

999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 116 SEPTEMBER 2021

IT'S OKAY
NOT TO
BE OKAY

SHOT OF
HOPE FOR
UAE STUDENTS

IN THE
SPOTLIGHT
FOOTPRINTS
IN THE
SAND

EXPO 2020 DUBAI

UAE WELCOMES THE WORLD TO
THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



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



IN THIS ISSUE: **999** LISTS THE RED FLAGS TO AVOID JOB SCAMS IN THE RECRUITMENT MARKET

KARAK YOUR WAY

كركاك على مزاجك

Just Chill
DRINKS CO.



3 in 1

Authentic Arabic Flavour

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*Let's always
believe in
the power of
positivity and
possibility. After
all, we live in
a country that
embodies this
power*

The future is here

We're standing on the cusp of one of the most extraordinary periods in the history of the United Arab Emirates — in some ways, in the history of this region. Traditionally hosted by industrially advanced nations, in cities that have long been considered 'global cities', the World Expo aka World's Fair is set to begin in the UAE in just a few more days. Expo 2020 Dubai is the first such event in the entire Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region and, over six months, it will present the best of science, technology, culture, and futuristic vision to millions of visitors. Think of it as the Olympic games of innovation — but the spirit is more of collaboration than of competition.

In this issue of **999**, we bring you a curtain-raiser, including ticketing details and a look at the exposition segments, of this mega-event anticipated in the whole region for years. Deferred by 12 months because of the pandemic, the Expo now also coincides with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the UAE. That gives all citizens, residents, and visitors a never-before experience. The Expo and the country will both showcase how the future will be built on ideas and projects emerging from the human need to move forward.

The nation's wise leadership and the public and private agencies are making every effort to maintain the highest levels of safety and security during the Expo — indeed, safety and security form the cornerstone of the UAE's progress. The primary aspect of this is managing the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to linger. The extremely rapid vaccination rate of the UAE is now aided by the approval of the Sinopharm vaccine for the 3-17 years age group. This will serve the twin purpose of helping students get back to school and of keeping everyone safe from infections when the visitors start pouring into the UAE.

The approval given to the Sinopharm vaccine for all under-18s (except infants) is the biggest development for the UAE education sector in more than 18 months of the pandemic. While parents still have the option to not get their children jabbed, they'd have to choose vaccination if they wish to send the children back to the physical classroom — for the sake of the students' health and education and social skills, vaccination is highly recommended. Without it, they'd miss one of the best things in life: the daily company of school friends. Our report gives you an overview of the role of vaccines in the new school year.

As our children begin a new class, let's keep in mind that their mental health — and our own — is as important as their grades and our careers. No one can be a champion every day of their life, and that's alright, because we're human. The recent Tokyo Olympics, where gymnastics great Simon Biles pulled out in a shock move, revealed just how much pressure sportspersons are under in their pursuit of the top spot. This month, we focus on the mental health of professionals who are under increased pressure — in a pandemic-afflicted job market — to always appear upbeat and productive, unable to acknowledge a single low moment. One needs to find inner strength to overcome such anxiety, and our article shows the way.

Let's always believe in the power of positivity and possibility. After all, we live in a country that embodies this power. As the UAE is set to celebrate its 50th, a group of expats tell us how they've seen the country grow — let's retrace with them those first "footprints in the sand".



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



**Ministry of Interior
United Arab Emirates**

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SHOT OF HOPE FOR STUDENTS



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British political resident John Gordon Lorimer created in his book extended family trees of the ruling families of the region



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COVER STORY

BIGGER, BETTER, BOLDER



EXPO
2020
DUBAI
UAE

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH IS SET TO BE A GAME-CHANGER FOR THE UAE ECONOMY AND GLOBAL COLLABORATION ON INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY



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



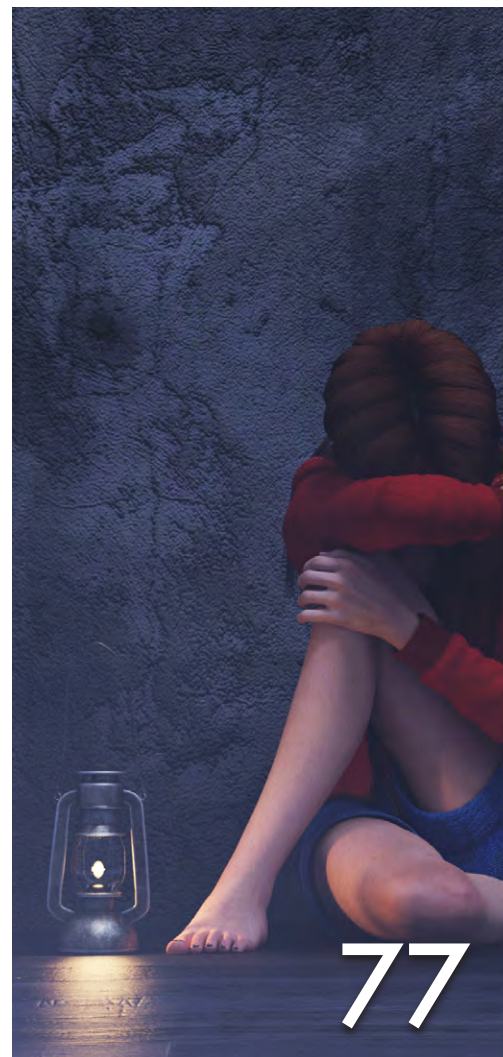
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Internationally
respected artist



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UAE vows to advance innovation on int'l peace at UN Security Council



UNDER the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE has affirmed its commitment to the United Nations (UN) to advance research and development of modern technologies that can be utilised to ensure international peace and security.

At the UN Security Council Open Debate on Peacekeeping Operations titled 'Technology and Peacekeeping', the UAE participated as a signatory to a resolution that promotes innovation in peacekeeping efforts.

"As the world makes immense technological progress, we must ascertain how to best leverage these innovations to address the

conflicts and challenges of our time," the UAE said in its statement.

"The UAE believes that new and emerging technologies can revolutionise peacekeeping and fortify international peace and security. It is imperative that the UN's operations in the field have access to the technological tools critical to the success of their mandates," it added.

The UAE highlighted how technologies such as unmanned aircraft systems can be used by peacekeepers for intelligence-gathering and efficient monitoring.

The country also stressed that technology must be developed and used in a gender-responsive approach to better protect women and girls.

Khalifa affirms UAE's keenness to strengthen ties with Tunisia

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has sent a letter to Tunisian President Kais Saied, highlighting the UAE government's keenness to bolster its bilateral relations with the North African nation and address issues of mutual interest.

The letter was delivered by HE Dr Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President, during his meeting with the Tunisian leader at Carthage Palace, Tunis.

Gargash conveyed to President Saied the greetings of HH Sheikh Khalifa; HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler

of Dubai; and HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Gargash added that the UAE supports all efforts to enhance Tunisia's security and stability. The Diplomatic Advisor also praised the historic and deep-rooted relations between the two nations.



Gargash (left) handing out HH Sheikh Khalifa's letter to Tunisian President

UAE allocates 15 per cent of its foreign aid for global humanitarian initiatives

UNDER the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE's spirit of giving thrives amidst the global pandemic, with at least 15 per cent of its overall foreign aid allocated for various

humanitarian initiatives across the globe.

This was highlighted by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in the Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Emirates Red

Crescent, in his speech on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day last August 19.

"The UAE's ongoing foreign aid has been its approach since its formation, along with its unconditional aid aimed at supporting economic growth in underdeveloped countries and providing basic social services to vulnerable communities. The country is committed to allocating at least 15 per cent of its foreign aid for humanitarian purposes," His Highness said.

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed also lauded the various humanitarian initiatives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Their Highnesses' international charitable projects currently assist in ensuring development, reconstruction, and most importantly, in rebuilding hope for millions of people in many crisis-hit areas.

"We have a strategic reserve of relief materials for emergencies, and we have significant logistical capacities that enable us to help people affected by crises and disasters within a few hours," His Highness said, calling on the international community to redouble efforts for collective humanitarian actions that the world needs now, more than ever.



Mohammed bin Rashid revamps boards of various Dubai organisations



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has issued a series of decrees reorganising the Boards of Directors of several entities in the emirate of Dubai.

The new decrees included Decree No. (31) of 2021 on the Board of Trustees of British University in Dubai; Decree No. (29) of 2021 on the Board of Directors of Dubai Cares; Decree No. (28) on the Board of Directors of Dubai Women Establishment; and Decree No. (30) on the Board of Directors of Watani Al Emarat Foundation.

Board of Trustees of British University in Dubai

According to Decree No. (31) of 2021, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum chairs the Board of Trustees of British University in Dubai, while the head of the University serves as the Vice Chairman. Other members of the Board include Hussain Hassan Mirza Al Sayegh, Ahmad Buti Al Muhairbi, Sheikhha Hind Ali Rashid Al Mualla, and a representative each of Dubai Holding; British Council in Dubai and Northern Emirates; Emirates NBD; Rolls-Royce International Ltd; the British Business Group; and Atkins. The Board of Trustees will serve for three years starting from the effective date of this Decree. The responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are outlined in the Articles of Association of the University as per Law No. (5) of 2003 pertaining to the establishment of British University in Dubai.

Board of Directors of Dubai Cares

As per Decree No. (29) of 2021, the Board of Directors of Dubai Cares is chaired by Her Excellency Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashimy while Tariq Mohammed Al Gurg serves as the Vice Chairman. Other members of the Board include Sami Ahmed Al Qamzi, Abdulla Mohammed Karam and Sultan Mohammed Al Shamsi. The Board serves for a renewable term of three years. This Decree replaces Decree No. (4) of

2018, pertaining to the restructuring of the Board of Directors of Dubai Cares. The Decree annuls any other legislation that may contradict its provisions.

Dubai Women Establishment

According to Decree No. (28) of 2021, the Board of Directors of Dubai Women Establishment (DWE) is chaired by its Managing Director, Her Excellency Mona Ghanem Al Marri, while Hala Badri serves as Vice-Chairperson. Other members of the Board include Huda Al Hashimi, Huda Buhumaid, Khawla Al Mehairi, Mona Bu Samra, Fahima Al Bastaki, Aljoud Lootah and Moaza Saeed Al Marri, in addition to the CEO of DWE.

Watani Al Emarat Foundation

His Highness also issued Decree No. (30) of 2021 on the Board of Directors of Watani Al Emarat Foundation. The Board is chaired by His Excellency Tamim Mohammed Al Muhairi, and its members include Saeed Al Aweem who serves as Vice Chairman, Mohammed Al Theeb, Mohammed Al Hali, Dherar Humaid Belhoul, Abdulla Dhacen Al Jatbi, and Mohammed Omar Al Tayer. The Decree is effective from its date of publication in the Official Gazette.

VP announces Golden Visa for charity, humanitarian aid workers

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has announced yet another sweeping visa reform which allows charity and humanitarian aid workers in the UAE to become eligible for the Golden Visa.

Ahead of World Humanitarian Day last month, the Vice President said in a statement: "We are proud of our country, which has provided more than Dh320 billion in aid since its establishment. We are proud of our teams, institutions, and international humanitarian organisations. We are not only an economic capital but [also] a humanitarian capital."

His Highness added that offering the Golden Visa to humanitarian and charity workers serves as the UAE's tribute to these selfless heroes.

"Aid workers are ambassadors of the UAE and role models instilling pride in us all. Giving is embedded in the fabric of Emirati society and culture, and we aspire to be the most vibrant



humanitarian destination in the next 50 years. The UAE has always led impactful humanitarian initiatives and empowered those implementing them. And in the year of the UAE's Golden Jubilee, it aspires to become a world leader of humanitarian efforts in the next five decades,"

said the Vice President.

Earlier in August, the government also called on medical doctors to take advantage of the Golden Visa scheme to get a long-term residency of 10 years. The move aims to attract talented professionals in the medical field to the UAE.

World leaders laud UAE's assistance in Afghanistan evacuation

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has been lauded by several world leaders for the UAE's assistance in helping them evacuate their nationals out of Afghanistan.

Amongst these leaders were United States President Joe Biden, who conveyed his gratitude to the UAE and its leadership through a phone call with His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed.

"We highly appreciate the UAE's humanitarian efforts in facilitating the safe transit of American citizens, embassies' employees, and foreigners who were evacuated from Kabul on their way to a



third country," said Biden, adding that this gesture indicates the strong ties between the UAE and the US.

Likewise, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison also phoned His Highness to express his utmost appreciation of the UAE's assistance in evacuating Australian

citizens from Afghanistan, as well as a number of members of diplomatic missions.

During their respective phone calls with the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, they also exchanged views on a number of regional and international developments and issues of common interest.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, Bahraini King bolster bilateral ties



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

of Bahrain, further strengthened the strong relations between their countries.

During their recent meeting in Bahrain, the two leaders discussed a number of issues of mutual concern and exchanged

their views on recent regional and international developments. The two sides also reviewed efforts of both countries in areas of collaboration that fall within the bilateral and international framework.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed conveyed to the Bahraini King the greetings and well wishes of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the Kingdom of Bahrain. This was reciprocated by King Hamad.

The Abu Dhabi Crown Prince stressed that the UAE-Bahraini relations serve as one of the most important pillars of cooperation in the Arab world.

For his part, His Majesty King Hamad affirmed that Bahrain and the UAE are brought together by deep-rooted history and common positions.

Mohamed bin Zayed names new head of Etihad Aviation Group's BOD

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, has issued a resolution appointing HE Mohammed Ali

Mohammed Al Shorafa as new Chairman of Etihad Aviation Group Company's Board of Directors (BOD).

As outlined in this resolution, Elena Sorlini will also join Etihad Aviation Group as a Member of the Board of Directors.

Etihad Aviation Group Company's current Board also includes the following individuals: Hisham Khalid Malak, Masood Mohammad Mahmood, Jasim Husain Thabet, Mansour Mohamed Al-Mulla, and Jacob Kalkman.

Mol tops Global Star Rating System across UAE federal gov't



ANNOUNCED by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Ministry of Interior (Mol) has been hailed as one of the only two federal government entities that obtained a 6-star rating in the fourth cycle of the Global Star Rating System for Services, which ranks national agencies' customer service.

Under the guidance and direction of His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, the Mol topped the ranking system along with the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA).

One customer service centre from each of the two Ministries obtained a 6-star rating. It was the first time in the history of the Global Star Rating launched in 2012 that the 6-star rating was achieved.

Fujairah's Traffic and Licencing Services Centre got the highest rating of six stars out of 69 government service centres – also marking a historic first since the system was implemented.

A five-star rating, in addition, was also achieved by other Mol centres including the Traffic and Licencing Services Centre in the emirates of Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, and Umm Al Quwain; Al Nuaimia Police Station; Hamidiya Police Station in Ajman; and Civil Protection and Safety Services Centre in Umm Al Quwain.

Colonel Nasser Khadim Al Kaabi, Director General of the Directorate General of Happiness, said that the laudable efforts of these centres are due to the unyielding support, attention, and follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Mol supports global efforts to curb human trafficking

UNDER the guidance of His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, the Mol affirmed its continued global commitment to crack down on human trafficking and related cross-border crimes.

In a virtual forum, Lt Col Dana Humaid, Director-General at the International Affairs Bureau at the Mol, said: "Human trafficking is one of the major security threats being faced by

countries across the world. It has evolved into a multi-billion-dollar industry led by organised criminal groups. While it is challenging to determine the scale of the problem, experts agree that millions of victims are trafficked every year, either for forced labour, sexual exploitation, removal of organs, or people smuggling."

The most recent global collaboration of the Mol with Interpol and 47 member countries was the global operation called 'Liberterra', in which the

Ministry played an integral role by hosting the operation room of the joint forces for the Middle East, Asia, and North Africa.

In this operation, authorities worldwide saved the lives of 4,000 victims of illegal immigration, 430 victims of human trafficking, and arrested 286 individuals. Of this number, 12 individuals were collared in the UAE for human trafficking.

The UAE was the first country in the region to pass a comprehensive law against human trafficking.

Saif bin Zayed Academy gets five int'l accreditations

THE Saif bin Zayed Academy for Policing and Security Studies in the UAE has been granted accreditation by five international organisations, which recognised the institution's efforts in providing quality education and boosting efforts to empower human resources.

The educational institution was named after His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, to honour his contribution to the advancement of the country's police and security authorities.

The Academy received accreditation from the International Business Skills (IBS) to begin offering International Business Skills Diplomas.

Cambridge University Press also accredited the Academy to begin offering English language

programmes. Meanwhile, the IDP Education in Australia also accredited the Academy to hold IELTS examinations.

The International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL), an institution that operates in over 120 countries, also accredited the Academy to provide courses in Artificial Intelligence, computer skills, and project management programmes. Its fifth accreditation was given by Strategy Directives DMCC to act as a psychometric evaluation centre.

Major General Thani Butti Al Shamsi, Director of the Academy, highlighted the educational institution's keenness to achieve the Abu Dhabi



Police's strategy and vision to offer the latest and best police training and reinforcing the skills and capabilities of police recruits across biomedical sciences and advanced technology, in line with the UAE's National Strategy for Higher Education.

Al Khaili signs MoUs with tax authority, sports body



Al Khaili and Al Hashemi signing the MoU between the Mol and UAEJJF

THE Ministry of Interior (MOI) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) each with the Federal Tax Authority (FTA) and the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation (UAEJJF) to enhance the MoI's strategic partnership with them.

The MoU with FTA was signed by Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary of the MoI, and Khalid Ali Al Bustani, Director General of the FTA, via video-conferencing. The signing reflects the two sides' distinguished relations and their keenness to further expand coordination in all fields. With this agreement, the MoI and FTA will be able to better combat financial crimes. The MoU includes the use of a secure electronic link to transfer knowledge and develop the professional skills of the two sides.

Meanwhile, the MoU with UAEJJF was signed at the Ministry headquarters by Al Khaili and Abdel Menem Al Sayed Al Hashemi, President of the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation. The agreement covers all national and athletic community events, which promote noble values and have a positive impact on individuals and society. It would also help build Emirati athletes and fulfil the UAE's aspirations on the regional and world stage. Under this MoU, the Ministry would sponsor the local jiu-jitsu championships organised by UAEJJF as well as the Abu Dhabi Pro Jiu-Jitsu World Championship.

Al Khaili said that this partnership "will help achieve our mutual goals". He added, "We are also keen on working closely with national institutions, in line with the

vision of our wise leadership that aims to advance the level of Emirati sports."

Al Hashemi said, "Our continuous strategic partnership with the Ministry of Interior is one of the most prominent elements of success in the various events and activities that we organise. The most important aspect of our partnership is promoting how we enjoy jiu-jitsu in the UAE society, and the great encouragement it has received from our wise leadership. We look forward to continuing to work with the Police Sports Association to

establish the presence of jiu-jitsu activities amongst the Ministry's staff."

Brigadier Muhammad Hamid bin Dalmouj Al Dhaheiri, Head of the Police Sports Association at the MoI, said that sport in all its forms had a role in developing the capabilities of young people, accepting challenge and achievement, improving their physical fitness, mental focus and discipline, and consolidating the concepts of honest competition, understanding, respect for others and building trust.



Khalid Al Bustani



Major General - Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili



AbdulAzeez AlAhmed



Hamid Al Zaabi

Virtual signing of MoU between the MoI and FTA

Al Mazrouei speaks of pride in Emirati youth

MAJOR General Staff Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police, expressed the UAE's pride in the march of the nation's youth toward acquiring national achievements.

On the occasion of International Youth Day, August 12, he said that the Abu Dhabi Police General Command, based on its belief in the capabilities of young people, opened the way for them to develop and present ideas and proposals that supported the advancement of police and security work.

He also praised the interest of the wise leadership in the nation's youth and their pioneering spirit, stemming from the leaders' belief that the UAE

youth are the real wealth of the country.

Al Mazrouei spoke of the work done by Abu Dhabi Police Youth Council, which gives young people the opportunity to turn ideas into projects and motivates them to give more to the nation. The Council, he said, also gives the youth a role in the development of the security work undertaken by Abu Dhabi Police.

He also spoke highly of the close attention paid by the Abu Dhabi Government to the youth by offering them an important set of projects to enrich their experience and expertise. This, he said, serves as an incubator where the youth would become the main engine of development and creativity.



Al Mazrouei

Abu Dhabi Police underline Internet risks for youngsters

IN a virtual lecture, Abu Dhabi Police have warned families about the dangers that children are exposed to when using the Internet. Parents were advised to closely follow up on their children and to ensure safe use of the Internet, social networks, and video games.

Captain Yaqoub Yousef Al Hammadi, Director of the Child Exploitation Online Branch at the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, addressed the audience in the lecture session titled 'Protecting Our Children Electronically Is Our

Responsibility', as part of the 'Family Cohesion and Safety' campaign implemented by the Department of Social Support Centres in the Community Security Sector.

He outlined the risks that children and teenagers were always exposed to electronically. These include sites of violence or sites of sexual exploitation, and other crimes such as extortion and threats, immoral filming and publishing, kidnapping, indecent assault, physical and sexual assaults, and child trafficking.

Al Hammadi told his audience about the process followed by the police and the Public Prosecution to launch an investigation into an online crime and examine the electronic devices.

He advised families to monitor the websites that younger family members browse; set a schedule for accessing the Internet and adhere to this; specify the goal of browsing the Internet; emphasise websites that facilitate self-learning; and figure out how to prevent youngsters from opening dangerous websites.

Umm Al Quwain Police urge work site security

COLONEL Saeed Obaid bin Aran, Director of the Department of Criminal Investigation at Umm Al Quwain Police, stated that several reports were received by the Comprehensive Police Stations Department about cases of theft of a number of air-conditioners, in addition to the theft of electrical wires, from several

locations in the emirate.

Bin Aran appealed to all segments of society to take all security measures to protect work sites from theft.

He said that after receiving the technical report of the Crime Scene Department, a research and investigation team was formed

from the Department of Criminal Investigations.

The movements of that gang were monitored, they were arrested, and during interrogation, they confessed to stealing a number of air-conditioners and electrical wires from several locations. Evidence gathering has been completed in preparation for the trial.

Bin Thani leads closing ceremony for summer activities



Conclusion of the activities of Hemaya International

MAJOR General Pilot Ahmed Mohammed bin Thani, Acting Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, attended the closing of the summer activities that were held under the slogan 'Our Summer is Security, Happiness, Innovation and Leadership' and organised by the Dubai Police Student Council at Hemaya International Centre of the General Department of Narcotics Control.

The ceremony was also attended by Major General Expert Khalil Ibrahim Al Mansouri, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Criminal Investigation Affairs; Major General Prof Dr Muhammad Ahmed bin Fahd, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Academic and Training Affairs; Major General Dr Ghaith

Ghanem Al Suwaidi, Director of Dubai Police Academy; Major General Saeed bin Sulaiman Al Malik, Director of Al Rashidiya Police Station and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Police Stations; Brigadier Eid Muhammad Thani Hareb, Director of the General Department for Narcotics Control; his deputy Colonel Khaled Ali bin Mowaiza; Colonel Abdullah Hassan Al Khayat, Director of Hemaya International Centre; a number of directors of public administration and police stations; and a group of parents and students.

Bin Thani stressed that the strategy of the UAE was based on giving opportunities to young people in the country to use science and knowledge, as they were the primary force for

moving the country forward into the ranks of the most developed countries.

He said that Dubai Police were pioneers in this area — since the 1980s, this security institution had embraced students and kept them engaged in various programmes, including military and sports training, and helped develop their intellectual, scientific, and security skills under the supervision of experts and specialists.

"We, in our [security] role — in cooperation with the Emirates Foundation for School Education; the Knowledge and Human Development Authority; many public departments in Dubai Police; the Board of Directors of Police Stations; and a number of other councils — have developed plans and programmes to protect our children from unstructured free time, to develop their skills and to nurture their minds with concepts and values," said Bin Thani.

Meanwhile, Al Mansouri said that seeing male and female students display their military and sporting skills was "a source of pride and joy for us and the students' parents". He added, "As a security institution, we try with all of our financial and human resources to safeguard our youth by giving them an intense dose of knowledge that lasts over a month and is punctuated by many unique programmes and challenges."

Charitable bodies honoured for supporting Dubai Police programmes

MAJOR General Pilot Ahmed Mohammed bin Thani, Acting Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, praised the fruitful cooperation with the charitable bodies in Dubai, stressing upon the police force's keenness to build bridges with them.

During an honouring event, Bin Thani spoke in the presence of Colonel Expert Ahmad Atiq Burqaiba, Director of the

Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Centre at Dubai Police, and his deputy, Lt Colonel Saeed Hamdan Abdullah bin Dalmouk Al Falasi, who honoured the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment; Beit Al Khair Society; and the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department in Dubai, for their contribution

to the success of Dubai Police programmes.

Bin Thani lauded the three entities engaged in charitable works for their tremendous efforts in aiding society.

Representatives of the organisations that were honoured spoke of their desire to dedicate their resources to community projects.

Al Hamidi highlights RAK Police's keenness on road safety

BRIGADIER Dr Muhammad Saeed Al Hamidi, Director General of Central Operations at Ras Al Khaimah Police, highlighted the force's keenness to support a series of infrastructure and road development projects in the emirate, in

order to ensure the safety of all road users.

Al Hamidi made this remark during his field inspection tours, to see plans for the development of traffic engineering on the various roads of the emirate, especially the

external roads.

He was accompanied during the visit by Brigadier Ahmed Saeed Al Naqbi, Director of the Traffic and Patrols Department, and a team from the Traffic Engineering Department.

Al Shamsi spearheads meeting on smart services



Al Shamsi (centre) with Sharjah Police officials

MAJOR General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, chaired a meeting to review the results of the first half of 2021 on the smart services provided by Sharjah Police.

The meeting was held in the leadership hall at the Police Officers Club.

Al Shamsi stressed the importance of achieving the targets for the indicators, urging the personnel to redouble efforts to

continuously develop the smart services in line with the leaders' vision. He emphasised the importance of attaining excellence in accordance with the highest standards and achieving utmost customer satisfaction.

Sultan Al Nuaimi reviews traffic, licensing services

MAJOR General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, led an online meeting of the Permanent Higher Committee of Ajman Police.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance support for the smart transformation of the Traffic and Licensing Services Centre and also reviewed the results of the Ministry of Interior's mystery shopper programme for the year 2020.

The results of the quality of life survey 2020 for the Ajman Government were also evaluated, and a plan was developed to make use of the improvement opportunities mentioned in the opinion poll. Other agenda discussed included educating employees through specialised workshops in this area.



Sultan Al Nuaimi

Fujairah Police organise economic sustainability online forum

FUJAIRAH Police organised the 5th Economic Sustainability Forum under the slogan 'For a Safe Economic Sustainability', which saw the participation of a number of federal and local departments in the emirate and a group of businessmen and investors.

The Forum addressed the issue of solidarity of institutions in supporting economic development during the

pandemic, and the most important areas of economic progress and sustainable development.

Major General Mohammed Ahmed bin Ghanim Al Kaabi, Commander-in-Chief of Fujairah Police, stressed that organising the Forum on an annual basis resulted from its role in integrating the work of the police and the economic sector. The integrated efforts,

he said, aimed to enhance investment opportunities and sustain security in the emirate.

The Forum reviewed the most significant efforts and achievements of Fujairah Police in supporting the business sector during the pandemic, aligned with the Ministry of Interior's goal to make the UAE one of the best countries in the world.

1st

Top ranking of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in the fourth cycle of Global Star Rating System for Services, which evaluates and ranks UAE federal ministries and government entities based on their performance on providing efficient customer service. The MoI tied with the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship in the top spot.

6-star rating

The highest star rating achieved by the Ministry of Interior's Traffic and Licensing Services Centre in Fujairah, in Global Star Rating System for Services for its exemplary customer service—a first in the history of the rating system since its launch in 2012.

7

The number of centres affiliated with the Ministry of Interior that received a five-star rating evaluation in the fourth cycle of Global Star Rating System for Services. These centres included the Traffic and Licensing Services Centre in the emirates of Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, and Umm Al Quwain; Al Nuaimia Police Station; Hamidiya Police Station in Ajman; and Civil Protection and Safety Services Centre in Umm Al Quwain.

62 per cent

Drop in fire-related fatalities across the UAE in the first half of 2021 compared to the same period last year, as per the General Command of Civil Defence at the Ministry of Interior. The number of fires in buildings and other facilities also decreased by 46 per cent in the same period.

Dhs1 million

Maximum fine for spreading false information that damages the reputation of the state or any of its institutions on social media, reminded the Ministry of Interior (MoI). The act is a criminal offence punishable under Article 29 of Federal Law No 5 of 2012.

BE IN THE LOOP

MOI BOLSTERS COOPERATION WITH VARIOUS MINISTRIES



During a cooperation meeting initiated by MoI's Directorate General of Federal Central Operations

A delegation from the Directorate General of Federal Central Operations at the Ministry of Interior visited a number of ministries across the UAE, including the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, the Ministry of Health and Prevention, the Ministry of Economy, and the Federal Customs Authority, to discuss enhancing joint cooperation. The delegation was spearheaded by Brigadier Dr Ali Salem Al Tunajji, Director General of Federal Central Operations.

MOI HONOURS DISTINGUISHED EMPLOYEES



Al Shamsi (1st from left) with the honourees of 'Your Excellence Makes Us Happy' initiative

Under the 'Your Excellence Makes Us Happy' initiative, Resources and Support Services Sector at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) honoured distinguished employees of the Social Security Fund for the Employees or Fozaa in an online ceremony. Major General Salem Ali Mubarak Al Shamsi, Assistant Undersecretary for Resources and Support Services Sector, thanked all the outstanding employees for their invaluable contribution to achieving the targeted results aimed by the MoI.

MOI YOUTH COUNCIL LAUNCHES ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING PROJECT



During a session of the 'Entrepreneurial Projects Management Programme'

The Ministry of Interior (MoI), represented by its Youth Council, has unveiled the 'Entrepreneurial Projects Management Programme', in cooperation with the Directorate General of Competency Development. At least 30 employees from various MoI sectors and police headquarters have participated in the six-month online course that includes behavioural economics.

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UAE NEWS BULLETIN

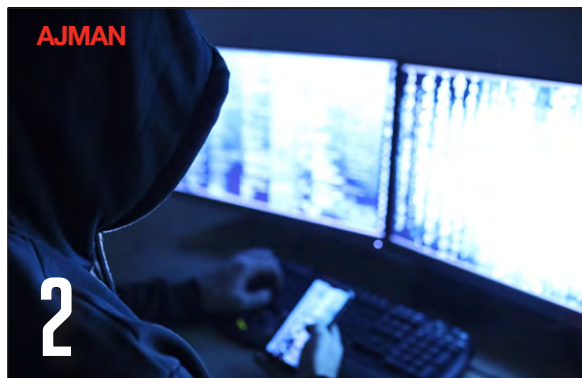
POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS



ABU DHABI

770

Abu Dhabi Police have recorded 770 violations of motorists driving vehicles that generate loud noise from January to June 2021. The Traffic and Patrols Directorate of Abu Dhabi Police said that such traffic disturbance could cause panic and tension not only amongst other motorists but also for residents in neighbourhoods. Driving a vehicle that produces loud noise gets one a fine of Dhs2,000 and 12 black points.



AJMAN

2

The authorities arrested two phone scammers for duping UAE residents by illegally obtaining their bank details. Police said that the scammers pretended to be bank officials and reported to their victims — through messaging platforms — that their bank accounts or ATM cards were frozen and that they must update their personal data. Once the scammers obtained this information, they used it to steal money from their victims.



DUBAI

1 YEAR

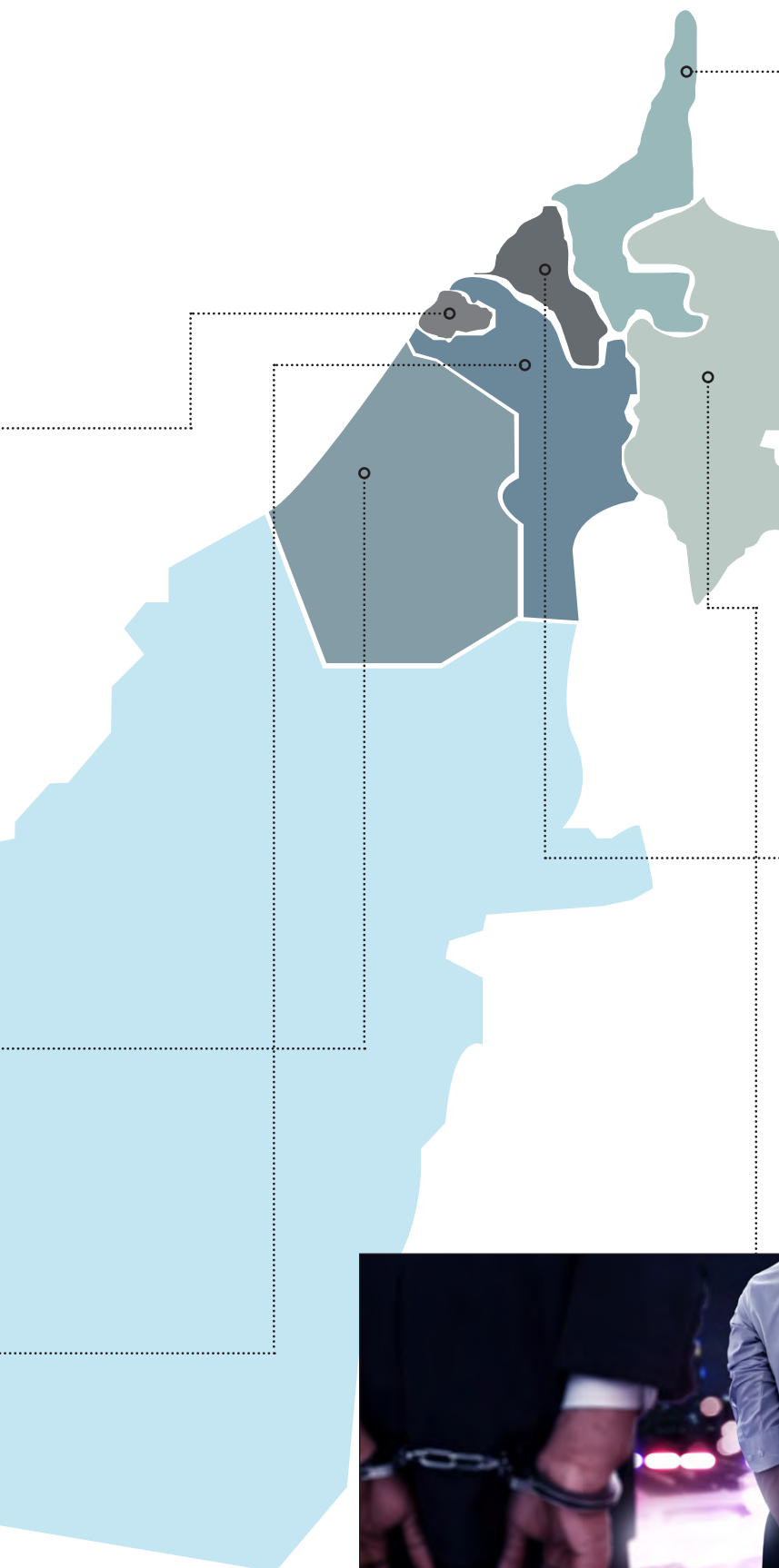
A man was sentenced to one year in prison, to be followed by deportation, after illegally refilling gas cylinders two years ago. The man and his two accomplices illegally transported gas to a farm in Dubai. A gas leak, however, resulted in an explosion and caused damage to the farm. His accomplices have been arrested two years ago on charges of using a seal of a government entity and handling of dangerous materials.



SHARJAH

93KG

Around 93 kilograms of crystal meth and 3,000 methadone tablets were seized by the authorities, thanks to advanced technologies. Customs authorities said that smugglers attempted to bring the items into the country by hiding them inside iron cylinders concealed under a food container.



RAS AL KHAIMAH

3 HOURS

A man was arrested in Ras Al Khaimah merely three hours after stabbing two people over unpaid loans. The man had an argument with the two victims, which led to the stabbing incident. The victims survived the assault, while the suspect attempted to flee but was arrested at the airport, still with the bloodstains on his clothes.



UMM AL QUWAIN

7

A gang composed of seven members, who stole air-conditioners and electrical wires in Umm Al Quwain, was busted by the authorities. The arrest followed several reports of missing air-conditioners and electrical wires across the emirate. A team was formed to monitor the movements of the gang, which led to their arrest and eventual confession to the crimes. Police advised the public to take necessary security measures to protect their possessions.



FUJAIRAH

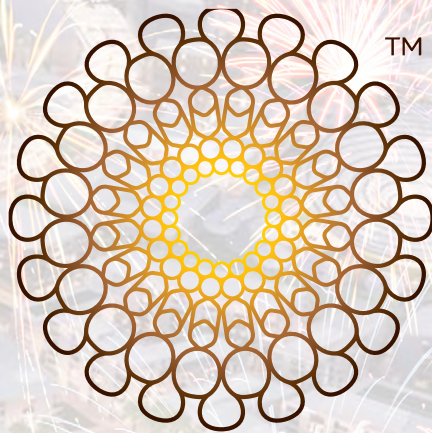
2

Two individuals received the maximum penalty in Fujairah for shooting a man to death. The remains of the victim were found inside a vehicle in the Al-Ghoub area, in Dibba Al Fujairah behind a cement factory. Investigation showed that the victim, who was in his 30s, died of a gunshot wound.

Some images are for illustrative purposes only



BIGGER, BETTER, BOLDER



EXPO
2020
DUBAI
UAE

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH IS SET TO BE A GAME-
CHANGER FOR THE UAE ECONOMY AND GLOBAL
COLLABORATION ON INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

BY K NIVEDITA



“Our success in hosting the world’s largest cultural event reflects the power of human solidarity in overcoming the pandemic. Through Expo 2020 Dubai, the UAE is bridging cultures and galvanising efforts and aspirations towards creating a better future for everyone

HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

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

All roads — and flights — from across the world now lead to a city that rises glittering and colourful from the sands of the United Arab Emirates. The greatest show on earth is just days away and the excitement in the air is palpable. Expo 2020 Dubai is the biggest event that has ever been held in the Middle East and it embraces the UAE’s dreams of prosperity and progress, harmony and well-being, for its people and for those across the world.

Expo 2020 Dubai, which spans six months — from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022 — encapsulates its ambition in the theme, “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future”. The event also coincides with the UAE’s golden jubilee celebrations in December 2021.

The numbers alone inspire wonder and awe — 192 nations are participating, each with its own pavilion; 25 million people are expected to visit; the venue measures 4.3 sq km, which is like 613 football fields; the Expo 2020 Metro Station, designed like an aircraft wing, can hold 29,000 people at a time; 60 live events will be held every day; and more than 50,000 employees and 30,000 volunteers are making the magic happen. The Expo has 45,000 sq ft of dedicated event space, with halls that can hold 11,000-20,000 people simultaneously.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, underlined the importance of Expo 2020 Dubai when he tweeted, as the countdown clock struck 100 days on June 24, 2021: “100 days to go for Expo 2020 Dubai, the world’s largest cultural event.”

The Vice-President added that Expo 2020 would be the “biggest global event since the outset of the pandemic” and would mark the beginning of “a new phase of recovery”.

“Our success in hosting the world’s largest cultural event reflects the power of human solidarity in overcoming the pandemic. Through Expo 2020 Dubai, the UAE is bridging cultures and galvanising efforts and aspirations towards creating a better future for everyone. People from every corner of the globe are welcome to join the once-in-a-lifetime inspiring and enlightening experience that pays testament to human creativity. We will meet at Expo 2020 Dubai,” said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid.

It’s estimated that the event will recharge Dubai’s economy by \$33 billion (Dhs121.11bn) and generate 300,000 jobs. The UAE is also looking for returns in the form of a diversified economy and a boost to its image as a global financial and technology destination.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN EXPO 2020 DUBAI?

192

Nations participating in Expo 2020 Dubai

25 million

People are expected to visit the UAE for the global Expo

613 football fields

Total size of the Expo 2020 Dubai site

29,000 people

Capacity of the Expo 2020 Metro Station during peak hours

60

Live events to be held every day

50,000

Number of employees at Expo 2020 Dubai

30,000

Number of volunteers at Expo 2020 Dubai

45,000 sq ft

Size of dedicated event spaces



Al Wasl Plaza interior

“Our country has a flexible and secure business environment, an advanced and world-class infrastructure, and a high quality of life that allows global talents and investors to consider it home



HH SHEIKH AHMED BIN SAEED AL MAKTOUM

Chairman of the Dubai Free Zones Council

DISPELLING THE GLOOM

By mentioning Expo 2020 Dubai with the novel coronavirus pandemic, which is a period of health and economic gloom, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid kept the focus on one of the primary aims of the event. The world economy has been hurting since COVID-19 began to spread in early 2020, necessitating travel curbs; these measures have continued in some parts of the world well into 2021.

The UAE leadership responded to the crisis by unveiling a bold reforms package to empower businesses and attract investment and managed to bring the situation under control. In April 2021, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the World Economic Outlook report, in which the growth forecast for the UAE was revised to 3.1 per cent for 2021 up from 1.3 per cent in October 2020. The Expo is meant to speed up the recovery.

“The reforms came at a time when Dubai was preparing to host Expo 2020 Dubai, the largest global event of its kind. We expect a strong positive impact on attracting foreign direct investment. Our country has [a] flexible and secure business environment, an advanced and world-class infrastructure, and [a] high quality of life that allows global talents and investors to consider it home. This enables us to boost the global business

community’s confidence to invest,” said HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Free Zones Council (DFZ Council) as well as Chairman of the Expo 2020 Dubai

Higher Committee, in July when the DFZ Council held its 18th meeting.

AGENTS OF CHANGE

Expos have historically been agents of



ALL EMIRATES FLYERS TO GET FREE DAY PASS TO EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Everybody flying into Dubai on Emirates during Expo 2020 will be gifted a day pass; transit passengers passing through Dubai will be offered this complimentary pass, too, so that they can go into the city and see this amazing event.

The airline said on its website: “If you’re flying with us to Dubai between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022, we’re giving you one complimentary Expo 2020 day pass for each person in your booking. Use your ticket to enjoy Expo 2020 on any day you choose. Just passing through? If your connection in Dubai is more than six hours, you can still claim a free Expo 2020 day pass. To claim your pass, enter the details for each passenger [in the given field] and we’ll e-mail the tickets to you... Important: if you’ve changed your booking, make sure you use your new booking reference or ticket number. Your old one will no longer work.”

According to the airline’s terms and conditions, losing a valid pass doesn’t have to mean losing out on this terrific opportunity. “If you lose your complimentary one-day pass, you can enter your booking reference or ticket number again and the pass will be re-sent to you at the e-mail address you gave originally,” said the Emirates website.

“The event will witness an unprecedented international presence despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the dire conditions affecting the world



HE REEM BINT IBRAHIM AL HASHEMY

Minister of State for International Cooperation & Director-General of the Expo 2020 Dubai Office

change since May 1, 1851, when the first event was held at the Crystal Palace of London and made Queen Victoria gush, “I felt so excited... The beautiful crystal fountain... so magical — how magnificent, grand and astonishing.”

Also called “world fair” or “world’s fair”, these events have marked humanity’s effort to make progressive changes by bringing together people and countries under the common banner of education, innovation, and cooperation. “From their earliest manifestations as a showcase of industrial prowess to their modern incarnation as platforms for cross-border collaboration, Expos have transformed cities, shaped debates on key issues,



UAE Pavilion

and provided unforgettable experiences to hundreds of millions of visitors,” said the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), a Paris-headquartered intergovernmental organisation that has been overseeing World Expos since 1928.

Expo 2020 Dubai opens its doors as the world requires an economic revamp. It’s significant that the UAE’s national pavilion, designed in the shape of a falcon in flight, symbolises the country’s culture as well as bright future. The nation, itself, soared after having to postpone the Expo, which was scheduled last year. Now, the Expo

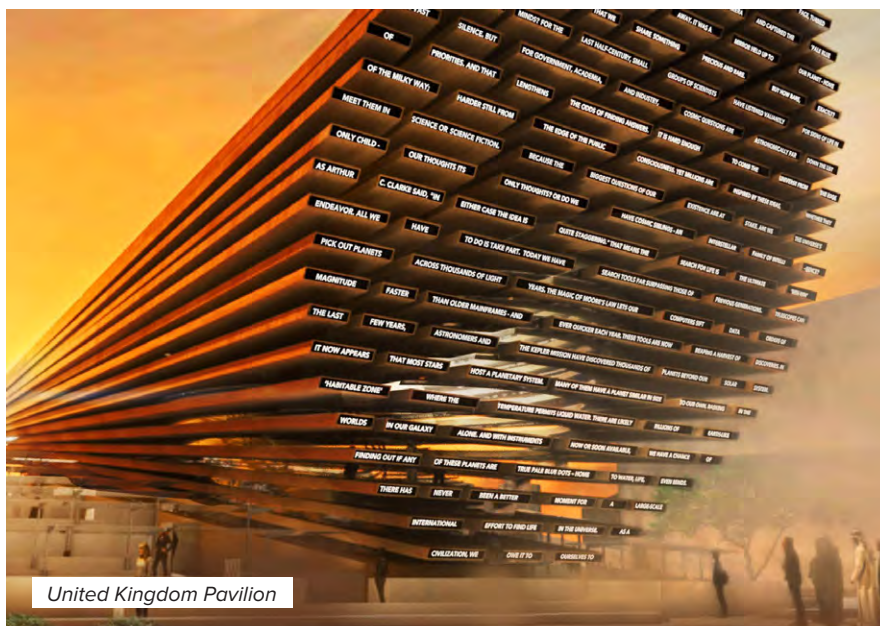
features such attractions as a programme called “Thrive Together”, where business leaders can connect and network, and a hotel called Rove whose Dhs1,000 per night charge comes with entry tickets.

The Expo has roped in football superstar Lionel Messi for its publicity campaign; it has scheduled the World Chess Championship in November; and has lined up unique entertainment such as a pioneering women’s ensemble, called the Firdaus Orchestra, with Oscar-winning Indian composer AR Rahman at the helm. The ensemble will have musical talent from the UAE and the wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

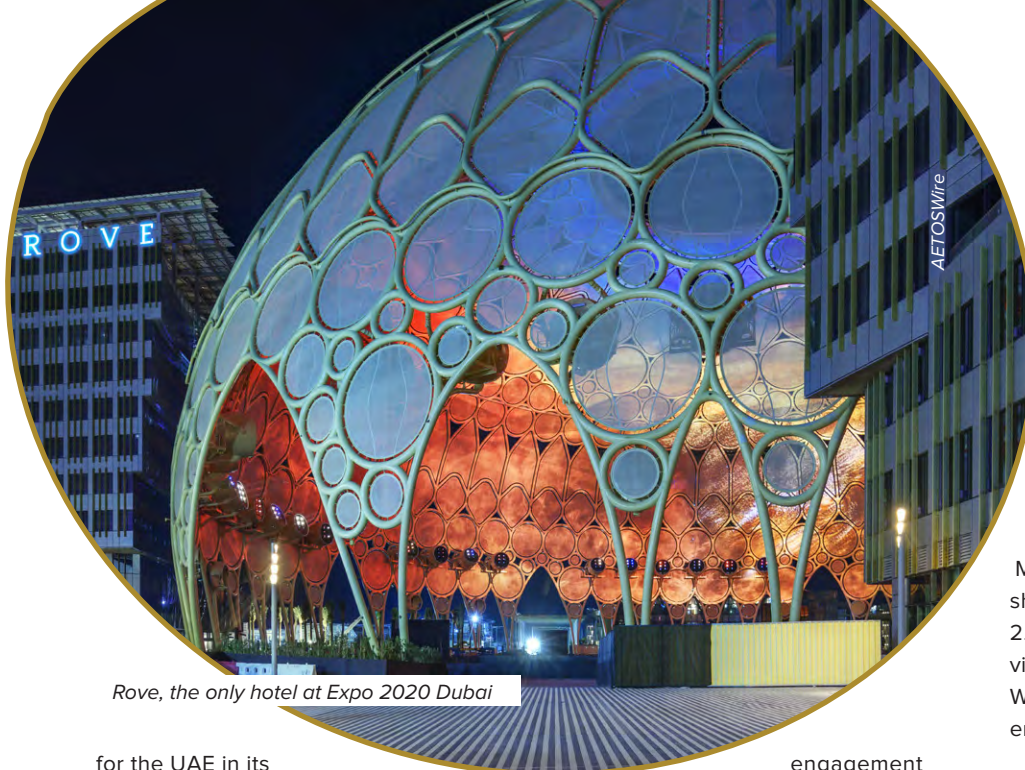
“His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum directed us to impress the world. We have implemented mega projects and constructed a new city. The event will witness an unprecedented international presence despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the dire conditions affecting the world. This is a vote of confidence which we are proud of,” said HE Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, and Director-General of the Expo 2020 Dubai Office.

BOOSTER FOR TOURISM

In January, First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), the largest bank in the UAE, had predicted a V-shaped recovery



United Kingdom Pavilion



Rove, the only hotel at Expo 2020 Dubai

UAE government and fast-growing enterprises as the UAE emerges ahead of many nations in a post-COVID world.”

Sectors such as food and beverages, retail, transportation and tourism are already on the mend, which is crucial since the economy of Dubai — the emirate is the financial hub of the Middle East — is founded on consumer spending in these areas. Between January and May 2021, Dubai Tourism’s statistics showed that the emirate welcomed 2.06 million international overnight visitors. According to state news agency WAM, the Singapore-based metasearch engine Wego,

for the UAE in its 2021 Global Investment Outlook Report. According to the report, Expo 2020 would strengthen the national economy and boost tourism, which would have a positive impact on other industries.

The event has already begun to attract businesses and revitalise the economy. Ravi Saraogi, Co-Founder and President, APAC, Uniphore, a conversational AI technology company, told **999** that the company was “excited to announce the regional operations based out of the UAE starting this EXPO 2020 year as amongst our first overseas outreaches after securing our Series-D funding of US\$150 million”.

He said, “This is no coincidence, as we see the UAE as a conduit for AI, Deep Learning and RPA, which is the cornerstone of our customer

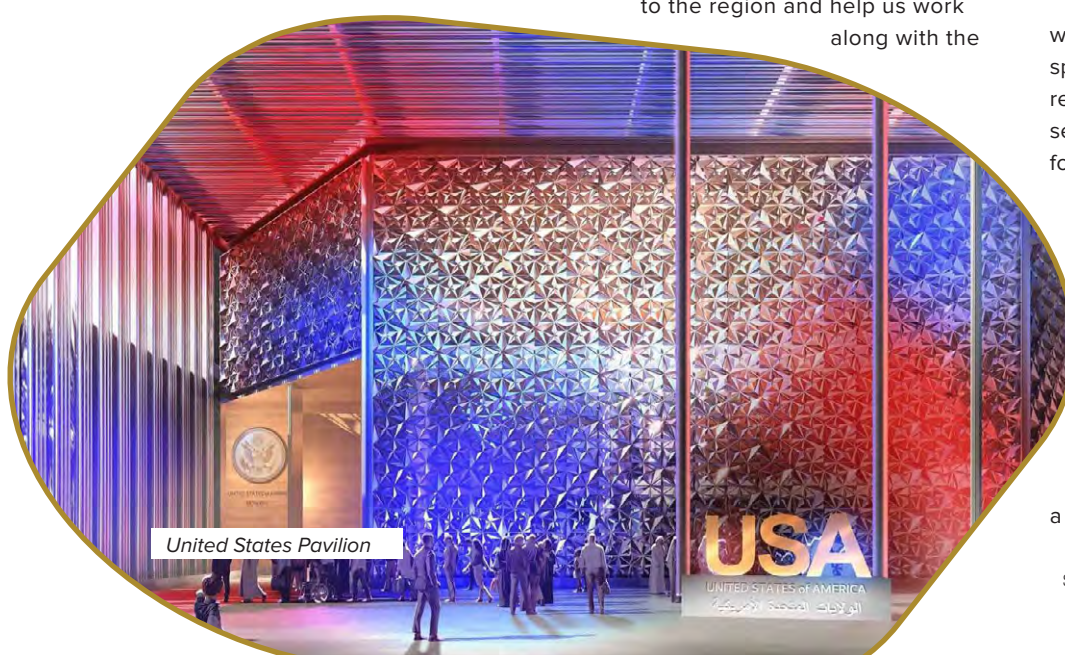
engagement platform driven by voice, human emotion, and sentiment across digital channels. Dubai’s track record over the years that encourages the business community makes us believe that the regional presence in the UAE provides Uniphore a vantage platform to succeed in this very diverse and challenging environment. The Expo will undoubtedly continue to bring global attention to the region and help us work along with the



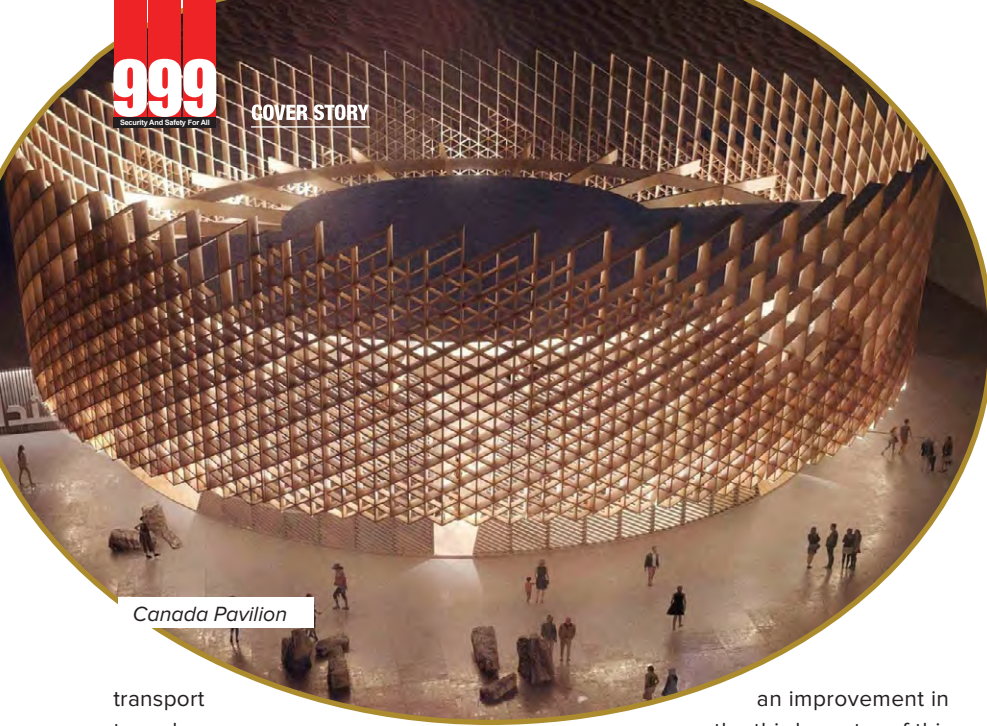
Saudi Arabian Pavilion

which specialises in travel services and online reservations, had reported 533,000 searches in July on flights to and hotels in for Dubai for the duration of Expo 2020.

An important parameter of success is the recovery of hotels, which were one of the hardest-hit businesses due to travel restrictions. Now, as guests of many nations are expected to visit Expo 2020, hotels are spruced up and ready with a bouquet of offerings, such as different types of stay options for individuals, families, groups, and Expo participants. There is a choice of cuisines and facilities such as



United States Pavilion



Canada Pavilion

transport to and from the Expo and other services to make a person's visit memorable.

Dubai hotels recorded 58 per cent occupancy in the first five months of 2021 as compared to 46 per cent for the same period of 2020, according to the UAE Real Estate Market Performance study by JLL, released in April 2021. The emirate will add 12,000 room keys — which includes four-star hotels and five-star hotels — this year to meet the increased demand due to Expo 2020 Dubai. "The balance between four- and five-star hotels is in keeping with the high visitation numbers that are anticipated for Expo. Dubai's strategy has been to attract visitors of various segments by offering more mid-segment and affordable hotel stays without compromising on quality," said Dana Salbak, Head of Research MENA at JLL.

In Abu Dhabi, too, hotel occupancy surged to 68.5 per cent in June, the highest level since the start of the pandemic. According to Colliers International, hotels in all the emirates are expected to show an increase in occupancy in 2021.

The effects of Expo 2020 can be seen across sectors in the UAE. Business confidence is at its highest in seven years, a survey by Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry released in July 2021 has revealed. Around 66 per cent of the participants in the Business Leaders' Outlook for Q3 2021 survey were optimistic that the business environment would show

an improvement in the third quarter of this year. "This demonstrates Dubai's success in reducing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through a series of policies, initiatives, and measures that have ensured a favourable business environment and addressed new challenges created by the pandemic. Expo 2020 Dubai is expected to fast-

Expo 2020 Dubai is expected to fast-track Dubai's economic recovery and boost the emirate's appeal amongst foreign companies and investors

**HAMAD BUAMIM**

President & CEO of Dubai Chamber

track Dubai's economic recovery and boost the emirate's appeal amongst foreign companies and investors," said Hamad Buamim, President & CEO of Dubai Chamber.

**THINK BIG! IT'S DUBAI**

Expo 2020 represents an aggressive fightback by a country unwilling to be defeated by the pandemic. The signature structure of the event is a dome called Al Wasl Plaza, which measures 130 metres in width, 67 metres in height, and 500 tonnes in weight. Think of two Airbus A380s placed side by side and you will get an idea of the breadth of Al Wasl Plaza.

"Al Wasl" means "connection" in English and is the historical name for Dubai. Its scale parallels the grand landscape of the Expo, and the leadership's firm belief in "build it and they will come". For a world that's looking to get back on its feet and celebrate the future, Expo 2020 Dubai could be a fitting metaphor for making things bigger and better.

“ This is the first time that an event of this magnitude is being held in the Middle East, and we feel great pride. We hope that it will be a unifying factor for all countries in the Middle East



**SHEIKHA MAI BINT
MOHAMMED AL KHALIFA**

Commissioner General for Bahrain and
President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture
and Antiquities

“ The participating countries such as the Philippines bank on the UAE’s role as a leading international business hub that will bring companies and enterprises closer to the world’s fastest emerging markets



ROSVI C. GAETOS

Assistant Secretary for the Trade Promotions
Group at the Philippines' Department of Trade
and Industry

GLOBAL ENTHUSIASM

The excitement over Expo 2020 is not restricted to the UAE alone and marks one of the ways the world is trying to put the coronavirus crisis aside and move on. This is evident in the pathbreaking concepts seen in the pavilions of participating countries and the enthusiasm of the people working on these in various nations.

HE Sheikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, Commissioner General for Bahrain and President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, called the Expo “a springboard for new growth in the region”. She added in her statement, “This is the first time

that an event of this magnitude is being held in the Middle East, and we feel great pride. We hope that it will be a unifying factor for all countries in the Middle East as we showcase the richness of our heritage, history and future potential.”

Rosvi C. Gaetos, Assistant Secretary for the Trade Promotions Group at the Philippines’ Department of Trade and Industry (PDTI) and PH Expo 2020 Dubai



Philippines Pavilion



Germany Pavilion

Alternate Commissioner General, underscored that the forthcoming World Expo is deemed a game-changer in trade relations between the UAE and participating countries due to forecast influx of opportunities and investments during and after the six-month-long event. “The participating countries such as the Philippines bank on the UAE’s role as a leading international business hub that will bring companies and enterprises closer to the world’s fastest emerging markets,” said Gaetos.

Gaetos said that her country is brimming with optimism as the Philippines-UAE bilateral trade rose 32% during the first 5 months of 2021. Ahead of the forthcoming Expo, the country’s total trade with the UAE crossed \$362.44 million (Dhs1.3 trn) from January to May 2021. “With the magnitude of global publicity of Expo 2020 Dubai, we are positive that the Philippine

participation will contribute to enhancing international goodwill and, more importantly, create more interest in the Philippines as a competitive and innovative trade partner.”

The Expo is also expected to heal the rifts caused by the pandemic. “The coronavirus pandemic has affected mutual trust between countries. In the history of mankind, human beings have been exchanging resources and ideas and have grown by depending upon

“The Expo is the first global event after COVID-19 and the theme of ‘Connecting Minds, Creating the Future’ could not be more appropriate and challenging



PAOLO GLISENTI
Commissioner General for Italy

one another. The theme of Expo 2020 Dubai, ‘Connecting Minds, Creating the Future’, signals the right direction for a new future, of looking

beyond the current situation of mutual isolation. The theme signifies a restoration of trust and the importance of reconnecting. I hope that Expo 2020 Dubai becomes a symbol of global integrity by devising and sharing solutions for overcoming this global crisis,” said Pyung-oh Kwon, Commissioner General for

the Republic of Korea and CEO & President of the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA).

According to Paolo Glisenti, Commissioner General for Italy, the Expo has the potential of making the world understand the true significance of globalisation. “The Expo is the first global event after COVID-19 and the theme of ‘Connecting Minds, Creating the Future’ could not be more appropriate and challenging,” he said.



Italy Pavilion



Russia Pavilion



France Pavilion



EXCEEDING IMAGINATION

When representatives of 192 countries and a large number of the top global organisations want to showcase their best creativity, you might find reality exceeding your imagination. Here's a glimpse of some of the pavilions that will greet you at Expo 2020

This is the first time in the history of World Expo that every participating country will be putting up its own pavilion. So, without leaving Dubai, you can see, taste, and soak in the myriad colours of the world, through immersive cultural events and experiences.

Apart from the pavilions of countries, the partner organisations of Expo 2020 are erecting their own pavilions. Here's

where you get to see the future through the innovation and world-class expertise they are known for.

A number of international organisations and civil society groups have spent years of efforts in addressing the global challenges of our time and you'll come away from their pavilions with greater knowledge and awareness.

The Expo features a number of

special, theme-based pavilions that'll open your eyes to the merging of education, entertainment, and excitement. Alif: The Mobility Pavilion is an example of a special pavilion that aims to break down the divide between the physical and digital worlds.

Some of the themes that these pavilions have explored have been grouped under the following districts:

1

THE MOBILITY DISTRICT comprises pavilions that show that we live in a world of unlimited connections where mobility is transforming every aspect of our life, from how we connect with people to exchanging knowledge and ideas. Australia's pavilion will let you navigate the universe as the country puts forward its heritage of 60,000 years of astronomy and innovation (by the country's original inhabitants, the Aborigines). At the pavilion of the Republic of Korea, you can step into the future with a walk on a mobile-guided trail, while a mix of virtual and reality experiences introduce you to the way the world might soon be. Inside the Alif pavilion, you witness how smart cities will be created through Artificial Intelligence, big data, robotics, Machine Learning and autonomous transport. Have a first-hand experience of the complexity of moving goods around the world and how mobility could evolve in the human-centred city of the future.



Trefoil-shaped Mobility Pavilion

Foster + Partners



2

THE SUSTAINABILITY DISTRICT highlights the world's most advanced technologies and how countries are championing sustainability. It shows that it's possible for human beings to live in harmony with nature even in a high-tech future. You can walk through a waterfall at Brazil's pavilion and make a sensory journey into the heart of the Amazon basin that's renowned for its biodiversity. The German pavilion allows you to wear cutting-edge devices and walk through themed areas such as The Energy Lab, The Future City Lab, and The Biodiversity Lab. One of the attractions in this district is Terra — The Sustainability Pavilion, where you can explore how to reduce our carbon footprint by making changes in our everyday choices.

Meanwhile, it is also where you can visit the Philippines' pavilion called the Bangkóta—the ancient term for “coral reef” in the language Tagalog—that poetically emphasises cultural sustainability of the

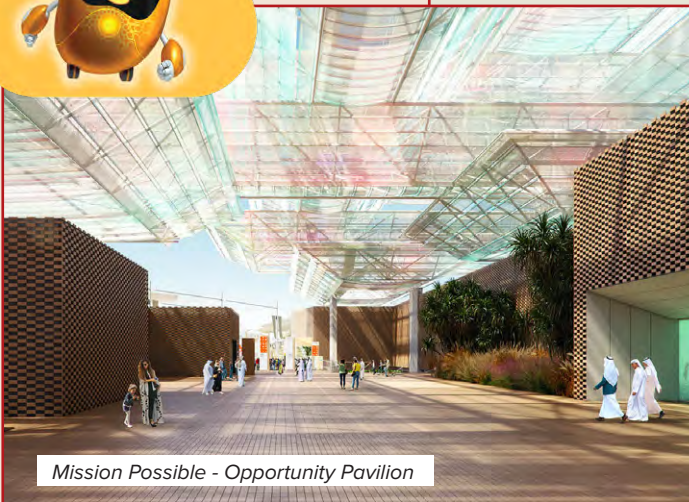


Terra

Filipinos through the millennia. In a plot size of 3163.25 sqm, the pavilion presents contemporary expressions in architecture, art, and design that links the deep past of the Philippines with the future of connectivity

3

THE OPPORTUNITY DISTRICT focuses on meeting people worldwide who are transforming dreams and aspirations into realities of the future. This is a chance for you to explore your potential and unlock your hidden powers. You can create connections, meet and be inspired by social innovators and be a part of events designed to empower the youth and enhance their skills. Mission Possible — Opportunity Pavilion is a special pavilion that has been designed to make individuals and communities activate their highest dreams. Amongst the countries, at the Malawi pavilion, you get to hear the story of a village child who was fortified with the tools and thrived, while the Switzerland pavilion wants you to step out of the fog while taking a hike to discover how even countries like it must respond to challenges with the correct attitude.



Mission Possible - Opportunity Pavilion

CULTURE AND FOOD

The cultural calendar is packed with street festivals, operas, performances by A-list artists from around the world, pop-up theatres and workshops. Every month, there'll be Khaleeji-led “jam sessions” called Jalsat Nights @Expo; K-Pop bands will perform at the Korean pavilion; and top ballerinas and dancers from Moscow's iconic Bolshoi Theatre are set to perform at the Russian pavilion.

At Al Wasl Plaza, you can see an incredible show of beautiful creatures bathed in light, while a band of robots

at the German pavilion give Beethoven's classical works a new surge of life.

No celebration is complete without food. Until now, you've heard of world cuisine and, at Expo 2020, you can sink your teeth into that as well as savour conceptual delights made with innovative technologies. Ready to binge on bioluminescent soups and flavour-changing desserts? Familiar tastes will also be present, from street food to gourmet preparations by celebrity chefs.

INTO A CLEANER FUTURE

Expo 2020 should not end — not in spirit. A platform titled ‘Programme for People and Planet’ is an endeavour to chart a course forward in the pursuit of a cleaner, safer, and healthier future for us and coming generations. The ambitious plan is to build a global community of action from the 200-plus participants and partners, and millions of visitors at the Expo. The Programme for People and Planet platform involves an exchange of ideas and innovations, founded on five tracks: Build Bridges; Leave No One Behind; Live in Balance; Thrive Together; and UAE Vision 2071. The efforts include:

- 1** Ten theme weeks, through the duration of the Expo, that will focus on humanity’s urgent challenges and as well the opportunities present. This will be done from the cultural, social, environmental and economic perspective. The ‘Climate & Biodiversity’ theme will be on Oct 3-9; Space: ‘How do we safely and productively explore new frontiers?’ is scheduled on Oct 17-23; ‘Urban & Rural Development’ will be on Oct 31-Nov 6; while ‘Tolerance & Inclusivity’ will be on Nov 14-20.
- 2** The platform will seek to drive a sense of responsibility into people to live in harmony and with respect for the natural world. The platform has this motto: “We seek not only to bring the world together, but also to chart a course forward — and we can’t do that on our own. We invite you to join us in the pursuit of a cleaner, safer, and healthier future for all. When we unite as one and take personal and collective responsibility, our shared impact will make a difference in the quality of life for generations to come.”
- 3** A number of Expo Initiatives seek to generate conversation and action, such as Expo Live, a global innovation and partnership programme where innovators can find funding and support for their change-making ideas.
- 4** Another initiative is the Global Best Practice Programme, for which the Expo jury has selected 25 projects from 1,175 entries. Some of the innovations in this programme tackle COVID-19 challenges: SafeDistance, a wearable device from the Belgium-based firm Lopos uses alarms, lights, and vibrations to warn when social distancing is not being respected; the UAE-based Project Maji, which has devised the Maji Bucket — a safe, low-tech and low-cost invention produced by people of determination in Ghana — to ensure safe handwashing practices in rural communities; and SitatByoot, which helps vulnerable communities, especially women, to grow online businesses during lockdowns. There are also 20 untold stories from around the world that inform of effective community initiatives.
- 5** The World Majlis, a part of Expo Initiatives, builds a foundation for the tradition of the Arab majlis to have exciting conversations. It brings together about 10 well-known thought-leaders, though students and other members of the audience may also contribute ideas. There will also be the Next Gen World Majlis and the Women’s World Majlis to better understand the worldview of high-school and university students, and women, respectively.

EXPO ENTRY FACT FILE

WHO CAN GET IN FREE?

Free access to the Expo is available for children and young people under 18, tertiary and higher education students, people aged 60 and above, and people of determination (POD, whose companion can get in at half price, depending on the kind of pass the former holds). All visitors, including those eligible for free tickets, must obtain a ticket to enter Expo 2020.

ONE-DAY TICKET: DHS95

Suitable for visitors on tight itineraries who want to experience the fun. This pass is valid for a single entry, but can be upgraded to Multi-Day Pass or Season Pass on or before the day of the visit.

MULTI-DAY PASS: DHS195

This is valid for unlimited entries for 30 consecutive days from the first day of use. You can upgrade to a Season Pass any time of the ticket’s duration.

THE SEASON PASS: DHS495

It allows you unlimited entries for the entire six months of the Expo.

FAMILY PACKAGE: DHS950

You get to experience the biggest cultural gathering in the world with your family. It includes two Season Passes for Adults between 18 and 59, one Season Pass for a nanny, and food and beverage discounts, amongst other benefits. It allows unlimited entries for the entire six months of the Expo and is ideal for UAE citizens and residents who have children.

JUBILEE SEASON PASS CARD: DHS10,000

Available at Virgin Megastore and Emaar Hospitality Group, it includes 4 Season Passes, 30 Multi-Day Passes, and 10 One-Day Passes; allows you and five guests to get fast-track entry into the Expo; have access to VIP parking and the Jubilee Lounge by Emaar. Also in the package are 2 limited-edition 24-carat gold plated Expo Jubilee pins; 10 valet parking vouchers; a VIP parking sticker that enables you to enter the dedicated VIP parking on a first-come, first-served basis; dedicated concierge for bookings and support; priority access to events; and discounts on food and beverage at premium outlets, amongst others.



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

GOLDEN BENEFITS OF HOSTING THE EXPO

Sceptics point to continuing challenges of the pandemic, but for the UAE, staging a cultural event of this scale brings invaluable opportunities

Since the emirate of Dubai was announced in 2013 as the winner amongst cities vying to host the World Expo 2020 — finally being held in 2021 — the years have flown by. Dubai has been racing against time to prepare for the opening of the event. The emirate's geographical characteristics have changed, mechanisms have been set up, new partnerships have been established, and old ones have been strengthened, volunteers have been recruited, structures have been built.

By bringing together innovators from all over the globe, addressing nations in their own languages, Dubai has captivated the world. The UAE is the first Arab nation to be involved in organising and hosting a major international event of this scale, and its logistical advantage comes from Dubai's proximity to two-thirds of the world's population. That is the number of people who can reach Expo 2020 Dubai in less than eight hours by plane.

More than 80,000 hotel rooms will be available during the six-month exposition period, and the infrastructure will be of the highest quality, giving the best possible experience to visitors.

The original opening date for the exposition was in October 2020. But then, the COVID-19 pandemic caused many projects to be postponed, and some of them were excluded from the schedule.

While the Expo got delayed, Dubai prepared for the event in a way that was suitable for the circumstances; it would not allow the event to get cancelled.

In keeping with Dubai's slogan, the Expo theme is "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future", a statement that matches current world events. Despite the social distancing necessitated by the pandemic, despite the isolation we were all forced into, people have been eager to communicate. The mind has become the driving force in the world, its economy, policies, and human and social relations.

The pandemic's challenges still have to be faced, but we need to look at the chance for development, recovery, and the progress that we want to witness. Events of this kind are opportunities for countries to showcase their best and to invest in innovative and creative young people, who can shape a better future when we have faith in their talent and let them demonstrate their skills.

Several critics have questioned the prospects of Expo 2020 Dubai, pointing to the conditions of the pandemic and the travel restrictions that are still in place. Sceptics have failed to

grasp the reality of the measures taken by the UAE in preparation for the event, particularly since it has become a destination for many to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for free, something that other countries do not provide. They are also unaware of the precautionary measures that the UAE is still taking to protect its citizens and residents; this explains the increase in tourism activity months before the Expo.

Our ambitions can be lofty, our banners of optimism can be raised high, and we can be proud of events before they happen, since we have worked hard and accomplished a lot for them, allowing us to not limit its

gains to the six months of the Expo duration.

We are counting on the output of the Expo to build a better future; it is enough that we and our organisations have gained experiences that have kept us at the forefront of the world. For all those working at Expo 2020 Dubai, it will leave them with an exceptional experience.

Only a month remains until the start of the largest global cultural event, which will be worthy of a Golden Jubilee as the UAE celebrates its achievements of 50 years.

The pandemic's challenges still have to be faced, but we need to look at the chance for development, recovery, and the progress that we want to witness



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SHOT OF HOPE FOR STUDENTS

THE UAE'S RAPID INOCULATION OF ADULTS AND THE NEW VACCINE APPROVED FOR THE 3-17 AGE GROUP ARE SET TO INCREASE THE LEARNING MOMENTUM IN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

BY ACE RUTHER







The 2021-2022 school year began on August 29, with the distance learning option in place for parents who'd opt for it. A special protocol for those returning to school has been developed in coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE), the National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority, and other authorities in the country to ensure the safety of students and school staff.

The UAE is one of the few countries in the world that have accomplished a safe return to face-to-face classes, made possible by vaccines. It's the UAE's rapid

inoculation rate for adults and the newly approved Sinopharm vaccine for the 3-17 age group that'll accelerate this return, giving learning a fresh momentum. The country in 2020 very quickly and efficiently implemented online learning, followed by the introduction of a hybrid learning model, and the infotech infrastructure rose to the challenge of this huge spike in Internet traffic. Nonetheless, it's widely acknowledged around the world that students, especially the younger students, benefit the most from being in a physical classroom.

At the beginning of August 2021, it was announced by the MoE that vaccination was being made mandatory for anyone entering the premises of all educational facilities — this would apply to teachers, non-teaching staff, students, and parents. Announcing this in a tweet, the MoE also said that the only people who were exceptions to this rule were: "Individuals carrying a certificate of exemption from taking the vaccine issued by the health authorities."

"The Ministry of Education encourages all individuals (aged 16 and above) to get vaccinated as soon as possible," said the tweet. Given the number of vaccines available in the UAE — Sinopharm (now for all age groups except 0-2 years), Pfizer-BioNTech, Oxford-AstraZeneca, Sputnik V, and Moderna — there's no reason for any eligible individual to remain unvaccinated.

The UAE had, by mid-August, administered 17.5 million vaccine doses, reaching the figure of 177 doses per 100 people. The schools have

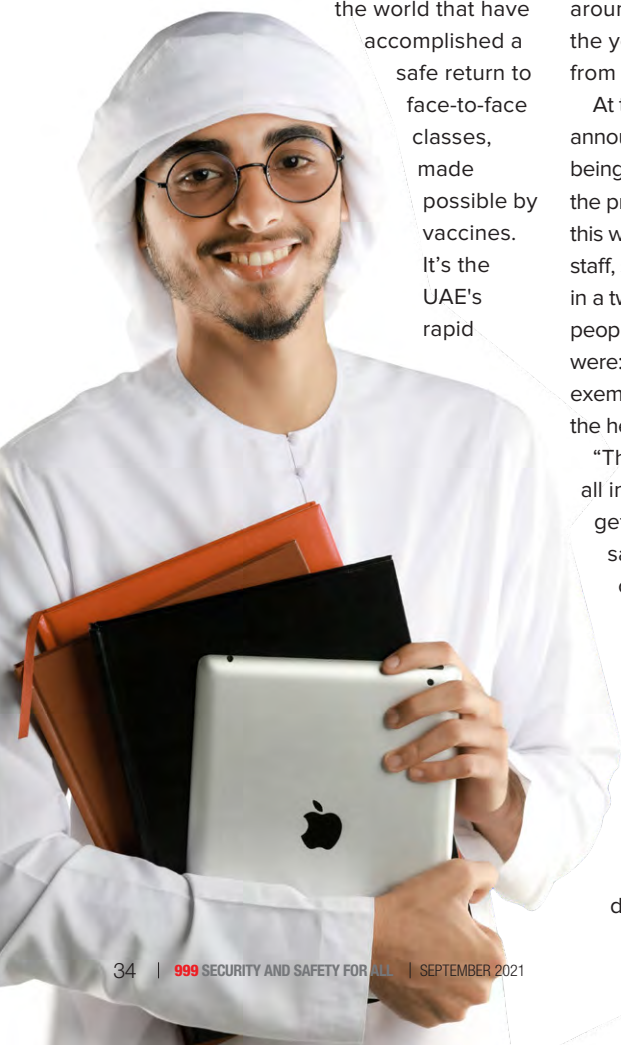
been doing their part to move things along.

In May 2021, schools across the UAE started a massive Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination drive for students aged 12 or above. They booked hotel rooms and clinic spaces to turn them into temporary vaccination centres.

Elmarie Venter, Chief Operations and Marketing Officer of the GEMS Education network — it runs 27 schools in Dubai, plus several more in other UAE emirates and other MENA nations — said that 1,600 new teachers would join the group schools from August and they'd be vaccinated, too. The group had more than 42,000 students eligible for vaccination and they were getting their jabs in batches.

In August 2021, ahead of the new school year, walk-in COVID-19 vaccination centres for students (aged 12 and above), teachers, and administrative staff were opened in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain. The centres were set up in collaboration between the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), Department of Health — Abu Dhabi (DoH), Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre (ADPHC), and Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA). Located in the Green Hall at the Mina Zayed Vaccination Centre in Abu Dhabi and Green Hall at the Al Ain Convention Centre in Al Ain, the walk-in centres are open daily 8am-8pm until October 31, 2021. That gives everyone enough time to get vaccinated and get back to the classroom. No appointment is necessary, but a parent/legal guardian needs to accompany students under 18.

In addition, Abu Dhabi works to get the consent of parents of students



“Our priority is to ensure that as many students as possible get the chance to enjoy quality face-to-face learning, which is vital for their intellectual, physical, and social-emotional development and well-being



SARA MUSALLAM

Chairperson of the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge

in all educational facilities for both UAE nationals and expats. ADEK spearheaded the ‘Parents Survey on Schools Reopening’ in May-June 2021, asking more than 117,000 parents, who represented at least 230,000 students, on their thoughts about reintroducing their wards from distance learning to a classroom setting once more.

Of this number, 88 per cent of the parents stated that face-to-face classes would engage their children a whole lot more compared to distance learning. Around 70 per cent of the parents also anticipated that their children would be back to in-school learning after the pandemic year. The hybrid model — some physical classes, some online classes — had been tested by some institutions towards the end of the 2020-2021 academic year.

HE Sara Musallam, Chairperson of the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge, thanked the efforts of parents and teachers who made the transition from classroom to distance learning as smooth as possible during the 2020-2021 academic year. “The pandemic has tested the resolve of teachers, parents, and school staff, our unsung heroes, who came together and have gone to incredible lengths to ensure that our children receive the best education possible during these



challenging times. We are grateful to the Abu Dhabi Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Committee for ensuring that planning for the 2021-2022 academic year was inclusive of all stakeholders. While we believe that remote learning is not a perfect substitute for physical learning, we must ensure that everyone is comfortable to return to in-school instruction as much as possible,” said Musallam.

BEST PRACTICES

The UAE has carefully studied its options before making public all of the new rules and regulations. Pertinent rules of the new face-to-face setup within classrooms and on the school grounds include physical distancing of 1 metre; bubble classes of 16 individuals without the requirement of physical distancing; and reinstating school canteens and outdoor physical activities and extra-curricular programmes.

“Building on our experience over the past year, and in close coordination with health authorities, educators and parents, we are confident that the new academic year will get off to a great and safe start with these updated policies in place,” said Musallam.

She added, “Our priority is to ensure that as many students as possible get the chance to enjoy quality face-to-face learning, which is vital for their intellectual, physical, and social-emotional development and well-being. We will constantly review the policies to ensure that all possible measures are in place to keep our educators, students, and communities safe.”

Last year, 59 per cent of parents in the UAE preferred distance learning, according to MoE data, as scientists and

THE NUMBERS

80%

Teachers, school staff who are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19

88%

Parents who prefer face-to-face classes for their children, as per ADEK survey in May-June 2021

70%

Students expected to return to in-school learning for academic year 2021-2022, as per ADEK survey in May-June 2021

2 weeks

Frequency at which students aged 12 and above, and all school personnel are mandated to present negative COVID-19 test results

1 metre

Reduced physical distancing requirement within classrooms and school grounds

3-11 years old

Children eligible for two doses of the Sinopharm vaccine

12-17 years old

Age group eligible for Sinopharm and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines

“The policies mean that all pupils aged 16 and above, as well as staff and all visitors, must be fully vaccinated with a UAE-approved vaccine to access the school premises



**AMER HUSSAIN MOHAMMED
AL HAMMADI**

Undersecretary of the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge

health experts worked hand in hand to find a vaccine against COVID-19. Fast forward a year later, and the UAE is now amongst the first few countries to have two options of vaccines for students — Sinopharm for 3-11 years, and a choice between Sinopharm and Pfizer-BioNTech for 12-17 years.

Commenting on the MoE rule of making vaccination mandatory for entering any school premises, Amer Hussain Mohammed Al Hammadi, ADEK



Undersecretary, explained that this was to ensure maximum protection for students, teachers, and non-teaching staff, so that everyone could focus on learning and so parents wouldn't have to worry about their children contracting COVID-19 outside their home.

“The policies mean that all pupils aged 16 and above, as well as staff and all visitors, must be fully vaccinated with a UAE-approved vaccine to access the school premises, whether within or

outside school hours. The vaccinations must be verified on the ‘Al Hosn’ app prior to returning to school at the start of the academic year,” said Al Hammadi.

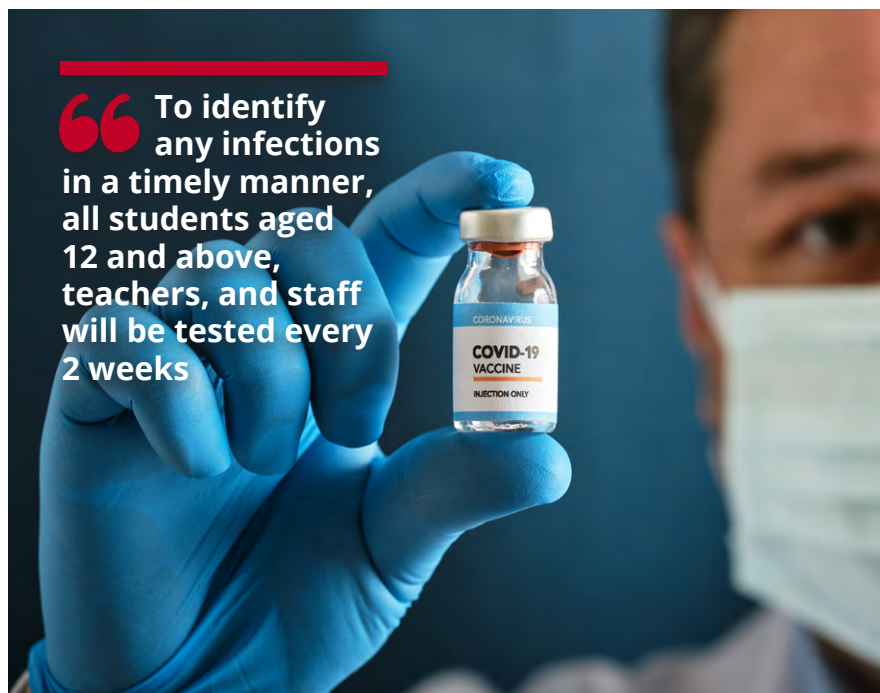
In addition, all students aged 12 and above, who will attend face-to-face classes, will also need to show a negative PCR test every two weeks. Students of determination are exempted from this test.

“As we prepare to welcome children back in schools, rest assured that their safety and the safety of all the staff and the wider community remains paramount. A successful return to schools is only possible when we all come together, both educators and parents, to do our part. We are committed to the health and safety of our school community. Therefore, to identify any infections in a timely manner, all students aged 12 and above, teachers, and staff will be tested every 2 weeks,” read a statement from ADEK.

VACCINATION IS WISE

Naveed Rabbani, a Pakistani father of three, shared that his children were very excited to go back to school. He said that when he learned that Abu Dhabi would be re-implementing face-to-face classes, his children had big smiles on their faces and they began counting the days until they could meet their friends at school after a year of distance learning.

“I'm satisfied with the health protocols



“To identify any infections in a timely manner, all students aged 12 and above, teachers, and staff will be tested every 2 weeks

that were approved by ADEK, which is why we've decided to send all three of our children back to school for face-to-face classes. Their school has also been implementing preventive measures even prior to this announcement, with frequent disinfections, social distancing, mask-wearing and other regulations to ensure a safe environment for everyone's children," said Rabbani.

He added that his eldest, Ayesha, had taken her COVID-19 vaccine, and the other two would now take it soon. "We decided to get our kids vaccinated — it'll be good for their safety since they'll be outside our home more frequently when school restarts. The UAE has set a good example to the world in providing parents the best support for our children's education. Whether you're a UAE national or an expat, your children are assured of an educational institution that's COVID-free," said Rabbani.

Ayesha, 14, spoke of her state of excitement. "It has been one full year since I last saw all of my classmates. I saw some of them at the mall by chance during the past year — but it's a different experience altogether to be with them once again in a room in our school. I've come to appreciate learning within a classroom setting a whole lot more after one year of distance learning," said Ayesha.

ADEK stated that it would respect the decision of parents who chose not to get their children vaccinated against COVID-19. It ran a campaign titled 'Let the Vaccination Be Your Choice', outlining various COVID-19 vaccination centres around the



UAE that parents and students could check once they decide to get the dose.

It also stressed that distance learning remains an option for young students with chronic illnesses; students aged 16 and above who could not get the vaccine; as well as those who simply prefer distance learning if the model is offered by their school.

ACADEMIC PREPARATIONS

Teachers around the country had an extra task before this school year — besides making lesson plans, they also had to prepare for classroom teaching in the new normal after a year of distance/ hybrid learning.

Abhilasha Singh, Principal at Shining Star Abu Dhabi, told the local media that parents

could prepare their children for face-to-face classes by teaching them the importance of mask-wearing and practising social distancing — children tended to forget wearing masks, especially if the masks felt uncomfortable over long hours.

"Parents should adequately prepare their children to attend school in the new term. Masking up can be practised at home with children who haven't attended school in person at all since distance learning started. Children are energetic and get excited quickly, forgetting that they need to maintain distance between their peers in school. I request parents to emphasise at home the importance of following safety protocols and ensuring the children's preparedness for in-person schooling," advised Singh.



“Distance learning remains an option for young students with chronic illnesses; students who could not get the vaccine; as well as those who simply prefer distance learning”

“Research shows that supporting early childhood education not only enhances the opportunities for future generations but also enables greater participation of women in the workforce”



DR MOHAMED ABDULLATIF KHALIFA

Secretary General of the Executive Council of Ras Al Khaimah

Rosemarie Natividad, Principal at the United International Private School in Dubai, shared that many of the parents still opted for full distance learning due to COVID-19. “We also did a survey for our parents, and 80 per cent of them prefer their kids to be safe in their homes and opted for full distance learning. Only 20 per cent chose a blended learning modality, where their children could come to school three times a week,” said Natividad.

Several schools also got the financial support they require to help reopen



their institutions. The Ras Al Khaimah Government, for instance, provided funding for several private nurseries in the emirate that had to close down for an entire year due to the pandemic.

Dr Mohamed Abdullatif Khalifa, Secretary General of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, said that this was how the emirate’s leadership valued the importance of education at an early age, by assuring that these nurseries

would be able to resume operations.

“Research shows that supporting early childhood education not only enhances the opportunities for future generations, but also enables greater participation of women in the workforce. This initiative is, therefore, crucial to Ras Al Khaimah’s long-term development. The financial support provided by the Ras Al Khaimah Government will help ensure that the emirate’s private nurseries continue to thrive, as we move towards a post-pandemic new normal,” said Dr Khalifa.

Helen V. John, Manager of Kinderwood Nursery in the Khuzam area of Ras Al Khaimah, spoke of her joy at receiving the funding. “The financial support has been crucial for us in reopening the nursery,” she said. “All fields are suffering and, so, I was relieved when I learned that we’d receive this funding from the Ras Al Khaimah Government. It’s a big help to the industry and will support the children at a crucial time of their development, which has suffered due to the pandemic.

“We’re using the funds to buy extra resources for the children, for some renovations, and for staff training, to improve their skills.”

! CHECKLIST: NEW SCHOOL RULES

- ☒ Physical education, extra-curricular programmes reinstated under special arrangements
- ☒ School canteens reopen, with live cooking services allowed under special arrangements
- ☒ Increase in capacity from 10 to 16 for younger students under bubbles without the need to practise physical distancing
- ☒ All students and school staff above 16 must be fully vaccinated for face-to-face learning, save for those who secured official exemptions
- ☒ School macrobubble system remains in place to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission and to avoid abrupt shifts to distance learning



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IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK

WHATEVER FIELD YOU'RE IN, THE PRESSURE TO PERFORM GETS TO EVERYONE, AND NOW MORE THAN EVER, IT'S TIME TO ERASE THE STIGMA AROUND SHOWING VULNERABILITY — TAKE YOUR CUE FROM AN OLYMPIC CHAMPION

BY RAKHEE ROYALUKDAR



Physical health is mental health

Simone Biles

Olympic Champion Gymnast



Simone Biles FB

“Sport mirrors life” — that’s a phrase most of us have heard. So, if life, like sport, is highly competitive, we should be able to take that competition sportingly and embrace another oft-quoted phrase: “Win

some, lose some.” At least, that’s the ideal. But in these days of manic 24x7 productivity and jargon-filled motivational lectures — be it for workers, students, or homemakers — there’s little room to be even an occasional loser and there’s constant pressure to be a nonstop winner. This comes with a huge toll on mental health; that still surprises the world.

No one has personified this better in recent times than champion gymnast Simone Biles of Team USA, whose shock pullout from the deferred Tokyo Olympics 2020, held in July-August 2021, left everyone asking why. Biles, the winner of four gold medals and a bronze at Rio Olympics 2016, answered without mincing

words: “For anyone saying I quit, I didn’t quit, my mind and body are simply not in sync as you can see here. I don’t think you realise how dangerous this is on a hard/competition surface. Nor do I have to explain why I put health first. Physical health is mental health.”

She also revealed her vulnerability: the spectacular twisting in the air that the best gymnasts appear to perform so effortlessly. But it’s not effortless, and it’s frightening even for the best. “Sometimes I can’t even fathom twisting,” Biles wrote on social media. “I seriously cannot comprehend how to twist. Strangest and weirdest thing as well as feeling. It’s the craziest feeling ever, not having an inch of control over your body.”

What does all this add up to for those of us who don’t have anything like the 32 Olympic and World Championship medals this extraordinary sportswoman has won so far? It tells us that the pursuit of perfection, of excellence, shouldn’t — or can’t — come at the cost of everything else that matters.

Biles coming out in the open about mental health and mental strength has, perhaps, lightened the load of expectations for many other celebrities and regular professionals, who still can’t bring themselves to say that “it’s okay



Simone Biles FB

Biles, who has 32 Olympic and World Championship medals under her belt, opens up about mental health issues

to be imperfect at times". Not only has it ignited discussion over mental health in sport, but it also has taken the lid off feelings that most of us suppress in highly competitive environments.

FEAR OF TAKING SICK DAYS

The global job markets and work environments are now more competitive than ever before. It has been tough for the past several years and the pandemic has made it brutal.

Many professionals are forced to execute the workplace equivalent of

Employees' perceptions of mental and physical health in UK, US, SG and UAE

35.8 per cent

Employees who had lied to their employer about their reasons for taking a sick day

51.7 per cent

Employees diagnosed with mental health issues admitted to lying to their employer about their reasons for taking a sick day

44.7 per cent

Employees with an undiagnosed mental health issue who are more likely to lie about a sick day due to stress

29.9 per cent

Employees who did not take sick days in 2019

47.1 per cent

Employees across the globe who are unlikely to take a sick day even if they are suffering from stress

49.7 per cent

Employees who have, in their lifetime, suffered from a mental health issue or are not sure whether they have

Source: Aetna, 2020 Survey



perfect "twisting" and land on their feet every time without ever revealing any weakness — longer hours; salary cuts; money crunch if a close family member has lost income; the pressure of meeting unrealistic targets in a dampened global economy, all of this has to be borne with gritted teeth and a smile pasted on the face. No one can risk the tag of "loser" and must act like a "winner", in order to satisfy new-age demands of the "always on" workplace.

In 2020, the year when the world had its mind-numbing encounter with the novel coronavirus, US-based medical insurance company Aetna surveyed "1,000 office-based workers across the UK, US, Singapore and UAE to explore their

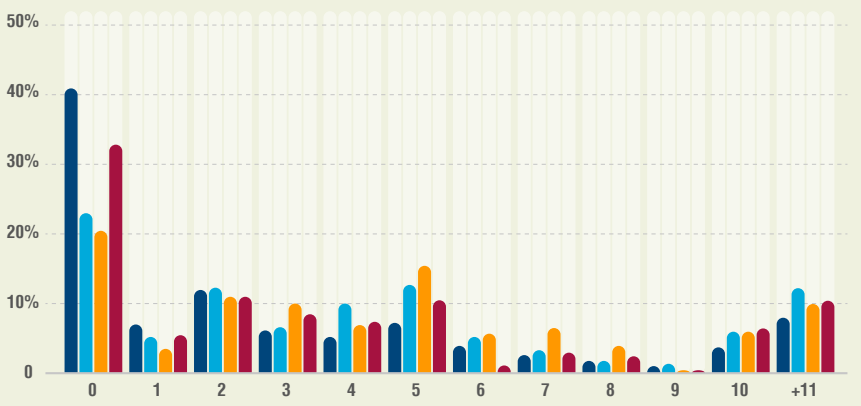
perceptions of mental and physical health in the workplace".

The key findings were: 35.8 per cent of employees had lied to their employer about their reasons for taking a sick day; 51.7 per cent of the employees diagnosed with mental health issues admitted to lying to their employer about their reasons for taking a sick day; employees with an undiagnosed mental health issue are more likely to lie about a sick day due to stress (44.7 per cent) and feeling down (42.4 per cent) than those with a diagnosis (25.6 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively).

Also, 29.9 per cent of total respondents took no sick days in 2019; and specific to the UK, 41 per cent of respondents took not even a single sick day.

% OF SICK DAYS TAKEN ACCROSS ALL REGIONS

Source: Aetna survey conducted in September 2020



“The survey found that 47.1 per cent of employees worldwide were unlikely to take a sick day even if they suffered from stress

The survey found that 47.1 per cent of employees worldwide were unlikely to take a sick day even if they suffered from stress.

In the article that summarised the study on its website, Aetna said: “We wanted to understand whether people take sick days more often for physical ailments or poor mental health. The results show that people are twice as likely to take time off for a physical health issue than a mental health problem (66 per cent versus 34 per cent, respectively).”

A workplace that wants every employee to always act like “a champ” — bubbling over with enthusiasm and stamina — might look tolerantly upon occasional physical illness but not so much for mental illness. This is where the lying comes in, and this is why issues causing mental health problems are rarely corrected at work, leaving many people frustrated and feeling like a failure for no fault of theirs, while also being forced to hide these feelings.

PERFECT HAPPINESS IS ELUSIVE

In the modern workplace, where words such as “engaged”, “driven”, “synergy”, “brainstorming” are constantly tossed around, it’s hard for even the most talented people to admit that maybe the endless sessions of “blue-sky thinking” get on their nerves once in a while.

Workplace cultures that put pressure on people to always look happy and raring to

go don’t take into account the fact that no one can be perfectly happy all the time — it’s completely unrealistic to think that it’s even possible. There’s nothing wrong with an employee who admits that they need some help, starting with someone to talk to. In fact, realising that everything is not okay is a huge step towards making things okay again.

Dr Brené Brown, researcher, professor at the University of Houston, US, and the author of New York Times bestsellers such as *The Gifts of Imperfection*, wrote: “Perfectionism is the belief that if we live perfect, look perfect and act perfect, we can minimise or avoid the pain of blame, judgement, and shame. It’s a shield. It’s a 20-tonne shield that we lug around thinking it will protect us when, in fact, it’s the thing that’s really preventing us from flight.”

She said that the idea of “being perfect” was something that plagued many of us in our society, causing a lot of stress and feelings of inadequacy. These feelings have been heightened by the pandemic, which has played havoc with people’s psyche and has left many in the workforce struggling to keep their chin up. This is normal, this is human, and acknowledging this will do both organisations and individuals a world of good.

“Anxiety is one of the most contagious emotions that we experience, and many mental health professionals and researchers believe because anxiety is so contagious, it’s rarely a function of individuals, it’s a function of groups. Like dominos, once one person’s anxiety flares up, it’s really hard for it not to spread — it’s the contagion,” said Brown.



“For too long, mental health in the workplace has been viewed as an organisational risk. The truth is, like physical health, mental health is a constant human reality for every person, every day



KERRY DRYBURGH
Chief People Officer, BP

“With the global pandemic, mental health has become not only a broader societal issue, but a top workplace challenge. It has a profound impact on individual performance, team effectiveness and organisational productivity



EMILY HE
Senior Vice-President, Oracle Cloud HCM

UAE WORKFORCE

Giving credence to Brown's thoughts, a 2020 study by Oracle and Workplace Intelligence found that the pandemic affected the mental health of at least 86 per cent of the UAE workforce. At least 81 per cent of UAE workers said that they had more stress and anxiety at work than ever before. At least 91 per cent said that their mental health issues at work negatively affected their home life. One of the most interesting facts was that 77 per cent of the respondents would prefer to talk to a robot over their manager about stress and anxiety at work.

The Oracle study also found that 94 per cent of the UAE workforce would like their company to provide technology to support their mental health, including self-service access to health resources, on-demand counselling services, proactive health monitoring tools and others.

One problem specific to the pandemic is remote work. Now dubbed as the future of employment, the work-from-home (WFH) model simply doesn't suit everyone for an extended period of time, and companies need to give employees the elbow room to say that and seek the help necessary. An employee who admits that WFH doesn't work for them or that they need some changes in the schedule or workflow isn't being difficult or weak; they're only trying to find a solution.

In the Oracle study, at least 94 per cent of respondents in the UAE have faced challenges while working remotely, with the biggest factors being no distinction between personal and professional lives and dealing with increased stress and anxiety. About 36 per cent of the respondents also said that workplace stress, anxiety or depression caused their productivity to plummet; and 45 per cent said that it led to an increase in poor decision-making.

Emily He, Senior Vice-President, Oracle Cloud HCM, was quoted in the study as saying: “With the global pandemic, mental health has become not only a broader societal issue, but a top workplace challenge. It has profound impact on individual performance, team effectiveness and organisational productivity. Now more than ever, it's a conversation that needs to be had and employees are looking to employers to step up and provide solutions.”

She added: “There is a lot that can be done to support the mental health of the global workforce and there are so many ways that technology like AI can help. But first, organisations need to add mental health to their agenda. If we can get these conversations started — both at an HR and an executive level — we can begin to make some changes. And the time is now.”

HIGH COST OF INACTION

Just as her state of mind cost Simone Biles a shot at more Olympic gold medals, similarly there's a large cost of leaving collective mental health issues unaddressed at the workplace. A World Economic Forum report in January 2021 said that the global cost of mental ill health through lost productivity, absences, and staff turnover was estimated to be around \$2.5 trillion (Dhs9.18trn) annually.

The report quoted Kerry Dryburgh, Chief People Officer, BP, as saying: “For too long, mental health in the workplace has been viewed as an organisational risk, with a focus on managing individuals and incidents — a fact only exacerbated by COVID-19. The truth is, like physical health, mental health is a constant human reality for every person, every day. In 2021, we can expect more workplaces to recognise

STATE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN UAE WORKFORCE

86 per cent

Survey respondents who said they were affected by mental health issues during the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic

94 per cent

Respondents in the UAE who have faced challenges while working remotely, with the biggest factors being no distinction between personal and professional lives

8 out of 10

UAE workers who said that they had more stress and anxiety at work than ever before due to the pandemic

9 out of 10

Employees in the UAE who said that their mental health issues at work negatively affected their home life

Source: Oracle and Workplace Intelligence, 2020 study

“It’s okay sometimes to even sit out the big competitions to focus on yourself, because it shows how strong of a competitor (sic) and person that you really are, rather than just battle through it



SIMON BILES

Olympic Champion Gymnast

this and step-change their action on mental wellbeing, alongside a continued focus on physical health.”

She added: “One of the most impactful choices we have made at BP is to include mental wellbeing questions in our regular employee engagement surveys to understand real-time how our teams are feeling. We have also taken steps to build mental wellbeing into our leadership culture. At BP, we believe our workplaces can and should be positive environments that support mental health and wellbeing. Getting it right is an ongoing focus, but one that has never been more urgent.”

But not all companies are recognising that mental health is an urgent priority for businesses in the COVID-19 recovery phase. With the pandemic still here, about a year-and-a-half after it took over the world, the fear of another surge and rising death toll has not abated due to the new fast-spreading mutant strains. Consequently, movement restrictions around the world, hitting business sectors and the job markets. Aside from physical health issues, income loss and/or employment uncertainty is one of the chief factors behind the largescale mental health deterioration.

Studies and surveys conducted so far in the pandemic consistently show that young people, rather than older people, are most vulnerable to increased psychological distress, amplified by



loneliness. To avoid job loss in a shrunken economy, they have to prove they’re better and stronger than the competition, and not admit to any weakness.

TAKE A STEP BACK

Nasir Ahmed, a UAE resident and an IT expert, told **999**, “At workplaces, you have to prove that you’re indefatigable if you want to keep your job. You have to put your best foot forward, smile and remain mostly cheerful, even if your mind may not be in that frame. But the pandemic has shown us that the environment, circumstances cannot always be perfect and cannot be in sync with our desires and yearnings. We have to step back, sit out and wait for the right moment. It is what qualities, what influences we pick up during these periods of struggle, that often determine our next move. It may be resilience for one, it may be a vulnerability for another. But becoming vulnerable isn’t sacrifice. One can pick up anytime later, slowly. It all starts with mindset. But holding oneself to a surreal standard of perfection is one of the most dangerous mindsets when it comes to healthy living.”

Ahmed’s thinking is aligned with what Biles had said in her Instagram post: “[It’s] like I have the weight of the world on my shoulders at times. I know I brush it off and make it seem like pressure doesn’t affect me but sometimes it’s hard.” She added: “It’s okay sometimes to even sit out the big competitions to focus on yourself, because

it shows how strong of a competitor (sic) and person that you really are, rather than just battle through it.”

Shortly before the Tokyo Olympics, tennis star Naomi Osaka had in May 2021 refused to do post-match press conferences, explaining that media interactions weren’t good for her mental health. Osaka, who had attained the No. 1 ranking, spoke frankly about her bouts of depression since the 2018 US Open final. “So here in Paris I was already feeling vulnerable and anxious so I thought it was better to exercise self-care and skip the press conferences. I announced it pre-emptively because I do feel like the rules are quite outdated in parts and I wanted to highlight that,” she wrote on social media. Her refusal to do the press conferences — obligatory for players — cost the top tennis player her spot in the French Open, but she stuck to her decision.

In an article for the Time magazine, Osaka wrote: “I always try to push myself to speak up for what I believe to be right, but that often comes at the cost of great anxiety. I feel uncomfortable being the spokesperson or face of athlete mental health as it’s still so new to me and I don’t have all the answers. I do hope that people can relate and understand it’s O.K. not to be O.K., and it’s O.K. to talk about it. There are people who can help, and there is usually light at the end of any tunnel.”

In 2015, Bollywood superstar Deepika Padukone had made waves by revealing

that she had struggled with depression. Before this, it was unheard of someone in her fame bracket to talk about serious mental health problems. She said, “It was also about letting people know that mental illness exists and it’s okay to seek help because most of us suffer in silence because it’s not something you seek externally, so there is a guilt attached to it because you feel you are the only one going through it. You also feel like you are inconveniencing your caregivers and people around you. Me coming out was really just letting people know you are not alone and we are in it together.”

SUBDUED BY STIGMA

Left unattended — and aggravated by the need to hide it — work-related anxiety can make one suicidal. In May 2021, an Asian resident, 42, suffering from COVID-19, ended his life by jumping off the Al Rawda Bridge in Ajman in front of his wife. Local media quoted his wife as saying, “He used to think about death and feared he would lose his job because of the quarantine period. He was also worried that it would affect his financial situation.”

While it’s essential to talk openly about work-related anxiety, the stigma surrounding this prevents people from speaking up. A McKinsey survey in June 2021 found that less than one in 10 employees describes their workplace as free of stigma on mental issues. The survey added that there were three different kinds of stigma:

1 Self-stigma: When individuals internalise and accept negative stereotypes. It turns a whole person into someone who feels broken.

2 Public or social stigma: When there’s a negative attitude of society towards people with mental issues. It creates an environment in which those with mental conditions are discredited, feared and isolated.

3 Structural stigma: A kind of discrimination that occurs when workplace norms constrain resources and opportunities and, therefore, impair the individuals. Thousands of employees feel this way but find it hard to express and share their mental conditions.

In the present scenario, seeing the shut businesses and mass redundancies all around them caused by the pandemic, employees often feel bereft of support on

5 WAYS TO OVERCOME MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

1 SEEK TREATMENT

Whenever one is feeling lonely, depressed and anxious, it means there’s a need to talk. Family members may not be the best people to help you. A trained therapist can talk you through your upheavals, emotions, distress and get to the root cause of your problem.

Treatment is vital to bringing relief to a mental condition that interferes with work and personal life. As you or your loved ones seek treatment, remember to be gentle with yourself and them. It’s not easy to ask for help. It takes a lot of courage to speak up, and you and your loved ones are worth the effort.

2 DON’T BUY INTO THE STIGMA

You may believe that mental illness is a sign of weakness. You may treat yourself or others harshly because of these perceptions. Seeking counselling, education, being kind to one’s self and others, and finding support from others with mental illness can help gain positive self-esteem, perspective, and overcome destructive judgment.

3 EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Knowledge is power. Educate yourself about mental illness, symptoms and treatments. Being informed is the first step in getting the proper treatment one needs for emotional wellness.

4 CHOOSE EMPOWERMENT OVER SHAME

If you’re struggling, own up your story. There’s no shame in speaking out. Encourage those seeking support, and honour their story and struggles.

5 JOIN A SUPPORT GROUP

Don’t isolate yourself. If people don’t tell anyone about their struggles with mental illness, no one can help them. There are many local and national support groups that offer programmes and resources. These groups are working hard to educate people with mental illnesses, their families, their support persons and their communities to help reduce stigma and move toward empowerment and recovery.

Courtesy of therapist Anne Jackson and Harvard Business Review

their individual mental health problems. Abid Hussain (real identity withheld), 26, employee of a big corporate firm in the UAE, said, “This uncertainty around the pandemic and one’s future puts one under great stress. I feel empty. My work suffers, so does my mind. Sometimes I feel worthless, without a purpose in life. But when at work, even when working from home, one has to put on their best and should be seen as efficient. How can I tell anyone in the office that I’m not fit mentally for the moment and need a mental break? I literally force myself to work. I suffer alone and find it difficult to explain it to someone who hasn’t experienced it. That I’m suffering from depression and anxiety can, in no way, be talked about in the office, lest my employers doubt my worth and productivity. I can’t afford to do so in

this pandemic time. The stigma of being called a weak person haunts me further.”

GATHER YOUR STRENGTH

Speaking to 999, Anne Jackson, Dubai-based therapist, life coach, and founder of www.onelifecoachingme.com, said, “Speaking out openly about your negative emotions, your anxieties, your fears, your mental blocks is not weakness. In fact, it gives you strength. These negative emotions should not be considered as a stigma. Stigma creates a cloud of shame, a feeling of worthlessness and obscures one’s road to recovery. Now there’s more awareness about mental health than ever before. It’s okay to be mentally upset; one must process his or her feelings rather than bottle it up in one’s mind and body. That will not augur well both for your

mental and physical health."

Jackson said that she had a number of male clients in Dubai who'd come to her and cry their hearts out for at least three sessions. It's a release of pent-up feelings and emotions that social stereotypes don't allow in a regular family or work setting. The reasons for distress may vary from career trajectory to failed relationships or a feeling of isolation in this pandemic. But in most societies, men are not supposed to cry because it's not seen as a manly thing to do.

However, what society sees as weakness, science sees as strength. Psychologists say that crying is a sign of strength because it shows one's completely comfortable relationship with one's self. Choosing to cry and feel the pain are choices in the interest of one's emotional health; choosing to cry is also choosing not to care about the opinions of others. Since crying is so stigmatised, rising above society's thoughts is pure strength.

Crying also helps set an example for others, especially when peers

are struggling to express their own emotions. Not only will they learn from the act of crying, but they'll also see the transformation that takes place from working through emotions.

Jackson said, "Anxiety is fear of the future, whereas depression is connected with some past incident, which catches up with you and triggers negative thoughts. Everybody needs a mental break. I know a surgeon, one of the best surgeons in the city, who was experiencing 'Imposter syndrome', which is basically believing that you're not as competent as others perceive you to be. She developed this fear that she'll not be able to perform as well as others think. It again had links to perfectionism. She had this fear of making mistakes, slip-ups. When our emotions take over, a story starts running automatically and constantly through our minds like 'I am not good enough'. In such situations, it's time to reset your story, acknowledge the slip, forgive oneself and restart without feeling ashamed about not being perfect."

“Stigma creates a cloud of shame, a feeling of worthlessness and obscures one's road to recovery; it's important that one processes his or her feelings rather than bottle it up in one's mind and body



ANNE JACKSON
Dubai-based therapist

7 STEPS TO HELP YOUR TEAM DEAL WITH WORK STRESS

1 BE HONEST

One silver lining of the pandemic is that it's normalising mental health challenges. Almost everyone has experienced some level of discomfort. But the universality of the experience will translate into a decrease in stigma if people, especially people with influence, share their experiences. Being honest about your mental health struggles as a leader opens the door for employees to feel comfortable talking with you about their mental health challenges.

2 LET US TALK

Empowered "mental health champions", who have experienced turmoil, can help build awareness. They can make videos about their experiences and also lead mental health awareness campaigns. When managers describe their challenges, whether mental health-related or not, it makes them appear human, relatable and brave. Research has shown that authentic leadership can cultivate trust and improve employee engagement and performance.

3 MODEL HEALTHY BEHAVIOURS

Don't just say you support mental health. Model it so that your team members feel they can prioritise self-care and set boundaries. More often than not, managers are so focused on their team's wellbeing and on getting the work done that they forget to take care of themselves. Share that you're taking a walk in the middle of the day, having a therapy appointment, or prioritising a staycation and actually turning off e-mail, so that you don't burn out.

4 BUILD A CULTURE OF CONNECTION THROUGH CHECK-INS

Intentionally checking in with each of your subordinates on a regular basis is more critical than ever. That was important but often under-utilised in pre-pandemic days. Now, with so many people working from home, it can be even harder to notice the signs that someone is struggling. Go beyond a simple "How are you?" and ask specific questions about what support would be helpful. Wait for the full answer. Really listen, and encourage questions and concerns.

5 OFFER FLEXIBILITY AND BE INCLUSIVE

Expect that the situation, your team's needs, and your own needs will continue to change. Check in regularly — particularly at transition points. You can help solve any issues that come up only if you know what's happening.

6 COMMUNICATE MORE THAN YOU THINK YOU NEED TO

Studies have shown that employees who felt their managers were not good at communicating have been 23 per cent more likely than others to experience mental health declines since the outbreak.


7 MODIFY POLICIES AND PRACTICES

To reduce stress on everyone, be as generous and flexible as possible in updating policies and practices in reaction to the pandemic.

Courtesy of therapist Anne Jackson and Harvard Business Review

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

YAS
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THE FAKE JOB TRAP

JOB SCAMS ARE FLOODING THE RECRUITMENT MARKET
FOLLOWING THE UNEMPLOYMENT SPIKE DURING THE COVID-19
CRISIS — **999** LISTS THE RED FLAGS

BY HEBA HASHEM

After roughly two months of unemployment and struggle to find a new job amidst the novel coronavirus crisis, Anthony Thomas, a South African engineer in Dubai, thought he finally found a new job opportunity.

A company claiming to be engaged in engineering, procurement, and construction services, reached out to Thomas, saying that he had been shortlisted for an interview; the company asked for his updated CV and salary expectation. Within a week of responding to their e-mail, he received a phone call from a man, who offered him a job.

"The remuneration package seemed too good to be true, but tempting, nonetheless. I believe they're part of an elaborate job scam to fleece applicants out of \$2,100 (Dhs7,700) as 'visa application charge' and possible passport fraud. It's sad to say that in these troubled times, there are people out there looking to capitalise on your misfortune," said Thomas.

999 found that the company that offered Thomas the non-existent job is listed on Stop419scams.com, a website that exposes scammers and aims to get fake websites removed. The company has also been listed on the online forum StopScamFraud.com since October 2020.

At the end of July 2021, an Abu-Dhabi based company named VPS Healthcare warned candidates about fake employment contracts that were being sent out in the name of the company's business unit Response Plus Medical



Three of the 90 eligible healthcare workers who were offered jobs by VPS Healthcare in Abu Dhabi, after being scammed by fake job recruiters

Services. This warning followed the predicament of 300 Indian nurses, who were left high and dry in the UAE, having fallen victim to a job scam that promised them decent salaries for vaccination work. In May 2021, after being stuck here for three months, some of the nurses were offered a lifeline by VPS Healthcare, which began a recruitment process for the victims — around 90 of them were hired after 165 were interviewed.

Quoted by UAE media, nurse Ambily from the Indian state of Kerala, who was one of the scammed job-seekers, said, "I came to the UAE with high hopes, but was shocked when I found out about the scam. I've paid about 200,000 rupees (\$2,756; Dhs10,000 approx) to the recruitment agency." She was promised a job in the UAE that would fetch a salary of \$1,225 (Dhs4,500) a month, and was

told that even her sister Asha would find employment. What happened after arrival was a nightmare — there was no job and no refund.

"[The agency] had not returned us a single penny. I cannot go back to India with empty hands, as my family is struggling to pay back the money we arranged to pay the agent," said Ambily. The job offer from VPS Healthcare rescued her from a desperate situation, and even Asha got an offer from the same company.

Not every scam victim is likely to get a fallback as these sisters, which is why it's important to understand that the scope of job scams has expanded during the pandemic and it's essential to double-check the authenticity of any offer.

SCAMMED AND IN DEBT

The UAE is a highly desirable work destination for people in many countries, and fake job recruiters use the country's stature to lure unsuspecting victims. Before the group of Indian nurses, there were dozens of Africans who were stranded in the UAE in 2020, preyed upon by job scammers. They were promised, by a Mombasa-based recruiter, jobs in Dubai with salaries up to Dhs3,000 per month. To get these jobs, each candidate had to pay a fee — ranging from Dhs5,000 and Dhs6,800. Once the victims reached Dubai, however, their agent simply left them stranded and in acute financial distress.

These victims may just appear to be numbers, but their individual stories speak of a grave injustice. The victims



Job scam victim Ambily now hired as a healthcare worker by VPS Healthcare

“ The General Department of Criminal Investigations in Dubai Police monitors such gangs as well as fake advertisements through its specialised department, called the Economic Crimes Control Department



BRIGADIER JAMAL SALEM AL JALAF

Director of Criminal Investigation Department in Dubai Police

were devastated — some of them left their jobs elsewhere to come to Dubai, and found that they were completely sunk, and in debt. Rahmna Hemed, 52, took a loan of Dhs27,000 to pay the ‘processing fee’ to the agent, for herself and her four adult children. The children were working in Qatar and getting the equivalent of about Dhs1,353. They left those jobs as the prospects in Dubai seemed a lot better. That was until the whole thing fell apart.

Not only did the jobs vaporise, but the candidates also found themselves practically imprisoned by the recruiters — as many as 50 people in a room — without any access to the authorities.



“ Online fraudsters caught by the UAE authorities face a jail sentence of not less than a year, with fines ranging from Dhs250,000 to Dhs1 million

Their story made headlines only when some of them managed to sneak out of their quarters.

In March 2021, two UAE-bound Filipina workers fell victims to a recruitment scam in the UAE. The two women were intercepted by the Philippines’ Bureau of Immigration at the airport before their departure after the authorities noticed discrepancies in their employment contracts. Upon being questioned, the victims admitted that they had received their contracts from an agent they met online a day before their flight.

AUTHORITIES TAKE ACTION

As per UAE labour laws, it’s illegal for recruitment agencies and companies to charge job candidates and employees any fee before or during the recruitment process or for their residence visa and work permit applications.

Online fraudsters caught by the UAE authorities face a jail sentence of not less than a year, with fines ranging from Dhs250,000 to Dhs1 million, according to Article 11 of the Federal Law No. 5 of 2012.

The UAE authorities have already caught several conmen over job scams in recent months. One of the recent cases involved a gang that tricked 150 job-seekers into transferring cash for non-existent career opportunities.

According to Brigadier Jamal Salem Al Jalaf, Director of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) at Dubai Police, the gang lured victims by posting fake job opportunities with attractive salaries. They then asked them for payments ranging between Dhs1,000 and Dhs3,000 for made-up reasons, such as recruitment fees, or for booking the interview appointment. In the end, the job-seekers would find out that no position ever existed.

The Anti-Fraud Department of Dubai Police formed a raid team and coordinated with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization to verify the information, before arresting the suspects and seizing the payment receipts and slips. “The General Department of Criminal Investigations in Dubai Police monitors such gangs as well as fake advertisements through its specialised department, called the Economic Crimes Control Department,” said Al Jalaf in an official statement.

Another case in early 2020 saw Dubai Police arrest a gang of nine African fraudsters specialising in cyber-scams,



uncovering more than Dhs32 million in an operation dubbed 'Fox Hunt'. The gang ran 81 fake businesses across 18 countries that deceived victims into transferring money in return for job opportunities, said Dubai Police. The successful 'Fox Hunt' operation of Dubai Police prevented the gang from abusing 800,000 e-mail addresses and foiled their bid to steal Dhs4 billion.

Anyone who has fallen victim to a job

“ Anyone who has fallen victim to a job scam in the UAE can report the fraud to their nearest police station or by calling 901

scam in the UAE can report the fraud to their nearest police station or by calling 901. Upon calling, they can get connected to the Department of Criminal Investigations.

Those who have been scammed in Dubai can also raise a complaint using the Dubai Police Crime portal. This platform allows users to report suspicious online activity, including Internet fraud, hacking, blackmail, and identity theft.

Given the scale of job scams targeting Indian nationals, the Indian Consulate in Dubai launched in January 2021 a mobile app, through which citizens can upload their offer letters and verify their genuineness.

Muhammad Faizan Awan, Human Resource and Business Development Manager at Maplewood International School in Abu Dhabi, suggested that

a dedicated government-run helpline or portal for job scams would hugely help in the crackdown on con artists. “Some of these scammers are sitting on popular job sites like Indeed, Naukrigulf, and LinkedIn. There should be some provisions to safeguard the interests of the people that are applying,” he said. “All HR managers should be encouraged to be involved in this helpline/portal, where people can raise legitimacy queries that are directed to the HR managers of the concerned UAE institutions. As HR managers, we hold a social responsibility towards informing people of the legitimacy of jobs.”

HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED

Job scammers have become extremely sophisticated over the years. Today, they



“Previously, you could pick out a lot of scammers if you had a sharp eye for detail. Some of them [now] are really good, especially the ones who target teachers. They create fake websites and fake job letters, which seem very legit



MUHAMMAD FAIZAN AWAN
HR professional

don't just send out fake job letters, but they also create fake profiles on LinkedIn and Facebook to impersonate real people and companies, and then connect with job-seekers with fake job opportunities. They're also purchasing online domains to create fake e-mail addresses to give the impression that they work for legitimate companies. This can make it harder for targets to separate the fake from the real.

“Job scams have evolved over time and scammers are becoming far more intelligent. Previously, you could pick out a lot of scammers if you had a sharp eye for detail. Some of them [now] are really good, especially the ones who target teachers. They create fake websites and fake job letters, which seem very legit,” Awan told 999.



5 TIPS TO SPOT A JOB SCAM

To stay safe when job-searching online, here are five practical rules to follow:

1 BE YOUR OWN DETECTIVE

We live in a globally connected world and all the information we need is at our fingertips. With a Wi-Fi connected device, you can easily run a background check on the company offering you a job. Check if they have a physical address and listed phone number, and search for online feedback and reviews.

Even if you get an e-mail from a legitimate-looking source, pay attention to the whole recruitment process, advises UAE-based HR professional Muhammad Faizan Awan. Were you interviewed by a person? Did that person disclose their location and designation? Were your documents and references checked?

If it's a recruitment agency that's offering you the job, call them to double-check if hiring is taking place, and ask which companies they've hired for in the past. Search for clients of that agency and call to find out if they've really had dealings with the agency. Finally, do your due diligence and do not give in to pressure from the so-called employers.



2 USE TRUSTED JOB SEARCH WEBSITES

Using large, reputable job search engines like LinkedIn, Glassdoor, and Indeed will ensure that you're in contact with legitimate employers, because these platforms have their own screening processes as well. That said, you should still keep your guard up and follow the other rules for spotting online job scams.

3 SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Scammers spend a lot of time creating a genuine look for their fake websites. However, telephone numbers and e-mails will often be different, sometimes in a small way, such as by adding a hyphen or an extra letter to make a fake website address or fraud e-mail ID resemble that of an actual company. So, look closely to spot the differences.



4 BE SCEPTICAL OF PERSONAL E-MAIL IDs

Con artists can steal company names and logos to make themselves appear legitimate. So don't assume that a job offer is authentic just because you see a recognisable company name or logo in an e-mail signature. As Awan advises, a legitimate recruiter will contact you from a corporate e-mail ID and never a free personal e-mail address such as Gmail or Yahoo.

You can also search the person's name on LinkedIn to see if they're a genuine employee of the company. And you can view their profile and first-degree connections to see if they're connected with other people in the company they claim to work for.

5 TRUST YOUR INSTINCT

At the end of the day, if a job sounds too good to be true, then chances are it is so. Fraudsters will typically offer big salaries with very attractive perks and allowances. One has to simply use common sense in judging such cases. You can also ask for an opinion from family and friends if you're unsure.

If what's being offered is way above the average, then that's a warning sign that something is wrong. As a job-seeker, you should have an idea about the average salary for the position you're seeking. Anything beyond the average should be treated with suspicion. A quick search on the Internet will often give you a fair idea about the average salary for the kind of job that has been advertised.



Scamming techniques were also more refined now, said Awan. Some scammers will ask for a security deposit or clearance fees to process the jobseeker's UAE residence visa and work permit. Others will request a service charge to offer the candidate a position. Then there are small-time scammers, who usually ask job-seekers to pay for a 'subscription service' that would get them interviews.

"The small-time scammers are all over LinkedIn these days. These are the ones who usually post a fake job and ask people to type 'interested' in the comments section. This is also part of a scam. It's giving people false hope under the pretence that they're going to provide them a service, and that doesn't happen," said Awan, who has 10 years of HR experience in the UAE. "A lot of people on LinkedIn do this for visibility purposes because the algorithm picks up your profile as being a very active and engaged user. It's disappointing because a lot of people are led on by that," he added.

Moreover, some websites ask job-seekers to upload scanned copies of their personal documents, including their Emirates ID and passport page, just to register on the portal. This is also a red flag, according to Awan. Registration on a genuine website usually doesn't require anything more than an e-mail ID and/or a mobile number.

SCHOOL SCAMS

Complaints about scams for teaching job opportunities have increased, following school closures during the pandemic and the move to online learning.



WhichSchoolAdvisor.com, an independent school reviews-based website, was notified of five fake recruitment campaigns offering scam teaching positions in the month of June 2021 alone. Several of these scams had duplicated the websites of legitimate schools and chosen highly regarded school names to attract targets. The jobs they offered had unusually generous salaries and required advance payment for UAE visas, before arrival. Even current residents can become targets.

"Some job-seekers within the UAE, including teachers and IT professionals, are being targeted with non-existent job offers. It's a refined process now. If these people use their intelligence someplace else, they might be making a lot of money by providing a legitimate service to the community," noted Awan.

He said that the con artists followed a well-thought-out interview process. For example, those impersonating schools typically introduce the candidate to the 'principal' and promise to call back after the interview, making it look authentic.

"In the schooling spectrum, two of my cousins based in Pakistan received offer letters after the interviews and they were not legitimate. I checked with the HR of the schools, and they said they never sent out those letters," said Awan.

A similar scenario happened with Krystle Watson, an American elementary school teacher who

received a job offer from a fake school in Ras Al Khaimah. After signing a contract with the school, they asked her to handle her flight and visa expenses upfront and promised to reimburse her upon arrival.

Coincidentally, the scam target spotted the red flags early on. The so-called principal was using a Hotmail account; the school's contact details only included a mobile number; and most importantly, the fact that they asked for an upfront fee was highly suspicious. She concluded it was a scam and didn't continue the correspondence.

One of the top signs of an online job scam is being asked to pay to get the job. If a company asks you to make a payment to cover visa processing, training, or placement fees — even if it promises to reimburse you upon your arrival or employment — it's very likely a scam and you should walk away.

"Nobody should be asking you for money upfront. Recruitment agencies that recruit for reputable and legitimate institutions don't charge candidates; they charge the company. And, if your documents are being requested even before registration, then that's definitely a red flag," says Awan.

66 Recruitment agencies that recruit for reputable and legitimate institutions don't charge candidates; they charge the company

VACANT



SHEIKH ZAYED'S VISION OF MODERNITY

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

The leader of Democrats in the US Senate saying that the UAE has better infrastructure than the US reflects the wisdom of Sheikh Zayed

“Our economy is number one in the world, but infrastructure ranks 13th. You’ll find better roads, bridges, airports, and broadband in the United Arab Emirates than in the United States.”

This is how the leader of the Democratic majority in the US Senate, Chuck Schumer, praised the UAE model in infrastructure in his speech during the Senate’s approval on a \$1.2 trillion (Dhs4.4trn) infrastructure investment plan, in an important victory for the Democratic President Joe Biden.

This came in the first week of August 2021, a few days after the 55th anniversary of the accession of the UAE’s founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, as Ruler of the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Was it the dream of Sheikh Zayed, when he founded the UAE, that the first superpower in the world should compare its infrastructure with that of the UAE? Did he expect that one of the most important American politicians would recognise the infrastructure of the UAE as being better than that of the US?

Sheikh Zayed’s dream was to see his country rise to keep pace with the times, and to see his people enjoying what other nations were enjoying.

On June 4, 1970, renowned Indian journalist Russi Karanjia, owner and editor-in-chief of the Indian newspaper Blitz, published an interview with Sheikh Zayed. In it, he quoted the UAE’s founding father as saying: “One day, when I was the ruler of Al Ain in the eastern region, I was walking in its streets.

I had a friend with me on this tour, a senior English officer. I felt when I saw the people, the houses, the mountains and the valleys, that the civilisation of this country was almost screaming at me, pushing me to building a modern country.

“Here I began to point out that I was in a sweet spiritual dream. Here will be a huge agricultural centre, and here is an industrial area, and here is a large power plant, and there in Abu Dhabi, we will build a port in this particular area, and the

airport will be at that point, and here is a university, and here is the hospital, and here is the defence force, and so on. My friend laughed and said to me: Stop daydreaming.

“Days passed, and I forgot all the conversation, until on the same day, more than twenty years later, my friend came to visit me after he retired from service in his country. Everything I mentioned was built in the same place:


factories, electricity, the hospital, even the defence, all of this was achieved, and they were not daydreams.”

Commenting on this, Karanjia wrote: “This story happened before anyone dreamed that there would be oil flowing in this region, or that Sheikh Zayed would be the ruler of that country. Such cases only happen to inspiring leaders, and many of the qualities of an inspiring leader were [there] in the late Sheikh Zayed.”

Yes, Sheikh Zayed achieved what he just once dreamed of. His sons and grandsons continued what he built, until the UAE became a role model amongst nations.

The civilisation of this country was almost screaming at me, pushing me to building a modern country

VACCINE 101 FOR UNDER-18s



THE RECENT UAE APPROVAL OF THE SINOPHARM VACCINE
FOR 3-17 YEARS OLD ENSURES COMPLETE PROTECTION FOR
THE ENTIRE POPULATION, HELPING THE EDUCATION SECTOR
AND THE OVERALL ECONOMY

BY NEIL BIE



One of the most significant developments in the UAE's pandemic management so far is the approval given to the Sinopharm vaccine for inoculating the 3-17 age group. The approval, given about a month before the new school year, follows the successful immune bridge study covering 900 children, conducted in Abu Dhabi, in June 2021. The UAE is the first country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to have conducted a study of the vaccine's effectiveness for this age group.

Now, families have the choice of two vaccines — Sinopharm and Pfizer-BioNTech — depending on the age of their children. Only Sinopharm is

approved for 3-11 years; and Sinopharm and Pfizer-BioNTech are both approved for 12-17 years. With this, the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) has empowered those parents who wish to have their children vaccinated and back in school. The new approval makes it possible for the UAE to vaccinate its entire population, except infants (aged 0-2 years), and enables it to open up the economy still more, ahead of the mega event Expo 2020 Dubai, which would no doubt be visited by tens of thousands of UAE families.

This is another crucial step in the UAE's goal to vaccinate 100 per cent of its target groups before the end of 2021, as part of

its long-term recovery plan that will benefit everyone living in the country. When children get vaccinated, not only do they get protection from the novel coronavirus, but it also helps protect those who live together with them, particularly the elderly and those with chronic diseases.

Hussain Abdul Rahman Al Rand, Assistant Undersecretary for the Public Health Sector, and Chairman of the National Committee for the Implementation of the Provisions of International Health Regulations and Prevention of Pandemics, affirmed the move as part of the UAE's proactive approach in protecting the youth from contracting the virus. He also assured that the UAE remains committed to being a global role model in vaccinating its residents.



HH Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court, speaks to a girl as she waits to get a vaccine dose

“ The UAE is the first country in the Middle East and North Africa region to have conducted a study of the vaccine's effectiveness for the 3-17 age group

“Over long decades, children in every part of the world used to get safe vaccines against several diseases and viral infections, and the way the Sinopharm vaccine works is the same as how these vaccines work



HUSSAIN ABDUL RAHMAN AL RAND

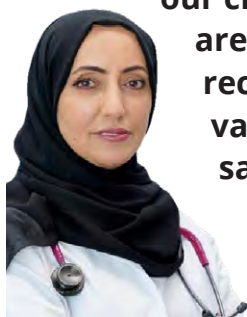
Assistant Undersecretary for the Public Health Sector

Dispelling any fears over COVID-19 vaccination of children, Al Rand pointed out, “Over long decades, children in every part of the world used to get safe vaccines against several diseases and viral infections, and the way the Sinopharm vaccine works is the same as how these vaccines work.”

COMPREHENSIVE TRIALS

In the trial undertaken before this new approval was given, the 900 participants of the Sinopharm immune bridge study included the children of HH Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince’s Court — who accompanied his sons, nephews, and nieces during the trials. This voluntary gesture gave fellow Emiratis and UAE residents the confidence to let their wards take part in the first-ever COVID-19 vaccine trials for children and teenagers in the MENA region.

“Children are the cornerstone of any society and the future of any nation. We want to make sure that our children are able to receive the vaccine safely



DR NAWAL AL KAABI

Chairwoman of the National COVID-19 Clinical Management Committee

Dr Nawal Al Kaabi, Chairwoman of the National COVID-19 Clinical Management Committee and Principal Investigator for Phase III Trials COVID-19 vaccine and Sinopharm immune bridge study for children, stated that the study was part of a crucial process that the UAE had to undertake to ensure the safety of the vaccine amongst its younger population.

“Children are the cornerstone of any society and the future of any nation. As more and more people are vaccinated in the UAE, we want to make sure that our children are able to receive the vaccine safely. This is why, when we designed the Sinopharm immune bridge study, we focused on ensuring that all care is given to our young volunteers throughout the journey,” said Dr Al Kaabi.

She added that one of the most important aspects during the trials and the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination drive for the 3-17 age group was informing the parents about the vaccines, their

benefits, and probable side-effects to get their full consent. “We want both children and parents to understand every step of the process and also to know that we will be with them, supporting them, answering every question they may have, at any time,” said Dr Al Kaabi.

In August, the UAE revealed that over 96 per cent of the children who took part in the two-month trial developed sufficient antibodies to protect themselves from COVID-19. It also confirmed that not a single child who took part during the trials contracted COVID-19.

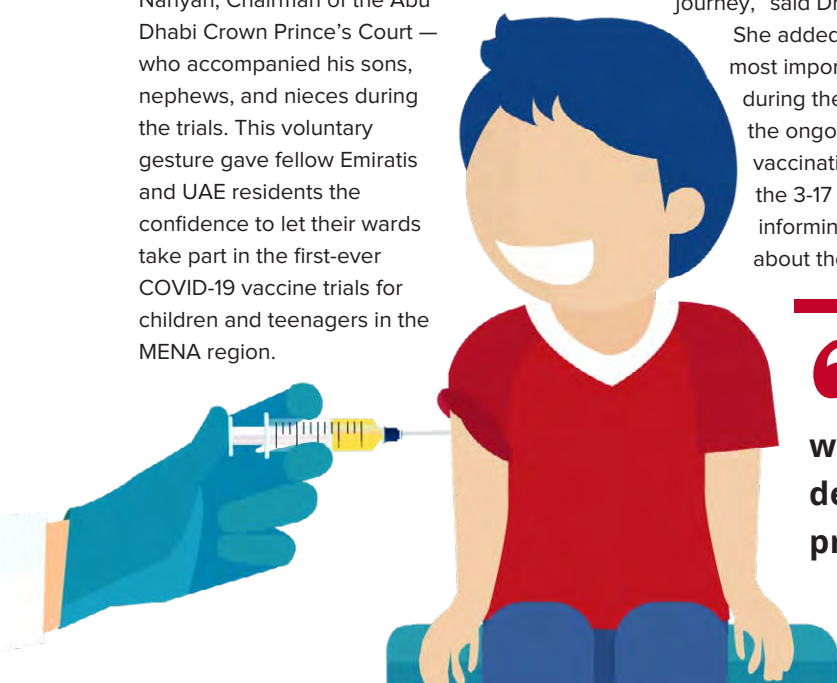
Experts also noted that not one child experienced any serious adverse side-effects from the Sinopharm shot. They observed that 29.7 per cent, or three out of 10 children, experienced some pain at the injection site immediately after the jab; 8 per cent experienced headaches; while 3.7 per cent developed a fever after they got their shot. The rest of the children didn’t experience any side-effects.

Dr Al Kaabi, who also serves as the Chief Medical Officer at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, shared, “The enrolment registration for this study has been successful, as we’ve attracted the desired number of children within a short period of time. I would like to thank everyone who took the initiative to register and participate in this study to support the country’s efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. This reflects the public’s confidence and trust in the UAE’s long-term recovery plan and the competence of the healthcare sector of the country.”

Other countries have also started vaccinating children. The United States and Canada became the first two countries to approve COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 12-15, with the Pfizer-BioNTech jab. The UAE, Japan, Hong Kong, Brazil, Chile, Israel, Switzerland, New Zealand, and the Philippines followed suit soon after.

India has been trialling the vaccine made by Zydus Cadila for the under-18

“In August, the UAE revealed that over 96 per cent of the children who took part in the two-month trial developed sufficient antibodies to protect themselves from COVID-19





SINOPHARM IMMUNE BRIDGE STUDY RESULTS

900

Children who took part in the Sinopharm trials in June 2021 in Abu Dhabi

96%

Children who developed enough antibodies against COVID-19 within the trial period

0

No COVID-19 cases were recorded amongst children who took part in the trial, and not a single child experienced serious adverse effects

age group, and the vaccine may become available in September 2021.

China and Indonesia introduced the Sinovac vaccine in June 2021 — China has approved it for the 3-17 age group, while Indonesia has recommended it for the 12-17 age group.

SAFER SCHOOLING

The approval of Sinopharm for under-18s will speed up the resumption of physical classes in the UAE after the long months of students being cut off from

each other.

Dr Farida Al Hosani, Official Spokesperson for the UAE's health sector, expressed optimism that this vaccination drive would ensure a safe return of all children to school. "Despite the low number of positive cases amongst children, vaccination is very important because students are gradually going back to face-to-face [learning in] schools. Our message to all parents is to rest assured that this vaccination will help all of us feel safe

and protect the health and wellness of our children," said Dr Al Hosani.

Basma Al Kendi, an Egyptian mother of two, shared that she had already got the first dose for her children Fatima, 12, and Arwa, 9, ahead of their new classes. She shared that since she and her husband got the Sinopharm jab in January 2021 and their booster in July, the COVID-19 vaccine approval gave her the confidence that

COVID-19 VACCINATION CENTRES FOR 3-17 AGE GROUP

No appointments required across all vaccination centres nationwide.

ABU DHABI

All schedules are from Sunday to Thursday, 8am-5pm

Abu Dhabi City

- Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre
- Seha Al Mushrif Children's Speciality Centre
- Al Mushrif Majlis
- Al Bateen Majlis
- Al Manhal Majlis

Al Ain

- Al Kubaisi Hall at Al Ain Exhibition Centre
- Seha Al Towayya Children's Speciality Centre
- Falaj Hazza Majlis

Al Dhafra

- Ghayathi Hospital
- Marfa Hospital
- Delma Hospital
- Liwa Hospital
- Sila Hospital

- Al Dhafra Family Medicine Centre
- Al Dhafra Cooperative Society

DUBAI

Grand Hyatt
Sunday to Thursday
8am-5pm

AJMAN

Al Manama Health Centre
Sunday to Thursday
8am-1pm / 5pm-8pm
Saturday / 8am-1pm

Muzaira Health Centre

Sunday to Thursday
8am-1pm / 4pm-8.30pm
Saturday
8am-12.30pm / 4pm-8.30pm

Society of Social and cultural Development

Sunday to Thursday
8am-9pm
Friday / 5pm-10pm

Mushairef Health Centre

Sunday to Thursday
9am-1pm / 5pm-9pm

SHARJAH

Huaya Suburb Khorfakan
Saturday to Thursday
8am-4pm

Dibba suburb

Saturday to Thursday
8am-4pm

Sharjah university Kalba

Saturday to Thursday
8am-4pm

Al Bustan Suburb

Saturday to Thursday
8am-4pm

Muwaileh Suburb

Saturday to Thursday
8am-6pm

Sharjah Expo

Saturday to Thursday
8am-8pm

Mughaidir Suburb

Saturday to Thursday
8am-4pm

FUJAIRAH

Al Faseel Family Health Promotion Centre
Saturday Thursday
8am-2pm

Al Qurrayah Health Centre

Saturday to Thursday
8am-2pm

Murbah Health Centre

Saturday to Thursday
8am-2pm

Al Bidya Health Centre

Saturday to Thursday
8am-2pm

Al Halah Health Centre

Saturday to Thursday / 8am-2pm

Tawain Health Centre

Saturday to Thursday / 8am-2pm

Wadi al Seder Health Centre

Saturday to Thursday
8am-2pm

Siji Health Centre

Saturday to Thursday
8am-2pm

Khalifa Centre

Saturday to Thursday
8am-5pm

Expo Dibba

Saturday to Thursday
8am-5pm

RAS AL KHAIMAH

Al Jeer Health Centre
Saturday to Thursday
7.30am-2.30pm

Al Maneai Health Centre

Saturday to Thursday
8am-1pm
5am-10pm

Kadra Health Centre

Saturday to Thursday
7.30am-2.30pm

Al Bait Al Mutwahid

Saturday to Thursday
7.30am-3pm

Sport hall RAK

Saturday to Thursday
8am-8pm

Expo

Saturday to Thursday
8am-8pm

UMM AL QUWAIN

AlbaitAlmetwahid
Saturday to Thursday
8am-9pm

“MoHAP stressed that the COVID-19 jabs for 3-17 years would not be mandatory, but they continue to urge parents to go for vaccination

her children would be protected and they could enjoy attending school once again.

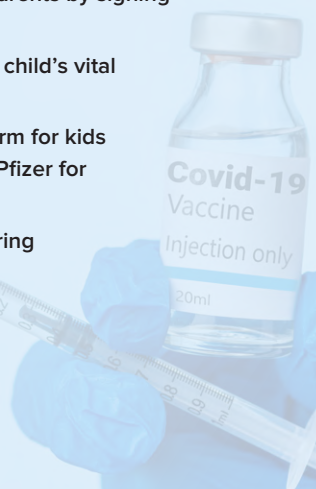
“I remember my younger daughter Arwa wincing in pain when she got injected, but she was really strong. Since our family was there, she mustered the courage with the thought that she’d meet her classmates that she misses so much. As for my eldest, Fatima, she’s excited to be out and about at school with the feeling that she’s protected against COVID-19 since she got the jab,” said Al Kendi.

MoHAP stressed that the COVID-19 jabs for 3-17 years would not be mandatory, but they continue to urge parents to go for vaccination. In addition, no one can get into a school complex without being vaccinated, as per MoHAP rules for the new school year. That’s another reason to choose vaccination and help the country move forward.

By mid-August, the UAE had administered 17.5 million vaccine doses,

HOW TO GET CHILDREN VACCINATED IN THE UAE

- Upon arrival at the COVID-19 vaccination centre, parents meet with the doctors and healthcare professionals to be informed about the vaccine that their children will be taking.
- The doctor will have to get the consent of the parents by signing several papers.
- Nurses and healthcare professionals record the child’s vital statistics prior to taking the jab.
- The child is injected with the vaccine – Sinopharm for kids aged 3-11, and a choice between Sinopharm or Pfizer for those aged 12-17.
- Children are sent to a secluded area for monitoring for 30 minutes if they develop immediate side-effects.
- Doctors will follow up with the parents every week to see if their children have developed any symptoms.
- Parents are also encouraged to contact MoHAP through **800 1717** for any COVID-19 related queries or at **800 50** for COVID-19 telemedicine appointments.



attaining a figure of 177.01 doses per 100 people.

Dr Ahmed Deemas Alsuwaidi, Associate Professor of Paediatrics and Infectious Diseases, and Chair of the Department of Paediatrics at the United Arab Emirates University, affirmed, “With vaccines now readily available to protect against COVID-19, we are much closer to ending

the pandemic. Research so far has shown that COVID-19 vaccines are remarkably effective and safe. In addition, children have been safely receiving vaccines for multiple diseases and viruses for generations. The Sinopharm vaccine is similar in concept to all of these vaccines and we look forward to seeing its effectiveness for children.”



FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

MANY PEOPLE FROM THE WEST AND THE EAST ARRIVED IN THE UAE WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS JUST BEGINNING ITS GROWTH SPURT. SOME OF THESE EXPATS SHARE WITH **999** THEIR STORIES OF THIS REMARKABLE NATION

BY AHRON KESTLER





“ The UAE’s unstoppable march in the late 20th century culminated with the December 1999 opening of the iconic Burj Al Arab hotel

Prior to the rise of gleaming steel-and-glass skyscrapers and incredible infrastructure, the UAE began its life as a union with simple traditional homes, modest public buildings, and rough roads, as captured by old photographs of residents who arrived in the country in the 1970s to the 1990s. Those were the years when the country began to build itself up from the desert sand, already burning with the ambition of standing amongst the best in the world, led by the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, UAE’s founding father.

Many of the expats who live in the UAE now arrived in those early decades, and

they saw the country’s rapid advancement powered by oil and trade and, above all, security. The UAE’s unstoppable march in the late 20th century culminated with the December 1999 opening of the iconic Burj Al Arab hotel, a jaw-dropping example of engineering and aesthetics that helped the country shoot to the top of the global tourism destinations list. The 21st century has seen a manifold increase in the national gains, not just in terms of economic growth, but also the international goodwill and admiration it has earned, for all its achievements from creating architectural icons such as Burj Khalifa to undertaking humanitarian work

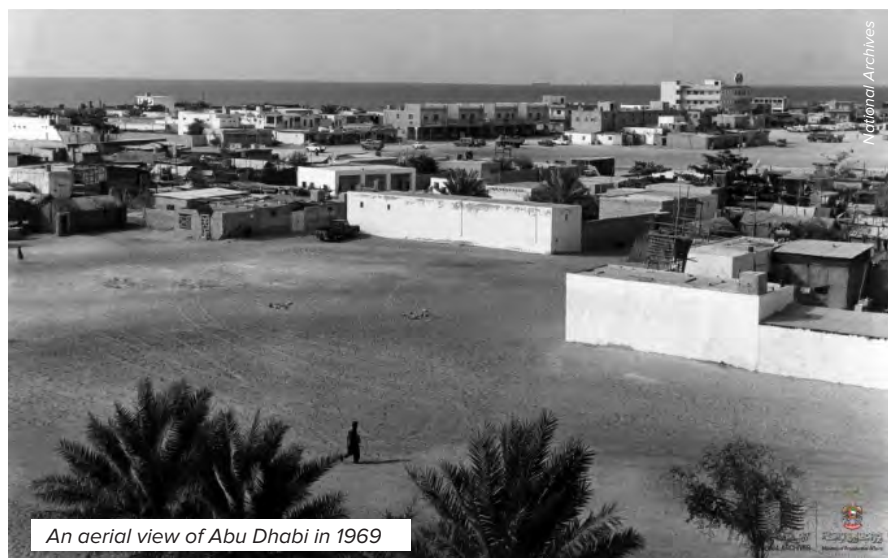
overseas during the current pandemic.

Expats who have lived through all of these feel proud of their long association with such a remarkable country. They share with **999** their stories of life in this small but dynamic nation. These expats have all played — as expats still do — an important role in nation-building as the citizens have, guided by the wise leaders.

The first Emiratis who went abroad for their higher education acted as a bridge between their country and people from other continents, igniting the imagination of the foreigners they met.

In the 1970s, five young Emiratis went to the United States to study. They’d later come home and transfer knowledge from the blackboards and books of America to vital projects in the newly formed United Arab Emirates. They took with them to the US an English newspaper from the UAE, and the news contained in that daily lit the spark in the mind of one of their American friends, who decided to explore the new nation.

Martin Corrado, an American who was in his early thirties back then, shared that it was the stories that he heard from his five Emirati friends and the news he read in Emirates News, the English daily published in Abu Dhabi, that piqued his interest and brought him to the UAE. He saw that the young nation had begun flourishing with huge infrastructure projects and



An aerial view of Abu Dhabi in 1969

National Archives

“I knew it would be developing. But I didn’t think it would be to this extent. I think it’s the goodwill that Emiratis have created across the globe that’s the most important thing. There is a genuine spirit of giving



MARTIN CORRADO

American, UAE resident since 1977

investments, following the discovery of oil. Corrado also saw the engaging culture and sporting activities of the UAE, particularly its unique camel races.

“I even used to enjoy reading the classified advertisements in that newspaper, which gave me an idea about jobs, market conditions, and even some people’s interesting traits as well,” recalled Corrado.

Prior to his trip to the UAE, he and his wife Mary had learned a bit of Arabic in Cairo, Egypt, and brushed up their language skills with the help of their five Emirati friends in their home in New York.



Abu Dhabi Corniche in 1970

National Archives

They continued to learn more about the UAE’s culture and way of life until his Emirati friends returned to Abu Dhabi in 1974, having finished their studies at New York University, the same institution where Corrado had been studying for his MBA.

Through the years, Corrado kept in touch with his five Emirati friends, who later rose to top government positions in the UAE. Amongst them was Nasser Al Nowais, who currently serves as Chairman of the Rotana Hotel Management Corporation. Al Nowais also served as Managing Director of the Abu Dhabi Fund and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance and Industry.

In 1977, Corrado accepted Al Nowais’ invitation to visit the UAE, and that changed

his and his family’s life forever. Flight and travel disruptions forced him and his wife to stay in Abu Dhabi for several more days than intended. It was during this time that Al Nowais introduced Corrado to His Highness Sheikh Suroor bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, who led several key positions in the UAE government.

“His Highness Sheikh Suroor thanked me for ‘taking care’ of Al Nowais and other Emirati students while they were studying in the US and discussed many things related to finance and investments,” recalled Corrado.

In a matter of months, Corrado received a special telex from Sheikh Suroor himself, asking if he’d like to become a financial adviser — this marked the Corrado family’s new life since 1977.

Fast forward 40 years later, and Corrado was instrumental in developing many of Abu Dhabi’s landmarks, including Etihad Towers, ADMA-OPCO office, and more. He said that the UAE had since exceeded his expectations and he looked forward as to how this young country would progress not just in material terms, but also with the kindheartedness of Emiratis, a value that has been ingrained in every citizen.

“I knew it would be developing. But I didn’t think it would be to this extent. What we see now is amazing. I think it’s the goodwill Emiratis have created across the globe that’s the most important thing. There is a genuine spirit of giving — people helping people. That’s the most important contribution of Abu Dhabi,” said Corrado.



An old photo of Corrado in February 1979—the UAE’s founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed, welcoming Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II upon her arrival at Port Zayed in Abu Dhabi



Indian expat D'Costa from Mumbai whose first job in Abu Dhabi was to sell hardware



“I lived with that thought for the first two weeks; fortunately, it was not easy to go back immediately. Otherwise, I would have missed a wonderful opportunity to witness the transformation of that desert land into a modern state in the next 50 years



GODFREY D'COSTA

Indian, UAE resident since 1970

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

It was a hot afternoon back in March 1970 when Godfrey D'Costa first set foot in Abu Dhabi. He was shocked to find that his workplace was closed due to a midday break — this was something he hadn't experienced ever in his hometown in India.

As a fresh graduate at the age of 22, D'Costa was looking forward to an environment similar to his city of Bombay (now Mumbai), a highly urbanised, densely populated, and modern metropolitan city. However, he found nothing but a few buildings and unpaved roads in Abu Dhabi's old days. D'Costa admitted that he was in a dire state of “culture shock” and wanted to head back home.

“When I realised I would be working in a shop in a small building [set] beside an unpaved road in a vast desert area, I sat on my steel trunk and cried,” recalled D'Costa, in an interview with local media.

But like a true Bombayite, an individual who's used to meeting the everyday challenges of a gruelling commute and — during western India's long monsoon — making his way through a flooded city, D'Costa persevered in his new and daunting environment. He kept reaping the rewards as the years passed, and eventually ended up spending more than half a century in the UAE. “I never imagined in my wildest dreams I would continue living here for so long,” he said.

His first job was to sell hardware, building materials, and auto parts in Abu Dhabi, where he earned 55 Bahraini dinars. His hard work and efforts were

recognised enough to warrant an increase of 20 Bahraini dinars in just two weeks. Back then, Bahraini dinars were the official currency of the UAE, until the early 1970s.

Apart from his daily tasks, D'Costa took it upon himself to become the shops' multi-tasker as electrician, plumber, carpenter, and painter. “It was all due to hard work. One day, I told my boss that the warehouse was in a miserable condition. I myself bought two gallons of paint and painted the entire warehouse. My dad taught me to do everything by myself. I used to paint my home. We were hands-on people!” said D'Costa. He remained a hardworking employee for the next 21 years until he decided to set up his own business in 1993 related to the construction industry.

He is witness to many of the UAE's historic moments, including the formation of the country on December 2, 1971. His Emirati boss honoured the UAE's second

foundation day in 1973 by giving out a special commemorative gold coin. D'Costa still has it. He said, “I've kept that coin as a treasure and recently handed it over to my son. He will pass it on to the next generation as our family's tribute to this great country.”

His family has lived a prosperous life in the UAE, with his business flourishing and his progeny taking up leadership positions in the government and finance sectors around the world.

“I lived with that thought for the first two weeks; fortunately it was not easy to go back immediately. Otherwise, I would have missed a wonderful opportunity to witness the transformation of that desert land into a modern state in the next 50 years,” he said.



Pearl divers secure haul after gathering pearls offshore in Abu Dhabi in 1971

National Archives



Taken in 1989, a taxi coming from the island area where Marina Mall stands today



MASSIVE TRANSFORMATION

The rapid urbanisation of the UAE has brought with it expats from Asian nations, who contribute to building its infrastructure and skyscrapers.

Filipina expat Vivien Napenas, 70, recalled taking an unassuming photo of two of her children in 1991 on a barren desert space, with only a few structures built on the dunes. She followed her husband, Ricardo, now aged 69, who was an electrical engineer in the UAE since 1988, three years before her arrival.

"Along the way, at the centre were islands and on the roadsides were palm trees. I remember Abu Dhabi as a vast space. The Corniche Road that we use today wasn't even there because the seas occupied that area," recalled Napenas.

She added that public buses were only used for long-haul travel and taxis were the only form of public transportation back in the '90s. In addition, there wasn't anything near as many roads compared to what the UAE has today.

"From Abu Dhabi, we could go to the northern Emirates via Dubai Road only. Along Sheikh Zayed Road were vast lands empty of structures. The nearest structure to mark Dubai from Abu Dhabi was the Chambers of Commerce Building. Road networks and sprouting buildings teemed simultaneously from 2000 onwards. The construction projects added to the growth of the population; then the setting up of businesses in those buildings contributed to a further increase in the UAE population," said Napenas.

Now, 30 years later, what was an empty sandy area in Mussafah, where Napenas

first took a photo of her two children, has transformed into the Industrial City of Abu Dhabi, rife with commercial structures and booming businesses.

Napenas shared that she and her husband chose to stay in this country for its wonderful opportunities, and praised the UAE's leadership for their vision to let expats enjoy a fulfilling life. "I have great admiration for the leaders of this country, who have propelled this place to prosperity and progress. No country in the world can be compared to the speed of transformation [the UAE] has gone through, thanks to the strong will and determination of its wise leaders," said Napenas.

Khalid Khatri, an Indian expat living for more than two decades in the country, recalls a different Dubai landscape. "My office was at City Tower 2. There weren't many towers on Sheikh Zayed Road then. Most of the towers were near the Crowne Plaza Hotel. There were almost no or few buildings after the Defence Roundabout (later on first interchange). There was one Hard Rock Café on the way to Dubai and Jebel Ali Zone. There were no traces of the Mall of the Emirates, Dubai Marina, etc. Emirates Towers was only built a couple of years later. Malls like Oasis Centre (original) and Mazaya Centre came later," recalled Khatri.

He used to live in Satwa, a locality that only had limited facilities available back then, a huge difference compared to the multitude of businesses and shops that have popped up all over town now. "I stayed in Satwa, where we had only one supermarket and most of the grocery was purchased from baqalas (small grocery

shops). No parking lots existed then, and we had to pass through some sandy patches on our way to Jumeirah Beach," said Khatri.

Another Filipina expat, Vilma de Mesa, shared that the UAE has also served as a pillar of tolerance since its early days; she has fond memories of taking part in church activities since she came here in 1981. To date, she is one of the longest-serving full-time church workers at the Filipino Christian Church in Abu Dhabi.

"It's my privilege, as a senior citizen who has lived and worked here for more than three decades, to witness the rise of the UAE and the Emirates to make their mark globally, while being mindful of other peoples and countries," said de Mesa. "This country has always been traditional in its view of spiritual matters, since its inception as a Union, but its commitment to be at the cutting edge of contemporary globalisation has led them to this tolerance without jeopardising their own faith."

“ I have great admiration for the leaders of this country, who have propelled this place to prosperity and progress. No country in the world can be compared to the speed of transformation the UAE has gone through



5 SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIONS THAT'LL LAND YOU IN JAIL

AS SOCIAL MEDIA BECOMES A CRUCIAL PART OF PEOPLE'S DAILY LIVES DURING THE PANDEMIC, THE UAE MAINTAINS THAT RESIDENTS MUST ACT PROPERLY ONLINE AS MUCH AS THEY DO OFFLINE. **999** PRESENTS A HELPFUL PRIMER ON HOW NOT TO FALL FOUL OF THE CYBERCRIME LAW

BY DREW RUSSELLE

The pandemic has drastically prompted a higher usage of the Internet across the globe. These days, social media is continuously becoming a crucial communication tool for information consumption and dissemination. Yet, it has, of course, associated risks, so users have to know how to harness its power when connecting to millions, sharing daily updates of one's life with the world.

When the world's first international anti-cybercrime police conference was held in 2010 in Hong Kong, top law enforcement officials had concluded that cybercrime was one of the most dangerous threats facing the world – its ambit ranged from illegal businesses worth \$105 billion (Dhs385.35bn) to extremist activities.

Hence, the UAE government is upping the ante on making sure that the public's virtual social sphere is free from a deluge of harmful pieces of information or fake news that may create confusion, and social and economic disruptions that can frustrate the country's march towards normalcy.

While everyone in the UAE has an Internet connection, the authorities are reminding residents that its usage must be within the right side of the law. 999 points you in the right direction.



1 RUMOUR-MONGERING

In May 2021, Dubai Police had clarified rumours of a jaguar reportedly on the loose in a residential neighbourhood. This started from the proliferation of a viral video of a 'black animal' on social media. After two days of searching, the police force affirmed in a statement that the wild animal wasn't a jaguar as previously thought but was only a black pet cat. Dubai Police took all measures to ensure the safety of residents of the area and urged the public to exercise caution when sharing information on social media as it may lead to the spread of misinformation and panic within the community. Such rumours may also endanger businesses in the area seen in the viral video, and give a negative image to the safety of the UAE.

2 FUNDRAISING

All too often, messages pop up on social media about an individual or organisation that desperately needs funds for a cause – it could range from a child's treatment to aiding migrants in another country. Many of these messages are accompanied by heart-rending photographs of children or ill people. While these messages tug at the heartstrings, you must not loosen your purse strings immediately.

Dr Hamad Saif Al Shamsi, Attorney General of the UAE, sent out a strict warning to the public about dealing with any person or organisation that promotes or calls for donations on the Internet. "The phenomenon harms the UAE, whose humanitarian organisations set a good example of humanitarian and charitable work through legal channels," he said. According to the law on cybercrimes, a person can be jailed for up to three years, punished with a fine between Dhs250,000 and Dhs500,000 or either of these two if they raise funds without the government's permission.



ONLINE CAUTION

Before you go on WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, heed these words of caution from legal experts

- Respect the UAE government, its leadership, political institutions and ultimately the UAE's cultural heritage and social norms and customs.
- Do not tweet anything that is contrary to public morals, the principles of Islam and the social and moral welfare of the UAE or any content that contains irreverence towards Islam or other religions. That includes hashtags.
- Do not tag other users without their consent. The UAE law contains broad provisions relating to the protection of privacy and reputation.
- You should think carefully about the content you are posting. You are responsible for the content you post. You should bear this in mind if you are posting content that you do not own or which contains material that is subject to someone else's rights.
- You must not publish other people's private information without their consent.

3 CRIME SCENE FILMING

The UAE police have always been discouraging residents from recording a crime scene because it is a punishable offence. In one of its dissemination campaigns in 2018, Ajman Police explained: "Publicising such images is considered irresponsible and disrespectful to the victims, can cause psychological trauma to the victims' family members, and violates UAE traditions and Islamic values."



4 PHOTOGRAPHING STRANGERS

People have landed in trouble for taking pictures of others, without permission. "The UAE Penal Code considers it an offence to transmit someone's photograph without their consent. Moreover, pursuant to the intellectual property rights laws, a person who takes a picture of another cannot distribute or publish the same without the consent of the person appearing in such a picture," says Barney Almazar, Head of Commercial Practice at Gulf Law.

5 HATE SPEECHES

"The Penal Code as well as the cybercrimes law prohibit insulting others, or attributing to them conduct that would make them the subject of contempt. As provided for in Article 21, it is not essential that the statement be false in order for it to be considered defamatory. Even if the author can prove the truthfulness of posts on social media, he may still face civil or criminal liability should the content include secret information or photographs without the consent of the subject," says Almazar.

He adds, "A stiffer penalty of at least one-year imprisonment and/or a fine not less than Dh250,00 is imposed on whoever uses an electronic information system or any information technology means for amending or processing a record, photo, or scene for the purpose of defamation or offending another person or for attacking or invading his privacy."



Did you know?

Are you aware that the UAE has adopted an overall digital life policy with the ultimate goal of ensuring a balance between digital and real-life amongst residents, as well as raising awareness about the use of technology? This is called the "National Policy for Quality of Digital Life", which was approved in January 2021.

The Policy was the brainchild of the National Council for Quality of Life, which is spearheaded by His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, as chairman. The Council, which was formed in February 2020, unifies policies, programmes and strategies related to enhancing the "digital environment" in the country.





NOTORIOUS CYBER-CRIMES

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS ARE AN ALLY TO
HUMANITY IN THE RIGHT HANDS, BUT AN EQUALLY
FORMIDABLE FOE WHEN MISUSED BY MALICIOUS ENTITIES

BY NEIL BIE

WRATH OF THE WORMS

WHEN: NOVEMBER 1988
WHERE: MASSACHUSETTS, USA

During the Internet's infancy in the late 1980s, 23-year-old Robert Tappan Morris, a graduate student from Cornell University, attempted to create a source code that could break into several systems to expose vulnerabilities of computers' sendmail programs, the fingerd network service, and the most sensitive detail – weak passwords.

Little did he know that this would become one of the most malicious programs written in the history of the Internet. Within 24 hours, at least 1 out of every 10 computers in the University of California in Berkeley that was connected to the Internet got the cyber-worm. Affected computers and confused users began experiencing slower computers and delayed e-mails. The cyber-worm spread so quickly that it reached vital universities and even military platforms, costing \$100,000 (Dhs367,000) to \$10,000,000 in lost time and damages.

Computer experts at the time managed to pinpoint that the worm only targeted a specific version of the Unix operating system. However, they also confirmed their fears that the worm spread quickly due to several vectors of attack. Morris, not knowing the magnitude of his program, contacted two friends and admitted that he had launched the worm. He asked for help from both of them to relay an anonymous message on his behalf through the Internet, with instructions on how to remove the worm. However, at the time, the network had already been severely damaged by the worm.

The other friend made an anonymous call to a widely-circulated publication, which managed to pinpoint Morris as the person



behind the attacks. The FBI then launched an investigation and confirmed the publication's allegations. When they reached Morris' house and searched through his computer, the FBI found plenty of incriminating evidence.

Morris' case went to trial, where a jury found him guilty of violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986, making him the first-ever person to be convicted under this law. However, instead of serving time in jail, Morris was ordered to complete 400 hours of community service, pay a fine, and undergo probation.

The worm was a wake-up call for the US Department of Defence, which immediately called for the country's first computer emergency response team, later created in Pittsburgh. It was also during this time that more experts began looking into cyber-security, to help avoid a similar worm from ever affecting thousands of computers.

TEENAGE THREAT

WHEN: FEBRUARY 2000
WHERE: CANADA

In February 2000, a 15-year-old who went by the online name 'Mafiaboy' became an overnight sensation for all the wrong reasons. He unleashed a DDoS (distributed denial-of-service) attack on several high-profile websites, including CNN, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo! and at least 1,200 other popular websites, causing at least \$1.7 billion (Dhs6.2 bn) in damages across 16 companies.

'Mafiaboy' allegedly coordinated the attack by overloading each website with a flood of messages from other hackers, who all simultaneously loaded the servers of the popular website in what 'Mafiaboy' coined as 'Project Rivolta'.

The attack came from three main 'middleman' computers. One was in the University of California, Santa Barbara; a home business computer in Portland, Oregon; and the last one was an unassuming router placed at Stanford University. Investigators state that apart from the three main computers, there were at least hundreds of other 'middlemen' computers involved in the attack.

It didn't take long for the FBI to catch 'Mafiaboy', who was then charged with at least 50 crimes. As a juvenile delinquent, he was sentenced to eight months in a youth detention centre.

Fast forward to today, and 'Mafiaboy', who in real life is Michael Calce, recalled that 'Project Rivolta' for him was a challenge that

he wanted to pursue during his teenage years to see just how much it was going to affect the website he targeted.

"It was fun, I saw it as a challenge ... a puzzle to solve. But I really didn't understand how serious it was. But when you see the President of the United States (Bill Clinton) and the Attorney-General Janet Reno on TV saying they are going to hunt you down, you realise just how serious it is," recalled Calce.

He now works as a 'white hat hacker' or someone who hacks to advise companies of vulnerabilities in their respective systems. Apart from his day job, he now actively raises awareness on cyber-security, especially for parents to help their kids stay protected on the Internet.



Michael Calce

IT World Canada

INTELLECTUAL INTRUDER

WHEN: AUGUST 1999

WHERE: FLORIDA, USA

As a kid, Jonathan James had always been fascinated with his father's skills as a computer programmer and began immersing himself by playing video games. His interest in computers grew from gaming to learning the basics of programming, and he even caught the attention of his father when he learned how to change their house computer's operating system from Windows to Linux.

In his teenage years, he was a student by day and a 'computer guy' by night, spending the majority of his leisure time exploring programming and computers more and more. His parents were alarmed by James' addiction, to the point that they took away his computer. However, James insisted that computers haven't been affecting his studies, due to his high grades. Later on, his parents learned that his 'high grades' were, in fact, his first successful attempt at hacking — he changed his own grades in the school reports.

When he turned 15, James got immersed into the dark side of the programming realm and began hacking with the code name "c0mrade". He first tested his hacking skills in AT&T and BellSouth, where he found several vulnerable servers. His main goals, however, weren't driven by monetary need or information gathering, but merely by an insatiable desire to test his hacking capabilities on seemingly impenetrable institutions.

James found a particular unit in Huntsville, Alabama, that belonged to NASA, the Marshall Space Flight Centre, in one of the computers where he installed malware around June 1999. He hacked his way to get unrestricted access level to a program's source code, which acted as the 'life support' of the International

Space Station. When NASA security experts learned that their computers and systems were



Jonathan James

compromised, they were forced to shut down for at least 3 weeks, equivalent to \$40,000 (Dhs1.5 mn) in direct damages.

In September 1999, he found a backdoor install on a server in Virginia. He penetrated the system by intercepting all network traffic, including login details. Little did he know that the server belonged to the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) of the US Department of Defence, responsible for analysing external threats to the country. James' ingenuity marked the first-ever successful intrusion into Pentagon's external units as he managed to download confidential letters and e-mails.

By January 2000, his house got raided by agents who found four PCs, a laptop, and one pocket computer, making him the first juvenile to be sentenced for computer hacking. He was sentenced to six months of house arrest, but since he violated these terms, he was sent to jail for six months in a juvenile correction centre in Alabama.

His life was short-lived, when authorities raided his home once again on a false accusation of James' involvement in another case. He committed suicide and left his final note, stating that he had nothing to do with the allegations thrown at him.

INFECTED ATTACHMENT

WHEN: MARCH 1999

WHERE: USA

One common rule in e-mails these days is that you should never open attachments or links sent by unknown users, because these might have harmful codes or programs within them. This warning came due to a bait that originated in late March 1999, where an Internet newsgroup promised 'free access and passwords' for a website with adult content if they download a particular document and open it on their computer's 'Microsoft Word' program.

However, the access and passwords were nowhere to be seen. Instead, what each user had downloaded was a virus on their computers. By the end of March, what is now known as the 'Melissa virus', named after a dancer in Florida, had spread like wildfire across the Internet.

Once opened in Microsoft Word, the virus hijacked the Microsoft Outlook e-mail system and sent several messages to the first 50 e-mail addresses in the mailing list. Each recipient would then be lured to open the message with lewd messages bearing the equally tempting message "Here is the document you requested ... don't show anyone else ;-)" This became one of the most proliferated 'chain messages' before the end of the century.



The FBI tracked down the culprit, a programmer named David Lee Smith, who got arrested in his home in New Jersey in just a matter of days. The authorities traced the electronic fingerprints of the virus to Smith, thanks to the cooperation between the FBI, AOL, the New Jersey Law enforcement and several other agencies. Smith took responsibility for his actions and pleaded guilty in December 1999.

After Smith's sentencing, the FBI ramped up its own security systems and put together its new Cyber Division that would focus exclusively on cyber-crimes to deter any more hackers and malicious programmers from ever releasing anything similar to the 'Melissa virus' to the world.

BEYOND THE SCARS

A VIOLENT FATHER WHO MAKES IT A HABIT OF
ASSAULTING HIS FAMILY FINALLY GETS HIS
COMEUPPANCE AFTER NEARLY KILLING HIS LITTLE SON

BY WAGIH HASSAN



No matter how big a mistake the child makes, a compassionate and true parent is meant to play his or her role as a mentor, correcting and guiding the children so that they don't repeat the same mistakes. This guidance is supposed to come layered with affection, not violence.

A child who's little more than a toddler can't possibly do anything that should get him a brutal beating from his own father. Tragically for Ali, 6, his father Salem, 35, only knew how to hurt his son.

Little Ali was brought to the hospital in a terrifying state. His heart-rending wailing filled the hospital, and anyone taking a look at him would be left completely shaken. His face was covered in blood and his body had evidently suffered severe harm. The child's face was so bruised and bloodied, that it looked almost deformed. The child's agony and desperate cry were unbearable.

The medical expert who examined Ali at the hospital concluded that the child had been tortured by someone older, and that the marks of torture were obvious.

The report mentioned the following: as a result of being tortured, Ali had severe bruises in the left eye, with bleeding in the conjunctiva of the eye, and obvious bruises and abrasions on the face in general, on the neck and extremities, and behind the right earlobe as well. This condition is known medically as the "Battered Child Syndrome".

The doctor allowed Ali to be discharged after a few days of close observation and treatment. The child

left the hospital in the care of his mother Manal, 24. She declared to the police that her son was severely beaten by an unknown individual who came across him as he was playing in front of the house, and that the father Salem was not present. Interestingly, Salem was also nowhere to be seen when Ali was being treated at the hospital — he, apparently, was too busy to visit his severely injured son.

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**The company of
parents — no matter
whether they're rich
or poor — is supposed
to be the safest place
for a child**

Even though Manal didn't reveal that Salem was the culprit, the police found out soon enough by talking to other family members. The investigators also learned about the extent of suffering and humiliation inflicted by the violent husband on the poor spouse, who was a compassionate mother to Ali.

She tried to remain patient each time her husband had a fit of anger. She thought to herself: "People will not get away with the sins they have committed because Allah will take vengeance sooner rather than later."

The question is, what drove Salem to harass his poor wife Manal and then to brutally abuse his only son Ali? The answer: substance abuse.

His addiction led him to torture his

wife and son. He would lose his senses and become aggressive and violent, without considering the consequences of his actions.

Manal got hurt frequently, when she would protect her son from the violence and cruelty of Salem. On one such day, he got home under the influence of an illegal substance, and started to torment, abuse, and beat his son. Manal tried in vain to protect the child, but Salem kept grabbing Ali from Manal's hands.

To stop Salem from killing the child, Manal rushed him to the hospital, where the doctor easily understood that Ali was a brutally battered child. After Ali was discharged from the hospital, Manal had no choice but to take the child to her own family and break the silence about her situation. Letting them know that living with a violent spouse could put her and her child in danger, she said that she was filing for divorce even though this was a difficult step.

Meanwhile, Salem had disappeared. He remained in hiding after learning that the police had already known about his crime and were looking for him. But the police caught up with him after a few days, and arrested him from a rented flat.

He was charged with assaulting, torturing, and abusing his son and wife on a regular basis. The court found him guilty and sentenced him to prison.

Of all the stories of extreme cruelty that we hear every now and then, the most horrifying are those where a parent is the perpetrator and their own child is the victim. Such a crime tears the very fabric of society, because the company of parents — no matter whether they're rich or poor — is supposed to be the safest place for a child.



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.

MYSTERY CRIME

We agree sometimes and disagree at other times. The challenge between us has become a way of life

Somewhere on this planet, a lady sat down in the confession chair and decided to tell everything about a murder she had committed one day. As the lights dimmed, tension crawled into her face, her eyes shone with pent-up tears, she swallowed her breath, let out a bitter sigh and tried to piece together the scattered words escaping the prison of her mind.

She got herself together for a moment, her breathing calmed down and she started to slowly utter words as if she was alone in there. She found herself confiding in herself without any heed to others. Whispers came out. Her eyes wondered "Why?", and she went on: "Why did I irresponsibly come out from the width of the womb to responsibly land in the narrowness of the world, meeting my victim as she let out her first cry?"

Pain slashed me, her cry upset me. I promised to be by her side for the rest of my life, that I will lie in wait for her desires, aspirations and hopes. Days went by. We agreed sometimes and disagreed at other times. The challenge between us became a way of life. We stumbled along the way, to the extent that each of us thought that she killed the other. It was

an unexpected conflict that made me wonder why.

We exchanged advice. We differed in opinion. We turned our backs on each other. We failed a lot. We succeeded a lot, but our success could not amount to our failure. We had opposite emotions, whether positive or negative, as if we loathed each other instead of guiding one another. To tell you the truth, we often suffered for

one another, consciously or not. I am uncertain if they were moments of peace or pity. I would look at her in the mirror and I could see her face and eyes red with tension as if she so wanted to stab me in the heart. Yet, a light always shone from her eyes, holding compassion and pity. I did not grasp them back then. I felt that she was the reason behind all of my failures in life. I would see her dissatisfied with my successes. I probably hated her but never had a

clear idea of how I really feel about her.

When I sensed the threat of that unjustified aggressiveness, I grabbed a dagger, stabbed her to death and watched her blood running. I killed my internal conflict. I made peace with myself. I am the murderer and the victim in that mystery crime.

I killed my internal conflict. I made peace with myself. I am the murderer and the victim in that mystery crime



LINEAGE OF GULF RULERS

BRITISH POLITICAL RESIDENT JOHN GORDON LORIMER
CREATED IN HIS BOOK EXTENDED FAMILY TREES OF THE
RULING FAMILIES OF THE REGION

BY DR FALEH HANDHAL



Portrait of tribal leaders of the Trucial Coast, 1939

British Library

We have been exploring our region through the 4,000 pages of the encyclopaedic 1908 book *Gulf Guide*, written by British political resident John Gordon Lorimer, and it concludes with a glossary of all British diplomats and military personnel who served in the Gulf region, their ranks, positions, and terms of service, in addition to the names of the non-British consuls from any of the other European countries, such as the Netherlands, France, Germany,

and also Russia and the United States of America. In addition, it includes tables representing the family tree of the rulers of the Gulf emirates.

The first genealogy panel belongs to the Al Khalifa family, who are the rulers of Bahrain. It includes the dates of the births and deaths of most of the sheikhs, the order of rulers, and references to some of the events that occurred during their reign.

The second panel belongs to the family of Saud, the rulers of the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia, and it starts with the first of them, Prince Muhammad, then his son Abdulaziz, then Saud bin Abdulaziz. Then the children and grandchildren, their ages and their death dates, until it reaches King Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman Al Saud and his children and the rest of the honourable family.

The third family tree is of the Ali Tribe, the ruling family in the emirate of Umm Al Quwain, known as Al Mualla. The lineage began with Sheikh Majid, then his son Rashid, then Sheikh Abdullah bin Rashid, who ruled before 1820, then the names followed, where his son Ali bin Abdullah ruled after him. The tree stands at Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed, who took power in 1904. The tree also gives us other names of the sheikhs from the ruling family, but not the dates of their birth and death.

THE FAMILY TREES

Lorimer focused on Sheikh Suleiman bin Ahmed bin Khalifa and his brother Abdullah, who alternately ruled in Bahrain. He took power in 1869, and remained there until Lorimer created his tree.

Then the writer moved to the Al Thani family of the Al Maadeed tribe, who are the rulers of the emirate of Qatar. He began with Sheikh Thani, the first founder, and then his son Muhammad, until the



Pilgrimage to Mecca, 19th-century illustration

founder of the emirate Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani took power, but Lorimer did not mention their deaths.

Next came the Al Bu Falah (or Al Falahi) family of the Bani Yas tribe, to which belongs the President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Lorimer started the tree without mentioning the name of Faleh, but he mentioned the names of his four sons — Sultan, Muhammad, Saadoun, and Nahyan — and from Al Nahyan, the line of rulers of Abu Dhabi, he mentioned the name of Isa bin Nahyan, then Dhiyab bin Isa bin Nahyan, then Shakhbut bin Dhiyab bin Isa bin Nahyan.

The author continued to mention the names, especially the children of Sheikh Shakhbut, where Muhammad, then Tahnun, then Khalifa, then Saeed bin Tahnun took power, and he mentioned the dates of their assumption of power until the year 1855.

Next, he moved to the Qawasim family tree, to which the rulers of Ras Al Khaimah belong. It started with the great-grandfather Sheikh Kayed, then his son Qadib bin Kayed, then his son Rahmabin Qadib, then Matar bin Qadib, then his son Rashid, then his son Saqr, up to Sheikh Sultan bin Saqr I, founder of the Great Qasim Emirate that included Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, the coast of Shamiliya and Bandar Lengeh on the coast of the Arabian Gulf, then Abu Musa, the Greater and the Lesser Tunb islands. This leader



Lord George Curzon

US Library of Congress

assumed power in 1803 and died in 1866.

Lorimer then mentioned the names of Sheikh Sultan's children and their dates of birth, who took power and when. The children were: Ibrahim, Majid, Saqr, Abdullah, Khalid, Rashid, Saif, Salem, Ahmed, Jassim, and Nasser. The two most famous of them were Khalid and Salem. The son of Khalid was Saqr, who was ruler of Sharjah when Lorimer wrote his book, and a falconer named Khalid ruled Ras Al Khaimah at the time of his father.

As for Salem bin Sultan, he took over the rule of Ras Al Khaimah, followed by his son Sultan, then the last son Muhammad, and from Muhammad to the late Sheikh Saqr bin Muhammad

Al Qasimi, ruler of the emirate, who joined the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah to the blessed union of his time. Lorimer continued his search for the lineage of the Qawasim family, so he moved to Bandar Lengeh town on the coast of the Arabian Gulf, the capital of the great Qasim emirate until 1899, when the ruling regime in Persia seized it from them. The Qawasim lineage began there from Sheikh Qadib bin Sheikh Kayed the First. It is mentioned that Sheikh Qadib had two sons, Salem and Saeed, and each one of them had children and grandchildren. But Lorimer got confused on the history of the rule of each Sheikh, as he mentioned on the margin of the map. He also did not talk about Sheikh Muhammad bin Khalifa, during whose time the Persian forces invaded the city and overthrew the rule of the Qawasim there in 1899.

Lorimer moved to Al Bu Kharaiban, the ruling family of the Al Nua'im tribe, rulers of the emirate of Ajman. It started with Sheikh Rashid the First, followed by his son Hamid. The author didn't mention a date for their rule until he reached Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid the First, who ruled from 1820 to 1838 and signed the Maritime Peace Treaty with the rest of the rulers of the emirates in 1820. He had three children — Humaid, Abdul Aziz and Ali. From Humaid, the lineage moves between children and grandchildren until it reaches Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Humaid bin Rashid I, who took power in 1900 and remained in



Hermann Burchardt

Doha, Qatar in 1904

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SAEED BIN MAKTOUM
TOOK OVER THE RULE
AFTER HIS FATHER IN
1906, AND HE WAS THE
GRANDFATHER OF HIS
HIGHNESS SHEIKH
MOHAMMED BIN RASHID
BIN SAEED AL MAKTOUM,
VICE PRESIDENT AND
PRIME MINISTER OF
THE UAE AND RULER OF
DUBAI IN PRESENT DAY

office while Lorimer was writing his book and mapping the family tree.

Then came the ancestry tree of Al Bu Falasa, including the Al Maktoum rulers of the emirate of Dubai, starting with Sheikh Suhail I and then his son Butti. It was mentioned that Sheikh Butti had three children — Maktoum, Saeed, and Butti. The reign of Sheikh Maktoum bin Butti lasted from 1833 to 1852, then he was succeeded by his brother Saeed, and each one had offspring, except for Butti bin Butti bin Suhail.

Lorimer went on to mention the children and grandchildren of Sheikh Maktoum and Saeed, sons of Butti bin Suhail. It is noteworthy that Maktoum had three children — Hasher, Rashid, and Suhail. Everyone had children and grandchildren. Hasher had Maktoum and Majid, and Maktoum had Hasher, Juma, and Saeed. Lorimer mentioned their date of birth. Saeed bin Maktoum took over the rule after his father in 1906, and he was the grandfather of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime

Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai in the present day.

LORD CURZON VISITS MUSCAT

The historical section of the seventh part of the book spoke of the tour of Lord George Curzon in the Arabian Gulf in 1903. Lord Curzon was the Viceroy of Britain and Governor of India. The tour was very important as he met a number of rulers of the emirates and sheikhdoms in the Gulf. The account of this trip gives us

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THE HISTORICAL
SECTION OF THE
SEVENTH PART OF THE
BOOK SPOKE OF THE
TOUR OF LORD GEORGE
CURZON IN THE ARABIAN
GULF IN 1903. THE TOUR
WAS VERY IMPORTANT
AS HE MET A NUMBER OF
RULERS OF THE EMIRATES
AND SHEIKHDOMS IN
THE GULF



Lord and Lady Curzon (centre), and staff on a tour to parts of the Arabian Gulf in 1903

Qatar Digital Library



Warship Hardinge

New York Historical Society



Argonaut ship built in 1876

a picture of British policy at that time and the feelings of the rulers and the local people, as well as the other communities living there, the most important of which were the Indians.

The first visit was to Muscat. On November 16, 1903, the warship *Hardinge* sailed from the port of Bombay, carrying Lord Curzon, his spouse, and his entourage, heading towards Muscat. They were accompanied by another ship, *Argonaut*. On November 18, the two ships reached the coast of Muscat. The ruler at that time was Sultan Faisal bin Turki bin Said, whose reign had begun in 1888. When the ship *Hardinge* arrived at the port of the city, 21 cannon shots were fired in salute to the Sultan, and the Sultan's army returned the greeting with one bullet. Shortly afterwards, the Sultan's delegation boarded the ship, headed by Sayyid Muhammad bin Turki, the eldest of the Sultan's brothers, and Sayyid Taimur, son of the Sultan.

They welcomed the British lord and returned to the shore, where there was the Sultan himself, accompanied by Major Cox, the British political commissioner in the Sultanate. The two went up with

a small entourage to the deck of the ship, where the Sultan met the Lord and welcomed him, and a short talk took place between them. Then the Sultan left and the ship again fired 21 cannon shots to salute him.

This was followed by the American vice-consul as well as the French vice-consul visiting Lord Curzon. At about one thirty in the afternoon, the British lord got off the ship with his retinue, and went to the British Embassy building there, where he had lunch.

The Indians took advantage of the presence of the governor there and gathered in front of the delegation to salute. A person named Parshutam Dhanji, who represented an engineering company, gifted Lord Curzon a silver box with the engraving of a palm tree and a camel, and inside it was a long message: "Your Excellency, we, the entire categories of British subjects, Hindus, Muslims and the rest of the people under British protection residing in Muscat and Muttrah, would be pleased to offer the utmost respect on behalf of ourselves and all our citizens residing in the property of His Majesty the

Sultan, our heartfelt welcome to your Excellency on the occasion of your visit to Muscat. We in Muscat enjoy the rights of the most favoured nation, where our consular interests are looked after with great care and we practise our beliefs in total tolerance, and needless strife is lost between us subjects of Britain and we can access justice from the commissioner's court quickly and firmly.

"As for our dealings with the local population, we are accustomed to hearing the kind words of His Majesty, but we are having difficulty obtaining aid, and this is undoubtedly partly due to the unstable internal conditions, partly to the existence of tribal conflict, as it moves to the coastal ports and the surrounding areas, and thus our commercial interests are affected and we find ourselves worried about the safety of our lives and property. We hope that your Excellency's government will find a solution to this, either by strengthening the hand of the government there and increasing its activity, or the intervention of your government where necessary, and taking measures that would deter the rebellion of the tribes who harm the country's commerce."

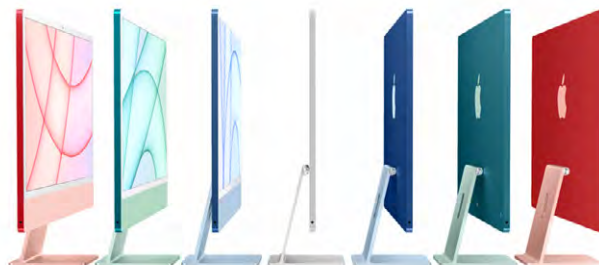
TAKE A PEEK AT THE NEWEST MUST-HAVE HIGH-TECH ELECTRONIC DEVICES

THINNEST IMAC

Apple has outdone itself yet again, with the thinnest iMac to date at only 11.5mm – all thanks to its newest M1 chip. In the past, the company worked with Intel tech on various components for its Mac; today, it has created the Apple iMac 24" with a special module that has a 'complete system' in one chip. All you need is your wireless mouse and keyboard and you're good to go.

Apart from its signature speed in handling software, the **Apple iMac 24-inch** also sports a 4K Retina display that provides millions of colours, perfect for graphic designers and video editors. It also has a built-in six-speaker sound system optimised for sound engineers.

Furthermore, Apple has added its iconic Touch ID system to help users unlock their computers, log in, and pay for their online shopping needs with a touch of their finger.



PRICE: Dhs5,500

WEBSITE: www.apple.com/ae/imac-24

IMPRESSIVE BASS



The world is moving towards a wireless earphone market with the stream of innovative tech that banks on mobility and quality audio. Huawei's latest entry, the FreeBuds 4, fuses studio-quality sound with open-fit active noise cancellation for a truly immersive listening experience.

The **Huawei FreeBuds 4** features a 14.3mm dynamic driver, which produces more impressive bass sounds. This feature is best paired with the Huawei AI Life app, which enables users to record surrounding sound with ease and offers Voice Mode to enhance voice pick and reduce environmental noise.

This pair of wireless earphones is also one of the first open-fit earbuds to use Adaptive Ear Matching (AEM) noise cancellation technology. When noise cancellation is switched on, the earbuds automatically detect the users' ear shape and determine the optimum noise cancellation setup for each user, resulting in the most comfortable experience.

PRICE: Dhs680

WEBSITE: consumer.huawei.com/en

HEART DETECTOR

The beginning of the "–ber" months marks that the current year is heading towards the end, making it the perfect time to exercise as temperatures slowly go down.

For those on track to burn excess weight, the **MZ-Switch Heart Rate Monitor** helps keep tabs on users' physical activity with a wearable monitor that they can put on their wrist, arm, or chest. The tracker has an ECG sensor when worn on the chest and a PPG sensor when used on the wrists or the arms and connects via Bluetooth and ANT+. In addition, it can be used during swimming, as it is waterproof to a depth of 10m.

Users need not worry about battery life either – the MZ-Switch Heart Rate Monitor packs up to six months of battery life between charges, depending on use and stores up to 36 hours of exercise data as well. Its built-in memory helps users focus on their exercise patterns and helps them get in the zone without the help of a mobile phone.



PRICE: Dhs620

WEBSITE: buy.myzone.org

HEAR BETTER



PRICE: Dhs4,400

WEBSITE: active.signia-hearing.co.uk

It's common to see people wearing either a headphone or an earphone these days for their smartphone. However, the constant use of these audio gadgets might harm your ears in the long run.

The **Signia Active Hearables** help individuals who are already suffering from mild to moderate hearing loss with a unique, user-friendly earbud style that's ready to wear for its user. Its SigniaXperience platform provides high-definition sound that helps users listen to their surroundings more actively. The earpiece is also equipped with acoustic sensors and Dynamic Soundscape Processing that amplifies ambient sounds and natural speech, no matter what situation the wearer is in, when they're on the go.

Battery life isn't a problem either. A single charge of the Signia Active Hearables also provides up to 26 hours of use, thanks to its lithium-ion battery technology. In addition, its pocket-sized charging case gives three full charges and can also be charged using a wireless pad or a USB-C cord.

SMART TOOTHBRUSH

One of the most important parts of your body that you ought to clean every day is your teeth – they're exposed to different kinds of food and drinks that leave plaque and may cause tooth decay and other mouth problems.

The latest version of the **Oral-B iO Toothbrush** features powerful yet gentle micro-vibrations on its body that's paired with a dentist-inspired round brush head design for a professional clean feeling.

It also has a 2-minute quadrant timer that pulsates every 30 seconds as a marker to ensure that your entire set of teeth is completely clean. In addition, the Oral-B iO Toothbrush has an interactive colour display for real-time coaching along with AI 3D teeth tracking that maps the surface of each tooth. These help ensure that no tooth is left dirty and helps improve your brushing habits.



PRICE: Dhs900

WEBSITE: oralb.com/en-us

SUPREME PC GAMING



PRICE: Dhs850

WEBSITE: www.logitechg.com/en-ae

PC gamers don't merely settle for a regular mouse and keyboard – it always helps to experience that immersive feel with every tap of your keyboard and click of the mouse to ensure you hit that right timing for your games.

Logitech's G915 Tenkeyless (TKL) Keyboard does away with the numpad on the right side for an RGB Wireless mechanical keyboard gaming experience. Without the numpad, users can have more room for their mouse movement and the USB receiver can also be stored in the back of the keyboard, making it more convenient for additional portability purposes.

The G915 TKL Keyboard is also very lightweight, durable and built for performance and endurance for any gamer's long hours on the screen. Paired with Logitech's G HUB, this keyboard will power up your PC gaming experience with onboard profiles and an exclusive game mode. Its battery indicator light on the keyboard and Logitech G HUB will notify you when the battery is low.



FEED YOUR MIND WITH GOOD READS ABOUT AN ICON'S LIFE AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. ALSO IN BETWEEN COVERS ARE NOVELS DEPICTING HOW WE CAN SURMOUNT TRAGEDIES THROUGH BRAVERY AND SELF-DISCOVERY

UNBEATABLE WILL

Title: *She Who Became the Sun*

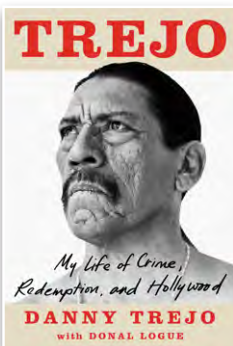
Author: Shelley Parker-Chan

Publisher: Tor Books

Price: Dhs91

In 1345, China lies under harsh Mongol rule. For the starving peasants of the Central Plains, greatness is something found only in stories. When the Zhu family's eighth-born son, Zhu Chongba, is given a fate of greatness, everyone is mystified as to how it will come to pass. The fate of nothingness received by the family's clever and capable second daughter, on the other hand, is only as expected.

When a bandit attack orphans the two children, though, it is Zhu Chongba who succumbs to despair and dies. Desperate to escape her own death, the girl uses her brother's identity to enter a monastery as a young male novice. There, propelled by her burning desire to survive, Zhu learns she is capable of doing whatever it takes, no matter how callous, to stay hidden from her fate.



THE VILLAIN'S HEART

Title: *Trejo: My Life of Crime, Redemption, and Hollywood*

Author: Danny Trejo

Publisher: Atria Books

Price: Dhs92

For the first time, the full, fascinating, and inspirational true story of Danny Trejo's journey from crime, prison, addiction, and loss to unexpected fame as Hollywood's favourite bad guy with a heart of gold.

On screen, the actor is a baddie who has been killed at least a hundred times. He's been shot, stabbed, hanged, chopped up, and squished by an elevator. Off screen, he's a hero beloved by recovery communities and fans alike. But the real Danny Trejo is much more complicated than the legend.

Raised in an abusive home, Danny struggled with heroin addiction and stints in some of the country's most notorious state prisons, including San Quentin and Folsom, from an early age, before starring in such modern classics as *Heat*, *From Dusk till Dawn*, and *Machete*. Now, in this funny, painful, and suspenseful memoir, Danny takes us through the incredible ups and downs of his life, including meeting one of the world's most notorious serial killers in prison and working with legends like Charles Bronson and Robert De Niro.

TREASURED MEMOIRS

Title: *There's a Hole in my Bucket: A Journey of Two Brothers*

Author: Royd Tolkien

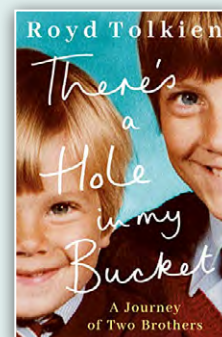
Publisher: Little A

Price: Dhs59

Having grown up on their great-grandfather's stories, Royd Tolkien and his brother Mike have always enjoyed adventures. So when Mike is diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease, the brothers decide to use the time they have left to tick off as much as possible from Mike's bucket list, from remote camping in Norway to travelling through Royd's beloved New Zealand.

Yet, when Royd loses Mike, he discovers his brother had been writing another kind of bucket list: 50 things he wanted Royd to do after his death. His first task? Mike wants his mild-mannered brother to trip up on his way to the lectern to deliver his eulogy. What follows is a set of emotionally charged tests that will push Royd firmly out of his comfort zone.

This is the story of Royd's journey to accomplish a challenging, humorous, and often heart-breaking list of unknown tasks that chart the brothers' lives from childhood to adulthood. But above all, it is a story of the sibling bond, of grief — and of treasuring every moment.



DEFYING STEREOTYPES

Title: *Island Queen*

Author: Vanessa Riley

Publisher: William Morrow

Price: Dhs102

Born into slavery on the tiny Caribbean island of Montserrat, Doll bought her freedom—and that of her sister and her mother—from her Irish planter father and built a legacy of wealth and power as an entrepreneur, merchant, hotelier, and planter that extended from the marketplaces and sugar plantations of Dominica and Barbados to a glittering luxury hotel in Demerara on the South American continent.

This novel brings Doll to vivid life as she rises above the harsh realities of slavery and colonialism by working the system and leveraging the competing attentions of the men in her life: a restless shipping merchant, Joseph Thomas; a wealthy planter hiding a secret, John Coseveldt Cells; and a roguish naval captain who will later become King William IV of England.

From the bustling port cities of the West Indies to the forbidding drawing rooms of London's elite, *Island Queen* is a sweeping epic of an adventurer and a survivor who answered to no one but herself as she rose to power and autonomy against all odds, defying rigid 18th-century morality and the oppression of women as well as people of colour.



A MOTHER'S PLIGHT

Title: *What We Carry*

Author: Kalyn Fogarty

Publisher: Alcove Press

Price: Dhs55

Fans of Caroline Leavitt will relish this rich, complex novel born of the author's own loss and grief, about how one can overcome tragedy through bravery and self-discovery.

Cassidy Morgan's life has always followed a carefully laid track: top education, fulfilling career, and marriage to the love of her life, Owen. The next logical step was starting a family. But when a late-term miscarriage threatens to derail everything she has worked so hard for, she finds herself questioning her identity, particularly what it means to be a mother.

Cassidy hopes that her work as a veterinarian specialising in equine reproduction will distract her from the pain, but instead finds that one of the cases she's working on shines a spotlight on the memory of her unborn son. For once in her life, Cassidy is left untethered and wondering why she wanted to become a mother in the first place.

Then the unexpected happens when Cassidy becomes pregnant again. But the joy over her baby is tempered by her fear of another loss as well as her increasingly troubled marriage. Now, she must decide whether to let her pain hold her back or trust that there's still something to live for.

What We Carry is a thought-provoking response to the author's own miscarriage and lack of fiction surrounding the topic, which she and other women in her situation crave.

CHANCE ENCOUNTERS

Title: *The Reading List*

Author: Sara Nisha Adams

Publisher: William Morrow

Price: Dhs110

An unforgettable and heartwarming debut about how a chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb.

Widower Mukesh lives a quiet life in the London Borough of Ealing after losing his beloved wife. He shops every Wednesday, goes to the temple, and worries about his granddaughter, Priya, who hides in her room reading while he spends his evenings watching nature documentaries.

Aleisha is a bright but anxious teenager working at the local library for the summer when she discovers a crumpled-up piece of paper in the back of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It's a list of novels that she's never heard of before. Intrigued, and a little bored with her slow job at the checkout desk, she impulsively decides to read every book on the list, one after the other. As each story gives up its magic, the books transport Aleisha from the painful realities she's facing at home.

When Mukesh arrives at the library, desperate to forge a connection with his bookworm granddaughter, Aleisha passes along the reading list, hoping that it would be a lifeline for him, too. Slowly, the shared books create a connection between two lonely souls, as fiction helps them escape their grief and everyday troubles and find joy again.



UAE to launch new tech that extracts water from air

A pilot project at Masdar City in Abu Dhabi will soon generate uninterrupted water supply out of thin air.

US-based water technologies company AQUOVUM, in partnership with the Khalifa University of Science and Technology, and Masdar will launch a pilot project of a large-format Atmospheric Water Generation (AWG) technology side by side with a renewable energy source to study if these can be used to create sustainable water resources.

The AWG technology draws water from the atmosphere, powered by a renewable energy source, thereby creating a sustainability-focused water-generating machine at Abu Dhabi's hub for environment-friendly research and development.

The machine itself generates no carbon at all and provides clean water. These two factors contribute to the UAE's and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSGC 6) on water sustainability and access for everyone worldwide.

Abdulla Balalaa, Executive Director,



Sustainable Real Estate at Masdar City, stated that the water generated from the AWG technology would help the UAE secure a source of clean water. "Water underlies all areas of human and environmental health, and it is also essential to food and energy production. Developing technologies that both protect and guarantee a constant and secure source of water, is therefore of utmost

importance. The AQUOVUM pilot will be installed at Khalifa University's Masdar Institute Solar Platform in Masdar City and will operate from 100 per cent renewable power, a process that is completely carbon neutral," said Balalaa.

He added that the project fulfils one of the essential goals of the UAE's Water Security Strategy 2036, helping to build a more sustainable future for all residents.

Abu Dhabi releases batch of rehabilitated turtles



The UAE's marine rehabilitation efforts have moved forward with the release of 17 turtles in the Al Dhafra region.

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and Nawah Energy Company affirmed their commitment to supporting the conservation of UAE's marine

biodiversity as they reintroduced the turtles back in their natural marine habitat.

Earlier, Nawah's team of environmental volunteers found the turtles struggling at the beaches near the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant. These turtles were taken to

their respective rehabilitation centres in partnership with the National Aquarium.

This is the third time that EAD has spearheaded turtle release programmes since June 2021. The first one was that of 150 sea turtles after their rehabilitation, followed by the release of a large group of previously rescued turtles at Saadiyat Rotana as part of World Sea Turtle Day.

Ahmed Al Hashmi, Acting Executive Director, Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Division of EAD, stated: "There are several energy organisations that have placed environmental activities at the top of their agenda, and Nawah is a prime example of leadership in the conservation space. Throughout our partnership, its team has shown its utmost devotion to the preservation of the environment. This has primarily been reflected in the great lengths they have gone to in rescuing distressed turtles and joining us in releasing them back into the wild so they can thrive once again," said Al Hashmi.

Dubai issues guide promoting water, electricity-saving measures



Dubai moves forward with its sustainability drive, with the launch of a new handbook that outlines specific electricity and water conservation measures that all residents are advised to adhere to.

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority highlighted several systems and technologies that can be applied for residential, commercial, industrial and government entities to help

reduce unnecessary energy consumption and preserve natural resources.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Managing Director and CEO of DEWA, underscored the importance of using energy conservation techniques by residents not just to reduce their monthly energy bills, but more importantly, to help support the UAE's goals to reduce demand for electricity and water

within the decade.

"Sustainability has always been an integral part of our culture in the UAE and Dubai has been a pioneer in the implementation of initiatives that contribute to reducing our carbon footprint. DEWA plays a pivotal role in protecting the environment by increasing the share of clean and renewable energy and launching several programmes that encourage the sensible use of energy and water. This supports the Dubai Demand Side Management Strategy to reduce demand for electricity and water by 30 per cent by 2030," said Al Tayer.

One of the points highlighted in DEWA's Handbook of Electricity and Water Conservation Measures is to replace outdated equipment with control measures to increase the energy efficiency of buildings. This includes air-conditioning and cooling systems, water-saving fixtures, lighting systems, and building control systems.

DEWA has also provided a digital copy of the handbook available under the 'Sustainability' section on its website at www.dewa.gov.ae

Sharjah initiates drive to cultivate coral reefs in Al Hamriyah

The coral reefs of Al Hamriyah in Sharjah are expected to flourish and grow in the coming months, buoyed by a new cultivation project, spearheaded by the Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) in the emirate.

EPAA's coral reef farming project aims to promote sustainable development amongst Sharjah's marine flora and fauna, increase biological cover, and help rehabilitate marine life within the reefs.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, Chairperson of EPAA, stated that this systematic coral reef rehabilitation would undergo several careful processes to ensure the growth and survival of the reefs. "The coral reef cultivation project in the Al Hamriyah region is divided into two phases: the installation of bases (metal wires) in shallow areas, ranging from six or seven metres deep; and then monitoring them during the growth period, which is usually in the summer after the end of the breeding season because it achieves the highest rates of growth and survival compared to the winter season," said Al Suwaidi.

She also underscored the importance



of transferring coral colonies as needed to ensure that they would continue to grow as intended. She outlined four types of hard coral reefs for cultivation – Acropora, Platygera, Porites, and Turbinaria. "The project works to maximise the use of biological material, such as coral reefs, to produce large quantities of colonies instead of obtaining them from where they are," added Al Suwaidi.

Prior to the Al Hamriyah coral reef

initiative, EPAA has already implemented a similar successful project at the Sir Bu Nair Island Reserve. Today, the coral reef at the Sir Bu Nair Island Reserve is considered one of the most diverse in the Arabian Gulf.

Coral reefs are important elements of marine life because they are a refuge and a haven for marine organisms and fish, and they are considered national wealth for future generations as they help ensure sustainable food security.

Scientists find links between COVID-19 and Alzheimer's



Scientists are seeing links between COVID-19 and long-term cognitive issues, such as symptoms similar to that of Alzheimer's disease.

During the Alzheimer's Association International Conference 2021, several researchers presented studies looking at the long-term issues with COVID-19 in relation to the central nervous system.

One of the studies presented was that of Dr Gabriel de Erausquin and his colleagues, who assessed 300 participants three to six months after having COVID-19.

From this study, the researchers found that more than 50 per cent of the participants struggled with forgetfulness, while 25 per cent experienced additional

concerns such as language issues. "[We are] starting to see clear connections between COVID-19 and problems with cognition months after infection," Erausquin said during the conference.

Another study presented by Prof. Thomas Wisniewski looked at possible links between COVID-19 and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. The study assessed 310 people who were admitted to hospital due to COVID-19.

Of them, Wisniewski said that 158 had neurological symptoms associated with COVID-19 such as confusion, while 152 did not. Those with neurological symptoms had higher levels of biomarkers linked to Alzheimer's. "These findings suggest that patients who had COVID-19 may have an acceleration of Alzheimer's-related symptoms and pathology," he said. "However, more longitudinal research is needed to study how these biomarkers impact cognition in individuals who had COVID-19 in the long term."

Unvaccinated COVID-19 survivors twice as likely to get reinfected

COVID-19 survivors who are not yet vaccinated have a higher risk of reinfection compared to those who decided to get vaccinated, showed a recent study from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States.

The study compared 246 of the disease survivors in Kentucky who got reinfected with 492 survivors who were not reinfected. The analysis showed that unvaccinated survivors were "more than twice as likely" to be reinfected with COVID-19 than fully vaccinated survivors.

The CDC said that the study indicated COVID-19 vaccines "offer better protection than natural immunity alone and that vaccines, even after prior infection, help prevent reinfections".

"If you have had COVID-19 before, please still get vaccinated," said CDC Director Dr Rochelle Walensky. "This study shows you are twice as likely to get infected again if you are unvaccinated. Getting the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and others around you,



especially as the more contagious Delta variant spreads around the country."

CDC said that another study showed vaccines prevented COVID-19 related hospitalisations amongst the highest-risk age groups. "COVID-19 vaccines remain safe and effective. They prevent severe illness,

hospitalisation, and death," CDC said.

"Additionally, even amongst the uncommon cases of COVID-19 amongst the fully or partially vaccinated [people], vaccines make people more likely to have a milder and shorter illness compared to those who are unvaccinated," it added.

WHO weighs in on wearing of face mask for fully vaccinated people

In the wake of the global surge in numbers of the highly contagious Delta variant of COVID-19, the World Health Organisation has advised nations to still implement wearing of face masks for fully vaccinated individuals and maintaining social distancing.

Dr Mariangela Simao, WHO Assistant Director-General for Drug Access, Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals, said that vaccination should still be matched with utmost precaution to prevent community transmission. "Vaccine alone won't stop community transmission," Simao said. "People need to continue to use masks consistently, be in ventilated spaces, hand hygiene, the physical distance, [and] avoid crowding. This still continues to be extremely important, even if you're vaccinated when you have a community transmission ongoing."

The statement comes amidst some countries doing away with masks and pandemic-related restrictions as COVID-19 vaccines have brought down the number of new infections and deaths.

For example, in the United States, new



COVID-19 infections remained steady at an average of 11,659 new cases daily, as per data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal reported that about half of adults infected with the Delta variant in Israel — one of the few countries that first allowed maskless outdoor activities — were fully vaccinated. This prompted its government

to reimpose an indoor mask requirement and other measures.

"Yes, you can reduce some measures and different countries have different recommendations in that regard. But there's still the need for caution," said Dr Bruce Aylward, a senior advisor to the WHO director-general. "As we are seeing, there are new variants emerging."

Scientists set eyes on new COVID-19 strain called 'Lambda' variant



A new COVID-19 strain feared to be more contagious than the Delta variant has drawn the attention of scientists and medical experts from across the globe.

The new strain called the 'Lambda' variant was designated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) a "variant of concern" on June 14, after being reported

in at least 30 countries. Amongst these countries are the United States, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Germany and Switzerland.

A "variant of interest" means its genetic changes are predicted to affect important characteristics of the virus, including transmissibility, disease severity and

immune escape. It is being declared if a significant community transmission or multiple COVID-19 clusters in multiple countries are observed.

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom health body, Public Health England, identified the Lambda strain as a "variant under investigation" on June 23, a day after the country reported a total of 6 cases.

More widespread across South America, the new variant was first reported in Peru in December 2020, a year after the original COVID-19 outbreak. Scientists fear that the Lambda variant could pose a fresh threat to the gains made against the COVID-19 battle over the past months.

It is still unknown whether the latest strain of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is more virulent than the Delta variant. There is still no evidence that it could reduce the effectiveness of current vaccines.

WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



Aries (March 21 – April 20)

Filmmaker Federico Fellini had an unexpected definition of happiness. He said it was "being able to speak the truth without hurting anyone." Aries, you will have abundant access to that kind of happiness in the coming weeks. You will also have extra power to speak the truth in ways that heal and uplift people. You should celebrate and indulge your ability. Be bold in expressing the fullness of what's interesting to you. For those fortunate enough to regularly experience this treasured blessing, feeling real isn't a vague concept. It's a vivid sensation of being conscious in one's body.



Taurus (April 20 – May 21)

The popular American TV sitcom 30 Rock produced 138 episodes in seven seasons. At the height of its success, it crammed an average of 9.57 jokes into every minute. Its comic richness derived in large part from multi-talented Taurus star Tina Fey, who created the show and played one of its main characters. She was also a writer and executive producer. Taurus, you should have a role model like Tina Fey in the coming weeks. You're entering a charismatic, ebullient, and creative phase of your astrological cycle. It's time to be generous to the parts of your life that need big happy doses of release and liberation.



Gemini (May 22 – June 20)

The English idiom "playing hard to get" means "pretending to be unavailable or uninterested so as to make oneself more attractive or desirable." Psychologists say this strategy often works, although it's crucial not to go too far and make your pursuer lose interest. Seventeenth-century philosopher Baltasar Gracián expressed the concept more philosophically. He said, "Leave people hungry. Even with physical thirst, good taste's trick is to stimulate it, not quench it. What's good, if sparse, is twice as good. A surfeit of pleasure is dangerous, for it occasions disdain even towards what's undisputedly excellent. Hard-won happiness is twice as enjoyable." You should try to consider deploying these strategies, Gemini.



Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Cancerian-born Franz Kafka was an interesting writer and a master of language. But even for him, it could be a challenge to convey what he really meant. He said, "I am constantly trying to communicate something incommunicable, to explain something inexplicable, to tell about something I only feel in my bones and which can only be experienced in those bones." Now here's the good news, as far as you're concerned, Cancerian: In the coming weeks, you will have more power than usual to do exactly what Kafka aspired to do. You will be able to summon extra ease and grace in expressing your truths. You should be a connoisseur of deep conversations.



Leo (July 23 – August 22)

"If we wait until we are ready, we will be waiting for the rest of our lives," declared novelist Lemony Snicket. This is good advice for you to heed right now. You should avoid the temptation to wait around for the perfect moment before you begin. You will dive into the future without trying to have all your plans finalised and all your assets gathered. You will acquire the rest of what you need once the process is underway.



Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

Poet Brigit Pegeen Kelly wrote a poem that you should know about. She described how, when she was a child, she stayed up all night picking peaches from her father's orchard by starlight. For hours, she climbed up and down the ladder. Her hands "twisted fruit" as if she "were entering a thousand doors." When the stars faded and morning arrived, her insides felt like "the stillness a bell possesses just after it has been rung." That's the kind of experience you should have in the coming days, Virgo. It can't be exactly the same. Can you imagine what the nearest equivalent might be? Make it happen!



Libra (September 23 – October 22)

At the age of 70, Libran novelist Magda Szabó mused, "I know now, what I didn't then, that affection can't always be expressed in calm, orderly, articulate ways; and that one cannot prescribe the form it should take for anyone else." In that spirit, Libra, and in accordance with astrological omens, you should express affection in lively, unruly, demonstrative ways. Give yourself permission to be playfully imaginative, exuberantly revelatory as you show the people and animals you cherish the nature of your feelings for them.



Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Do you Scorpios lie to yourselves more than the other signs lie to themselves? Are you especially prone to undermine yourselves through self-deception? However, you might be amongst the signs most likely to mislead or beguile other people. (But here's a caveat: On some occasions, your trickery is in a good cause, because it serves the needs of the many, not just yourself.) In any case, you should minimise all such behavior during the next five weeks. Your success will depend on you being exceptionally honest and genuine—both to yourself and to others.



Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

"I like being broken," says Sagittarius actor Jamie Campbell Bower. "It means I can have chocolate for breakfast." It must be that whenever he feels down, he gives himself special permission to enjoy extra treats and privileges. You have the right to give yourself similar permission—even though you won't really be feeling 'broken' or 'down' in the coming weeks. Think of it as a reward for the brave work you've been doing lately. Enjoy this chocolatey grace period!



Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Capricorn actor Nicholas Browne testifies, "My heart is too full; it overflows onto everything I see. I am drowning in my own heart. I've plunged into the deepness of emotion, and I don't see any way back up. Still, I pray no one comes to save me." This profound capacity to feel and express emotions serves Browne well in his craft. While you should not immerse yourself too much 24/7/365, you'll be wise to embark on such an excursion during the next three weeks. Have fun diving! How deep can you go?



Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Author Byron Katie has a message for you Aquarius. It's infused with tough love and sweet encouragement. Here's Katie: "When you realise that suffering and discomfort are the call to inquiry, you may actually begin to look forward to uncomfortable feelings. You may even experience them as friends coming to show you what you have not yet investigated thoroughly enough." Get ready to dive deeper than you've dared to go before, Aquarius. You will be guaranteed an experience that will ultimately be fun and educational.



Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

In August 1922, author Nikos Kazantzakis wrote this triumphant declaration: "All day today I've had the most gentle, quivering joy, because I'm beginning to heal. Consciously, happily, I feel that I am being born anew, that I am beginning once again to take possession of the light." On behalf of the cosmic powers-that-be, you should use these words as your own in the coming weeks. They capture transformations that are in the works for you. By speaking Kazantzakis's declarations aloud several times every day, you will ensure that his experience will be yours, too.

- **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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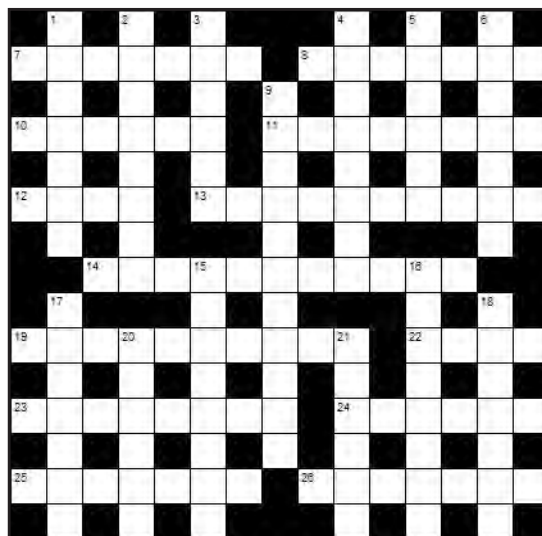
PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 7 Fish out of water (7)
- 8 Asian money (7)
- 10 New commercials (6)
- 11 Money changer (8)
- 12 New feature (4)
- 13 Mythical creature (10)
- 14 Belly dancing (3,3,5)
- 19 Untold honours (10)
- 22 Thanks for transport (4)
- 23 Role playing (8)
- 24 Descriptive dialects (6)
- 25 Preposterous spying (7)
- 26 Climate change (7)

DOWN

- 1 Second broadcast (7)
- 2 Regular worker (8)
- 3 Developed lung (3-3)
- 4 California lake (8)
- 5 Attention seeker (6)
- 6 Get game (7)
- 9 Self-service establishment (11)
- 15 Ensnared husband (8)
- 16 Coastal area (8)
- 17 Securing promotion (5-2)
- 18 Agitated person (7)
- 20 Dangerous chemicals (6)
- 21 Shriill cry (6)



Easy

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Medium

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SOLUTIONS FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE



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www.dailysudoku.com

easy

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

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