

999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 119 DECEMBER 2021

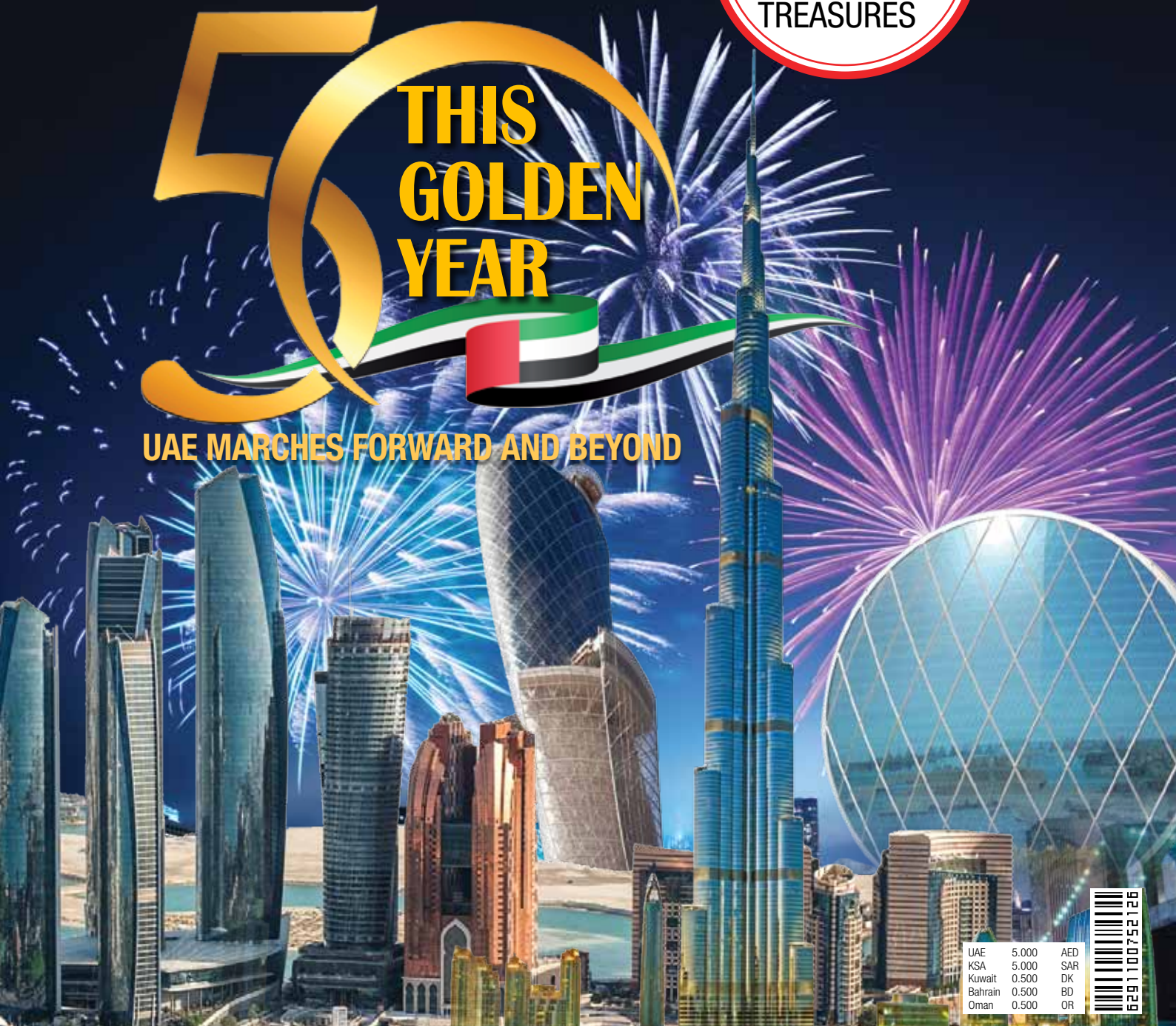
**UAE ON TRACK FOR
FASTER, STRONGER
GROWTH**

**BUILDING STRONG
DATA FORTRESS FOR
DIGITAL ECONOMY**

**IN THE
SPOTLIGHT:
UAE'S TOURIST
TREASURES**



UAE MARCHES FORWARD AND BEYOND



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



IN THIS ISSUE: THE UNTOLD STORY ABOUT UAE'S FIRST SKYSCRAPER, ITS FASCINATING ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT

50 UAE NATIONAL DAY



We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending
our sincere congratulation and best wishes to


Their Highnesses

**Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates
and to the people of the UAE**

On the occasion of the 50th National Day

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*The course
charted by
Sheikh Zayed
has been followed
faithfully by
the sons and
daughters of this
land*

Happy Golden Year UAE!

The life of a nation, once it begins, is almost certain to reach the 50th and 100th anniversaries. But to reach those years with a long list of outstanding, world-leading achievements to its name is something few nations can accomplish. The UAE, which celebrates its Golden Jubilee this month, is fortunate to have been led from the beginning by wise men — and now also women — whose vision was matched by planning and execution. The course charted by the founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, has been followed faithfully by the sons and daughters of this land.

The country began its countdown to the 50th anniversary in circumstances that no one has seen in more than two generations. The pandemic of early 2020 spilled over well into 2021 and has continued to hold some parts of the world hostage to the whims of the mutating novel coronavirus — but not the UAE. Our cover story this month traces the milestones of the UAE in the run-up to this Golden Jubilee; each milestone is an achievement that has left the world awe-struck. From effectively containing the pandemic and extending humanitarian aid to every corner of the world to reaching the Mars orbit, effecting sweeping visa reforms, and launching the World Expo, the UAE hasn't missed a beat. Far from being battered by the pandemic, it has emerged stronger, with a highly diversified, innovative, tech-enabled economic model that'll take the country towards its Centennial 2071 goals. This nation is celebrating the past 50 with a keen eye on the next 50.

In this issue, we present every aspect of 'UAE at 50' that impacts our lives. The 2022 growth estimate for the national economy has been raised; the country has initiated a very comprehensive data privacy policy to make its economy future-ready and disruption-proof; and robotics are becoming an integral part of life in the UAE. The recent visa and business ownership reforms, especially the prospect of getting a UAE passport, will draw a significant number of investors here, and they're assured of having access to world-class innovation in physical and digital infrastructure, buttressed by an equally world-class national security apparatus. Tourism, a core sector, is set to pick up, too, with investment in travel facilities in and around the UAE's mountains, a new focus area of economic activity.

One of the most interesting things about the UAE is how the human element is never missing from its growth story, despite all the talk of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence and other hi-tech trends. The UAE is what its people have made it; and its people include a vast number of expatriates who've grown with the nation. Three of them — each with around five decades spent here — tell **999** how they've seen it rise out of a desert, with a sense of community cherished then and now. Because skyscrapers have become synonymous with the UAE skyline over these decades, our issue this month goes back in time to visit the first of these notable high rises, the majestic Sheikh Rashid Tower, nucleus of the modern-day Dubai World Trade Centre.

Highrises remind us of people's desire to be photographed with these marvels of modern architecture. The UAE has so many and they're all so very photogenic — but when capturing the moment, it'd be strongly advisable not to turn those selfies into 'killfies'. In a feature this month, **999** analyses the phenomenon of killfies and urges all of you to utilise the travel and recreation opportunities in 2022 without indulging in risky selfie stunts, the kind of acts that claimed dozens of lives in the first half of 2021 alone.

Life after the pandemic is just around the corner. Let's seize it with joy.

الاحتفال
باليوم
الوطني

We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending
our sincerest congratulations and best wishes to

His Highness Sheikh

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the UAE

His Highness Sheikh

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

His Highness Sheikh

Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

and Their Highnesses Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates

and to the people of the UAE

On the occasion of the 50th National Day



EMIRATES PALACE
ABU DHABI



**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

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New Perspective
media

PO Box 77910
twofour54
Abu Dhabi, UAE
Tel: 02- 491 7100
editorial@newperspectivemedia.com
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Tel. 8002220 Fax 02-6424842

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UAE's TOURIST TREASURES

BETTER ROAD NETWORKS, SAFE SPACES FOR REST AND STAY, AND WORLD-CLASS RECREATION PROJECTS HAVE LED TO A RAPID RISE IN VISITOR NUMBERS OVER THE PAST YEARS — THIS IS THE PERFECT SEASON TO BE IN THE HILLS

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Robots, which have long been part of the sci-fi world, are now in public spaces and households — here's a glimpse of the evolution

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In 1979, UAE residents stood proud of the country's first high-rise building, Sheikh Rashid Tower. It would soon grow to become the UAE's beacon of progress as Dubai World Trade Centre. 999 presents its fascinating role in the UAE's development as an epicentre for business in the Middle East

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The easiest way to get 15 seconds of Internet fame is to take a selfie in an extremely risky situation. But that's also one of the easiest ways to lose one's life. As travel picks up after two years of the pandemic, 999 looks at what makes selfie-hunters put themselves in harm's way

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COVER STORY

THIS GOLDEN YEAR

ALWAYS A REMARKABLE COUNTRY, THE UAE HAS MOVED UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF INNOVATIVE THOUGHTS, STRATEGY, AND EXECUTION TO MAKE ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY A VERY EVENTFUL ONE. 999 OUTLINES THE MOST IMPORTANT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE COME TO FRUITION IN 2021



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



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Mohammed Jalal Al Rayssi
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Dr Samar Al-Shamsi
Internationally respected artist

President approves sweeping labour reforms for UAE private sector



COMPASSIONATE LEAVE

The new law provides that employees may avail of a range of leave days, including mourning leave (3-5 days); parental leave (5 days); and other leave days set by the UAE Cabinet.

Maternity leave can extend up to 60 days. It includes 45-day leave with full salary and 15 days on half wage. First-time mothers are eligible for additional 45-day without pay.

OVERTIME WORK

Another key provision in the new law prohibits employers to force employees to work over five consecutive hours without at least a one-hour break. No more than two hours of overtime are allowed in a day. More than two hours overtime can be allowed if the nature of the job requires it. However, employees must receive an overtime pay equivalent to the hourly rate with additional 25 per cent increase. Those who are working overtime between 10 pm and 4 am should be given overtime pay equivalent to hourly pay with a 50 per cent increase.

PROBATION PERIOD

A 14-day written termination notice must be given by a company to an employee still on probation. The six-month probation period cannot be extended.

The employer may not use any means that would force an employee to work or provide a service against his or her will.

WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION

The law forbids sexual harassment, bullying or any form of verbal, physical or psychological violence perpetrated by the employer, his/her superiors at work or colleagues.

It prohibits all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, gender, religion, national or social origin or disability that would scale down the possibilities of equal opportunity, prejudice, equal access to or continuation of employment and enjoyment of rights.

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued a new law aimed at regulating labour relations in the private sector across the emirates.

Dubbed as the most significant string of labour reforms in the country to date, Federal Decree-Law No.33 of 2021 will come into force on February 2, 2022.

This includes numerous provisions intended to create a flexible and competitive labour market, attract top talents, empower the female workforce, and guarantee the rights of both the employer and the employee in a balanced manner.

FLEXIBLE WORK TIMING

A provision in the new law introduces new flexible work models as the country embarks on its 50th year and post-coronavirus era. It gives a person the choice to work on a temporary basis, freelance jobs, condensed work timings, as well as shared jobs. The rules do not apply to employees in the public sector and domestic workers.

Dr Abdulrahman Al Awar, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization, said: "In the condensed working week, employees can choose to finish their 40 hours in three days instead of

one week as per the contract signed by both parties."

The new provision enumerates the new flexible work models as follows:

Part-time job: A person may work for one or more employers for a specified number of working hours or days.

Temporary work: A person only renders a job or service for a specific period of time. The contract ends upon the completion of a project or service.

Flexible work: The work hours of a person is based on a given volume of work. In this setup, an employer may also allow employees to choose their job timings.

EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS

Under the new law, employers or companies cannot confiscate employees' official documents. They cannot also force employees to leave the country after the end of the work term. The law also stipulates that the employer shall bear the fees and expenses of recruitment and employment. They shall not recover them directly or indirectly from the employee.

Khalifa issues new civil laws for non-Muslim residents of Abu Dhabi

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued a law regulating and governing family matters for non-Muslims including marriage, divorce and inheritance in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The first-of-its-kind regulation aims to promote the Capital as one of the top destinations for foreign workers and investors.

The new law consists of 20 articles divided into several chapters. The first chapter regulates the marriage procedures of foreigners before the court by introducing the concept of civil marriage based on the will of the couple. The second chapter defines divorce procedures for non-Muslims and highlights the rights of both spouses after divorce. It also considers the financial rights of the wife based

on the economic status and other considerations of both parties.

Child custody for the post-divorce scenario is the focus of the third chapter, highlighting either joint or shared custody.

A new court to handle non-Muslim family matters will be set up in Abu Dhabi and will operate in both English and Arabic.

Vice President raises UAE flag at Al Wasl Plaza



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, led the flag-raising ceremony at

the Al Wasl Plaza of Expo 2020 Dubai on the occasion of UAE's Flag Day.

The Vice President stated: "We have

chosen to celebrate UAE Flag Day at a place that brings the world together to achieve the goal of creating a better future for humanity. On this occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to realising the values on which the Union was founded and building bridges of cooperation with nations across the world to shape a better future for the planet."

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid likewise underscored the importance of honouring the UAE flag, and instilling in the youth the values of loyalty, integrity, and honesty.

The Vice President was joined by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Media Council, and HH Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Mohammed bin Rashid merges Dubai Economy, Dubai Tourism

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, issued a new legislation merging Dubai Tourism and Dubai Economy under one entity named Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism.

"Dubai economy has witnessed different phases of development throughout its history, which has helped shape the city's current status as a model for economic development and

a preferred destination for tourism. Today, our ambitions have grown bigger and our priorities have changed. Raising our global competitiveness requires new ways of thinking," said His Highness.

His Excellency Helal Al Marri was appointed Director-General of the new Department, whose task is now geared toward reinforcing Dubai's position as a global leader in tourism and cementing its image as the world's best place to live and work in.

Amongst the Department's target objectives include attracting 100,000 companies in the next three years, organising 400 global economic events per year by 2025, expanding export markets for local products by 50 per cent, encouraging private and family-owned businesses to get listed on Dubai bourse, increasing the added value of the industrial sector by 150 per cent in the next five years, and increasing the number of tourists by 40 per cent by 2025.

VP approves Dubai Int'l Arbitration Centre's new Board of Directors

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, approved the formation of the Board of Directors of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC).

This comes following a decree to merge the Emirates Maritime Arbitration Centre

and the Dubai International Financial Centre Arbitration Institute in October, as part of DIAC's operations and assets.

Dr Tarik Humaid Al Tayer, and Dr Ahmed Saeed Al Suwaidi will serve as DIAC's Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively. Other new board members are as follows: Ahmed Saeed Belyouha, Ahmed Mohammed Al Rasheed, Jihad

Abdulrazzaq Kazim, Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Marri, and Graham Kenneth Lovett.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid tasked the new board to position the DIAC as part of the world's top five arbitration centre in the next three years.

Launched in 2004, DIAC is the largest arbitration centre in the Middle East.

UAE leaders welcome hosting of COP28 in UAE



THE UAE leadership has welcomed the country's hosting of the COP28 slated to be held in 2023, following a unanimous endorsement amongst members of the Asia Pacific Group of nations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The UN's climate body holds the annual Conference



of Parties aka COP.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister and Vice President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai said that this affirms the country's commitment to the world's fight against climate change.

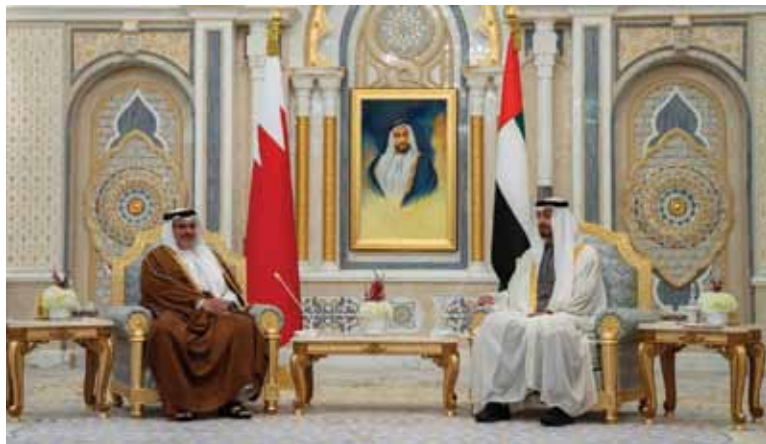
"We will put all our capabilities to make the conference a success. The UAE will remain committed to global climate action to protect the planet," said the Vice President.

For his part, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said that the move solidifies the international community's confidence in the UAE's environmental protection efforts.

"The UAE is honoured to have been selected as the host country for COP28 in 2023. We look forward to working with the international community to accelerate global efforts to address climate change and environmental protection, and to create a more sustainable economic future," said HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed.

The UAE's hosting of COP28 is also another milestone for the environmental movement in the region, which will follow in the footsteps of COP27 held in Egypt.

Abu Dhabi, Bahrain Crown Princes discuss 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 HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties between their countries.

Held at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi, the meeting took stock of the latest regional and global issues of mutual interest. They also reviewed developments in the fields of investment and trade, and explored prospects for bolstering their countries' cooperation in these economic areas.

The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues of common interest including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the importance of concerted effort to strengthen the foundations of peace and stability in the Middle East.

Mohamed bin Zayed holds series of high-level meetings

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, held several high-level meetings with a number of royal dignitaries and heads of states, on the sidelines of their visit to Expo 2020 Dubai.

These leaders included King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands; Prince Guillaume, Hereditary Grand Duke of Luxembourg; Indonesian President Joko Widodo; and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.

The meeting with King Willem-Alexander

tackled the significance of Expo 2020 Dubai in enhancing cultural interaction amongst countries, while the meeting with Prince Guillaume focused on prospects for joint investment and economic cooperation between the UAE and Luxembourg.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed also welcomed President Widodo. They discussed ways to enhance their bilateral ties as well as trade cooperation.

Meanwhile, the meeting with President Bolsonaro was aimed at bolstering UAE-Brazil cooperation in terms of investment, economy, commerce, technology and sustainability.



HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and Indonesian President Joko Widodo

VP, Interior Ministry praise UAE's top ranking as world's safest place at night



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, praised the UAE's top ranking in the results of an international survey on the world's safest places where people



can walk at night.

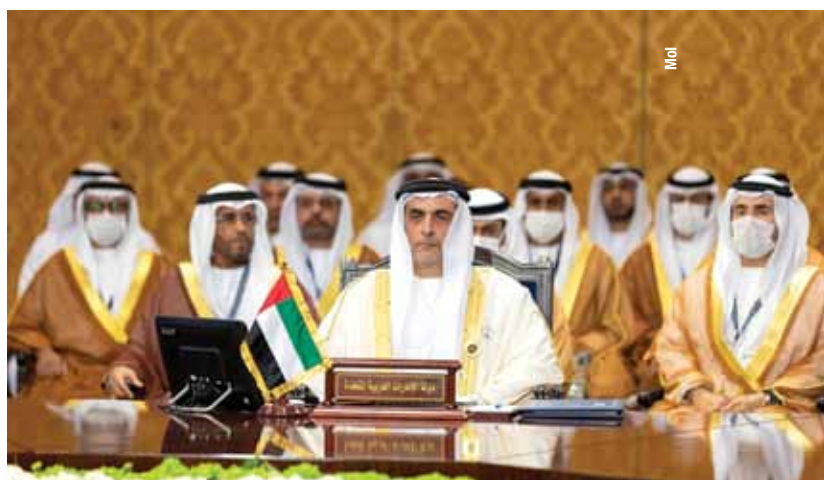
Being yet another barometer of progress, the UAE scored 95 per cent in Gallup's Global Law and Order 2021 report when it comes to people feeling safe at night, based on public perception (people aged 15 and above) on the security and safety of 115 countries in terms of law and order.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid wrote in a tweet: "If a woman wanders alone at any hour of the day or night without fear, know that she is in the Emirates."

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan stated: "With the wisdom of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, the UAE achieved first place in the safety of the population when walking at night alone, and second in the world for the safest countries, according to the results of the Gallup Report for Security and Order 2021. May God protect the UAE and perpetuate its safety and security."

Earlier this year, Abu Dhabi has received accolades of its own after being named by global data website Numbeo as the safest city in the world, with Sharjah and Dubai also making it to the top 10.

Saif bin Zayed leads UAE delegation to 38th GCC Interior Ministers meeting



HIS Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, led the UAE delegation in the 38th meeting of GCC Interior Ministers, held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed was welcomed by Lt General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Minister of Interior, and Dr Nayef Falah Al Hajraf, Secretary-General of the GCC, and several officials.

The toptier meeting tackled several issues related to Gulf security and cooperation, most notably the joint tactical exercise of the security forces of GCC members.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the UAE Interior Minister and his Bahraini counterpart signed a memorandum of agreement (MoU) between the two countries which pertains to cooperation and exchange expertise in the area of cyber security.

Interior Minister receives Jordanian Prime Minister at Expo 2020

HIS Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, met with Jordanian Prime Minister Dr Bisher Al Khasawneh at Expo 2020 Dubai.

The meeting highlighted the strong relations between the UAE and the Kingdom of Jordan. The two leaders also explored ways to expand bilateral cooperation in various fields.

HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed underscored the strong ties between the two countries, while Al Khasawneh conveyed his appreciation for the exceptional organisation of Expo 2020 Dubai, describing it as an ideal opportunity for participating countries to explore innovations that can shape the future of the world.

Jordan is participating in Expo 2020 with a pavilion that showcases the country's new innovative and engaging vision, under the theme 'The Thresholds of Ingenuity'.



Al Khaili speaks at Abu Dhabi conference on combatting extremism



THE Regional Programme on Community-Based Policing to Combat Extremism has been launched in Abu Dhabi, hosted by the Ministry of Interior (Mol) in partnership with the National Defense University in Washington and Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies, both of which are funded by the United States Department of Defense.

The programme was inaugurated by Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, in the presence of officials from the National Defense University, several Mol officers, and experts and specialists.

Major General Al Khaili welcomed the attendees, conveying to them the warm

greetings of His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, wishing them success in their endeavours.

He spoke of the Ministry's keenness to enhance international collaboration and active participation in meetings, conferences, and forums aimed at developing police work. He also highlighted the UAE's interest in sharing its pioneering experiences and practices and its optimal use of modern technologies with international security agencies and organisations, in order to improve proactive policing and protect society better.

Al Raisi leads meeting on judicial IT systems

MAJOR General Dr Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, Inspector General of the Ministry of Interior and Chairman of the Higher Committee for the Development of Judicial IT Systems, spearheaded two meetings at Expo 2020 Dubai.

The first meeting discussed the work plan, projects, and services included in the third phase of the smart services system. The second meeting was of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of the Light Air Sports System.

The Higher Committee for the Development of Judicial IT Systems announced the launch of a new package of smart services after the conclusion of phase 3 of the criminal system connecting the Ministry of Interior and judicial entities in the UAE.

Al Raisi honoured the members of the advisory team for the development of the remote communication system. He explained that this project was undertaken following the directives of the UAE government to transfer 80 per cent of federal court sessions to virtual litigation sessions permanently, before the end of 2021.

He added that technical interconnection services were provided



The Higher Committee for the Development of Judicial IT systems

through the government-wide integration platform, and the most notable achievement over the past year was the delivery of 24 technical connectivity services in the first phase, and 48 in the second phase, with the work continuing.

Elsewhere, at the Fazaa pavilion, Major General Al Raisi chaired the meeting on the Light Air Sports System. The attendees watched a

brief presentation about the system of unmanned aircraft, in addition to the main features of the media plan around awareness in the field of light air sports. Additionally, the General Civil Aviation Authority published the latest statistics and developments on drones, where the number of registered aircraft was 18,522, and the number of drone operators was 170.

Abu Dhabi Civil Defence observes Quality Day

BRIGADIER Mohammed Ibrahim Al Ameri, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority, inaugurated the activities of International Quality Day at the Authority's headquarters.

Al Ameri emphasised the importance of adopting a quality system to establish a foundation for institutional performance and spoke of the role that quality plays in procedures, processes, and systems. Three educational workshops (via visual communication) were held during the event, including basic principles for applying quality system, basic elements of institutional excellence, and the role of quality system in customer happiness.



Abu Dhabi Police open driver licensing services on weekends



Al Amiri during his meeting with the European Driving Schools Association delegation

COLONEL Muhammad Al Buraik Al Amiri, Director of the Drivers and Vehicles Licensing Directorate in the Central Operations Sector, Abu Dhabi Police, met a delegation headed by Manuel Picardie, Secretary General of the European Driving Schools Association.

They reviewed the latest developments and the work carried out by the Association, including studies and

programmes and techniques for driver training and testing.

In addition, the delegation was briefed on the policy governing the training and examination for drivers in Abu Dhabi Police, the best international practices, and the work of the directorate.

Al Amiri also urged customers to make use of the vehicle and driver licensing services and driving tests on Saturdays and

Fridays. As he explained, the objective of offering services on weekends was to make the customers happy. The following centres in Abu Dhabi are activated:

- The Drivers Examination and Licensing Centre in Mussafah, which will provide driver inspection services on Saturdays from 8am to 2pm.
- The Safety Building (ADNOC) in Al Ain, which will provide driver licensing and vehicle licensing services on Friday and Saturday from 2pm to 8pm, while the Service and Customer Happiness Centre at the Drivers Licensing Department will provide more driver inspection services on Saturdays from 8am to 2pm.
- In the city of Al Dhafra, the Drivers and Vehicles Licensing Department (Madinat Zayed) will provide vehicle licensing services on Fridays from 2pm to 8pm, and vehicle licensing services, driver licensing services, and driver examination services on Saturdays from 8am to 1pm.

Abu Dhabi Police unveil 'Safety Path' initiative

ABU Dhabi Police, with the involvement of the Monitoring and Control Centre and the Traffic and Patrols Directorate in the Central Operations Sector, have launched an awareness video campaign titled 'Safety Path' that presents an analytical study of traffic accidents and their causes to reduce reckless driving behaviour.

The messages will be broadcast weekly on

the social media platforms of the Abu Dhabi Police General Command.

Lt Colonel Nasser Abdullah Al Saadi, Head of the Security Media Department, confirmed that publishing such videos was part of the police force's efforts to develop awareness, and the aim was to achieve the highest levels of traffic safety in the emirate.

The videos are produced by the Security

Media team and presented by specialist officers from the Traffic and Patrols Directorate. They show the viewer the negative behaviours of some drivers that cause traffic accidents and reveal the flagrant violations of reckless motorists that claim lives on the roads. The videos offer important safety recommendations and promote knowledge of and respect for the law.

Dhahi Khalfan spearheads signing of MoU with UAE-based tech firm

LT General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai, attended the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between his office and the UAE-based Edge Group, a technology company that caters to datacom and low-voltage electronics industries. The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the opening of the Dubai Airshow.

The agreement was signed by Waleid Al Mesmari, Vice-President of Programme Management, Edge, and General Walid Al Mannai, Director of the General Department for Local Development and Innovation of the Deputy Chief of Police and Public Security in Dubai.

Dhahi Khalfan stated: "It is a positive step towards strengthening cooperation efforts between the two sides to serve the public interest in key areas of research, security



Dhahi Khalfan (2nd from left) with Dubai Police officials and delegation from Edge

and training, through innovating ideas for future developments. Reflecting our aim of enhancing innovation and exchanging expertise, this partnership supports the efforts of the government and wise leadership and benefits the country and its people."

General Al Mannai said that this MoU represented a real partnership between government agencies, including departments

that specialise in innovation, and institutions that provide solutions for future challenges.

Al Mesmari said, "Working with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Police and Public Security in Dubai is a great privilege, and we look forward to establishing an effective partnership and working together to provide a secure future for everyone."

Al Shamsi underscores importance of national and strategic indicators



Al Shamsi (centre) speaks at Sharjah Police's meeting on Institutional Performance Management

MAJOR General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, was briefed on the results of the

national and strategic indicators for the third quarter of 2021, at a meeting on Institutional Performance Management

held in the Martyrs Hall at the Sharjah Police General Command.

The meeting discussed ways to reduce crime, in addition to presenting several analytical studies for each indicator.

Al Shamsi stressed the importance of achieving the objectives of the strategic indicators for their vital role in fulfilling the vision of the UAE leadership. He praised the efforts of Sharjah Police employees for their efficient application of Institutional Performance Management standards.

Al Kaabi visits pavilions at Expo 2020 Dubai

MAJOR General Mohammed Ahmed bin Ghanim Al Kaabi, Commander-in-Chief of Fujairah Police, visited Expo 2020 Dubai.

His visit included the pavilions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Netherlands. He was accompanied by several Fujairah police officers.

In the Saudi Arabia Pavilion, Al Kaabi was briefed on the ongoing and future projects in the kingdom displayed through artistic installations. He also watched video presentations showcasing its civilisation.

In the Netherlands Pavilion, in the Sustainability District of the Expo, Al Kaabi



Al Kaabi (4th from left) at a sustainability exhibit inside the Netherlands Pavilion

took stock of the technical projects and initiatives, as well as the cultural

renaissance of the country stemming from its noble history.

Al Marri inspects police platform at UAE Careers Fair

LT General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, inspected the Dubai Police General Command platform at the Emirates Careers Fair, held at Dubai World Trade Centre.

He reviewed the smart recruitment programme launched by Dubai Police to expedite job application procedures. The smart programme filters vacancies based on specialisations and presents the job descriptions and requirements for each; it also enables each applicant to put in their personal data and upload the required documents easily.

Lt Colonel Hamad bin Dafous, Director of the Selection and Employment Department in the General Department of Human Resources at Dubai Police, explained that job vacancies were



Al Marri with police officers and personnel at Dubai Police's smart recruitment platform at the Emirates Careers Fair

offered in 21 specialisations and fields, such as programming, data science, machine learning, blockchain, fintech,

cryptocurrencies, Internet of Things, robotics, cyber-security, general medicine, epidemiology etc.

Ali Al Nuaimi oversees Hisn Al Dar 2 security exercise

RAS Al Khaimah Police concluded the Hisn Al Dar 2 security exercise, which was held under the supervision and follow-up of Major General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police and Chairman of the Local Emergency, Crisis

and Disaster Team.

The security exercise was held with the participation of relevant local government agencies to confront various threats and dangers to internal security.

Brigadier Abdullah Khamis Al Hadidi, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al

Khaimah Police, explained that this training came within the framework of the strategic objectives of the Ministry of Interior to enhance security and safety, and in accordance with the approved annual plan to ensure security preparedness across the emirate.

Ajman Police introduce smart robots

IN support of the UAE government's vision of smart transformation in service delivery, Ajman Police recently launched smart robots to offer assistance to customers. This is in keeping with the Ministry of Interior's strategic goal of enhancing customer satisfaction.

The two smart robots were launched at the Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Centre at the Ajman Police General Command. The move aims to utilise Artificial Intelligence to serve clients.

Brigadier Khalid Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Deputy Director of Police Operations at Ajman Police, said that the two robots would help clients to get the services they needed.

Colonel Sultan Khalifa Abu Muhair, Director of the Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Department, explained that the first robot is a talking robot that greets customers at the Centre entrance. The second robot takes customers to a service counter, according to the type of service requested.

UAQ Police promote safe driving

UMM Al Quwain Police, represented by the Traffic and Patrols Department - Traffic Awareness and Media Branch, launched the campaign 'Safe Driving in Volatile Weather Conditions', as part of the operational plan for the year 2021.

According to Colonel Hamid Ahmed Saeed, Deputy Director of the Traffic and Patrols Department, the campaign came within the framework of awareness initiatives within the community to make roads safer.

He added that the goal of this campaign is to help people identify weather conditions through newsletters and meteorological websites, especially when the weather becomes unpredictable.



We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending
our sincere congratulation and best wishes to

Their Highnesses

Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates
and to the people of the UAE

On the occasion of the 50th National Day



1st

The UAE's top ranking in the list of countries with highest feeling of safety amongst people when they're walking alone at night, which was published in Gallup's Global Law and Order 2021 report. The UAE scored 95 per cent in this index that measured the safety perception of residents aged 15 and above.

1st

The advanced ranking of the UAE in the community index category of 'Women, Peace and Security Index 2021', a report published by Georgetown University's Institute for Women, Peace and Security and the Peace Research Institute Oslo. In the index category that measured safety perceptions of women when they're walking alone at night, the UAE scored 98.5 per cent.

1st

The UAE's top ranking amongst the countries leading the way to inoculate their population against COVID-19. In the latest vaccine index published by Our World in Data (as of 19 November 2021), 88.40 per cent of the UAE population are now fully vaccinated while 98.19 per cent are partially vaccinated.

1st

Abu Dhabi's frontrunner ranking for the third consecutive year amongst the smartest cities in the Middle East based on the 2021 Smart City Index Report of the Institute for Management Development (IMD) and the Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD). Globally, the Capital climbed 14 places to rank 28th out of 118 cities in the world this year.

3rd

The UAE's ranking in the list of the "best places to be as COVID reopening gathers pace", based on the Bloomberg Covid Resilience Ranking for October 2021. In the region, the UAE ranked first in the league table looking at how well countries are managing the general health of their population while at the same time reopening their economies.

BE IN THE LOOP

UAE, MONTENEGRO INTERIOR MINISTERS MEET



His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, has met with Sergej Sekulovic, Minister of Interior of Montenegro and his accompanying delegation. They discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties and cooperation between their countries, especially in the field of safety and security. Several senior police officers attended the meeting.

MOI HOSTS REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMBATTING EXTREMISM



The Ministry of Interior has hosted the "Regional Programme on Community-based Policing to Combat Extremism" in Abu Dhabi, in partnership with the National Defense College in Washington and Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies. The conference explored the importance of community policing as an effective response to the menace of extremism. It was aimed at reinforcing the institutional capabilities and cooperation of police forces in the region.

MOI LAUNCHES PERFORMANCE AND COMPLIANCE SYSTEMS AT EXPO 2020



The Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Directorate of Strategy and Performance Development Quality Department, has unveiled the use of the globally-recognised performance and compliance systems, ARIS and APG, in its relentless aim to further enhance its governance and operations. The launching of the systems came on the occasion of World Quality Day, held every 11th of November.

UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS

ABU DHABI

DHS10 MILLION

The Abu Dhabi Criminal Court sentenced eight people to pay a fine of Dhs10 million and spend 10 years in jail for fraud and money laundering. Four members of the gang will be deported after serving their prison terms. Their scheme involved illegally acquiring cars using dud cheques, selling the vehicles, and laundering the money elsewhere.

AJMAN

6

An inattentive Arab driver hit six stray camels crossing Emirates Road in Ajman. The driver survived the accident, but his careless driving killed three of the camels on the spot. The vehicle was severely damaged.

DUBAI

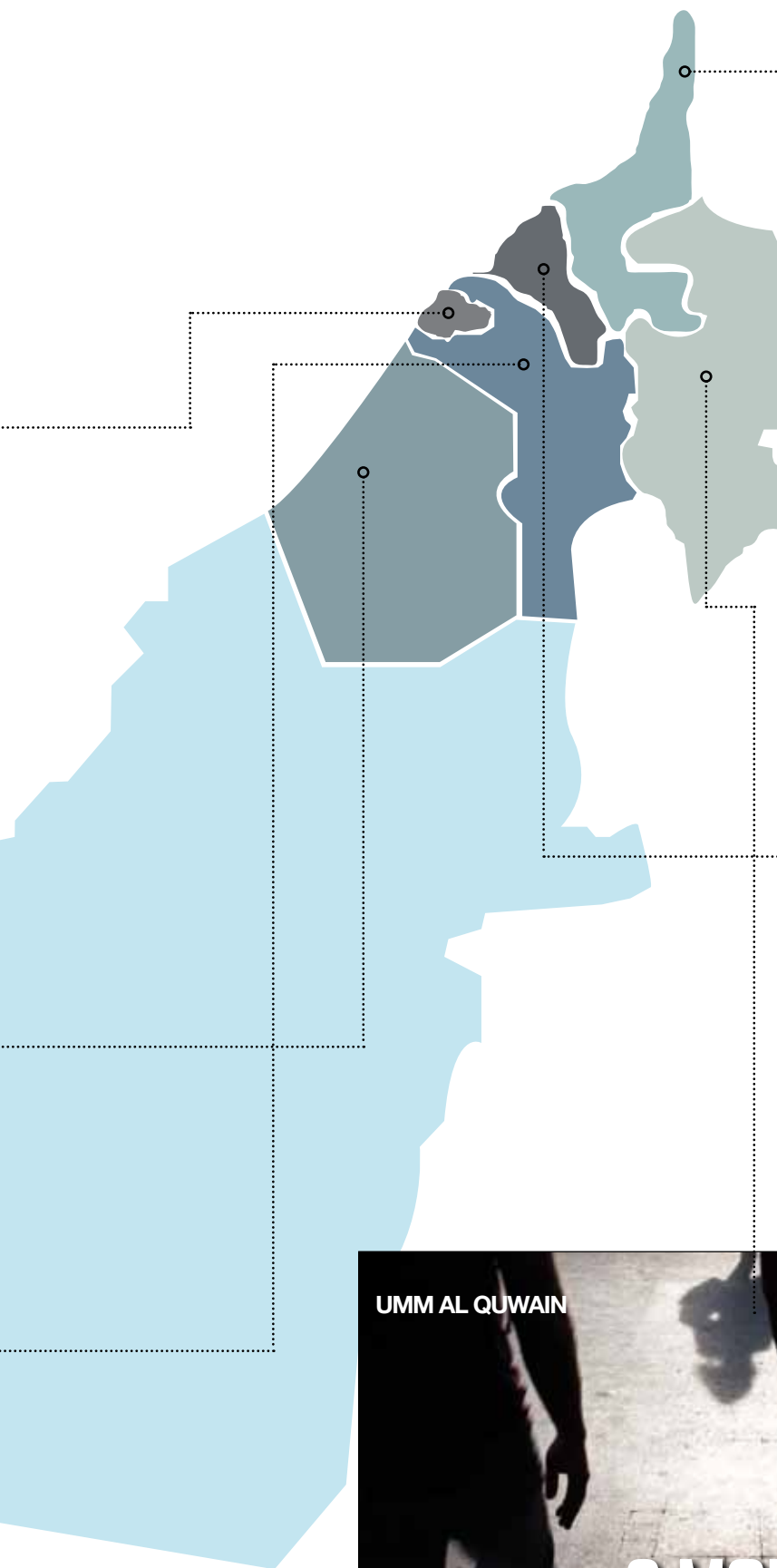
DHS10,000

The Dubai Criminal Court handed down a fine of Dhs10,000 and a one-year jail term to a foreign investor for bribing a customer service employee at a government centre. He requested the female employee to change the name and nature of his consulting company into an investment firm, without getting approval from the Securities and Commodities Authority. She pretended to accept the deal, but she contacted the police on the spot, to ensure that he would be caught red-handed.

RAS AL KHAIMAH

7:30 PM

An oil factory in Al Jazirah Al Hamra went up in flames, requiring the efforts of four civil defence stations to put out the fire. No casualties were reported, but the material losses are yet to be ascertained. According to Ras Al Khaimah Civil Defence, they received a report about the incident at 7:30 pm.



FUJAIRAH

65 YEARS OLD

An Arab man, aged 65, who was attempting to cross Wadi Al Sidr by foot, died after getting swept away by flash floods. Following the tragic incident, Fujairah Civil Defence warned residents to stay away from valleys and wadis during rainy days.

SHARJAH

8 HOURS

A driver was tracked and arrested within 8 hours of leaving a mother and her child seriously injured in a hit-and-run crash on Al Tawun Road. Smart traffic cameras installed at the accident site helped in the investigation. The police have urged motorists to avoid speeding as it is one of the major causes of fatal road accidents.

UMM AL QUWAIN

3 MONTHS

Two African men received a jail sentence of three months each and will be deported after their prison term for assaulting and robbing an Asian. Their underage accomplice will be sent to a rehabilitation centre. The group physically assaulted the victim, which hampered his movement for some time, and then stole his bicycle and wallet with cash. They fled the crime scene and shared the loot amongst themselves.



THIS GOLDEN YEAR

ALWAYS A REMARKABLE COUNTRY, THE UAE HAS MOVED UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF INNOVATIVE THOUGHTS, STRATEGY, AND EXECUTION TO MAKE ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY A VERY EVENTFUL ONE. **999** OUTLINES THE MOST IMPORTANT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE COME TO FRUITION IN 2021

BY RAKHEE ROY TALUKDAR







UAE Cabinet meeting at Expo 2020 Dubai, November 2021

The UAE is poised to enter the next phase of its transformation, going beyond its oil economy to emerge as a world leader of the global knowledge economy. That has been made possible by all the milestones of these past 50 years, milestones that have helped the country create the roadmap for the next 50 years.

What's most admirable is that some of these milestones were reached right in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, one that threatened to paralyse the world economy. The UAE's ability to balance public health safeguards and its national goals has proved to the world that nothing can stop this country from going where it wants to, achieving what it aims to.

In July 2020, the UAE had launched its Hope Probe to Mars, which entered the red planet's orbit in February 2021. The success of the launch itself was remarkable, as the Probe, built on collaboration between the UAE and US-based universities, was transported to the Tanegashima launchpad in Japan amidst the pandemic. Its accurate orbit entry was a huge milestone, making the UAE a bona fide space-faring nation.

Another significant milestone is the staging of Expo 2020 Dubai, which opened to global acclaim in October



Expo 2020 Dubai

“ Our country ranked first regionally in attracting foreign investment and facilitating business.

But our work is nowhere near the end



HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

“ Our focus is mainly directed towards fostering and supporting excellence and innovation and developing the skills of Emirati human resources. A development that is not human-oriented is doomed to failure



HH SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

UAE President

“ As we enter the 50th year of our young country and our unique union experience, we are stronger, self-confident, and determined to achieve our goals during the next 50 years



HH SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces



2021. This event has been made possible by the UAE's world-leading vaccination programme and its extremely disciplined implementation of COVID-19 containment measures, aided by the widespread adoption of digitalisation and robotics.

The Expo, also known as World's Fair, is the biggest event ever to be held in the Middle East, embracing the UAE's dreams of prosperity and progress, harmony and well-being, for its people and those across the world. "What's fascinating is the sheer scale of Expo 2020. We are talking about vast investments in infrastructure," said Shukri Eid, Managing Director, Gulf Region, of infotech major Cisco, speaking in early September 2021.

He added, "District 2020 — as the site will be known after Expo 2020 — will retain more than 80 per cent of the infrastructure built as it transitions into a human-centric mixed-use and fully integrated community for businesses, residents and tourists alike. As a 'city of firsts', District 2020 will become a global hub for innovation that brings together an inclusive and diverse community of stakeholders to accelerate the future of industries and technologies.

Ultimately, the site was designed to create a more resilient, smarter and sustainable urban environment that lives on after the six-month event. Job creation is another aspect of Expo 2020 legacy, not only for the sake of the event itself, but also to benefit Dubai, the UAE and the wider region for years to come. The benefits of Expo 2020 will be felt long after the last day of the event."

The UAE's investments in space science and wide-ranging innovation have been complemented by sweeping changes in the visa regime, including the offering of the ultimate prize — a UAE passport — for a select group of expats. The changes in the residency law collectively form a major national milestone. Designed to attract the best minds of the world to the UAE, the new visa categories are already helping the country accelerate towards its goal of becoming a sustainable knowledge economy.

PRECIOUS HUMAN ELEMENT

Even as it invests heavily in infrastructure, technology, and business-friendly policies, the UAE leadership always keeps the human element central to all its plans and

measures, as the country wants inclusive growth. This is reflected in the culture of tolerance that's integral to UAE society and the efforts made to nurture talent and innovation — citizens and expats get equal opportunities to flourish here.

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has in many of his speeches emphasised the resilience of human beings. "Investment in [the] human being has always been the essence of the vision for the development of our state since its establishment. Consequently, our focus is mainly directed towards fostering and supporting excellence and innovation and developing the capacities and skills of Emirati human resources. A development that is not human-oriented is doomed to failure," His Highness said in a message in 2017.

Belief in the human element has also been reiterated often by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who said, "Human beings, their ideas, innovations, dreams, and connections are the capital of the future. Because where great minds go

“After a journey filled with glory and success, the UAE is opening its doors to the world with generosity, giving and growth, and is investing in its people



**HH LT GENERAL SHEIKH SAIF
BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

today, great things will happen tomorrow.”

Indeed, all the progress witnessed by the UAE so far has been driven by the force of the human will — this is the force that has made glittering cities rise from desert sands; created iconic architectural marvels; made this nation a world leader in retail, tourism, and aviation; embedded the principles of excellence in all government institutions; and has put it in the same bracket as the most developed countries in the world.

In early 2021, marking the 15th anniversary of his Accession Day (January 4), HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said, “We have established the principles of strategic planning in the government. Excellence and competitiveness have transformed into an institutional culture. We carried out the biggest legislative reform in our country through issuing more than 50 new laws to help us adapt to the future.”

Outlining the major economic strides, he said, “Our economy is the second biggest in the Arab World and our country is ranked the first regionally in attracting foreign investment and facilitating business. We are leading regionally in more than 437 global indicators and our sovereign credit rating is the highest in the region. But our work is nowhere near the end.”

On December 2, 2020, as the UAE entered its 50th year and began its journey towards the Golden Jubilee of 2021, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed

Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said, “Its story as a young nation strongly imbued with sheer determination to achieve much prosperity is a tale that the young generation would be proud to share to the rest of the world. As we enter the 50th year of our young country and our unique union experience, we are stronger, self-confident and more capable and determined to achieve our goals during the next 50 years, under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.”

A day before this, on December 1, 2020, His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, said, “Today, the UAE is approaching its Golden Jubilee, after a journey filled with glory and success. It is opening its doors to the world with generosity, giving and growth, and is investing in its people.”

And now, that day is here — December 2, 2021, marks the culmination of 50 glorious years, and the start of another 50-year march towards Centennial 2071, by which time, the UAE aims to become the best nation in the world. It has the faith of expats from 200-odd nationalities and the talented Emiratis who are truly fortunate to have such leaders.

INTERCONNECTED ELEMENTS

A holistic strategy for progress, with

all the elements interconnected, has long been the hallmark of the UAE. From the very beginning of the Union of the seven emirates, led by the epoch-making visionary and UAE Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the country has paid special attention to promoting women’s education and building diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian bridges with other nations across the world.

The results have been extraordinary. In this year’s Global Soft Power Index, published by Brand Finance in February 2021, the UAE was ranked 17th globally (moving up one rank) and 1st in the Middle East and North Africa. The UAE has earned unprecedented goodwill from the beginning of the pandemic by rescuing stranded people; sending medical aid and other aid far and wide across the continents; and making vaccination free for all medically eligible citizens and expats.

According to the global vaccine tracker updated on CNN on November 19, 2021, the UAE was third in the world in terms of the number of vaccine doses administered per 100 of the population. The UAE scored 216 doses per 100 people (a total of 21,548,528 doses) and was behind Gibraltar (282 doses per 100) and Cuba (244 doses per 100).

Data published on November 18, 2021, by the UAE government showed a total of 21,646,228 doses administered, and 89.42 per cent of the population fully vaccinated.

The UAE leadership's measures to protect public health are matched by its keenness to uphold the highest standards of safety and security in the country. In March 2021, the national capital Abu Dhabi was named the "safest city in the world" for the fifth consecutive year, with a safety score of 88.46 per cent. Sharjah (83.59) and Dubai (83.44) took the sixth and seventh position, respectively, on the safety index published by crowdsourced information platform Numbeo. Security is the central pillar of national progress for the UAE, giving individuals and companies confidence in this nation and increasing its liveability quotient and business competitiveness.

The country's investment in women is a part of its strategy to ensure both competitiveness and soft power, as women form one half of the population and have — as Sheikh Zayed always believed — a tremendous contribution to a knowledge economy. An example is HE Sarah Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Technology and Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency, a key figure in the Emirates Mars Mission at the young age of 33.

All of these statistics and developments and national role models are part of a sustainable economic strategy. "As the UAE strives to push forward its economic diversification agenda, we are encouraging investments in scientific research, logistics, health care, food security, manufacturing and advanced technologies, and renewable energy, amongst many other areas," said HE Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, speaking at the World Investment Forum in October 2021. "Additionally, we are focused on driving innovation and empowering small businesses and start-ups by improving access to finance and encouraging public-private collaboration," he added.

The UAE has, this year, launched 'Operation 300bn', a new industrial strategy aimed at increasing the industrial sector's GDP contribution to Dh300 billion (\$81.68bn) by 2031 from Dh133bn in 2021.

Yet another headline-making development was the launch of the 'Projects of the 50', a series of 50 new economic initiatives to boost competitiveness and attract \$150 billion (Dhs550 billion) in foreign direct investment by 2030.

MILESTONES IN THE RUN-UP TO GOLDEN JUBILEE

UAE'S SPACE MISSIONS



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid in Alif - The Mobility Pavilion

The country had celebrated its first spaceflight in September 2019, when Hazzaa Ali Al Mansoori, a former military pilot and the first UAE astronaut, flew to the International Space Station aboard the Soyuz MS-15 spacecraft. This was followed by the launch of the Hope Probe in mid-2020 and the Mars orbit entry in early 2021. The UAE's space-faring ambitions didn't stop there. It announced the first Arab mission to explore the Moon in 2022, and a Venus fly-by mission launch in 2028.

The Hope Probe has the task of staying in the Martian orbit and gathering data regarding the red planet's atmosphere. The mission is extendable for another two years, in preparation for a much bigger and ambitious purpose: building a human settlement on the arid red planet within the next 100 years.

The Probe released its first image of Mars on February 14, less than a week after its orbit entry. The photo showcases the red planet's volcanoes during sunrise, particularly the 'Olympus Mons', known so far as the largest volcano in the solar system.

Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori, Chairman of the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), said, "Through the passion and ambition of the UAE's youth and the visionary policies of the wise leadership of our nation, we have realised the Arab dream of exploring Mars."

The Hope Probe was built through collaboration between MBRSC and several American organisations. The Emirati engineers, scientists, data analysts and programmers were all under the age of 35, making the Mars mission a display of youth power.

Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori also said, "The UAE is leading the Arab movement while inspiring humankind in the space sector. In view of the UAE's knowledge and expertise garnered in the sector over the course of many years, we understand that this is the right time to share our experiences with our Arab counterparts."

“Through the passion and ambition of the UAE's youth and the visionary policies of the wise leadership of our nation, we have realised the Arab dream of exploring Mars



HAMAD OBAID AL MANSOORI

Chairman of the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre

UAE CITIZENSHIP

The year 2021 finally put within expats' reach the one thing many of them wanted: the privilege of becoming a UAE citizen. The UAE passport is an extension of the recently liberalised visa regime in the country, and ground-breaking development in the residency sector.

In the run-up to the Golden Jubilee, the UAE introduced two major immigration and economic policies. In the latter part of 2020, under the directives of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, the federal government announced a decree granting foreign investors the right to fully own local companies in the country.

In January 2021, the UAE Cabinet announced amendments to the 'Executive Regulation of the Federal Law concerning Nationality and Passports'. HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said, "We adopted law amendments that allow granting the UAE citizenship to investors,



specialised talents and professionals, including scientists, doctors, engineers, artists, authors and their families. The new directives aim to attract talents that contribute to our development journey." This takes the Golden Visa rollout of 2019 to the next level. The most important feature of the new UAE citizenship and passport scheme is that eligible expats can retain their current nationality.

According to HE Zaki Nusseibeh, Minister of State, granting citizenship

“It will prepare the groundwork for the next 50 years of development, which is in line with the country's 2071 objectives to make the UAE a global leader



HE ZAKI ANWAR NUSSEIBEH
Minister of State

and passport to foreign nationals is part of the UAE's strategy for the future. "It will prepare the groundwork for the next 50 years of development, which is in line with the country's 2071 objectives to make the UAE a global leader," he said.

PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT

Ever since the detection of the first COVID-19 case in early 2020, the UAE has consistently been a world leader in managing this outbreak, which quickly turned into a pandemic. By the middle of November 2021, the country had achieved close to 90 per cent full vaccination of those who are medically eligible. Five vaccines are available to all citizens and residents, with vaccines approved for children as young as 3 years of age, making it possible for schools to resume some on-site classes. By mid-November, the country had conducted 97,258,646 tests for COVID-19 detection, nearly 10 times its entire population. The 'Al Hosn' app enables the authorities to curb the spread of infection through efficient contact tracing.

Alongside managing the situation at home, the UAE had set up a preventive health care and shelter facility at the Emirates Humanitarian City, in order to help the early evacuees from Wuhan, China, where the COVID-19 outbreak began.

Innovative ways to limit the spread of



Al Hosn app

infection included using police helmets with smart tech to detect passersby with a high body temperature, and the deployment of sniffer dogs at Dubai airport to detect possible infection cases. The UAE became the first country in the world, in September 2021, to use its K9 squad for accurate and non-invasive detection of COVID-19.

The country was also the first in the Middle East and fifth in the world to offer

drive-through coronavirus tests, which took less than five minutes to complete.

Thanks to its effective measures, the people put their faith in the government. According to the Toluna Consumer Insights survey published in June 2020, the UAE ranked 1st in the Middle East and 3rd globally in terms of public satisfaction on the measures undertaken by governments to counter the pandemic.

EXPO 2020 DUBAI



HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid in front of the Al Wasl Plaza

“The spirit behind Dubai Expo is not to put on a show but also to create opportunities and share expertise. You can deliver a great Expo but that Expo must have a great legacy”



HE REEM AL HASHIMY

UAE Minister of State and Managing Director for Expo 2020 Dubai

Under the banner ‘Connecting Minds, Creating the Future’, the six-month event, running from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, coincides with the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

This event alone is expected to bring 25 million visitors to the UAE, and recharge the country’s retail and hospitality sector. In April 2019, the global professional services firm Ernst & Young released an estimate that between 2013 (when the Expo was awarded to the UAE) and 2031, the event would put \$33.4 billion (Dhs122.58bn) into the UAE economy, and generate 905,200 full-time equivalent job-years.

HE Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State and Managing Director of the Dubai World Expo 2020 Bid Committee, said, “The

spirit behind Dubai Expo is not to put on a show but also to create opportunities and share expertise. You can deliver a great Expo but that Expo must have a great legacy.”

The Expo, supported by the UAE’s high rate of vaccination, is highly beneficial for the country’s aviation sector, which is heavily dependent on the international passenger traffic. Ahead of the Expo, from the end of August 2021, the UAE resumed the issuance of tourist visas for fully vaccinated travellers, bringing huge cheer to those wishing to visit here for leisure or business.

REMOTE WORK VISA AND MULTI-ENTRY TOURIST VISA



Chaired by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, the UAE Cabinet launched two new types of visas — remote work visa and multiple-entry tourist visa — in March 2021.

This move was the first of its kind in the region, positioning the UAE as an ideal place to live. The remote work visa enables anyone of any nationality to live in the UAE and work remotely for any employer in another country, provided they meet certain criteria, such as a minimum income of \$5,000 (Dhs18,350) or equivalent per month.

The multiple-entry tourist visa can also be issued to all nationalities, to boost the competitiveness of the UAE’s tourism sector and support the national economy.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

In 2021, the UAE retained its rank as the 9th most competitive nation in the world for the second year in a row, maintaining its position as the only Arab country amongst the top 10, despite the pandemic, according to a survey by Switzerland’s International Institute for Management Development.

The IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2021 measures the prosperity and competitiveness of 64 countries based on economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure, as well as a survey of executives operating in the respective economies.

The UAE’s economy continues to recover from the impact of the pandemic, aided by Dhs388 billion worth of economic support measures. “These



Abu Dhabi

measures have contributed to business continuity, increased momentum of commercial activities and have strengthened their ability to grow and compete in various vital sectors,” said HE Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy.

Government initiatives, including visas for expatriate retirees and the expansion of the 10-year golden visa scheme to encourage foreign professionals to

“These measures [economic support] have contributed to business continuity, increased momentum of commercial activities and have strengthened their ability to grow and compete in various vital sectors”



HE ABDULLA BIN TOUQ AL MARRI Minister of Economy

settle in the country, have also helped to improve the investment sentiment.



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

THAT DAY WHEN THE SEED OF UAE WAS PLANTED

The meeting of Sheikh Zayed and Sheikh Rashid at the latter's investiture ceremony had created a new chapter in the history of the Gulf

In the history of the emirate of Abu Dhabi, 1946 was an exceptional year. That year, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE founding father, was appointed as the representative of Sheikh Shakhbut, his brother, the ruler of the eastern region. Sheikh Zayed was known for his leadership and gained a prominent reputation in the region.

Meanwhile, in the history of Dubai, the year 1958 will forever be remembered as one of its most memorable years. That year, a solemn ceremony was held for Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum to take over as the ruler of the emirate, following the death of his father, Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum bin Hasher Al Maktoum. Representatives from around the world attended the investiture ceremony. Members of the ruling families and rulers of other emirates were present at the ceremony. Amongst the attendees was Sheikh Zayed.

Following the ceremony, Sheikh Zayed went to Al Ain to finish the work he began there, while Sheikh Rashid built on what he and his father had established. However, a vivid image of the meeting between the two young sheikhs at the inauguration remained in public memory, representing an element of the history that was being written for the nation.

On August 6, 1966, Sheikh Zayed became the ruler of Abu Dhabi, bringing about great transformations. He had boundless visions and ambitions, unmatched perceptions, unimaginable ideas, and an impassioned spirit that sought to bring about a paradigm shift. First and foremost, he focused on the Union project and strived to achieve it.

Sheikh Zayed aspired to achieve unity, and wise men with sincere determination and great ambition would be needed to fulfil that dream. It was Sheikh Rashid who stood out amongst those around him for his deep vision, great wisdom, and

concern for this nation and its people. The connection between the two rulers was also based on kinship and lineage.

In a small tent in the Saih Al-Sedira area, near the Al-Samih area between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the two Sheikhs met on February 18, 1968. Having analysed the coming situation following the imminent withdrawal of Britain from the eastern Mediterranean region near the end of 1971, they concluded that an alliance would be the best way to preserve the region and its people.

In a small tent in the Saih Al-Sedira area, near the Al-Samih area between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the two Sheikhs met on February 18, 1968

Their historic agreement stated that the two emirates would form one union, participating together in foreign affairs, defence, security and social services, and adopting a common policy for immigration, leaving the rest of the administrative issues to the local government of each emirate.

This union between Abu Dhabi and Dubai laid the foundation for the Federation of Emirates later on, which then led to the establishment of the United Arab Emirates on December 2, 1971.

During the announcement of their union, Sheikh Zayed and Sheikh Rashid left the door open for anyone interested in joining them. They invited the rulers of the other five emirates, in addition to Bahrain and Qatar, to take part in the union negotiations. That brought nine rulers to the negotiation.

Between 1968 and 1971, a series of intensive discussions took place, before Bahrain and Qatar declared their independence; the other seven emirates continued their consultations.

With firm steps, steady hearts, and a confident soul, the UAE continues to progress as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, so long as its leaders remain loyal to their homeland and its people remain faithful to their wise leaders.

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



We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending
our sincerest congratulations and best wishes to

His Highness Sheikh

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the UAE

His Highness Sheikh

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

His Highness Sheikh

Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

and Their Highnesses Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates

and to the people of the UAE

On the occasion of the 50th National Day





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

A YOUNG NATION BEYOND ANYONE'S IMAGINATION

Although its individual Arab identity and unitary vision remain intact, the UAE has transcended national boundaries and become a triumph of the human spirit

We have been living in anticipation of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the UAE. Our fantasies and perceptions of what this country will become are based on what it has already accomplished, as compared to countries that are decades older than us but have not reached the same level of achievements.

One could never have imagined that this nation would become what it is today, as there are so many differences between its beginnings and what it is today. The country's economy, its expanded cities, its people, and most importantly, its investment in human capital and knowledge capital are booming. We now have a team of young leaders in the UAE who are leading the most ambitious and biggest projects ever in all aspects of national life: political, economic, social, and intellectual. There are areas of expertise that the world is familiar with, and there are areas that are unique to the UAE.

New chapters have been added to the history of the UAE, beginning with exploring space. The country made it one of its top priorities, ever since the founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, received astronauts to the moon — his dream has been realised with the Emirates Mars Mission.

The leaders who founded the UAE never lost sight of the importance of managing people and business together. Having laid the foundation of modern management, Sheikh Zayed later put into practice the best government excellence programmes.

Five-star rating was no longer restricted to hotels, but was extended to include federal and local institutions; these had to find ways to achieve excellence in the services they provided.

Whereas women and children in the larger Middle East have

seen their lives overshadowed by conflict and an absence of rights, the UAE has undertaken the enactment of comprehensive laws and regulations that protect the rights of women and children.

Our government proactively involves women in every sector and helps them gain influence with their presence, demonstrating their role in the community.

This country's geographical location and tolerant culture have resulted in more than 200 nationalities living in the UAE, with all their diversity. Even in the wider Middle East, many thorny

issues and conflicts have been resolved with the mediation and suggestions of the UAE. This nation has adopted 'peace, tolerance, and coexistence' as a slogan in its political and diplomatic relations.

In this way, the national economy wins, and people and institutions benefit from the zero-sum policy aimed at solving problems; the kind of problems that have impeded the development of many other countries and have led them to disaster.

There has been a change in the UAE that we have been familiar with for 50 years — it is no longer the same as it was. Although its individual Arab identity and unitary

vision remain intact, it has transcended national boundaries and become a triumph of the human spirit. In this column, the gains and achievements, as well as the changes, are not addressed in all their glory. Therefore, as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee, we must teach the history of our nation to future generations, in order to make them aware that what has been achieved was difficult, and its preservation lies in their hands.

We must teach the history of our nation to future generations, in order to make them aware that what has been achieved was difficult, and its preservation lies in their hands

ON TRACK FOR FASTER, STRONGER GROWTH

THE UAE IS BACK ON A SUSTAINABLE GROWTH TRAJECTORY AFTER THE CHALLENGES OF THE PANDEMIC. THE FAVOURABLE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IS DRIVEN BY EXPO 2020 DUBAI, THE GOLDEN JUBILEE, AND INITIATIVES TO BOLSTER KEY SECTORS. **999** PRESENTS AN OVERVIEW

NASEEF CHENATH



“The national economy is in a strong position and ready for the future, and the recovery phase moved to growth stage in vital economic indicators



**HE ABDULLA BIN TOUQ
AL MARRI**

Minister of Economy

hub in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the UAE is also poised to benefit hugely from the lifting of international travel restrictions and regional events such as the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

The Central Bank also pointed out the non-oil sector's surge in Q2 2021, benefiting from the recovery in the global travel sector and increase in local and global consumer demand.



The year 2021 ends on a very strong note for the UAE — the country is celebrating its Golden Jubilee with several outstanding achievements, the most important of which is that it has entered the economic growth phase, having left behind the contraction caused by the pandemic.

According to the UAE Central Bank's second-quarter review, published in November, the national economy is expected to grow 2.1 per cent this year, followed by a growth of 4.2 per cent next year. The forecast for 2022 has improved from the previous forecast of 3.8 per cent. This is the V-shaped recovery that has been predicted at various points from the beginning of this year.

Also, in early November, the UAE Ministry of Economy (MoE) said that the national economy was witnessing growth levels that surpassed pre-pandemic levels. The MoE announced the 100 per cent completion of the first phase of the country's 33 initiatives; these are part of the post-COVID economic plan. The second phase of the initiatives was 50 per cent complete.

The Ministry said that the country

was seeing higher-than-pre-pandemic-level growth in trade, investment, new company registration, and work permits. “The recovery phase has been passed to the stage of growth in vital economic indicators,” it said.

HE Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, said: “The national economy is in a strong position and ready for the future, and the recovery phase moved to growth stage in vital economic indicators.”

This strong position has been attained through a series of strategic measures taken by individual emirates and the federal government, complementing each other and balancing the need to safeguard public health and continue economic activities.

Pandemic-mitigation measures such as rapid vaccination and fiscal stimulus, backed by visa reforms and a strategy for the next 50 years, has given the world complete confidence in the UAE's intention and ability to achieve economic recovery. Against the backdrop of the ongoing Expo 2020 Dubai, the UAE is expected to register a consistently strong growth.

As a major tourism, transit, and trade



PANDEMIC IMPACT AND RECOVERY

“The pandemic has created significant disruption in economic activities,” said Dr Radwa Radwan Said, an economist based in Abu Dhabi. “The decline in global oil demand and prices [during the peak months of the pandemic] resulted in a commodity market shock. Oil demand slumped 5 per cent globally in 2020 due to world economic activity disruptions.”

As always, the UAE government swung into action. As early as March 2020, the Central Bank responded by announcing a Dhs100 billion comprehensive Economic Support Scheme to assist the retail and corporate customers of banks impacted by COVID-19. More stimulus packages were provided by the federal government to businesses and citizens. The UAE Cabinet approved a package of 33 initiatives in three phases to facilitate immediate and medium to long-term supports for SMEs, tourism, digital, and manufacturing sectors.

The UAE Government also initiated an aggressive vaccination programme, which turned out to be a beacon of success due to its exceptional coverage. By November 11, 2021, the numbers were 88.78 per cent of the population (fully vaccinated) and 98.86 per cent (first dose).

Capitalising on its high vaccination rate, the UAE began to reopen the country, getting the economy back on track. Further stimulus was provided by the prospect of Expo 2020 Dubai, which began in October 2021 and is deemed to be one of the most successful expos in history.

Utilising its substantial investment in digital infrastructure, the UAE implemented digital health tech in controlling the pandemic. For instance, the Al Hosn mobile application was introduced for keeping records of tests, vaccinations and facilitating contact tracing. Venues were strongly encouraged to make use of the app’s “green pass protocol” for certain categories of events and activities.

The UAE was also amongst the first to lend a helping hand to nations worldwide in their battle against the pandemic. By July 2021, the country had provided over 2,062 tonnes of medical aid, testing kits, ventilators, personal protective kits and supplies to 135 countries worldwide. Hope Consortium, a joint venture by Abu Dhabi Department of Health, Etihad Cargo, Abu Dhabi Ports Group, Rafed and SkyCell, had been established in November 2020 to distribute over 6 billion vaccine doses to countries with limited cold-storage capacity.



ADDITIONAL STIMULUS PACKAGES

The UAE Cabinet approved a Dhs16 billion economic stimulus package to ensure businesses continuity. The financial support complemented those announced by the emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and the Central Bank, taking the total value of stimulus packages to Dhs126.5 billion.

The measures included a renewable six-month suspension of work permit fees and lowering of labour and other related charges to cut the cost of doing business, support SMEs, and accelerate major infrastructure projects.

The government approved the Emirates Development Bank Strategy to provide financial support to businesses and start-ups in a significant step to drive the national economy. Under the strategy, the bank provided a portfolio of Dhs30 billion to support priority industrial sectors over a period of five years.

This step is expected to contribute to financing more than 13,500 SMEs and creating 25,000 jobs. The bank will also launch a Dhs1 billion investment fund for start-ups and SMEs in 2022 and focus on industrial companies in priority sectors that need financing and investment. Launched to support ‘Operation 300bn’, the 10-year comprehensive strategy for the UAE industrial sector, the EDB Strategy aims to leverage the bank’s role as a key facilitator of the national economy.



“The UAE’s strong financial reserves helped the government authorities to significantly support businesses. The preparation for Expo 2020 and support for new sectors such as the digital economy also played a key role



DR RADWA SAID
UAE-based economist

RESTORED MARKET CONFIDENCE

Following the disruption of 2020, the markets have bounced back, showing the resilience of the UAE economy and foreign investors’ confidence in the country’s business potential. For instance, the Dubai Financial Market (DFM) announced net profits of Dhs38.8 million in the first half of 2021, and Abu Dhabi’s quarterly average Financial Market Index rose by 17 per cent during the first quarter of 2021, while the average market capitalisation of companies registered at the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

rose by Dhs101 billion, reaching Dhs826.7 billion.

“There are two important factors behind the UAE government’s resilience and the successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic — the diversification strategy and the political stability in the country,” according

to Dr Said. “In addition, the UAE’s strong financial reserves helped the government authorities to significantly support businesses. The preparation for Expo 2020 and support for new sectors such as the digital economy also played a key role in the resurgence of the economy.”



The UAE reopened its doors to visitors from around the world from August 30, with tourist visas available to applicants across the globe if they were fully vaccinated with one of the WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccines.

The latest official projections from the UAE Central Bank, other government agencies, and independent sources, including the Institute of International Finance (IIF) and IHS Markit, revealed that the country has passed many major milestones in its rebound to a resurgent growth trajectory.

The latest Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) from IHS Markit shows that the non-oil private sector continued its growth in August with a solid increase in output and employment. The PMI data for Dubai in August reaffirm the recovery trend, with the pace of growth in non-oil activity attaining its highest level for almost two years.

The initiative 'Operation 300bn', launched in March 2021, envisions a bolstered industrial sector, which would contribute Dhs300 billion to the GDP in 10 years (by 2031), from the current level of about Dhs133 billion.

The industries targeted under the strategy include space technology; lean and renewable energy; medical supplies and pharmaceuticals; manufacturing; machinery and equipment; and food and beverages. 'Operation 300bn' is



expected to support more than 13,500 SMEs by 2031. Currently, of the 33,000 industrial enterprises in the UAE, 95 per cent are SMEs.

Also by 2031, the country will reap the full harvest of benefits coming from Expo 2020 Dubai. As per assessment by the global consulting firm EY, the Expo and its legacy are to contribute Dhs122.6 billion of gross value to the UAE's economy from 2013 to 2031, specifying a 1.5 per cent surge in annual gross domestic product during the event period, and tens of thousands of new long-term jobs created.

MAKE IT IN THE EMIRATES



In March 2021, during the launch of 'Operation 300bn', His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, also launched the country's Unified Industrial Brand Identity under the slogan 'Make it in the Emirates'.

This campaign is an extension of the UAE Nation Brand, and is driven by a vision of world-class quality and global competitiveness. HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said, "The industrial sector in the UAE has made great strides. With competitive national products we take pride in, our mission is to double our success, increase the in-country value and build an export ecosystem that enhances the global competitiveness of local products.

"We aim to launch new industrial projects in a futuristic framework that creates out-of-the-box solutions to address challenges in a timely manner."





billion) to the country as foreign direct investment (FDI) in the coming decade.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

While the data show how the UAE economy managed to overcome the challenges, the country's strategic plans act as a template for the world in future crisis management strategies.

"According to Oxford Economics data, Dubai's consumer confidence index rose to its highest level since 2011 in Q3 [2021], and real estate transactions were up nearly 80 per cent year-on-year in the first eight months of 2021," explained Dr Said. "Also, the Expo had a strong and positive start, with an estimated 700,000 visits recorded in the first three weeks in October. The visitor numbers are expected to climb steadily over the coming months and contribute to stronger growth over the next two quarters." She added that fewer travel restrictions would boost the tourism sector.

Now the UAE is well placed to catch the first tailwinds of opening up of international travel and move past the 'new normal' on

Expo 2020 is an exciting long-term investment for the UAE, and is expected to have a significant impact on the economy and how jobs are created directly and indirectly

Matthew Benson, an EY partner, said, "Expo 2020 is an exciting long-term investment for the UAE, and is expected to have a significant impact on the economy and how jobs are created directly and indirectly."

Furthermore, the UAE has announced the launch of 50 new initiatives in connection with its Golden Jubilee celebration, which aims to strengthen the economic diversification policies and attract approximately \$150 billion (Dhs550



“The reforms covering visa and ownership are targeted at attracting and retaining foreign capital and talent. The new rules will strengthen investor confidence



SCOTT LIVERMORE

Chief Economist from Oxford Economics
Middle East

the strength of the World Expo. In addition to the great momentum in the tourism sector, the Expo acts as a connecting platform for businesses around the world, facilitating exceptional opportunities.

David Owen, an economist at IHS Markit, stated that Expo 2020 had brought a highly welcome upsurge in growth in the non-oil



TOP 5 SECTORS TO WATCH OUT FOR

CONSTRUCTION: The UAE has been promoting large-scale investments in its construction sector, aiming to facilitate the best infrastructure in the Middle East. Expo 2020 Dubai itself is expected to contribute \$42.5 billion (Dhs155.9 bn) in construction projects. The UAE construction market was valued at \$101.45 billion (Dhs372.6 bn) in 2020, and is expected to reach a value of \$133.53 billion (Dhs490 bn) by 2026, registering a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4.69 per cent over the period of 2021-2026.

E-COMMERCE SOLUTIONS: Analysis by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry has revealed that the UAE retail e-commerce market achieved a record \$3.9 billion (Dhs14.32 bn) in 2020, a 53 per cent year-on-year increase, resulting from the COVID-19-led digital shift. It also projected the value of the market to reach \$8 billion (Dhs29.3 bn) by 2025, supported by many key factors such as high Internet penetration rate (99 per cent), high-income potential, modern digital payment systems, developed transport logistics network, increase in tech-savvy youth population, and strong government support.

TOURISM AND TRAVEL: With world-class travel facilities and tourism destinations, and the enormous possibilities offered by the Expo, this sector is geared up to see a boom in coming years. It is forecast to grow by 5.1 per cent per annum from 2017 to 2027 to hit Dhs116.1 billion, equivalent to 5.4 per cent of the total GDP in 2027.

REAL ESTATE: Goldstein Market Intelligence analyst forecast the UAE property market to grow at a CAGR of 7.4 per cent during the forecast period 2017-2025. Further, the UAE property market accounted for \$74.3 billion (Dhs272.9 bn) in 2017, which is geared up to reach \$132.5 billion (Dhs486.6bn) by the end of 2024 on account of the growing tourism sector and foreign investment in the real estate sector.

COSMETICS AND JEWELLERY: The Middle East is known for its abundant availability of precious metals. The UAE is the right market to penetrate for luxury goods like beauty products, perfumes, etc. The UAE cosmetics market is estimated to cross \$3 billion (Dhs11 billion) by 2025, because of the increasing demand from the young population, the growing trend of adopting Western culture and lifestyle, and the rising number of beauty salons across the country.

segment of the UAE. He said, “The increases in both output and new business were sharp and the most marked since July 2019. In addition, the boost to sales led more companies to predict a rise in activity over the next 12 months, as optimism jumped to the highest level since the beginning of the pandemic.

“The key test for the UAE economy will be whether this initial uplift in demand from the Expo can be sustained over the coming months. We also wait to see whether this will strengthen employment growth, as latest data showed a subdued rate of hiring despite growing pressure on business capacity.”

Scott Livermore, Chief Economist from Oxford Economics Middle East, said, “The reforms covering visa and ownership are targeted at attracting and retaining foreign capital and talent. The new rules will strengthen investor confidence and help the economy benefit from the expected upswing in the global economy. This will contribute to the development in the medium term of new sectors such as creative industries, clean energy and digital sectors. These sectors will become mainstays of economic growth, even if near-term prospects are more dependent on travel and tourism.”

2021 YEARENDER

ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW ERA THIS GOLDEN YEAR, HERE'S A LOOK AT THE 12 COVER STORIES OF **999 MAGAZINE** FOR THE ENTIRE 2021. THESE FEATURES SPOTLIGHT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS THAT PROVED OUR LEADERS' HARD WORK, UAE'S MILESTONES, AS WELL AS EVENTS THAT CONTINUE TO TEST OUR FAITH AS A HUMAN RACE

BY 999 STAFF

JANUARY



SALUTE TO THE 'HEART' WORK OF UAE POLICE

Admired for their public service, the UAE police forces lead by example with a generous heart that is filled with empathy and kindness. **999** presents how they spread positivity across the emirates

FEBRUARY



DEBUNKED: COVID-19 VACCINES DON'T HAVE A CODED CHIP

Rumours and fake science, which always make any crisis worse, have been abundant during the COVID-19 contagion. Malicious claims about vaccine 'side-effects' make it more urgent than ever to remain vigilant

MARCH



WELCOME TO THE SAFEST COUNTRY

Three cities in the UAE are amongst the safest in the world, with Abu Dhabi taking the top spot for the fifth consecutive year. **999** looks at what has made this possible and what it means for the economy

APRIL



POST PANDEMIC RAMADAN

This year, the holy month arrived with a great deal of hope, with the country's leading position globally in terms of COVID-19 vaccination rate. Even with the relentless nationwide vaccination programme in the UAE, protection and prevention remained a priority during Ramadan 2021

MAY



BEWARE: DON'T FALL FOR ONLINE CON-HEARTIST

The social fallout of the pandemic — the decrease in human contact and the proportional increase in online interactions — has made the Internet a hunting ground for scammers. Time to read the warning signs

JUNE



COVID-19 VACCINE EFFICACY RATE DECODED

What does 'efficacy' mean for a vaccine and what's the outcome for people and countries? **999** analyses the key factors behind the numbers and why it's important to take the jab, no matter what vaccine brand you get

JULY



ALMOST NORMAL ARRIVES IN UAE

999 looks at the UAE through the eyes of expats who've survived a difficult phase of the pandemic and are now upbeat about their role in the economic resurgence riding on the country's rigorous vaccination drive

AUGUST



OUTSMART ONLINE FRAUDSTERS

How safe is the money in your bank account? With new-age fraud tactics such as sim swap, you need to update your knowledge and list of precautions even as the banks update their security processes

SEPTEMBER



EXPO 2020 DUBAI: UAE WELCOMES THE WORLD TO THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

The greatest show on earth is set to be a gamechanger for the UAE economy and global collaboration on innovation and sustainability

OCTOBER

THIS IS OUR TIME!



With the opening of Expo 2020 Dubai and momentum building up for the national golden jubilee, people and visitors in the UAE are experiencing a time like no other in its history — **999** presents an overview of the event preparations, rising business confidence, and Expo highlights

NOVEMBER



THE JOBS ARE BACK!

The UAE has worked hard to overcome the pandemic, and the results are visible. Employment prospects are again improving in the UAE, as reflected in consumer confidence, on the back of visa reforms, vaccination, and Expo 2020 Dubai. **999** explores what's in store for candidates

DECEMBER



THIS GOLDEN YEAR, THE UAE MARCHES FORWARD AND BEYOND

Always a remarkable country, the UAE has moved up to the next level of innovative thoughts, strategy, and execution to make its 50th anniversary a very eventful one. **999** outlines the most important national developments that have come to fruition in 2021

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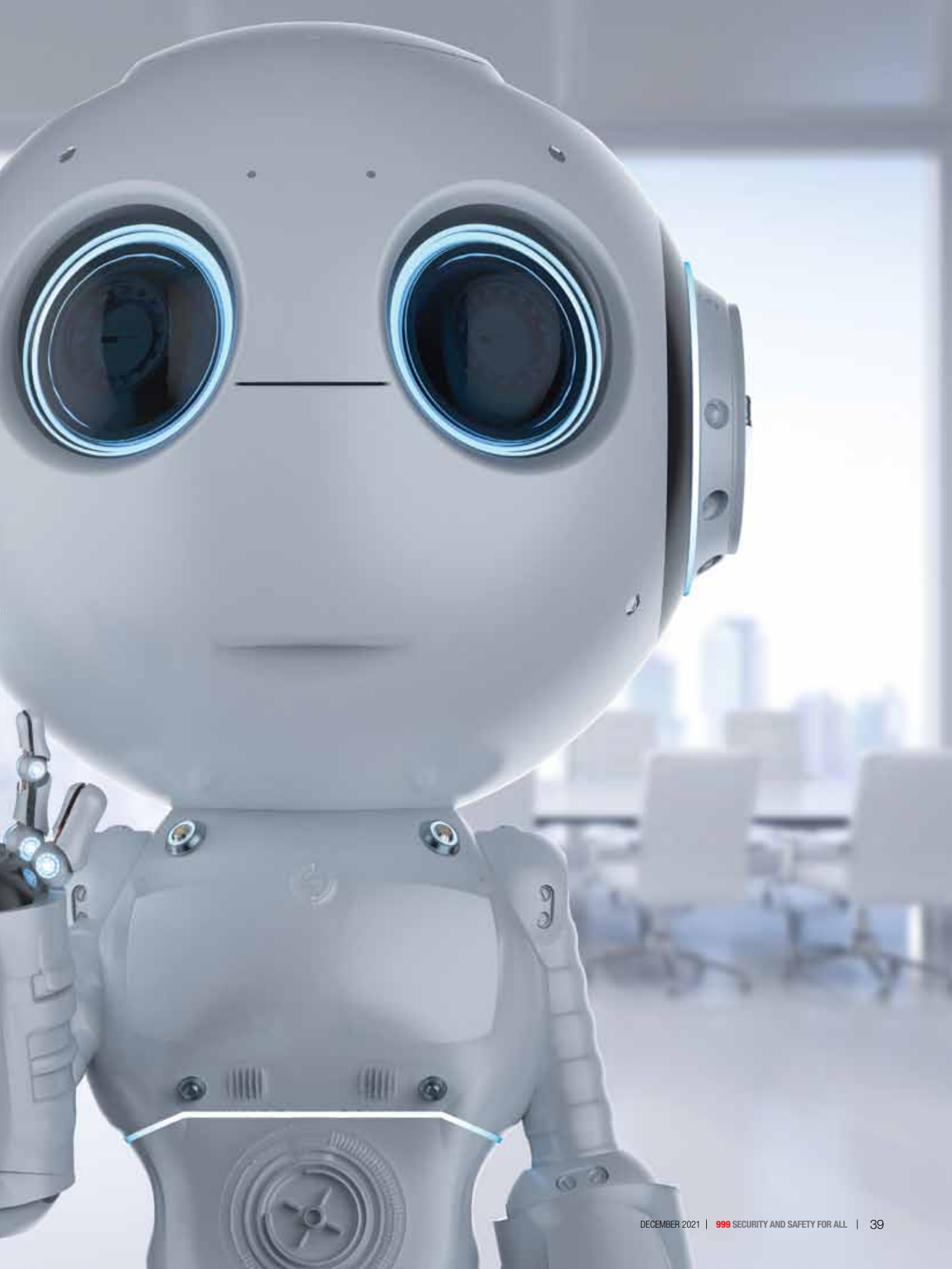
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FROM FICTION TO REALITY

ROBOTS, WHICH HAVE LONG BEEN PART OF THE SCI-FI
WORLD, ARE NOW IN PUBLIC SPACES AND HOUSEHOLDS
— HERE'S A GLIMPSE OF THE EVOLUTION

BY NEIL BIE





Ever imagined sitting in the comfort of your home while a humanoid does household chores for you — mopping the floor, washing clothes, or even making you feel relaxed? If you thought this could only happen in science fiction, the robots showcased at GITEX will prove you wrong.

The latest edition of the Middle East region's premier technology event, held in late October 2021 in Dubai, presents robotics at its finest. Visitors to Expo 2020 Dubai have already been seeing how robots can do everything from greeting people to serving them coffee. GITEX has taken it further, unveiling various robots that can perform certain tasks up to 200 times faster than humans. Some of them even have cognitive abilities that enable them to think (like a human), as well as hear, see, and feel.

Development in robotics is picking up pace alongside developments in digitalisation, the Internet of Things, and the Industrial Internet of Things (aka Industry 4.0). The robots shown at GITEX are not just novelties; they're accompanying humans on the current path to progress. The future of the robotics industry — its hurdles and opportunities — is one of the key elements of the UAE's economic future.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) lies at the heart of these newly-developed technologies — collecting, analysing, and interpreting data

that experts require in order to maintain and improve services.

HE Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, UAE Minister of State for AI, Digital Economy and Remote Working Applications, stated that all of the technology presented at GITEX aimed to give UAE residents and visitors a glimpse of how the future would help improve lives.

"AI is in every single sector and is collecting all of this incredible data. This wealth of data needs to be protected and it needs to be optimised so that we get the services we need. Ultimately, why do we improve technology? It is to improve the lives of every single person," said Al Olama during a GITEX conference titled 'Digital Cities x AI'.

Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, CEO of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation (PCFC), and Director General of Dubai Customs, said, "GITEX is a global platform for innovation, co-operation and shaping the future in modern technology and Artificial Intelligence. Leveraging these technologies is the way forward to ensure delivery of high-standard services to customers and business sectors. This year's edition has attracted greater attention as it coincides with Expo 2020."

Al Olama also hopes that this technology would be accessible not just to countries or individuals who have the money to pay for these, but to everyone. He underscored that these kinds of

“ AI is in every single sector and is collecting all of this incredible data. This wealth of data needs to be protected and it needs to be optimised so that we get the services we need



HE OMAR BIN SAID SULTAN AL OLAMA

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

technology were needed all the more in far-flung areas for huge quality-of-life improvements. "But," he said, "we need to answer some questions. Questions of ethics, privacy, the distribution of this technology so everyone has access to it. Cities will benefit the most from AI, but it shouldn't just be cities, it needs to be everybody. People in rural areas, people living in suburbs, everyone should have access to this new technology if we are going to improve lives."

WORKING WITH ROBOTS

One of the most pressing concerns is how automation and the use of robots will impact the workplace. While there have been fears that robots would take over many jobs now performed by humans, recent research indicates a much higher level of acceptance amongst humans when it comes to advanced robotics.

A study in 2021, led by the US-headquartered computer technology company Oracle, revealed that more than 8 out of 10 people (82 per cent) now widely accept that robots can help them advance in their careers.

Of this number, 37 per cent believe that robots could provide unbiased recommendations; 33 per cent appreciate how robots could quickly respond to questions regarding work; and 32 per cent



“ GITEX is a global platform for shaping the future in modern technology and AI. Leveraging these technologies is the way forward to ensure delivery of high-standard services



AHMED MAHBOOB MUSABIH

CEO of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation (PCFC), and Director General of Dubai Customs

believe they can take advantage of the robot's capabilities to find employment that matches their skillset.

The survey asked over 14,600 individuals, ranging from general employees to C-level executives, about the impact that the pandemic had on their respective work environments, and 3 out of 4 who were surveyed believe that robots could provide recommendations to help them optimise their current work set-up.

Yvette Cameron, Senior Vice-President,

“ Robots need to figure out what the human partner wants and intends and assumes, and then take into account these inferences in order to adapt its own behaviour and respond correctly



BERTRAM MALLE, PHD

Professor of Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences at Brown University, US

Oracle Cloud HCM, said, “The evolving nature of the workplace shifted the way people think about success and reset people's expectations for how organisations can best support them. To attract and retain talent, businesses need to place a higher priority on helping employees identify and develop new skills and provide personalised career journeys so they can feel in control of their careers again.”

ENHANCING SECURITY

Apart from the use of robotics in advanced health care, AI-powered drones, robots, and cameras will also help authorities thwart smugglers and other criminals.

Dubai Customs, for instance, unveiled several state-of-the-art robots and new initiatives that will enhance its operations and inspections, in line with its 2021-2026 strategic plan objectives.

Dubai Police have also enhanced their lost-and-found



system that links government, semi-government, and private entities with a unified platform. In addition, they have launched a new and advanced thin body camera that can be worn by officers on duty, transmitting live footage to the police Operations Room.

SOCIAL PENETRATION

One of the biggest challenges in adapting to work with robots is finding ways how humans could accept robots as their work partners. This is why a new line of study called ‘social robotics’ has spawned a new generation of robots, designed to communicate and interact with humans to enhance their working environment.

Aptly called ‘social robots’, they will be able to interpret human actions, collaborate with them in their respective workspaces, and respond to the needs of the humans they work with. “Robots need to figure out what the human partner wants, intends and assumes, and then take into account these inferences in order to adapt its own behaviour and respond correctly,” said Bertram Malle, PhD, a professor of cognitive, linguistic and psychological sciences at Brown University, United States.

For now, several of these ‘social robots’ have been designed to excel in areas that have social interaction at the core of their functions, such as nursing homes, private residences, educational facilities, and hospitals.

Dr Oliver Korn, Professor for Human



Computer Interaction and Director of the Affective & Cognitive Institute at Offenburg University in Germany, in his 2018 study of social robots in health care, revealed that social robots were best used for medical-related tasks such as assisting to take medicine and drawing blood. However, tasks that required physical interaction, such as putting patients to bed or washing them, should remain in the hands of humans, he concluded.

“We found that the experts consider the basic technologies for emotion recognition as fairly well developed. When it comes to applying emotion sensing in health care, the acceptance increases with the severity of the patients’ illness or impairment. On a larger societal scale (beyond health care), we found that if similar types of solutions are already in use, social robots are rated significantly more acceptable,” read the study.

RELIABLE ALLY

Efficiency is at the heart of robotics, whose visibility and acceptance both increased during the pandemic.

Robots roamed public spaces, checking the temperatures of each visitor, especially at hospitals. They also came in as dependable, tireless partners for other repetitive hospital tasks, such as bringing

supplies to rooms and roving around the grounds to remind individuals to follow face mask and social distancing rules.

In Denmark, doctors and engineers worked together to design a robot that collected saliva samples from a person’s throat by calibrating that perfect target spot. Experts were impressed with the level of consistency and swiftness that humans can’t match.

In Italy, a company named UVD Robots launched several robots that emitted powerful short-wavelength ultraviolet rays that efficiently got rid of viruses and other pathogens within minutes.

LIMIT OF COMPLEXITY

One common factor across all of these state-of-the-art technologies is that robots still require human presence, as it’s difficult for robots to perform all of the tasks on their own, especially as the complexity of tasks increases. Several robots still function with a limited script, which means that complex tasks requiring critical thinking and on-the-spot decisions still require the human touch.

In addition, the fact remains that working with robots requires a specialist in each company who will be dedicated to robot programming. Analytics Insight, a platform dedicated to the trends in AI, big data and

analytics, stated that out-of-the-box robots to date were only designed to perform specific tasks, and that programming a robot for complicated environments not only made it more expensive, but also increased maintenance costs and hazards.

“Complexities in the robots complicate working operations, which can act as a potential risk for the products and the machines involved. Robots in the present scenario are expensive, and this disables many small enterprises from adopting them, which in turn increases competition in markets,” read the statement.

US-headquartered management consulting firm Kearney’s Global Business Policy Council said that more companies were likely to adopt automated, contactless solutions, especially since it helped to safeguard employees from direct contact with other people.

“Overall, businesses and employees alike can prepare for a potential long-term surge in automation by taking inspiration from the companies that are using automation in innovative ways — while still taking care of their human staff — in the fight against COVID-19. Deploying robots to both protect employee safety and enhance their output could lead to financial and social wins for all parties,” read the statement.

UAE's TECHNOLOGIES OF TOMORROW

THE UAE'S FUTURE GENERATION WILL EMBRACE AI, AUTOMATION, AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN THE DECADES TO COME. HERE'S A GLIMPSE OF DAILY LIFE IN THE UAE FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS



ROBOTS WITH SENSES

Your home could soon get an extra 'helping hand' in the form of a robot that can hear, see, feel, and have something similar to a 'brain' that can think. This robot maid, called **MAiRA**, which stands for multi-sensing intelligent robotic assistant, is the brainchild of the German company Neura Robotics, and it can be instructed via voice command to do simple physical tasks.

David Reger, Founder and CEO of Neura Robotics, stated that MAiRA didn't merely function on voice command, but that its inner workings also allowed itself to initiate tasks autonomously if its AI determined that there was a need for the work.

"Our robots have cognitive abilities, which means they hear, they see, they feel, and they have a brain which thinks. If it sees dirty dishes, it will clean them autonomously. Before, you had to uniquely programme a robot to get things done. Now with the new kind of robot which we offer, it is actually AI-inclusive. This means, they think and learn and understand things like humans do," said Reger in a media interview.

HUMANOID ASSISTANT

GITEX 2021 featured human-like androids that could soon be used for both simple tasks and security measures.

Alex Yuzhakov created the **Robo-C machine** in his image and likeness, and gave the humanoid his own name. Designers stated that the android could also be used to bring famous people to life, akin to popular museums such as Madame Tussauds. For now, the android can answer basic questions, give directions, and collect feedback as it only works with a limited script.

The humanoid is equipped with a camera in its chest area for facial recognition, so that it can initiate an interaction. Microphones that surround this camera can pick up voice commands and instructions.

"There are several robots like Alex in Russia, and we are working on the creation of a robot with hands and fingers that move and react to commands. For now, he is seated, but we are working on making him walk. Our main strategy is to enable these robots to help people at home," said Jane Ezhova, International Sales Manager for Promobot, the largest service robotics manufacturer in Northern and Eastern Europe.



Alex Yuzhakov and his Robo-C machine named after him



MEDICAL 'COBOTS'

In the field of health care, a new startup in Sharjah called Maria Medical Technology has coined the term 'cobots' or robots that work in collaboration with humans. The latest prototype of the company's **I Laser** is a Medical Cobot Arm that assists dermatologists or aestheticians in their line of work by using intrinsically safe components, reliable sensors and laser tracking devices powered by AI.

Skin specialists can use via a mobile app to control the robot in its performance and ensure high-quality and effective treatment, such as laser hair removals for specific parts of the body.

FAULT DETECTORS

At GITEX, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) showcased a standout robot, a four-legged machine that wowed visitors with its peculiar movements. These **'Spot Robots'** intentionally move in such a way that allows them to do a multitude of tasks, including detecting leakage in water pipes; testing connection points of high-voltage cables; detecting faults in general; conducting security patrols; and managing different facilities such as warehouses, in addition to helping people of determination.



Dubai Customs officer showing Syaj mini-submarine that can help catch smugglers

SECURITY SUBMARINE

At GITEX, Dubai Customs exhibited the capabilities of the **Syaj mini-submarine**, which it has been using to conduct underwater surveillance since August 2020. Dubai Customs uses the drone to take live video and clear photographs, thanks to its 4K high-definition camera, ensuring that all vessels that arrive in the country are thoroughly inspected. The drone's speed reaches 15kmph, with a range of 30 metres from the controller.

Underwater surveillance is an important part of Dubai Customs' inspection process, as smugglers may attempt to attach drugs to the bottom of the boats. In one particular case, the authorities found several bags of illegal drugs that were strapped to the hull of wooden boats.

"Smugglers are always looking for new ways to smuggle goods into the UAE. Now, with this underwater submarine, we can take it as deep as 50 metres to do a more comprehensive scan of a boat," said Nawaf Hussein Habash Saleh, one of Dubai Customs' inspection officers.



'AVATAR' CAR

Another crowd-puller at GITEX 2021 was the physical version of what was once a 'concept car', first seen in the blockbuster movie Avatar. Mercedes-Benz engineers, designers, and researchers collaborated on what's now known as the **'Vision Avtr'**, which syncs with the driver's brainwaves to start up the engine, drive the vehicle, and stop at their intended destination.

The concept and design of this electric car were done in collaboration with the Avatar movie team, especially filmmaker James Cameron, in their joint efforts to shift from gas-powered vehicles to fully-electric automobiles.



ONLINE ORDERS MADE EASY

In Dubai, an autonomous **Neolix' delivery robot** will soon start work for online delivery company Noon. Residents who live within the Emaar Boulevard in Downtown Dubai will be amongst the first to enjoy the service. Neolix has successfully carried out automated deliveries after months of tests. Apart from this 'retail' version, Neolix also has several other types of bots, including those used for express, freight, and patrols.



Mohammed Jalal Al Rayssi currently heads the Emirates News Agency (WAM) as Director General

40 YEARS OF CREATIVITY AT THE 'OASIS OF KNOWLEDGE'

This year's Sharjah International Book Fair has seen the culmination of an unprecedented effort — the launch of the first 17 volumes of the Historical Corpus of the Arabic Language. This further elevates the stature of the emirate as a centre of enlightenment

“Those of us who enjoy reading in the emirate of Sharjah are very keen to create a reading community and promote the benefits of reading amongst children. For that reason, we provide the best, most suitable books for all the family. We believe that books must be available to all and from this concept, we turn book fairs into an oasis of knowledge and enlightenment.” This was the message of His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, at the 40th edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF), which he inaugurated on November 2, 2021.

Held under the theme ‘There’s Always a Right Book’, the event features 1,632 Arab and foreign publishers and 85 writers and artists from different countries. It marks 40 years of giving in the fields of culture, literature, and knowledge development.

One of the world’s largest book fairs, the event was launched in the presence of HH Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, at the Expo Centre Sharjah. It is of great significance, being a literary and cultural platform that brings together writers, intellectuals, and creative minds from around the world in Sharjah, the capital of culture and science, where they are properly recognised by the patron of culture, HH the Ruler of Sharjah.

SIBF is a large-scale cultural project that sees further growth

with every edition. One can argue that its most important achievement is narrating works of Arab literature, translated in all languages, to showcase before people from around the world the creations of the Arab world’s writers, thinkers, and poets.

Since 2011, Sharjah has been supporting the convergence between Arab culture and other cultures of the world through SIBF’s Translation Grant, which received 16,490 translation requests from and into Arabic, of which 1,493 books were published in an unprecedented initiative to support creativity.

Marking this occasion, the Ruler of Sharjah, who is also the Supreme President of the Arabic Language Academy in Sharjah, released the first 17 volumes of the Historical Corpus of the Arabic Language — this is a first-of-its-kind project in the history of the Arab world to chronicle 17 centuries of development in the Arabic language.

The launch of the first 17 volumes of this unprecedented publication crowned four

decades of tireless efforts and diligence, under the directives of HH Dr Sheikh Sultan, to ensure that SIBF maintains its status as an incubator of culture and science and a creative space where intellectuals and writers compete through showcasing their new products.

With this, Sharjah continues to serve as a beacon of knowledge and a haven for science and culture for people in the UAE, the region and the world.

Sharjah continues to serve as a beacon of knowledge and a haven for science and culture for people in the UAE, the region and the world





BUILDING A DATA FORTRESS

THE UAE'S NEW DATA LAW, ANNOUNCED AS PART OF 'PROJECTS OF THE 50', COVERS ALL FLANKS IN THE QUEST TO ELIMINATE DATA MISUSE AND TO GAIN USER TRUST. THIS IS ONE OF THE KEY COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE DIGITAL ECONOMY AND DRAW INVESTORS. **999** ANALYSES WHY DATA PRIVACY IS THE LINCHPIN OF THE FUTURE

BY NASEEF CHENATH



“ Digital economy proved its importance and efficiency during the pandemic. Digital economy doesn’t require huge infrastructure or huge financial resources; it requires brighter minds

HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

The phrase ‘big data’ has a nice ring to it, conjuring up the vision of an interconnected world, where everyone can do just about everything with a few clicks on a smart device. The phrase ‘data breach’ is the absolute opposite of nice, usually triggering panic and causing significant loss of money and reputation for individuals and organisations.

As one of the nations heavily invested in digitalisation to fulfil all its social and economic goals in the coming decades, the UAE puts a premium on data privacy and data security. This is evidenced by its new data law, announced under ‘Projects of the 50’, the series of development-related projects launched ahead of the nation’s Golden Jubilee.

Data privacy campaigners fear that important information such as customer details, employee profiles, and transaction records, stored by companies for a variety of purposes, could be abused by deceitful third parties. The UAE’s new data law takes a comprehensive view of the big data universe and has incorporated elements of data-related legislation from all over the world.

The digital economy in the UAE contributes 4.3 per cent to the GDP, which

is equivalent to Dhs100 billion, according to the Ministry of Digital Economy. About 40 per cent of the UAE’s population relies on government digital services more than once a week. When it comes to digital retail in the UAE, e-commerce is advancing rapidly. Providing smart services is one of the key features of government policy, and this has further helped to bring more and more people within the umbrella of digitalisation.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime

Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said that the next priority of the UAE is to increase the contribution of the digital economy in the national economy, promote smart infrastructure, and enhance the digital readiness of the UAE government to ensure business continuity, regardless of the circumstances. “Digital economy proved its importance and efficiency during the pandemic. Digital economy doesn’t require huge infrastructure or huge financial resources; it requires brighter minds,” said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid.

“ The digital economy in the UAE contributes 4.3 per cent to the GDP, which is equivalent to Dhs100 billion, according to the Ministry of Digital Economy



Speaking to UAE media during the announcement of the law in September 2021, HE Omar Al Olama, UAE Minister of State for Digital Economy, AI and Remote Working System, said that the new law was written after taking into consideration “every single data law on the planet”. He added that this was the UAE’s first federal law to be drafted in consultation with major technology organisations.

Data privacy is a concept that includes data breach, but goes beyond that. A breach refers to data theft or some other kind of data-related attack by cyber-criminals; privacy is concerned with the way the stored data is used or misused, and even the company that stores the data could be unethical in the way it uses the data.

It all boils down to how organisations and individuals utilise personal data — misuse of it could mean anything from bombarding customers with unwanted SMS marketing messages to sharing personal information with third parties without people’s consent. Regulatory bodies are taking an increasingly tough stance on privacy, imposing heavy fines on breaches and violations of an individual’s right to privacy.

VALUABLE COMMODITY

As we do more and more things digitally — shopping, banking, social networking — every individual’s behavioural patterns and consumption preferences are captured by companies in the field of information technology. Data is one of the most valuable commodities today, because to have data about a person is to know almost everything that person does, and this can be profitable.

From lobbyists to e-commerce firms, fraudsters to online crooks, everyone has different motives for getting their hands on more and more user data. In recent times, we’ve seen news of several scams concerning data breaches; these have been used for gaining financial advantage, manipulating popular opinion, and numerous other nefarious ends.

Indeed, securing private data and sensitive information is getting more and more critical. When

health care information, financial data, and other personal consumer or user data fall into the wrong

hands, it can result in dangerous and unpredictable consequences. The lack of access control regarding confidential information can put individuals at great risk of fraud and identity theft. When it comes to data security, everybody is vulnerable.

A data breach at the government or corporate level may put the security of entire countries at risk. If a breach occurs in your company, it could make your proprietary data

accessible to a competitor. This is where data protection laws have a major role to play.

The 3,950 confirmed data breaches in 2020 indicate the widespread impact of data breaches, according to Verizon, a US multinational telecommunications conglomerate. The year 2021 also saw several such incidents, such as the series of data breaches in April 2021, exposing user information from the social networks Facebook, LinkedIn, and Clubhouse; and the September 2021 breach of a database

related to Apple and Fitbit users. These are just a few of the data breaches during this year, and no company in any sector can consider itself immune.

When health care information, financial data, and other personal data fall into the wrong hands, it can result in dangerous and unpredictable consequences



The biggest data breach in history was the attack on Yahoo in 2013, impacting three billion user accounts. At that time, the company was going to be acquired by Verizon and stated that account information of over a billion of its customers had been accessed by a hacking group. Less than a year later, Yahoo announced that the actual figure of user accounts exposed was three times the original estimate.

KNOWS AND KNOW-NOTS

The attackers are everywhere, devising new snares to exploit our increasing data dependency. The current cyber-security scenario seems to be like what Stephane Nappo, Global Head Information Security for Société Générale International Banking, said: "It takes 20 years to build a reputation and [a] few minutes of cyber-incident to ruin it."

Once a data breach takes place, it becomes hard for users to trust that company. In October 2013, the software multinational Adobe reported that hackers had stolen around three million encrypted customer credit card records and login data for an undecided number of user accounts. Days later, Adobe raised that estimate to cover encrypted passwords and IDs for 38 million "active users".

Brian Krebs, a security blogger, then reported that a file posted just days before the incident "appears to include more than 150 million username and hashed password pairs taken from Adobe". Weeks of research revealed that the hack had also exposed passwords, identity, as well as debit and credit card details. An agreement in August 2015

“Criminals are using every technology tool at their disposal to hack into people’s accounts. If they know there’s a key hidden somewhere, they won’t stop until they find it



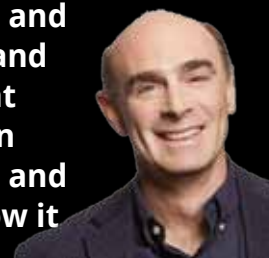
TIM COOK
CEO of Apple

wanted Adobe to pay \$1.1 million (Dhs4 million) in legal fees and an undisclosed amount to its users to resolve claims of unfair business practices and violating the Customer Records Act.

"Most people are starting to realise that there are only two different types of companies in the world: those that have been breached and know it, and those that have been breached and don't know it," said Ted Schlein, General Partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. "Therefore, prevention is not sufficient, and you're going to have to invest in detection, because you're going to want to know what system has been breached as fast as humanly possible so that you can contain and remediate."

The professional networking platform LinkedIn has had a particularly bad

“There are only two different types of companies in the world: those that have been breached and know it, and those that have been breached and don’t know it



TED SCHLEIN
General Partner at Kleiner Perkins
Caufield & Byers

year. It suffered a second breach in June 2021, when data linked with 700 million of its users was exposed on a dark web forum, affecting more than 90 per cent of its user base. A hacker with the moniker "God User" used data-scraping tools to exploit the site's (and others') API (Application Programming Interface) before exposing a first information data set of almost 500 million users. The hacker then boasted that they were selling the 700 million customer database they stole from the social media platform. While LinkedIn claimed that no sensitive, personal data was stolen, a scraped data sample posted by God User included information such as e-mail addresses, phone numbers, geolocation records, genders and other social media details.

"If you put a key under the mat for the cops, a burglar can find it, too," said Tim Cook, CEO of Apple. "Criminals are using every technology tool at their disposal to hack into people's accounts. If they know there's a key hidden somewhere, they won't stop until they find it."

UAE MAKES GLOBAL LAW

The new UAE Data Law aims to be a global law, which will provide international companies with a smooth mechanism for cross-border transfers, as well as have a low cost of compliance for SMEs. Some key features of the UAE Data Law are:

- the right to be forgotten, the right of access, the right of correction, and the right to be informed, all of which are already included in EU GDPR,





“A new data law for the UAE was recently announced and it clearly illustrates the UAE’s commitment to creating a safe and transparent data environment for its citizens and businesses



PHIL MENNIE

Middle East Data Privacy Leader at
PwC Middle East

Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), and Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) data protection laws;

- consent obligations regarding the marketing of data by companies seeking to monetise data;
- minimal restrictions on cross-border data flow or reference to sensitive or restricted data;
- provisions for a new national data privacy regulator.

Once implemented, the UAE Data Law might also provide an adequate level of protection for data transfers from other regulated jurisdictions, such as DIFC and ADGM. It will not likely apply to data privacy and protection associated with government or health data, which will be protected by separate new or revised legal regimes.

“The law is a global law. We wanted to ensure a seamless and smooth transfer across borders,” said Minister Al Olama. “We know that the UAE is home to international companies, so we don’t want that to be just a localised law. It’s a law that has the lowest cost of compliance — we don’t want to be a burden on SMEs, and we don’t want it to be an increased burden on commercial companies.”

Al Olama added that the UAE data law was created to safeguard the privacy of people and institutions and prevent entities, including private companies, from exploiting personal data for profit. The law also enables people to control how their personal

data is used, stored and shared. The requirements of the private sector have also been taken into account, and under the legislation, companies may monetise personal data only if people have given their consent.

“They have so many rights within this law. Individuals have the right to be forgotten, have the right to access, the right to information. The [new UAE data law] law reflects our mindset of being a global country, a country that develops companies and scales them up. We don’t believe that the role of government is to hinder the prosperity of the economy. We can do our job while allowing the private sector to grow and flourish as well,” he said.

TRANSPARENT DATA ENVIRONMENT

With all the ramifications of data privacy, companies need the right knowledge for the right actions. Dubai Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with PwC

“The UAE data law reflects our mindset of being a global country, a country that develops companies and scales them up

Middle East, recently hosted a webinar titled ‘An Overview of Data Privacy in the UAE’, to update businesses concerning the legal and practical implications of data privacy in the country.

The event saw a growing interest amongst the public, registering attendance from a wide range of economic sectors, including business owners, lawyers, legal practitioners, managers, risk and compliance professionals, corporate counsel, IT professionals, HR managers, and contract administrators.

Moderated by Phil Mennie, Middle East Data Privacy Leader at PwC Middle East, and Richard Chudzynski, Middle East Data Protection and Privacy Legal Leader at PwC Middle East, the sessions covered the fundamentals of data privacy and its legal aspects, risks related to non-compliance, and the effects of developing data privacy policies within organisations and companies.

The speakers also delved deep into the UAE’s new data privacy laws and elaborated on the rights and responsibilities of companies, along with the legal consequences of utilising data for business objectives.

“Data privacy and protection plans continue to evolve globally, and now the UAE has launched several digital initiatives designed to prepare the country for the future,” said Mennie. “A new data law for the UAE was recently announced... and [it] clearly illustrates the UAE’s commitment to creating a safe and transparent data environment for its citizens and businesses.”

Fourteen per cent of UAE-based consumers do not belong to loyalty programmes because they do not want their data tracked

Jehad Kazim, Vice President – Legal Services at Dubai Chamber, said that the protection of data should be a top priority for businesses of all sizes and sectors and noted that such matters had become more important following the digital transformation of various industries.

HIGHER AWARENESS

As users are beginning to become better aware of how their data and online activity are collected, stored, and sold, organisations are going beyond legal requirements to address data privacy to gain customer trust. Most customers will more readily opt for brands that give them better control over how their data is managed.

There's a significant segment of consumers yet to be won over. As per KPMG's 2020 report, 'The truth about customer loyalty': "The drive for personalisation is likely to conflict with public concerns about — and regulators' growing interest in — data privacy. Fourteen per cent of UAE-based consumers do not belong to loyalty programmes because they do not want their data tracked."

Besides reputational and operational impact, data breaches can also be costly for an organisation. With new data protection regulations being implemented around the world, legal and financial implications, along with penalties, because a breach must also now be taken into consideration. Since data privacy is such an

HOW DOES A DATA BREACH TAKE PLACE?

Here are the most common cyber-attacks used in data breaches:

RANSOMWARE

Ransomware is software that gains access to and locks down access to vital data. Subsequently, files and systems are locked down, and a fee is demanded generally in the form of cryptocurrency. It mainly targets enterprise companies and businesses.



MALWARE

Normally referred to as "malicious software", Malware is a term that describes any program or code that harmfully probes systems. It is designed to harm your computer or software and commonly masquerades as a warning against malicious software. Malware can enter into your computer when you are downloading infected files, navigating hacked websites, or opening emails from a device that does not have anti-malware security.



PHISHING

Phishing scams are the most usual ways in which hackers get access to sensitive or confidential information. It comprises sending fraudulent emails that seem to be from an esteemed company, to trick recipients into either clicking on a malicious link or downloading an infected attachment, mostly to steal financial or confidential information.



DENIAL OF SERVICE (DoS)

It is a type of cyber-attack in which the culprit will make a machine or network resource inaccessible to its end users by temporarily or indefinitely interrupting the services of a host connected to the Internet. It is normally accomplished by flooding the targeted machine or resource with superfluous requests to overload systems and prevent some or all legitimate requests from being fulfilled.



important issue, many organisations are investing an increasing proportion of their annual budget in protecting their data.

In the UAE, data privacy laws have already existed in economic centres, such as in DIFC since 2007 and in ADGM since 2015.

It's worth noting that all UAE industries processing international customer data are already impacted

by the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other international privacy laws. If a company in the UAE processes personal data and provides goods or services to people based in the EU, they must adhere to GDPR. Similarly, this law will apply to organisations in the UAE that have an establishment in the EU and are processing personal data there.



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UAE'S FIRST SKYSCRAPER: THE UNTOLD STORY

IN 1979, UAE RESIDENTS STOOD PROUD OF THE COUNTRY'S FIRST HIGH-RISE BUILDING, SHEIKH RASHID TOWER. IT WOULD SOON GROW TO BECOME THE UAE'S BEACON OF PROGRESS AS DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTRE. 999 PRESENTS ITS FASCINATING ROLE IN THE UAE'S DEVELOPMENT AS AN EPICENTRE FOR BUSINESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

BY ROSS NICHOLS



روح الاتحاد
SPIRIT OF THE UNION
اليوم الوطني
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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INSPIRATION TO THE WORLD

WE CONGRATULATE THE UAE
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خمسون عاماً

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نهنيء دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
بمناسبة العيد الوطني الـ50!



رضا الانصاري للصرافة
REDHA AL-ANSARI EXCHANGE



Dubai World Trade Centre, 1979

DWTC

The UAE is a country of skyscrapers. The tall buildings define the skylines of most of its cities now, and the world's most iconic high-rise is Burj Khalifa, in Dubai. But before that, there was Sheikh Rashid Tower, later developed further as Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC). Designed by British architect John Harris, it was completed in 1979, just a few years after the Union was formed, and became a symbol of Dubai's and the UAE's ambition to become an economic force to reckon with.

Its story dates back to 1959, when architect John Harris was first invited to visit Dubai. Donald Hawley, the British political agent for the 'Trucial States' (as the emirates were called then), relayed the invitation of the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, then ruler of Dubai. The visit was arranged as Harris had risen to prominence after working in Kuwait in 1952.

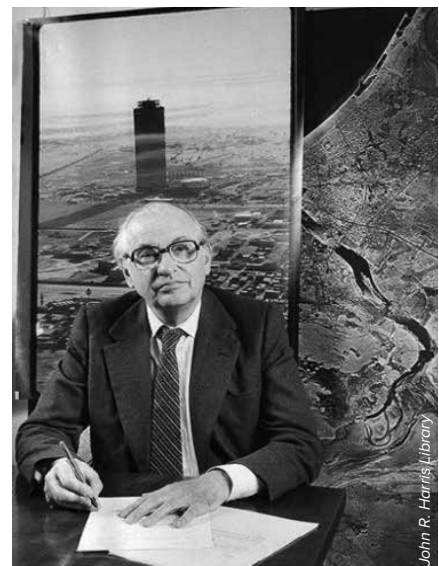
It was in the autumn of 1959 when Harris came to Dubai to meet Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed. They spoke about creating a master plan for the emirate. By March 1960, Harris completed the first master

plan for Dubai; it was approved by Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed two months later.

Architect Todd Reisz, in his book *Showpiece City: How Architecture Made Dubai*, said that Harris first conceptualised the building of a community that linked key structures together for the convenience of its residents. "One must remember that John was foremost an architect, not a town planner, but he was well aware of the development of British new towns in the postwar period. John designed a city of low-rise commercial buildings and one-storey villas. Neighbourhood units, an adopted trait of new towns, were a clear presence in this plan, with each group of homes encircling community amenities like schools, parks and shopping centres," wrote Todd.

FIRST BLUEPRINTS

Fast forward to the early 1970s, and Dubai had witnessed unprecedented growth, with several low-rise accommodations and buildings sprawling left and right, following the implementation of Harris' first blueprint made 10 years ago—these were mostly on the side of Dubai



John Harris, Principal architect of Dubai World Trade Centre

John R. Harris Library

Creek.

Harris foresaw that Dubai would grow beyond the area and submitted a second master plan to Dubai Municipality in 1971. His son, Mark Harris, shared with Reisz that it was in his father's ideals to drive the people nearer to the waters beside the cityscape.

"I think my father was keen to try to keep Dubai centred on the creek but the reality was the emirate was already expanding almost inevitably in a linear manner towards Abu Dhabi and Sharjah," said Mark.

Frauke Heard-Bey, in his book titled *From Trucial States to United Arab Emirates*, said that it was during one of Harris' flights back to the UK that the talks began regarding an 'exhibition centre' to rise in an area miles from Dubai Creek.

"I was leaving Dubai and flying back to London. My suitcase had been placed on the new hoist at Dubai's international airport and sent down to the loader below. At that moment, a hand rested on my shoulder and a voice said, 'Sheikh Rashid wants to see you.' I explained about my luggage, but of course, my suitcase went one way and I went the other," said Harris in his interview in the book by Heard-Bey.

The architect met with Sheikh Rashid for a brief verbal meeting to discuss the possibilities of opening an exhibition centre. After that, he spoke with one of his lead architects, Gordon Heald, to begin the design. Heald then created an expansive space that combined exhibition area and hotel facilities in one.

When Harris submitted the proposal in 1974, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed asked him to redo the format to fit the structure of a



Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum (centre) at DWTC construction site

John R. Harris Library

tower. During this year, ideas of a 'world trade centre' were in vogue, with one in New York already under construction and another in Tokyo. Harris travelled to these cities to have a look at these ambitious projects, then returned to Dubai in October 1974 to present plans for the UAE's first skyscraper.

After several design revisions and changes in site locations, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed approved the detailed blueprint

of Harris and Heald — the construction of what would be known as Sheikh Rashid Tower began in 1975.

PERSONAL TOUCH

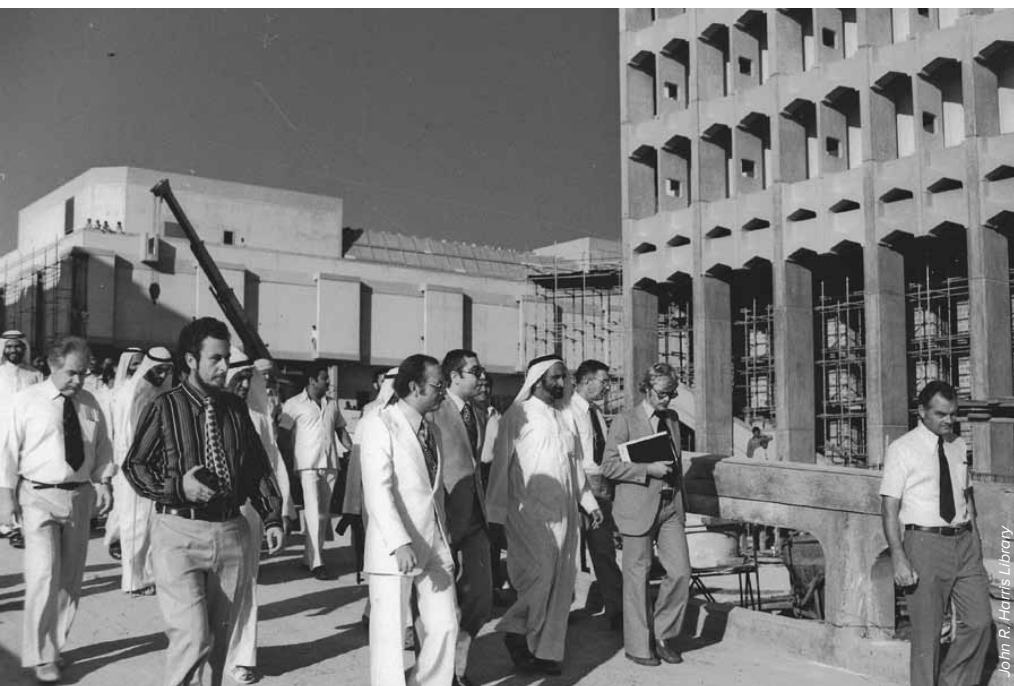
Mark Harris recalls that during the construction phase, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed had been very much hands-on to monitor the project progress. It was during his surprise visits that Mark and his team saw how dedicated the ruler of Dubai was to ensuring that all elements in this new high-rise would be safe and sturdy.

"Sheikh Rashid made several site visits when the tower was under construction, often without advance notice. Once he reached the second floor, he was satisfied and entered the building to descend via the lift, much to the relief of all who had gathered to witness this moment," said Mark.

Reisz wrote that the tower was initially approved with 33 floors, but during its construction phase, from 1975-1979, Sheikh Rashid aimed to have the building rise higher — therefore, Harris and his team extended the construction to accommodate a 39-storey skyscraper.

The building included spaces for offices, meeting rooms, large trading spaces, and smaller exhibition areas. Back then, it also had the Hilton Hotel, apartments, and a convention centre.

One unique feature of Sheikh Rashid Tower was that it never had any direct sun



Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum (centre) during a site visit to Dubai World Trade Centre, 1978

John R. Harris Library



Dubai World Trade Centre at present

Credit: Imre Solt

exposure in any area. Harris understood Dubai's climate, generally under a blazing sun for most of the year. Heald also moved to Dubai during the construction phase to personally handle the project and ensure intelligent shading.

"What is intelligent about the design of the tower is that it is considerate of the solar gain. So no single side of the building has direct southern, western or eastern sun exposure. The building has a double façade, where windows are set back with the hollow effect to keep the sun away," wrote Reis.

Harris also incorporated intricate details to express regional influences on the building, which is evident from the references to Islamic arches on the building's windows.

GROWTH CATALYST

The 489-foot structure was a sight to behold during its opening as the lone tower to rise in the emirates — it essentially proved one of Dubai's philosophies: "Build it and they will come."

On February 26, 1979, it was Queen Elizabeth II herself who inaugurated Sheikh Rashid Tower. Both Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed and John Harris personally showed the Queen around the premises.

"The building, which is structurally complete, will take a little time yet to be made ready for occupation. But its majestic appearance today aptly fitted the grandeur of the public welcome accorded to the Queen," read a 1979 report from the now-defunct Emirates News.

Two months later, companies were eagerly requesting to have their offices within the tower. This included local entities such as the Port Rashid Authority, Dubai Aluminium Company, Dubai Gas, as well as international companies, including Gibbons and Salvage Association and the Leyland International, to name a few. John H Harris and Partners also had their office at the tower. In September 1979, the tower had already leased one-third of its maximum occupancy.

Sheikh Rashid Tower was the kernel around which the modern Dubai World

Trade Centre complex has grown over more than four decades, with expansions and additions of facilities.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Dubai World Trade Centre's strategic location is integral to a road network that links Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah. Beyond the tower alone, DWTC has expanded to include more halls that now span 1.3 million square feet of exhibition and event spaces, 21 halls, and over 40 meeting rooms. It's now known as one of the largest event venues in the Middle East, hosting hundreds of events annually.

Mahir Abdulkarim Julfar, Executive Vice-President, Venue Services Management, Dubai World Trade Centre, highlighted that the venue had gone beyond the point of being an iconic skyscraper to being an enabler for global economic growth.

"Today, Dubai is a gateway into fast-growing economies in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, as well as a preferred destination for businesses from Europe. DWTC is an invaluable facilitator of



John R. Harris Library

During the Trade Centre's inauguration in 1979, in the presence of the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

intercontinental trade and development, and its role extends far beyond the encouragement of domestic export/import markets; it's a true regional and global business hub and a catalyst for growth, bringing the world together and connecting possibilities everywhere," said Julfar.

By August 2021, DWTC has recorded a footfall of 30 million visitors, of which 12 million are tourists and participants from international markets. Julfar also estimates that around 5,000 meetings, incentives,

conferences and exhibitions (MICE) events have been held at DWTC over its life of more than 40 years, leading to a grand total economic output of Dhs200 billion.

"DWTC's continued commitment to delivering events that enable international trade, while contributing to the development of Dubai's knowledge-based economy, is the primary reason behind its continued success and established leadership position, delivering sustainable economic value to Dubai's GDP," added Julfar.

“DWTC is an invaluable facilitator of intercontinental trade and development, and its role extends far beyond the encouragement of domestic export/import markets



MAHIR ABDULKARIM JULFAR

Executive Vice-President, Venue Services Management, Dubai World Trade Centre

PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Dubai Municipality's Planning Department and the Architectural Heritage Department have spearheaded an effort to preserve the 39-storey building through an initiative titled 'Modern Heritage', which began in August 2018. DWTC is one amongst five buildings listed by the authority for their continued contribution to the UAE's rich background.

Eng Ahmed Mahmoud, Director of the Architectural Heritage Department, stated that several of these landmarks remained functional to this day and should be preserved for the benefit of future generations. "Many of these buildings still occupy major positions and perform important functions. The buildings have had a great impact on shaping the urban environment and crystallising the architectural character of the 1960s and 1970s of Dubai's development," said Mahmoud.

The five buildings include: Al Ras Library (1963), Clock Tower Roundabout (1964), Al Baraha Hospital (1966), Al Khulood Nursery School (1975), and Sheikh Rashid Tower of the Dubai World Trade Centre (1979).

Dubai Municipality is set to work with its partners, such as the Ministry of Health and Prevention, Al Baraha Hospital, Knowledge Fund Establishment, Dubai Culture and Arts Authority and the World Trade Centre, to ensure that these structures remain strong for generations to come.



John R. Harris Library

Dubai Creek from aboard an abra, November 1959.

UAE's TOURIST TREASURES

BETTER ROAD NETWORKS, SAFE SPACES FOR REST AND STAY, AND WORLD-CLASS RECREATION PROJECTS HAVE LED TO A RAPID RISE IN VISITOR NUMBERS OVER THE PAST YEARS — THIS IS THE PERFECT SEASON TO BE IN THE HILLS

BY TARIQ ALFAHAM/EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY-WAM

The mountainous areas of the UAE have become some of the most important tourist attractions in the country in the past few years. Consequently, they have also attracted scores of investments, especially in light of their improved services and infrastructure.

Hatta, Jebel Jais, and Khorfakkan top the list of the most prominent mountain tourism centres in the country. These three areas underwent unprecedented work that transformed them into new tourist treasures of the UAE.

These areas have unique advantages, especially at the onset of the UAE's tourist season, when they usually witness low temperatures and rainfall. The past five years have seen a real transformation in the level of services provided in these areas, depending on the strategic projects undertaken

there, starting with the extension of road networks that connect these mountainous areas with cities and emirates.

The city of Hatta has turned into a tourist destination for visitors from different regions to enjoy its scenic natural sites such as mountains, the Hatta Dam and its lake, which provides the ideal atmosphere for camping, swimming, and kayaking enthusiasts.

The Hatta Master Development Plan, launched in 2016, contributed to an increase of 16 times in the number of tourists until last year — from 60,000 visitors in 2016 to more than one million visitors in 2020. The plan also aims to transform Hatta into an attractive local and international destination for business, investment, and tourism.

In August 2021, new projects were approved as part of the Hatta

development plan. These include the establishment of 5.4km-long chairlifts, a Hatta sustainable waterfalls project, a hotel, and the construction of hiking trails to the highest peak in Dubai (Jebel Umm Al Nisour, at 1,300 metres). Hatta residents will also be allowed to build 200 holiday homes to support domestic tourism in the district.

The cable car route passes over the Hatta Dam Lake and the Upper Dam Lake for the hydroelectric power station. The departure station will be built on an upper platform above the Hatta Dam.

The Hatta Sustainable Waterfalls project, meanwhile, will use the slope of the Upper Dam to create a natural waterfall. The water used in the waterfall will be collected at the end of the stream, recycled and pumped back to the top of the dam. Economic and tourism development programmes were also launched.



Hatta Master Development Plan

WAM

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The Hatta Master Development Plan, launched in 2016, contributed to an increase of 16 times in the number of tourists until last year — from 60,000 visitors in 2016 to more than one million visitors in 2020

In the neighbouring emirate of Sharjah, a slew of development projects was announced for the city of Khorfakkan, the city of wonderful nature.

The Al Suhub Rest House project is one of a number of new attractions that Sharjah has welcomed over the past few years. The new attraction centres around a distinctive circular structure, with a diameter of 30 metres. This incredible new hotspot

in the mountains of Khorfakkan has fascinating architecture. The building's design resembles a flying saucer. The built mountain-side rest stop, which lies 600 metres above sea level, offers panoramic views across Khorfakkan. Apart from providing ample views of Khorfakkan, the project also included water fountains, beaches, a restaurant, parking spaces, and other service amenities.



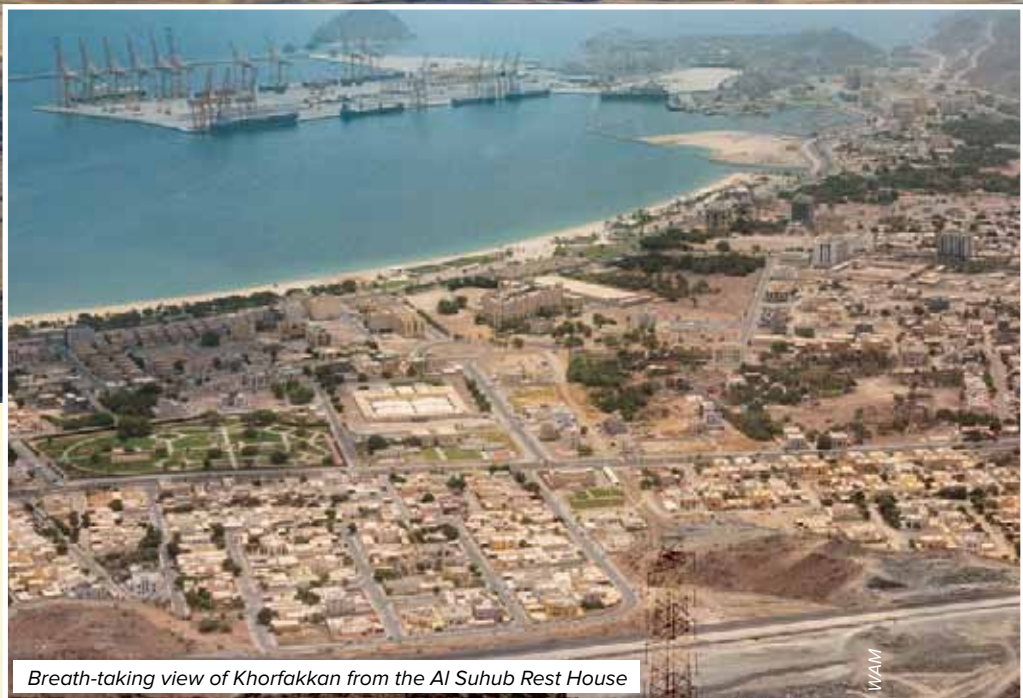
Platinumist

Ras Al Khaimah's Jebel Jais is home to the world's longest zipline

After driving up a 5.6km road towards the attraction, visitors will find two rest houses at heights of 233 metres and 480 metres, both offering sweeping views and service amenities.

Al Suhub Rest House, built on an area of 10,250 square metres, features a children's play area of 541 square metres. The area surrounding the rest house is decorated with green spaces, where 8,700 trees have been planted to give an aesthetic and healthy character to the area. The project has provided for 89 parking spaces.

The Rest House has turned into a focus for visitors, thanks to the luxury services it provides, from restaurants to wonderful and safe play areas for



Breath-taking view of Khorfakkan from the Al Suhub Rest House

WAM

children, in addition to the 730-metre walkway surrounded on all sides by tall palm trees and green plants. The Shees Park is one of the major projects that give wonderful recreational options in the city.

On the mountain range in Khorfakkan, Al Rafisah Dam brings a charming scene to the area.

In Ras Al Khaimah, the summit of Jebel Jais remains one of the most important tourist attractions due to its charming view of the Hajar Mountain

In the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, the summit of Jebel Jais remains one of the most important tourist attractions at the local level due to its height of about 2km and its charming view of the Hajar Mountains.

Jebel Jais is a destination for amateur and professional mountaineering and adventure enthusiasts, as it includes the Guinness World Records-certified longest zip-line in the world whose track extends over a length of 2.83km.



Al Suhub Rest House, a flying saucer-shaped lounge



CANCEL THE KILLFIES

THE EASIEST WAY TO GET 15 SECONDS OF INTERNET FAME IS TO TAKE A SELFIE IN AN EXTREMELY RISKY SITUATION. BUT THAT'S ALSO ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO LOSE ONE'S LIFE. AS TRAVEL PICKS UP AFTER TWO YEARS OF THE PANDEMIC, **999** LOOKS AT WHAT MAKES SELFIE-HUNTERS PUT THEMSELVES IN HARM'S WAY

BY SANCHITA GUHA

All through 2021, while the whole world's attention was on one invisible enemy, the novel coronavirus — a thoroughly unwelcome visitor that came in 2020 and just refused to leave — there was another, very visible, ailment claiming lives. Most of us probably haven't spared it a thought, but the urge to take extremely risky selfies has killed dozens of people this year alone. As travel options reopen, with international flights and tourist visas getting back on track, there's concern that these "killfies" may increase in frequency in 2022.

A study published at the end of October 2021 in the *Journal of Travel Medicine* informed us that selfie deaths around the world numbered 31 in the first seven months of this year, and a total of 379 from 2008 to July 2021. The research was undertaken by the iO Foundation, a Spanish scientific organisation dedicated to the study of tropical and travel-related diseases.

So, there you have it; it's official — the uncontrollable urge to risk death for a selfie is a disease. Like every fatal disease, it leaves behind grieving family members and takes up state resources, e.g. time and money spent on retrieving the selfie-seeker's body and paying compensation if and when the law necessitates it. All because someone was so fascinated by their own face that they had to pose for a picture at the edge of a cliff with a 100-foot drop below (in Belgium, November 2021); or try to balance themselves at the edge of a waterfall (in Hong Kong, July 2021).

In the UAE, a 16-year-old Asian girl had died in October 2019 after falling from Al Kharbash Tower in Dubai, close to the Dubai Mall intersection. She was reportedly standing on a chair, close to the balcony guardrail, trying to photograph herself with the iconic Burj Khalifa. She lost her balance, went over the rail, and fell 17 floors to the ground, dying on the spot.

India, which leads the list of nations with deadly selfie incidents (100 since 2008), saw astounding cases of selfie-related recklessness in September 2017 and May 2019, when two men brought death upon themselves in a similar manner — they had both tried to click selfies with agitated and distressed wild elephants, whose forest corridor was cut off by human settlements. Both the men were attacked



A study published at the end of October 2021 in the *Journal of Travel Medicine* informed us that selfie deaths around the world numbered 31 in the first seven months of this year, and a total of 379 from 2008 to July 2021

by the nervous elephants and died from their injuries. It's customary, in such cases, for the local population to start protesting against "man-animal conflict" and demand a huge compensation for the families of the dead. But the fact is, neither of them would've died, had it not been for their reckless behaviour.

REASONS FOR RISKY SELFIES

"Why on earth did they have to do that?" is usually the question that springs to mind when we hear of extreme selfies resulting in death. One of the most notorious cases in Russia, the country that's third in the list (33 selfie deaths since 2008) of iO Foundation, is of 17-year-old Andrey Retrovsky. He regularly and intentionally put himself in harm's way, hanging from somewhere high on a multi-storeyed building or from scaffolding. In September 2015, his recklessness ended — as did his life — when the young adult fell from a building. He had secured himself with a rope to look as if he was falling from the nine-storey building; the rope failed, and that one stunt became his last.

Interestingly, shortly before this death in

Russia, a parkour athlete captured a photo of himself standing atop one of the tallest structures in Estonia, in June 2015. As he stood at the very top of the building, with just enough space for his feet, 17-year-old Ervin Punker appeared to be standing on air, with a whole city spread out way, way below him. In the viral photograph, he is seen holding a selfie stick, a tool he used to snap himself and his fellow climbers Keivo Pint and Jüri Uluots at various places high on the building. Their motivation, Punker told the media later, was "to climb the tower because it seemed like a great challenge and an amazing experience".

This was a climb planned in detail — they had to get past the building security, too — and the result could be called literally the pinnacle of selfies. Unfortunately, it may have inspired some killfies.

These sensational photographs are usually circulated widely across the Internet, and every time a stunt is successful, many others begin to believe that they can pull something off, too.

In his blog 'How far will you go for the



“ In some cases, they have distorted views about their potential. This can be a dangerous state of mind for someone perched next to a cliff with a selfie stick in one hand



KEVIN BENNETT, PHD

Professor of Psychology, Pennsylvania State University Beaver Campus

perfect Instagram selfie?’, posted on Psychology Today on September 28, 2021, Kevin Bennett, a teaching professor in social-personality psychology, and programme coordinator of the psychology baccalaureate degree at The Pennsylvania State University, Beaver Campus, United States, wrote: “Just like spiders and snakes, high places have been around throughout evolutionary history and can trigger a similar state of fear and inhibition. Many of us have a visceral response to standing on the edge of a mountain, but why do some people seem immune to this feeling?”

He then went on to explain that people taking extreme selfies, including those from a very high place, had three things in common: thrill-seeking, narcissistic tendencies, and low anxiety. Elaborating on each aspect, Bennett wrote:

Thrill-seeking: “Thrill-seekers, or risk-takers, sometimes crave activities that have an element of physical danger or risk of being caught doing something illegal or malicious. Because these ‘sensation seekers’ have little concern for their own safety or the safety of others, they will try to convince people around them to engage in risky behaviour. In some contexts, this may seem fun, until it becomes clear to others that this goes beyond what is normally acceptable.”

Narcissistic tendencies: “There is an inflated sense of importance and competitiveness motivating behaviour that becomes the driving force behind attaining positions of power, fame, and status. In some cases, they have distorted

views about their potential and have trouble seeing themselves and their talents the way others do. This type of grandiosity leads narcissists to believe that normal safety rules and customs do not apply to them. This can be a dangerous state of mind for someone perched next to a cliff with a selfie stick in one hand.”

Low anxiety: “A moderate amount of anxiety is a good thing. Especially if you are 2,000 feet up on a windy day with a mobile device in your hands. People with very low levels of anxiety have psychological danger detectors that are calibrated differently from the rest of us. Ancestral threats like snakes, spiders, and heights don’t bother them any more than modern dangers such as fast-moving automobile traffic, firearms, razor blades weaponised, nanotechnology, pollution, fried foods, alcohol, drug overdoses, decompression, power drills, and helicopters. ‘We are all going to die from something,’ says your no-stress, low-anxiety friend.”

WARNING AND INSURANCE

In March 2017, a warning was issued by Dubai Municipality against people whom a local newspaper described as “selfie-adventurists”. The warning followed a February 2017 video-cum-selfie stunt by a 23-year-old model. In her stunt carried out at the top of a 1,000-foot high tower in Dubai, the woman stood on a horizontal beam — only half her feet were on the beam — and leaned back, as if falling into the dizzying void below. All that kept her from falling was her right hand gripped by

her helper.

After that, she climbed off the beam and just hung there in the air, held by her helper’s hand, looking up at the camera strapped to the helper’s chin — her image was not a selfie, but had the same angle of view as a selfie. No security equipment seemed to have been used, making this one of the most sensational highrise stunts ever carried out in the UAE.

In the official warning that came later, Khalid Mohammed Sharif, Assistant Director General for Environment, Health and Safety Control Sector, Dubai Municipality, said that such acts were strongly prohibited, except in places that were fully insured by the competent authorities in Dubai. “We want to reduce the risks that may result from lack of safety requirements in public places and buildings or the risks that occur as a result of dangerous practices due to the hobbies and adventures practised by some people, endangering their lives,” he said.

In an official circular issued by Dubai Municipality, it was made obligatory for owners and managers of public places and buildings to ensure that there was round-the-clock security and surveillance to prevent selfie-hunters and other unauthorised people from sneaking into buildings and climbing from inside or outside. “The circular also pointed towards the need for installing CCTV system, electronic sensors and safety systems that ensure that unauthorised access to those places is restricted,” said Sharif.

The risks taken by some people to

KILLFIES OF 2021

WHO DIED: ZOE SNOEKS**WHEN: NOVEMBER 2021****WHERE: BELGIUM**

Zoe Snoeks, 33, was travelling with her husband Joeri Janssen in their camper van when she decided to stop and take a selfie at the edge of a cliff. The couple was travelling with their dogs, and as she positioned herself on the cliff, she told her husband to see that the dogs were okay. The husband reported later that he turned to look at the dogs, and as he turned around, his wife was no longer where she stood — she had disappeared, having fallen about 100 feet below the cliff, in the province of Luxembourg. She fell into the river Ourthe, and her body was recovered by a rescue team of police, firefighters, scuba divers, and others.

Her husband said about the accident, “I turned to the dogs and told them to wait. When I turned back to Zoe, she was no longer there. She had just vanished. It must have happened in less than five seconds. I didn’t see or hear anything. No rustling, no screams or shouts. I looked up and saw only dust.”

**WHO DIED: HATICE NUR KARABULUT****WHEN: OCTOBER 2021****WHERE: TURKEY**

Hatice Nur Karabulut, 21, was trying to take a selfie in a location made famous by the James Bond film *Skyfall*. On a trip to the Turkish province of Adana, she and her cousin Mazlum Sozeri, 26, tried to take a selfie, keeping the century-old Varda Viaduct in the background — that’s the bridge on which Agent 007 fights a villain on top of a moving train and gets shot by mistake. As they tried to find the right selfie position from a high spot, Karabulut lost her balance and Sozeri tried to grab her. Both of them fell around 164 feet. By the time emergency services reached the spot, Karabulut was dead. Luckily, Sozeri survived.

**WHO DIED: SOFIA CHEUNG****WHEN: JULY 2021****WHERE: HONG KONG**

At 32, Sofia Cheung had made a name for herself as a daredevil influencer on Instagram. She would often share photos of herself at cliff edges and mountaintops, though she wasn’t holding the camera in any of them.

This year, Cheung tried taking a selfie with her friends, standing at the edge of a waterfall. The scenic location was at a nature park in Hong Kong. Fun turned to grief in a moment, as it was very slippery where she stood, and she lost her footing. Cheung fell 16 feet off Tsing Dai stream, into a deep pool below.




get headline-making selfies —some of those may become killfies — have also been noted by insurance companies. It was reported by UAE media in January 2020 that “killfie life insurance” was being offered by some companies in view of the trend. Of course, the pandemic was waiting to explode on the world, and as life came to a halt in early 2020, nothing more was heard of this. But global travel revival in 2022 might see “killfie

insurance” becoming commonplace, if the risk-taking continues unabated.

Speaking on the subject in a UAE media interview, Stephane Vigroux, Co-founder of Parkour DXB, was quoted as saying that parkour, though often seen as a dangerous sport, was practised with respect for life and only after intensive training. “What I see now with this trend of people taking these extreme photos and videos makes me sick to the stomach,”

he said. “It’s ego-driven, like modelling in a dangerous environment. They’re always wearing the latest fashions and look impeccable and it attracts views as the setting is always these spectacular environments.

“There’s no respect for life. It’s a tragic waste. You have to be responsible for your actions and you can only do that if you understand what that means physically and mentally.”



Shared Journey

THREE EXPATS LOOK BACK AT THE DECADES OVER WHICH THE UAE TRANSFORMED ITSELF FROM A DESERT LAND TO A DYNAMIC AND PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY. THEY TELL **999** HOW THEIR WORLD GREW WITH IT, TOO

BY TESSY KOSHY

Photo courtesy of Tahira Usman



A view of Dubai in 1972

UAE National Archives

From a land covered with sand dunes to one dotted with skyscrapers, from drinking water being sold on donkeys to a space probe being sent to Mars, the UAE in its 50th year tells a story of awe-inspiring transformation towards unprecedented success and incredible modernity.

Along with the rapid metamorphosis, it's a nation that values not only its citizens, but also its residents from over 200 countries. People from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Philippines represent the largest section of expats in the nation. Many of them have been here for more than five decades and call the UAE their home. Three such expats go down memory lane, to share their life's journey along with the progress they've witnessed in this young nation.

Fatima Mamnoon, 78, first came to the UAE in 1965 to visit her elder sister, who was

based in Sharjah. The Indian expat became a resident in 1967 and later co-founded one of the oldest English medium schools in Sharjah — Ibn Seena English High School.

Dr Kishan Thariani, 78, a specialist doctor of internal medicine, came from Mumbai, India, to work in the Central Hospital, Abu Dhabi, in 1973. Filled with fond memories of seeing the capital city reinvent itself from a largely sandy settlement to its current bustling status, he was fortunate to have even met the Father of the Nation, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Pakistani expat Tahira Usman, 73, has been in the UAE since 1973. The home-maker got married in Dubai, and is now a happy grandmother. She spent many years in Karama and Satwa, living in a vibrant community of people from many nationalities. Hugely grateful to the country's leaders, she thanks them every moment for the fulfilling life she has led till now.

Looking back at the time they've spent here, these three expats speak at length to **999** about the formative years of the UAE and how the country has shaped their own lives.



Dr Kishan with his daughter at Dubai Fort, 1974



Tahira with her son and relative at Dubai airport 1975



Sheikh Zayed during a flag-hoisting ceremony at Al Diyah Palace in Jumeirah, Dubai following the proclamation of the Union of the United Arab Emirates, December 2, 1971

“The day of the unification was a historic moment for all of us. There was much fanfare — music, people out in their cars. It was truly the coming together of the joint vision of the leaders of all the emirates



FATIMA MAMNOON
78-year-old UAE expat

‘THE UAE LEADERS BELIEVE IN HUMILITY’

After getting a Master’s degree in Early Childhood Education from the United States, Fatima first arrived in Dubai in 1965 en route to her home country, India. Her elder sister, Dr Zulekha Daud, a well-known physician, was based in Sharjah and Fatima wanted to spend a few days with her. “In those days, the UAE had not yet been constituted; the land was largely barren. I had come from a cold country, wearing a woolen overcoat, into a very hot and humid Dubai Airport,” she recalls.

There was only a single road from Dubai to Sharjah, and along the way, Fatima could spot homes of Bedouins made of palm leaves with camels grazing around them. “After that first visit, I came back two years later in 1967, with my husband, who had been offered a job in an architectural firm in Sharjah,” she says.

Three years later, Fatima started working in a school in Sharjah. Around that time, the unification of the six emirates took place on December 2, 1971, with Ras Al Khaimah joining in early 1972. “The day of the unification was a historic moment for all of us. There was much fanfare — music, people out in their cars. It was truly the coming together of the joint vision of the leaders of all the emirates,” she shares.

In front of her eyes, Fatima witnessed the fast-paced development of the country — roads, bridges, hospitals getting constructed; better electricity supply; and the increasing availability of all varieties of food. That was also the time when people from different countries were finding jobs in the UAE, settling here, raising families here. The

need for affordable schools offering quality education was a concern for many parents in Sharjah.

With her past experience in education, Fatima co-founded Ibn Seena English High School in 1978, along with her childhood friend Gabrielle Dube. “We wanted to establish a school that encouraged children’s curiosity and instilled in them self-discipline. Now, as our school completes 43 years, we can boast of alumni who have graduated from MIT, Stanford, Oxford, and Yale,” she tells 999 proudly.

Just as her students have risen to eminence in their careers, the UAE, too, has surpassed all expectations in achieving its milestones, says Fatima. From constructing iconic buildings such as Burj Khalifa and Gevora Hotel, to being one of the safest countries in the world, to hosting the Expo, the UAE continues to be a land of opportunities and excellence.

“The country has always been welcoming and tolerant to all expats. It’s a nation that respects everyone and its leaders believe in humility. I recall so many instances when policemen and local people readily came to our assistance. Once, my car broke down on Maktoum Bridge and immediately people in three other cars stopped to help. I hope this tradition of Emirati generosity continues in the future generations as well,” she says.

‘I WILL FOREVER CHERISH MEETING SHEIKH ZAYED’

A post-graduate in internal medicine, Dr Kishan Thariani came to Abu Dhabi on June 14, 1973, to work as a medical officer in the Central Hospital, affiliated to the Ministry of Health. He vividly recalls his first day in the country. “I was staying in Zakir Hotel, opposite Al Mariah Theatre on Najda Street. From the window, all I could see were vast stretches of sand.



Fatima Mamnoon with her son on a road trip to Fujairah 1980s



UAE National Archives

The Union Founders, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, smiling fondly at each other, November 1975

“I have seen the UAE grow in front of my eyes — from a few small buildings to huge towers and hotels, to accommodate temples and churches



DR KISHAN THARIANI

78-year-old UAE expat

Driving through nine countries by road, they presented a memento of peace, with a message from Sheikh Zayed, to the cultural representatives of each nation they visited.

Now a Golden Visa holder, Dr Thariani continues to be in awe of the stupendous development the nation has achieved in a short span of time. “I have seen the UAE grow in front of my eyes — from a few small buildings to huge towers and hotels, to accommodate temples and churches.

Looking at the striking structures such as Sheikh Zayed Mosque, Emirates Palace, Palm Jumeirah as well as the highly efficient Metro Rail system and the future talks about Hyperloop and driverless cars, I believe what’s available in the UAE today may be a distant dream for many other countries,” he shares.

On my first night itself, I got a call from the hospital to report to the Emergency Department. The next morning, I encountered a severe burns patient, who incidentally happened to be my father’s friend,” he says.

In the UAE for the past 48 years, Dr Thariani now works in Rahat Medical Centre, Abu Dhabi. Looking back at the decades, he says that he has had a very simple yet rewarding life in the country, which offers safety and security to one and all. Along with his flourishing medical practice, he saw the nation’s health care sector also expand tremendously.

“When I first started working [in the UAE], there were no coronary care units, ICUs, and no advance investigations. We had to treat all kinds of patients. Everything was free of cost. Over time, a range of facilities were installed. Now, of course, there are excellent medical services in the country,” he shares.

At Central Hospital, the doctor was fortunate to have met Sheikh Zayed a couple of times. “It was truly an honour to have met the Father of the Nation. It’s a memory that I will cherish for my entire lifetime,” he says. In 1981, when the then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, visited the UAE, the doctor was part of the

medical team for her personal assistance.

From the beginning, Dr Thariani has had a great relationship with all his colleagues. This also led to an active social life in both the Indian community and amongst Emiratis. As a community initiative, in 1992, along with 12 others, he went on a unique peace rally from Abu Dhabi to London.



WAM

Sheikh Zayed visiting Ghayathi Hospital, 1981



The late Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum photographed in front of a rock wall in Dubai, 1948

'SHEIKH RASHID WOULD STOP BY AND SPEAK TO PEOPLE'

It was to visit a few of her relatives that Tahira Usman came to Dubai in March 1973 from Pakistan. A few months later, she got married and started a family, living in the old Karama area in Dubai. "I was very happy to have started my life in the UAE. I found it to be a very peaceful and calm country, with very clean streets and a few scattered buildings here and there," she reminisces.

Like her, the newly formed UAE was young and blossoming. Oil and gas

revenues were transforming the country. Under an insightful leadership, the desert was slowly being cultivated to include green spaces. Back then, the expat community was also steadily increasing. Tahira, a mother of three, living away from her own family, found a sisterhood amongst her neighbours.

Life in those times, she says, had its share of challenges, too. Means of transport were few; shared taxis were the best mode of travel. Some people had to fill water from taps in their localities. Air-conditioning in homes

“Wherever I go in the UAE, be it government offices or hospitals, I’m treated with so much respect.

I never want to leave this country and go anywhere



TAHIRA USMAN
73-year-old UAE expat

was also limited. Most buildings were single-storeyed. A few years later, in 1979, when Sheikh Rashid Tower, aka Dubai World Trade Centre, came up, at 184 metres with 38 floors, everyone, including Tahira, was in awe of this magnificent structure. "Today, the whole country is covered with tall buildings, but the Trade Centre will always remain special for us," she adds.

After living for a few years in Karama, Tahira and her husband, a banker, moved to the Satwa area in Dubai. She recalls frequently spotting the blue Mercedes of the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, former ruler of Dubai, in her neighbourhood. "Very benevolent and kind, he would stop by on the road and speak to people, help them if they needed anything. I was always so overwhelmed seeing him, I could never muster the courage to speak to him," she recalls.

Extremely satisfied with her children's education, she gives credit to their formative years in the UAE, for providing them with the knowledge to do well in their professions. While her son lives in Dubai, her daughters have corporate careers in Australia and Canada.

A few years ago, she lost her husband, who breathed his last in the UAE. Tahira also wants to spend the rest of her days in the country that she truly believes is her home. "Wherever I go in the UAE, be it government offices or hospitals, I'm treated with so much respect. I never want to leave this country and go anywhere. My children also proudly say that they are from the UAE," she says.

TOP 10 SUPERFOODS FOR YOUR DIET PLAN

WHETHER YOU WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT OR
SIMPLY EAT BETTER, IT'S EASY TO INCLUDE THESE
FOODS IN YOUR DAILY MEAL ROUTINE

BY NASEEF CHENATH



The term “superfood” refers to any food containing a large proportion of nutrients, well-known health benefits, and no or comparatively few adverse properties. Though there’s no exact legal or medical definition, superfoods are nutrient generators that pack a huge volume of antioxidants, polyphenols, vitamins, and minerals.

In reality, there’s no term as a “superfood” in the parlance of dietitians and nutrition scientists. It was coined for marketing aspirations to impact food trends and sell products. The food industry puts the superfood label on nutrient-rich foods with a proven capacity to improve health. While many foods are labelled as “super”, it’s essential to understand that there’s no food that ensures complete health or disease prevention.

Many people have unrealistic expectations concerning these foods, thinking they’ll be protected from health problems just by consuming them. A poor diet coupled with a few superfoods won’t get you anywhere. Eating too much of one kind of food is also wrong. What we need is a wide palette of nutrients from different sources.

Also, obtaining optimal health through food and nutrition is not just about focusing on one or two of the recent food fads. Good health is always supported by eating a variety of nutritious foods every day along with physical activities.

Consuming some or all of the foods listed here as part of a balanced diet can benefit your overall health.

1 KEFIR

Kefir is a fermented beverage produced from milk that comprises calcium, B vitamins, protein, probiotics, and potassium. It's similar to yoghurt but has a thinner consistency and generally contains more probiotic strains than yoghurt. Kefir provides many related health advantages, including improved digestion, reduced cholesterol, lowered blood pressure, and anti-inflammatory benefits. Though kefir is traditionally generated from cow's milk, it's usually well tolerated by people with lactose intolerance, thanks to the fermentation. Apart from dairy products, it can also be made from coconut milk, coconut water, and rice milk. Be mindful of added sugar if you're choosing a commercially prepared product.

2 GARLIC

A well-known plant food that's closely related to onions, leeks and shallots, garlic is an excellent source of vitamin C, manganese, selenium, vitamin B6, and fibre. It's a popular culinary ingredient because of its distinct flavour, but it has also been used for its medicinal benefits from time immemorial. Researches point out that garlic may be effective in reducing cholesterol and blood pressure, as well as supporting immune function. Moreover, the sulfur-containing compounds in garlic may even play a role in preventing certain types of cancer.

3 OLIVE OIL

Since it contains high levels of monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs) and polyphenolic compounds, using olive oil on a daily basis is likely to lower inflammation and the risk of certain illnesses, such as heart disease and diabetes. It also comprises antioxidants, including vitamins E and K, which can protect against cellular damage from oxidative stress. Olive oil is one of the primary fat sources in the Mediterranean diet, which is deemed highly beneficial in reducing heart disease, diabetes and other inflammatory conditions.

4 AVOCADO

Though often treated more like a vegetable in culinary applications, avocado is a highly nutritious fruit, which is rich in many nutrients, including fibre, vitamins, minerals and healthy fats. Similar to olive oil, avocado contains plenty of MUFAs. Oleic acid is the most important MUFA in avocado, which is associated with lessened inflammation in the body. Eating avocado tends to reduce your risk of heart disease, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, and certain types of cancer.

5 SWEET POTATO

A famed root vegetable loaded with many nutrients, including potassium, fibre, and vitamins A and C, sweet potato provides a good source of carotenoids, a type of antioxidant that's said to lower the risk of some cancers. Despite their sweet flavour, sweet potatoes do not raise blood sugar as much as you might expect. In contrast, they may actually improve blood sugar control in those with type 2 diabetes.

6 MUSHROOMS

Though their nutrient content varies based on the type, mushrooms are loaded with high levels of vitamin A, fibre, potassium, and numerous antioxidants not found in most other foods. Interestingly, eating more mushrooms is connected with greater consumption of vegetables in general, adding to an overall more nutritious diet. Given their unique antioxidant content, mushrooms may have a significant impact in lowering inflammation and preventing certain types of cancers, according to nutritionists.



Another vital feature of mushrooms is that agricultural waste products are used to grow them, making them a sustainable component of a healthy food system.

7 GREEN TEA

Originated in China, green tea is rich in antioxidants and polyphenolic compounds, which combine strong anti-inflammatory benefits. One of the most crucial antioxidants in green tea is the catechin epigallocatechin gallate, or EGCG, which is likely what gives green tea its apparent ability to protect against chronic diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Research indicates that the presence of caffeine and catechins in green tea may make it an outstanding tool for weight loss in some people.

8 EGGS

Whole eggs are rich in a host of nutrients, including vitamins, selenium, choline, iron, vitamin A, and phosphorus. Along with high-quality protein, eggs are packed with two potent antioxidants, zeaxanthin and lutein, which are known to safeguard eye health and vision. In spite of fears pertaining to egg consumption and high cholesterol, research indicates no measurable rise in diabetes risk or heart disease from eating up to 6-12 eggs a week. In fact, having eggs could increase “good” HDL cholesterol in some people, which may lead to a favourable reduction in heart disease risk.

9 TURMERIC

Originally from India, turmeric is used for cooking and its medicinal benefits. Curcumin, the active compound in turmeric, contains strong antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties and is the primary focus of most research

connected to turmeric. Studies indicate that curcumin may be beneficial in treating and preventing chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. In addition, it may also support healing wounds and reducing pain. However, one drawback of using curcumin medicinally is that your body doesn't absorb it easily; but its absorption can be improved by pairing it with fats or other spices such as black pepper.

10 SALMON

Salmon is a remarkably nutritious fish packed with healthy

fats, vitamins, protein, selenium, and potassium.

It provides one of the best sources of omega-3 fatty acids, which are famed for many health benefits, such as reducing inflammation. Adding salmon to your diet tends to lower your risk of diabetes and heart disease as well as help you keep a healthy weight. A potential drawback of salmon and other varieties of seafood is their potential contamination due to contact with heavy metals and other pollutants. You can avoid these negative effects by limiting your fish consumption to two to three servings per week.

Did you know?

First consumed by the Aztecs as an endurance booster, Spirulina is considered a superfood. It once became a key element that NASA used for its astronauts' diets in space. The rest of the world began to enjoy this superfood immensely after people realised NASA used it for its superior nutritional profile. For example, the iron content of Spirulina beats raw spinach and is equal to red meat.



LEFT BREATHLESS

UNSUSPECTING VICTIMS ENDED UP BOUND, BRUISED,
OR SCORCHED WHILE GASPING FOR AIR IN THE FINAL
MOMENTS OF THEIR LIVES

BY NEIL BIE



STOCKING STRANGLER

WHEN: 1962-1964

WHERE: BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

During the early 1960s, Boston residents shivered in fear for their lives after 13 single women aged 19-85 were brutally strangled to death in their apartments.

The wave of deaths began in June 1962, when police officers found the body of 56-year-old Anna Elsa Šlesers; she was sexually assaulted and strangled with the belt on her bathrobe. In the same month, police officers also found the bodies of Mary Mullen (82), Nina Frances Nichols (68), and Helen Elizabeth Blake (65). Mary was found to have died of a heart attack when she collapsed, while both Nina and Helen were strangled with their nylon stockings.

As police officers struggled to find the killer, the media began coining the terms 'Boston Strangler' and 'Silk Stocking Murders' to refer to the deaths, especially after the police revealed that the killer was still on the loose. Ida Irga (74), and Jane Sullivan (67) died in August, followed by Sophie Clark (20), and Patricia Bisette (22) in December, all in eerily similar circumstances.

In 1963, the 'Boston Strangler' took the lives of Mary Brown (69) in March, Beverly Samans (26) in May, Marie Corbin (58) in September, and Joann Graff (22) in November. The serial killer's last victim was 19-year-old Mary Anne Sullivan in January 1964.

The majority of the killings had several things in common: no signs of forced entry in their homes, which signified that the women allowed the stranger inside or perhaps they knew who the killer was.

The authorities also suspected that the killer might have been in disguise as a delivery guy or someone who did maintenance for their respective buildings.

In October 1964, Albert DeSalvo was apprehended after one of his victims who

came out alive provided a clear description of his face. During his time in prison, Albert confessed to his cellmate, George Nassar, that he was the Boston Strangler. George took it upon himself to share the information with his lawyer, F Lee Bailey, who also took on the defence of Albert.

However, Albert was ready to confess to the killings. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1967. He temporarily got out when he escaped from the Bridgewater State Hospital during a check-up, but turned himself in once again. Albert was then transferred to the Walpole State Prison, a maximum-security facility. In six years' time, Albert was found stabbed to death in the prison infirmary.



Albert DeSalvo

Boston Globe

UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE

WHEN: MARCH 2019

WHERE: TULSA, OKLAHOMA, USA

Cynthia Mayfield from California leaped at the opportunity to be with her husband, Brandon Smith, in Tulsa when they got married decades ago. Over the years, they had four loving children and lived an ideal life, but things took a turn for the worse when Brandon began using drugs.

Brandon took several illegal drugs, including heroin, cocaine, mushrooms, marijuana, LSD, and methamphetamine. He even engaged in sending illicit text messages to minors, much to the horror of Cynthia. This was aggravated when Brandon started to become abusive to his wife, who was forced to sleep in a different room without any doors or a bed. Cynthia slept on the floor with only a pillow and a blanket, while Brandon slept comfortably in a room with a queen-sized bed, a television, and a door for his own privacy. During the day, Brandon made sure that Cynthia followed all of his whims and needs.

In 2019, Cynthia had enough of the abusive relationship and decided to end it by planning her move back home to California. However, when Brandon learnt about Cynthia's plans, he snapped and strangled Cynthia until she was no longer breathing.

Brandon immediately phoned a relative to pick up their children at home, after the crime. When the relative checked



Brandon Smith

Tulsa County Jail

Cynthia's pulse, they immediately instructed Brandon to call 911. Brandon was then instructed by the 911 operator to perform CPR. However, Brandon responded that he didn't want to do it since the victim was dead for over an hour already.

During the trials, Brandon's daughter Carol (real name withheld), testified that his father had indeed been abusive over the past years: "He was endlessly cruel and vicious. My heart aches knowing how she (my mother) suffered."

Two years later, in May 2021, Brandon pleaded guilty to the death of Cynthia and got sentenced to 210 months in federal prison.

DECLINED PROPOSAL

WHEN: FEBRUARY 2010

WHERE: BÆRUM, OSLO, NORWAY

It was an ordinary day for 26-year-old Pakistani-Norwegian Faiza Ashraf, who was waiting for her bus from Bærum on her way to work to downtown Oslo in Norway one morning in February 2010. While she stood alone at the bus stop, 25-year-old Håvard Nyfløt pulled up his car alongside Faiza, strangled her, and forcibly put her into the trunk.

Faiza immediately called the police, but couldn't determine her location since she was in the trunk. After several minutes, Håvard stopped the car and Faiza hid her phone. He confessed to Faiza that he was being paid NOK 100,000 (Dhs43,150) by another person to kidnap her and that he didn't intend to harm her in any way before he continued driving.

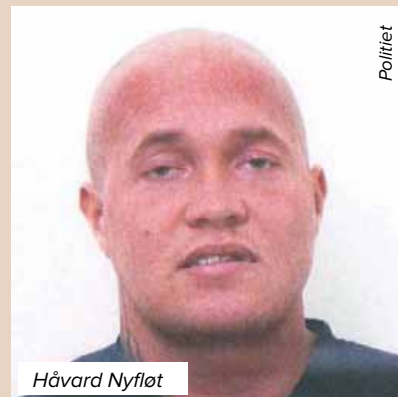
While she was in the trunk, Faiza made another call to the police and relayed the information she got, as well as the description of her kidnapper. She also deduced and shared with the authorities that her kidnapping might have been planned by a certain 'Khan' who, she said, had been 'obsessed' with marrying her for the past five years. Faiza also shared that 'Khan' had been harassing and tormenting her during this period when she declined his marriage proposal.

Håvard kept Faiza in the trunk during the long drive. When they arrived at the forests of Solli in Asker, he was in shock when he found that Faiza was already unresponsive. He then dragged Faiza's body to a shallow grave to bury her. Afterwards, he ensured that no evidence was left in his trunk; he not only vacuumed it but also used a makeshift blowtorch to burn any other evidence.

Police sent out a missing persons notice the morning after and arrested 28-year-old Shamrez Khan in Oslo as the suspect behind the kidnapping. Both police and civilian volunteers gathered to find Faiza at the place where her phone was last used, but to no avail.

A week later, the authorities arrested Håvard, who confessed that he did the deed under orders from Shamrez. He also confessed that in order to pay his gambling debt, he took the money from Khan and kidnapped Faiza. Shamrez stated that he wanted her kidnapped and tortured but not murdered.

A year later, in May 2011, Håvard and Shamrez were convicted of second-degree murder of Faiza in the initial trial, where they were sentenced to eight years and 17 years, respectively. When the two attempted to appeal the decision, it only aggravated their situation after they were convicted of premeditated murder when the court learned that the shallow grave had been prepared in advance. Håvard's jail time increased to 18 years, while Shamrez was sentenced to 19 years. Both men were also fined NOK 200,000 (Dhs86,250) as compensation to Faiza's family.



Håvard Nyfløt

Politiet

FATAL CONVERSATION

WHEN: APRIL 2016

WHERE: CROW RESERVATION, MONTANA, USA

In April 2016, Roylynn Rides Horse, 28, had a heated argument with her boyfriend at the Kirby Saloon on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. Her friend Angelica Whiteman, 26, then offered her a ride home with two Sanchez brothers, Dimarzio and Frank.

While on the road, Roylynn and Angelica got into a heated argument over a man, which quickly intensified into violence. Angelica asked Dimarzio to stop the vehicle, and then dragged Roylynn out of the car and continued to beat her before strangling her. At this point, Dimarzio offered to teach Angelica how to "strangle a human properly". He choked Roylynn with a bandana and ordered his brother to retrieve gasoline from their car, which they used to burn Roylynn, and then left her to die in a field.

It took more than half a day, around 14 hours, before a passing motorist noticed Roylynn's burned, naked body on the side of the road. At that time, Roylynn managed to survive despite the serious injuries and burns she suffered. Roylynn's body was airlifted to the Crow Agency Hospital and was then transferred to the University of Utah Hospital Burn Centre. Doctors and investigators found that Roylynn attempted to save



(L-R) Dimarzio Swade Sanchez, Angelica Whiteman, Frank Sanchez (Photo courtesy of Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office)

herself by walking for 3 miles to search for help even after being set on fire.

Roylynn initially survived her burns and bruises, giving enough for federal authorities to track down Angelica in May 2016, and the Sanchez brothers in June 2016. However, she succumbed to her injuries by the end of the same month.

A year later, Dimarzio was sentenced to mandatory life in prison, and five years of supervised release. The jury convicted Dimarzio in December 2017 of first degree murder/aiding and abetting murder. Angelica was sentenced to 40 years in prison, and five years of supervised release, after pleading guilty in August 2017 to aiding and abetting first degree murder. Frank was sentenced to nine years in prison and three years of supervised release. Frank also pleaded guilty in March 2017 to accessory after the fact and to misprision of a felony.

THE GOLD THIEF

HAVING FALLEN UPON HARD TIMES, A YOUNG GIRL
COMMITS A CRIME IN THE HOUSE OF HER LOYAL AND
TRUSTING FRIEND

BY WAGIH HASSAN

No lust for wealth is worth the loss of a true friendship, but when greed takes over, judgement is clouded, and the hand reaches for something it shouldn't touch. This is what happened between Rama and Wafa, two young friends in very different family circumstances.

The story of Rama is a strange and

interesting one, challenging and full of conflicts. She went from being a high-school student at the doorstep of university life to being a criminal.

As students attending the same high school, Rama and Wafa were good friends. The two of them would meet after school to study together at Wafa's house, and this is where Rama's slide into lies and crime

began.

From birth, Rama had lived in reasonable affluence. Her father, a contractor, never held back in giving her anything she wanted. As the youngest daughter, Rama was spoiled. Her sister Naela, who graduated from university two years ago, worked as a bank employee for a decent salary.

In fact, Rama knew what luxury was; she

was envied by many students for her elegant clothes and stylish grooming.

But it all disappeared. The happiness in her family turned into despair — debts swamped her father.

These debts stained his relationships with members of his family, and his involvement with those around him. Sad and depressed, the father stayed at home, reliving his days. He stayed away from people, even those close to his heart, as “loans are worries at night and humiliation in the day”.

The family’s financial situation had declined, but the spoiled Rama was not able to accept this unexpected turn of events.

One day, Rama was awakened from her daydreaming about past wealth, as her mother’s voice said, “Your friend Wafa is on the phone.” Wafa had called to remind Rama that the latter was late for their joint study sessions.

On that day, when entering her friend’s house, Rama found herself staring in all directions, looking at the house’s lavish furnishings and all its assets, as if making a comparison between her own life and that of her friend Wafa, whose parents were well off.

As they sat down to drink juice, Rama shocked Wafa with a question: “Does your father still work in general contracting?”

Wafa said, “Yes, but why are you asking?”

Rama replied, “No, nothing.”

Then Rama moved on to another topic.

The joint study sessions were meant to be a daily plan. Wafa had requested that Rama come to her house for this, as it was practically empty. Her family remained busy all day outside the house and she had no siblings.

Wafa was so attached to Rama and trusted her so much that she gave her friend a duplicate key to the house, enabling her to come and go as she pleased. Receiving this key from Wafa led Rama down the road to crime.

One day, Rama learned from Wafa that her parents were attending an engagement party at a luxury hotel, so no one would be home that day. She seized the opportunity.

At night, Rama entered Wafa’s house using the duplicate key. In a few minutes, she picked up a box of precious jewellery from the mother’s closet and left the house.

After the family returned home from the engagement party, Wafa’s mother discovered that the box containing two kilograms of gold

jewellery for herself and her only daughter was missing.

The family immediately took this to be a case of theft by an outsider. They tried to think of every possible theory about how the thief could have come and gone.

Wafa’s father immediately filed a police report at the local station, describing the details of the incident. Within a few minutes, officer Youssef, head of the Criminal Investigation Department, and his colleagues were going over every scrap of evidence they could find, in an effort to identify who was responsible.

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The thief clearly knew where to look for things of value and went straight for the jewellery box, without touching anything else. This indicated that the thief was not a stranger

The officers also asked the family a series of questions to obtain further information, but none of the answers pointed fingers at anyone in particular.

The CID team checked for fingerprints and found no sign of disarrangement in the contents of the house — the thief clearly knew where to look for things of value and went straight for the jewellery box, without touching anything else. This indicated that the thief was not a stranger, and had probably entered the house through the main door.

A few days later, Wafa remembered having given duplicate house keys to her friend Rama, who had claimed to have lost the keys on a shopping trip. This information made the investigating officer suspicious about Rama’s role in the theft. He asked his team to look into Rama’s family affairs.

The investigations confirmed that Rama was not financially well-off any longer and

that she had a close friendship with Wafa.

The police decided to pay Rama a visit, and she immediately thought, “Oh, no! The theft has been exposed. What should I do?”

Soon, she was in tears and confessed to the police that she was the thief. Eyes moist and cheeks red with shame, she revealed how she had taken advantage of her kind, loving, and loyal friend.

As part of the investigation, Rama stated to officer Youssef, “Poverty is challenging, sir. Having grown up with my father in a life of luxury and affluence, I never imagined that we would reach the edge of bankruptcy and poverty.”

Taking a deep breath, she wiped her tears with a handkerchief and said, “My friend Wafa has been very kind to me. Due to her goodness, she believed me when I told her that the house keys were lost.

“Up until now, I’m not sure how I could have stolen jewellery from my friend and her mother. I gave one of my friends, named Dhabia, the jewellery to sell, since this is something I’m not aware of.”

Youssef asked if Dhabia knew this gold was stolen? “She has no idea it was stolen. She knows that I come from a wealthy family, and I convinced her that the gold was ours,” said Rama. “She sold a portion of the gold in the market, and I got the money.”

Despite her remorse, Rama was not spared the legal proceedings and was taken into police custody. The police then spoke to Wafa, informing her of how the theft had occurred.

Wafa was asked: “What do you say now about Rama, who stole your jewellery by deception?”

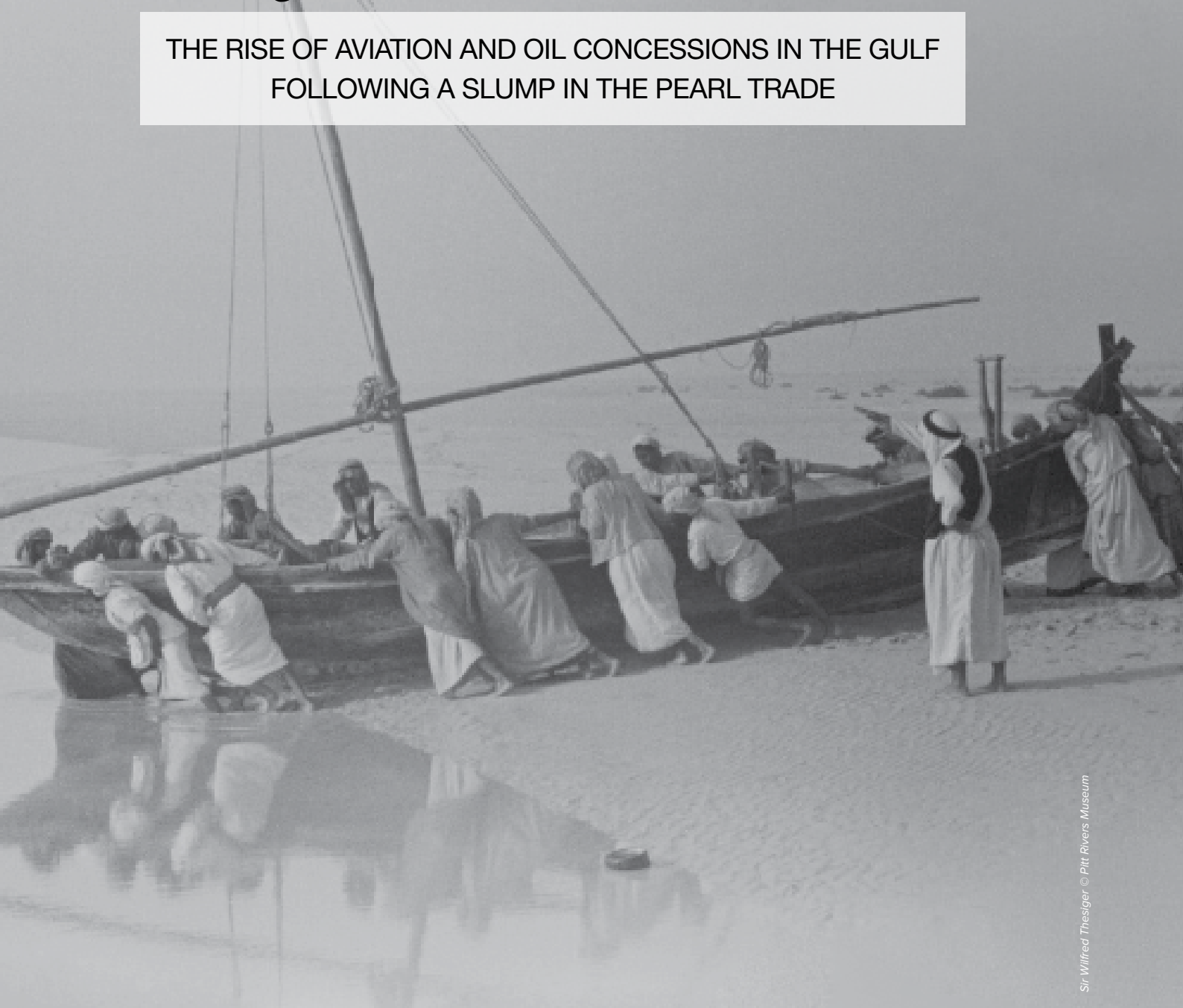
She replied, “I have nothing to say, sir. She needs to return the jewellery box. My concern, sir, is that I had a good relationship and loved her as a sister, but she has betrayed me. I’ve lost our friendship, and our good relationship has fallen apart. I offered her my heart and my home, but she ruined it all. The crime was planned with malicious intent, so now she must bear its true consequences, no matter how severe and cruel they may be.”

Silent for a while, Wafa said, “I’ll have nothing to do with her, sir. I only want the jewels returned.”

A trial and court decision followed, and Rama was sent to jail, having lost both her ill-gotten fortune and her friendship.

Pre-union economy of the Emirates

THE RISE OF AVIATION AND OIL CONCESSIONS IN THE GULF
FOLLOWING A SLUMP IN THE PEARL TRADE



Sir Wilfred Thesiger © Pitt Rivers Museum



UAE National Archives

An Emirati working on a traditional fishing boat (undated)

The Arab sociologist, philosopher and historian Ibn Khaldun wrote: “When writing history, we should never be ashamed of the changing conditions of nations and generations, as the world and nations, their customs and their solutions tend to change over time.”

Change is the norm of life, whereas stagnation and stillness go against human nature. Changes must be studied extensively, and sociology is concerned with showing life’s meaning in its impulse, its connections, its causes and its results, its laws and its rules. This cannot be ignored, skipped, or not considered.

For our purposes here, we will stop at 1966 and begin our research in the 1930s when the economic and financial parameters in the emirates changed, and the economic resources shifted from pearl-diving revenues to other sources of income. Consequently, economic and social conditions changed, too.

Prior to the shift to aviation and petroleum agreements, the UAE’s economy and financial resources were based on pearl-diving. The people lived in a state of scarcity of natural resources and

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AS A WHOLE, EARLY SOCIETY IN THE EMIRATES CONSISTED OF EITHER DESERT COMMUNITIES WITH OASES, OR COASTAL COMMUNITIES WITH ISLANDERS

relationship with nature for quite some time.

As a whole, early society in the emirates consisted of either desert communities with oases, or coastal communities with islanders. Further, there were agricultural communities in oases and on mountain slopes, as well as in the Shemalia region, which overlooks the Arabian Sea. The economy of the country was, therefore, based on what the land and the sea had to offer. As villagers had no industrial professions, they lacked familiarity with industrial transactions.

From an economic perspective, the marine community was more active, as it was based mostly on sea-related commercial activities, particularly the pearl trade. It generated the revenue upon which the emirate’s financial system, and even its political system, was based, making it the primary and dominant activity in the economy.

Farms were not economically profitable for the nation’s economy, as evidenced by the agricultural sector. They were a source of limited income for the owners, often derived from date crops, some vegetables, and livestock.

TAXES

Taxes were collected from two sources: Zakat, and diving yield taxes. Zakat revenues were not significant, or at least could not be considered a source of funding for the ruler’s treasury, because of the financial condition of the population.

Taxes on diving products were the main source of income for the country, and this revenue was known colloquially as “Al-Taraz”.

PURPOSE OF AL-TARAZ

Its purpose was to take 5 per cent of a pearl merchant's diving earnings for the sheikh's treasury. A ruler's duty at that time was to serve the nation by defending it, preserving its borders, administering justice, and applying Sharia.

The pearl trade played the largest, if not the only, part of the national income in all the emirates.

However, the year 1930 and the following years changed this equation, when the Japanese managed to cultivate artificial pearls and promoted them in the local markets of the emirates.

DUBAI FINDS SOLUTIONS

The emirate of Dubai was under the rule of Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum. The emirate, since the days of his father Sheikh Maktoum bin Hasher, had been an important economic hub.

Foreign traders moved to Dubai and settled on the banks of Dubai Creek, creating a port for receiving and exporting goods not available in the other emirates. Nevertheless, this situation did not last long, as the pearl trade collapsed. This was followed by the emergence of gold smuggling.

Before 1947, the year when it won independence from the British, India was the world's leading supplier of gold. After a short period, the newly formed government of independent India issued an order banning all imports and sales of gold. However, some merchants



Boats moored at Dubai Creek (undated)

UAE National Archives

had to import this product to supply local markets and other neighbouring countries.

It was then that Dubai merchants began finding ways to deliver gold to India. Gold dealers were located in Kuwait and Bahrain, and gold was in the form of bars called "Tola". There was, however, a problem with getting it to India.

Merchants then decided to ship the gold to India and break the ban of the Indian government, although it was a risk. As a result, Dubai opened its markets to gold from Kuwait and Bahrain. In return, the Dubai government imposed a customs rate of 5.3 per cent on re-exported goods entering the country.

The gold bars reached India through the merchants who built strong ships to

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DURING THE FINANCIAL CRISIS THAT SWEEPED THE ARABIAN GULF TERRITORIES FROM THE LATE 1930S TO EARLY 1940S, FUNDS WERE RELEASED THAT REACHED THE TREASURY OF EACH RULER

reach the country. These ships were fast and had space to hide gold. As a result, Karachi, in Pakistan, became the largest gold importer.

High-speed sea boats were used for escape when the Indian government monitored the coasts. This risky venture resulted in profits of roughly \$400 million (Dhs1.47 billion at current exchange rates) for Dubai and Gulf merchants. Over time, the gold traders began investing their large capital in new projects that emerged in the 1960s.

RELIEF FROM THE CRISIS

During the financial crisis that swept the Arabian Gulf territories from the late 1930s to early 1940s, funds were released that reached the treasury of each ruler. This was considered as the first financial resource from Britain or European nations



A labourer drawing water using a traditional method in Al Ain (1954)

Julian Walker/National Archives



An aeroplane during the official opening ceremony of Dubai Airport (1960)

Edric Worsnop/National Archives

to the Gulf. The funds came under two main agreements: aviation agreements and oil agreements.

What are the aviation agreements or the so-called British Airways to the East?

In the 1930s, the world began integrating airspace and air traffic between countries. The British government thus won an extension of an air route from London to India, and the planes of those days could not fly the distance between London and India without a stop. It was necessary to land in a number of countries to allow people to rest and let the aircraft refuel. After landing in Baghdad or Cairo, the planes had to refuel in Bahrain and the emirates region before departing for India.

There were either planes with wheels that took off and landed from a land airport, or seaplanes that took off and landed from a water airport, that is, from the sea.

The British subsequently decided that airports would be built in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, and the town of Kalba. Sharjah was the main flight destination since it received planes carrying passengers, so Al Mahatta airport was built there. The rest of the airports were small and used mostly for military purposes to serve combat aircraft

of the type called “flying boats”.

Despite discussions about the payments received by each emirate, talks between the rulers and the British government on airport concessions were not easy.

Sheikh Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah, signed the first agreement on May 20, 1932. In return for a rent of 800 rupees per month and 5 rupees per



A pearl diver making ‘dyyeen’, a basket used for collecting oysters (undated)

UAE National Archives

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SHARJAH WAS THE MAIN FLIGHT DESTINATION, SINCE IT RECEIVED PLANES CARRYING PASSENGERS, SO AL MAHATTA AIRPORT WAS BUILT THERE

landing at the airport, except for Air Force planes, the agreement lasted 11 years. In addition, they agreed to provide him with monthly financial assistance of 500 rupees.

An agreement similar to the Sharjah Convention was reached by the ruler of Dubai in November 1933. As for Abu Dhabi, the negotiations sputtered and were not concluded until July 1935, when its ruler, Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan, signed an agreement that lasted for 12 years. The agreement included an advance payment of 5,000 rupees and monthly payments of 400 rupees.

Ras Al Khaimah, ruled by Sheikh Sultan bin Salem Al Qasimi, was required to build a warplane airport, but the sheikh objected, resulting in a settlement in June 1930.



A fisherman drying fish using the traditional method (undated)

UAE National Archives



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.

MELTING ICE

Our inner ice mountains enclose tragedies and injuries that we try to overlook. They embrace private secrets that might be joyful or shameful

Many novels, stories, and other literary works are called after snow, melting ice, or ice kingdom, but none are similar. They are like raindrops falling from the minds of their writers and authors. Each of us carries within an ice mountain loaded with secrets. Some are painful. Some are cheerful. The ice mountains that settle in oceans and seas, and even those in the North and South poles, are water drops that had evaporated and enclosed rocks and stones.

Yet, our inner ice mountains enclose tragedies and injuries that we try to overlook. They embrace private secrets that might be joyful or shameful. Some can be shared, and some are *better kept forever untold*. Between what is said and not meant, and what is meant and not said, most truths are lost. Feelings are kept hidden sometimes because of circumstances, hesitation, and anxiety over people's opinions, and because of surrendering to a discontented life even though it can be changed.

Although humans vary in terms of characters and mindsets, they speak the same language of feelings, emotions, longing, pain, bitterness, delight, joy, happiness and sadness, as if those different characters talk to one another under a pale blue sky, covered with a heavy fog, full of a snowed-under, cold, shivering,

lonely heart. Cold may be harsh, but it covered the hearts of all without exception where the sluggish, mute, and skinny silence dwells. Cold did not wonder who would break the silence or when the icy hearts would melt.

When we try to clear away illusions, let go of absolute theories, we stop clinging to the fleeting

hunch and wounded pride that we have kept within, inside one of our ice mountain caves of hidden secrets that weigh down the rocky mountains themselves. Would the day come when all this ice melts and unveils all the secrets or would it keep them forever and remain still and stiff, not needing to disclose anything? Many secrets are buried in this mountain, and

when we die, when our souls leave us, our icy mountains, our secrets are buried with us.

The hope to be at ease and at peace with ourselves and those around us is always there. Only then the breeze of spring will sweep by, the quivering heart will calm down, the chains and cuffs will be untied, the speech will flow and conquer embarrassment to announce the birth of a new life with a new breeze on a pleasant night. New buds will bloom, announcing the growth of what was once lifeless. Warmth will gently come in when ice melts.

Between what is said and not meant, and what is meant and not said, most truths are lost

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

FUTUREPROOF LAPTOPS



PRICE: Dhs3,399 (iPhone13 128gb); Dhs2,999 (iPhone13 mini 128gb)
WEBSITE: www.apple.com

Apple has progressed from relying on third-party processor creators and has officially introduced its very own **M1Pro** and **M1Max** for the latest generation of its MacBook Pro.

The latest version of the MacBook Pro now sports a Liquid Retina XDR display, 1080p FaceTime HD Camera, several connectivity ports, and an immersive six-speaker audio system.

Processing speed and switching between apps are now blazing fast for this new MacBook Pro, which can match heavy use, especially for photographers, filmmakers, 3D artists, music producers, as well as anyone who wishes to take advantage of Apple's state-of-the-art chip.

Battery is not an issue, despite its powered performance. MacBook Pro's 14-inch model can last for up to 17 hours of continuous video playback, which goes up to 21 hours for the 16-inch model. Photoshop users can get up to twice the battery life compared to previous generations of MacBook. Users will no longer see a slowdown of their software processes even when the MacBook isn't plugged, thanks to an improved system and on-battery performance.

'CINEMAGIC' MOBILE

Vloggers often start their content creation with their own smartphones — and Xiaomi's latest flagship mobile phone sports one of the biggest megapixels in a camera offering quality photos.

The **Xiaomi 11T** and **11T Pro** sport a 108MP pro-grade main camera with features that allow its users to shoot a cinematic experience — from stunning photography, vibrant visuals to studio-grade videography — perfect for sharing and experiencing the stories that matter.

Video content creation is taken to the next level with Xiaomi's advanced AI algorithm, with professional special effects and other creative options at a tap of your fingers. Sound quality is also given a much-needed boost with three simultaneously operating microphones that allow users to get audibly closer to your subject.



PRICE: Dhs1,596 (Xiaomi 11T 8GB) and Dhs1,814 (11T Pro 8GB)
WEBSITE: www.mi.com

ROLLABLE HANDSET



PRICE: Dhs4,650 (8G)
WEBSITE: www.oppo.com

Just months after the successful launch of the first 'foldable' and the first 'flippable' smartphones comes the next iteration of a new smartphone that now sports a 'rollable' display.

The **OPPO X 2021** is a rollable concept phone featuring a scroll-like display. Built with an OLED flexible screen that measures as small as 6.7 inches and as large as 7.4 inches, thanks to a dynamic sliding frame, it extends and retracts smoothly with no hard folding involved.

Users can easily switch from a mobile phone or a tablet-like device depending on how big or small they roll their device. A combination of a fixed frame and sliding frame helps protect the device no matter what size the display is set to. As the display unrolls or retracts, the sliding frame and the rear battery cover move off the panel to provide better protection and a seamless experience.

The camera can also support basic coverage of AR indoors. In the future, these will enable the mobile phone to be used for combined AR/VR features.

POCKET PROJECTOR



PRICE: Dhs920

WEBSITE: www.kodakphotoplus.com

Gone are the days of the big and bulky projectors that were too heavy to bring from one place to another and took up a lot of space in your office. KODAK has launched a new portable projector that users can now keep in their pockets anytime, anywhere.

The **KODAK LUMA 150** portable wireless projector is powered by DLP technology that expands the monitor of your laptop or smartphone for up to 120". Users can now view their slides, presentations, photos, and/or HD videos on a huge 16:9 screen.

On every single charge, the KODAK LUMA 150 lasts wirelessly for 2.5 hours and may also be powered through the charging cable for those who require longer hours of huge screen projections.

The KODAK LUMA 150 can play files from microSD cards as well as via USB or HDMI connection ports and features threading for a standard tripod mount on the bottom, so you can easily mount it for steady viewing.

Connect compatible Android, iOS, or Windows 10 devices wirelessly via Airplay or Miracast and mirror your screen to share videos and other files directly from your mobile phone.

STYLISH E-BIKE

In the UAE, it's becoming more and more common to see residents using e-scooters and e-bikes for their commutes. However, users have to bear in mind that they always have to charge their vehicles to avoid running out of battery while on the road.

The upcoming **CONCEPT-E of DAB Motors** will soon address this challenge of regular e-bike charging through a new holistic solution that will be designed for riders in an urban setting.

Individuals who love minimalist designs in their e-bikes will enjoy CONCEPT-E's lean look. DAB Motors has incorporated: carbon fibre; Öhlins suspensions designed specifically for the project; Beringer CNC aluminium brakes; and a Gates belt drive, running on aluminium machined pulleys, to maximise power and minimise noise.

The CONCEPT-E is equipped with a 10kW motor and 51.8V Li-ion battery, which is equivalent to a 125cc; providing that sense of familiarity, driving comfort and intuitive use, combined with its powerful instant torque which propels you through the streets, almost silently.



PRICE: TBA

WEBSITE: <https://dabmotors.com>

WIDER BATTLEFIELD



PRICE: Dhs9,182

WEBSITE: www.samsung.com

If there's one thing that gamers can't get enough of, it's the pleasure of enjoying games on a massive screen.

Samsung's latest monitor, the **49" Odyssey Neo G9 Gaming DQHD Quantum Mini-LED Monitor** speaks volumes of the company's desire to fulfil each gamer's need for a view that wraps their surroundings with a next-generation depth of picture quality powered by Quantum HDR2000.

Response time is also lightning fast at 1ms, together with a 240hz refresh rate, and full adaptive G-Sync and FreeSync Premium Pro support, to ensure that your moves during your matches on the battlefield are as slick and fluid as you intend them to be.

Furthermore, the monitor is powered by Quantum Mini LEDs that create controlled brightness and perfect contrast for refined definition. Local dimming zones were increased to 2,048 and combined with the highest 12-bit black levels to create unmatched picture quality.



EXPLORE BOOKS THAT CAN GUIDE YOU TO START AND THRIVE IN YOUR OWN BUSINESS, GET A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF WORLD'S PHILOSOPHICAL WISDOM, AND DISCOVER THE POWER OF LISTENING BY USING INTUITION

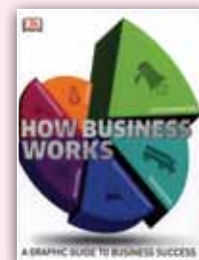
BUSINESS WORLD EXPLAINED

Title: How Business Works: A Graphic Guide to Business Success

Authors: Georgina Palffy (Contributor), Anna Fische

Publisher: DK

Price: Dhs60



Understand the sometimes-confusing business world with *How Business Works*, a user-friendly guide to jargon and corporate structure. Whether you're looking to get ahead at work, trying to start your own business, or just want to understand the business world better, this book can make it all easier. Learn everything you need to know without getting bogged down by boring textbooks. This book offers helpful diagrams, infographics, and bite-size, step-by-step information, all in jargon-free text that's a pleasure to read. From basic business principles, like how the Board of Directors is structured, to more complicated financial concepts, like how to calculate depreciation, *How Business Works* is a great first-stop for business students and middle managers.



STAY FINE

Title: How to Be Fine: What We Learned from Living by the Rules of 50 Self-Help Books

Authors: Jolenta Greenberg, Kristen Meinzer

Publisher: William Morrow

Price: Dhs84.50

A humorous and insightful look into what advice works, what doesn't, and what it means to transform yourself, by the co-hosts of the popular *By the Book* podcast. In each episode of their podcast, Jolenta Greenberg and Kristen Meinzer take a deep dive into a different self-help book, following its specific instructions, rules, and advice to the letter. From diet and productivity to decorating to social interactions, they try it all, record themselves along the way, then share what they've learned with their devoted and growing audience.

FIND HAPPINESS

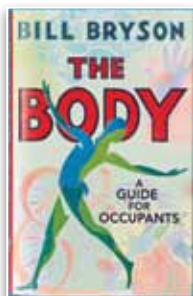
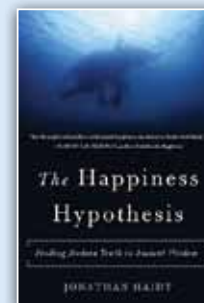
Title: The Happiness Hypothesis: Finding Modern Truth in Ancient Wisdom

Author: Jonathan Haidt

Publisher: Basic Books

Price: Dhs69

In his widely praised book, award-winning psychologist Jonathan Haidt examines the world's philosophical wisdom through the lens of psychological science, showing how a deeper understanding of enduring maxims — like 'Do unto others as you would have others do unto you', or 'What doesn't kill you makes you stronger' — can enrich and even transform our lives.



BODY MATTERS

Title: The Body: A Guide for Occupants

Author: Bill Bryson

Publisher: Black Swan

Price: Dhs34

In the bestselling, prize-winning *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Bill Bryson achieved the seemingly impossible by making the science of our world both understandable and entertaining to millions of readers.

Now he turns his attention inwards to explore the human body, how it functions and its remarkable ability to heal itself. Full of extraordinary facts and astonishing stories, *The Body: A Guide for Occupants* is a brilliant, often very funny attempt to understand the

miracle of our physical and neurological make-up.

This book will have you marvelling at the form you occupy and celebrating the genius of your existence, time and time again.

COMPLEX WORLDS

Title: Serious Men
Author: Manu Joseph
Publisher: HarperCollins India
Price: Dhs58

Ayyan Mani, one of the thousands of Dalit (untouchable caste) men trapped in Mumbai's slums, works in the Institute of Theory and Research as the lowly assistant to the director, a brilliant, self-assured astronomer. Ever wily and ambitious, Ayyan weaves two plots, one involving his knowledge of an illicit romance between his married boss and the institute's first female researcher, and another concerning his young son and his soap-opera-addicted wife. Ayyan quickly finds his deceptions growing intertwined, even as the Brahmin scientists wage war over the question of aliens in outer space. In his debut novel, Manu Joseph expertly picks apart the dynamics of this complex world, offering humorous takes on chronicling the vanquished director serving as a guru to his former colleagues. This is at once a moving portrait of love and its strange workings and a hilarious portrayal of men's runaway egos and ambitions.



ANOTHER REALITY

Title: The Midnight Library
Author: Matt Haig
Publisher: Canongate Books
Price: Dhs118

A dazzling novel about all the choices that go into a life well-lived from the internationally bestselling author of *Reasons to Stay Alive* and *How to Stop Time*.

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe, there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

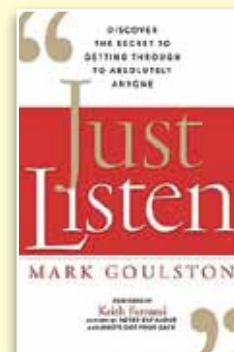
In this enchanting new novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Confronted with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realising her dreams of becoming a glaciologist, she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.



LISTEN EFFECTIVELY

Title: Just Listen: Discover the Secret to Getting Through to Absolutely Anyone
Author: Mark Goulston
Publisher: Amacom
Price: Dhs81

Drawing on his experience as a psychiatrist, business consultant, and coach, author Mark Goulston combines his background with the latest scientific research to help readers turn the "impossible" and "unreachable" people in their lives into allies, devoted customers, loyal colleagues, and lifetime friends. *Just Listen* does this by providing simple but powerful techniques readers can use to get through to people. You'll learn how to: make a powerful and positive first impression; listen effectively; make even a total stranger (potential client) feel understood; talk an angry or aggressive person away from an instinctual, unproductive reaction and towards a more rational mindset; and achieve buy-in, the linchpin of all persuasion, negotiation, and sales.

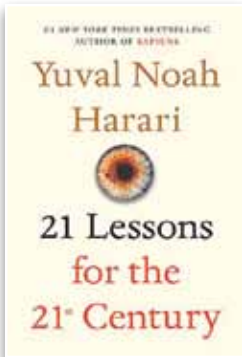


PROFOUND INSIGHTS

Title: 21 Lessons for the 21st Century
Author: Yuval Noah Harari
Publisher: Vintage
Price: Dhs46

This book is a probing and visionary investigation into today's most urgent issues, as we move into the uncharted territory of the future. As technology advances faster than our understanding of it, hacking becomes a tactic of war, and the world feels more polarised than ever, Harari addresses the challenge of navigating life in the face of constant and disorienting change and raises the important questions we need to ask ourselves in order to survive.

In 21 accessible chapters that are both provocative and profound, Harari builds on the ideas explored in his previous books, untangling political, technological, social, and existential issues and offering advice on how to prepare for a very different future from the world we now live in: how can we retain freedom of choice when Big Data is watching us? What will the future workforce look like, and how should we ready ourselves for it? How should we deal with the threat of extremism?



UAE announces strategic initiative to achieve net-zero emission



At least three GCC countries, including the UAE, have established clear net-zero emission goals to achieve carbon neutrality in the decades to come.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, affirmed the UAE's position to cooperate with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, which have both stated that their respective countries would reach net-zero emission by the year 2060.

"The net-zero emission goals announced by the kingdoms of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain provide a significant boost to regional efforts to address climate change. The UAE stands ready to work with its regional neighbours and countries around the world to create a more sustainable future for all," read HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed's message on Twitter.

Saudi Arabia's and Bahrain's target completion date come 10 years later than

the UAE's, which aims to reach net-zero emission by 2050. Other countries such as China, USA, Japan, UK, South Korea, and the EU nations have committed to reaching net zero between 2050 and 2060. Collectively, these countries account for over 50 per cent of the global carbon emissions.

Dr Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and Special Envoy for Climate Change, said that this move was a big shift in perspective that underscored the importance of taking comprehensive steps to help the world in its fight against climate change.

"The UAE's Net Zero Strategic Initiative is an open invitation for the world to partner with us in developing this new economic model for progress," Al Jaber told a panel session titled "Countdown to COP26 – State of Play Ahead of a Critical Summit" in Riyadh.

To achieve net-zero emission, countries are urged to balance their carbon dioxide emissions by eliminating emissions as well as removing and/or reducing the use of products or services that emit carbon.

Mohammed bin Rashid greenlights Hatta dev't plan

Dubai will soon witness the rise of a new eco-tourism site that will boost the emirate's business and investment, and ensure the welfare, protection, and development of its mountain peak environment.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has approved the Hatta Master Development Plan to improve the current infrastructure and expand the recreational and green areas in the next two decades, as part of the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan.

During his recent visit to Hatta, His Highness underscored that the projects were in line with the emirate's goals to prosper even further for the benefit of the nation and its citizens.

"We have approved the formation of a Supreme Committee to oversee the development of Hatta as well as the implementation and governance of projects and initiatives, the launch of economic and tourism development programmes and support for projects initiated by the youth.



It will also launch the Hatta Beach Project and create new investment opportunities for Hatta's private sector," the Vice President said.

Part of the first phase of the Hatta Master Development Plan is the construction of tracks for bicycles and scooters in a

120km network connecting key attractions and residential areas. It also includes the construction of the longest mountain bike track in the UAE featuring world-class specifications that will host international competitions and events.

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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.



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Study shows high BP in 1 out of 5 UAE university students



A study conducted at Sharjah University found that about one in five students had higher blood pressure than normal for their age. It also revealed that males at the university were almost twice as likely to suffer from early hypertension compared to female counterparts.

It was published in the journal *Healthcare*, titled, 'Low physical activity levels are linked to early hypertension risk in college-going young adults'. The study was published jointly by six researchers at Sharjah University and two at the Manipal Academy of Higher

Education in Karnataka, India.

This research on people with an average age of 20 found a strong connection between high blood pressure and a lack of physical activity. The first author of the study, Dr Kalyana Bairapareddy, Assistant Professor in the College of Health Science at the University of Sharjah, stated that physical activity levels amongst students tended to be "very low".

The research involved 176 male and 178 female students at the University of Sharjah, each of whom was asked to fill in a questionnaire that covered, amongst other things, what kind of exercise they did. The students came from a variety of Arab countries.

Of the students, 63 (17.8 per cent) had "early hypertension", indicated by a mean arterial pressure above 100, which suggests they could go on to develop hypertension. The risk was greater for male students, 22.7 per cent of whom had early hypertension, compared to 12.9 per cent of female students.

Virtual autopsies to safeguard staff at Abu Dhabi morgue

Abu Dhabi Central Morgue will soon start conducting virtual autopsies as a way of investigating causes of death, primarily to limit morgue staff's exposure to infectious diseases, according to officials from the Department of Health (DoH), Abu Dhabi.

"Virtual autopsy has modernised the medical investigation of bodies while ensuring the health and safety of medical staff and contacts of the deceased maintaining respect and privacy towards the bodies of deceased individuals," said Dr Nayef Hasan Aljanaahi, the first licensed consultant in forensic radiology for the DoH.

The technique can specifically help identify damage to lung tissue and show signs of any previous respiratory distress that would indicate a COVID-19 infection. This would allow examiners to alert recent close contacts of the deceased that they may have contracted the virus.

The UAE is amongst the countries that adopted the virtual autopsy technique, along with the US, UK, Canada, Germany, Australia and Japan.



During a virtual autopsy, the body undergoes a CT scan while in a cadaver bag, and no physical postmortem is carried out. The procedure takes up to 30 minutes.

The technology was introduced in 2020 in Abu Dhabi and has assisted in the investigations of more than 700 legal cases. It can be used to obtain evidence of physical violence.

Dhs2 donation can help millions of people see the world

In partnership with Emirates Red Crescent and 'Reach Initiative', a private company in the UAE launched an initiative aimed at creating funds to eradicate and prevent neglected tropical diseases, especially river blindness.

The campaign was unveiled at LuLu Hypermarket in Mushrif Mall by Tala Al Ramahi from the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court and Managing Director for the Reach Campaign, along with MA Yusuff Ali, Chairman of LuLu Group.

As part of the campaign, shoppers can donate Dhs2 or more with their shopping bills in all LuLu hyper and supermarkets across the UAE. The initiative, which will run for 50 days, focuses on generating funds and transforming the lives of 5 million people languishing due to these preventable diseases.

"River blindness and lymphatic filariasis disproportionately affect the world's poorest people, trapping families in a cycle of poverty and debilitating government development efforts," said Al Ramahi.

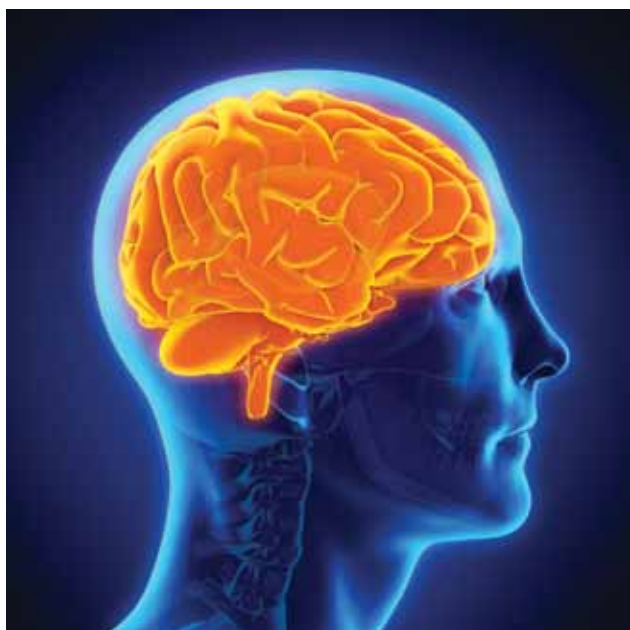
In addition to the contribution made by



shoppers, leading international brands will also take part in this initiative. With each purchase from these partnering brands, Dhs2 will be donated to the Reach Campaign. This partnership is intended to encourage customers to spend and donate while purchasing their products.

MA Yusuff Ali said, "Lulu Group has always been a key supporter of various government initiatives to bring sustainable changes amongst the underprivileged and deserving across the UAE and around the world. We are proud and honoured to partner with the '50 Days to Transform 5 Million Lives' campaign."

COVID-19 patients may experience memory trouble, study says



A new study, titled 'Assessment of Cognitive Function in Patients After COVID-19 Infection', published in *JAMA* journal, found that 24 per cent of

participants who recovered from COVID-19 had difficulty with memory encoding, 23 per cent had a hard time with memory recall, and 18 per cent developed difficulties with processing information.

According to the study, patients who were hospitalised with COVID-19 or treated in an emergency room were more likely to develop cognitive effects compared to people diagnosed with COVID-19 who were treated in an outpatient

setting. Those who were hospitalised were 2.8 times more likely to have trouble paying attention compared to outpatients. The study also noted that previous research

found older adults were more susceptible to cognitive impairment after being critically ill with COVID-19.

As per Dr F Perry Wilson, a Yale Medicine physician and researcher at Yale School of Medicine, a lot of research has shown a link between COVID-19 and long-term neurological deficits. However, scientists are still trying to find out the reason. Currently, a few theories were under investigation, said Wilson.

One is the widespread inflammation that COVID-19 causes in the brain and body; another is the infection of brain endothelial cells; and the third is that COVID-19 causes tiny blood clots that can damage the brain's small vessels.

"While the exact mechanisms have not been elucidated, it appears that COVID-19 exerts its effects through the SARS-CoV-2 virus itself as well as the inflammation the infection causes in the body," said Dr Liron Sinvani, a hospitalist-geriatrician at the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research in Manhasset, New York.

الاحتفال
باليوم الوطني



We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending
our sincere congratulation and best wishes to

Their Highnesses

Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates
and to the people of the UAE

On the occasion of the 50th National Day



WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



Aries (March 21 to April 20)

Aries poet and philosopher Friedrich Hölderlin (1770–1843) had many ups and downs. He was one of Germany's greatest poets and philosophers, but he also endured more emotional distress than most people. His biographer wrote, "Sometimes this genius goes dark and sinks into the bitter well of his heart, but mostly his apocalyptic star glitters wondrously." You may have been playing with a milder version of a "bitter well of the heart," Aries. You will soon return to a phase when your star glitters wondrously—and without the "apocalyptic" tinge that Hölderlin harboured.



Taurus (April 20 – May 21)

Author David Foster Wallace felt sad about how little of our mind's intense activity can be shared with others. So much of what goes on inside us seems impossible to express. Or if it is possible to express, few of our listeners are receptive to it or able to fully understand it. That's the bad news, Taurus. But here's the good news: In the coming weeks, you will experience much less of this sad problem than usual. You'll be especially skilled at articulating your lush truth and will have an extra receptive audience for it.



Gemini (May 22 – June 20)

There are many different kinds of smiles. Four hundred muscles are involved in making a wide variety of expressions. Researchers have identified a specific type, dubbed the "affiliation smile," as having the power to restore trust between two people. It's soothing, respectful, and compassionate. You should use this abundantly in the near future—along with other conciliatory behaviour. You're in a favourable phase to repair relationships that have been damaged by distrust or weakened by any other factor.



Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Cancerian cowboy Slim Pickens (1919–1983) signed up for the military in the 1940s. When asked about his profession, Pickens said "rodeo". The clerk misheard and instead wrote "radio". Pickens was assigned to work at an armed forces radio station in the American Midwest, where he spent the entire war. It was a safe and secure place for him to be. There will be a lucky mistake similar to this in your near future, Cancerian. Maybe more than one mistake. Be alert.



Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Your heart has its own brain: a "heart brain". It's composed of neurons similar to the neurons in your head's brain. Your heart brain communicates via your vagus nerve with your hypothalamus, thalamus, medulla, amygdala, and cerebral cortex. In this way, it gives your body helpful instructions. This will be extra strong in the coming weeks. That's why you should call on your heart brain to enhance emotional intelligence, cultivate empathy, invoke deep feelings, and transform pain.



Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

You should think about and adopt this perspective expressed by spiritual author Ann Voskamp. She wrote, "I want to see beauty. In the ugly, in the sink, in the suffering, in the daily, the moments before I sleep." Taking this assignment seriously could be a challenging exercise. Are you willing to try out this approach? Experiment with it. Treat it as an opportunity to reprogram your perceptual faculties. Three weeks from now, your eyes and ears could be attuned to marvels they had previously missed.



Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Libran educator and anthropologist Johnnetta Cole wrote, "The first sign of an educated person is that she asks more questions than she delivers answers." A prime attribute of an intelligent, eager-to-learn person is that she asks more questions than she delivers answers. You should be like that during the coming weeks, Libra. You are scheduled to boost your intelligence and raise your curiosity. An excellent way to meet your appointments with destiny will be to have fun dreaming up interesting questions.



Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

"Some people become so expert at reading between the lines they don't read the lines," wrote author Margaret Millar. That's not a common problem for you Scorpios. You are an expert at reading between the lines, but that doesn't cause you to miss the simple facts. Better than any other sign of the zodiac, you are skilled at seeing both secret and obvious things. This skill of yours will be a virtual superpower - and even more than usual, the people in your life will benefit from your skill at naming the truth.



Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Storyteller and mythologist Michael Meade believes that all people have an inner indigenous person—a part of our psyche that can love and learn from nature, that's inclined to revere and commune with the ancestors, that seeks holiness in the familiar delights of the earth. The coming weeks will be a favourable time for you to cultivate your relationship with your inner indigenous person. What other experiences might be available to you as you align your personal rhythms with the rhythms of the earth?



Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Capricorn novelist Haruki Murakami writes, "I was always hungry for love. Just once, I wanted to know what it was like to get my fill of it—to be fed so much love I couldn't take any more. Just once." Most people feel that longing, although few of us admit it. You should place this desire in the front of your awareness during the next two weeks. You should suggest you let people know that's what you want. Doing so may not result in total satisfaction of the longing, but who knows? If there will ever be a time when such fulfilment could occur, it will be soon.



Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

An article published in the journal *Scientific American* declared, "Most people don't know when to stop talking." Conversations between strangers and between friends typically go on too long. A mere two per cent of all dialogues finish when both parties want them to. That's the bad news, Aquarius. The good news is that in the coming weeks, your sensitivity about this issue will be more acute than usual. As a result, your talk will be extra concise and effective—more persuasive, more interesting, and more influential. Take advantage of this subtle power!



Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

You have at your disposal a prodigiously potent creative tool: your imagination. If there's a specific experience or object you want to bring into your world, the first thing you do is visualise it. The practical actions you take to live the life you want to live always refer back to the scenes in your mind's eye. And so every goal you fulfil, every quest you carry out, every liberation you achieve, begins as an inner vision. Your imagination is the engine of your destiny. It's the catalyst with which you design your future.

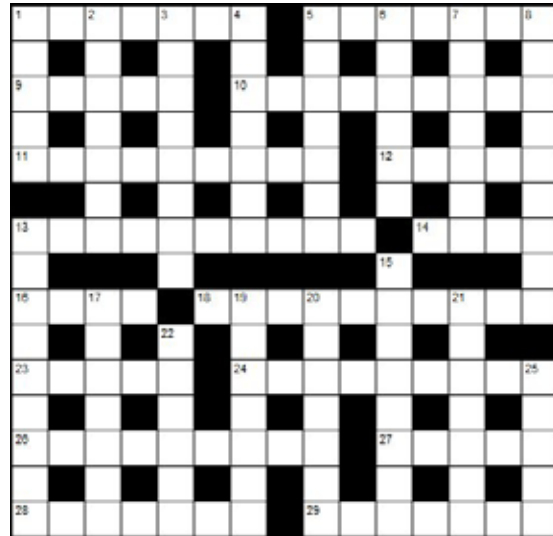
PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 1 Best resort
- 5 Daily quiche (7)
- 9 Board agreement (5)
- 10 Carrying gas (9)
- 11 Unpleasant heart (9)
- 12 Tennis player (5)
- 13 Country air (10)
- 14 Burn at the stake (4)
- 16 Prince returns (4)
- 18 Biologist outside Alabama (10)
- 23 Assassin (5)
- 24 Rogue behaviour (9)
- 26 Acquire capital (9)
- 27 Unsophisticated section (5)
- 28 Dancing lesson (7)
- 29 Entertain soldiers (7)

DOWN

- 1 Crop producing fruit (5)
- 2 French art (7)
- 3 Childish creatures (3-5)
- 4 New member (7)
- 5 Composition's ending (7)
- 6 Anecdotes about illness (4)
- 7 Disciplining children (7)
- 8 Touching story (9)
- 13 Ireland's new stimulant (9)
- 15 Money goes around (8)
- 17 New bedcover (7)
- 19 Regular publications (7)
- 20 Outshine riding coach (7)
- 21 Exploring enmities (7)
- 22 Raise an outcry (6)
- 25 Bouquet dispatched (5)



Easy

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

Medium

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

SOLUTIONS

SOLUTIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE



www.alberichcrosswords.com

www.dailysudoku.com

easy

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

medium

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





We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending
our sincere congratulation and best wishes to

Their Highnesses

Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates
and to the people of the UAE

On the occasion of the 50th National Day



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