Salman

REUTERS, Riyadh

As king, Salman, thought to be 79, will have to navigate regional turmoil caused by wars in Iraq and Syria, as well as a bitter rivalry with Shia Muslim power Iran and a lingering threat from an al-Qaeda wing in neighbouring Yemen.

A reputed moderate with a deft understanding of the competing demands of conservative clerics, powerful tribes and an increasingly youthful population, Salman will also have the final say on social and economic reforms started under Abdullah.

"It appeared to me he had a good handle on the delicate balancing act he had to do to move society forward while being respectful of its traditions and conservative ways," said Robert Jordan who was US ambassador in Riyadh from 2001-03.

A physically imposing figure,



Salman bin Abdulaziz

Salman controls one of the Arab world's largest media groups. He believes that democracy is ill-suited to the conservative kingdom and advocates caution on social and cultural reform, according to a 2007 U.S. diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks.

For nearly 50 years Salman was governor of Riyadh Province, a role that involved working closely with both conservative traditionalists and liberal technocrats as he oversaw the development of the Saudi capital from a small desert town to a major metropolis.

However, when two elder full-brothers, crown princes Sultan and Nayef died within a year of each other, Salman was appointed first Defense Minister and then heir apparent.

Oil prices jumped in an immediate reaction as news of Abdullah's death added to uncertainty in energy markets.

### Saudi's next heir

A close confidant of Abdullah

AFP, Riyadh

Prince Moqren, named last year as second in line to the Saudi throne, was a trusted confidant of the late King Abdullah with a reputation as a liberal.

Born on September 15, 1945 in Riyadh, Moqren is the youngest of the 45 sons of Abdulaziz bin Saud, the founder of Saudi Arabia.

He graduated from Britain's Royal Air Force College and served in the Saudi air force until taking on political roles from 1980.

He was governor of the northern province of Hail, and then of Medina in the west.

In 2005, Moqren was appointed head of Saudi intelligence, a post that helped the prince build a network of international contacts.

In 2012, King Abdullah named him as counsellor and special envoy, and the following year appointed him second deputy prime minister.

Diplomats say Moqren was very close to Abdullah and was frequently entrusted with sensitive assignments.

He has been involved in key foreign policy issues, including in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen, and is known for his open hostility to Iran, Saudi Arabia's Shiite-dominated arch-rival across the Gulf.



Moqren bin Abdulaziz



## Hazare bidding his time

THE HINDU ONLINE

Maintaining a studied silence over his one-time aide Kiran Bedi's decision to join the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the Delhi election, veteran anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare has hinted that he would kickstart yet another major agitation for a corruption-free India soon after the polls in the capital.

Addressing the media in his village Ralegan Siddhi in Ahmednagar district, the septuagenarian activist desisted from commenting on Bedi's breathtaking switch to the BJP from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

"The mission to free India of corruption is an uphill task," said Hazare, while stating that his team would soon call a meeting to work out the modalities of the agitation.

Reportedly piqued at Bedi's move to join the BJP without consulting him, the septuagenarian activist had earlier turned away eager television reporters from his house on Wednesday remarking, "I do not want to plunge into the dirt of politics".

According to his aides, he refused to take Bedi's calls after her decision to plunge into politics. Bedi, projected as the BJP's chief ministerial candidate, will battle it out with yet another of Hazare's former lieutenants, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal.

Before diving into politics, both were mainstays of Hazare's massively popular 'India Against Corruption' campaign in 2011 that sought to introduce the Jan Lokpal Bill.



PHOTO: AFP

Yemeni protesters shout slogans during a rally against the control of capital the by Shia Huthi rebels yesterday in the capital Sanaa. Yemen faced a dangerous power vacuum after its president announced his resignation over a deadly standoff with Huthi militias controlling the capital and lawmakers called an emergency weekend session.

## TURING'S NOTEBOOK Code-breaker's notes to auction for \$1m

MAIL ONLINE

A handwritten notebook by Alan Turing, the World War II code-breaking genius depicted by Benedict Cumberbatch in the Oscar-nominated The Imitation Game, is going on the auction block.

It is being sold by Bonhams in New York on April 13 and is expected to bring at least \$1 million.

The 56-page manuscript was written at the time the British mathematician and computer science pioneer was working to break the seemingly unbreakable Enigma codes used by the Germans throughout World War II.

The notebook contains Turing's complex mathematical and computer science notations. It is believed to be the only extensive Turing manuscript known to exist, the auctioneer said.

It dates from 1942, when Turing was trying to break the seemingly unbreakable code with his team of cryptanalysts at Britain's World War II code and cypher school Bletchley Park.

The notebook was among the papers he left in his will to friend and fellow mathematician Robin Gandy.

Gandy gave the papers to The Archive Centre at King's College in Cambridge in 1977. But he kept the notebook, using its blank pages for writing down his dreams at the request of his psychiatrist.



## Divers find more bodies

Reach AirAsia fuselage

AFP, Pangkalan Bun

Indonesian divers yesterday finally reached the fuselage of an AirAsia plane that crashed last month, an official said, as four more bodies were recovered from the Java Sea.

Flight QZ8501 went down on December 28 in stormy weather with 162 people on board as it flew from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore.

"Divers have reached the fuselage this morning but they could not get in because there were so many cables and debris," S.B.Supriyadi, a rescue agency official coordinating the search, told AFP.

He said bad weather later in the day hampered further efforts to check if there were bodies inside.

## US slams Pak terror havens

No mobile service in Agra during Obama's visit

IANS, Agra

Sending a clear message to Pakistan, US President Barack Obama has said "safe havens" of terrorism within that country were not acceptable and described India as a "true global" partner. Obama also called for those behind the Mumbai terror attacks to be brought to justice.

"I have made it clear that even as the US works with Pakistan to meet the threat of terrorism, safe havens within Pakistan are not acceptable and that those behind the Mumbai terrorist attack must face justice," Obama said in an interview to the India Today weekly magazine which is to be published in its upcoming issue.

People in Agra would not be able to use their mobile phones for three hours on Tuesday when US President Barack Obama comes calling.

The Uttar Pradesh government has worked out a security plan for the visit and sent its top officials to the city to work along with US security officials to oversee arrangements and plug gaps, if any.

The entire stretch from Delhi to Agra would remain under high alert January 27 and for three hours people would not



be able to use their mobile phones in the vicinity of the Taj Ganj area, the Mall road and the Fatehabad road as electronic jammers would be in operation, officials said.

Late Thursday, Director General (security) Gopal Gupta, who is the nodal officer for the visit, held detailed discussions with US security officials.

Additional Director General Mukul Goyal also conducted prolonged discussions with local police officials to draw up the road map for posting police teams along the National Highway 2 and the Yamuna Expressway.

The two roads are already under intensive patrolling by the Provincial Armed Constabulary and the Rapid Action Force.

The US security agencies are not willing to take any chances, sources said.

The entire route from the Kheria airport to the eastern gate of the Taj Mahal, and inside the complex, would be under the direct supervision of the US commandos.

They would also be keeping an eye from the rooftops of hotels and houses in the Taj Ganj area.

## Ukraine rebel rejects truce talks

BBC ONLINE

The main pro-Russian rebel leader in eastern Ukraine says his troops are on the offensive and he does not want truce talks with Kiev.

Alexander Zakharchenko said his forces would push the front line back to the borders of Donetsk region. They are in control of the city of Donetsk.

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused Ukrainian government forces of "criminal" shelling of civilian areas.

Kiev "ordered the start of major combat operations" along the front, he said.

Earlier, Mr Zakharchenko said the rebels "will not make any attempts at ceasefire talks any more".

Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany have issued a call to end fighting.

On Thursday, Ukrainian government troops withdrew from Donetsk airport's main terminal, a scene of bitter fighting in recent weeks.

The government said the military still retained control of parts of the airport, but six soldiers had died and 16 had been wounded.

The government and its Western allies say Russian regular troops are fighting alongside the separatists, using Russian heavy artillery and tanks. Moscow insists that only Russian "volunteers" have joined the rebels.

Zakharchenko said "we'll attack right up to the borders of Donetsk region, but if I see a threat from other directions we'll neutralise it".

## NEWSIN brief

### Iran-US nuke talks resume in Switzerland

AFP, Zurich

Iranian and US diplomats resumed talks in Switzerland yesterday, as the pace intensifies towards a complex deal on Tehran's nuclear programme.

Two days of meetings between Iran's deputy foreign minister Abbas Araghchi and top US negotiator Wendy Sherman began yesterday morning in Zurich, a US spokesman told AFP.

### Coalition force hits ISIS with 25 air strikes

REUTERS, Washington

The United States and its coalition partners have launched another round of air strikes against Islamic State, conducting 25 strikes since early Thursday.

In a statement yesterday from the Combined Joint Task Force leading the military operation, officials said 13 air strikes hit in Iraq, including eight near Mosul that struck four Islamic state fighter units and destroyed a variety of militant-owned equipment and infrastructure.

**Mubarak sons leave prison**

AFP, Cairo

Two sons of Egypt's ousted leader Hosni Mubarak seen as symbols of his era's corruption were freed from prison yesterday pending a graft retrial, state media reported.

Alaa and Gamal Mubarak left jail early yesterday after a court ordered their release because they had served the maximum pretrial detention.

**Nepal parliament in chaos again**

AFP, Kathmandu

Protests by Nepal's opposition lawmakers threw parliament into chaos yesterday after emergency talks failed to secure agreement on a new national constitution before a midnight deadline expired.