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## **KYRGYZSTAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES ABDULLAH BIN ZAYED**

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The President of Kyrgyzstan, Almazbek Atambayev, received H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and his accompanying delegation on Wednesday in Bishkek.

Sheikh Abdullah conveyed the greetings of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the President of Kyrgyzstan, along with his wishes for more progress and welfare for the people of Kyrgyzstan.

President Atambayev asked H.H. Sheikh Abdullah to reciprocate his greetings to President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa and stressed his country's desire to develop relations with the UAE.

He also confirmed his country's keenness on developing bilateral relations with the UAE in the best interests of the two countries, lauding the cultural boom witnessed by the UAE in all fields.

The President of Kyrgyzstan expressed his hopes that the visit would contribute to developing cooperation and friendship between the two countries for the advantage of the two friendly peoples.

President Atambayev and H.H. Sheikh Abdullah reviewed the economic, investment and cultural issues of mutual interest and ways to enhance ties, including exchange of visits, expertise and boosting the economic cooperation in all fields and exchanged views on the overall regional and international developments and issues of mutual interests.

The Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Sooronbay Jeenbekov, received H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and his accompanying delegation on Wednesday.

The meeting was held in the framework of Sheikh Abdullah's official visit to Kyrgyzstan. They discussed joint cooperation between the two sides and mechanisms of enhancing them in all fields, especially the economic, trade and cultural domains.

Jeenbekov and H.H. Sheikh Abdullah exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest, as well as the latest developments in the region.

The Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan stressed the importance of enhancing relations between the two friendly peoples and his country's keenness on developing joint cooperation in all fields.

He also hailed the UAE's cultural boom and progress in all avenues. Mohammed Hareb Al Mehairbi,

UAE Non-Resident Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, attended the meeting.

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Abdyldaev Erlan Bekeshovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, yesterday signed an MoU on political consultations with the Kyrgyz Republic.

During a meeting between the UAE FM and his Kyrgyz counterpart at the Foreign Ministry of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek, the holding of the first Emirati-Kyrgyz Business Forum was announced, which aims to discuss investment opportunities and ways to boost trade between the two countries.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest in the light of developments in the regional and international arenas, as well as means of enhancing bilateral relations and mechanisms for their development in various fields.

In a speech during a joint press conference, the Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic said that the meeting covered means of developing the Kyrgyz-UAE historical and cultural relations, strengthening them and boosting friendly relations and close cooperation between the two countries, pointing out that H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the first foreign minister from the Arab countries to visit the Kyrgyz Republic.

The two sides stressed the importance of organising exchanges of visits at the level of senior officials between the Kyrgyz Republic and the UAE, including the participation of both sides in important events such as the World Summit for the Conservation of the White Tiger to be held on 25th August, 2017, in Bishkek, and Expo 2020 in Dubai.

The two countries expressed their interest in exchanging and enhancing trade activities by organising business visits for representatives of companies, organisations and institutions from both countries through the Kyrgyz-UAE Business Forum which will be held today in Bishkek.

The UAE Foreign Minister thanked the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan for the kind speech, commending the Kyrgyz Republic's interest in promoting its relationship with the UAE, saying, "I appreciate your hospitality and your kind invitation."

He pointed out that during the meeting, they had discussed a number of issues of common interest, expressing his pleasure that he was the first Arab foreign minister to visit the Kyrgyz Republic.

"The UAE is happy to have an embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Through this mission, we hope that we can push this relationship forward to a higher level between the two countries and encourage tourism, investment and trade," Sheikh Abdullah went on to say.

He added that the UAE looks forward to being a partner of the Kyrgyz Republic in many fields, noting that there are many opportunities in the country, especially in the fields of infrastructure, energy, tourism and food security.

He welcomed the participation of the Kyrgyz Republic in Expo 2020 Dubai, saying, "Through our bilateral relationship, we seek to strengthen your relations with the GCC and the Arab League."

"A few days ago, both countries participated in the Arab-American Islamic Summit in Riyadh," he said. "At this summit, a strong statement was made that clearly demonstrates our position on

extremism and terrorism, financing of terrorism and violence, trying to cause instability in the region.

"I appealed to Iran to deal with its surroundings under international law and to respect the sovereignty of states and stop supporting and funding terrorist organisations," he said, adding, "This brings us back to the scenes we saw in the Manchester incident. What happened in Manchester reminds us of the extent of international negligence for joint work in the face of extremism and terrorism."

"We must intensify our efforts and our work and not wait until terrorist operations become a reality which nations and peoples accept," he said. "We can not change our lives. We must work better as countries to end this, and to fully sympathise with our British friends and the families of the victims. The UAE will not hesitate in confronting these challenges. "

The meeting was attended by Mohammed Hareb al-Muhairbi, UAE non-resident Ambassador in Kyrgyzstan.

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Kaynak/Source: