



# National Day of the United Arab Emirates



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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan  
Former President of the United Arab Emirates



Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan  
President of the United Arab Emirates



Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum  
Vice-President of the United Arab Emirates

## MESSAGE

*Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu*

It is a great pleasure that we are observing today the 2nd December 2006 the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the United Arab Emirates. By the grace of Almighty Allah and sagacious leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and His Highness Sheikh Muhammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and their highnesses the rulers of the emirates and in particular by the charismatic leadership of His Highness Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the United Arab Emirates has emerged as one of the most prosperous country in the comity of nations with higher standard living of its people and become an imitable model for economic and social development. It is worth mentioning that Sheikh Zayed, who used money for the benefit of the people, laid the foundation of an advanced nation in a record time with his tireless efforts and care of a father, infusing modern ideas to traditional values.

Sultan Al Nahyan to Bangladesh in 1984, and which resulted in the formation of a joint committee for bilateral cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields. The private sector in the two countries has also played an effective role in cementing bilateral relations through investment in various development sectors. We also appreciate the role and contribution of Bangladesh nationals working in the UAE in development sector and wish them a happy stay with their brothers in the UAE.

We pray to Almighty Allah for continued progress and prosperity of Bangladesh and its people, and do hope that the existing fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries will strengthen further in the days to come.

*Wa Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu*



Ghazi Abdullah Ashoor  
Charge D' Affairs of the United Arab Emirates in Bangladesh

## UAE 35th National Day Report

ON 2nd December, the National Day of the United Arab Emirates, a seven-member federation in the southeast of the Arabian peninsula, marks the completion of 35 years since it was formally established in December 1971. Under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Sayed Al Nahyan and Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who succeeded his elder brother, Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid, Al Maktoum early in the year, the state has succeeded over the past twelve months in making substantial further progress in its economic and social development,

and has continued to play an active and constructive role in regional and international affairs.

The basis for the country's thriving economic and social sectors was laid down by the UAE's founding President, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who died in November 2004. Although this was a sad loss for the UAE and its people, it has not interrupted the country's development, and, indeed, the smoothness of the transition to a new generation of leaders has underlined the way in which the UAE has enjoyed remarkable stability since it was formed.

Building upon the work of their predecessors, the President and Vice President, with the support of

the other members of the country's seven-member Supreme Council of Rulers, have now embarked on a major initiative designed to broaden popular participation in government. In mid-December, elections will take place for the first time for half of the members of the Federal National Council, the UAE's parliament. Candidates will come from over 6,500 members of electoral colleges established in each of the emirates, over 1,100 of whom are women. Provided that the elections are successful, it is then planned that the FNC will be expanded and that it will be given greater powers to initiate and scrutinise legislation and the workings of the Council of Ministers, the

executive arm of government.

Thirty-five years ago, when the United Arab Emirates was established, its population was far smaller than it is today, around 2,50,000 people, compared to today's figure of over 4 million. Many of the people lacked access to modern education and other facilities, and the structure of government was only just beginning to be developed. Now, however, the UAE enjoys one of the highest rates of literacy in the developing world, as well as an enviable level of social and economic development. It is now time, the government and the people of the UAE believe, for the system of government to be reformed so as to encourage a

greater degree of popular participation, in accordance with the country's traditions and heritage.

Major changes are also underway in the structure of the country's economy. Whereas in the past the government, both at a federal level and at the level of the individual emirates, played the major role in terms of the economy and provision of social and other services, now the local private commercial sector has developed the sophistication and experience to be able to take on the responsibility for a wide range of tasks once handled by government. The last year has seen further divestment by government of its interests in areas such as power and water as well as

liberalisation of property ownership legislation that has stimulated growth throughout the economy.

According to a recent study by the Ministry of Economy, the UAE's Gross Domestic Product, GDP, is expected to grow at a rate of around 23 percent during 2006, compared to the 2005 figure, to reach a total of 597 UAE billion dirhams (around 162 billion US dollars). Local investment is expected to reach 117 billion dirhams (US dollar 31.8 billion), an increase of 24.9 percent, while commodity exports are expected to rise by 21 percent to 514 billion dirhams (US\$ 139.7 billion), of which around 40 percent will come from oil and gas

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## Heartiest Felicitations

To The People of  
The United Arab Emirates  
on the occasion of The National Day  
for inspirational and exceptional leadership  
that has paved the path to

**35 Glorious Years**  
of unparalleled success



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