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UAE genome project makes great strides

1,000 PROFESSIONALS MAP COUNTRY'S
GENETIC AND HEREDITARY DISEASES

ABU DHABI

Gulf News Report

The Emirati Genome Programme has successfully collected over 600,000 samples from across the country so far, and efforts are under way to expand this to one million samples, revealed His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, as he chaired the UAE Cabinet meeting at Qasr Al Watan, Abu Dhabi, yesterday.

Reviewing the achievements of the Emirates Genome Council, Shaikh Mohammad said: "More than 1,000 of our medical professionals have been trained to support this programme. The contribution of over 600,000 citizens to this programme ensures the development of a clear map of genetic and hereditary diseases in the country, aiding in the creation of targeted treatments for these diseases. This will result in better and stronger health care for future generations. We encourage everyone to cooperate with this comprehensive national medi-



We encourage everyone to cooperate with this comprehensive national medical programme to make our community healthier and our future generations stronger."

**Shaikh Mohammad
Bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

cal programme to make our community healthier and our future generations stronger."

Premarital screening

He added that an experimental launch of premarital screening to cover all genetic and hereditary diseases will take place in the coming period. "The UAE Genome Council has made significant strides in establishing the country's global scientific position in this field and utilising this new science to develop comprehensive and integrated health care for new generations," he said.

SEE ALSO P6

Old guard dominates Modi cabinet

NEW DELHI

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled yesterday his coalition government after a surprise election setback lost his party an overall majority.

But Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) old guard dominate the list, with key posts unchanged — signalling broad policy continuity.

That includes BJP loyalists Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and S. Jaishankar — the defence, interior, transport, finance and foreign ministers respectively, staying on in their jobs.

BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda was named as health minister.

Posts given to coalition leaders include civil aviation, to Kinjarapu Rammo-han Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the BJP's biggest ally.

Other coalition posts include smaller ministries such as heavy industry, food processing and fisheries.

—AFP

SEE ALSO P11

June 20 to be UAE's longest day since 1796

Earlier summer
solstice to extend
daylight time to
13 hours, 48 minutes

SHARJAH

BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

The UAE will experience its longest day since 1796 on June 20, with daylight hours clocking 13 hours and 48 minutes.

This will be the result of an earlier summer solstice this year. Occurring on June 20 at 12.51am Gulf Standard Time (GST), this marks the earliest solstice since 1796 for most countries around the world. Similar variations in solstice timing can be expected in future leap years too, according to WAM.

What is a solstice?

A solstice is the time when the sun reaches its most northerly or southerly point relative to the celestial equator on the celestial sphere.

As Ibrahim Al Jarwan, Board Chairman of the Emirates Astronomical Society and member of the Arab Union

for Space and Astronomy Sciences, explained, during the summer solstice, the sun is directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer, its northernmost point. In areas directly below the sun, such as the southern regions of the UAE, there will be no shadow at noon.

Al Jarwan added that temperatures are expected to range between 41 and 43 degrees Celsius during the day and 26 and 29 degrees Celsius at night, with generally dry conditions and active winds. This is expected to be the case during the first half of summer, which runs from June 21 to August 10.

The second half of summer, spanning from August 11 to the autumnal equinox on September 23, is characterised by an influx of high humidity and persistent high temperatures.



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