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ENTERTAINMENT | P14

UAE GIRL
NAZRIYA
NAZIM ON
HER LATEST
MALAYALAM
THRILLER



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2024
JUMADA AL THANI 3, 1446

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Will Dubai home
prices surge
again in 2025?

UAE's foreign aid hits Dh360b in its 53rd year

MAJOR IMPACT ON REDUCING POVERTY, EASING EFFECTS OF CRISES GLOBALLY

ABU DHABI

In 2024, the UAE continued to lead in international humanitarian efforts, reaffirming its commitment to promoting the spirit of international solidarity and co-operation in all its forms.

Since the establishment of the UAE in 1971, until mid-2024, the UAE's foreign aid amounted to Dh360 billion (\$98 billion), having a significant impact on reducing poverty, mitigating the effects of disasters and crises, supporting economic and social development, and promoting international stability and peace.

Highlights of the UAE humanitarian and development initiatives were the launch of the Dh20 billion Erth Zayed Philanthropies by President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, as part of the nation's commitment towards providing assistance with a profound impact on communities and people's lives.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the Mothers' Endowment campaign, which aims to honour mothers in the UAE by establishing a Dh1 billion endowment fund to sustainably support the education of millions of individuals around the world.

In support of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty's mission, Shaikh Khalid Bin

Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, announced that the UAE would allocate \$100 million through the UAE Aid Agency to assist in combating hunger and poverty worldwide.

Aid for Gaza, Lebanon

The President has directed the provision of medical treatment at UAE hospitals for 1,000 wounded children and 1,000 cancer patients from Gaza Strip in the country's hospitals.

For Lebanon, Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed directed the delivery of an urgent \$100 million relief package to the people of Lebanon. The UAE has dispatched in November its 18th aircraft as part of the "UAE stands with Lebanon" campaign, carrying 40 tonnes of medical supplies. It also sent an aid ship carrying 2,000 tonnes of urgent relief. In addition, the UAE provided an urgent relief aid package worth \$30 million to the displaced Lebanese people in the Syrian Arab Republic. — WAM

Dh20b
Amount allocated
for Erth Zayed
Philanthropies



CLASHES IN SOUTH KOREA AS PRESIDENT DECLARES MARTIAL LAW

Soldiers try to enter the National Assembly building in Seoul yesterday after South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law. Yoon accused the opposition of being 'anti-state forces' and said he was acting to protect the country from 'threats' posed by the North. The National Assembly later passed a resolution calling for lifting of martial law. **SEE ALSO P10**

UAE-UK travel demand surges

UK has expanded the pre-travel check to more non-European visitors

DUBAI
BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
Chief Reporter

UAE travel companies are witnessing a surge in holiday bookings to the UK ahead of the winter season, driven by the expansion of the UK's Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) programme. The ETA, costing £10, grants

eligible non-visa travellers permission to enter the UK and is electronically linked to passports. Effective January 8, 2025, travellers from 48 non-European countries, including the US, Canada, Japan, and Australia, will require an ETA. From April 2025, this will extend to eligible European visitors.

Favourite destination

The UK remains a favourite destination for UAE travellers, especially during the holiday season, noted Afi Ahmed, Chairman of Smart Travels. It ranks as the third most

popular destination for UAE travellers, following Sri Lanka and Turkey, according to Matthew Vlemmiks, dnata Travel Leisure Manager. Stable airfare prices, ranging between Dh2,800 and Dh3,300 for direct flights, and increased flight frequency have also boosted demand.

GCC visitors to the UK reached 512,000 in the first half of 2024, spending £1 billion — a 25 per cent increase from 2023. The British Embassy expects 1.3 million GCC visitors by year-end, contributing significantly to tourism revenue. **SEE ALSO P5**

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SPORT

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MIDDLE EAST

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