

# Deepening relations with UAE a priority of our foreign policy: Ukrainian Prez

Ukraine can and will be the guarantor of food security to the UAE, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is on an official visit to the UAE.

Zelenskyy, 43, the youngest president in Ukraine's history, explained that traditional areas of cooperation have already been developed with agro-industrial products being the main exports from Ukraine to the UAE. "Indeed, Ukraine can and will be the guarantor of the food security of the Emirates. Ukrainian black soils are well known all over the world, we are among the world leaders in the export of wheat, corn and barley," stressed the president.

## 15,000

Ukrainians live in the UAE and 250,000 visited the country (in 2019)

The Ukrainian food exports to the UAE were valued at \$252.2 million in 2019, majorly constituting sunflower oil, rapeseed, eggs, poultry and wheat flour, according to the Ukrainian Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

Even the Ukraine pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai will symbolise the idea of food security, the president revealed. "The architectural design of the pavilion embodies

the idea of a wheat ear. Wheat is an important symbol for Ukrainians and the yellow colour on our flag symbolises the wheat field and readiness to contribute to world food security," he said.

Zelenskyy commended the UAE's "incredible efforts to fight coronavirus, not only at home but also abroad". "The UAE provided assistance to many countries around the world and Ukraine will not forget the Emirati airplane, which so timely and with friendly warmth delivered humanitarian aid to confront Covid-19 and the UAE helped many Ukrainians to get back home," he added.

The Ukrainian president was referring to the aid plane that was

sent to his country in April 2020, carrying 11 metric tonnes of medical supplies, benefiting 10,000 healthcare professionals. 113 Ukrainian citizens were also repatriated on that flight.

"We consider expanding bilateral relations with the Emirates as a priority of our foreign policy. We are gradually moving to expand the horizons of our relationship by putting more and more ambitious projects on the agenda," he said.

Zelenskyy pointed out to a "successful" example of attracting Emirati investments into the Ukrainian market, which is DP World's operation of a container terminal in the Odessa region in the south of Ukraine. — *Wam*



Volodymyr Zelenskyy receives a hearty welcome as he arrives in Abu Dhabi on Saturday on a state visit. — *Wam*

# UAE crosses 5M milestone in vaccination campaign

FROM PAGE 1

The rate of distribution of doses has climbed consistently since the launch of the drive in December last year. Considering all these parameters, it is safe to assume that more than 1.5 million of the population are fully vaccinated. The UAE plans to vaccinate half the population by March.

Despite the success of the vaccination drive, the number of new cases remaining high had been worrisome. However, Saturday marked the fourth day when a decline in positive cases was recorded: 3,539 (Wednesday), 3,525 (Thursday), 3,307 (Friday) and 2,631 (Saturday). It is too early to call it a trend as the figures have surged from this point in the past weeks. Meanwhile, there were 15 deaths and 3,589 recoveries on Saturday.

Dr Saheer Sainalabdeen, specialist respiratory medicine, Medeor Hospital, Dubai, said the government's efforts to crack down on violators will ensure the number of new cases remain under control.

"The UAE is at the forefront in vaccinating the population. Despite these efforts, the current surge in the number of infections and deaths need to be taken seriously. It seems that the public had lowered the guards with the easing of restrictions. However, the government's decision to act tough on lawbreakers would help in bringing the situation under control. Massive vaccination drives and stricter rules would bring the curve down," he said.

## WHO CAN TAKE SALIVA COVID TESTS INSTEAD OF PCR

Health authorities in Abu Dhabi have specified four categories of residents who can opt for a saliva test instead of the nasal one to detect Covid-19.



**Children aged below 12 years**

**Those who have been vaccinated**

**Specific in-patients**

**The elderly**

Dr Rasha Alani, specialist family medicine, Medcare Medical Centre Khawanej, urged residents to act responsibly till the fight isn't over.

"The UAE increased Covid-19 tests and more centres opened recently. Our community members are one of the highly educated and health awareness is

one of the best. We need to limit gatherings and avoid crowded places. We must not forget that wearing a face mask and washing hands will prevent 90 per cent of virus spread," she noted.

Dr Sainalabdeen added that even those who are vaccinated must continue to follow safety precautions.

"Having taken the vaccine does not mean you won't get infected. Vaccination would only reduce the severity of the disease. So, it is very important that we all follow the precautionary guidelines for some more time until everything is back to normalcy."

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# 2 held for 'showing off' Covid-19 positive result in viral video

Team KT

Two UAE youths have been ordered jailed after one of them roamed around in a public area, 'showing off' his Covid-19 positive result. The other youth filmed the whole act and posted the video on social media, after which it went viral.

Taking cognizance of the viral video, the Abu Dhabi Public Prosecution ordered that the youths be imprisoned, pending further investigation. They will stand trial for endangering public health and violating Covid-19 safety measures.

The prosecution said that it investigated the clip, identified the youths and ordered their arrest. Under the law, they can be punished with a fine of Dh10,000 to Dh50,000 and/or imprisonment.

The authority stressed that it will deal with such reckless behaviour with zero tolerance. It called on residents to follow all Covid safety measures.

On February 11, the Dubai Police, in cooperation with the Dubai Economy, shut down an establishment that held a gathering and issued a Dh5,000 fine against it on Thursday for not adhering to Covid-19 precautionary measures. Additionally, each person present at the event was fined Dh3,000 for not wearing a mask and adhering to social distancing.

The Dubai Police also fined a tour operator Dh50,000 for organising an outdoor

## MOST COMMON VIOLATIONS

- > Failure to wear masks
- > Failure to adhere to precautionary and preventive measures in commercial establishments
- > Failure to adhere to physical distancing in public places
- > Carrying more than the permissible number of people in cars (three)
- > Crowded gatherings

gathering without adhering to precautionary measures on February 12. In a video posted on social media, several four-wheel drives can be seen gathered in a desert in Dubai in violation of recent Covid-19 regulations issued by the emirate.

Meanwhile, the Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Management Committee in Sharjah has shut down a commercial facility for violating preventive measures against Covid-19.

"The inspection teams, in coordination with the Sharjah Economic Development Department, are intensifying inspection raids across the emirate to ensure compliance with all precautionary measures and take action against violators," the committee said.

"All entities and individuals are urged to strictly adhere to the set precautionary measures and report any violation via 901 or e-mail: [covid19@shjpolice.gov.ae](mailto:covid19@shjpolice.gov.ae)," said the authority.

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# Proper double-masking will protect from Covid-19: Docs

Nandini Sircar

Wearing properly-fitted surgical masks or doubling up on masks, can significantly reduce Covid-19 transmission and slow the spread of new, more contagious strains, according to the UAE doctors.

The Centre for Disease Control (CDC) report underscore the finding that a good fit can increase overall mask efficiency, they added. "This CDC study compared wearing no mask, a poorly fitted surgical mask, cloth-only mask and double-masking in a simulation of respiratory droplets between two people - a source and a receiver. The study found when people wear a well-fitted surgical mask covered by a cloth mask they can increase their own protection from aerosol droplets by 95 per cent or more," said Dr Shipra Rai specialist internal medicine, Prime Medical Centre - Al Qasimia.

Dr Zeeshan Anwar, general practitioner, Aster Rafa Poly Clinic - International City, added: "One has to start with a surgical mask and put a cloth mask on top of it. It gives an excellent filtration blocking respiratory droplets and reducing exposure, especially when we have new Covid mutations around the globe."

Protecting the nose from any pathogen entry is of paramount importance in preventing the disease. "Double masking will give us additional protection as Covid-19 the common portal of entry is through the nose. So, the face mask should be kept above the nose. Many times, we see people covering the mouth only, not the nose then there is no point



## MOST MASKS NOT MEDICAL GRADE

Most disposable masks in the consumer market are not medical grade, but they are still made of polypropylene, a non-woven fabric that electrostatically repulses viral particles.

This means they still score high marks when it comes to blocking the virus, say medics. The problem is loose-fitting masks may leave gaps where viral particles can get in and out when worn alone.

"Whether wearing two masks would offer better



protection or reduce the transmission of Covid-19 depends on the type of the face mask. There are different types of face masks available of which, N95 is known to be the best and offers maximum protection. The N95 mask blocks 95 per cent of the particles. So if a person is wearing an N95 mask, then there is no need for an additional one," said Dr Alaa Zedan, specialist internal medicine, Burjeel Hospital for Advanced Surgery - Dubai.

in wearing the mask if the nose remains uncovered," said Dr Sunil Vyas, specialist pulmonology, Aster Hospital - Al Qusais.

However, the study has limitations, say medics. The findings are not generalisable to men with beards and facial hair, which can interfere with masks or to children, whose faces are smaller. The study did not compare two surgical

masks or two cloth masks. "Don't combine two disposable masks because disposable masks are not designed to fit tightly and wearing more than one will not improve fit. Also don't layer another mask on top of N95 or KN95, these should be used alone," said Dr Anil Grover specialist internal medicine, Prime Hospital.

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## CENTRAL POWER PURCHASING AGENCY GUARANTEE LIMITED

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Heat Rate Test of Independent Power Producers (IPPs)

Central Power Purchasing Agency Guarantee (CPPA-G) under the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) Government of Pakistan, is a public limited company registered under Companies Ordinance 1984. The company pursuant to the provision of Commercial Code deals in Electric Power procurement on behalf of Distribution Companies, Billing and Settlement and Competitive Market development facilitation. CPPA-G has been tasked to conduct Heat Rate test of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) by reputable international Independent Engineering Consultancy Firm(s)/Company(ies).

CPPA-G invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Engineering Consulting Firms/Companies of International repute to conduct detailed Heat Rate tests of IPPs (Combined cycle power plants based on Gas Turbine and Diesel Generator Sets) to evaluate overall Power Plant Performance as per international codes and standards like ASME PTC 46 2015 etc.

**The following criteria shall be used for short listing:**

- Credentials in technical competency in similar nature of work which includes but not limited to;
- Overall Experience of the firm/company in Energy and Power Sectors.
- Experience of the firm/company in conducting Heat Rate Test of above-mentioned category Power Plants.
- No. of Heat Rate Test of Power Plants, completed, with methodology.
- Qualification and Experience of the Key Personnel employed with the firm/company.
- Necessary measuring and testing tools and tackle tentative completion time of Heat Rate Test of large sized RFO fired Engines based combined cycle power plants and large sized Gas fired Gas Turbines based combined cycle power plants.
- Financial Strength of firm/company in terms of annual turnover.
- For local Firm/company; NTN number and firm should be on the Active Tax-Payer List of FBR.
- For international firm/company; taxation laws of Pakistan will be applicable.
- Company's accreditation in IEEE USA or any other international registering agency etc.

The EOI must reach to this office on the address below in Sealed Envelopes through courier, postal mail, or by-hand within 30 days after publication of this advertisement. Only short-listed firm(s)/Company(ies) will be offered Request for Proposal (RFP) to submit techno-commercial proposals.

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