

999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 111 APRIL 2021

**BEWARE:
SIDESTEP
THE JOB SCAM**

**BUSINESS
RECOVERY
AFTER THE STORM**

**IN THE
SPOTLIGHT**

**'VACCINE
PASSPORT':
WHAT YOU MUST
KNOW**

Post Pandemic Ramadan

**UAE PRIORITISES COVID-19
PREVENTION DURING
THE HOLY MONTH**



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



IN THIS ISSUE: CARELESS DRIVING CAN KILL, CAREFUL DRIVING CAN SAVE LIVES



100 MILLION ACTUATORS

EST. 1975

Belimo sets 100 Million Milestone

Since 1975, Belimo has been committed to providing innovative products that improve comfort, energy efficiency and safety in buildings. In January 2020, we achieved a special milestone by producing our 100 millionth actuator. We want to take this opportunity to thank the industry and our customers for this joint success.



MINIMIZE OPEX MAXIMIZE REVENUE

We are an information technology services provider led by a team of subject matter experts with more than 12 years' experience in domains of information technology and consultancy services.

We help companies minimizing their operation expenses and maximizing their revenues through offering multiple pay as you go engagement modes through which companies can utilize our expertise to deliver their projects on time and maintain customer satisfaction and full ownership of software assets and documentation.

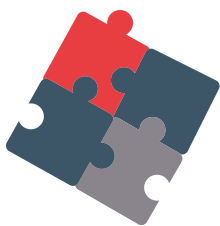
From small development up to large enterprise digital transformation projects, we work closely with our client to achieve their ultimate objectives by being engaged with them from the very early stages up to the project closure.



Time & Materials



Fixed Price



Dedicated Team



Startup Mode

We want to see the 'Year of the 50th' as a time of optimism about all the great things to come, not as a time of pessimism over inconsiderate rule-breakers who hold the country back from progress

Make it a safe Ramadan

Ramadan is here again, and though this year's Holy Month isn't facing as many restrictions as it was during the peak pandemic period of 2020, the novel coronavirus hasn't gone anywhere, and so our preventive approach and cautious attitude must not disappear. Across the UAE, measures are being taken to reinforce in the public consciousness how essential it is to observe this month by respecting the entire range of COVID-19 protocols.

But local and federal governments have little or no control over what happens in private households, which also host their own iftar gatherings at times, especially now that mobility is restored and people have begun visiting each other again. This is where every individual's sense of responsibility has to come to the fore — if we want a COVID-19-free UAE, we absolutely must continue to practise all precautions such as keeping our face masks on, using sanitisers, and maintaining physical distance as much as possible. Family gatherings may have people in their midst who haven't been vaccinated or tested yet. At such gatherings, imprudent behaviours may cause another infection flare-up, more so as the novel coronavirus has begun mutating and the new strains are spreading faster. **999** reminds you that this isn't only about you — if you imagine that you have the right to not wear a mask, then you're violating the next person's right not to be infected by you.

Our features on the impact of the pandemic on women, especially working mothers forced to juggle professional duties and additional personal chores at home; and the state of the 'new normal' economy, as discussed in the GTR MENA event, reiterate how dangerous it would be if the COVID-19 case count would rise again because of the sheer lack of precautions.

We want to see the 'Year of the 50th' and its many spectacular milestones including the Hope Probe's Mars orbit insertion and the UAE's hosting of the World Expo this coming October as a time of optimism about all the great things to come, not as a time of pessimism over inconsiderate rule-breakers who hold the country back from progress.

And what progress we could make if everyone moves together. At the national level, the UAE has some of the world's best AI-powered solutions that solve problems and improve systems in several sectors. Our flagship carriers Etihad and Emirates are amongst aviation industry leaders working to revive the sector with a global travel pass stored digitally. At individual level, we can draw inspiration from the story of a sharpshooter policewoman, who shows what UAE women can contribute to society.


However, no technology can fully protect us against the sheer obstinacy of people who refuse to abide by rules. Careless drivers, who have already caused several traffic accidents and fatalities in the first three months of the year, can be firmly placed in that category. In this issue, **999** reiterates why everyone must avoid lethal driving behaviours.

Another feature urging caution takes you through job scams, which may target both an employer and a job applicant. The scammers are particularly busy setting traps in the recruitment of domestic staff. There's an official channel for their recruitment in the UAE, but people tend to opt for unlicensed agencies. That's frankly a very small financial gain and a very big security risk.

The authorities work 24/7 to make the UAE a more secure and prosperous nation. Let's do our bit to make that happen!

Fifty years in the service of the nation



We extend our best wishes to
the  Magazine issued by
the Ministry of Interior on an occasion
The Magazine's golden jubilee



999
Security And Safety For All



**Ministry of Interior
United Arab Emirates**

Khalil Dawood Badran
Head of the Development
Committee of 999 Magazine

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
Toll Free: 800 9009

Subscriptions
Dhs50 – Individuals
Dhs100 – Companies & government
departments

Published on behalf of
the Ministry of Interior by

New Perspective
media

PO Box 77910
twofour54
Abu Dhabi, UAE
Tel: 02- 491 7100
editorial@newperspectivemedia.com
www.newperspectivemedia.com

Distributed by Tawzea

توزیع
tawzea

Tel. 8002220 Fax 02-6424842

Disclaimer:

Published articles express the writer's opinions and do not necessarily represent the official views or policy of the UAE Ministry of Interior. Copyrights for all the articles, features, photos and topics published are reserved for 999.

24

PANDEMIC OF FEMALE BURNOUT

IT HAS BEEN OVER A YEAR NOW THAT WOMEN HAVE BEEN SHOULDERING AN EXTRA LOAD ON THEIR ALREADY HEAVY SHARE OF HOUSEWORK. THE CONVERSATION AROUND IT NEEDS TO GET LOUDER

14 FACTS & FIGURES

Some numbers and quotations in the media that grabbed people's attention

16 UAE NEWS BULLETIN

Police news, people, numbers, and events

30 READY FOR TAKEOFF

Almost grounded for a year by coronavirus, airlines are once again preparing to fly, armed with a post-pandemic protocol that includes a 'vaccine passport'

38 HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE

999 Magazine honours Dubai Islamic Bank

39 READ THE ROAD

Why is everyone in a hurry to get somewhere or pick up a call while behind the wheel, when they should be aware that the hospital might become their destination with these bad driving behaviours? 999 highlights how careless driving can kill and careful driving can save lives

44 SIDESTEP THE JOB SCAMS

Recruitment rackets have flourished in recent months, and whether you're hiring or seeking a position, be aware of the red flags. Plus how to save yourself from job scammers with a rundown of the signs that you're dealing with job scammers

52 AFTER THE STORM

The world is trying to rebuild itself in 2021 after the economic washout last year. For businesses, that means utilising recent learnings and seizing coming opportunities. 999 looks at the key trends and factors discussed at GTR MENA

59 THE AGE OF AI

One of the most advanced nations in the world when it comes to technology adoption, the UAE wants to be a world leader in Artificial Intelligence by 2030. It has already begun racing towards that goal

66 SHARPSHOOTER

Sergeant Aisha Juma'a of Abu Dhabi Police is a shooting champion who dreams of raising the UAE flag at international sports events. She tells 999 what's the best thing about being a policewoman in this country

68 TIPS & TRIVIA

While not everyone is born a natural leader, anyone can become one. 999 points you in the right direction to achieve this

74 CRIME MYSTERIES

The delightful pleasure of eating delicious food turned into immeasurable pains and trauma due to ingredients laced with dangerous bacteria

78 CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

What starts as a disagreement over a parking slot explodes as a murder attempt with a stone, a screwdriver, and a fire extinguisher



Stay connected. Follow us on:



twitter.com/999english



facebook.com/999english

18

COVER STORY

POST PANDEMIC RAMADAN

EVEN AS THE NATIONWIDE VACCINATION CONTINUES, PROTECTION AND PREVENTION REMAIN A PRIORITY IN THE UAE DURING THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN



NEWS

Al Mazrouei unveils best-in-class rescue unit

81 HISTORY

The accounts of the 1908 book *The Gulf Guide* pass through a swathe of the Arabian Peninsula and bring us to the Emirati islands and the town of Lengeh

86 GADGETS

Take a peek at the newest must-have high-tech electronic devices

88 BOOKS

Flip through some interesting books describing ways to attain career triumphs, venture outside your comfort zone to succeed, as well as good novels about relationships and mysteries

90 ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Campaign to bring together people from all segments of society for a common cause

92 HEALTH NEWS

Keep your health in check, stay updated

94 HOROSCOPE

What April has in store for you

96 PUZZLES

Have some fun and see how good you are with words and numbers

COLUMNISTS



51

Ali Obaid
Head of the News Centre at Dubai Media Incorporated



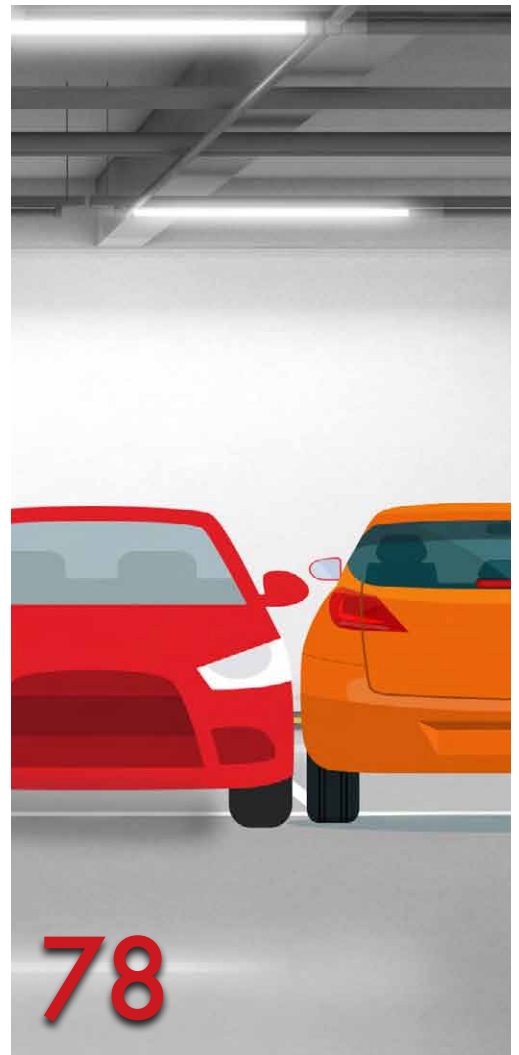
65

Dr Maysa Rashed
Former Member of the Federal National Council (FNC), and UAE writer



73

Dr Samar Al-Shamsi
Internationally respected artist



78

President declares 2021 as 'Year of the 50th'



The kickoff celebrations for the 'Year of the 50th' will commence on April 6, 2021, until March 31, 2022.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa said, "The 'Year of the 50th' represents a historic defining

moment in our journey that started immediately after the declaration of the UAE's union in 1971. It's an acknowledgement of the resolute will and strong determination our Founding Fathers had while building up their nation."

The declaration comes with the

announcement of year-long initiatives, activities, and celebrations that will be supervised by the UAE Golden Jubilee Committee, under the chairmanship of HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, with HH Sheikhha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as Deputy Chairwoman.

The Golden Jubilee Committee was formed in December 2019 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has declared 2021 as the 'Year of the 50th' in the UAE, as the nation celebrates its milestone Golden Jubilee.

President, Vice President congratulate nations on 'Nowruz Day'



bring a fountain of blessings and peace.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum conveyed similar messages, expressing his wishes for all humanity to be showered with happiness, stability, peace, and prosperity.

"We congratulate all people who celebrate Nowruz Day. We wish you a year of goodness, blessing and stability. God willing, this spring will be a spring of love, peace and prosperity for everyone," His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid wrote on Twitter.

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime

Minister and Ruler of Dubai, congratulated all nations celebrating the "Nowruz Day".

In his message, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa conveyed hope that this occasion would

Khalifa announces new ADNOC's board, appoints managing director

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued a resolution creating the board of directors of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Chaired by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, the board of directors includes HH Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council; HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan,

Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs; HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Executive Council and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Office; HE Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology; HE Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak; Dr Ahmed Mubarak Al Mazrouei, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council Chairman's Office; HE Jassem Mohammed Al Zaabi, Member of the Executive Council, Chairman of the

Department of Finance in Abu Dhabi; HE Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry; HE Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, Minister of State; and Engineer Awaidha Murshed Al Marar, Chairman of the Department of Energy in Abu Dhabi.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa also issued a second resolution appointing Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber as Managing Director of ADNOC, in addition to his current position as Chief Executive Officer of the company.

UAE introduces remote work visa, 5-year multi-entry tourist visa



CHAired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the UAE Cabinet has adopted two new types of visas: remote work visa and multiple-entry tourist visa.

This historic move unveiled by the UAE Government is the first of its kind in the region

and is poised to position the UAE as an ideal work and tourist destination.

"During a Cabinet meeting I chaired, we approved a new remote work visa that enables employees from all over the world to live and work remotely from the UAE even if their companies are based in another country," said His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin

Rashid. "We also approved a multiple-entry tourist visa for all nationalities to strengthen the UAE's status as a global economic capital."

The remote work visa primarily targets to attract talents and bright professionals from across the world. Those who will be granted this visa can stay in the country for a year.

Meanwhile, the new multiple-entry tourist visa can be issued to all nationalities, in a bid to boost the competitiveness of the UAE's tourism sector and support the national economy. It's valid for five years enabling tourists to enter multiple times on self-sponsorship and remain in the country for 90 days on each visit. The stay can be extended for another 90 days.

Vice President announces two ministerial appointments

UNDER the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced new appointments in the UAE government.

HE Hamad Mubarak Al Shamsi,

former secretary-general of the Supreme Petroleum Council, was appointed as state minister. Meanwhile, HE Khalifa Saeed Sulaiman, who previously held the post of director-general of the Dubai Protocol and Hospitality Department, was designated as Chairman of Protocols for the Vice President and

Prime Minister of the UAE, which has a ministerial ranking.

The Vice President approved the ministerial appointments after consultation with His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Mohammed bin Rashid launches Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the 'Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan' that maps out a comprehensive, sustainable urban development in the city.

The people-centric plan is anchored in the country's initiative to continue enhancing UAE nationals, residents, and tourists' happiness and quality of life, in line with the UAE's vision for the next 50 years.

"Our strategic development plans are focused on creating the best possible environment and infrastructure to enhance the community's happiness and wellbeing and support the fulfilment of the greatest human aspirations for both our citizens and people from around the world," His Highness Sheikh



Mohammed bin Rashid underscored.

It aims to bolster Dubai's competitiveness as a global destination by providing a wide diversity of lifestyle and investment opportunities for citizens, residents, and visitors over the next 20 years.

Some of the main features of this urban plan include increasing the number of green and recreational spaces dedicated to public parks, and ensuring that nature reserves and rural natural areas will constitute 60 per cent of the emirate's total area by 2040.

Mohamed bin Zayed forms ADNOC's ExeCom, restructures ADHA's board



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, has issued two separate resolutions—forming the Executive Committee (ExeCom) of the board of directors of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and restructuring the board of directors of Abu Dhabi Housing Authority (ADHA).

The ExeCom of ADNOC's board of directors will be chaired by His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, with HE Dr Sultan

Ahmed Al Jaber, HE Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, HE Jassem Mohammed Al Zaabi, HE Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, and HE Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh as executive committee members.

Meanwhile, His Highness has also revamped the board of directors of ADHA, chaired by Falah Mohammad Al Ahbabi.

The board members include Saif Badr Al Qubaisi as deputy-chair, and Ali Khalifa Al Qamzi, Mohamed Ali Al Mansouri, Engineer Hamad Ali Al Dhaheri, Amr Saad Al Menhali, Talal Shafiq Al Dhiyebi, and Ali Jasim Al Mazrouei as members.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince receives int'l recognitions for humanitarian aid



HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, honoured by Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has been honoured by a non-for-profit international organisation based in Dubai and by the Philippine Senate for his noble humanitarian gestures in many parts of the globe.

His Highness was awarded "The 2021 International Personality Award for Humanitarian Relief" by Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development (DIHAD) for his dedicated efforts in reinforcing humanitarian aid internationally,

especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, received the award on the sidelines of Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference and Exhibition 'DIHAD'.

In the Philippines, meanwhile, its Senate unanimously adopted a resolution expressing the country's profound appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed for his "gestures of compassion, concern, friendship, solidarity, and support toward the Filipino people in times of natural

disasters and during the course of the pandemic".

The Philippine Senate approved Resolution No. 671, in appreciation of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's continued humanitarian efforts.

"There is an Arab saying that goes 'A friend is known when needed.' We also have an English saying, 'A friend in need is a friend indeed.' HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is truly a friend of the Philippines. Upon his instructions, assistance had been sent for various disaster-struck areas in our country," said Philippine senator Senator Richard J. Gordon.



UAE Embassy Charge d' Affaires HE Sheikh Saoud Ali Mohammed Al Almuallah receiving a copy of Senate Resolution No. 671 at the Philippine Senate

Mohamed bin Zayed, Malaysian PM discuss ways to bolster bilateral ties

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin discussed ways to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the UAE and Malaysia.

The two leaders underscored the long-standing ties between their nations, as well as the various opportunities emerging from their cooperation such as in areas of investment, trade, economy, amongst others.

The two sides also reviewed the challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the urgent need for stronger collaboration and solidarity between countries.



HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, holds talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin

Interior Minister cites drop in serious crimes in UAE during pandemic

HIS Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, revealed a significant drop in the number of serious crimes in the country since the start of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Interior Minister also announced that the total population of inmates in the UAE fell by 21.6 per cent since last year, as many of them have already completed their jail-terms or have been granted pardon.

Speaking at the Federal National Council meeting, His Highness Sheikh Saif said, "At the beginning of the pandemic everybody expected crime to rise, but the UAE managed to maintain a low rate."

According to the data from the Ministry, only 34 'worrying crimes' were recorded in

2020, compared with 49 in 2019.

"We also anticipated fires to increase since people were spending more time at home last year. Due to the public's high level of awareness, however, the fires dropped from 700 in 2019 to 381 in 2020," he highlighted.

Meanwhile, the Interior Minister said 6,039 prisoners were pardoned and others left on the completion of their sentences last year.

To reunite former inmates with their families during the pandemic, the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the General Civil Aviation Authority and the Emirates Red Crescent, donated a total of 10,394 airline tickets to inmates upon their release in 2020.



Mol praised by Federal National Council for COVID-19 response



HE Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior (Mol), with Commanders-in-Chief and high-ranking officials of the Mol and UAE police forces

Minister and Minister of Interior (Mol), during the Council's 8th Session for the 17th legislative chapter, lauding the Mol's commitment to the UAE's fight against the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

During the session, FNC Speaker HE Saqr Ghobash praised the gallant efforts

His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed reported during the session that only 4 per cent of the inmates' population in the UAE have contracted COVID-19 and the majority have already recovered.

This, he said, was exceptionally low compared to about 20 per cent and above COVID-19 cases in prison cells in other countries as a result of serious overcrowding.

"Soon, we will celebrate reaching zero cases amongst inmates," said the Interior Minister.

His Highness also highlighted that inmates who are still serving their jail-terms help in the country's fight against the pandemic. Various correctional institutions in the country had produced 17,600 face masks and 30,000 face shields that were distributed free of charge to labourers.

"We made the inmates feel they are productive in the fight against COVID-19, and we did not disrupt procedures," said His Highness.

THE Federal National Council (FNC) welcomed His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime

of the Mol in working hand in hand with the Ministry of Health and Prevention during the pandemic.

Mol wins global award for anti-narcotics fight for 5 years in a row

FOR the fifth consecutive year, the Ministry of Interior (Mol) has clinched the "Award of Best Field Information and Operational Cooperation in Anti-Narcotic at the Arab, Regional and International Levels", issued by the Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

The award was given to the Mol, in recognition

of its efforts in reinforcing joint Arab and international cooperation in drug control. It also highlights the Ministry's key role in promoting cooperation between Arab ministries and organisations in combatting the scourge of illegal drugs.

The recognition was announced during the 34th Arab Conference of Heads of Anti-Narcotics

Agencies, which was held remotely.

Brigadier Saeed Abdullah bin Tuwair Al Suwaidi, Director-General of the Federal Drug Control Administration at the Mol, stressed that winning the award for the fifth time crowns the efforts of the UAE, represented by the Mol, to encourage joint Arab anti-narcotics work.

Mol holds workshop on post-pandemic public events



Major General Dr Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, Inspector General at the Ministry of Interior

MAJOR General Dr Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, Inspector General at the Ministry of Interior (Mol), inaugurated the second virtual workshop titled 'Resuming Events After the Pandemic', organised in cooperation with the Dubai World Trade Centre.

The workshop was part of the initiative 'Best Practices in Organising Events

2021', undertaken by the General Directorate of Relations and Protocols at Mol. This workshop was attended by Major Ali Hamad Al Mansoori, Head of the Conference Department at the Public Relations Department, and a number of Mol officers.

This initiative, powered by video-conference technology, features specialised workshops to review best practices in organising conferences, exhibitions, and scientific seminars — all of these are major public events involving a large number of people, whose medical safety is a top concern in the post-pandemic era. The workshops are held in cooperation with government entities and other strategic partners of Mol.

Al Raisi explained that this initiative had been undertaken in response to the directives of the police leadership, and the workshops aimed to enhance the

scientific and field knowledge of the public relations personnel at Mol and that of police commanders-in-chief.

Workshop participants learned about the best practices adopted by various government agencies. These sessions also underlined the importance of exchange of information between Mol and the agencies that organise expos and other international events, in order to always maintain the standards of quality, efficiency, and transparency.

The initiative aims to give workshop participants a clear understanding of the process of planning and improving their administrative skills, so that the event managers are better prepared. Al Raisi spoke of the importance of familiarising Mol public relations personnel with the methods of dealing with problems and challenges that might arise at major public events.

UAE civil defence participates in US safety virtual conference

THE General Command of Civil Defence at the Ministry of Interior (Mol) participated in the annual virtual conference for safety in the United States, held virtually in 2021 via video conference.

This was highly significant, as UAE civil defence became the first Arab entity to take part in this conference.

Major General Dr Jassim Mohammed Al Marzouqi, Commander of Civil Defence at the Ministry of Interior, explained that the participation in this conference was in line with the vision of the UAE's wise leadership to make the country the world's best in terms of security and safety. This participation also showed the keenness of the General Command of Civil Defence at Mol to keep up with the best global practices and to utilise Artificial

Intelligence in the sphere of civil safety and protection.

Major Humaid Al Ali, Director of Public Safety and Rapid Intervention Affairs at the Civil Defence General Command, presented a paper titled 'The Excellent Experiences of Firefighting Centres in the UAE', highlighting the distinguished role of civil defence in protecting lives and property around the country. He also stressed that UAE civil defence is a successful model — at the global level — of implementing the highest international standards of protection, prevention, and safety.

In addition, Mol participated via video-conference in the second meeting of the task force concerned with studying the formation of a team for monitoring terrorist threats and analysing terrorist acts. The meeting was organised by the



Major General Dr Jassim Mohammed Al Marzouqi, Commander of Civil Defence at the Ministry of Interior

General Secretariat of the Council of the Arab Ministers of Interior in Tunis. The proposed team's scope of work would include exchange of information related to terrorist threats in the Arab region and foreseeing challenges and risks.

Al Mazrouei unveils best-in-class rescue unit

MAJOR General Staff Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police (ADP), inaugurated the 'Razeen Unit for Rescue, Firefighting and Ambulance', equipped with advanced technologies.

Located on Razeen Street, between Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, its establishment is part of the efforts to support firefighting, ambulance, and rescue operations and protect lives and property.

The inauguration took place in the presence of Major General Khalifa Mohammed Al Khaili, Director of ADP's Finance and Services Sector, Brigadier Mohammed Ibrahim Al Ameri, Deputy Director-General of Abu Dhabi Civil Defence.

Al Mazrouei emphasised on maintaining Abu Dhabi's position as one of the safest cities in the world, a position it had attained because of the wise leadership's comprehensive security strategy, designed to keep



pace with the country's overall development and build trust in the community. The security strategy, he said, contributed to the UAE's leadership in global competitiveness indexes.

Brigadier Al Ameri explained that the Razeen Street unit included firefighting, rescue and ambulance patrols. It was designed to speed up the response to all

reports by acting as the first responder.

The Razeen Street unit's capabilities include lightning patrols for firefighting and rescue, considered the first of its kind in the region. Its patrol teams also specialise in desert firefighting and are equipped with rescue motorcycles, which were recently introduced to improve the rapid response system for rugged and remote areas.

Abu Dhabi Police reinforce professional, ethical values



Colonel Mattar Mu'ded Al Muhairi, Head of the Anti-Corruption Department at Abu Dhabi Police

ABU Dhabi Police have launched a second media awareness campaign,

'Fulfilling their Obligations', which targets government and private sectors to reinforce positive professional values, safeguard public wealth, and prevent financial fraud.

Colonel Mattar Mu'ded Al Muhairi, Head of the Anti-Corruption Department at Abu Dhabi Police, explained that the campaign aims to enhance awareness on avoiding corruption at work, including embezzlement, bribery, and counterfeiting.

The UAE government, said Al Muhairi, has put in place appropriate mechanisms to curtail any activities that would undermine professional ethics — this was

meant to protect the administrative apparatus and public interest, and preserve a business environment of integrity, honesty, transparency, competence, and equal opportunity.

He spoke of the responsibility of every institution in the public and private sector to inculcate professional integrity in their employees, while also strengthening internal supervision to prevent violations.

Al Muhairi urged members of society to protect the country by calling the Aman service (number 8002626) or by sending a text message to number 2828. These channels are for reporting any suspicions about security violation and corruption.

Dhahi Khalfan spearheads Drug Control Council meeting



Lt General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai and Chairman of the Federal Drug Control Council

LT General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai and Chairman of the Federal Drug

Control Council, chaired the third meeting of the Council in 2021.

The online meeting was attended by Brigadier Saeed Abdullah Al Suwaidi, Director General of Federal Drug Control and Deputy Chairman of the Council, and several officials from drug control agencies in the UAE.

The meeting discussed the outcome of investigations into tracing the financial proceeds of drug sales, in order to drain out the wellspring of the illegal drug trade and arrest drug dealers. The participants also reviewed the challenges, proposals, and recommendations to support related initiatives and investigations.

Targeted performance indicators were

approved for the directorates, departments, and sections of the Drug Control Council and the higher national subcommittees affiliated to the Council for 2021, in line with the UAE's national drug control strategy. Proposals for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependents according to the most successful international practices were discussed.

The meeting also reviewed efforts and accomplishments of the public security authorities in cooperation with their strategic partners, and it went over a proposal submitted by the Federal Customs Authority on the 'RAS Cargo' system project, a new technology for mass cargo screening adopted by FCA.

Al Nuaimi lauds dip in serious accidents in Ajman

MAJOR General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, praised the efforts of the police force's Traffic and Patrols Department in intensifying road safety campaigns, which led to a 44 per cent decrease in serious road accidents in 2020.

In a meeting held remotely, Al Nuaimi reviewed the past year's traffic index of the emirate, in the presence of Brigadier Khalid Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Deputy Director General of Police Operations at Ajman Police, and Lt Colonel Saif Abdullah Al Falasi, Director of the Traffic and Patrols Department at Ajman Police.

Adding to the remarkable traffic index last year was a 33 per cent decrease in fatalities from road mishaps, as well as a 25 per cent dip in run-over accidents.

"This contributed to accomplishing the goal of the Ministry of Interior to make the country the safest in the world," he said.



Major General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of the Ajman Police, during his virtual tour in police departments

During the virtual meeting, Al Nuaimi also carried out virtual inspections in all police departments in the emirate.

RAK Crisis Team rolls out sports precautionary measures

Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Team Adopts Precautionary and Preventive Measures for Sports Fields

- Playing football or other sports randomly in neighborhoods without abiding by precautionary or preventive measures are banned.
- Doing other sports such as "cricket" in housing compounds, and between buildings and neighborhoods, without commitment or compliance with the application of precautionary and preventive measures, are also banned.
- Failure to abide by these precautionary measures exposes violators to be held accountable by competent authorities, and related fines will be applicable.

MAJOR General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police and Head of the Local Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Team in Ras Al Khaimah, has announced a series of COVID-19 precautionary and preventive measures for sporting venues.

The move, which includes the suspension of football practices in crowded areas, was aimed at curbing the spread of the disease. The crisis

management team added that all sporting activities, such as cricket, would be prohibited in residential complexes and between buildings and neighbourhoods unless there was adherence to the COVID-19 precautionary measures in place.

Ali Al Nuaimi warned that the police force would leave no stone unturned for the rule-breakers of COVID-19 safety protocols in the emirate, as violators expose the health and safety of the community to serious risk.

Al Marri reviews work of youth task forces

LT General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, took note of the efforts made by the youth task forces entrusted with a comprehensive strategic modernisation project for the police force during a meeting at the Security Innovation Lab of Dubai Police.

He had a detailed briefing on the progress made towards this comprehensive strategic modernisation. The task forces work in coordination with agencies and sectors dedicated to excellence and entrepreneurship.

Going into the work of individual task forces, Al Marri was briefed about the efforts of the 'competitiveness and global view' team, which worked for more than 168 hours and held 14 meetings to analyse the reports of global competitiveness and the strategies of global security institutions; and the efforts of the 'studies and research' task force, which put in 720 work



Lt General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, during a meeting at the Security Innovation Lab of Dubai Police

hours and held 25 meetings, where 32 recommendations were made for the strategic modernisation project. The security task force, meanwhile, endeavoured 120 hours of work into researching how police departments fared in comparison with each other.

A presentation was made by the 'policies

and laws' team, which studied numerous policies and laws connected to the national and international missions of Dubai Police. The 'strategic laboratories' task force briefed the police chief on its endeavour to set up labs that would discuss 30 topics under the broad heading 'The Youth of Today, Makers of 2071'.

Fujairah Police unveil smart mobile app



MAJOR General Mohammed Ahmed bin Ghanim Al Kaabi, Commander-in-Chief of Fujairah Police, has launched the police force's smart mobile application that offers access to a range of police services.

Al Kaabi urged Fujairah residents to communicate their complaints, as well as comments and

suggestions, directly to the police force using the mobile app.

He also emphasised the keenness of Fujairah Police to improve its digital infrastructure, meant to further increase the level of

public satisfaction as well as safety and security.

The smart application was unveiled in the presence of several directors general and department directors.

Brigadier Mohammed bin Nayie' Al Tunajji, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Fujairah Police, praised the efforts of the Smart Programmes and

Applications Team of the police force in launching the police force's mobile application.

Al Tunajji underscored that the smart platform, which is currently available on App Store, aims to offer the best police services that enhance the level of safety and security at the emirate level.

The smart platform's features include the following police service categories: 'To Whom It May Concern' certificate service; Communication service; Shop licensing service; Ground and Aerial Photography service; and Night Work Permit service. The public may also report their missing belongings and fires incidents through the mobile app.

The app, Al Tunajji said, aims to increase the level of customers' happiness by giving them access to police service anytime, anywhere and without the need to visit police centres. He said that the app also supports the needs of differentlyabled users.

Bin Amer attends Sharjah Police's drone simulation drill

BRIGADIER Abdullah Mubarak bin Amer, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, attended a simulation drill, meant to test the efficacy of drones in real-life scenarios, held at the Special Task Force headquarters in Al Zahia.

Bin Amer extolled the high level of accuracy and precision of the drones, which demonstrates Sharjah Police's keenness to keep pace with innovative technologies. This, he said, was in line with the general strategy of the Ministry of Interior and consistent with the Sharjah Police's pursuit of excellence and leadership in police work.

Several scenarios were shown during the drill, including an attempt to steal a vehicle in an industrial area, and drones tracking down a car stuck in a sandy area.

The drone technology used during the drill was capable of identifying the coordinates of an object or a person's current location and alerting the nearest patrol to reach the site in record time.



During Sharjah Police's drone simulation drill at the Special Task Force headquarters in Al Zahia

5 years

The number of years in a row that the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has received the 'Award of Best Field Information and Operational Cooperation in Anti-Narcotic at the Arab, Regional and International Levels', a recognition issued by the Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers to a member country that outstandingly promotes cooperation between Arab ministries and organisations to combat the scourge of illegal drugs.

11 million

The number of UAE nationals and residents in the UAE who benefitted from civil defence's various intensified fire safety awareness campaigns between 2017 and 2020. Compliance of buildings in the country's fire safety code now stands at 95 per cent.

30.6 per cent

Percentage drop in the number of serious crimes in the UAE between 2019 and 2020. From 49 in 2019, the number of such crimes fell to only 34 last year, according to the data from the Ministry of Interior.

45.5 per cent

Percentage decrease in the number of fire incidents in the UAE between 2019 and 2020, due to the public's high level of awareness owing to intensified fire safety campaigns and regular inspections of civil defence. From 700 in 2019, fire incidents recorded across the emirates in 2020 dropped to 381.

30,000

The number of face shields produced by inmates from the various correctional institutions under the Ministry of Interior. Along with 17,600 face masks, the face shields were distributed free of charge to labourers, as inmates' contribution to the UAE's battle against COVID-19.

BE IN THE LOOP

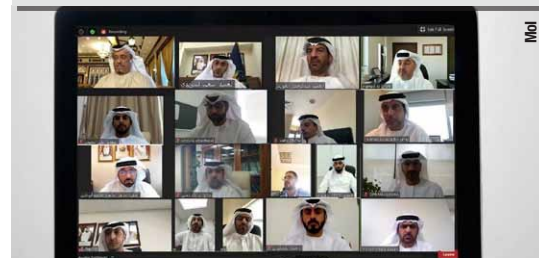
SAIF BIN ZAYED ATTENDS DIGITAL WOMEN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, with the organisers and participants of the 'Emirati Women's Digital Leadership' forum

Under the patronage of HH Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairperson of General Women's Union (GWU) and Supreme Council of Maternity and Childhood, Supreme Chairperson of the Family Development Foundation, and Mother of the Nation, and in the presence of HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, the GWU and Khalifa Empowerment Programme 'Aqdar' organised the virtual forum 'Emirati Women's Digital Leadership' on the occasion of International Women's Day.

FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL COUNCIL APPROVES NEW KPI FOR 2021



Officials of the Federal Drug Control Council at the Ministry of Interior

Lt General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai and Chairman of the Federal Drug Control Council at the Ministry of Interior, led the 3rd Council meeting for 2021. The meeting, which was held virtually via video conference, resulted in the approval of key performance indicator (KPI) of UAE polices' drug control departments and divisions.

UAE JOINS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON ARAB COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORTS



Members of the committee at the Council of Arab Interior Ministers in charge to create a task force to monitor threats of extremism in the region

The Ministry of Interior took part in the 2nd meeting of the committee under the General Secretariat of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers which is assigned to form a task force that would monitor terrorist threats and conduct an immediate analysis on terrorist acts. The creation of the task force aims to ramp up the exchange of information related to safety and security in the Arab region.

Fifty years in the service of the nation



We extend our best wishes to
the  Magazine issued by
the Ministry of Interior on an occasion
The Magazine's golden jubilee

 **FIVE C TECHNOLOGY**

UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS



A family, whose two children sustained permanent disabilities from a car accident, will receive Dhs65,000 in compensation, the Abu Dhabi Civil Appeals Court has ruled. The kids suffered leg fractures and other body injuries. Aside from the payment for physical and material damages, the court also ordered the driver and his insurance firm to pay Dhs100,000 for violating various traffic rules.



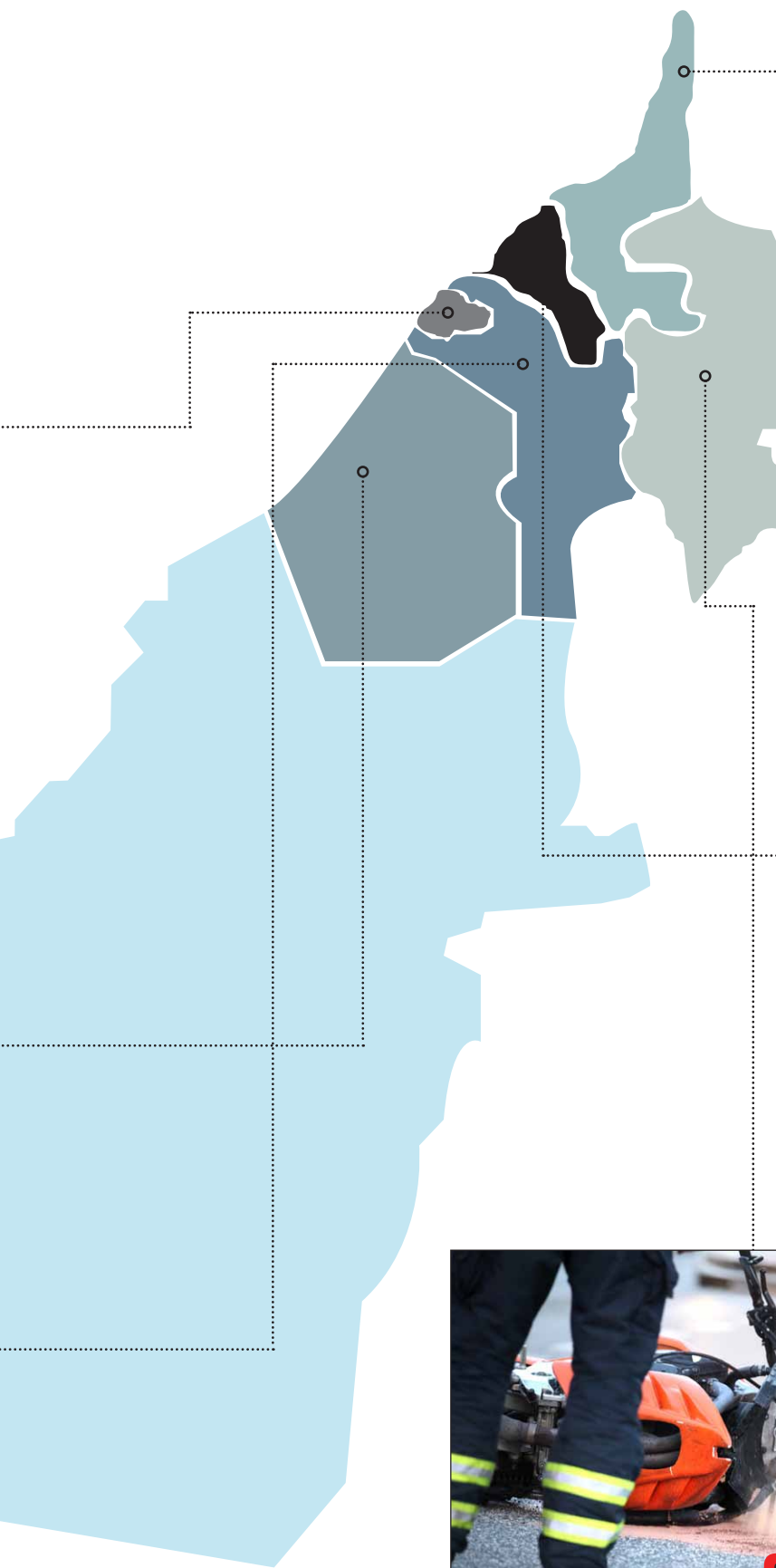
An Asian man will spend three years in jail to be followed by deportation for forging academic degree certificates. He was caught red-handed in a setup operation by Ajman Police. The cops found a printer and a laptop connected to his car's battery, which he uses to print fake certificates. Also uncovered was a laptop loaded with files of official seals and logos of different Arab educational institutions.



A 56-year-old Asian woman has been charged with drug smuggling in Dubai after 22 sachets of crystal meth had been found hidden in a shampoo bottle inside her luggage. When she was stopped by the authorities at the scan area of Dubai airport, she had initially denied having any illegal object in her luggage. People may lie, but the evidence does not. A total of 746g of crystal meth was discovered in the shampoo bottle.



Thirteen people were arrested by Sharjah authorities for gathering without a necessary permit to play cricket. The arrest came as part of the intensified crackdown on violators of COVID-19 health protocols. The authorities continue to remind the public to strictly follow the precautionary measures in place to curb the spread of COVID-19.



Two Arab brothers, aged 17 and 27, died in a tragic road accident in Ras Al Khaimah's Emirates Bypass road. They were moving toward the direction of the Shamal area when their car flipped multiple times. One of them died on the spot while the other was declared dead at the hospital. As per the initial investigation, the driver lost control over the steering wheel.



In just three hours, Umm Al Quwain Police were able to track down and arrest a speeding driver who hit an Asian man and fled the scene. Ambulance and rescue teams arrived at the accident site at a record time to give first aid to the victim, who suffered minor injuries. The driver was slapped with a fine of Dhs500, along with 8 black points. His vehicle was also impounded.



FUJAIRAH

A young Arab motorcyclist in his 20s succumbed to serious injuries after his motorbike rammed into a car in the Faisal area in the emirate of Fujairah. The paramedics arrived at the scene shortly after the accident was reported to the central operations room. However, the young man died on the spot. The driver of the car survived the crash. The investigation is ongoing.

POST PANDEMIC RAMADAN

EVEN AS THE NATIONWIDE VACCINATION CONTINUES, PROTECTION AND PREVENTION REMAIN A PRIORITY IN THE UAE DURING THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

BY NEIL BIE



A year after spending Ramadan watching patients struggle with COVID-19 and managing prayers on his own because mosques were closed last year, Yousef is looking forward to the holy month in 2021, at a time when the nationwide vaccination drive has made the UAE people feel more secure.

Yousef, a nurse, found himself on the frontlines of a public health battle in 2020. The pandemic kept medical care professionals on their toes constantly – he observed his Ramadan fast and offered prayers, while also supporting the treatment of patients experiencing moderate to severe

attacks of the novel coronavirus infection. Recalling that time, he said, “I remember that my only wish was to see fewer patients struggling with COVID-19. It’s one thing to see patients suffer, but when you see their loved ones, it’s always a heartbreaking situation.”

This year, he is anticipating Ramadan with optimism, looking forward to praying at the mosque. Places of worship have reopened in the UAE, but with the COVID-19 safety protocol in place. Along with the traditional prayers, Yousef has prepared a special prayer of thanksgiving, as the UAE has gradually witnessed a decline in cases, buoyed by the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Across the globe, Ramadan 2020 was observed under mobility restrictions, livelihood uncertainties, and fears about the globally rising

“

THE HOLY MONTH ARRIVES WITH A GREAT DEAL OF HOPE, AS MORE AND MORE VACCINES ARE GETTING GOVERNMENT APPROVALS AND INOCULATION IS TAKING PLACE

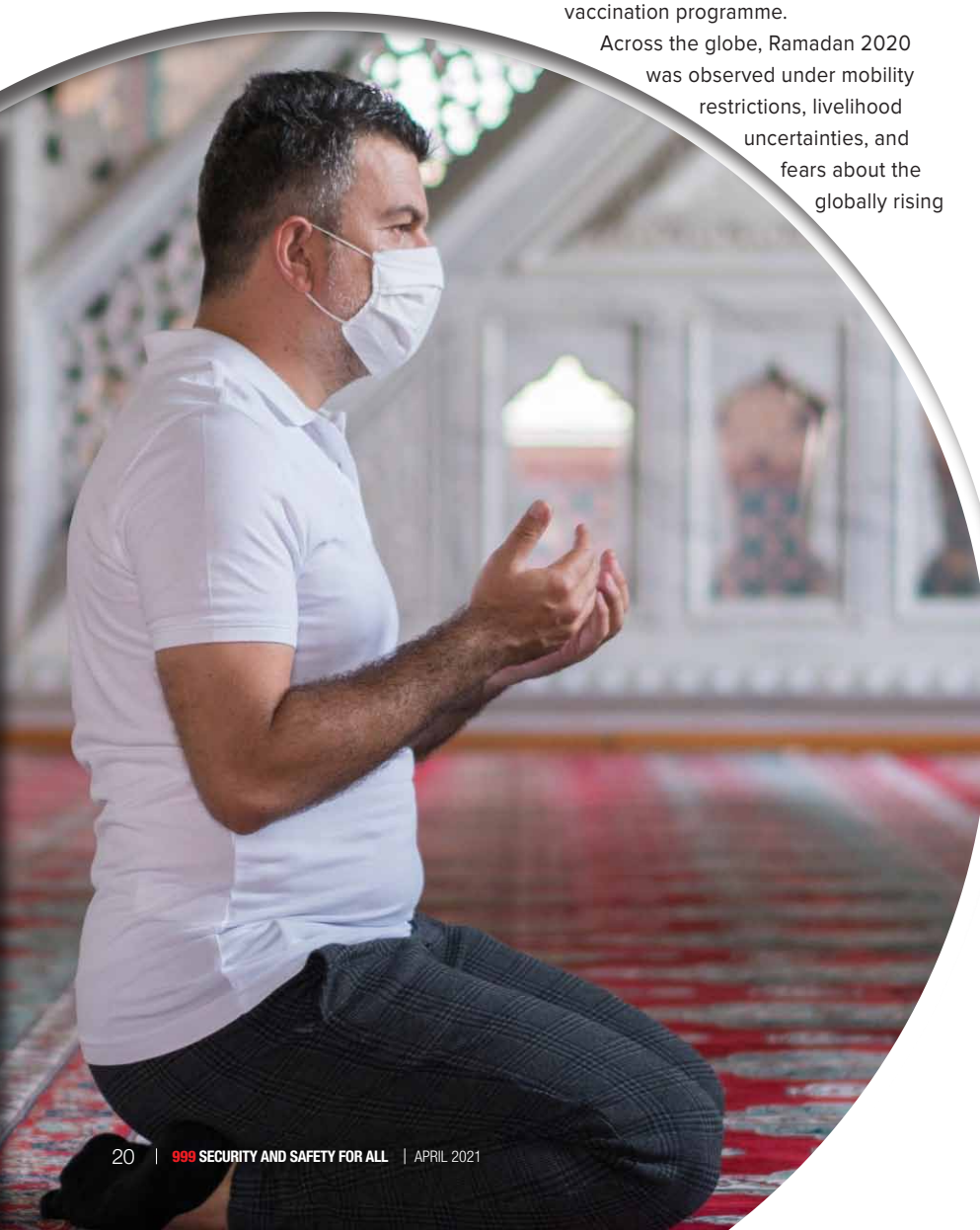
coronavirus death toll. This year, the Holy Month arrives with a great deal of hope, as more and more vaccines are getting government approvals and inoculation is taking place. Always a time of introspection, Ramadan now gives people more reasons to think about what’s important in life – family, cooperation, compassion, restraint, and discipline in the post-pandemic world.

One of the main aspects of Ramadan is becoming more considerate about others’ needs and helping them. In the post-pandemic UAE, the best way to do this is to abide by the safety protocol, helping the country maintain the gains from a whole year of extreme measures. The UAE is ushering in the Holy Month with every precaution in place. The emirates of Dubai, Sharjah, and Ajman, for example, cancelled all permits for Ramadan tents that usually host large social gatherings and free iftar meals.

GATHERINGS NOT ALLOWED

In May 2020, during the period of Ramadan, 16 family members in Bahrain contracted COVID-19 almost at the same time. In July 2020, Dr Omar Al Hammadi, official spokesperson for the UAE Government Media Briefing, revealed that five families with a total of 47 members tested positive for the coronavirus prior to Eid Al Adha celebrations.

The common factor in these incidents



“The decision of cancelling all permits for Ramadan tents in Ajman comes with the Council’s systematic plans to cope with the current exceptional circumstances efficiently



MARYAM ALI AL MAAMARI

Secretary-General of Ajman Coordinating Council for Charity Work and Endowments

was people’s act of defiance – these families held gatherings at a time when their respective governments strictly prohibited them from doing so. To prevent a recurrence, the UAE has implemented measures that curb the possibilities of public gatherings and discourage any private get-togethers during this Ramadan.

In Dubai, the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department (IACAD) announced the cancellation of all annual Ramadan tent permits. This includes majlis and iftar gatherings in line with the country’s preventive measures and health guidelines to keep the virus in check.

“[Public] health safety is one of the department’s top priorities. We will do whatever is needed to help people pass the Holy Month safely,” said Ahmed Darwish Al Muhairi, Executive Director of Charitable Works at IACAD.

Ajman and Sharjah followed suit with the Ramadan and iftar tent ban a few days after the announcement in Dubai.

CHARITABLE GESTURES

IACAD also banned the public distribution of free food during the Holy Month, except for those charity initiatives that are held

“Compliance with preventive and precautionary measures is a collective community responsibility to protect public health



AHMED DARWISH AL MUHAIRI

Executive Director of Charitable Works at Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department

in collaboration with recognised charitable institutions. “Compliance with preventive and precautionary measures is a collective community responsibility to protect public health,” said Al Muhairi.

The country is finding different ways to maintain the safety protocol while letting people celebrate the spirit of Ramadan. Ajman has prepared an alternative plan to distribute iftar meals and stated that all charitable institutions in the emirate

should work with the Ajman Coordinating Council for Charity Work and Endowments, in order to ensure that everyone has food during Ramadan. Special focus will be on ensuring that iftar meals are made available to a large number of workers with limited income.

“The decision of cancelling all permits for Ramadan tents and iftar gatherings in Ajman comes with the Council’s systematic plans to cope with the current exceptional circumstances, efficiently and effectively and in response to preventive and precautionary measures against the global pandemic,” said Maryam Ali Al Maamari, Secretary-General of the Council.

Sharjah’s Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Team stated that the distribution of meals and in-kind assistance in the emirate would be streamlined and provided through the official charitable institutions. The emirate also stated that it would intensify inspection campaigns to ensure COVID-19 protocol compliance during the Holy Month.



ALL ABOUT RAMADAN

WHAT IS RAMADAN AND ITS RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE?

Ramadan is the Holy Month for over 1.8 billion Muslims around the world – this is considered as the period when the Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad. It is a time when Muslims fast during the day. However, contrary to popular belief, this isn't restricted to food and water alone. Muslims also practise abstinence from negative thoughts in their aim to commune with Allah for self-purification. Positive thoughts take the shape of acts of kindness and charity.

The last meal of the day is eaten before sunrise and the next meal, called iftar, is the one that breaks the fast after sunset, following the evening prayer. Dates are a part of most iftar meals in the Arab World.



DOES EVERYONE FAST FOR RAMADAN?

Islamic law states that fasting is obligatory for every healthy Muslim who has reached puberty, is of sound mind, and is not travelling during the Holy Month. Individuals exempted from fasting include children, pregnant women, breastfeeding women, travellers, and people who are physically or mentally ill, to name a few. Muslims who get sick during the Ramadan period can compensate either by fasting later for the number of days they missed or by sharing their food with a person who really needs nourishment.



HOW IS RAMADAN DECLARED?

One consistent method of telling when Ramadan would begin is moon-sighting. The UAE has its very own moon-sighting committee, comprising Muslim scholars. The committee convenes to check and confirm the dates when Ramadan is expected to begin and end.

Since Ramadan is determined through the lunar calendar, the dates come forward every year, an average of 11 days earlier than the previous year's date. The daylong fast is more challenging for the faithful whenever Ramadan falls during mid-summer; at this time, daylight may extend up to 15 hours.



HOW DO MUSLIMS MARK THE END OF RAMADAN?

Ramadan concludes after 29 to 30 days of fasting, depending on the moon-sighting. What follows is a three-day holiday called the 'Eid al-Fitr' which translates to the 'Festival of Breaking the Fast'. During this time, Muslims pray and thank Allah for giving them the strength and resilience to finish the 30 days of fasting. They usually extend their blessings by doing or collaborating with charitable acts, and children get gifts from their elder family members as acts of generosity.



THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT RAMADAN

Ramadan as a name: The name of the Holy Month has also witnessed an increase in preference amongst Muslim households when choosing the name of their baby boys. The baby-naming website, Baby Centre, states that 'Ramadan' as a baby name has been rising in popularity in recent years.



Breaking the fast: Fasting period varies across the world. Breaking the fast for Muslims depend on the time when the sun sets on the horizon - which means timings vary for the Muslim faithful around the world. The longest fasting period expected this 2021 are those living at Murmansk in Russia, who have to fast at least 18 hours. The shortest is for Muslims living at Ushuaia in Argentina, with an average of 12 hours to fast. Muslims in the UAE have a median range on timings for their fast, with 14 hours daily before the sun fully sets.



Different dates of Ramadan: Every year, the month of Ramadan falls on different dates, starting approximately 11 days earlier than the year before. This is because Ramadan follows the lunar calendar or the phase cycle of the moon, which is equivalent to only 29.5 days; the total number of days for each transition from a new moon to another new moon is only 354 days per year.



Watch your weight: Despite the fasting period, Ramadan is also known to trigger weight gain. Part of the reason is that some devotees overeat during the period when meals are allowed, presumably to conserve their strength through the day, but the wrong choice of foods can have the opposite effect.



Charitable acts: Ramadan is synonymous with charity, in the sense that Muslims practise the act of giving to the needy more at this time than at other times of the year. In the UAE, several non-Muslims, too, often actively engage in charity out of respect for the Holy Month. However, the authorities here strongly discourage giving alms directly to beggars, in order to crack down on illegal begging rackets and to ensure law and order.



PANDEMIC OF FEMALE BURNOUT

IT HAS BEEN OVER A YEAR NOW THAT WOMEN HAVE BEEN SHOULDERING
AN EXTRA LOAD ON THEIR ALREADY HEAVY SHARE OF HOUSEWORK. THE
CONVERSATION AROUND IT NEEDS TO GET LOUDER

BY LARA AL THARASI





The world is busy debating whether or not to open schools and recreation spaces. But a matter that has largely remained under the radar, despite some voices having raised this issue, is the extra burden of household chores on women and their exit from the workforce.

The extra burden applies to both homemakers and professionals, but the latter category has suffered more; the unpaid work done by women at home has always been seriously undervalued, and the pandemic accentuates the problem.

'Sadika', a mother of four who works as a senior account executive in Abu Dhabi, said she had to "grow more legs and arms in order to juggle her work and the needs of her family, especially her children studying at home through distance learning. "This has been going on for more than a year now. It was especially hard during the early months of the pandemic. Because this pandemic has cast extraordinary circumstances, now added to my daily routine is tutoring all my kids for they need guidance in their studies now more than ever. As I have to do this along with the already weighty mother duties and the pressure of the work from home setup (WFH), I need to grow more legs and arms to accomplish everything."

"At first it gave a lot of stress so I thought of prioritising my family over my job because I could no longer keep pace with my responsibilities in the office. I sent a resignation letter to my company last October, but they were kind enough to understand my situation

when I sat down with our HR. Instead of accepting my resignation, they removed some duties from my daily deliverables, and it was an immensely helpful move for me."

The story of Sadika is playing out, too, in most parts of the world. She is fortunate to belong to an organisation that cares about its employees' mental health, because this is not the same case for other mothers out there. Here's a look at the context for women and household chores, before and during the pandemic.

At least five months before anyone had even heard of COVID-19, a 2019 study undertaken by University College London and published in the journal *Work, Employment and Society* showed that the average females in the United Kingdom did 16 hours of household chores every week, while the average males did six hours. In households where the husband and wife

both worked full-time, the women were five times as likely as the men to spend around 20 hours every week on home chores. This is just a sample of what happens even in an advanced nation; things weren't any better in developing nations.

That was before COVID-19 came along, turned the whole world upside down, and made everyone stay indoors for months. One of the fallouts of this long confinement is the additional burden on women who were already shouldering most share of housework. Working mothers had to pick up the load of cooking, cleaning, childcare, and monitoring their children from time to time as the computer screen became the classroom — all this alongside managing their own professional tasks. Working men did help around the house, but cultural norms in most countries have always made this optional rather than obligatory.

After nearly a year of living with the novel coronavirus, the situation was hardly any better. A December 2020 article headlined 'COVID-19: How women are bearing the burden of unpaid work', published on the *World Economic Forum* website, cited a UN Women survey that showed the gender disparity in terms of home chores during the pandemic. For the task of "cooking and serving meals", 32 per cent of women and only 18 per cent of men reported "increased" work, while 48 per cent of men and only 17 per cent of women said, "I usually don't do it". For "cleaning (clothes, household)", 45 per cent of women and 35 per cent of men reported "increased" work, and 33 per cent of men and only 13 per cent of women said, "I usually don't do it".

For many women, the stress increased to a point where they felt: 'something's



“

The positive side is that despite the huge pressure that society has been experiencing, we noticed a lesser trend in the number of family issues and divorce, and there was balanced spending of money

gotta give'. Since quitting the home life wasn't possible, they quit their jobs and shelved their professional capabilities and financial independence. This unhappy trend became visible quite early in the pandemic and it hasn't been reversed yet.

UN Women had warned about this as early as in April 2020, saying: "As women take on greater care demands at home, their jobs will also be disproportionately affected by cuts and lay-offs. Such impacts risk rolling back the already fragile gains made in female labour force participation, limiting women's ability to support themselves and their families, especially for female-headed households."

The impact is as much mental as physical and financial. A survey published just in time for World Mental Health Day on October 10, 2020, showed that women were 43 per cent more likely than men to have increased their hours beyond a standard working week than men, and for those with children, this was even more associated with mental health problems.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE

Badriya Ahmed Hassan Al Shehhi from the Ras Al Khaimah Police General Command said, "There is a negative and a positive side to this crisis for the community of small families, which are the backbone of UAE society. The negative revolves around the role of the woman in bearing more responsibility, as she's the wife, mother, school teacher, and employee at the same time; she has played all the roles during the quarantine. More so, if she has children of different age groups who need educational follow-up at the same time, in addition to the load of housework. The positive side, I think, is that despite the huge pressure that society has been experiencing, we noticed a lesser trend in the number of family issues and divorce, and there was balanced spending of money."

Talking about the long-term impact of the pandemic months on women, Dr Khawla Al Takhayneh, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Al Ain



GENDER DISPARITY IN HOME CHORES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Cooking and serving meals

Women	Men
32%	18%
17%	48%
I don't usually do it	

Cleaning (e.g. clothes, household)

Women	Men
45%	35%
13%	33%
I don't usually do it	

Shopping for the family

Women	Men
25%	22%
23%	29%
I don't usually do it	

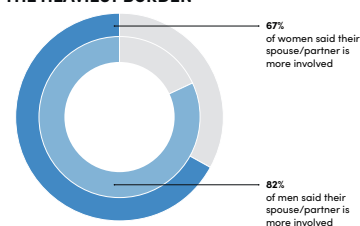
Decoration, repairs and household management

Women	Men
29%	24%
29%	33%
I don't usually do it	

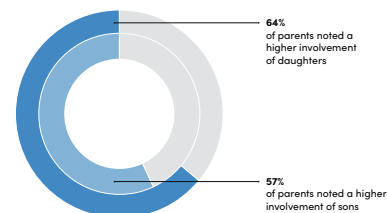
Pet care

Women	Men
13%	14%
60%	61%
I don't usually do it	

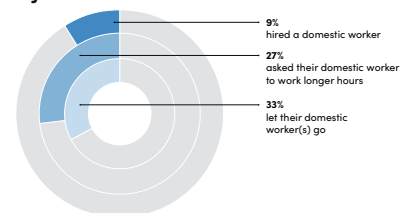
EVERYBODY IS PITCHING IN AT HOME, BUT WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE BEARING THE HEAVIEST BURDEN



SOCIAL NORMS ARE STILL AT PLAY DURING COVID-19



DOMESTIC WORKERS FACE OVERWORK OR JOB LOSS



Source: UN Women Rapid Gender Assessments on the Impacts of COVID-19, April–November 2020

“For working mothers, in particular, it became a double job. Balancing multiple tasks while dealing with social pressures at the same time is a difficult thing to do



DR KHAWLA AL TAKHAYNEH

Assistant Professor of Sociology at
Al Ain University

University, said that the pandemic had significantly affected society. “For working mothers, in particular, it became a double job. Women had to take care of the tasks of the teacher in addition to their main tasks. Balancing multiple tasks while dealing with social pressures at the same time is a difficult thing to do and the level of difficulty varies for working and non-working mothers; the one with one child and the one with several children. It also varies depending on the different educational needs of each child,” said the professor.

ABSENCE OF PARTNERSHIP

Dr Asma Ben Houidi, Psychiatrist at Mediclinic hospital in Abu Dhabi, said, “This new daily lifestyle has made family members spend more time at home, and this time is a beautiful, shared opportunity

“We’ve noticed an increase in anxiety and depression disorders in general, especially amongst women in the recent period, as they bear the brunt of stress and psychological pressures resulting from the pandemic



DR ASMA BEN HOUIDI

Psychiatrist at Mediclinic hospital in Abu Dhabi

for many families to come together and share daily tasks, share life details and participate in making a successful day and, thus, a successful life.

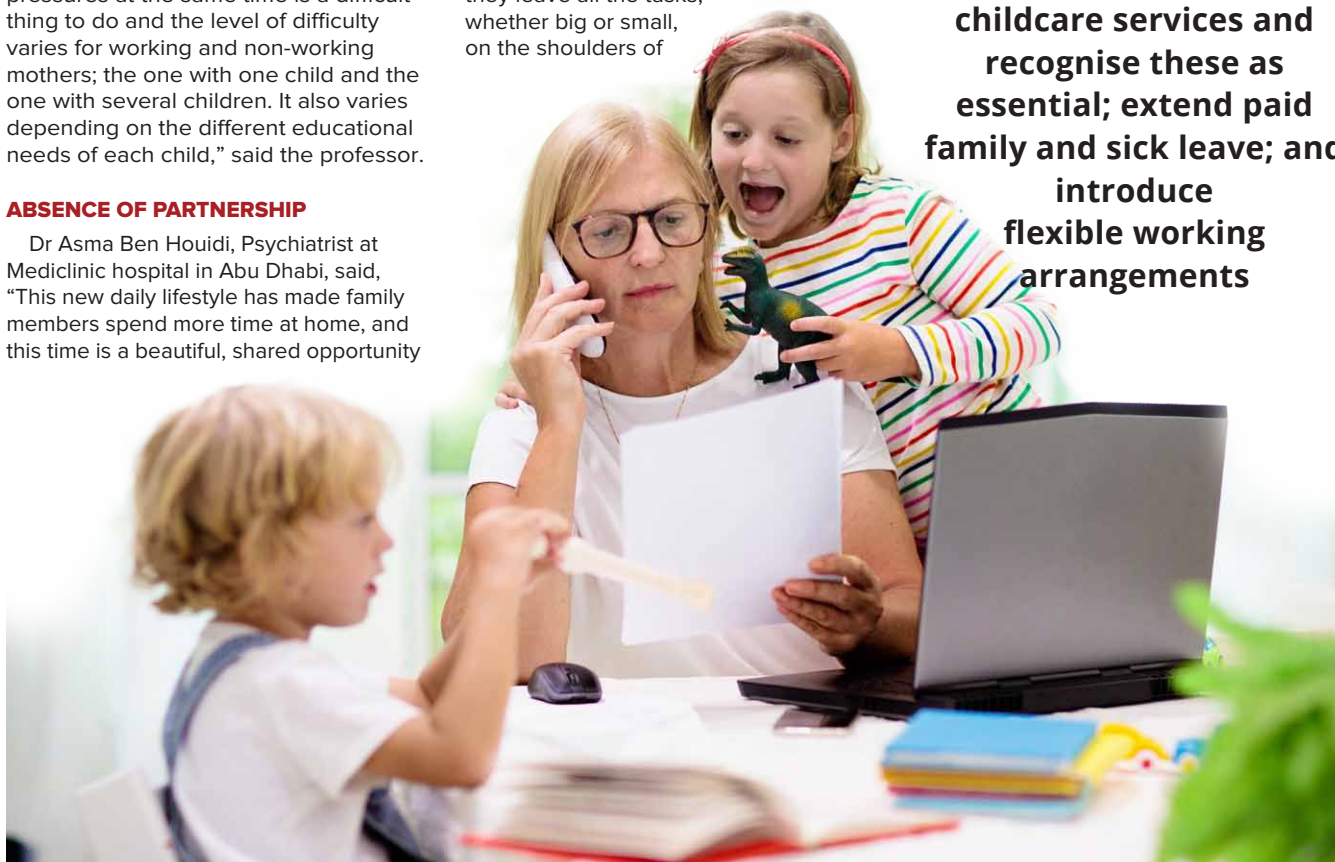
“However, some people have no spirit of partnership, cooperation, contribution, a sense of shared-responsibility, and so they leave all the tasks, whether big or small, on the shoulders of

women. These people just harm the new normal we’re living in without making any contributions.”

The psychiatrist concluded that the increase in pressure on women led to increased tensions at home, in the absence of effective communication between family members. She said, “We’ve noticed an increase in anxiety and depression disorders in general, especially amongst women in the recent period, as they bear the brunt of stress and psychological pressures resulting from the pandemic.”

As per UN Women’s recommendation: “Governments should adopt policies that support access to childcare services and recognise these as essential; extend paid family and sick leave; introduce flexible working arrangements and “cash-for-care” programmes that compensate parents during school or day-care closures; and tailor economic support packages to affected women. It’s time for governments to show how much they care about women’s unpaid care and domestic work.”

“Governments should adopt policies that support access to childcare services and recognise these as essential; extend paid family and sick leave; and introduce flexible working arrangements





CommScope connectivity powers the smart building.

Connectivity is redefining how today's smart buildings serve the people who live, work and play in them. And CommScope is redefining how in-building connectivity is engineered, deployed and managed.

Employees, customers and visitors demand always-on wireless service. Facility operations and security systems increasingly rely on IP-connected Internet of Things devices. No wonder enterprises around the world count on CommScope to deliver reliable, ubiquitous in-building connectivity—making smart buildings smarter, and helping to manage them better.

Contact MEAMarketing@commscope.com
or learn more at commscope.com

COMMSCOPE®

READY FOR TAKEOFF

ALMOST GROUNDED FOR A YEAR BY CORONAVIRUS, AIRLINES ARE ONCE AGAIN PREPARING TO FLY, ARMED WITH A POST-PANDEMIC PROTOCOL THAT INCLUDES A 'VACCINE PASSPORT'

BY RUSSELLE SMITH



A new buzzword has entered the vocabulary of the aviation sector: vaccine passport. Could this be the answer to quench people's thirst to travel around the world again? A 'vaccine passport' — the idea is born out of the novel coronavirus pandemic — isn't literally a new physical document issued by any country. Rather, it's an innovative digital application that shows proof of an individual's COVID-19 vaccination status. It aims to allow individuals to travel with ease with an internationally-endorsed app on your smartphone.

The UAE, as always, is amongst the first few countries in the world to embrace any new technology that can make life better; and right now, this nation is making headway with creating such a seamless system, backed by its outstanding digital infrastructure. Two UAE-based airlines will soon make this a reality.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has partnered with Etihad Airways and Emirates, two of the world's top airlines with flights to 80 and 161 international destinations, respectively. The strategic partnerships will witness the launch of the 'IATA Travel Pass'. This mobile app provides passengers with a 'digital passport', with which they can receive and show their COVID-19 test results minus any paperwork — all their health and vaccination data would be available in the cloud.

Nick Careen, Senior Vice President for Airport, Passenger, Cargo and Security at IATA, is optimistic that the UAE's position as a global hub for aviation will aid this innovative method, which ensures verified data on testing and vaccinations for all travellers. "This is the first step in making international travel during the pandemic as convenient as possible, giving people the confidence

“ This will tremendously improve the traveller experience and compliance with entry requirements imposed by destinations around the world



**HH SHEIKH AHMED BIN SAEED
AL MAKTOUM**

Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates

that they are meeting all COVID-19 entry requirements by [various] governments. As borders re-open, IATA Travel Pass will be further enhanced with more capabilities to meet all governments' testing or vaccination verification requirements," said Careen.

Its adoption by UAE airlines is anchored in the country's comprehensive testing and vaccination drives — these are key to helping passengers take to the skies once again.

"A high priority for Etihad is for our guests to have an easy, secure, and efficient way to identify and verify their information. Being one of the first airlines globally working with IATA as a pioneer partner on the IATA Travel Pass is a big step forward for Etihad's guests and for the [aviation] industry," said Mohammad Al Bulooki, Chief Operating Officer of the Etihad Aviation Group.

Emirates airline plans to launch the initial phase of the IATA Travel Pass this April.

“ We have worked with IATA to simplify and digitally transmit the information that is required by countries and governments into our airline systems, in a secure and efficient manner



ADEL AL REDHA

Chief Operating Officer at Emirates

Passengers can share their test results directly with the airline before they reach the airport; this will help passengers and international airlines to feel confident about service resumption.

"While international travel remains as safe as ever, there are new protocols and travel requirements with the current global pandemic. We have worked with IATA on this innovative solution to simplify and digitally transmit the information required by countries and governments into our airline systems, in a secure and efficient manner. We are proud to be one of the first airlines in the world to pilot this initiative, which will provide an enhanced customer experience and conveniently facilitate our customers' travel needs," said Adel Al Redha, Chief Operating Officer at Emirates.

Other international airlines have also begun taking steps to implement the IATA Travel Pass — the carriers include Air New Zealand, Copa Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, RwandAir, Singapore Airlines, Qantas, airBaltic, Gulf Air, ANA, and Air Serbia, to name a few.

In Southeast Asia, Singapore Airlines made history as the first airline to test the IATA Travel Pass through a trial run on its Singapore-London route, from March 15 to 28.

The travel and tourism sector has expressed its full support for solutions such as the vaccine passport to rebuild the confidence of the public. That includes the leisure cruise sector, which requires cruise passengers to show a COVID-19-negative test, just as airlines do.



“Being one of the first airlines globally working with IATA as a pioneer partner on the IATA Travel Pass is a big step forward for Etihad’s guests and for the industry”



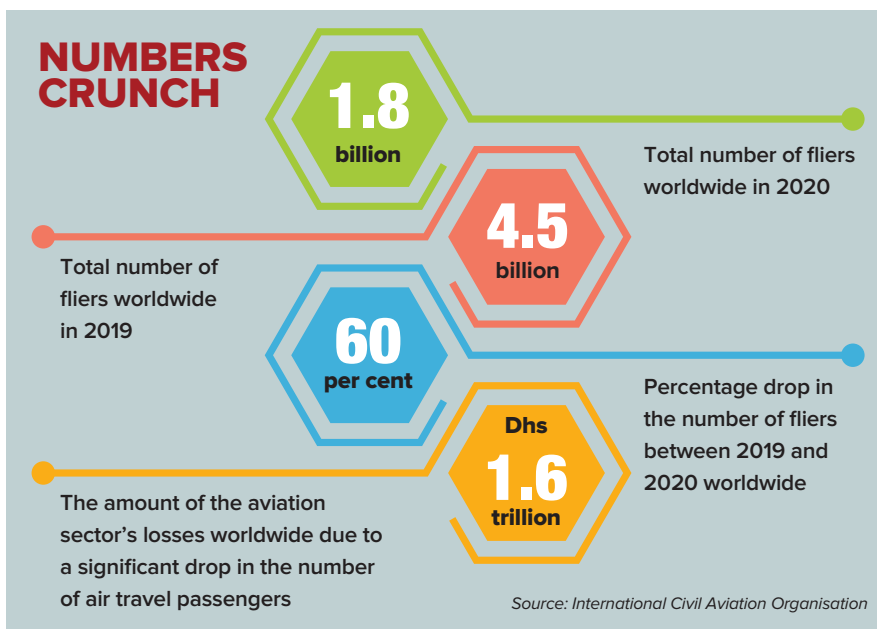
MOHAMMAD AL BULOOKI

Chief Operating Officer of the Etihad Aviation Group

BUILDING OF TRUST

It’s not an exaggeration to say that the global aviation sector has been in its own kind of ICU in 2020. In mid-January 2021, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) said that the total number of fliers in the pandemic-hit year was 1.8 billion, compared with 4.5 billion in 2019, which is a 60 per cent drop. The sector’s losses amounted to \$370 billion (Dhs1.6 trillion approx), “with airports and air navigation services providers losing a further 115 billion and 13 billion, respectively”, said ICAO in a press statement. IATA statistics put the drop in passenger numbers at 65.9 per cent.

As coronavirus cases flare up again in some parts of the world, it’s crucial for airlines to create an atmosphere of assurance to slowly try and return to profit. It’s equally



crucial for passengers to sign up for safety programmes like the IATA Travel Pass to get access to all destinations without incurring the expense of compulsory quarantine.

DUBAI’S DIGITAL SYSTEM

In Dubai, aside from the ‘vaccine passport’, another digital system is being worked out to exempt passengers who’ve received the required two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from PRC tests and quarantine measures. This system is expected to be adopted by the rest of the emirates. Dubai Health Authority and Emirates airline have signed an agreement for this digital system that would show travellers’ vaccination and COVID-19 testing records. While it’s similar to the IATA Travel Pass at the outset, this digital system would be available to all UAE nationals and residents.

The move solidifies Dubai’s vision to strike a balance between controlling the spread of the virus and allowing safe air travel, because aviation is an essential factor in the economic growth of the emirate, and of the nation as a whole. “Dubai is a leading global air transport hub, as well as one of the world’s most progressive cities in the area of e-government services. It is a natural step to combine our capabilities to implement digital verification of COVID-19 medical records, which will also enable contactless document verification at Dubai Airport. This will tremendously improve the traveller experience, as well as the reliability, efficiency, and compliance with entry requirements imposed by destinations around the world,” said His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates.

IATA TRAVEL PASS: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

The IATA Travel Pass aka ‘vaccine passport’ is an all-in-one innovative service that will provide information about the traveller regarding their COVID-19 testing and vaccination status. This is to ensure that travellers can fly without worrying about contracting COVID-19 before, during, or after the flight. Here’s how it works.

Laboratory results: COVID-19 test results can be sent directly to the IATA Travel Pass app from authorised labs and test centres. Apart from test results, this can also be used for the traveller’s vaccination status.

Travel Pass generation: Individuals who have installed the IATA Travel Pass app for their flights can create their ‘digital passport’, which contains their latest COVID-19 test and vaccination results to share with authorities.

Testing/vaccination centre registry: The app provides a list of qualified testing centres and labs in the traveller’s vicinity that could provide COVID-19 tests and upload results directly to their app.

Requirement checklist: The app lists down all information regarding travel, testing, and vaccine requirements for a traveller’s country of destination.





PASSES IN AN APP

While an internationally accepted pass for vaccinated travellers is being worked out, countries are launching their own versions of domestic travel passes.

An app-enabled digital certificate has been launched by China; it shows a user's latest COVID-19 test result and vaccination status. The app is integrated within the social media platform 'WeChat'. At present, the QR health codes generated within the WeChat app are now required amongst domestic Chinese residents whenever they travel across China's regions.

China's new digital vaccine passport was piloted last March 8. The trial run requires Chinese citizens to present their WeChat

app with an encrypted QR code. This QR code is scanned and monitored by the authorities to check the individual's medical history for COVID-19, including vaccination records and/or if the person caught the coronavirus at any point. The digital passport is currently used by Chinese nationals for entering grocery stores and travelling across borders; it enables them to move freely within the community. Apart from its digital form through the WeChat app, the certificate is also available as an actual physical document, issued and strictly monitored by local Chinese law enforcement authorities.

Israel's comprehensive COVID-19 vaccination drive, now regarded as the "world's fastest rollout", helped the

country launch its digital domestic vaccine certificate for its citizens through the 'Green Pass' app. Similar to China's digital vaccine passport, Israel's 'Green Pass' shows whether the individual has been vaccinated, or if the person had contracted the virus and has since recovered from it. The authorities have laid out attractive benefits for Israelis who install the app; the perks include ease of access to concerts, hotels, theatres, and gyms.

EFFORTS IN THE WEST

Western nations, many of which have been hit very hard by the pandemic, are trying to move faster towards infection-free aviation.

Part of the executive order issued by the President of the United States Joseph Biden Jr. pertains to promoting safety against COVID-19 for both domestic and international air travel. The US Health Department and other relevant government agencies are directed to link their COVID-19 vaccination certificates to that of International Certificates of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP) and produce its digital versions, to be presented at airports.

This would be a very timely measure, given the current mood. A survey by Statista cites that 4 out of 10 individuals in the US wish to travel "in the near future", while 1 out of 4 companies plans to conduct business travels in the next three months.

At the European Commission, talks are on-going around proposals and developments to create an EU-wide vaccine certificate. Officials expect the initial technical work for this to be completed within the next three months.

YOUR FACE, YOUR PASSPORT

A notable development in the UAE's COVID-19 preventive measure is the launch of a brand new passport control service that makes use of a passenger's face and eyes.

The General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai (GDRFA-Dubai) has launched new biometric systems at 122 smart gates for both arrival and departure terminals at Dubai Airports to help passengers complete passport procedures within five to nine seconds.

The new system uses advanced Artificial Intelligence to expedite the immigration procedure, as part of the GDRFA-Dubai's efforts to enhance the travel experience of UAE residents. This is also under the leadership's directives to incorporate innovative smart services to help the country grow in the post-COVID-19 era.



“ It’s about trying to digitise a process that makes it easier for people to travel between countries



NICK CAREEN

Senior Vice President for Airport, Passenger, Cargo and Security at International Air Transport Association

Denmark has announced that in the next four months, it would roll out its domestic digital passport for people who have received two shots of the vaccine.

France has announced a four-week pilot run of the ICC AOKpass, developed by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in March, a solution supported by MedAire / International SOS. Passengers, on a voluntary basis, get tested at one of the partner laboratories prior to their travel and present the app, which contains the digital certificate of their COVID-19 test.

Catherine Villar, Senior Vice-President of Customer Experience at Air France,

“ We are convinced that the changes we are all currently experiencing will



CATHERINE VILLAR

Senior Vice President of Customer Experience at Air France

transform the way we travel in the long term

stated that this was an innovative change that would result in a worry-free journey. “We are convinced that the changes we are all currently experiencing will transform the way we travel in the long term, and we are committed to supporting all innovation projects that can help us meet these new challenges,” she said.

RIGHT OF CHOICE

The question now is how to make these digital systems and vaccine passports globally accepted. As some individuals may choose to not be vaccinated or may have to skip the vaccine because of their age or health condition, the digital vaccine passport is unlikely to be mandatory for all passengers, according to air travel experts.

However, while the vaccine passport or a similar system can’t be universally enforced, it can be made attractive for passengers by highlighting the benefits. One of the main benefits is skipping hotel quarantine, which would otherwise add a cost of \$1,000-2,000 (Dhs3,700-Dhs7,300) to the traveller’s total trip expenses and

make them waste several days at their destination. The data stored in the IATA Travel Pass will be recognised at their point of departure, intended destination, and all places of transit.

Careen, who has been leading the IATA Travel Pass initiative, said that this digital solution would streamline the process to check the authenticity and validity of an individual’s travel credentials. He said, “It’s about trying to digitise a process that happens now and make it into something that allows for more harmony and ease, making it easier for people to travel between countries without having to pull out different papers for different countries and different documents at different checkpoints.”

There’s a lot of latent demand for travel around the world, and digital solutions can unlock that, bringing happiness to travellers and urgently needed revenues for airlines. In this process, communication is the key.

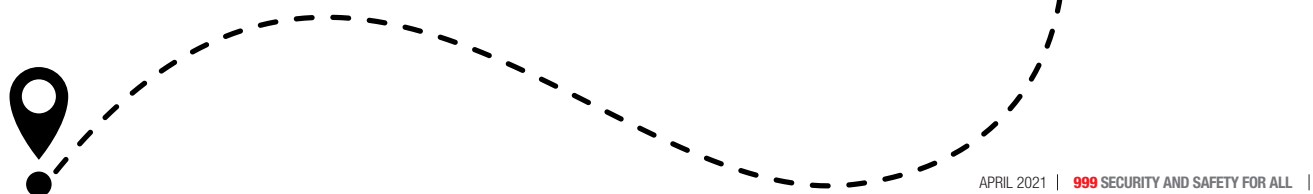
PARCELS WITHOUT PEOPLE

During the COVID-19 pandemic, airlines noticed a shift in the kind of traffic they had — a lot fewer passengers, but much more cargo, driven by the demand for personal protective equipment, product deliveries, and expat package deliveries back to their home countries.

Statistics from WeForum anticipates that passenger-to-freight conversions will increase by 36 per cent in 2021, buoyed by the boom of e-commerce around the world. The strategic move to convert old passenger planes to freight aircraft is not entirely new for major airlines; the pandemic only accelerated the shift.

Thus, while the world waits for a vaccine passport for human safety, airlines can still cash in on the strong demand for cargo movement.

“ Statistics from WeForum anticipates that passenger-to-freight conversions will increase by 36 per cent in 2021, buoyed by the boom of e-commerce around the world



DIGITAL SIGNAGE FOR WAIT TIMES AND OCCUPANCY STATUS:

Airports should facilitate crowd control by showing waiting times on queues through the web and their display screens at the airport premises.

VIRTUAL WAYFINDERS:

Airports should promote the use of digital maps to help passengers find their way within the terminal building.

MOBILE ORDERS:

Those who prefer to eat their meals within the airport while waiting for their flight should be provided with means to order their food through QR codes, online menus, and more.

OFFER VOUCHERS:

Airports can also make use of vouchers to provide credit that customers can use for future travels and/or purchases through their website. The same can be applied for refunds, settlements, and redemptions as well.

SMART BOARDING:

Passengers can be instructed to follow the boarding sequence that's accessible through mobile phones or displayed on smart screens to avoid queues and the rush at the gates.

Source: IATA

TOP 6 TECH SOLUTIONS THAT AIRPORTS NEED

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Physical distancing is a must, with a minimum of 2 metres between two people. Sticker guides and visual reminders are now a common sight at airports.



All passengers are expected to wear face masks. Select countries even mandate wearing face shields.

GLOBAL REMINDERS ON AIR TRAVEL IN 2021

All aircraft are disinfected after every flight, using sanitation products recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO), IATA, and relevant local health authorities.

Crew members onboard your flight will be wearing PPE suits, masks, protective glasses, and gloves, with an assurance that all of them have already tested negative for COVID-19.

Passengers with special needs are advised to arrive at the airport at least three hours in advance.

Source: Forbes



TRUSTED ACROSS
GENERATIONS
FOR
MONEY TRANSFERS &
FOREIGN EXCHANGE
SERVICES

ثقة متوارثة
من جيل الى جيل
في
خدمات التحويلات المالية و
صرف العملات الاجنبية



GLOBAL
TRANSFERS

تحويلات إلى جميع
انحاء العالم



QUICK
CREDITS

إيداعات
سريعة



BEST
RATES

أفضل أسعار
الصرف



www.redhaalansari.com



facebook.com/redhaalansariex



twitter.com/redhaalansariex



Customer Service 600541118



999 MAGAZINE HONOURS DUBAI ISLAMIC BANK

DUBAI ISLAMIC BANK IS FETED FOR SPONSORING ZAYED AL KHAIR CAMP,
IN COOPERATION WITH THE NON-FOR-PROFIT NOOR DUBAI

The **999 Magazine**, the official monthly publication of the UAE Ministry of Interior (MoI) has honoured Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) for sponsoring the Zayed Al Khair camp, in cooperation with Noor Dubai.

Noor Dubai was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, as a non-for-profit organisation to support the global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness.

999 Magazine is the media partner of Noor Dubai, which provides humanitarian services for those in need in Asia and Africa, in coordination with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) and the UAE's embassies abroad.

Colonel Awadh Saleh Al Kindi, Editor-in-Chief of **999 Magazine**, presented a shield, as a symbol of appreciation, and a

certificate of recognition to DIB.

Al Kindi conveyed to the bank's delegation the regards and appreciation of His Excellency Khalil Dawood Badran, Chairman of the **999 Magazine** Development Committee, for being a staunch supporter and sponsor of the treatment camp.

The 999 Editor-in-Chief also stressed that the magazine is part of the MoI's efforts to participate in initiatives and events at local, regional, and international levels to commemorate the UAE's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in line with the directives of His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, and the follow up of HE Khalil Dawood Badran. Such participation supports the magazine's vision of strengthening police-community relationships.

The culture of goodness and giving,

he underscored, forms an inherited approach that characterises the UAE, evident in its tremendous humanitarian efforts and principles established by Sheikh Zayed. The founder's lofty values and goodness touched various countries of the world, making him the prime example of a wise leader for several generations.

Colonel Al Kindi thanked DIB for sponsoring the camp, being one of the country's leading banks in the field of humanitarian initiatives and corporate social responsibility.

The bank's delegation expressed their thanks and appreciation to HE Khalil Dawood Badran and Colonel Al Kindi for this recognition and great gesture. They praised **999 Magazine's** efforts to raise awareness in society and conveyed their willingness to cooperate with the magazine for any local or international initiative in the future.

READ THE ROAD

WHY IS EVERYONE IN A HURRY TO GET SOMEWHERE OR PICK UP A CALL WHILE BEHIND THE WHEEL, WHEN THEY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE HOSPITAL MIGHT BECOME THEIR DESTINATION WITH THESE BAD DRIVING BEHAVIOURS? **999** HIGHLIGHTS HOW CARELESS DRIVING CAN KILL AND CAREFUL DRIVING CAN SAVE LIVES

BY MICHELLE GALE

All of us Internet users upload and play videos all the time, enjoying music, or learning some facts. A video posted by Abu Dhabi in March 2021 had a lot of learning in it, but it was also a grim reminder of irresponsible driving behaviour that can cost lives.

The video posted on Abu Dhabi Police social media accounts informed the public about a truck driver's arrest; it was meant to serve as a strong warning for other drivers. In the video footage, the driver could be seen switching lanes very recklessly on Al Ain Road, posing a threat to other vehicles; tailgating and overtaking at speed, and so on, until a police car chases the truck and catches up with it. According to the police, the driver committed three major traffic violations: driving dangerously close to a vehicle in front of him; overtaking without indicating; and ignoring all traffic signals and rules.

Such an act goes against the grain of what the Ministry of Interior targets for the safety level in the country: 3 deaths or less for every 100,000 people in a year. Sure, death rates dropped in 2020, but that's because there was a lot less traffic throughout the year. Now that we're well into 2021, and offices and schools are seeing a gradual return of physical attendance, the police are again stepping up a campaign to keep the roads safe.

And, of course, Ramadan starts in April, which is another reason for everyone to cultivate better driving habits because the Holy Month is a time of restraint and concern for others.

This year arrived with hope on the pandemic front, thanks to the approved vaccines, but a combination of foggy weather conditions and unsafe driving has caused a number of major accidents from January up until now.

In the first month of 2021, there was a multi-vehicle crash on Sheikh Zayed Road, and then 24 accidents in the space of three hours, both in Dubai. The same month, one person died and eight were injured in a 19-vehicle pileup in Abu Dhabi.

In February, also in Dubai, distracted driving led to the death of two

“ These motorists (6,934) committed serious traffic violations, such as jumping the red light, reckless driving, overtaking from the wrong side, and so on



MAJOR GENERAL SHEIKH SULTAN AL NUAIMI

Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police

people and injured 10, when three buses got involved in a collision. In March, an accident near the Mall of the Emirates in Dubai again caused tailbacks.

Even last year, not everyone practises utmost safety on the roads. In Abu Dhabi alone, the police recorded more than 35,000 motorists not leaving enough distance between vehicles and also fined more than 30,600 people for distracted driving. Traffic police are also noticing a rising number of drivers jumping the red light and increased instances of reckless driving these days.

POOR JUDGEMENT ON THE ROAD

Speaking of the February 2021 accident involving three buses, Brigadier Saif Muhair Al Mazrouei, Director of the General Department of Traffic Police at Dubai Police, stated that a bus driver on Al Khail Road suddenly swerved to the left without warning, hitting two other buses in the process. “The collision impact caused the first bus to veer again onto the right side of the road and hit a third bus before

“ As a general rule for all drivers, allow extra time for your journey and check your planned route for any roadworks underway or highways that you must avoid



BRIGADIER SAIF MUHAIR AL MAZROUEI

Director of the General Department of Traffic Police at Dubai Police

it finally rammed into the metal barrier and flipped over,” he said, stressing that distracted driving and sudden swerving were amongst the most dangerous behaviours behind the wheel.

“Meanwhile, as a general rule for all drivers, allow extra time for your journey and check your planned route for any roadworks underway or highways that you must avoid,” he reminded.

In Sharjah, distracted driving caused 83 accidents in 2020, according to police data. The police force of the emirate has started an e-campaign in March 2021, titled ‘Don’t Lose Your Focus on the Road’.

Ajman Police have also noted a significant increase in vehicle confiscation last year. Major General Sheikh Sultan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, said that the police force had seized 6,934 vehicles in 2020, compared to 5,766 vehicles in 2019. Of these, 89 vehicles were seized for reckless driving and endangering the lives of others. “These motorists (6,934) committed serious traffic violations, such as jumping the red light, reckless driving, engine modification, tinting of car windows



NUMBERS CRUNCH

**1
OUT OF
4**

Ratio of drivers who think they can safely use their mobile phones to read WhatsApp messages while they are driving, according to a study titled 'Risky driving behaviour in Abu Dhabi: A cross-sectional, survey-based study'

30,600

Number of drivers slapped with traffic fines by Abu Dhabi Police in 2020 for distracted driving

**DHS
50,000**

New fine announced by Abu Dhabi Police for jumping the red light, in response to a surge in the number of drivers committing this offence in 2020. This fine is due when retrieving a confiscated vehicle

83

Number of accidents booked by Sharjah Police in 2020 due to distracted driving

**DHS1,000 &
DHS3,000**

Respective spot fines for private vehicle drivers and heavy vehicles drivers for crossing the red light in Abu Dhabi. This comes with 12 black traffic points

6,934

Number of vehicles seized by Ajman Police in 2020 due to bad driving behaviours and illegal car modification

35,000

Number of drivers slapped with traffic fines by Abu Dhabi Police in 2020 for not leaving enough distance between vehicles

**DHS500,
4 BLACK
POINTS**

Penalty for driving heavy vehicles during fog and sandstorms, per Ministerial Resolution No. 178 Article 104, Paragraph (c) regarding traffic control rules and procedures

beyond permissible limit, overtaking from the wrong side, non-renewal of vehicle licence, and so on," he said.

Al Nuaimi warned erring drivers that they are always under the microscope of traffic command centres because of stepped-up inspections, patrolling, and the presence of more radars on highways and interior roads.

HUGE FINE FOR CROSSING RED LIGHT

A hefty fine of Dhs50,000 for jumping the red light was introduced by Abu Dhabi Police in January 2021, in response to a big surge in the number of drivers committing this offence in the past year. In addition to the hefty financial penalty, an offending motorist will also have their driving licence confiscated for six months.

This is how the stiff punishment works.

The driver will have to pay an immediate fine of Dhs1,000. He will also get 12 black traffic points and his vehicle will be impounded for 30 days. Drivers of heavy vehicles, like trucks, face a Dhs3,000 spot fine for the same violation, and a one-year suspension of their licence. Before a violator can get his vehicle back, he must pay Dhs50,000. If he fails to pay this fine, the vehicle remains impounded



“Being distracted with a mobile phone, a driver would not be able to react properly and timely to sudden and unexpected events on the road. If they attempt to change lanes while on the phone, they may fail to spot cars coming from behind them



COLONEL JUMAA SALEM BIN SUWEIDAN

Deputy Head of Dubai Traffic Police

until the fees are paid. However, the motorist will only be given 3 months to claim the vehicle; otherwise, it will be auctioned after that.

Jumping the red light is one of the worst offences one can commit on the roads, as it can take other motorists or pedestrians completely by surprise and kill them in a

collision. Any traffic police campaign always puts emphasis how lethal this rule violation can be; and yet, hundreds of such violations occur every day.

According to Abu Dhabi Police data, a total of 2,578 violations related to jumping the red light were recorded from January to June 2020 — that's an average of 14 such offences every day. Reiterating how dangerous it could be, the police released a compilation video in September 2020, showing tragic accidents caused by this traffic offence.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

UAE residents love driving. This is a country where people hop into their private vehicles for everything from grocery shopping to weekend socialising. What accompanies them on these drives is an overload of gadgets: mobile phones, smartwatches, music on a memory stick, etc. But these gadgets of convenience and entertainment can also be very distracting.

In one such case of distracted driving causing an accident in Abu Dhabi, the driver had been using her mobile phone. Her

vehicle drifted into an unpaved area in the middle of the highway and raced across the fast lane before crashing at the other side of the road. This is typical of careless drivers, who

have been observed to swerve their cars dangerously, forget to use indicators, and even jump the red light.

A study titled 'Risky driving behaviour in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: A cross-sectional, survey-based study', led by Latifa Al Ketbi et al and published in August 2020 in BioMed Central Public Health, revealed that 1 out of 4 drivers think they can safely use their mobile phones to read WhatsApp messages while they are driving — responses ranged from “most of the time” to an alarming “always”.

The study also revealed that drivers constantly tap their smartphones to search for directions using navigation apps, even if they are already driving. In addition, eating is another factor in mishaps.

Colonel Jumaa Salem bin Suweidan, Deputy Head of Dubai Traffic Police, said, “Being distracted with a mobile phone, a driver would not be able to react properly and timely to sudden and unexpected events on the road. If they attempt to change lanes while on the phone, they may fail to spot cars coming from behind them and that is very risky and causes tragic accidents.”

The fine for distracted driving is Dhs800 and 4 black traffic points.

TAILGATING

Keeping a safe distance between vehicles is mandatory to avoid a collision when the car in front has to brake suddenly to manage something on the road; without the safe distance, the driver behind wouldn't get enough time to cut his speed and prevent an accident. That's the theory; what we see in reality is rampant tailgating, the word for aggressively closing the gap between vehicles and harassing the driver in front so that he'd be forced to give way.

In 2020, the Traffic and Patrols Directorate of Abu Dhabi Police

Move your vehicle to the shoulder lane

Never stand in the middle of the road

Pay attention to the movement of vehicles and do not ignore the road

5 THINGS TO DO WHEN INVOLVED IN A MINOR ACCIDENT

Turn on hazard lights and place the three-dimensional warning triangle

Report the incident through 901 or through your mobile app (Abu Dhabi Police/Dubai Police) and follow the steps to report the accident

SOURCE: UAE ROAD SAFETY

“

1 out of 4 drivers think they can safely use their mobile phones to read WhatsApp messages while they are driving — responses ranged from “most of the time” to an alarming “always”

DISTRACTIONS THAT CAN CAUSE DISASTERS



Source: UAE Road Safety

“

Speeds are usually lowered down to 80kmph until the police lift the restrictions when the weather clears up

which heavily impair road visibility. However, motorists seem to still struggle in the face of these natural phenomena, which are to be expected, depending on the season. Therefore, to minimise human error and save lives, law enforcement technology is becoming increasingly sophisticated.

Colonel Turki Abdurrahman bin Fares, Director of the Command and Control Centre at Dubai Police, spoke of the “Fog System” implemented by the General Department of Operations, Dubai Police, in coordination with its counterparts in other emirates. This system halts the movement of trucks and heavy vehicles during foggy weather to prevent major traffic accidents and to manage traffic flow. A similar restriction on truck movement in bad weather has been implemented by Sharjah.

UAE authorities remind the public that speed limits are usually reduced across major roads both in Abu Dhabi and Dubai during fog or sandstorms. Speeds are usually lowered down to 80kmph until the police lift the restrictions when the weather clears up.

There is a penalty of Dhs500 fine and four traffic points for those caught driving heavy vehicles during fog and sandstorms, per Ministerial Resolution No. 178 Article 104, Paragraph (c) regarding traffic control rules and procedures.

reported 35,703 tailgating offences, with some leading to serious accidents and injuries.

In Sharjah, this offence caused 60 per cent of the emirate’s 24,400 minor accidents that occurred in the last four months of 2020, according to data from Rafid Automotive Solutions. “It is imperative that every driver contributes to reducing traffic accidents through his own personal awareness, commitment and focus,” said Abdelrahman Alshamsi, Accident & RSA Department Manager at Rafid.

An Abu Dhabi Police social media post said, “The driver’s failure to leave a safe distance behind vehicles increases the risk of rear-end collisions as motorists may not be able to adequately control their vehicles in time if the driver ahead of them suddenly or unexpectedly stops.”

One such tailgating accident on Sheikh Zayed Road in Dubai killed three Asians in May 2020. The four-car collision caused one of the cars to burst into flames, killing everyone inside, according to Brigadier Dr Adel Al Suwaidi, Director of Jebel Ali Police Station.

To monitor and prevent these violations, Abu Dhabi Police have put in place several smart systems with automated controls and fixed radars. Roadside signboards, as well as safe city

awareness messages broadcast to motorists, promote good driving. Individuals found guilty of violating tailgating measures face fines of Dhs400 for both the vehicle in front and the tailgater, with the latter getting four traffic points due to the violation.

WEATHER PHENOMENA

The UAE is no stranger to changing weather patterns that bring fog and sandstorms





SIDESTEP THE JOB SCAM



RECRUITMENT RACKETS HAVE FLOURISHED IN RECENT MONTHS, AND WHETHER YOU'RE HIRING OR SEEKING A POSITION, BE AWARE OF THE RED FLAGS

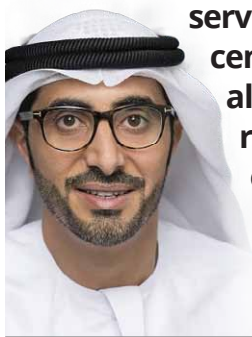
BY MARK NITUMA



A woman's work never ends — so she's always grateful for an extra pair of hands. A family in Dubai was glad when they found a recruiter who offered to provide them with a suitable maid. Then the pandemic struck and the family, confined to their home, needed more help with the household work. They got back to the recruiter with a request for three more domestic helps, and were asked to pay Dhs35,000 in advance for this service. Not suspecting a thing, the family paid up; but once the money was transferred to the recruiter's account, he began to ignore calls and messages from the family. This went on for a while, until one day, he finally disappeared.

This was one amongst 14 similar cases handled by Al Rashidiya Police Station in Dubai from the time the pandemic began in 2020 to February 2021. The financial losses of the job scam victims totalled Dhs87,520. With the huge money involved in these crimes and its impact on the victims, the police station had to set up a separate task force to investigate the cases, track and arrest suspects, and start legal procedures. In March 2021, the Dubai Police General Command drew the public's attention to

“ The Ministry is gradually developing a system for the recruitment of domestic workers that is based primarily on establishing management service centres as an alternative to recruitment offices



**HE NASSER BIN THANI
JUMA AL HAMLI**

Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation

the job scam dangers by issuing a social media statement, which wanted to “urge members of the public, especially who are looking for domestic helpers, to remain vigilant when using social media platforms and not to fall prey to cyber-criminals and online scammers”.

According to Brigadier Saeed Hamad

“ Members of the public should not fall prey to online advertisements of people who pose as representatives of labour recruitment agencies and promise to procure domestic helps in record time and at lower costs



**BRIGADIER SAEED HAMAD
BIN SULAIMAN AL MALIK**

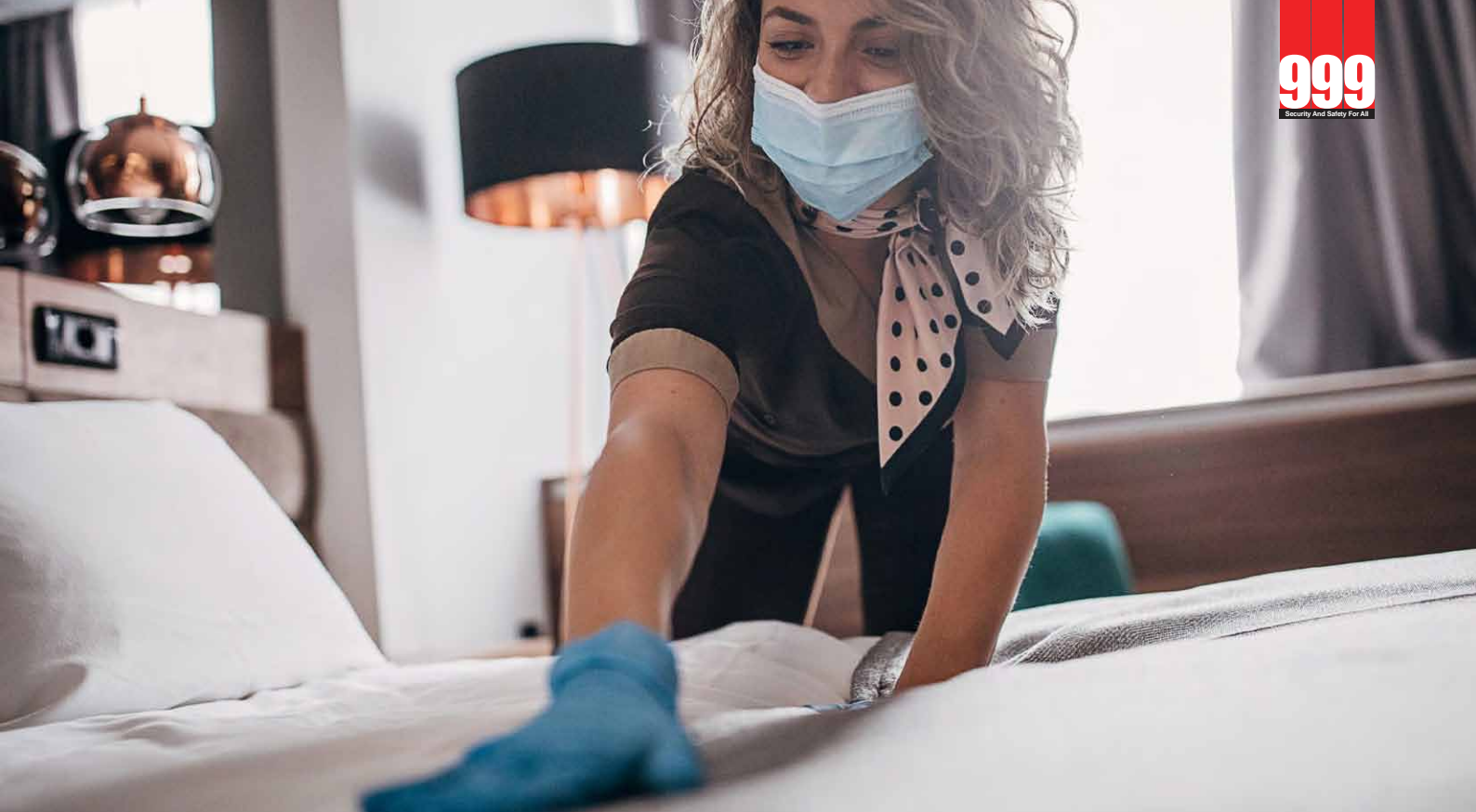
Director of Al Rashidiya Police Station in Dubai

bin Sulaiman Al Malik, Director of Al Rashidiya Police Station in Dubai, there was one case in which the fraudsters claimed that they could arrange to have domestic helps brought into the UAE, despite the temporary shutdown of the whole world's airports due to COVID-19. The police officer said, “Members of the public should not fall prey to online advertisements of people who pose as representatives of labour recruitment agencies and promise to procure domestic helps in record time and at lower costs than the official and registered agencies. People are advised to use the official and approved entities in the country for domestic helpers to avoid frauds and scams.”

Social media sites are full of notices from families looking for “part-time help on an urgent basis for cleaning and personal caregiving”, or “a live-in nanny who can cook” or a “sweet-natured, patient nanny for an energetic toddler”. On the other side are social media groups that offer to connect domestic helps from across the world and potential employers in the UAE at attractive salaries and free visa services. How genuine these agencies are is anybody's guess.

This was why business licences of recruitment firms in the UAE have not been renewed since 2017 and





the government has issued fines to 99 agencies that continued to function even after their licences were suspended. “The step is a part of our efforts to replace these unofficial recruiting offices for domestic workers with Tadbeer service centres. The Ministry is gradually developing a system for the recruitment of domestic workers that is based primarily on establishing management service centres as an alternative to recruitment offices,” said HE Nasser Al Hamli, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization, to the Federal National Council in January 2021. “All recruitment offices for domestic workers have been informed about the decision to close their offices after their operating licence expires,” he added.

It’s not only the employers who get duped; job-seekers are conned as well. In

“

All recruitment offices for domestic workers have been informed about the decision to close their offices after their operating licence expires

September 2020, Dubai Police busted a fake recruitment agency that had targeted 150 vulnerable workers and convinced them to transfer cash into an account in lieu of career opportunities in the UAE. “The gang would post advertisements for fake job opportunities with attractive salaries on social media platforms. Then they would require the applicants to pay Dh\$1,000-Dh\$3,000 as recruitment fees, taxes or for booking an interview appointment,” said Brigadier Jamal Salem Al Jalaf, Director of the General Department of Criminal Investigation (CID), Dubai Police. After the 150 victims paid the money, they found that the promised jobs with a high salary and perks never existed. A raid conducted by Dubai Police and inspectors from the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization resulted in arrests, and payment receipts and slips were confiscated from the spot.

Many of these fake agencies have been taking advantage of the livelihood uncertainty caused by the pandemic, uncertainties that continue even now, with the novel coronavirus refusing to fully retreat. People have lost jobs, suffered salary cuts, and many need better opportunities to meet their financial obligations. In some cases, the fees that the job-seekers hand over to the recruiters is borrowed money; the loan is taken in hopes of being able to repay when the

“ **The gang would post advertisements for fake job opportunities with attractive salaries on social media platforms. Then they would pretend to start a process that would require the applicants to pay recruitment fees**



BRIGADIER JAMAL SALEM AL JALAF

Director of the General Department of Criminal Investigation, Dubai Police

new job materialises. It’s then doubly cruel when the fake job evaporates along with the fake recruiter — the job-seeker has no employment and is now deeper in debt.

Before handing over money to someone who calls himself a recruiter, anyone looking for a job should read the warning signs — a demand for an upfront payment of a large sum is definitely a red flag. Brigadier Al Jalaf advised, “Beware of fake employment schemes. Authentic

“One must beware of illegal agents and not buy visit visas with promises of employment. They mint money from people who want to work in the UAE”



AHMED AMJAD ALI

Consul General of Pakistan in Dubai

recruitment agencies do not ask for money or personal data.”

What makes the work of such recruiters easy is that people — both potential employers and workers — think that there's no harm in responding to job offers or advertisements promising skilled staff posted on social media. While sending their responses, the potential victims don't stop to think that gangs are always on the lookout for points of vulnerability and are experts at fooling their targets.

AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE

The Indian Consulate and social workers in the UAE had to step in, when 12 women, who had been brought to the UAE

and duped by recruiters, turned to them for help in December 2020.

These women, between the ages of 21 and 46, had been brought to the UAE on visit visas on false promises of jobs as housemaids. One of the women said that her papers were not legalised and she had been locked up with six other women, who were all being abused, kept hungry, and forced to part with their money. Ajman Police arrested one agent and rescued the seven women; the police raid also saved another group of five women kept locked in another accommodation by the same agent.

The rate of this kind of job scam-cum-trafficking had gone down during the peak pandemic months. But since the restrictions eased up, there has been a spike again. In January 2021, the Ministry of External Affairs in India warned job-seekers in the country about “unscrupulous agents exploiting Indian citizens and putting them at risk abroad”. The MEA warned, “Recruiting agents must act responsibly or will be held accountable.”

The Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi retweeted the message, asking people to report such agents and stating that the embassy and the Indian Consulate in Dubai have been acting upon complaints against such agents. The Government of India is trying to spread awareness, especially amongst blue-collar workers, to protect them from recruitment scams. The country has an online recruitment system called ‘e-Migrate’, which offers a legal way to get jobs by ensuring the accountability of the agents in India and foreign employers.

Yet another Asian country, Pakistan, which has a large community of expats in the UAE, has raised the red flag on unscrupulous recruitment agents. “One must beware of illegal agents and not buy visit visas with promises of employment,” said

Ahmed Amjad Ali, Consul

General of Pakistan in

Dubai. He added that

such fake recruiters

“operate in Pakistan and mint money from people who want to work in the UAE”.

Adding that the Pakistani authorities received at least 20 complaints of visa fraud every week, the consul general said that the government of Pakistan had banned five unscrupulous recruitment companies. He advised potential job-seekers to follow the rules set by the government of the UAE and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis. “People can check with the consulate about the jobs they are promised by any recruitment agent,” he said.

In March 2021, the Philippine Embassy in the UAE took to social media and said: “Do not believe those on Facebook who say it is easy to get a household worker job in Dubai or Abu Dhabi.” In a stern warning, the embassy concluded: “Don't be a victim like them. You'll end up in tears while illegal recruiters become richer.” The Philippines and the UAE have reached an agreement that allows deployment of household service workers from the former to the latter, effective March 31 this year.

The UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) tweeted the news, stressing that the domestic workers would come only through the authorised channels of both countries. The Philippine government had specific instructions for the safety of domestic workers, and these included that the latter must be able to keep their passport and identification documents and the employer would not be allowed to access these; the workers will keep their mobile phones and other communication devices and the employers cannot confiscate these; and the domestic workers will be allowed to cook their own food.

EMPLOYMENT VISA RULES

The UAE has a Wage Protection System, which ensures that salaries are credited to employees' bank accounts according to their contracts.

Do not fall into the category of people who accept job offers while in their home countries, with the promise that an employment visa would be given after arrival in the UAE. Ensure





that your employment visa is in order before you leave the home country.

Lack of vigilance can be equally precarious for people looking to recruit, and they need to know the rules thoroughly as well. While corporate houses and big businesses have HR departments and consulting agencies to recruit staff for them, very small companies and families often fall back on social media or their network of friends to fill in vacancies for jobs at home or in their small enterprises, and they often become victims of scammers. Cleaners, cooks, housekeepers, babysitters, store staff, salespeople and such like are those small cogs that help keep the wheels of the economy turning smoothly. Since the peace and security of the family and the success of the small business depends on finding the right people, prospective employers may be tempted to surf social media for likely candidates. That can lead one to a trap.

Trustworthy and efficient domestic workers have been particularly in high demand since the pandemic forced people to stay at home all day and juggle home chores and their own jobs, alongside helping the children with their lessons. A lot of professionals are still doing WFH (work

“
Look online for ‘Tadbeer’.
Set up in 2018 by MOHRE,
it’s a network of 54
service centres across
the UAE that has the
mandate to hire workers
from abroad

from home), and good hired help provides relief.

Where can one safely hire domestic staff? Look online for ‘Tadbeer’. Set up in 2018 by MOHRE, it’s a network of 54 service centres across the UAE that has the mandate to hire workers from abroad. Tadbeer supplies workers in 19 categories: housekeeper, housemaid, private nurse, gardener, cook, private coach, household caretaker, babysitter, private PRO, private teacher, private sailor, private agriculture engineer, parking valet worker, family chauffeur, security guard, domestic labourer, and household horse groomer.

GO FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE

A person looking to recruit may think twice about going to a Tadbeer centre, as they’re seen as being more expensive than the unofficial operators. They are certainly a tad dearer than the black market, which cuts corners and doesn’t protect the rights of the employers or the workers. At Tadbeer, you get an assurance of quality and legal service for the fee you pay.

Tadbeer services include orientation and training for the workers and taking care of their visa processing. Depending on your requirement, Tadbeer can help with getting an Emirates ID and medical documents for the workers. The agency will even drop the newly hired worker at the employer’s house.

MOHRE is working on revising Tadbeer centre fees, in order to make this agency more appealing to people. Al Hamli said, “We recently had a meeting with Tadbeer centres about lowering their operational costs. We will revise their fees every year to make them more competitive.”



TADBEER PACKAGES FOR HIRING DOMESTIC HELP

The UAE government's network Tadbeer is authorised to recruit domestic workers from abroad for employers in the UAE. It offers employers a range of packages.

- PACKAGE 1:** Allows employers to directly sponsor their help. The Tadbeer centre recruits domestic help from another country and gives an employer a guarantee of their performance and loyalty for 180 days, while their visa is under direct sponsorship of the employer.
- PACKAGE 2:** Lets a family hire a worker on a temporary basis for six months, after which the help's visa can be transferred to the family's sponsorship, as per the agreement of both parties.
- PACKAGE 3:** Keeps the newly recruited domestic help under the sponsorship of Tadbeer.
- PACKAGE 4:** Gives families on-demand services of helpers who are under the sponsorship of Tadbeer. This is a flexible service, offered according to the requirements of customers.

It's both convenient and ethical to approach Tadbeer to hire domestic helps, as the government network is attempting to create a healthy work ecosystem.

SAVE YOURSELF FROM JOB SCAMMERS

HERE ARE THE SIGNS YOU'RE DEALING WITH JOB SCAMMERS:

SIGN #1

Request for hiring fee: Scammers would usually offer an exciting package of salary and perks, and you can join as soon as possible. You should get immediately worried if the "office" wants you to pay a certain amount as part of hiring expenses or for an interview call.

STEPS TO TAKE: Under no circumstances should you give any money for a job, as no genuine office asks for payments. Fake recruiters, on the other hand, always ask for money as that's the purpose of the scam.

SIGN #2

You are the one: A message pops up on your phone or e-mail inbox with a job offer that you did not apply for. The recruitment agency says that they found you after learning about your qualifications from others in your field and know about your brilliant professional history. Recruiters do sometimes survey a sector and offer opportunities to qualified individuals — but so do scammers. The latter may use an e-mail ID or letterhead of a well-known company to win your trust.

STEPS TO TAKE: Contact the potential company's HR team with the number and e-mail address that you obtained from their website, instead of using whatever contact information the recruiter gives you. Check if the job exists and if you are really the one.

SIGN #3

Too much too soon: What if you get a job offer where everything is exactly what you want, but you're asked to join without even a phone interview?

STEPS TO TAKE: No organisation will recruit a person without the HR person or reporting manager meeting her or him at least once. A fake recruiter may have tailored a fake employment offer according to the qualifications that you've posted online, on sites such as LinkedIn. That's why it's such a perfect match.

SIGN #4

No degree/diploma required: A number of fake recruiters don't list out a minimum qualification, which should warn you because every job requires certain basic standards in education or work history.

STEPS TO TAKE: Ignore this job, as the offer is definitely fake; no required degree/diploma has been specified because the scammers are targeting as many people as possible.

SIGN #5

Ready when you are: You've been interviewed online — as personal meetings are difficult during COVID-19 — and the job is yours for the taking. All you need to do is sign a contract quickly.

STEPS TO TAKE: Do not share personal details or bank account numbers on the contract form, as it could lead to cyber-criminals hacking into your bank account.



ARE YOU READING TO ENRICH UAE?

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

We're about halfway down the road since the National Reading Policy was launched in 2016, with goals set for 2026. Let's assess how much progress we've made by this year

Now March, the 'Month of Reading', has passed. Perhaps the UAE is the only country that has uniquely announced a national policy aiming to make reading a daily habit by the year 2026. This policy, whose announcement came in the 'Year of Reading' (2016), was summarised as: developing a strategic plan for reading; issuing a reading law; approving educational, health and media programmes for reading; establishing a national fund to finance reading activities; and approving a lifelong reading programme.

The National Reading Policy was launched on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair in the presence of five ministers—in addition to naming March as the Month of Reading every year, and announcing decisions such as distributing a "knowledge bag" for all newborn citizens; enriching the national reading content; reviewing publishing policies in the country to enhance the role of local publishers; and including elective reading in educational curricula.

This policy has set national goals until 2026—80 per cent of school students and 50 per cent of Emirati adults to develop a reading habit; 50 per cent of parents to read to their children regularly; and 20 books on an average to be read voluntarily in a year by each student in the UAE.

The issuance of the National Law of Reading on September 25, 2016, was yet another unique achievement characterised by inclusiveness, integration, clarity, and empowerment. The most prominent aspects of the law were the Seven Guiding Principles: the right to reading; enabling reading in society; reading in the educational system and the work environment; public libraries; support for publishing and distribution of reading materials; the role of the media; the National Reading Fund and the National Reading Month.

The law aims to support the development of human capital,

build a knowledge-led society, and ensure the sustainability of government efforts.

This interest in promoting reading in the UAE did not come out of nowhere; it springs from the thoughts of the founding leaders, led by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. In 1981, the founding father personally sponsored the first Abu Dhabi Book Fair, held under the name 'Islamic Book Fair', to encourage learning. About 50 publishers from Egypt and Lebanon, as well as

local libraries and publishing houses, took part in that fair.

When the fair ended, Sheikh Zayed ordered the purchase of all the remaining books from the book fair participants and the distribution of those books to various cultural institutions and public libraries. These books formed the foundation of the Abu Dhabi National Library.

In Dubai, the establishment of the public library in 1963 was the beginning of its library and reading culture. The late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum had granted the Dubai Municipality a plot of land in the Al Ras area for building the library.

An initiative was launched to collect financial contributions for the project, and

the great response from UAE nationals, despite their limited means at that time, indicated the community's interest in reading. The establishment of the public library was a new beginning for the spread of knowledge in the Emirati society. The Dubai Public Library was also a cultural centre, where activities, events, literary, and intellectual seminars were held.

In 2021, the slogan for March was "My Family Reads" — this was chosen to highlight the role of parents in instilling the love of reading in their children, nudging them away from digital devices, social media, and video games. How much did we respond to this slogan? This is the question each of us must answer honestly, in order to know how much of the national targets have been met.

This interest in promoting reading in the UAE springs from the thoughts of the founding leaders, led by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan



AFTER THE STORM

THE WORLD IS TRYING TO REBUILD ITSELF IN 2021 AFTER THE ECONOMIC WASHOUT LAST YEAR. FOR BUSINESSES, THAT MEANS UTILISING RECENT LEARNINGS AND SEIZING COMING OPPORTUNITIES. **999** LOOKS AT THE KEY TRENDS AND FACTORS DISCUSSED AT GTR MENA

BY DIPALI GAMAL



If we drew up a list of years that arrived with the burden of enormous expectations and were seen as beacons of hope for the world, the year 2021 would easily be amongst the top. That's because there's so much at stake in the coming months, especially when it comes to global economic recovery.

But amidst the downward spiral created by the pandemic, there were lessons and a glimpse of opportunities, too. These are what we must focus from now on as individuals, as entrepreneurs, as business leaders, and as a community. All of that was discussed at the recent edition of Global Trade Review (GTR) Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the region's biggest trade finance conference, held virtually in February 2021 and to be held physically in September 2021.

This country is in a good position to reap the benefits of what it has sown during the pandemic. The UAE government has been steadfast in its support to businesses, especially micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). It was during this COVID-19 crisis that the country

has shown its most innovative, resilient, and visionary facet. Economic stimuli, technological developments, and novel ways of working, studying, and doing business promise to result in a quick bounceback on the domestic front. Also, the UAE's humanitarian initiatives, political acumen, and spectacular achievement in space science have earned the country tremendous goodwill and respect on the world stage.

It's now up to individual organisations to respond to the demands of the 'new normal' and, as discussed at GTR MENA, some of the vital components of success now are communication; alliance between finance and technology; and reorienting businesses to benefit from the government's fiscal policy innovations and employment reforms.

C-SUITE COMMUNICATION

One of the major enablers for companies trying to steer their ship in the right direction is the right frequency and right manner of communication, which improves trust and productivity.

According to Matthew Hurn, Chair of the

Middle East Advisory Panel, Association of Corporate Treasurers, an international professional body, no one is an expert in handling the 'new normal' but this crisis has unleashed a whole new level of corporate agility. He said, "I don't think you could ever build a scenario that had a global worldwide pandemic. So, one thing I have noticed in my time here in the Middle East for 13 years is that the companies have demonstrated huge resilience and huge agility in actually trying to navigate their way through to the best they can."

Dr Karen Remo, CEO and Co-Founder of New Perspective Media (NPM) Group, a leading digital media, PR and marketing agency, spoke of how corporate houses have started to cultivate CEOs' humanisation, given CFOs more airtime, and made Chief Technology Officers (CTOs) their new allies in weathering the storm and increasing resilience. Speaking at a high-level round-table discussion during the opening session of GTR MENA, under the theme 'A Year is a Long Time', she said that CEOs who are more likely to show their vulnerability and communicate openly create a culture of

“ Firms have had to be robust, nimble, innovative whether it’s about putting workers on unpaid leave, or cutting cost, cutting staff back, and adjusting to new realities. We’ve seen that happen quite a lot



SCOTT LIVERMORE

Chief Economist & Managing Director
at Oxford Economics Middle East

trust in organisations, as employees need reassurance and guidance more than ever.

“Seeing CEOs communicating openly about their fears and allowing themselves to be vulnerable, people sense transparency. At NPM Group, we have seen a surge in demand for internal e-newsletters, town hall meetings, and video production for CEOs and managers to regularly address the concerns of their people,” said Dr Remo.

In addition, a survey of 50 C-suite executives in the Middle East and Asia, conducted by New Perspective Media Group, shows that communication is ranked number 1 priority by senior management in handling and managing crisis. Dr Remo said, “Before the onset of

“ The pandemic changed the dynamics of business operations, putting online innovation at the forefront of their immediate responses as well to survive and thrive. It has become clear that technology is a revenue generator, and not an expense item



DR KAREN REMO

CEO and Co-Founder of
New Perspective Media Group

the crisis, Chief Financial Officers used to stay behind the scenes, happily doing their spreadsheets and ensuring the financial standing of the company away from the spotlight. However, since the pandemic took hold, CFOs realised that they now have to boost their communication skills to keep up with the changing landscape of today’s entrepreneurship era.”

DIGITALISATION AND COST CONTROL

Another major adaptation observed by her agency, said Dr Remo, is how CTOs are now becoming close allies of CFOs in building resilience. “The pandemic changed the dynamics of business operations, putting online innovation at the forefront of their immediate responses as well as future business models to survive and thrive. It has become clear that technology is a revenue generator and not an expense item,” she said.

One of the key benefits of digitalisation, including automation and the use of Artificial Intelligence, is a tight rein on operational costs. The ability, or lack of it, to make each dollar go further could now make or break a company, which is why digitalisation is now on

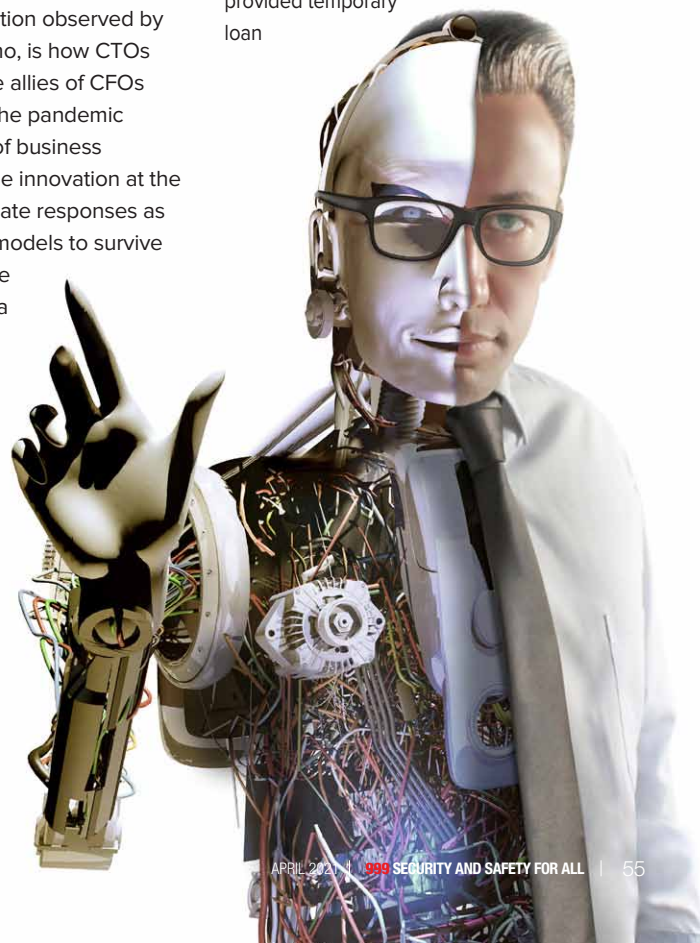
the agenda of every smart company, big or small.

The crisis had intensified the need for businesses to make hard decisions, said Scott Livermore, Chief Economist & Managing Director at the research and analysis consultancy firm Oxford Economics Middle East. “Firms have had to be robust, nimble, innovative whether it’s about putting workers on unpaid leave, or cutting cost, cutting staff back, and adjusting to new realities. We’ve seen that happen quite a lot,” he said at the virtual forum.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

A business needs to position itself to take advantage of the lifeline extended by the government. In the UAE, even though the national oil revenues have fallen, the government and the Central Bank have done much to stimulate the economy for a post-pandemic recovery.

The country’s Dhs256 billion stimulus package has a number of benefits for businesses of all shapes and sizes, including the suspension of work permit fees and cut in labour recruitment and other charges. This lowers the cost of doing business across the board. The Central Bank’s targeted economic support for retail and corporate customers provided temporary loan



“ A survey of 50 C-suite executives in the Middle East and Asia, conducted by New Perspective Media Group, shows that communication is ranked number 1 priority by senior management in handling and managing crisis



“

The UAE has ranked first in the region and fourth globally in the Global Entrepreneurship Index 2020 by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM – NECI), climbing up from its fifth rank in the 2019 report

repayment relief to businesses and individuals for six months.

Livermore said, “Some governments were responding more adeptly to try to increase the attractiveness of doing business. Obviously, the UAE has been a leader in that regard. Other countries in the region, on the other hand, really struggled to internalise how much the world is changing, and how the low oil price environment that we’ve seen for the last five to six years could be here to stay for much longer. They really need to make those difficult adaptations if they want to remain fiscally sustainable.”

Reflecting its keen efforts to aid business development, the UAE has ranked first in the region and fourth globally in the Global Entrepreneurship Index 2020 by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM – NECI), climbing up from its fifth rank in the 2019 report. It also ranked first in MENA and 16th globally in terms of the ease of doing business, scoring 80.9 out of 100 in the World Bank’s Doing Business 2020 report, released in October.

HISTORIC POLICY CHANGES

To strengthen its position as a global hub for business even in the post-crisis era, the UAE has taken sweeping initiatives and amended laws. These are designed to encourage

investors, experts, and entrepreneurs to make the country their new haven for corporate and career ventures.

In a historic move, UAE leaders have recently approved amendments to the Executive Regulation of the Federal Law concerning Nationality and Passports, allowing investors, professionals, people with special talent and their families to acquire the UAE nationality and passport under certain conditions. This was preceded by the UAE Golden visa, providing 10-year residency for more classes of investors, professionals, and students.

According to Dr Remo, these new measures would attract and retain the talent needed to drive the long-term economic and development goals of the UAE. “These historic immigration laws address the long-term stay of the right workforce in the country. Before, there was fear regarding market volatility, as expats tend to come and go. With these laws, it’s expected that the country will now have a more stable population of expats, cultivating confidence in the market, which will, in turn, go back to the economy,” she said, speaking at the GTR session.

The creation of conditions that would stabilise the skilled UAE population has been complemented by the country’s proactive role in ensuring regional stability. The Abraham Accords, signed

in September 2020 by the UAE, Bahrain, and Israel, mended relations between the Arab World and the Jewish nation, and the economic benefits are already visible. Bilateral trade and investment between the UAE and Israel are slated to reach \$10 billion (Dhs36.7 billion) within a short span of time. In the past five months alone, bilateral trade between Dubai and Israel has reached Dhs1 billion.

Strained ties with neighbouring country Qatar have also been healed, following the signing of the Al Ula Declaration at the 41st GCC Summit, held in the city of Al Ula, Saudi Arabia, in January 2021. Under the declaration, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Egypt agreed to restore ties with Qatar after three-years. The declaration has paved the way for the re-establishment of political and economic ties with Qatar and enhanced regional harmony.

Graham Griffiths, Associate Director of specialist global risk consultancy Control Risks, said at GTR that the normalisation of the UAE’s relations with Qatar and Israel would increase optimism about trade and business in the post-crisis era.

“We have seen some big developments, indeed. There is cause for optimism



“ We have seen some big developments, indeed. There is cause for optimism, as the main regional actors found some new appetite



GRAHAM GRIFFITHS

Associate Director
of Control Risks

for trying to find a way to move past long-standing divisions in the region

as the main regional actors like Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Turkey found some new appetite for trying to find a way to move past long-standing divisions in the region. The UAE has been quite frank about saying that they're happy to follow Saudi Arabia's lead; they're optimistic that things can change even if it is going to take time," he said.

FOCUS ON MARKETING

Consumption is a factor of supply and demand, and corporate entities should be proactive in influencing demand. If there was one important lesson to be taken from the crisis, said Dr Remo, it would be the importance of effective marketing and communication by corporate firms.

According to the NPM Group CEO,

“

If we want our companies and our economies to grow, we should induce demand for consumption and continue to invest in marketing. Communication is the key going forward

“ If we can have an optimistic outlook, we will be okay. We have persevered and dealt with so much. Now, we should be really trying to take advantage of all the resilience that everyone has shown for the past year



MATTHEW HURN

Chair of Middle East Advisory Panel,
Association of Corporate Treasurers

there were primarily two reasons for a drop in consumption — decrease in purchasing power; and lack of a demand stimulus. In this scenario, she said, it was understandable that companies had been trying to conserve cash by cutting down on marketing activities, but this was still the best ammunition for a winning business.

“GDP is a factor of consumption, investment, government spending and net of exports, the main factor of which is consumption. If we want our companies and our economies to grow, we should induce demand for consumption and continue to invest in marketing.

Communication is the key going forward as we wish the economy to grow further,” she noted.

HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Hurn said that nations, corporates, and sectors must further highlight the need to address the health and well-being of the public, stressing that “in order to manage the health of the economy, you have to manage the health of the population”.

The country's average daily rate of vaccine distribution stands at 72.03 doses per 100 people, as of the third week of March. More than 7.1 million people in the UAE have so far got the jab.

The country has approved four vaccines, developed by Pfizer-BioNTech; China National Biotec Group, a subsidiary of Sinopharm (China National Pharmaceutical Group); Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute (for Sputnik V vaccine or Gam-Covid-Vac); and Oxford-AstraZeneca.

According to Hurn, the UAE's success on the health front made the entire country optimistic about what 2021 would hold. He said, “If we can have an optimistic outlook, we will be okay. I'm hoping that as the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel is nearly there, we have persevered and dealt with so much. Now, we should be really trying to take advantage of all the resilience that everyone has shown for the past year, to provide a prosperous future for us all.”



PANDEMIC CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Gender inequality is often made worse by a crisis, according to UN Women, with women — whether business owners or employees — being at the centre of paid and unpaid care work.

An analysis by EY-Parthenon in June 2020 showed that about 1.6 billion learners, or 90 per cent of all learners globally, were affected by school and college shutdown during the pandemic. Women suffered in this situation, as societal norms put most of the childcare and domestic responsibilities on them.

The survey revealed that most mothers spent more than two additional hours every day on their child's learning and care than they did before the pandemic. That data can be placed against new data from Lean In and McKinsey that show 1 in 4 women is considering downshifting her career or quitting her job so that she can manage housework and child care.

"This is undoing the progress that's been made for women in the workforce. This is true in entrepreneurship where the entrepreneur worked 12 to 18 hours a day even in pre-pandemic days. To be able to compete in a much more competitive landscape, women business owners would now have to work even longer hours, which will increase the risk of physical and mental distress," stressed Dr Remo, speaking at GTR MENA. "There is a big need to take care of women's needs because they are taking care of the families at home," she added.

“ 1 in 4 women is considering downshifting her career or quitting her job so that she can manage housework and child care

TRADE CREDIT SHORTAGE

To move faster towards recovery, it's vital to get the right kind of fuel. And access to credit is like rocket fuel for trade in every sector.

Trade finance, the line of credit required to keep a business running when it doesn't have large cash reserves of its own, is the need of the hour in a pandemic-battered global economy.

All over the world, there has been a big gap in trade finance in 2020, a serious impediment to reducing poverty and inequality in 2021. According to data released by the Paris-headquartered International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), about \$1.9-\$5 trillion (Dhs6.97-18.35trn) is necessary in the trade credit market simply to return to 2019 levels. Add to this the existing trade finance gap (about \$1.5 trillion), and we see that the world needs between \$3.4 trillion and \$6.5 trillion to meet this shortage.

It's not easy for governments and non-government lenders to simply turn on the tap of credit for all categories of trade, given that the very rhythm of life has been changed by the pandemic — the viability of businesses is not what it was before the novel coronavirus came along; and national revenues have fallen, too. In this situation, there can be no profit without prudence and business remodelling as necessary.

“ According to data released by the Paris-headquartered International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), about \$1.9-\$5 trillion (Dhs6.97-18.35trn) is necessary in the trade credit market simply to return to 2019 levels

THE AGE OF



AI

ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED NATIONS IN THE WORLD WHEN IT COMES TO TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION, THE UAE WANTS TO BE A WORLD LEADER IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BY 2030. IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN RACING TOWARDS THAT GOAL

BY MARK NITUMA

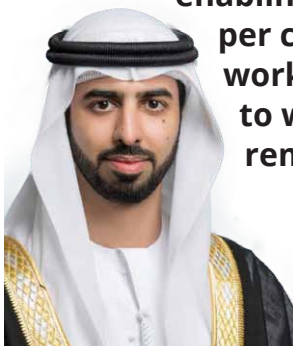
Once the stuff of sci-fi cinema, Artificial Intelligence has now penetrated our lives. Along with its close cousin Machine Learning, this technology has transformed everything from banking to law enforcement around the world, and the UAE is at the cutting edge of tech utilisation.

In February 2021, a study by Circle Loop, which is based in the United Kingdom, hailed the UAE as number one in the Middle East and amongst the leaders in the world on the remote working index. "Like the rest of the world, the UAE has witnessed great changes due to the coronavirus pandemic, which affected all aspects of life. The leadership of the UAE maintained a continuity of services, while preserving the health and safety of human resources, by enabling 95 per cent of workers to work remotely," said HE Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications.

A recent example of AI-powered progress in the UAE was seen in March 2021; Dubai Police used this tech to digitally recreate the face of a man whose body was found floating in the sea a month earlier. The body was badly decomposed that the police couldn't even get a fingerprint for identification. However, the General Department of Forensics and Criminology at Dubai Police used AI-enabled 3D technology to create an image of what his face might look like. Then the police released the photograph so that the deceased person's family members could recognise him and come forward to claim the body.

Speaking of this feat, Major General Dr Ahmed Eid Al Mansoori, Director of

“The leadership of the UAE maintained a continuity of services, while preserving the health and safety of human resources, by enabling 95 per cent of workers to work remotely”



HE OMAR BIN SULTAN AL OLAMA

Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications

the Forensics Department, said, "Digital forensics experts, coroners, and experts from the General Department of AI formed a team that worked hard to create an identikit of the dead person, using the latest technologies in digital facial reconstruction." An identikit is a picture of a person, especially one sought by the police, reconstructed from typical facial features according to witnesses' descriptions.

AI has also been the ally of healthcare authorities in the UAE during the novel coronavirus pandemic. In Abu Dhabi, the health service provider SEHA is using the technology to assess the effect of COVID-19 on people. In March 2021, it

“Digital forensics experts, coroners, and experts from the General Department of AI formed a team that worked hard to create an identikit of the dead person, using the latest technologies in digital facial reconstruction”



MAJOR GENERAL DR AHMED EID AL MANSOORI

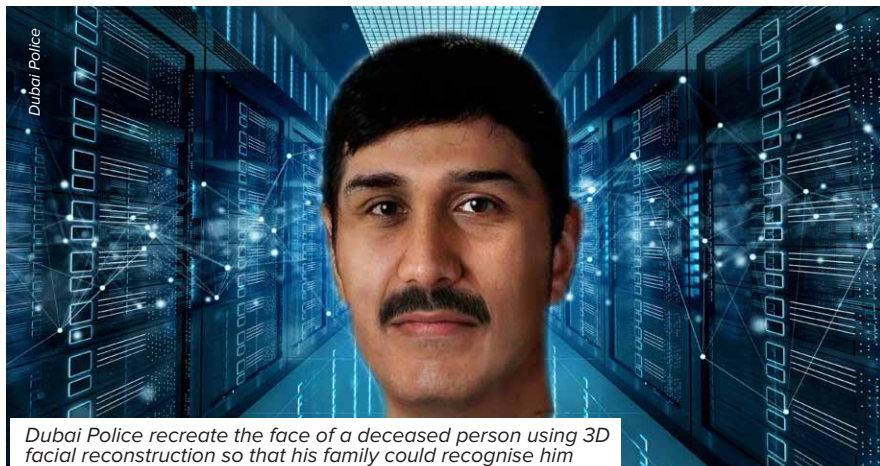
Director of the Forensics Department at Dubai Police

signed an agreement with the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), based in the emirate, to use AI in determining how the novel coronavirus affects people, especially those with co-morbidities of the heart, liver, and kidney. This will enable health care professionals to identify patients who are likely to develop complications in the future.

Dr Gareth Goodier, Group Chief Executive of SEHA, said that AI had immense potential to improve health care. "Our aim, in partnering with MBZUAI, is to explore the vast possibilities of AI in the fields of medical research, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment. We are committed to strengthening the foundations of our health care system, so that the UAE has world-class medical facilities for people," he said.

Private players in the UAE, too, have become enthusiastic about AI in health care. The International Defence Exhibition and Conference, held in Abu Dhabi in February 2021, featured a rapid COVID-19 antigen test that was powered by AI. It was launched by two health companies from the UAE in partnership with Canada's Laipac Technology.

Also in March 2021, HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, said at a meeting



Dubai Police recreate the face of a deceased person using 3D facial reconstruction so that his family could recognise him

with representatives of the UAE's pharmaceutical and medical companies that advanced technologies must become part of "the DNA of our health care industry", and that "leveraging AI" was a top priority.

RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

The UAE, which has been bolstering its technological infrastructure for several years now and began a transition to digital governance and services long before the contagion, was one of the countries that stood ready when the pandemic struck. Confined to their homes, most of the residents seamlessly moved to online work, education, and leisure. With an almost 100 per cent digital penetration, the economic benefits of fervent development in the usage of social media, the Internet, and e-commerce are substantial for the UAE.

Technology became a boon for the country because almost the full spectrum of its society has already embraced digitalisation. While many countries were just starting to fortify their digital capabilities during the pandemic, the UAE, whose leadership had launched the UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in 2017, was well ahead. Here, people had long ago realised that incorporating technology in daily life is not an option but a necessity.

As the pandemic raged, the authorities rolled out robots and drones to sanitise streets. Police personnel wore helmets with thermal cameras that could gauge a person's body temperature from a distance (and detect probable COVID-19 infection

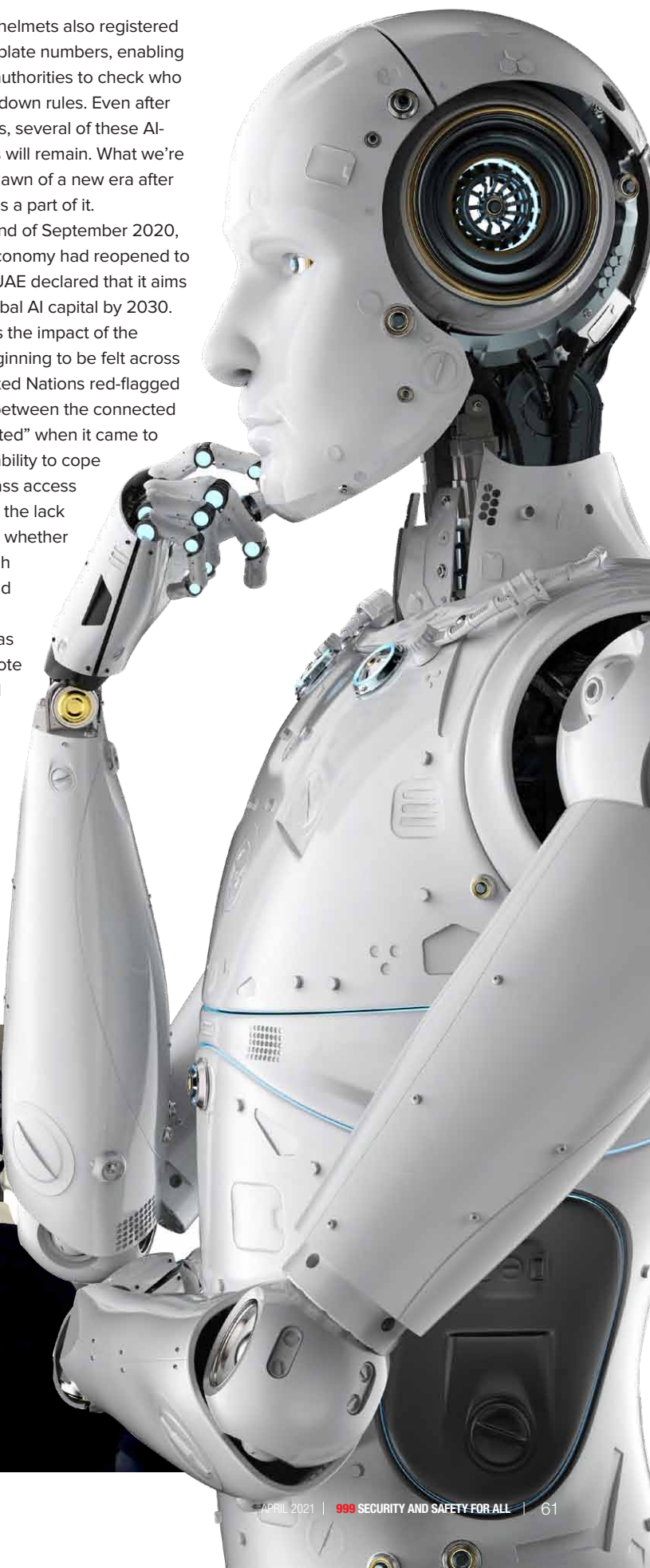
cases). The smart helmets also registered faces and vehicle plate numbers, enabling law enforcement authorities to check who was breaking lockdown rules. Even after the pandemic ends, several of these AI-powered solutions will remain. What we're witnessing is the dawn of a new era after COVID-19, and AI is a part of it.

Indeed, at the end of September 2020, shortly after the economy had reopened to some extent, the UAE declared that it aims to become the global AI capital by 2030.

In April 2020, as the impact of the pandemic was beginning to be felt across the globe, the United Nations red-flagged the "wide chasm between the connected and the unconnected" when it came to different nations' ability to cope with COVID-19. Mass access to technology —or the lack of it — determined whether people had enough solutions, tools, and services essential for daily life, such as telemedicine, remote work systems, and online education. Technology was also one of the factors in how fast a country could gather data on the spread of the virus and exchange information on vaccine research.



The Ministry of Interior adopted smart helmets that can detect possible cases of COVID-19 infection



“We are trying to create trust in AI. Explaining technology is essential to build trust and to see its widespread implementation



YOUNUS AL NASSER

Assistant Director-General, Smart Dubai and CEO, Dubai Data Establishment

“Inequalities in digital readiness hamper the ability of large parts of the world to take advantage of technologies that help us cope with the coronavirus pandemic by staying at home,” said Shamika Sirimanne, Technology and Logistics Director at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

THE AI CLASS OF 2021

MBZUAI is the first university in the world that’s dedicated to AI. It was set up in 2019 and applicants from 100 countries vied to be a part of its first batch, the class of 2021.

Moreover, when the 40th edition of GITEX Technology Week was held in Dubai in December 2020, it was only fitting that the spotlight shone brightly on AI. There were several sessions focused on this technology and key themes of the AI-centric agenda were: Ethical governance of AI; Women in AI; Tackling AI bias; AI for Arabic content creation; and AI deployment in key sectors of finance, education, and health care.

Addressing ethical questions around widely using a technology that learns constantly, like the human brain, is central to the UAE’s AI agenda. Speaking at GITEX, Younus Al Nasser, Assistant Director-General, Smart Dubai and CEO, Dubai Data Establishment,

“Inequalities in digital readiness hamper the ability of large parts of the world to take advantage of technologies that help us cope with the coronavirus pandemic by staying at home



SHAMIKA SIRIMANNE

Technology and Logistics Director at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

said, “We are trying to create trust in AI. Explaining technology is essential to build trust and to see its widespread implementation. AI offers so many positive applications. There needs to be transparency and we need to explain how data is being used to build this trust. Let’s come together and try to explain what we’re trying to achieve together. This way we can make AI even smarter and it will impact lives. If we want to make Dubai the happiest city in the world, we need to explain to people what AI does.”

AI AND THE JOB MARKET

One of the world’s top professional services firms, PwC, released a survey on technology, jobs, and skills in 2019. The findings say the majority of the workers surveyed — 53 per cent — feared that the increasing reliance on AI and new technology would leave them jobless in the next 10 years. The survey was conducted in 11 countries and involved more than 22,000 adults.

During the pandemic, the world began to rely more than ever before on technology, a practice that’s bound to continue for reasons of convenience and health concerns. Jobs that were done earlier by people, in sectors ranging from health care and transport to retail and farming, are being carried out by machines. That makes business

sense for entrepreneurs, since machines cost less and, usually, have a longer lifespan than humans. It’s estimated that worldwide, the number of industrial robots being used has doubled between 2014 and 2020, reaching three million at present, according to the World Robotics 2020 Industrial Robots report.

However, digital technology can generate jobs as well, if you’re ready to adapt. Here are a few things you can do:

1 Be responsible employers: Not all jobs can be done by robots. Exclusive handicrafts organisations, for instance, rely on people and often face a shortage of skilled workers. If a major manufacturer needs to let go of people due to technological upgrade, it would be a progressive step to train them so that they can find jobs in sectors that need people.

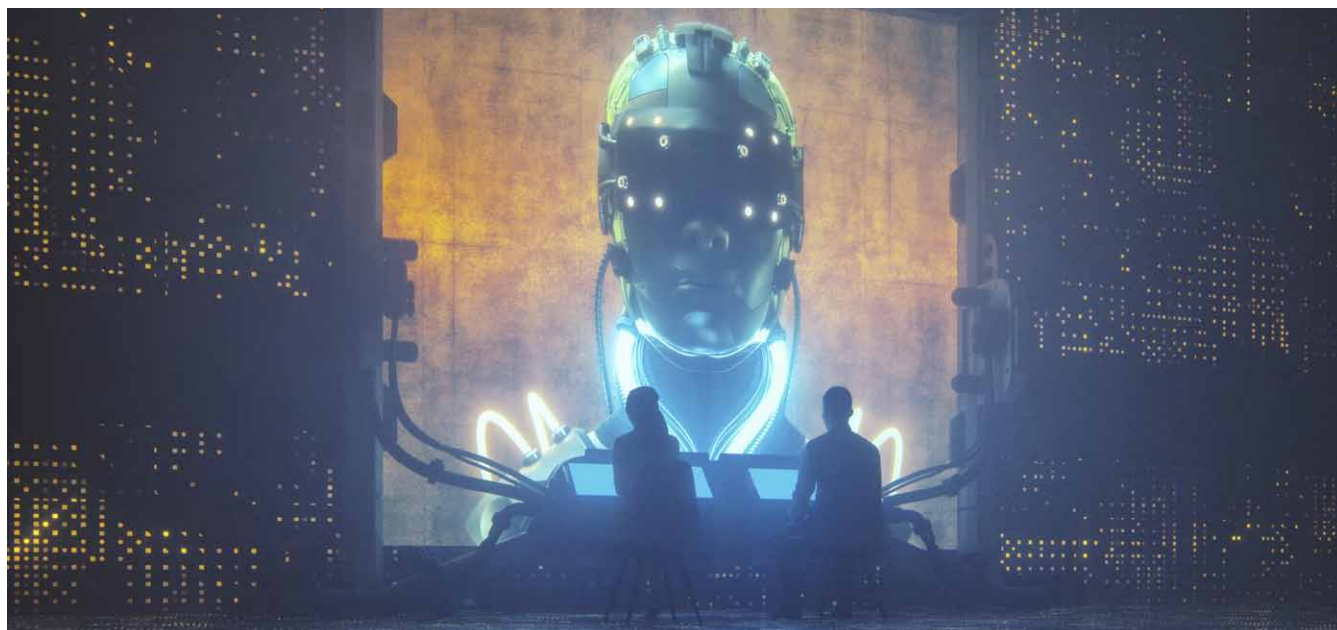
2 Using human skills effectively: While machines can do the work, it needs people to bring in originality, resilience, and emotional intelligence to the organisation. A smart company would make use of smart technology but also tap into human skills. After all, it’s only people who can understand the nuances of a customer’s mind.

3 Preparing children for the future: Students must be acquainted with technology and develop skills for the new era of jobs. The education system of the UAE is already preparing schools to empower children.

4 Upskill to be more effective: Despite the rise of machines, the human talent for critical thinking and teamwork cannot be replaced. The post-pandemic labour market will value high-quality workers who have excellent socio-behavioural skills, such as managing people, so you may want to attend courses to upgrade yourself.

5 Reflect on your passions: The pandemic has taught us the value of passion, and also highlighted how many people are stuck in jobs that they have no feeling for. In the new normal, it would pay to focus on doing things you love, whether it’s creative writing, cooking, or playing a sport, and find ways to monetise it. In the online world, you’re likely to find buyers for your special skills and get paid for doing what you enjoy.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN UAE SECTORS



TRAFFIC SAFETY:

1



The application is linked to a smart camera system, which works on driver identification every 15 minutes

The transport authority of Ras Al Khaimah, called Rakta, is using a new AI method in buses and taxis to check if the drivers are stressed, distracted, showing signs of fatigue, talking on mobile phones, or driving erratically. The system, called Shaheen, features cameras installed at the front of buses and taxis that can capture and send data to the control rooms; in case of emergency, authorities can take immediate action to ensure the safety of the people in the vehicle and on the road.

Esmaeel Al Blooshi, General Manager of Rakta, said in March 2021 that Shaheen would motivate drivers to obey traffic rules. "It will also encourage them to be on their best behaviour which, in turn, will raise safety standards," he added. According to the UAE Vision 2021, the country aims to bring down traffic casualties to 3 per 100,000 — a system such as Shaheen will aid this process.

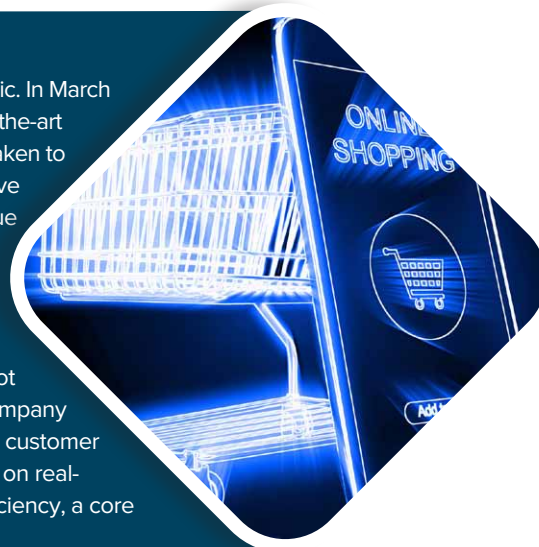
2


BUSINESS RESILIENCE:

Many businesses, small and big, are staring at losses in the wake of the pandemic. In March 2021, Majid Al Futtaim upgraded its facilities by incorporating AI and other state-of-the-art technologies at the Carrefour store in Ibn Battuta Mall, Dubai, to shorten the time taken to process customers' orders. This makes shopping at this supermarket more attractive and safer, as people won't have to spend much time in the physical checkout queue and also online orders can be processed much more accurately.

The facility was inaugurated by HE Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications.

Going a step further, Tabreed, the Abu Dhabi-based, award-winning, district cooling solutions provider, has begun using the predictive power of AI to learn not only what the current demand is but also what the future demand will be. The company has launched an initiative, called 'Wet Bulb Forecasting', which uses AI to predict customer demand in the next 24 hours. This involves a weather forecasting system, based on real-time information updates, and data science. The system will increase energy efficiency, a core concern in the world at present.



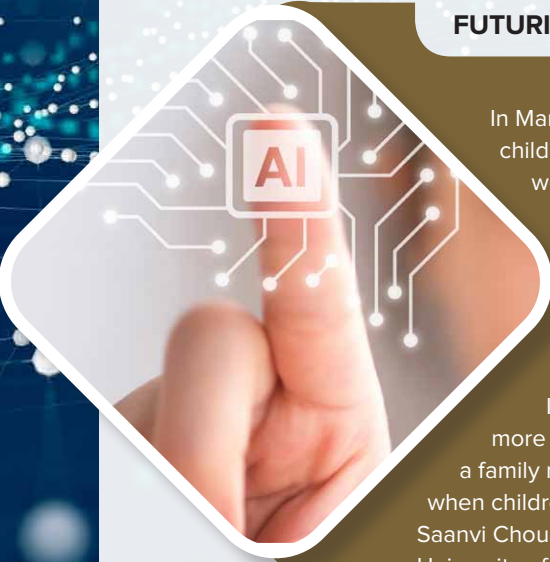
SPACE RESEARCH:**3**


The UAE has reached a new frontier in space exploration by entering the Mars orbit recently and AI was a part of the journey. Sumaya Al Hajeri, UAE's Head of Governance and Data at the Office of the Minister of Artificial Intelligence, told a conference in February 2021 that the space agency of the UAE had employed AI intensively to simulate several scenarios to anticipate problems and reduce risks. The country is now keen to collaborate with others and utilise more of AI in space exploration and research.

4**FACIAL RECOGNITION:**

Soon, you may not need to lug around official documents for your identification. In February 2021, the UAE Cabinet gave its approval to a plan to deploy facial recognition technology to enhance services provided by the private and government sectors. This means that thanks to technology such as AI, our face will be our digital passport and allow us to travel to places, such as airports, without showing any ID. The technology operates by capturing the picture of a face, either in real-time or through a video or a photograph; feeding the facial measurements and characteristics in the software; and then converting it into a digital signature.

The technology reads every person's face as a unique mathematical formula and stores it in a database for further use. This is driven by the potential of AI.

**FUTURISTIC EDUCATION:****5**


In March 2021, ADNOC, the state-owned oil company, launched a workshop for children to become acquainted with how scientists use data at work. One of the workshop sessions was on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. It was part of the UAE's strategy to give the next generation a headstart for the future. AI is at the heart of the Alef learning platform that the Ministry of Education (MoE) has been proactive in implementing across schools.

The initiative was first launched in 2017 in Abu Dhabi, where it was a resounding success, as it allowed students to design their learning based on their passions and made education a more enjoyable exercise.

In a competitive and technology-driven world, AI will help UAE students learn more and better, setting them apart as thinkers and innovators. In Abu Dhabi, a family realised the importance of AI and introduced their daughter to it last year, when children and parents were working from home. In January 2021, the child named Saanvi Chouraria, who is seven years old, became the youngest ever to intern in AI at the University of Oxford. "AI can make a huge difference to the world," said the little prodigy.



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

YEAR OF THE 50TH: PRIDE AND GLORY

The remarkable journey of the UAE should be etched in our memory even before it is documented on paper

When news about the UAE is published in the media, especially the foreign media, and if those news items are related to the country's great achievements, including the latest achievement of reaching the Mars orbit, they make people wonder about the history of the country and the beginning of its progress.

The UAE has a lot of recorded achievements — it has taken only fifty years for the country to attain a tremendous level of development and success.

This remarkable journey of the UAE should be etched in our memory even before it is documented on paper. Committing facts to memory is one of the most difficult things that a person can do. It means thinking about the facts of the achievement repeatedly to create a picture and deepen the impression of that image in one's mind, and to understand the importance of this achievement and their responsibility towards it.

In this regard, President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan declared that 2021 would be the 'Year of the 50th' for the UAE, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the country on December 2, 2021. The 'Year of the 50th' officially starts on April 6, 2021 and lasts until March 31, 2022.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan said, "The Year of the 50th represents a historic defining moment in our journey that started immediately after the declaration of the UAE's union in 1971. It is an acknowledgement of the resolute will and strong determination that our Founding Fathers had while building up their nation. It also comes in recognition of the sincere efforts made by our citizens for our nation to be what we are seeing today, as one of the best growing and fastest developing countries in the world."

The UAE, which celebrates its Golden Jubilee, does not boast about its numerous achievements. Rather, after 50 years, it expresses its gratitude to those of different nationalities who contributed to this development, making huge efforts with love and harnessing their potential to be a part of the success story.

There is no doubt that solid cooperation will take place between the federal and local authorities in the UAE to showcase the celebrations in the fullest possible way.

The important thing is that this country has people who are so

much younger than the Union but have contributed to nation-building, nonetheless. These young people are keen to learn about everything that happened in the Union before their birth. They also remain responsible for communicating those facts to their children and helping them to always take pride in the progress that was made amidst unprecedented circumstances.

Taking pride in the UAE's achievements is a responsibility that we all bear as individuals, a responsibility that should start from our homes and from stories that we

share with our peers and children. How great our history can be when it is told by us and from our own experiences that connect our past to our present. After all, this is what inspires and encourages us to build a better tomorrow and a bright future for our nation.

The UAE's decision to make 2021 the Year of the 50th, the year of pride and glory in what has been achieved, reminds us of the beginning of Gabriel García Márquez's book titled *Living to Tell the Tale*, in which he wrote: "Life is not what one lived, but what one remembers and how one remembers it in order to recount it."

Taking pride in the UAE's achievements is a responsibility that we all bear as individuals, a responsibility that should start from our homes

SHARP SHOOTER



SERGEANT AISHA JUMA'A OF ABU DHABI POLICE IS A SHOOTING CHAMPION WHO DREAMS OF RAISING THE UAE FLAG AT INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS. SHE TELLS **999** WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A POLICEWOMAN IN THIS COUNTRY

“In my beloved country, we’ve learned that we should always dream big as there is no limit to success and we’re following in the footsteps of our wise leadership. That’s why I dream of more international championships and of achieving top places to raise the UAE flag high



SERGEANT AISHA JUMA'A

Abu Dhabi Police

Her career as a policewoman in the UAE has led her “way to excellence and success”, says Sergeant Aisha Juma’a, who joined the Abu Dhabi Police General Command in 2013. Now posted in the Special Tasks Department, she believes that for a woman in the UAE, especially for a woman who works in an organisation as disciplined and professional as a police force, there’s no limit to success. She tells 999 about the first phase of her career, how she grew into the job and her prowess in shooting and horse-riding.

HOW DID YOU FEEL THE FIRST TIME YOU WORE THE POLICE UNIFORM?

I was so scared of the responsibility I’d bear by wearing this costume. When I realised that it’s my way to excellence and success, I noticed that I’m progressing in serving my country and community, and loving the path that I’m taking.

WHAT MILESTONES DURING YOUR CAREER ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

I competed in shooting tournaments after joining the Abu Dhabi Police shooting team and won many individual championships in this field.

I was ranked second in the women’s rifle event in the Leader’s Championship in 2018. Although 2020 was the year of

the pandemic and home quarantine, that didn’t stop me from pursuing my passion for shooting, and I won third place in the tactical rifles event in the Sheikh Mubarak Shooting Championship 2020. It’s one of the most important and famous shooting tournaments in the UAE.

WHAT DREAMS DO YOU STILL WANT TO PURSUE?

I have a lot of big dreams. I always dream of getting the first rank, and I love excellence in my work, in my life and in my hobbies. I am a person who lives a fighter’s life to achieve the best. In my beloved country, we’ve learned that we should always dream big as there is no limit to success and we’re following in the footsteps of our wise leadership. That’s why I dream of more international championships and of achieving top places to raise the UAE flag high in those competitions.

WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER HOBBIES ASIDE FROM TARGET SHOOTING?

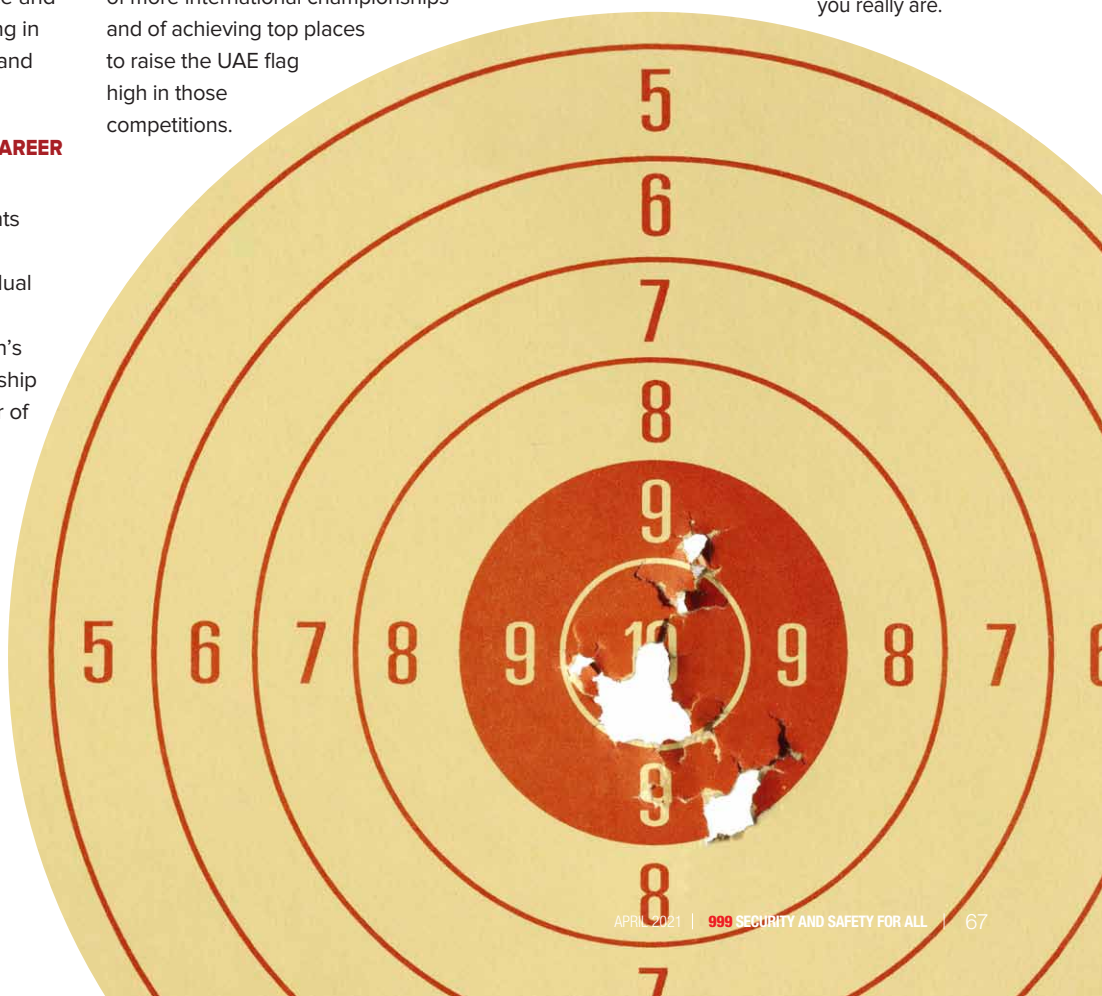
I’m also into horse-riding. I like being close to horses — I like how they’re fast and how they’re able to make me faster and stronger. Equestrianism is a precious hobby for me, alongside learning, which motivates me to accept new challenges and achieve success in what I do.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL WOMEN WHO WANT TO JOIN THE POLICE FORCE?

Police work is like any other job. You have to work sincerely, you have to work hard, whatever your profession. Working in the police force will strengthen your personality, help you set priorities in life, and also give you the skill and courage to make decisions under different circumstances. All of that shapes who you really are.

“

Working in the police force will strengthen your personality, help you set priorities in life, and also give you the skill and courage to make decisions under different circumstances.





7 WAYS TO ENHANCE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

WHILE NOT EVERYONE IS BORN A NATURAL LEADER,
ANYONE CAN BECOME ONE. **999** POINTS YOU IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION TO ACHIEVE THIS

BY JAMILLE DOMINGO-MARASIGAN

Your success in the workplace is determined by your willingness to lead an initiative and head a team that can help you hit the ground running. Maybe you will be assigned to spearhead a project or be given a chance to apply for a managerial

position. Regardless of where you are on the career ladder, you need to hone your soft skills to ace your professional undertakings. And while not everyone is born a leader, anyone can grow into that role with the right strategy and practice. Here are seven ways to do it:



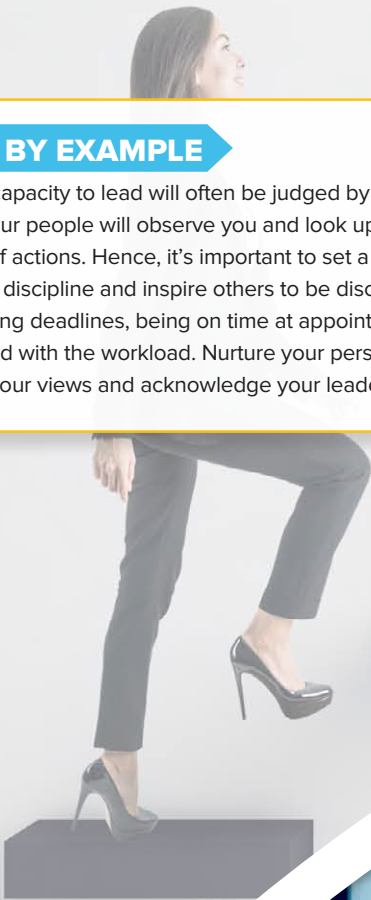
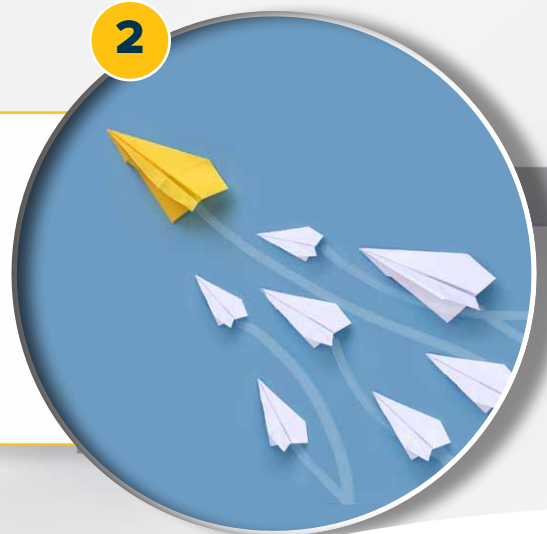
BE WILLING TO LEARN

One efficient way to hone your leadership skills is to keep learning new things. This keeps your mind sharp and your knowledge fresh, allowing you to be more prepared for the next challenges that may come your team's way.

Research how to improve the way you manage your people and gain knowledge about the industry or line of work that you are in. Some online classes and seminars are available to help you enhance your ability to understand the significance and conditions of a leading role.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Your capacity to lead will often be judged by the level of discipline you display at work. Your people will observe you and look up to you when deciding on their own course of actions. Hence, it's important to set a great example for others to follow. Develop discipline and inspire others to be disciplined as well. Make sure you start by meeting deadlines, being on time at appointments, as well as becoming more organised with the workload. Nurture your personality in such a way that people admire your views and acknowledge your leadership.



3



LISTEN AND COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

Great communication skills are the key to becoming a great leader. Just because you're at the top of your team hierarchy doesn't mean you have to be in the spotlight at all times. To be an effective head, you need to be able to listen to ideas and feedback from your team, and to give credit where it's due.

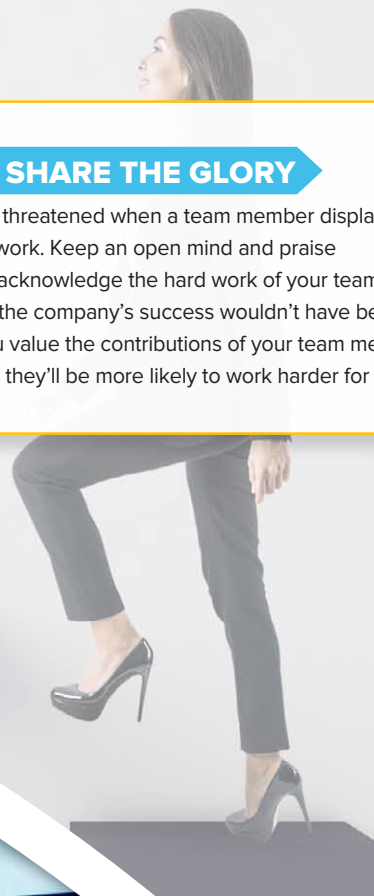
As a good listener, you can address the concerns of team members, which can mean better productivity and achieving the desired business outcomes.

4



BE HUMBLE AND SHARE THE GLORY

A true leader doesn't feel threatened when a team member displays great ideas and aptitude at work. Keep an open mind and praise contributions. Know how to acknowledge the hard work of your team; acknowledge that your and the company's success wouldn't have been possible without them. If you value the contributions of your team members and say it in so many words, they'll be more likely to work harder for you.



5

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR TEAM

A great leader acts as the head of the family; it's important to take responsibility for everyone and know full well that their faulty performance or misconduct falls on your shoulders. Hence, it's important to work hard to train and communicate with the team, helping them become efficient professionals. In a high-pressure environment, a leader must be able to provide encouragement or guidance when a team member needs it the most. You don't have to be perfect at everything, but the ability to delegate tasks and empower your subordinates is essential. Only then can your team members deliver their best.

RESOLVE CONFLICTS

Of course, as with every workplace, not everyone will get along all the time. This is why a good leader plays an important role in resolving conflicts. Instead of ignoring troubles in the team and expecting conflicts to disappear on their own, you must know how to address them by communicating freely (but privately) with those involved in the conflict. Listen to their concerns and assess whether a problem can be resolved or if the combative team members need to be reassigned.

6

AGREE

DISAGREE

7

GET BETTER AT WORKING UNDER PRESSURE

Having situational awareness or knowing how to anticipate problems before they occur is a mark of a good leader, a valuable skill needed to manage complex projects in a high-pressure environment and with tight deadlines. This skill allows you to take action that can pre-empt these concerns; it also helps you recognise opportunities that are easily overlooked by others.

Did you know?

Exceedingly intelligent professionals don't necessarily make the best leaders, according to research done by experts at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland in 2017. According to the study, published in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, the optimal IQ for someone managing a team would be 120-125, no more than the 1.2 standard deviations above the mean. Those with IQ higher than 128 were found to be less effective leaders.

This means that a leader does not need to be highly intelligent to efficiently manage and empower a team, and that those who are too intelligent may have a hard time cultivating leadership skills if not balanced by other traits.



THE SIP OF THE PEN

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.

We are at a time beset with challenges, but also a time when 'she'—emphasising every woman in our lives—a vanquisher of the impossible exists

Even the most skillful writer, when asked to describe the virtues of people, finds it hard to write down words despite their talent for shaping up words and conveying their meanings. Yet, the sparkle of people's feelings comes to the rescue. We are at a time beset with challenges, but also a time when 'she'—emphasising every woman in our lives—a vanquisher of the impossible exists.

'She' is a knight-like battling warrior, a dexterous fight-or-flight responder, a master planner like an adept leader who knows every inch of the battlefield, its details and surface features. She is beautiful inside out. She is a worthy woman who embodies all other women. She is as successfully practical and meticulous as the hands of a clock. She has the wisdom of a ruler in bringing forth innovative solutions. She has already made the impossible possible.

Her will is unwavering. She is invincible, undefeated by any power. With a fluent sensibility and an eloquent speech, she is well listened to. She has a keen eye. She is mysteriously explicit yet explicitly drops hints. In her eyes, you see sparkling stars and warm genuine suns. She is as serene as a shiny moon on a bright full moon night. Her presence is like dew on

tree leaves on a cold winter day. She makes you feel safe as if you were in the company of your loved ones around a wood fireplace on a crisp winter night. She is a perfect lady with a beautiful soul. She is the sister that you love with your heart

before you lay eyes on her. She is the righteous daughter lauded in poetry and prose. She is the wife that, if you were lucky enough to have, lights up your life.

She is an iron woman with a soft heart. She is a combination of the highest virtues, beauty, and intelligence, of the wisest wit, the most splendid taste and prominent status. In a conversation, no one can keep up with her wit. She is neither manipulated by hypocrisy nor fooled by lies. All attempts to get at her have failed as she puts herself in the

hands of his creator. She worships Him with the purity of the penitent and the fear of the pious.

She is a willful, challenge-oriented woman of our time. She survives against all odds. She has overcome the hardest of barriers but remained unbreakable. She is an intuitive time and place traveller. Many would wonder if such a woman still exists nowadays. She does. History is rife with such noble icons, and what makes her unique is that she deserves to be called the woman who embodies all other women.

'She' survives against all odds. She has overcome the hardest of barriers but remained unbreakable





SERVED BACTERIA

THE DELIGHTFUL PLEASURE OF EATING DELICIOUS
FOOD TURNED INTO IMMEASURABLE PAINS AND
TRAUMA DUE TO INGREDIENTS LACED WITH
DANGEROUS BACTERIA

BY STAFF REPORT

COLD CUTS

WHEN: JANUARY 2018

WHERE: POLOKWANE, SOUTH AFRICA

It was a normal, daily routine for a daycare centre in Soweto, South Africa in mid-January 2018. Children were enjoying their meals from the centre's cafeteria. However, nine of the five-year-old kids suddenly complained of stomachaches and were rushed to the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital.

The paediatrician who investigated the incident said that it was a case of listeriosis – where an individual suffers from stomachache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, and convulsions apart from fever and muscle pains. Investigators managed to trace the culprit in the form of two brands of polony – both of which were cold meats that were served to the children that day. Listeria is type of a bacteria found in water, soil, and vegetation – which infects humans through animal products, fresh fruit, and vegetables.

South Africa's health minister Aaron Motsoaledi revealed that the source of the outbreak was the Enterprise Food Production facility, located at Polokwane, based on samples that yielded positive results for the *Listeria monocytogenes*. The same microbe was also detected in a stool sample from one of the five children who got hospitalised.

The company, meanwhile, ordered a mass recall of its line of ready-to-eat cold cut products after some samples tested



positive for the said bacteria. They also instructed their customers who had purchased the same product to discard them by placing them in a plastic bag away from other food items.

The official tally of confirmed cases of what had been regarded as the world's worst listeriosis outbreak reached 1,060, of which 216 people died.

The recall and the identification of the source of the outbreak had contributed greatly to the decline in the number of cases, according to data from South Africa's National Institute of Communicable Diseases.

BEAN SPROUT DISASTER

WHEN: MAY 2011

WHERE: LOWER SAXONY, GERMANY

In May 2011, a man from Aachen in Germany started complaining about experiencing bloody diarrhoea. Several weeks later, similar cases rapidly increased to more than 100 – spanning Germany's northern areas such as Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Hamburg, Bremen, and Lower Saxony.

The harmless bean sprouts became highly controversial in the country after it was confirmed as the source of an *E. coli* outbreak.

Authorities managed to track down the outbreak to an organic farm at Bienenbüttel in Lower Saxony and shut it down after a laboratory in North Rhine-Westphalia found traces of the strain of the bacteria at one of the bean sprouts packages that had been thrown in the bin at the same organic farm. This was also confirmed by another independent investigation that was carried out weeks later.

The outbreak affected 3,950 people, 53 of them died. Of this number, around 800 people had suffered from hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS).



Several cases were also reported by people who travelled or visited Germany and France during this period but returned to their countries of origin. These include medical reports of *E. coli* from countries such as the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Switzerland, Canada, the US, and the UK.

MILK MALADIES

WHEN: APRIL 1985

WHERE: ILLINOIS, US

In March 1985, hundreds of individuals in Illinois began complaining of stomachaches accompanied by excruciating body pains that they had never experienced before.

Health authorities found out that a type of bacteria was behind the apparent outbreak: *Salmonella typhimurium*, which had affected 16,284 persons. Of this number 1,059 were from Illinois, while the rest were from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.

The victims recalled that they drank a particular brand of milk and then began feeling strange in their stomach hours later, including abdominal pain and cramps, diarrhoea, and fever. However, most of them recovered quickly and no longer reported their illnesses.

Jeremy Margolis, then acting Illinois public health director, revealed that at least nine people had died due to the outbreak. By the following month in April 1985, Margolis stated that tests had shown that at least two batches of milk processed at the Hillfarm Dairy in Melrose Park had traces of the *Salmonella typhimurium* bacteria. This specific milk was packaged in the brand Bluebrook produced by Hillfarm. What baffled experts was that the salmonella bacteria, as well as other forms of bacteria that made people sick,



should have been killed during the process of pasteurisation.

A comprehensive investigation followed months after, where the task force concluded that one of the most probable reasons for the contamination was a stainless-steel pipe that was used as a 'cross-connection'. This pipe linked on one side carrying unpasteurised skim milk and was also linked to other sides carrying pasteurised skim milk. Valves operated within this 'cross-connection' was supposed to halt mixing pasteurised with unpasteurised milk. Tests conducted by the investigation team showed that small amounts of unpasteurised milk could accumulate in the cross-connection and remained there long enough for bacteria to multiply.

CONTAMINATED STRAWBERRIES

WHEN: APRIL 1997

WHERE: UNITED STATES

In 1997, over 2,000 students across California and Georgia in the US had to take emergency vaccination jabs against Hepatitis A – all because of a single fruit.

Federal officials revealed that they traced strains of Hepatitis A from strawberries grown from Mexico, which were bought by schools as part of their lunch menu and consumed by thousands of students. Officials feared that students from Arizona, California, Georgia, Iowa, Tennessee, and Michigan might have also been exposed to the virus. Reports later revealed that 175 cases of Hepatitis A in Michigan had been linked to the consumption of the strawberries in question.

One school in Los Angeles missed the important update and served the same batch of strawberries. This led the same school to fund and inoculate over 700 children and their staff against Hepatitis A the following week.

Concurrently, a Special Olympics event at the Grand Rapids still in Michigan with over 1,400 in attendance served shortcakes, which used the contaminated



strawberries. Officials advised all participants to see their doctors immediately when they learned about the incident.

San Diego-based Andrew & Williamson (A&W) Sales Co., the company responsible for the repacking of the said strawberries, initiated a massive Hepatitis A vaccination drive. The scale of this strawberry contamination forced the firm to be under public scrutiny and was the subject of a criminal investigation. The president of the company resigned following the scandal.

SKIRMISH AT THE PARKING LOT

WHAT STARTS AS A DISAGREEMENT OVER A PARKING
SLOT EXPLODES AS A MURDER ATTEMPT WITH A STONE,
A SCREWDRIVER, AND A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

BY WAGIH HASSAN



Motorists competing for parking space is a common sight in any densely populated city anywhere in the world, but rarely does it spiral downwards into a murder attempt, as it happened in one of the emirates.

On one side, brothers Ahmed and Amir, aged 23 and 20 respectively, and on the other side, there was a group of three young men. They clashed in front of a building.

According to the police complaint lodged by Ahmed, this is how it began: "One day, my brother and I were at a car park, when a sharp dispute occurred as I parked my vehicle. We were surprised by the three young men of Asian origin. Fury was obvious in their eyes."

"Within minutes, the argument became a huge row; the three young men cursed and hurled nasty insults at us," he added.

Ahmed and Amir had remained calm at the beginning of the argument; they tried to explain their position, but the group of men didn't let them speak.

Suddenly, after some heated words, a member of the trio grabbed Ahmed who was behind the steering wheel and hauled him out of the car. The victim was thrown to the ground, and his head was hit with a stone by one of the men. Severely injured, Ahmed began bleeding from several parts of the head.

Amir jumped out of the car to defend his sibling, but another man from the group punched him straight in the face, so hard that Amir fell to the ground.

Now, the third suspect got a fire

extinguisher from his car and hit Ahmed again on the head, spilling more blood.

What's astonishing was that even after injuring both the brothers and nearly killing one of them, the group didn't stop. The eldest amongst them went over to his car, rummaged in the toolkit, and took out a screwdriver. With that, he plunged the sharp end into Ahmed's upper body, aiming for the heart.

“

Bleeding profusely from the head and stabbed in the torso by a screwdriver, Ahmed went into a coma

Bleeding profusely from the head and stabbed in the torso by a screwdriver, Ahmed went into a coma. His younger brother Amir miraculously escaped further injury, as the violent trio was focused on hurting Ahmed. The three assailants then got into their car and fled, fearing arrest for what they had done. Amir's immediate concern was how to get his severely injured brother to the hospital, rather than go to the police station. However, a report would be lodged later by some eyewitnesses.

After nine hours at the hospital, Ahmed regained consciousness,

and he was able to give the police a statement. Speaking to the officer who came to the hospital, Ahmed said, "I was a bit fortunate that the screwdriver stab, as the doctors said, hit the lower part of my stomach [instead of the heart]. As I was told, the doctors conducted a surgery to save my life. When they attacked us, I got stabbed several times and I suffered wounds in different parts of my body. I could not walk or move normally and now I can barely breathe naturally. The doctors said that I had developed a 15 per cent permanent physical disability."

The police station near the crime scene received a report about the fight that took place. Some witnesses had seen the screwdriver in Ahmed's stomach, while he was lying on the ground in a pool of blood before the arrival of the ambulance.

Asking several eyewitnesses, including the owners of the shops close to the crime scene, the police reconstructed the fight and learned that the quarrel took place over the available parking space. The three suspects, who had entered the country to find job opportunities, were arrested soon. The eldest of them was arrested first, two days after the crime, while he was illegally transporting passengers in a vehicle. He led the police to the other two suspects.

The case went to court and all three were found guilty. Each received a jail sentence of two years, to be followed by deportation and a permanent ban on re-entry into the UAE.



TRADE AND TERRITORY

THE ACCOUNTS OF THE 1908 BOOK *THE GULF GUIDE* PASS THROUGH A SWATHE OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AND BRING US TO THE EMIRATI ISLANDS AND THE TOWN OF LENGEH

BY DR FALEH HANDHAL



Traditional wooden dhow in a dockyard of Manama

Exploring the cultural and economic history of Bahrain, British political resident John Gordon Lorimer, the author of the 1908 book *The Gulf Guide*, wrote: “Manama is the commercial capital of Bahrain, while Muharraq is the political capital, where the ruler resides. The port of Manama was the only one used by commercial ships and the city extends about 1.5 miles along the sea. The houses there were built with small stones fixed with mud and plaster, and there was an area [with] the market in the centre and shops on both sides. However, the houses outside the city were mostly huts made of palm fronds and the finest building was the British Political Agency.” The market in Manama city had “around 450 stores”, according to the author, evidence of its position as a commercial hub.

BAHRAIN

Describing the architectural features of the Manama, Lorimer wrote: “The Diwan or Manama Fort is located in an open plain behind the city. It is where the ruler spends his summer. The building was in good condition and had multiple towers. The mosques were characterised by their simplicity and they had 12 feet high minarets. There were no trees in the city, [except] traces of palm cultivation that were irrigated by a well that stemmed from a spring near Al Diwan Fort next to the American Hospital.

“The population of the city was 25,000 people, and the number of non-Muslims was about 200, consisting of Hindus, Jews, and Christians. There were also six Americans and four Europeans, and Christians worked in commerce, and at the American Hospital.

“Wealthy people used to buy drinking water from porters who [would] bring it from the wells of Umm Guwaifa. There were water basins, the

first named ‘Al Qafool’, which was filled with water from multiple springs, and the second named ‘Ain Muqbel’, for Hajj Moqbel Al Dhakiri. As for washing, almost every home had a six feet deep shallow well.”

The Western presence in Manama was dominated by the British. The book mentioned “the headquarters of the British Political Agent and a missionary from the Dutch Reformed Church, which maintains a

shop that sells the Bible”.

About other facilities in the city, the author wrote: “There was also a hospital affiliated with the mission, built in 1902, with twenty beds. In 1904, this hospital served about 17,000 patients. As part of the mission, there was a school that taught Arabic, in which 68 students were registered.”

Moving on to Muharraq, Lorimer said: “Muharraq is the [most] important city of Bahrain, and it is where the ruler resides. The sea surrounds it on the eastern, southern, and western sides, and there is a freshwater spring that supplies the city with drinking water, and when the sea level rises, it runs into the alleys of the city.

“The people of Muharraq are merchants in general, and there is a large market consisting of 300 shops in which there are merchants, pearl fishermen, seafarers, ship owners, bakers, barbers, tailors, and shoemakers. There are also about 700 ships that go for pearl-diving.”

“ MUHARRAQ IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CITY OF BAHRAIN, AND IT IS WHERE THE RULER RESIDES



The ruins of the Portuguese fort in Manama



Al Jalali Fort in Muscat

MUSCAT

Lorimer then talked about the city of Muscat, in Oman, and mentioned the two famous castles: “The main means of defence for Muscat were the two castles called ‘Al Mirani’ and ‘Al Jalali’, built over the mountains on both sides of the beach. Each castle was constructed on a rocky hill 150 feet above sea level, [and] a staircase carved into the rock led to it.

“Al Mirani castle, located to the west, was higher and more complex in its defensive design. The other castle was located to the east, and it was a smaller and simpler building. These two castles were well-designed when the Portuguese built them in order to control and protect the city. The two castles had two buildings called ‘Sira Al Sharqiya’ and ‘Sira Al Gharbiyya’ on the other side.

“As for the city’s source of water, it was located half a mile from Al Wadi Al Kabeer and was protected by a high castle. The city had other towers extending along the shore, and their bay was 1,400 yards wide.”

Stating that the inhabitants of Muscat were “of different nationalities”, indicating its

cosmopolitan nature, Lorimer said: “The city was a place for loading and delivery of goods and most of the export and import trade. The merchants were mostly Indians and from the Al Khaja community, who used to import rice, fabrics, sugar, oil and spices and export fresh and dry dates and small dried fish called ‘Mutut’. Indians were protected by the British forces and the city was ruled by the Sultan. The garrison, meanwhile, consisted of 100 soldiers.”

LENGEH

Lorimer then briefly spoke about Lengeh, its trade and relationship with Dubai. He wrote: “Lengeh, located on the Persian coast, was the second capital of the Greater Qasimiya Emirate during the days of Sheikh Sultan bin Saqr I (1805-1866) and remained so after his era. The Emir of the Darabiki Sea, Amin Al Sultan, was the director general of the ports, and the first thing he did was that he attacked Lengeh and arrested Sheikh Qadib and appointed Sheikh Muhammad bin Khalifa bin Saeed Al Qasimi as his replacement. This did not last long. After the year 1899, Persian forces attacked and occupied the city, and Sheikh Muhammad bin Khalifa fled to Sharjah. The fall of Lengeh

marked the end of Al Qawasim’s rule there.

“As for the impact on the local level, the new Persian authority began imposing heavy taxes on the city’s merchants, whose trade began to drastically decline. Sheikh Maktoum bin Hasher, ruler of Dubai, was monitoring this situation and had followed the policy of free trade, which prompted a large number of Lengeh merchants to go to Dubai and stay near the Creek, as it is a natural port for ships to dock and take off. As a result, the traders from Lengeh moved to Dubai, and thus the commercial openness and free market were formed, which is the policy followed to this day.”

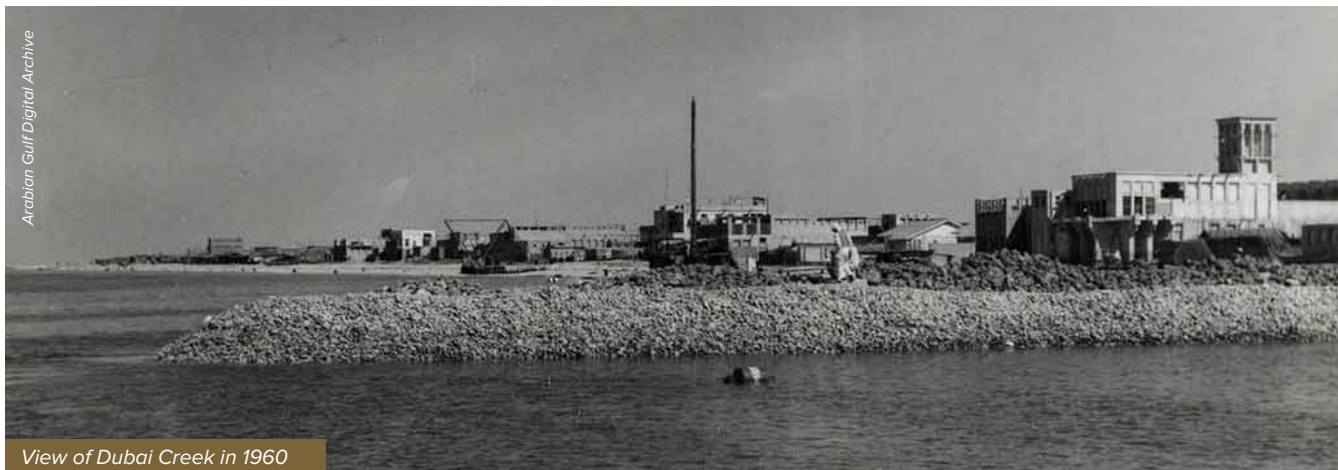
In this regard, Lorimer briefly said: “Lengeh was a commercial centre serving a large and important area and the centre for the collection and export of pearls. It was the export port that competed with Bahrain, and it had clients from all ports on the Gulf coast as well as the coast of Oman. However, the Persian regime applied customs tariffs on exports, so merchants chose the Dubai port, whose ships went to India without any commercial pressure.

“The big merchants, to save themselves from bankruptcy, moved to Dubai and established commercial agencies there for themselves. If

“
SHEIKH MAKTOUM
BIN HASHER HAD
FOLLOWED THE POLICY
OF FREE TRADE, WHICH
PROMPTED A LARGE
NUMBER OF LENGEH
MERCHANTS TO GO TO
DUBAI AND STAY NEAR
THE CREEK



One of the protective walls being built along Dubai Creek in 1960



View of Dubai Creek in 1960

the Persian forces did not act to eliminate the causes of this, Lengeh would become a local port only, followed by the ports of 'Bastak' and 'Lara'. The shops in Lengeh totalled 455, and there were 28 major companies, which used to trade with the United Kingdom, India, Germany and many other countries."

Just as Lorimer briefly talked about Lengeh, he also spoke about Abu Musa Island. Both of these places were taken from Al Qawasim by Persia.

Abu Musa is an island located opposite Sharjah, and it is one of the islands belonging to the emirate and one of its sources of income. The island has mines of the "red mud" used in construction, and the ruler of Sharjah used to grant mining concessions to foreign companies.

In 1883, Sheikh Saqr bin Khalid bin Sultan Al Qasimi took control of Sharjah and the rule of Abu Musa was given to his uncle, Sheikh Salem bin Sultan Al Qasimi.

The fall of Lengeh, which we referred to earlier, affected the political situation in the region, which prompted Sheikh Saqr bin Khalid Al Qasimi to pay attention to Abu Musa Island for fear of the Persian strategy. He decided to boost his influence there further — thus, he set up a force that raised the Sharjah flag on Abu Musa and also on the islands of Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb. Moreover, Sheikh Saqr invited the sons of the Sudanese tribe in Al Khan to go to Abu Musa Island.

However, this did not stop the Persian forces from occupying the island — their destroyer *Muzaffari* went out to Abu Musa; the soldiers got off the ship, lowered the Sharjah flag and hoisted the Persian flag.

When Sheikh Saqr bin Khalid heard this news, he rushed to inform the British Representative in Sharjah, who in turn informed the Political Resident in Bu Shahr, named William Cox, and finally the British government was informed of the Persian incursion at Abu Musa.

“ IN 1883, SHEIKH SAQR BIN KHALID BIN SULTAN AL QASIMI TOOK CONTROL OF SHARJAH AND THE RULE OF ABU MUSA WAS GIVEN TO HIS UNCLE, SHEIKH SALEM BIN SULTAN AL QASIMI

When Lord Curzon, the Viceroy in India, was told about this, he informed his government that he was ready to send British naval vessels, accompanying the sheikh of Sharjah, to pull down the Persian flag and expel the soldiers from the island. However, the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked Lord Curzon to wait and not use violence; also, the British government began its talks with the Persian government. This dispute ended on May 24, 1904, when the latter

agreed to lower its flag and withdraw its troops from Abu Musa and the rest of the islands. However, they did not fully give up its claims on these territories and wanted further discussions on their ownership.

ABU MUSA ISLAND

Lorimer talked about Abu Musa Island and what it was like in 1905, the year after the end of the dispute between Sharjah and Persia through British mediation.

He wrote: "Abu Musa Island is located a few miles away from the city of Sharjah, and it is rectangular in shape and about three miles in diameter and has some hills in the middle, up to 360 feet high. It gets drinking water from 20 wells and most of the population was from the Sudanese tribe, who were in Al Khan in Sharjah.

"As for Sheikh Salem bin Sultan, the uncle of the ruler of Sharjah, he granted the concession for mining black iron oxide deposits in return for annual revenue of \$250 (Dhs920), and about 40,000 bags of this oxide were being extracted."

Here, Lorimer ended his description of Abu Musa Island, but the story surrounding this island continues till this very day.



Fifty years in the service of the nation



We extend our best wishes to
the  Magazine issued by
the Ministry of Interior on an occasion
The Magazine's golden jubilee



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

THE SAMURAI WATCH

The iconic G-SHOCK hit the streets of Japan in 1983 and built a reputation as "the toughest watch of all time". Casio recently announced the latest additions to its luxury G-SHOCK MR-G Series, with the introduction of the Kachi-Iro Collection. The brand-new **MRGB2000B-1A** and **MRGB2000R-1A** take inspiration from kachi-iro (dark navy blue), the colour of victory in Japanese culture. Kachi-iro was said to be preferred by Japan's legendary Samurai warriors and was often used for armour and helmets.

The MRGB2000B-1A boasts a full metal band, derived from the base MRGB2000. A traditional Japanese scale pattern is used on the surface of the dial, while the outer face is cut to a shape that resembles a Japanese fan, creating a stunning impression.

The MRGB2000R-1A model offers a durable fluorine rubber band with a distinctive Bishamon tortoiseshell finish, a symbol of strength in Japan since ancient times.

While both models are equipped with a deep-layered hardening titanium case, the unique bezel of the MRGB2000R-1A is made of recrystallised titanium. Heat treating titanium creates a distinctive crystal pattern on its surface that resembles the nie on Japanese sword blades.

Website: www.casio.com

Price: Dhs11,019



ERGONOMIC KEYBOARD

The advent of remote work and distance learning puts a premium on computer peripherals that not only do the job right but also provide comfort and long-term health benefits for its users.

Cherry KC 4500 ERGO provides a unique take on the computer keyboard with its distinct design, built for easy typing and giving the hands and arms a more natural position when at work. It also has an extra-soft palm rest that allows users to rest their wrists in its memory foam, providing extra comfort whenever your hands need to rest for a bit before you resume work.

The keyboard has several integrated additional commands with its function keys (F-keys), with options to customise them. These include adjusting the volume of your computer's speakers, opening and/or closing programmes for quick access to apps and files, in order to make your work more efficient or to help your child study quicker to focus on more important tasks.



Website: cherryamericas.com

Price: Dhs170

SOUND CONVERGENCE

Gadget lovers these days prefer wireless technology that does away with the hassle of tangled wires, especially for earphones. The **Huawei FreeLace Pro** takes it up a notch, providing dual-mic active noise cancellation for a very immersive and enjoyable listening atmosphere.

The FreeLace Pro has three modes of noise cancellation, depending on the user's needs. General mode greatly reduces ambient noise, perfect for busy streets and parks during your jogging sessions. Cosy mode helps remove noises closer to your ears, including rustling of paperwork, keyboard taps, and idle chatter in the office, making it perfect for the workplace. Ultra-mode allows users to immerse themselves in a deeply enhanced noise cancelled environment, where it's only them and the music, away from any disturbances and distractions.

It only takes five minutes of charging to enjoy up to five hours of playtime. On a full charge, the Huawei FreeLace Pro can provide up to 24 hours of continuous playback.

Website: consumer.huawei.com

Price: Dhs400



INEXPENSIVELY TRENDY

Two smartphones from the tech company Doozee aim to give you a mobile phone upgrade without breaking the bank — one with a trendy style and another with a rugged look.

DOOGEE N30

The N30 is a Full Netcom smartphone, with a 6.55" HD+ Perforated IPS screen that has a 93 per cent screen-to-body ratio and 19:9 aspect ratio. In addition, it has a 4500mAh battery and supports 10W Type-C fast charging.

Also supporting four satellite navigation systems with GPS Galileo, Glonass and Beidou, it's ideal for taking along on trips. The dual SIM makes network transition easy when in another country.

The exterior design of the N30 is inspired by the wonders of nature. The handset is available in Misty White, Elegant Green, Dreamy Blue, and Magic Black colours.

DOOGEE S40 Pro

The Doozee S40 Pro 4G smartphone is a rugged mobile phone that's designed to be both tough and powerful at a cheap price. The 5.45" HD+ IPS screen has 720 x 1440 resolution, 18:9 aspect ratio, and Corning Gorilla Glass. Backed by military certification, the 810G device can



withstand the most extreme environments.

The smartphone includes MIL-STD-810G and IP68 & IP69K ratings, implying that it's drop-proof and can be submerged in 1.5 metres of water for up to 30 minutes. It's available in Mineral Black, Army Green and Fire Orange colours.

Website: www.doozee.cc

Price: Both Dhs370



Website: <http://www.lg.com>

Price: Dhs7,800

LIGHTWEIGHT LAPTOP

Portability, functionality, and versatility are essential features of laptops these days, as users need to be on-the-go all the time.

The **LG Gram 17Z95N-G** sports a huge 17-inch screen, a massive battery life of 19 hours of continuous use, and the new 11th Gen Intel® Core processor with Intel Iris Xe Graphics, which provides up to 1.8 times better graphics performance than the 10th Gen processor. This powerhouse laptop weighs less than 3 lbs (1.36kg) and had passed seven military-grade tests for durability with its body made from magnesium alloy to endure long use and ensure the longevity of the laptop.

Its 17-inch monitor isn't just for the size, as it delivers a crisp 2560x1600 resolution, which is twice compared to the resolution of Full HD, giving its users clear, vivid colours. The LG Gram 17Z95N-G also has a Thunderbolt 3 port that allows users to charge the laptop, transfer up to 40 Gbps and display 5K quality videos at the same time.

LIPSTICK CREATOR

It's normal for women to have dozens of makeup items and in varying colours for different occasions. Soon, however, they might drop their lipstick collection, thanks to a brand-new gadget that provides personalised shades of lipstick that they desire.

Yves Saint Laurent's Rouge Sur Mesure gives users the capability to create their own colours with thousands of lip shades available per set. The device mixes four base lipstick shades of reds, oranges, pinks, and nudes to dress up your lip and make it stand out from the crowd.

The device is paired with an app that allows users to create lip shades that they wish to wear for the day. This includes features such as a Shade Match, where they select a colour through their camera to transform it into a personal lip shade; a Shade Wheel, where they select the exact hue of the lipstick they want; and a Shade Stylist, which provides recommendations on the colour of the lipstick you should wear, based on your outfit.

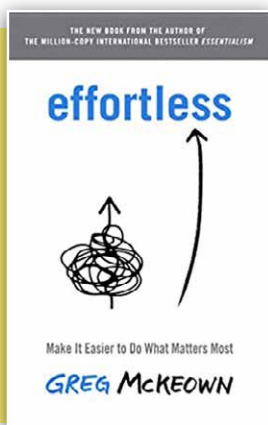


Website: www.yslbeauty.com

Price: Dhs1,200



FLIP THROUGH SOME INTERESTING BOOKS DESCRIBING WAYS TO ATTAIN CAREER TRIUMPHS, VENTURE OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE TO SUCCEED, AS WELL AS GOOD NOVELS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS AND MYSTERIES



EASY SUCCESS

Title: Effortless: Make It Easier to Do What Matters Most

Author: Greg McKeown

Publisher: Currency

Price: \$16.99 (Dhs92) (Hardcover)

This book helps readers find the right steps to set their priorities in life and attain their goals to success. It revolves around the simple principle that 'not everything has to be so hard.' Especially in a world beset by burnout, when fear and uncertainty occur due to the ever-growing list of responsibilities that can be at times overwhelming, it is vital to learn effortless ways to reach triumph in life—which are set out in this best-selling guide.

REBOUND

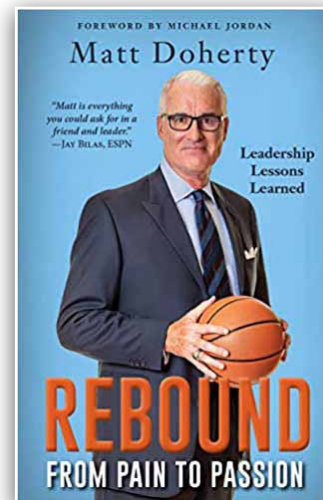
Title: Rebound: From Pain to Passion - Leadership Lessons Learned

Author: Matt Doherty

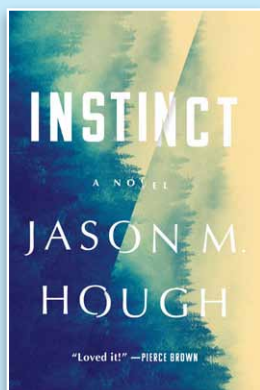
Publisher: Sports Publishing Group

Price: \$13.49 (Dhs50) (Paperback)

Basketball coach Matt Doherty shares his experience of getting second chances in life after a series of losses and heartbreaks in this memoir that tells the story of his days coaching this world-renowned sport in various universities in the US. His career began with the 1982 National Championship team coached by Dean Smith, playing alongside NBA stars Michael Jordan and James Worthy. He then coached basketball at the University of North Carolina as well as the University of Notre Dame—even being named National Coach of the Year 2001. He was then forced to resign in 2003, a time when he said he felt like falling off the top of the mountain. In this book, he tackles moments of self-doubt, heartbreaks, as well as the realisation that helped him prepare for the next opportunity—leading him to rebound in life and start over again.



BIZARRE TOWN



Title: Instinct

Author: Jason M. Hough

Publisher: Skybound Books

Price: \$12.99 (Dhs48) (Kindle)

Despite its small size, Silvertown possesses more conspiracy theories than any other place. Mary Whittaker, a police officer, tries to adapt to the weird life surrounding this small town. However, she is forced to confront a series of bizarre incidents after the chief of police takes a leave of absence. Amongst these abnormal situations include an indoor kid that dies on a random midnight walkabout with no explanation, a hiker that was found dead—smiling serenely—after being mauled by a bear, and a hands-on mother who abandons her twins. As Whittaker digs deeper into these incidents, she discovers a larger conspiracy that presents a danger in every corner. To save the town, she must know how to distinguish the truth from lies.

START NOW

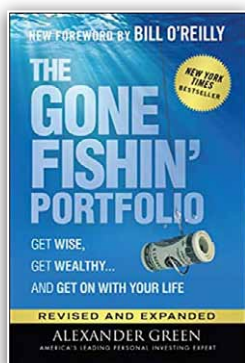
Title: Dream First, Details Later: How to Quit Overthinking & Make It Happen!

Author: Ellen Bennett

Publisher: Portfolio

Price: \$23.99 (Dhs88) (Hardcover)

This book helps readers struggling with procrastination to get up, stop worrying, and start reaching for their goals. Ellen Bennett, a former line cook, shares the story of how she built a multi-million-dollar company that sells aprons and kitchen gear (worn by many of the world's best chefs) through hustle and her willingness to leap into the unknown. It showcases her journey and personal playbook for starting before you stop yourself, and for quashing doubts about venturing outside your comfort zone. If you're one of those whose little voices immediately say, "That's impossible" or "I'm not qualified to do that," this gutsy guide will help you learn to shove aside your inner worries and launch into action.



SMART INVESTMENT

Title: The Gone Fishin' Portfolio: Get Wise, Get Wealthy and Get on With Your Life

Author: Alexander Green

Publisher: Wiley

Price: \$27.95 (Dh103) (Hardcover)

This guide helps people successfully invest through spelling out stock-market success for first-timers as well as seasoned pros. It delivers a long-term investment strategy that lets investors achieve financial success with a simple yet sophisticated strategy that increases returns and reduces risk, tackling trading insider's view of how the investment industry works. It aims to provide ways to help readers invest effortlessly, avoid common traps set by the industry, understand skilled investing, and essentially take your financial future into your own hands.

FAMILY SECRETS

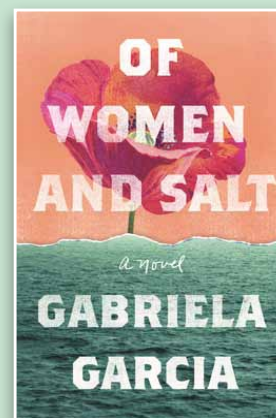
Title: Of Women and Salt

Author: Gabriela Garcia

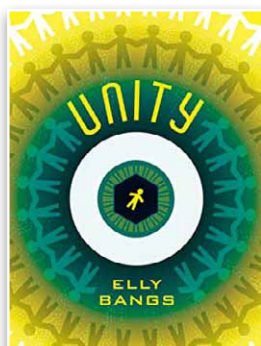
Publisher: Flatiron Books

Price: \$10.25 (Dhs38) (Kindle)

Miami-based Jeanette, daughter of a Cuban immigrant, and a person battling with addiction is determined to learn more about her family history from her reserved mother Carmen—who is struggling with the trauma of displacement. She makes a snap decision to take in the daughter of a neighbour detained by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and then travels to Cuba to meet her grandmother and understand more about the secrets of their family. This book tells the story of America's most tangled human roots, through the eyes of tenacious women who chose to tell their stories despite people wishing to silence them.



DISTURBING ESCAPE



Title: Unity

Author: Elly Bangs

Publisher: Tachyon Publications

Price: \$16.95 (Dh62) (Paperback)

This novel tells the story of Danae, a tech servant in the underwater enclave of Bloom City. She is haunted by grief that cannot be contained in a single body. Unable to tolerate the emotions, she hatches a plan to escape the city with her friend Naoto—hiring an enigmatic ex-mercenary named Alexi to guide them in their getaway spree. However, in her quest to return to her true home, she faces the otherworldly beauty of the post-apocalyptic Southwest. An old stalker then picks up her trail, while a new enemy puts a bounty on her head.

Unbeknownst to any of them, the three also face their own pursuits—allowing them to have a completely new outline of mutual understanding.

Abu Dhabi launches 10-year plan for water management

Abu Dhabi has unveiled a comprehensive strategy to manage the water resources of the emirate for the next 10 years, as part of its environment preservation programme and sustainability measures aligned with its urban development projects.

The Integrated Water Resources Management Plan 2021-2030 was launched after more than two decades of intensive studies and research, spearheaded by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), which aims to address challenges in the quality and quantity of water resources in the dry areas.

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Board of Directors of EAD, said, "It is in our framework as an agency to be concerned with the groundwater management in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. Since its inception, EAD has been passionate about working towards clear strategic and automated plans, in cooperation with strategic partners.



ABU DHABI MEDIA OFFICE

"We are working on both water supply and demand to chart a way forward to reach an integrated management system for the sustainable development of water resources in Abu Dhabi for a sustainable future, in order to preserve this precious resource for future generations."

Abu Dhabi is reliant on groundwater, which accounts for 60 per cent of its total water resources, according to EAD. Its remaining water needs are being fulfilled by other sources such as desalinated water and treated wastewater, representing 30 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.

Dubai steps up to combat overfishing



A new regulatory body under the Dubai Executive Council has been created to ensure the protection of the emirate's marine resources and encourage sustainable fishing practices in the Arabian Gulf.

Resolution No. 02 of 2021, otherwise known as the formation of the Regulatory Committee on Fishing of Living Aquatic

Resources in Dubai, will be tasked with combating overfishing and other violations that can cause the depletion of living aquatic resources in Dubai.

In line with the current ministerial decisions and federal law for the preservation of aquatic resources, the committee will adopt control and monitoring mechanisms to oversee all

marine resources that are caught, sold, and traded in the market – especially specific items that have been deemed to be banned for the season, according to directives from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA).

It will also be responsible for the issuance of circulars and directives for the compliance of all fishermen in Dubai, identification of both permitted and restricted fishing areas in Dubai, as well as specifying permitted and prohibited fishing equipment, according to the guidelines of the MOCCA.

The newly-formed committee will be chaired by Ahmed Mohammed bin Thani, with representatives from the MOCCA, Dubai Police, Dubai Municipality, Dubai Customs, Dubai Maritime City Authority, Dubai Fishermen Cooperative Association, UAE Critical Infrastructure and Coastal Protection Authority along with two more representatives from the local fishing community.

UAE permanently bans import, re-export of shark fins



The UAE has officially prohibited the import and re-export of shark fins — fresh, frozen, dried, salted, smoked, canned, and any other form — as part of the country's effort to preserve the fish species.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) said that the only exclusion from this ban would be shark fins that would be imported for scientific purposes, subject to the approval of MOCCA.

Another permanent ban has also been imposed on fishing specific shark and ray species, as listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); and the Federal Law No. 23 of 1999 concerning the exploitation, protection, and development of living aquatic resources in the UAE and its amendments.

These decisions came as part of MOCCA's announcement of the annual fishing and trade ban for sharks from March 1 until June 30, 2021. This coincides with the spawning season of the fish. "The seasonal ban on shark fishing and trade aligns with the Ministry's strategic goal of preserving ecosystems and marine life, as it helps sustain the population of the species through giving them time to reproduce," said Halima Al Jasmi, Head of the Fisheries Section at MOCCA.

Sharjah to set up advanced weather station



Sharjah will soon have its own advanced weather station that will be capable of collecting and developing a climate information base, to be used in studies on renewable energy projects from wind and sunlight.

The Sharjah Electricity, Water and Gas Authority (SEWA) signed an agreement with the Dutch Bundera Consult Company to establish this

weather station in the central region. The agreement was signed remotely by Saeed Al Suwaidi, Chairman of SEWA, in the presence of Hamad Al Tunaiji, Director of the Energy Transmission Department at the Authority, and Eric Ernst, Director of the Dutch Bundera Consult Company.

Al Suwaidi stressed that the increasing energy demand necessitated

moving forward in finding appropriate solutions and developing a strategy that formed a future vision for renewable energy studies in Sharjah.

Hamad Al Tunaiji said that SEWA is looking forward to starting the preparation of specialised studies to implement several new projects in the field of alternative and renewable energy.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid saves young Iraqi girl



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, stepped in to save the life of a 19-month-old Iraqi baby, named Laveen Jabbar Al Kutayshi, who was diagnosed with Stage II

Spinal Muscular Dystrophy (SMA).

Laveen got her second chance at life after receiving a treatment called Zolgensma, an exceedingly expensive drug that costs Dhs8 million for a single dose. The medicine was administered to

her at Al Jalila Children's Speciality Hospital, a medical establishment that was created under the directive of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid.

A video posted on social media by Laveen's mother Masar Mondal, who had pleaded for help after the toddler lost control of her neck muscles and most of her body, captured the attention of the Vice President.

Without that one-time life-saving injection, Laveen's condition could easily deteriorate. The medicine treats the genetic root cause of SMA by replacing the missing or nonworking SMN1 gene with a new, working copy of a human SMN gene.

Laveen is still subject to observation round the clock and will undergo a rehabilitation programme for three months.

The child's father expressed his gratitude, saying, "Our lives were returned to us. You can't imagine the feelings of a mother and father being told that their daughter will have a chance to survive."

Abu Dhabi unveils life-saving scheme for newborns with heart defects

Abu Dhabi has launched a healthcare initiative that aims to boost survival rates amongst newborn babies suffering from heart defects.

The Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA) has introduced an interstage monitoring programme (IMP) dedicated to infants with serious health conditions, including heart defects. A group of intensive care physicians, nurses, and administrative employees from SEHA-affiliated Sheikh Khalifa Medical City has already started providing parents with comprehensive monitoring and medical counselling between their children's operations, a time called the interstage period.

"Newborns face a higher risk of death during the interstage period, due to the increased toll that a simple virus or other infections can have on an abnormally developed heart. With parents not knowing what to watch out for, and how rapidly the health of a newborn with a heart abnormality can deteriorate, the SKMC paediatric cardiac surgical department has taken the lead in



introducing a programme that enables the continuous monitoring and care of infants at home during the waiting period," said Dr Anwar Sallam, Chief Medical Officer at SEHA.

The IMP team observes an infant's well-being from their first open-heart surgery to their readmission for the second procedure, establishing regular contact with the family

through daily or weekly telemedicine consultations.

IMP was established by the hospital in July 2020 and has accepted 30 infants for home monitoring. About three of them were identified as nearing critical, and urgent intervention was arranged through the programme.

UAE introduces new medication to prevent severe COVID-19 infection

A hospital in the UAE has introduced a new antibody treatment for symptomatic COVID-19 patients, as well as those with pre-existing conditions.

RAK Hospital said that their COVID-19 patients are being given a new treatment option called bamlanivimab to prevent the infection from seriously impacting their health.

"If you've recently been diagnosed with mild COVID-19, you may have a new treatment option: bamlanivimab (bam-la-NIV-i-mab). This drug will prevent you from having severe COVID-19," the hospital said in a statement.

The hospital added that the introduction of the medication was based on international studies showing that the treatment could help limit the amount of virus in the body. "This may help their symptoms improve sooner — and they may be less likely to get a severe infection, which may need oxygenation or ventilation," it said.

The drug is also recommended for those



who have diabetes, high blood pressure, or heart diseases.

Many laboratories and pharmaceutical companies across the world continue to develop and test prescriptive drugs at breakneck speed, in a bid to help physicians better address the symptoms of COVID-19. A drug used to treat heart angina, for example, had shown a high potential in COVID-19 treatment, according to

research done by experts from Texas A&M University in College Station.

The team, headed by Dr Wenshe Ray Liu, a professor and the Gradipore Chair in Chemistry at Texas A&M University, studied 55 drugs to find a medication that could be effective in stopping the virus from replicating. They found that bepridil shows the most promise in this sphere.

Single-dose vaccine spikes hope of mass immunity



Novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines that only require a single shot could prove instrumental in simplifying the logistics of vaccinating people, according to experts.

These vaccines offer advantages of scale in poor and middle-income countries. The single-dose jab could bolster efforts to vaccinate hard-to-reach rural populations. It would also help people who are homeless or are migrant workers.

A recent headline-making single-dose vaccine is produced by Johnson & Johnson (J&J); it has been granted an emergency-use authorisation by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Johnson & Johnson data suggest that the vaccine may also be effective against the South African variant of the novel coronavirus.

J&J announced in January 2021 that a single dose is 85 per cent effective against severe COVID-19 effect, as revealed by a trial of more

than 40,000 people in eight countries. No one amongst those who received the vaccine required medical intervention or died, compared with up to 16 people who received the placebo. The shot is 66 per cent effective at preventing moderate-to-severe COVID-19.

The company aims to produce 100 million doses in the first half of 2021.

Another vaccine where a single dose is said to be effective against the disease is the one from Chinese vaccine-maker Cansino Biologic. This vaccine, as announced by Pakistan Health Minister Faisal Sultan on Twitter, is reportedly 65.7 per cent effective in preventing symptomatic cases of the virus and 90.1 per cent effective in preventing severe illness.

These vaccines, experts say, do not require sub-zero storage and can be transported in less expensive supply-chain networks at normal refrigerated temperatures (2 to 8 degrees Celsius). The J&J vaccine can be stored for up to three months in a refrigerator.

WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



Aries (March 21 – April 20)

This month, you should reflect on the types of physical discomforts and symptoms that your body seems most susceptible to. Once you have pinpointed the problem, you should meditate on the possibility that there are specific moods or feelings associated with those discomforts and symptoms. The next step is to formulate an intention to monitor any interactions that might transpire between the state of your health and your emotional well-being. Then make a plan for how you will address them both with your own healing power.



Taurus (April 20 – May 21)

Author Leo Buscaglia shared that amongst ancient Egyptians, two specific questions were key in evaluating whether a human life was well-lived. They were "Did you bring joy?" and "Did you find joy?" Following your current astrological potentials, you should meditate on those queries. And if you discover anything is lacking in the joy you bring and the joy you find, now is a very favourable time to make corrections.



Gemini (May 22 – June 20)

You're entering a potentially heroic phase of your astrological cycle. The coming weeks will be a time when you'll hopefully be motivated to raise your integrity and impeccability to record levels. To inspire you, here are words of affirmation from a moral code reputed to be written by a 14th-century Samurai warrior. 1. I make honesty my power. 2. I have no miracles; I make right action my miracle. 3. 'I have no enemy; I make carelessness my enemy.'



Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

"The only way to live is by accepting each minute as an unrepeatable miracle," writes Cancerian author Jack Kornfield. However – that's not always the case. There are many other modes of awareness that can be useful as you navigate your path through this world. Regarding each minute as an opportunity to learn something new, for instance, is an excellent way to live. Another example would be treating each minute as another chance to creatively express our love.



Leo (July 23 – August 22)

"Scars speak for you," writes author Gena Showalter. "They say you're strong, and you've survived something that might have killed others." In that spirit, in accordance with astrological omens, you should authorise your scars to express interesting truths about you in the coming weeks. Allow them to demonstrate how resilient you've been, and how well you've mastered the lessons that your past suffering has made available.



Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

According to novelist Doris Lessing, "Everybody in the world is thinking: I wish there was just one other person I could really talk to, who could really understand me, who'd be kind to me." She implied that hardly anyone ever gets such an experience—or that it's so rare as to be always tugging on our minds, forever a source of unquenched longing. While it may seem impossible at the outset, this treasured exchange she describes is still achievable.



Libra (September 23 – October 22)

"How much has to be explored and discarded before reaching the true flesh of feeling?" wrote composer Claude Debussy. In the coming weeks, these words should be an incitement to do everything you can to reach the true flesh of your feelings. Your ideas are fine. Your rational mind is a blessing. But for the foreseeable future, what you need most is to deepen your relationship with your emotions. Study them, please. Encourage them to express themselves.



Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

You may never wander out alone into a dark forest or camp all night on a remote beach or encounter a mountain lion as you climb to a glacier near the peak of a rugged mountain. But there will always be a primeval wilderness within you—uncivilised lands and untamed creatures and elemental forces that are beyond your rational understanding. That's mostly a good thing! To be healthy and wise, you need to be in regular contact with raw nature.



Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

"What damages a person most," wrote philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, "is to work, think, and feel without inner necessity, without any deep personal desire, without pleasure—as a mere automaton of duty." Once a year, you, and everyone else in this world, should meditate on that quote. Once a year, you should evaluate whether you are living according to your soul's code; whether you're following the path with your heart; whether you're doing what you came to Earth to accomplish.



Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

What are your edges, Capricorn? What aspects of your identity straddle two different categories? You should meditate on these questions in the coming weeks, you're primed to explore edges, deepen your relationship with your edges, and use your edges for healing and education and cultivating intimacy with your allies. As author Ali Smith says, "Edges are magic; there's a kind of magic on the borders of things, always a ceremony of crossing over, even if we ignore it or are unaware of it."



Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

According to intermedia artist Sidney Pink, "The idea of divine inspiration and an 'aha' moment is largely a fantasy." But even this fantasy is definitely achievable with the right mindset. Breakthroughs have been made possible by "hard work and unwavering dedication," which Sidney Pink extols. Now here's the climax: You Aquarians are in a phase when you should be doing the hard work and unwavering dedication that will pave the way for divine inspirations and aha moments later this year.



Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

For you Pisceans, this month will be dedicated to self-love. To prepare you for this festival, here are two inspirational quotes. 1. "If you aren't good at loving yourself, you will have a difficult time loving anyone, since you'll resent the time and energy you give another person that you aren't even giving to yourself." —Barbara De Angelis 2. "Loving yourself does not mean being self-absorbed, narcissistic or disregarding others. Rather it means welcoming yourself as the most honoured guest in your own heart, a guest worthy of respect, a lovable companion." —Margo Anand

- **Big data,
disruption, digital
transformation.
Cool words.**

- We look beyond their
traditional definitions and
see solvable challenges that
need flexible solutions.



CHECK US OUT
AT SUSE.COM

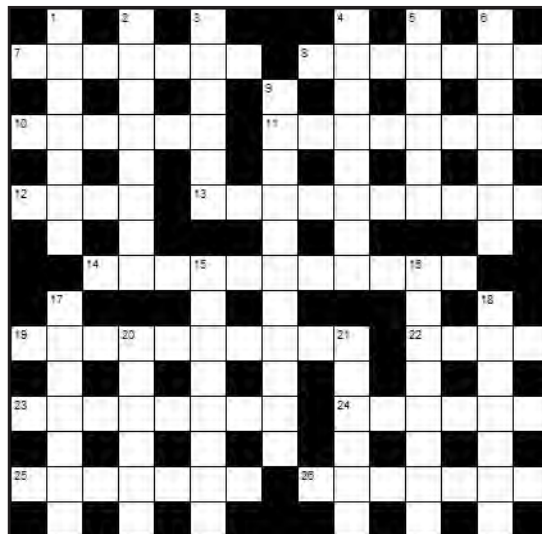
PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 7 Protecting fish (7)
- 8 Bride's gift (7)
- 10 Modernised town (3)
- 11 Keeping secrets (8)
- 12 Entertained person (4)
- 13 Metropolitan misery (10)
- 14 Enchantress' son (11)
- 19 Swop leaders (10)
- 22 Support remains (4)
- 23 Songs in poetry (8)
- 24 Stigmatised actor (6)
- 25 Lamentation trader (7)
- 26 Golden dish (7)

DOWN

- 1 Feeling sorry (7)
- 2 Pants wear thin (2,3,3)
- 3 Satisfied expert (3,3)
- 4 Extremely emotional (8)
- 5 Preoccupied pupil (6)
- 6 Disposed actor (7)
- 9 Public sadness (4,3,4)
- 15 Spoiled dessert (8)
- 16 Aversion therapy (8)
- 17 Italian pastry (7)
- 18 Served salmon (4,3)
- 20 Hospital premises (1-5)
- 21 Written promise (6)



Easy

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

Medium

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

SOLUTIONS FOR THE MARCH ISSUE



www.alberichcrosswords.com

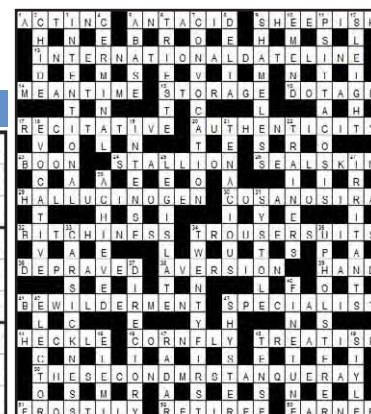
www.dailysudoku.com

easy

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


medium

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



Fifty years in the service of the nation



We extend our best wishes to
the  Magazine issued by
the Ministry of Interior on an occasion
The Magazine's golden jubilee

TIPTOP
تَيْبْ توب ميديا للاعلان والنشر

P.O.Box 66625 Al Ain, UAE
Tel. 037664614 Fax. 037663238

Guardex®

99.99%
Germ
Protection

Get Back in Touch

with your loved ones and your life



MOISTURISING

with
ALOE VERA

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENT VARIANTS
FROM GUARDEX:

TURMERIC
ARABIAN BAKHOOR
LEMON



SCAN ME



Oxyfused Zinc technology helps protect against disease-causing germs