



Inside: 60-page TN Magazine

Yasmina El Abd's big break, Ramadan fashion trends and custom Gibson guitars

Iranian leader calls for US to stay out of regional affairs

Middle East can solve its own problems, Pezeshkian says as Gulf states push to calm tension

FATIMA AL MAHMOUD

Iran's leaders used pro-regime rallies yesterday to condemn foreign intervention in the Middle East and declare talk of limits to Tehran's missile arsenal a "red line".

As the country's clerical government marked its 47th anniversary in power, the threat of conflict with the US continued to loom. President Masoud Pezeshkian said regional conflicts could and should be resolved only by countries in the Middle East.

"Our region has no need for

the presence of outsiders," Mr Pezeshkian said. He added that Tehran was working with its neighbours to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East, "because we believe that the problems of the region can only be solved by regional countries, not foreign powers".

A diplomatic push by Gulf states to avert war continued yesterday as Sheikh Tamim, Emir of Qatar, met a senior Iranian official in Doha.

The Emir and Ali Larijani, secretary of Tehran's Supreme National Security Council, discussed the results of last

week's US-Iran talks in Oman. Sheikh Tamim also spoke to US President Donald Trump by phone, with the two leaders voicing support for diplomatic efforts to resolve crises through "peaceful means", the Qatari Royal Court said in a statement.

Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman stressed the need for "concerted efforts to spare the peoples of the region the consequences of escalation", his ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Mr Trump yesterday hosted Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was in Washington to lobby for a hard line in negotiations between the US and Iran.

The Israeli government wants the US to push for a sweeping reduction of Iran's military activities in the Middle East, rather than settling for a narrower nuclear agreement.

Mr Netanyahu also formally signed up for a seat on the US President's Board of Peace, which was created to oversee a ceasefire agreement in Gaza and will be led by Mr Trump.

Before the meeting, the White House sought to play down

rumours of tension between the leaders. "President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu have a great relationship, and Israel has had no better friend in its history than President Trump," White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said.

The UAE yesterday sent a message to Mr Pezeshkian to congratulate him on Iran's national day, a day after Lana Nusseibeh, Minister of State, travelled to Tehran to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments with Iranian

Continued on page 3

Sheikh Mansour approves Founder's Office plans

CHRIS MAXWELL

The UAE yesterday underlined its mission to preserve and promote the legacy of its Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, for generations.

Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, approved the strategic plan of the Founder's Office, which is dedicated to honouring Sheikh Zayed's contributions to the rise of the nation.

The office will seek to shine a light on his achievements at home and abroad.

"The late Sheikh Zayed was a wise and visionary leader whose achievements at the local, regional and international levels represent an unparalleled model of leadership in modern history," Sheikh Mansour said.

"His thought, vision and principles remain an integral part of our national heritage and enduring foundations for seizing the opportunities and confronting the challenges of the future."

Mongolian athlete, 91, strikes gold in Masters Games race

RAMOLA TALWAR BADAM

A 91-year-old great-grandfather has proved that age is no obstacle to success, by taking gold at the Open Masters Games in Abu Dhabi.

Radnaa Tseren, from Mongolia, left competitors trailing in his wake to clinch the 200-metre race on Tuesday, winning hearts and admiration along the way.

He crossed the finishing line in only 39.64 seconds, more than four seconds ahead of his nearest challenger in a senior competition also featuring seasoned athletes in their 70s and 80s.

The oldest athlete at the games, Mr Tseren also won a silver medal in the 100-metre sprint and is preparing to compete in the 400-metre, 800-metre and 1,500-metre

Continued on page 6



Palestinians inspect the rubble of a house demolished by Israeli troops yesterday in the village of Beit Awa, in the occupied West Bank AFF

UAE leads Arab League talks on Israeli settlement plan

AMR MOSTAFA

The UAE yesterday led an emergency meeting of the Arab League in Cairo to discuss a response to Israel's decision to expand settlements in Palestine.

Hamad Al Zaabi, the Emirates' ambassador to Egypt and permanent representative at the Arab League, said the Israeli measures were illegal and aimed at imposing illegitimate sovereignty, state news agency Wam reported. He added that Israel's expansionist policies

fuel violence and conflict in the region.

The Israeli security cabinet on Sunday approved changes to property laws in the occupied West Bank that had helped Palestinians to hold on to what was left of their land.

One of these laws, enacted when Jordan was in control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, prohibited the sale of land to Israelis.

Mr Al Zaabi emphasised the UAE's opposition to any

infringement on the rights of the Palestinian people and called for an immediate halt to settlement activities that threaten stability and undermine the prospects of peace and coexistence.

He also urged the international community, the UN and its Security Council to put an end to practices that breach international law.

A joint statement was also issued this week by the foreign ministers of several Arab and Muslim countries, who

condemned the Israeli security cabinet's decisions "in the strongest terms".

Ministers from the UAE, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar said Israel's intention was to "accelerate attempts at its illegal annexation and the displacement of the Palestinian people".

Most of the international community considers Israeli settlements on land the country seized in 1967 to be illegal. The UN Security Council has passed several resolutions

demanding that Israel halt all settlement activity.

The construction of settlements, including some built without official Israeli authorisation, has increased under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right governing coalition, fragmenting the West Bank and cutting off Palestinian towns and cities from each other. Last year, 19 new settlements were approved in the West Bank.

Further reports, pages 2-3