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KOLKATA THRASH HYDERABAD TO WIN THIRD IPL TITLE

Kolkata Knight Riders are crowned champions of the season 17 of Indian Premier League. Kolkata bowled out Sunrisers Hyderabad for 113, a total they overhauled with 9.3 overs to spare as Venkatesh Iyer hammered an unbeaten 52 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday. **SEE ALSO P10**

UAE President set to begin state visit to China on May 30

Mohammad to attend China-Arab States Cooperation Forum

ABU DHABI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

President His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan will commence a state visit to China on May 30 following an invitation from Chinese President Xi Jinping. During the visit, Sheikh

Mohammad will discuss with President Xi the bilateral relations between the two countries and opportunities for further cooperation and collaboration, especially in the economic, developmental, and cultural fields, Wam reported.

Sustainable development

The discussions will be held within the framework of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the UAE and China, aimed at contributing to both countries' sustainable development and

economic growth. Sheikh Mohammad will also attend celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the UAE and China, and will participate in the 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum.

The UAE and Chinese Presidents will also discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest and the importance of cooperation and dialogue to promote global stability and peace.

Landslide kills over 670 in Papua New Guinea

Full extent of destruction yet to be ascertained, says UN migration agency

SYDNEY

More than 670 people are assumed to have died in Papua New Guinea's massive landslide, the UN migration agency estimated yesterday as rescue efforts continued.

Media in the South Pacific nation north of Australia had previously estimated Friday's landslide had buried more than 300 people. But more than 48 hours later the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said the death toll may be more than double that, as the full extent of the destruction is still unclear and continuing dangerous conditions on the ground are hampering aid and rescue efforts.

Only five bodies had been retrieved from the rubble so far.

The agency based its death toll estimates on information provided by officials at Yam-bali Village in the Enga province, who say more than 150 houses were buried in Friday's landslide, Serhan Aktoprak, the chief of the agency's mission in Papua New Guinea said in an email statement.

"Land is still sliding, rocks are falling, ground soil is cracking due to constant increased pressure and ground water is running thus the area is posing an extreme risk for everyone," Aktoprak said.

—Reuters

More than 250 houses nearby have been abandoned and some 1,250 people have been displaced, the agency said.

Emiratisation rate crosses 100,000 mark

OUT OF THESE JOB PLACEMENTS, 70,000 OCCURRED IN LAST TWO-AND-HALF YEARS

DUBAI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

More than 100,000 Emiratis are now employed in the UAE private sector, marking a historic milestone, it was revealed yesterday.

Making the announcement, His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said that 70,000 of these placements occurred in the last two and a half years following the launch of the Nafis programme.

Supported by a Dh24 billion fund, Nafis is a comprehensive initiative aimed at integrating Emiratis into the private workforce, complemented by several supportive legislations to stimulate job growth and economic expansion.

New job opportunities

Further enhancing the integration between the government and private sectors, a new policy adopted by the Cabinet now favours government em-

Our private and government sectors operate in seamless integration, providing countless opportunities for both national and non-national workers."

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

ployment for those with at least three years of experience in the private sector.

Looking ahead, Shaikh Mohammad has set ambitious targets, aiming to generate 100,000 new job opportunities for UAE nationals within the next three years.

On his X account, Shaikh Mohammad wrote: "Our private and government sectors operate in seamless integration, providing countless opportunities for both national and non-national workers. Our aim is to create an additional 100,000 jobs for Emiratis in the next three years. The future of our country, our youth, and our economy is set to be brighter, better, and greater."

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