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EU makes case for Palestinian statehood

DUBAI

European Union foreign ministers argued yesterday that the creation of a Palestinian state is the only credible way to achieve peace in the Middle East, and they expressed concern about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's clear rejection of the idea.

"The declarations of Benjamin Netanyahu are worrying. There will be a need for a Palestinian state with security guarantees for all," French Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Sejourne told reporters in Brussels, where the EU ministers met to discuss the war in Gaza.

"Gaza is in a situation of extreme urgency. There is a risk of famine. There is a risk of epidemics. The violence must stop," said Belgian Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency.

"We demand an immediate ceasefire, the release of the hostages, the respect of international law, (and) a return to the peace process, which must lead to the creation of two states living in peace side by side," Lahbib said, describing a two-state solution as "the only way to establish peace in a durable way in the region." —AP

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Adnoc to pump Dh178b into UAE economy over 5 years

ENERGY GIANT RAISES SCOPE OF ITS DECARBONISATION EFFORTS TO DH84.4B

ABU DHABI

 BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
 Chief Reporter

The Board of Directors at UAE energy giant Adnoc yesterday endorsed the goal to drive \$48.5 billion (Dh178 billion) back into the UAE economy over the next five years. President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan presided over the annual meeting of the Adnoc Board in his capacity as its Chairman.

Shaikh Mohammad directed Adnoc to grow its diversified portfolio and provide secure, reliable and responsible energy to support the delivery of an equitable global energy transition.

Shaikh Mohammad emphasised UAE's commitment to diversify and enhance energy capabilities for development, focusing on sustainability and emissions reduction during the meeting.

Decarbonisation projects

The Board of Directors endorsed the five-year goal, building on \$11.2 billion (Dh41 billion) generated through its In-Country Value (ICV) programme in 2023. Adnoc's budget allocation for 'landmark' decarbonisation projects, technologies and lower-



WAM

■ President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan during the annual meeting of the Adnoc Board of Directors in Abu Dhabi, yesterday.

carbon solutions has also been increased to \$23 billion (Dh84.4 billion).

Shaikh Mohammad said people are the nation's greatest asset, and the UAE leadership will continue to prioritise human capital development. Adnoc created 6,500 jobs for

UAE nationals in the private sector last year through the programme.

These achievements bring the total value driven back into the UAE economy to \$51 billion (Dh187 billion), with 11,500 UAE nationals employed in the private sector since the pro-

gramme was launched in 2018. The board also spoke on Adnoc's focus on supporting the UAE's 'Make it in the Emirates' initiative by encouraging local manufacturing of critical industrial products in the company's supply chain.

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Parents devise novel approach to help child battle rare disease

British couple in Dubai adopt role play with dolls to prepare little Emily for surgery

DUBAI

 BY SHARMILA DHAL
 UAE Editor

Emily Chuhan, a British expat girl in Dubai, has just turned five. But she has already undergone two complex surgeries. Reason: She suffers from a rare brain disorder called Moya Moya Disease. It is caused by the lack of blood flow to the brain, resulting in Transient Ischemic Attacks (TIA) or strokes.

Emily is a bundle of energy though. Her parents, Lydia and Jaz Chuhan, say the many

challenges she has faced in and out of hospital have not taken away from her positivity. What they don't say is that this can be attributed to their own efforts to help her manage her condition.



■ Emily Chuhan

The couple have used a novel approach to prepare for her hospital visits and operations, one at the age of three and the other at four.

Creative strategy

"We knew that Emily would need to have surgery at her tender age. So we started to do role play with dolls at home, pretend they would go to hospital to have a surgery on their head to make them better," says Lydia.

The couple even bought multiple doctor play kits so they could try and get as many items that Emily would see in the hospital. And Emily's brother, Oliver, was also of great help.

Has the strategy worked? "It's done wonders," says Jaz.

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