

Nepal PM's kidney transplant successful

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepal's prime minister had a successful kidney transplant in March and is in stable condition, doctors said.

Khadga Prasad Oli's new kidney is already functioning after recovering at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu, said Prem Krishna Khadga, a doctor at the hospital.

Other details of Oli's condition and the operation were not made public.

Doctors said the donor, who is Oli's relative, was in stable condition and recovering well.

The popular Communist prime minister, who is 69 years old, has long suffered from kidney illness and has made several trips to India and Thailand for treatment. He underwent an earlier kidney transplant in 2007 in New Delhi.

Oli became prime minister in 2018 after a Communist alliance swept parliamentary elections. He was also prime minister in 2015 and has been elected to parliament four times.



SUCCESSFUL TRANSPLANT. Nepalese Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli arrives for the inaugural ceremony of the India-Nepal business forum in New Delhi, India, in this April 6, 2018 file photo. Oli had a successful kidney transplant in March. Doctors said the donor was Oli's relative. (AP Photo/Altat Qadri, File)

Dutch king apologizes for colonial killings in Indonesia

By **Andi Jatmiko and Niniek Karmini**
The Associated Press

BOGOR, Indonesia — King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands has apologized for his country's aggression during its colonial rule of Indonesia and formally recognized the Southeast Asian country's independence date, in his first state visit to the former Dutch colony.

The king's apology was conveyed after he and Queen Maxima were hosted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo and his wife, Iriana, at an official ceremony in the ornate colonial-style presidential palace in Bogor, just outside the capital, Jakarta.

The Netherlands did not initially apologize for its 350 years of colonial rule and aggression until 2013, when the Dutch ambassador expressed remorse for a series of massacres carried out by the Dutch military to crush resistance against colonial rule in Java and Sulawesi islands after Indonesia's 1945 declaration of independence. That apology came only after the victims' widows took the Dutch government to court.

"In line with the previous statement by my government, I would like to express my regret and apologize here for the excessive violence on the part of the Dutch in those years," the king said at a joint news conference with Widodo. "I do so with full awareness that the pain and sorrow of the affected families will be felt for generations."

Indonesia declared its independence from Dutch colonial rule on August 17, 1945, but the Netherlands refused to acknowledge it and fought unsuccessfully to maintain control of the lucrative Asian outpost. It finally recognized the country as an independent nation in December 1949.

Indonesian authorities claim some 40,000 people were killed during the fighting, while most Dutch historians estimate the dead at about 1,500.

A 1968 Dutch report acknowledged "violent excesses" in Indonesia but argued that Dutch troops were conducting a "police action" often incited by guerrilla warfare and terror attacks. The Dutch government has never prosecuted any soldiers for the killings despite a U.N. report condemning the attacks as "deliberate and ruthless" as early as 1948.

The 2013 apology by the Dutch ambassador cleared the way for the biggest-ever Dutch trade mission to Indonesia in November 2013, led by Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

Subsequent apologies were made by Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders in 2016 and Rutte late last year during visits in Indonesia. But unresolved demands from those affected by past war crimes still loom large over the monarch's current visit.

"On August 17, it will be 75 years since Indonesia declared its proclamation, claiming its place among free and independent countries," the king said. "Today, the Dutch government explicitly acknowledged it both



DUTCH APOLOGY. King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands shakes hands with Indonesian President Joko Widodo, right, after a joint press conference at the presidential palace in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia. (AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim, Pool)

politically and morally." The four-day state visit by the royal couple aimed to deepen economic ties with Indonesia. It's the first trip to Indonesia for the king since he ascended the throne in 2013, and the fourth for the queen, whose previous trips were part of her role as U.N. Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development.

The king and queen started their busy trip by laying a wreath at the Kalibata Heroes Cemetery to honor Indonesia's war dead, especially those who fell during the War of Independence. In the afternoon, the royal couple laid a wreath at Menteng Pulo Cemetery, the resting place of almost 4,300 Dutch soldiers who died during World War II and the independence war.

The king and Widodo witnessed the signing of agreements for economic partnership in the areas of agriculture, healthcare, coastal protection, and the maritime industry.

Under the Widodo administration, ties between the two countries have strengthened significantly.

"We certainly cannot erase our history, but we can learn from the past," Widodo said. "We try to learn from history to strengthen our commitment to build an equal relationship that respects and benefits each other."

Widodo's visit to the Netherlands in 2016 was the first by an Indonesian leader since Abdurrahman Wahid in 2000. In 2010, then-President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono cancelled a visit at the last minute amid moves by a separatist group to have him arrested for alleged human-rights violations.

The Dutch royal couple also visited Lake Toba in North Sumatra province, one of Indonesia's "10 new Balis," an ambitious plan to boost tourism and diversify Southeast Asia's largest economy, and went to Sebangau National Park on Borneo island.

Karmini reported from Jakarta, Indonesia.

Japan warship, China fishing boat collide in East China Sea

By **Mari Yamaguchi**
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A Japanese destroyer collided with a Chinese fishing boat in the East China Sea but no one was injured, the Defense Ministry said.

The collision caused a hole in the destroyer *Shimakaze* above its waterline, but it was still able to move on its own, the ministry said.

The cause of the collision and other details including the ships' move-

ments before the accident are under investigation, the ministry said.

The site of the accident, about 400 miles west of the Japanese island of Yakushima, is far to the north of an area disputed between the two countries, it said.

Japan and China have disputes over Japanese-controlled islands that China also claims. The uninhabited islets are called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese.

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3 / 27 / 20

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