

Sudan warring parties in Jeddah for talks

REUTERS, Riyadh

Envoys of Sudan's army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces were in Jeddah for talks yesterday, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said.

The US-Saudi initiative is the first serious attempt to end three weeks of fighting that have turned parts of the Sudanese capital Khartoum into war zones and derailed an internationally backed plan to usher in civilian rule following years of unrest and uprisings.

Riyadh and Washington earlier welcomed the "pre-negotiation talks" between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

But both sides have made it clear they would only discuss a humanitarian truce, not negotiate an end to the war.



(Left, clockwise) Well-wishers gather on The Mall to celebrate Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Queen Camilla, in central London yesterday following the coronations; British royal family members on the Buckingham Palace balcony to view the Royal Air Force fly-past in central London; protesters hold up placards saying 'Not My King' in Trafalgar Square close in central London yesterday ahead of the coronation ceremony.

PHOTO: AFP



VIOLENCE IN INDIA'S MANIPUR 54 Killed in ethnic clashes

AFP, Guwahati

The death toll after ethnic clashes in India's remote northeast rose to 54 yesterday, with fresh violence overnight despite authorities rushing in troops to restore order.

Thousands of soldiers were sent to Manipur state after a protest march by a tribal group turned violent on Wednesday.

Authorities imposed an internet blackout and issued shoot-at-sight orders in "extreme cases" in an effort to contain the unrest.

Police told AFP that the situation remained tense after a fresh bout of violence on Friday night, while The Press Trust of India said hospital morgues in state capital Imphal and Churachandpur district further south had reported a combined total of 54 dead.

"16 bodies were kept in the morgue of the Churachandpur district hospital while 15 bodies were in Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal East district," PTI reported, citing an unnamed local official.

"The Regional Institute of Medical Sciences at Lamphel in Imphal West district reported 23 dead."

Manipur director general of police P. Doungel told reporters on Friday that security forces were bringing the situation under control.

Army patrols had "gone a long way to quell the thing off", he said.

Security forces and the Manipur government have yet to issue an official death toll for this week's violence.

But India's law minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters yesterday that "many lives have been lost" after days of clashes alongside damage to property.

The internet blackout has impeded the flow of information from Manipur and details of the latest clashes on Friday remain sparse.

An Indian army unit based in neighbouring Nagaland state said 13,000 people had sought shelter from the violence "within military premises".



Protests, support as Charles III coronated in UK

World leaders congratulate king and queen; HRW says arrests 'incredibly alarming'

AFP, London

Thousands of people turned central London red, white and blue yesterday, with a sea of Union Jack flags lining the streets for the coronation of King Charles III.

While the coronation service was itself a sombre and sober affair, a celebratory atmosphere filled the British capital and beyond, despite wet weather.

Leaders in the United States and Europe sent congratulations to Britain's king and Queen Camilla on their coronation while China called for "cooperation" and "peace".

But not everyone was in a celebratory mood, with scores of republican protesters — many dressed in yellow and waving banners saying "Not my king" — gathered at Trafalgar Square.

"I'm here because I want to protest against this outdated monarchy, I want to protest because you shouldn't be head of state based on who you were born from," said republican Jane, in her 30s.

Hours earlier, London's Metropolitan police arrested several organisers from the anti-monarchy group, in a move denounced by Human Rights Watch as draconian and "alarming".

"This is something you would expect to see in Moscow, not London," the rights organisation's UK Director, Yasmine Ahmed, said in a statement.

"Peaceful protests allow

individuals to hold those in power to account — something the UK government seems increasingly averse to," she stated.

Officers from London's Metropolitan Police force detained six organisers from the anti-monarchy group Republic and seized hundreds of their placards as they prepared to protest along the route of a procession for the coronation of King Charles III, the group said.

Meanwhile, supporters across the capital cheered in unison as the crown was placed on King Charles III's head at 12.02 pm (11:02 GMT), then rushed down The Mall, the grand avenue leading to Buckingham Palace, in order to see the newly-crowned king on the balcony.

The crowd roared and chanted "God Save the King" as Charles and queen Camilla emerged, both wearing their crowns, and then again as the Red Arrows aerobatic team flew over the palace, pumping out red, white and blue plumes.

The most fervent royal fanatics got the party started on The Mall hours before the ceremony began, with some camping out for days to secure a prime spot for the historic event.

As the royal procession passed on the way to Westminster Abbey, a forest of arms rose as people captured images of the king with their mobile phones.

Street vendors joined the hardcore supporters in the clamour

to see the monarch's golden coach, with one man bellowing out "God Save the King".

Meanwhile, Germany, France, Rome, Greece also greeted the new king and queen.

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the UK to work for "a stable and mutually beneficial... relationship" with his country after recent strains in their relations.

"China and Britain, both permanent members of the UN Security Council, should take a long-term and strategic view to jointly promote the historical trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation," he said.

The head of the European Union's executive, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, called the coronation "a testament to the enduring strength of the British monarchy".

"A symbol of stability and continuity," von der Leyen tweeted, alongside a picture of her at the pageant-filled ceremony in Westminster Abbey.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who is in Kenya for a visit, also welcomed the newly crowned monarch's interest in tackling climate change.

"(It) is very important that he is someone who is committed to a close cooperation between Great Britain and the European Union, and who also has his own personal agenda to advance climate protection," Scholz said.

"That will also help us."

Why is Camilla crowned and is she 'Queen'?

CNN ONLINE



Camilla is technically queen. That's because if a male sovereign is married when they accede the throne, his wife is traditionally anointed and crowned in a short ceremony that takes place after the king is crowned and the homages are paid.

Yesterday, Camilla became the 29th Queen Consort to be crowned at Westminster Abbey.

Like her husband, she was anointed with holy oil by the Archbishop of Canterbury, this time without a screen, which demonstrates the different nature of anointing a consort compared to a reigning sovereign.

The Keeper of the Jewel House then presented the Consort's Ring, which symbolises promise and commitment, "marrying" her to the King and both to God and their people.

Next, she was crowned with Queen Mary's Crown. She was then presented with the Sceptre and Rod before committing herself to life-long service supporting her husband.

Britons' support for monarchy declined: CNN polls

CNN ONLINE

Britons are more likely to say their views of the monarchy have worsened than improved over the past decade, according to a CNN poll, suggesting that King Charles III is facing serious challenges.

More than one-third of UK adults (36 percent) say their opinion of the family has become more negative than it was 10 years ago, the survey by polling company Savanta found.

Just 21 percent say their views on the royal family have gotten more positive over the past decade, with another 41 percent saying their overall opinion has stayed the same. And three in 10 say they have become less interested in news about the family over that time, while 22 percent say they have grown more interested. A little less than half say that their interest level hasn't changed.

Most Britons said they plan to take part in at least one event this weekend related to the coronation.

But the public celebration of the new King comes as at a time when decades of demographic, religious and societal change have resulted in shifting attitudes to the monarchy, following the longest interlude between two coronations in British history.



Ukrainian servicemen of the 10th Mountain Assault Brigade 'Edelweiss' fire a D-30 howitzer towards Russian troops at a position in a front line, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, near the town of Soledar, Donetsk region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israeli forces kill 2 in West Bank

AFP, Ramallah

Israeli troops killed two Palestinians in the occupied West Bank yesterday, the Palestinian health ministry said, as the army claimed to have targeted the perpetrators of a "shooting attack".

"Two martyrs, shot by the occupation (Israeli forces) arrived at Thabet Thabet government hospital," in the city of Tulkarm, the health ministry said.

It named the two men as Hamza Khreish and Samer al Shafei, both 22, and said that one other person was wounded in the raid.

The Israeli army said the pair were "involved in the shooting attack in Avnei Heftz on May 2, 2023 during which an Israeli civilian was injured".

"The two gunmen were shot and killed after attempting to flee the scene," an army statement said, adding that two others were arrested in the operation.

