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media

WORLD | P10

**Trump's plan for
the presidency
in five steps**



THE VIEWS | P8

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BUSINESS | P5

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ENTERTAINMENT | P14

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AFP

CATHERINE 'CANCER FREE' AFTER COMPLETING CHEMOTHERAPY

■ Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales, is all smiles as she enjoys a day out in Norfolk with Prince William and their children — Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis of Wales. Catherine yesterday announced she was cancer-free after completing her course of chemotherapy following a shock cancer diagnosis earlier this year.

40 killed as Israel strikes humanitarian zone in Gaza

Hamas rejects
claims its fighters
were present at site

GAZA STRIP

Gaza's civil defence agency said a strike yesterday on a humanitarian zone in the southern city of Khan Younis killed 40 people, with the Israeli army reporting that it hit a Hamas command centre.

Civil defence official Mohammad Al Mughair said that "40 martyrs and 60 injured" were recovered and taken to nearby hospitals following the strike on the area known as Al Mawasi. "Our crews are still working to recover 15 missing

people as a result of targeting the tents of the displaced in Mawasi, Khan Younis," Mughair added.

Entire families wiped out

"Entire families disappeared in the Mawasi Khan Younis massacre, under the sand, in deep holes," said civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal.

However, the Israeli military said its aircraft had "struck significant Hamas terrorists

who were operating within a command-and-control centre embedded inside the humanitarian area in Khan Younis".

In a separate statement, the army questioned the strike's death toll provided by authorities in Gaza, saying the numbers "do not align with the information held by the IDF (Israeli army)".

The statement named several Palestinian militants it said were killed in the strike, describing them as "directly involved in the execution of the October 7th massacre" that sparked the Gaza war.

Hamas said that claims its fighters were present at the scene of the strike were "a blatant lie".

—AFP
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41,020

Palestinians killed in
Gaza since the start of
war on October 7

Australia to ban kids from social media

Minimum age limit
to access online
sites to be between
14 and 16 years

SYDNEY

Australia will ban children from using social media with a minimum age limit as high as 16, the prime minister said yesterday, vowing to get kids off their devices and "onto the footy fields".

Federal legislation to keep children off social media will be introduced this year, Anthony Albanese said, describing the impact of the sites on young people as a "scourge".

The minimum age for children to log into sites such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok has not been decided

but is expected to be between 14 and 16 years, Albanese said.

The prime minister said his own preference would be a block on users aged below 16.

An age verification trial to test various approaches is being conducted over the coming months, the centre-left leader said.

"I want to see kids off their devices and onto the footy fields and the swimming pools and the tennis courts," Albanese said.

"We want them to have real experiences with real people because we know that social media is causing social harm," he told national broadcaster ABC.

"This is a scourge. We know that there is mental health consequences for what many of the young people have had to deal with," he said. —AFP

New entity to run toll system in Abu Dhabi

Q MOBILITY'S ROLE WILL ALSO INCLUDE OFFERING SMART MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

DUBAI

BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

A newly created entity — Q Mobility — will manage, operate and develop the Abu Dhabi toll system 'Darb' and the Abu Dhabi parking system 'Mawaqif'.

The entity, part of the Abu Dhabi investment powerhouse ADQ, will operate under the regulatory supervision of the Department of Municipalities and Transport, represented by Integrated Transport Centre (Abu Dhabi Mobility).

Q Mobility's other key operational role will be to 'enhance transportation services through smart mobility solutions'.

The Abu Dhabi toll system Darb has been operational since 2021 and manages eight gates in the city. These are situated at the primary bridges across the city. The Mawaqif parking system, established in 2009, offers vehicle owners with fully digitised public parking facilities in Abu Dhabi.

A single operator to manage these assets would make operational sense, say analysts, and also help fast-track developing future-focused expansion of the city's urban

landscape. "This is also about a possible monetising a city's hard infrastructure and transportation-related assets," said an analyst. "We have seen Dubai's RTA do this successfully, with Salik, Dubai Taxi and Parkin."

For ADQ, this is a natural progression. "By bringing together assets from across the entire value chain, ADQ aims to develop cluster ecosystems and support the growth of portfolio companies by harnessing their strengths and creating long-term value," said a statement.

"This has allowed ADQ to make increasing contributions to the diversification of Abu Dhabi's economy, while enhancing the quality of people's lives through the reliable and efficient delivery of daily essentials such as power, water, transport, food and health care."

SEE ALSO P5

The Abu Dhabi toll system Darb has been operational since 2021 and manages eight gates in the city. These are situated at the primary bridges across the city.

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Pros and cons
of taking a
loan from your
employer | P3**

WORLD

**UK releases
thousands
of prisoners
to ease jail
overcrowding | P10**

NATION

**75-year-old
Indian grandpa
gets doctorate
degree in
Dubai | P2**



BUSINESS

**Indian airline
Akasa seeks
to double
flights to GCC
destinations | P6**



SPORT

**Sri Lankan
cricket
rises from
a decade of
slumber | P12**

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