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Mohammad:
No barriers
between us
and people

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, yesterday revealed what his mystery shopper team found about how accessible top officials are for residents. He shared the feedback on his account on X, reaffirming that Dubai is a place where “no barriers exist between us and the people we serve”.

In this regard, he praised Mohammad Al Marri, Director-General of GDRFA Dubai for his steadfast commitment to maintaining an open-door policy. “However, I received concerning reports about three directors-general in Dubai. These individuals have restricted access to the public on the pretext that the government is now ‘smart’, relying on digital transactions and websites to address people’s needs,” he said.

“My message is clear: The foundation of our success lies in serving people, simplifying their lives, and maintaining direct and constant communication with them. These principles are the essence of our government and will never change. For those who are not aligned with these values – we will take action to correct course,” Shaikh Mohammad added.

Israel base-building signals long-term control of Gaza

US OPPOSES MOVE; UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY PUSHES FOR PALESTINIAN STATE

DUBAI
BY STEPHEN N. R.
Senior Associate Editor

The Israeli military has significantly expanded its presence in central Gaza in recent months, fortifying military bases and demolishing Palestinian buildings, according to Israeli officials and satellite images.

This move suggests Israel may be preparing for long-term control of the region, a *New York Times* report has said.

Reacting to the reported acceleration of construction by the Israeli military, the United States voiced opposition to any Israeli permanent base-building in the Gaza Strip.

Asked about the accounts, State Department spokesman Vedant Patel said: “There cannot be any reduction in the territory of Gaza. Beyond that, there can also be no forced displacement of Palestinians from their homes.”

Expanding occupation

Since the early stages of the Gaza war, Israeli forces have occupied a strategic 7km road known as the Netzarim corridor, which runs through the centre of the enclave. Over time, Israel has extended its control to a 46sqkm area, according to the Israeli military and a *New York Times* analysis of satellite images and



AFP

■ An injured woman is evacuated after an Israeli strike in Gaza City's Sabra neighbourhood, on Tuesday, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Palestinian territory.

video footage. In the last three months, the Israeli military has demolished over 600 buildings around the corridor, likely to create a buffer zone.

The military has also rapidly expanded a network of outposts, equipped with communications towers and defensive fortifica-

tions, further solidifying their presence. The build-up in central Gaza marks a notable shift for Israel, which has traditionally avoided holding territory in Gaza. The Israeli military, however, maintains that the expansion is for operational purposes. Meanwhile, the UN General

Assembly passed a resolution calling on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories and pushing for the creation of a Palestinian state. It also convened an international conference in June to try to jumpstart a two-state solution.

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UAE job market set to close year on high note

The fintech industry is particularly experiencing rapid growth

DUBAI
BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

The UAE's job market is set to close 2024 on a high note, driven by strong demand in the banking and fintech sectors, particularly for professionals with relevant regional market experience.

The fintech industry is particularly experiencing rapid growth, with mid- and senior-level talent frequently moving between companies. As fintech firms attract significant private investment, many are expanding their operations and hiring more talent. This trend is expected to make 2024 one of the best years for job opportunities in fintech.

Intense competition

Salary increases in fintech are typically around 15-20 per cent when switching roles. However, competition for tal-

ent is intense, with government-backed businesses and Gulf market offers driving up salaries. While remote work had been common, companies are now increasingly requiring employees to work from the office.

In addition to fintech, sectors like tourism, F&B, and support services are also seeing growth, contributing to job movement. Q4-2024 is expected to be the best for job creation since 2021, when the market rebounded from the Covid-19 crisis. Employers are also preparing for new Emiratization quotas, requiring a ratio of Emiratis in skilled positions, which is driving further transitions in the labour market as companies aim to meet these diversity and localisation targets.

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● In addition to fintech, sectors like tourism, F&B, and support services are also seeing growth, contributing to job movement.

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