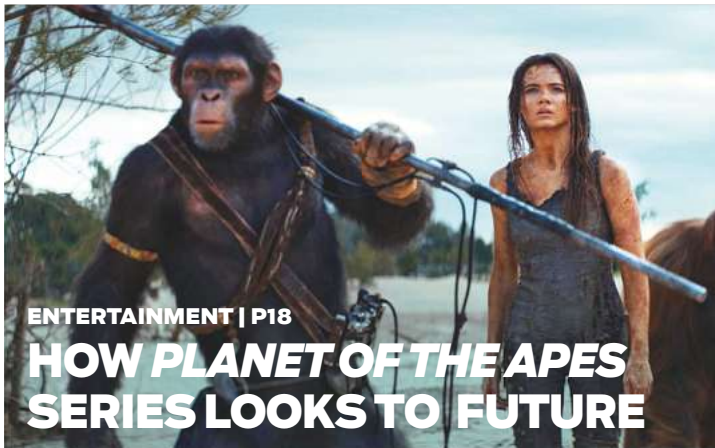


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Hamas accepts truce proposal of Egypt, Qatar

RAFAH

Militant group Hamas yesterday agreed to a ceasefire proposal in the seven-month-old war with Israel in Gaza, hours after the Israeli military told residents to evacuate some parts of Rafah, which has been sheltering more than a million displaced people.

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh informed Qatari and Egyptian mediators that the group accepted their ceasefire proposal, according to a brief statement from Hamas, which gave no details of the accord.

The agreement, should it take effect, would be the first truce since a week-long pause in the fighting in November, and follows months of failed attempts at pausing the fighting to free hostages and allow more aid into Gaza.

There had been concerns that the ceasefire talks being held in Cairo had stalled after Hamas official Izzat Al Rashiq warned that any Israeli operation in Rafah would put the truce talks in jeopardy.

The city, on the southern edge of the Gaza Strip, has been the last sanctuary for around half of Gaza's 2.3 million residents, pushed south by Israel's seven-month-old assault.

—Reuters
SEE ALSO P13

GCC Grand Tours visa unveiled as Arabian Travel Market opens

HAMDAN: DUBAI'S TOURISM SECTOR STARTS YEAR ON A PROMISING NOTE

DUBAI

BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
Chief Reporter

The 31st edition of Arabian Travel Market (ATM) opened yesterday with Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) revealing how the emirate saw 5.18 million international overnight visitors in the first quarter of 2024, an 11 per cent increase from last year.

Commending the achievement, Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, said: "With the commencement of the Arabian Travel Market 2024, we are pleased to share that Dubai's tourism sector has started the year on a promising note."

High occupancy rate among Dubai hotels

Shaikh Hamdan applauded at how Dubai's hotels maintained its growth momentum, with occupancy rate of 83 per cent.

At the event, the UAE Minister of Economy, Abdullah Bin Touq Al Marri, updated on the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) unified Gulf tourist visa – to be named the 'GCC Grand Tours', revealing how travellers will be allowed to visit all



Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

■ A dancer entertains visitors at the Emirates pavilion on the opening day of Arabian Travel Market at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) yesterday. The event runs until May 9.

six GCC states and spend more than 30 days in the region.

The GCC has given the green light in what the minister deemed "a significant move aimed at simplifying travel logistics and fostering tourism." This will make travel to the re-

gion more affordable for tourists, while increasing employment in the region, the minister added.

Additionally, Teodora Marinska, Chief Operating Officer and Head of Public Affairs at the European Travel Com-

mission, said the new bill to render the Schengen visa application fully digital is a positive development in speeding up the process as frequent travellers won't be required to go in person.

SEE ALSO P10-11

NATION

Sharjah to have new 800-metre water canal opposite Al Jubail Market | P4

WORLD

Putin orders nuclear drills in response to Western 'threats' | P14

NATION

Don't overdo outdoor activities during summer, doctors warn | P3



BUSINESS

Sharjah announces discovery of new gas reserves | P8

Dubai schools among toppers of India's ICSE, ISC exams worldwide

Students also score high batch average marks, more than all-India averages

DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

Hundreds of students scored 100 per cent pass percentage, bringing laurels to three Dubai schools as best performing schools abroad in India's ICSE (Indian Certificate of Secondary Education) and ISC (Indian School Certificate) exams.

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations in New Delhi released the results of the Class X (ICSE) and Class XII (ISC) Year 2024 Examinations yesterday. The

best performing ICSE schools abroad are from Indonesia, Singapore and Dubai while those in ISC schools abroad are from Singapore and Dubai with a 100 per cent pass percentage, the Council said.

Girls bag top positions

Girls outshone boys in grabbing the top three positions in GEMS Modern Academy, JSS International School and Am-

The best performing ICSE schools abroad are from Indonesia, Singapore and Dubai while those in ISC schools abroad are from Singapore and Dubai with a 100 per cent pass percentage.

bassador School in Dubai. Diya Maria Thomas of GEMS Modern Academy topped the ISC Class XII, with a score of 99.25 per cent, while Spriha Pandey, Khyati Agarwal and Saira Miriam Thomas shared the first place with 99.2 per cent score in ICSE Class X.

In JSS International School, Aishwarya Sinha topped the ICSE exam with a 99 per cent score and Suhani Sharma, the ISC topper, scored 97 per cent marks.

In Ambassador School, grade 12 school topper, Anushka Vastawat scored 96.75 per cent and Anjali Sharat scored 98.6 per cent to be the topper for grade 10.

The Dubai students also scored high batch average marks, significantly higher than the all-India averages.

SEE ALSO P2

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SPORT

UAE women's team put up fine show in T20 World Cup qualifiers | P15



Today's Activities 07 May

CULTURAL PROGRAM

Pursuing Hope for Students at Risk of Leaving School Prematurely

18:00 – 19:00

The Culture Forum
Effat Barakat
Dr. Jo Steer

Moderated by Tamreez Ham

Science Fiction Literature vs. Science Fiction Film and Television: Adaptations and Differences

19:15 – 20:15

The Culture Forum
Dr. Taleb Omran
Rashid Al Rahmani
Deeba Zargarpur

Moderated by Sheikh Al Mutairi

KIDS PROGRAM

Stage shows and plays

Brainiac Remixed

10:00 – 10:40

17:00 – 17:40

Hall 4

workshops

Create your own game

10:15 – 10:45

17:15 – 18:00

Go Sustainable workshop

The Mechanical Maestro

11:45 – 12:15

19:15 – 20:00

The Brain workshop

SHARJAH CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATION EXHIBITION

Free Painting

10:00 – 12:00

Hall 5

Free Painting

17:00 – 20:00

Hall 5

COMIC CORNER

Comics Business

10:15 – 10:45

Our topic is entering the world of entrepreneurship in comic books. By following the steps to launch own projects and create effective distribution channels for comic books.

Social Media café

Creative Content Creators

10:30 – 11:00

Navigating the Thruth in Social Media Maze

11:10 – 11:40

Algorithm Explorers: Understanding How Social Media Works

11:50 – 12:20

Gameons: Building Communities in Online Gaming

12:30 – 13:00

COOKERY PROGRAM

Live Cooking Session:

Ethiopian cuisine

Chef Saba Alemayoh

Hall 6 – Cookery Corner

18:15 – 19:15

Cookery Workshop

Rainbow Kabobs

Hall 6 – Cookery Workshops

11:00 – 12:15

19:15 – 20:00



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