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Brace for wet weather and overcast skies in UAE

DUBAI
BY EVANGELINE ELSA
Social Media Editor

Get ready for overcast skies and rainy weather this week, as rain is expected in some parts of the UAE tonight and tomorrow morning.

The National Center of Meteorology (NCM) has issued a weather alert, indicating that rain will hit parts of Abu Dhabi, late night today. Tomorrow morning, rainy conditions may extend to the coastal areas of Dubai, Sharjah and other emirates, before moving towards Ras Al Khaimah.

“Cloud amount will increase gradually from late night Wednesday over Western areas and move towards coasts and islands, and over some Northern and Eastern areas with a chance of rainfall on Thursday,” the weather alert read. “The cloud cover will decrease gradually on Friday, by noon time, with a drop in temperatures.”

Expect strong winds at times. “The wind direction will be Northeasterly becoming Northwesterly or Southeasterly, at times. These winds will be strong especially over the sea, causing blowing dust and sand over land, reducing horizontal visibility,” the NCM warned.



MOHAMMAD ATTENDS GLOBAL WOMEN'S FORUM

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, attends the opening of Global Women's Forum Dubai 2024. Also in attendance are Emine Erdogan, First Lady of the Republic of Turkey (left), Asifa Bhutto Zardari, First Lady of Pakistan (right) and Mona Ghanem Al Marri, Chairperson of the Board & Managing Director of the Dubai Women Establishment.

SEE ALSO P4

Etihad eyes \$1b retrofit programme

Majority of 20 new aircraft will optimise existing routes

ABU DHABI
BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
Chief Reporter

UAE's flag carrier, Etihad Airways, is set to acquire 20 new aircraft next year, while also committing an ambitious \$800 million to \$1 billion towards refurbishing

its older aircraft, said airline CEO Antonioaldo Neves.

The new aircraft additions will get the UAE flag carrier to expand its fleet to 95 as of September 2024, from 79 a year earlier. Neves said Etihad Airways plans to invest between \$800 million and \$1 billion to retrofit its entire fleet. “We've already contracted engineering partners and placed orders for the new seats, which take about two years to arrive,” said Neves.

The first of these seats are ex-

pected to be delivered by 2026, with the first planes rolling out of the hangar by the end of that year. “We plan to retrofit all of our Boeing 777s between 2026 and 2027,” he stated. Neves is also doubling down on his promise to “do whatever it takes” to double the fleet to 150 aircraft by 2030, emphasising Etihad's strategy of scaling at a pace unmatched in the region. “We are growing three to four times faster than the UAE average,” he said.

SEE ALSO P5

Israeli cabinet approves truce with Lebanon

US PROPOSAL SUGGESTED A 60-DAY CEASEFIRE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

DUBAI
BY STEPHEN N. R.
Senior Associate Editor

Israel has agreed to a ceasefire with Lebanon, setting the stage for an end to nearly 14 months of fighting between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah that has killed thousands of people since it was ignited by the Gaza war last year.

The accord is expected to take effect today. The approval followed a meeting of Israel's security cabinet under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened to discuss a ceasefire deal. Netanyahu said the ‘ceasefire duration depends on what happens in Lebanon’ and that Israel ‘will intensify’ pressure on Hamas in Gaza.

He also said Israel will maintain ‘full’ freedom to act in Lebanon and the truce will allow Israel to ‘focus on Iranian threat’.

Waves of strikes

Ahead of the announcement, waves of strikes pounded Hezbollah's south Beirut stronghold after a flurry of Israeli evacuation warnings, AFP TV footage showed, in the heavi-

est raids since Israel's air campaign escalated.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati demanded ‘immediate’ implementation of ceasefire. The US proposal suggested a 60-day ceasefire, effective immediately, pending Hezbollah's consent. In Italy, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the ceasefire could help end the Gaza conflict by preventing Hezbollah's involvement in the broader war.

Details of the ceasefire are sparse, but it reportedly requires Hezbollah forces to withdraw north of the Litani River, about 30km from Israel.

The Lebanese army will deploy more forces in the south of the country to beef up a contingent of United Nations peacekeepers, helping to ensure the militant group doesn't operate there.

SEE ALSO P9

Netanyahu also said Israel will maintain ‘full’ freedom to act in Lebanon and the truce will allow Israel to ‘focus on Iranian threat’.

HUAWEI AppGallery Gamers Cup All-Star Esports Brings Together Over 400 Gaming Enthusiasts in Ras Al Khaimah



The AppGallery Gamers Cup - All-Star Esports Tournament recently concluded with tremendous success at the DoubleTree by Hilton Resort & Spa Marjan Island in Ras Al Khaimah. Drawing over 400 gaming enthusiasts, the tournament transformed the city into a vibrant hub for esports excitement, celebrating the dynamic growth of the gaming community.

Organized under the guidance of the Emirates Esports Federation (EESF) and in partnership with Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, China Cultural Center in the UAE, Nihao!China and Lotus Cars, the AppGallery Gamers Cup - All-Star Esports Ras Al Khaimah tournament celebrated the dynamic and fast-growing world of Esports. The event brought together top gamers, tech enthusiasts, and esports professionals from across the region, marking a significant step for gaming in the UAE and beyond.

A standout feature of the event was the strong presence of Lotus, a key supporting partner. Attendees were captivated by the iconic Lotus Emira, prominently displayed at the event entrance. Guests had the unique opportunity to get up close with this extraordinary vehicle, experience its cutting-edge features, and even take it for test drives, adding an extra layer of luxury and innovation to the esports celebration.

