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Now, residency, work permits in just 5 days

MOHAMMAD LAUNCHES LANDMARK 'WORK BUNDLE'



8 services on one platform

5 entities across federal and local government sectors to power the service

5 days service completion time instead of 30

Project will cut 25 million procedures, 12.5 million visits, and 62.5 million working days annually.

DUBAI
BY AGHADDIR ALI
Senior Reporter
KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

The UAE government yesterday launched the Work Bundle to facilitate employee residency procedures and work permits in private sector companies. The first phase of the initiative will be implemented in Dubai and will be gradually expanded to include other emirates.

Announcing the landmark decision, His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, tweeted: "In our ongoing quest for government excellence, we have recently introduced the Zero Bureaucracy initiative, aimed at streamlining procedures and enhancing ef-

Today marks the launch of a pioneering project designed to expedite, simplify and streamline the processes related to residency and employment."

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

iciency within the federal government. In alignment with this vision, today marks the inaugural launch of the Work Bundle, a pioneering project designed to expedite, simplify, and streamline the processes related to residency and employment."

The Work Bundle project also improves the customer experience by providing

one platform instead of five, it also reduces procedures from eight services to a unified single platform, while the required steps will be reduced from 15 steps requiring 16 documents to five steps and five documents only, and reduced the number of visits from seven visits to only two visits, which in turn reflects on the time taken to complete the transaction, also reduced from 30 working days to five working days.

The project offers a single platform to complete employment services including renewal, cancellation, medical examination, and fingerprinting.

The project aims to simplify procedures and reduce effort and time, it will cut 25 million procedures annually, 12.5 million annual visits, and 62.5 million working days annually.

SEE ALSO P4

'I'm so afraid of giving birth'

In Gaza, nearly 52,000 expectant mothers face dire threats

GAZA STRIP

Forced to flee her home by Israeli bombardment, Asmaa Ahmad gave birth in the middle of the night in a Gaza City school that had no electricity.

The doctor arrived just in time, working by the light of a mobile phone and clamping the umbilical cord.

"I was very afraid to lose the baby," 31-year-old Ahmad told AFP, recounting how her son Faraj came into

the world four months ago. Baraa Jaber, the nurse who assisted in the delivery, said she was scared too.

"It was very late and at this time the occupation (Israel) could bomb anyone moving in the streets," she said.

Endangered lot

Ahead of International Women's Day tomorrow, aid workers said Gaza's around 52,000 pregnant women are among those endangered by the collapse of the health system amid the ongoing war. And their troubles don't end with a successful delivery.

New mothers confront the stark challenge of keeping

infants alive in the besieged territory bereft of basics like food and water.

The fast-deteriorating conditions have struck fear into the hearts of pregnant women like 21-year-old Malak Shabat, who has sought refuge in the southern Gaza city of Rafah after moving several times to escape Israeli strikes.

"I'm so afraid of giving birth," said Shabat, whose due date is fast approaching.

The health system has been devastated, with the UN reporting last month there were no fully functioning hospitals left, and just 12 of 36 working at some capacity.

—AFP

SEE ALSO P9

MIDDLE EAST

Gaza: 90% of infants and breastfeeding women face food crisis | P9

NATION

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Ramadan price cap on nine food items

Any price hike by retailers can be done only with Ministry of Economy's approval

DUBAI
BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

There will be no hikes on retail pricing of nine essential consumer goods without pre-approval during Ramadan, according to a top Ministry of Economy official.

The 'policy prohibits price hikes of cooking oil, eggs, dairy, rice, sugar, poultry, legumes, bread and wheat' without the ministry and related authorities having their say on the matter.

"The pricing policy for consumer goods is also a key pillar of market price regulation," said a top official.

Abundance of supply

"With the advent of Ramadan, the country's markets are experiencing an abundance of supply of goods and products — especially strategic goods," said Abdullah Sultan Al Fan Al

Shamsi, Assistant Undersecretary for the Monitoring and Follow-Up Sector at the UAE Ministry of Economy.

"The Ministry also ensures that all consumer needs are met and that they have easy access to these goods without any unjustified price increases, and in the quantities they need."

The memo to retailers — and UAE consumers — assumes significance given the current situation around the Red Sea. But based on market feedback, imported food prices have remained broadly stable since October, apart from certain categories and brands of European sourced products.

SEE ALSO P5

The 'policy prohibits price hikes of cooking oil, eggs, dairy, rice, sugar, poultry, legumes, bread and wheat' without the ministry and related authorities having their say on the matter.

SPORT

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