

Smart Services Boost Pilgrims' Comfort During Hajj

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Several Bahraini Hajj campaign operators confirmed receiving their designated camps in Mina and Arafat as part of ongoing preparations for the 1447 AH Hajj season. They praised the early coordination and smooth procedures that facilitated the handover process and enabled campaigns to complete preparations ahead of pilgrims' arrival in the holy lands.

Campaign operators stated that preparations began immediately after the camps were handed over, including the setup of accommodation areas and support services to ensure maximum comfort for Bahraini

pilgrims during the Hajj rituals. They highlighted the continuous development taking place across the holy sites, particularly in infrastructure and public services, noting that the projects reflect Saudi Arabia's commitment to enhancing the overall pilgrimage experience and providing greater comfort and reassurance for pilgrims.

The operators explained that the improvements include upgraded transportation networks, expanded and modernized facilities, and the use of advanced technologies for crowd management and movement control. These efforts have contributed to improving operational efficiency and making the performance of rituals smoother and more organized.

They added that these ini-

atives, led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, with the support and supervision of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, reflect Saudi Arabia's dedication to serving pilgrims and delivering a distinguished

spiritual and organizational experience.

The operators also praised the continuous efforts of the authorities overseeing the holy sites, emphasizing that the ongoing development further strengthens the Kingdom's global leadership in organizing and managing the Hajj season.



UAE, France Sign Defence Cooperation Agreement



His Excellency Mohamed bin Mubarak bin Fadhel Al Mazrouei, Minister of State for Defence Affairs, met with Her Excellency Catherine Vautrin, Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs of the French Republic, during his visit to France. They discussed ways to strengthen defence and strategic relations between the two friendly nations.

The two sides also witnessed the signing of a Defence Cooperation Agreement, reflecting the depth of bilateral relations and their shared commitment to advancing military and defence cooperation between the

United Arab Emirates and France.

During his visit to the French Republic, His Excellency Mohamed bin Mubarak bin Fadhel Al Mazrouei held talks with Her Excellency Catherine Vautrin, Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs, focusing on enhancing defence and strategic ties between the two friendly countries.

The two sides also witnessed the signing of a Defence Cooperation Agreement, underscoring the depth of bilateral relations and their shared vision for further developing military and defence collaboration between the UAE and France.

UAE condemns drone attacks from Iraq

The United Arab Emirates strongly condemned "unprovoked terrorist drone attacks" launched from Iraqi territory, including a strike that hit infrastructure near a Gulf state nuclear facility.

In a statement, the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it "strongly condemns and categorically rejects" the attacks, which it said targeted critical civilian infrastructure across Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Among the incidents cited was a drone strike on Sunday that targeted the vicinity of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, striking an electricity generator located outside the plant's inner



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perimeter. No immediate details on casualties were reported.

The ministry said the attacks originated from Iraqi territory and constituted a "flagrant violation" of national sovereignty and airspace, as well as a breach of international law, international humanitarian law, and the United Nations Charter.

The statement called on the government of Iraq to "immediately and unconditionally" halt and prevent any attacks launched from its territory, urg-

ing Baghdad to take "urgent and responsible" measures to address such threats.

It further stressed the need for Iraq to uphold its responsibilities in maintaining regional security and stability, and to strengthen its role as a "responsible partner" in the region.

The UAE reiterated its position that continued attacks on civilian and strategic infrastructure pose a serious risk to regional security and require coordinated international action to prevent further escalation.

The Gulf Cooperation Council was referenced in the statement as part of the broader pattern of targeted infrastructure across member states.

UAE dispatches 100-ton aid cargo for Gaza

Aid includes medical supplies, food support for children and Eid essentials

A new Emirati humanitarian aid aircraft departed from Al Maktoum International Airport, heading to the Egyptian city of Arish as part of Operation "Gallant Knight 3" to deliver assistance into the Gaza Strip.

The mission is part of the United Arab Emirates' continuing relief campaign to support Palestinians amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis, in coordination with the UAE's humanitarian institutions, including the Emirates Red Crescent, the International Charity Organisation, and Dar Al Ber Society.

According to the operation's spokesperson Mohammed Al Sharif, the initiative launched in November 2023 under the directives of UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and has continued without interruption despite regional challenges.

He said that with Tuesday's flight, total Emirati aid delivered to Gaza has exceeded 123,000 tonnes, valued at more than \$3.1 billion, accounting



for over 46 per cent of all international humanitarian assistance provided to the enclave.

"This reflects the UAE's sustained commitment to humanitarian action and its consistent efforts to support civilians affected by crises worldwide," Al Sharif said.

100-ton shipment of urgent supplies

Relief coordinator Hamoud Saeed Al Afari said the aircraft was carrying around 100 tonnes of urgent humanitarian aid, including medical supplies

to support the health sector, nutritional supplements for children, and Eid clothing for families in Gaza.

He said the continued flow of aid shipments demonstrates the UAE's determination to maintain uninterrupted relief operations and deliver assistance wherever it is needed.

"The UAE remains at the forefront of humanitarian response globally, ensuring life-saving support reaches affected communities," Al Afari added.

Qatar Minister Meets Senior Italian Officials

Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh Al Khulaifi, Qatar State Minister held a series of meetings in Rome on Wednesday with senior Italian officials to review bilateral relations and discuss regional developments, according to official statements.

The Minister met with Maria Tripodi, Giulio Tremonti, and Salvatore Caiata during his visit to the Italian capital.

The meetings reviewed bilateral relations between Qatar and Italy and explored ways to strengthen cooperation across various fields of mutual interest.

Discussions also focused on recent regional developments, particularly the ceasefire between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as



well as broader efforts aimed at de-escalation and enhancing security and stability in the region.

Dr. Al Khulaifi reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to supporting

all initiatives aimed at resolving disputes through peaceful means and strengthening the foundations of regional and international peace and stability, the statement added.

Kuwaiti FM receives Tony Blair



His Excellency Sheikh Jarah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, received on Wednesday, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the latest regional and international developments and exchanged views on key issues of mutual interest.

According to a statement, the discussions focused on current geopolitical developments and broader international dynamics, reflecting ongoing dialogue between regional officials and international political figures.