



Turkey's Erdogan woos Egypt, Gulf states in push to repair ties

Turkey hopes to maximize its cooperation with Egypt and Gulf states, says President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but said, as Ankara seeks to repair its strained ties with Cairo and some Gulf Arab nations after years of tensions.

Erdogan's ties with Egypt and Saudi Arabia have been strained over several issues, from opposing positions on the Israeli-Palestine conflict to the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi by a Saudi hit squad at the King Abdul Aziz International Airport in October 2018.

"Our desire is to use these opportunities for cooperation at the maximum level and improve our ties with them," the same situation is valid for all Gulf countries," Erdogan told broadcaster TRT Haber on Tuesday.

"We have serious potential for cooperation with Egypt in a wide spectrum of areas from the eastern Mediterranean to Libya," he said, adding he "loved" the Egyptian people.

As part of the efforts, a Turkish delegation held talks with Egyptian officials in Cairo last month in the first direct contact between the regional rivals in years, after they fell out following the Egyptian army's ouster of a democratically elected Muslim Brotherhood president in 2013.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu held talks in Riyadh with his Saudi counterpart, Adel bin Abdul Aziz, in the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in formal Saudi bays of Turkish experts.

After last month's talk with his Saudi counterpart, Cavusoglu said the two countries would continue to talk to each other.



COVID lockdown in Australia's Melbourne extended by a week

A coronavirus lockdown in Melbourne, Australia's second biggest city, will be extended by another seven days, authorities have announced as they attempt to stamp out a cluster of cases that emerged in Melbourne last month.

"We have right now 60 cases and over 100 exposures that we have to deal with," said James Merlino, the acting premier of the state of Victoria on Wednesday.

"Our teams are working hard to ensure that we have a safe and secure state," he said, adding that he "loved" the Victorian people.

"We've let this thing run its course, it will replace. We're going to run this to ground, because if we don't, people will die."

Mali suspended from African Union, threatened with sanctions

Mali's membership with the African Union has been suspended with immediate effect and the impoverished country threatened with sanctions following a second military coup in nine months.

The AU "decided" to suspend Mali's membership "in the interest of the African Union and the international community."

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said that the ECOWAS crisis summit in Ghana on Sunday began the process of imposing sanctions on Mali. The ECOWAS summit is a key regional forum for West African states, and the ECOWAS summit is a key regional forum for West African states.

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China reports first human case of H10N3 bird flu

A 61-year-old man in China's eastern province of Jiangsu has been confirmed as the first human case of infection with a rare strain of bird flu known as H10N3, Beijing's National Health Commission (NHC) has said.

Many different strains of bird flu are present in China and some occasionally infect people, usually those working with poultry. There is no indication that H10N3 can spread easily to humans.

The man, a resident of the city of Zhenjiang, was admitted to hospital on April 28 and diagnosed with H10N3 on May 28. The health commission said on Tuesday that the man was infected.

His condition is now stable and he is ready to be discharged. Investigation of his close contacts has found no other cases, the NHC said.

Japan has faced criticism for the pace of its vaccination drive, which was reported to be slow but struggled to get off the ground until last month. Facing criticism over supply, shortage of medical personnel, and the pace of its vaccination drive, which was reported to be slow but struggled to get off the ground until last month.

H10N3 is a low pathogenicity virus, which means it causes relatively few severe cases in poultry and humans. It is a novel mix of different viruses, China said.

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