

# 999

Security And Safety For All

ISSUE 118 NOVEMBER 2021

ONCE UPON A  
TIME IN THE  
EMIRATES

UAE, A BEACON OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
ARAB WORLD

**IN THE  
SPOTLIGHT:  
UAE MISSION  
TO VENUS**

## THE JOBS ARE BACK!

**STRONG EMPLOYMENT CONFIDENCE IN UAE  
SPURS RECORD HIGH CONSUMER SPENDING**

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



**IN THIS ISSUE: EXPO 2020 DUBAI ROBOTS, LATEST AI INNOVATIONS HELP FUTURE BLEND WITH THE PRESENT**



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*The target is to launch the Venus spacecraft by 2028, and knowing this country's will and dedication, this mission is set to dazzle the world time and time again*

## The future has arrived

**W**e often hear the phrase “the future has arrived”. In the UAE, we can see these words translated into reality, as shown by the innovation on display at Expo 2020 Dubai. This is one of the most important events in the run-up to the country's Golden Jubilee; in the context of the pandemic, it reaffirms the UAE's courage and determination.

In our cover story, **999** discusses how the Expo and the 50th anniversary of the Union — complemented by the national strategy for the next 50 — have inspired huge business confidence, putting the country well on the road to a strong economic recovery. The measures and reforms that have preceded these landmarks in the history of the nation, such as the rapid and comprehensive vaccination drive, accelerated digitalisation, new visa regime, investment in new infrastructure and more, have all coalesced to create an unstoppable force. Nothing could have heralded the post-pandemic optimism like the welcome news of large-scale hiring by the UAE's aviation industry, the bellwether sector of the economy. The upbeat mood is seen in various other sectors, too, as employment and consumer confidence both keep rising.

When assessing the work scenario, it's worth noting that many employees of the coming decades will be robots. Powered by Artificial Intelligence, they're deftly performing tasks hitherto associated. Umm Al Quwain Police have just inducted their first non-human detective, named Robotok, to investigate crimes against children.

Robots are becoming a part of the UAE community, and the Expo is designed to facilitate this transition. Man's automaton friends are everywhere at the event, starting with Opti, the little greet-and-guide robot that charms visitors with its dance moves. Elsewhere at the event, robots are making coffee and making music.

Indeed, the innovation on display at the Expo is of a level seen normally in sci-fi cinema. Could you ever imagine a train running on air? Here, you can go beyond your imagination and see such an ‘air train’ and take a ride, too. This mega-show has more such first-in-the-world inventions spanning everything from food to healthcare.

The culture on show at the Expo is as fascinating as science and technology. In particular, for expatriate youngsters born and brought up in the UAE, the Expo presents the perfect space to learn about their own cultures at the pavilions of their home countries, alongside seeing the world in this 4.4 square kilometre World's Fair. In this issue, UAE-based young people tell us what they loved about the event and how they connected with their culture.

Many expats have grown with the UAE, though they weren't born here. Having spent around five decades in this country, they've witnessed one of the most astonishing national transformations in the world. On the cusp of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, they share their memories with us.

Amongst the expats, some eminent businessmen started small in the UAE and then expanded across the country, making a significant contribution to the economy. Two of them speak to us about how they see the UAE flourishing under its visionary leadership.

That vision and mission of building the best nation in the world by 2071 — the UAE Centennial — isn't based only on trade and technology; it's also based on increasing the country's soft power. A vital step in this direction is the formation of the National Human Rights Institution, announced recently. Having been guided by the philosophy of Sheikh Zayed, who upheld tolerance and humanitarianism, the country has chosen an apt moment — the 50th anniversary — to structure this approach.

Also, Sheikh Zayed's vision of space-faring has already inspired the UAE to reach the Mars orbit, undaunted by the pandemic. In October 2021, the country announced its plan to launch a second space mission, this time to Earth's other neighbour, Venus. The target is to launch the Venus spacecraft by 2028, and knowing this country's will and dedication, this mission is set to dazzle the world time and time again.





# 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.



**999**  
Security And Safety For All



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# WORLD OF WONDERS

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COVER STORY

# THE JOBS ARE BACK

EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS ARE AGAIN IMPROVING IN THE UAE, AS REFLECTED IN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE, ON THE BACK OF VISA REFORMS, VACCINATION, AND EXPO 2020 DUBAI. 999 EXPLORES WHAT'S IN STORE FOR CANDIDATES



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Internationally  
respected artist

# President merges three federal gov't entities



**PRESIDENT** His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has merged three federal entities through a decree establishing the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security (FAICPCS).

The new decree forms a brand new entity that effectively merges the Federal Customs Authority, the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship, and the General Authority of Ports, Borders and Free Zones Security.

The FAICPCS will now be responsible for regulating the entry of individuals as

well as products in the UAE, with full adherence to international best practices. It will lead in preparing policies and legislations on topics such as citizenship affairs, passports, entry and residence of foreigners, customs and port security along with proceeding with the relevant approvals from the Cabinet.

It is also mandated to optimise the country's procedures and requirements on the country's ports and borders, and ensure free zones' safety and security.

# Khalifa approves new federal government cabinet

**PRESIDENT** His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has approved the new Federal Cabinet.

This came following a recommendation from 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.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid stated

that the newly-formed cabinet will begin the foundations for the country for its next 50 years.

The ministers who have been appointed to new roles are as follows:

- HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
- HE Mohamed Al Hussaini, appointed Minister of State for Financial Affairs
- HE Abdullah Al Nuaimi, appointed

Minister of Justice

- HE Dr Abdurahman Al Awar, appointed Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation
- HE Mariam Hareb Almheiri, appointed Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and will continue her responsibility as Minister of State for Food Security
- HE Abdullah Al Ketbi, appointed Minister for the Affairs of the Federal Supreme Council



*HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance*



*HE Mohamed Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs*



*HE Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Minister of Justice*



*HE Dr Abdurahman Al Awar, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation*



*HE Mariam Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and Minister of State for Food Security*



*HE Abdullah Al Ketbi, Minister for the Affairs of the Federal Supreme Council*

# UAE elected to UN Human Rights Council for third time

**UNDER** the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE has been elected to the UN's Human Rights Council for the third time.

The UAE obtained 180 votes from

countries of the Asia-Pacific group in a direct secret ballot amongst members of the United Nations General Assembly. This international achievement puts the UAE on the seat of the UN Human Rights Council on a two-year term from 2022

until 2024.

Through its third membership in the UN's Human Rights Council, the UAE aspires to continue the dialogue amongst countries to both enhance cooperation and ensure the promotion and protection of human rights.



# UAE leaders sworn new Cabinet into office



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed (centre) along with the new UAE Cabinet at Qasr Al Watan, Abu Dhabi

**WITH** the approval of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and before 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, the

new UAE Cabinet members were sworn into office at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said, "The UAE Cabinet has the duty to modernise government work and implement the new approach we have adopted. The objective is clear, to make the UAE the world's leading country."

For his part, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed underscored: "We are looking forward to

starting the upcoming 50 years with more development mobility and further advancement in our government work and national economy."

The ministers who were sworn in include HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; HE Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs; HE Mariam Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment and Minister of State for Food Security; HE Dr Abdulrahman bin Abdulmanan Al Awar, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization; HE Abdullah bin Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi, Minister of Justice; HE Abdullah Al Ketbi, Minister of Federal Supreme Council Affairs, and HE Hamad bin Mubarak Al Shamsi, Minister of State.

The ministers expressed their appreciation for the trust of the UAE leaders.

## UAE approves Dhs290 billion general budget for 2022-2026

**CHAIRD** by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the UAE cabinet approved the UAE general budget for 2022-2026, with total expenditures of Dhs290 billion.

This included Dhs58.931 billion expenditures for the 2022 general budget. The largest share of the 2022 budget was allocated to the development and social benefits sector at 41.2 per cent.

During the same meeting, held at Expo 2020 Dubai, the Cabinet also greenlighted a move to amend the Federal Law pertaining to the imposition of a Federal Tax on the Imports of Tobacco and its Derivatives.



UAE Cabinet meeting held at Expo 2020 Dubai

## Vice President unveils UAE's space mission to Venus

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced the country's new space mission. This time, it sets sights on the planet Venus and aims to be the first country in the Arab World to land on an

asteroid.

The Vice President's announcement of this new space mission came a year following the historic launch of the Hope Probe—its historic mission to Mars.

A spacecraft will be built for the Venus mission, with the launch date planned for

2028. The journey is expected to be completed in five years.

It would orbit Venus using gravity assist manoeuvres to reach an asteroid belt object in 2030. The spacecraft would then aim to land on an asteroid 560 million kilometres from Earth in 2033.

## UAE leaders greet Islamic nations on Prophet Mohammed's birthday



**UAE** leaders have shared their messages of peace and prayer on the occasion of Prophet Mohammed's birthday on October 21.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Prime Minister of

the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, congratulated Muslims on the anniversary of the birth of 'the best of mankind'.

"We congratulate the Islamic nation on the birth anniversary of the best of

mankind, the forewarner and the [guiding light], the call of Ibrahim and the announcement [from] Jesus (peace upon them) the last of all messengers and God's mercy to the world. Peace be upon our master, beloved and role model," the Vice President stated.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stated: "On the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet (peace be upon him), we are reminded of his powerful legacy and his lasting message of peace, love, mercy, progress and goodness. May God grant us harmony, security and well-being throughout the world."

This holiday is marked by observance rather than celebration, with festivities kept to a minimum.

## VP, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince inaugurate Expo 2020 Dubai

**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 inaugurated Expo 2020 Dubai during its spectacular opening ceremony in the presence of delegations coming from all over the world.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said: "Expo 2020 reflects the UAE's inclusive culture which brings together the whole globe in one nation. Today, the world has gathered here to offer the best of what they have, and in return, we will offer the best of what we have."



For his part, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed underscored: "The driving force behind the exceptional organisation of Expo 2020 is a visionary leader with indomitable will, my brother His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, who has worked tirelessly to inspire and



unite national teams to deliver an outstanding event that is a source of joy and pride for the people of the UAE."

The breathtaking grand ceremony perfectly showcased the talent and creativity of the UAE and the world.

## Mohamed bin Zayed's new directive supports high quality retirement services

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, has ordered for the exemption of the Abu Dhabi Pension Fund (ADPF) members from paying a percentage of their current salary to

purchase previous end of service periods.

According to the new directive, ADPF members can instead purchase the previous end of service periods at their original value.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed's directives support efforts to provide high quality retirement services for UAE nationals.

Abu Dhabi Pension Fund members should submit a request within a three-month grace period, effective Sunday, 17 October 2021, to purchase the previous end of service periods at their original value. Reimbursements can then be paid in full, or in instalments over 60 months.



# Saif bin Zayed leads funeral escort of UAE martyr

**HIS** Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, led the funeral escort of pilot Lt Nasser Mohammed Al Rashidi, a UAE martyr who died while on duty serving the nation.

Al Rashdi lost his life with his three fellow soldiers when their assistance plane crashed while on a humanitarian mission.

The Interior Minister offered his condolences to the family of the martyr. He also prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the soul of Al Rashidi in Paradise, and to grant patience and solace to his family.



# Interior Minister opens Seamless Middle East 2021

**HIS** Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, inaugurated the Conference and Exhibition on Digital Economy Technologies (Seamless 2021), in the presence of Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the Arab League.

The event that took place at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) was sponsored by the Arab League and organised by Terrapinn. It came as part of the Joint Arab Vision for the Digital Economy announced in Abu Dhabi in December 2018.

HH Sheikh Saif and Aboul Gheit went on a tour of the exhibition. They were briefed on the latest tech solutions in electronic and digital payments, e-commerce, retail, fintech, digital identity and banking sectors.



HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior (centre), and Ahmed Aboul Gheit (right), Secretary-General of the Arab League during the opening of Seamless 2021

# Saif bin Zayed meets foreign dignitaries, state guests



HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, with Josep Borrell, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security

**HIS** Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the

Interior, met with several dignitaries and state guests during the sidelines of various events

happening in the country.

During the 14th World Policy Conference (WPC) hosted by Abu Dhabi, HH Sheikh Saif met with the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Josep Borrell; and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople.

During his keynote speech at the event, the Interior Minister welcomed the state's guests and wished them successful participation in the conference.

"Multiplicity and diversity of intellectual, cultural, political and dialogue forums is one of the civilisational manifestations that characterise advanced societies, which enhances their thought, culture and awareness of the challenges of the present and the future," HH Sheikh Saif said.

Meanwhile, he also held high-level talks with his Israeli counterpart Ayelet Shaked. The two Interior Ministers discussed several issues of common interest and areas with an avenue for cooperation, especially in the security and police fields.

## UAE ministers, cultural adviser tour Mol's Fazaa pavilion



*Al Khaili watching a presentation at the Fazaa pavilion with HE Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemi, Minister of State for International Cooperation; HE Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education; and HE Dr Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Cultural Adviser to His Highness the UAE President (from left to right)*

**MAJOR** General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior (Mol), and Colonel Dr Ali bin Dhaen Al Ghaffi, Deputy Director General of the General Directorate for Ministry of Interior Affairs, and General Supervisor of the Fazaa pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai received UAE ministers and cultural adviser at the Fazaa pavilion.

HE Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education; HE Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemi, Minister of State for International Cooperation; and HE Dr Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Cultural Adviser to His Highness the UAE President, visited the pavilion, which displays the march and the initiatives of UAE

police forces, as well as several community and technical initiatives.

The exhibits and facilities at this pavilion extend over an area of 1,700 square metres. They display various platforms through which the Mol delivers its services, in its quest to achieve the vision of the UAE's wise leadership and to enhance the country's position on international competitiveness indicators.

The Fazaa pavilion showcases the services provided and the techniques used in the police sectors, in addition to initiatives and projects, such as the Fazaa digital platform; the behavioural rewards programme; the 'Inspiring Zayed' initiative; and 'Khalifa Empowerment

Programme - Aqdar'.

Fazaa will host a number of events over the six months of the Expo. Police authorities and strategic partners will review upcoming challenges, and there will be events and activities that reflect the security vision and strategic objectives.

New and developed technologies adopted by the Mol — used in internal security, crime-fighting, traffic management, ambulance, civil defence and rescue operations — will be on show at Fazaa. Visitors can also see how security personnel are trained through simulators and smart tools powered by Artificial Intelligence.

## Al Khaili visits pavilions at Expo 2020 Dubai

**MAJOR** General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, visited Expo 2020 Dubai and stopped at several pavilions of the participating countries.

Al Khaili's visit included the UAE pavilion, 'The Home of Dreams and Achievements', where he saw exhibits representing the UAE's journey since its inception to the present and

the aspects of its bright future.

He also visited the United States of America pavilion in the Opportunity District, which showcases America's quest to enable creativity, innovation, and opportunities, and highlights its contributions as a pivotal country in the world in laying the foundation of peace.

At the Singapore pavilion, the

undersecretary had a glimpse of the ancient Singaporean culture and its role as one of the most important pioneering countries in the field of technology and advanced industries.

His Expo tour also covered the Kenya pavilion, which has exhibits inspired by African heritage; and the Morocco pavilion, which presents its natural and cultural heritage.

## Khalifa Al Khaili inspects vehicle rental dept in Al Dhafra

**MAJOR** General Khalifa Muhammad Mubarak Al Khaili, Director of the Finance and Services Sector at Abu Dhabi Police, visited the Vehicle Rental Department in the Al Dhafra region, as part of the 'In the Government Field' initiative.

He met with members of the public and listened to their observations, the mechanism of customer satisfaction, and the challenges they face when accessing services, in addition to their needs and expectations from Abu Dhabi Police and their service improvement suggestions.

A number of auditors praised the Vehicle Rental Department's interest in upgrading services in accordance with the highest standards. Al Khaili emphasised the need to implement the directives of the police leadership with regard to delivering services to the public.



*Al Khaili listens to comments and suggestions of customers and auditors*

## Abu Dhabi civil defence, crisis management team bolster community safety

**ABU** Dhabi Civil Defence Authority and the Centre for Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi discussed ways to enhance cooperation.

Brigadier Muhammad Ibrahim Al Ameri, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority, met in his office Dr Nasser Humaid Al Nuaimi, Acting Director General of the Centre for Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Dr Al Nuaimi presented the Centre's vision to be a model institution in crisis management by developing strategies and standards, using modern technologies, promoting a culture of innovation, and anticipating disasters

before they happen.

Al Ameri stressed the Authority's keenness to implement the directives of the wise leadership, ensuring preventive safety of buildings and facilities and preserving lives and property.

He added that the Authority focused on enhancing preventive awareness in the community; customer satisfaction with civil defence services; promoting preventive culture and safety behaviours in the community; activating the volunteering system; and ensuring the integration of the Authority's services with its internal and external partners.

In addition, Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority launched its first official participation within the Abu Dhabi Government pavilion at GITEX 2021,



*Brigadier Muhammad Ibrahim Al Ameri*

which was held at the Dubai International Exhibition Centre. It presented the most noteworthy efforts of the Authority in the journey of digital transformation.



## Dhahi Khalfan re-elected as chairman of Juvenile Welfare Association

**LT** General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and General Security in Dubai, has been re-elected Chairman of the Juvenile Awareness and Welfare Association (Jawa), along with newly-elected Board members for the new term at the 28th general meeting, held at the Police Officers Club in Garhoud.

The elections were held in the presence of members of the council, representatives of the Ministry of Community Development, and a number of people interested in youth issues and their care.

Dhahi Khalfan said in his speech, "By the grace of God and his success, and then with the efforts of our wise government, the UAE was able to overcome the [COVID-19] crisis with merit and competence."

He added, "Our current meeting comes in unusual circumstances and amidst unconventional challenges due to the corona pandemic, and despite the challenges and difficulties faced by



*Dhahi Khalfan (centre) delivers a speech at the Jawa meeting*

many institutions, our association was able to continue donations, programmes and activities through remote work and the implementation of outreach programmes through social media."

Dhahi Khalfan addressed his thanks and appreciation to those responsible for the SMS service project and to all those who helped the association achieve its goals and support its mission, whether public departments, private

institutions or individuals.

At this meeting, the minutes of the previous general meeting were ratified; the financial and administrative reports for the past year were reviewed; and an auditor was appointed.

Dr Muhammad Murad Abdullah, Secretary of the Association, reviewed the administrative report, which included the activities and events in which Jawa has participated over the past year.

## Al Shamsi inaugurates Sharjah's advanced pathology lab

**IN** implementation of the directives of HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and with direct follow-up from HH Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Advisor, Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police and Head of the emirate's Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Team, inaugurated the Sharjah Central Laboratory at the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Specialised Field Hospital in the Al Zahia area. This is one of the most modern laboratories for analysing blood samples and COVID-19 PCR tests in the emirates.



*Saif Al Shamsi during the ribbon cutting of the Sharjah Central Laboratory*

## Al Mualla introduces Robotok, the detective

**MAJOR** General Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla, Commander-in-Chief of Umm Al Quwain Police, inaugurated the first job card for a robotic employee involved in the investigation of crimes against children — this new detective is named 'Robotok'.

The project has been launched by the Umm Al Quwain Police General Command in partnership with the Umm Al Quwain Smart Department. Detective Robotok officially started his work after a three-year pilot programme, during which he achieved impressive results in the investigation of crimes against children.

Al Mualla said that this step was in line with the

vision of Umm Al Quwain Police to use Artificial Intelligence in its operations. Robotok can speak with the young victims in two languages (Arabic and English), in addition to his ability to use the local dialect, as well as detect the children's psychological state, as he can change facial expressions 360 times, which reassures children during the investigation.

He also mentioned that Robotok is an electronic cop dedicated to investigating crimes against children aged 5-10 years, and that he had eight features, the most important of which was the ability to identify people who were previously investigated through facial recognition technology;



*Al Mualla giving 'Robotok' his first job card*

reading facial expressions; and displaying pictures of the suspects through an iPad.

## Al Marri praises Dubai Police for major drug bust

**IN** an operation codenamed 'Scorpion', Dubai Police recently thwarted an attempt to smuggle 500kg of pure cocaine into the country. The narcotics, worth more than Dhs500 million in street value, were well-hidden within the structure of a cargo container.

According to Dubai Police, the operation was the region's largest drug seizure, and it resulted in the arrest of a Middle Eastern gang member operating as an intermediary inside the UAE for an international drug syndicate.

Lt General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, said that Operation Scorpion was another

example of their continuous focus on combating all types of transnational organised crimes and bringing the perpetrators to justice, as well as protecting the community, as constantly directed by His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

Al Marri added that Dubai Police would seize every opportunity to preserve the local, regional and international security and safety, in coordination with international counterparts.

He praised the Dubai Police work teams and said how the international cooperation was based on the depth of



Lt General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri

historical relations between the UAE and other countries.

## Ali Al Nuaimi launches patrol car with 3D scanning device

**MAJOR** General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, inaugurated a project to develop a police patrol cabin with 3D scanning technology.

Al Nuaimi explained that this technology was used to support the patrol officer, so that he could easily and safely use information while driving. This would enhance productivity by optimising response time, providing all his tools on a single front-facing platform, which he could use and control with accuracy and speed.



Al Shamsi checking the 3D scanning device of a police patrol

## Sultan Al Nuaimi lauds Ajman Police HR dept

**DURING** his virtual inspection tour of the Human Resources Department at Ajman Police, Major General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, praised the department's achievement of reaching the highest satisfaction rate in five main areas within the Quality of Life Survey in the work environment at the level of the Ministry of Interior sectors.

This came during Sultan Al Nuaimi's virtual inspection tour of the Human Resources Department to review the progress of work procedures and discuss needs and requirements for development and modernisation.

## Al Kaabi outlines Fujairah Police's exhibit at GITEX

**THE** Fujairah Police General Command has participated in the GITEX Global Technology Exhibition 2021 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, within the Fujairah e-Government platform.

Major General Mohammed Ahmed bin Ghanem Al Kaabi, Commander-in-Chief of Fujairah Police, said that Fujairah Police had attracted visitors to the exhibition to learn about police systems and applications. Four electronic systems were displayed — Zam System, Fujairah Police Smart Application, Inmates Financial Deposit Project, and Smart Reservation System.

# 1st

UAE's ranking in the 13th Annual ASDAA BCW Arab Youth Survey (released in October), which measures the Arab youth's top choice country where they would like to live. This is the 10th straight year in a row that UAE topped the survey.

# 1st

UAE's top ranking amongst the Arab World's strongest nation brands, according to the latest Brand Finance Nation Brands 2021 report. The study includes the results of the Global Soft Power Index—the world's most comprehensive survey on nation brand perceptions of over 75,000 people in more than 100 countries. The UAE placed 11th globally in this year's list.

# 1st

UAE's ranking in the Middle East in terms of retirement income systems, as per the latest Annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI). The UAE's pension adequacy rankings are supported by the country's generous retirement benefits—with a suitable minimum pension relative to earnings. The UAE placed 22nd in the global list.

# 4th

UAE's global ranking in HSBC's 14th annual Expat Explorer study, which ranks the best countries in the world to live and work. This survey polled more than 20,000 people in 46 countries between March and May 2021.

# 6th

UAE's global ranking in Bloomberg's latest index of countries' resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic. The study used September data and was published in October. The UAE advanced nine places as compared to its August ranking.

## BE IN THE LOOP

### INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS EXPO 2020 DUBAI



HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, visited Expo 2020 Dubai. He was welcomed by Expo officials and toured a number of pavilions including the UAE Pavilion, which showcases the Emirati culture and heritage as well as the country's historic milestones and scientific innovations.

### MOI UNDERSECRETARY TOURS EXPO PAVILIONS



Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khalili, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, toured a number of pavilions of the participating countries in Expo 2020 Dubai, and watched exhibits and presentations highlighting the culture and heritage of each nation. The pavilions he visited included that of the UAE, Singapore, Kenya, and Morocco.

### MOI'S FAZAA EXPO PAVILION SHOWCASES UAE POLICE'S INNOVATION



Fazaa, the Social Security Fund for the Employees of Ministry of Interior, hosts a wide range of exhibits and activities at its Expo 2020 Dubai pavilion. These exhibits and presentations provide visitors an opportunity to view the latest police initiatives and projects related to enhancing the safety and security as well as the quality of life in the country. The pavilion is located at the 2nd floor of the Islamic Cooperation Organisation building at the Mobility Area.



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# UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS



Abu Dhabi Police have warned the public against negligent driving as part of the 'Safety Path' campaign. Not giving priority to pedestrians at zebra crossings often leads to an accident and attracts a fine of Dhs500 and 6 black points.



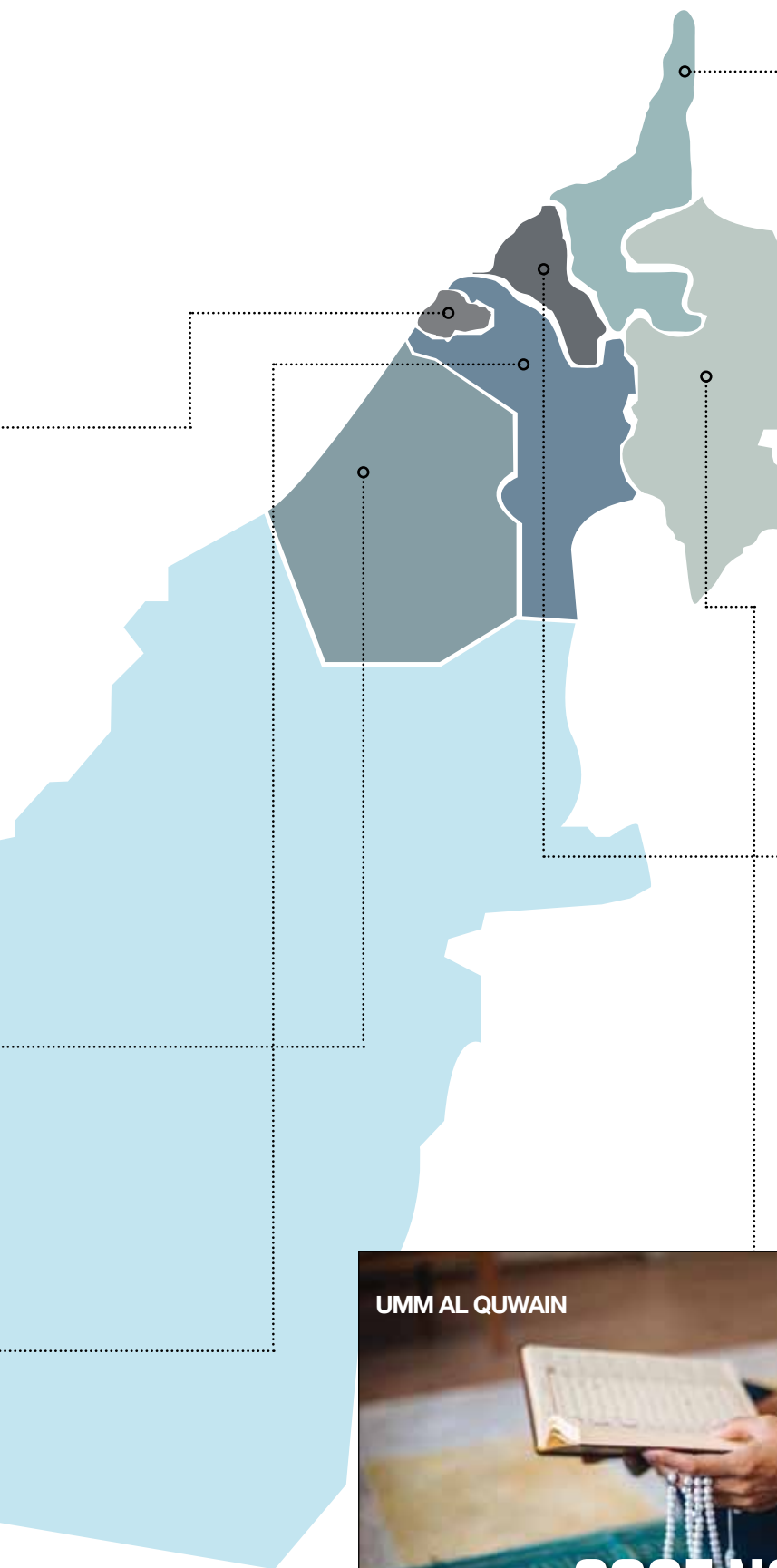
Dubai Police have foiled a major drug smuggling attempt by a Middle Eastern gang. The police seized 500kg of cocaine from an accomplice of the drug ring; this accomplice lives in the emirate. The seized narcotics have an estimated street value of Dhs500 million and were found hidden in a cargo container, which was intercepted at a seaport in the emirate.



Two people died while another sustained injuries in a collision between three trucks on Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Road in the Al Hamriyah area. An investigation was launched, and initial findings suggested that the accident was caused by lack of attention while driving.



A four-year-old Arab girl succumbed to her injuries after falling from a second-floor window of the family villa. The girl, named Ghayah, was rushed to the hospital and admitted to ICU, but she died a few days after the fall. Ghayah used to stand near the window, waiting for her father to return from work.



## AJMAN

5

The Ajman Criminal Court convicted all five members of a gang, one of whom was sentenced in absentia, for killing a businessman at his apartment and hiding his body in a fridge. The victim was stabbed 62 times in different parts of his body after the gang stole Dhs109,000 and a luxury car. Evidence collected from under the victim's nails led the police to the perpetrators.

## FUJAIRAH

36 YEARS OLD

An Asian truck driver, aged 36, died in a traffic accident after he lost control of the steering wheel, causing the truck to overturn several times. The accident occurred at a roundabout along Yasba Road in the emirate of Fujairah. His sole companion inside the truck suffered serious injuries, but his condition was stabilised.

## UMM AL QUWAIN

CASE NO. 88

Umm Al Quwain Court of First Instance has handed down a unique sentence on a driver who caused a traffic accident in the emirate. Giving its verdict on Case No. 88 for 2021, the court ordered the driver to fully memorise Surat Al-Mulk of the Holy Quran within a month. His compliance with the court order would be supervised by the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments.



# THE JOBS ARE BACK

EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS ARE AGAIN IMPROVING  
IN THE UAE, AS REFLECTED IN CONSUMER  
CONFIDENCE, ON THE BACK OF VISA REFORMS,  
VACCINATION, AND EXPO 2020 DUBAI.

**999** EXPLORES WHAT'S IN STORE  
FOR CANDIDATES

BY NASEEF CHENATH



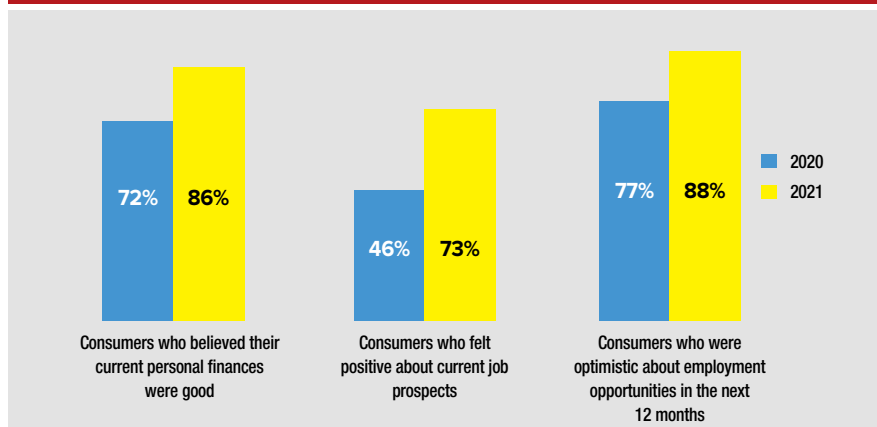
**T**he UAE has worked hard to overcome the pandemic, and the results are visible. In Dubai, the site of the ongoing World Expo, consumer confidence has hit a 10-year high, the highest since 2011, according to data published by Dubai Economy on October 17. This is a sharp upswing from the low mood observed a little more than a year ago, as indicated in a survey published by the Conference Board Gulf Centre for Economics and Business Research in August 2020.

Consumer confidence is almost always tied to employment confidence — one can only consume any goods when one has an income from employment. Therefore, the new figures point to better job prospects in the UAE. The survey follows recent announcements by major organisations such as Emirates and Etihad airlines, the healthcare chain Aster DM, and e-commerce giant Amazon that they'd hire thousands of people in the UAE in the coming months. This is a highly positive development for the country, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in December and starts the journey of the next five decades.

In the Dubai Economy survey published in October, 86 per cent of the respondent consumers said they believed that their current personal finances were good, up from 72 per cent in the same period last year. About 73 per cent of the consumers

## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE HITS 10-YEAR HIGH IN Q3 2021

Source: Dubai Economy (October 2021 report)



felt positive about current job prospects, compared to 46 per cent last year. Around 88 per cent were optimistic about employment opportunities in the next 12 months, compared to 77 per cent last year.

Plans for discretionary spending were being made as well, with 82 per cent of the consumers saying that this was a good time to buy what they wanted; 44 per cent preparing to spend on vacations; 36 per cent on outdoor entertainment; and 33 per cent on new clothes.

Consumer spending and employment generally feed each other — spending revives businesses; and business revival leads to employment and more spending. The UAE, therefore, is in a good space and its prospects

are set to get even better with the successful start of the Expo, a mega-fair expected to pump billions of dollars into the national economy and create hundreds of thousands of jobs. A 2019 report by the multinational professional services network Ernst & Young estimated that between 2013 (when Dubai was awarded the Expo) and 2031, the six-month event would generate around Dhs122 billion in GVA (gross value added) for the economy and support more than 900,000 job-years (i.e. one job held down for one year by one person).

The pandemic drastically slowed down the pace of economic progress, but the UAE is a player that has a vision spanning decades, not a year or two. It's already moving forward





## According to a recent survey by HSBC, companies in the UAE are accelerating the hiring process, as revenue is supposed to increase as much as 25 per cent over the next 12 months

again, powered by disciplined pandemic management and diversified economic sectors.

One of the major factors behind its ability to get past the COVID-19 crisis is, of course, the rate of vaccination, which stood at more than 20.7 million doses on October 17, with 96.23 per cent of the population partially vaccinated and 86.21 per cent fully vaccinated. This has enabled the re-opening of the economy, the inauguration of Expo 2020 Dubai, and paved the way for much more.

### POWER OF NEW VISAS

The recent introduction of new visa categories, giving expats more control over their lives in the UAE and more time to get back on their feet after a job loss, is amongst the most significant residency reforms in the run-up to the Golden Jubilee of the Union. Before that, there was the introduction of the Golden visa, the long-term student visa, and allowing select expats to have 100 per cent ownership of their business investments.

The latest visa categories were unveiled as part of 'Projects of the 50', an initiative encompassing a bold new series of national strategic projects. Expats can now invest in this country with much greater confidence — that's the confidence being reflected in the upbeat consumer attitude.

While marquee names in the UAE business world have already announced their largescale hiring plans, smaller companies are recruiting, too.

According to a recent survey by HSBC, companies in the UAE are accelerating the hiring process, as revenue is supposed to increase as much as 25 per cent over the next 12 months. Examining more than 2,000

leading businesses around the world, the survey has pointed out that three out of four companies in the country expect to hire more staff in the coming months, and they consider the anticipated "battle for talent" as decisive in delivering on progressive growth prospects.

"Our new HSBC Navigator report on the Future of Work shows that executives believe the battle for talent is vital to driving sustainable profitability — particularly as companies bounce back from the COVID pandemic — with almost 90 per cent of companies surveyed in the UAE seeing a strong relationship between investment in the workforce and business success," said Daniel Howlett, Regional Head of Commercial Banking for HSBC in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, in a statement to the media.

He added, "The companies involved in our research in the UAE are targeting roughly 25 per cent revenue growth on average over the next 12 months, and eight in 10 of them are already making significant investments in hiring, upskilling, or training.

"The future working environment is still taking shape, and it is already clear to executives that the changes to come are likely to have a profound impact on both the engagement of staff and the profitability of the companies that people choose to work in."

### THE FUTURE WORKPLACE

Nearly every business leader (97 per cent) surveyed for the HSBC research in the UAE concurred that optimal working arrangements in future would comprise a form of remote working, sharing almost the same view of their

counterparts (95 per cent) across the globe.

More than half (52 per cent) are assisting employees with digital skills training, while 44 per cent are offering work-life balance programmes to equip staff with the skillsets essential for the future of hybrid work settings. Around 47 per cent of business leaders say that salary continues to be a major factor in attracting and retaining talent in the UAE.

### THE NUMBERS

#### 97 per cent

The percentage of business leaders in the UAE who concurred that optimal working arrangements in the future would comprise a form of remote working

#### 52 per cent

The percentage of businesses in the UAE that assist employees with digital skills training

#### 44 per cent

The percentage of businesses in the UAE that offer work-life balance programmes to equip staff with the skillsets essential for the future of hybrid work settings

#### 47 per cent

The percentage of businesses in the UAE who said that salary continues to be a major factor in attracting and retaining talent in the UAE

Source: HSBC Navigator report on the Future of Work 2021



## “The business community in the UAE is one of the most dynamic in the world, always quick to adapt to changing business environments



**DANIEL HOWLETT**

Regional Head of Commercial Banking for HSBC in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey

“The business community in the UAE is one of the most dynamic in the world, always quick to adapt to changing business environments, which makes this prioritisation of employee wellbeing, training, skills development and flexible working a clear indication of the global trend,” Howlett said.

The four main focus areas for UAE businesses are staff wellbeing; leadership skills in a hybrid environment; cyber-security; and environmental, social

and governance frameworks (ESG).

The study reveals that UAE businesses are the most optimistic globally in terms of fostering innovation in product and customer service over the next 12 months. Howlett said, “It’s great to see that product and service innovation is front-of-mind for UAE’s business community, which is particularly relevant when bearing in mind that Expo 2020 — the global showcase of innovation and ideas that shape the world in which we live — has just begun here in the UAE. Innovations that create opportunities, drive mobility, and nourish sustainability are key themes at Expo 2020, and they align well with what UAE businesses say will enhance their competitive advantage regionally and globally.”

### LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

As the UAE job market recovers, some sectors naturally have an edge over the others, as their goods and services are considered essential and are far more in demand compared to what’s non-essential.

Speaking to **999** about the job prospects in his industry, Jay Linsangan, a UAE expat working in the insurance sector for the past six-and-a-half years, said, “As an employee working in a company related to insurance, I’ve noticed that even during the peak of the pandemic, there were a lot of job opportunities in my sector. We all know that medical insurance is mandatory for all residents here in the UAE, and travel insurance is one of the prerequisites for those who travel to the country. Hence, insurance companies in this country continue to employ more people to serve the community with exceptional services.”

Sara Seggari, PR and marketing executive at New Perspective Media, has been in the UAE for about two years — that’s a period dominated by the pandemic, and she has seen a sharp upward curve in digital activities in her sector. Talking to **999** about how alive, or otherwise, the marketing scene is, she said, “Almost every sector has been

affected by the pandemic; public relations and communications are no exception. In my relatively new experience in this industry, I know that there were quite a few communications and public relations efforts during the pandemic. In spite of the fact that the growth and success of companies are at the core of this field, I believe that it has taken a whole new direction, being based more on digital PR, which, in turn, creates new job positions.”

Within the ‘Projects of the 50’ strategy is a set of programmes meant to encourage UAE nationals to join the private sector, including salary top-ups and unemployment benefits.

Chaired by HE Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, the Emirati Talent Competitiveness Council was established to generate 75,000 jobs in the private sector for UAE nationals. A sum of Dhs24 billion has been allocated to support the plan.

Commenting on the initiative, Linsangan said that he rated the UAE “10 out of 10” in terms of opening employment avenues for everyone. “The UAE is providing great job opportunities to all nationalities, whether it is professionals, non-professionals, or skilled workers. However, educational qualifications, professional experience, and language proficiency are crucial in obtaining one’s preferred job.”

### TAXING FOR TAKEOFF

The news of Emirates and Etihad planning to hire on a large scale should cheer up many former aviation sector employees like Hassan, a Bahraini national who worked as a cabin crew member before he was sent on unpaid long leave.

He tells **999**, “My sector was amongst the worst-hit businesses around the world. Our industry has not fully recovered, but it’s picking up its pace.”

Indeed, UAE aviation, one of the top non-oil sectors, seems to be taxiing for takeoff, as international travel cautiously resumes. Expo 2020 Dubai is the catalyst, expected to bring millions of visitors into the country, mostly by air.

Signs of recovery were observed during the first half of 2021, when Dubai International Airport (DXB) alone received 10.6 million passengers from January to



**“In anticipation of the robust recovery of global air travel, we started the second half on a high note by re-opening Terminal 1 and Concourse D — the home terminal for our 60 international carriers**



**PAUL GRIFFITHS**  
CEO of Dubai Airports

June. “In anticipation of the robust recovery of global air travel, we started the second half on a high note by re-opening Terminal 1 and Concourse D — the home terminal for our 60 international carriers, after 15 months of hibernation to accommodate the seasonal rush of travellers over the summer holidays,” said Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, in a media statement in mid-August 2021.

Emirates, which has the dedicated Terminal 3 at DXB, has begun a worldwide campaign to hire 3,000 cabin crew members and 500 airport service staff for its Dubai hub. This includes Dubai-based positions and frontline customer-facing roles, both of which offer exciting opportunities for friendly, energetic, and service-oriented people.

Emirates has slowly restored its network operations, in accordance with the easing of travel restrictions around the world. Over the past months, the airline has been recalling pilots, cabin

crew, and other operational employees who were stood down due to the pandemic-induced reductions in flights.

Meanwhile, Abu Dhabi’s Etihad Airways plans to recruit around 1,000 cabin crew members as travel demand rebounds. The state-owned carrier is hosting recruitment days from October 11 to November 22 in 10 cities, including Abu Dhabi, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Beirut, and Milan.

“The last 18 months have been incredibly difficult; however, there is much to be positive about as travel restrictions ease and we ramp up operations to meet [the] growing demand,” said Jihad Richard Matta, Head of Crew Performance and Support at Etihad Airways.

#### **BOOMING E-COMMERCE MARKET**

Online giant Amazon has announced creating 1,500 jobs in the UAE this year to increase its storage capacity by 60 per cent. Amazon’s current network across the UAE includes two warehouses — aka “fulfilment centres” — plus eight delivery stations, three sorting centres, and an extensive network of delivery partners. The company’s latest expansion plan encompasses creating a “pipeline of new openings” and “closure of older buildings and upgrades”, devised to provide a far better e-commerce experience.

“Our expansion is underpinned by our support of the UAE’s growing digital economy, as we continue to invest in people, processes and technology,” said Prashant Saran, Amazon’s Director of Operations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. “We offer an enriching environment where employees can learn and grow, all within a modern workplace that has an uncompromising focus on safety. Amazon’s investment reflects our long-term commitment to the communities in which we operate.”





## As per Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, e-commerce made up 8 per cent of the UAE's overall retail market in 2020. The UAE's retail e-commerce market value is predicted to reach \$8 billion by 2025

As per Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, e-commerce made up 8 per cent of the UAE's overall retail market in 2020. The UAE's retail e-commerce market value rose by 53 per cent to a record \$3.9 billion (Dhs14.32bn) last year and is predicted to reach \$8 billion by 2025.

"As we accelerate our culture of innovation to better serve customers, we are excited to become an enabler of opportunity for talent in the UAE," Saran said. In contrast to many leading brands, Amazon enjoyed a steep rise in its business globally, thanks to the pandemic that prompted more customers to go online. This led the company to ramp up its operations and hire a new workforce to meet increasing demand.

CARS24, a recent e-commerce platform in the UAE for pre-owned vehicles, is geared up to invest close to Dhs367 million in the UAE and other GCC countries. The investment will be utilised to establish one of the largest refurbishment hubs in the region, generating more job opportunities in the UAE and other markets.

The money will also be used to enhance the company's technological framework, an important aspect given the rapid rate at which most of the commerce is heading online. Within five months, the company has recorded sales of 1,000-plus cars, and 100 per cent of the transactions were conducted online.

"We are delighted to deepen our roots in the UAE, one of the most progressive and technologically advanced nations in the world," said Abhinav Gupta, CEO, Gulf

## MORE UAE NATIONALS IN HEALTHCARE

Private healthcare companies are prepared to recruit more Emiratis after the government launched the National Healthcare Programme (NHP), which aims to develop the skills of 10,000 Emirati healthcare workers within the next five years, providing them with careers in the private sector.

"The National Healthcare Programme will be rolling out a graduate healthcare assistant programme; a higher diploma in emergency medicine; and a Bachelor's degree in nursing," said Ghannam Al Mazrouei, Secretary General of the Emirati Talent Competitiveness Council.

Heads of private healthcare groups lauded the initiative, reiterating that such a programme would train a new generation of Emirati professionals and specialists.

Aster DM Healthcare, a leading conglomerate in the MENA region, now employs 20 Emiratis, 12 of whom were recruited as part of the Emiratisation programme this year.

"They were hired as customer care executives across our business units, especially in Medcare, considering the patient profiles," said Dr Azad Moopen, Chairman of Aster DM Healthcare. "Most of the hires come with one to two years of experience in the retail and hospitality industries. The job profile revolves around providing a positive patient and customer experience and journey."

Meanwhile, NMC Healthcare boasts a workforce comprising 12,000 UAE employees. According to its CEO

region, CARS24. "Technology is at the heart of everything that we do at CARS24, and the country's tech-focused vision deeply resonates with us. The company aims to shoulder the government's vision of creating a state-of-the-art technology ecosystem by taking the entire car-buying process online. This, we believe, is the future."

### PROMISING OUTLOOK

The recovery in the UAE job market is likely to gain momentum, as the country's fundamental strengths overcome the pandemic slump.

According to the employment index survey by jobs site Bayt.com and market research agency YouGov, about 72 per cent of UAE

**“The National Healthcare Programme will be rolling out a graduate healthcare assistant programme; a higher diploma in emergency medicine; and a Bachelor's degree in nursing**



**GHANNAM AL MAZROUEI**

Secretary General of the Emirati Talent Competitiveness Council

Michael Brenden Davis, "The prospect of utilising up to 1,200 Emiratis in areas of clinical care, administration, and leadership are exciting for us."

VPS Healthcare Group, one of the largest healthcare groups in the Middle East, has established numerous programmes to train medical students and healthcare workers. "The majority of the beneficiaries of these programmes have been Emiratis. We have initiated student internship programmes in coordination with prestigious universities in the region," said Omran Al Khoori, President, Business Development at VPS Healthcare.

companies aim to hire new employees within a year. The top industries going on a hiring spree are healthcare and medical services (66 per cent); human resources (65 per cent); and consumer goods/FMCG (64 per cent). The survey was conducted among 1,027 recruiters and companies based in the MENA region, such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, between July 4 and August 24.

"The MENA region offers a host of job opportunities for various industries and career levels," said Ola Haddad, Director of Human Resources at Bayt.com. "The region continues to evolve and transform, affecting the volume and quality of employment opportunities, as well as the factors that are crucial in attracting and retaining top talent."





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

## 360 MINUTES OF SOCIAL MEDIA OUTAGE

The world held its breath during the six hours when Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram went unresponsive. What were the gains and losses?

“I wake up to Instagram notifications and watch its videos before going to sleep,” said Lina from Iraq to *Al-Hurra* website, describing how she felt when “the world stopped” during the six hours when Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp were down on October 4, 2021. It was only six hours — 360 minutes — during which millions of users of the three social networks held their breath. Many reportedly felt their hearts almost stop beating after Facebook and its affiliates stopped working.

Before we consider moral losses, we need to thoroughly examine the material losses that were incurred by the company, its owner, and some of the world’s billionaires as a result of this interruption, and conflicting information about why it occurred.

Facebook has lost \$20 billion (Dhs73.4bn) in market value since Instagram and WhatsApp were interrupted. According to reports issued after the interruption, the market value of Facebook was \$967 billion (Dhs3.5trn) and Mark Zuckerberg, the company’s founder, lost \$7 billion (Dhs25.7bn).

In just one day, the outage also negatively impacted the fortunes of 10 of the richest billionaires in the technology sector, costing them \$21 billion (Dhs77.1bn). The global economy lost about \$1 billion (Dhs3.7bn), according to an estimate by a London-based Internet watchdog.

While Facebook and its owner as well as other technology companies suffered losses, we will also examine the losses and gains that Facebook users experienced during this six-hour wait for their apps to come back to life. Some hoped these apps would remain shut down forever, while others wished these conditions never occurred so that boredom would not influence their lives and dullness would not turn to depression.

Social media influencers seemed to be the biggest losers;

they have become open advertising companies that work 24 hours a day, not paying for commercial licences, office and equipment, employee salaries, water, electricity, or any regular maintenance bills, which advertising companies and other businesses must pay for.

The incomes of some influencers exceed that of ministers, deputy ministers, directors of departments, senior officials, scientists, doctors, engineers, and general employees who work hard.

These influencers carry their phones on their daytime tours in

departments and institutions, and at night in restaurants, hotels, salons, wedding halls, shops or even mourning tents. And as a reward for transmitting what they see, they earn large amounts, sometimes equivalent to the salaries of 10 of the senior employees mentioned earlier.

Apart from the owners of tech companies, whose losses we discussed at the beginning of our article, these might be the largest group of losers.

On the other hand, the greatest gain was measuring people’s ability to do without these apps during these six hours. The shock was indeed severe in the beginning, but with time and acceptance of God’s plan and destiny, people became more patient with this short absence of social media. It took them a while to adjust to the new situation, losing hope that things would go back to the way they were, and sleeping without surfing the social media platforms, which had become as silent as graves.

Nevertheless, at dawn, hands grabbed smartphones as the soul returned to their favourite platforms and they went back to looking for greetings, jokes, and news missed by traditional media.

God help Zuckerberg, as he fell to fifth place in the Bloomberg list of billionaires, following this outage.

**In just one day, the outage negatively impacted the fortunes of 10 of the richest billionaires in the technology sector**

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



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# UAE MISSION TO VENUS: SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT

THE UAE WILL BE TAKING YET ANOTHER GIANT LEAP IN SPACE SCIENCE.  
THIS TIME, THE COUNTRY SETS SIGHTS ON EARTH'S CLOSEST  
PLANETARY NEIGHBOUR

BY MOHAMMED JALAL AL RAYSSI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY (WAM)

DWO



**T**here are no limits when you're surrounded by leaders who believe the impossible is possible, or by people who are bent on opening the doors of opportunity, not closing them. For these people, the sky is not the limit.

The launch of a new project to explore Venus and the asteroid belt sets a more ambitious goal for our nation's burgeoning space programme. This aggressive new target proves once more that the Hope Mars Mission has been just a well-calculated first step forward on a long path for the UAE to make a meaningful contribution to space exploration, scientific research and to our understanding of the solar system.

It's not an easy road, though. As His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime





During the unveiling of the Venus mission (from right to left): HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces; HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council; and HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior



HE Sarah Al Amiri set out details of the Venus mission

Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said: “An easy life does not make men, nor does it build nations. Challenges make men, and it is these men who build nations.”

The UAE National Space Strategy 2030 aims to enhance the space sector’s contribution to the national economy and promote the UAE’s regional and international presence in the space sector. It’s based on the belief that every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end. Lying at the heart of this ambitious strategy is investing in people, arming them with modern sciences, and establishing a national and Arab base in space sciences, as the predecessors did.

However, the new mission is “a new test of the capabilities of the Emirati youth to achieve Zayed’s ambition in space”, as His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said.

By all means, it will never be smooth sailing. However, it’s the UAE’s destiny to turn challenges into opportunities. And for this reason, investment has been made in projects to graduate scientists and astronauts, and to build spacecraft at the hands of our national cadres. Our national talent and our academic and research institutions have made jumbo leaps in the

## ANALYSIS

The launch of a new project to explore **Venus** and the **asteroid belt** sets a new ambitious goal for our nation’s burgeoning **space programme**

The spacecraft for the mission would take seven years to build, with the launch date planned for **2028**

The aggressive new target proves that the **Hope Mars Mission** has been just a well-calculated first step forward on a long path of the UAE to make a meaningful contribution to **space exploration, scientific research and to our understanding of the solar system**

**The UAE National Space Strategy 2030** aims to enhance the space sector’s contribution to the national economy and promote the UAE’s regional and international presence in the space sector

The new mission comes to reinforce UAE Strategy for **Talent Attraction and Retention**, a move that contributes to strengthening the UAE

**“Our journey to development and progress simply has no boundaries, no borders, and no limitations**

space sector and are now able to take on the task of the new ambitious space project, which will make the UAE the fourth country to visit Venus and the asteroid belt.

The spacecraft for this mission would take seven years to build, with the launch date planned for 2028. The primary goal is

to explore the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, wherein most meteorites that impact earth are found.

The new mission comes to reinforce UAE Strategy for Talent Attraction and Retention, a move that contributes to strengthening the UAE’s leading position as a preferred destination for living, working and investing.

UAE’s ambitions are second to none - a message echoed by the UAE’s leadership upon embarking on all our megaprojects, to show in no uncertain terms that our journey to development and progress simply has no boundaries, no borders, and no limitations.

# Once upon a time in the Emirates

IN THE RUN-UP TO UAE'S GOLDEN JUBILEE NEXT MONTH, EXPATS WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR FIVE DECADES TAKE 999 DOWN MEMORY LANE TO SHOW HOW IT ALL BEGAN — FOR THIS COUNTRY AND FOR THEM

BY TESSY KOSHY







**T**o the millions of visitors arriving in the UAE for Expo 2020 Dubai, this young nation is a modern marvel of astonishing architecture and infrastructure, retail and recreation. We all know that it wasn't always so — that once upon a time, the glittering cities of the UAE were yet to rise — but it's hard to imagine what that looked like. Expats who've lived here for around five decades act as the storytellers of those times.

One of them is Robert Sherman, who came to Dubai in 1967, at the age of seven. At the time, Dubai was amongst the former Trucial States — 'trucial' was derived from 'truce' between the British and Gulf sheikhdoms, and those treaties were revoked two days before the UAE came into being as a nation in 1971.

Now 61, Sherman still calls the UAE his home. Having retired in April 2021, as the Managing Director of Sony Professional Solutions, Middle East and Africa, he looks back at his years in the UAE as no less than a "fantastic adventure".

Speaking to **999**, he says, "This place is truly a melting pot. Everyone is welcome here, which is what we felt when we came here decades ago and continue to do so even today."

In the late 1960s, the Shermans had moved from Kuwait to Dubai. Their single-storeyed villa on Jumeirah Beach Road, opposite the current location of Mercato Mall, was the last human settlement on that stretch of land.

Filled with fond memories of his early life in Dubai, Sherman recollects the simplicity of those bygone days. "The entire emirate was a small settlement, with a close-knit community of people. We had few amenities — there was no fresh milk, we used only powder milk; for fruits and vegetables, there was just one



*Robert Sherman in front of a shop in Dubai during his early days*

shop. For entertainment, there was only an open-air cinema around Jumeirah that played Hindi movies. Along with my siblings, I would walk from Jumeirah to Ravi Restaurant in Satwa to eat Tandoori Chicken. We were young children, yet we went everywhere alone," he shares.

Sherman studied for a few terms at the Dubai English Speaking School and later joined a boarding school in the UK. During school holidays, he came back to Dubai to be with his family. On one such trip, as an 11-year-old, he saw the huge celebrations that took place on December 2, 1971, when the

constitutional Federation of United Arab Emirates was formed. "I recollect police marching down Baniyas Square. The borders had been opened and the place became more Emirati," he reveals.

Prior to 1971, the seven emirates formed the Trucial States, according to a treaty established with the British in the 19th century. The idea of a union was initiated by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the then Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and by Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed al Maktoum, the then Ruler of Dubai, in a meeting at a village on Samih border.

They agreed to invite all the adjoining





Dubai World Trade Centre, 1987

**“The Trade Centre was a significant landmark for all of us, as the rest of the area was still getting constructed. When we’d drive back from a trip to Abu Dhabi, we had to reach before sunset; otherwise, one could get lost. Spotting the Trade Centre meant that we were near home**



**ROBERT SHERMAN**  
British

emirates to form a new federal state. As the UAE’s interim Federal Constitution was approved on the evening of December 1, 1971, the morning of December 2, 1971, saw the rulers of six emirates meeting at Union house, the present Etihad Museum, and come together as the UAE. The seventh emirate, Ras Al Khaimah, joined a few months later on February 10, 1972.

It was a year after the unification when Indian expat Dinesh Khiara first visited Dubai. His father Naraindas Vallabhdas Khiara had been running a successful kitchenware and utensils store in Deira called Khiara Stores since 1955. Dinesh Khiara, aged six, would visit Dubai from Mumbai, India, during school holidays. “One of my initial memories of that time was that water was sold in goatskin bags by men who came with them loaded on donkeys. Salt water used for cleaning was cheaper than the sweet water which was used for drinking,” says Khiara, speaking to **999**.

The family lived in Sardana Building next to the Bur Dubai temple in the Al Fahidi area. “Most of the people lived in the Al Fahidi area. There were dunes and dunes of sand everywhere else. But it was always a safe place. Everyone knew each other,” he recalls.

After finishing his education, Khiara

joined his father’s store in 1984 and has been here since then. Along with the growth of the UAE, their family business has also expanded to three stores in Deira. The Khiaras live in a joint family with several brothers, cousins, and their offspring in two co-joined villas in Jumeirah today.

Both Sherman and Khiara witnessed the fast-paced development that began in the

UAE from 1971. As the nation celebrates its 50th anniversary on December 2, 2021, these expats have seen the country grow from stretches of deserts to iconic buildings, luxurious hotels, and space missions.

One of the most notable architectural landmarks that they both speak about is the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC), constructed in 1979. Rising to 184 metres, the 38-storey skyscraper was the first



The Clock Tower roundabout in Dubai, 1972

UAE National Archives

building of such a height built in the UAE. Featured on the hundred dirham banknote, DWTC houses corporate offices and exhibition halls for events.

“The Trade Centre was a significant landmark for all of us, as the rest of the area was still getting constructed. When we’d drive back from a trip to Abu Dhabi, we had to reach before sunset; otherwise, one could get lost. Spotting the Trade Centre meant that we were near home,” says Sherman. Incidentally, as a young professional, Sherman came back to Dubai in 1992 after working for a few years in the UK to set up the Sony office in the Trade Centre itself.

Yet another long-time resident of the UAE, Italian national Manuela Chaaya, who came to Dubai in 1969, recalls that after the Deira Clock Tower (built in 1965), the Trade Centre was a representative icon of the historic developments taking place in the country.

“When we first arrived here, there was little infrastructure; life was very basic but we appreciated it very much. Along with

the growth of the nation, our lives have also progressed and evolved. I came here as a little girl, completed my education, got married, raised a family and have had a successful career,” she shares with 999.

Chaaya points out that from the beginning, they felt that there was no distinction between the local population and the expats, as everyone intermingled. This characteristic of the land continues even in 2021. “My father had several encounters with the late Sheikh Rashid on various occasions. He was always very generous and welcoming. We were also invited to many Emirati weddings,” says Chaaya.

The tag of being ‘a tolerant nation’ has been rightly bestowed on the UAE, affirms Khiara, who is also a Golden Visa holder. “People from all cultures are respected in the UAE. In the earlier days, during the festival of Diwali, the Indian community in Bur Dubai used to look forward to house visits by Sheikh Rashid,” he shares.

As the world witnesses the massive scale of Expo 2020 Dubai, it’s evident

**“ In the earlier days, during the festival of Diwali, the Indian community in Bur Dubai**

**used to look forward to house visits by Sheikh Rashid**



**DINESH KHIARA**

Indian

that the seeds of this unprecedented success in all walks of life were sown by the founding fathers. The expats all agree that it was the exemplary vision of the leaders of the nation that enabled such massive and rapid expansion. From



Buildings in Dubai, 1972

UAE National Archives



**“The UAE is a modern, contemporary and evolving nation. But if given a choice, I'd still love to revisit the timeless spaces — their ageless charm continues to captivate me**



**MANUELA CHAAYA**

Italian



*Wind towers in Dubai, 1960*

Edric Worsnop

building roads and bridges to hotels, schools, and hospitals, this country has been creating landmarks that capture the world's attention and bring expats flocking here in search of an extraordinary life.

The UAE is home to many mind-boggling attractions featured in record books — be it the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa; the largest picture frame, Dubai Frame; the world's largest flower

garden, Dubai Miracle Garden, to the world's tallest hotel, Gevora Hotel at 356 metres. “It was the amazing foresight of the rulers that led to the construction of such buildings. We saw that, beginning with the development of the huge Dubai Drydocks and the Dubai International Airport. I feel this natural streak towards excellence in the early rulers has trickled down to the current generation as well,” says Sherman.

Ranked as one of the safest nations in the world, alongside its technological and scientific advancements, the UAE is synonymous with booming business opportunities. Under the guidance of the wise leadership, the land once covered with dunes is now a top-ranking global economy that citizens and residents take great pride in.

“This has always been a land of opportunities where dreams come true. Even new residents achieve tremendous upward mobility very soon. I joined our family business at the age of 17, beginning with very basic jobs such as cleaning the store and arranging our products. My father used to say, ‘Look out for the customers’ complaints and not their compliments.’ I adhere to that even now,” points out Khiara.

As the landscape of the UAE transformed from sand dunes to stunning skyscrapers, the lives of these expats also underwent significant changes. While they appreciate the ease of life here today, they reminisce fondly about the older parts of the city where they lived. Chaaya says, “The UAE is understandably a modern, contemporary and evolving nation. But if given a choice, I'd still love to revisit the timeless spaces such as Meena Bazaar in Bur Dubai, the souks and dhows of Deira, the Blue Souk in Sharjah — their ageless charm continues to captivate me.”



*Boats moored along the Sharjah Corniche, 1948*

Pur Fives Museum/AGDA





# HUMANITY ABOVE ALL

GUIDED BY ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UAE'S FOUNDING FATHER, THE LATE SHEIKH ZAYED BIN SULTAN AL NAHYAN, THIS NATION STEADILY RAISES ITS TORCH TO BE A BEACON OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND ILLUMINATES ITS PATH FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS

BY RAKHEE ROYTALUKDAR

**T**he 50th year of the UAE has been marked by many firsts, from success in space exploration (the Hope Probe entering the Mars orbit) to transformative residency reforms (UAE passports for select expats and new visa types). All of it has been made possible by the country's strong emphasis on tolerance, security, and knowledge — those three elements come together to form the basis of human rights.

The announcement of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) at the end of August 2021, through a federal law issued by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, gives structure to the policy of progress through harmonious co-existence and knowledge-sharing that the UAE's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, laid down for the country.

Initially headquartered in Abu Dhabi, NHRI "aims to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms following the provisions of the UAE Constitution, laws and legislation in force in the UAE, as

well as relevant international conventions", according to Federal Law No. 12 for 2021. Additional branches are likely to come up in other emirates.

This institutionalised focus on human rights is essential for the UAE's growth over the next 50 years, as the country positions itself as one of the leading centres of the global knowledge economy. It's also working to steadily climb the ranks on all development indices, thereby meeting its 2071 goals.

The news of NHRI follows the December 2020 announcement on the formation of a National Human Rights Authority (NHRA) in the UAE, accelerating its efforts to protect human rights at the regional and international levels. The Authority will advance the UAE's efforts to safeguard the rights of women, children, labourers, the elderly, people of determination, and more. It will follow the 1993 Paris Principles for the National Human Rights Institutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Through NHRA, which has a degree of financial and administrative

**“The UAE attaches great importance to the human rights file and social media is our window for information**



**HE DR ANWAR  
MOHAMMED GARGASH**  
Diplomatic Adviser to the UAE President

autonomy, “the UAE seeks to develop networks with individuals and institutions around the world to achieve goals in empowering the vulnerable segments of society”, as per the official website of the government.

In other related developments, in May 2020, the country had set up its National Human Rights Committee; and in April 2021, the Federal National Council approved a law establishing the National Commission for Human Rights in the UAE.

One of the key figures in developing the National Human Rights Action Plan is His Excellency Dr Anwar Mohammed Gargash, Diplomatic Adviser to the UAE President. In July 2021, he urged his 1.3 million followers on Twitter to learn more about the UAE's work in this field. “The UAE attaches great importance to the human rights file and social media is our window for information and the committee's website is a bridge of communication covering its work and activities,” he said.





**“As part of the Directorate General of Punitive and Correctional Establishments at the Ministry of Interior, we seek to achieve several goals, with the end goal of helping the prisoner's return to his normal life as a productive member of society**



**BRIGADIER AHMED  
ABDULAZIZ SHUHAIL**

Director of Sharjah's Punitive and Correctional Institution

#### RIGHTS IN THE UAE

The UAE Constitution outlines the freedoms and rights of all citizens, prohibits torture, arbitrary arrest and detention and protects civil liberties, including freedom of speech and press, and the practice of religious beliefs. Significant investments have been made in education, healthcare, housing and sustainable economic development.

As a community, expatriates in the UAE have access to everything that they need for a secure daily life and to undertake their own cultural activities. The very high level of security in the country and religious tolerance are, indeed, the top factors in bringing expats to the UAE —



aside from the obvious pull of better work prospects and higher income.

Ensuring human rights, therefore, has a quantifiable economic benefit, and never has its need been felt more than in the post-pandemic world. It stands to reason that when people have a sense of safety for themselves, family members, and their property; when they can socialise and worship without fear; and when they feel equal in the eye of the law, they'd prosper and help others prosper as well. This creates a virtuous cycle, where more people are drawn to a nation that upholds human rights and make further contributions to the economy.

A strong human rights framework forms a triad with an efficient security setup and a well-defined residency system for sustained economic progress.

The UAE's human rights plan is aligned with international human rights standards, and the country is committed to the continual improvement of its own laws and practices, based upon cultural heritage

and religious values, which enshrine justice, equality, and tolerance.

The UAE Ministry of Interior has initiated several measures to reform prisoners and set them on the correct path, all the time taking care that there's no violation of human rights on the way.

Speaking on the subject, Brigadier Ahmed Abdulaziz Shuhail, Director of Sharjah's Punitive and Correctional Institution, affirmed that the system respects inmates' human rights pertaining to freedom of belief and opinion, healthcare services, and equality of prisoners. He added that the institution's headquarters had a human rights office affiliated to the office of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police.

“As part of the Directorate General of Punitive and Correctional Establishments at the Ministry of Interior, we seek to achieve several goals, with the end goal of helping the prisoner's return to his normal life as a productive member of society,” Shuhail said.

Amongst the institution's top initiatives was a nursery for the children of prisoners. Moreover, through the Sanad initiative, Sharjah Police helped prisoners' family members enrol in professional courses and workshops and obtain a licence to sell their products.

Often, prisoners come out of jail with more qualification than what they had when they went in, as the Punitive and Correctional Institution of Sharjah helps them get high school diplomas and diplomas in tourism and travel. This

## EXPO 2020 DUBAI: INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

The Summit to be held on 30th March 2022 would focus on providing solutions for ongoing crises around the world, including COVID-19 challenges and the persisting issues of racism, gender inequality, intolerance and persecution.

The Summit will bring together intellectuals, government institutions, human rights and philanthropic institutions, religious institutions, artists, media professionals, cultural associations, and the private sector to discuss the current concerns that need to be addressed.



programme may be extended to cover Master's and doctorate degrees.

These are just some of the UAE initiatives for the human rights of inmates and families, creating a space for them to rejoin the mainstream after the jail term. Such measures bring down the crime rate over a period of time, thereby increasing the level of security across the nation.

#### WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The UAE strongly believes in gender equality, which makes this a great place for women. Many expat women say that they feel much safer in the UAE than in their own countries. In fact, street harassment is virtually non-existent here.

Helen, a blogger, teacher and single woman in Abu Dhabi, wrote in her blog Theexpater.com: "I've travelled to 23 countries (Japan was supposed to be my 24th this year, but COVID happened) and the UAE is, by far, the safest country I've ever been to." She added that "in some places, women get prime parking and the best seats on public transport — all done to make sure we feel safe".

In 2020, the UAE was 18th globally and 1st regionally in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index, which measured gender balance across three dimensions:

reproductive health; empowerment; and economic activity. The country advanced eight positions from its previous rank of 26 in 2019.

In the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021, the UAE was ranked 1st globally in four of the report's indicators: women in parliament, sex ratio at birth, literacy rate, and enrolment in primary education. The country advanced 48 ranks in just one year, rising from 120th to 72nd globally.

Under the UAE Constitution, women have the same legal status, claim to titles, access to education, the right to practise professions, and the right to inherit property as men. Expats believe that the establishment of NHRI is a huge forward step.

As for the rights of children, while it has always been a priority for the country, legal safeguards for them became much stronger since the enactment of the Child Protection Law, popularly known as the Wadeema Law, in 2016.

The law, applied to the children of UAE nationals and expats, is designed to protect children from birth to puberty from all forms of abuse, including physical, verbal and psychological. Violators face imprisonment and fines of up to Dhs50,000.

To raise the level of child protection, police forces have been running several campaigns and programmes, such as 'Safety Ambassadors', to groom students to raise awareness about child rights.

Major General Dr Mohammad Abdullah Al Murr, Director of the General Department of Human Rights, said, "All children must be provided with appropriate living standards, access to health services, education, equal opportunities in essential services and facilities without any kind of discrimination."

**“ In 2020, the UAE was 18th globally and 1st regionally in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index, which measured gender balance across three dimensions: women in parliament, sex ratio at birth, literacy rate, and enrolment in primary education**





**“The UAE law protects children against all forms of negligence, exploitation, physical and psychological abuses**



**MAJOR GENERAL DR  
MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH  
AL MURR**

Director of the General Department of Human Rights

The UAE law protects children against all forms of negligence, exploitation, physical and psychological abuses.”

Fatima Al Beloushi, Head of the Awareness Section at the Women and Children’s Department of Dubai Police pointed out that the ‘Safety Ambassadors’ programme had delivered remarkable results. It had trained 1,090 students from 109 public and private schools to raise security awareness amongst their peers, report incidents of bullying and abuse, educate fellow students about their rights, and what to do if they were bullied or faced violence, negligence or abuse.

### SENSE OF BELONGING

One of the things distinctive about the expat community in the UAE is its sense of belonging. UAE society is cosmopolitan — people of some 200 nationalities live here — and the cultural diversity and tolerance ensures that no one feels left out.

Joanne Rico, 40, has lived in Abu Dhabi for a decade now; she heads marketing and sales of Bareen International Hospital. The UAE, she told 999, had helped her grow professionally and she had never experienced any kind of discrimination in terms of both her work and personal life.

“The UAE has provided a high sense of safety, security, and protection from any form of aggression or violence. I have absolute admiration for this place, which has enabled expats like me to work,

## AT A GLANCE: RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY UAE CONSTITUTION



**The UAE Constitution prohibits torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, and protects civil liberties, including freedom of speech and press, and the practice of religious beliefs. All people, irrespective of their race, nationality, religion and social position, are equal before the law.**



**DISCRIMINATION IS A CRIME:** You can report discrimination through online channels of the UAE police forces across the country, or file a lawsuit, through judicial authorities. You may also report discrimination experienced at the workplace through the online channels of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (for private sector employees), and through the online channels of the Federal Authority for Government Human Resources (for the government sector).



**WOMEN'S RIGHTS:** Women in the UAE enjoy the same constitutional rights as men. They have access to education, jobs, social and health benefits. In December 2018, the participation of women in the Federal National Council (FNC) was raised to 50 per cent by a presidential directive; in July 2019, it was said by HE Tariq Hilal Lootah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for FNC Affairs, that the representation of women might exceed 50 per cent in FNC, “considering that President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has set no maximum limits for the number of women in the House”.



**CHILD RIGHTS:** Federal Law No. 3 of 2016, aka Wadeema Law, stresses that all children must be provided with appropriate living standards, access to health services, education, equal opportunities in essential services and facilities without any kind of discrimination.



**WORKERS' RIGHTS:** The UAE passed several decrees to protect workers’ rights that cover recruitment, pay, housing and health. New labour reforms that took effect from January 1, 2016, place tremendous responsibility on the employers for protecting the workers. The new reforms focus on improving transparency of job terms and employment contracts; spell out how contracts can be terminated; and make it easier for workers to switch employers. Charging recruitment fees from prospective employees is illegal in the UAE, and the confiscation of workers’ passports is prohibited.



**COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** The UAE condemns, prohibits and penalises human trafficking, including all forms of sexual exploitation, engaging others in prostitution, servitude, forced labour, organ trafficking, coerced service, enslavement, begging and quasi-slavery practices. In addition, the law ensures that a person aware of a human trafficking crime and failing to report it can be punished.



**ANTI-HATRED LAW:** The UAE criminalises any acts that trigger religious hatred and/or insult religion through any form of expression, which covers speech and the written word, books, pamphlets or online media. Penalties include jail terms ranging from six months to over 10 years and/or fines up to Dhs2 million.



**TREATMENT OF INMATES:** The UAE implements the Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners in punitive and correctional institutions nationwide. Inmates receive their full rights in rehabilitation, medical care, nutrition, and communicating with their families and lawyers.



**RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION:** The UAE guarantees equality to people of determination (people with disabilities or those with special needs). According to the law, a person’s special needs shall not be a reason to deprive him/her of rights and services, especially in welfare as well as social, economic, health, educational, professional, cultural and leisure services.

**“Expats consider the UAE to be a peaceful, safe, and stable country with a lot of travel opportunities and a good transportation infrastructure. Most are also very happy with the quality of medical care**



**MALTE ZEECK**

Co-Founder and Co-Chief executive of InterNations

earn, and live in peace. These conditions are necessary if you want to grow professionally and personally,” Rico said.

The UAE was ranked 18th out of 59 best destinations in the world to live and work, according to the Expat Insider 2021 survey undertaken by the global network InterNations, published in May. It stressed that expats preferred the UAE over other prosperous countries, mainly because it was safe and secure.

In the same survey, the UAE was ranked 2nd, after only the United States, for its adoption of “new work” (new ways of working in the digitalised global era). Expats in the UAE who were surveyed said that the country’s work culture gave them more flexibility, work-life balance, and digital tools. The element of human rights comes here, too, as today’s employees believe that flexibility is their right as long as they can deliver what’s required of them; and many of them need that flexibility for health and family reasons.

The UAE positively shone in the ‘safety & security’ subcategory, ranked 3rd after only Finland (1st) and Singapore

(2nd). Nearly all surveyed expats (95 per cent) felt safe in the UAE (compared to the global average of 84 per cent). As a ‘peaceful destination’, its score of 92 per cent far surpassed the global average of 80 per cent. In terms of ‘political stability’, it got 89 per cent versus 64 per cent global average.

Safety, peace, and political stability are the building blocks of human rights. With these in place, a country is ready to fully realise the potential of human innovation.

In an interview with UAE media in May 2021, Malte Zeeck, Co-Founder and Co-Chief executive of InterNations, said, “Expats consider the UAE to be a peaceful, safe, and stable country with a lot of travel opportunities and a good transportation infrastructure. Most are also very happy with the quality of medical care in the UAE. Lastly, the UAE is an ideal destination for expats who are worried about the language barrier, as most expats find it easy to get by without speaking the local language.”

## AN EXPAT THANKS THE UAE

Dr Mohamed Khalafallah, Consultant, Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Bareen International Hospital - MBZ City, Abu Dhabi, is a UAE resident who feels thankful for the efficient administration and respect for all nationalities that he has experienced in the UAE.

Speaking to 999, he said, “I moved to the UAE three years ago from Egypt. My family and I got all the support without any discrimination regarding housing, school administration, driving licence, etc. It was fast and without any preference on race, religion, gender or nationality. After one month, my children got residence visas, admissions to school — all formalities were completed within a short time.

“Personally, I haven’t seen or encountered any form of violence in the UAE, many thanks to the government, which is highly committed to implementing laws that respect and protect the citizens and residents of the country.”

Expressing his appreciation for the long-term visa that the UAE now grants to outstanding people in diverse fields, the doctor said, “I believe this step has made great change in the Gulf area; the UAE has become a centre of education, entertainment and settlement and is now not only known for its oil industry.”

Another thing that Dr Khalafallah admires about the UAE is its work in curbing human rights violation against children and women is. “The UAE gives highest priority to the values of human rights, derived from its cultural heritage,” he said.

**“The UAE gives highest priority to the values of human rights, derived from its cultural heritage**





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# WE, ROBOTS

**POWERED BY AI AND OTHER LATEST TECHNOLOGIES, THE FLEET OF AUTOMATONS AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI IS HELPING THE FUTURE BLEND WITH THE PRESENT**

BY NASEEF CHENATH









**“Everyone had a vision and a goal, and the more we get closer to our goals the more vision grows and becomes prudent. Innovation or extinction, choose your way**

**HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM**

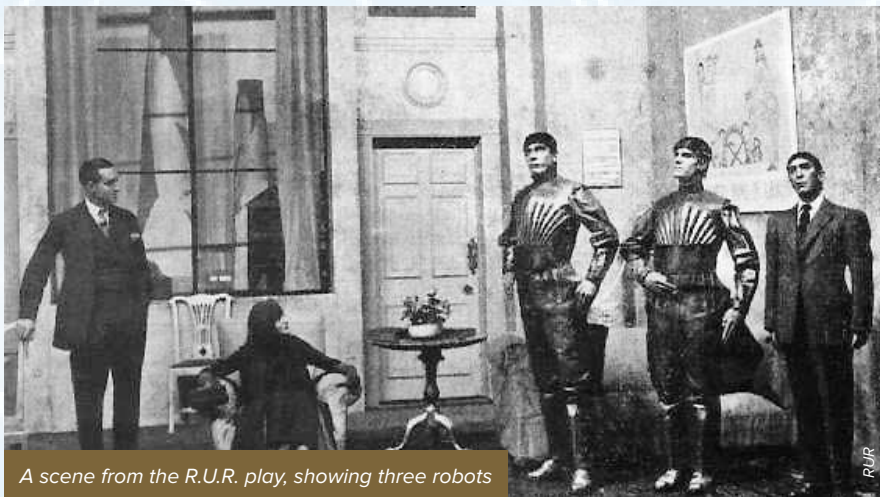
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

**G**iven the pace of technological advancements, many experts believe that robots powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) will soon become completely self-aware that they entered the world of humans through literature in 1920, and then had iterations in science fiction, cinema, space and sea exploration, and most recently, in industrial and security work.

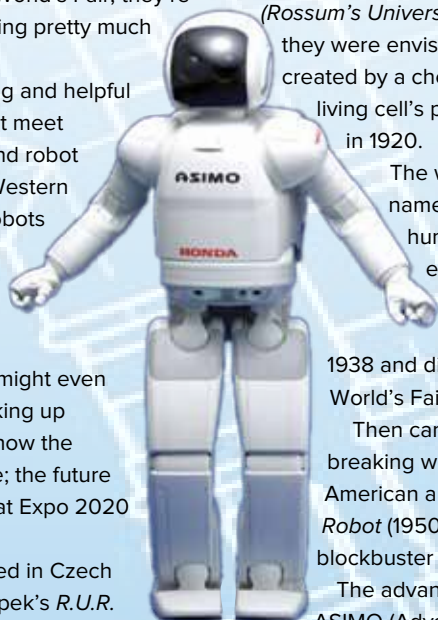
Expo 2020 Dubai, the first in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region and hosted by one of the most innovative nations in the world, is a marvellous showcase for robots. They're not confined to a few spaces in this massive six-month World's Fair; they're everywhere and doing pretty much everything.

From the charming and helpful little Opti robots that meet and greet visitors and robot musicians playing Western classical to patrol robots and delivery robots, the AI-powered electronic people are freely mingling with visitors — one might even say that they're striking up friendships. This is how the future is going to be; the future that's already here at Expo 2020 Dubai.

They first appeared in Czech playwright Karel Čapek's *R.U.R.*



A scene from the *R.U.R.* play, showing three robots



(*Rossum's Universal Robots*), in which they were envisioned as artificial beings created by a chemical substitute for a living cell's protoplasm — that was in 1920.

The world's first actual robot, named Elektro, was a roughly human-shaped metallic entity developed by Westinghouse Electric Corporation in 1937-1938 and displayed at the New York World's Fair in 1939.

Then came more groundbreaking works like Russian-born American author Isaac Asimov's *I, Robot* (1950); and the Hollywood blockbuster *RoboCop* (1987).

The advanced humanoid robot ASIMO (Advanced Step in Innovative

Mobility) was introduced in October 2000 by the Japanese automobile company Honda as the culmination of 15 years of research and development.

In the 21st century, robots have been accepted as an integral part of the smart technology era. They're assisting in surgery, firefighting, helping with housekeeping, and so much more. However, they're still seen as a novelty; and that's bound to change forever with Expo 2020 Dubai.

Robots symbolise the UAE's spirit of innovation. In September 2021, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, made a clarion call to everyone to embrace innovation: "If you look at the world, you will find that the innovations



**“AI is an opportunity that we shouldn’t let go of. And the UAE, the Arab world’s second-largest economy, is set to benefit the most in the region from AI adoption**



**HE OMAR BIN SAID SULTAN  
AL OLAMA**

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

that have been achieved were because of the need for them. As the world often innovates when it needs, and this is not acceptable, why should we wait until a problem happens and then think of a solution? It is necessary to be always ready for that moment.”

His Highness added: “Everyone had a vision and a goal, and the more we get closer to our goals the more vision grows and becomes prudent. Innovation or extinction, choose your way.

“We must have a foresight. We all have our individual visions and goals to achieve, and when we move closer to our goals, our visions stretch to new horizons.”

## AI AND ROBOTICS IN UAE

The UAE’s AI journey started long before smart tech became a buzzword. It began its Artificial Intelligence Strategy in 2017, setting up an AI ministry that will map out the road ahead. Now, the country is quickening the pace of its AI development.

“AI is an opportunity that we shouldn’t let go of. And the UAE, the Arab world’s second-largest economy, is set to benefit the most in the region from AI adoption,” said HE Omar bin said Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications. “What excites me the most is the inflow of global companies moving their headquarters to the UAE. There is a huge number of developers and talented



*RoboCop, a Hollywood blockbuster film in 1987*

people moving to the UAE and calling it home. This era of change — which started as the vision and dream of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid — is becoming a reality. And we are going to see a rate of progress not seen before,” he added.

Also, in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, the deployment of robots was rapid all over the world. Most of us have got a chance to encounter robotic innovations in our everyday life. The robots were suddenly cleaning floors at airports and taking people’s temperatures while malls and stadiums bought security-guard

robots to patrol empty real estate.

The pandemic has shown that how automation and AI can free humans from dangerous or tedious jobs so they can focus more on creative and intellectually stimulating assignments. Yes, humanoids are becoming inevitable for humans and maybe for other species too.

When scores of robots roam around the Expo, serving as your unfailing ally, it’s worth noticing that the UAE has long been relying on robots run by AI and other state-of-the-art technology for various purposes.



## UAE'S FLEET OF AI-BASED TECHS AND ROBOTS

### ROBOT SURGEONS

In 2014, the Ministry of Health and Prevention launched its first robot to undertake catheterisation and cardiac surgeries, using computerised systems, which was installed in Al Qasimi Hospital to begin the first surgery in June 2014. And in April 2019, the Ministry launched the Robotic Surgeries Programme in Gynaecology and Obstetrics.



### ROBOT PHARMACY

In 2017, Dubai Health Authority rolled out its first robot to dispense medicine at Rashid Hospital without any human interference. It can store up to 35,000 medicines and dispense around 12 prescriptions in less than one minute, using barcodes of each medicine.



## ROBOT COP

In May 2017, Dubai Police introduced the world's first robot policeman, who officially joined the line of duty and greeted guests at the 4th Gulf Information Security Expo and Conference (GISEC). The autonomous Robocop is 170 centimetres tall and weighs 100 kilograms. It's fitted with an emotion detector to identify gestures

and hand signals from up to 1.5 metres away. It can also detect motions and facial expressions and accordingly change his expressions to make visitors comfortable. Able to communicate in six languages, including Arabic and English, the robot can chat and interact, respond to public queries, shake hands and give a military salute.



## 'ROBOTOK' OF UAQ POLICE

Umm Al Quwain Police have recently unveiled the newest member of its force and it's a robot named 'Detective Robotok'. The humanoid police officer was designed to investigate crimes against children. Before he took the job of a police detective, he received a police badge and first 'job card' from Major General Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla, Commander-in-Chief of Umm Al Quwain Police.

The project was launched by the UAQ Police General Command in partnership with Umm Al Quwain Smart Government Department. The robot was launched last October after a three-year training period.



## LIFEGUARD ROBOTS

Dubai Municipality employed robots to help save lives on the beaches of Dubai. They are designed to withstand the worst climatic conditions and can be used during high waves or heavy ocean currents that put lifeguards in danger while conducting rescue operations. One of these robots is capable of rescuing four to five people at a time.



# ROBOTS TO TAKE YOU AROUND EXPO 2020



**T**here are 152 robots on-site to guide you around. They have been programmed for a wide range of tasks, such as meeting and greeting you, helping to find lost visitors, and even making you coffee.

Mohammed Al Hashmi, Chief Technology Officer, Expo 2020 Dubai, said, "Expo 2020 will be an unparalleled platform to showcase the capabilities of innovative technology. We consider Terminus Group to be a valuable partner in the field of smart technologies, robotics, and AI-enabled IoT applications. Our collaboration demonstrates the potential of smart applications in the robotics sector while also building a firm foundation for District 2020, which is set to become a centre of technological innovation."

In 2020, Terminus Group was appointed by the Expo authority as one of its Official Partners and the only Premier Partner from China. The company's partnership with Expo includes two distinct phases. In the first phase, the company has provided Expo with its all-inclusive AIOT solutions and 152 programmable robots, including the show's mascot Opti. Following the event, in the second stage, the group will work with Expo to build a smart city at the District 2020 special zone, collaborating for the digital and intelligent

**“Expo 2020 will be an unparalleled platform to showcase the capabilities of innovative technology and build a firm foundation for District 2020, which is set to become a centre of technological innovation**



**MOHAMMED AL HASHMI**

Chief Technology Officer, Expo 2020 Dubai

transformation of the region.

Victor Ali, Founder and CEO of Terminus Group, which has deployed 152 robots at the site, said, "It is, indeed, a great pleasure for us to be an Official Premier Partner and provide smart technology services for visitors, therefore sharing the same vision of exploring the boundaries of Artificial Intelligence. Our robots are capable of contactless delivery, advice, guidance, all-inclusive mobile services, outdoor services, 24/7 emergency alarm capabilities and more."

The group has signed a long-term contract with District 2020, the legacy

**“Our robots are capable of contactless delivery, advice, guidance, all-inclusive mobile services, outdoor services, 24/7 emergency alarm capabilities and more**



**VICTOR ALI**

Founder and CEO of Terminus Group

district of Expo, which is billed as a city of the future. Terminus will have a decisive role in the digital adoption of the city, specifically with the implementation of AI and IoT solutions across hardware and software.

Terminus' smart robots are built to be eco-friendly with two different body parts. The upper devices are fitted with various functions such as sterilisation, logistics and guidance, while the base functions are for general use. Thanks to this division of labour, users can save costs and maximise functions with reuse.

Now have a look at the robots you may meet at Expo 2020 Dubai.





152 Opti robots, who serve as Expo 2020 Dubai tour guides

## MASCOT OPTI

Opti, the mascot robot, carries out the crucial tasks of interacting with visitors and entertaining tourists from all across the globe. Opti is around one-meter tall and is built with an 18-degree backward angle for easy interaction with visitors. The robot can stand upright for almost 24 hours, function in a balanced and secure manner, and move freely in every direction.

A group dance performed by a number of Opti robots was one of the entertainment highlights of Expo 2020. Opti greeted the visitors with their elegantly designed choreography, graceful moves and exuberant expressions.

Opti also serves as the guardian



to Opportunity Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai and one of three robot guardians to the Expo's mascots Latifa and Rashid. Featuring multi-touch display, voice interaction and AI-driven object mapping and detection, combining



convenience with safety, Opti delights visitors throughout the event, assisting with hospitality and taking part in performances and interacting with guests.

According to Terminus Group, it took the company six months to transform Opti from an animation to a real-life walking robot. Unlike other robots, AI-powered Opti is equipped with several sensors that would help the robot with precise positioning and new generation chassis that allows the robot to move on floors in every possible condition, enabling the complex dance moves. Opti was also rigorously tested under ultra-hot weather conditions to ensure its operations with extreme heat.

## PATROL ROBOT

There's a patrol robot that safeguards the event site as well as the dedicated Expo 2020 Metro Station. Armed with an HD facial recognition camera, real-time thermal camera and SOS button, they are on hand 24 hours to remind you to stay in your lanes, follow social distancing along with other COVID-19 protocols. It also uses voice recognition to answer your queries, conduct all-day monitoring, and make announcements during any emergency.



Patrol robot that reminds Expo visitors of COVID-19 protocols

## ATTENDANT ROBOT

Attendant robots direct you to your specific destination at the Expo site. They have impressive language skills and can communicate by voice and their multi-touch graphical user. They are fully endowed with multimedia interaction capabilities, which include voice interaction with normal language processing, face detection, facial recognition, and a multi-touch graphical user interface (GUI). These robots also possess the ability to display images, text, audio, and video to visitors to access and receive the essential information to help them on their way through the Expo.



Expo robot that serves as your ultimate location guide



Fully autonomous food delivery robots at Expo 2020 Dubai

## DELIVERY ROBOT

These are the workhorses of the Expo, deployed to carry goods and other material around the site. They are designed to be intelligent mobile containers that execute task-based deployments. Built with an automatic weight detection system, they can return to re-stock goods, if needed, as well as to re-charge themselves. Another configuration transforms the robot into an intelligent mobile container that can deliver drinks and food around Expo. It can even be used to freshen pavilions with supplies, such as water, by returning to a supply centre to be reloaded. This model also employs a voice-recognition system to reply to your queries.

## VENDING TROLLEY

A special kind of delivery robot, vending trolleys can be converted to carry out various roles. They can be fitted with racks to distribute visitor guides, reading materials or maps. They can also carry a poster frame, baskets, and catering trays. These delivery robots are entirely autonomous without any human interference.



Vending trolley robot



Yanu, the world's first contactless robot that makes coffee

## BARISTA YANU

Barista Yanu serves coffee for visitors and knows how to prepare it at the Talabat outlets. This robot bartender will appeal to anyone who has ever waited at the bar more than a few minutes for a drink. This barista is powered by AI, and it can entertain you with a host of jokes.

## ROBOTS FOR ALMOST EVERYTHING

Robots are dispatched extensively at the Expo to give visitors a fascinating experience of futuristic technology and innovation. Along with other technological marvels, they are widely utilised to assist in visitor-facing interactions, such as ticketing, queue management, crowd flow, and health monitoring.

Here you will be greeted with a robot ice cream vendor and ten self-driving vehicles that can dish out your food cravings. It is part of Talabat Kitchen, a two-storey cloud kitchen designed to treat you to the future of food delivery experiences.

Talabat, a leading food delivery and quick commerce (q-commerce) platform, is the official food delivery provider for the Expo. It puts on display more than 30 brands and 15 cuisines from around the globe to the world's biggest cultural gathering.

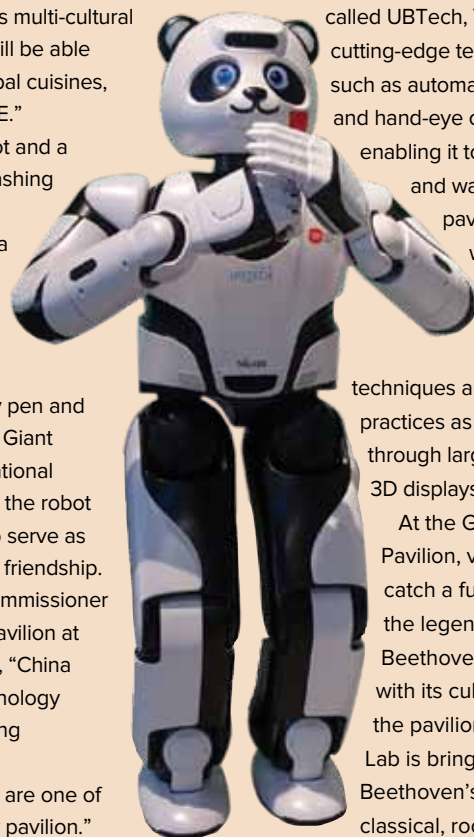
Galal Abdellatif, director of Food & Beverage, Expo 2020 Dubai, said, "Expo 2020 has something for everyone, with

food that is central to its multi-cultural experience – visitors will be able to explore exciting global cuisines, without leaving the UAE."

A cordial panda robot and a massive lantern with flashing lights are the main attractions for the China pavilion at the Expo. The black and white robot named Youyou can do some tai-chi tricks, use a calligraphy pen and act as a pavilion guide. Giant pandas are deemed national treasures in China, and the robot has been developed to serve as an envoy of peace and friendship.

Zhang Shenfeng, Commissioner General of the China pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, said, "China aims to display its technology prowess while promoting traditional arts. Artificial Intelligence and robots are one of the core exhibits of our pavilion."

Designed by a Chinese company



called UBTEch, Youyou uses cutting-edge technology such as automatic navigation and hand-eye coordination, enabling it to paint, draw and walk around the pavilion. The bear will also provide information on smart cities, agriculture techniques and eco-friendly practices as it takes visitors through large interactive 3D displays.

At the Germany Pavilion, visitors can catch a futuristic take on the legendary composer Beethoven's work. In line with its cultural program, the pavilion's Culture Lab is bringing to life Beethoven's music through classical, rock, acoustic and electronic gigs by robots.



*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**









# A PLACE TO TRACE YOUR ROOTS

THE UAE HAS NURTURED THE YOUNG MINDS OF EXPATRIATES BORN AND RAISED IN THIS COUNTRY. NOW, AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI, THEY'RE EXPERIENCING THEIR ORIGINAL HOMELAND'S TRADITIONS AND INNOVATIONS

BY NEIL BIE



**“Expo 2020 reflects the UAE’s inclusive culture, which brings together the whole globe in one nation. Today, the world has gathered here to offer the best of what they have, and in return, we will offer the best of what we have**

**HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM**

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

**M**illions worldwide were captivated by 11-year-old Mira Singh, who starred at the opening ceremony of Expo 2020 Dubai. At the ceremony, she played a girl “whose journey creates the Expo story at the heart of the show”, as reported by local media. The role she played was of a young girl experiencing the unfolding of something marvellous, curious yet confident as she moved forward on her path. This performance, central to the majestic display of artistic talent at the grand event, impressed the global community. And for Dubai-born Mira, the Expo means not only the limelight but also the chance to know her parents’ countries — India and Belarus — through the national pavilions.

Mira represents the global population group described as “third-culture kids”,

meaning children raised in a culture that’s different from the culture of their parents, especially when the parents themselves have different nationalities. In her case, the UAE’s social environment is the “third culture”, as her father is from India and her mother is from Belarus, while Mira herself is born and bred in the UAE.

This nation has many youngsters like Mira, and the pavilions at the Expo take them into the countries of their origin in a way that, perhaps, wasn’t possible through family visits on school holidays — each national pavilion is where the knowledge, tradition, and innovation of generations come together.

After the gates of Expo 2020 opened, young Mira was amongst the 500,000-plus visitors at the event in the first half of October 2021. For Mira, this event in Dubai

became the best way to explore her roots. “I love Belarus first of all, and my mum is from Belarus. My relatives live there, like my grandma, my grandfather and everyone. And what I loved in this pavilion was the tree, because I love nature in Belarus, and the tree connected to me so much and I got so many memories back from Belarus,” she told the media.

Mira represents how young expats perceive Expo 2020 Dubai as a perfect picture of unity amidst diversity — each of their home countries is showcasing its own culture and technology at its own pavilion. The event is a space where they see their own origin alongside meeting the world.

#### INCLUSIVE GLOBAL AFFAIR

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, shared that the six-month event would highlight exciting possibilities around the world that the future generations would benefit from.

This World’s Fair marks a first in the 170-year history of World Expos — this is the only one to date to provide pavilions for each of the 192 participating countries. This ensures that all of the UAE’s young expats, no matter what their origin, are represented at this global platform.

“Expo 2020 reflects the UAE’s inclusive culture, which brings together the whole globe in one nation. Today, the world has gathered here to offer the best of what they have, and in return, we will offer the best of what we have. We are committed to deliver the most exceptional Expo the world has ever seen,” said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid.



*Mira Singh, the girl who represented the hope of the future in a performance skit during the opening ceremony of Expo 2020 Dubai*

Expo 2020



**“Dubai is a city whose bright present is based on its authentic past and rich cultural content. At Expo 2020, which brings together the world’s cultures, we will celebrate this rich content and inspire the whole world**



**HALA BADRI**

Director General of Dubai Culture

Hala Badri, Director General of Dubai Culture (shorter form of Dubai Culture & Arts Authority), stated that Expo 2020 Dubai provided an enriching experience that would help expats and students feel that they were in a place that valued culture, creativity, and talent. “Dubai is a city whose bright present is based on its authentic past and rich cultural content; the emirate is headed towards a more prosperous future. At Expo 2020, which

## STUDENTS SPEAK



What I loved in this pavilion was the tree, because I love nature in Belarus, and the tree connected to me so much and I got so many memories back from Belarus

**MIRA SINGH**  
Indian-Belarusian



For me, the Pakistan pavilion showed a dream of my country that turned into reality that merges old and new: tradition and modernity

**KAIF ANSAR**  
Pakistani



Expo 2020 is like travelling to many countries and being able to see what distinguishes one from the other, all in one incredible place

**FAKEHA SALMAN**  
Pakistani



Being able to see and experience a part of each country safely, especially after the height of the pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions, makes Expo 2020 a treasured memory

**MARIA ALTHEA RETIG**  
Filipina

brings together the world’s cultures and creativity to chart the features of a better future for humanity, we will celebrate this rich content and inspire the whole world with the extraordinary ambitions of our leadership and people,” she said.

## EXPO, AS YOUNGSTERS SEE IT

Fakeha Salman, 19, who went with her siblings Abdullah and Hurmat, shared with 999 that while the Pakistan pavilion wasn’t fully opened when they visited during the first week of October, they still admired the music and the pavilion’s exterior and were looking forward to visiting Expo 2020 again.

She said that her Expo visit was a pleasant experience, as she witnessed how old traditions had progressed and developed — it was, to her, an effective reminder of one’s origins. “It’s hard to come across people that are fully immersed in the traditional culture; because of how society is progressing, the people within it have also evolved. Having a showcase of cultural themes is really quite refreshing, a reminder of the culture that we originate from, that’s neglected in day-to-day life. Expo 2020 is like travelling to many countries and being able to see what distinguishes one from the other, all in one incredible place,” said Fakeha.

A week after Fakeha visited, the Pakistan pavilion was inaugurated by



*‘The Sound of Nature’ performance at the Jubilee Park*

Expo 2020



Dominica in a fun and vibrant parade at Expo 2020 Dubai

Expo 2020

their country's president, Dr Arif Alvi. Stressing on the pavilion theme 'Hidden Treasure', Dr Alvi shared that their pavilion was a depiction of cultural co-existence and highlighted Pakistan's best flavours.

He also spoke of the work of artists who turned the pavilion into a massive piece of art. "The display of the Pakistan pavilion at Dubai Expo is far beyond my expectations. The immersive experience and projections at the pavilion provide an unparalleled view of the beauty of Pakistan," said the Pakistani president during the inauguration.

When the doors of Pakistan's pavilion officially opened to the public, siblings Kaif, 13, and Maryam, 9, were amongst the first wave of visitors. "I watched an amazing movie of my country's culture and tradition over there at our (Pakistan's) pavilion. It was a happy experience for me," said Maryam.

"I loved the traditional street art on display, and the unique Pakistani items, like our traditional food and apparel. For me, the Pakistan pavilion showed a dream of my country that turned to reality that merges old and new: tradition and modernity," said Kaif.

Their parents, Ansar and Shahida, said that the two couldn't contain their excitement and joy when they got the chance to experience their country's own

## Expo 2020 reflects the UAE's inclusive culture, which brings together the whole globe in one nation

culture and tradition first hand.

"Cultural awareness is an important part of growing up. We visited the Pakistan pavilion to help our children get a sense of their identity. I believe we, as parents, should continue to celebrate the traditions of our home country. We're fortunate that we live in a country that doesn't wait for things to happen: the strong and wise leadership of [the UAE] makes things happen, together with the cooperation of the entire country," said Ansar.

### THE WORLD IN ONE PLACE

Apart from visiting their own country's pavilions, students also saw Expo 2020 Dubai as their opportunity to witness the marvels of other countries.

Ma. Althea Retig, a 20-year-old Filipino student from Sharjah, visited six pavilions

of places she didn't think she could visit in her lifetime. With excitement brimming in her eyes, she shared that her visits broke her stereotypical expectations of what these countries were like.

"I was able to visit The Good Place, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Ethiopia pavilions. Each pavilion gave me a unique and enjoyable experience, highlighting the culture of the countries they were based on. That's what drew me in about the pavilions. The



Expo 2020

Chimera, a gigantic oil drill-shaped sculpture made by Kuwaiti artist Monira Al Qadiri



more I visited, the less I could predict how they'd present themselves," said Retig.

The student shared that each of these pavilions showcased something unique and different each time. She fondly recalled the Italy pavilion's now-famous bridge, which displayed various technical inventions, as well as its pond-like water fixture in an area where plants were displayed. She also shared that the Saudi Arabia pavilion had numerous rooms full of images and sculptures reflecting their environment and culture.

"The way they utilised technology made the experience immersive — the mountain sculptures surrounding the escalator and the people digitally projected onto them made it feel like we were hiking alongside them," said Retig.

What she appreciated the most was that Dubai had managed to provide an enthralling experience for young students like her, giving them new perspective on countries. "So far, that feeling of immersion is what I appreciate about Expo 2020. Being able to see and experience a part of each country safely, especially after the height of the pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions, makes Expo 2020 a treasured memory," said Retig.

She was going to give herself a lot of time at the Philippines pavilion, said the student. "Seeing as how visiting other countries' pavilions allowed me a glimpse into their cultures, I believe that showcasing



Colourful Turkmenistan parade at Expo 2020 Dubai

Filipino culture via the Philippines pavilion 'Bangkóta' would be one way to reconnect with my roots. Growing up in a foreign country means that there are aspects of the Filipino community that I'm estranged from. While I may be unable to travel home, for now perhaps seeing the Philippines through Expo 2020 can allow me to

immerse myself in the culture I grew apart from, even if only for a short while," said Retig.

### SPECIAL PASS FOR STUDENTS

Expo 2020 Dubai has provided a special pass for students aged below 18 to visit the Expo for free for the entire six months of the event. Gems Education, for instance, has 43 schools that will allow their 277,000 pupils and teachers across 9,780 trips to visit the event.

Statistics from Dubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority estimated that nearly 100 schools participated during the first month of Expo 2020 Dubai.

Amongst these was Deira International School, which sent 900 students to the Expo in October. Gaynor Dale, primary school head teacher at Deira International School, stressed that this was a fantastic opportunity for the students, not just to explore their own countries' pavilions, but also to develop more innovative minds.

The head teacher said, "The children can understand what innovation means and will be able to make real-life connections. This will nurture a culture where they can learn to take risks. The Expo is a perfect opportunity to enrich themes like sustainability that we teach them about."



Mesmerising cinematic experience from the halls Al Wasl Dome





The Bangkôta pavilion

# A sense of home

KNOWING THAT THE 192 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ARE WILLING TO WORK TOGETHER  
TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE GIVES US HOPE THAT ONE DAY,  
THESE CHALLENGES WOULD BECOME A THING OF THE PAST

**T**he long wait has finally come to an end. Seeing how Expo 2020 Dubai has opened its doors to the public is truly astounding. Recognising how the Expo considered involving 192 countries and providing them with their own pavilion is captivating.

As I visited my country's pavilion, the Philippines, known as the Bangkôta, I've felt a sense of home. Living in the UAE for half of my life brings back memories of my childhood when we still lived there. The pavilion gave me the excitement of reliving those moments, while also giving me knowledge of our own history and traditions that once surrounded me. It has made me feel honoured of who I am and where I came from, which is what I love the most about the idea of having pavilions dedicated to countries.

As a university student who visited the Expo 2020 site, I could personally say that it's an amazing place to be in, as we get the chance to not only see other countries with their cultures, but also experience what it's like to be in a world filled with innovative projects and technological advancements. What started as an idea has now been turned into reality, which would all lead us to the economic development we're aiming for.

We all know how our world has been experiencing global

issues such as pollution, climate change, waste disposal, and many others. However, knowing that the 192 participating countries are willing to work together to make the world a better place gives us hope that one day, these challenges would become a thing of the past.

Incidentally, the concepts of diversity and unity being promoted at Expo 2020 Dubai are just remarkable. People of different cultures, colours, and age are brought together to engage and visit this prestigious site. Not only that, but it generally encourages individuals to take part in numerous activities within the pavilions and increase their awareness of diverse cultures, showing that despite our differences, we stand united.



Written by  
Danica Racraquin,  
a 20-year-old student from Dubai



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

## THE PAVILION OF DREAMERS AND ACHIEVERS

Shaped like a falcon about to take flight, the UAE pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai conveys to visitors this nation's ambition for the future and its rootedness in heritage

**E**xpo 2020 Dubai opened its doors to visitors from around the world after more than eight years of anticipation. As a city that keeps its promises and proves it through actions rather than words, Dubai does not believe in the impossible. The city adopted a traditional but effective approach based on determination, will, and overcoming challenges.

As the Expo began on October 1, 2021, it bypassed the conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic, which lasted nearly two years. It occurred at a time when many countries were unable to handle the crisis, their options were limited, and their procedures were not as sophisticated as those of the UAE.

Over 400,000 people visited the Expo from all over the world in its first 10 days. Testimonials from visitors were exceptional for this major event at the world's biggest exhibition site, featuring all the cultural, humanitarian, political, and social manifestations of the world.

At our first stop, we visited the UAE pavilion, located at the heart of Expo 2020 Dubai in the Opportunities District, next to Al Wasl Square. A total of four floors have been built on an area of 15,000 square metres. Design elements are based on the principles of sustainability that the UAE seeks to achieve in its development process, as well as global objectives of resource conservation.

In a creative way, the pavilion, designed by Santiago Calatrava, the Spanish painter, sculptor, architect and civil engineer, tells the story of the UAE, "the home of dreams and achievement". Through a variety of content, the pavilion showcases Emirati culture, including heritage presentations that allow visitors to learn about Emirati folklore and the unique characteristics of the Emirati environment, including the desert. From these sands rose skyscrapers, and the structures became institutions that contributed to the state's vision and ambition.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, stomped on the sand during his visit to the pavilion and expressed his pride in the originality that can never be forgotten, no matter how tall the buildings may be. The UAE pavilion stands out for the inspiring stories it tells about the people who contributed to shaping the UAE's success story.

This country has been a destination for people who had dreams and ambitions but couldn't achieve them in their

homeland, so they chose the UAE to build their future. The UAE has thus become the home of accomplished dreamers of different nationalities.

Visitors to the UAE pavilion are left with the impression that the slogans raised by the state concerning co-existence and tolerance go beyond words. As a result, don't be surprised to see long lines of people forming outside the pavilion's gate. They weren't just impressed by the design of the pavilion, but also by its concepts, expressing how every one of them lives under the UAE's sky.

It was not by chance that the UAE pavilion was designed to resemble a falcon poised to soar into glory and

distinction. The design of this unique architectural edifice represents the values upon which the UAE was founded. This is the result of a journey full of hard work, dedication, and giving, a journey that links all the capabilities of the state to develop the kind of person who owns his future and can translate ambitions and aspirations for the country into successes he can be proud of.

Following a 50-year journey, the UAE has included dreamers and will celebrate them over the next 50 years as an integral part of a homeland that belongs to all.

**Visitors to the UAE pavilion are left with the impression that the slogans raised by the state concerning co-existence and tolerance go beyond words**



# WORLD OF WONDERS

HUMAN-LIKE MACHINES, LUMINESCENT FOOD, AND THE  
POWER TO EXTRACT WATER FROM AIR — A MIND-BOGGLING  
ARRAY OF TECHNOLOGY IS MAKING EXPO 2020 DUBAI THE  
BIGGEST GLOBAL FIESTA OF INNOVATIONS

BY K NIVEDITA









Since the beginning of 1851, each World Expo aka World's Fair has been a launchpad for cutting-edge innovation. Expo 2020 Dubai is the gateway to the future, with robots being just one of the innovations for a smarter and safer world. The UAE has always emphasised innovation, which is one of the reasons why this nation has taken leading positions on various global development indices.

Never before has the world needed the spirit of innovation more than now, and the Expo's three-pronged stress on

Sustainability, Opportunity, and Mobility highlights the areas of concern.

Wildfires, earthquakes, floods and volcanic eruptions have devastated the world over the past few years. In August 2021, United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change presented a 3,500-page report that's "a code red for humanity (as) global heating is affecting every region on Earth, with many of the changes becoming irreversible". The problem of global warming is so acute that, in July, the European Union proposed banning the sale of new petrol and diesel

cars from 2035 to encourage the transition to zero-emission electric vehicles (EVs). So, when the official song of the Expo, *This is our time*, was performed at the opening ceremony on September 30, 2021, the lyrics — "*this is the moment we have to decide, it's time to stand up and vow to be what the world needs now*" — resonated with the Expo's commitment to making a difference.

When the glittering opening ceremony was streamed to millions across the world, the magnificent Al Wasl Plaza took everybody's breath away — it has been described by Gordon Gill, Design Partner at Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture, as "the heart and soul of the Expo". The dome is a marvel of engineering, more than 67 metres tall and with the world's biggest 360-degree projection surface.

In one of the projection sequences, the dome roof was covered with myriad stars that transformed into bright globes before a fiery planet emerged, made up of 35 rings with LED strips around each ring. As the music played, the scene changed to show the familiar blue oval of planet Earth, before which the performers held up glowing globes of crystal. Earth is constantly on the mind of innovators.

#### INGRAINED SUSTAINABILITY

The Expo itself is the result of a series of groundbreaking eco-friendly innovations. According to an official statement, the UAE leadership aspired to deliver one of



Al Wasl Plaza



**“ At the Expo, students will witness many innovations and path-breaking research in important areas of global interest, such as sustainability, the future of mobility**



**HE JAMEELA AL MUHAIRI**  
Minister of State for Public Education

**“ The endless flow of goods has always driven innovation in the transportation sector and we have to continue to future-proof the industry**



**SULTAN BIN SULAYEM**  
Chairman of DP World and Virgin Hyperloop

and teachers. HE Jameela Al Muhairi, Minister of State for Public Education and Chairwoman of the Board of the Emirates Schools Establishment, accompanied a group of excited pupils from a government school in October 2021. “At the Expo, students will witness many innovations and path-breaking research in important areas of global interest, such as sustainability, the future of mobility and upcoming opportunities,” said Al Muhairi. Under the Expo University Programme, young people will get a chance to connect with experts and discover how, collaboratively, one can build solutions for a brighter future.

### MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

Be ready to be dazzled as you travel around the pavilions, seeing and sampling the ingenious innovations. You can drink your coffee and ‘eat’ it, too, at the Bulgaria pavilion, thanks to the edible cups. Also, let children bounce on nets in a “zero-gravity” chamber, jump into orbit around swings and board a model of the UAE’s Hope Probe at Latifa’s Adventures, a fun-filled interactive space.



Cargo pod of Virgin Hyperloop

the most sustainable World Expos ever. “It may seem like an ambitious goal, but sustainability is ingrained in everything we’ve been doing — from buildings and construction to establishing a lasting legacy long after Expo is over,” said the statement.

Expo 2020 Dubai has installed renewable energy systems with a combined total capacity of 5.5 megawatts on all permanent building projects across the site. All permanent buildings are integrated with photovoltaic panels and have incorporated renewable energy systems. ‘Terra – The Sustainability Pavilion’ is a net-zero energy building, with 12,000 sqm of photovoltaic panels across its roof and energy trees. The carbon footprint is accurately measured to ensure transparent quantification of the greenhouse gas emissions resulting

from the event. Construction materials and onsite construction activities, transport of people and materials and use of energy and water, amongst others, were reviewed to reduce the carbon footprint.

At the same time, the innovations at the Expo prove that the pace of progress has not slowed. Virgin Hyperloop’s transport pods at Dubai’s DP World pavilion redefine the future of transport. “The endless flow of goods has always driven innovation in the transportation sector and we have to continue to future-proof the industry,” said Sultan bin Sulayem, Chairman of DP World and Virgin Hyperloop. Hyperloop is a system to transport people and goods at 1,000 kmph and has the capability of being powered by solar panels.

To instil a sense of innovation in the youth, the Expo has visits and programmes planned for school and college students



Inside the Terra Pavilion: Guests experience movements of deep sea creatures and the mysterious sounds of the depths at the ‘Under the Ocean’ exhibit



Inside the Terra Pavilion: Intricately modeled ‘microcosms’ displayed in the Laboratory of Future Values



## MUST-SEE INNOVATIONS

BE READY TO BE DAZZLED AS YOU TRAVEL AROUND THE PAVILIONS, SEEING AND SAMPLING THE INGENUOUS INNOVATIONS

### MAKING WATER FROM AIR:

The Netherlands pavilion is proof that the impossible can happen if the right designers and artists come together. A mountain of herbs, curtains of corn and a floor covered with mushrooms have come up in the pavilion. But, one of the most stunning facets of the pavilion is creating water from the air. There are solar panels and cells in the roof and the skylight to power the technology that captures moisture — 800 litres of water every day — from the desert atmosphere. For visitors, the waterfall that descends from the top of the pavilion will be a thing of wonder; it's also a sign of future innovations to help with food security.



*Water generated from the desert air to grow food*

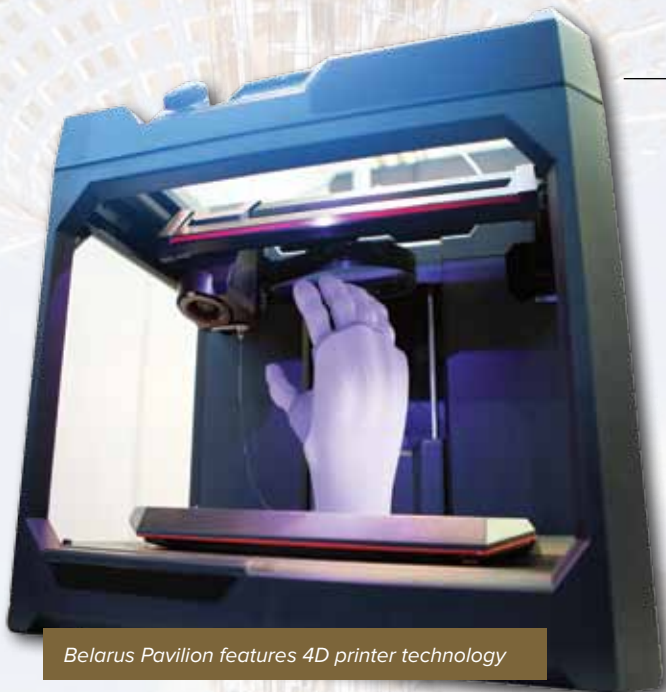
### WORLD'S FIRST AIR TRAIN:

The Expo Explorer is a train unlike any other — it's an air train that works with compressed air, which makes it pollution-free. This technology, which showcases the future of sustainable transport, has been created for the first time in the world. Passengers on board the Expo Explorer travel through the stations of Expo 2020 Dubai and witness its unique features, while also experiencing the feat of science that the train is. The future of mobility is one of the themes of Expo 2020 Dubai, as the UAE and several countries across the globe are firmly focused on sustainable transport. The air train could be the start for great ideas.



*Expo guests on a unique sightseeing tour on the world's first compressed Air Train*





Belarus Pavilion features 4D printer technology



#### 4D EXHIBITION:

From the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus comes a 4D printer that can reproduce live cells. The concept of the Belarus pavilion revolves around the 3 'I's — Innovation, Investment, and the Individual — and is represented in its design, which echoes the country's ancient forests. The 4D printer or bioprinter is part of its innovation showcase and is expected to have a wide-ranging impact on sectors such as healthcare, agriculture and Artificial Intelligence.



Inside the futuristic Emirates Pavilion



#### FUTURE OF AVIATION:

Fans of airplanes and flying, as well as the aviation industry, are watching the Emirates Pavilion eagerly, where the future of commercial aviation in the UAE's centennial year 2071 is on display. An immersive experience lets visitors understand the transformations happening in the world of cabin interiors, where comfort and passenger well-being take the experience of flying to greater heights. Using robotic arms, one can also experience the new metallic and composite materials that promise improved fuel economy for the aircraft of tomorrow. In this pavilion, reality has outdone sci-fi dreams.





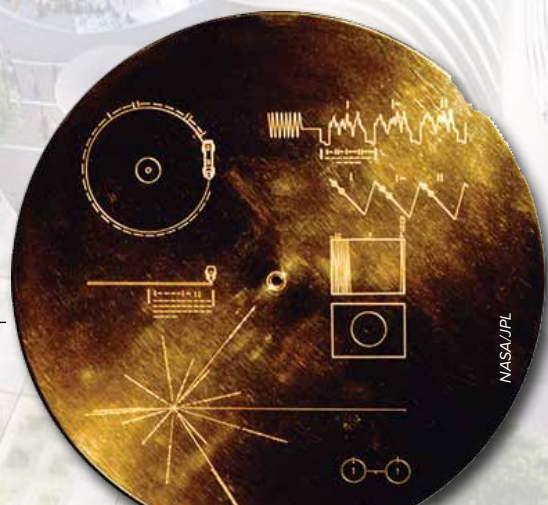
#### ROBO-BAND PLAYING BEETHOVEN:

One of the biggest attractions of this World's Fair is a Beethoven-inspired robo-band at the Germany pavilion. Robots playing music were not even dreamed of when the great composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born more than 250 years ago, but the Culture Lab of the pavilion has created robots capable of rendering Beethoven's music as well as classical, rock, acoustic and electronic performances. The question of whether robots can create art is answered forever.



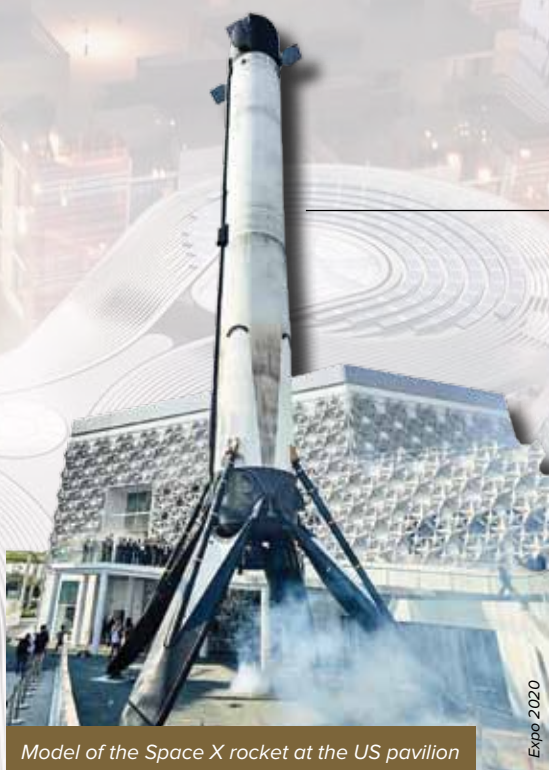
#### COLLECTIVE MESSAGE:

One of the enduring concerns of space enthusiasts is what humans will communicate to aliens when we come across other advanced civilisations in space. The UK pavilion goes into the heart of the matter with inspiration from one of physicist Stephen Hawking's final projects, 'Breakthrough Message', which includes a plan to transmit messages into space to aid the search for extraterrestrial life forms. The UK pavilion contains an immersive Choral Space, where you donate a word to a collective message. The music you hear in the Choral Space comprises voices and sounds from all over the world. When you step out of the pavilion, you'll find your word in the collective message on the facade.



The 1977 Golden Record cover with its extraterrestrial instructions





Model of the Space X rocket at the US pavilion

#### SPACEX ROCKET MODEL:

Tech billionaire Elon Musk, the co-founder of Tesla Motors, is confident that space can not only be conquered but also colonised — the recent space travels of his company, Space X, is making it seem that way. In September 2021, Space X launched the first group of private civilians, rather than astronauts, to orbit the Earth. It was the third time that Space X had sent humans into space; that's what makes the huge model of the SpaceX rocket at the US pavilion a sign of things to come. The 43 metre-tall exhibit is a model of the *Falcon 9* booster. US space agency NASA earlier used a *Falcon 9* rocket and *Dragon* spacecraft to launch missions to the International Space Station.



Belgium Pavilion

#### GREEN ARCH OF BELGIUM:

The Belgium pavilion, which is five floors tall and spans a gross floor area of 4,823.83 sqm, is producing more energy than it is consuming. This is due to a “Green Arch” architecture that is redefining how the future can be about sustainable constructions, from homes to cities. Vincent Callebaut and Assar Architects have used building principles that, amongst other benefits, protect the pavilion from the hot sun while more than 2,500 plants naturally refresh the environment. Electricity is generated by a photovoltaic and thermal solar canopy. Inside the pavilion, you can visit Belgium of 2050 through an exhibition of a futuristic escalator and an immersive video-projection. Nothing in the pavilion will be destroyed and, once the Expo is over, it can be rebuilt at another location.



# DRIVEN BY VISION

TWO OF THE MOST EMINENT MEMBERS OF THE EXPAT COMMUNITY IN THE UAE SHARE WITH **999** THE STORY OF THEIR BEGINNING, AND WHY THIS COUNTRY HAS REACHED WHERE IT IS NOW IN JUST 50 YEARS

BY SANCHITA GUHA





**T**he association between expatriates and the UAE goes back not just decades, but perhaps centuries, when the present-day emirates that form the Union were separate entities. This was always a region where trade thrived and entrepreneurs could make a life for themselves.

There were particularly close links between the emirates and the Indian subcontinent, given the latter's proximity to the Middle East and the busy marine trade routes between undivided India and the Arabian Gulf states. While this relationship was forged long before December 2, 1971, the formation of the new country meant faster growth of trade and commerce and more opportunity for expats to fulfil their potential.

As the UAE celebrates its 50th anniversary, two of the most eminent names in this country's expat community retrace the steps that have brought them to the pinnacle of success.

Rizwan Sajjan, Danube Group Founder and Chairman, and Mahtabur Rahman Nasir, Chairman & Managing Director of Al Haramain Group, have both risen from humble beginnings to develop businesses that employ a large workforce and contribute to the UAE's economic progress. They've both acquired their business wisdom through hard work in different parts of the Gulf region, and their companies have grown alongside the growth of the UAE.

Sajjan, once a struggling teenager in Bombay (renamed Mumbai), India, worked in Kuwait, and then started a building material trading company in 1993 in Dubai, the city that would go on to give the world Burj Al Arab and Burj Khalifa and make real estate one of its key economic sectors.

Nasir, whose origins are in Sylhet, Bangladesh, began his life as a young entrepreneur in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, where his father had started a small outlet selling Oriental perfumes, antique prayer rugs, and other authentic items. By 1970, it was an

established business patronised by visiting pilgrims, who bought these as gifts. In 1991, when Nasir visited Dubai on a stopover, he looked around and liked "the openness and the business-friendly environment", and quickly moved to seize the retail opportunity in this emirate, setting up a shop in Deira.

Both of these business magnates feel that the vision of the UAE leadership is the primary factor in this country's rise to the world stage.

"There are a few things that distinguish the high achievements of the UAE," says Sajjan. "The first and foremost factor is the visionary and exemplary leadership of the UAE — that has made a clear difference in the country's development journey over the past 50 years."

He adds, "With this type of visionary leadership, you actually do not need other factors. Their vision drives everything. From a collection of a few fishing settlements and trading outposts, they've transformed

this desertscape into a master-planned ultra-modern cosmopolitan society and an economic powerhouse — second to none in this part of the world. This was possible due to the collective vision of the founders of the UAE and their successors, who continued with their

**“The UAE's growth and development is a vision-driven growth and it comes from its visionary leadership. The UAE's leadership has the foresight and the capability to see the future like no other**

legacy.”

Nasir says, "The UAE's remarkable growth in the past 50 years is phenomenal and stands as a great example of how the leadership can make a difference in a country's history. What the UAE has achieved in its first formative 50 years is a case study for future academicians, researchers and could become a textbook lesson for the rest of the world.

"Simply put, the UAE's growth and development is a vision-driven growth and it comes from its visionary leadership. The UAE's leadership has the foresight and the capability to see the future like no other."

Now, ready to be a part of the country's journey towards the next 50, these two eminent businessmen share with **999** their perspective of the UAE and the learnings of their career.



## UAE SHAPES ITS OWN FUTURE

Life threw a lot of hardships at Rizwan Sajan, but every time he fell, he got back on his feet and became stronger, his determination and ambition never diminished.

At 16, he had to start doing a number of odd jobs in his hometown Bombay, as his father's death put the brakes on his education and left the family in dire straits financially. Young Rizwan sold books, firecrackers (during the festive season), delivered milk, and other things — every rupee was precious, but the family was still in need. He then wrote to an uncle working in Kuwait to find him a job there. In 1981, when he turned 18, he got the offer he needed.

Sajan's salary in Kuwait was 125 dinar (about Dh\$1,522 at current exchange rates). He began doing well and found his life partner. But then in 1990, everything that Sajan had worked for collapsed due to an external crisis. He escaped to Bombay, out of a job.

Finally, after some more struggle, Sajan set out on the path that has now made him one of the richest expats in the UAE. Following a brief stint as an employee in Dubai, working for a salary of Dh\$1,500 at a firm dealing in building materials, he went into business on his own in 1993.

Anticipating a spurt in real estate activity

in the emirate of Dubai, which was always trade-savvy and had set up a free port, Sajan founded his own building materials trading firm. (Incidentally, a year later, in 1994, construction began on the iconic Burj Al Arab hotel, whose opening in 1999 announced to the world that the UAE had a world-class real estate landmark of its own.) Today, the Danube Group has an annual turnover of around \$1.3 billion and Sajan is a dirham billionaire.

Talking about the shaping up of the UAE according to the leaders' vision, Sajan says, "The investment in infrastructure was another crucial factor. The UAE has been investing its hydrocarbon windfall very intelligently in creating world-class infrastructure and connectivity.

"The development of a UAE national human resources base has been critical. This skilled manpower provides the backbone to the country's development and growth."

In line with the UAE's goal of being a nation that actively promotes happiness, Sajan advises, "Be happy. Happiness is what we all strive for. Smile — as much as you can. Success is not how much money you have in your bank account. Success is how happy you are — happiness in totality."

Looking forward to the next 50 brings a smile to Sajan's face. "The next decades will

**“The development of a UAE national human resources base has been critical. This skilled manpower provides the backbone to the country's development and growth**



**RIZWAN SAJAN**

Founder & Chairman of Danube Group

be full of surprises. The UAE is a country full of surprises — pleasant surprises. Its leadership has already announced a number of projects that will create new opportunities for all: businesses, professionals, software engineers, coders, start-ups, artists, and scientists."

He sums up, "While others wait for the future to arrive, the UAE is known for creating the future in its own way. Expo 2020 is one, for example. So, we all are excited about our future and looking forward to it."



Dubai landscape in the 1990s



Rizwan with his siblings Shabnam Sajan (right) and Anis Sajan (front) in their younger days

## EVER-RISING ICON OF DEVELOPMENT

The son of a Bangladeshi merchant working in the Gulf, Mahtabur Rahman Nasir was amongst the first expats to sense how the retail space in Dubai was going to develop. He saw the emirate's multi-cultural environment and geographical advantages, and there was perhaps something in the air that told him it would be good move to shift to the UAE from Saudi Arabia.

"In 1981, I passed through Dubai on transit. During my stopover, I looked around the city — still small, compared to what it is now. I liked the openness and the business-friendly environment. I also saw many GCC nationals coming to buy products in Dubai."

That gave Nasir the idea of making Dubai his first stop after Mecca. The location he chose was one of the oldest neighbourhoods in the emirate, with a large population from the Indian sub-continent. A new store was likely to do very well there.

"So, our decision to invest in the UAE was primarily driven by its connectivity to other markets and business-friendly regulations, which create an enabling environment. These factors contributed to our instant success and helped us to

expand to bigger international markets."

Talking about how the country itself has changed in the years of Al Haramain's UAE operations, Nasir gets quite poetic: "The towering and miraculous achievements of the UAE's first 50 years of growth and development can't be described in a few words. The UAE's emergence in the global economy can only be compared to the proverbial Phoenix rising from the ashes — or the desert landscape."

Nasir admires the way the nation's leaders have used their oil revenues, using that to boost even the non-oil economy. "The UAE has utilised its income from hydrocarbon very well. It has invested in its people and infrastructure — both hard and soft infrastructure. Its roads, highways, ports and airports are second to none and create the best connectivity within the country and with the outside world," he says.

Nasir continues, "There's a consistency in the way the country's development activities are carried out. While we're celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the UAE, the leadership has already chalked out the future plans for the next 50 years — that's how this country's future is determined.

**“The UAE's emergence in the global economy can only be compared to the proverbial Phoenix rising from the ashes — or the desert landscape**



**MAHTABUR RAHMAN NASIR**

Chairman & Managing Director of  
Al Haramain Group

"Instead of waiting for the future, the UAE creates its own future and refines it. That's the beauty of it. This perhaps explains how a collection of disjointed fishing settlements have become the most interconnected global economic hub in a span of 50 years."

The nation's architecture is reflective of its rise. Nasir points out, "Before the formation of the UAE, the country's tallest buildings were of a few floors. However, in 2010 — just 39 years after [the unification of the emirates] — the UAE erected the world's tallest tower, which still retains its crown as the tallest tower in the world, nearly 12 years after it was inaugurated."

As a businessman-investor in the UAE who has gained wealth through hard work and a burning desire to do more, Nasir gives his insight: "In order to generate wealth, one has to challenge oneself, make oneself uncomfortable, take risks. These are important elements. If a person remains in his comfort zone, he might not be able to become an entrepreneur or be successful in generating wealth."

All of this should, ideally, lead to happiness, which remains the ultimate goal. "The whole idea of taking risks, generating wealth, is to attain happiness — this should determine one's level of success. Wealth gives comfort, not happiness. We all work to be happy — to me that's success," says Nasir.







## PLEASURE AND HAPPINESS

**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.

Our young dreams will live beyond our death if we create our own happiness and refrain from pleasure—for these two are not alike

**T**here are people who think that pleasure and happiness are opposite sides of the same coin and that the two words are synonymous. As pleasure is felt and released, we mistake it for happiness. Once we become aware that pleasure is a temporary illusion, and believe it is so, we gradually let go. Pleasure is the gateway to addiction, figuratively speaking, and sorrow inevitably follows.

Many people fail to grasp the truth that pleasure is a biological state that lasts until the feeling is fulfilled. Once satisfied, we often feel regretful and beat ourselves up. Pleasure is a kind of an instantaneous, fleeting, and short-lived excitement. It is thus a sort of a fake feeling that stirs ego in a healthy human soul. Unhealthy souls would always feel regretful and sad.

Happiness, however, is an emotional state that finds its source within us, our minds, behaviour, and emotions. It is an internal strategic plan with a beginning, a path, and an end. Pleasure is a single feeling that is individually felt. Happiness is a collective feeling that we experience in a group or a society and can develop and grow. Pleasure cannot develop. It entails

a disaster as it may cause casualties within people themselves or those around them.

When we realise that pleasure is a temporary feeling that gives us a hint of happiness, we actually grasp its real sense. When we realise that happiness is a lasting internal feeling that we get from within and not from

external stimuli, we grasp its real sense. Pleasure can be achieved with chemical substances that the human body and mind secrete or are taken through drugs, unlike happiness which is an emotional state arising from internal stimuli.

Despite getting old, we remain young at heart. We keep looking up, we believe in miracles, and we wait for our estranged loved ones to come back, ones that were destined to leave or be lost. We wait for a utopian life free from lies, hypocrisy, curiosity, dissension, deception, and

fickleness. We remain certain that happiness awaits us, all the while we are young on the inside, wrinkle-free on the outside, pure, and soft at heart. Our young dreams will live beyond our death if we create our own happiness and refrain from pleasure—for these two are not alike.

**Pleasure is the gateway to addiction, figuratively speaking, and sorrow inevitably follows**

# TOP 8 WORLD EXPO INNOVATIONS

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1851, THE WORLD EXPO AKA WORLD'S FAIR HAS BEEN A PLATFORM FOR INNOVATIONS THAT HAVE REDEFINED OUR LIVES. AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF EXPO 2020 DUBAI, HERE'S A LOOK AT SOME OF THOSE GROUND-BREAKING INVENTIONS

BY NASEEF CHENATH



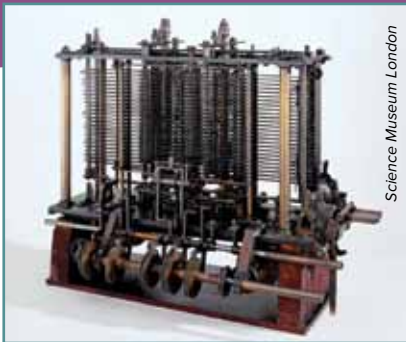
**F**rom telephone to clean-energy cars and Ferris Wheel to Eiffel Tower, the innovations unveiled at World Expos have transformed human civilisation. Dubbed as ‘the greatest show on earth’, each of these expositions — also called World’s Fair — has given a new direction to progress and sustainable economic growth.

On the first day of October 2021, Expo 2020 Dubai opened, the culmination of eight years of planning, and the additional achievement of launching this mega-event after the hurdles of the pandemic.

The Middle East’s first-ever World’s Fair, this six-month extravaganza is drawing both millions of visitors and global attention to the dreamscape of the UAE as a destination where all come to do business.

The 1,080-acre expo site was an empty land that has been transformed into a buzzing futuristic landscape with robots, a new metro station, multi-million-dollar pavilions and designated districts based on the event themes ‘sustainability’, ‘mobility’ and ‘opportunity’.

Since its first edition in London in 1851, the World’s Fair has been an exceptional platform for nations to meet, share ideas, showcase inventions, foster culture, and form new business associations. With more than 190 country pavilions and the estimated participation of over 25 million visitors, Expo 2020 Dubai is about to usher in a new era of progress. At this juncture, 999 takes you through some of the most significant innovations of the Expos that have shaped and changed modern history.



Science Museum London

### ANALYTICAL ENGINE

This first computer prototype made its appearance at the London Expo in 1862. Designed by English inventor Charles Babbage and commissioned by the British government, its chief purpose was to compute and analyse data and run up to 1,000 50-digit numbers. This original prototype had a larger storage capacity than any other computer built before 1960. In keeping with the theme of the 1862 World Expo, this unique machine was entirely powered by steam.

### TELEPHONE

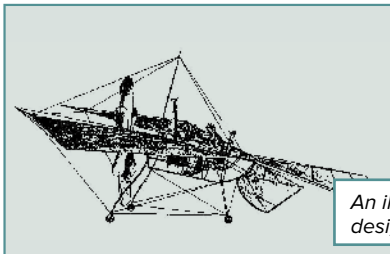
Alexander Graham Bell introduced the telephone to a flabbergasted audience at the 1876 Philadelphia World Expo. Emperor Dom Pedro of Brazil, who participated in the inaugural demonstration, famously exclaimed at the event, “My God, it talks!” However, the inventor of the telephone had barely made it to the finish line of attaining the patent for his invention.

Bell applied for a patent on the same day that Elisha Gray submitted his patent for a similar acoustic telegraphy device that ran on a water transmitter. Bell’s patent was given primacy and was certified only months before the Expo began in June 1876.

*Alexander Graham Bell at the opening of the long-distance line from New York to Chicago in 1892*



Library of Congress



*An illustration of Félix du Temple's 1874 design for a Monoplane*

### MONOPLANE

One of the first successful flying attempts humankind had ever made was on display at the 1878 World Expo in Paris. You might be thinking about the Wright Brothers now, but a French naval officer and inventor named Félix du Temple de la Croix was amongst the first to develop flying machines and take a successful flight on his monoplane. However, it would be quite an exaggeration to

compare the monoplane with normal flights. It could only achieve lift-off after descending an inclined ramp, floating in the air, and reaching height for a short period.

### EIFFEL TOWER

The biggest draw of the 1889 World Expo in Paris was the Eiffel Tower, which was built specifically for the event and was visited by more than 12,000 people on the first day itself. Though it was the tallest tower in the world at that time, this intimidating fact didn’t deter people from scrambling all the way to the top despite the lifts being non-functional in the first week, when almost 30,000 visitors climbed to the top using a staircase. The tower became a centre of activity throughout the Expo, thanks mainly to the Telephone Pavilion at its base. This telecommunications centre provided such experiences as the ‘Auditions’ display that linked a bank of telephones to the Opéra. A listener could pick up the phone at the ‘Auditions’ display and hear live music played by the orchestra at the Opéra miles away.

*A poster of the Exposition Universelle of 1889, showing the Eiffel Tower*



Musée Carnavalet

## FERRIS WHEEL

Created by George Washington Gale Ferris Jr, a structural engineer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States, the Ferris Wheel was launched first at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. While working with the fair's architects, Ferris was approached to create an iconic structure that would outperform the Eiffel Tower of the Paris World's Fair in 1889. When unveiled, the Ferris Wheel was an immediate sensation, drawing around 1.5 million visitors, each shelling out 50 US cents to experience the 20-minute ride. Though the Ferris Wheel was dismantled after the Expo, it was later revived for the 1904 Fair in St Louis.



*The original Ferris Wheel at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair Columbian Expo*



*Early X-ray machine being operated by a radiographer (1896)*

## X-RAY MACHINE

The X-Ray machine was introduced at the Buffalo, New York, Expo in 1901. The machine bewildered audiences and allowed medical practitioners to get a peek into the human body without tearing it open for the first time. Unfortunately, US President McKinley was assassinated at the Expo, casting a dark shadow over the global affair. Ironically, doctors were hesitant to try the new invention on the president to search for the bullets. They were not sure of its side effects in the early stages of X-Ray, and President McKinley died a week later.

## MOBILE PHONE

After the telephone first made its debut at the Expo in 1876, it took almost a hundred years for a new version to arrive, changing the world like never before. Yet, strangely, it almost went unnoticed by the crowds when the mobile phone came into being at the Osaka Expo in 1970. Instead, the guests were far more enthralled by a piece of moon rock brought down from the Apollo mission in 1969.



*Visitors speaking on early mobile phones in the Electronic Communications Pavilion at Expo 1970 Osaka*



*BMW 750hL Hydrogen car powered by sun and water*

## CLEAN-ENERGY CAR

At the Expo in Hanover, Germany, in 2000, a major milestone was reached in the automobile industry. Since its inception, the automobile industry had been called out for its dependence on fossil fuels, which triggered many geopolitical and environmental concerns. It was BMW that made the first attempt to free the industry from oil dependence by introducing the first hydrogen-powered renewable-energy car at Hanover's Expo. This innovation resulted in a seismic shift in the automobile industry, inspiring more manufacturers to build their own version of clean-energy vehicles when they saw the tremendous market potential for the alternative.

*Did you know?*

The disc-shaped Sustainability Pavilion 'Terra' at Expo 2020 Dubai is entirely operated by solar energy. Each E-Tree around it has six rotating solar panels and follows the sun from sunrise to sunset, enabling them to generate power, collect and store 25 per cent more energy than static solar panels and provide shaded seating areas for guests.





# MURDERS BEHIND THE WHEEL

AUTOMOBILES REVOLUTIONISED HOW PEOPLE MOVED  
WORLDWIDE. HOWEVER, THESE MOTORISED VEHICLES  
ALSO BECAME A BREEDING GROUND FOR VIOLENCE

BY NEIL BIE

## SNIPERS ON THE HIGHWAYS

**WHEN: OCTOBER 2002**

**WHERE: MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, USA**

Fear spread amongst residents of Montgomery County in Alabama in October 2002 following a random shooting spree in their area that left 10 dead and three critically injured.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) deemed the shooting as random, as these people were just going about their daily lives — shopping, reading a book, mowing the lawn, and doing their chores. However, the shooters didn't know that one of the victims was FBI intelligence analyst Linda Franklin, who had just finished her shopping at a home improvement store.

Franklin's death made the investigation a priority for the FBI. The Bureau worked closely with the Montgomery County (Maryland) Police Department, headed by Chief Charles Moose, with the cooperation of other law enforcement agencies.

Within days, the FBI alone had some 400 agents around the country working on the case. They also set up a toll-free number to collect tips from the public, with teams of new agents in training helping to work the hotline. Evidence experts were asked to digitally map many of the evolving crime scenes, and their behavioural analysts helped prepare a profile of the shooter for investigators.

Their investigations pointed them at a dark blue 1990 Chevy Caprice spotted at a parking lot in Maryland. Before the police headed to the scene, they established a perimeter to make sure that no one got out of the area.

When evidence experts and FBI agents approached the car, they



John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo

found a peculiar hole cut in the trunk near the licence plate. The team deduced that this was where the shooters could easily fit the Bushmaster .223-calibre rifle found within the trunk that was used for all the attacks. The backseat had likewise been modified by removing the sheet metal between the passenger compartment and the trunk, which enabled the shooter to get into the trunk from inside the car.

Police officers also found a digital voice recorder as well as the manual for the Chevy Caprice which confirmed that the vehicle's owners, John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, both had written and recorded their extortion demands on some of their victims.

Muhammad and Malvo were sleeping when police ID-d them. Law enforcement agents arrested both suspects without a struggle.

## AXED INVESTIGATOR

**WHEN: MARCH 1987**

**WHERE: SYDENHAM, LONDON**

Daniel Morgan, 37, was enjoying the time of his life at the Golden Lion saloon at Sydenham, together with his business partner Jonathan Rees, in March 1987. It had been three prosperous years since the two launched their business — Southern Investigations, which banked on Morgan's exceptional memory for remembering small details, particularly car registration numbers.

On that same evening, a BBC sound producer was shocked by the sight of Morgan's corpse found next to the investigator's car beside a pool of his own blood. It was a gruesome scene, similar to thriller movies, as an axe blade was embedded in Morgan's skull at the time.

Authorities assigned Detective Sergeant Sid Fillery to work on the case — however, officers didn't know that Fillery had been working for Southern Investigations, which compromised his position as head investigator. Fellow officers learned about Fillery's engagement with Southern Investigations the following month in April 1987, which led him, Rees, Glenn Vian, Garry Vian, and two other officers to be arrested on suspicion of Morgan's murder. But no charges were filed, and all six were released.

The following year (1988), the court asked several staff members from Southern Investigations to give evidence and statements. The company's accountant, Kevin Lennon, gave authorities a lead when they learned that Rees' business relations with Morgan had been deteriorating over the past months. Lennon said that Rees premeditated the murder as early as six months prior to Morgan's death.

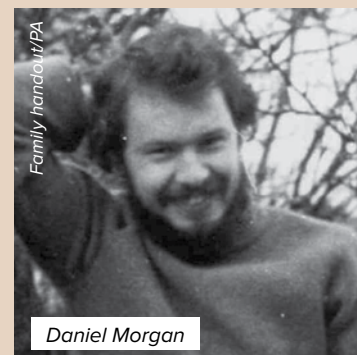
"My mates at Catford nick are going to arrange it. Those police officers are friends of mine and will either murder Danny themselves or will arrange it," said Rees, according to Lennon's statements.

By 1989, Rees got arrested once again, together with two others for the murder of Morgan. However, charges were dropped once again due to a lack of evidence.

The case went cold for nearly a decade until 1997 when Sir Paul Condon, commissioner of the Met, promised to review the case. The next three years revealed Rees' corruption and misdeeds when a bug planted at the Southern Investigation office unearthed Rees' plans to plant evidence of drug use on an innocent woman for their client (the estranged husband) to get custody of their child.

While Morgan's murder remained a mystery, Rees was charged with other offences and jailed for seven years.

In 2021, an independent panel studying the case for years revealed in its final report that police corruption had permanently impeded any further investigations of the case, with no convictions ever secured for Morgan's murder.



Daniel Morgan



## DEADLY DISPUTE

**WHEN: APRIL 2021**

**WHERE: SURREY, UNITED KINGDOM**

Matthew Tester, a 49-year-old dad of two, was a well-loved scooter icon in the town of Surrey. He also ran a successful scaffolding firm. However, despite having a loving family, a thriving business, and his scooter community, even likeable icons like Matthew have their moments of vulnerability.

In April 2021, Matthew got into a dispute with another driver, 26-year-old Shaan Mir. Bystanders noticed the altercation that took place in the middle of the day — they were shocked when moments later, Matthew got mowed down at a car parking lot by a white BMW 1 series that Shaan drove in a fit of rage.

Emergency responders and the police immediately arrived on the scene to help both drivers. Matthew bore the brunt of the collision and was pronounced dead on the spot, despite the efforts of the medical teams on site.

Shaan, along with another man in his 40s, sustained major injuries and was sent to the hospital.

When Shaan recovered, he was summoned to the Guildford Crown Court and was charged with murder and attempted murder. He appeared only for a short hearing to confirm his date of birth, address, and his age.

The loss of Matthew, also known by his family and peers by his nickname 'Tik', saddened his family and the scooting community, who never imagined that their loved one would pass away due to a dispute on the road. Tik's brother said that they still felt the ache in their hearts,



Matthew Tester

Family handout

especially their mother who had to endure burying her own son.

"This tragedy has absolutely rocked the family, who have been devastated by Tik's death. The hurt and sadness we've felt over the past few days simply cannot be fully quantified, and something no one should ever experience. The consequences and ripples of Tik's death will have a lasting effect on so many lives. No mother should expect to outlive their son," said Tik's brother.

Tik's daughter remembers her dad as someone who filled the room with laughter, even during their low moments as a family: "Dad taught me how to live. Our favourite thing was just to laugh because even in our darkest time we did it together."

The community came together to support Tik's bereaved family, raising over £11,000 (Dhs55,380) from nearly 500 donations from scooterists worldwide in a GoFundMe campaign, and £22,000 (Dhs110,087) from the various JustGiving pages set up to help the family.

## BOUND WOMEN

**WHEN: OCTOBER 1967**

**WHERE: NEW JERSEY, USA**

In October 1968, 29-year-old mother-of-two Nancy Schiava Vogel was last seen happily playing bingo with some of her friends at a local church.

The community was in shock when Vogel was found dead in a car at a park near Ridgefield Park in New Jersey. Investigators found evidence that Vogel was strangled, as her body was bound and stripped of all clothes.

Vogel's case went cold when investigators couldn't determine any suspects nor trace any evidence or motives. This incident was followed by five more brutal killings of women in 1979 and 1980.

In December 1979, firemen in New York found two bodies whose hands and heads were removed. One of the bodies was identified as 22-year-old Deedeh Goodarzi, while the other body remained a Jane Doe.

Months later, in 1980, three more women were found dead with an eerily similar murder signature. The bodies of 19-year-old Valerie Ann Street, 26-year-old MaryAnn Carr, and Jean Reyner were bound and they had been tortured for hours before their demise. The bodies of Street and Carr were both spotted at the Hasbrouck Heights Quality Inn in Jersey.

Police investigators finally got a lead when 18-year-old Leslie Ann O'Dell screamed in pain at the Hasbrouck, drawing the attention of the motel staff



Richard Cottingham

Bergen County Prosecutor's Office

nearby. They called the police and demanded that Richard Cottingham, the man who checked in at the motel, should open the door.

It was there that the police finally arrested Cottingham, who was found in possession of torture items such as a leather gag, two slave collars, handcuffs, replica pistols, a switchblade and several prescription pills.

Cottingham admitted to killing all six women but never explained why he did so. In total, he received more than 200 years in prison for all of the killings.

# MY MOTHER'S SHADOW

A YOUNG GIRL IS SUBJECTED TO BEATINGS AND  
CONSTANT INSULTS BY HER OWN MOTHER SIMPLY FOR  
WANTING TO PUT EDUCATION BEFORE MARRIAGE

BY WAGIH HASSAN



**D**oaa is a 24-year-old girl who loves life and wants the same things that most other girls of her age desire.

However, not a single day or night passed at home without ruckus and tension caused by her mother, and Doaa's life increasingly resembled a nightmare. She recalled, "My story began after graduating from high school and entering the Faculty of Law at university. I excelled in my higher studies, but my mother was not satisfied, no matter how close I came to success."

Her mother wanted to get Doaa married off and wash her own hands of her parental responsibility. For her, a girl's place is in her husband's house, and not in the halls of university.

The daughter was astounded — she used to adore the ground on which her mother walked, but now she was seeing a very different side of her dominant parent; her father had become largely incapacitated by an accident and could do little to defy his spouse's will.

The daughter recalled, "I tried many times to convince her that this way of thinking was wrong, and that studying was not merely a necessity but a shining light for guys and girls alike. She was not convinced of my point of view; my words vanished as quick as a flash."

"Instead of encouraging me to pursue my educational goals, she stands as an impenetrable barrier to my success. Nevertheless, I'd like to continue my education by all means, and obtain a university degree that will serve as my strong fortress in life," Doaa added.

About her father, the young girl said, "My helpless father had a horrific traffic accident. Muttering is all that he has to offer. A weak body caused by the accident made him incapable of movement or intervention."

Despite many discussions, her mother didn't allow her daughter to go out except during exams. Doaa managed with lecture notes brought from college by one of her hardworking friends, named Amina. However, her mother prevented Amina from visiting their house later on.

At this point, the trapped daughter reached out to a lawyer from her father's family to tell him her story: "In the past four years, I've been severely beaten and

obscenely insulted by my mother without a break, along with her screams without a reason, which required the intervention of neighbours to take me away from her hands and protect me from her abuse.

"My mother repeats to everyone's ears, saying, 'Doaa, you have reached the age of spinsterhood. How long will it be until you find a husband so I'll no longer have to take care of you?'"

Her mother saw the daughter's pursuit of education — and a university degree — as an obstacle to marriage. She imagined that her daughter would run away from home, leaving her parents' house for good after obtaining her university degree.

“

**She poured boiling water on my feet, preventing me from leaving the house or even walking — it was a punishment for me, for threatening to file a police report**

Doaa continued, "The fourth year of my university studies was the worst. My mother followed me from one hall to another in my faculty, because she was not satisfied. She'd ask about the halls where students entered to satisfy her curiosity and suspicions."

The lawyer encouraged Doaa to continue the story. She added, "She followed it up with another humiliating incident. She sent my younger brother, Naim, to try getting me out of the university, although I'm only three courses away from graduation."

After hearing her story, the lawyer said, "My daughter, I must meet with your parents, so that they know exactly what your university degree entails. I'll explain specifically to your mother the value of studying to young men and women, and I'll try to convince her.

"I will tell her, 'Look at your relative, my sister, who graduated from the Faculty of

Commerce and Economics last year, and she is now pursuing a Master's degree. She plans to continue her education until she obtains a PhD.'"

In the end, however, the lawyer's visit to Doaa's house didn't produce any positive results. As soon as he left the house, Doaa was subjected to severe beatings and the usual obscene insults from her mother and brother.

Doaa recalled, "My attempts to convince my mother to let me take the exam failed. I only had three subjects left before graduation. The only reply I received from my mother at the time was, 'I know what's in your best interest.' To put pressure on her, I threatened to file a complaint with the police about the beatings, humiliation, and insults she had inflicted on me. In response to my verbal threat, she poured boiling water on my feet, preventing me from leaving the house or even walking — it was a punishment for me, for threatening to file a police report.

The daughter asked herself, "Can my mother lock me in the house, prevent me from going to work and prevent me from attending my job when I graduate from university and obtain a law degree? Can I resist her, in the face of such a prohibition, and her old and outdated ideas? Isn't it best for my brother Naim, who is subjected to my mother's orders, to assist me and help me, being the only sibling he has?"

Doaa decided to take action. "After that scalding incident, I called a nearby police station and asked for assistance. Immediately, an ambulance and a police patrol arrived to take me to the hospital. Naim and my mother were arrested, questioned, and then released after I withdrew my complaint. I received a written agreement promising not to harm me verbally or physically.

"After I was treated for my burns, I moved to the house of my loyal friend Amina, who was my best friend, sister, and dear classmate. Following this, I prepared for the three subjects, studied well, appeared for exams, and finally received a very good grade on my university degree."

Having attained her educational goal, Doaa also tried to rebuild her relationship with her mother, saying, "At the end of the day, mothers are precious and need to be cherished."





# LORD CURZON IN KUWAIT

THE BRITISH STATESMAN MADE THE GULF EMIRATE  
HIS LAST STOP ON A VOYAGE  
ACROSS THE REGION

BY DR FALEH HANDHAL





George Curzon



Sheikh Mubarak of Kuwait

British Library

**T**racing the route taken by Lord George Curzon on his late 1903 visit to the Persian Gulf, as described in the historical section of the 1908 book *Gulf Guide*, written by British political resident John Gordon Lorimer, we see his naval entourage move from Bahrain to Kuwait, after stops at Muscat, Sharjah, and Bandar Abbas. While in Sharjah, the British statesman had met the rulers of emirates that constitute the present-day UAE. Curzon and his wife were on the warship *Hardinge*, and they were accompanied by the ship *Argonaut*.

The ships arrived in Kuwait at 10 o'clock in the morning of November 28, and the artillery in front of the house of Sheikh Mubarak, the ruler of Kuwait, fired 31 salute rounds.

Sheikh Mubarak came aboard the *Hardinge* after it dropped anchor and greeted Lord Curzon. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the ruler returned to visit with his eldest son, Sheikh Jaber, and he was officially welcomed by the Lord and presented with a sword. At 10 o'clock in the morning of November 29, the Lord came to Bandar Shuwaikh, three miles from the city, where Sheikh Mubarak, with his children and followers, were waiting for him at the head of a group of horsemen.

**“**  
**AS LORD CURZON**  
**RODE THE ONLY CAR IN**  
**KUWAIT, HIS ENTOURAGE**  
**MOUNTED HORSES, AND**  
**THE PARADE MOVED**  
**DISORDERLY, AMID**  
**FIRING SHOTS, TOWARDS**  
**THE CITY**

As Lord Curzon rode the only car in Kuwait, his entourage mounted horses, and the parade moved disorderly, amid firing shots, towards the city. It was a stunning scene, as the knights rode on their graceful Arabian horses with loose clothes and bright colours, stillness and dignity filling the air around them. White city houses with banners on their roofs can be seen behind this scene along with the big tents of Bedouins. At this reception, more than 200 horsemen and 30 camels were seen carrying rifles under a red flag that read, “We trust in Allah”. The palace cannons fired 31 salute rounds as everyone approached the Sheikh’s house.



Lord and Lady Curzon (centre) with staff on their Arabian Gulf tour, 1903

Qatar Digital Library

A meeting then took place in a palace room that was decorated with images of the kings and queens of Great Britain, including one of Queen Victoria, and the Turkish flag was lowered from the palace's roof.

Sheikh Mubarak visited Lord Curzon at 2 o'clock on the deck of the *Hardinge* and said that he was abandoning the Turks and asking for British protection and requesting help with liberation from the Turks of Umm Qasr and Bubiyan Island.

Lord Curzon replied that he was glad to hear out the ideas presented by Sheikh Mubarak, but could not promise help. A picnic was hosted on November 30 by the Lord's wife on a commercial boat, and then it was decided that he would visit the Persian port of Bushehr, ending his trip across Oman and the rest of the Gulf emirates.

#### GEOGRAPHY

This section of the *Gulf Guide* includes various places, locations, cities and villages in the Arabian Gulf countries. It mentions the names of the Arab tribes who lived there before returning home, and it also describes the Persian coast opposite the Arab coast. This chapter gives a wonderful overview of the emirate of Sharjah.

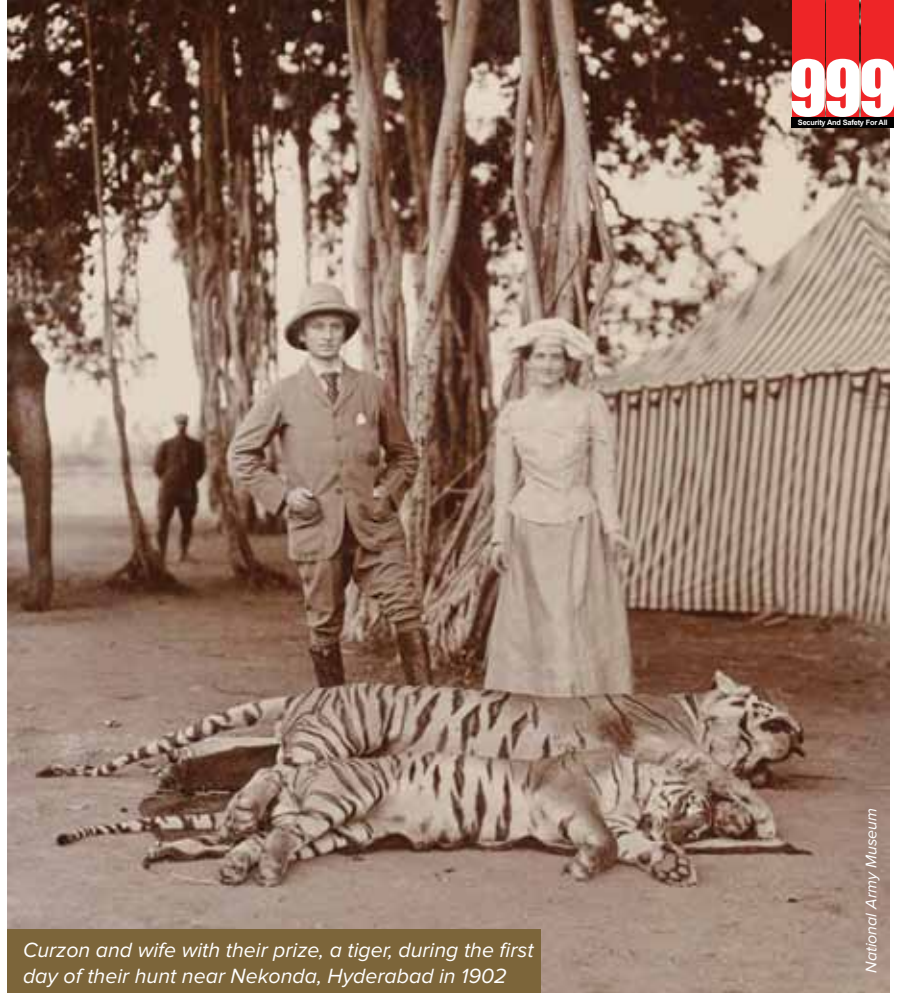
The author of this book wrote it in the early 20th century when Sharjah was ruled by Sheikh Saqr bin Khalid bin Sultan Al Qasimi, who took power in 1883.

In 1900, after the death of Sheikh Humaid bin Abdullah Al Qasimi, who reigned in Ras Al Khaimah, the ruler of Sharjah had the opportunity to extend his influence over the bordering emirate.

As soon as he assumed the position of ruler, Sheikh Saqr sent his son Khalid to rule Ras Al Khaimah as his representative. Accordingly, the Qasimi influence and the unified "Qasimiyya" authority stretched from Sharjah to Ras Al Khaimah, then to the Shamiliya coast. In the year when Lorimer wrote his guide, the islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa were led by Al Qawasim.

There are two main settlements in Sharjah, which are the villages of Fashat and Al Heera. Residents of these villages had 25 pearl-fishing boats. These villages consist of 250 houses, and the people are from the Al Naim tribe.

Lorimer covered the Hamriyah and



Curzon and wife with their prize, a tiger, during the first day of their hunt near Nekonda, Hyderabad in 1902

National Army Museum

“

### WHEN LORIMER WROTE HIS BOOK, SHARJAH WAS THE LARGEST AND THE MOST IMPORTANT CITY ON THE TRUCIAL COAST

Khan regions, as well as Sharjah, the capital of the emirate. He described the administration and government during the time of Sheikh Saqr bin Khalid Al Qasimi and said that he lived in Sharjah and had governors and rulers over his areas of influence. Ras Al Khaimah was ruled by his son Khalid; the town of Dibba was ruled by Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed, who was his cousin; and the Shamiliya region was ruled by Sheikh Saeed bin Hamad.

Both Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah had a customs regime — their revenues were about 8,000 rupees and 800 rupees, respectively. They levied a customs tax of 1.5 per cent for fabrics and 2 per cent for other commodities. The date crop was

taxed in kind, at one-tenth of its value, on all the Sheikh's properties, and its imports were few except in Ras Al Khaimah. Additionally, taxes on sheep and crops fetched about 1,000 rupees each year.

It is possible that the Sheikh's income did not exceed about 10,000 rupees annually, apart from the taxes on pearl fishing, which was his main resource and brought him about 23,500 rupees annually. The ruler in Sharjah had about 20 armed men, who, along with 70 men present in Ras Al Khaimah, formed the Sheikh's army.

Therefore, the defence of the city of Sharjah depended on the ordinary residents, who possessed about 1,600 guns. In the city, there were general arrangements for guarding the shops at night, and the owners paid a small tax for this. There was no such arrangement in Ras Al Khaimah.

#### OVERVIEW OF SHARJAH

When Lorimer wrote his book, Sharjah was the largest and the most important city on the Trucial Coast (the old name for the territories encompassing present-day UAE, the word 'trucial' being derived from 'truce', following peace treaties signed between the sheikhs and the British). It was the



capital of the emirate of Sharjah and the seat of government.

The city extended for more than a mile along the eastern shore of a small creek parallel to the sea, with a separate neighbourhood named Al Laayh, located on the western shore. The creek's entrance lay about a mile northeast of downtown Sharjah.

Within the village of Al Khan, at the end of the creek, was a desert filled with white sand and scattered palm trees. There were communal wells that provided water of moderate quality. There was no wall around the city, and the only defence it had was the Sheikh's Palace. Several towers guarded the plain between the city and the palm plantations.

The whole city was made up of palm-frond huts, and the narrow labyrinth streets divided the walls of houses made of mats and fronds in a complex dialogue.

The population was about 15,000 people, and the main tribes were the Shwaihiyn, Al Hawla, Al Sudan, Al Ali, Al Bu Muhair, Al Abadilah, Al Matarish, and Al Bu Shamis from the Al Na'im tribe.

In addition to about 700 houses from different tribes, most of the people were Arabs and their residences were known as "the market group" or "the market neighbourhood". There was also a group of Africans, many of whom spoke their original Swahili language, as well as several Hindus and Indian Muslims as British subjects.

All the Arab tribes that lived in Sharjah belonged to the Ghafirin and they were Hanbalis. Since the sale of tobacco was prohibited, it was sold and bought in private homes. The city had 21 mosques, about 200 shops, and an equal number of commodity stores in the market, where the majority of the trade was conducted. Wheat, rice, and dates were amongst the edible staples, and 16 Hindus and 35 Khoja merchants live in the area.

As for the maritime trade, Lorimer wrote that Sharjah had five ships of the "Mule" type and 13 of the "Sambuk" type, and that these sailed to Basra, the Persian coast, Bombay in India, and occasionally to Yemen. As for pearl-fishing vessels, there were 183 of them, and an equal number of ordinary fishing vessels. About five to six large-sized vessels were manufactured every year.

#### TUNB ISLANDS

Next, Lorimer discussed the Greater and Lesser Tunb islands, which were in the



*A souq in Sharjah in mid 1960s*

possession of the Qawasim, along with the island of Abu Musa. He was referring to Greater Tunb when he stated that Tunb Island was administratively affiliated with the Sheikh of Sharjah.

His description said: "The island is 17 miles south-southwest of Qeshm Island and 46 miles northwest of Al-Hamra Island. Circular in shape, it has a diameter of two-and-a-half miles and a height of 165 feet at its highest point. The land is mostly flat, brown, sandy, and has very few plants. On

the southern side of the island is a water well. Six huts are located on the island, one of which belongs to a sheikh. Sharjah's flag is affixed to that hut. Amongst the huts on the island is one inhabited by a family from Lengeh who served Sharjah's Sheikh for a long time. In recent years, the population of the island has gradually grown due to immigrants moving there. The island's residents depend on fishing, pearl-diving, and cattle-grazing, and there is a small palm garden on the island."

The author then described Lesser Tunb, calling it "Nabio Tunb". He said that "it is located eight miles northwest of Tunb, has a triangle shape, and is one mile long from northwest to southeast, and its width is three-quarters of a mile at its southern end".

His description: "Despite being uninhabited and devoid of water, Lesser Tunb is home to many sea birds."

#### ANCIENT CITY OF SOHAR

We conclude this series with what Lorimer wrote about two important Omani cities, Sohar and Sur. Sohar is an ancient city, and it was the capital of Oman during the blessed prophetic mission. To this city, Prophet Muhammad, may God bless him

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SHARJAH HAD FIVE SHIPS  
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YEMEN

and grant him peace, sent his two envoys, Abu Zaid al-Ansari and Amr ibn al-Aas, to meet the rulers of Oman and herald the new religion. The rulers at that time were two brothers, Abd and Jayfar, the sons of Al-Julanda. Islam became their religion after they accepted it.

Ancient chroniclers also mention that this city was famous for its clothes and shirts, to the extent that the Messenger, when he passed away, was shrouded in clothes from the city of Sohar.

Lorimer described Al Batinah as an important port on the coast of Oman around 1900. He said that the city was an important trading port. It is where Al Batinah's western governor was based. The city had about 800 houses — some of them were inhabited by Iranians, Beasirah, and Bahra, and the largest part was made up of different Arab tribes, including the Yahmad tribe.

He wrote: "A square wall surrounds the city, and at each corner is a two-storey stone castle. The Baluch live in 250 houses in the eastern part of the city, and most of the houses in the city are made of stone and mud, and there are about 7,500 people in total.

"A three-mile palm belt called Al Batinah runs through Sohar, and it contains between 15,000 and 20,000 palm trees. The result is an abundance of dates, mangoes, and other crops such as alfalfa, wheat, and sugar cane. The Falaj Al Mu'tarid carries water from a distance of 14 to 15 miles from Wadi Al-Jarbi to the city of Sohar.



Traditional boats used for pearl diving and fishing in Kuwait

e.gov.kw

"In the city market, there are 200 shops and 12 houses that dye clothes as well as sew turbans and abayas. Dates, animal fats, lime, cow and goatskins are the most important exports.

"Six Indians and three Khojas live in Sohar and work as agents for Muscat merchants, trading cloth, wheat, and rice, which they obtain from Muscat. The Indians do not trade dates. Eight boats sail from Sohar to Muscat and Makran, as well as 30 smaller vessels. The Sultan resides in the castle, and under his command are 30 men."

#### SUR CITY

In his geographical guide, Lorimer wrote about Sur, calling it "a city of great political and commercial importance on the Hajar

coast in the Sultanate of Oman; it is the second-largest city after Muttrah".

He said: "The city has a population of 2,000 people, and Sur is a sandy beach with few trees and vegetables. Its most important feature is the creek that heads from the south with a length of about half a mile and a width of about 150 yards, with the city located at its entrance and on both sides.

"During the dry season, the creek becomes impassable for all but small boats. Approximately two large neighbourhoods are separated by the creek entrance from each other in the city. This neighbourhood includes 300 Bani Bu Ali houses on the eastern side, and 1,500 houses belonging to the Janba tribe on the opposite side. The majority of houses are built from stone or mud. Amongst them is a village named Bilad al-Sur, with palm and clover plantations, divided into seven neighbourhoods, and about 250 homes for the Al-Maskary, Al-Hashem, and other tribes, and 95 wells.

"The port serves almost all of the Jalan region and the Eastern region. Besides rice, groceries, wheat, cereals, coffee, and kerosene, Sur imports oils from the Bombay area and animal fats from Dhofar province as well as dried fish from Masirah, which it exports. At present, Sur and its suburbs own 50 boats and ships of the 'Mule' type, four of the 'Sambuk' type, and 40 other small ships.

"A total of 135 men serve in the city's garrison, and the budget is based on a combination of 6,000 dollars in customs duties and 2,000 dollars in zakat fees."



Curzon and his wife with Major Sir Ganga Singh, Maharaja of Bikaner (centre). The photo was taken during the viceroy's Autumn Tour of 1902

National Army Museum



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

## NEW IPHONE LINEUP



Apple has launched the newest iteration of its world-renowned smartphone – with the introduction of the **iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini**. Both mobile phones have been redesigned on the inside and out, and come in five gorgeous colours featuring a durable flat-edge design and an elegant aluminum frame.

iPhone 13 and its mini version both have the most advanced dual-camera system technology – with a new wide camera with bigger pixels and sensor-shift optical image stabilisation (OIS) offering improvements in low-light photos and videos. It also has a new way to personalise the camera with Photographic Styles and Cinematic mode, which bring a new dimension to video storytelling.

iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini also boast super-fast performance and power efficiency with A15 Bionic, longer battery life, a brighter Super Retina XDR display, incredible durability with the Ceramic Shield front cover, double the entry-level storage at 128GB, an industry-leading IP68 rating for water resistance, and an advanced 5G experience.

Both handsets also have an industry-leading IP68 rating for water resistance.

**PRICE:** Dhs3,399 (iPhone13 128gb) Dhs2,999 (iPhone13 mini 128gb)

**WEBSITE:** [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

## IMPRESSIVE SHUTTER

Mobile phones these days have gone beyond simple calls and messages – the real feature that most people now check is how impressive the mobile phone camera is.

The **VivoX70 Pro** takes mobile photography to its most advanced specs to date by co-engineering its lenses with Zeiss, renowned for its powerful lenses used by professional photographers worldwide.

The X70 Pro's triple camera setup is powered by Zeiss Optics and T\* Coating that reduces stray lights, effectively capturing the subject's true colours day or night. Users don't have to worry about shaky hands with the X70 Pro's built-in, ultra-sensing gimbal stabilisation 3.0.

It also has a 120Hz refresh rate that assures speed and ease of use, especially for multi-taskers. It's fitted with a Hi-Res audio system and a built-in linear motor for gamers and binge-watchers to immerse themselves in their temporary escape from reality.



**PRICE:** Dhs2,295

**WEBSITE:** [www.vivo.com](http://www.vivo.com)

## REUSABLE NOTEBOOK



The classic feel of writing down your thoughts with pen and paper has gone digital. But now, you can easily transfer your thoughts from paper to the cloud through this new reusable notebook that provides users with a smooth writing experience, paired with a digital platform.

The **Rocketbook Core** provides that old-school feeling of writing down your ideas like a traditional notebook, but with its Pilot Frixion line pens – anything you write could easily be uploaded into your preferred cloud storage provider. Users can also download the free Rocketbook app to configure popular cloud services as your scan destinations.

In addition, it only takes a drop of water to erase and reuse each of its pages. This way, Rocketbook Core users will no longer feel that guilt of wasting paper. Rocketbook products can be reused, so you can stop using your other paper notebooks and save trees.

**PRICE:** Dhs69–Dhs150

**WEBSITE:** [getrocketbook.com](http://getrocketbook.com)

## SMART TIME BUDDY



PRICE: Dhs257

WEBSITE: [www.lenovo.com](http://www.lenovo.com)

Are you still using your mobile phone as your alarm clock? Lenovo has recently introduced its latest iteration of the **Lenovo Smart Clock 2**, which now acts as a digital clock, mp3 player, charger, and smart home system in one.

The Lenovo Smart Clock 2's primary function is to get your schedule on track with its integrated calendar and time displayed on its 4.0+ LCP IPS Touchscreen. You can also use this gadget to find information on weather and other calendar-related activities to plan your day.

It has a 1x1.5" 3W Speaker with an air duct design to play your favourite tunes or help you listen to that podcast. The Lenovo Smart Clock 2 is customisable to show photos and your preferred visuals to keep you motivated.

What's more? Lenovo also took steps for this ultra-smart clock to act as an alternative charging device.

## PLUG AND PLAY

It's common for any regular person to have several USB-powered gadgets at their home – but with this comes the need for an integrated hub that ensures fast data transfers and charging speeds.

The **Plugable USB 3.0** provides both of these benefits and more that incorporates both USB-A and USB-C connections once it is connected to a laptop – giving users seven USB ports in one go.

Each of these seven ports will be capable of transfer speeds of up to 5Gbps. And for users planning to charge their gadgets before a day out of the house, they are assured of getting the maximum USB charging speeds across all seven ports.

On its own, the Plugable USB 3.0 need not be hooked to a laptop to function. It's also bundled with a power adaptor that will provide 5V at up to 2.4A of charging to each of the seven USB ports. Users need not worry about overcharging, thanks to Plugable's smart charging circuits that power each device at its own maximum rates.



PRICE: Dhs363

WEBSITE: [plugable.com](http://plugable.com)

## COMPETITIVE CONTROLLER



PRICE: Dhs220

WEBSITE: [www.turtlebeach.com](http://www.turtlebeach.com)

Not all gamers prefer a keyboard-and-mouse setup for their PC gaming experience. The newly-launched **Turtle Beach Recon Xbox Controller** helps gamers enjoy more immersive gameplay than before with its exclusive Superhuman Hearing sound setting within its controller that amplifies sounds like footsteps and weapon reloads in FPS games.

The new controller has two mappable buttons, one of which is their Pro-Aim tunes thumbstick sensitivity that provides enhanced long-range accuracy. Players will be able to choose between four levels of sensitivity to dial-in Pro-Aim just right.

The Turtle Beach Recon Xbox Controller is likewise optimised for long gaming sessions with its micro-cooling channels and ergonomic shape to help keep your hands cool and dry while reducing fatigue at the same time.





EXPLORE SOME OF THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE PAST, TAP INTO THE MINDS OF WELL-TRAVELLED GLOBAL NOMADS, AND FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SHAKE THINGS UP TOWARDS PROGRESS

## UNSUNG HEROES

**Title:** The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line: Untold Stories of the Women Who Changed the Course of World War II

**Author:** Mari K. Eder

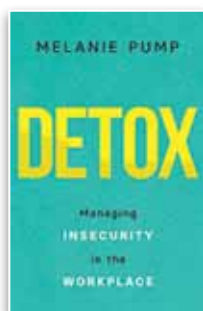
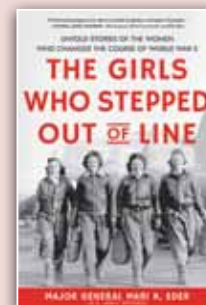
**Publisher:** Sourcebooks

**Price:** Dhs85

The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line are the heroes of the Greatest Generation that you hardly ever hear about. Despite their amazing accomplishments, they've gone mostly unheralded and unrewarded. These are the women of war who served, fought, struggled, and made things happen — in and out of uniform.

Liane B. Russell fled Austria with nothing and later became a renowned scientist in the United States whose research on the effects of radiation on embryos made a difference to thousands of lives. Gena Turgel was a prisoner who worked in the hospital at Bergen-Belsen and cared for the young Anne Frank, who was dying of typhus. Gena survived and went on to write a memoir and spent her life educating children. Ida and Louise Cook were British sisters who served as sponsors for refugees, and they also established temporary housing for immigrant families in London.

Retired US Army Major General Mari K. Eder wrote this book because she knew their stories needed to be told — and the sooner the better. For theirs is a legacy destined to embolden generations of women to come.



## CURBING TOXICITY

**Title:** Detox: Managing Insecurity in the Workplace

**Author:** Melanie Pump

**Publisher:** Lioncrest Publishing

**Price:** Dhs62

Is your team willing to propose game-changing ideas and offer diverse opinions? Will they take personal risks for the sake of your company and its reputation? Most leaders can't answer 'yes' to these questions, especially during critical times of change.

Why not? Because your team members instinctively understand your workplace culture, and they recognise the dangers of pushing beyond that culture's comfort zone.

Through stories and examples, *Detox* demonstrates the real, tangible impact of toxic work environments that stifle innovation, collaboration, succession planning, and productivity — and shows you what you can do to change it.

Learn how to create a healthy, secure environment that can dispel the natural insecurities and fears within your team. Instead of fostering a workplace that magnifies human frailties, discover the proven strategies and practices that can address your team's emotional needs and unlock their true potential.

## GLOBAL FASCINATION

**Title:** World Travel: An Irreverent Guide

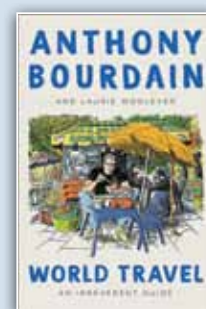
**Author:** Anthony Bourdain and Laurie Woolever

**Publisher:** Ecco

**Price:** Dhs74

Anthony Bourdain saw more of the world than nearly anyone else. His travels took him from the hidden pockets of his hometown of New York to a tribal longhouse in Borneo, from cosmopolitan Buenos Aires, Paris, and Shanghai to Tanzania's utter beauty and the stunning desert solitude of Oman's Empty Quarter — and many places beyond.

In this book, a life of experience is collected into an entertaining, practical, fun and frank travel guide that gives readers an introduction to some of his favourite places — in his own words. Featuring essential advice on how to get there, what to eat, where to stay and, in some cases, what to avoid, *World Travel* provides essential context that will help readers further appreciate the reasons why Bourdain found a place enchanting and memorable.



## TEARING BEHAVIOUR

**Title:** *The Perfect Child*

**Author:** Lucinda Berry

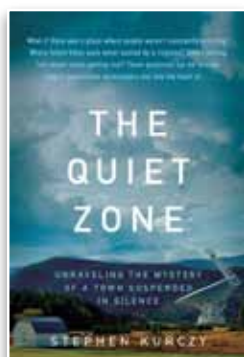
**Publisher:** Thomas & Mercer

**Price:** Dhs61

Christopher and Hannah are a happily married couple — surgeon and nurse — with picture-perfect lives. All that's missing is a child. When Janie, an abandoned six-year-old, turns up at their hospital, Christopher forms an instant connection with her, and he convinces Hannah that they should take her home as their own.

But Janie is no ordinary child, and her damaged psyche proves to be more than her new parents were expecting. Janie is fiercely devoted to Christopher, but she acts out in increasingly disturbing ways, directing all her rage at Hannah. Unable to bond with Janie, Hannah is drowning under the pressure, and Christopher refuses to see Janie's true nature.

Hannah knows that Janie is manipulating Christopher and isolating him from her, despite Hannah's attempts to bring them all together. But as Janie's behaviour threatens to tear Christopher and Hannah apart, the truth behind Janie's past may be enough to push them all over the edge.



## TECHNOLOGICAL VOID

**Title:** *The Quiet Zone: Unraveling the Mystery of a Town Suspended in Silence*

**Author:** Stephen Kurczyk

**Publisher:** Dey Street Books

**Price:** Dhs78

Deep in the Appalachian Mountains, lies the last truly quiet town in America. Green Bank, West Virginia, is a place at once futuristic and old-fashioned: it's home to the Green Bank Observatory, where astronomers search the depths of the universe using the latest technology, while schoolchildren go without WiFi or iPads.

With a ban on all devices emanating radio frequencies that might interfere with the observatory's telescopes, Quiet Zone residents live a life free from constant digital connectivity. But a community that on the surface seems

idyllic is a place of contradictions.

Stephen Kurczyk embedded in Green Bank, making the residents of this small Appalachian village his neighbours. In *The Quiet Zone*, he introduces us to an unforgettable cast of characters. There is a tech-buster patrolling the area for illegal radio waves; "electrosensitives" who claim that WiFi is deadly; and a sheriff's department with a string of unsolved murder cases dating back decades. Amongst them all are ordinary citizens seeking a simpler way of living. Kurczyk asks: is a less connected life desirable? Is it even possible?

## MIND EVOLUTION

**Title:** *Being a Human: Adventures in Forty Thousand Years of Consciousness*

**Author:** Charles Foster

**Publisher:** Metropolitan Books

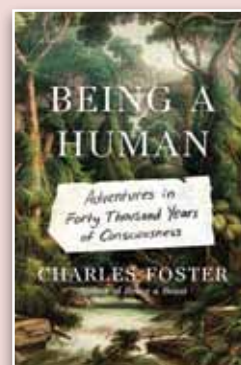
**Price:** Dhs81

A radically immersive exploration of three pivotal moments in the evolution of human consciousness, asking what kinds of creatures humans were, are, and might yet be.

How did humans come to be who we are? In his marvellous, eccentric, and widely lauded book *Being a Beast*, legal scholar, veterinary surgeon, and naturalist extraordinaire Charles Foster set out to understand the consciousness of animal species by living as a badger, otter, fox, deer, and swift. Now, he inhabits three crucial periods of human development to understand the consciousness of perhaps the strangest animal of all — the human being.

To experience the Upper Paleolithic era — a turning point when humans became behaviourally modern, painting caves and telling stories — Foster learns what it feels like to be a Cro-Magnon hunter-gatherer by living in makeshift shelters without amenities in the rural woods of England.

Drawing on psychology, neuroscience, natural history, agriculture, medical law and ethics, *Being a Human* is one man's bold attempt to feel a connection with 45,000 years of human history. This glorious, fiercely imaginative journey from our origins to a possible future ultimately shows how we might best live on earth — and thrive.





# Natural gas to power UAE's economic progress in next 50 years

Natural gas is set to play a pivotal role in powering the UAE's economic growth over the next 50 years, according to HE Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology.

Al Jaber, who is also the Managing Director and Group CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), said that the country has strengthened its position as a regional leader in natural gas and the emerging blue hydrogen through the years.

He highlighted that the country was the first in the region to stop flaring and find economic uses for gas; the first to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant; the first to produce ultra-sour gas at an industrial scale; and the first to store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and use it in enhanced oil recovery (EOR) to liberate more gas.

On track to achieve gas self-sufficiency, ADNOC now leverages advanced technologies to expand into unconventional gas, tap into gas caps and unlock new reservoirs, as part of the company's integrated gas strategy launched in 2018.

To date, ADNOC produces 300,000 tonnes of hydrogen every year, powered by innovative,



cutting-edge tools to make gas cleaner and more sustainable. The UAE is also continuously applying different kinds of technologies to create zero-carbon fuels from gas, in line with lessening its carbon emissions on or before 2030.

Al Jaber stated that the UAE's ongoing progress on working with natural gas would help support the nation's new vision, in line with the

new "Principles of the 50" — the progress plan for the next 50 years.

Blue hydrogen refers to hydrogen produced from natural gas with the associated carbon captured and stored underground. It has a lower cost and is considered an important step in the development of the low-carbon hydrogen economy.

## UAE unveils three major desalination projects



Three big water desalination projects will soon come up in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Umm Al Quwain to promote the UAE's water security goals by 2036, announced HE Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

"Water is an essential pillar of sustainability, which makes it a strategic priority of the UAE where three desalination plants with a combined production capacity of 420 million imperial gallons of water per day (MIGD) will be

commissioned by 2023," said Al Mazrouei during the 5th Arab Water Forum in Dubai.

He said that when the three projects became operational, they could boost the country's production of water to 1,590 million imperial gallons per day, which would help sustain the UAE's daily water needs. He added that the completion of these water desalination projects would help address social, economic, and environmental objectives in line with the UAE's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The UAE has also been actively helping out other countries in need of development assistance with their water and sanitation projects. From 2015 to 2020, the country has provided Dhs3 billion in aid for various water sustainability projects around the world.

"The water-related challenges will become tougher in light of the growing demand for water and the scarcity of resources, especially in our Arab region, in the coming years. The worsening global climate change and the increase in future demand for water have forced us to undertake more initiatives, dialogue, reflection and joint work to build future capabilities to meet these challenges and overcome them. From the Arab Water Forum platform, we reaffirm our strong commitment to continue our efforts to enhance regional and international cooperation in water-related activities and programmes," said Al Mazrouei.

The United Nations (UN) 2020 report outlines that the UAE has already achieved 100 per cent in the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation, in line with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



# Abu Dhabi releases 'Red List of Wildlife Species'



Abu Dhabi has ramped up its efforts to ensure the preservation of its natural flora and fauna, with the launch of 'Red List of Wildlife Species (RLS)', which classifies local plants and animals depending on their threat status.

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) released its initial RLS following an assessment of 244 species. Of this

number, there were 101 plants, 49 birds, 9 marine species, 32 terrestrial mammals, 25 invertebrates, 26 reptiles and 2 amphibians. Around 74 of these species are under three threat categories: critically endangered, endangered, and vulnerable.

Dr Sheikha Salem Al Dhaheri, EAD Secretary General, said that the assessments were done through

collaboration between environmental organisations, including seasoned environmental experts from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), where EAD based its newly-released list.

"The Abu Dhabi Red List is a welcome addition to our knowledge on the threat status of species found in Abu Dhabi. The List is based on the internationally recognised Red List Criteria, developed by the IUCN. And the assessments of threat status have gone through extensive external review from a team of experts from the IUCN, the Red List Authority, and independent experts," said Al Dhaheri.

She added that the RLS' role was for experts as well as authorities to better understand the urgency of protecting these species and preserving them to avoid their extinction in their local habitat.

EAD has been instrumental in not only preserving but also reintroducing nearly extinct species, such as the Arabian Oryx and Scimitar-horned Oryx. EAD's efforts led Abu Dhabi to house one of the largest herds of Arabian Oryx worldwide.

## New Sharjah Safari to house 120 species of animals

A brand-new tourist destination that highlights Sharjah's success in preserving its natural environment will soon open its doors to the public.

The Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) in Sharjah launched the new visual identity of the soon-to-open Sharjah Safari at its headquarters in Al Dhaid City.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, EPAA Chairperson, said that the Sharjah Safari would be home to over 120 species of animals that live in Africa. Of these species, the rarest is the black rhinoceros. In addition, Sharjah Safari will also host 100,000 native and African trees, including the rare 'Acacia Torilis'.

The Safari will branch out into 12 different environments that represent the terrain in Africa, including a section for giraffes and a section for the rhinos. Al Suwaidi is optimistic that the Sharjah Safari will promote awareness of the UAE's efforts in preserving its diverse flora and fauna.

"Sharjah and the UAE will soon have



a tourist attraction and an unparalleled natural destination in the region. We look forward to the Sharjah Safari contributing

to preserving biodiversity and wildlife and highlighting the efforts of the emirate," said Al Suwaidi.



# Get both flu and COVID-19 shots, but with a gap



Since a busy winter is around the corner, health authorities in the UAE have emphasised that there is no danger in taking both the COVID-19 and flu vaccines, if there is adequate gap between doses. The recommended gap is of two to three weeks.

Recently, Dr Farida Al Hosani, Executive Director of Infection Diseases Sector in the Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre, said, "Influenza vaccine has inactivated particles of the influenza virus, whereas COVID vaccines have different manufacturing methods based on the company making it and have components of COVID-19. We urge the community to get both the vaccinations at the earliest after giving the

recommended gap of three weeks."

Millions of people are set to land in the UAE this winter due to Expo 2020 Dubai and an estimated spike in tourism growth, which is likely to increase new flu virus circulating. "People should not think twice as this flu vaccine is different to the COVID vaccine, so it is important they take it," said Dr Hind Al Awadhi, Head of Health Promotion and Education at Dubai Health Authority. "There is no reason not to [take it], we only ask people to leave a gap of two weeks between doses to give their body enough time to develop some immunity."

The vulnerable group consists of pregnant women, children under five, the elderly and

those with existing chronic illnesses like diabetes or hypertension. Along with citizens and healthcare workers, the vulnerable people will also be offered the vaccine free.

A new vaccine is generated each year, in relation to the most recent strain of the influenza virus recorded in global communities. Currently, there are three variants of seasonal influenza, types A, B and C. In the UAE, the public can get the flu vaccine just for Dhs50, which will be available at all primary health centres, private clinics, and hospitals.

## WHERE TO GET THE FLU SHOT

Three DHA medical fitness centres in Jumeirah Lake Towers, Uptown Mirdif and City Walk (Smart Salem Centre) are open for walk-ins from Sunday to Thursday, 7am to 7:30pm.

For other primary healthcare centres, prior booking is required and residents may call **800DHA (800342)** to set an appointment. These centres include Al Badaa, Al Lusail, Al Mankhool, Al Safa, Nad Al Sheba, Zabeel, Mizhar and Twar, which are open from Sunday to Thursday, 7:30am to 9:30pm.

Al Mamzar Health Centre, which caters only to women, is also open from 7:30am to 9:30pm, while Al Barsha and Nad Al Hamr 24/7 centres will offer vaccination services between 7:30am and 9:30pm.

# Abu Dhabi hospital performs ground-breaking heart surgery

An eight-year-old Yemeni schoolboy became one of the first patients in Abu Dhabi to undergo heart surgery via a tiny incision in his thigh.

The boy, named Marwan Mohamed, was treated at the NMC Royal Hospital in Abu Dhabi after securing medical financial assistance from a UAE health programme.

His doctors unveiled details of the unusual surgery to show that heart problems can strike at any age.

In May, the boy was taken to Sukatra Hospital in Yemen, when his parents recognised he didn't show growth like his friends and was constantly unwell. He was soon found to have severe narrowing of the pulmonary valve and a big defect between two chambers of his heart, resulting from a congenital condition.

Marwan was flown to Abu Dhabi in May 2021 and remained there for around 40 days for the surgery.

"A plan was developed to perform balloon dilation of his pulmonary valve and closure of the defect in his heart without open-heart surgery, but through cardiac catheterisation with a very small needle prick in his thigh," said Dr Anas Abu-Hazeem, consultant paediatric cardiologist at NMC Royal Hospital, Abu Dhabi. "The child's heart valve was expanded with a balloon catheter, and the heart defect was closed using a 15mm device. Marwan was able to walk the same day."

This unique heart surgery was the first of its kind



*The team of medical experts who successfully performed cardiac catheterisation on an eight-year boy from Yemen*

to be carried out at the hospital, paving the way for many advanced operations of this kind. Marwan went back to Yemen and now lives with his family and friends.

## Vaccinated pregnant women can pass on antibodies to newborns

A new study published in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* shows that mothers who have received the Pfizer or Moderna jabs had high levels of antibodies that can be passed on to their newborns.

The findings come after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approved a COVID-19 booster shot for pregnant people.

The rate of pregnant people with COVID-19 has escalated in recent weeks on account of low vaccination rates amongst this population group and the rapid spread of the Delta variant. Research done by CDC has illustrated that pregnant women have a higher risk of getting severe illness and complications from COVID-19 than non-pregnant women.

"The best news is when a pregnant woman gets vaccinated, the newborn has protective antibodies against COVID. Getting the COVID vaccine is a win-win for mother and baby," said Dr Sheryl Ross, an



ob-gyn at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, California.

The study measured antibody levels in 36 newborns whose mothers had received one of the messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines. It found that babies born to mothers who had been vaccinated within 13 weeks of delivery had higher antibody levels than newborns whose mothers got vaccinated more than

20 weeks before delivery.

"Immunity will be passed to the foetus through the umbilical cord," said Dr Daniel Roshan, a high-risk maternal-fetal ob-gyn based in New York City.

However, the researchers cautioned that more data were required to understand how secure the babies were and how timing the shots could influence the level of immunity passed to newborns.

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## Healthy sleep vital for older people's brains



According to a study by *JAMA Neurology*, oversleeping and sleep deprivation could have diverse effects on older people's brain health.

The study examined 4,417 participants with an average age of 71.3 years, mostly hailing from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Japan. Both the short-and-long-sleep duration groups showed more

depressive symptoms than the normal sleep group.

Study subjects who had short sleep duration (defined in the study as six hours or less) had high levels of beta-amyloid, which "greatly increases" risk of dementia, as per the study's lead author Joe Winer, a postdoctoral research fellow at Stanford University in California.

It contrasted with participants who reported normal sleep duration, defined as seven to eight hours of sleep a night. The older adults with not enough sleep performed moderately to significantly worse on tests normally used on older adults for evaluating cognitive abilities, including orientation, attention, memory, language, and visual-spatial skills; and identifying mild dementia.

Participants who underwent long sleep duration (nine or more hours) scored a little worse on the Digit Symbol Substitution Test than those who had normal sleep duration. For over a century, this test has assessed associative learning skills by reviewing a test taker's ability to rightly match symbols to numbers as per a key within 90 to 120 seconds.

"The main takeaway is that it is important to maintain healthy sleep late in life," Winer said. "Additionally, both people who get too little sleep and people who get too much sleep had higher (body-mass index and) more depressive symptoms."



# WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



## Aries (March 21 – April 20)

In the upcoming weeks, life will present you with unusual opportunities. You will find it reasonable and righteous to shed, dismantle, and rebel against the past. Redefining your history will be a fun and worthy project. Here are other related activities that you should try: 1. Forget and renounce a long-running fear that has never come true. 2. Throw away a reminder of an old experience that makes you feel bad. 3. Write a note of atonement to a person you hurt once upon a time.



## Taurus (April 20 – May 21)

Taurus author Roberto Bolaño confessed, "Sometimes I want greatness, sometimes just its shadow." I appreciate his honesty. I think what he says is true about most of us. Is there anyone who is always ready for the heavy responsibility of pursuing greatness? To be great, we must periodically go through phases when we recharge our energy and take a break from being nobly ambitious. What about you, dear Taurus? If I'm reading the omens correctly, you will benefit from a phase of reinvention and reinvigoration. During the next three weeks, you'll be wise to hang out in the shadows of greatness.



## Gemini (May 22 – June 20)

Gemini author Lisa Cron advises her fellow writers, "Avoid exclamation points, because they're distracting. Almost as much as capitalizing things." Her counsel should be taken into consideration as it applies not just to writers, but to all of you Geminis. You're likely to find success in the coming weeks if you're understated, modest, and unmelodramatic. Make it your goal to create smooth, suave, savvy solutions. Be cagey and cool and crafty.



## Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu told the public that water is in one sense soft and passive, but is in another sense superb at eroding jams and obstacles that are hard and firm. There's a magic in the way its apparent weakness overcomes what seems strong and unassailable. You are one of the zodiac's top wielders of water's superpower, Cancerian. And in the coming weeks, it will work for you with even more amazing grace than usual. Take full advantage of your sensitivity, your emotional intelligence, and your empathy.



## Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Leo author James Baldwin told us, "You read something which you thought only happened to you, and you discover that it happened 100 years ago to [Russian novelist] Fyodor Dostoyevsky. This is a great liberation for the suffering, struggling person, who always thinks that he is alone." In that spirit, Leo, and in accordance with astrological omens, you ought to track down people who have had pivotal experiences similar to yours, either in the distant or recent past. These days, you need the consoling companionship they can provide. Their influence could be key to liberating you from at least some of your pain.



## Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

Poet Octavio Paz described two kinds of distraction. One is "the distraction of the person who is always outside himself, lost in the trivial, senseless, turmoil of everyday life." The other is "the distraction of the person who withdraws from the world in order to shut himself up in the secret and ever-changing land of his fantasy." Virgos should specialise in the latter during the coming weeks. It's time to reinvigorate your relationship with your deep inner sources. Go in search of the reverent joy that comes from communing with your tantalising mysteries. Explore the riddles at the core of your destiny.



## Libra (September 23 – October 22)

"We must never be afraid to go too far, for truth lies beyond," declared novelist Marcel Proust. For Libras like you, one of your strengths is your skill at maintaining healthy boundaries. You know how to set dynamic limits that are just right: neither too extreme nor too timid. But according to recent analysis of the astrological potentials, the coming weeks will be one of those rare times when you'll be wise to consider an alternative approach: that the most vigorous truths and liveliest energies may lie beyond where you usually go.



## Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Author William S. Burroughs claimed his greatest strength was a "capacity to confront myself no matter how unpleasant". But he added a caveat to his brag: Although he recognised his mistakes, he rarely made any corrections. Dear Scorpio, you should do what Burroughs couldn't. Question yourself about how you might have gone off course, but then actually make adjustments and atonements. As you do, keep in mind these principles: 1. An apparent mistake could lead you to a key insight or revelation. 2. An obstruction to the flow may prod you to open your mind and heart to a liberating possibility. 3. A snafu might motivate you to get back to where you belong. 4. A mess could show you something important you've been missing.



## Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

In her novel *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, Sagittarian author Shirley Jackson wrote, "Today my winged horse is coming, and I am carrying you off to the moon, and on the moon we will eat rose petals." Now, what you would do if you received a message like that? This is an invitation to wander out on fanciful or mysterious adventures – will you be receptive? Whatever your response is, you should avoid saying, "There are so such things as flying horses. It's impossible to fly to the moon and eat rose petals." You will be pleased with the unexpected grace that will come on your way.



## Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Capricorn author Susan Sontag wrote about people who weren't receptive to her intensity and intelligence. She said she always had "a feeling of being 'too much' for them and I would try to scale myself down to size, so I could be apprehensible and lovable by them." The inclination to engage in such self-diminishment is understandable. People want to be appreciated and understood. But you ought to refrain from taming and toning yourself down too much in the coming weeks. Don't do what Sontag did. The upcoming weeks will be the perfect time for you to be an extra vivid version of yourself.



## Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

"Few persons enjoy real liberty," wrote poet Alfred de Musset. "We are all slaves to ideas or habits." That's the bad news. The good news is that November is Supercharge Your Freedom Month for you Aquarians. You should use all your ingenuity to deepen, augment, and refine your drive for liberation. What could you do to escape the numbness of the routine? How might you diminish the hold of limiting beliefs and inhibiting patterns? What shrunken expectations are impinging on your motivational verve? Life is blessing you with the opportunity to celebrate and cultivate what novelist Tim Sharp calls "the spectacular now." Be a cheerful, magnanimous freedom fighter.



## Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

"The truth is," writes cartoonist Bill Watterson, "most of us discover where we are headed when we arrive." This will describe your life during the next six weeks, Pisces. Your long, strange journey won't come to an end, of course. But a key chapter in that long, strange journey will climax. You will be mostly finished with lessons you have been studying for many moons. The winding road you have been following will end up someplace in particular. And sometime soon, you'll spy a foreshadowing flash of this denouement.

- **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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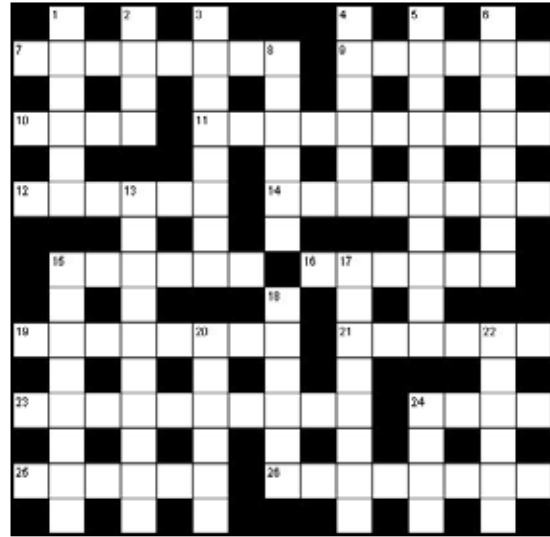
# PUZZLES

## ACROSS

- 7 Union row (8)
- 9 Unfasten buckles (6)
- 10 River flows (4)
- 11 Class action (10)
- 12 Retired businessmen (6)
- 14 English staff (8)
- 15 Taken seriously (6)
- 16 Awkward position (6)
- 19 Bird remarks (5,3)
- 21 Excess rainwater (3-3)
- 23 Wanted criminal (10)
- 24 Jolly year (4)
- 25 Wagner's partner (6)
- 26 Corrupted time (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Wolf's bane (6)
- 2 Offering passage (4)
- 3 United leadership (8)
- 4 Regularly shouting (4,2)
- 5 Hooligan kicking (10)
- 6 Errant theatregoers (8)
- 8 Stuck between opposing sides (6)
- 13 Misbehaving man (10)
- 15 Shrouded in darkness (8)
- 17 Harry Potter's forebodings (8)
- 18 Moral values (6)
- 20 Proposed seat (6)
- 22 Forced starvation (6)
- 24 Overshadowed composer (4)



## Easy

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

## Medium

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

## SOLUTIONS FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE



[www.alberichcrosswords.com](http://www.alberichcrosswords.com)

[www.dailysudoku.com](http://www.dailysudoku.com)

### easy

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

### medium

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



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