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NATION | P2

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for 31 weeks



THE VIEWS | P8

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the world stage



BUSINESS | P6

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ENTERTAINMENT | P14

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Summer airfares go up 100-300% on some routes

DUBAI
BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
Chief Reporter

Starting this week, the full weight of high summer airfares will be felt by travellers from the UAE, whether it's a short trip to a sought-after holiday destination or for a longer stay back to their home country.

According to travel agents, last-minute airfares for summer travel from the UAE have shot up by 100 per cent (to the US) and a little over 300 per cent to the UK, India, Thailand, the Philippines, and European cities amid delays in aircraft deliveries and soaring travel demand.

Extended vacations

Rikant Pittie, Co-Founder of EaseMyTrip, said, "We are seeing a trend among UAE travellers combining their Eid break with the two-month summer holiday for extended vacations."

According to Pittie, international holiday bookings have risen by approximately 20 per cent, with destinations like Thailand, Kenya, Turkey, Singapore, the USA, Hong Kong, Bali, and Mauritius becoming particularly popular.

SEE ALSO P5



TRAIN CRASH IN INDIA LEAVES 9 DEAD, 50 INJURED

People gather near the site of a collision between a passenger and a goods train in Nirmaljote, near Rangapani station in India's West Bengal state, yesterday. At least nine people were killed and 50 hurt when the driver of the goods train missed a signal and slammed into the passenger train from behind. Three passenger carriages were derailed and flipped on their side, while one carriage was thrust into the air, precariously balanced on another. **SEE ALSO P10**

AFP

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MIDDLE EAST

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pilgrimage
ends amid
extreme
heat in Saudi
Arabia | P9

BUSINESS

Europe sees
return of
tourism but
residents
resent
crowding | P5

Netanyahu dissolves inner war cabinet

MOVE AIMS TO COUNTER PRESSURE
FROM FAR-RIGHT POLITICIANS

JERUSALEM

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dissolved the six-member inner war cabinet following the resignation earlier this month of centrist leader Benny Gantz, said a senior Israeli official said yesterday.

The official said that the wider "security cabinet will continue to decide on matters regarding the war" between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli media said the move was meant to counter pressure from far-right politicians seeking a greater say in decision-making.

How the cabinet was formed

The war cabinet was formed after Gantz had left the opposition to join Netanyahu's government following Hamas's October 7 attack. Gantz and another member of his party, Gadi Eisenkot, both former military chiefs, had agreed to join the government on condition that a war cabinet be formed, said another Israeli official.

With Gantz and Eisenkot out of the government, "there is no longer a need for" the war cabinet, said the official. "It means that the security cabinet will meet more often. The security cabinet is the body responsible for making decisions (related to the war) anyway."

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, who were all part of the war cabinet, also sit on the security cabinet — the key forum ratifying decisions regarding the war including truce and hostage release negotiations.

Gantz announced his resignation on June 9 after failing to get Netanyahu to approve a post-war plan for Gaza. Israel's military campaign in Gaza has killed at least 37,347 people, also mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry. — AFP

The war cabinet was formed after Gantz had left the opposition to join Netanyahu's government following Hamas's October 7 attack.

Meaty rice? Scientists aim to revolutionise how the world eats

Pink grain could become an eco-friendly, ethical source of protein

SEOUL

In a small laboratory in Seoul, a team of South Korean scientists are injecting cultured beef cells into individual grains of rice, in a process they hope could revolutionise how the world eats.

From helping prevent famines to feeding astronauts in space, team leader and professor Hong Jin-kee believes his new so-called "meaty rice" could become an eco-friendly, ethical way for people to get their protein.

No animals were harmed in the creation of the dish, which looks like a regular bowl of rice — albeit pink — but it gives off a faint buttery aroma, the result of being packed with beef muscle and fat cell culture.

Using cultured meat, "we can obtain



AFP

Hong Jin-kee with a bowl of pink 'meaty rice'.

animal protein without the slaughter of livestock," Hong, of Seoul's Yonsei University, told AFP.

Ethical issues

Companies worldwide have sought to commercialise meat alternatives, such as plant-based or cultured meat, due to ethical issues surrounding industrial livestock rearing, as well as environmental concerns linked to the greenhouse gas emissions from animal farming.

Hong, who has a background in organoids and biomedical sciences, chose rice for his research as the grain was already the top source of protein for people in Asia. Hong's "meaty" rice contains eight per cent more protein and seven per cent more fat than regular rice. — AFP



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