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Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed speaks with Emirati students studying in the United States, during a reception at the UAE Embassy in Washington, DC. The event was also attended by UAE astronauts Hazza Al Mansoori and Noura Al Matroushi.

President to UAE youth: 'You are our real wealth'

Mohammad assures all support to Emirati students in US

DUBAI

BY FAISAL MASUDI Assistant Editor

The youth of the UAE are the real wealth of the country, President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan said during his inspirational interaction in Washington with

Emirati students studying in universities in the US.

In his talk with the youth, which took place at the UAE Embassy as part of his official visit to the US, Shaikh Mohammad assured them of all support for their academic success.

The President reasserted that today's young citizens are the ones who are poised to assume responsibility of the new phase of development that the UAE is undertaking. This requires them to acquire the

necessary expertise and skills so can benefit themselves and their country when they return home after their academic journey.

Ambassadors for UAE

Shaikh Mohammad encouraged them to focus on fields that will serve as the cornerstone of the UAE's development strategy, especially in technology and artificial intelligence. He noted that the world is advancing rapidly, at a pace never witnessed before.

Knowledge of these sectors will be of paramount value in the future.

The President also emphasised that the Emirati students have a unique opportunity to showcase the UAE's progress and achievements. Shaikh Mohammad explained that the students should consider themselves ambassadors for their country, reflecting its values, principles, and the character of its people in eve-

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Hezbollah missile reaches Tel Aviv for first time

ISRAEL ARMY CHIEF TELLS TROOPS TO BE READY FOR LEBANON ENTRY

BEIRUT

ezbollah said it had fired a ballistic missile at the Israeli city of Tel Aviv yesterday, with the Israeli military describing the launch as unprecedented.

Sirens sounded in Tel Aviv following the launch, the Israeli military said, adding that it had intercepted a "surface-to-surface missile" over the city.

It is the first time Hezbollah has claimed a ballistic missile strike since its nearly year-long battle with Israel began after its Palestinian ally Hamas carried out its October 7 attack.

An Israeli military spokesman told AFP it was also "the first time ever" a Hezbollah missile had reached the Tel Aviv

Civilians on the run

In south Lebanon, a stronghold of Hezbollah, Israeli warplanes bombed villages for a third day yesterday, after air raids earlier this week killed at least 558 people in the deadliest day of violence since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Lebanon's National News

Agency said the overnight raids caused more casualties, with officials saying hundreds of thousands of civilians have fled their homes to escape the sharp escalation in violence between Hezbollah and Israel.

The United Nations Security Council said it will hold an emergency meeting on the crisis in New York on Wednesday, while UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned the situation was critical.

Possible ground offensive

Israel's army chief told troops yesterday to be prepared for possible entry into Lebanon as Israeli fighter jets bombarded Hezbollah targets across the border.

"You can hear the planes here; we are attacking all day, both to prepare the ground for the possibility of your entry, but also to continue striking Hezbollah," Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi told a tank brigade, according to a statement issued by the military.

"We are not stopping. We will keep attacking and harming them everywhere," Halevi

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Expat couple pledge \$1m to alma mater in gratitude

Contribution to help BITS Pilani students

DUBAI

BY SHARMILA DHAL UAE Editor

n Indian expat entrepreneurial couple, with a diverse group of businesses in the UAE, has donated \$1 million (Dh3.67 million) to their alma mater - BITS Pilani -

with good reason. The couple, Ravinder Kumar Bhat and Sumita Desarkar, told Gulf News that the 'humble contribution' was towards the BITS Pilani Endowment Fund, which has an ambitious goal of raising \$100 million to support infrastructure development, research initiatives

and innovation projects that will benefit students across the BITS Pilani network, including the Dubai campus.

"There are many deserving students out there who cannot afford to study in a premier institution like this, and hopefully the fund will help reduce the fee structure, amongst other things," said Ravinder, who is from the 1978 batch of BITS Pilani, Rajasthan. His wife was two vears his junior in the same college.

Now, what inspired the couple's generosity? Well, that's a story of love and gratitude.

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