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## Dh1.4b raised by Ramadan campaign

DUBAI

BY ASHFAQ AHMED

Senior Assistant Editor

**M**others' Endowment campaign has raised more than Dh1.4 billion, exceeding its target by Dh400 million in a record time, thanks to huge contributions from corporate houses, thousands of individuals and supporting events.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, yesterday announced the campaign, which he launched on March 4, 2024 to honour mothers by establishing a Dh1 billion endowment fund that aims to support the education and training of millions of individuals around the world, has successfully exceeded its target within less than a month of its launch.

Shaikh Mohammad: "As the blessed month of Ramadan draws to a close, we are excited to conclude a campaign that attracted hundreds of thousands of participants to honour mothers. The Mothers' Endowment which raised over Dh1.4 billion during Ramadan is a permanent education fund and an ongoing charity in the name of UAE mothers, may God bless our efforts."

SEE ALSO P4

# Israel strike in Gaza kills 7 World Central Kitchen staff

VICTIMS INCLUDE CITIZENS OF AUSTRALIA, POLAND, UK, US, CANADA, PALESTINE

GAZA

**C**itizens from Australia, Britain and Poland were among seven people working for celebrity chef Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen who were killed in an Israeli airstrike in central Gaza on Monday, the NGO said.

The workers, who also included Palestinians and a dual citizen of the United States and Canada, were travelling in two armoured cars emblazoned with the WCK logo and another vehicle, WCK said.

Despite co-ordinating movements with the Israeli Defence Force, the convoy was hit as it was leaving its Deir Al Balah warehouse, after unloading more than 100 tonnes food aid brought to Gaza by sea, WCK said.

"This is not only an attack against WCK, this is an attack on humanitarian organisations showing up in the most dire of situations where food is being used as a weapon of war," said Erin Gore, chief executive of World Central Kitchen. "This is unforgivable."

**World powers condemn Israeli action**

The US and Britain led international criticism yesterday of the strike. Countries slamming the attack included Saudi Ara-



AFP

■ Children look at the wreckage of a car used by World Central Kitchen, that was hit by an Israeli strike the previous day in Deir Al Balah in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday.

bia, France, Poland, Australia, China, and Spain.

"Humanitarian aid workers must be protected as they deliver aid that is desperately needed," US National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

SEE ALSO P9

## UAE, CYPRUS SLAM ATTACK ON AID WORKERS

In a statement issued yesterday, the UAE and Cyprus expressed their profound condemnation over Israel's strike on humanitarian aid workers of the World Central Kitchen (WCK), and conveyed their deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims and their countries, and to the management and staff of WCK, as well as their wishes for a speedy recovery for the injured.

NATION

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**Smith eyes historic double at Masters**

He could become 7th golfer to win The Open at St Andrews and The Masters | P11

## Up to 5.2% fee hike okayed for Dubai private schools

KHDA announces Education Cost Index for 2024-25 academic year

DUBAI

BY SHARMILA DHAL

UAE Editor

**D**ubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) yesterday announced an Education Cost Index (ECI) of 2.6 per cent, allowing private schools in the city to adjust their fees for the 2024-25 academic year.

For instance, schools that improve their rating from 'Weak' to 'Acceptable' or from 'Acceptable' to 'Good' will be eligible to increase their fees by up to double the ECI of 2.6 per cent, that is by 5.2 per cent.

The ECI is based on the annual audited financial statements of private schools in Dubai and is calculated in collaboration with Digital Dubai Authority.

**Needs of parents**

Shamma Al Mansouri, Director of Permits at KHDA, said: "Aligning the fee adjustment with schools' inspections ratings emphasises the

quality offered by schools, while enhancing the competitiveness of the sector and encouraging schools to meet the needs of parents."

Under the School Fees Framework, the rate by which schools can adjust their fees is tied to each school's most recent inspection rating.

A total of 199 schools were inspected during the 2023 round of inspections. As it turned out, nearly 77 per cent of students were enrolled in schools rated 'Good' or better during the last academic year.

Schools in general have welcomed the new ECI, even as the not-for-profit Indian High Group of Schools said it would not effect any fee hike across its schools for the sixth consecutive year.

FULL REPORT: P2

**The Education Cost Index is based on the annual audited financial statements of private schools in Dubai and is calculated in collaboration with Digital Dubai Authority.**

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