

Vice President is Cultural Personality of the Year

Mohammed bin Rashid wins major Sheikh Zayed award

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ABU DHABI // Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, has been named Cultural Personality of the Year by trustees of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award.

The award honours contributions to the advancement of

Arab culture and encourages work towards tolerance and the promotion of peace. The trustees said the award highlighted Sheikh Mohammed's achievements in cultural development.

The President, Sheikh Khalifa, congratulated Sheikh Mohammed on the award.

"The naming of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid as a cultural personality by this huge, symbolic award that bears the name of late father, Sheikh Zayed, is a deserved honour," Sheikh Khalifa said, according to the state news agency Wam.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, also congratulated the Vice President.

"It is a tribute to the leader of a unique calibre who exerted his efforts to complete the process of development, and continues to build the state," Sheikh Mohammed said. "He achieved the development, built the bridges of communication and optimism in line with the course set by President Sheikh Khalifa."

Award, continued on 2 →

President hails Dubai Ruler

→ Award, continued from 1

Dr Ali bin Tamim, the award's secretary general, said the Vice President's role in the community brought great hope to creative people.

Sheikh Mohammed's "initiatives create a link with our heritage and the openness of the modern services have been characterised by the overall initiatives in the spirit of innovation and continuous regeneration, making it a source of leverage", he said.

He was also chosen for his many achievements in sustainable development and social welfare. They include the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, which funds research projects, activities and initiatives.

Sheikh Mohammed also established the International Humanitarian City, which serves as a centre for the UAE's foreign aid projects.

"We cannot forget his keenness of safeguarding the rights of children and the establishment of Gender Balance Committee. The award shines by this great and inspiring Emirati personality," said Dr bin Tamim.

Sheikh Mohammed was also awarded for his measures to strengthen the national identity and encourage youths to learn about the country's history and culture, as well as sponsoring projects that promote the Arab language, literature and culture.

Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, Minister of Development and International Cooperation, congratulated Sheikh Mohammed.

She said he had helped the UAE to become a cultural desti-



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nation for those seeking knowledge and the arts.

"Sheikh Mohammed is keen on continuing the UAE's journey in the path of development, modernity and high cultural values," said Sheikha

Lubna. The Sheikh Zayed Book Award was launched in 2007 in memory of the founding President and is intended to promote scholarship and creativity in the Arab world.

Its categories include chil-

dren's literature, translation, young author, and Arab culture in other languages.

Judges in each category review the nominated work and submit the selections to the committee that reviews and approves the

nominations. The winners of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award will be announced next month, ahead of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair.

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