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French foreign minister calls for Gaza truce on Israel trip

TEL AVIV

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna yesterday pressed for an “immediate and durable” truce in the Gaza war, adding Paris is “deeply concerned” over the situation in the Palestinian territory.

“Too many civilians are being killed,” Colonna said during remarks in Tel Aviv with her Israeli counterpart Eli Cohen as Israel pushed on with its offensive after the October 7 attacks, sending tensions spiralling across the region.

Israel has come under growing international pressure for a ceasefire in Gaza, where its war against Hamas militants has killed at least 18,800 people, mostly women and children, according to the territory’s Hamas government.

Colonna also stressed that the victims of Hamas’s attacks must not be forgotten.

Cohen meanwhile said “France could play a positive and significant role to prevent a war in Lebanon”.

“Israel has no intention to start another front on our northern border, but we will do what whatever it takes to protect our citizens,” said Cohen.

—AFP

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Kuwait’s Emir Shaikh Nawaf laid to rest in private funeral

NEW EMIR SHAIKH MESHAL TO DELIVER OATH BEFORE PARLIAMENT ON WEDNESDAY



Reuters

■ Shaikh Meshal

DUBAI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief Reporter

Kuwait has announced Shaikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah will be the new Emir of the country, in succession to Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah who passed away on Saturday.

Shaikh Nawaf, 86, was laid to rest at a private funeral yesterday attended by select relatives.

The coffin of Shaikh Nawaf was carried into a Kuwait mosque for prayers ahead of a burial ceremony that was broadcast on state television.

Attendance was limited to members of the ruling family, making for an intimate and low-key farewell for the ruler who reigned for three years.



AFP

■ The coffin of Kuwait’s late Emir Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah is carried out of the Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque in Kuwait City ahead of burial during his funeral yesterday.

UAE President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan has mourned with great sadness and sorrow the passing of Shaikh Nawaf, praying to Allah Almighty to rest his soul in paradise and to grant patience and solace to Al Sabah family, the State of Kuwait, and its people.

The incoming Emir Shaikh Meshal, 83, is expected to deliver his oath before parliament

on Wednesday. He will receive condolences today and tomorrow from the wider public.

Mohammad Bin Zayed congratulates Meshal

Shaikh Mohammad congratulated the new Emir. In a post on his account on X, Shaikh Mohammad wrote: “I wish my brother Shaikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah success in leading the State of Kuwait

towards further progress and prosperity in various fields. Together, we will continue to strengthen our bonds of unity and advance joint Gulf action for the benefit of our people.”

Shaikh Meshal was Kuwait’s Crown Prince since October 2020 following the death of Emir Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

—With input from agencies

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NATION

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Over 60 migrants drown as boat capsizes off Libya

Victims in latest shipwreck include women and children

CAIRO

A boat carrying dozens of migrants trying to reach Europe capsized off the coast of Libya, leaving more than 60 people dead, including women and children, the UN migration agency said.

Saturday’s shipwreck was the latest tragedy in this part of the Mediterranean Sea, a key but dangerous route for migrants seeking a better life in Europe. Thousands have died, according to officials.

The UN’s International Organisation for Migration said in a statement the boat was carrying 86 migrants when

strong waves swamped it off the town of Zuwara on Libya’s western coast and that 61 migrants drowned, according to survivors.

“The central Mediterranean continues to be one of the world’s most dangerous migration routes,” the agency wrote on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Libya has in recent years emerged as the dominant transit point for migrants

940

migrants reported
dead off Libya
between Jan 1 and
Nov 18 in 2023

fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East.

More than 2,250 people died on the central European route this year, according to Flavio Di Giacomo, an IOM spokesperson.

It’s “a dramatic figure which demonstrates that unfortunately not enough is being done to save lives at sea,” Di Giacomo wrote on X.

According to the IOM’s missing migrants project, at least 940 migrants were reported dead and 1,248 missing off Libya between January 1 and November 18 this year. The project, which tracks migration movements, said about 14,900 migrants, including over 1,000 women and more than 530 children, were intercepted and returned to Libya this year. —AP



SPORT

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