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NATION | P4

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BUSINESS | P6

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Diwali nears**

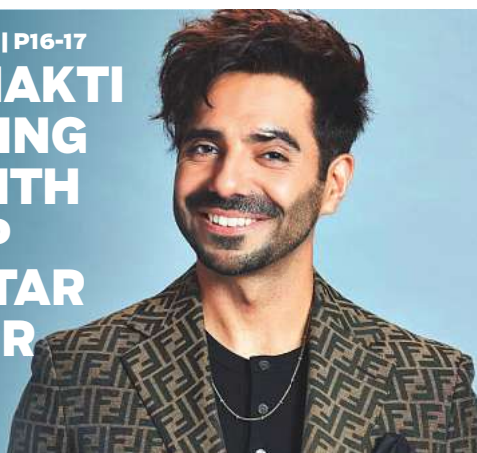


THE VIEWS | P9

**Now that Israel  
has struck Iran,  
what's next?**

ENTERTAINMENT | P16-17

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# Israel intensifies Lebanon, Gaza raids after Iran strikes

ONE DEAD, SEVERAL HURT AS TRUCK RAMS INTO BUS STOP NEAR TEL AVIV

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N. R.  
Senior Associate Editor

Israel intensified attacks on Lebanon and Gaza a day after its strikes on Iran fed fears that the region was spiralling towards a wider conflict.

Israeli raids on a Gaza school sheltering the displaced, and on Sidon in southern Lebanon left at least 17 dead and 25 wounded yesterday.

Near Tel Aviv, a driver rammed his truck into a crowd at a bus stop, killing one and injuring at least 29.

Israel said that five soldiers were killed in southern Lebanon, raising the total death toll to 37 since ground operations began on September 30.

Hezbollah said it fired rockets at northern Israel, targeting a military facility north of Haifa, and issued evacuation warnings for over 20 areas in northern Israel.

'Precision strikes'

Earlier, the Israeli military claimed to have killed 70 Hezbollah militants and struck 120 targets in southern Lebanon, including 'precision strikes on weapon facilities in Beirut'.

In Gaza, Israeli forces reported eliminating 40 militants during operations.



AFP

■ Israeli police and emergency responders secure the truck after a driver rammed his vehicle into a crowd of people at a bus stop in Ramat Hasharon, north of Tel Aviv yesterday.

An emergency UN Security Council meeting will take place today at Iran's request, with Tehran calling for it to condemn the Israeli air strikes on Saturday.

At home, Iranian leaders played down their importance, saying the strikes had caused only limited damage and killed four soldiers.

A spokesperson for the US National Security Council emphasised the need for diplomacy and urged Iran to cease attacks on Israel.

Meanwhile, Israeli spy chief David Barnea is set to travel to Qatar for discussions aimed at reviving negotiations for a Gaza hostage deal.

UN officials warned that

Gaza is facing its "darkest hour". "The [UN] Secretary-General is shocked by the harrowing levels of death, injury and destruction in the north, with civilians trapped under rubble, the sick and wounded going without life-saving health care and families lacking food and shelter."

SEE ALSO P10

## UAE named most stable economy

Absence of corruption, transparency in government practices among reasons cited

DUBAI

BY KHITAM AL AMIR  
Chief News Editor

The UAE has been recognised as the most economically stable country globally, topping a list of 89 nations in the latest rankings by US News & World Report.

The UAE's success is attributed to its low manufacturing costs, favourable tax environment, minimal bureaucracy, absence of corruption, and transparency in government practices, allowing it to outpace long-time economic leaders.

Following closely in the rankings are Germany, Canada, Japan, Australia, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia, which have made significant strides in various economic parameters.

In a tweet celebrating the occasion, Lt General Shaikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy

Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, stated: "The UAE ranks first in the world for economic stability, according to US News. This top classification is based on our sustained commitment to maintaining low manufacturing costs, creating a favourable tax environment, reducing bureaucracy, ensuring no corruption, and upholding transparency in government practices."

These rankings are part of the US News Best Countries rankings, now in their ninth year, developed in partnership with the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and global marketing services firm WPP.

The rankings not only reflect the economic performance of nations but also how they are perceived on the global stage.

Following closely in the rankings are Germany, Canada, Japan, Australia, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia.

NATION

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parents praise  
lowering of  
minimum age  
of driving | P4**

SPECIAL REPORT

**Why skincare  
is not just a  
ritual of beauty  
but a form of  
self-expression**



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## Roundabout at World Trade Centre set to go

Dubai landmark to become intersection featuring 5 bridges

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

The World Trade Centre roundabout, one of Dubai's oldest landmarks, will be converted into a surface intersection featuring new five bridges as part of the Roads and Transport Authority's (RTA) plan to improve traffic flow in the area.

The Dh696 million project will facilitate free-flowing traffic from 2nd December Street (Jumeirah and Al Satwa) to Al Majles Street leading to Al Mustaqbal Street (serving DWTC and DIFC), and from Shaikh Rashid Street to Deira. Additionally, the project will ensure a smooth traffic flow on the upper-level bridge from Shaikh Zayed Road to Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Street.

Lesser commute time

Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, RTA, said: "The Trade Centre



■ The five new bridges as part of the Dh696 million project will span 5,000 metres in total.

Roundabout Development Project is part of a broader development plan that also includes Al Mustaqbal Street Development Project, which will be awarded this November. This project will double the intersection's capacity, cut the delay time from 12 minutes to 90 seconds, and shorten the travel time from Shaikh Zayed Road to Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Street from six minutes to just one minute."

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WORLD

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