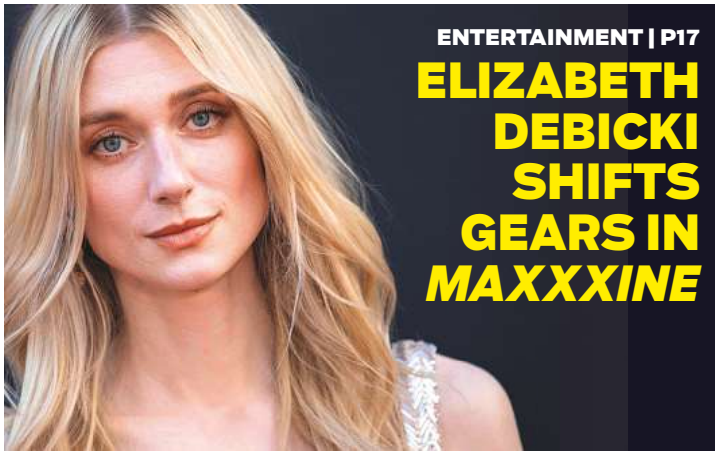


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PARIS

**L**ast month was the hottest June on record across the globe, the EU's climate monitor said yesterday, capping half a year of wild and destructive weather from floods to heatwaves.

Every month since June 2023 has eclipsed its own temperature record in a 13-month streak of unprecedented global heat, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said.

Global air temperatures in the 12 months to June 2024 were the highest in the data record — on average 1.64C above pre-industrial levels, Copernicus said.

"This is more than a statistical oddity and it highlights a large and continuing shift in our climate," said the service director, Carlo Buontempo.

"Even if this specific streak of extremes ends at some point, we are bound to see new records being broken as the climate continues to warm."

This was "inevitable" as long as humanity kept adding heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, he said.

**Scorching heat**

The global average temperature notched last month broke the previous June record set in 2023. The fresh high came at the midway point of a year marked by climate extremes.

Scorching heat has blanketed swathes of the world from India to Saudi Arabia, the United States and Mexico in the first half of this year.

Relentless rain, a phenomena scientists have also linked to a warmer planet, caused extensive flooding in Kenya, China, Brazil, Afghanistan, Russia and France.

# HOTTEST JUNE 2024 SET TO BREAK RECORDS

*Past 12 months saw 1.64C above pre-industrial levels*



Wildfires have torched land in Greece and Canada and last week, Hurricane Beryl became the earliest category five Atlantic hurricane on record as it barrelled across several Caribbean islands.

The streak of record-breaking temperatures coincided with El Nino, a natural phenomenon that contributes to hotter weather globally, said Julien Nicolas, a senior scientist at C3S.

—AFP

■ People throng Recreio dos Bandeirantes beach amid a heatwave in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Last month broke the previous June record set in 2023.

AFP



■ Dr Ram Buxani

**Indian  
businessman  
Ram Buxani  
passes away**

DUBAI

BY SHARMILA DHAL  
UAE Editor

**I**ndian businessman Dr Ram Buxani passed away in Dubai early yesterday, his family has confirmed.

He is survived by his wife, three daughters and seven grandchildren.

He was 83 years old, one of his daughters Chetna Shastri told *Gulf News*.

Chairman of the IITL Cosmos Group, Buxani first came to Dubai in 1959.

**Community leader**

A prominent community leader, he was the Founder-Chairman of the Overseas Indians Economic Forum and was closely associated with India Club Dubai, where he served as chairman from 2012-2015 and 1990-1994. He also served as chairman of the Indian High School Dubai from 2000 to 2004.

**SEE ALSO P5**

## Long-awaited budget airline Air Kerala now closer to reality

Planned carrier aims to serve Gulf-Kerala sector after initial domestic launch

DUBAI

BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN  
Chief Reporter

**I**ndian budget carrier Air Kerala could at long last launch operations soon, nearly 19 years after the project was first conceived.

Dubai-based investors of Kerala's Zett Fly Aviation Private Limited, who would operate under the brand Air Kerala, announced yesterday that they have received an initial NOC from India's Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) to operate regional com-

muter air transport services. Afi Ahmed, Chairman of Zett Fly, stated that the company will operate domestic flights in Kerala using ATR 72-600 aircraft once it obtains an Air Operator's Certificate (AOC) from MoCA.

**Affordable fares**

"We plan to raise INR250 crores (approx. Dh109.9 million) initially. We aim to launch a domestic carrier in Kerala in

the first phase and later expand into an international airline serving the Gulf-Kerala sector at affordable fares," explained Ahmed.

Kochi, Kerala, would be the airline's hub and headquarters, and the company's stakeholders hope to launch operations with three ATR 72-60s.

"We plan to connect Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities with Tier 1 and metro airports," said Ahmed.

"After securing the NOC, our next steps involve acquiring aircraft and complying with the regulatory requirements to obtain our Air Operator's Certificate (AOC). This is a critical phase that ensures we meet all safety and operational standards set by the aviation authorities," said Vice-Chairman Ayub Kallada.

**SEE ALSO P8**

**The government of Kerala first proposed the idea for Air Kerala in 2005 to provide Gulf Malayalees with affordable travel options.**

SPORT

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