

NATION | P2

How job loss led to a journey of entrepreneurship



UNRWA in crisis after suspension of funding



UAE exporters mull splitting cost over Red Sea issue

NEW YEAR SPECIAL OFFE





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Gaza girl, 6, missing with rescuers

RAFAH

ight days have passed since the Palestinian Red Crescent heard from an ambulance team sent to rescue Hind Rajab, a 6-year-old girl believed to have been trapped in a car with the bodies of dead relatives after they were fired on by an Israeli tank.

"She was scared, freaking out, and was wounded in her back, her hand and her foot," said her grandfather, Baha Hamada, one of the last people to speak to the girl on the phone.

"We tried to calm her down and told her we would call an ambulance," said the 58-year-old.

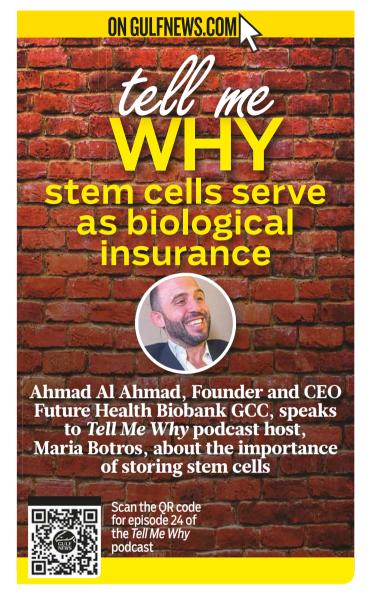
The Red Crescent said on Monday on social media that the fate of the team, "Yousuf Zeino and Ahmad Al Madhoon, who went to rescue 6-year-old Hind Rajab, remains unknown for seven days".

-Agencies



Hind Rajab was in a car with family members on Jan 29 when an Israeli tank fired at them.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Iconic country singer and songwriter Toby Keith passes away | P14

WORLD

Influencer, widow among Pakistan women contesting elections | P10

Dubai's non-oil trade surge beats deadline

HITS DH2 TRILLION TARGET ONE YEAR BEFORE SCHEDULE

DUDAL

BY KHITAM AL AMIR Chief News Editor

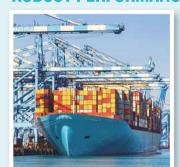
he non-oil foreign trade of Dubai
surged to Dh2 trillion,
achieving the milestone one year ahead
of schedule. His Highness
Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid
Al Maktoum, Vice-President
and Prime Minister of the UAE
and Ruler of Dubai, shared the
groundbreaking news on his
official X account.

"In 2020, prior to the Covid crisis, we set a target for Dubai's non-oil foreign trade to reach Dh2 trillion by 2025. However, with the onset of the pandemic, our team informed me of the impossibility of achieving this goal due to the global trade disruptions caused by the crisis. As life experiences have taught me, crises present opportunities for innovation and thinking beyond conventional norms," Shaikh Mohammad said.

Streamlined procedures

"We launched numerous initiatives, developed and refined policies and streamlined procedures throughout the unprecedented two-year global crisis. Today, one year ahead of schedule, we have successfully reached our target, for which we are thankful for God's grace and success. In Dubai, our

ROBUST PERFORMANCE



Dubai's non-oil private sector grew strongly in December, reaching a 16-month high amid an increasing number of new orders.

2025

the initial deadline of Dubai's non-oil trade to hit Dh2 trillion

In Dubai, we say what we do, and we do what we say."

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

ethos is simple: we say what we do, and we do what we say," he

added.

Dubai's non-oil private sector grew strongly in December, reaching a 16-month high amid an increasing number of new orders.

The S&P Global Dubai purchasing managers' index reading hit 57.7 in December, up from 56.8 in November. The reading was not only well above the neutral 50-point mark sep-

arating an expansion from a contraction, it was the highest since August 2022 and the second highest in four and a half years.

GDP forecast raised

Growing contribution of the non-oil sectors prompted the World Bank to recently raise its forecast for the UAE's GDP growth in 2024 and 2025 to 3.7 per cent and 3.8 per cent, respectively.

