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UAE public sector set to enjoy 9-day Eid holiday

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

The UAE Cabinet has announced a one-week holiday for the public sector to mark Eid Al Fitr.

UAE authorities announced that the holidays for government workers will begin on Monday, April 8 until Sunday, April 14.

Regular working hours will resume on Monday, April 15.

The Federal Authority for Government Human Resources has issued a circular regarding the Eid Al Fitr holiday to all federal entities.

This year, Eid Al Fitr falls either on April 9 or 10, based on the sighting of the moon. It marks the end of Ramadan – the holy month of fasting and introspection, and preparations have already begun.

Eid Al Fitr is a joyous occasion celebrated by Muslims worldwide. It is a time for families and friends to come together, exchange gifts, share meals, and express gratitude for the blessings received during Ramadan.

During Ramadan, over 1.8 billion Muslims worldwide observe fasting from dawn to dusk, focusing on spiritual growth and reflection.

Pope in Easter address pleads for immediate Gaza ceasefire

FRANCIS: THE CHILDREN HAVE FORGOTTEN TO SMILE IN THOSE WAR ZONES

VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all Israeli hostages in an Easter Sunday address that marked the most important day on the Christian calendar by deploring the suffering caused by wars.

The pontiff presided over Mass in a packed and flower-bedecked St Peter's Square, and then delivered his "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world) blessing and message from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

'Why all this death?'

Francis has repeatedly deplored the death and destruction in the Gaza war and he renewed his call for a ceasefire yesterday.

"I appeal once again that access to humanitarian aid be ensured to Gaza, and call once more for the prompt release of the hostages seized on last October 7 and for an immediate ceasefire in the Strip," he said in his Urbi et Orbi address.

"How much suffering we see in the eyes of children, the children have forgotten to smile in those war zones. With their eyes, children ask us: Why? Why all this death? Why all this destruction? War is always an absurdity and a defeat", he added.

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes



AFP

■ Pope Francis waves to the crowd from the popemobile after the Easter Mass as part of the Holy Week celebrations, at St Peter's square in the Vatican, yesterday.

killed 77 Palestinians in Gaza in the past 24 hours, health authorities said yesterday, as Egypt hosted an Israeli delegation for a new round of talks in a bid to secure a truce with Gaza's Hamas rulers.

The Israeli military said it killed a senior Islamic Jihad

militant in a strike on a command centre in the courtyard of the Al-Aqsa Hospital in central Gaza. It did not mention his name or rank.

"The command centre and terrorists were struck precisely, the military said, adding it was intended to minimise "harm to

uninvolved civilians in the area of the hospital". "The Al-Aqsa Hospital building was not damaged and its functioning was not affected." There was no immediate comment from Islamic Jihad, a militant group and ally of Hamas.

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Boy spotted begging near mosque reunited with mother in Dubai

14-year-old had fled home after his parents divorced

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

A 14-year-old boy who had fled his father's home and resorted to begging has been reunited with his mother, Dubai Police said yesterday.

His plight was discovered during the 'Combat Begging' campaign of Dubai Police, which has been stepped up in Ramadan.

The boy had left home due to family disputes after his parents had divorced.

Brigadier Ali Salem Al Shamsi, Director of the Suspicious Persons and Crimi-

nal Phenomena Department of the General Department of Criminal Investigations in Dubai Police, revealed that the department received information regarding a child who was seen begging near a mosque in Dubai.

Instant action

"Swift action was taken to approach and support the child. It became apparent that the child had resorted

● **The boy's plight was discovered during the 'Combat Begging' campaign of Dubai Police, which has been stepped up in Ramadan.**

to begging as a result of family disputes stemming from the divorce and his father's remarriage, which compelled him to flee the house and take to the streets," Brig Al Shamsi said.

The Suspicious Persons and Criminal Phenomena Department immediately contacted the child's family.

"After listening to each party, an agreement was reached for the child to reside with his mother, who will provide the best care and support for him, especially in light of his father's remarriage. This decision opens the door to a fresh beginning in the child's life, filled with hope and positive prospects."

Brig Al Shamsi appealed to parents to ensure their children's well-being by resolving family disputes.

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