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WAM

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed is welcomed by Joe Biden at the White House yesterday.

UAE, US explore ways to shore up relations

Mohammad
hails 'power of
partnerships'

WASHINGTON
Gulf News Report

President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan yesterday reaffirmed the UAE's unwavering commitment to its US partnership and hailed the power of building bridges with nations that share the

same values and ambitions for a brighter future.

Shaikh Mohammad spoke of the 'power of partnerships' during talks with US President Joe Biden at the White House.

Enduring partnership

"I was pleased to meet with US President Joe Biden (@POTUS) at the White House. The strategic and enduring partnership that unites our countries is unwavering, and today we explored ways to

further build on these historic ties in key areas including trade, investment, technology, AI, space, and climate action. Together our nations will continue to promote stability and prosperity for the people of the UAE, the USA, and the world," Shaikh Mohammad posted on X.

Shaikh Mohammad and President Biden discussed the depth of the strategic relationship between the UAE and the US and their joint determination to further

strengthen these bonds. The two leaders reviewed various aspects of the longstanding bilateral ties, particularly in the fields of trade and investment, the economy, advanced technology, space, renewable energy, climate action, sustainability and food security. They expressed their keenness to expand collaboration in these areas to help advance both countries' shared ambitions for global prosperity and stability.

SEE ALSO P4

356 killed as Israel strikes south Lebanon

OVER 1,000 HURT IN WORST TOLL IN NEARLY
A YEAR OF CROSS-BORDER VIOLENCE

BEIRUT

Lebanese Health Minister Firass Abiad said the death toll in Israeli strikes on south Lebanon yesterday rose to 356, including 24 children, the bloodiest daily toll in nearly a year of cross-border clashes.

The toll stood at "356 dead including 24 children and 39 women - that's who we know about until now", Abiad told reporters, adding "thousands of families from the targeted areas have been displaced".

The dead also included two rescuers, with 16 other emergency workers wounded, he said, adding that "two ambulances, a fire truck and a medical centre were targeted". The attacks wounded 1,024 people who were treated in 27 hospitals, he said.

About 5,000 people had been wounded "in less than a week" of Israeli attacks, he said, after Hezbollah paggers and walkie-talkies exploded and an Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs.

That number accounts for about half of the wounded toll of "10,000 to 11,000" in 2006, when Israel and Hezbollah last went to war.

The Israeli military said late

yesterday that air strikes in Lebanon hit more than 1,300 targets of the Iran-backed group Hezbollah in the previous 24 hours.

Over 1,300 targets hit

The strikes hit "over 1,300 targets", army spokesman Daniel Hagari said in a press briefing. An earlier statement from the Israeli army specified that the targets included "buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure where rockets, missiles, launchers and unmanned aerial vehicles posed a threat".

In a separate statement, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said that "on this day we have taken out of order tens of thousands of rockets and precise munition". Gallant called yesterday "a significant peak" in the operation. "This is the most difficult week for Hezbollah since its establishment - the results speak for themselves," he said.

Hezbollah's elite Radwan force suffered "a fatal blow" with the loss of "top commanders, including regional and brigade commanders", he said, referring to a strike on Friday that killed, among others, the elite force's head Ibrahim Aqil.

SEE ALSO P10

How UAE spurs entrepreneurship

Experts offer insights
into market trends at
Gulf News forum

DUBAI

BY CHIRANTI SENGUPTA
Senior Editor — Commercial
Publishing

Gulf News hosted The UAE Growth and Investment Forum at Jumeirah Emirates Towers, convening influential leaders from the UAE's free zones, business set-up, legal, and taxation sectors on September 19.

The event aimed to empower start-ups, SMEs and international businesses by highlighting the nation's diverse investment landscape. Through a series of panels, keynote addresses, and focused spotlight sessions, industry experts offered valuable insights into evolving market trends.



Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

■ Delegates at the UAE Growth and Investment Forum, organised by Gulf News in Dubai on Thursday.

The forum served as a platform for thought leadership and networking, bridging the gap between knowledge, information and policies and their practical implementation, contributing to business success. "The nation is redefining its

global role through transformative strategies, inviting investors and entrepreneurs to join in this growth journey," said Ismail Al Naqi, Director General of Free Zones Authority of Ajman, in his keynote address.

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