

999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 110 MARCH 2021


UAE'S MARS
PROBE BRINGS
INFINITE HOPE

UAE SPEARHEADS
THE CAUSE OF
WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**IN THE
SPOTLIGHT**
THE UAE'S
FIRST
SENTINELS

WELCOME TO THE SAFEST COUNTRY

THREE UAE CITIES TAKE THE TOP SPOTS
IN WORLD'S SAFEST LIST



UAE	5,000	AED
KSA	5,000	SAR
Kuwait	0.500	DK
Bahrain	0.500	BD
Oman	0.500	OR



IN THIS ISSUE: 999 HIGHLIGHTS NEW CONSUMER TRENDS AND DISSECTS WHAT EXPERTS ACROSS SECTORS HAVE TO SAY



100 MILLION ACTUATORS

EST. 1975

Belimo sets 100 Million Milestone

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



MINIMIZE OPEX MAXIMIZE REVENUE

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

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

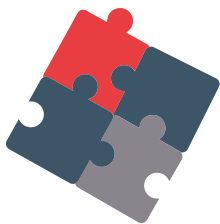
From small development up to large enterprise digital transformation projects, we work closely with our client to achieve their ultimate objectives by being engaged with them from the very early stages up to the project closure.



Time & Materials



Fixed Price



Dedicated Team



Startup Mode

*These rankings
in the list of
world's safest
cities aren't just
numbers; to a
great extent, they
foretell a city's or
a nation's future*

The trailblazer

Ever keen on being amongst the most competitive nations in the world to emerge stronger from the impact of the pandemic, the UAE has blazed a trail this year, propelled by the groundwork done in the past year.

In our cover story, we salute Abu Dhabi for being named the world's safest city for the fifth consecutive year; it is joined by Sharjah and Dubai in the latest Top 10 list compiled by the crowdsourced data website Numbeo. These rankings in the list of world's safest cities, based on a score given for lowest crime rates and highest levels of safety perception, aren't just numbers; to a great extent, they foretell a city's or a nation's future. The modern economy runs on the twin engines of human resource development and technological innovation. Any country that effectively utilises both to create a very secure and productive environment, a place where people can flourish without fear, is a country that's ready to take home the winnings.

Indeed, the UAE has proved to be an amazing winner, having launched the Hope Probe to Mars right in the middle of the 2020 pandemic and then putting the space vehicle on the Martian orbit with extreme precision in February 2021, exactly on the scheduled date. With this, the UAE joins an elite club of Mars voyagers and has become a pioneer in the Arab World yet again. Our special report captures the mood of the nation as history is made and reflects on what this achievement means for the UAE's Golden Jubilee and the coming 50 years.

One thing is certain: the next 50 years will see many expats taking UAE citizenship and making this nation their permanent home. For decades, many expatriate families have lived here and thought longingly about becoming citizens; at the end of January 2021, that dream came close to becoming a reality. In a revolutionary move, the first such measure taken by a GCC member state, the UAE has decided to open citizenship to a select group of expats, the ones that have made, or will make, the biggest contributions to the country. In this issue, we bring you an overview of this extremely significant social and economic development, along with an FAQ section on the citizenship selection process.


There's no doubt that many outstanding expat women will qualify for the new citizenship scheme and will stand proudly with their Emirati sisters. This month, we're honoured to observe Women's Day (March 8) and outline their achievements in UAE society that form enriching chapters in the history of women's progress across the world.

Our other informative features this month focus on the top consumer trends in the post-pandemic era, ranging from lifestyle choices to the acceleration of digitalisation in the consumer services industry; the examples set by the UAE's wise leadership to support the #ChooseToVaccinate campaign, instilling confidence in the general populace, whose participation is vital for overcoming COVID-19; and the government's spotlight on the UAE's old forts, which are set to play a central role in the revival of tourism as the contagion recedes.

There's so much happening in this dynamic country that every day is full of possibilities. We're delighted that you've joined us on the 999 media platform and hope that we shall continue to explore the UAE together.

Fifty years in the service of the nation



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





**Ministry of Interior
United Arab Emirates**

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WHAT DO CONSUMERS WANT?



AS THE UAE AND THE WORLD RETURN CAUTIOUSLY TO NORMALITY, **999** PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON SOME OF THE MOST NOTABLE CONSUMER TRENDS AND DISSECTS WHAT EXPERTS ACROSS SECTORS HAVE TO SAY

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Abusing his authority, the deputy director of a bank branch forges cheques and steals money from inactive accounts

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COVER STORY

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



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Dr Maysa Rashed
Former Member of the
Federal National Council
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Dr Samar Al-Shamsi
Internationally
respected artist

UAE leaders credit Hope Probe's success to bold vision



The UAE leaders hailed the success of the Hope Probe after its historic Mars orbit insertion last February 9, crediting the Arab World's first-ever interplanetary mission to the UAE government's bold vision of turning the impossible into reality.

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan congratulated the UAE nationals and residents, as well as the wider region for the success of the Mars Mission that marked the Arab World's entry in the global race of space exploration.

"This historic achievement would not have been possible without the persistence and determination to implement the idea that emerged at the end of 2013 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who followed it up closely until its success," the President said.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa also praised the staunch efforts of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme

Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, for dedicating all kinds of support needed to make the dream of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's founding father, come true.

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, said: "We dedicate our Mars achievement to the people of the UAE and the rest of the Arab world. Our success proves that Arabs are capable of reviving the region's legacy and status in the scientific sphere."

For his part, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan underscored: "The Hope Probe's successful arrival to Mars is an Arab and Islamic achievement that was made possible by the relentless efforts of our youth. The mission marks our entry in the global race to space."

President renews UAE's commitment to preserve environment

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has stressed the need to strike a balance between economic and social growth, in order to protect the environment and ensure the sustainability of the country's natural resources.

In his speech marking the 24th National Environment Day, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan said, "On this day, we reiterate our determination to double efforts to

achieve our sustainable development objectives, in line with the UAE Vision 2021 National Agenda with regard to ensuring a clean and safe environment that is conducive to providing continued prosperity and happiness for us and for generations to come."

"We have developed the water sector to protect the country's underground water reserves and the agricultural sector by encouraging farmers to develop and adopt

modern approaches that are relevant to and match the country's climatic conditions," His Highness highlighted.

The President also calls on all members of society to do their share in protecting the country's natural resources. "The preservation of the environment is a shared responsibility by all. During the event each year, efforts are made to highlight an environmental goal of national importance," said His Highness Sheikh Khalifa.

Khalifa greenlights Dhs24 million grant to UAE athletes

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has ordered the disbursement of Dhs24,392,473 worth of grant to UAE athletes who brought home outstanding sports achievements in 2019.

Through the follow up of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, the grant is set to

benefit 680 athletes from 29 federations.

It will be distributed to athletes without holding the customary annual ceremony, in line with the COVID-19 precautionary measures.

Commending the President's generous gesture of support for national athletes, HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the UAE National Olympic Committee, said: "The sports sector in

the UAE has accomplished many recent achievements, and we have advanced to a new stage that requires the cooperation of all sporting cadres, athletes, coaches, referees and administrative staff, to consolidate our achievements and target the first position in all areas of professional sports, making champions and investing in new talents based on internationally approved standards."

UAE, Bahrain leaders discuss ways to bolster bilateral ties



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai (2nd from left), and HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces (right), visiting HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain (3rd from left). With them was HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council (1st from left)

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu

Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, held an exchange of cordial talk with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain about the long-standing relations between the two

nations and ways to further cement their ties.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the UAE leaders' visit to the residence of the Bahraini king in Abu Dhabi.

Their Highnesses conveyed the greetings of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to His Majesty King Hamad, wishing him continued good health as well as prosperity to the people of Bahrain under his wise leadership.

For his part, the Bahraini king highlighted in this meeting the determination of the two nations to continue working for the best interests of their peoples.

Also in attendance were His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council; His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; HE Sheikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Ambassador to Bahrain; and several sheikhs and senior officials.

VP applauds Mol's top ranking in federal entities star-rating results

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has approved the results of star-rating evaluation of all federal government service centres, congratulating His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, for the Ministry's top ranking in the assessment.

On his twitter page, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid wrote: "We approved today the results of star-rating evaluation of all federal government service centres, under which smart government service channels were assessed. As usual, the Ministry of Interior led government entities in the rating."

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid also announced that the Ministry of Interior (Mol) received a 5-star rating in two categories.

"I congratulate my brother, HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on the Ministry of Interior's 5-star ratings for its website and smart application. The Ministry is a unique example of providing distinctive services and its team deserves praise," said His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid. "The past year 2020 has proved that we were right when we launched a government that provides all services digitally 8 years ago."

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

urges all government departments to optimise the power of digital technology in order to accelerate the pace of their work and advance the country's goals to reduce the number of service centres by 50 percent in two years, as it shifts to a unified digital platform.

Mohammed bin Rashid swears in four DIFC Courts judges

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has sworn into office four new judges of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), including the first ever Emirati female judge.

The virtual ceremony was attended by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council, and HH Sheikh

Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai.

The newly sworn in DIFC Courts judges include Court of First Instance Judge Nassir Hashim Nasser Abdulla Al Nasser; Court of First Instance Judge Maha Khalid Mohammed Al Mheiri; Court of Appeal Judge Lord Angus James Scott Glennie; and Court of Appeal Judge Sir Peter Henry Gross.

Judge Maha Al Mheiri is the first Emirati female

judge to be appointed in the common law in the UAE.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid praised the role of Emirati women in shaping the future of the country, saying they have repeatedly proven their competence in high-level positions. The Vice President also affirmed the importance of raising the capabilities of the UAE judiciary and providing more leadership opportunities for young UAE nationals in one of the government's most important sectors.

VP, Mohamed bin Zayed lead brainstorming retreat for the next 50 years

Upon the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, led a government brainstorming retreat to draft a strategic framework for the country's development vision for the next 50 years.

The brainstorming session focused on attaining a set of priorities to achieve greater heights in terms of development within the next half-century.

Two core committees were formed to be in charge of drafting the development action plan.

The first committee—with HH Sheikh

Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and HE Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, as Chairman and Vice Chairperson, respectively—was tasked to draft a

comprehensive national development vision, a concrete plan for government modernisation, and a strategic model to make the UAE the most agile country in the world in terms of adapting to future developments.

The second committee—with HH Sheikh



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai (L), and HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces (R), spearhead government brainstorming sessions

Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and HH Sheikha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as Chairman and Vice Chairperson, respectively—will oversee the UAE Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, Ajman Ruler meet to discuss national issues



HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces (L), with HH Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman (R)

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, met with His Highness Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman.

Their Highnesses held a discussion on several national issues and topics related to ensuring the wellbeing of the Emirati society and providing a dignified life to everyone.

The meeting also touched upon the comprehensive development being witnessed by the country, under the wise leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The meeting was attended by HH Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, along with a number of sheikhs and senior officials.

Mohamed bin Zayed visits national, international pavilions at IDEX 2021

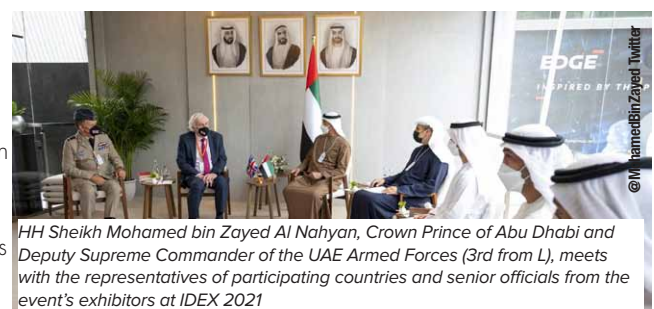
His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, visited several national and international pavilions at the 15th edition of the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX 2021), held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).

On the occasion, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed stated that IDEX is a leading global platform for defence industries, providing a unique opportunity to discover the advanced systems showcased

by global companies in the fields of defence, military and security.

During his tour, His Highness was briefed on the latest innovations of participating companies and countries, as well as their advanced equipment, control systems, and defence and military radar technologies.

At the sidelines of the event, His Highness



HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces (3rd from L), meets with the representatives of participating countries and senior officials from the event's exhibitors at IDEX 2021

also held a meeting with the representatives of participating countries and senior officials from the event's exhibitors.

UAE, Spain sign security cooperation agreement

His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, signed an agreement between the UAE and Spain to bolster cooperation in the field of security.

The Spanish government was represented by Arancha González Laya, Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Spanish Cooperation.

The agreement aims to boost the existing cooperation between the two countries in the areas of combating all forms of crime through the exchange of information, expertise, and best practices related to safety and security.

Amongst the primary goal of the agreement are holding specialised meetings and conferences between the police agencies of UAE and Spain to intensify cooperation, and benchmarking in the areas of crime status, trends, and modern technologies in police work.

The two sides also discussed other ways to strengthen the long-standing ties between the two countries.



HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, during MoU signing with Arancha González Laya, Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Spanish Cooperation

Interior Minister attends Police College's graduation ceremony

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, attended the graduation ceremony held by the Police College for its 32nd Batch of Candidate Cadets, the 31st Class of Male University Students, and the 15th Class of Female University Students.

His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan congratulated the graduates on acquiring the requisite knowledge and skills in police work. He also encouraged the graduates to gain the necessary experience and give back to their homeland by ensuring that the UAE remains a beacon of security and stability.



HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior (centre), with the Board of Directors of the Police College and its new graduates

The Interior Minister handed the 'Sword of Honour' to candidate cadet Mohamed Abdullah Mohamed Al Qorsi Al Ali, who graduated first in his batch, and the 'Parade Leader Award' to

candidate cadet Ahmed Ali Nasser Al Amri.

Amongst the 279 graduates, 18 cadet candidates are from Saudi Arabia, five from Bahrain, two from Jordan, and one from the Comoros.

Saif bin Zayed tours IDEX 2021 pavilions



HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, during his visit at IDEX 2021

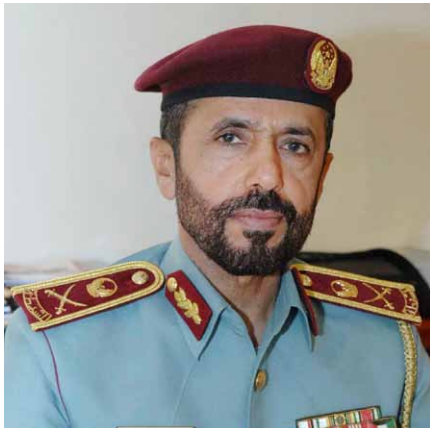
His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, visited several national and international pavilions at the 15th edition of the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX 2021), held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).

The Interior Minister was briefed on the most advanced defence technology and equipment displayed at each pavilion.

He also visited a number of pavilions that offer state-of-the-art technologies related to safety and security systems.

To date, IDEX 2021 was so far the largest international event held in the post-pandemic recovery phase.

UAE discusses joint security drive with India



Major General Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Chairman of the Institutional Development Council at the Ministry of Interior

The UAE-India Joint Security Committee held its third meeting to increase cooperation between the two friendly nations. The UAE delegation was spearheaded by

Major General Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Chairman of the Institutional Development Council at the Ministry of Interior, while the Indian delegation was led by Govind Mohan, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The meeting was also attended, from the UAE side, by Brigadier Hamad Ajlan Al Amimi, Director General of the Federal Criminal Police; Brigadier Rashid Sultan Al Khader, Director General of Legal Affairs; Brigadier Saeed Al Suwaidi, Director General of the Federal Drug Control Administration; and a number of officers from the Ministry of Interior.

From the Indian delegation, the meeting was attended by Vipul, Undersecretary at the Ministry of External Affairs and Responsible for Gulf Affairs; and His Excellency Pavan Kapoor, Ambassador of India to the UAE.

The discussion touched upon ways to strengthen the exchange of knowledge in security management and related training courses. The discussions covered the latest findings of the joint specialised technical teams in relation to the implementation of bilateral initiatives and projects. All developments related to the work of the joint committee were also reviewed.

Mol staff in Sharjah get full range of Fazaa services

The Social Solidarity Fund will now be providing the Ministry of Interior staff with all its takaful services that are being given to employees of government entities in the emirate of Sharjah.

This comes after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the Social Solidarity Fund with the Sharjah Human Resources Department to enhance cooperation as well as provide the services under the Fazaa programme.

The MoU was signed by Dr Tariq Sultan bin Khadim, Member of the Sharjah Executive Council and Chairman of the Human Resources Department, and Colonel Ahmed Mohamed Buharoon, Director General of the Social Solidarity Fund at the Ministry of Interior.

The agreement aims to let employees



Dr Tariq Sultan bin Khadim, Member of the Sharjah Executive Council and Chairman of the Human Resources Department (R), and Colonel Ahmed Mohamed Buharoon, Director General of the Social Solidarity Fund at the Ministry of Interior (L)

of government entities in Sharjah access the privileges provided by the Fazaa programme inside and outside the country. Under the MoU, the beneficiary employees will be able to register for the Fazaa programme via the electronic application and then obtain a digital card. The Fazaa card includes discounts and services from Fazaa stores, which stock more than 6,000 subsidised food and consumer goods, and offer discounts on more

than 3,500 brands.

Dr Tariq Sultan bin Khadim expressed his happiness with this significant partnership with the Social Security Fund.

For his part, Colonel Ahmed Mohamed Buharoon underscored the Social Solidarity Fund's keenness on strengthening partnerships with other entities, with the aim of enhancing the quality of life for the Emirati community.

Al Mazrouei underlines need to strengthen child protection

Major General Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police, attended the graduation of 54 personnel from the Department of Social Support Centres at Abu Dhabi Police.

The new graduates completed a training course in 'Judicial Control in the Field of Child Protection', conducted in cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department and the Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority.

During the graduation ceremony, Al Mazrouei congratulated the officers, urging them to strengthen institutional policing and utilise the skills and knowledge acquired through the course.

Child protection, he said, is one of the priorities of policing within the Abu Dhabi Government's strategy to enhance community security and the UAE Government's commitment to developing the best legal and social framework to ensure a safe environment for children, in accordance with international and humanitarian laws.

He also stressed upon Abu Dhabi Police's keenness in empowering police officers and



Major General Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police, with Department of Social Support Centres' officers who completed a training course on child protection

providing them with the knowledge and skills they need to ensure utmost protection of individuals, especially the youth.

Brigadier Saeed Hamad Al Kaabi, Director of the Department of Social Support Centres, said that the graduation of this batch came within the efforts of Abu Dhabi Police to develop the capabilities of its employees and uphold the law. He said these trained judicial officers would work on codifying procedures and protecting children exposed to all forms of abuse.

The course was conducted by specialists

representing law enforcement agencies, the Judicial Department in Abu Dhabi, and Georgetown University, one of the top law schools in the United States. The course included an introduction to the UAE's own Child Protection Law (Wadeema Law) as well as the most important legal provisions for child protection globally.

Specialised topics included methods of inspection by judicial officers; the initial and final evaluation of children's cases; and identification of the types of abuse and dangers that children may be exposed to.

UAE's success is powered by innovation, says Al Ameri

Brigadier Muhammad Ibrahim Al Ameri, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority, affirmed that the UAE has become one of the top countries in the world in terms of progress and development, based on the wise leadership's belief in the importance of innovation in shaping the future.

This forward-thinking approach, he added, encourages experiment, testing, and creativity, thus unleashing the talents and skills of UAE nationals, and paving the way for the realisation of their dreams and aspirations.

This, he said, is one of the factors that contributed to the country's continued success.

In his statement on the occasion of the launch of the UAE Innovation Week, under the slogan



Brigadier Muhammad Ibrahim Al Ameri, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority

'UAE Innovates', Al Ameri praised the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister

of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, on the importance of establishing the concepts and culture of innovation in the Emirati society by building a generation of innovators.

Al Ameri also lauded the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, in encouraging UAE nationals to embrace innovation.

He pointed out that the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority has taken confident steps in implementing the directives of the wise leadership. Amongst these steps is encouraging its staff to do regular brainstorming sessions, resulting in innovative ideas, proposals and projects that can help strengthen preventive safety.

Dhahi Khalfan leads Police Chiefs Council meeting



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

Lt General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai, and Chairman of the Police Chiefs Council, chaired a recent Council's virtual meeting, attended by a number of police chiefs, senior officers, and officials from the Ministry of Interior (Mol).

The Council reviewed the readiness of all security sectors in the country in tackling any potential security threats; it also reviewed the level of coordination between the various security authorities.

Other topics discussed pertained to the policies and development plans put in place by the Mol. The Council meeting looked at the most

important practices of the Ministry, strategic directions, proposals, and development ideas over the next 50 years. The Council was also briefed on the Mol policy regarding gender balance, quality of life in the work environment, and improvement mechanisms.

In addition, the Council reviewed a report on the wrong use of parachute drones and related accidents. It also discussed setting up a mechanism to regulate their use within legal frameworks; restricting them to specific areas in order to eliminate any danger to the public; and spreading awareness amongst drone users on safety procedures.

Al Shamsi reviews proactive services of Sharjah Police



Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police (centre-right), during Sharjah Police's meeting on customer service centres' performance

Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, led a special meeting to discuss the proactive services provided by the police force.

The meeting discussed the services and the results of customer service centres' performance, in order to identify areas for improvement.

The meeting reviewed the percentage of

customers' use of electronic channels to access services, and the level of customer happiness for the year 2020, based on opinion polls. The results of the field visits by police-appointed mystery shoppers were also evaluated.

Al Shamsi affirmed Sharjah Police's keenness to provide services in a manner befitting its pioneering status in this field. He spoke of the

importance of aligning police services with global best practices.

Praising Sharjah Police employees, he urged them to continue to meet the best international standards in the field of service provision and to expand the use of smart channels for services. Al Shamsi also called upon employees at service outlets to redouble their efforts to make customers happy.

RAK Police unveil safety e-campaign for labourers

Brigadier Abdullah Khamis Al Hadidi, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, launched the e-campaign 'Towards Safe Labour Accommodations', undertaken by the Media and Public Relations Department in cooperation with the Criminal Investigation Department, the Comprehensive Police Stations Department, and the Community Police Department.

Al Hadidi stated that the launch of this

campaign, which would continue until the end of the first quarter of 2021, is part of the targeted awareness campaigns organised by the Ras Al Khaimah Police General Command to enhance overall security and protect the belongings of people in general and workers in particular.

He added that the campaign gives

instructions and advice for workers in Ras Al Khaimah to secure their labour accommodation and personal belongings.

Al Hadidi also urges the employers of these labourers to cooperate with this campaign. Business owners are being advised to install surveillance cameras in workers' accommodation and allocate an individual safety box to each worker.

Al Marri receives 'Great Place to Work' certificate for Dubai Police

Lt General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, has received a 'Great Place to Work' certificate for the force's excellent work environment and corporate happiness.

Dubai Police bagged the award for the second year in a row.

In the 'Great Place to Work' survey for 2020, Dubai Police's workplace happiness index scored 95 per cent in 2020 compared to 90 per cent in 2019.

The survey is being conducted amongst employees of organisations in the Middle East to measure their experience at work, in addition to checking the approved human resource policies and practices in providing an attractive and productive work environment for employees.

Al Marri emphasised that receiving this recognition for the second consecutive year was made possible by Dubai Police's continuous keenness to provide the best



Lt General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, presented with 'Great Place to Work' certificate awarded to Dubai Police

work environment, encouraging police personnel to best serve their nation and ensuring a happy community.

He highlighted that the 'Great Place to Work' certificate coincided with Dubai Police's top ranking in

the customer happiness index with 91.6 per cent, and second in the employee happiness index with 96.68 per cent. These scores were the result of 2020 studies prepared by the Dubai Government Excellence Programme.

Al Mualla spearheads COVID-19 prevention meeting



Major General Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla, Commander-in-Chief of Umm Al Quwain Police (centre), during a meeting of the UAE's Local Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Team

Major General Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla, Commander-in-Chief of Umm Al Quwain Police, and Chairman of the Local Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Team of the emirate of Umm Al Quwain,

hosted a meeting with the team assigned to follow up on the implementation of precautionary measures and violations to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Al Mualla directed the team to increase the number

of its personnel and intensify inspection campaigns in the emirate to ensure full adherence of the public to the precautionary measures, thereby supporting the UAE's efforts to control the global pandemic.

Fujairah Police launch pedestrian safety drive

The Fujairah Police General Command, represented by the Traffic and Patrols Department, launched the events and activities of the first sub-campaign for 2021, under the slogan 'Pedestrian Safety on the Road'.

The overall campaign aims to spread the safety traffic culture through awareness programmes aligned with the strategy of the Ministry of Interior and the Fujairah Police General Command.

Colonel Saleh Mohamed Al Dhanhani, Director of the Traffic and Patrols Department, stressed that excessive speed, preoccupation with things other than the road, and crossing from undesignated places caused most of the run-over accidents.

Ajman Police report 96.6% resolved cases through settlement

Captain Wafa Khalil Al Hosani, Head of the Social Support Section in Ajman Police, said that the section received 834 cases during the year 2020, of which it was able to resolve 806 cases amicably without referring them to the courts.

The section achieved a rate of 96.6 per cent out-of-court settlements, surpassing the target of 95 per cent, thereby reaching a new milestone that added to the section's accomplishments.

1st

UAE's Hope Probe pioneering legacy as the Arab World's first interplanetary mission after it entered Mars orbit on the historic day of February 9, 2021. It marked the region's entry in the global race of space exploration

1st

The Ministry of Interior's (MoI) top ranking in the results of star-rating evaluation of all federal government service centres. The MoI received two 5-star ratings for its website and smart application

1st

Abu Dhabi's ranking in the list of the safest cities in the world, based on a survey conducted by the crowd-sourced data website Numbeo amongst 431 countries. The Capital ranked first in the list for five years in a row. This year, Sharjah and Dubai also placed 6th and 7th, respectively

1st

UAE's regional ranking in the remote working index, published by the UK-based Circle Loop. The country placed 31st globally, surpassing other most-advanced countries including Japan, Russia, the US, and China. The UAE also ranked 2nd globally in terms of Internet connection speed and efficiency

1st

UAE's overall regional ranking in the Global Entrepreneurship Index (GEI) 2020 by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor. The country placed 4th globally in the list after posting high ratings in many sub-indicators, most notably on the 'National government's response to the COVID-19 and its impact on the entrepreneurial sector'

BE IN THE LOOP

UAE, UKRAINE SIGN MOU FOR DRIVING LICENCE SWAP



HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior (L), and Arsen Avakov, Minister of Interior of Ukraine (R)

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for mutual recognition of national driver's licenses issued by the governments of UAE and Ukraine was signed by HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, and Arsen Avakov, Minister of Interior of Ukraine.

AL SHA'FAR INAUGURATES VIRTUAL HAPPINESS FORUM



Lt General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, with senior officials from the MoI and its Happiness Directorate General during the 'The Future of Government Services' virtual forum's kick off

A virtual forum, titled 'The Future of Government Services', was inaugurated by Lt General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior (MoI). It was organised by the Happiness Directorate General at the MoI. Specialists and representatives of the participating government agencies from the human resources departments, customer happiness managers, and supervisors attended the forum.

MOI UNVEILS 1st UNIFIED TRAFFIC AWARENESS DRIVE FOR 2021




Major General Engineer Mohamed Saif Al Zafin, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Operations Affairs at Dubai Police and Chairman of the Federal Traffic Council at the Ministry of Interior

The Ministry of Interior's (MoI) first unified traffic awareness drive for 2021 under the slogan 'Avoid Sudden Swerving' was unveiled by Major General Engineer Mohamed Saif Al Zafin, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Operations Affairs at Dubai Police and Chairman of the Federal Traffic Council at the MoI. The campaign runs till the end of March, in coordination with all the traffic police departments across the emirates.

Fifty years in the service of the nation



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

 **FIVE C TECHNOLOGY**

UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS



A total of 35,073 drivers were issued traffic violation tickets for tailgating last year, according to recent data released by Abu Dhabi Police. They were slapped with a fine of Dhs400 and 4 black points each. Causing an accident for not leaving a safe distance between vehicles attracts a Dhs5,000 fine, in addition to vehicle impoundment.



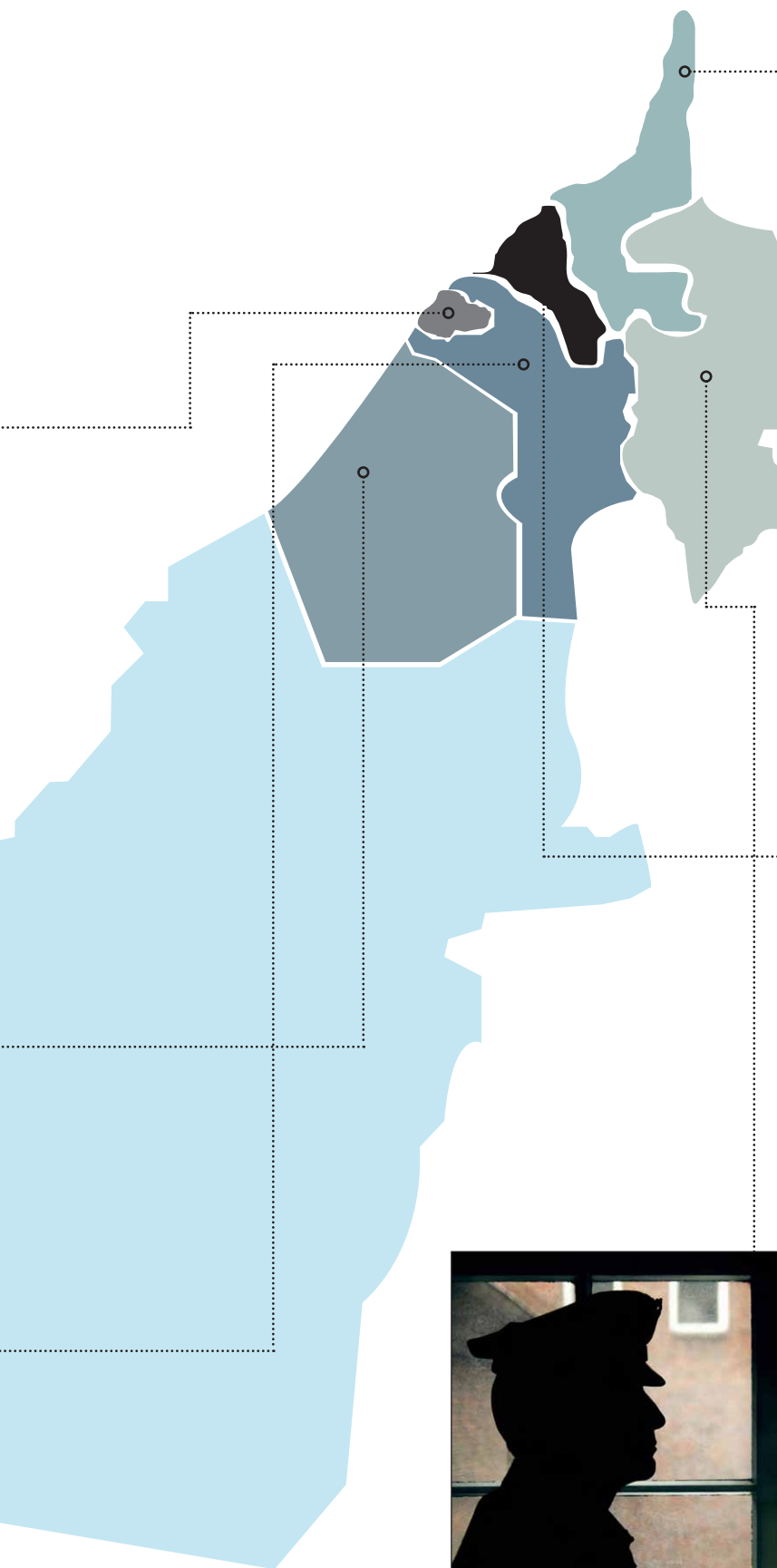
At least 160 individuals were stripped of their driver's licences for reckless driving last year, according to recent data released by Ajman Police. This mirrors the intensified effort of the police force to make the emirate a safer place for all road users. Meanwhile, the adoption of state-of-the-art technology in traffic monitoring played a crucial role in the 19 per cent drop in minor accidents in the emirate — from 36,613 in 2019 to 29,744 in 2020.



An African visitor, 26, was charged with the possession of illegal drugs and smuggling of cannabis into the emirate of Dubai. He was caught in October 2020 with 34.4kg of cannabis hidden in his two bags at the arrivals area in Terminal 2 of Dubai International Airport. He claimed that he was only asked to deliver the bags to someone and had no prior knowledge of its contents. The trial is still ongoing.



Within 15 minutes, civil defence teams in Sharjah managed to bring under control a fire in an apartment building in the Al Taawun area. Two Asian women were rushed to the hospital after being suffocated by the smoke. Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire.



An unlicensed young driver caused a fatal accident that killed his passenger/friend instantly. The driver is 17, the same age as his friend who has died. The car flipped over multiple times when the driver was performing an illegal car stunt at Shaam Beach, according to initial investigations. Police patrols and first responders were dispatched to the site as soon as the cops were alerted. However, the victim, who had not used his seat belt, sustained critical injuries and died on the spot.



Umm Al Quwain Police have launched a crackdown on drivers who illegally park vehicles on highway roadsides. Aside from being an eyesore in the general appearance of the city, they also block the smooth flow of traffic, and worse, they can pose traffic risks as well. Based on the updated list of traffic fines in the UAE, parking vehicles on pavements and pulling up on highways in a way that blocks the traffic flow both attract a fine of Dhs400.



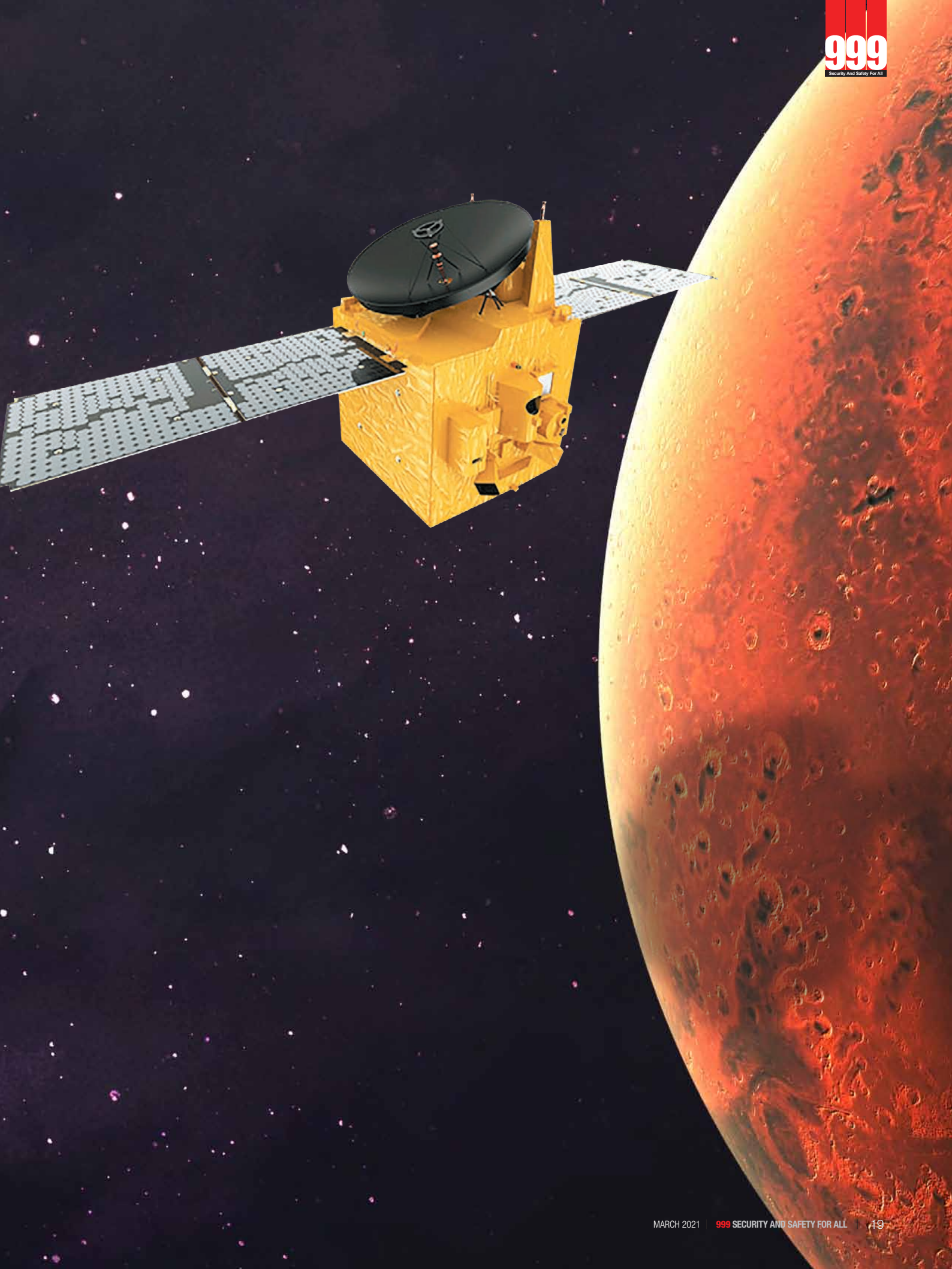
FUJAIRAH

A trio of fake policemen were accused of abducting two Asian residents in the emirate. The victims said that they were robbed of their mobile phones and cash before the three Arab men dropped them off in a remote area. One of the suspects was arrested by the police. He is currently being tried at the Fujairah Criminal Court, while the two other suspects are still at large.

INFINITE HOPE

THE SUCCESSFUL ORBIT ENTRY OF THE
UAE'S MARS PROBE MAKES THE COUNTRY'S
IMMINENT 50TH BIRTHDAY TRULY SPECIAL

BY NEIL BIE





“ The Hope probe’s historic arrival at Mars is the greatest celebration of the 50th anniversary of our country. It sets the beginning of the next 50 years with boundless ambitions and dreams

HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

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

It was the evening of February 6 when residents noticed several of the UAE’s landmarks turning red. Abu Dhabi’s Qasr Al Watan, Emirates Palace, ADNOC locations, Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), Yas Island, Sheikh Zayed Bridge were all red. In Dubai, the world’s tallest man-made tower, Burj Khalifa, brightened the evening with shades of red, as did the architectural landmark Burj Al Arab, World Expo’s Al Wasl Plaza, Global Village, the Dubai International Financial Centre building (DIFC), Dubai Frame, and the soon-to-be-opened Museum of the Future. The red trend during the week was also witnessed at buildings and structures across other emirates.

Social media-savvy residents knew why red was the flavour of the week across the UAE — it was in anticipation of a historic moment: when the country’s Hope Probe would enter the orbit of Earth’s neighbour, the red planet Mars. Ahead of that incredible achievement, the mood was building up through the hashtag #ArabsToMars, a reference to the fact that the UAE’s Mars mission was the first of its kind in the Arab World.



“ This historic achievement would not have been possible without the persistence and determination to implement the idea that emerged at the end of 2013

HH SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

President of the UAE

And that moment arrived on February 9, 2021, when the Hope Probe accomplished the complex manoeuvre of entering the Martian orbit at around 7:42pm. The nation and the leaders were notified of the good news from the ground control station in Al Khawaneej when the team received the first signal from the probe at 8:08pm.

History made in space

A roaring wave of exhilaration and pride spread across all seven emirates as the rulers congratulated the entire nation for the astounding success of the UAE’s Mars mission.

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan said, “This historic



“ The human capital is the true wealth of our nation. Investing in our people forms the main pillar of all our development strategies and policies

HH SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

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

achievement would not have been possible without the persistence and determination to implement the idea that emerged at the end of 2013 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who followed it up closely until its success.”

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa also acknowledged and praised the efforts of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, for his whole-hearted support to the mission. “Thanks to both leaders and the team of scientists and engineers behind the project for proving to the world that the UAE is capable of achieving the impossible,” said HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed.

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, took to Twitter to share with the world that this achievement marked an



The Museum of the Future sports a red hue

Yas Island turns red

Expo 2020 illuminates Al Wasl dome in red

“This mission is about the next 50 years. The next 50 years has a solid bedrock deeply rooted in science, technology, innovation and creativity



HE SARAH BINT YOUSIF AL AMIRI
Minister of State for Advanced Sciences and Chair of the UAE Space Agency

inspiring beginning to the UAE's Golden Jubilee celebrations, highlighting the country's scientific expertise that made the journey to the red planet possible.

“The Hope probe's historic arrival at Mars is the greatest celebration of the 50th anniversary of our country. It sets the beginning of the next 50 years with boundless ambitions and dreams. Our next accomplishments will be even bigger and greater. Our biggest success is building national scientific expertise that will contribute to the international science community,” said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid.

The Vice President added, “We dedicate our Mars achievement to the people of the UAE and the rest of the Arab World. Our success proves that Arabs are capable of reviving the region's legacy and status

in the scientific sphere. We mark our country's 50th anniversary by our Mars stop, and invite Arab youth to join the UAE's science movement that marched at high speed.”

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan stated that the Hope Probe's success is an important milestone for the UAE because it would soon provide crucial information about the atmosphere on Mars.

“The Hope Probe's successful arrival at Mars is an Arab and Islamic achievement that was made possible by the relentless efforts of our youth. The probe's arrival at the Red Planet celebrates our journey of 50 years in the best image that fits the UAE and captures its true story before the world. The Emirates Mars Mission paves the way for the next 50 years of sustainable scientific development in the UAE. The human capital is the true wealth of our nation. Investing in our people forms the main pillar of all our development strategies and policies,” said HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed.

Fulfilment of Zayed's dream

The UAE's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, met with a NASA team in 1976 regarding its Apollo Moon programme — there were 17 Apollo missions from 1967 to 1972, including the first Moon landing in 1969 by the Apollo 11 mission. This meeting inspired the UAE to begin setting its course to reach what lies beyond the Earth's blue skies.

By 2014, the UAE and the Arab region sparked optimism and hope with the announcement of what would be the region's first-ever mission to Mars and the UAE's

biggest scientific project to date.

While the Hope Probe will not land on the Martian surface, it will provide vital insights regarding the Martian atmosphere as it orbits around the planet. The main mission involves transmitting over 1,000 GB of data over one complete orbit of Mars (687 Earth days), information that will be shared with over 200 research institutions worldwide.

The Hope Probe mission is extendable for another two years to help gather even more information to capture and discern the pros and cons of the Martian atmosphere in preparation for a much bigger and ambitious purpose: building a human settlement on the arid red planet within the next 100 years.

HE Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Sciences and Chair of the UAE Space Agency, thanked the UAE leadership for its wholehearted support to the mission, despite the odds, stating that this marked the beginning of the UAE's endeavours in space science for the next 50 years. “This mission is about the next 50 years. The next 50 years has a solid bedrock deeply rooted in science, technology, innovation and creativity. That is not a choice for us. This is our reality today,” said Al Amiri.

Major space power

The UAE's achievement was celebrated by many international space agencies, which said that the UAE was now in the elite club of countries that could provide first-hand information from Mars directly to Earth.

Thomas Zurbuchen, Associate Administrator of NASA's Science Mission





HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, praised the Hope Probe team after its successful entry into Mars orbit, at the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre. With them was HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council



Also present during the UAE leaders' visit to the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre were HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior; HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs; and HE Mohammed Abdulla Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs

“Congratulations on your safe arrival at Mars orbit. Your bold endeavour to explore the Red Planet will inspire many others to reach for the stars



THOMAS ZURBUCHEN

Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA

Directorate, stated that the UAE's successful journey to Mars would provide space voyage inspiration for many other nations. "Congratulations on your safe arrival at Mars orbit! Your bold endeavour to explore the Red Planet will inspire many others to reach for the stars. We hope to join you at Mars soon with @NASAPersevere," tweeted Zurbuchen.

The NASA's Perseverance Mars Rover team also took to Twitter, quoting one of the Arab World's most loved poets. It said: "Dear Hope Mars Mission, congratulations on arriving at Mars. In the words of the poet Al Mutanabbi: 'If you ventured in pursuit of glory, don't be satisfied with less than the stars.'"

Jean-Yves Le Gall, President of the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), the French space agency, stated that the UAE is now one of the world's major space powers, with its successful Mars orbit entry. He said that since the manoeuvre for Mars

“This will enable us all to learn about the characteristics of the Martian climate, as well as to take photos of it from all directions, so the Emirati Hope Probe will enrich our scientific knowledge about the red planet



JEAN-YVES LE GALL

President of the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales

orbit entry was very complex, "it is no wonder that the Hope Probe's mission is the first time that a space probe would be [getting into] its orbit". The French scientist added, "This, of course, will enable us all to learn about the characteristics of the Martian climate, as well as to take photos of it from all directions, so the Emirati Hope Probe will enrich our scientific knowledge about the red planet."

The European Space Agency and Roscosmos (Russian Federal Space Agency) also congratulated the UAE's mission to Mars, highlighting the country's success and anticipating its contribution to the world in learning more about the weather dynamics and climate of Mars.

Meanwhile, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan, also hailed the arrival of Hope Probe in Mars orbit. He said: "Today is a great day for every human; but

“Today is a great day for every human; but particularly for every Muslim, the UAE has made the whole Muslim world proud. The mission is a contribution towards a knowledge-based economy in the UAE and Muslim Ummah



CHAUDHRY FAWAD HUSSAIN

Federal Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan

particularly for every Muslim, the UAE has made the whole Muslim world proud. The Emirates Mars Mission will be the first of three to arrive at Mars."

"The mission is a contribution towards a knowledge-based economy in the UAE and Muslim Ummah. I wish you all the best. I wish that you conquer space," he added.

Impetus for the youth

The Emirates Mars Mission, from its inception in 2014 to the probe's Martian orbit entry in February 2021, witnessed the active participation of many young Emiratis.

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed emphasised the role of the Emirati youth, whose relentless efforts to keep the Hope Probe in top working condition 24/7 was one of the important factors in mission success. Last year, the country had achieved the astounding feat of transporting the probe from the UAE to

Japan in the middle of the pandemic and then getting it launched from the Tanegashima island in July 2020.

HE Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri, who also happens to be one of the UAE's youngest ministers at the age of 33, said that she

never thought she would witness this historic day for the entire Arab World, much less lead the team of 200 people to ensure the success of the mission. "[This is] a moment that I never realised — [while] growing up in this beautiful nation around

us — would ever become a reality. Space was a sector that we never dared to dream about. This is my story and the story of the 200 other people that worked with me on this mission. But it is a story of the transformation of an entire nation," said Al Amiri.

Hope Probe's first look at Mars

The UAE's Hope Probe released its first image of Mars on February 14, less than a week after its complex Mars Orbit Insertion. 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.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, posted the photo sharing that the probe was hovering thousands of miles above the surface. "The first picture of Mars captured by the first-ever Arab probe in history, 25,000 km above the Red Planet's surface," said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, stated that the photo taken by

the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM) marked "a defining moment". He said, "The transmission of the Hope Probe's first image of Mars is a defining moment in our history and marks the UAE joining advanced nations involved in space exploration. We hope this mission will lead to new



Emirates Mars Mission catches Olympus Mons at sunrise

discoveries about Mars which will benefit humanity."

Hope Probe's EXI digital exploration camera took the photo titled 'EMM catches Olympus Mons at Sunrise', which proves the calibre of one of EMM's three scientific instruments. The EXI digital exploration camera is a multi-wavelength radiation tolerant camera that can take 12-megapixel images and took the image from an altitude of around 25,000 km above the Martian surface.

The colour is created from a composite of red, green, and blue EXI images. The North pole of Mars is in the upper left area of the image.

Apart from Olympus Mons (centre) emerging into the early morning sunlight, other prominent sightings in the photo are the three large shield volcanoes of Tharsis Montes (Ascraeus Mons, Pavonis Mons, and Arisia Mons).

Hope Probe Timeline



1976

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's founding father, met with a NASA team regarding its Apollo Moon programme



2014

UAE announces Emirates Mars Mission's Hope Probe Project

00:07

July 20

2020

The world's first Arab countdown for a rocket launch was heard worldwide as the Hope Probe lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southern Japan at 6:58am local time (1.58am in the UAE)



August

2020

Hope Probe team completed the Mars mission's first two Trajectory Correction Manoeuvres, aimed at refining the probe's trajectory to the red planet



November

2020

Hope Probe team completes its third trajectory manoeuvre and announces the expected date of Mars orbit arrival



February 9

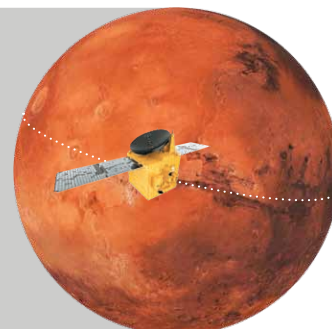
2021

On this red-letter day, Hope Probe successfully the Mars orbit and the ground Control station in Al Khawaneej receives first signal from Hope Probe



Hope Probe: Next Stages

The Hope Probe will begin its transition from the 'Capture Orbit' to the 'Science Orbit' to prepare for primary operations. The 'Capture Orbit' is an elliptical orbit that lasts for **40 hours** and will take the Hope Probe to a point within **1,000 km** of Mars (nearest point in the ellipse) and **49,380 km** away from it (farthest point in the ellipse). After a series of daily contacts, the team will begin the manoeuvres for the probe to reach the 'Science Orbit'. The Hope Probe will continuously monitor the Martian atmosphere throughout all seasons for one full Martian year (687 earth days) until **April 2023**.





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

SOCIETY'S WEAK LINK

A recent video clip made by a corona-positive young man and his friend, who both flouted the UAE's safety protocol, makes us wonder what impels them to do such an irresponsible act

The Public Prosecution in Abu Dhabi has ordered the detention of two young men on charges of endangering the health of others and violating the preventive measures to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

This punitive action comes against the background of a widely circulated video clip, in which one defendant has appeared to be wandering around in a public place and displaying a positive COVID-19 test result on his mobile phone screen, while the second accused has filmed him and posted the video on social media.

The news provoked and surprised me — such irresponsible behaviour by some young people may somehow increase the number of their followers on social media but will make people look at them with disrespect. They are putting the health of others at extreme danger, and also risking their own health and that of their family, friends, and colleagues.

Some people may irresponsibly say that this is their way of living freely, forgetting that the freedom of the individual ends where another's begins. It means our liberty must not injure no one. This incident reminds me of Prophet Muhammad's Hadith, when he said: "The example of the person abiding by Allah's order and restrictions in comparison to those who violate them is like the example of those people who drew lots for their seats in a boat. Some of them got seats in the upper part, and the others in the lower. When the latter needed water, they had to go up to bring water (and that troubled the others), so they said, 'Let us make a hole in our share of the ship (and get water), saving those who are above us from troubling them.' So, if the people in the upper part left the others to do what

they had suggested, all the people of the ship would be destroyed, but if they prevented them, both parties would be safe."

This Hadith clearly depicts the responsibility of every individual in society, and assures us that this responsibility is not only social, but also religious and moral. That's why I'm surprised how some people are stripped of all these responsibilities, especially if they are young men in their early stages of life, who are supposed to have learned their manners at home, in school, and from society. Here, we have to identify the weak link. Is it home, school, or community?

The freedom of the individual ends where another's begins. It means our liberty must not injure no one

Scientists agree that socialisation has a significant impact on parenting; it is also considered a process of education based on social interaction. It aims to provide an individual — from childhood to advanced age — with the behaviour, standards, and attitudes appropriate to social roles. They also agree that many parties contribute to this process, including the family, friends, school, and places of worship. The most important is the family, being the first human community that uniquely shapes one's personality.

Even though the social networks on which they spend most of their time are full of instructions and directions, I wonder now which of these social links must be strengthened so that we can keep the young generation from breaking social and behavioural rules.

Every sector of our society has been playing their part since the outbreak of COVID-19, making the country one of the best in dealing with the pandemic. It must be stressed that the authorities will not allow any individual to tarnish the country's reputation, be it during or after this pandemic.



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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

BY MARK NITUMA





Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi

As the world recovers from the pandemic, “safety” is the word that’s on everyone’s mind, now more than ever. Time then, for us, to doff our hats to Abu Dhabi, the place that has been named the “safest city in the world” for five years in a row. The Capital’s already highly polished reputation for maintaining top-notch security has got an extra layer of public approval for its exemplary management of law and order during the COVID-19 crisis.

In its Quality of Life Index published in

January 2021, the crowd-sourced data website Numbeo handed the crown to Abu Dhabi for the fifth consecutive year, with a safety score of 88.46 per cent. Also amongst the top 10 safe cities are Sharjah (83.59 per cent) and Dubai (83.44 per cent). The total number of cities surveyed for the 2021 index is 431.

This is yet another feat that the UAE can be rightly proud of in the run-up to the 50th anniversary celebrations and the World Expo 2020. The country’s safest cities in the world that would attract the most goodwill

“The achievement cements the emirate’s position as a desirable destination to live, invest, work in, and visit. It is the result of our continuous accomplishments and progress, thanks to the guidance of our visionary leaders

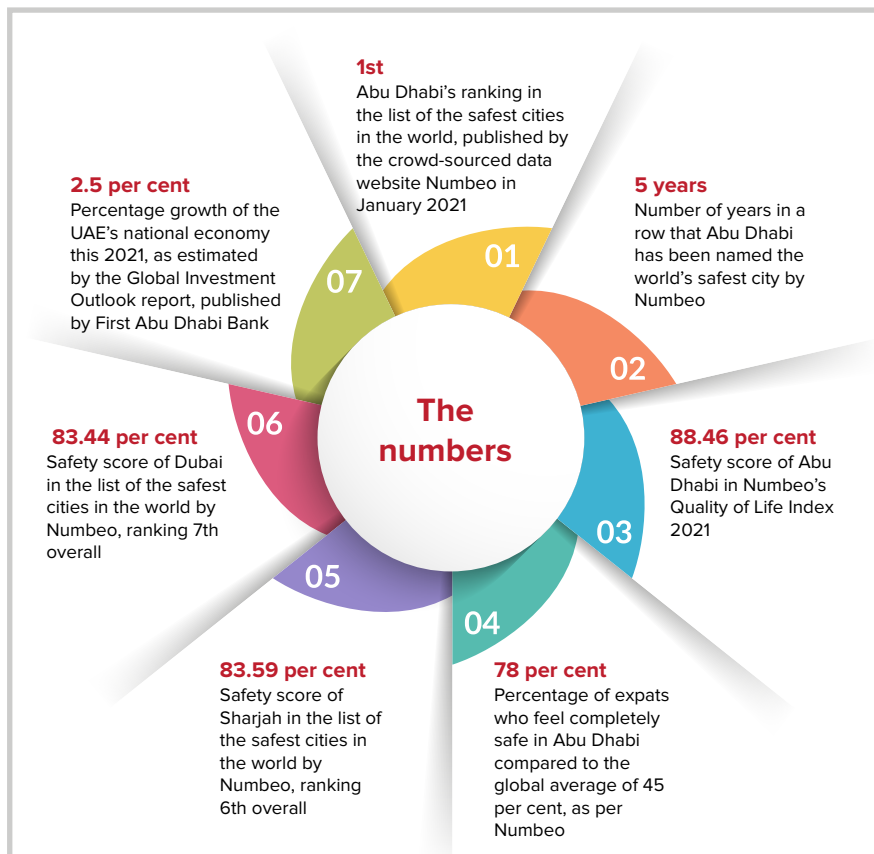


MAJOR GENERAL STAFF PILOT FARIS KHALAF AL MAZROUEI
Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police

from the global population and, therefore, keep sharpening their competitive edge.

Numbeo ranks world cities by analysing the cost of living, crime, healthcare, climate, traffic, pollution, and general safety, based on data from survey respondents. In the case of Abu Dhabi, the capital’s friendliness and safety were amongst the major contributing factors to its top ranking, as 78 per cent of expats said that they felt completely safe in the city, compared to the global average of 45 per cent. “This is a testament to the security and stability Abu Dhabi enjoys,” said Major General Staff Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police.

Even as Abu Dhabi strengthens its position as the safest city in the world, the emirate’s police force is gearing up to do more. “The achievement cements the emirate’s position as a desirable destination to live, invest,





Dubai



Sharjah

work in, and visit. It is the result of our continuous accomplishments and progress, thanks to the guidance of our visionary leaders who have created a comprehensive strategy to increase security and establish stability across the country," said Al Mazrouei.

He added, "Abu Dhabi Police are taking steps to be global pioneers in security issues and are eager to live up to the people's sense of safety and create a foundation of trust with the community. We are doing this by adopting ambitious initiatives that strengthen the country's leading position in the Global Competitiveness Index."

Clearly, the UAE police forces don't rest on their laurels.

Safety bolsters tourism

Numbers don't lie, but what do these statistics mean on the ground? A seasoned traveller who seeks out new experiences, Anne Thoreau arrived in Abu Dhabi in December 2020 on her first solo trip. "I had family members and friends tell me that it was not safe for a woman to travel alone so far from her home country, but I took the plunge. When I began to explore Abu Dhabi, my confidence was rewarded. I have not felt so safe in many places that I had travelled in the past. I would

frequently walk by myself through the streets and lanes of Abu Dhabi, even at night, and not once did I have any untoward experience.

Everybody I met was very respectful and kind," she told **999**.

Indeed, one of the outcomes of being the safest place in the world is that everyone in the city, whether they live there or visit, experiences a better quality of life and, therefore,

feels more rejuvenated. Across the globe, safety improves one of the major industries of a country — travel and tourism. The inherent culture of a place and its crime control reputation influence the number of people that visit it.

Travellers usually want a break from their regular lives and hope to enjoy the sights of another place; it's a foregone conclusion that they'd prefer to do so in safe surroundings. Only a country as peaceful as the UAE can boast a long-term record of social and cultural harmony and economic and political stability to win the confidence of travellers.

Before the 2020 pandemic, Abu Dhabi attracted large numbers of travellers — 10.27 million visitors in 2018, and 11.35 million in 2019 — from across the world, because of its unique landscape, heritage destinations, renowned hotels, entertainment possibilities, shopping places, business and conference opportunities.

According to Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism, around 350,000 cruise visitors in 2018 docked at the shores of the emirate; its cultural sites, such as museums, galleries, and marketplaces, were visited by 2.6 million people. In the same year, the hospitality industry of Abu Dhabi set a new record by

hosting 5.45 million guests. These numbers show that the world traveller views the emirate as a safe and interesting place to visit.

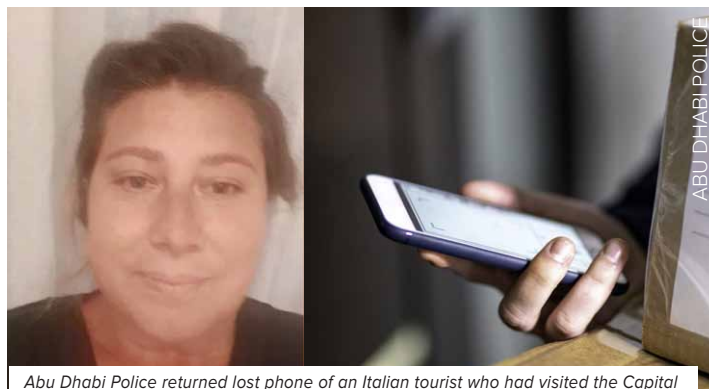
UAE police never sleep

If people in the UAE — be it citizens, residents, or visitors — need help, the police are always around to help. The knowledge that law enforcement is working 24/7 for the public no doubt gives people that warm feeling of safety, but it actually goes well beyond that.

Take the case of the Italian tourist who lost her mobile phone before leaving Abu Dhabi in April 2020. Shortly after she reached home in Italy, she received a gift from Abu Dhabi Police: it was a package containing her lost mobile phone, which was so precious for her, because it had all the photos and memories of her great time in the UAE. The woman had reported the loss before exiting the country, but she hadn't expected to see her phone again. Abu Dhabi Police had not only traced the mobile phone to the security department of a mall, but they had also couriered it to Italy.

The very grateful woman videotaped a message: "Thank you, Abu Dhabi Police, for finding and sending me the phone that I had lost in Abu Dhabi. You are wonderful people and I hope to return and see you soon. Thank you very much." Not only had she been charmed by the sights of Abu Dhabi, but her admiration for the UAE capital would also go beyond the superficial, she added in the message.

Such a feeling was experienced by another tourist, a visitor to Dubai in December 2020. A kayaking enthusiast, the tourist dropped his wallet containing his credit cards, two mobile phones, and other valuables at Hatta Water Dam. After receiving the report, personnel from Dubai Police's Maritime Rescue Department had plunged into the deep water of Hatta Dam without hesitation to retrieve the visitor's belongings.



Abu Dhabi Police returned lost phone of an Italian tourist who had visited the Capital



Dubai Police's Maritime Rescue Department had plunged into the deep water of Hatta to retrieve the belongings accidentally dropped by a visitor (centre) in the water dam

The UAE police forces' prompt response in every situation has given the country one of the lowest crime rates in the world. As early as in 2016, the UAE was well on its way to meeting its Vision 2021 goal on crimes. His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, had then said at the Federal National Council's meeting that the country's Violent Crime Index showed a steady drop in crime rate. He said, "The number of crimes per 100,000 population was 119.8 in 2011, decreased to 110.2 by the end of 2013, and fell further to 90.6 in 2014 and 83.8 in 2015."

'Eyes' everywhere

The applause for maintaining safety ethos in the UAE goes to its leadership and police forces. Abu Dhabi, for instance, has advanced surveillance systems with more than 300,000 CCTV cameras covering more than 7,000 locations. These ensure that the places where people visit, live, or work, such as malls, shops, government institutions, banks, hotels, hospitals, pharmacies, commercial buildings, and places of worship, are safe. In case of any crime or accident, CCTVs provide crucial evidence as cameras enable the offenders and the victims to be identified, or they capture the number plate of a vehicle.

In Dubai, aside from the latest technology and super-fast cars utilised for law enforcement, the inimitable Mounted

Police officers of Dubai Police are a familiar sight for tourists. The police steeds are former racehorses that have been selected by expert teams comprising equestrians, veterinarians, and trainers, amongst others.

Founded in 1976 by Lt Colonel Al Addab, an equestrian and an international referee of the sport as well as Director of the Mounted Police Department, this force not only keeps people safe but also keeps the heritage of the country alive. Dubai Police Mounted Police Department has a special patrol stationed at beaches, including Jumeirah Beach Residence, and tourists enjoy seeing officers in the uniform used for special occasions.

Brigadier Expert Mohammad Al Adhb, Director of Dubai Mounted Police Station, said last month: "The Dubai Mounted Police Station has a variety of tasks, including providing security coverage for areas of jurisdiction, securing events, and building strong community relations."

He added, "Last year, the Dubai Mounted Police Station, performed 4,580 security checks on individuals; 11,562 vehicle checks, of which 209 were impounded; and fined 5,146 violators of the COVID-19 precautionary measures."

Value of vaccination

For an international traveller in the post-COVID-19 era, the risk of virus transmission and quarantine rules are a big concern. Abu Dhabi's visit rules are more traveller-

“The Dubai Mounted Police Station has a variety of tasks, including providing security coverage for areas of jurisdiction, securing events, and building strong community relations



**BRIGADIER EXPERT
MOHAMMAD AL ADHB**

Director of Dubai Mounted Police Station

friendly than those in many other places. Rather than implement a one-size-fits-all quarantine policy for travellers, the emirate has a 'green list' of countries (updated from time to time) whose people can visit without going into quarantine but by following a protocol that includes testing; visitors not included in the 'green list' need to be in quarantine for 10 days. The transparency of the process, and the convenience of getting COVID-19 insurance (till March 31, 2021) with each ticket of Abu Dhabi-based carrier Etihad, makes a trip to the Capital an attractive plan.

At the same time, Abu Dhabi has a terrific track record of COVID-19 management within its own borders, setting up testing centres across the emirate and making the UAE's free vaccination programme available to as many citizens and residents as possible. In the third week of February 2021, a new drive-through COVID-19 vaccination centre was opened in Abu Dhabi's Burjeel Medical City, in Mohammed bin Zayed City. This new centre is capable of vaccinating 60 people per hour, taking 20 minutes per person, and can accommodate 700 citizens and residents a day.

In July 2020, the Department of Culture and Tourism—Abu Dhabi, started the 'Go Safe' certification programme, under which COVID-19 testing was made mandatory for all tourism sector staff of the police force.

As a tourism superstar in the Gulf region, the UAE has been praised by world



DUBAI POLICE

Meet the Dubai Police Mounted Police

66



A new drive-through COVID-19 vaccination centre was opened in Abu Dhabi's Burjeel Medical City, in Mohammed bin Zayed City

The Global Investment Outlook report, launched by First Abu Dhabi Bank in January 2020, calculated that the national economy would grow by around 2.5 per cent overall and 3.6 per cent for non-oil sectors in 2021

leaders for its swift vaccination drives — this is a relief for both UAE citizens and residents and for international visitors. A faster rate of vaccination means a correspondingly faster rate of recovery in the travel and tourism industry, with a spillover effect across sectors. The Global Investment Outlook report, launched by First Abu Dhabi Bank in January 2020, calculated that the national economy would grow by around 2.5 per cent overall and 3.6 per cent for non-oil sectors in 2021.

There should be plenty of cross-emirate travelling by international visitors when Dubai, which sits between Abu Dhabi and Sharjah, inaugurates the World Expo. The First Abu Dhabi Bank report predicted: "The Dubai Expo's rescheduling to open in October 2021 will add further strength, and an improvement in tourism will have a positive effect on other sectors, including retail and real estate activity, as the COVID-19 immunisation programme moves forward."

You always belong

The result of maintaining all-around safety is that Abu Dhabi is also one of the leaders in the World Happiness Report 2020, published in March 2020.

Travellers here witness first-hand that the people have a sense of belonging, which enriches a visit. Citizens and residents in Abu Dhabi and Dubai are engaged by the authorities in safety initiatives such as 'We Are All Police', which was introduced a few years ago.

In July 2020, after the country cautiously re-opened the economy, the people living in Abu Dhabi were encouraged to travel within their own emirate, with the launch

of the campaign 'Rediscover Abu Dhabi'. Families that have lived in the emirate for years enjoyed staycations, day trips, or adventures and got to know their culture better. Ensuring the safety of all residents, staff in the hospitality sector, as well as visitors, the 'Go Safe' campaign launched by the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) is ensuring that high safety levels are maintained at hotels and attractions across the emirate.

Sharjah's safety seal for tourism

Meanwhile, the emirate of Sharjah has received the 'Safe Travels' stamp from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which demonstrates its compliance with global safe protocols in tourism.

The safety seal, under the 'Sharjah Safe for Tourism' initiative, is being issued by the Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development Authority to public and private facilities in the tourism sector such as hotels, restaurants,

shops, malls, as well as leisure and recreation destinations including beaches, swimming pools and golf. It is displayed in every establishment that adheres to the public health protocols and guidelines aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Aside from this, safety measures that are being strictly enforced in the emirate include thermal scanners and thermal cameras at all entry points of every establishment, as well as wearing of face mask and two-metre social distancing at all times. The staff and crew of any tourism or recreation facility also undergo regular swab testing.





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

UAE'S ROBUST DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The future of government work will be different in the coming decades, but it opens lots of opportunities arising from a crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed serious challenges for the whole world at all levels, especially in the field of work. Driven by social distancing to minimise the risk of virus transmission, remote work has become a necessity for business continuity.

Remote work was not an easy choice to make; many realised that it requires early preparations. And when we say early, we mean years of planning and system implementation that would allow businesses to move forward and achieve through remote work what used to be accomplished during normal workdays.

The use of technology to enhance communication amongst employee groups requires the availability of devices; it requires ensuring that the Internet is always available for teams working from home, so that they can hold meetings and finish tasks; and it also requires employees' capability of using the software and apps that eliminate the need to fly around on business trips.

Utilising technology for a quick transition to remote work requires other preparations. The pandemic revealed to the world the readiness of the UAE and other developed countries that had a headstart in developing their technology infrastructure. These countries managed to get everything done through remote work and overcame obstacles in record time. In addition, institutions proved that they are efficient, at least in shifting to the work-from-home (WFH) model in the first stage of the contagion.

The success of the WFH experience is in its early stages, and the waves of COVID-19 have made all governments realise the need to review work mechanisms in their institutions. Here comes the endeavour of the UAE at its Cabinet meeting in February. The country has decided to form a working group,

headed by a minister, to study online communication and work automation.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said, "We have approved the formation of a team to automate government work through remote communication applications, headed by the Minister of State for Digital Economy, Artificial Intelligence and Remote Work Applications. The future of government work will be different in the coming decades."

The Cabinet announced the team members and assigned them to work in cooperation with institutions, asking them to accomplish this work in a way that would guarantee business continuity during any contingency similar to how it goes under normal circumstances.

Linking the future of the government to technology is not new for the UAE. The country has made the world accustomed to its proactive steps in all its projects that have put it ahead of other nations in the region. The statement of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid about the direction of government work draws attention to the aspect of seizing opportunities in crises to overcome challenges of the future.

It is the right of the next generations to live in a safe, secure, and prosperous nation, and this cannot be achieved except through the realisation that work methods do not remain the same and that gains can be preserved only by enhancing capabilities.

This is what makes us confidently say that the UAE government can work remotely as long as it has well-informed minds to think, strong arms to build infrastructure, and judicious investment in the best work mechanisms.

The UAE government can work remotely as long as it has well-informed minds to think, strong arms to build infrastructure, and judicious investment in the best work mechanisms

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



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WHAT DO CONSUMERS WANT?



AS THE UAE AND THE WORLD RETURN CAUTIOUSLY TO NORMALITY, **999** PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON SOME OF THE MOST NOTABLE CONSUMER TRENDS AND DISSECTS WHAT EXPERTS ACROSS SECTORS HAVE TO SAY

BY JAMILLE DOMINGO-MARASIGAN



“HOUSEHOLD SPENDING IN THE UAE WILL RETURN TO GROWTH IN 2021 AT 4.1% YEAR ON YEAR

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has, indeed, transformed the world. Almost overnight, all institutions and businesses were forced in 2020 to streamline their models, recognising that failure to adapt would mean a complete collapse. In 2021, every sector of the economy is seeing the spillover effects of the changed consumer behaviour. While such changes normally happen over time, the pandemic has accelerated things like never before.

Ever innovative, adaptive, and dynamic, the UAE is amongst the leading nations that have successfully navigated the changing currents of consumer trends. This country has taken some of the most effective measures against the disease — from last year’s National Disinfection Programme and large-scale testing to this year’s nationwide free vaccination campaign — alongside facilitating extremely rapid digitalisation of education and other essential sectors. These strategies and actions have kept both safety levels and business confidence high.

A forecast in November 2020 by Fitch Solutions Country Risk & Industry Research, a part of the Fitch

Group that also has one of the world’s top three credit rating agencies, indicated that consumer spending would rebound soon. It said: “We forecast household spending in the United Arab Emirates to return to growth in 2021 at 4.1% y-o-y (year on year), after the COVID-19 pandemic led to an estimated contraction in consumer spending in 2020 of -5.7%.” The growth would be driven by “recovering oil prices, a revival of international tourism, and government stimulus measures”, it added.

In December 2020, announcing the launch of Gitex Technology Week, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said, “The UAE will be the fastest country in the world to recover and our institutions have proven their ability to adapt.”

Recovery is expected, but with myriad changes in consumer behaviour. Experts across the globe have been conducting a series of comprehensive research and studies regarding the emerging consumer trends in the post-pandemic era.



TOP TRENDS IN CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR IN 2021

1 CONTACTLESS PAYMENT METHODS

It’s no secret that almost everyone yearns to go back to the old normal, to the simplicity of the pre-pandemic life, in which we could do everything on an impulse and enjoy unplanned socialising without any risk to personal health and public safety. In the new normal, all of that is gone. Store visits are far from spontaneous. The surge in contactless payments is the result of this change.

According to Marwan Ahmed Al Ali, Director General of Ajman’s Department of Finance, one of the UAE government institutions spearheading the digital transformation of services, consumers are currently relying on online solutions to retain some semblance of the lifestyle they had prior to the crisis, leading to the accelerated adoption of digitalisation.

Digitalisation, he added, offers a seamless experience that offsets the inconveniences brought about by COVID-19. “The UAE has long realised the value of online initiatives and forward-thinking technology in order to improve the overall consumer experience. As the pandemic disrupted the supply

chains and overwhelmed customer service, digitalisation has been the closest thing we have to recapturing lost in-store conveniences,” he said.

Ajman’s Department of Finance has launched the payment app ‘Ajman Pay’, which provides multiple payment options and channels that guarantee ease, convenience, and a high level of security, and suits the needs of various customer segments. The app won an award last November in the ‘Best Government Payments Experience’ category at the Seamless Awards 2020.

The Ajman Pay app comes with a digital wallet, an online payment feature that many consumers believe are more secure than cards, since the wallet exposes a very limited amount of their money — only the amount available in the wallet — during a transaction, instead of putting card details at the risk of hacking. The pandemic has made the popularity of digital wallets soar, as observed in a study by Juniper Research. The study, released in January 2021, indicated that e-wallet spending across the world would nearly double in the next

“The UAE has long realised the value of online initiatives and forward-thinking technology in order to improve the overall consumer experience. Digitalisation has been the closest thing we have to recapturing lost in-store conveniences



MARWAN AHMED AL ALI
Director General of Ajman’s
Department of Finance

five years. It said that by 2025, total cashless spend via mobile phones or other electronic devices would exceed \$10 trillion (Dhs36.7trn), up from \$5.5 trillion (Dhs20.2trn) in 2020.

2 BRANDS' COMMITMENT TO VALUES

With the pandemic driving home the need for sustainability and a responsible way of living and doing business, consumers are now looking for companies whose business models go beyond profits. They now prefer businesses that put the interest

of society and the planet at the forefront of their operations, causing a shift from a volume- to a value-driven economy.

The Euromonitor

International Lifestyles Survey in 2020 categorised purpose-driven corporate response to COVID-19, which consumers pay close attention to. These three categories are Brand Activism, Social Initiatives, and Environmental Initiatives.

Under the Brand Activism category, the survey shows that

businesses noted "sustainability initiatives are considered critical to success" (72.8 per cent), "consumers will be more concerned about sustainability" (69.1 per cent), and that it is important to "balance social and environment initiatives" (49.7 per cent).

Meanwhile, under the category Social Initiatives, the survey said that consumers patronise businesses

that are "offering support to employees" (88.9 per cent), "investing in sustainability to improve brand reputation" (73.1 per cent), as well as "offering support to local communities" (65.4 per cent).

Lastly, under the Environmental Initiatives category, the survey analysis showed that consumers also consider if companies have engaged in "short- to medium-term increased use of plastic packaging to minimise infection against COVID-19 (51.4 per cent)".

In the UAE, Arash Dara, Group CEO of the Dubai-based conglomerate Lootah Holding, said that most consumers want companies to share their values of making the world a better place for the sake of humanity, as well as turning the tide on social inequity and environmental damage. "One of the biggest trends we see emerging amongst businesses this year is a heightened sense of responsibility for creating a better future. Amidst the anxiety and challenges brought about by the pandemic, the consumers now seek holistic solutions from businesses as they engage in more thoughtful consumption. They are becoming vocal in pushing forward their advocacy to attain a better tomorrow," he said.

"We genuinely believe that sustainability initiatives will not only put businesses at a competitive advantage, [but] they are also vital for generating social licence and trust

“One of the biggest trends we see emerging amongst businesses this year is a heightened sense of responsibility for creating a better future. The consumers now seek holistic solutions from businesses as they engage in more thoughtful consumption

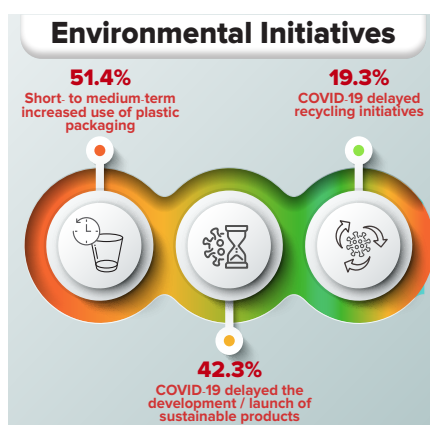


ARASH DARA

Group CEO of Lootah Holding

within society," said Dara.

The CEO added, "One of our start-ups, as an example, Lootah Batta Water and Environment provides environmental consulting and innovative products such as Airocide systems, a NASA-developed technology, generating cleaner air that is good for both people and perishable products. This is how we have ensured resilience prior to and during the pandemic —positioning our operations towards purpose-driven outcomes and balanced social and environmental initiatives."



3 'PHYGITAL' REALITY

This trend outlines the hybrid of physical and digital worlds, allowing consumers to seamlessly live, shop, and work both in person and online. Smart technologies, including video conferencing apps, augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR), have helped people form new lifestyle habits.

This has become especially evident amongst millennials and Gen Z adults, with 60 per cent of global consumers who have used the AR/VR technology in the past year falling in the 15-29 age group, according to the Euromonitor International Digital Consumer Survey in April 2020.

Data presented in a report titled 'United Arab Emirates (UAE) e-Commerce Landscape 2020', jointly published by Dubai Economy and Visa, show that the UAE has the biggest annual spending per online shopper at \$1,648 (Dhs6,000+) in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia (MENASA) region.

The country also leads in terms of the average transaction size compared to both mature and emerging e-commerce markets — the average

online transaction value in the UAE stood at \$122 (Dhs448) in 2019-20, compared to \$76 (Dhs279) in mature markets, and \$22 in emerging markets.

Russell Owen, COO of Lootah Real Estate Development (LRED), said that brick-and-mortar businesses forced to temporarily close during the pandemic saw the need to integrate the virtual world into their physical space. They now utilise such technologies as mobile reservation systems, QR codes for touchless menus and payments, and virtual rooms to achieve 'phygital reality', encouraging customers to safely visit on-site with the help of smart devices.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need for the private sector, including the real estate industry, to align with the UAE's vision of digital transformation. Many property companies are now offering VR to enable potential property buyers to experience the property without a physical visit. LRED actively harnesses its IT infrastructures to strengthen our VR capabilities," he said.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need for the private sector, including the real estate industry, to align with the UAE's vision of digital transformation. Many property companies are now offering VR to enable potential property buyers to experience the property without a physical visit



RUSSELL OWEN
COO of Lootah Real Estate
Development

1 60 PER CENT

Percentage of global consumers (falling in the 15-29 age group) who have used the AR/VR technology in 2020, according to the Euromonitor International Digital Consumer Survey in April 2020

2 DHS6,000+

The amount of annual spending per online shopper in the UAE. This is the biggest in the MENASA region, based on the report titled 'UAE e-Commerce Landscape 2020'

3 DHS448

Average online transaction value in the UAE, according to the report titled 'UAE e-Commerce Landscape 2020'



4 LOVE OF THE OUTDOORS

More and more consumers are now turning to country living and healthy outdoors as COVID-19 kept people confined in their homes for months and also limited the number of employees who could physically come to any office. Even as promising vaccines emerged, several organisations have continued the work-from-home (WFH) option for the majority of their employees in order to maintain safety and cut overhead costs.

This means that people can now do their jobs without staying close to the offices; the wider open spaces and spread-out residential communities outside the city centre now seem very attractive as a result. There's less vehicular pollution and lower rents in these areas, and if there are fewer shopping complexes, then the opportunities for outdoor activities more than make up for it.

In a survey done by professional services network PwC in July 2020, it was found that 78 per cent of CEOs believed that remote working was here to stay. Research advisory firm Gartner also noted in its July 2020 study that 82 per cent of company leaders planned to allow employees to work remotely at least part of the time after the pandemic, while 47 per cent would allow employees to work from home full-time.

This is why many people in the city are considering moving to rural areas for good, or

moving to bigger homes in areas that emulate a touch of nature, according to LRED's Owen. "These residents are now searching for homes, particularly with large gardens and a big space for a home office, that can offer comfortable work areas where they can keep distractions at bay, while ensuring that a relaxing lifestyle remains within reach," said Owen, citing the sought-after LRED property Living Garden, a complex of high-quality spacious homes with large areas of greenery.

In addition, the desire to connect with

nature and reduce carbon emission is also leading people towards sustainable activities. A survey by the UK platform Liftshare showed that 48 per cent of the people would be changing the way they travel to work after the pandemic, with an increase in cycling and walking by 71 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively. Furthermore, data released by international plant provider Bonnie Plants said that 20 million people in the US had tried gardening since the onset of the crisis.



5 PRIORITISING MENTAL HEALTH

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a collective trauma that has tested many people's mental resilience. Consumers have been yearning for a lifestyle that focuses on self-improvement and fulfilling pursuits, especially as unemployment and financial troubles continue to hound millions across the globe.

In the 2020 Arab Youth Survey, it was revealed that a lot of young people were having difficulty coping with increased stress and depression due to the pandemic. They also expressed concern about the lack of access to quality mental health care in the region. About 38 per cent of Arab youth also said that they knew someone struggling with mental health problems, a figure about 7 per cent higher than the previous year's findings.

Consumers, too, are taking steps to cope



with the severe stress, seeking products, services, and skill lessons to mount their mental defence. They have been reassessing their priorities and identities, exploring new hobbies in a socially distant world. As a result,

online classes for enhancing skills, including arts and craft, and fitness, are expected to grow even as the pandemic wanes, according to the Euromonitor International's authors Angus and Westbrook.

6 GREATER ATTENTION TO HYGIENE

COVID-19 has triggered a new wellness movement amongst consumers. The demand for personal hygiene products, including sanitisers, has skyrocketed, as habits like washing hands, wearing masks, and wiping or spraying open surfaces with sanitisers are now everyday habits.

In the Middle East, more than 50 per cent of residents were washing their hands five times a day, according to Euromonitor International Beauty Survey published in September 2020.

The interesting part about pandemic hygiene is that while people have stayed at home and have ordered everything online, both the buyer and the delivery person have had to consider the risk of infection from any virus on the packaging surface and, therefore, they've had to increase the level of precaution. New technology has moved into this space to offer reassurance.

For the retail industry, Rabih Bou Rashid, CEO of Falcon Eye Drones (FEDS), the first and leading drone-as-a-service (DaaS) company in the Middle East, forecast that drones would be the new norm in terms of delivery as they minimise human-to-human contact, thereby decreasing the risk of infection. "Robots

like drones can deliver necessary goods without human contacts. They are immune to infection, and have indeed proven their value, especially to those who are quarantined at home. In fact, some nations have utilised them already for contactless deliveries,



reducing cross-infection while making sure aid arrives for people in need," he said.

According to Euromonitor International, 44 per cent of consumers would be comfortable receiving a delivery via drone or robot.

LRED's Owen said, "The coronavirus pandemic has led the [real estate] industry to rethink space design in order to maintain new distancing

“Robots like drones can deliver necessary goods without human contacts. They are immune to infection and have indeed proven their value. In fact, some nations have utilised them already for contactless deliveries, reducing cross-infection



RABIH BOU RASHID
CEO of Falcon Eye Drones

standards. Most UAE developers will follow suit in employing touchless sensor technology, such as voice-activated elevators, hands-free light switches, and mobile phone-controlled room entries in order to ensure safety amongst tenants and owners.”

7 CRAVING WORK-LIFE BALANCE

At the peak of the WFH phase, finding the motivation to work and relax in the same space became challenging for many people. Even as they appreciated the time saved by working from home, minus the rush hour commute, they missed face-to-face interactions with colleagues and friends.

Being forced to do everything at home during the movement restrictions resulted in many consumers missing on-the-go occasions, such as dinners, lunch break, and even the simple act of grabbing a coffee. For working parents with school-going young children, it was doubly stressful, as they had to mind the children

and help them with online classes alongside pulling their own office duties. Home chores, professional work, studies, everything happening in the same limited space left some people feeling exhausted.

According to Euromonitor International, such difficulty in attaining work-life balance is why 52 per cent of consumers want to have a strict boundary between work (or school) and personal life. Many of them are finding ways to define the beginning and end of their WFH days and increase social interaction through technology.

The video conferencing app Zoom saw 300 million daily meeting participants in the middle of 2020, a huge increase from 10 million in 2019, according to founder-CEO Eric S. Yuan. The app has been widely utilised not only for business meetings and academic classes, but also for

family events, including weddings and game nights.


“We were humbled by the accelerated adoption of the Zoom platform around the globe in the first quarter [of 2020]. The COVID-19 crisis has driven higher demand for distributed, face-to-face interactions and collaboration using Zoom,” Yuan said.

Many of the habits acquired during the pandemic have become second nature for consumers even in the post-pandemic era, because of both safety and convenience. Despite the worldwide vaccine rollout, the virus still remains, and so these consumer trends are going to be with us for quite some time.



Fifty years in the service of the nation



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





HELLO, CITIZENS

THE SERIES OF TRANSFORMATIVE REFORMS IN THE UAE'S RESIDENCY AND BUSINESS SECTORS ARE CAPPED BY THE JEWEL IN THE COUNTRY'S CROWN: THE OFFER OF CITIZENSHIP TO RESIDENTS AND INVESTORS UNDER CERTAIN CRITERIA

BY TIM CASTRO



“ We adopted law amendments that allow granting the UAE citizenship to investors, specialised talents and professionals. The new directives aim to attract talents that contribute to our development journey

HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

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

The multi-cultural cohesion of UAE society is one characteristic that highlights its astounding success as a young nation and drives its economic progress. Now, in yet another ground-breaking move, the UAE has amended its laws to offer citizenship to investors and talented residents under certain criteria.

The leadership of the UAE, since the formation of the Union almost 50 years ago, has blended national development and international tolerance through its game-changing immigration policies, opening its doors to people from all other countries, giving them unparalleled infrastructure, security, and financial incentives.

In the run-up to its Golden Jubilee in December 2021, the UAE has introduced two major immigration and economic policies. In the latter part of 2020, under the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, 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, chaired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced amendments to the 'Executive Regulation of the Federal Law concerning Nationality and Passports'.

His Highness 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, delighting UAE residents and giving them greater motivation to strive for excellence.

UAE citizenship and passport can be acquired by expats under certain conditions. The offer includes

families (spouse and children) of the eligible people and, equally important, allows everybody to retain their current nationality. HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid added, “The UAE Cabinet, local courts and executive councils will nominate those eligible for the citizenship under criteria set for each category.”

Diversity means progress

The UAE has one of the world's best records in this respect, as there are millions of population of expats in the country from more than 200 nationalities. The country attracts bright minds from across the world and provides them with invigorating work and living conditions. Since a country is only as good as its people, the UAE has become one of the top economies of the world in its lifetime of a mere 50 years.

According to HE Zaki Nusseibeh, Minister of State, granting citizenship and passport to foreign nationals is part of the UAE's strategy for the future. “It will prepare the groundwork for the next 50

“ In addition to attracting the best minds and intellectuals to share in this vision, the UAE is also investing heavily in education and culture to build a knowledge-based society that is capable of facing the challenges of the new century



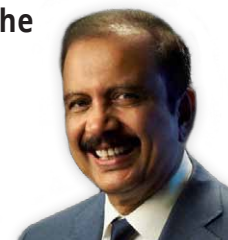
HE ZAKI NUSSEIBEH
UAE Minister of State

“ This citizenship decision and similar previous ones, mirror the UAE’s approach, aimed at preserving the diversity and tolerance of its society as a fundamental pillar and a top priority in its policy towards building a generation that has top-notch capabilities



MOHAMMED JALAL AL RAYSSI
Director General of WAM - Emirates News Agency

“ While it will help many people who have played a significant role in the development of the country, it will also help to attract new talent in various specialised fields to the country



DR AZAD MOOPEN
Chairman and Managing Director
of Aster DM Healthcare

years of development, which is in line with the country’s 2071 objectives to make the UAE a global leader,” said Nusseibeh. “In addition to attracting the best minds and intellectuals to share in this vision, the UAE is also investing heavily in education and culture to build a knowledge-based society that is capable of facing the challenges of the new century.”

Dr Azad Moopen, Chairman and Managing Director of Aster DM Healthcare, said, “It is heartwarming and exciting to hear the announcement to allow a number of categories of people in the UAE to hold dual citizenship. While it will help many people who have played a significant role in the development of the country, it will also help to attract new talent in various specialised fields to the country.”

policy decisions that enhanced its proactive strategy for the next 50 years, based upon diversity and tolerance.

“This [citizenship] decision,” he said, “and similar previous ones, mirror the UAE’s approach, aimed at preserving the diversity and tolerance of its society as a fundamental pillar and a top priority in its policy towards building a generation that has top-notch capabilities, including talent in science, economics, arts and culture. These amendments also seek to promote a sustainable environment

in the economy and embrace science, and these are two main pillars of the development of any country.”

Nausheen Shamsheer, who has been living in Dubai for several years, said, “For professionals like me, it is a testament that the country is ready to accept you with open arms. Though the UAE has been my second home, I’d like to call this my first. The country has been a perfect platform to start my career and personal life. The opportunities offered in this place have always been fair, and I have some pleasant memories that add up to the experience. I am very optimistic, and can’t wait to see the roll-out of the next phase.”

Over the past year, the UAE has been reaching out to talented and accomplished people in every field. In November 2020, the country became the first Gulf Arab nation to give foreign investors the right to full company ownership in the UAE without the need of an Emirati sponsor, in certain commercial activities and in accordance with the policies set by the UAE Cabinet.

Before this announcement, foreign shareholders could own up to 49 per cent of a local company

‘The brightest mind’ policy

Mohammed Jalal Al Rayssi, Director General of WAM (Emirates News Agency), said that the UAE had consistently been taking



while an Emirati partner held the 51 per cent majority share. The reform resulted from an amendment to the UAE Federal Law No. 2 of 2015 on Commercial Companies.

The Golden Visa, a long-term residency permit of five years (for highly talented residents and entrepreneurs) or 10 years (for investors who put at least Dh510 million in the UAE economy), was announced in 2019, replacing the

standard short-term permits for the eligible few, encouraging real estate ownership plans. This initiative was also meant to attract top talent in science and arts from other nations, and to retain the best students in the UAE.

"The new rules regarding personal laws, company ownership, and now the opening up of citizenship are great moves by the rulers of the country. It is, I believe, a win-win situation for both

the UAE and the foreigners wanting to settle here. Many of us expats spend our entire lives here, and consider the UAE home. To have an avenue to set up roots here is truly exciting. On a macro level, the world is shrinking, and to have a policy where talented people are welcome truly sets the base for a rich, diverse society," Sadia Anwar, a Dubai-based author and founder of the online book platform Storically.

Abu Dhabi rolls out its own welcome mat

The emirate of Abu Dhabi has been building itself as the premier cultural centre of the Middle East, with its world-class modern museums and well-preserved historic forts. It also has some of the best universities, research centres, and startup ecosystems in the world. This has been made possible by its policy of welcoming talent and offering them the best work and living conditions.

In February 2021, Abu Dhabi renewed its efforts by giving students, athletes, healthcare professionals, scientists, educators, engineers, and investors in priority sectors (e.g. culture, healthcare, research and development, and real estate) the opportunity to get long-term visas and even citizenship. The facility is extended to the primary visa/citizenship holder's family. The announcement was part of a new programme, 'Thrive in Abu Dhabi'.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR UAE CITIZENSHIP?

The UAE's amendments to the Executive Regulation of the Federal Law concerning Nationality and Passports outline specific professions and requirements to be eligible to attain UAE citizenship. These are as follows:

Artists / Creatives / Intellectuals:

Should be pioneers in arts and culture and winners of one or more international awards. Mandatory to have a recommendation letter from any relevant government entity.

Doctors / Engineers / Specialists:

- Must be specialised in a unique scientific discipline or any other scientific principles that are highly required in the UAE.
- Must have made acknowledged scientific contributions, studies and research of scientific value and possess practical experience of not less than 10 years.
- Must obtain membership in a reputable organisation in his field of specialisation.

Scientists:

- Required to be an active researcher in a university or research centre or in the private sector, with practical experience of not less than 10 years in the same field.
- Must have contributions in the scientific field, such as winning a prestigious scientific award or securing substantial funding for their research in the past 10 years.
- Mandatory to obtain a recommendation letter from recognised scientific institutions in the UAE.

Inventors:

Required to obtain one or more patents that are approved by the UAE Ministry of Economy or any other reputable international body, in addition to a recommendation letter from the Economy Ministry.

Investors:

Must own a property in the UAE

- **Big data,
disruption, digital
transformation.
Cool words.**

- We look beyond their
traditional definitions and
see solvable challenges that
need flexible solutions.



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**CHOOSE
TO VACCINATE**



THE UAE CAMPAIGN TO GIVE THE IMMUNITY-BOOSTING COVID-19 JABS TO EVERY CITIZEN AND RESIDENT HAS BEEN SPEARHEADED BY THE TOP LEADERSHIP. **999** BRINGS YOU ALL THE KNOWLEDGE ON WHO SHOULD GET VACCINATED AND WHY

BY MARK NITUMA



**HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID
AL MAKTOUM**

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

**“Taking the vaccine
is every individual’s
responsibility to protect their
health, families and wider
society**

Nearly 3.5 million people in the UAE have so far rolled up their sleeves, because the best news of 2021 comes in a tiny vial and needs to be injected immediately. The arrival of millions of doses of vaccines against the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has given a booster shot to the level of optimism amongst the general populace in the country. The approved vaccines in the UAE are being used to inoculate all citizens and expats aged 16 and above. The country’s leaders have shown the way by being amongst the first to take the vaccine shot, raising public awareness and confidence. With the leaders stepping forward, members of the public were reassured that the approved vaccines are perfectly safe to take during the mass vaccine rollout.

After the UAE crossed the milestone of 1 million vaccine doses administered last January,

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, tweeted: “Taking the vaccine is every individual’s responsibility to protect their health, families and wider society.”

On the same day, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said on Twitter: “We hope that with vaccinations picking up pace, we will reach the point of full recovery in the shortest possible time.”

A day before this, Lt General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, posted his family’s desert safari video and tweeted: “I wish you good times with your loved ones. We all received the vaccine.”



**HH SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED
AL NAHYAN**

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

**“We hope that with
vaccinations picking up
pace, we will reach the point
of full recovery in the shortest
possible time**

By the last week of February, the country had vaccinated nearly 3.5 million people, with a vaccine distribution rate of 57.31 doses per 100 people. The country has approved four vaccines, developed by Pfizer-BioNTech; China National Biotec Group, a subsidiary of Sinopharm (China National Pharmaceutical Group); Russia’s Gamaleya Research Institute (for Sputnik V vaccine or Gam-Covid-Vac); and Oxford-AstraZeneca. The Sinopharm vaccine was trialled in the UAE and its effect was monitored closely, ensuring total safety. In fact, the country had authorised an emergency use of the Sinopharm vaccine as early as September 2020, with frontline workers, leaders, ministers, and top officials being amongst the first to get vaccinated. Meanwhile, the first



Dubai Media Office



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, receives the Sinopharm vaccine

Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Twitter



HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, takes the Sinopharm vaccine

“ The UAE vaccination drive aims to reach more than 50 per cent of the country’s population during the first quarter of this year. This will enable us to reduce the number of COVID-19 cases, in general



DR FARIDA AL HOSANI

Official Spokesperson for the UAE Health Sector

“ COVID-19 will not disappear unless we fight back and the most effective way to do that is with vaccines. I hope everyone chooses to vaccinate to be a part of victory against this pandemic



HE MATAR SAEED AL NUAIMI

Director General of Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre

batch of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine arrived in Dubai on February 2. Along with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, it is currently being used by the Dubai Health Authority in the emirate.

Emphasising the safety aspect, HE Matar Saeed Al Nuaimi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre, said, “The vaccines have gone through rigorous trials for safety, efficacy and quality. I hope you choose to vaccinate to protect your health and the health of our nation. Getting vaccinated is the

simplest and most effective way to stay safe. Throughout history, vaccines have saved millions of lives around the world.”

He added, “COVID-19 will not disappear unless we fight back and the most effective way to do that is with vaccines. I hope everyone chooses to vaccinate to break the infection chain and be a part of victory against this pandemic.”

Dr Farida Al Hosani, Official Spokesperson for the UAE Health Sector, said, “The UAE vaccination drive aims to reach more than 50 per cent of the country’s population

during the first quarter of this year. This will enable us to reduce the number of cases, in general, and critical cases, in particular, and control the disease better in the next phase.”

All the emirates are proactively spreading awareness about the vaccine and making it easy for people to get vaccinated. Across the country, COVID-19 vaccines are free for residents and citizens, and this message is being highlighted in the awareness campaigns.



COPS LEADING BY EXAMPLE



Major General Maktoum Al Sharifi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Police, gets the COVID-19 vaccine jab



Lt General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, during his first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine



Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, during his first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine

To encourage people to voluntarily take the vaccine, the Abu Dhabi Media Office put out a video in December 2020, in which Abu Dhabi Police officers were seen receiving the jab. A few days later, Lt General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, received his first shot.

Then, during the third week of January, Sharjah Police encouraged every member of the force — officers and employees — to get vaccinated. “The wise leadership of the UAE has made great efforts in the battle against COVID-19. They ensure that the best international practices

are implemented as precautionary measures,” said Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police.

Ajman Police have already vaccinated 90.8 per cent of their employees against COVID-19, along with 630 of their family members, as of the second week of February. The initiative was in line with the national vaccination programme. Colonel Mohammad bin Ghalita, Head of the Training Department at the Training Centre, praised the police employees who responded to the campaign, saying that taking the shot was a social responsibility.

“The wise leadership of the UAE has made great efforts in the battle against COVID-19. They ensure that the best international practices are implemented as precautionary measures



MAJOR GENERAL SAIF AL ZARI AL SHAMSI
Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police

TREMENDOUS RESPONSE



An 81-year-old Filipina grandma in Abu Dhabi gets the jab and encourages the public to play their role in the COVID-19 fight

Across the UAE, medical hotlines are ringing and people are queuing up for the vaccine. Between January 18 and 19, within a space of 24 hours, the vaccination covered 93,846 people. That record was shattered on

February 10, when the Ministry of Health and Prevention announced that 157,514 vaccine doses were administered in the past 24 hours.

“People in the UAE are enthusiastic and optimistic about taking the jab as early as possible. The leaders of the country helped boost the confidence of the general population by taking the first shots.

Their pictures were widely circulated in print and social media, which helped in overcoming the concerns and fear factor in people,” said Dr T.M. Thomas, Specialist Family Medicine, Aster Clinic, JLT, Dubai, speaking to **999**.

She added, “Now the citizens and residents of the UAE believe that Their Highnesses The Rulers of this great country are walking side by side with them in achieving the task of nationwide immunity. This was reflected when the news came out that more than 2 million people got vaccinated in January. And this is one of the



VACCINE IN, PANDEMIC OUT?

Does the vaccination drive mean that the pandemic is over? Straightforward answer: No. Dr Thomas explained, "Stopping a pandemic requires using all the available tools we have. Wearing masks and social distancing help to reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. But these measures alone are not enough at this point of time. Vaccines will work with your immune system, so that it'll be ready to fight the virus if you're exposed."

"Although the effective vaccines available in the UAE will greatly diminish the relative risk of transmission, we still shouldn't completely abandon basic public health measures, including wearing of masks and social distancing. Hence, people should follow government advisories on gatherings and celebrations and continue to practise the safety protocols strictly."

PROTECT OTHERS FROM GETTING SICK

When coughing and sneezing
**cover mouth and nose with
flexed elbow or tissue**



**Throw tissue into closed bin
immediately after use**

**Clean hands with alcohol-based
hand rub or soap and water
after coughing or sneezing and
when caring for the sick**



milestones before achieving the humongous task of a fully vaccinated country, which we believe can be achieved in the shortest possible time."

Dr Thomas said that the other factor behind reaching the milestone was that the vaccine shot was free. "When we visit the vaccine centres, we can see that people from different strata of society are there to get the shots. This [has] developed a faith in all sections of society that nobody is left out in the fight against coronavirus," she said.

In Abu Dhabi, an 81-year-old expat grandmother was amongst the

first to receive her dose. Filomena Maguit Castillo, a Filipina, described this as her way of serving the country she has adopted as her own. A fitness enthusiast even at an advanced age, she told the media, "COVID-19 made me realise how short life is. Things can change very quickly. I was waiting for the results of the Phase III clinical trials (of the Sinopharm vaccine). I've been following the news bulletins, and they all say that the vaccine is safe. So, I trust this is the time to take it. It is good for everybody's health."

Capturing the general mood in her conversation with 999, Indian-origin Dubai resident Shubhra Singhal said, "I feel a sense of relief with the vaccines now available for the population.

The rate at which the vaccine has been approved and distributed for use within the UAE is really commendable."



“ The citizens and residents of the UAE believe that Their Highnesses The Rulers of this great country are walking side by side with them in achieving the task of nationwide immunity



DR T.M. THOMAS
Specialist Family Medicine, Aster Clinic,
JLT, Dubai



FAQs: Clear your doubts about the COVID-19 vaccines

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF VACCINATION, IN GENERAL?

Vaccines have been found to be amongst the most effective medical interventions for a range of diseases and they have saved millions of children and adults across the world over the decades. Vaccination results in strengthening the body's natural immunity to fight a disease, so getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is one of the best ways to safeguard yourself.

Dr T.M. Thomas, Specialist Family Medicine, Aster Clinic, JLT, Dubai, breaks down the reasons:

- Analysing the early data of clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may keep you from falling seriously ill even if you do get infected.
- Getting yourself vaccinated may also protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccination will protect you by creating an antibody (immune system) response without having to experience sickness.
- Researchers and doctors do understand that some people have genuine concerns about getting vaccinated. All COVID-19 vaccines developed are carefully evaluated in clinical trials and authorised or approved only after showing a substantially less likelihood of COVID-19 infection.
- While more COVID-19 vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to ensure the safety of each batch of vaccine that is authorised or approved for use. Safety of the people taking these vaccines is always a top priority for healthcare workers and leaders of the UAE.

HOW LONG WILL THE IMMUNITY LAST AFTER TAKING THE VACCINE?

According to the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP), there is no specific duration for the immunity after being vaccinated.

ARE YOU LEGALLY BOUND TO TAKE THE VACCINE?

No. According to MoHAP, vaccination is optional and depends on your choice.

DO VACCINES CAUSE HEALTH-RELATED SIDE-EFFECTS?

It is possible that one might suffer general side-effects, such as pain in the injection site, muscle pain, headache, fever or lethargy. In most cases, these side-effects are mild and do not need medical attention.

WHAT ARE THE EXTRA RESTRICTIONS ONE MUST ADHERE TO AFTER BEING VACCINATED?

A person can return to regular life immediately after being vaccinated, keeping normal safety precautions in mind.

HOW OLD DOES ONE HAVE TO BE TO GET THE VACCINE?

Anybody 16 years old and above can get the vaccine in the UAE.

WHICH CATEGORY OF PEOPLE SHOULD NOT GET VACCINATED?

Do not get the vaccine if you have a history of allergy to vaccines, food and medicines; suffer from immunodeficiency diseases, encephalopathy, epilepsy, convulsion, or mental illness; or carry self-injectable adrenaline. If you have a confirmed severe COVID-19 infection, you should not get vaccinated. If you have taken some other vaccine in the past two to four weeks, you should not queue up for the COVID-19 jab immediately. Women who are pregnant, lactating, or plan to get pregnant in the next three months should not also get the jab.

DOES BEING VACCINATED MEAN THAT ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO GET TESTED FOR CORONAVIRUS?

No. If a relevant authority requests you to be tested for coronavirus, even after

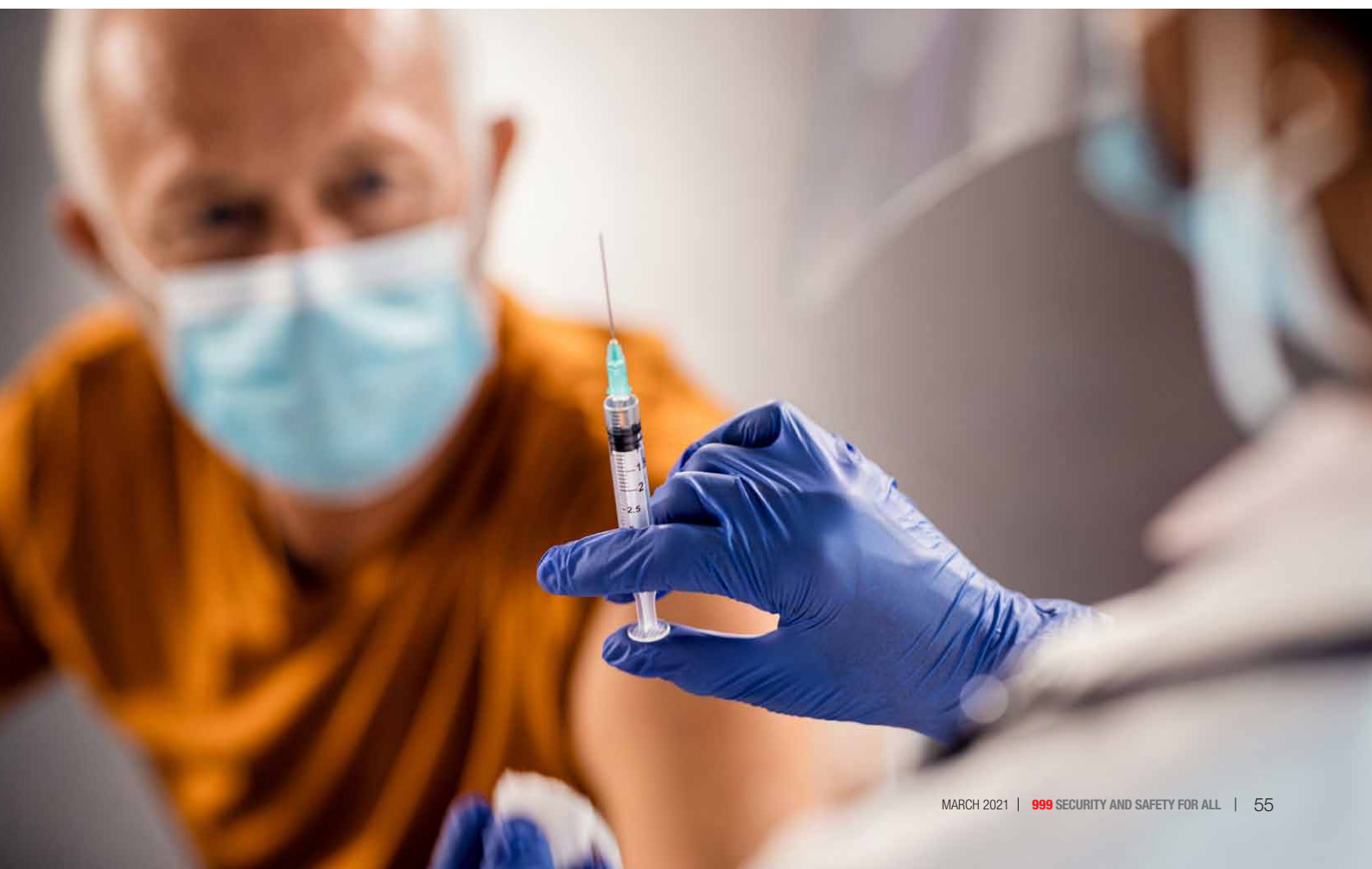
you have been vaccinated, you have to comply. This means, you still have to take a COVID-19 test if you are travelling.

WILL PEOPLE BE EXCUSED FROM HOME OR INSTITUTIONAL QUARANTINE IF THEY GET VACCINATED?

Nobody is exempted from quarantine after being vaccinated. In all cases, people must abide by the guidelines of relevant authorities.

DOES GETTING VACCINATED MEAN THAT WE CAN GET RID OF COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE?

All precautions will continue after vaccination and people have to stay masked, maintain social distancing, use sanitisers, wash their hands, and not touch their faces unnecessarily. These safety protocols have been put in place to reduce the spread of the virus. A combination of these safeguards and immunity from the vaccination is needed to make the world safer.





WOMEN HOLD UP HALF THE SKY

AS THE UAE SPEARHEADS THE CAUSE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS ALL OVER THE WORLD AND TOPS MANY GLOBAL INDICATORS RELATED TO THEIR EMPOWERMENT, **999** UNDERSCORES THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOME OF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY

BY JANELLE WYCO



(File photo only) HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, with the staff at Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, whose 42 per cent of the workforce are Emirati women

The past few decades have seen a rapid surge in women's empowerment across the world, but while most countries talk about the need for gender equality, few have integrated it as effectively in their policy-making and on-ground measures as the UAE has.

One name constantly mentioned in the context of women's empowerment in the UAE is that of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF).

Widely known as 'Mother of the Nation', Her Highness has garnered praise globally for helping women advance in all sectors and for supporting initiatives to enhance women's stature on the global stage.

"The women of our nation should be proud of the vital role they play in the service of our country. Women are partners in the struggle, in the past, present and future. There is nothing achieved by the Union of our State that has not benefited women," said Her Highness Sheikha Fatima.

The UAE is a good place to be a woman, and the wise leaders keep striving to make it better. With the leaders' support, women — both citizens and residents — are empowered to break the glass ceiling in every profession.

A woman in the UAE can even reach the stars, as we see from the successful Mars orbit entry of the Hope Probe, a mission that has put the

“

The women of our nation should be proud of the vital role they play in the service of our country. Women are partners in the struggle, in the past, present and future. There is nothing achieved by the Union of our State that has not benefited women

spotlight on one of the country's youngest public figures, HE Sarah Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Technology and Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency. She has been the deputy project manager of the Emirates Mars Mission, thus making a huge contribution to this national achievement. In her position as a science-minded minister, the 33-year-old Al Amiri is an inspiration to all young people in general and to women in particular.

Women comprise 34 per cent of the Hope Probe mission and 80 per cent of its science team. In the year 2014, when the Emirates Mars Mission was announced, a report of the World Economic Forum on gender gap noted how the UAE had been able to achieve gender equality in educational attainment, as 77 per cent of



HE Sarah Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Technology and Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency, speaking during a session discussing the UAE's Hope Probe during the 2019 UAE Government Annual Meetings

“Our continued investment in women’s education and the recognition of their growing contributions in all areas of government is vital to the future of our prosperity



HE SARAH AL AMIRI

Minister of State for Advanced Technology and
Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency

Emirati women enrolled in higher education, representing 70 per cent of all university graduates.

Since the time of the UAE’s founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Union had always made women’s empowerment, education, and engagement a pillar of national development. According to Sheikh Zayed, women form part of the foundations of the

UAE’s development. In the 50th year of the country’s anniversary and in celebration of International Women’s Day (March 8), 999 outlines the accomplishments of some of the most extraordinary women in the UAE.

Global model on empowerment

The UAE presents a splendid example of how to propel the talents and skills of women to greater heights, setting a benchmark for the world. There’s evidence of this everywhere.

The country ranked first on the female parliamentary representation index of the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2020, issued by the World Competitiveness Centre of the World Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Lausanne, Switzerland, in July 2020.

The country has also been lauded by a United Nations delegation for granting women rights to become effective partners in nation-building. The UAE’s election as a member of the UN Human Rights Council is a solid affirmation of its efforts towards gender parity.

Moreover, the UAE is one of the largest contributors to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), with the country taking over the presidency of the Executive Board in 2017. During this time, it has provided regular

financial support — amounting to about \$26 million (Dhs95.5 million) — for women’s empowerment at the global level.

In addition, the UAE in 2017 put forth a draft resolution regarding the right of girls to receive an education across the globe. This resolution was unanimously passed by the UN Human Rights Council during its 35th session in Geneva. The document sought to eradicate obstacles to female education, including discriminatory policies, poverty, tradition, religious considerations, or financial hardship, and also to ensure their safety against sexual violence and threats in and outside school premises.

Emphasising on the country’s intentions and goals to help women achieve their full potential, minister Sarah Al Amiri said, “I stand with the UAE in its continued commitment to the inclusion and participation of women in all areas of society. Our continued investment in women’s education and the recognition of their growing contributions in all areas of government is vital to the future of our prosperity.”

This commitment was evident nearly a decade ago, in 2012, when His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime

BY THE NUMBERS

Women in UAE sectors

40 per cent
Education sector



35 per cent
Health sector



20 per cent
Social affairs



23,000

The number of UAE businesswomen managing billions of dirhams in investments



1st

UAE’s rank in the female representation index of the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2020



95.8 per cent

Literacy rate of women in the UAE, amongst the highest rates in the world



95 per cent

Percentage of female high-school graduates who pursue further education at tertiary-level institutions, compared with 80 per cent of males



15 per cent

Positions in the boards of chambers of commerce and industry occupied by women in the UAE



Source: UAE Gender Balance Council

“ With a 95.8 per cent literacy rate for women, amongst the highest rates in the world, the UAE has closed the gender gap in education



**HE JAMEELA BINT SALEM
MESBEH AL MUHAIRI**

Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Public Education

Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, made it mandatory for government-owned entities and federal agencies to include women on their Board of Directors. The move was deemed a major achievement in terms of closing the gender gap worldwide, because at that time, the only other country that passed a similar legislation was Norway.

In this manner, through legislation, policies, and initiatives, the UAE leadership has taken women's empowerment to a much higher level compared to the global average.

Widening spectrum

The UAE's commitment to investing strongly in education has changed women's roles in public and private sectors. The spectrum of professions where women are making a mark is getting wider and wider.

According to the UAE Gender Balance Council, 95 per cent of female high-school graduates pursue further education at tertiary-level institutions, compared with 80 per cent of males. Overall, the UAE is one of the leading nations in terms of literacy rate.

“With a 95.8 per cent literacy rate for women, amongst the highest rates in the world, the UAE has closed the gender gap in education,”

“ Women today not only have leading roles in industries once deemed only for men, but they have also taken on new roles that were non-existent anywhere else, and proved to be an inspirational success



MANAR AL HINAI

Senior Vice President and Head of the Corporate Social Responsibility Division at Abu Dhabi Investment Company

said HE Jameela bint Salem Mesbeh Al Muhairi, Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Public Education, citing statistics from the Council.

In terms of sectoral distribution, UAE women comprise over 40 per cent of all employees in the education sector; at least 35 per cent in the health sector; and approximately 20 per cent in social affairs. In the first two, about 75 per cent of positions are occupied by women, according to the UAE Gender Balance Council.

Half of the businesses in the SME (small and medium enterprises) sector in the UAE, as per data from the Council, are run by women; about 23,000 businesswomen in the UAE now manage billions of dirhams in investments, and occupy 15 per cent of the positions in the boards of

chambers of commerce and industry nationwide.

No wonder that in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2020, the UAE ranks first in the sub-index of literacy rate and enrolment in primary education, while it's in the top 10 in the sub-index of wage equality for similar work.

Manar Al Hinai, award-winning Emirati writer and entrepreneur, and Senior Vice President and Head of the Corporate Social Responsibility Division at Abu Dhabi Investment Company, said that with the growth the UAE has seen, there was plenty of room and resources for women to contribute at all levels of modern society. She said, “Having made significant progress on the women's empowerment front, there's no slowing down Emirati women. Women today not only have leading roles in industries once deemed only for men, but they have also taken on new roles that were non-existent anywhere else, and proved to be an inspirational success,” she said.

Needs resolved

The UAE is setting an incredible example of making women's empowerment a top priority by looking after their needs and removing barriers to help them succeed in every sector of society.

According to Eleni Tsolakou, General Manager of Property Management at Yas Mall, it was a challenge in the past to juggle work and family. “One of the barriers that I've faced, I believe, was at the time when I was about to become a mother. It took an effort to convince my superiors that my career will always be important for me,” she told 999.

Today, women in the UAE are entitled



“The UAE is one of the nations making conscious strides in ensuring all industries and opportunities are inclusive to women



CHRISTINA STRULLER

Vice President of Public Affairs for UPS in ISMEA

to a maternity leave of 45 days, including the time before and after delivery. If the woman has completed one year of

continuous employment for the same employer, she is entitled to full pay during maternity leave; otherwise, she is entitled to half pay. Following childbirth, the woman must be given two additional breaks each day to nurse her infant, with each break not exceeding half an hour. She is entitled to such breaks for 18 months following the date of delivery, as well as to full pay.

Moreover, under a circular from the Federal Authority for Government Human Resources (FAHR), working mothers can arrive two hours late or leave two hours before normal work hours to take care of their children who are registered at nurseries and kindergartens.

“The UAE is one of the nations making conscious strides in ensuring all industries and opportunities are inclusive to women,” said Christina Struller, Vice-President of Public Affairs for UPS in the Indian Subcontinent, Middle East and Africa

(ISMEA). “We live in a country where every woman receives equal opportunity as her male counterpart. This is an especially important topic for us, at UPS. With more than 528,000 employees worldwide, UPS’s greatest strengths are the diversity of its people and the unique qualities each brings to work every day.”

According to Emma Banks, Vice President for F&B Strategy & Development in Europe, Middle East and Africa at Hilton, the UAE has been admirable in terms of providing professional opportunities for women to thrive. She said, “Whenever I travel, people are always surprised when I talk about how amazingly forward-looking this country is in terms of not just women but in encapsulating all of society. The ultimate sign is the high level of female representation in the government. Indeed, we can see that the UAE Government is very pro-women, so we see very high leadership within the UAE women.”

THE INDOMITABLE WOMEN OF THE UAE



HE SARAH AL AMIRI

Young minister behind the UAE's successful mission to Mars

One of the drivers of the ambitious Hope Probe mission, which successfully reached the Mars orbit in February 2021 right on schedule, Sarah Al Amiri, 33, is a key figure in the Arab region's first interplanetary voyage.

She is currently the Minister of State for Advanced Technology and Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency — these are roles she never dreamed of playing when she was a child fascinated by space.

Owing to her achievements, Al Amiri has been named in TIME magazine's annual list of 100 emerging leaders for 2021, alongside the names of 54 influential women as well as several doctors, scientists, and public health professionals fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

TIME's journalist Jeffrey Kluger wrote: “Dreaming of going to Mars is easy; getting there is brutally hard. So it was no small thing when the Hope spacecraft from the United Arab Emirates' space agency went into orbit around the Red Planet on February 9. It was no small thing either that the person whom experts cite as the most responsible for the UAE triumph was Sarah Al Amiri, the project's lead scientist, heading a team that is 80 per cent women.”

Her success in the field has also put her amongst the 100 most inspiring and influential women of 2020, named by BBC. She is an inspiration for young people in the region, showing them the way to scientific breakthroughs. “We (as Emiratis) do appreciate that organic growth comes, but we cannot survive as a nation by just relying on organic growth. There needs to be large, monumental shifts. The Emirates Mars Mission has inspired the nation to look to the future and look to the skies,” she said.

DR FAYZA FALAKNAZ AL FEKRI

The first veterinarian in the Equestrian Department of the Abu Dhabi Police Patrol Department

One person who has successfully shown what it means to break the glass ceiling is Dr Fayza Falaknaz Al Fekri, the first veterinarian in the Equestrian Department of the Abu Dhabi Police Patrol Department. An expert in equine health care, she symbolises the organisation's great commitment to bringing qualified UAE people, regardless of gender, into all the fields that can help police work.

“After I graduated from the UAE University, I joined the Equestrian Department in the Abu Dhabi Police Patrol Department, which is concerned with developing and refining the expertise of its medical cadre,” she said.

Dr Fayza praised the efforts of the wise leadership in providing opportunities for capable Emirati women to serve and develop the nation, underscoring their focus on excellence and creativity. “Everyone can be distinguished, but when the distinction is exceptional, then you know that there is Emirati blood flowing. May God help me with this responsibility,” she added.



**HANA AL ROSTAMANI**

First female CEO of First Abu Dhabi Bank

January 2021 saw a lot of glass breaking in the UAE finance sector, as First Abu Dhabi Bank, the country's largest bank valued at \$44 billion (Dhs161.48bn), appointed its first female group Chief Executive Officer, Hana Al Rostamani. Currently the chairperson of FAB Private Bank Suisse, she has served as independent director at Emirates Integrated Telecommunication Co. and Vice Chairperson of Emirates Institute for Banking & Financial Services.

"FAB has always been an organisation that champions diversity, and the appointment of our first female group CEO to lead our company into the future is truly something to value," said Chairman Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, regarding her appointment.

SUSY ARYANI

COO of Lootah Holding



Having had several General Counsel roles in her 20-year career, Susy Aryani broke the glass ceiling in the conglomerate arena when she was appointed the Chief Operating Officer of one of the UAE's biggest corporations. She believes that one of the reasons she rose to the top is because she continues to push for having her voice heard, especially in an environment where male employees dominate senior roles.

"Oftentimes, even when you are in a meeting room surrounded by men who you believe to be your equal, our voices are ignored or drowned out. It has been mainly driven by gender, and not being part of the 'club' or going along with groupthink. I've learnt over time how to make my voice heard and think back on the past as more of a badge of honour now," she said.

Aryani also believes that womanhood is not a weakness or a hindrance to success; she credits her being a woman and a mother for her successful leadership. "Motherhood has made me even more laser-focused and productive, as there's a constant need to have my working time and my personal time in sync with each other. In addition, motherhood brings unexpected challenges, which forces you to have an open mind, and even relinquish control when required. It has taught me to go with the flow at times, which I believe has made me a more empathetic and forgiving leader," she said.

**EMMA BANKS**

Vice-President for F&B Strategy & Development in Europe, Middle East, and Africa at Hilton

Emma Banks is one of the most recognisable figures in the industry. Her stature was further enhanced since she was appointed Hilton's Vice-President for F&B Strategy & Development. Banks has ranked 1st in the Caterer Middle East Women in F&B Power List 2020, and has been responsible for the F&B strategy and development of other notable properties in the UAE. Prior to joining Hilton, she was at Jumeirah Restaurant Group (JRG), the dedicated restaurant division of the Jumeirah Group.

As a working mother for over 20 years, Banks understands the challenges that women face in the high-pressure hospitality industry, a reason she said that it was important to have a strong support system. "I had to make difficult choices. I've missed school concerts because I've been travelling. As working moms, we beat ourselves up over these things, but then, you know, you try and make it [up] over other times. You just have to have really good people around you — surround yourself with good people, because it's a very formal, busy environment, and if you tried to do it all yourself, you would fail," she said.

ELENI TSOLAKOU

General Manager of Property Management at Yas Mall



One of the notable experts at the country's hospitality scene is Eleni Tsolakou, General Manager of Yas Mall's Property Management Department. Her 15-year global experience in the industry has allowed several of the properties she has served to report healthy profits and strong positioning in the region.

When Tsolakou served as the General Manager of Address Dubai Marina, she helped the property gain a revenue generation index of over 121 per cent, an incredible feat in a challenging market. She also helped enhance the net operating profits of Khalidiya Palace Rayhaan by Rotana by 21.6 per cent, while serving as its General Manager for seven years. She drove the hotel's substantial growth, enabling its F&B revenue to increase by 15 per cent year-on-year and helping the hotel rank 23rd amongst 130 Abu Dhabi hotels on the travel review website Tripadvisor.

Asked how she reached her current level of success, Tsolakou answered, "Through hard work, achieving results and [meeting] expected goals, and always asking myself what I wanted to do next. I don't wait for things to happen or fall on my plate. I chase my dreams and do everything I can to make them happen. Surely, I've seen hard times and downfalls, but I learned, got up, and continued stronger."



THE WHINES OF THE NIGHT

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.

The mind hears our faint, deep cries, yet it cannot tell where that sound comes from

One day, the sun rose and the morning took in breaths of light and warmth. Warmth wrapped up the universe and people from all walks of life got busy with their daily concerns.

As the day went by, the sky turned grey and the sun, setting behind the horizon above the ocean, faded and disappeared.

Night has fallen. The sky is dark. People sat calmly and serenely behind the walls of their homes. Hearts spoke to minds in silent conversations. The mind hears our faint, deep cries, yet it cannot tell where that sound comes from. Why does our heart that is meant to rest in the hours of darkness and serenity often whine at night? Why are tears rolling down those cheeks, as if they are holding within years of wounds?

As night falls, we retire to our souls, as if we were walking aimlessly between hope and despair. We try to recapitulate what we have endured all day, agonies haunting us all the way to bed. We cannot sleep. We keep thinking of this behaviour or that word, of the exhaustion that weighs down on us because of how other people treat us.

The walls of our room seem to be compelled to share our

worries. Those walls mirror us at times, they reflect our silhouettes, our faces, and our features. For others, they are a friend to talk to, a sea into which we pour our sorrow. The walls would ask us: "Poor you, why all this pain and whining?"

As night falls, we retire to our souls, as if we were walking aimlessly between hope and despair. We try to recapitulate what we have endured all day

Then comes the answer from our vehemently tearful eyes: "It comes from the talking knives, from disappointing attitudes." In calm moments, when life breezes by and the leaves of our ages fly around and down, they carve painful memories in our souls on its pilot-free journey to oblivion land.

Emotions sink to the bottom, bleeding at every longing and nostalgic feeling, giving birth to a sick heart. The wound of the heart is so deep that days cannot erase it. It makes it hard for feelings to play a tune or sing a sentimental song on the wings of imagination, as that sorrow is indiscernible.

Many are those nights when we toss and turn with bitterness and sorrow, unable to sleep, unable to relieve pain, unable to heal. We become victims of hope and pain. The night simulates our sadness through whines and cries of pain, which often makes us think that those whines are no longer ours but those of the night.



The first sentinels

CENTURIES BEFORE TOWERING LANDMARKS WERE BUILT IN THE UAE, THE COUNTRY CREATED FORTS THAT WERE WITNESS TO THE RICH EMIRATI CULTURE AND DEFENDED THE LOCAL WAY OF LIFE

BY NEIL BIE



Al Jahili Fort, Al Ain

“MANY OF THE SHEIKHS AND LEADERS OF THE PAST, TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES, LIVED WITHIN THESE WALLS, WHERE THE VERY FIRST FOUNDATIONS OF EMIRATI CULTURE WERE LAID

When you imagine the UAE, a multitude of images usually crops up in your mind: iconic skyscrapers dotting its spectacular skyline; rolling sand dunes golden-red in the sunset; stunning villas and Instagrammable parks; large shopping malls; and so many more.

Yet, there's more to UAE than its admirable facade. Beyond its glittering cities are its well-preserved forts, where we can turn back the pages of time. These fortresses stand as eyewitnesses to the greatness of the Emirati society, the cohesion of its people, and the richness of its culture.

The formation of the Emirates Tourism Council in January 2021 aims to strengthen the country's tourism portfolio, which includes these gems. **999** takes a stroll down history lane, featuring the most fascinating old forts of the emirates and their prominence in Emirati society.

COMMUNITY AND DEFENCE

Forts in the UAE were initially intended as places where tribes could commune and defend themselves from invaders. At that time, the tribes would create several more rounded or square watchtowers at strategic positions

near the fort to monitor their surroundings.

The forts in the UAE also served as the seat of government and residence of those in power. Many of the sheikhs and leaders of the past, together with their families, lived within these walls, where the very first foundations of Emirati culture were laid.

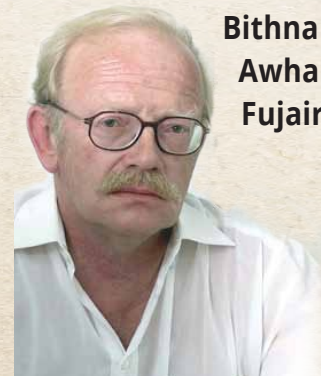
Peter Hellyer, UAE-based British author and a UAE cultural historian, said: "Some of the larger forts were residences, not only in the main towns where the tribal leaders lived, but also in places of strategic significance, like the forts at Bithna and Awhalla, in Fujairah."

One common trend was building each watchtower either at the top of a mountainous rock formation or at locations facing the open sea. These watchtowers helped guard the main fort, located behind the tower in a lower area, where there was an abundance of fresh water and other supplies and which was also close to established trade routes.

These forts protected the community that lived within and around their walls from different kinds of external threats, including raids and skirmishes. Ancient border disputes amongst tribes also proved the need for more watchtowers in order to establish territorial boundaries.

Ali Mohammed Rashid wrote in his book, titled *Al Hosns Wa Al Qelaa Fe Al Emirate (The Hosns and Forts in the*

“Some of the larger forts were residences, not only in the main towns where the tribal leaders lived, but also in places of strategic significance, like the forts at Bithna and Awhalla, in Fujairah

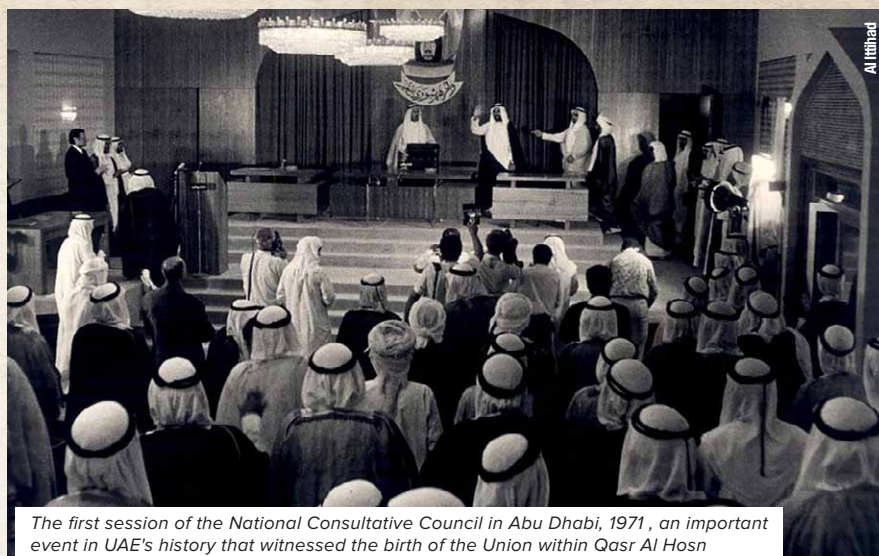


PETER HELLYER

UAE-based British author and cultural historian

“

THE GUARDS AT THE TOWERS WOULD KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY STRANGERS. IF THERE IS A SIGN OF AN ATTACK COMING, AND THE ENTIRE TOWN NEEDS TO BE WARNED, THEN THE GUARD FIRES TWO SHOTS



The first session of the National Consultative Council in Abu Dhabi, 1971, an important event in UAE's history that witnessed the birth of the Union within Qasr Al Hosn

UAE), which was published in 1992: “Public announcements, decrees, and even punishments... would take place at the fort.” He explained that serious construction of these forts began in the UAE and its neighbouring areas as influenced by the Portuguese presence.

One example of this is the Fujairah Fort, which had a date syrup fermenting room and a prison within its premises. The sturdiness of this structure was proven when it survived the occupation of the Wahhabis from 1808 to 1810 and an attack from the British naval forces in 1925. Similar structures influenced by the Portuguese were built in other nearby areas including Bidiya, Khor Fakkan, Dibba, and Kalba in Oman.

NATURAL MATERIALS

The UAE's forts vary in terms of shapes and sizes. The materials that each tribe used to build its own fort depended on nearby natural resources. In the desert and oasis areas, they used palm and mudstones. In the coastal areas, builders used sea stones, sandstones, and different kinds of wood. In the mountainous regions, the structures were built out of mud, stones, and local timber.

The unique design of each fort in the UAE makes them a must-visit spot for tourists to marvel at the architecture and brilliance of the early Emirati tribes. Still, there are common features: forts around the UAE consist of some similar parts, including an external wall that towers and surrounds the fort, and several round or square watchtowers that guard

the actual fort at each corner.

Some of these watchtowers even have small loops intended for artillery and surveillance. In addition, some towers have two storeys within its structure, connected by a circular ladder, serving as the fort's first line of defence against possible attacks.

“The guards at the towers would keep an eye out for any strangers. If a stranger appeared, the guard would fire a single shot, known as Tefq. If there is a sign of an attack coming, and the entire town needs to be warned, then the guard fires two shots,” wrote Rashid.

The watchtower guards also used to signal special occasions and other significant events for the people within the fort. These included firing several shots upon the sighting of the crescent moon for Ramadan or Eid, or when the ruler living in the fort returned. The author wrote: “Seven shots into the air means something really important has happened, like someone has been kidnapped or someone's long absence is over.”

Most of the UAE's forts were named after the tribe or the leader responsible for building the said fort. However, as the centuries passed, the names of these forts changed. The origins of the names of some of these forts are now lost in time.

Naming a particular fort ‘Hosn’ signifies that the fort was one of the country's more important structures. These structures were ‘Mohasana’

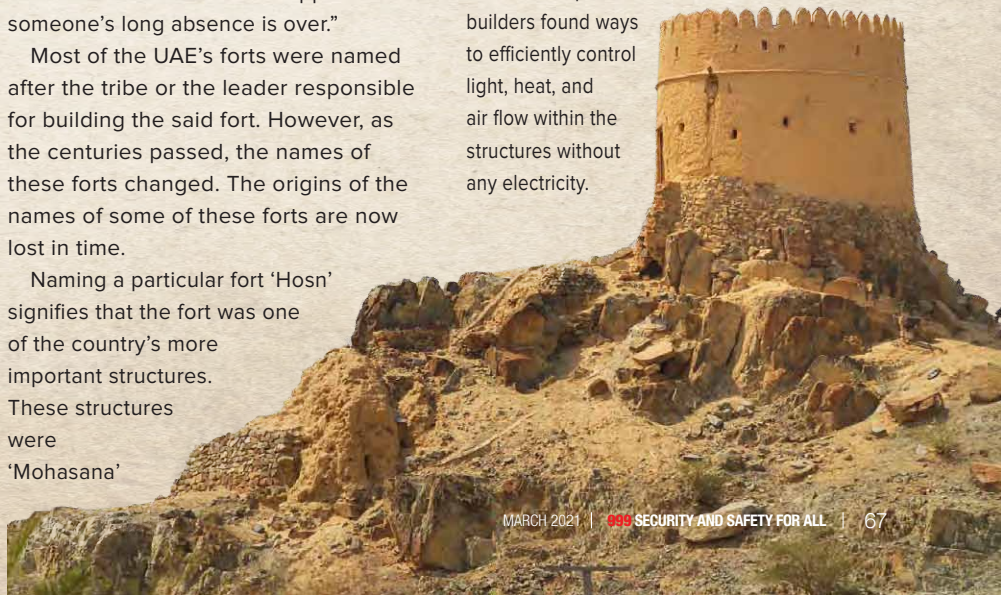
barricaded and protected.

PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Today, around 40 forts stand in the UAE, along with over 30 watchtowers. Many of these towers, constructed from solid stone, together with the ancient *afaj* or water systems for the forts' farms, have survived and can still be visited by tourists to see the ingenuity of the old Emirati engineers.

The tourism department of each emirate has found ways to preserve and transform these magnificent forts into museums and heritage sites following extensive renovation, reconstruction, and restoration. These projects, undertaken for years, have brought these forts back to their pristine conditions.

Some of these structures, including Qasr Al Hosn in Abu Dhabi and Al Fahidi Fort in Dubai, stand tall in the middle of skyscrapers and other modern buildings, a reminder of the UAE's early way of life before the oil boom. These old forts are marvels of indigenous engineering and craftsmanship, as the builders found ways to efficiently control light, heat, and air flow within the structures without any electricity.



• NOTABLE UAE FORTS •

QASR AL HOSN, ABU DHABI

It was around the 1790s when Sheikh Dhiyab bin Isa of the Bani Yas tribe from the Liwa Oasis first ordered the construction of one watchtower, built with corals and sea stones on an island

filled with natural resources and shallow pools known as "scrapes". This

watchtower was built to withstand all kinds of harsh climate conditions for the protection of the growing tribe on the island that would soon be known to the world as Abu Dhabi.

When the late Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa, also known as Zayed the Great, united all the tribes of Abu Dhabi in 1855, the fort complex was named Qasr Al Hosn. It stood as the city's symbol of economic growth, with tribe members engaged in fishing and pearl trade, and over 400 pearling boats under the ruler's command.

More than a century later, in 1971, Qasr Al Hosn witnessed the birth of the UAE within the fort's National Consultative Chamber. It was also during this period when the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan

Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, lived in the fort with his family and established it as the seat of governance for the new country. Sheikh Zayed ordered a full restoration of Qasr Al Hosn.

Today, visitors can come to the oldest, most significant building in Abu Dhabi city, where they can still see its first permanent structure – that first watchtower stands as a proud witness to the emirate's progress over three centuries. Its halls are now filled with preserved artefacts with a dedicated space for the emirate's artisans, whose handiwork showcase the traditional Emirati crafts, with an opportunity to learn from the creators themselves through workshops and training courses.

AL JAHILI FORT, AL AIN, ABU DHABI



Al Jahili Fort, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi



The restoration of Al Jahili Fort began in 1985

Al Jahili Fort was built in 1891 and completed in 1898, a century after the majority of the forts had already been established in other emirates. Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa, then ruler of Abu Dhabi, leader of the Bani Yas tribe and head of the Al Falah family, moved from the coastal areas of the emirate towards the fertile lands and more temperate weather of Al Ain.

In 1909, his eldest son, Sheikh Khalifa, chose to stay at Al Jahili Fort with his entire family.

The next three decades have been lost in history's pages, and Al Jahili Fort again came into the limelight in the 1940s, when historians noticed the huge fort.

In the 1950s, the British forces used the fort for military tactics. It was only in 1985 that restoration of Al Jahili Fort began; in 2007-2008, the rehabilitation project was completed with an addition of two exhibition halls and an information centre.

Today, Al Jahili Fort in Al Ain is surrounded by a lush green environment that reflects its fertile lands, apart from several structures and antiques housed within the cultural centre as a tourist attraction. It also has a permanent exhibition for Sir Wilfred Thesiger, known for crossing the world's largest sand mass, the Empty Quarter (Rub' al Khali) twice during the 1940s together with his Emirati and Omani companions.

AL FAHIDI FORT, DUBAI

In 1787, Dubai witnessed the construction and opening of Al Fahidi Fort, which served as the ruler's premises and the last line of defence against assailants due to its strategic location at the border.

Decades later, the fort became a stronghold for the emirate's artillery and weapons before becoming a prison for those who violated the emirate's laws at the time.

During the union of 1971, the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum ordered the renovation of the site.

Visitors to Al Fahidi Fort aka Dubai Museum learn about the different facets of life in Dubai in the past centuries, spanning its coastal and marine discoveries and accomplishments to its agricultural advances. In 1995, the authorities added a new underground museum to expand the display of Dubai's rich history.

The fort's halls now house authentic manuscripts, monuments, and other carefully preserved items. The monuments wing showcases pottery, tombs, and replicas of communities and buildings. Individuals interested in discovering



Al Fahidi Fort, home to the Dubai Museum

Dubai's trade and commodities in the past centuries can see the goods and the general market atmosphere at the wing dedicated to Dubai between the past and the present.

The emirate's traditional homes, masjids, and folklore also have their specified place within Al Fahidi Fort and Dubai Museum. Life-size displays depict the professions of pearl diving and ship-building, which dominated the economies of Dubai and the UAE before the discovery of oil.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council, recently announced a restoration and development project for Al Fahidi Fort and Dubai Museum. The ongoing project is part of the redevelopment of the Dubai Historical District, a collaboration venture amongst the Dubai Municipality, Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, and the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing to promote Dubai's rich history as a trade and cultural hub for visitors from all over the world.

AL HISN, SHARJAH



Al Hisn has borne witness to Sharjah's development through time

Sharjah Museums Department

Nearly two centuries ago, around 1823, the late Sheikh Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi, former Ruler of Sharjah, ordered the construction of

Al Hisn fort. This fort complex then housed the ruling family and served as the seat of the government. Here, the emirate's leaders

formed defence strategies against possible enemies.

Al Hisn was reborn through an extensive restoration project, and in 2015, it was opened to visitors in all its former glory. Today, visitors to the Al Hisn fort can enjoy the vast collections of photographs from decades ago that documented the rich history of the emirate.

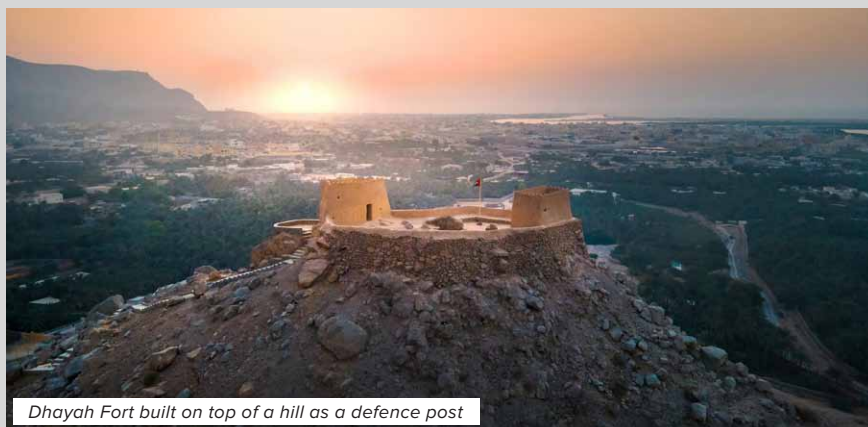
They can also see archaeological artefacts, from weapons to old scrolls, as well as pottery and other preserved items that describe the local way of life before Sharjah began its massive modernisation. A special area within the fort is for visitors who wish to learn about how residents used to create the authentic date syrup or 'dibs'.

DHAYAH FORT, RAS AL KHAIMAH

In the 16th century, Dhayah Fort was constructed at the top of a hill as a defence post for Ras Al Khaimah. Unlike other forts, this lone castle standing on a peak was mainly used for defence and only housed rulers during strategic meetings to ward off enemy armies.

Apart from the main structure at the top, Emiratis also created another bigger fort that they called "sur" or "retreat" at the foot of the hill. It was here that people working at the palm gardens gathered, along with their families and domestic animals, when they needed shelter from assailants or natural disasters.

Dhayah Fort was the last point of resistance



Dhayah Fort built on top of a hill as a defence post

for its residents. Its steep flanks proved to be more than a match for adversaries.

In the 1990s, Dhayah Fort was rebuilt, with careful restoration of a smaller fortification with a stairway that

extends over 100 steps to reach it at the top. By 2001, the fort was ready to welcome visitors once again, offering a 360-degree view of Ras Al Khaimah's surrounding areas.

FUJAIRAH FORT



Fujairah Fort built in the 1500-1550s

Most of the forts in the UAE, if not all, were constructed to protect the area's residents against attackers from outside,

walls, with a noticeably uneven shape due to the surface of the rock on which the entire castle was built. Materials

and Fujairah Fort is no exception. Built in the 1500-1550s, this fort is part of a larger complex with several houses and a mosque.

The fort itself is guarded by three round watchtowers and a square watchtower that are all connected by

used for the construction of the fort include gravels, rocks, hay, mud and al sarooj (gypsum).

In 1925, the British forces destroyed three of the watchtowers and, after that, the fort complex remained uninhabited until 1997 when Fujairah's Administration of Antiquity ordered the restoration of Fujairah Fort as part of the emirate's tourism plan.

It took three years for the fort to be reopened, this time as a tourist attraction. The views from Fujairah Fort are breathtaking, as it stands 20 metres above sea level and is 3km from the emirate's coastline.

AJMAN FORT



Ajman Fort became the headquarters of Ajman Police before it was transformed into a museum

Constructed in the 18th century, Ajman Fort served as the home of the emirate's rulers, after Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid Al Nuaimi established Ajman as an independent emirate.

In 1967, Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, who had used the fort as the seat of the government since 1928, moved out of Ajman Fort and gave the premises to Ajman Police, in a move that saw the transformation of the fort as the local police headquarters.

By 1978, the government had managed to build another structure to formally house the police headquarters. Ajman Fort was thus left unoccupied for a few years, until its restoration began in the early 1980s and it was transformed into Ajman Museum.

Within the fort-cum-museum, which is undergoing renovation, visitors can see manuscripts with ancient texts and letters

that describe how Ajman's rulers planned their defence. Also on display are weaponry and models of wooden dhows and irrigation systems that once helped the community thrive.

The museum has antiques dating back to 3000 BC, including pottery and funeral jewellery. One section is dedicated to the emirate's pearl trade, once the main source of its revenue.

FORT AL ALI, UMM AL QUWAIN



Fort Al Ali was reopened to the public as a museum in 2000

The Al Mualla Royal Family of Umm Al Quwain, headed by Sheikh Rashid bin Majid Al Mualla, established Fort Al Ali in 1768 as the seat of the government and the royal family's residence.

Fort Al Ali remained the official venue of the emirate's government until 1969, giving residents of Umm Al Quwain a

towering representative of their legacy and dignity.

The year 2000 saw the reopening of Fort Al Ali, re-established as Umm Al Quwain Museum, under the directive of His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla, Member of the Supreme Council of the UAE and Ruler of Umm Al Quwain.



Fort Al Ali established in 1768

Citizens, residents, and visitors can now experience the fort's original ambience and learn much about the emirate.

Fort Al Ali is subdivided across several areas, starting from the Royal Family Heritages Section. It also displays photographs of iconic moments in the royal family's life.



WAYS FOR DEBT-FREE GOLDEN YEARS

DO YOU DREAM OF A COMFORTABLE, STRESS-FREE LIFE IN YOUR RETIREMENT YEARS? THEN IT'S TIME TO DITCH THE DEBT HANGING OVER YOUR HEAD. **999** SHOWS YOU HOW

BY JAMILLE DOMINGO-MARASIGAN

Retirement should be a relaxed, happy time. Travelling the world, sleeping on a hammock by the ocean somewhere, or even trying farming — these are just some of our dreams for the golden years following our decades of hard work.

However, many people out there suffer in anxiety for their mounting

debt, as their planned retirement draws near.

With the right approach to money, individuals can still salvage their well-deserved retirement. It all starts with planning your budget and other finances. Here are smart tips to follow while you still have time on your side and are earning an income.



1

DIFFERENTIATE WANTS FROM NEEDS

It's easy to choose convenience in our daily lives, even if it eats up money. Restaurant trips and extended cable packages make life more comfortable, but cutting down on these expenses can effectively help you manage your debts. Instead of spending Dh50 on fast food takeaway for your office meal, save the money to pay off small debts.

UAE-based financial expert Mohammed Faruk told **999**, "It's best to avoid expenses based on wants and more than what's required, and spend only on things you absolutely need. It may seem challenging to do away with luxury spending, but it's important to save for the future, and it will help your future, even if it does not feel like it."

2

GET SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR BUDGET

Give yourself a break once in a while and spend on what you like. Curbing expenses need not mean depriving yourself of recreation and a social life. Analyse what you earn, owe, and spend to manage money accordingly. This way, you can allocate a small amount per month for recreation and eating out, while still prioritising living costs, saving, and paying off debts.

Setting a strict budget and following it can greatly help you stay debt-free once you retire. People should budget for current and future expenses, while also taking into consideration debt and expected retirement income.

3

SAVE FOR YOUR RETIREMENT

Want to have a substantial post-retirement fund? Start saving now! It's easy to set aside thoughts of retirement when you're young, enjoying life, and still experiencing what the world has to offer. But eventually, the years will catch up, and before you know it, you'll reach retirement age with nothing saved. While you still can, put away a portion of your salary — apart from your other savings and emergency funds — solely for retirement plans. Faruk recommends at least 10 per cent of your salary to be allocated for your retirement fund.

"It's most important to save for your retirement plan, because when we reach a certain age where our bodies can no longer work, we should still have a source of income to survive and enjoy our life for many more years. Even 10 per cent of your income is more than enough for that," he added.

4

CONSIDER DOWNSIZING YOUR HOME

Being able to pay off your mortgage is considered a financial win for everyone. It's the crowning glory of a decades-long career. But if you want to pay off your loan easier and faster, you may want to downsize your house relevant to your income. It's vital, however, that you move in to a simpler yet cosier house, or move to a place with a lower cost of living.

There are many benefits to downsizing, including saving money, saving time on house maintenance, and having less clutter in your life. Noted American personal finance adviser Dave Ramsey has this to say: "Trade in your mortgage for a paid-off home. Use the proceeds from selling your current home to pay cash for a smaller one. Just imagine what you could do with no mortgage holding you down."

5

RESTRUCTURE YOUR DEBT

Be smart about your finances, and one way to do that is to consult a financial adviser or a retirement planner to increase your chances of managing debt. Experts believe that people should start doing this about 5-10 years before retiring.

Time gives professionals a chance to put things into perspective, and allows debt counsellors to guide them towards a debt-free retirement. As early as you can, seek financial advice, and also talk to your creditors in case you've fallen behind with repayment.

Steven Van Metre, owner of a US-based financial planning firm, said that retirees should look into ways to refinance their debt to find lower interest rates. Ways to do this include talking with your creditors, paying off debt with savings, using home equity to pay off debt, and using credit cards with zero interest to pay off credit card debt.



6

AVOID EASY LOANS

Easy loans may be tempting because they look small and easy to settle, but these can actually put you in an impossible financial situation in the long run. According to Jitesh Jadhwan, a team manager in the retail banking division of a UAE-based bank, one way to avoid easy loans is to minimise spending on credit.

"An important tip to avoid debt is to not keep many credit cards. Instead, use hard cash whenever necessary. Do not fall into the credit card cycle just because it feels convenient in the short term. If you're not mindful, you'll end up paying a heavy interest, which in turn hampers your plans of saving money," he said.



7

GRAB MORE WORK OPPORTUNITIES

If you have the energy, the passion and the skills, try working for more years, past the usual retirement age of 58-60 years. This can boost your savings and clear your residual debts before you actually retire for good. Van Metre said that one could also look at part-time jobs during retirement to help pay off some of those debts and expenses.

"If you've got \$10,000 (Dhs36,700 approx) on your credit card and it's a matter of working six more months [to pay it down], it's totally worth it. If someone retires with that debt, they'll inevitably take on another job," he said.

Retirees can also find an additional source of income in easy jobs like fixing meals for busy parents or babysitting.



Did you know?

There is a huge number of retirees in the United States going back to work, according to a study by the US Federal Reserve Board. Researchers said about 1/3 of those who retired — mostly aged 65 or older — eventually reversed retirement to work on full-time or part-time basis. The study also noted that over the entire 2014-2024 decade, the labour force growth rate of the 65- to- 74-year-old age group is expected to be about 55 per cent, and the labour force growth rate of the 75-and-older age group is expected to be about 86 per cent.

The study noted that apart from boredom, many return to work due to the need for more income, especially with the rising healthcare costs.







CHILLING DISCOVERY

SEVERAL INFAMOUS INCIDENTS CAME TO
LIGHT AFTER A HORRIFYING FIND: VICTIM'S
BODIES INSIDE FRIDGE COMPARTMENTS

BY STAFF REPORT



BENT FIT

WHEN: JANUARY 2021
WHERE: TOKYO, JAPAN

Yumi Yoshino, 48, had been struggling to make ends meet in Tokyo and was forced to vacate the apartment she lived in around mid-January 2021. At that time, her rent delinquency reached a total of \$10,500 (Dhs39,000 approx). When a cleaner began clearing out Yoshino's belongings after she moved out, they made a chilling discovery.

The cleaner found the body of an old woman, who reportedly had been kept in Yoshino's freezer for years. The discovery of the remains led to Yoshino's arrest at a hotel in Chiba, near Tokyo. Who could the woman be?

When the police brought her in for questioning, Yoshino revealed that the body was that of her mother. She confessed that she had hidden the body 10 years ago, when she returned home and found her mother dead. Since her mother was named on the lease document of the apartment, which was in a municipal housing complex, Yoshino kept her death a secret by hiding her body 'bent fit' in the freezer for 10 years, to avoid eviction from their rented flat, according to local media reports in Japan.



For illustration purposes only

An autopsy could not determine the time and cause of the elderly woman's death, but the authorities estimated that she was in her early 60s when she died. No visible wounds were found on the body. The investigation is ongoing.

ICE BOX MURDERS

WHEN: JUNE 1965
WHERE: HOUSTON, UNITED STATES

In June 1965, patrol officers in Houston received an anonymous tip to check up on an elderly couple who had been missing for several days. When the authorities arrived at the home of Fred, 81, and Edwina Rogers, 72, no one answered the doorbell, which prompted the police officers to kick down the door and enter the house. The Rogers' home seemed spotless, until one of the patrolmen, named Charles Bullock, opened the fridge.

Initially, the officer thought that what he saw was frozen meat and dismissed it. He recalled, "[I had] opened up a refrigerator and seen nothing but meat stacked in it... We didn't know it was a body until we got ready to close the refrigerator and we could see the head down in the bottom of the vegetable bin."

Investigations later revealed that Fred had been beaten to death with a hammer, while Edwina was shot to the head. Then the killer butchered their bodies, before placing them in the fridge.

"Whoever did this apparently took their time and knew what they were doing. The dismembering was a fairly neat job," said the medical examiner on the case, according to a media report.

The police had a suspect: the couple's 43-year-old son Charles Rogers, who was rarely seen by his neighbours and who only communicated with his parents through notes slipped under the bedroom door. While the house had been carefully cleaned by the killer, blood was discovered on the keyhole of Charles' bedroom door.

However, the authorities didn't get the opportunity to speak to Charles, since he, too, had gone missing. The police launched a massive manhunt, but to no avail. The suspect was declared legally dead 10 years later, in 1975.



Houston Public Library

In 1997, a couple of forensic accountants named Hugh and Martha Gardenier decided to look into the murders. Their reinvestigation became known as the 'Ice Box Murders'. The Gardeniers also pinpointed Charles as the culprit, who they believed suffered physical and emotional abuse from his parents until he became an adult. They speculated that both parents had been defrauding Charles by forging his signatures, as Edwina took out loans against the house and took all of the money. In the e-book that the Gardeniers had published, they theorised that Charles might have fled to Central America after committing the crime and died there. However, the mystery still remains as to who was really responsible for the death of the Rogers.

INSIDE 10°F

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 2017

WHERE: ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

Kenneka Jenkins, 19, was having the time of her life at a Friday night party at a hotel in Illinois. She was last seen walking out of the party in the early hours of Saturday. But after that, she was nowhere to be found.

Her friends immediately informed Jenkins' mother, Tereasa Martin, who then approached the hotel staff to review surveillance videos. However, she was denied the video footage, due to the requirement of a 'missing persons' report. Martin's worst fears were confirmed when her daughter was found dead in the hotel's freezer the day after she was reported missing.

Jenkins' body was discovered by a hotel worker in a walk-in freezer inside an unused and vacant kitchen. The temperature in the freezer was recorded at 10 degrees Fahrenheit during an investigation by the medical examiner's office. The door of the fridge was outside the view of the surveillance camera.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's office said that Jenkins died of hypothermia, aggravated by the consumption of a drug used for treating epilepsy and migraine. She was found face down without one shoe, with no indication of trauma apart from



a small cut found on her foot. The police ruled out foul play in the incident.

However, Jenkins' mum believed there was more to the story. In 2018, the family called for an independent investigation, as they believed that her death could have been prevented. Martin's counsel claimed that the hotel employees and security staff were aware of her disappearance from the party. The lawyer also said that the area where the freezer was located was under construction and it should have been locked to begin with. The lawsuit that Jenkins' mother had filed, seeking \$50 million (Dhs187 million approx) in damages, is still pending.

HIDE AND SEEK

WHEN: JUNE 2019

WHERE: MIKHAYLOVKA, KYRGYZSTAN

Siblings David and Nikita, aged 6 and 4 respectively, were playing hide-and-seek at their home in Mikhaylovka, Kyrgyzstan. David had the idea to hide himself inside an old fridge left on the courtyard of their house. The fridge had stopped working and had been left as junk. When Nikita found his brother, she followed him inside the fridge.

However, the two little children didn't know that the fridge's automatic lock system was still functional; it couldn't be opened from the inside.

Meanwhile, their parents Roman and Yulia noticed that the children WERE missing and began searching around the entire village.

As this was happening, the siblings were struggling to get out of the fridge, but to no avail. Their parents, by this time, had alerted the authorities, who then scanned the entire home. It was too late when the search led them to the fridge on the courtyard, five hours later. They found the two children lifeless, suffocated by the lack of oxygen inside the fridge.

The parents attempted to revive their children through CPR, but the little ones were gone.



BANKER'S GREED



ABUSING HIS AUTHORITY, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF A BANK BRANCH
FORGES CHEQUES AND STEALS MONEY FROM INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

BY WAGIH HASSAN

Internal theft is one of the most dangerous crimes for any company. The digital era has given embezzlers new tools with which to find targets and commit this grave financial crime. At the same time, the digital set-up gives the thieves an opportunity to cover their tracks and delay the discovery of the crime.

In the UAE, law enforcement moves fast and punishes criminals very swiftly, as anyone who misappropriates an organisation's funds for personal profit must face punishment.

In a recent case of embezzlement in the UAE, the culprit was a resident and a senior officer in a private bank, where he had worked for many years. But like a fruit gone bad, he hatched a plan, violating the relationship of trust between bank employees and bank customers. In preparation to dodge the law once he had stolen all the money, he asked his family to begin arrangements to leave the UAE and return to their home country; he would join them after committing his modus operandi.

The embezzler, who was the deputy director of the bank branch, planned the whole illegal act very carefully, as later revealed by police investigations.

Using the bank's electronic database of customers and account transactions — his senior position gave him access to all the data — the bank officer identified several accounts that had significant sums of money but had not seen any transactions over a period of time or had transactions that were very few

and far between.

Confident that the account holders were not checking their balance, the deputy director began issuing cheques periodically from various bank accounts of customers, forging their signatures, and then he himself encashed those cheques.

The embezzler continued this modus for months, until he was able to

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Ready to escape after all the stolen money was transferred to his home country, the deputy director suddenly resigned from his bank job, claiming that family circumstances compelled him to go back

collect around Dhs4 million. His family had already returned to their home country, and he decided that it was now time to flee the UAE before law enforcement caught up with him.

He had targeted inactive accounts, which made it difficult for the bank to detect the embezzlement immediately. However, the bank was still responsible for the account holders' money and was obliged to compensate them even before it could recover anything from a fraudster.

Ready to escape after all the stolen money was transferred to his home country, the deputy director suddenly resigned from his bank job, claiming that family circumstances compelled him to go back, and asked the bank for his end-of-service compensation.

This sudden resignation was the last step in the perpetrator's plan to escape with the money that he stole. Once he flew to his country, no one would be able to punish him, he felt. When the stolen money was already transferred to his own country, he had asked his family to open an auto parts shop.

But, in the meantime, the bank's internal audit committee did its periodic review of inactive accounts and discovered the suspicious withdrawal of funds. The auditors immediately informed the bank's senior management, who in turn reported this to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), requesting assistance with recovering the stolen money.

All the pieces of evidence pointed towards the deputy director. CID officers promptly arrested him before he could exit the UAE. The case was investigated and the banker was charged with forgery, theft, and embezzlement. The court found him guilty and sentenced him to several years in prison, to be followed by deportation.

Through judicial cooperation between the UAE and the embezzler's home country, the assets of his auto parts business were sold in public auction, and a large part of the stolen money was returned to the bank.



THE SIEGE OF BASRA

AS PERSIAN FORCES TRIED TO OVERPOWER THE IRAQI CITY
OF BASRA, THE RULER OF OMAN CAME TO ITS RESCUE AND
HELPED DEFEAT THE INVADERS

BY DR FALEH HANDHAL



Map of Basra

Exploring the history of Arabia in his 1908 book *The Gulf Guide*, author and British political resident John Gordon Lorimer briefly wrote in Chapter 4 about the leading role of Oman in breaking the siege on Basra in 1755. We utilise other sources to create a more detailed picture of this event.

In 1745, Imam Ahmed bin Saeed Al Busaidi took control of Oman, and the state of Al Busaid replaced the prevailing Arab state there. Imam Ahmed bin Saeed unified his kingdom, which had been plagued by internal strife until it regained its balance and its position in the Gulf.

In 1750, Nader Shah, the powerful ruler of Persia at the time, was assassinated and, consequently, chaos reigned across the country. This continued until the emergence of a new ruler, named Karim Khan Al Zind. Similar to previous leaders, Zind had the goal of seizing Iraq from the Ottoman Empire and annexing it to Persia.

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AS THE RULER OF BASRA SAW THAT THE ARRIVAL OF SUPPLIES FROM BAGHDAD OR ISTANBUL WAS NOT POSSIBLE, HE SOUGHT HELP FROM THE RULER OF OMAN, IMAM AHMED BIN SAEED



Shatt Al-Arab River in Basra, Iraq today

In 1774, the Ottoman Empire was exhausted because of its war against Russia. In Iraq, the Turkish ruler Omar Pasha was suffering from the Kurdish revolt in the north, so Shah Karim Khan Al Zind took advantage of this and ordered two armies to be prepared to attack Iraq, one from the north and another led by his brother Sadiq Khan to occupy Basra.

Sadiq Khan prepared an army of 50,000 fighters to invade Iraq. On the other side, the governor of Basra, Suleiman Agha, could mobilise only 15,000 tribesmen and untrained soldiers, in addition to two Turkish fleets anchored in the waters of Shatt Al-Arab, the river formed by the confluence of the Tigris and the Euphrates, and two East Indian ships docked in Basra. The British agent expressed his readiness to defend Basra.

On March 16, 1775, Sadiq Khan's army arrived in Shatt Al-Arab and clashed with the forces of Sheikh Thamer bin Abdullah Al-Saadoun, leader of the Al-Muntafiq tribes. The latter's soldiers had to retreat due to the

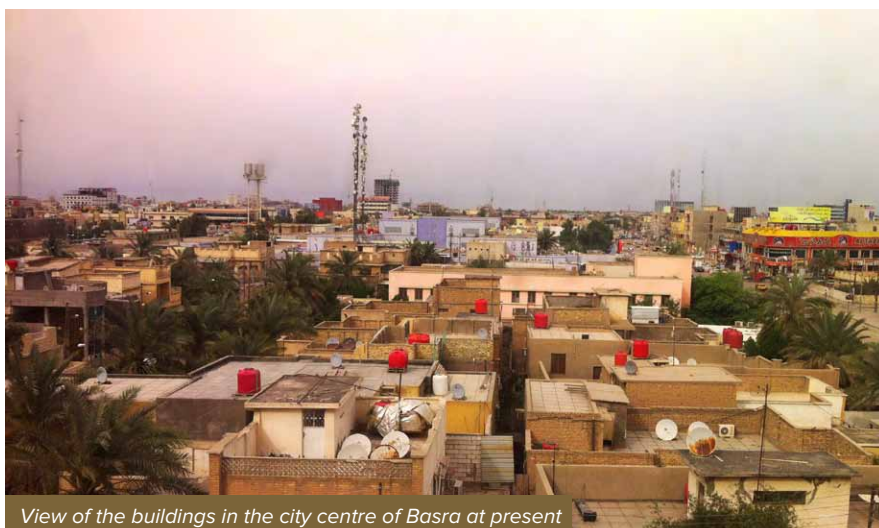
ferocity of the Persian attack, and thus the invaders marched towards Basra.

The governor of Basra blocked Shatt Al-Arab by tying a huge iron chain across the river to prevent the passage of Persian ships. But the invaders had a strategy to lay siege to Basra.

On April 8, some Persian units reached within three miles of Basra and encircled the city, while other armed units blocked the other routes to the city. Under siege, Basra began to run out of supplies and the city's people were starving.

As the ruler of Basra saw that the arrival of supplies from Baghdad or Istanbul was not possible, due to the armies' pre-occupation with the war there, he sought help from the ruler of Oman, Imam Ahmed bin Saeed. When the request reached the imam, he decided to aid Suleiman Agha and lift the siege on Basra.

Imam Ahmed bin Saeed prepared a fleet of 80 ships, of which 10 were destroyers with heavy artillery, and the rest were cruisers and troop carriers.



View of the buildings in the city centre of Basra at present

The leader of the fleet was Sheikh Majid bin Saeed Al Harithi, accompanied by the two sons of the imam, named Saif and Qais. The fleet arrived at Shatt Al-Arab and entered it in a way that positioned the Omanis right behind Perian units. After a fierce battle between the Omani and Persian forces, the latter was compelled to withdraw and leave their positions. Then the Omani commander ordered the iron chain to be cut, allowing the Omani ships to enter Basra in September 1775.

The people of Basra greeted the Omanis with pure joy. Sheikh Thamer bin Abdullah Al-Saadoun, leader of the Al-Muntafiq tribes, met the Omani leader and said, "My brother, we are the hurt ones and you are the doctors; treat us and God will heal." Sheikh Majid bin Saeed Al Harithi then started building defensive structures and equipment for Basra and began putting barriers in the river waters to keep out future invaders. In February 1776, the Omani forces went back home.

A geographical description

The geography part of the *Gulf Guide* Chapter 4 has many descriptions of the small and big cities of the Gulf, in addition to mentioning the names of tribes and families that were in the region at that time. Here, we will discuss the descriptions of Muscat, Kuwait, Al Manama, Al Mahraq, and Abu Mousa Island.

About Kuwait City, the book said: "Kuwait is a diminutive name for the word 'kot', meaning a small castle, and

it is the origin of the prosperous Kuwait City. The capital of the Arab sheikhdom Kuwait was generally known in old English books as 'Qurain', in reference to the island of Qurain, located at a close distance from Kuwait to the west.

"The length of the city measures about two miles along the shore, and its extension on land ranges between a quarter [and] three quarters of a mile. There are lands for construction on all sides of the city that the sheikh gives for free, and because of the increasing prosperity, these lands are being built [upon] quickly. There is a fortified palace to the west of the city, built in 1904 by the eldest son of the Sheikh of Kuwait, [and] the palace was called 'Sheikh Jaber Palace'. The city was surrounded by walls, and 30 years earlier, the city had seven gates opening on the side facing the land. No trace of them was left, except for the one that was called

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KUWAIT IS A DIMINUTIVE NAME FOR THE WORD 'KOT', MEANING A SMALL CASTLE, AND IT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE PROSPEROUS KUWAIT CITY

'Derwazat Al Jana'a', which is the second gate from the east.

"Kuwait is now an open city, and many of its streets are crooked, irregular, and narrow, and the city in general is not based on a layout. The only street of importance is the one that leads to the market near the Al-Mirqab neighbourhood. Most of the houses are single-storey, surrounded by walls that reach the ceiling, and the preferred types of houses are those that are built with stucco stone.

"The number of mosques back then ranged from 20 to 30 mosques, four of which are for Friday prayers, such as the main mosque that stands on the western side of the market and the Sheikh Mosque that is located on the sea front near the sheikh's residence, the Al-Haddad

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AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE BETWEEN THE OMANI AND PERSIAN FORCES, THE LATTER WAS COMPELLED TO WITHDRAW AND LEAVE THEIR POSITIONS. THEN THE OMANI COMMANDER ORDERED THE IRON CHAIN TO BE CUT



Traditional boat builders in the banks of the Euphrates river

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AS FOR PEARLING, IN 1904,
KUWAIT CITY OWNS 461
PEARLING SHIPS AND A
LARGE NUMBER OF DIVERS,
NO LESS THAN 3,000.
THERE ARE ABOUT 20 TO
25 SHIPS BEING BUILT IN
THE CITY EVERY YEAR



Kuwait during the early 1900s

Mosque and the Al-Jana't Mosque.

“The population of Kuwait was about 35,000 people, most of them Arabs from the Al-Utub, Al-Awazim, Rashaida, Bani Khalid, Al-Ajman, Al-Dawasir, and Al-Jana'a tribes. In addition to the Hasawiyya, meaning the Arabs of Al-Ahsa, there are also a number of Persians and Jews. Al-Utub is the tribe to which the rulers of Kuwait belong.

“We also have the Persian community, which consists of about 1,000 people who do not live in a separate neighbourhood but are scattered throughout the city and they go and return freely between Kuwait and Persia. The number of Jews in Kuwait range between 100 and 200 individuals, and they have a private synagogue and place of worship.

“Kuwait has no agricultural resources other than palm plantations. Fodder and vegetables come from abroad, and Bedouins bring

margarine, salted cheese, and mushrooms to the city. Drinking water comes from wells four miles to the south.

“As for the sheikh's house, it is supplied with water from wells in the Navel Palace and Moshrif wells. As for fisheries, they are a valuable source of wealth and the fishing season runs from December to April. The Zubaidi is the most commonly caught fish and is captured with nets that have holes and weights. The net length is about 36 fathoms and each boat carries 8 to 16 nets that are thrown before sunset and are pulled three times at night. As for pearling, at the present time (1904), Kuwait City owns 461 pearling ships and a large number of divers, no less than 3,000. There are about 20 to 25 ships being built in the city every year. The required materials are brought in, such as wood, ropes made of coconut fibres, ropes from

Calcutta, wood from Karachi, and nails from India. As for the Kuwait market, it contains textiles, cans, weapons, lamps, Bedouin supplies, carpets, gunpowder, leather, sewing sets, shaving sets, sweets, bread, medicine, rice, wheat, and more. The wealthiest Arab merchants in Kuwait are 10 who own capital ranging from 25,000 rupees to 500,000 rupees.

“The sheikh ruled the country through a personal approach and people would go to him directly if they needed anything, as he would sit in the market for an hour or two in the morning. He used to solve disputes, whether they were localised or federal by implementing blood money, fines, and jail time penalties. The sheikh of Kuwait had a very good relationship with the Bedouins, as he would usually send them gifts and treat them well. The Bedouins were also scared of facing the consequences if they had a conflict with the sheikh.”

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THE SHEIKH OF KUWAIT
HAD A VERY GOOD
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
BEDOUINS, AS HE WOULD
USUALLY SEND THEM
GIFTS AND TREAT THEM
WELL



Kuwait City skyline today

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

CINEMATIC SMARTPHONE

Smartphones just keep on getting better in terms of specs, and here are two more examples. Samsung's latest flagship phones, **Galaxy S21 5G** and **Galaxy S21+ 5G**, feature state-of-the-art 8K resolution on its screens, powered by high-speed hardware and 5G connectivity.

The Galaxy S21 series is available in Phantom Violet and Phantom Silver colours, with the latest Gorilla Glass Victus protection providing efficient damage resistance. Its screen has dynamic AMOLED 2X technology and a super smooth, 120Hz Infinity-O display. This impressive screen display, together with the 64MP triple camera set-up for the Galaxy S21 main shooter, provides the 8K resolution that captures clear videos and quality 33MP photos.

The series also combines AI stabilisation with 60fps video capture that reduces shakes and hand tremors. Selfie lovers will enjoy the 10MP fast-autofocus front camera.

Website: www.samsung.com

Price: Dhs4,890



TRIPLE ENHANCED FEATURE

When shoppers begin their search for smartphones, they consider two things: the specs and the price.

TCL's latest reveal during the virtual Consumer Electronics Show for 2021 features the **TCL 20 5G**, which is powered by NXTVISION 2.0 display, with 5G connectivity and longer battery life at a budget-friendly price point. It has a triple camera set-up, including a 48MP main telephoto lens, to take detailed images even in low-light settings.

The NXTVISION technology has enhanced colour calibration and eye safety features for individuals who spend long hours on their mobile phones. Its AI visual enhancement technology detects the environment to adjust lighting and contrast.

The TCL mobile phone's 4,500 mAh battery gives more juice for daily usage, with a power management feature optimised by a pre-installed Smart 5G technology that switches between 4G and 5G bands.

Website: www.tcl.com

Price: Dhs1,800



FITNESS BUDDY

As more and more people make fitness a priority, wearable devices are becoming as ubiquitous as regular gym gear.

The **Amazfit GTR 2e** brings with it the essentials of every smartwatch with a borderless visual design due to its four-curved corners on its 2.5D glass cover. Users need not shake-to-wake this smartwatch, with its 'Always-on' Display that shows the time on standby mode and system content whenever the screen is illuminated.

The automated heart health detection feature helps the user monitor abnormally elevated heart rate results, especially if there has been no obvious physical movement for the past 10 minutes. In addition, this smartwatch helps monitor the user's quality of sleep, recording both nighttime sleep and short-day naps.

Every day, the Amazfit GTR 2e tracks the user's stress levels and reminds him to calm down and take a breather.

Website: <https://us.amazfit.com>

Price: Dhs520



INCREDIBLY SLEEK

Since the work-from-home option became the 'new normal' for most professionals, laptops have also become a necessity rather than just a luxury.

The **Dynabook Satellite Pro C50** gives its users an entry-level laptop, with specs that are decent enough to keep your important programmes running through the day in a stylish yet budget-friendly body. It is equipped with an Intel Core processor with up to 16GB of DDR4 RAM to ensure seamless shifting between applications. It also has up to 9.5 hours of battery life and is very portable, weighing only 1.76 kg, thanks to its narrow-bezel design and slimline build.

The body coating inhibits the growth of microorganisms and the 15.6" non-glare screen helps the eyes adjust better. The Dynabook Satellite Pro C50 has an ergonomic keyboard, a full numeric keypad, and an integrated fingerprint reader to help you secure your data.



Website: <https://me.dynabook.com>

Price: Dhs1,900

PRO-LEVEL GAMING

Worker by day, gamer by night – many individuals with 9-to-5 jobs live in another virtual world outside their normal work.

The **Predator Triton** takes the gaming experience up a notch, as it puts together state-of-the-art specs within a lightweight powerhouse equipped with the latest NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3060 graphic driver, 1TB storage, an 11th Gen Intel Core i7 processor in a 17.9mm portable casing that can run for up to 10 hours on battery.

To enable multiple screens and apps launched in the background, this laptop can also run up to 24GB of RAM. Gamers need not worry about overheating; the laptop comes with 5th Gen AeroBlade 3D Fan Technology, coupled with wind-guiding Vortex Flow to optimise the airflow within the device.



Website: www.acer.com

Price: Dhs4,600

REMOTE CHARGING

The past decade introduced us to wireless charging, and now a brand new method of remote charging enables gadget lovers to charge and use their smartphones at the same time without any cable or stand.

The **Mi Air Charge Technology** is Xiaomi's latest entry into the wireless charging market. The remote charging technology functions even if the user is walking around or if someone or something comes between the user and the charger.

The Mi Air Charge device is an isolated transmitter that looks similar to a side table with built-in five phase interference antennas to detect and charge your smartphones. This remote charging technology can charge several devices at once with a 5W current within a radius of several metres.

Website: www.mi.com

Price: TBA





ENJOY READING ABOUT REVOLUTIONARY MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS, COOKING WITH SUSTAINABLE RECIPES, REAL-LIFE ACCOUNTS OF COVID-19 SURVIVORS, AND NOVELS ON PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLERS AND RELATIONSHIPS

MONETISE YOUR ENTERPRISE

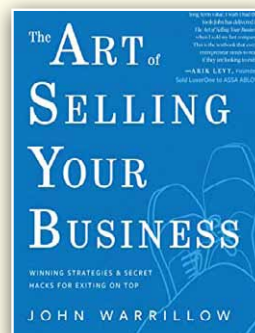
Title: The Art of Selling Your Business: Winning Strategies & Secret Hacks for Exiting on Top

Author: John Warrillow

Publisher: An Inc. Original

Price: \$24.95 (Dhs92) (Hardcover)

This book is an essential guide answering some of the most important questions any business founder might have, including the worth of the business, the best time to sell, ways to start a bidding war, ways to position the company to maximise its attractiveness, who will pay the most for the business, the secret to effective negotiations, and so on. In short, it offers an action plan to monetise your enterprise, and in turn, generate big financial returns.



MEDICAL REVOLUTION

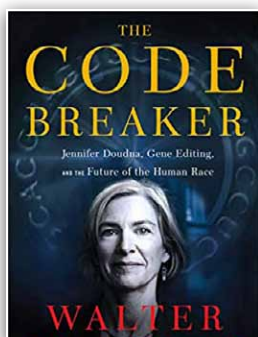
Title: The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race

Author: Walter Isaacson

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Price: \$16.99 (Dhs62) (Kindle)

This book narrates the gripping experience of how Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna and her colleagues initiated a revolutionary undertaking aimed at curing diseases, quashing viruses, and producing healthier babies — CRISPR. It seeks to open up a whole new world of medical breakthroughs, turning discoveries into adventures. Doudna highlights that CRISPR will advance the structure of DNA, thereby improving the quality of human lives. She hopes that its development and the need to create vaccines for pandemics such as coronavirus will speed up the human race's transition to innovation, especially as the past half-century has been all about digitalisation. For her, it is time for life-science revolution.



ROAD TO RECOVERY

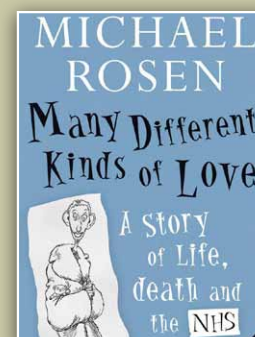
Title: Many Different Kinds of Love: A story of life, death and the NHS

Author: Michael Rosen

Publisher: Ebury Digital

Price: \$12.99 (Dhs48) (Kindle)

This heartwarming book tells the story of a COVID-19 survivor, from the time he started getting symptoms up to his hospitalisation due to severe symptoms — this was at a time when the world was still reeling from the pandemic. He shares how he was in a coma for six weeks, followed by many weeks of rehab, and how frontliners saved his life and helped him get back on his feet. As he recovers from the disease, Rosen shares his struggle with life amidst the crisis, celebrating the power of community and the importance of kind gestures in dark times.



SUSTAINABLE CULINARY

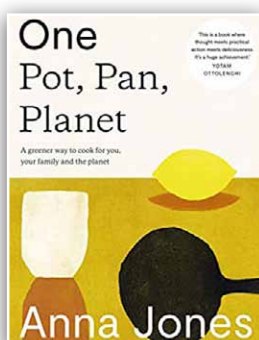
Title: One: Pot, Pan, Planet: A greener way to cook for you, your family and the planet

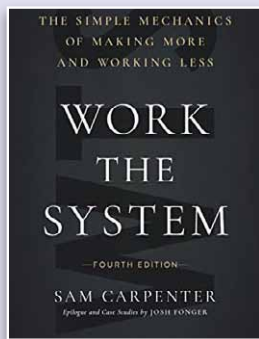
Author: Anna Jones

Publisher: Fourth Estate

Price: \$19.49 (Dhs72) (Hardcover)

This collection of over 200 simple recipes shows how easy it is to cook with sustainability in mind—with all-in-one dinners that keep things fast and easy. Celebrating the beauty of vegetables that deliver great flavours, as well as other sustainable ingredients—culinary expert Ann Jones shows that green cooking does not take much time and energy. It puts at the forefront a way of eating that is mindful of the planet, with practical advice regarding waste reduction and environment-friendly shopping.





SIMPLE MINDSET

Title: Work the System (Fourth Edition): The Simple Mechanics of Making More and Working Less
Author: Sam Carpenter
Publisher: Greenleaf Book Group Press
Price: \$8.69 (Dhs32) (Kindle)

After a 15-year nightmare of coping with his struggling business, Sam Carpenter discovered a simple methodology to reduce his routine 80-hour workweek down to zero, while getting more income than ever before. Now, in 2021, Carpenter reveals in this fourth edition of this book the uncomplicated steps he took to turn his business — and his life — around.

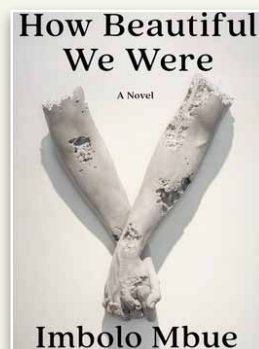
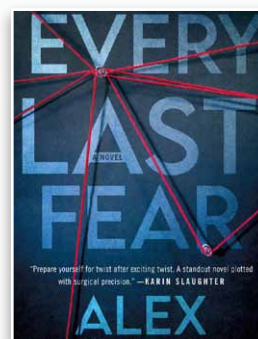
A helpful blueprint to build the world of your dreams, this book provides simple yet impactful recommendations on how to design the life you want, find peace and freedom, and manage the systems that produce better results in all aspects of life.

UNCOVERING MYSTERIES

Title: Every Last Fear
Author: Alex Finlay
Publisher: Minotaur Books
Price: \$13.99 (Dhs51) (Kindle)

This psychological thriller is centred around a family whose members were found dead, leaving their surviving son to search for the truth about their final days. College student Matt Pines finds out that his mom, dad, and little brother and sister died from what looked like a gas leak in their town. While the local police claim it was an accident, the FBI and the State Department believe there is more to it than that.

Their death becomes the talk of the town, especially with his older brother Danny currently serving a life sentence for the murder of his teenage girlfriend. When Matt returns to his small hometown to bury his parents and siblings, he's faced with a hostile community and memories he had long wanted to leave behind. Matt is then forced to confront all of his fears to uncover the truth behind his family's death.



EFFECTS OF GREED

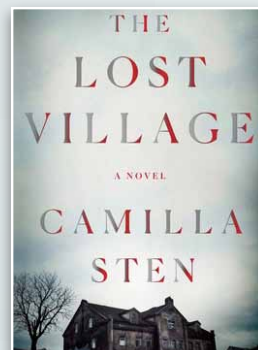
Title: How Beautiful We Were
Author: Imbolo Mbue
Publisher: Random House
Price: \$20.99 (Dhs77) (Hardcover)

Set in the fictional village of Kosawa, this book talks about a community living in fear, as an industrial company threatens their sanctuary. In this town, the pipeline spills have resulted in farmlands becoming infertile, children dying from toxic water, and so on. Promises of financial reparations have been broken, and the country's leader only has his own interest in mind. With no other choice to survive, the people of Kosawa decide to fight back.

DISTURBING TRAGEDY

Title: The Lost Village
Author: Camilla Sten
Publisher: Minotaur Books
Price: \$23.99 (Dhs88) (Hardcover)

This thriller revolves around documentary filmmaker Alice Lindstedt, who has been obsessed with the vanishing residents of an old mining town dubbed "The Lost Village". Her grandmother's entire family disappeared in this tragedy in 1959. Keen to uncover the truth surrounding this mystery, Alice gathers a group to make a film about what really happened. As they embark on their quest, bizarre things begin to happen — equipment getting destroyed, people going missing, and so on. As fear envelopes the group, Alice realises one thing: they are not alone.



Waterfalls, 5.4km cable car coming soon to Hatta Lake

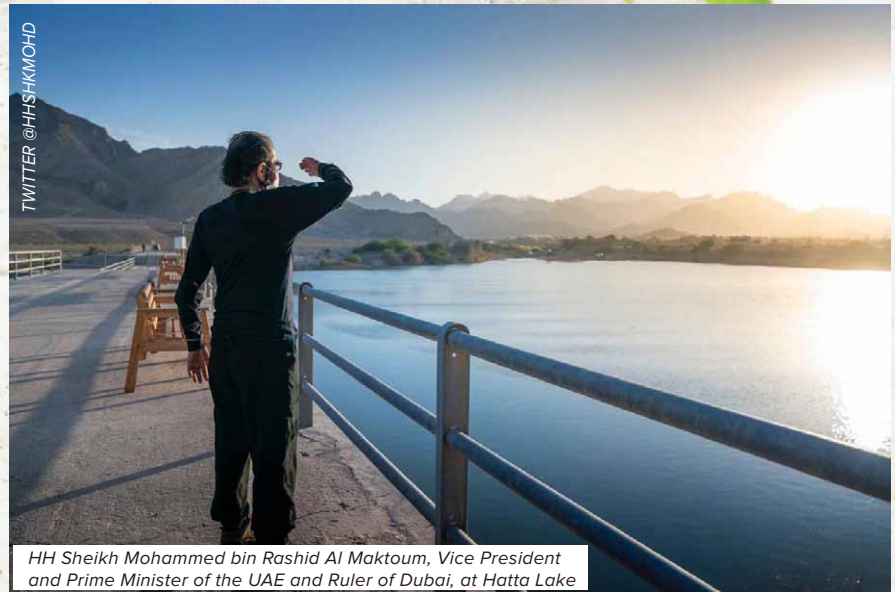
His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has unveiled two groundbreaking tourism projects in Hatta Lake.

He revealed that a plan to construct a waterfall and a 5.4km cable car system in Hatta Lake is underway, spearheaded by the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA).

The water feature, called Hatta Sustainable Waterfalls will be built along the parking area of the upper water dam. Its water will be recycled by pumping it back to the top of the dam. It will be home to a variety of fish, creating an additional attraction for tourists. Nearby areas will be developed with cafes, restaurants, and other recreational spaces.

The cable car system, named 'Dubai Summit', will transport tourists from the Hatta Dam to the Um Al Nesoor summit, the highest natural peak in Dubai, rising 1,300 metres above sea level.

'Dubai Summit' is poised to become



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, at Hatta Lake

a major tourist attraction in the UAE, beginning from the views of the Hatta Dam Lake, traversing towards the hydroelectric power station at the Upper Dam Lake, the mountain ranges of Dubai, and ending its journey at Um Al Nesoor.

The cable car system will have three main stops: the departure station; the resting point and viewing platform; and the summit station, which will also have a panoramic viewing platform, a medium-sized hotel, and several facilities for tourists.

Abu Dhabi's marine wildlife protection gets documentary showcase



Hawksbill turtle

Al Dhafra's efforts to preserve two of the world's most endangered turtles have been captured in a full-length documentary, screened for the first time on January 26 at VOX Cinemas, Yas Mall.

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) produced and released the documentary, titled *Wild Abu Dhabi: The Turtles of Al Dhafra*. The film follows a team of experts over two years, as they study and care for the Arabian Gulf's turtles, including the critically endangered Hawksbills and

the endangered giant Green Turtles. It highlights Abu Dhabi's keenness to conserve biodiversity.

"Despite being a challenging feat, with some parts filmed during the height of summer, the creation of *Wild Abu Dhabi: The Turtles of Al Dhafra* was an extremely memorable experience and one that has enabled us to present to the public how our team researches the turtles that reside in Abu Dhabi waters," said Dr Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary General of EAD.

To date, Abu Dhabi has over 5,500

sea turtles. Of this, 1,500 are the critically endangered Hawksbill turtles, which nest on offshore islands in the waters of Al Dhafra; and 3,500 are endangered Green Turtles, which forage on Abu Dhabi's seagrass-rich waters, including in a core area of the Marawah Protected Area.

The film showcases the emirate's efforts to ensure that more than 150 nests per year for Hawksbill turtles are kept safe, especially the nests located at six marine reserves that are part of the Zayed Protected Areas Network, spanning 19 terrestrial and marine protected areas as a whole.

"The data gathered during the making of the film will help propel our efforts forward, especially in preserving these endangered species, which is at the forefront of what EAD strives to achieve as part of its integrated strategy to preserve and manage biodiversity in a sustainable manner. This is put into action by setting up conservation programmes for endangered terrestrial and marine species, management of protected areas, and preserving natural habitats," said Dr Shaikha.

UAE, US special envoys tackle shared agenda for climate action



HE Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, and US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry

The UAE and the United States have aligned their strategies to combat climate change in a virtual meeting between HE Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, and John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate.

The two special envoys agreed to set up bilateral working groups to accelerate progress on global climate goals, and contribute to regional and global sustainable development.

Al Jaber noted, "Over the past 15 years, the UAE has emerged as a regional champion in renewables, with investments

in major projects in 30 countries around the world, including three of the largest and lowest-cost solar plants here in the UAE."

He also stressed that the country was able to establish regional leadership in many other clean technologies, including carbon capture utilisation and storage. On this front, Al Jaber said, the UAE is more than willing to share experience and expertise, helping the global community not only to tackle climate change but also to enhance economic opportunity by creating knowledge, skills, and jobs.

Kerry stressed in a White House press briefing that the administration of US

President Joe Biden would spare no efforts to tackle climate change on a global scale. "The stakes on climate change just simply couldn't be any higher than they are right now. It is existential. We use that word too easily, and we throw it away. But we have a big agenda in front of us on a global basis, and President Biden is deeply committed [to] the initiative for getting back into Paris [Agreement] immediately."

Both officials conveyed their keenness to work closely together in the run-up to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, which will take place in November 2021 at the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow.

50,000 mangrove trees to be planted in Jubail Island in 2021

Young men and women in Abu Dhabi are taking a break from their mobile phones to help expand the mangrove area of the Capital by planting 50,000 trees this year.

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the Jubail Island Investment Company have formed a strategic partnership with Aqdar Adventures Initiative to preserve the emirate's mangrove ecosystem for the next 50 years. This is part of the plan to counter the ill effects of climate change and create a more sustainable future for the next generations.

Participants are engaging in several educational and entertainment activities about how these young plants will grow and flourish, representing the rich Emirati culture that celebrates beauty, diversity, and heritage. The initiative gives each participant a renewed perspective on



Tree planting activity in the mangrove area of Jubail Island

environment conservation.

All participants will take a kayak tour of Jubail Island to experience the biodiversity created within the growing mangrove areas. The Jubail Mangrove

Park was opened to the public a year ago, on January 2020, with the aim of providing cultural and ecological information on the natural environment and the wildlife.

UAE health expert cites possibility of annual COVID-19 vaccination



Dr Farida Al Hosani, official spokesperson for the UAE Health Sector

People may need to get COVID-19 vaccine every year, since the original strain of the novel coronavirus is also mutating, with several new variants detected already.

According to Dr Farida Al Hosani, official spokesperson for the UAE

Health Sector, since various mutations of the virus continue to spread across the globe, there is all the more need for annual vaccination.

She cited, as an example, the mutation of the flu virus, which

regularly requires an updated version of the vaccine against the disease.

In the UAE, the minimum age requirement has been lowered to 16 from 18. Al Hosani said that some vaccines are undergoing clinical studies to ascertain if they could be administered to children as well.

The spokesperson said that 40-50 per cent of the people infected with COVID-19 did not experience any symptoms. "Based on this, we increased focusing on old people (60 and above). The earlier the detection of virus amongst old people and people with pre-existing conditions, the more chance the virus can be contained," said Al Hosani.

At present, the UAE offers four vaccines against the COVID-19 infection – Sinopharm, Pfizer-BioNTech, Sputnik V, and AstraZeneca – free of charge and on optional basis to UAE nationals and residents.

Dubai rolls out initiative for fast-track delivery of COVID-19 vaccines

The Dubai government has announced a key initiative for fast-tracking the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, particularly to developing nations.

The initiative was announced after the World Health Organisation (WHO) expressed concern that at the current pace of vaccine distribution, poorer countries were being practically left behind.

The Vaccine Logistics Alliance, including Emirates Airline and global logistics giant DP World, hopes to speed up international efforts by supporting WHO's COVAX facility, which aims to distribute 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines. "The distribution will particularly focus on emerging markets, where populations have been hard-hit by the pandemic, and pharmaceutical transport and logistics are challenging," said the Alliance in a statement.



The Alliance promises to work with pharmaceutical firms to transport vaccine doses, particularly those that require very low temperatures. "Together, we are able to store a large volume of vaccine doses at a time and bring in and distribute vaccines to any point around the world

within 48 hours," said HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Emirates Airline.

Earlier, WHO called upon rich nations to avoid hoarding COVID-19 vaccine doses, as this would only make the pandemic drag on longer.

Campaign invites UAE community to unite against river blindness

The UAE's Reach Campaign was launched in February as a first-of-its-kind fundraising initiative to end neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and river blindness. The fundraiser is designed to benefit impoverished nations.

In partnership with forward-thinking brands and corporations, the Reach Campaign takes an innovative approach to raising money, while also educating the public about river blindness through strategic, targeted advocacy efforts.

By giving just Dhs2, each of us can provide proper medicine and treatment for those suffering from river blindness, lymphatic filariasis, and several other co-endemic diseases for the entire year.

Inspired by the power of this small act, the theme of the UAE campaign is "Give 2, Save 2". On social media, people are asked to show their support by posting photos of themselves making a hand gesture of "V" held up to their eyes and use the hashtag #reachtheend.

Proceeds from the campaign will go to the Reaching the Last Mile Fund (RLMF), a



10-year, \$100 million (Dhs367 million) initiative launched in 2017 by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and several supporters. RLMF delivers prevention and treatment across seven countries in Africa and the Middle East. Donations can be made

online via Emirates Red Crescent and via SMS, kiosks, ATM machines, and donation boxes.

NTDs are illnesses that have been mostly removed from developed countries, but continue to hit some of the poorest nations in the world. River blindness, caused by a river-borne parasite, alone affects over 200 million people worldwide.

Sharjah to open field hospital for severe COVID-19 cases



Sharjah has announced that it will soon inaugurate a new field hospital for patients of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) who need intensive medical attention.

According to Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police and Chairman of Sharjah's Local

Emergency and Crisis Team, the hospital may accept COVID-19 patients from other emirates, too, as part of its partnership with the Ministry of Health and Prevention.

"We will be ready if required to receive infected cases that need intensive care in a field hospital in the emirate. The hospital will be

constructed near Al Zahia area in cooperation with the Ministry of Health," said Al Shamsi.

The official added that they were working hard to educate the expat community about the importance of getting vaccinated and adhering to COVID-19 prevention measures.

As a result, he said, there was a huge turnout of people taking the COVID-19 vaccine and their numbers were being managed by the authorities to reduce crowding at vaccination centres and hospitals.

Al Shamsi expressed his appreciation for Sharjah Police for intensifying its patrols to ensure that residents adhered to rules, noting that their hard work had been useful in surmounting the COVID-19 crisis.

PUZZLES

ACROSS

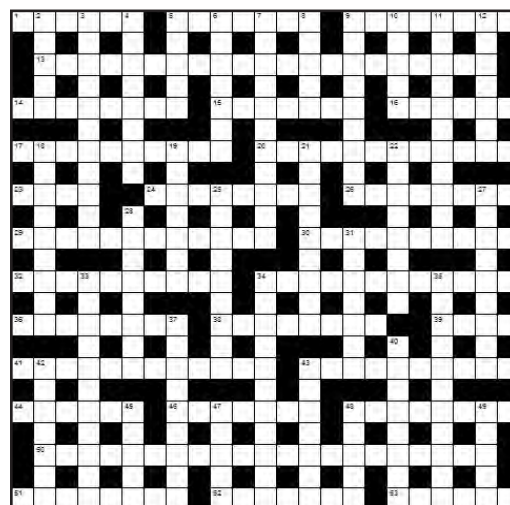
- 1 Understudy (6)
 5 Digestive problem (7)
 9 Shamefaced (8)
 13 Divided world (13,4,4)
 14 Naive inclination (2-6)
 15 Criminal recluse (7)
 16 Second childhood (6)
 17 English musical (10)
 20 Comprehension of truth (12)
 23 Gift from USA (4)
 24 Glamorous model (8)
 26 Close family (8)
 29 Long-haul trips (12)
 30 Criminal organisation (4,6)
 32 Unpleasant behaviour (10)
 34 Translator's old employer (7,5)
 36 Suffering degenerate (8)

- 38 Dislike adult edition (8)
 39 Skilled worker (4)
 41 Create confusion (12)
 43 Moulded plastic (10)
 44 Disrupt meeting (6)
 46 Commonplace (7)
 48 Board plane? (8)
 50 Struggling theatre (3,6,3,9)
 51 Lazy poet (8)
 52 Island worker (7)
 53 Profitable business (6)

DOWN

- 2 Companion's reproach (5)
 3 Planned camping (11)
 4 Stage of development (8)
 5 Climbing avalanches (5)
 6 Evacuated port (7)
 7 Criminal career (11)
 8 Initial deposit? (5)
 9 Audacious fakes (9)
 10 Endeavour for change (5)
 11 Sick parrot (11)
 12 Juggling trick (7)
 18 Embracing career (9)
 19 Strained muscle (7)
 21 Persistent nuisance (9)
 22 Coaches (8)
 25 Ratify bill (9)
 27 One annoyance (9)

- 28 Educated and accomplished (8)
 31 Ignoring everyone (7)
 33 Next journey (3-8)
 34 Significant birthday (6-5)
 35 Furniture deals (11)
 37 Phone book? (9)
 40 Subtle adjustments (4-4)
 42 First off (7)
 43 Unethical practitioner (7)
 45 Resinous substance (5)
 47 Aircraft take off (5)
 48 Exciting present (5)
 49 Revolutionised form (5)



Easy

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

Medium

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

SOLUTIONS

FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE

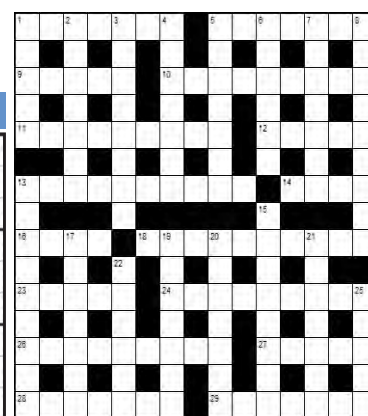

www.alberichcrosswords.com
www.dailysudoku.com

easy

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

medium

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



WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



Aries (March 21 – April 20)

In the 1950 film *Harvey*, James Stewart plays a middle-aged man named Elwood, whose best friend is a tall invisible rabbit named Harvey. The relationship causes problems with the people in Elwood's life. At one point a psychiatrist tries to convince him to "struggle with reality". Elwood replies, "I wrestled with reality for 40 years and I am happy to state that I finally won." Aries, this month, one of your long wrestles with reality will yield at least a partial victory. And it will be completely real, as opposed to Elwood's Harvey. Congratulations!



Taurus (April 20 – May 21)

Blogger Rachel C. Lewis confides, "I love being horribly straightforward. I love sending reckless text messages and telling people I love them and telling people they are absolutely magical humans and I cannot believe they really exist. I love saying, 'You're a good person,' and, 'You brighten my day.'" What would your unique version of Lewis's forthrightness be like, Taurus? What brazen praise would you offer? What declarations of affection and care would you unleash? The coming days will be a favourable time to explore these possibilities.



Gemini (May 22 – June 20)

It's a good time to become more of who you are by engaging with more of what you are not. Get in the mood for this heroic exercise by studying the following rant by Gemini poet Adam Zagajewski (who writes in Polish), translated by Gemini poet Clare Cavanaugh: "Read for yourselves, read for the sake of your inspiration, for the sweet turmoil in your lovely head. But also read against yourselves... Read those whose darkness, madness, or greatness you can't yet understand, because only in this way will you grow, outlive yourself, and become what you are."



Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

You're on the verge of breakthroughs. You're ready to explore frontiers, at least in your imagination. You're brave enough to go further and try harder than you've been able to before. With that in mind, here's a highly apropos idea from Cancerian novelist Tom Robbins. He writes, "If you take any activity, any art, any discipline, any skill, take it and push it as far as it will go, push it beyond where it has ever been before, push it to the wildest edge of edges, then you force it into the realm of magic."



Leo (July 23 – August 22)

In her story "Homelanding," Margaret Atwood writes, "Take me to your trees. Take me to your breakfasts, your sunsets, your bad dreams, your shoes. Take me to your fingers." Leos should express requests like that. It's a favourable time for you to delve deeper into the mysteries of people you care about. You will generate healing and blessings by cultivating reverent curiosity and smart empathy. Find out more about your best allies.



Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

You're about to reach the end of your phase of correction and adjustment. To mark this momentous transition, and to honour your ever-increasing ability to negotiate with your inner self, here is an inspirational proclamation by poet Jeannette Napolitano: "I don't want to look back in five years' time and think, 'We could have been magnificent, but I was afraid.' In five years, I want to tell of how fear tried to cheat me out of the best thing in life, and I didn't let it."



Libra (September 23 – October 22)

It's not a good time for you to be obsessed with vague abstractions, fear-based fantasies, and imaginary possibilities. But it is a favourable phase to rise up in behalf of intimate, practical changes. At least for now, you should avoid being angry about big, complicated issues that you have little power to affect. On the other hand, you are encouraged to get inspired and aggressive about injustices you can truly help fix and erroneous approaches you can correct and close-at-hand dilemmas for which you can summon constructive solutions.



Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Author Karen Barad writes, "The past is never finished. It cannot be wrapped up like a package, or a scrapbook; we never leave it and it never leaves us behind." Everything you do is conditioned by your life story. While there's value in trying to see the world afresh in each new moment, you should adopt a "beginner's mind." Spend quality time upgrading your love and appreciation for your own past. It's time to celebrate where you have come from—and meditate on how your history affects who you are now.



Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Poet Nayyirah Waheed writes, "Be easy. Take your time. You are coming home to yourself." The coming weeks will indeed be a time for you to relax more deeply into yourself—to welcome yourself fully into your unique destiny; to forgive yourself for what you imagine are your flaws; to not wish you were someone else pursuing a different path; to be at peace and in harmony with the exact life you have.



Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

"The chief object of education is not to learn things but to unlearn things," wrote author G. K. Chesterton. He was exaggerating for dramatic effect when he said that, as he often did. The more nuanced truth is that one of the central aims of education is to learn things, and another very worthy aim is to unlearn things. You are currently in a phase when you should put an emphasis on unlearning things that are irrelevant and meaningless and obstructive. This will be excellent preparation for your next phase, which will be learning a lot of useful and vitalising new things.



Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943) ultimately became one of the 20th century's most renowned composers. But his career had a rough start. Symphony No. 1, his first major work, was panned by critics, sending him into a four-year depression. Eventually he recovered. His next major composition, Piano Concerto No. 2, was well-received. There may be no great reviews initially, and possibly even indifference—but keep the faith. Don't falter in carrying out your vision of the future. The rewards will come in due time.




Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Ancient Greek playwright Euripides was popular and influential—and remains so to this day, 2,400 years later. But there's a curiously boring aspect in five of his plays, *Andromache*, *Alceste*, *Helen*, *Medea*, and *The Bacchae*. They all have the same exact ending: six lines, spoken by a chorus, that basically say that the heaven is unpredictable. Was Euripides lazy? Trying too hard to drive home the point? The main reason this should be put to your attention is to encourage you to avoid similar behavior. It's very important that the stories you're living right now have different endings than all the stories of your past.

Fifty years in the service of the nation



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

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