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Hamdan rolls out AI blueprint for Dubai

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, announced the launch of the Dubai Universal Blueprint for Artificial Intelligence, an annual plan that aims to achieve key targets of Dubai's economic agenda D33 by adding Dh100 billion and increasing economic productivity by 50 per cent.

"During the initial phase of our plan for this year, we will commence with the goal of enhancing the quality of life and well-being of the people of Dubai leveraging Artificial Intelligence. We will start by appointing Chief AI Officers in all Dubai governmental entities. We will also announce a comprehensive programme to for attracting and enabling data centres and we will introduce a new AI company licence," Shaikh Hamdan said on his X account.

"Dedicated incubators and Campuses for Artificial Intelligence will be launched to further enhance Dubai's vibrant AI ecosystem and finally AI will be celebrated in Dubai schools with the introduction of an AI week," he added.

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Saudi Arabia, US stress urgent need to ease regional tensions

BLINKEN CALLS FOR TIGHTER DEFENCE INTEGRATION AMONG GCC NATIONS

RIYADH

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman yesterday in Riyadh, where they discussed the urgent need to reduce tensions in the region, the US Department of State said in a statement.

Blinken also underscored the need for sustaining an increase in humanitarian assistance to Gaza, reaching an immediate ceasefire that secures the release of hostages and preventing the possible further spread of the conflict, the State Department said.

Blinken is in Saudi Arabia as part of a broader trip to the Middle East aimed at discussing with Arab partners post-war Gaza and to press Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to take steps US President Joe Biden demanded this month to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

GCC defence integration

Earlier yesterday, Blinken called for tighter defence integration among Gulf Arabs in response to Iran, part of efforts to encourage moderation by Israel by dangling the prospect of better ties with the region.

It is Blinken's first trip to the region since the long shadow



WAM

■ Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (second from right) and other GCC ministers in Riyadh yesterday.

war between Israel and Iran broke out into the open, which included the Islamic republic firing missiles and armed drones at military sites in Israel.

"This attack highlights the acute and growing threat from Iran but also the imperative that we work together on integrated defence," Blinken told Gulf Cooperation Council ministers meeting in Riyadh.

Gaza ceasefire

Blinken also said yesterday he was hopeful Hamas would accept an "extraordinarily generous" offer to halt Israel's Gaza offensive in return for the release of hostages. "Hamas has before it a proposal that is extraordinarily, extraordinarily generous on the part of Israel," Blinken said in Riyadh at the World Economic Forum. "They have to decide - and they have to

decide quickly," Blinken said. "I'm hopeful that they will make the right decision."

A source briefed on the talks said Israel's proposal entailed a deal for the release of fewer than 40 of the roughly 130 hostages believed to be still held in Gaza in exchange for freeing Palestinians jailed in Israel.

—Agencies

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