

999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 85.1 FEBRUARY 2019

**MOHAMMED
BIN RASHID
AL MAKTOUM'S
50 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE NATION**

**MOI GETS
9 RECOGNITION IN
GOVERNMENT
EXCELLENCE
AWARD**

**ABU DHABI
SPOTLIGHT**

TIME TO RIDE OUT
& ENJOY COOL
WEATHER

**SERVICE WITH
A HEART**

**UAE
POLICE**

**GOES BEYOND
THE CALL OF DUTY**

UAE	5.000	AED
KSA	5.000	SAR
Kuwait	0.500	DK
Bahrain	0.500	BD
Oman	0.500	OR



IN THIS ISSUE: UAE TAKES THE POWER OF IMAGINATION AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

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T: +971 2 691 0700 | F: +971 2 551 0232 | E: csd@jotunadh.ae

Jotun Al Ain | P.O.Box 23575 | Al Ain Mall, Model Showroom
T: +971 3 751 1696 | F: +971 3 751 1353 | E: csd@jotunadh.ae

*Without a plan,
you are planning
for failure. The
leader's main
role is to know
the direction and
guide his team
towards it, and to
motivate them till
they achieve their
target*

A man of vision and zeal

This is an interesting year for the UAE – we're into the 'Year of Tolerance', which is an extension of the 'Year of Zayed'. On the other hand, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, marked fifty years of service to the nation by setting the emirate's goals for the next five decades through the 'Fifty-Year Charter'. Indeed, His Highness' vision and zeal encompass the whole country.

The nine points in the 'Fifty-Year Charter' are based on a few things that distinguish the UAE as a whole: the strong desire to remain competitive in an ever-changing world, the aim to encourage entrepreneurship, the ability to utilise technology to the fullest, and building human capital through education, health care, and aid programmes. The most impressive part of the Charter is that it outlines very clearly thought-out strategies. As HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said in the latest book, Qissati: "Without a plan, you are planning for failure. The leader's main role is to know the direction and guide his team towards it, and to motivate them till they achieve their target."

Under the guidance of President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the values instilled by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE founding father, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is leading us to greater glory, steering the ship safely.

Thus, the Ministry of Interior takes pride in receiving recognition in nine categories from the Mohammed bin Rashid Government Excellence Award. In a special feature, **999** presents how the Ministry has maintained its position as the Leading Federal Entity for the fifth time in a row, as well as the list of these awards that exemplify its commitment to the highest quality of services provided to the public.

As you know, through the articles in **999**, the law reigns supreme, and this is what helps the UAE progress so fast. Businesses and tourists come here, people live here – all feeling confident that the law and law enforcement will make them feel safe and secure.

Our law enforcers are not just strict in the implementation of laws. They also have a good heart that takes them to go beyond the call of duty. Our cover story is dedicated to the compassionate acts of our men and women in uniform.

In the course of their duty, police and civil defence save lives daily – even when people endanger themselves through their own carelessness, they can count on them to come rushing. One place where the security forces can't watch over you is inside your own home. And one of our features this month calls on parents to always look after their children because of some cases of children who fell from high-rise buildings. A minute's inattention can mean a lifetime of grief.

We also look at matters such as tourists who come to enjoy the charms of the country, and people targeted by scammers using electronic channels of communication. Another feature points out the folly of taking part in viral online challenge out there, the latest one being the #BirdBoxChallenge.

Want to have fun? Take off the blindfold and look up the 'Abu Dhabi Spotlight' section – plenty happening there. We've got you covered. See you next month.



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**Ministry of Interior
United Arab Emirates**

Editor-in-Chief
Col. Awadh Al Kindi

Managing Editor
Issam Al Sheikh

Contact Us
Tel: +971 2 4194488
Fax: +971 2 4194499
P.O. Box: 38999
Abu Dhabi – UAE
www.moi.gov.ae

magazine999@moi.gov.ae
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PO Box 77910
twofour54
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THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS WON IN NINE CATEGORIES OF THE MOHAMMED BIN RASHID GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD, MAINTAINING ITS POSITION AS LEADING FEDERAL ENTITY FOR THE FIFTH TIME IN A ROW AND EXEMPLIFYING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC

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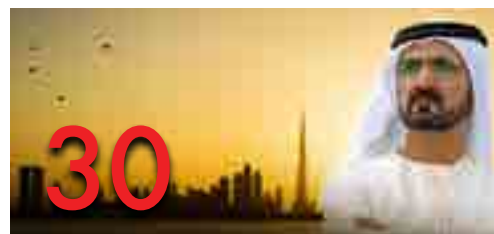
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SERVICE WITH A HEART

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Khalifa announces Abu Dhabi Executive Council reshuffle



HIS Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan issued an Emiri Decree restructuring the Abu Dhabi Executive Council.

The decree stipulates that the Council is under the chairmanship of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, with His Highness Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan as the Deputy Chairman.

Other members of the Council now include the following:

- HH Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- HH Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chief of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court
- HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Nahyan
- HH Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- HH Sheikh Theyab bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Department of Transport
- HH Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan
- HE Dr Ahmed Mubarak Al Mazrouei, Secretary-General of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi
- HE Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Affairs Authority
- HE Jassim Mohammed Al Zaabi, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Office
- HE Dr Mugheer Khamis Al Khaili, Chairman of the Department of

Community Development

- HE Sheikh Abdulla bin Mohamed Al Hamed, Chairman of the Health Department
- HE Eng Awaidha Murshed Al Marar, Chairman of Department of Energy
- HE Saif Mohamed Al Hajeri, Chairman of Department of Economic Development
- HE Falah Mohammad Al Ahbabi, Chairman of Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities
- HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi
- Maj Gen Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police
- Sara Awad Issa Musallam, Chairman of the Department of Education and Knowledge

HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan also issued Emiri Decree appointing HE Jassim Mohammed Al Zaabi as Acting Chairman of the Finance Department.

President issues federal decrees appointing new envoys

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued Federal Decrees on the appointment, promotion and transfer of a number of UAE ambassadors accredited to foreign countries.

The decrees stipulate the transfer of Mohammad Salem Al Rashidi, UAE Ambassador to Senegal, and his appointment as the new UAE Ambassador to Ethiopia. With this, Al Rashidi ends his duties as a Non-Resident Ambassador to the Republic of the Gambia, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Republic of Cape Verde, and the Republic of Ivory Coast.

Meanwhile, Dr Hessa Abdullah Al Otaiba, UAE Ambassador to Spain, was appointed as the UAE Ambassador to the

Kingdom of the Netherlands, concluding her duties as a Non-Resident Ambassador to the State of Andorra and the Vatican State.

Other appointees included in the new decrees signed by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa are as follows:

- Ahmed Nasser Abdul Rahim Al-Khaja, UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, will be appointed as a Non-Resident Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.
- Khalid Khalifa Abdullah Rashid Al Mu'alla, UAE Ambassador to Kenya, is appointed as a Non-Resident Ambassador to the Republic of Comoros.
- Dr Saeed Mohammed Ali Al Shamsi is

appointed as the new UAE Ambassador to the Maldives.

- Mohammed Issa Al Qattam Al Zaabi will be the new UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia.
- Ahmed Ibrahim Al Dhaheri is appointed as the UAE's Consul-General in Erbil, Iraq.
- Salem Ali Khamis Alawi Al Kaabi is appointed as UAE's Consul-General in Bonn, Germany.
- Nasser Haweden Al Ketbi is appointed as the UAE's Consul-General in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Hamad Matar Mohammed Al Shamsi, member of the diplomatic and consular corps, has been promoted to the rank of "Minister Plenipotentiary".

UAE Cabinet reviews government achievements in 2018

THE UAE Cabinet, chaired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, discussed in its first meeting of the year the achievements of the UAE Government in 2018.

Amongst the achievements of the government in 2018 that were presented were the allocation of Dhs11 billion social assistance for the next three years to low-income Emiratis, the adoption of a plan for a housing project for citizens, and the approval of the largest federal budget amounting to Dhs180 billion until 2020.

Other accomplishments tackled were the commencement of the National Policy for Senior Emiratis, a move that seeks to improve the lives of senior citizens in the country, and the adoption and approval of several federal laws in the medical sector.



Moreover, women in the legislation were also given equal pay as their male counterparts, while foreigners were allowed to own 100 percent in UAE-based businesses. The validity of visas for investors and professional talents was extended to up to 10 years. Programmes related to the conservation of

environment and food security, transportation, and people of determination were also presented.

"I am confident that my team will achieve our goals for the new year which will lead us to the achievement of the UAE Vision 2021," HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said.

Mohammed bin Rashid unveils 'Fifty-Year Charter' of Dubai



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has unveiled 'The Fifty-Year Charter' which promises to further improve all aspects of life in the emirate of Dubai in 2019.

"This is a charter that represents our pledge and promise towards enhancing the life of people in Dubai in 2019," HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said.

"It is an annual document that I have named 'The Fifty-Year Charter' to mark my 50th anniversary of assuming my first official post in serving my country, and in

the hope of another 50 years during which we will maintain a city governed by law and bound by the spirit of compassion, love harmony and tolerance. A prosperous city where future generations achieve their dreams and aspirations.

The unveiling of the Charter follows the release of a road map for the future success of the nation in the 'Eight Principles of Dubai', which aims to ensure the city's continued prosperity.

"On January 4, 2019, I declare my commitment, as well as the commitment of the ruling family of Dubai, and the commitment of our government and all our teams to the vision presented in this document," His Highness the Vice President penned in the introduction of the Charter.

'The Fifty-Year Charter' will be released on January 4 every year to announce exceptional projects in Dubai, and within the next 50 years, it says, the emirate of Dubai will be maintained as "a prosperous city where future generations achieve their dreams and aspirations".

The document does not seek to replace existing strategies – such as the Dubai Plan 2021, which aims to reinforce the emirate's position as a global centre for industry. It

instead seeks to follow the government's vision for the "life we wish to maintain for everyone living in this community".

The nine articles in the Charter include a proposal to foster a Dubai silk road in cooperation with "friendly neighbours", with the aim of reestablishing the city as a trade hub and as a crossroads of all nations across all continents.

THE NINE ARTICLES OF THE CHARTER

1. Dubai silk road
2. A geo-economic map for Dubai
3. First virtual commercial city
4. A central education file for every citizen
5. A doctor to every citizen
6. Free economic and creative zones in universities
7. Self-sufficiency in Dubai homes
8. Cooperative companies in various sectors
9. Annual growth in philanthropy

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince issues two resolutions



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, has issued a resolution to form the Abu

Dhabi Strategic Affairs Committee, to be affiliated with the Executive Council.

The resolution stipulated that HH Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan shall be the Chairman of the Committee and HH Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as the Deputy Chairman, with the following members: the Secretary-General of the Executive Council; the Chairman of the Executive Affairs Authority; the Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Office; and the Chairman of the Department of Finance.

The Committee is concerned with the development and follow-up of the general strategic direction of the development, service and financial affairs to achieve the Emirate's leadership in various fields via developing principles, foundations and public policies.

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

also issued a resolution restructuring the Executive Committee affiliated with the Executive Council under the chairmanship of HH Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The Resolution stipulated that the Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Office shall be the Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee, with the following members: the Chairman of the Department of Transport; Chairman of the Department of Community Development; Chairman of the Department of Finance; Chairman of the Health Department; Chairman of the Department of Energy; Chairman of Department of Economic Development; Chairman of the Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities; Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism; Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police; and Chairperson of the Department of Education and Knowledge.

Mohamed bin Zayed awards Zayed Sustainability Prize 2019 winners



DURING the opening of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the largest world sustainability event—which was attended this year by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid

Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan congratulated the winners and

Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, 10 winners of the 2019 Zayed Sustainability Prize were awarded by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu

encouraged to breathe to life their respective sustainability solutions for the betterment of life.

Praising their valuable projects to help augment social development of their countries and regions, His Highness the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi honoured the winners across the categories of health, food, energy, water and global high schools.

The winner in each category took home Dhs2.2 million each to turn their sustainability projects into a reality.

Since its inception, the Zayed Sustainability Prize has impacted 318 million people globally through projects that have been funded by the award.

Crown Prince swears in new UAE military judiciary officials

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, administered the oath of office of new UAE military judiciary officials.

Attending the ceremony were HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs; Lt General Hamad Mohammed Thani Al Rumaithi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces; Hamad Saif Al Shamsi, UAE Attorney-General; Ali Mohammed Al Baloushi, Attorney-General of Abu Dhabi;

Essam Issa Al Humaidan, Attorney-General of Dubai; Hassan Saeed Mhimed, Attorney General of Ras Al Khaimah; and Brigadier Salem Jumaa Al Kaabi, Director of Military Justice.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan welcomed the military judges



and prosecutors, wishing them success in carrying out their duties while urging them to be honest, fair and impartial.

Saif bin Zayed receives 9 awards from Mohammed bin Rashid Excellence Award



UNDER the leadership of Lt General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) reaped the most various awards in nine categories of the Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Excellence in Government Performance this year.

For the fifth consecutive year, the MoI received its exclusive title in the category of "The Pioneer Federal Ministry" for its

outstanding performance and its role in achieving government's strategy.

The nine categories won by the Ministry are as follows: Leading Federal Entity, Best Entity in the Field of Enablers, Best Entity in the Field of Smart Government, Happiest Work Environment, Best Achievement of National Agenda, Best Joint Service, Best Supervisory Employee, Distinguished Customer Happiness Centre Director, and Distinguished Engineer.

Lt General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, and all the police and security commanders in the UAE conveyed their sincere gratitude to all the staff and officials at the MoI for their concerted efforts, which resulted in the Ministry's sustained excellence.

Lt General Al Sha'far called for continuing these outstanding efforts at the local and international levels.



Interior Minister cements stronger ties between UAE, Georgia

LT General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, has sent a message to Georgia's Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs Giorgi Gakharia as regards the bilateral relations between the UAE and Georgia.

UAE Ambassador to Georgia HE Essa Abdullah Al Basha Al Nuaimi delivered the said message when he had a meeting with Gakharia in Tbilisi.

Gakharia extended thanks for HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his close follow-up of the existing cooperation between the two Ministries.

The Georgian Vice Prime Minister also lauded the strong ties between the UAE and Georgia in various fields.

Al Sha'far attends leadership events

LT General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior (MoI), attended the graduation ceremony of two programmes – the 'Second Senior Leadership Programme' in cooperation with Oxford University and the 'Third Distinguished High Performance Leadership' programme, in cooperation with the British Institute of Leadership and Management.

These were organised by the Ministry and attended by the Leadership Development Centre at the General Secretariat of the Office of HH the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

The ceremony was held in the Meeting Hall at MoI building in Abu Dhabi. Major General Abdulaziz Maktoum Al Sharifi, Director General of Preventive Security; Brigadier Mohammed Obaid Al Dhaferi, Director General of Human Resources; and a number of general managers, department directors, and officers of the MoI attended the ceremony.

LT Colonel Dr Omar Ibrahim Al Ali, Director of the Leadership Development Centre, emphasised that the MoI is committed to implementing special programmes for the development of police performance, thus



maintaining excellence in providing services and improving performance indicators in all the Ministry sectors. Such programmes, he added, encourage the government's future-oriented vision.

Al Sha'far, accompanied by Colonel Dr Faisal Sultan Al Shuaibi, Director General of the Strategy and Performance Development Department at the Ministry of Interior, handed over certificates to the graduates and commended the efforts of the programme partners.

On another occasion, Al Sha'far launched in his office the initiative to strengthen the national spirit and loyalty of employees at

the MoI and the police general headquarters across the country. This was done through text messages, under the supervision of the Federal National Service and Reserve Department of the Ministry, in cooperation with the National Service and Reserve Authority in the Armed Forces and the General Police Command.

The aim of this initiative is to enhance the sense of security amongst the employees, instill the values of loyalty and sacrifice amongst them, and promote the concept of good citizenship by connecting them to the vision of the UAE leadership and its goals.

Controlled drugs committee holds meeting on e-programme



THE seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Unified Electronic Programme for Controlled Drugs project was held in the Meeting Hall of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) building in Abu Dhabi.

A number of topics related to the project as well as its completed stages were discussed.

The meeting of the executive committee was chaired by Brigadier Saeed Abdullah bin Tuwair Al Suwaidi, Director General of the Federal Drug Control Department at the Ministry of Interior, and Chairman of the Committee.

Brigadier Al Suwaidi said that the project was one of the most significant

undertakings implemented and supported by the MoI in cooperation with various federal and local medical sectors. He added that the committee continues to work on enhancing policies in the distribution of controlled narcotic medicines to prevent substance abuse, ensuring that only actual patients get such drugs for legitimate medical use. This, he said, was consistent with the global measures to prevent abuse.

Colonel Hamad Abdul Rahman Al Nuaimi, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, members of the Committee, and representatives of the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Community Protection, the Health Department of Abu Dhabi, Health Company in Abu Dhabi, the Health Authority of Dubai, and Dubai Healthcare City, and officials from various health authorities and departments attended the meeting.

New initiatives at Al Khalidiya Police Station bring happiness to customers

AL Khalidiya Police Station of the Capital Police Directorate in the General Command of Abu Dhabi Police recently launched four initiatives, with the aim of meeting the needs and demands of customers.

The twin initiatives of "Bringing Happiness to the Customers is our Collective Responsibility" and "The Emissary of Serving the Customers" both aim to provide services that would bring happiness to the customers.

Meanwhile, the third initiative "Participate With Us To Enable Us To Provide Better Service to You" makes it possible for customers to log their suggestions, in order to fulfill their needs through optimum services.

The fourth initiative "Yes We Can" aims to fully utilise energy, and reduce carbon emission by turning off electrical appliances at the Station when not in use.

Brigadier Suhail Saeed Al Khaili, Director of the Capital Police in the Criminal Security sector of Abu Dhabi Police, explained that these new initiatives are in line with the goal of continuously enhancing



the services being offered to the public, and to foster a work environment that incentivises personnel who perform tasks in the best of their abilities and in accordance to best international practices.

Meanwhile, Brigadier Al Khaili inaugurated during his visit to Station a photography exhibit that documents the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed, the UAE's founding father. He also visited a library

where numerous publications recounting the life of Sheikh Zayed are available.

The opening of the exhibit was attended by Colonel Hamad Abdullah Al Niyadi, Deputy Director of the Directorate for Administrative Affairs and Operations in the Crime Security; Major Rashid Salim Al Shamsi, Director of Al Khalidiya Police Station; and a number of officers in Abu Dhabi Police.

Civil Defence in Al Dhafra carry out awareness drive in winter camps

THE Department of Civil Defence in Al Dhafra region carried out field visits to a number of winter camps to spread the culture of public safety and to promote preventive measures.

Colonel Saif Al Derai, Director of the Department of Civil Defence in Al Dhafra region, spoke of the readiness of the department to participate in awareness campaigns about the

dangers of fires in tents.

Major Mohamed Salem Al Ameri, programme supervisor, said the specialised team in the department gives advice to campers about potential fire hazards, and urged them to comply with public safety requirements, such as keeping fire extinguishers and firstaid kits handy, ensuring the safety of electrical installations, and using tents made of fire-resistant fabrics.

Captain Rashed Al Mazrouei, member of the programme, explained that the campaign included the distribution of brochures, which offer information under 'My Tent Is Safe', the types of fire extinguishers and how to use them, the steps of evacuation in emergencies, etc. The campaign also included training on using fire extinguishers.

Sharjah Police, Department of Statistics sign MoU on research cooperation

WITHIN the framework of the visits conducted by the Sharjah Police Research Centre to civil action organisations in various areas, a delegation from the Centre, headed by Lt Colonel Dr Salah Musabah Al Mazrouei, Acting Director of the Centre, visited the Department of Statistics in Sharjah.

The delegation was received by Abdullah Al Kadid, Director of Innovation and Development at the department. The two sides signed a memorandum of understanding that codifies the partnership on research cooperation.

This visit serves the strategic plan of the Ministry of Interior and the General Command of Sharjah Police.

The two sides also discussed partnership mechanisms and what was required from both parties in light of the constructive cooperation on research, scientific, and statistical inputs.

Lt Colonel Al Mazrouei thanked the Department of Statistics for its hospitality and reception and for its responsiveness in addressing the various topics.

Dhahi Khalfan discusses social media impact with student delegation



LT General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai, met with a delegation of female students from the Emirates National School in Ras Al Khaimah, accompanied by a number of the school's supervisors.

He talked to the delegation about the

positive and negative effects of social media, advising the students to take advantage, in a positive way, of these instruments for delivering meaningful messages to the public; spreading noble values; promoting national identity; maintaining the state's customs, traditions, and ethics; and rejecting bad

habits "alien to our society".

In addition, he advised the students not to abuse social media by becoming wholly absorbed in it, thus forgetting important social and life matters such as being with friends and family or carrying out religious duties or school homework.

Al Nuaimi conducts inspection tour at Ajman Police sections

MAJOR General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, conducted an inspection tour at the Documents and Correspondence Section, Media and Public Relations Section, and the Legal Affairs Branch of the Office of the Police Commander-in-Chief and the Office of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief.

He was accompanied by Brigadier Ali Obaid Al Shamsi, Director of the

Strategy and Performance Development Department.

Major General Sheikh Al Nuaimi inspected work progress and identified the requirements of modernisation in accordance with excellence standards. He began his tour at the Documents and Correspondence Section, where Colonel Mohammed Sheiban Suwaidan, Director of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, welcomed him.

Colonel Suwaidan briefed him on the facilities of the section, the mechanism of receiving, sending, and archiving documents and correspondence, as well as the challenges. In his tour, Al Nuaimi stressed the need to make every effort to respond promptly and follow up on the instructions on circulars and decisions.

Next, he visited the Legal Affairs Branch and reviewed the agreements, the mechanisms of investigation, trials, analysis of reports and complaints filed by the public, and the regulation of offences. He emphasised the significance of delivering justice and the need to perform efficiently and transparently.

Al Nuaimi also visited the Media and Public Relations Section and the department's branches, where he was briefed about the mechanism for editing and publishing press releases for various media and social media in a presentation delivered by Major Noura Sultan Al Shamsi, Head of the Section. Al Nuaimi was also informed about the most important initiatives in place.



Al Marri hands over graduation certificates

UNDER the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin

Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Major General Abdullah Khalifa

Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, handed over certificates to the 26th batch of postgraduates with Master's and doctoral degrees in Law and Police Science from the Dubai Police Academy.

Major General

Al Marri presented the certificates accompanied by Major General Prof Dr Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahd, Assistant Commander-in-Chief of Academic Affairs and Training in Dubai Police, and Brigadier Dr Ghaith Ghanem Al Suwaidi, Director of the Dubai Police Academy, in the presence of a number of police leaders from the UAE as well as from some Arab countries, and parents of the graduates.

Al Marri congratulated the graduates, and urged them to continue being diligent and strive to develop their scientific abilities and military skills to carry out their national duties.



RAK Police bring joy to Saqr Charity orphans

THE General Command of Ras Al Khaimah Police, represented by the Section of Sports and Social Activities at the Department of Media and Public Relations, organised an entertainment programme for the orphans of Saqr Charity Foundation.

The event, which was held in the Land and Sea (Bar wa Bahar) Festival on Al Marjan Island, was participated in by

75 orphan children, in cooperation with the Ras Al Khaimah Exhibition Centre of the RAK Chamber of Commerce.

Lt Colonel Fahad Abdullah bin Juma'a, Head of the Section; Captain Moza Rashed Al Khabouri, Director of the Community Programmes Branch of the Community Police Department; Hissa Hareb Al Ali, Head of the Orphan Division at the Foundation; and

Nawal Issa Al Nuaimi, Director of the Festival, attended the programme.

Lt Colonel bin Juma'a said that the event took place in a festive family atmosphere through a range of sports, cultural, and social activities that brought joy to all orphans and attendees. In addition, the participating children were given prizes and gifts.

Fujairah Police roll out traffic safety campaign

THE Fujairah Police General Headquarters, represented by the Traffic and Patrols Department, continued the activities of the sixth traffic campaign under the slogan 'Don't be distracted while driving'.

The campaign was part of the traffic operational plan and a programme to

promote safety on the roads, in line with the strategy of the Ministry of Interior and Fujairah Police.

The campaign was aimed at educating drivers, road users, and members of the community to the dangers that arise when motorists were occupied with other things

while at the wheel. It tackles the negative effects of using mobile phones and social media apps while driving. These distract drivers and weaken their ability to focus and react in unexpected situations on the road, which often result in accidents, injuries, and fatalities.

UAQ Police complete awareness campaign on social media

THE Criminal Investigation Department in Umm Al Quwain Police, in cooperation with the Media and Public Relations Section, has completed an awareness campaign through social media sites to educate the public on the dangers of drinking.

UAQ Police explained to the public that drinking was one of the main reasons for the deterioration in family relationships and societal norms.

The police stressed that it causes damage to the brain, and affects one's behaviour

— a person loses his sense of responsibility and the ability to control his actions.

The campaign explained that a person could harm himself and his family, relatives, friends, and might at times end up committing suicide.

9

The Ministry of Interior won awards in nine categories in the Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Excellence in Government Performance. These awards are as follows: Leading Federal Entity, Best Entity in the Field of Enablers, Best Entity in the Field of Smart Government, Happiest Work Environment, Best Achievement of National Agenda, Best Joint Service, Best Supervisory Employee, Distinguished Customer Happiness Centre Director, and Distinguished Engineer.

5th

For the fifth time in a row, the Ministry of the Interior has won the award of the Leading Federal Entity in the Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Excellence in Government Performance, reflecting its outstanding overall performance in implementing the strategy of the UAE Government and achieving the objectives of the National Agenda.

31

The number of civil defense officers who graduated from the foundational firefighting course at the Civil Defence Academy Headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

1,650

The number of participants who benefited from the Police Officers Training Institute at the Directorate General of Human Resources at the Ministry of Interior, where 114 training courses are being offered.

7

The number of meetings conducted in January 2019 by the Executive Committee in charge of the Unified Electronic Drug Monitoring System, to discuss various projects in place in line with the supply and installation of an electronic monitoring scheme.



“The Ministry of Interior’s dedication to implement the concepts of excellence in institutional work with the support and follow-up of Lt General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, enables the MoI to pursue the path of excellence in government work, which is devoted to building and strengthening the capabilities of human resources—the cornerstone of modernisation.”

Lt General Saif Abdullah Al Sha’far, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, lauded the concerted efforts of the members of the MoI, which was echoed in the Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Excellence in Government Performance at its fifth edition where the MoI received nine awards.



“The nine awards that the Ministry of Interior received is the zenith of its initiatives, carried out in cooperation with its strategic partners to enhance the sense of security for all in the UAE and to achieve advanced results on global competitiveness indicators, based on the parameters of the National Agenda (UAE 2021) to make the UAE the safest country in world.”

Major General Dr Abdul Quddus Abdul Razzaq Al Obaidly, Head of the Ministry of Interior’s Executive Team in charge of following up on the National Agenda indicators and Assistant Commander-in-Chief of Quality and Excellence in Dubai Police, described the MoI’s achievements in the Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Excellence in Government Performance as the zenith of its initiatives.

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UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS

ABU DHABI

231KG

Blocking an international smuggling bid, Abu Dhabi Police relayed information to an Asian country that led to the seizure of 231kg of heroin from a fishing boat and the arrest of two suspects. It took place in December 2018, but the news was released in January 2019. The diplomatic mission of the target country thanked Abu Dhabi Police for their role.

AJMAN

3 YEARS OLD

A three-year-old boy was saved by his mother from their burning apartment building in Al Nuaimia 2 area through the help of a passerby. The boy was thrown by her mother from the second floor. Luckily, the male passerby caught the child, who escaped the blaze unscathed. The mother sustained multiple injuries. Ajman Civil Defence vehicles and ambulances evacuated other residents and controlled the fire. The fire started near a freezer and washing machine kept in the corridor of the building.

DUBAI

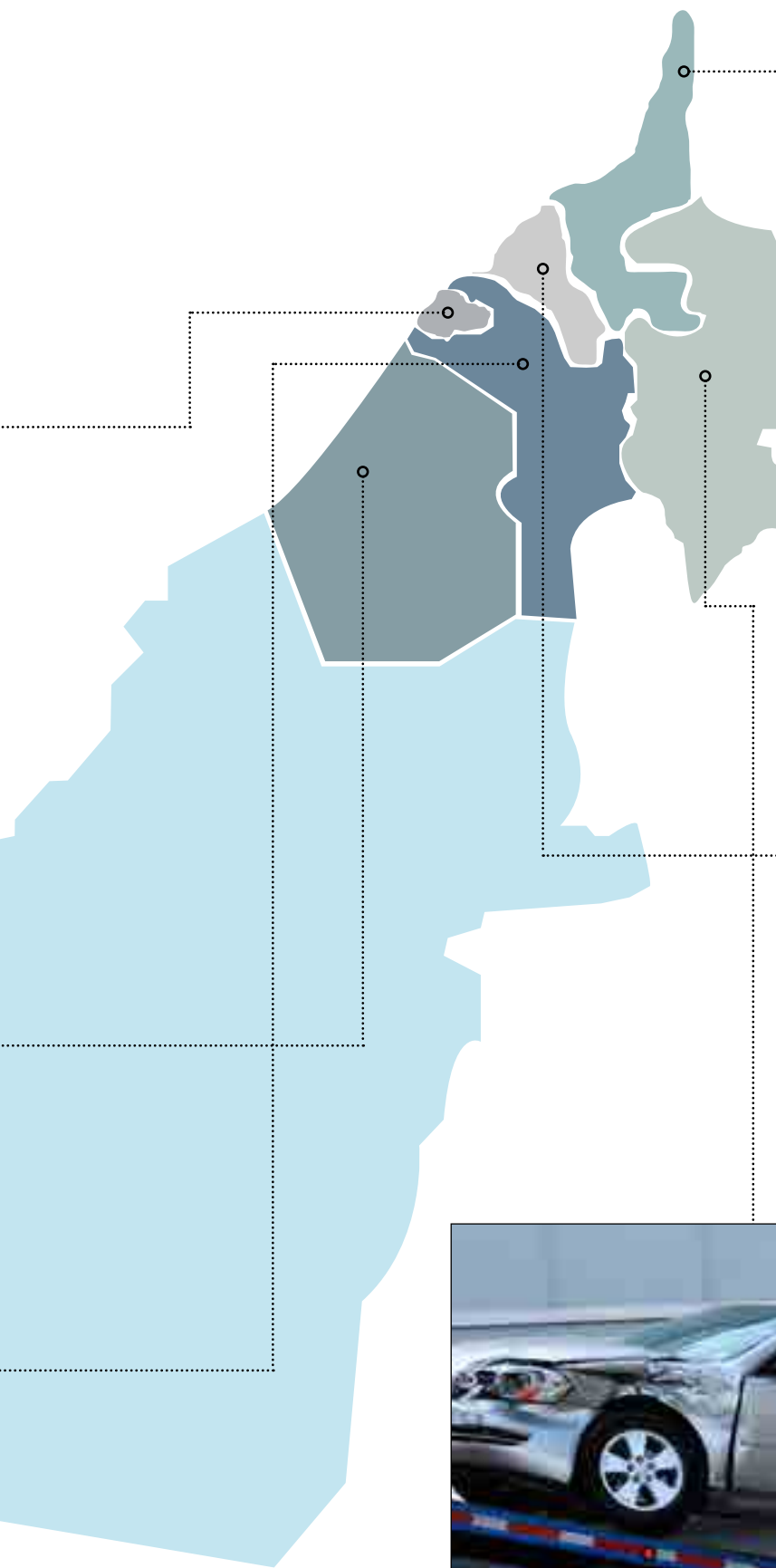
DHS2.3 MILLION

Two people were arrested for robbing a European man, aged 44, of Dh2.3 million in cash. The victim had been given the bait of an unofficial money exchange – the suspects contacted the victim through a third party and told him that they wanted to exchange \$700,000 (Dhs2.57 million approx) into dirhams at a rate lower than the market rate. The victim brought the cash in a bag, and then was tricked into going to a location where he was beaten up and robbed.

SHARJAH

16-YEAR-OLD

An Arab boy, aged 16, who didn't even have a basic idea of driving took his brother's car out for a spin – and then he crashed into a lamppost and died. His friend, a passenger, was seriously injured. "He took the key without his brother's knowledge and tried to drive the car. Instead of applying the brakes when he saw the streetlight, he stepped on the accelerator and crashed," said a police official.



RAS AL KHAIMAH

104

Ras Al Khaimah Municipality will auction off 104 unclaimed vehicles impounded over a period of six months. The director general of the RAK civic body said that the vehicles were impounded from various places in the emirate.



UMM AL QUWAIN

80

Eighty people were forced to evacuate an old industrial site in Umm Al Quwain after a fire broke out. Members of the civil defence rushed to the scene at 11pm and managed to bring the blaze under control. There were no casualties in the incident. Investigation on the cause of the fire is underway.



FUJAIRAH

6AM

The last day of 2018 was also the last day of a 45-year-old Asian man's life – he was killed in a road accident that took place at 6am, and he wasn't even driving. The victim was in the passenger seat of a pick-up vehicle, which collided with a truck. The pick-up driver was also seriously injured, and police said that his inattention was the cause of the accident.

MOI ADDS 9 FEATHERS IN ITS CAP

THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS WON IN NINE CATEGORIES OF THE MOHAMMED BIN RASHID GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD, MAINTAINING ITS POSITION AS LEADING FEDERAL ENTITY FOR THE FIFTH TIME IN A ROW AND EXEMPLIFYING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC

BY MAHA ISMAIL





The awards reaped by the Ministry of Interior in the Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Excellence in Government Performance underscore the culmination of the Ministry's keenness to maintain safety and security in society

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) reaped an astounding number of awards in nine categories of the Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Excellence in Government Performance this year. For the fifth time in a row, the MoI has maintained its exclusive title in the category of Leading Federal Entity, for its outstanding overall performance in implementing the strategy of the UAE Government and achieving the objectives of the National Agenda. This exemplifies the Ministry's keenness to strengthen the government's innovation system and the scaling up of services to exceed customer expectations.

The MoI has also won in the categories for: Best Entity in the Field of Enablers; Best Entity in the Field of Smart Government; Happiest Work Environment; Best Achievement of National Agenda (National Team on Sense of Safety Index); and Best Joint Service (Mabrouk Ma Yak Service, for newborns).

As for the Prime Minister's Medal categories, Brigadier Hamid Al Yamahi won the Best Supervisory Employee medal; Colonel Ali Ahmed Balzood won the Distinguished Customer Happiness Centre Director medal; and Captain Engineer Mea'ad Rashed Al Sa'adi won the Distinguished Engineer medal.

BEING A PIONEER

Lt General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far,

“The Ministry of Interior's dedication to implement the concepts of excellence in institutional work with the support and follow-up of Lt General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, enables the MoI to pursue a path of excellence in government work



**LT GENERAL SAIF
ABDULLAH AL SHA'FAR**
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, and all the police Commanders-in-Chief in the UAE conveyed their sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the members of the MoI for their efforts, which resulted in the Ministry's sustained excellence. Lt General Al Sha'far called for continuing these outstanding efforts at the local and international levels.

“The Ministry of Interior's dedication to implement the concepts of excellence in institutional work with the support and

follow-up of Lt General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, enables the MoI to pursue the path of excellence in government work, which is devoted to building and strengthening the capabilities of human resources—the cornerstone of modernization,” Lt General Al Sha'far underscored.

Winning these awards, he said, was the culmination of the achievements of MoI employees and their keenness to serve the community, and maintain its security and safety.

AMBITIOUS GOALS

Major General Dr Abdul Quddus Abdul Razzaq Al Obaidly, Head of the Ministry

THE AWARDS WON BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

- **Leading Federal Entity**
- **Best Entity in the Field of Enablers**
- **Best Entity in the Field of Smart Government**
- **Happiest Work Environment**
- **Best Achievement of National Agenda**
- **Best Joint Service**
- **Best Supervisory Employee**
- **Distinguished Customer Happiness Centre Director**
- **Distinguished Engineer**



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, awards the Best Entity in the Field of Enablers to Mol for adopting proper application of pioneering policies calling for excellence

of Interior's Executive Team in charge of following up on the National Agenda indicators and Assistant Commander-in-Chief of Quality and Excellence in Dubai Police, described the nine-award win as the zenith of the Mol's initiatives, carried out in cooperation with its strategic partners to enhance the sense of security for all in the country and to achieve advanced results on global competitiveness indicators in this field, based on the parameters and priorities of the National Agenda (UAE 2021), to make the UAE number one globally in terms of safety.

Brigadier Engineer Hussein Ahmed Al Harthy, Director General of Electronic Services and Communications and Head of the Ministry of Interior's Council for Intelligent Services and Artificial Intelligence, spoke of the continuous modernisation in the technical fields at the Mol, a fact that clearly reflected the vision of the wise leadership as well as its encouragement for innovators and creative individuals.

Al Harthy said that the Mol continues with this approach by adopting the most innovative and smart applications and technologies in order to enhance customer satisfaction and provide high quality services. He added that the Mol, according to the vision and support of HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, is determined to enhance its international reputation in pioneering and excellence,

and to achieve the initiatives included in the UAE National Agenda and Vision 2021.

Colonel Dr Faisal Sultan Al Shuaibi, Director General of Strategy and Performance Development at the Ministry of Interior, said that the Mol's technical teams worked diligently to ensure the implementation of the highest standards of excellence and leadership in the work system. He also said that the Mol adopted policies, projects, and initiatives in line with a process that invests in human resources, and adheres to innovation and creativity as fundamental concepts of institutional work, fostering a pioneering approach.



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, awards 'Best Entity in the Field of Smart Government' to the Ministry of Interior for adopting comprehensive intelligent services.

"The awards it received in nine categories underscored the Mol's commitment to the standards and requirements of excellence in all aspects of work and the high quality of services provided to the public, so that the UAE would continue to live up to all the aspirations of the wise leadership", said Al Shuaibi.

WINNING WAYS

1. LEADING FEDERAL ENTITY: The Ministry of Interior won this award after achieving best results in all the applicable standards of the government excellence system, and for its role in designing and implementing work programmes, processes, services and policies of Qudurat, in line with the highest international practices, and in implementing its strategy within the UAE's federal government system.

2. BEST ENTITY IN THE FIELD OF ENABLERS: The Mol won this award owing to the integration of its work, positive influence methods adopted, proper application of pioneering policies calling for excellence, comparing achievements, and strengthening capacities.

3. BEST ENTITY IN THE FIELD OF SMART GOVERNMENT: The Mol won this award by achieving the best result in the main criterion (Smart Government) within the theme of achieving the vision,



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, awards the Happiest Work Environment to the Ministry of Interior

by strengthening future policies and strategies, and adopting comprehensive intelligent services to realise the strategy of the UAE Government.

4. HAPPIEST WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The Mol won for its role in enhancing the enablers and capabilities of its human resources and providing the best tools for training and institutional development.

5. BEST ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL

AGENDA: The Mol won for the work of its team on the Sense of Safety Index, and after achieving the best results in the sub-criterion (Planning and following up the implementation of the National Agenda) and achieving results that have strengthened the UAE's competitive role on the global scale.

6. BEST JOINT SERVICE: The Mol won for its pioneering initiatives, specifically the Mabrouk Ma Yak service, which is a special service for newborns, and its role in enhancing cooperation with government agencies. Thus, it provided a joint service that attained the best results in the evaluation criteria related to the improvement of government services and exceeding customer expectations.

The Mabrouk Ma Yak service is one of the outcomes of the Customer Happiness projects, launched by the UAE Government Excellence Programme, and has received substantial interactions from customers. This service is the brainchild of the Government Accelerators Team in collaboration with key partners in the federal and local governments. The service pertains to issuing newborn

documents and the Mol's partners are the Ministry of Health and Prevention, the Ministry of Finance, the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, the Health Department of Abu Dhabi, the Health Authority of Dubai, the Abu Dhabi Systems and Information Centre, the Smart Dubai

Foundation, and the UAE Post Office.

7. THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEDALS:

Brigadier Hamid Al Yamahi won the **Best Supervisory Employee** medal, within the category for all federal employees working in supervisory positions at various managerial levels, except for the directors of Customer Happiness Centres.

Colonel Ali Ahmed Balzood won the **Distinguished Customer Happiness Centre Director** medal after competing against all the directors of the customer service centres in the Federal Government. The centres are subject to the classification criteria of service provision centres, according to the UAE's Government Excellence Programme.

Captain Engineer Mea'ad Rashed Al Sa'adi won the **Distinguished Engineer** medal after competing against all federal employees in engineering department.



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, awards the Best Joint Service to Mol for its role in enhancing cooperation with government agencies



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, awards the Distinguished Engineer medal to Captain Engineer Mea'ad Rashed Al Sa'adi



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SERVICE WITH A HEART

FROM LISTENING TO A LONELY OLD MAN RECITING POETRY TO PAYING THE FINES OF A DISTRESSED MOTHER, MANY GOOD DEEDS BY THE POLICE IN THE UAE GO BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

BY K NIVEDITA

Their success is measured in many ways, from the Global Law and Order 2017 survey that shows the UAE to be amongst the safest countries in the world to the early adoption of technology to predict and prevent crime.

Police forces in the UAE are also amongst the

world's most efficient and have the statistics to prove it. But are they only about strict law enforcement? What about their compassion and human values?

The finer emotions of the men in uniform cannot be logged; they remain in the memories of those whose lives the police have touched beyond the call of duty.

MAKE WAY FOR BABY

On the recent New Year's Eve celebration at Al Marjan Island in Ras Al Khaimah, the atmosphere was electric, the noise deafening and the sight of the fireworks – lasting 13 minutes and 20 seconds and winner of the Guinness World Records for the 'Longest chain of fireworks' and the 'Longest straight line of fireworks' – was spectacular.

In this euphoria, who'd notice a pregnant woman suddenly developing labour pains? Who, but Ras Al Khaimah Police? As the woman went into labour amidst the partying crowds, RAK Police stepped in to help. The area was lined with thousands of vehicles, but a special traffic patrol opened the road and enabled an ambulance to leave with the woman. Thanks to their



intervention, she reached hospital on time. "She gave birth safely to a baby boy despite the New Year's Eve traffic when thousands of people from across the country flocked to Al Marjan Island to watch the fireworks," said Brigadier Abdjullah Ali Menakhas, Acting Director

General of Operations at RAK Police.

The proud parents have named the baby, Sultan. "We feel lucky to have found miraculous help amongst the sea of vehicles and people. The policemen, particularly the traffic patrols, were a great help," said the grateful parents.

INCREDIBLE GESTURE

On another occasion, a policeman in Dubai proved that responsibility and empathy can co-exist in lawkeepers. Lieutenant Abdul Hadi Al Hammadi, an officer at the Rashidiya Police Station, was in the middle of just another work day at the one-day court in August 2018, when a man came to him in tears. It turned out that the man's wife had signed a cheque and couldn't pay the amount. Now, she'd have to cough up Dhs10,000 or face imprisonment.

The man said that the family had only Dhs100 in savings and was unable to raise funds from their relatives. What made things worse was that they had a seven-month-old child who'd be left without a mother if she went to jail.

"Realising that the man had failed to find support from his family and close friends, I decided to help them out," said Al Hammadi.

And he did the unthinkable: the officer decided to pay the woman's fine, so that "she will not be

imprisoned and can go back home with her child and husband". He said, "I asked the husband to wait for some time and spoke about the case to the director of Rashidiya Police Station, Brigadier Saeed Hamad bin Suleiman. After instructions, the fine was paid through and the bill of payment was handed over to the man," said Al Hammadi.

He also insisted that the matter be kept secret, but word got around and, soon, he was being featured in the media. The woman's family was deeply grateful. "When I approached the policeman, everything seemed dark. I couldn't have seen my wife being jailed, with my little baby left alone. I asked the officer to help us, but I never imagined that he'd save my wife by paying the fine," said the husband.

Al Hammadi, incidentally, didn't want to be repaid. "When I paid the fine with my own money, I wasn't thinking of being repaid. I didn't want to hurt the feelings of the woman's husband, so I told him to consider the money as a loan that he could pay back when he could, but I won't accept the money," he said.

“When I paid a woman's fine with my own money, I wasn't thinking of being repaid. I didn't want to hurt the feelings of the woman's husband, so I told him to consider the money as a loan, but I won't accept the money”



LIEUTENANT ABDUL HADI AL HAMMADI

Officer at the Rashidiya Police Station
Dubai Police

Why did the police officer make this amazing gesture? "I think of it as our duty in the UAE to help people who need care and attention," said Al Hammadi.

BOUQUET OF TOLERANCE



Brigadier Ali Atiq bin Lahej, Director of Airports Security at Dubai Police, handing out 'Tolerance Flowers' launched by the General Department of Community Happiness

On New Year's Eve, visitors at the Dubai International Airport were surprised when Dubai Police greeted them with flowers. Also, in January 2019, Dubai Police reached out with flowers to employees and visitors at the General Department of Punitive and Correctional Establishments in Dubai.

These are all a part of Dubai Police's initiative called 'Tolerance Flowers', launched by the General Department of Community Happiness. "The initiative aims to promote the values of tolerance and acceptance of other cultures, in line with the announcement of 2019 as the

“ The initiative aims to promote the values of tolerance and acceptance of other cultures, in line with the announcement of 2019 as the 'Year of Tolerance'



BRIGADIER ALI ATIQ BIN LAHEJ

Director of Airports Security at Dubai Police

'Year of Tolerance' by the President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan earlier this year," said Brigadier Ali Atiq bin Lahej, Director of Airports Security at Dubai Police.

POWER OF EMPATHY

Can a soft police officer lead to an increase in crime? The jury is out on this, but an incident involving Sharjah Police demonstrates otherwise. In July 2016, Muneeb Ullah, 33-year-old Pakistani, lost his job and his visa expired. He stayed on in the UAE for a year-and-a-half, violating the country's residency law, while looking for work and accumulated a fine of Dhs18,000 for overstaying.

In early 2018, he received news from his home country that his 93-year-old father had been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of a hospital with partial paralysis. Ullah had not seen his father for four years and this might be his last chance to meet his ill father. Totally broken down, he went to Al Buhairah Police Station and told the officers about his problems.

Sharjah Police, in cooperation with the Sharjah Foreign Affairs and Residency Department, reduced his fine from Dhs18,000 to Dhs2,000 and allowed him

to travel to his home country, where he was able to see his father.

"There are no words to thank Sharjah Police and Sharjah Foreign Affairs and Residency Department for their kindness

and generosity," said Ullah. Today, he and his wife have managed to pay their fines and reclaim normal life. So, kindness can be more effective in keeping a person on the right path.



Muneeb Ullah was reunited with his father in Pakistan after four years thanks to the benevolence of Sharjah Police, in cooperation with the Sharjah Foreign Affairs and Residency Department

ELDERLY PHILOSOPHER

In June 2018, Lt Colonel Hisham Abdullah Bu Shihab, Director of the Ajman Police Operations Room, said that an old man would routinely call the Ajman Police control room to chat. The call would come at midnight every day and the man would read out his poems to the police officers or discuss life philosophically.

“He obviously was very lonely and elderly and needed to talk to someone. The officers did not dismiss him, but instead dealt with him in a very humane and professional way,” said Lt Colonel Bu Shihab. For months, the man talked to the only friends he had – the police.



Ajman Police Operations Room

Ajman Police



RING OF TRUST

Barely had 2019 begun, when Dubai Police received an urgent message from the airport. A passenger had left a precious ring in the seat pocket of the plane she had flown in. The business-class passenger was transiting through Dubai and had decided to go shopping in the airport, when she remembered the ring – it was worth Dhs550,000. The police swung into action and the ring was returned to the woman just as she was about to board her next flight at Airport Terminal 3.

NAMED AFTER A NATION

While big companies and institutions marked 2018 as the ‘Year of Zayed’ through grand initiatives, a small gesture touched many hearts. A member of Dubai Police, to display his appreciation for the UAE, named his newborn girl Emarat – she was born in October 2018.

“Naming my daughter after this beautiful country was the least that I could do to show my gratitude. My daughter, Emarat, the third generation of my family, will continue to be inspired by the values of the late Sheikh Zayed, the founding father. I’m proud to have been born, raised and educated in the UAE, which hosts and accommodates over 200 nationalities,” said Abdulrahman Taher Ahmed, a Dubai Police staff. He also thanked his father for instilling the best values of the UAE in him while he served Dubai Police for 40 years.



Abdulrahman with his new born daughter Emarat

Dubai Police

SPIRITUAL VISIT

Last year, on October 1, observed as International Day of Older Persons, the Sharjah Police General Directorate planned a pleasant treat for a group of elderly women. They were escorted to the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, where they were told about the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and informed about the history and features of the mosque. The mosque is a major example of modern Islamic architecture as well as an important religious destination. The visit was a part of Sharjah Police's efforts to care for elderly people.



The Sharjah Police General Directorate organised an educational trip for the elderly women in the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi

UAE POLICE ACHIEVEMENTS

A police officer's job is amongst the toughest in the world. As of May 2018, the UAE had accomplished 97 per cent of the target of UAE 2021 Vision regarding a safe and secure country.

The Ministry of Interior announced that it had achieved its national agenda indicators, including controlling the crime rate and road accidents per 100,000 population. This took relentless hard work, dedication and commitment of the police officers and patrols who worked through foggy days, cracked cyber-crimes, conducted drug busts, and kept the raids and indoors safe. Here are a few recent achievements:

- Abu Dhabi, for the second consecutive year, emerged as the safest city in the world in September 2018, according to Numbeo, a website that curates and collates user-contributed data.
- Dubai's serious crimes index has dropped by 38 per cent from 2013 to 2017.
- In Sharjah, the rate of serious crimes fell by 45 per cent in 2017 and the crime rate dropped by 7.37 per cent compared to 2016.

LAND OF COMPASSION

The actions of the police force can be looked at through the prism of the values that form the UAE's legacy, one that it inherited from its founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The first president lived by the virtue of selfless generosity and ensured that unity, compassion, and cooperation were the founding blocks of the country.

In December 2018, to mark the conclusion of the 'Year of Zayed', Ajman Police wrote the world's biggest letter to Sheikh Zayed and it was carried across all the country on a large truck.

"Sheikh Zayed was a man of love and compassion. So, we must translate our great respect for him on the ground by continuing on the path of excellence and success and raising the name and flag of the country at international events," said Major General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, who was amongst those who signed the letter.

So, despite being on their toes, police in the UAE find themselves holding steadfast to the higher values that make up the social fabric of the UAE.

PROMOTING EMPATHY IN CHILDREN

"It is wrong to bully people of determination." Listening to Dubai Police stressing on this message were youngsters of around 30 private schools and 40 government schools in January 2019.

The initiative to combat bullying came after requests by government and private schools to help uplift the moral of pupils. The campaign was a part of marking the 'Year of Tolerance' and

came under an umbrella initiative called 'Safety Valve', launched by the Criminal Investigation Department of Dubai Police. At the heart of the programme is the belief that a positive interaction with Dubai Police would help children empathise with people of determination, and curb the instinct for violence and aggression amongst children.

50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION

AFTER FIVE DECADES OF WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE UAE, HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM, VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE UAE AND RULER OF DUBAI, HAS CREATED GOALS FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS – LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, NOT JUST PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

BY RAY NEWMAN



Reinvention. That's probably the word that best describes the approach taken by the emirate of Dubai to keep racing ahead throughout its nearly 190-year-old history. Judicious use of oil revenue, and looking beyond oil to diversify for a future that's both economically and environmentally sustainable – all of it has been accomplished by a small fishing settlement that grew into one of the world's most amazing destinations.

It has a population of just above 3 million and is not very large in land area, but Dubai's ambition is mind-blowing – home to the world's tallest tower, the world's busiest airport, the world's longest driverless Metro system, and a plan to perhaps colonise Mars over the next century, the emirate never ceases to amaze.

While Dubai is always forward-looking, many of its relatively recent achievements can be credited to the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

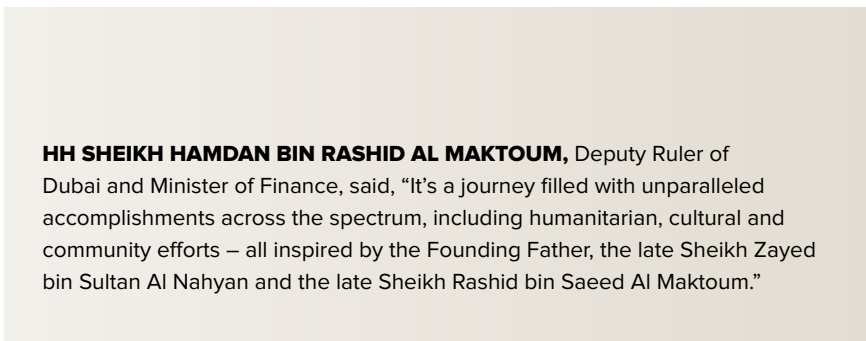
Dubai recently observed 50 years of the service of a visionary ruler. His Highness was appointed Head of Dubai Police and Public Security on November 1, 1968, and then took over as Ruler of Dubai in 2006, and has remained the Federal Minister of Defence since the UAE came into being in 1971.

Being a truly great leader, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum didn't see the completion of 50 years as an occasion to only look back at past accomplishments. His Highness looked forward and launched the 'Fifty-Year Charter' to further improve life in Dubai.

LEADERS THANK HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM



HH SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, thanked His Highness the Vice President for his highly valued contributions to the UAE, and for being an “inspiring leader who has dedicated himself to the development of the nation”.



HH SHEIKH HAMDAN BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, said, “It’s a journey filled with unparalleled accomplishments across the spectrum, including humanitarian, cultural and community efforts – all inspired by the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum.”



HH SHEIKH SAIF BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, hailed HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in a message posted on Twitter, saying, “You are the creator of modernity, the architect of integration, the knight of the economy and the prospect of the future, and the father of the family and society—locally, regionally and globally—with your humanitarian projects, and ardent determination that transcends time and space.”



HH SHEIKH MANSOUR BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, said that HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is “an inspiring leader who taught us that thinking that something is impossible to achieve is the biggest prison man has ever made for himself” and that “we must all strive to conquer the impossible in the service of this dear homeland for it to remain at the forefront”.



HE MOHAMMAD BIN ABDULLAH AL GERGAWI, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and The Future, said in his article ‘Mohammed bin Rashid: A Global Asset’, that “The Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum experience has become an intellectual leadership model, based on a consistent approach that does not follow established standards, but sets its own”.

OFFICIALS THANK THE VICE PRESIDENT

LT GEN DHAHI KHALFAN TAMIM, Deputy Chairman of Police and General Security in Dubai, said, “HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is an inspiring leader who taught us wise leadership, vision and how to deal with crises and never give up. His Highness’ vision has made Dubai Police one of the best police forces in the world.”



MATTAR AL TAYER, Director-General of RTA and Chairman of the board, said, “HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is giving special attention to improving Dubai’s infrastructure, especially roads and transport sector. Obviously, the infrastructure is the key driver of the economy of any city in the world.”

INDUSTRY LEADERS SAY



MASSIMO FALCIONI, CEO of Etihad Credit Insurance, the UAE Federal Export Credit company, said, “As the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has created several new ministerial posts, government panels and policies that have helped in building the portfolio of UAE’s non-oil sectors while also endorsing UAE as a culturally vibrant and ground-breaking country focused on knowledge-based industries, overall happiness and well-being of its people as well as nurturing potential leaders of tomorrow.”

ALI RASHID LOOTAH, Chairman of Nakheel, said, “HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is a visionary leader and creative thinker, who has taken innovation and ambition to new levels. Nakheel is honoured and proud to have been created under His Highness’ leadership to deliver some of the world-famous landmarks that placed Dubai on the world map. We thank His Highness for his continued belief in our company.”



SUNNY VARKEY, Founder, Gems Education, said, “Dubai, and the UAE, are shining examples to the rest of the world of what is possible. HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum’s vision has enabled Dubai to flourish into a world-class city that sets the benchmark for others to follow and I am proud to call it my home.”

THE FIFTY-YEAR CHARTER

Launching the charter in January 2019, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said, "This document represents our pledge and promise, on behalf of myself and the ruling family of Dubai, of what we will undertake to improve the quality of life, develop the community of Dubai and ensure the future of generations to come."

The pledges, which will be updated every year on January 4, are split up into nine articles that identify specific goals the emirate expects to achieve.

Over the next 50 years, Dubai will be maintained as "a city governed by law and bound by the spirit of compassion, love, harmony and tolerance" and will remain a "prosperous city where future generations achieve their dreams and aspirations".

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NINE ARTICLES:

1. DUBAI SILK ROAD: Dubai is destined to be the crossroads between East and West, and between North and South. We have the largest international airport in the world. It connects us with more than 200 cities. Over the next 10 years, more than one billion passengers will pass through our airports. Worldwide, we operate around 80 ports that are connected to hundreds of cities. Our next goal is to build our own Silk Road in cooperation with our friendly neighbours who share our vision. Our region has historically been a region of civilisation and trade, and this role must be restored. We will seek to build international cooperation to support these aspirations.

2. A GEO-ECONOMIC MAP FOR DUBAI: In the coming phase, we will work to develop a geo-economic map for the city of Dubai and set up specialised, integrated economic zones in the whole city. Each geo-economic sector in the city will have its own council, which manages and markets it. Each geographical sector will have its own

economic and investment goals. We will monitor the achievement of these goals with transparency. A Governor will be appointed for each economic zone to oversee the achievement of its goals, as well as its progress and success.

3. SETTING UP THE FIRST VIRTUAL

COMMERCIAL CITY: Dubai will lead the establishment of the first virtual commercial city in the region that grants commercial licences without having to reside in Dubai. The city will allow investors to open bank accounts and grant e-residencies according to best international laws and regulations. We aim to have 100,000 companies in the virtual city.

4. A CENTRAL EDUCATION FILE FOR EVERY CITIZEN:

We aim to develop a centralised education database for every citizen to document all the academic degrees obtained, classes and training taken, and conferences attended. This will help us design customised educational plans for our citizens that suit their personal skills. We aim to build an educational and learning system that explores and develops people's skills. Our goal for our citizens is to have life-long learning so they can continue to improve their skills and capacities to adapt to the rapid global changes in the world.

5. DOCTOR FOR EVERY CITIZEN:

We aim to provide citizens with medical consultations 24/7 through hundreds of thousands of doctors, specialists and medical consultants across the globe. This will be facilitated by smart government application. Our goal is to transform the medical system to bring doctors closer to individuals, enhance awareness, and utilise top medical minds globally to serve the health of our citizens.

6. FREE ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE

ZONES IN UNIVERSITIES: Dubai's foundation is rooted in trade. We will announce our public and private

universities as free zones that allow students to carry out business and creative activities, make these activities part of the education and graduation system, and shape integrated economic and creative zones around the universities. These zones will support students with education, research and funding during the launch of their projects. We want our universities to not only graduate students but also create companies and employers.

7. SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN DUBAI

HOMES: We will develop an integrated programme to build a comprehensive system that allows at least a tenth of our citizens' homes to be self-sufficient in terms of water, food and energy. The achievement of this goal will help change lifestyles and contribute to the preservation of our environment. We aim to create a new economic sector that supports energy, water and food self-sufficiency in the houses of Dubai, for at least a month, to be increased later.

8. COOPERATIVE COMPANIES IN

VARIOUS SECTORS: This is a long-term programme that aims to provide new sources of income to our citizens, improve the quality of some services through privatisation, and establishes cooperative companies owned by citizens in a number of vital sectors.

9. ANNUAL GROWTH IN

PHILANTHROPY: Our daily businesses and projects should not let us forget about giving to those who need help. We pledge to increase philanthropic initiatives every year and grow them by at least an equal percentage of our annual economic growth. Charity is indeed a major factor in the happiness of societies and the continuity of progress and prosperity.

A new Charter shall be launched on January 4 every year to sustain the welfare and happiness of society.

8-POINT PLAN

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum also laid out a road map for the future success of the UAE in an eight-point plan. His Highness the Vice President called upon all those who live in the country to abide by the rules of society, stating that no one was above the law. "Brothers and sisters, my thanks to everyone who said a word of appreciation to me on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of my first post in the national service. I promise you that the days will only increase our insistence on service, creativity at work and acceleration of achievements," His Highness said.

THE EIGHT-POINT PLAN FOR FUTURE GOVERNANCE:

- 1. The Union is the foundation:** Dubai is an integral part of the UAE and a pillar of the Federation. The emirate's destiny is entwined with the UAE's destiny, its well-being is vital to the UAE, and its people are ever-willing to sacrifice for the greater good of the country. The Union's interest is above local interest, the Union's laws transcend our laws and legislations, the Union's policy is our policy, and the Union government's priorities are our government's priorities.
- 2. No one is above the law:** Justice is the basis of a strong and proud nation, and guarantees prosperity and stability. No one is above the law in Dubai, starting with the ruling family. The law does not discriminate between citizens and residents, rich and poor, male and female, Muslims and non-Muslims. Justice delayed is justice denied. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." I renounce unfair practice or conduct of any person, and the ruling family shall likewise renounce any form of injustice as long as it governs the emirate.
- 3. We are a business capital:** The Government of Dubai aims to improve the lives of its people through strengthening its economy. Dubai does not invest or involve itself in politics, and does not rely on politics to ensure its

competitiveness. We extend a hand of friendship to all those who hold good intentions towards Dubai and the UAE. Dubai is a politically neutral, business-friendly global hub that focuses on creating economic opportunities.

- 4. Three factors drive growth:** Dubai's growth is driven by three factors: a credible, resilient and excellent government; an active, fair and open private sector; and public and government-owned flagship companies that compete globally, and generate an income for the government, jobs for its citizens, and assets for future generations.
- 5. Our society has a unique personality:** Our society is a respectful and coherent one, bound by tolerance and openness. It distances itself from all forms of discrimination and bias. It is a disciplined society, committed to its promises, timelines and covenants. We are modest about our successes, perseverant in dealing with challenges, charitable and generous in achieving the greater good, and open to everyone.
- 6. We believe in economic diversification:** Economic diversification has been the foundation of our unwritten constitution in Dubai since 1833. The changing times and the rapid developments make our commitment to this principle everlasting. Our new goal is to create at least a new economic sector every three years that will be productive, contribute to our GDP, and generate jobs.
- 7. A land for talent:** Dubai has always relied on talented tradesmen, administrators, engineers, creatives, and dreamers for its success. The emirate's prominence, sustainability and competitiveness depend on its capacity to continue attracting skilled and talented people, and nurturing the brightest minds to generate innovative ideas. We have to continually review and renew our policies and procedures

to ensure our appeal to talented individuals. We must build the best environment in Dubai for the world's leading minds.

- 8. We care about future generations:** The destiny of our future generations must not be affected by the fluctuations of regional politics and global economic cycles. We invest and create valuable assets for them. Our fundamental rule in this regard is that the government should, under all circumstances, own economic assets that are worth at least 20 times the value of its annual budget. We work towards maintaining a secure future, and we are focused today on ensuring the prosperity of our future generations. These are the eight principles for governing in Dubai that we recommend to ourselves and to those who will succeed us. We call on future generations to preserve these principles and hand them down to those who succeed them. God Almighty knows well our intentions to ensure the greater good of our people. We pray to Him to help us serve our country and our people with pride and dignity.



No one is above the law in Dubai, starting with the ruling family. The law does not discriminate between citizens and residents, rich and poor, male and female, Muslims and non-Muslims. Justice delayed is justice denied

10 COMMANDMENTS OF GOVERNANCE

As part of his latest book *Qissati (My Story)*, in which he has narrated 50 stories in his 50 years of serving the nation, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum revealed 10 commandments of governance.

- 1. SERVE PEOPLE:** The purpose of the government is to serve the people, the purpose of a government's job is to serve the community, and the purpose of laws and regulations is to serve humans.
- 2. DON'T WORSHIP THE CHAIR:** The job and responsibilities are temporary. You will lose them if you love the chair and prefer it over principles and your main purpose: serving the people.
- 3. HAVE A PLAN:** Without a plan, you are planning for failure. The leader's main role is to know the direction and guide his team towards it, and to motivate them till they achieve their target.
- 4. MONITOR YOURSELF:** Monitor the performance in your institution. Have an inspector inside and a neutral one outside. Indicators are necessary because they ensure you are on the right path.
- 5. MAKE YOUR WORK TEAM:** Don't fly, sing or applaud alone. Make a team that carries your targets to new levels, give up some authority for them and raise their ambitions higher.
- 6. INNOVATE OR WITHDRAW:** Governments that don't innovate grow old. With ideas, we will beat all competitors. New economy is based on innovations. Nothing is stronger than great ideas.
- 7. COMMUNICATE:** Tell the world about your ambitions. With media, you can get public support. Announce your goals through the media because they will hold you accountable.
- 8. ALWAYS HAVE COMPETITION:** Compete with yourself or others, and create a competitive working atmosphere. Competition should be a lifestyle in governments. Without it, enthusiasm and courage would disappear.
- 9. CREATE LEADERS:** Making leaders is a secret that is only understood by men who beat their egos and recognise that the greatest achievement is to build a human being, not bricks.
- 10. CHANGE LIVES:** We are lucky because we work in governments, our job is the best thing in our life; it is our life. With it, we change the lives of millions for the better.

RESIDENTS SPEAK

“ When I first came to the emirate, it was a small town which has grown to flourishing megacity under the visionary leadership of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. His Highness is a leader who cares for his people as well as residents, has set a precedent for leaders in developing countries to follow, and is an icon for the present and future generations to come. Thank you, His Highness. We are blessed to part of your dream in Dubai.” – Jacob Mathew, General Manager, Arabian Publications, an Indian national who has been a resident of the UAE since 1977

“ Without His Highness, Dubai would not be what it is today. A city that is admired by all. A city full of diverse cultures, people and tolerance. A city standing proudly for its citizens with world-class infrastructure and transportation A cutting edge city full of innovation and technology with forward-thinking leaders. A city I'm proud to call home Thank you, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.” – Mario Volpi, Sales Manager, Engel & Volkers, is an Italian national who has lived in Dubai since 2008



Photo from Twitter account of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



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TIMELINE OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM



Photos from Twitter account of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

NOVEMBER 1, 1968

Appointment as Head of Dubai Police and Public Security

DECEMBER 9, 1971

Appointment as Minister of Defence in the UAE's first cabinet

JANUARY 4, 1995

Appointment as the Crown Prince of Dubai

FEBRUARY 16, 2002

Announced the creation of Dubai International Financial Centre, establishing the emirate as a crucial node in global finance and a regional centre of financial services

JANUARY 4, 2006

Appointment as Ruler of Dubai

JANUARY 5, 2006

Appointment as UAE Vice President, elected by the UAE Supreme Council. The council also approves his appointment as Prime Minister

MAY 2002

Law No. 7 was issued that approved freehold ownership of land and property for UAE and GCC citizens. It also gives rights to non-GCC expatriates to own property in pre-designated areas, which are approved by the Dubai Ruler

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

Launched Dubai Cares, a campaign aimed to fund the education of poor children worldwide

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

Launched Dubai Metro, the longest driverless metro in the world

JANUARY 9, 2012

Launched Dhs12 billion Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world

OCTOBER 27, 2013

Inaugurated Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central

NOVEMBER 16, 2014

Announced the plan to send a space probe to Mars in 2021, making the UAE the first Arab country and one of the only nine nations with space programmes to explore Mars

JUNE 23, 2017

Launched the Humanitarian Accelerators, a new initiative in the Arab world that aims to attract skilled professionals to the humanitarian sector

OCTOBER 29, 2018

KhalifaSat is launched, the first Arab satellite to be fully built by Emirati engineers



Maysa Rashed Ghadeer is a prominent UAE writer interested in local affairs and a former member of the Federal National Council (FNC)

FIFTY YEARS OF LOYALTY

Fifty years ago, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum rushed as if he were in a race against time. Indeed, His Highness achieved what many could not have imagined possible

Most people would agree that one of the best traits in a person is loyalty. Those possessing such quality—sticking by the people and things you care about through thick and thin—are the ones that many would like to befriend. Even God Almighty praised the loyalty of His messengers and prophets.

So, why are we talking about loyalty, an attribute which value has not diminished nor subsided? We talk about it because in certain situations, we witness tales of outstanding loyalty at a time when it is becoming rare.

A letter penned by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE's Armed Forces, to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has touched us deeply. His Highness the Crown Prince said in the excerpt of his letter posted on Twitter, "In the Year of Zayed, my brother, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum completes 50 years in serving the nation. It was 50 years ago that His Highness became Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police. His Highness' journey is filled with giving, accompanied the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum in the school of life, until he himself became a school of leadership, management, and life."

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan did not forget the time and effort spent by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in building the nation, while raising the ceiling of

ambitions, and realising great achievements for the emirate of Dubai and the nation.

In the words of His Highness the Crown Prince, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum did not tire of working and spare no time and effort to build our dear homeland.

Fifty years ago, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum rushed as if he were in a race against time. Indeed, His Highness achieved what many could not have imagined possible. His Highness followed the dreams of his people, and in the end, everything became a reality, and even became an inspiration for the rest of the world.

Meanwhile, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan only reminded everyone of us that His Highness the Vice President is a national pride, who offered selfless service and loyalty to the nation and its people.

For HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, writing this letter dedicated to HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is part of his national responsibility as a leader, but sending this letter also presents us a lesson of loyalty; that as sons and daughters, we must emulate from our loyal leaders. His Highness' gesture tells us that we must always be grateful to one another,

and saying thank you would do a lot to express that.

Such gestures will make us stronger, more appreciative, and more responsible in more than fifty years. Thank you, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, for the fifty years of loyalty.

It was 50 years ago that His Highness became Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police. His Highness' journey is filled with giving, accompanied the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum in the school of life, until he himself became a school of leadership, management, and life



OPEN YOUR EYES

A NEW STREAMING FILM HAS NOT ONLY GOT MILLIONS OF
VIEWS, BUT HAS ALSO SPAWNED A DANGEROUS VIRAL TREND –
DOING THINGS WITH A BLINDFOLD ON

BY K NIVEDITA

Life imitates art. And that comes with consequences. In a video that went viral in January 2019, a man holds two children – one by each hand – and runs to the opposite side of the room, towards a door. He and the older child pass through the door, but the second child, a toddler, hits the wall. The video ends with the toddler struggling to remove the blindfold.

What this man was trying out was the Bird Box Challenge, one of those dozens of viral challenges that we keep hearing about, only more dangerous than many others. Across the world, it has become cool to post videos of oneself chopping vegetables, stumbling around houses, forests, and neighbourhoods, shopping – and even driving – with the blindfold on. People are injuring themselves by walking into obstacles or getting dangerously close to traffic. Others have gone 24 hours blindfolded, and documented it all. All in the name of fun.

“

In the UAE, there has been no case of this challenge thanks to the constant awareness efforts of the Ministry of Interior, all the General Police Commands as well as various institutions in all segments of society, under the guidance and follow-up of HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

At the heart of these baffling adventures is a streaming film, titled Bird Box. The Netflix-produced a thriller film, based on a 2014 book by Josh Malerman, pivots around a dark force that kills whoever looks at it. The protagonist, Malory (Sandra Bullock), must negotiate rough terrain, forest, and a wild river to take two children to safety while people die all around them. The only way for them to stay safe is to keep their eyes shut and ears open. Malory and the children, named Boy and Girl, keep their blindfolds on whenever they are outdoors, even when they're running for their lives.

The film released on December 21, 2018, and, in a couple of days, broke viewing

records all over the world. Even as it grabbed eyeballs, Bird Box spawned a hashtag and fans began to fill it with their own inspired mini-films of going blindfolded while carrying out their regular activities.

RED FLAG

Reports of injuries soon began to swirl around the Internet, and Netflix itself tweeted a warning: “Can’t believe I have to say this, but please do not hurt yourselves with this Bird Box Challenge. We don’t know how this started, and we appreciate the love, but Boy and Girl have just one wish for 2019 and it is that you not end up in hospital due to memes.”

Not that everybody was impressed by the videos. One user expressed the view: “Does anyone else find the #BirdBoxChallenge a little insensitive to the millions of people who are literally blind and are actually able to live normal lives without vision?” In the UAE, there has been no recorded instance of the Bird Box Challenge, indicating a more responsible attitude amongst the populace.

VIRAL FEVER

In the UAE, there has been no case of this challenge thanks to the constant awareness efforts of the Ministry of Interior, all the General Police Commands as well as various institutions in all segments of society, under the guidance and follow-up of HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, says Jamal Al Ameri, traffic expert and Executive Director of SAEED Society to Reduce Traffic Accidents in the UAE, to 999. Amongst other reasons, adds Al Ameri, is that the UAE has a progressive traffic strategy and conducts continuous campaigns on traffic rules and law awareness. “With these awareness campaign and initiatives, we are countering the impact of these ‘challenges’ on the Internet that could endanger participants. We create a shield against any irresponsible hurdles and hiccups that may have come from any part of the world,” he says. Why do these challenges go viral, despite the clear risks? Because in the real world, most people are invisible to most others, but on the Internet, everybody can be a star, even if for just a few days.

“The Internet plays a major role in shaping the minds of young people today,” says Sarah El Nabulsi, Clinical Psychologist, Dubai Healthcare City, speaking to 999. “They’re now connected to a global community that holds its own values and traits that the youth perceive as valuable. These values might directly conflict with the ones held by the young person’s own country. The problem is: this young person will be more pulled

“With these awareness campaign and initiatives, we are countering the impact of these ‘challenges’ on the Internet that could endanger participants



JAMAL AL AMERI

Traffic expert and Executive Director of SAEED Society to Reduce Traffic Accidents in the UAE

or attracted by what’s perceived as ‘cool’ by his peers; the Internet community not his parents. They want to belong to the ‘cool’ group.

“The explanation of this from a developmental perspective is that they’re at an age where they’re intrinsically motivated to appeal to their friends and place themselves high in that group’s hierarchy. We all know what’s valued for young people in the online community – beauty, wealth regardless of the means, substances, and risky behaviours.”

WORDS OF CAUTION

Al Ameri adds that UAE residents must remember the strategy of the UAE Federal Government when dealing with the challenges on social networking sites such as the Bird Box Challenge. “We must abide by its laws. We do not want any other cases of residents abusing the power of social media platforms. The words of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, should be our guide in preserving the name of the UAE in the world,” he says.

“Young people are now connected to a global community that holds its own values and traits that the youth perceive as valuable



SARAH EL NABULSI

Clinical Psychologist
Dubai Healthcare City

HERE'S HOW THE BIRD BOX CHALLENGE STRUCK DANGER AMONGST FANS:

1

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

Bundled up in dark jackets against the cold, four blindfolded friends walk on a pavement in a city famous for its edgy lifestyle. One in the group runs ahead and turns the corner at full throttle. The camera follows him to the subway and pans the steps leading down. And there, on the landing, the man is splayed where he fell with full force. Painful doesn't begin to describe it, especially in the cold.



2

PREDICTABLE RESULT WHEN DRIVING WITH BLINDFOLDS ON



A 17-year-old girl in Layton, Utah in the USA caused a two-car crash after pulling a beanie over her eyes as part of the Bird Box Challenge. She lost control of her car which

smashed into another driver, a light pole and a sound barrier. The girl, a 16-year-old passenger and the other driver sustained injuries in the crash. Police had recommended the driver face a charge of reckless driving. Layton Police tweeted photos of the crash, with the caption: "Bird Box Challenge while driving, predictable result. This happened as a result of the driver covering her eyes while driving on Layton Parkway." Police only began

suspecting the Bird Box challenge had been the cause of the accident after the driver she hit asked for surveillance footage and shared his findings with officers.

3

DON'T STEER THE WHEEL WHEN YOU CANT SEE

A YouTube star, whose biggest fans are aged between eight and 16 years, appears to have carried out his regular activities for 24 hours in early January 2019 while blindfolded. This includes driving a large car around an estate and right through garbage bins placed on the pavement. "I hate this challenge," he screams. In a shocking sequence, the car speeds across the winding road as the camera gives a glimpse of the social media star turning the steering wheel, a black cloth covering both eyes. He follows this up with a sequence in which he and a companion cross a road, still in blindfold, as cars speed past.



RISE TO THE REAL CHALLENGE

Here are some of the positive challenges that make news in the UAE:

1

The Arab Reading Challenge: The brainchild of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Arab Reading Challenge is the largest ever Arab literary initiative. It's meant to encourage students to read as many books as possible in one academic year. The challenge of 2018 was taken by 10.5 million participants from 44 countries across the Arab region and was won by the youngest of the five finalists, nine-year-old Mariam Lehsen Amjoun from Morocco.



WAM

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, wiping the tears of Amjoun as she receives her prize

2

The Dubai Fitness Challenge: Ever since it was launched in 2017, the fitness initiative by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, has involved residents and visitors, government organisations, businesses and schools to invest in themselves and their health by spending 30 minutes in some form of exercise or activity for 30 days. "My vision for the Dubai Fitness Challenge is to create a truly inclusive movement across our city and the wider UAE, to sustainably enhance the health and long-term well-being of people of all ages, abilities and levels of fitness," said HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed. The 2018 challenge was held between October 26 and November 24.



Faz3 Instagram account

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, launched the Dubai Fitness Challenge to encourage healthier residents

3

Spinneys Dubai 92 Cycle Challenge: Around 2,000 cyclists took over the roads as the biggest cycling event of the Middle East turned nine in December 2018. Sure, the cyclists were about grit, determination and speed but, most important, the participants displayed a spirit of sportsmanship and cooperation. The event has the support of the authorities.



www.cyclechallenge.ae



4

HGEM Innovation Challenge: Launched in 2019, this is the first high school innovation challenge and features a sprint-like competition. Multi-disciplinary teams coordinate with one another, coming up with solutions in a very limited time. This is an initiative of the Harvard Undergraduate Global Education Movement, in partnership with Harvard Club of the UAE, the Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai, and the Ismaili Centre Dubai. One of the focus areas of the event is to “provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their intellectual creativity in a results-driven competition”. The event will be held from March 14 to 16, 2019.

5

Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge: The event calls out to some of the biggest names in international motorsport to tackle the dunes of the UAE. Amongst the world’s most prestigious desert rallies, it has witnessed the participation of names such as Carlos Sainz, Colin McRae, Ari Vatanen, and Heinz Kinigadner. This year, the challenge will take place from March 31 to April 4, and registration is open at reduced rates until February 8, 2019.



Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge Facebook

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

Some bizarre challenges that took over the world:

Kiki Challenge: Cutting across national borders, age and celebrity status, people rose to the #KikiChallenge in mid-2018 by dancing to singer Drake’s song, In My Feelings, while – and this is the dangerous bit – on the road, alongside a moving car. The challenge required participants to get out of a moving car, leave the door open, and move their bodies in rhythm to song as the car continued to drive onward. In July 2018, three social media influencers in the UAE were arrested for doing the Kiki dance. The Abu Dhabi public prosecution issued a statement saying the Kiki Challenge was “offending public morals” and endangering lives. The penalty was imprisonment or a fine under the Federal Penal Code and Law No. 21 of 1995 regarding traffic law.



Chubby Bunny Challenge: A challenge that goes back to the pre-Internet era, it resurfaced in 2018 when people began to put up videos of themselves stuffing their mouths with marshmallows and then saying, “Chubby Bunny.” The game remains popular, though people are aware that there have been instances of choking and death, including that of a little girl in 1999 when she put four marshmallows in her mouth and collapsed.



Momo Challenge: Cyberbullying expanded to a viral sensation when mobile users in various parts of the world began to receive graphic threats from a user named Momo. Momo wanted the recipient of the messages to perform a series of dangerous tasks – a challenge similar to the deadly Blue Whale, in which many youngsters self-harmed and died. Those who refused were threatened and sent gory images. The Momo Challenge gained worldwide notoriety in July 2018.



St. John’s County Sheriff’s Office Facebook

Falling Stars Challenge: It’s no fun being rich if you can’t flaunt it. Around October 2018, a viral sensation took over Instagram and Weibo in which super-wealthy youngsters were sprawled on the ground in front of their swanky cars or private jets – as if they stumbled while getting out – and their super-luxury items were spread around them, as if these, too, accidentally fell out of their bags.





Tim Maycock is Director of Maycock Training Ltd, an international consultancy firm

THINK OUTSIDE THE BIRD BOX, PLEASE

Thanks to the Internet, bizarre online 'dares' – such as driving a car or walking through traffic with a blindfold on – now spread faster than a wildfire

Dear friends, we are truly blessed. We are, indeed, fortunate to live in the golden age of the world wide web, an amazing innovation into the thrall of which today's children have been thrust and know no different.

"Hmmm," I hear you say. "Where have I read these lines before?" Why, dear astute reader, this very column began last month with exactly the same paragraph. No apologies for repetition, for it is just as relevant, if not more so this time around.

Yes, of course, the computer age, the Internet, social media et al have significantly changed our lives, and in so many ways, changed the way we do things for the better. However, the benefits are balanced somewhat by the inevitable negative consequences of our virtual interplay.

One of the latest crazes to hit the web emanates from a 2018 movie, titled Bird Box, as a result of which social media followers pick up on a 'meme' that encourages participation in what could be described as a 'dare' or a challenge.

The storyline for the movie revolves around this: "When a mysterious force decimates the population only one thing is certain – you see it – you die."

Thus, the actors are forced to wear blindfolds in case their eyes should alight because of this force. They are, to all intents and purposes, blind from that point onwards. The movie, no doubt, weaves a fascinating plot around the travails of the characters whilst encumbered by the loss of the great gift of sight.

The spin-off is that it seems someone saw the movie and had the idea that it might be fun to try and carry out some tasks

while blindfolded. A little like a parlour game for those of us who can remember it. Harmless fun? Well, yes it could be, for example, applying a luscious lip gloss without being able to follow the application in a mirror. You would probably finish up with an extra mouth, or a bright red moustache.

Before the advent of instant global communication, there were crazy fads, but they took such a long time to spread that they either lost impetus or were replaced by something new

But there are countless examples of reckless behaviour, driven by the desire of 'Bird Boxers' to trump the crazy stunts of their peers. One can imagine scarily dangerous challenges such as walking around on top of a high-rise – blindfolded. Or how about this one that has actually happened and is well-documented (and videoed) on the web: A man driving a car on public streets while blindfolded.

It's accepted that before the advent of easy instant global communication, there were bizarre fads, phases, crazes, challenges, and dares. But isn't it so that they took such a long time to

spread that they either lost impetus and tailed off, or were replaced by something new before they could escalate into this huge, uncontrollable chaos?

The movie's distributor recognises the potential danger of the meme their production has spawned, and the Market Watch website also carries the following: "Taking to Twitter in a bid to stop the movie's fans from running into problems, a representative wrote: "Can't believe I have to say this, but: Please do not hurt yourselves with this bird box challenge."

Hopefully with such a big name behind the cautionary advice, it may have some impact.

Have fun, life is too short to miss, but don't make it any shorter – look before you leap, and keep your eyes open.

The Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE

Building the Future

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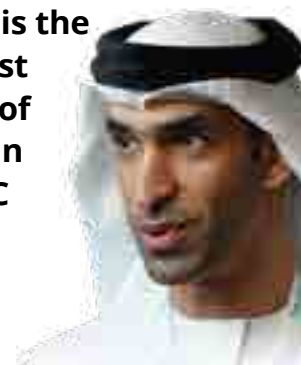
EARTH, WATER, WIND, FIRE, AND IMAGINATION

THESE ELEMENTS ARE VAST RESOURCES THAT HAVE BEEN TAPPED, JUST IN TIME TO SAVE THE PLANET. AND THE UAE HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE REGION TO UTILISE THESE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY TO POWER REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES IN ORDER TO MITIGATE ONE OF THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE EARTH—CLIMATE CHANGE

BY MARK NITUMA



“ The UAE set the region’s first renewable energy targets amidst widespread doubt about its viability and value. Today, renewable energy is the cheapest source of power in the GCC region



HE DR THANI BIN AHMED AL ZEYOUTI

Minister of Climate Change and Environment

The phrase ‘renewable energy’, referring to a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels, is the buzzword in an era where the effects of global warming are felt across the planet. However, its limitless potential isn’t being realised at the rate that Mother Earth needs — we’re still reading about coral reefs dying, polar ice disappearing, extreme weather events increasing in fury and frequency. Climate change is the most fearsome phenomenon on the planet, and the human race is both responsible for it and has the ability to mitigate it. This is where the UAE comes in. In the region, it has taken the lead to explore renewable resources such as wind, water, solar, or bio-fuel in order to reach a sustainable future and borrow more time to preserve the world for future generations.

As more and more economies constantly look for a dramatic shift in energy use, trying to include more alternative sources in the mix, the UAE is initiating a global industry platform that connects countries, businesses, and clean and efficient technologies through the World Future Energy Summit (WFES). This year’s edition of the expo, which was held last month, saw more than 850 international exhibitors from across all continents who gathered in the Capital to showcase the latest green solutions to reduce the carbon footprint of human civilisation. WFES is a key component of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW).

UAE PIONEERS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR ALL

Over the past century, no one has really invented a major revolutionary technology in terms of transportation, until the UAE recently zoomed through the use of an amazing technology called the Hyperloop. With the rollout of this mode of transportation, not only will road accidents be curbed, in line with the UAE National Agenda 2021’s Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure goal of making this country the world’s safest nation, it also aims to make the UAE one of the pioneers in terms of green mode of transportation, as it has no direct carbon emission. It’s designed to be an energy-efficient pod that will travel from origin to destination at a speed of up to 1,230km/hr. Its creators see it as one of the most innovative modes of transportation in a hundred years, travelling via electric propulsion using magnetic means compared with conventional chemical thrusters.

As per a recent research by Scania Middle East, carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions can be lowered by more than 20 per cent by optimising transport systems, which in turn can contribute to meeting the goals set by the National Agenda 2021.

HH Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Department of Transport and a member of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi,

stressed that the intelligent transport sector has become a pivotal part of the economy of the future, an important pillar of sustainable development and a central element in achieving its objectives. With the Hyperloop onboard, the UAE is making the rise of renewable energy in the region a reality – the far-fetched dream of green mobility is being fast-tracked at an unprecedented pace. And by next year, 2020, it’s all systems go for the Hyperloop in the UAE. This was announced in January by the Dubai Media Office. The transport system aims to cut travel time from Dubai to Abu Dhabi and vice versa from more than 90 minutes to just 12 minutes. That’s what imagination does – it makes the unthinkable viable.

THE FACE OF RENEWABLES IN THE REGION

Changing the perception of the Middle East as a hydrocarbon region, HE Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, underscored that the region now has the cheapest source of power in the GCC region. “The UAE set the region’s first renewable energy targets amidst widespread doubt about its viability and value. Today, renewable energy is the cheapest source of power in the GCC region – cheaper than oil, gas and nuclear options. Ten years later, we increased our clean



energy target to 27 percent by 2021,” the Minister said.

It might be true that the Middle East is a late bloomer in terms of utilising the use of renewable resources, but, as per Tim Armsby, Regional Head of Energy and Infrastructure of Pinsent Masons—an international law firm that specialises in the energy and infrastructure, the region is taking a ride in the wind by benefiting from coming late to the game.

“Now a number of Middle East countries are looking to roll out solar plants because the costs are too cheap to ignore,” Armsby said. Adding to this, many companies have set up in the UAE and other countries to take advantage of Saudi Arabia’s renewable energy programme. The kingdom is now pushing to go green with two projects tendered in 2017 – a large 300MW solar project and a 400MW wind farm.

There’s potential for battery storage in the region. However, as of now, there is insufficient capacity in the market to encourage innovation. For Armsby, he said that, “The Middle East could play a lead and build the expertise and technology to be able to export that elsewhere globally, because there is clearly a niche for it”

To look into this, the UAE’s clean energy company Masdar has collaborated with Norway’s Equinor to analyse data from the Batwind battery system for energy storage

generated by the Hywind Scotland Floating wind farm. The parties will purchase, test and install Batwind to investigate how the battery storage solution can be leveraged to improve the operational and cost efficiency of offshore wind farms.

Bader Al Lamki, Masdar’s Executive Director for Clean Energy, said, “By partnering with Equinor on the Batwind project, Masdar is addressing this critical need for affordable, reliable and regionally-optimised battery technologies and strengthening the viability of energy storage solutions. This has the potential to deliver

“

The Middle East could play a lead and build the expertise and technology to be able to export that elsewhere globally, because there is clearly a niche for it



WFES 2019

“It is easier to bridge the oceans that lie between continents than it is to bridge the gap between individuals. The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2019 demonstrates the power of tolerance to pursue a common goal



HE SHEIKH NAHYAN BIN MUBARAK AL NAHYAN

UAE Minister of Tolerance

far-reaching benefits in the development of renewables as a baseload power source.”

BRIDGING SUSTAINABILITY GAP

HE Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Tolerance, admits that there's a lot to be done to quench the growing need of the world for sustainable development. For the most part, he

urged world leaders and trailblazers at the opening ceremony of The Future Sustainability Summit at Abu Dhabi to join hands in achieving the global sustainability goals. This, he said, can be done but “fear and ignorance” must not get in the way. The Minister said, “Free and open discussions must prevail. Curiosity must be honoured. Fear and ignorance destroy civilisations. Today we prosper because we talk to each other in the UAE.”

He also underscored that conceptualising new ideas is key to power projects and initiatives related to the shift in energy resources. “Our imaginations must create better ways to maintain the environment and keep the economy going at the same time,” said HE Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi in his address to a gathering of global and national leaders, he said, “It is easier to bridge the oceans that lie between continents than it is to bridge the gap between individuals. I commend you for coming to the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2019 to work for a common goal – preservation of planet earth.”

The UAE takes its sustainability goals very seriously, according to HE Eng Awaidha Murshed Al Marar, Chairman of the Department of Energy and member of the Executive Council. “We have placed our natural resources at the centre of our wider plans, and today, we are better prepared

than ever to celebrate exporting our last shipment of oil by 2050,” he said, adding, “Launching the UAE Energy Strategy 2050 reflects the forward-thinking vision of our wise leadership, who has long underlined the necessity of planning ahead – starting now and through the next three decades – to increase individual and corporate consumption efficiency by 40 per cent, boosting clean energy's share of the UAE's energy mix to 50 per cent, which would save nearly Dhs700 billion by 2050.”

ENERGY TRANSITION IMPACTS ECONOMY

Many world leaders and international experts in the economic sectors agree that alternative sources of energy are viable solutions to lift millions of people across the globe out of poverty. Adnan Z Amin, member of the Global Energy Prize International Award Committee, and Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), highlighted at a special panel session within the WFES 2019 that the decarbonisation and climate mitigation goals set out in the Paris Agreement can be considered as a process of global energy transition. “Renewables must account for at least two-thirds of total energy to achieve the goals of deep decarbonisation and address the global warming by 2050,” he said.

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION



300,000 Tonnes of waste to be used annually for producing energy by the UAE's first waste-to-energy plant, being built by Emirates Waste to Energy Company and Bee'ah



30MW Clean energy to be produced every year by this plant, taking Sharjah towards becoming the first zero-waste city in the Middle East by 2021



38 MILLION Litres of biofuel that is expected to be generation through a project between Tadweer and Etihad airline, which signed an MoU



90% Savings expected on aviation fuel costs if the biofuel (reclaimed recyclable waste blended with kerosene) project works out



700,000 Tonnes per annum of municipal waste in Abu Dhabi that could potentially be converted into jet fuel or other energy sources



“The ongoing transition to renewables is not only just a shift from one set of fossil fuels to another. It involves a much deeper transformation of the world’s energy system that will have major social, economic and political implications



ADNAN Z AMIN
Director General of IRENA

“The ongoing transition to renewables is not only just a shift from one set of fossil fuels to another. It involves a much deeper transformation of the world’s energy system that will have major social, economic and political implications, which go well beyond the energy sector. The term ‘energy transition’ captures this broader implication,” Adnan further explained.

“Today renewable energy technologies are viewed not only as tools for improving energy security, mitigating, and adapting to climate change but are also increasingly recognised as investments that can provide direct and indirect economic advantages,” he added.

According to IRENA’s report, increasing energy system investment in alternative energy by 30 per cent to 2050 can create 11 million additional energy sector jobs. And by then, natural gas would be the largest source of fossil fuel, which would spur one per cent growth in the global economy. Moreover, benefits not captured by GDP (gross domestic product), such as health benefits from reduced air pollution and reduced climate impacts, amongst others, would improve by 15 per cent, compared to the current trajectory.

UAE EMPOWERS GRASSROOTS THROUGH FUNDS

In this regard, the UAE has been allotting more of its overseas development funds for cleaner sources of energy projects in many parts of the world that need access to efficient energy sources and are looking to improve their economies.

The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and IRENA are inviting applications for renewable energy plans in developing countries to breathe life into their projects with more than \$50 million (Dhs183.7mn) in funding through the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility.

Moreover, ADFD has committed \$350mn

“The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and IRENA are inviting applications for renewable energy plans in developing countries to breath life into their projects with more than \$50 million (Dhs183.7mn) in funding through the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility

(Dhs1.3bn) in concessionary loans over seven annual funding cycles to renewable energy projects recommended by IRENA. “Renewable energy can have a powerful impact on the livelihoods of people across the globe,” said IRENA Director-General Amin, adding that, “It is the most cost-competitive option to expand access to energy and improve socioeconomic welfare while creating jobs and empowering local communities.”



ZAYED SUSTAINABILITY PRIZE

During the opening of the ADSW, 10 winners of the 2019 Zayed Sustainability Prize were awarded by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Praising their valuable projects to help augment social development of their countries and regions, His Highness the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi honoured the winners across the categories of health, food, energy, water and global high schools.

The winner in each category took home Dhs2.2 million each to turn their sustainability projects into a reality.



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai (6th from left); HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces (4th from left); and HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of State, Chairman of Masdar and chief executive of Adnoc Group (1st from left), with this year's winners of the Zayed Sustainability Award

Ministry of Presidential Affairs

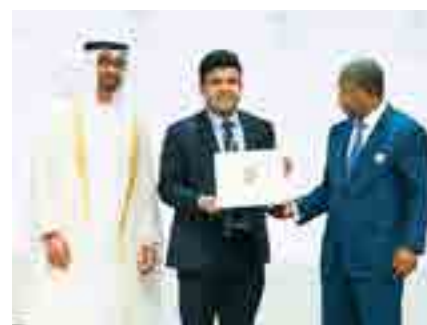
2019 WINNERS



HEALTH: We Care Solar, for designing portable solar suitcases that power critical lighting and medical devices in low-resource areas, improving outcomes for mothers and newborns.



FOOD: Sanku, for its technology and business model enabling flour mills to provide fortified flour.



ENERGY: BBOX, which designs, manufactures, distributes and finances innovative plug-and-play solar systems to improve access to energy across Africa and the developing world.



WATER: ECOSOFT, for water technology solutions for purifying rainwater, recycling and reusing wastewater.

GLOBAL HIGH SCHOOLS:

AMERICAS: The Impact School, Guatemala, which educates indigenous Mayan girls in sustainable farming practices.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: African Leadership Academy, South Africa, which converts grey water to clean water through its 'living machine'.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA: American School of Dubai, UAE, for installing biodigester, beehives and data dashboard to monitor energy use.

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA: Gymnasium Goethe, Tajikistan, which aims to become 100 per cent self-sufficient in solar energy.

SOUTH ASIA: SECMOL, India, which provides opportunities for disadvantaged students with solar and kitchen garden initiatives.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC: Muntinlupa National High School, Philippines, for its algae cultivation.

\$600,000 (DH2.2MN)

The prize fund for each of the 5 categories under the Zayed Sustainability Prize, given at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

PRIZE CATEGORIES

- Health
- Food
- Energy
- Water
- Global High Schools

HIGH-RISK HIGH-RISE

SMALL CHILDREN FALLING OFF BUILDINGS HAVE LEFT MANY BEREAVED FAMILIES. PARENTS AND GUARDIANS MUST NOT LET THEIR GUARD DOWN TO SHIELD KIDS FROM SUCH TRAGEDIES.

999 OUTLINES THE PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTIONS

BY RAY NEWMAN



Big cities with higher population density have a skyline of tall buildings. Many of them are residential apartment blocks. While these buildings must afford nice views, parents must always look after their kids and make sure that they will never have an access to dangerous spots in apartment buildings or flats, like balconies and windows.

Fall-related child fatalities and non-fatal injuries happen globally, and the UAE is no exception. In several cases, the parents have to be held accountable for their inattention. It has become a social and security issue that weighs on the authorities' mind. With these accidents making headlines every now and then, some parents have also become apprehensive and are trying to minimise the risk.

"It was the fear of living in a high-rise with our young child that made us opt for a low-rise building," said Natasha, mother to an eight-year-old girl. She recalled that when her daughter was a toddler, the family passed up the chance to stay in the rather desirable apartment. "Though we had narrowed our then available options down to an apartment on the 20th floor of a high-rise tower that had beautiful views of the Arabian sea, we decided to sacrifice the view for the safety of our child, who had then just turned three."

She added that even now, despite not living in a high-rise and though

her daughter is now older, the family remained cautious. "We continue to stay in this mid-rise building, which is far safer for my kid. But, we still ensure that our living room and bedroom windows are locked properly at all times. In fact, we installed hook and eye safety locks for extra security," said Natasha.

Mariam, a mother of two boys and an 18-month-old girl, opted to rent an apartment without a balcony on the 10th floor of a tower block in the Capital. She was concerned that her very young children might become too curious about the outside world, and climb on to the balcony parapet. She said, "I have three kids, all of them are below five years old. They're quite eager to know about their surroundings, and the three of them often stand near the window to look out. We had thought about this before and as a precaution, we chose to take an

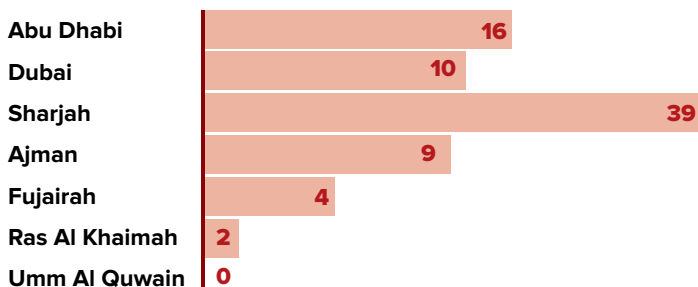
apartment without a balcony. Though we don't have the Corniche view, we still take our kids for a stroll."

PARENTS, PAY ATTENTION

In September 2018, a four-year-old Arab boy fell to his death from his apartment's balcony in Ajman. "The boy was playing with his tablet on the balcony, when he climbed a railing, lost his balance and fell to his death," according to Lt Colonel Ghaith Khalifa Al Kaabi, head of the Nuaimiya Comprehensive Police Department.

A month earlier, a five-year-old girl died after falling from the 24th floor of a building in Sharjah. She was climbing on furniture just before the accident happened. In May, a 10-year-old Arab girl fell to her death from the balcony of her family's 5th floor flat in Ajman. Following initial investigation, the police said that

RECORDED NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO FELL FROM HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS IN UAE DURING 2005-2016



Source: Study conducted by Al Ain-based Prof Michal Grivna, Director of the Institute of Public Health - College of Medicine and Health Sciences, and his team of students

“We’re keen to find radical solutions to the problem of accidents involving children in high-rise buildings. This can be done in coordination with government agencies to safeguard the community”



THABIT AL TURAIFI

Director General of
Sharjah City Municipality

the girl was alone and unsupervised at home. Her family was out shopping, returned at 3pm, and called the police when they found that the child was missing. The child had, meanwhile, been taken to the hospital after her fall –

passersby had seen her lying motionless on the ground – and the police took the family there to identify the body.

Appealing to parents to ensure that their children would always be under supervision, Lt Colonel Yahya Khalf Al Matroushi, Director-General of Al Hamidiyah Police Station, said that the 10-year-old child’s case would be referred to the court to ascertain whether or not the parents or guardians were to blame for negligence.

RADICAL SOLUTIONS

As per data released by Sharjah Police, 18 children fell to their deaths from residential towers between 2012 and 2015. Six died in 2016, and three in 2017.

“We’re keen to find radical solutions to the problem of accidents involving children in high-rise buildings. This can be done in coordination with government agencies to safeguard the community, which is one of our priorities,” said Thabit Al Turaifi, Director General of Sharjah City Municipality.

A Sharjah Municipality presentation showed that negligence by parents, stocking furniture and other objects on

“Child falls from windows and balconies are preventable. Despite many efforts by UAE authorities to enforce window and balcony safety regulations, falls do occur”



PROF MICHAL GRIVNA

Director of the Institute of Public Health,
College of Medicine and Health Sciences

balconies and near windows, and leaving windows open were some of the main reasons for children falling off buildings.

In order to check these mishaps, the Sharjah government introduced preventive measures in 2017 and also amended the technical requirements for residential windows and balconies.

The measures included increasing the height of window sills and balcony parapets to 1.2 metres, instead of 1 metre (from the floor); installing safety locks to prevent windows from opening more than 5-10 centimetres wide; using railings that children cannot climb over; and putting up a translucent acrylic barrier on balcony railings after getting municipality permit.

A recent nationwide survey conducted by the Institute of Public Health – College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Al Ain, showed that 81 per cent of the children who’ve fallen from heights in the UAE have ended up dying, underscoring the need for preventive care.

The survey found that 53 per cent of the falls involved boys with the mean age of 4.9 years – of them, 47 per cent fell from windows; and 44 per cent from balconies. The maximum number of falls were in Sharjah (39), followed by Abu Dhabi (16), Dubai (10), Ajman (nine), Fujairah (four) and Ras Al Khaimah (two), it added.

“Child falls from windows and balconies

NUMBERS CRUNCH

81%

Percentage of children fatalities related to high-rise fall in the UAE between 2005 and 2016.

53%

Percentage of high-rise falls involving young boys with the mean age of 4.9 years in the UAE.

47%

Percentage of fall incidents involving children who fell from windows in the UAE.

44%

Percentage of fall incidents involving children who fell from balconies in the UAE.

27%

Percentage of fall incidents amongst children who fell from furniture placed in a balcony or close to a window in the UAE.

72%

Cases of children fall that happened in the presence of parents in the UAE.

15/66

The survival rate of fall incidents involving children in the UAE.

Source: Study conducted by Al Ain-based Prof Michal Grivna, Director of the Institute of Public Health - College of Medicine and Health Sciences, and his team of students

are preventable. Despite many efforts by UAE authorities to enforce window and balcony safety regulations, falls do occur. There is a challenge with the turnover of the expatriate community, which needs to be constantly educated about safety risks and importance of vigilance,” said lead researcher Prof Michal Grivna, Director of the Institute of Public Health – College of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Meanwhile, the American Academy for Pediatrics, in a research on falls from heights, said that there were numerous factors that contribute to fall injuries, ranging from neurological disorders, such as seizures, developmental delay, hyperactivity and parental neglect.

Modern window screens, although easily removable to allow for escape during residential fires, are designed to keep insects out of the house and do not provide a barrier to falls. As the majority of serious injuries are related to falls from windows, the paper suggests using “child safety” window screens made of steel that can withstand 67.5 kilograms of pressure.

“ You can also start teaching them where not to climb – though they may forget if there’s something interesting outside they really want to see



KATRINA PHILLIPS

Chief Executive of Child Accident Prevention Trust

The UK-based charity, Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), warns parents to keep low furniture away from windows so that young children can’t climb up and fall out – even on the ground floor. “It’s a good idea to install window catches (to limit how far they can open) and locks if you can,” it advises.

Pre-school children are particularly susceptible to falls from a height, as they’re curious and want to see what’s happening outside, but have no real understanding of danger, states the Trust. “They can take parents by surprise by a sudden breakthrough in their development. You think they don’t climb but, before you know it, they can clamber up on furniture or haul their toy box across the floor and open a window. And accidents can happen very quickly when your back is turned or you’re distracted for a minute,” said the Trust.

It asked parents to fit window catches, locks or restrictors to stop windows opening too wide. Parents should move furniture away from windows to make it harder for small children to climb up. “Safety equipment like this takes the pressure off you. It’s often easy to fit. And you can find safety catches for all types of windows, including metal window frames and double glazing,” said Katrina Phillips, Chief Executive of CAPT. “You can also start teaching them where not to climb – though they may forget if there’s something interesting outside they really want to see,” she said.

DON’T LEAVE THEM ALONE

Codes and regulations cannot prevent falls and accidents involving balconies, windows, railings and terraces. Therefore, awareness of dangers caused by human negligence (parents and guardians) is of high importance, especially in these times of high-rise living and working spaces, according to UAE Fire & Life Safety Code of Practice. So, follow these guidelines:

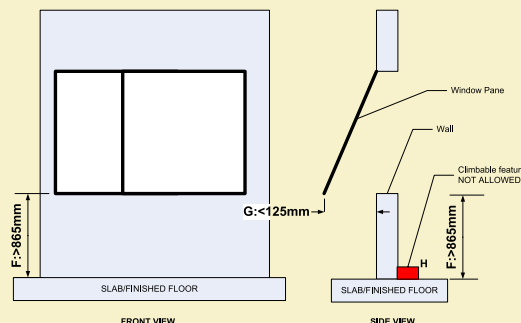
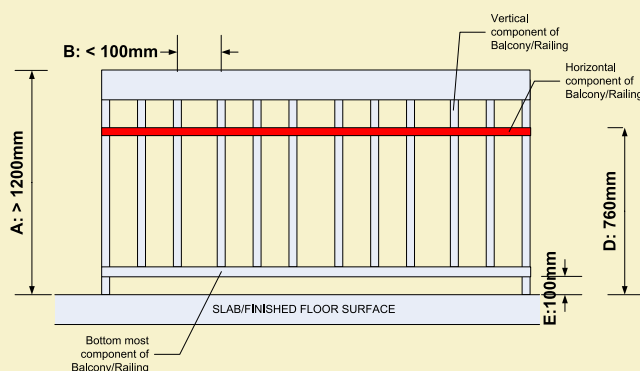
BALCONY AND RAILING SAFETY

- Never leave children, special needs people, mentally challenged, mentally unstable and elderly people unattended and unsupervised at the balconies, near windows, railings and terraces.
- Never keep furniture, bedding, articles or climbable objects near windows, balconies, railings and terraces, which can be translated into a ‘ladder’ by innocent and unwary children.
- Always lock access to terraces, balconies, railings and window panes when children, special needs people,

mentally challenged, mentally unstable and elderly people are left unattended.

WINDOW SAFETY

- Fit window locks or safety catches to stop windows opening more than 6.5 centimetres; this will stop children being able to squeeze through.
- Move furniture such as beds and chairs away from windows to stop children climbing up and falling out.



Source: UAE Fire & Life Safety Code of Practice



WOMAN'S WAVES

Dr Samar Al-Shamsi is an internationally respected artist who is renowned for her commissioned portraits of high-profile individuals, including the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, US President Barack Obama, and others.

Deep in the sea, you can find precious pearls and treasures, but you can also face ferocious killers

The sea is an amazing miraculous aspect of nature on our planet. In its presence, one feels speechless, unable to describe its magic and beauty. It has always been a source of inspiration to poets and writers who tried to touch its magic and contradicting aspects, whether when it's calm and serene or when it's rough and furious, instilling fear and awe into the hearts of people. It's this double nature that made many people compare the sea to women in their often-unpredictable nature.

When the sea is calm, one tends to entrust it with one's secrets, feelings and concerns. When the sun slowly sinks into the sea in the far-away horizon, the mere view brings indescribable emotions. Likewise, a man would resort to his loving wife to entrust her with his deepest feelings and concerns, taking refuge in her warmth, understanding and honest advice.

However, when the sea is furious and turbulent, it can terrorise people and force them to flee and escape its anger. Likewise, an angry woman, whose feelings and dignity are deeply injured, can display the other aspect of a violent, dangerous nature.

When the sea is furious and turbulent, it can terrorise people and force them to flee and escape its anger

Deep in the sea, you can find precious pearls and treasures; but you can also face ferocious killers. Women are not

different. If you treat a woman well and give her all the care and love she deserves, you will get her precious gifts of loyalty, commitment and unlimited sacrifice. But if you hurt her with your selfishness, betrayal and carelessness, you will wake up her inner beast that knows how to retaliate and take revenge.

Probably this is the reason that both seas and women were amongst the popular subjects that inspired artists and painters who depicted such common traits over the ages.

Therefore, men should always try to understand this unique nature of women and endeavour to enjoy the serene side of her nature, and the warm, tender emotions she can give whenever she feels appreciated and taken care of. Men should not injure her feelings or treat her badly because by violating this, one is likely to find himself a victim of woman's waves.

The views expressed by 999 columnists are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Interior

Know more to explore more in the Capital

THE ABU DHABI POLICE CAMPAIGN 'MY TOURISM IS SAFE' SERVES THE TWIN PURPOSE OF HELPING VISITORS TO EXPLORE THE CAPITAL AND TO PREVENT BAD BEHAVIOUR BY TRAVELLERS

BY MAHA ISMAIL



The UAE is highly regarded as an internationally important tourist destination in the world, attracting millions of visitors annually from all over the world. Abu Dhabi's stock in the tourism trade has been rising because of many advantages: increasing flight connections and an easily accessible location; a high degree of security; a cosmopolitan atmosphere with respect for heritage at its core; the superb infrastructure that's supportive of tourism; accommodation in various categories; and above all, a wide range of cultural and recreational offerings for all types of travellers.

The natural beauty of the Capital—its

beaches, deserts, oases, mountains, valleys—is as great as its cutting-edge technology-driven attractions like Ferrari World and Yas Water World. The UAE's trademark religious and cultural tolerance has helped the Capital to be the safest city in the world. For two consecutive years – 2017 and 2018 – it was ranked the safest city globally by Numbeo, a website that uses crowdsourced data.

ENTRY-TO-DEPARTURE SERVICES

The very low crime rate, the result of the efforts the Ministry of Interior and the police forces, is particularly reassuring for any visitor. In this domain, the Abu Dhabi Police General Command rolled out the campaign 'My Tourism Is Safe', in

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The very low crime rate, the result of the efforts the Ministry of Interior and the police forces, is particularly reassuring for any visitor. In this domain, the Abu Dhabi Police General Command rolled out the campaign 'My Tourism Is Safe'



Abu Dhabi Police, together with its partners in the campaign called 'My Tourism Is Safe', ensure the maximum possible rate of satisfaction of travellers through giving out guidebooks in five languages

support of the emirate's tourism sector to ensure the maximum possible rate of satisfaction and happiness of visitors of all nationalities, to offer advice for promoting safe tourism in Abu Dhabi, as well as to prevent the negative behaviours of a number of tourists.

Those that have participated in the campaign 'My Tourism Is Safe' are the Tourism Police Department of the Criminal Investigation Directorate in the Criminal Security Sector, the Community Police Department in the Community Security Sector, and the Security Media Department in the Commandship Affairs Sector in the General Command of Abu Dhabi Police.

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The activities and events concentrate on educating tourists on the prevalent culture in Emirati society, acquainting tourists with their rights

and duties in several languages



**COLONEL DR HAMOUD
SAEED AL AFARI**

Director of the Community Police
Department of Abu Dhabi Police

Colonel Imran Ahmed Al Mazroui, Director of the Criminal Investigations Directorate of the Criminal Security Sector of Abu Dhabi Police, emphasised the importance of the campaign, which enriches the tourism experience in Abu Dhabi. Under the campaign, the police offer a cluster of services to individual visitors and families from entry to departure. The presence of Tourism Police patrols has been reinforced in vital locations frequented by visitors.

Colonel Al Mazroui added that the most important services Abu Dhabi Police offer to tourists are as follows: immediate response; warm, welcoming smiles; security; community and first aid efforts; monitoring and protection; securing events and tourism and archaeological sites; receiving complaints, inquiries, comments, suggestions and following them up; and supporting local, Arab, and foreign investments in tourism.

GUIDEBOOKS AND MAPS

Through the campaign, guidebooks in five languages – Arabic, English, French,



Sample of the map that Abu Dhabi Police distributed amongst tourist to introduce 30 sites across the country

Chinese, and Urdu – with a view to explain the laws and regulations in effect in Abu Dhabi in particular, and the UAE in general were distributed. The reading materials educate tourists on acceptable behaviours for visiting beaches, using taxis and rented cars, the conditions for driving vehicles, and other facets.

Colonel Al Mazroui mentioned that tourism security requires considerable attention in the UAE. He also referred to the efforts of Abu Dhabi Police in opening permanent and temporary offices of Tourism Police to further improve the services.

Moreover, Abu Dhabi Police distributed tourism maps that introduced 30 sites across the country. Al Mazroui said that the maps were distributed at all entry points. This would serve as a reference map for visiting cultural, recreational, historical, and sports landmarks in the emirate.

Major Rashid Mohammed Al Muhairi, Head of the Tourism Police section of the Criminal Investigation Directorate of Abu Dhabi Police, said that the map promotes destinations such as the Emirates Palace Hotel, the Heritage Village, Observation Deck, Zayed Centre, Umm Al Emarat Park, Al Hosn Palace, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Eastern Mangroves Promenade, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Wahat Al Karama (Oasis of Dignity), Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Warner Bros. World, Yas Marina

Circuit, Yas Island, Yas Waterworld, Masdar City, Al Bateen Beach, Al Forsan International Sports Resort, the islands of (Al Hudayriat, Noural, Lulu, and Al Reem), shopping malls (Marina Mall, Galleria Mall, Yas Mall), and Abu Dhabi Golf Clubs, Al Ghazal Golf Club, Abu Dhabi City Golf Club, and Saadiyat Beach.

BONDS BETWEEN NATIONS

The Community Police Department in the Community Security Sector of Abu Dhabi Police organised a set of events that focused on offering advice and assistance to tourists.

Colonel Dr Hamoud Saeed Al Afari, Director of the Community Police Department of Abu Dhabi Police, underscored the importance of providing tourism security in keeping with the best international standards, thus attracting more tourists from various countries.

“The activities and events concentrate on educating tourists on the prevalent culture in Emirati society, acquainting tourists with their rights and duties in several languages, as well as spreading awareness amongst the public to acquaint them with the significance of safe tourism. These events highlight the role of tourism in creating better bonds between nations, while also introducing people to Emirati heritage,” Colonel Al Afari said.



Free brochures and leaflets being distributed to travellers at all points of entry to remind them to carry IDs at all times, and to familiarise themselves with the culture, tradition, and law of the UAE

VIOLATIONS AND CRIMES

As regards the violations and crimes that tourists might commit in Abu Dhabi and in the UAE, Major Rashid Mohammad Al Muhairi, Head of Tourism Police section of Abu Dhabi Police, stressed that educating the tourists would make it clear to them which acts are prohibited and what penalties will be imposed for committing such acts. This will keep the tourists from inadvertently violating the law and facing fines.

Major Al Muhairi added that the brochures and leaflets distributed to travellers at all points of entry explain amongst tourist to carry identification documents or cards at all times. Visitors are also asked to lock their vehicles and keep their valuable possessions away from the view of other people. Other pieces of information in between its covers are tips on selecting beaches visited by

the public and with lifeguard services, while avoiding remote beaches, and wearing modest attire in public places.

The leaflets focused on prohibitions that UAE law penalise.

1. Trespassing or taking photographs of prohibited areas
2. Possessing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
3. Practising sexual exploitation
4. Engaging in begging

Travellers are also asked to refrain from actions not in line with good public manners, and to avoid eating, drinking, and smoking in public during daytime in the month of Ramadan. Colonel Al Mazroui called upon tourists to comply with the laws and regulations of the UAE, to respect local customs and traditions, and to avoid uncivilised behaviour, so that everyone can enjoy their time in the UAE.

HELP AT HAND: AMAN SERVICE, ABU DHABI POLICE

The service takes in reports and information from tourists through a high-tech system while an advanced database enables rapid security response with a high degree of professionalism and skill.

The Aman service is a security communication line that aims to open direct communication channels with the public, involving them in safeguarding the security and stability of society. The service protects the privacy and confidentiality of the callers' data.

Aman is available in Arabic, English, and Urdu at the toll-free number **8002626**; or through text messages (**AMAN 2626**) (**2828**); or by the e-mail of the General Command of Abu Dhabi Police; by WhatsApp at the number **0568002626**; Instagram (**ADpoliceHQ**); or by e-mail (**aman@adpolice.gov.ae**).



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The brochures and leaflets distributed to travellers at all points of entry explain amongst tourist to carry identification documents or cards at all times

BAIT OF BOGUS CASH PRIZES

ALL KINDS OF SCAMMERS ARE OUT THERE TO TAKE YOUR MONEY – AND SOMETIMES, THE SCAM STARTS WITH AN OFFER OF BIG MONEY. **999** EXPLAINS HOW NOT TO FALL FOR THE BAIT

BY RAY NEWMAN

Every week, Rameez (real name withheld) is on the verge of becoming a dollar millionaire. The weekly e-mail announces his name as the winner, merely asking him to transfer a certain amount as processing fee and then wait for a big pot of cash to arrive in his bank account.

"When I first got this e-mail, I read it thoroughly and realised it was nothing more than a scam. I didn't respond at all and simply hit the delete button," said Rameez, a sales executive, who has been working in the UAE for the past two years.

A variation of this scam is the text message informing a person that they've won a million dollars or million pounds in a lottery of mobile phone numbers. Absurd though this sounds – why would there be a mobile number lottery, anyway? Still, people do fall for it, despite the awareness campaigns by law enforcement.

As recently as in November 2018, there was a report of how a woman had been fooled into transferring Dhs42,000 to a bank account with the promise of a big cash prize. In October 2018, a man was conned into paying Dhs10,000 as "processing fee" for a million-dollar "prize".

In December 2018, it was also reported in UAE media that scammers were targeting genuine lottery ticket buyers. These were people who had bought tickets, hoping to win at big lotteries. So, if they got a call saying they had won the top prize, it wouldn't be so surprising, would it? That's

exactly the idea the scammers want to exploit. The modus operandi, as the reports warned, is to tell the ticket holders that they had won, then ask for bank details etc, and then ask for that inevitable "processing fee".

Scammers keep getting more creative. People can block e-mails from suspicious IDs, but there's no stopping the flood of text messages.

"I've blocked a number of e-mail IDs, but now I often get text messages about winning a lottery or an overseas holiday. The sender asks me to contact him and share all my personal details to be able to process and release my prize. Once again, I delete these messages and block the sender," said Rameez.

Sometimes, instead of directly sending a scam message, a fraudster might try to gain the target's confidence. Dubai resident Jasmine, who hails from the Philippines, is quite active on social media and keeps getting friendship messages from strangers. She said, "Once I accepted the friendship request from a stranger, and he started sending me messages that I was a lucky winner and he wanted to transfer money to my account. He asked me to share my bank details, but requested a small online fee. I could sense something was wrong and so have blocked him."

With increasing Internet use around the world, scams have been increasing, too, and they don't stop at geographical borders. The UAE is no exception. Gullible individuals are being hoodwinked despite the

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The members of these gangs speak different languages. If the person who answers the phone speaks Arabic, he will

respond using the same language



BRIGADIER SAEED HAMAD BIN SULAIMAN

Director of Rashidiya Police Station

government authorities and private companies frequently issuing warnings and advisories.

The Dubai Police issued a warning in June 2018 against phone scammers after a rise in the number of fraud cases that costed some residents hundreds of thousands of dirhams. "People in Dubai and a nearby emirate were conned out of about Dh780,000 over the past five months by conmen who convinced them that they had won large cash prizes. Since the gang lived in a nearby place, we coordinated with the police officers there and then raided their house," said Brigadier Saeed Hamad bin Sulaiman, Director of Rashidiya Police Station, revealed that 33 fraudsters were arrested from April to May that year for tricking residents into transferring money as fees for awards they believed they had won. "The members of these gangs speak different languages. If the person who answers the phone speaks Arabic, he will respond using the same language," he said.

Meanwhile, Colonel Omar Mohammad bin Hammad, Deputy Director of the Anti-Economic Crime Department at Dubai Police, advised residents to call 901 and provide the mobile number of such con artists so they could be tracked down. "Even if a person wasn't duped by them, he or she should call 901 and provide us with the number so



The 19-member gang who were arrested in Ajman for scamming residents through the bait of bogus cash prizes

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Fraud is only considered to have occurred when the act has involved both deceit and the use of fraudulent means to obtain property or assets



KHALID AL HAMRANI

Partner and Head of Financial Crime Team at Al Tamimi & Co

we can arrest the culprits. Members of the public should be more aware of the scam. It is hard to believe that someone will win this kind of money so easily,” Col Bin Hammad said.

In December, Ajman Police announced on their Instagram page that they had arrested a 19-member gang of Asians, who were scamming residents through the bait of bogus cash prizes. The gang was involved in

enticing people with prize money of Dhs200,000, supposedly “won from a telecommunications company”, but also asking for a fee to be transferred online and details of the so-called winner’s bank account number, said Mohammed Hamad bin Yafour Al Ghafli, Deputy Director of the Criminal Investigations Department at Ajman Police.

PROTECT YOUR INFO

Al Ghafli urged the public to be wary of such scams, insisting that personal information, such as bank account details, had to be kept private at all times.

In January this year, the scam that was reported tried to get that kind of personal information out of targets. Fake job offers, sent via e-mail, SMS, or a WhatsApp message, dangled the carrot of ludicrously high salaries and tried to get users to click on a link for “further information”.

In response, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) cautioned the public: “If one clicks the link in the message, it would give away the personal information of the user. Interacting with such messages could result in your WhatsApp account being stolen.”

Khalid Al Hamrani, Partner and Head of Financial Crime at Al Tamimi & Co., explained the layman’s understanding of fraud. He said that it is an offence that involves deception; however, the

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Once there is a discovery of a fraudulent act, early legal assistance is critical to ensure the correct strategy is put in place to prevent the fraudsters and any further harm



OMAR KHODEIR

Senior Associate at Al Tamimi & Co

elements of the crime are more nuanced. “The act of fraud, under UAE law, is the act of acquiring or receiving, through fraudulent means, money, moveable goods, or immoveable real property that is owned by another person. Those means, to be fraudulent, have to convince the victim to surrender the money, goods, or property to the offender,” Al Hamrani said. He added that: “While deception is a necessary aspect of fraud, it is not sufficient in and of itself to establish the offence. Fraud is only considered to have occurred when the act has involved both deceit and the use of fraudulent means to obtain property or assets.”

Meanwhile, Omar Khodeir, Senior Associate at Al Tamimi, said that the Cyber Law is the main law of the land which tackles crimes occurring through the Internet or online platforms. He explained that: “Once there is a discovery of a fraudulent act, early legal assistance is critical to ensure the correct strategy is put in place to prevent the fraudsters and any further harm.”

UAE police authorities continue to educate the public to be wary of such scams, reiterating that sensitive personal information, such as bank account details, should be kept private all the time, and that in case they are targeted by a scammer, they should report it immediately.

WHAT TO DO WHEN TARGETED BY A SCAMMER?

Call 901 immediately and provide the mobile number of the con artist so he/she could be tracked down by police authorities



BE PREPARED AND BEWARE OF THESE SCAMS

WHATSAPP HACKING SCAM

TRA has urged all not to respond to any “troubleshooting” messages from unknown sources on WhatsApp. The message supposedly signed by the “WhatsApp Support Team” reads: “After scanning to our servers, we found that your account is not confirmed and it will be deleted because someone is claiming to have that account.”

It further claims that an authentication

code has been sent to the registered mobile number to confirm that account’s authenticity. The user is asked to send the code back on the same chat to “verify” the account, or else the WhatsApp account will be closed within 24 hours. TRA states that the WhatsApp application does not correspond with users via text, warning that communicating with such messages could result in your WhatsApp account being hacked.



GET ‘FREE’ TICKETS



Emirates airline has cautioned the public not to participate in an online survey scam in return for free tickets. People are being sent links to a fake Emirates website and asking them to answer a survey.

The airline warns the public against such links. “Emirates has become aware of fraudulent websites purporting to

offer free airline tickets to those who take an online survey. We advise anyone not to click on any links or share these links on social media. Emirates is investigating the source of the scam and will take appropriate legal action against the perpetrators, the airline said in a statement.

ADVANCE FEE SCAM

The Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA), an entity within the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), has issued an advisory against an advance fee scam. The scammers use a false loan agreement document that displays the DIFC logo and the name of the DIFC governor, assuring loans of up to \$125 million (Dhs458.75mn) provided a handling fee of \$10,000 (Dhs36,729) is paid along with \$400,000 (Dhs1,469,192) for meeting the expenses required to facilitate

the loan. These are refundable, once the deal is done, states the e-mail.

The scam artists also use a fake DIFC letter, purportedly from the DIFC’s “Loan Committee”, in their effort to make the offer “visually genuine”. The DFSA states that consumers should bear in mind that the DIFC does not provide loans, hence it doesn’t collect any fees or charges in relation to any financing. It has advised individuals to not respond to any communication regarding the scam, and under no circumstances transfer any money to any party involved in the scam.



MONEY TRANSFER SCAM



The Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) has warned customers and people against responding to scams using its name. People are being informed that the firm’s account number has been changed and the money transfers should be made to the new account number.

ENOC has asked residents to contact them on 800 ENOC Ethic (800 3662 38442) or www.enoc.ethicspoint.com in order to check the authenticity of the communication. The oil major has also urged people to beware of recruitment, advance fee and grants/rewards scam.



HOW TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED?

- 1 Check the relevant regulatory agency's website to see if the company you are dealing with is listed and regulated. You can even contact the regulator to verify whether the company is regulated.
- 2 Do general searches (e.g. on Google) to see what information can be found out about the company you are dealing with.
- 3 Only deal with people you trust. Dealing with individuals you have never met carries a higher risk.
- 4 Get independent advice before entering into a transaction, or get a second opinion from a trusted friend.
- 5 Keep paperwork safe. When entering into any new relationship, ensure you maintain records of all paperwork you receive and keep records of all your meetings and conversations. This will assist in the event that you need to take any action.
- 6 If you receive an offer of an amazing deal out of the blue, don't believe it. If it seems too good to be true, then it is probably a scam.

Source: Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA)

THREE WAYS TO DETECT A SCAM

- 1 Fraudsters usually ask targets to respond quickly or risk missing out.
- 2 Fraudsters usually request targets to keep business proposals etc confidential.
- 3 Fraudsters usually communicate only via e-mail and telephone with a reluctance or a refusal to meet in person.

Source: ENOC

WHOM TO CONTACT

ABU DHABI POLICE

The Department of Security Information of Abu Dhabi Police has constantly been warning residents not to be duped by fake messages that encourage users to share an activation code in order to gain access to their bank accounts.

In case of any suspicious message, residents may send an e-mail to aman@adpolice.gov.ae, or an SMS to **2828**, or by calling the toll free number **800 2626**.

DUBAI POLICE

Dubai Police provide a service by which bank clients can report suspicious or criminal behaviour.

Dubai Police have an Economic Crimes Combating Department, which the public can directly reach by calling **+971 4 203 6341**.





Ali Obaid is a veteran Emirati commentator and writer on local issues; he currently heads the News Centre at Dubai Media Incorporated

THIS IS NOT WHO WE ARE

The man who made a viral video before a UAE-India football match hasn't respected the spirit of tolerance and friendship that underpins this society

It was expected that the authorities would intervene and put a stop to the actions committed by those considered to be supporters of the UAE team. These actions include the video clip that went viral before the game between the UAE and India in the AFC Asian Cup, held in Abu Dhabi in early January. The clip shows a person detaining a few people of apparently Asian nationalities inside a bird cage, forcing them to say that they would support the UAE – because they live in this country – and not India during the match.

What this person has done goes beyond humour – if humour was the aim – and it represents something that is insulting to the people of the UAE. It is an even greater insult to us than to the nation of India, a country for which our people harbour deep respect, friendship, and appreciation, and with which old relations exist, going back to a time even before the UAE was founded, before oil appeared in this land, before this region knew the progress we now witness.

Unfortunately, some malevolent satellite television channels exploited the clip, and promoted it with hostility towards us.

The behaviour of this person certainly does not truly manifest the morals of our people, our values, or our respect for others who live here or with whom we are connected by human relations and common interests.

India, in particular, has a special place in the hearts of Emiratis, for they have known it and journeyed to it since olden times for commerce, medical treatment, and tourism. Indeed, some of the sons of the UAE travelled to India to receive education when there were no official schools in the country, and when there were no colleges or universities. Some of those that returned from India became distinguished figures in the

UAE after the establishment of the state.

Hence, the public prosecution was right when it summoned the person responsible for the video clip, given that his conduct is a crime punishable by UAE law. The General Command of Sharjah Police was right to deal with the matter with seriousness.

In the fifth principle of Dubai's eight defining principles of governance declared by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, it was emphasised that our society is distinguished by work, discipline, compliance with pledges, and

respect for time. Furthermore, His Highness said that we are modest in times of success, perseverant when facing challenges, spreaders of good and benevolence, and open to all. We aim for a society in which respect prevails, and all its components are connected by a spirit of tolerance, while shunning racism and discrimination.

We are surprised that some do not know those principles that our leaders emphasise, and how they do not apply them while living in Emirati society. We are even more surprised for them to act in this fashion at a time when we are in the 'Year of Tolerance'. Do they not see the leaders and people of this nation manifesting the

most splendid examples of tolerance?

Social media has become a means for those seeking fame. However, the UAE recognised from the start that some would exploit this platform to gain recognition at the expense of the homeland's reputation and, accordingly, it embarked on enacting laws to combat discrimination and hatred.

The person who shot this video debased himself, and showed that he is oblivious to the good seeds of this country and the noble legacy of Sheikh Zayed, the founding father.

The UAE recognised from the start that some would exploit social media to gain recognition at the expense of the homeland's reputation

The views expressed by 999 columnists are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Interior

Time to ride out

ENJOY THE COOL WEATHER WATCHING EQUESTRIAN EVENTS,
TAKING IN THE BEST OF THE ARTS, HELPING THE PLANET, AND
DINING ON SOME PERFECT MEALS

BY HS PARAMITA

Get into the gallop

Some of the best horsemanship is on display for the HH Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan 13th International Equestrian Festival 2019. Apart from a number of races, there will be the HH Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan Endurance Cup CEI3 240 km ride, which will take place over three days. There are CEN 120km Junior and young riders' race as well as the CEN 100km ladies' ride. The event is being organised by the Emirates Heritage Club in collaboration with the Emirates Equestrian Federation.

Where: Boudheib International Endurance Village

When: February 13-16

Entry: Free

Contact: www.boudheib.ae



www.boudheib.ae



visitabudhabi.ae

Looking back

A retrospective of Abdul Qader Al Rais, hailed as one of the most influential artists in the country, will present the full range of his works, several of which have never been seen before. Titled Abdul Qader Al Rais: 50 Years of Art, the show will feature works that preserve the cultural memory of the UAE, which has served as a backdrop for his art. The exhibition is divided into themes that trace his growth from a self-taught artist to his Arabic calligraphy in an ongoing series, called Hurufiyyat, to his political and social stances.

Where: Manarat Al Saadiyat

When: Till March 23

Entry: Free

Contact: +971 2 6575800

Spot the nurdle

Nurdles, small plastic pellets used in the manufacturing of plastic products, are a bane of the environment. The Great Nurdle Hunt allows you to have fun while cleaning the Park Hyatt Saadiyat beach. The beach clean-up will be combined with fun – the volunteers will compete in teams – and education about the harmful impact of plastic on the planet.

Where: Park Hyatt Beach, Saadiyat Island

When: February 16, 8-11am

Entry: Free

Contact: +971 2 6286868



nyuad.nyu.edu



visitabudhabi.ae

Write way

What role did Abu Dhabi play in safeguarding and publishing works of Arab heritage? Find out at the first-ever conference dedicated entirely to manuscripts. The exhibition features a magnificent array of manuscripts that highlight the UAE's culture and history. The event aims to make people aware and strengthen cultural ties with Arab manuscript centres around the world.

Where: Manarat Al Saadiyat

When: Till February 15

Entry: Free

Contact: +971 2 6575800



nyuad.nyu.edu

Musings on self

Wayne McGregor, the celebrated choreographer, is now looking at the body as an archive, as he embarks on works that are informed by the sequencing of his own genome. The first of these is Autobiography, which emerges as an abstract meditation on the self, life and writing, amongst others.

Where: The Red Theatre, New York University

When: February 7-8

Entry: www.nyuad-artscenter.org

Contact: +971 2 6286868

Melodies from Russia

Some of the best-known Russian masterpieces will be performed when NSO music director Andrew Berryman takes the stage for a concert, titled Russian Symphonic Classics. Listen to Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major, Mussorgsky's powerful Night on Bald Mountain and excerpts from Pictures at an Exhibition, and the exquisitely romantic melody of Khachaturian's Adagio from Spartacus, among others.

Where: Emirates Palace

When: February 8

Entry: Dhs125-375

Contact: +971 2 6909000



nyuad.nyu.edu



Sound of music

Set off on a voyage to explore the Arab, Moorish, and North African roots of Afro-Latin and Afro-Cuban music, and its links to the seafaring music of the Arabian Gulf. The Cuban-Khaleeji Project, which will have its world premiere, features Afro-Latin jazz innovator Arturo O'Farrill, the Grammy-winning Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, and a number of special guests.

Where: The Red Theatre, New York University

When: February 14

Entry: www.nyuad-artscenter.org

Contact: +971-2-628-6868

Comfort food

It's rare for a new restaurant to become a habit, but that's what Philadelphia has managed – its pizzas and shawarmas are bringing clients back repeatedly. Also on the Middle Eastern menu are sandwiches, wraps, salads, cold and fresh starters, such as hummus, and hot and fresh starters including mozzarella sticks, fries and cheese rolls. The grills range from tikka to kebabs. Wash it down with tea, coffee or juices while you dig into desserts such as Nutella wrap or fruit salad.

Where: Level 1, Food Court, Abu Dhabi Cooperative Society, Al Mina

When: 9am-11:30pm


Cost for two: Dhs90

Contact: +971 2 6655335



www.facebook.com/pg/philadelphiauae

May you learn to love yourself



HAVING TIME FOR OURSELVES ENHANCES
OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE
AND MAKES US MORE PRODUCTIVE. HERE'S
HOW TO RECHARGE AND RESET

BY DIPALI GUHA

SING ALONG WITH FREDDIE MERCURY

The film *Bohemian Rhapsody*, the biopic of Queen frontman Freddie Mercury, was the biggest blockbuster of winter 2018, raking in more than \$700 million (Dhs2.6 billion) worldwide by the end of the year. That momentum has carried over to 2019, with singalong screenings of the movie in the United Kingdom, where the legendary singer lived.

Going by his lyrics, Freddie Mercury was always looking for love; in interviews, he did speak of how he liked to write about love. Set up your own playlist of Freddie's – and Queen's, since the band's lead guitarist Brian May also often wrote about love – most amazing songs: *Love of My Life* (1975); *Somebody to Love* (1976); *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* (1979); *Las Palabras de Amor* (The Words of Love) (1982); *I Was Born to Love You* (1985); and *Love Me Like There's No Tomorrow* (1985).



SURROUND YOURSELF WITH LOTS OF YOUR LOVE IN A SELFIE

Take your pick from the hearts at Dubai's Miracle Garden – there are more of those than you know what to do with. So, grab a selfie at the Hearts Passage or with any of the other giant floral hearts scattered across the garden and earn some social media love.

www.dubaimiraclegarden.com

BAKE SOME HEARTS

Yes, this is the month of all things sweet and cloying. Even if you're a baking novice, here's a great excuse to try making heart-shaped cookies. You need the following tools and ingredients: a microwave oven; a heart-shaped cookie-cutter; slightly softened butter (100g); sugar (50g); milk (1 tbs); flour (175g); cocoa powder (2-3 tbs); a pinch of salt. Mix everything and stir and knead until it's at the consistency of plasticine aka play dough; pour a little more milk, if need be, but you don't want to make it too gooey. Now roll the cookie dough into small balls, and then flatten each dough ball with anything handy, even the bottom of a steel bowl will do. When the flattened cookie dough is ready, use the cookie-cutter to make heart shapes from the dough. Put together the leftover dough from the edges to make roughly shaped cookies. Bung everything into the microwave and cook for 5 minutes. If the microwave has a 'bake' option, then you're sorted. Or else you'll need to fiddle with the controls a bit – too high



of temperature will make the cookies too dry, so to keep the moisture in, choose medium heat. Finally, eat them with friends – it's the best part.



WATCH A ONE-OF-A-KIND FILM

Cookies, a favourite drink, and an amazing movie. A date with yourself doesn't get better than this. For a change, skip the usual rom-coms and go for an intense classic: the 1986 film *Out of Africa*, starring the mesmerising Meryl Streep and the gorgeous Robert Redford. It's a story that's unique, and all the more captivating because it's true.

BUY A LITTLE BAUBLE

Don't wait for a present. Go get one. Nothing expensive. A fun brooch, tie pin, or bracelet can bring a big smile to your face. Indeed, a little 'love lock' charm on a bracelet will make your friends' and colleagues' eyes pop out a bit. Just keep them guessing!



Did you know?

We all go through hectic schedules or deadlines that often lead to stress. Studies suggest that the antidote for that is a little self-love. Fuschia M Sirois of Bishop's University in Canada found through her study, which was published in *Self Identity*, that self-compassion can reduce the level of stress that causes people to procrastinate. It was revealed that extending kindness to oneself helps a person recognise the downside of the habit without putting him/her in a negative thought spiral. Further analysis revealed that procrastination might increase levels of stress—particularly amongst people low in self-compassion.



“I KILLED MY CHILD”

WHETHER THROUGH CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE OR EXTREME
CRUELTY, THESE MEN AND WOMEN SNUFFED OUT THE LIVES
OF THEIR CHILDREN

BY DIPALI GUHA



WHO: SAMUEL SUNDAY
WHERE: BAYELSA, NIGERIA
WHEN: JANUARY 2019

A man was arrested for poisoning all his sons – three of them – with an insecticide called Sniper, apparently on the suspicion that the boys were practising witchcraft and were responsible for his illness. Two of the sons died; the third named Success, 14, survived and recorded his statement. Samuel Sunday and his brother Aya Preye allegedly tied up his sons, and forced them to drink the insecticide. Police said that both would be charged with murder – the two victims were called Miracle, 12, and God's Time, 10. According to the News Agency of Nigeria,



Success, 14, survivor on hospital bed

Sunday was divorced, and his children lived with their grandmother for a while before this incident.

WHO: LIAM DEANE
WHERE: WAKEFIELD, WEST YORKSHIRE, UK
WHEN: JULY 2017

Not everyone who's biologically able to have to a child isn't always fit to be a parent. That was clear from the case of Liam Deane, 22, who punched and violently shook his two-day-old baby daughter. That's right, she's an absolute newborn.

The little baby, Luna, was with her father while her mother took a nap. When the baby cried, and kept crying, Deane drove his fist into her face, shook her, squeezed her – she didn't stand a chance in the face of such an attack. Doctors at the intensive care unit where she died reported that she had "catastrophic brain injuries". During a police interview, the father admitted to the attack; he was convicted of murder and sent to prison.

While Deane was in prison, another inmate, named John



West Yorkshire Police

Liam Deane, the father who killed his daughter because she wouldn't stop crying

Westland, 29, killed him. Not that Westland himself was a paragon; he was in jail for rape and grievous bodily harm. For Deane's murder, Westland was given a life sentence, with at least 19 years to serve.

WHO: CLAIRE BARNETT
WHERE: BEVERLEY, EAST YORKSHIRE, UK
WHEN: MARCH 2014

Busy on Facebook, Claire Barnett, 31, didn't notice that her son, two-year-old Joshua, had fallen into the garden pond. It took just minutes for Joshua to drown. Eventually, Claire noticed the accident and called for help, and took the boy to the hospital, but it was too late.

During the investigations, it came out that Claire had always been a neglectful mother. At first, she gave the police a variety of stories on what happened in the garden. It was revealed that some months earlier, in August 2013, she had let Joshua, then an infant, play outside on the road. At that time, her neighbours had called social services, seeing the little boy getting almost run over.

Sentencing her to five years in prison for child cruelty, the judge referred to her "bad parenting" and told Claire that she was a danger to any child for whom she took responsibility. The judge said, "Your son died due to your neglectful conduct. You will have to live with that for the remainder of your life."



WHO: BEN BUTLER
WHERE: SUTTON, LONDON, UK
WHEN: OCTOBER 2013

A violent man who was first treated leniently by a judge eventually killed his six-year-old daughter. He got a life term, but it was too late. Ben Butler had his daughter Ellie returned to his care, from the child's grandparents, after a custody battle. Just 11 months later, she had been killed; her father had inflicted severe head injuries on her.

In 2009, Butler had been convicted of violently shaking the little girl – Ellie would have been about two years old then – but this conviction was quashed in the Family Court, where the judge exonerated him, seeing him as a victim of the miscarriage of justice. At that time, the child's grandfather, who had cared for the baby, had raised objections, and warned of more violence from Butler, but the Family Court set him free. In the 2013 incident, the child's mother Jennie Gray was found guilty of distorting the course of justice. The killer father got 23 years in jail, while the mother got 42 months.





THE BRUTAL STRANGER

AN UNSUSPECTING YOUNG WOMAN ANSWERS
A KNOCK ON THE DOOR, ONLY TO HAVE THE
WORST EXPERIENCE OF HER LIFE

BY WAGIH HASSAN

When lust, greed, absence of reason, and lack of moral, educational, and religious restraints come together, a human being turns into a ferocious and uncontrollable creature, looking for any prey to attack in order to satisfy his inferior desire.

That's what happened one day, when 29-year-old Mane'a left his 25-year-old wife Geitha'a alone at home as usual, heading out for his electrical and sanitary appliances store, which he managed with his brother. It was a typical day, and the wife was at home on her own before midday. Then, she heard a few light knocks on the front door. She rushed to answer the door, thinking that it was her brother Khalfan, whom she was expecting.

But as soon as she opened the door, she was stunned – there was a stranger at her threshold; a stranger who had wrapped a cloth around his face, leaving only the eyes and the forehead visible. In an instant, he pounced on her, holding a knife in his right hand. With his other hand, the intruder grabbed the woman – he was strong – and threatened to kill her if she shouted, screamed, or resisted.

He dragged Geitha'a further inside the house, pulling her by the hair, and heading towards the bedroom. While dragging her, he also kept hitting her, trying to weaken her. The poor woman, scared out of her wits and injured from his assault, couldn't fight back.

But still, she screamed and tried to resist. Unfortunately, the house was in a relatively newly built neighbourhood, and there was no one around to hear her cries for help – her screams were also not audible to anyone outside because the criminal had shut the bedroom door, having dragged her in, and clamped his hand over her mouth.

Having subdued her, the intruder tried to tear her clothes off and tried to rape her, ignoring her objection and strong resistance. He stripped off his own clothes with one hand; the other hand kept the knife blade close to her face. His intention was to frighten her into letting him do what he wanted; but she just wouldn't give in to his lust.

Frustrated, the intruder held the knife to her throat and wanted to know where all her jewellery was kept. If she didn't tell him, death was inevitable, he warned her.

The frightened woman pointed to the wooden closet, without uttering a word. She was shaking from head to toe.

Her assailant opened the wardrobe,

took out the jewellery box and found it completely empty. The criminal dropped the box – he was agitated and furious.

The box happened to be empty because Mane'a, the husband, took the jewellery that morning, with the consent and knowledge of his wife, because he urgently needed money.

The criminal realised that there was nothing he'd get in the house; he rushed out of the front door, leaving his victim in a state of nervous breakdown.

“

Her assailant opened the wardrobe, took out the jewellery box and found it completely empty. The criminal dropped the box – he was agitated and furious

Despite her extreme distress, Geitha'a somehow managed to call her husband, and said in a faint voice filled with fear, "Come quickly please. I am scared. Do not be late. It is very dangerous."

Mane'a rushed back, and found his wife crying, semi-naked, in a pitiful state. "What happened? Tell me what happened? Why are you crying? For God's sake, tell me what happened, what's the story, my precious one?" he kept asking, but his wife only cried even more.

The husband was doing his best to wipe her tears and to understand what has happened. "Why is she almost naked?" "Why is the empty jewellery box tossed on the floor near the door?" "Why is the bed messed up?" Many questions raced through his mind, as his eyes took in the state of the room.

Mane'a called his in-laws, asking them to come over immediately for a serious matter. His parents came, and Geitha'a then revealed everything. After they calmed her down, her father and husband suggested immediately going to the police.

They did so, and the victim was sent by the police for a medical test. The report said that "there are abrasions on her face,

upper chest, neck, and other parts of her body; but there is nothing to confirm the occurrence of rape".

Meanwhile, officers of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) were working on several fronts at a rapid pace. They noticed a number of construction workers building a new house next to the victim's house. They deduced, based on their long experience, that one of the workers might have an association with the crime. All the workers – about 10 of them – were brought to the police station for interrogation. At the same time, the victim was called in for an identification parade.

The head of CID at the police station, Major Khalid, ordered that the suspects be lined up, so that Geitha'a could identify the criminal, assuming he was there. She took a close look at all of them; and then suddenly, she stood in front of one worker, and screamed, "That's him, sir! He is the criminal. I remember his clothes, his appearance, and forehead."

The victim asserted that this particular worker was her assailant – she knew this because though he had hidden his face when he attacked her, the mole on his forehead had been visible. That distinguishing feature helped her identify the intruder.

Geitha'a then lodged a complaint in the form of a personal action against the accused, a 35-year-old worker called Shamel.

It turned out that he had previously worked in the victim's house almost a year ago. Then, while he worked on the construction of the nearby house, Shamel watched the movements of the husband and wife. One day, unleashing his abominable thoughts, he decided to attack and rape the young woman.

When in court, Shamel initially denied his crime; he denied knowing the victim at all. However, a background check confirmed that he did work on the construction of the house where Mane'a and Geitha'a lived.

The victim confirmed to the court that the accused, who stood in the dock, was the same person who had broken into her house. She confirmed the beating, the rape attempt, and the robbery attempt at knifepoint.

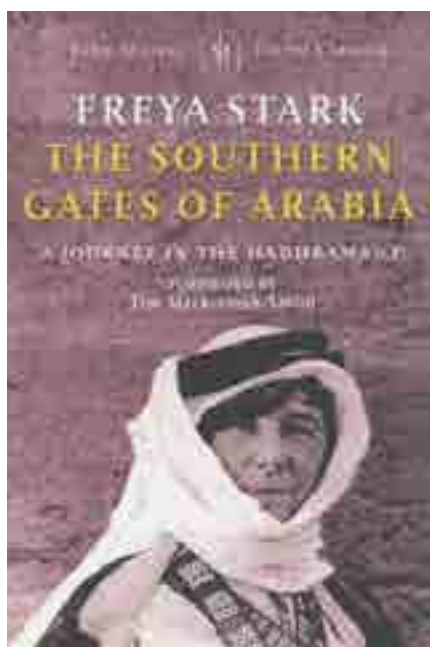
Shamel had been sentenced guilty of two criminal offences: attempt to rape by force and threatening, and incomplete attempted aggravated burglary. He was sent to prison, to be followed by deportation, and also asked to pay a fine to the victim as compensation for material and moral damages.



So near, yet so far

BRITISH WRITER AND EXPLORER FREYA STARK COULDN'T FULFIL HER DREAM OF DISCOVERING THE CITY OF SHABWA, FALTERING AT THE END, BUT WHAT SHE SAW DURING HER QUEST WAS WONDROUS, TOO

BY DR FALIH HANDHAL



We continue the story of the explorations of Freya Stark, a British writer and adventurer, who learned Arabic and read the Quran as a student, and then visited the Middle East and North Africa, as well as India and China.

Our last chapter ended with Stark's goodbye to her host in Al-Makalla: "When I decided to leave, I went early in the morning to thank Prince Salem bin Ahmad bin Al-Qe'eti. His wife contemplated me with velvety beautiful eyes. I completed what I had to do in order to head for the town of Do'an."

Before we go into what Stark said about her journey, we say that Do'an is located in a valley bearing its name. During the reign of the Al-Qe'eti Sultanate, the name of the area became Do'an District; a number of villages, most notably Hajarain and Meshed, are spread across the foothills of the valley.

Going back to her travels, we say, "The Al-Qe'eti Sultan had arranged a car for Freya to move around in and ordered one of his bodyguards to accompany and protect her and look after her. In addition, he provided her with the food needed for her journey. At first, she arrived at the village of Thile, located behind Makalla Mountain, where she met the 'Mansab' Muhammad ibn Ahmad ba'Omar, a descendant of Sheikh Sa'id bin Isa Amudi. The 'Mansab' is a title or position for masters (sadah) and senior clerics who

are considered authorities in religious and social matters and they are devoted to worship. This status was mentioned in the book titled al-Mansab, with an 's' and not a heavy 's' (Sadh), and we have corrected it."

Stark wrote: "Then the 'Mansab' came to us and took us all to the house. The faces of the 'Mansab', his two sons, and his little grandson had charming expressions of kindness. They sat down and spoke as they drank coffee mixed with ginger. The house, which is used for hosting the Bedouins who come to their spiritual leader for help or counsel, was old.

"The next morning, we left the town heading for Do'an across a mountainous terrain; we arrived after three or four days. Before reaching Do'an, we arrived at the castle of Masna'a and passed through the gate; a welcoming shot was fired. Then, they led us by a narrow passage into a pillared and whitewashed room, where the Governor Muhammad Ba Surra and his brother Ahmad stood to welcome me, surrounded by their tribal retinue holding rifles. We all sat on the ground and drank coffee.

“

I SPENT TWELVE DAYS WITH THE BA SURRA AND GOT TO KNOW THEM WELL, AND IT WOULD BE HARD TO FIND A MORE CHARMING FAMILY ANYWHERE. THE TWO BROTHERS LIVE TOGETHER IN THE FORTRESS IN HARMONY, SHARING THE WEIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT BETWEEN THEM

"I spent twelve days with the Ba Surra and got to know them well, and it would be hard to find a more charming family anywhere. The two brothers live together in the fortress in harmony, sharing the weight of the government between them. Their people

love them and say, 'Ba Surra, our father.'

"The houses of Do'an are all more or less alike, with rooms supported by intricately carved wooden pillars. Then, Ahmad, the Governor's brother, took me to see the building of his new palace, where the builders were singing as they slapped the slabs of mud and straw into the mud foundation. After that, I met Muhammad's wife, who is the lady of the castle, who was still beautiful, decorated with necklaces, so smiling in an air of prosperity and favour, though her daughter Nur had been married for several years.

"When I met Nur, she became my chief friend and companion when I visited the harem, and she used to bring my food and sit and talk to me. She had a charming nature and kindness to anyone who came. Her husband had left her three years ago to work abroad, as most of the men of Hadhramaut do, and he used to write to her with every third or fourth ship that touched the coast. As this was the first time she was left alone, she was staying with her family.

"None of the women I met could read; they would cook, and any number of tribesmen would turn up to eat at any time. Most of the time, they call on each other from one house to the other in the fortress.

"When I met them in the room of the mother of Ahmad, each woman kissed her hand and sometimes her head. No men were allowed to enter these private rooms without warning. However, the two Governors used to come into my room, fluttering the women in flight before them. On one occasion, they brought with them Sayyid Muhammad ibn Yassin, an old cotton merchant. Another guest was there, an old man who had worked with the British and had been made Khan Bahadur for keeping order, after which he retired and settled in private life. He told me his story, and how he closely followed political affairs in this country, and about the Italians who were preparing for their Abyssinian venture.

"One day, Muhammad took me to see his bees and how they live in a pipe made of mud, covered with blankets to keep it warm, and closed from one end, with some small holes, where honey is collected in baskets. The honey of Hadhramaut is famous and is exported in round tins, and has a rich and heavy flavour, due no doubt to the 'ilb' trees,



Seiyun, Yemen

whose blossom is the bees' chief food."

Stark continued her writings, mentioning that she caught a serious disease in Do'an and was taken care of; when she recovered, she was ready to travel again.

JOURNEY TO HAJARAIN

Freya Stark left the town of Do'an on horseback with a guarded convoy arranged by Sultan Ahmad Ba Surra, the co-governor of Do'an. The explorer described her ride to Hajarain: "Across the valley, the towns on either side faded into the rocks. The fields were empty, waiting for the floodwater or torrent (seil) which takes the place of rain; the earth lay in hard clods turned over by the peasants to a depth of about two metres where they would grow millet; and many dry channels were dug.

"Next, we met a deputy of Sultan Ba Surra, rested, and then continued our journey until we reached the town of Ghaidun, where the shrine of Ahmad ibn Isa, the grandfather of the Mansab, is. I would have stopped to visit it if I had not felt so ill. We went on with our ride, heading north. As the sun set, we saw the rock of Hajarain before us. Hajarain appeared as a shape of blackness, showing only one light on the hill. We walked towards it and saw a number of

“
HE LENT ME HIS HORSE
TO VISIT THE ANCIENT
RUINED CITY, WHICH
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SHARDS OF POTTERY,
SLIPS OF FLINT, AND
OBSIDIAN, WHERE
BEADS OF CARNELIAN
WERE SCATTERED IN
INCREDIBLE NUMBERS

hives that cordoned the town's wells.

"Then we arrived at a studded gate and a high threshold, we knocked and heard a shouting within; they were expecting us. They opened the gate and led us to where the representative of the Governor of Makalla stood by the mosque to welcome us. The mosque also had a well with a beehive roof

and a square, then circular, and then another square minaret, which is the most ancient type found in Hadhramaut. The Sayyid came up and led me to the inner rooms of the harem and gave me the ladies' own apartment.

"In the morning, the notables came to visit me. They rose with respect when the Mansab of Meshed, Sheikh Ahmad al-Attas, entered. He ruled the valley below Hajarain, where the jurisdiction of Makalla ends. He came in regally, voluminous in a green velvet gown with a yellow turban on his head; in his hand, he had a silver-headed cane. He was humble, with the ease of sure authority and a manner parentally affectionate. He told me about the history of the place where the grandfather of the Mansab settled, a holy man called Hasan al-Attas. His bronze carved tomb lies with three others under three white domes.

"Then, he lent me his horse to visit the ancient ruined city, which stretches over a large area in uneven mounds with dull red or black shards of pottery, slips of flint, and obsidian, where beads of carnelian were scattered in incredible numbers. On the tops of several hillocks are ruined walls. When my visit was over, I decided to leave by car."

The traveller went on talking about her trip, though names, facts, and events were



Hadhramaut Mountains

mixed up; and moved from one place to another; and talked about one sultan then another; and gave examples with strange facts that were unrelated to the subject. Therefore, we will limit ourselves to excerpts of her writings about the towns that she passed through before she arrived in Shibam, where her journey ended.

TOWN OF SEIYUN

Seiyun was known to be the capital of the Al-Kathiri Sultanate that we talked about in the previous chapter. About the town, Stark said, "Seiyun stretched inside a large bay on the farthest side of the valley between palm trees and wheat, and its gardens were filled with birds. Sayyids from Al-Kaf took me to the house of the Sultan.

"The town is the most delightful of towns with houses rich with every variety of delicate lacework, and the drains are all covered. The Sultan, Ali ibn Mansur, is a middle-aged, comfortable and kind man. In the palace, there is a telephone; and beyond the palace is the palace of Sayyid Abu Bekr Al-Kaf, which was still under construction with gardens to be copied from Europe. Then, we left for the town of Tarim."

TOWN OF TARIM

When Stark arrived in the town of

Tarim, she started to talk about the town and the Al-Kaf Sayyids. Here are some excerpts from her book: "Tarim is proud of its faithfulness, and is still the city of religion par excellence in a country which is all considered a stronghold of religion in Islam. Tarim is said to have 360 mosques. Moreover, Al-Kaf Sayyids are broadminded and progressive and their noble tradition of hospitality attracts all Europeans to them.

"In the house of Sayyid Abu Bekr, I enjoyed the luxuries of civilisation in a guest room enclosed in four doors and eight windows of coloured glass. I learned that they are forty families, all rich and beneficent. They run the Sultanate, schools, trade, and the army. They have minted a small coinage, which has a local value. I met many pleasant people there and was invited to the Shabab youth club, headed by Sayyid Omar, and there I answered questions about the education of women.

"A man rose to make a speech to welcome me as the first woman from Europe to travel alone. I was touched by the well-chosen kindness of his words. Then, I visited a private school for the children of Al-Kaf. Next morning, the brother and nephew of Sayyid Abu Bekr came to see me off, and I was sorry to leave them all. We left the town in a car heading for the town of Shibam."

BREAKDOWN IN SHIBAM

Stark left Tarim by car on her way to Shibam, as the last stop before visiting the legendary destroyed city of Shabwa. When she arrived in Shibam, she felt the symptoms of a severe disease. She wrote: "I was losing my strength little by little, and thought I had little time left. I was afraid of fainting and being buried alive. One day, while I lay very ill, a Bedouin from the town of Qatn came to see me and said to me: 'Allah heal you; Allah restore you; and bestow good upon you. No good comes but from Allah, may He be praised and exalted.' It was a beautiful blessing, said so earnestly. I was unable to give him anything, for I could not rise.

"One day, I heard a buzzing sound. There were four Royal Air Force planes coming from the southeast, circling and landing east of the city. Then Dr Thwayte made his way to my place, where he found me too ill. The next day, they strapped me into a stretcher, laid me into a car, and drove me to the plane. The pilot welcomed me; and after five hours we landed in Aden."

Here, the story of this adventurous woman, the traveller, ends. She returned to London to write this story, without realising her dream of discovering the city of Shabwa, which she considered to be the capital of the Kingdom of Sheba.

TAKE A PEEK AT THE NEWEST MUST-HAVE HIGH-TECH ELECTRONIC DEVICES

IT'S RAINING HI-TECH TVS

Television set manufacturers are working harder and harder to give you better quality picture — we have 8K television sets now, which means picture quality is twice as good as 4K, which in turn is supposed to be four times as good as full high-definition. Never mind that 4K content is still rare and 8K content is not available yet. We can always prepare for the future, right? Other kinds of technology are at work, too, when it comes to your home theatre experience. Take a look, then, at these ambitious television sets that would give your drawing room a big shot of glamour.

SONY MASTER SERIES Z9G 8K LCD TV

Old favourite Sony is putting some huge screens out there; the Z9G comes in 85-inch and 98-inch sizes. It's powered by the Picture Processor X1 Ultimate chip, and has an algorithm developed specifically for 8K, to bring out incredible detail and contrast. The built-in speakers are intelligent; they'll position the sound to match what's being shown on the TV. Dolby Atmos compatibility, Netflix Calibrated Mode, and IMAX Enhanced are in the list of features. The set runs on Android TV with Google Assistant.

Website: www.sony.com
Price: TBA



LG 88-INCH Z9 8K OLED TV

This brand is using a deep-learning algorithm to power the Alpha 9 Gen 2 chip inside the Z9. The algorithm can recognise incoming content quality and make adjustment for the best quality of picture you can get. The set supports HDMI 2.1, and has Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa. This year, LG will also release the 75-inch, 8K SM99 NanoCell LCD model, with the same processor.

Website: www.lg.com
Price: TBA

LG SIGNATURE R9 ROLLABLE OLED TV

This one isn't selling 8K, but it doesn't need to. It has a unique selling proposition of its own. The R9 has a 65-inch OLED display that can be rolled up and stashed into a stylish metal box when not in use. The box has a 100W Dolby Atmos audio system, covered in Kvadrat fabric. You can also make a part of the screen stick out (Line View mode) for music playback. Alpha 9 Gen 2 processor with deep-learning AI, Dolby Vision support, Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa built-in, and support for Apple AirPlay 2 and HomeKit are a part of the features.

Website: www.lg.com
Price: TBA





SAMSUNG THE FRAME QLED TV

This isn't the first time that you're looking at The Frame. The earlier one had a Yves Behar design, and displayed artwork when not in use as a TV. This one does that, too. The difference is in the screen technology. The QLED technology brings you deeper contrasts, deeper and darker blacks, and 100 per cent colour volume. The Frame's Art Store now provides access to more than 1,000 pieces of art, a big increase from the previous one.

Website: www.samsung.com
Price: TBA

TINY BUT FIERCE

The world's smallest astronomy camera is now smaller. About the size of a bank card, the Tiny MOS Nano1 Astronomy Camera packs a lot in a very tiny and portable package. The camera's 1/2.3" sensor provides a 5.5x crop factor, extending the telescopic power of additionally attached lenses. A patented visual noise reduction algorithm and astronomy-tuned presets ensure that your starry, starry night's images are clean and sharp. Other features are: 4K video, compatibility with M12 and C-mount lenses natively, and adapters available for telescopes as well as Nikon F-Mount and Canon EF lenses.

Website: www.tinymos.com
Price: \$350 (Dhs1,286) (Pre-order)



DECLUTTER

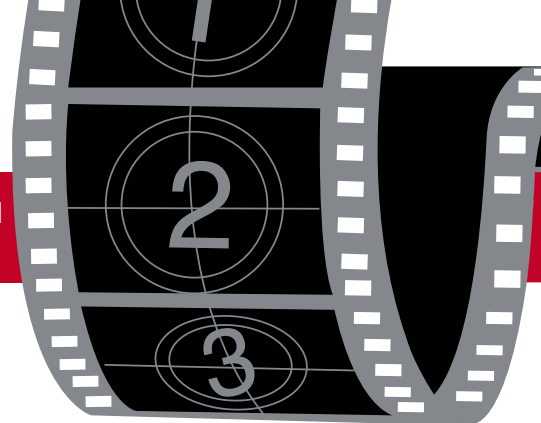
We all need electronic screens and their utility in our lives, but we also want to get away from them. How to do both at the same time? Trust the Japanese, famous for their calming aesthetics, to come up with a solution. The Mui Wooden Digital Display is basically a computer made from wood. Strange as it may sound, it works perfectly well. The bar of natural wood has a hidden LCD display and a touch interface for control. See the weather, see messages, interact with Google Assistant, dim the lights and do more with this display. It has no speaker, so it's not disturbing, and the simple design helps it discreetly occupy any space on your wall.



Website: www.kickstarter.com
Price: \$549 (Dhs2,017) (Pre-order)



NEW INTERNATIONAL MOVIE RELEASES COMING SOON TO CINEMAS NEAR YOU



★ WHAT MEN WANT

DIRECTOR: ADAM SHANKMAN

STARRING: TARAJI P HENSON, TRACY MORGAN, ALDIS HODGE, WENDI MCLENDON-COVEY, KELLAN LUTZ

MOVIE TYPE: COMEDY

Though the film bills itself as a sequel, it isn't really. If you've watched the blockbuster original *What Women Want* (starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt), you'd know that this a movie with the storyline sort of flipped. In the original, Gibson played a hotshot ad executive who was able to 'hear' women's thoughts and used that to his professional advantage. Here, we have flavour of the season Taraji P Henson playing a female sports agent who gets the better of her aggressive male counterparts when she begins to 'hear' men's thoughts.

★ COLD PURSUIT

DIRECTOR: HANS PETTER MOLLAND

STARRING: LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN, TOM BATEMAN, JULIA JONES, NATHANIEL ARCAND, ELYSIA ROTARU

MOVIE TYPE: ACTION

Liam Neeson is back as the vigilante; that's all you need to know. What started with *Taken* (2008) has become a signature of one of Hollywood's most compelling actors – he is hunting the villains, and he hunts at speed. In this plot, Nels Coxman (Neeson) is a family man who enjoys the quiet life with his wife (Dern). But his world is upended following the mysterious death of their son. Coxman's search for justice turns into a vengeful hunt for Viking (Bateman), a drug lord he believes is connected to the death. As one by one each of Viking's associates 'disappear', Coxman goes from upstanding citizen to ice-cold vigilante, letting nothing and no one get in his way.



★ THE LEGO MOVIE 2

DIRECTORS: MIKE MITCHELL

VOICES: CHRIS PRATT, TIFFANY HADDISH, WILL ARNETT, CHANNING TATUM, ELIZABETH BANKS, STEPHANIE BEATRIZ

MOVIE TYPE: 3D ANIMATION

The film reunites the heroes of Bricksburg in an all new action-packed adventure to save their beloved city. It has been five years since everything was awesome, but the citizens are now facing a huge new threat: Lego Duplo invaders from outer space, wrecking everything faster than it can be rebuilt. The battle to defeat the invaders and restore harmony to the Lego universe will take Emmet, Lucy, Batman and their friends to faraway, unexplored worlds, including a strange galaxy where everything is musical.



★ ISN'T IT ROMANTIC

DIRECTOR: TODD STRAUSS SCHULSON

STARRING: REBEL WILSON, ADAM DEVINE, LIAM HEMSWORTH, PRIYANKA CHOPRA, BETTY GILPIN, TOM ELLIS, BRANDON SCOTT JONES

MOVIE TYPE: ROMANTIC COMEDY

New York City architect Natalie (Wilson) works hard to get noticed at her job, but she's more likely to be asked to deliver coffee and bagels than to design the city's next skyscraper. And if things weren't bad enough, Natalie, a lifelong cynic when it comes to love, has an encounter with a mugger that renders her unconscious, waking to discover that her life has suddenly become her worst nightmare – a romantic comedy – and she is the leading lady.



★ FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY

DIRECTOR: STEPHEN MERCHANT

STARRING: DWAYNE JOHNSON, LENA HEADEY, VINCE VAUGHN, NICK FROST, FLORENCE PUGH, JACK LOWDEN

MOVIE TYPE: COMEDY

Reformed gangster and former wrestler Ricky (Frost), his wife Julia (Headey), daughter Saraya and son Zak make a living performing in small venues across the country. Ricky and Julia want a better life for their children and when their children get the chance to audition for the WWE, it seems the family's dream is coming true and all their troubles will be solved. However, Saraya and Zak are about to learn that becoming a WWE superstar demands more than they ever imagined possible as athletes and siblings.

★ ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL

DIRECTOR: ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

STARRING: ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JACKIE EARLE HALEY, ED SKREIN, JORGE LENDEBORG JR, MAHERSHALA ALI

MOVIE TYPE: FANTASY

The abandoned cyborg Alita (Salazar) is found in the scrapyard of Iron City by Ido (Christoph Waltz), a compassionate cyber-doctor, who takes the unconscious cyborg to his clinic. When Alita wakes up, she has no memory of who she is; nor does she have any recognition of the world she finds herself in. Everything is new to Alita, every experience a first. As she learns to navigate her new life and the treacherous streets of Iron City, Ido tries to shield Alita from her mysterious past while her street-smart new friend, Hugo (Kean Johnson), offers instead to help trigger her memories. A growing affection develops between the two, until deadly forces come after Alita and threaten her newfound relationships. It's then that Alita discovers she has extraordinary fighting abilities that could be used to save the friends and family she's grown to love.



★ HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD

DIRECTOR: DEAN DEBLOIS

VOICES: JAY BARUCHEL, GERARD BUTLER, CRAIG FERGUSON, AMERICA FERRERA, JONAH HILL, KRISTEN WIIG

MOVIE TYPE: ANIMATION



What began as an unlikely friendship between an adolescent Viking and a fearsome Night Fury dragon has become an epic trilogy spanning their lives. In this next chapter, Hiccup and Toothless will finally discover their true destinies: the village chief as ruler of Berk alongside Astrid, and the dragon as leader of his own kind. As both ascend, the darkest threat they've yet faced – as well as the appearance of a female Night Fury – will test the bonds of their relationship like never before.

★ THE RHYTHM SECTION

DIRECTOR: REED MORANO

STARRING: BLAKE LIVELY, JUDE LAW, STERLING K. BROWN, DANIEL MAYS, RAZA JAFFREY

MOVIE TYPE: SUSPENSE, THRILLER



After the death of her family in an airplane crash on a flight that she was meant to be on, Stephanie Patrick (Lively) discovers the crash was not an accident. She then seeks to uncover the truth by adapting the identity of an assassin to track down those responsible.



EXCITING PAGE-TURNERS, FUN FOR YOUNG READERS, AND WAYS TO TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE - FIND IT ALL ON THE SHELVES

IS IT A MIRACLE?

Title: Once Upon a River

Author: Diane Setterfield

Publisher: Atria/Emily Bestler Books

Price: \$28 (Dhs103) (Hardcover)

On a dark midwinter's night in an ancient inn on the river Thames, an extraordinary event takes place. The regulars are telling stories about one dark night when the door bursts open on a grievously wounded stranger. In his arms is the lifeless body of a little child. Hours later, the girl stirs, takes a breath and returns to life. Is it a miracle? Is it magic? Or does science have an explanation? Those who dwell on the river bank apply all their ingenuity to solving the puzzle. The child herself is mute and unable to answer the essential questions. Three families are keen to claim her. But each family has mysteries of its own, and many secrets must be revealed before the girl's identity can be known.



FOR THE LOVE OF READING

Title: A Velocity of Being: Letters to A Young Reader

Editors: Maria Popova, Claudia Bedrick

Publisher: Enchanted Lion Books

Price: \$34.95 (Dhs128) (Hardcover)



Some of today's most wonderful culture-makers – writers, artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and philosophers – reflect on the joys of reading, how books broaden and deepen the human experience, and the ways in which the written word has formed their own character. On the page facing each letter, an illustration by a celebrated illustrator or graphic artist presents that artist's visual response. Amongst the diverse contributions are letters from renowned conservationist Jane Goodall, graphic novelist Neil Gaiman, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, actor Lena Dunham, author Elizabeth Gilbert, and Italy's first woman in space Samantha Cristoforetti. This is a project of goodwill and a shared love of books. Everyone involved has donated their time, and all profits will go to the New York Public Library systems.

SING, BABY, SING

Title: Baby Shark

Illustrator: John John Bajet

Publisher: Cartwheel Books

Price: \$6.99 (Dhs26) (Paperback)

Baby Shark has become well-known and well-loved by teachers, parents and children. And with hilarious and adorable under-the-sea art of Baby Shark, Mama Shark, Daddy Shark, Grandma Shark and more ocean creatures, kids won't be able to get enough of this illustrated story of a shark family. This is a sing-along story with funny, eye-popping illustrations and informative picture guides to help readers to mimic and act out the hand/foot movements and develop their fine motor skills. The little ones will be laughing, singing, and dancing their way to fun and reading.



TIDY UP YOUR WORLD

Title: The Minimalist Home: A Room-by-Room Guide to a Decluttered, Refocused Life

Author: Joshua Becker

Publisher: WaterBrook

Price: \$19.99 (Dhs73) (Hardcover)

A popular minimalist blogger and author of The More of Less shows you how to methodically turn your home into a place of peace and purposeful living. The book takes us on a decluttering tour of our own houses and apartments, showing us how to decide what to get rid of and what to keep. The author offers practical guidelines for simplifying our lifestyle at home and addresses underlying issues that contribute to over-accumulation in the first place.



STUFF THAT MATTERS

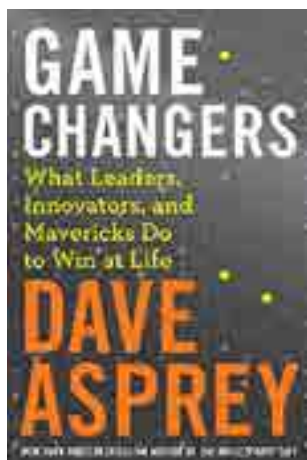
Title: Game Changers: What Leaders, Innovators, and Mavericks Do to Win at Life

Author: Dave Asprey

Publisher: Harper Wave

Price: \$28.99 (Dhs106) (Hardcover)

When the author started his podcast more than five years ago, he sought out influencers in an array of disciplines, from biochemists to business leaders to mediation masters. His guests were people who had changed their areas of study or even pioneered new fields. To all of them, Dave asked: what was their top three recommendations for people who wanted to perform better? The wisdom gleaned from their answers has been distilled into three main objectives: finding ways to become smarter, faster and happier.



ADD LIFE TO YOUR YEARS

Title: The 6 Keys: Unlock Your Genetic Potential for Ageless Strength, Health, and Beauty

Author: Jillian Michaels

Contributor: Myatt Murphy

Publisher: Little, Brown Spark

Price: \$28 (Dhs103) (Hardcover)

Having written earlier about taking control of your metabolism, the author now takes on the myths and misunderstandings associated with ageing. According to the book, scientists and doctors have identified six major age inciters: metabolism, damaged macromolecules, epigenetics, inflammation, stress adaptation and telomeres. The author presents a health, fitness, and beauty plan that addresses all six of these factors – and gets them working for you instead of against you.



ONE DAY AT A TIME

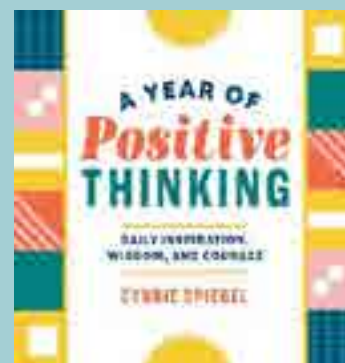
Title: A Year of Positive Thinking: Daily Inspiration, Wisdom, and Courage

Author: Cyndie Spiegel

Publisher: Althea Press

Price: \$17.99 (Dhs66) (Paperback)

You can change your life by changing your thoughts. This book helps you transform your mindset and motivate positive life changes one thought at a time. The lessons in this book are based in positive psychology, neuroscience and personal development. Spanning one full year, from January to December, these daily meditations guide you towards visualising and living your best life.



UAE putting Dhs113.9 million in clean energy projects



BENEFICIARY NATIONS

TOGO: To get a \$15 million (Dhs55 mn) photovoltaic plant with a capacity of 30 megawatts

LIBERIA: To construct a 2.1 megawatt hydropower plant

GUYANA: To install a 5.2 megawatts of grid-connect solar photovoltaic systems

764,000

People to benefit from these energy projects being funded by the UAE

AT A GLANCE:

ADFD-Irena collaboration

24

Renewable energy projects funded

23

Beneficiary countries

7.5 MILLION

People helped around the world

THE UAE's overseas development funds are often used for cleaner, better sources of energy, which is the primary need for countries looking to improve their economy.

The country has pledged to put \$31 million (Dhs113.9 mn) into energy

projects in three countries. This is part of the sixth cycle of funds being granted by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), as part of its project facility in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency.

Massive sea clean-up organised in Abu Dhabi

CAMPAIGNS to restore the natural surroundings to their pristine state are undertaken frequently in the UAE. While beach clean-ups are common, a recent underwater clean-up was a remarkable event for the amount of trash it took out of the sea bed.

The event was organised by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the Abu Dhabi International Marine Sports Club (ADIMSC). It took place at Al Mirfa port as part of a campaign called 'Together We Make a Difference', which started in 2018.

Ahmad Al Hashemi, Acting Executive Director, Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity sector at Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, said: "Preventing marine pollution is the first step in promoting the protection and sustainable management of our local marine ecosystems, as well as human health."



4,700kg
Litter removed
from the sea bed



3,400kg
Consisted of
fishing nets



1,300kg
Consisted of
random trash



155
Volunteers
participated in
the clean-up



88
Number of divers
who were amongst
the volunteers

How does UAE enhance weather condition for rain?

TO enhance the country's water security, the UAE has been trying to enhance the conditions for rainfall. And where does rain come from? Moisture-laden clouds, of course. So, the country has been creating more of those up in the sky.

In the past year, around 10-15 per cent of the country's rainfall came from cloud seeding operations undertaken by the National Centre of Meteorology (NCM). "In 2018, the number of our cloud seeding operations reached 187, and this was mainly dependent on the number of clouds that were amenable for cloud seeding. We are always ready to carry out more missions but we need the right type of clouds in order for us to successfully launch our operations," said Sufian Farrah, cloud-seeding expert at NCM.

"We're not making rain, we are only

enhancing the conditions, and in 2018 about 10-15 per cent of rainfall was a result of our cloud seeding operations," he said. Cloud seeding is done by putting substances in the air that help clouds disperse

their moisture. Following the NCM's operations, it rained more and rained longer in the UAE.

Farrah explained that the Centre had six full-time pilots and four Beechcraft King aircraft that fly towards any clouds suitable for cloud seeding. "In the early morning, we look at the weather



patterns, and if we see that the right type of clouds is going to accumulate over some area, then we send our pilots and aircraft to the target place. It usually takes around three minutes and depends on how large the cloud is, and the reaction to these materials is about 10-15 minutes," he added.

Sniffer dog catches 116kg of rhino horn



The trafficked animal parts were hidden in eight boxes, amongst decorations and doormats.

The scale of rhino killing is beyond belief – it's estimated that in South Africa, between 2007 and 2014, the rate of poaching increased some 9,000 per cent. Conservation groups believe that since 2014, the poaching rate has dropped a little,

THE relentless assault on rhinoceroses in Africa continues, as is evident from a recent catch of rhino horns hidden in a shipment. The hero of the day was a police dog named Lizzy, a sniffer that helped the authorities seize 116kg of

illegal rhino horn being smuggled out of South Africa.

The 36 horns and some horn fragments were worth about \$1.3 million (Dhs4.77 mn). This was one of the biggest seizures in South Africa in recent years.

but about 1,000 rhinos still continue to be killed in SA every year. Most of the horns are shipped to Asian countries.

Rhino horns are made of the same substance as the human fingernail – it's called keratin.

Keep the cake away from children



DRAWING attention to problems such as obesity, tooth decay and other negative fallouts of excessive sugar intake, the organisation Public Health England (PHE) has said that most children in the UK, by the time they're 10 years old, have already crossed the maximum recommended sugar intake limit for an 18-year-old.

PHE has suggested imposing a 'pudding tax' for excessively sweet processed foods, passing the onus on manufacturers to ensure healthier food.

The recommended daily intake is measured in sugar equivalent of a certain number of sugar cubes. For children aged 4-6 years, the recommended intake is a maximum of five cubes (19g); for 7-10 years, the recommended limit is six cubes (24g); and for 11 years or above that, the limit is up to seven cubes (30g). But children in the UK consumed, on an average, 52g of sugar or about 13 cubes, as found in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey, PHE cited.

Where was all this sugar hidden? Sweetened drinks, cookies, cakes, synthetic puddings, sugary breakfast cereals etc. PHE has urged the food processing industry to cut 20 per cent of this hidden sugar by 2020. Dr Alison Tedstone, chief nutritionist at PHE, told the BBC that if the industry didn't take enough action, "there would be a case for fiscal measures", meaning a tax.

Main sources of sugar in children's diet:

- 10% SOFT DRINKS** (including squash, juice, cola etc)
- 10% BUNS, CAKES**, pastries and fruit pies
- 9% SUGARS** (table sugar, preserves, sweet spreads)
- 9% BISCUITS**
- 8% BREAKFAST** cereals
- 7% CHOCOLATE** confectionery
- 7% SUGAR** confectionery
- 6% DAIRY DESSERTS**
- 5% ICE CREAM**
- 4% PUDDINGS**
- 25%** Others

Screen time might not be so harmful for kids, experts say

ONE of the most common sights in the modern world – that of a child glued to a mobile or tablet – is also rather worrying for parents. Reams are written about how constant gadget use hurts eyesight, causes attention deficit, affects sleep, and so on. Well, some of that still holds true, but parents can now relax a little.

Based on the findings of several studies, including one in the BMJ Open medical journal, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), UK, has issued some guidelines for under-18s. There was, indeed, some association between a higher rate of screen use and problems like weight gain and depression. However, the cause-and-effect relationship was not very clear, so the gadgets were given the

benefit of doubt.

The RCPCH has prepared a questionnaire for families to help them assess the impact of screen use. The questions are: Is your family's screen time under control? Does screen use interfere with what your family want to do? Does screen use interfere with sleep? Are you able to control snacking during screen time?

Dr Russell Viner, president of the RCPCH, said: "We need to stick to advising



parents to do what they do well, which is to balance the risks and benefits. One size doesn't fit all, parents need to think about what's useful and helpful for their child."

Is your PC a pain in the neck? It's time to lean back

DO you belong to the Republic of Slightly Hunched People? The ones that are stooped over their laptop or desktop keyboard, head jutting forward? If you do, it's time to lean back and think what that slouched posture is doing to your neck and shoulder muscles.

A study on the health impact of this posture was published in the journal *Biofeedback*, and as you can imagine, the findings aren't great. San Francisco State University Professor of Holistic Health Erik Peper, Associate Professor of Health Education Richard Harvey and their colleagues carried out the research.

The study was in two phases: first, they asked 87 students to sit upright, heads properly aligned with the necks and asked them to turn their heads; then the students were asked to "scrunch" their necks, tilt their heads forward, and again turn their heads. The straight position made it much easier to turn their heads compared to the hunched position.



Also, 125 students held the "scrunch" position for 30 seconds, following which they complained of some pain in the head or neck.

Electromyography equipment revealed that tension in the trapezius muscle (covering the back of the neck and shoulder blades) increased in the scrunched, head jutting forward position.

Peper said, "When your posture is tall and erect, the muscles of your back

can easily support the weight of your head and neck. But when your head juts forward at a 45-degree angle, your neck acts like a fulcrum, like a long lever lifting a heavy object. It's not surprising people get stiff necks and shoulder and back pain." To avoid this situation, lift the height of your PC monitor, increase the font size of the text you're reading or writing, or take any other measure to keep your head straight on your neck.

Bran wave: A promise of naturally preserve food



THE explosion of packaged food means a huge dose of synthetic preservatives on your plate. Not a desirable thing at all. But researchers from Pennsylvania State University, US, may have a solution.

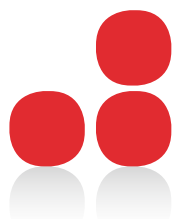
They studied compounds called

alkylresorcinols (AR), which are produced naturally by plants such as wheat, rye and barley. The compounds act as natural preservatives, preventing the growth of mould or bacteria on the grain kernels. These ARs are found on grain bran,

which is the hard, outer shell of grain. The scientists looked at whether this bran could yield a natural alternative to synthetic preservatives.

Andrew S Elder, doctoral candidate in food science, said, "Consumers want clean labels – they want synthetic chemical-sounding ingredients removed because of the fact that they don't recognise them, and that some of them (the ingredients) have purported toxicity. There are not many natural alternatives for synthetic antioxidants. Our work is focused on identifying new natural antioxidants to extend the shelf life of food and meet consumer demands."

Bran, a by-product of commercial grain production, is either thrown away or mixed in animal feed. Elder said, "We're taking something that's usually discarded in a waste stream and turning it into something useful."



WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



Aries (March 21 – April 19)

This month is the perfect time for you to take work-related matters seriously; it'll definitely help you with your career growth. Being easygoing is alright, but this month is when you should lay your cards on the table and take more control. It's also the perfect time to take the initiative in doing significant projects some projects. If you decide to take things more seriously, people will be more receptive to your ideas and suggestions. Most likely, they will also allow you to push things into the direction you want them to go.



Taurus (April 20 – May 21)

It is time for you to be more conscious about financial matters and start saving. Whether you're guilty of doing too much shopping, too much eating, or too much self-indulgence, it's best to cut some of your expenses and invest your extra earning to more valuable things. A simpler way of living will not only help you with money, but can also positively affect your lifestyle. You will be surprised at the amount of money you will be able to save if you let go of some unnecessary expenses. At the end of the day, you can't also help but feel proud of yourself by doing such.



Gemini (May 22 – June 20)

If you are an owner of a small business, be sure to play your cards right. One of the things that might help you achieve this is by surrounding yourself with creative, innovative, and trustworthy people as much as you can. No matter what it is, a big door of opportunities will open for you and it would better to focus. No matter what happens, get ready to stick your foot in that door to keep it from slamming shut again.



Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

You might have found yourself in a confused state lately. You have been questioning either your career or aspects of your personal life because everything seems like a blur. However, remind yourself that it is okay to feel that way and take as much time as you need to figure things out. Relaxation and comfort are more important than speed. Think of it like driving a car—speeding might result in accidents and taking shortcuts might get you lost.



Leo (July 23 – August 22)

This is the perfect time to use your interpersonal skills to the test. This will help you with work and might improve your relationship with other people. You can do this by helping out a friend or coworker who may be struggling with something. This is also the time to let your ideas and suggestions be heard and get out of that small box that has been limiting you from showing your full potential. You will be amazed at how you can make things work better and at how willing people are to listen to you and follow your lead.



Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

This month is when you should improve relationships and commitments. Whether it may concern friendships, employment, or other relationships, you close to reaching a point of no return on your level of commitment. You are at that state when you need to cement yourself and show your full willingness if you want things to continue. One way to help you determine which decision to make, look at your calendar to make the time to achieve what you are looking for and accomplish goals to your standards.



Libra (September 23 – October 22)

If have reached that point wherein your job would constantly leave you feeling restless yet unfulfilled, this is the perfect time to seek other career ventures. The year is still fresh and it is the perfect to bring change and start a new chapter in your life. Let yourself explore the limitless possibilities that the world can offer and continually remind yourself that, at the end of the day, what's important is that you make yourself feel like you are achieving what you truly want for yourself.



Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Never forget to save some time to spend with your family. You might have not seen them in a while so it is best to pay them a visit or, if travelling is not possible any time soon, a call can mean so much more than you think. Moreover, let yourself take a break from the things that cause you too much stress and anxiety. Give yourself a break by spending time with people who matter to you, like your family and friends. Always remind yourself of the importance of surrounding yourself with positive people that can uplift your spirits.



Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

You might sail rough waves at some point this month in your work or business, but it is best not to let yourself feel faltered. Instead, look at the situation with a silver lining. This will help you evaluate and solve the problems better because the least thing you need right now is to feel intimidated and overthink things. Just have faith in your skills and capabilities, and you will be assured that you can go through whatever problem you might face. You can also lean on the people around you who can help you.



Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

It's time to wake up your adventurous side and start taking risks this month. This month will be filled with opportunities and chances; that is why you have to step out of your comfort zone in order to conquer as much of them as possible. However, you should be careful not to be overly reckless. Everything is good but in moderation so do not push things pretty far, no matter how eager you are in achieving them. Nevertheless, the sky is the limit for you this month and reaching that will be interesting and worthwhile.



Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

With the recent start of 2019, comes a new beginning that will come your way soon. You have been emotionally and physically preparing for this and the decisions you have made in the past now all leads to this. This month, be more than ready to handle new responsibilities, tackle big projects, seek new ventures, meet new people, and visit more places because the great things that are in store for you will start to be revealed one by one. Though you are not quite sure what they are going to be, you are definitely ready for anything.



Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Life is a learning process and this is the time when you will realise it the most. Your experiences this month might make you wonder if you're doing things right. You might encounter unfamiliar situations at work, but instead of giving up, you must take advantage of it as a learning opportunity that can improve your skills and knowledge. When you ask questions, make sure you are satisfied by what you are told.

A word cloud of 100 corporate values and attributes, arranged in a large, abstract shape. The words are in various sizes and orientations, with some appearing multiple times. The colors are primarily red, black, and white.

Red Words: IDEAS, TRUST, LOYALTY, WISDOM, EXCELLENCE, PROFESSIONALISM, PASSION, VISION, CUSTOMER CARE, COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY, AWARDS & ACCOLADES, MOTIVATION, PERSISTENCE, INTEGRITY, HONESTY, INDUSTRY EXPERTISE, AFTER SALES SERVICE, INNOVATION, TEAMWORK.

Black Words: QUALITY, PASSION, MARKET, KNOWLEDGE, COMMUNICATION, WIDE RETAIL NETWORK, BUSINESS SOLUTION, INNOVATION, GOOD GOVERNANCE, EMPLOYEE, EMPOWERMENT, RESEARCH ANALYSIS, VALUES & ETHICS, COMMUNICATION, PASSION, PERSISTENCE, LEADERSHIP, CUSTOMER CARE, TEAMWORK, IDEAS, STATE OF THE ART, WAREHOUSING FACILITY, PARTICIPATIVE MANAGEMENT, EXTENSIVE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, WISDOM, EXCELLENCE, MOTIVATION, WORLD CLASS BRANDS, PROFESSIONALISM, SOPHISTICATED, DISCIPLINE, MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, MULTICULTURAL WORK FORCE, EMPLOYEE EMPOWERMENT, QUALITY, HONESTY, RESEARCH ANALYSIS, FOCUSED APPROACH, HONESTY, WISDOM, IDEAS.

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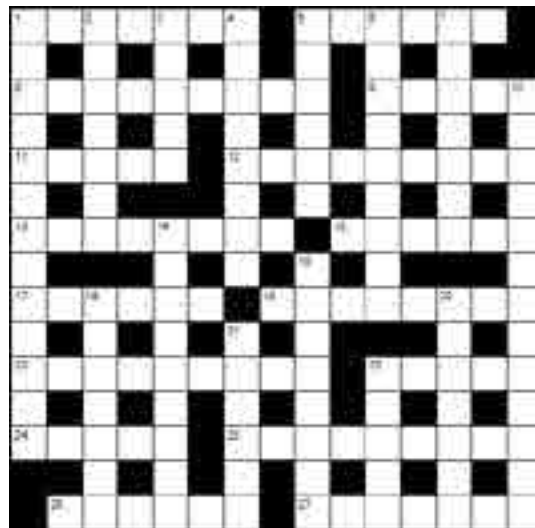
PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 1 Go get a doctor (7)
- 5 Large net snaring some animals (6)
- 8 Order re-positioning of her chair before 1st of year (9)
- 9 Afterthought, alternatively a complaint (5)
- 11 Graph produced by George the fourth in empty office (5)
- 12 Small crusader seen after dark on Monday, say (4,5)
- 13 One who might be proficient at spelling? (8)
- 15 Roofing suitable for the church I'm pointing at (6)
- 17 Lying girl conceals security code (6)
- 19 Revise costings for sect followers (8)
- 22 Alienated and unemployed, called journalist? (9)
- 23 Home of Boxer and mate (5)
- 24 African opens show with another Zambian idol (5)
- 25 Artist leading expedition saves time for religious order (9)
- 26 Animal found in marsh to west of northern city (6)
- 27 Scratch around last of soap in drain (7)

DOWN

- 1 Those in the Common Room could develop smoother class (14)
- 2 Staggering after dancing? (7)
- 3 Dodge First Lady holding present (5)
- 4 Knew race could result in a tie (8)
- 5 "Spring is here," bloke announced (6)
- 6 Plant? He's penitent without it, surprisingly (9)
- 7 Fancy, but not last (7)
- 10 This remedy is not to be sneezed at... (13)
- 14 Doctor can go into reason for illness (9)
- 16 Protected after a sign of approval is given to journalist (8)
- 18 Servant carrying too much soup (7)
- 20 Put on and take off (7)
- 21 A cigar shaped like a mushroom (6)
- 23 The Lord of the Ring? (5)



Easy

			2		5
	5	3			
			4		1
4		2			
			3	1	
1		6			

Medium

	9		6				
7		3			1	8	5
	5			8	4		
		2				5	4
		6			9		
4	7				1		
			4	9		1	
1		9	8		3		7
				3		6	

SOLUTIONS

FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE



www.alberichcrosswords.com

www.dailysudoku.com

easy

2	3	4	6	1	5
1	5	6	2	4	3
4	2	5	1	3	6
3	6	1	5	2	4
6	1	3	4	5	2
5	4	2	3	6	1

medium

2	3	4	8	7	9	1	5	6
7	8	5	1	6	4	3	2	9
1	6	9	5	2	3	7	4	8
9	5	6	4	3	7	2	8	1
4	7	8	9	1	2	5	6	3
3	1	2	6	5	8	9	7	4
6	2	3	7	8	1	4	9	5
8	4	1	2	9	5	6	3	7
5	9	7	3	4	6	8	1	2





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