



Scan for
our social
media

NATION | P3

**Man donates
kidney to wife in
a rare case**



THE VIEWS | P8

**How Iran will
navigate ahead
after Raisi**



BUSINESS | P6

**Wio one of fastest
'neo-banks' to hit
profits globally**

ENTERTAINMENT | P16

**KRASINSKI
ON WORKING
WITH
A-LISTERS
AND HOW HIS
CHILDREN
INSPIRED IF**



**Summer
Offer***

Sunak calls UK national election for July 4

LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called a national election for July 4 yesterday saying Britons would be able to choose their future in a vote his Conservatives are widely expected to lose to the opposition Labour Party after 14 years in power.

Ending months of speculation as to when he would call a new vote, Sunak, 44, stood outside his Downing Street office in pouring rain and announced he was calling the election earlier than expected, a risky strategy with his party far behind Labour in the opinion polls.

Almost shouting to be heard above an anthem associated with the Labour Party played by protesters just outside the gates to Downing Street, Sunak listed what he said were his achievements in government.

"Now is the moment for Britain to choose its future," he said, describing that choice as one between stability with him and the unknown with Labour leader Keir Starmer. "Over the next few weeks, I will fight for every vote, I will earn your trust and I will prove to you that only a Conservative government will not put our hard earned economic stability at risk." —Reuters



Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

WILL SMITH WOWS UAE FANS AT GLOBAL PREMIERE OF 'BAD BOYS'

Oscar-winning Hollywood actor Will Smith, who was in Dubai yesterday night for the world premiere of his upcoming buddy cop comedy 'Bad Boys: Ride Or Die,' was on a proverbial red carpet roll as he shook hands, high-fived his enthusiastic fans, and happily posed for selfies with them. "It's a dream come true to premiere our film in Dubai ... It's the first time we are doing this and it's truly a blessing," said Smith on the red carpet. **SEE ALSO P17**

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urge buckling
up after
turbulence
horror | P10**



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expect at
The Baby Expo
Dubai, starting
tomorrow**

MIDDLE EAST

**UN plans
new routes
after crowds
intercept
Gaza aid | P9**

UAE deploys specialised teams, lab to combat dengue fever

Ministry reveals steps to prevent spread of mosquito-borne disease in country

ABU DHABI

BY ABDULLA RASHEED
Abu Dhabi Editor

The UAE is combating dengue fever, spread by mosquito bites, by deploying a host of measures, including specialised teams and a high-tech lab.

This was revealed yesterday during a regular session of the Federal National Council in Abu Dhabi, in which the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) provided a detailed answer to the question, "What are the preparations and

measures taken by the ministry in coordination with the relevant authorities to prevent dengue fever, limit its spread and treat it?"

The answer, explained in a written response, read: "The government established nine specialised teams to combat dengue fever, eliminate 409 mosquito breeding sites, provide an insect laboratory, and conduct 1,200 surveys [regarding mosquitoes] in coop-

**MoHAP pointed
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of appropriate health
and treatment
services for dengue
fever patients.**

eration with the competent authorities in the emirates."

A copy of the response was obtained by Gulf News.

Treatment services

MoHAP also pointed out that 134 health facilities are capable of appropriate health and treatment services for dengue fever patients.

Last month, in a circular dated April 22, the ministry had called for immediate electronic reporting of cases to preventive medicine units and public health units in health agencies to take immediate action related to dengue. Most people who get dengue won't have symptoms. But for those that do, the most common symptoms are high fever, headache, body aches, nausea and rash.

SEE ALSO P2

European trio to recognise Palestinian state

ARAB WORLD HAILS DECISION BY SPAIN
IRELAND, NORWAY AS ISRAEL FUMES

RIYADH

Arab states hailed the decision by Ireland, Norway and Spain to recognise a Palestinian state yesterday and urged other countries to follow suit.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt, which borders the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, were among the Middle East countries that praised the move, having called for a two-state solution for decades.

Dublin, Madrid and Oslo announced they would recognise a Palestinian state next Tuesday, nearly eight months into the devastating Gaza conflict.

Israel strongly opposed the decision, arguing it was "rewarding terrorism" after Hamas's October 7 attack which sparked the Gaza war.

ian cause, said it "calls on the rest of the countries to quickly make the same decision".

Saudi Arabia has signalled it is prepared to establish relations with Israel under a proposed US-brokered deal, with the strict condition of irrevocable steps towards Palestinian statehood.

Egypt, which has engaged in mediation efforts between Israel and Hamas, alongside Qatar and the United States, also hailed yesterday's move as a "welcome step".

The announcement supports "international efforts to create a political horizon that can lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state", the Egyptian statement said. —AFP

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SPORT

**Rajasthan's
4-wicket
win knocks
Bengaluru
out of IPL | P11**

