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Mohammad Bin Zayed arrives in Beijing on 2-day state visit to China

SEOUL

The UAE and Republic of Korea yesterday signed a landmark Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in Seoul, paving the way for a new chapter of economic cooperation and mutual growth. The signing of the historic agreement was witnessed by President His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Yoon Suk-yeol, President of the Republic of Korea.

The agreement was signed at the Office of the President in Seoul by Dr Thani Bin Ahmad Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, and Ahn Duk-geun, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea.

Vision of progress

Shaikh Mohammad welcomed the agreement as a significant milestone in the ever-evolving relationship between the two nations, stating that the UAE and the Republic of Korea share a vision of progress, innovation, and sustainable development.

The UAE-Korea agreement is the latest in the UAE's Cepsa foreign trade programme, which is designed to propel non-oil foreign trade beyond Dh4 trillion by 2031 by removing or reducing tariffs, enhancing market access to exporters, eliminating barriers to trade, and creating platforms for private sector collaboration.



■ Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Yoon Suk-yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, greet members of a Korean youth delegation during a state visit reception at Yongsan Office (Presidential Office) yesterday.

ing or reducing tariffs, enhancing market access to exporters, eliminating barriers to trade, and creating platforms for private sector collaboration.

Elimination of tariffs

Under the terms of the agreement, companies and

investors from both sides will benefit from the elimination of almost all tariffs, the removal of trade barriers in vital sectors, including energy and resources, healthcare, advanced industries, smart farms, and bio-economy, in addition to greater access to markets in

fast-growing regions of the Middle East and Asia.

UAE-China partnership

Meanwhile, Shaikh Mohammad arrived in Beijing yesterday ahead of the start of a two-day state visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of President Xi Jinping of China. The state visit of Shaikh Mohammad today, marks a transitional shift in the enduring UAE-China ties, which have grown into a strategic partnership across various sectors.

—WAM
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UAE for clear roadmap to resolve Gaza conflict

DUBAI

BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

Dr Anwar Mohammad Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President, yesterday stressed the need for a clear roadmap to achieve a lasting solution in Gaza. He cautioned that without a clear roadmap, the situation in Gaza would revert to a cycle of escalation and temporary calm, potentially culminating in a crisis.

Speaking at the Arab Media Forum on the current regional challenges, Dr. Gargash said the region cannot sustain further escalations, highlighting the plight of thousands of orphans in Gaza as a consequence of the ongoing unrest due to the unresolved regional issues.

"The UAE firmly believes in the justice of the Palestinian cause, a fact deeply rooted in our Arab, Islamic, and human conscience. The UAE has made significant efforts to support the humanitarian aspect in Gaza," he said.

He emphasised that the Palestinian cause is not new, but the violence against civilians has reached brutal dimensions, noting that Israel is losing its international standing due to its policies.

SEE ALSO P3, P9

Delhi temperature soars to all-time national record high

City touches 52.3C smashing previous record in Rajasthan by one degree

NEW DELHI

Temperatures in India's capital soared to a national record-high of 52.3 degrees Celsius yesterday, the government's weather bureau said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), which reported "severe heat-wave conditions", recorded the temperature in the Delhi suburb of Mungeshpur yesterday afternoon, smashing the previous national record in the desert of Rajasthan by one degree Celsius.

India's weather department yesterday issued a red alert for several parts of the country's northwest, warning of a severe heat wave.

Calls for extreme care

A red alert implies a "very high likelihood" of people developing "heat illness and heat stroke", and calls for "extreme care" for vulnerable people, according to the India Meteorological Department.

India's weather department yesterday issued a red alert for several parts of the country's northwest, warning of a severe heat wave.

Local weather stations in Delhi's Mungeshpur and Nar-ela neighbourhoods recorded a temperature of 49.9 degrees Celsius on Tuesday - an all time record for the city and 9 C above normal.

Delhi's local government also restricted the supply of water because of the heat. It said water levels in the Yamuna River, the main source, were low.

Faulty equipment?

However, later in the evening yesterday, India's government-run weather bureau said that a station measurement showing a potentially record-breaking temperature in the capital may have been due to a fault in the measuring equipment.

—Agencies
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