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## Golan Heights strike raises fears of all-out conflict

BEIRUT

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant yesterday vowed to “hit the enemy hard” after rocket fire from Lebanon killed 12 young people in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights and again raised fears that the war in Gaza will spread.

Iran warned Israel any new military “adventures” in Lebanon could lead to “unforeseen consequences”. Western powers, including France and Germany, condemned the attack and appealed for calm.

The European Union called for an independent probe into what happened.

Israel’s army called it “the deadliest attack on Israeli civilians” since the October 7 attack that began the war in Gaza and triggered regular exchanges of fire across the Lebanese border.

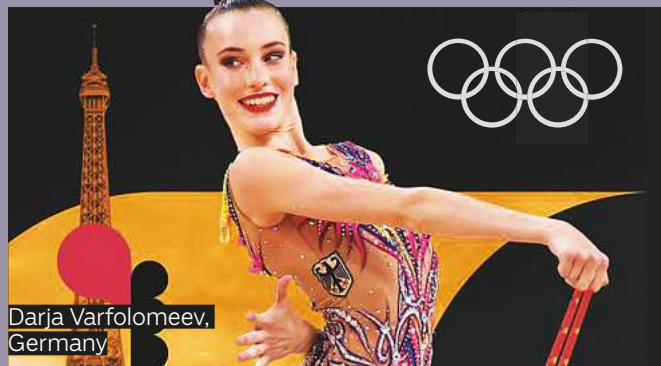
Israel blamed Lebanon’s Hezbollah movement for firing a Falaq-1 Iranian rocket but the Iran-backed group said it had “no connection” to the incident.

It said, however, that it had fired one such rocket on Saturday toward an Israeli military target in the Golan.

The rocket fire in Majdal Shams prompted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to return early from the United States. —AFP

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SPECIAL REPORT



Daria Varfolomeev,  
Germany

## STARS TO WATCH AT PARIS OLYMPICS

As top athletes in the world battle for glory, we  
look at 20 of the best who promise to light up  
the Games with their prowess | P10



Simone Biles,  
USA



Dominika Banevic,  
Lithuania

Eliud Kipchoge,  
Kenya

## Dubai sets new tourism record in 2024 first half

SEES 9.31M VISITORS, A 9% RISE OVER  
8.55M ARRIVALS IN 2023 SAME PERIOD

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

Dubai welcomed a record 9.31 million international overnight visitors from January to June 2024, a 9 per cent increase over the 8.55 million tourist arrivals in the first half of 2023, according to data published by the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET).

Following a landmark 2023, when the city hosted 17.15 million international overnight visitors, Dubai has continued to sustain its strong tourism momentum. The growth in the first six months of this year puts the city on track for a record performance in 2024.

Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, said: “Dubai’s tourism sector continues to demonstrate its robust growth potential and attractive proposition for global travellers. With its sustained growth, Dubai is setting the standard for cities worldwide, in line with the ob-

jective of the Dubai Economic Agenda D33 to establish Dubai as one of the world’s top urban economies.”

Shaikh Hamdan urged all industry stakeholders to expand partnerships with key markets, explore new opportunities, and work to enhance Dubai’s value offering by creating rich and memorable experiences.

How the numbers add up

From January to June 2024, proximity markets in GCC and Mena had a combined 26 per cent share of overall visitors, with 1.27 million arrivals. Western Europe accounted for 20 per cent of visitors, with 1.89 million in total. South Asia was another major source market, with 1.62 million visitors (17 per cent), as was CIS and Eastern Europe with 1.37 million (15 per cent). North-East and South-East Asia grew from an 8 per cent share at the beginning of the year to a 10 per cent share (896,000) of total visitors by the end of H1 2024, driven by strong recovery from China. Other regions also saw a rise in visitation, including the Americas with 617,000 (7 per cent), Africa with 404,000 (4 per cent) and Australasia with 154,000 (2 per cent).

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now enters  
homestretch  
as support for  
Harris grows | P9

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Brunei beckons



NATION

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licence to  
operate first  
authorised  
lottery | P2

## UAE warns private firms against fraudulent Emiratisation practice

MoHRE cautions  
employers against  
unequal pay among  
other violations

ABU DHABI

BY ABDULLA RASHEED  
Abu Dhabi Editor

Any company trying to circumvent the objectives of Emiratisation will be dealt with firmly, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) has warned.

It warned the private sector establishments against committing any fraudulent practices, including wage-related violations, in the name of Emiratisation, adding that the government has placed robust

checks and controls to achieve the goals of Emiratisation.

The ministry called on employers to be careful not to commit fraud regarding payment of wages: Give citizen a lower wage than his counterparts who perform the same duties; or reduce the citizen’s wage on the pretext of benefiting from Nafis. It also called on citizens who join work in any private sector establishment to adhere to the stipulated

The ministry said there are controls to even regulate Emiratisation advertisements by establishments and employers in the private sector for vacancies.

obligations under the Nafis programme and in the employment contracts signed by them.

The ministry said there are controls to even regulate Emiratisation advertisements by establishments and employers in the private sector for vacancies. Advertising companies should not display ads for jobs that do not represent an available and real job opportunity.

According to the ministry, establishments need to conclude an employment contract in accordance with the regulations in force in the ministry, ensure payment of the agreed-upon wage in accordance with the Wage Protection System, speed up procedures for registering the citizen in the pension and social insurance system.

SEE ALSO P2

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