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Back in UAE: World's Coolest Winter drive

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

In a major boost for the UAE's domestic tourism, the fourth edition of the 'World's Coolest Winter' campaign was launched yesterday by His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

The campaign is designed to foster an integrated tourism system across the emirates, focusing on enhancing local tourism.

"Today marks the launch of a new season of the UAE's annual national tourism campaign, 'World's Coolest Winter'. Our country is becoming a favoured destination thanks to its enchanting natural beauty, architectural marvels, rich cultural heritage, and, most importantly, its warm and welcoming people," stated Shaikh Mohammad.

He further emphasised the burgeoning growth of the national tourism sector, with aspirations to contribute Dh450 billion to the GDP by 2031.

Unforgettable Stories

This year's campaign, themed 'Unforgettable Stories', offers diverse programmes and a packed schedule of events. The campaign aims to boost domestic tourism within the UAE and draw international tourists to enjoy the unique winter experiences the country offers.

SEE ALSO P3

Mohammad, Modi stress need for ceasefire in Gaza

TWO SIDES SIGN MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING ACROSS SEVERAL SECTORS

AHMEDABAD

The UAE and India reaffirmed the necessity of working towards a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip as President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, met in Ahmedabad in the state of Gujarat yesterday.

The two leaders also stressed the need to ensure the protection of civilians, and providing sufficient, safe, and sustainable humanitarian aid to people in the Strip. They stressed the importance of preventing an escalation of the conflict that threatens regional security and stability, and the need to find a pathway to lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

Shaikh Mohammad is scheduled to attend the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, which will be inaugurated in Gandhinagar today.

Shaikh Mohammad and Modi discussed a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest, and underscored their support for all efforts that promote peace, cooperation, stability, and the resolution of conflicts through dialogue and understanding. They reiterated the importance of collective international action in addressing shared challenges and accelerating the well-being and prosperity of all peoples worldwide.

Exchange of MoUs

The two leaders witnessed the exchange of a number of Memoranda of Understand-



WAM

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan being received by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi upon his arrival at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport yesterday.

The partnership between India and the UAE continues to flourish and our talks today explored ways to boost collaboration that will support economic growth and sustainable development for the benefit of our people."

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan

ing (MOUs) aimed at further enhancing collaboration between the two nations. The agreements included: MoU for investment cooperation in the development of food complexes; MoU for investment cooperation in renewable energy, MoU

for investment cooperation in innovative health care; and MoU on establishing sustainable, green and efficient ports.

Economic partnership

Shaikh Mohammad and Modi also discussed the

strong, historic ties between the UAE and India, and explored ways to further these relations to advance the progress and prosperity of both nations and their people, within the framework of their comprehensive strategic and economic partnership.

During the talks, both sides emphasised their mutual commitment to expanding the scope of bilateral relations, particularly in the areas of the economy, energy, technology, climate action, and sustainable development.

—WAM

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NATION

3,000 content creators come together in Dubai for mega summit | P4

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BUSINESS

Which UAE businesses should form corporate 'tax groups'? | P7

LitFest founder Isobel Abulhoul on life with cows, goats ... and more

Force behind literary phenomenon in Dubai reveals glimpses of her eventful life

DUBAI
BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

As founder of the Emirates Literature Foundation, Emirates Literature Festival and Magrudy's, Dubai-based Isobel Abulhoul is someone who is almost synonymous with books. An avid reader, she grew up in Cambridge and inculcated the love of reading at a young age.

Yet, writing a book herself remains an unfulfilled dream. "I have a desire to write, but maybe I am afraid to try. In the



Clint Egbert/Gulf News

■ Isobel Abulhoul

coming years, I would love to overcome that fear and pour my soul on to the page," she told *Gulf News* in an exclusive interview.

Down memory lane

Walking down untrodden lanes, both old and new, Isobel provided little-known glimpses into her eventful life:

From her love for dairy cows, goats and horses to her raising four children, whom she considers her biggest legacy.

Recalling her early years in Dubai, she said, "When I first landed in Dubai having left a cold, wet Heathrow in 1968, I could feel the sand beneath my feet. In a strange way, I felt I had arrived home now — the exotic balmy air smelt different."

Her earliest memories are vivid: The drives she enjoyed with her husband Abdullah Abulhoul in the desert; a wild donkey trotting past her window on her first morning; her house becoming an island as the sea waters came in when her mother visited; the opportunity to learn colloquial Arabic; the list can go on.

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