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## BOLLYWOOD STARS BAT FOR STREET CRICKET

THURSDAY JANUARY 4, 2024 JUMADA AL AKHIRA 22, 1445

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Reuters

■ People gather at the scene of explosions during a ceremony held to mark the death of late Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in Kerman, Iran, yesterday.

# 103 killed at memorial for slain Iran general

181 HURT AS TWIN BLASTS RIP THROUGH CONGREGATION

TEHRAN

**T**win bomb blasts killed at least 103 people in Iran yesterday, ripping through a crowd commemorating Revolutionary Guards General Qassem Soleimani four years after his death in a US strike, state media reported.

The two explosions — unclaimed but labelled a “terrorist attack” by state media and regional authorities — came amid high Middle East tensions over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and the killing of a Hamas senior leader in Lebanon on Tuesday.

The blasts, about 15 minutes apart, struck near the Martyrs Cemetery at the Saheb Al Zaman Mosque in Kerman, Soleimani’s southern hometown, as supporters gathered to mark his killing in a 2020 US drone strike in Baghdad.

“The number of people killed rose to 103 following the deaths of people injured during the terrorist explosions,” said the official IRNA news agency, while state TV reported 181 wounded, some in critical condition.

### National day of mourning

Among those killed were three paramedics who rushed to the scene after the first explosion, said Iran’s Red Crescent.

**The blasts struck near the Martyrs Cemetery at the Saheb Al Zaman Mosque in Kerman, Soleimani’s southern hometown, as supporters gathered to mark his killing in a 2020 US drone strike in Baghdad.**

President Ebrahim Raisi condemned the “heinous” crime as the Islamic Republic of Iran declared today a national day of mourning.

Tasnim news agency, quoting what it called informed sources, said “two bags carrying bombs went off” and that “the perpetrators... apparently detonated the bombs by remote control”.

Online footage showed panicked crowds scrambling to flee as security personnel cordoned off the area.

State television showed bloodied victims lying on the ground and ambulances and rescue personnel racing to help them.

“We were walking towards the cemetery when a car suddenly stopped behind us and a waste bin containing a bomb exploded,” an eyewitness was quoted saying by the ISNA news agency.

—AFP

## New firm to manage Dubai parking

Parkin to take over responsibilities and rights of all facilities

DUBAI

BY DONA CHERIAN

Assistant Online Editor

**I**n a landmark move, Dubai has established a public joint stock company (PJSC), Parkin, to completely take over the design, estab-

lishment and management of parking spaces in the emirate. His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, issued Law No. (30) of 2023 establishing the firm.

Currently fully owned by the Dubai government, Parkin will take over all rights and responsibilities when it comes to existing or upcoming public and private parking

facilities — also taking over relevant responsibilities from Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority (RTA).

Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, yesterday issued Executive Council Resolution No. (121) of 2023, forming the Board of Directors of Parkin PJSC.

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WORLD

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## “Palestinian issue will remain in our conscience” —Mohammad Bin Rashid

Vice-President reaffirms support for Palestinian people and peace efforts

DUBAI

BY KHITAM AL AMIR

Chief News Editor

**T**he UAE yesterday reaffirmed its unwavering support for the Palestinian cause. His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said the Palestinian issue resonated within the conscience of every Arab, Muslim and anyone with genuine moral principles.

“While attending part of the Arab Strategy Forum 2024 today... the forum aims to foresee the economic and political future of our region in the new year. Our region needs to contain its crises, coordinate efforts, and foster cooperation among its diverse parties, as well as to stick to its independent strategies to address crises and shape its future,” Shaikh Mohammad said in a post shared on his official X account yesterday.

He added: “The Palestinian cause will remain in our conscience and the conscience of every Arab, Muslim, and everyone with genuine moral principles. The UAE stands in steadfast support of this cause, commit-



WAM

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Lt General Shaikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Shaikh Ahmad Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Shaikh Mansoor Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum at the Arab Strategy Forum in Dubai yesterday.

**Our goal in Dubai has been and will always be the well-being and a brighter future for every Arab country and its citizens.”**

**Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

ted to seeking peace and continue to support our Palestinian brethren.”

Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Mak-

toum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, who attended the forum with Shaikh Mohammad and a number of other shaikhs, wrote on his X account that the event “serves as a platform to explore key trends shaping the Arab region, delve into emerging geopolitical shifts, and discuss global economic transformations. Our goal in Dubai has been and will always be the well-being and a brighter future for every Arab country and its citizens”.

The forum was held at the Ritz-Carlton, Dubai International Financial Centre.

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