

# 999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 81 OCTOBER 2018

THE UNDERBELLY  
OF ILLEGAL  
PARLOURS

DON'T GET  
TO THE POINT  
OF NO RETURN

**ABU DHABI  
SPOTLIGHT**

THE  
COLOURS OF  
AUTUMN

# HIDE CAR KEYS FROM TEENS

WHY UNDERAGE DRIVING IS SO LETHAL



UAE	5,000	AED
KSA	5,000	SAR
Kuwait	0,500	DK
Bahrain	0,500	BD
Oman	0,500	OR



**IN THIS ISSUE:** KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN THE UAE TO AVOID LANDING IN HOT WATER

# *La Brioche*

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*The rule of law is accorded top priority in the UAE. Close attention is paid not only to major offences but also to the less obvious offences*

## Here's to a new start

**T**he weather is getting cooler in the UAE, and the season of open-air festivities is about to begin. It's going to be a particularly cheerful time for residents who've been able to legalise their status in this country, thanks to the three-month visa amnesty this year. Many expats recount their stories in this issue.

In this month of hope and joy, what could ruin the mood? Well, an unqualified teenage driver, for one thing. Even as law enforcement in the UAE performs their best to make the roads safer, some young people just can't keep their hands off the steering wheel. What's worst? Underage drivers end up killing pedestrians and cause other cars to crash. Our cover story this month puts the spotlight on these young offenders, whose parents are equally responsible for their behaviour. Underage driving is not cute; it is an offence. It needs to be treated as such.

We know that the law must always prevail – through a combination of penalty and publicity. Such a combination has led to a significant drop nationwide in traffic offences related to seat belts. Our feature here talks about how stiff traffic regulations which started to be implemented last year are showing great results.

The rule of law is accorded top priority in the UAE. Close attention is paid not only to major offences such as reckless driving but also to the less obvious offences such as uploading photographs of accidents or bringing certain goods into the country. There's a code of conduct as well as legislation that covers social media activities. We have very helpful features in this issue that go over the entire gamut of things that'd be punished, either with a fine, or with a jail term and deportation, or both. Speaking of which, there's also a special report on deportation, explaining the why and how of it.

While all of us can become aware of our actions and take care not to cross the legal line, sometimes we become unwittingly complicit in the illegal activities of others. For instance, something as simple as getting a massage after a long day at work can take people into illegal territory. That's because they seek out unlicensed practitioners to save a little money. Now, this may not sound like much of a problem, but believe us, you'd be risking both your health and wealth if you become a client of illegal parlour services, advertised through dubious channels. Do turn to our feature to know just how bad it can get.

By putting all this knowledge between the covers of **999**, we hope to make your life trouble-free and secure. And then, of course, there's recreation. This month is pretty special for sports fans, as the first T20 cricket tournament begins in the UAE Capital – get the details in 'Abu Dhabi Spotlight'.

This is a beautiful country that has much to offer. And **999** always helps you enjoy it more.





# *Thank you, Mohammed bin Zayed*

Following the initiative of His Highness  
**Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,**  
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai,

We would like to extend our appreciation to a great leader who has won the hearts of his citizens through love, dedication and modesty; the man who works day and night for the advancement of his people and the symbol of loyalty and leadership: His Highness  
**Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.





**Ministry of Interior  
United Arab Emirates**

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Col. Awadh Al Kindi

**Managing Editor**  
Issam Al Sheikh

**Contact Us**  
Tel: +971 2 4194488  
Fax: +971 2 4194499  
P.O. Box: 38999  
Abu Dhabi – UAE  
www.moi.gov.ae

magazine999@moi.gov.ae  
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The tree that bears the fruit, the land that yields the crop, the animals used for meat and dairy products, all these are helping to keep us alive and strong, and we need to respect that gift



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COVER STORY

# THE MENACE OF UNDERAGE DRIVERS

YOUNG ADULTS BEHIND THE WHEELS AND WITHOUT A LICENCE CAUSE SERIOUS ACCIDENTS AND ROAD FATALITIES. THE UAE POLICE HAVE RENEWED THEIR EFFORTS TO WARD OFF THESE TROUBLEMAKERS ON THE ROAD



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# President approves additional funding for federal gov't



**PRESIDENT** His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has approved the Dhs1.9 billion additional funding to the general federal budget and to the budgets of independent entities for the current fiscal year following the issuance of Federal Decree-Law No. 6 of 2018.

The additional funding for the general budget expenses for fiscal year 2018 will be financed from the general reserve of the state.

The Decree-Law stipulates the increase of estimated expenditures and revenues of the budget of the office of the Minister of Tolerance for the fiscal year 2018 with Dhs21,000,000, the UAE Space Agency with Dhs3,500,000, the National Media Council with Dhs3,917,000, and the General Authority for Sports with Dhs6,822,000, and the Emirates Diplomatic Academy with Dhs9,970,000.

# Khalifa inks decree amending Commercial Companies Law

**PRESIDENT** His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued Federal Decree-Law No. 07 of 2018 amending articles within Federal Law No. 02 of 2015 on Commercial Companies.

The newly issued decree stipulates that Article 14 of Federal Law No. 02 shall be amended to reflect that the

Memorandum of Association of a company and each amendment thereto shall be made in Arabic and attested by a competent authority, failing either which shall be null and void.

If the Memorandum is issued in a foreign language in addition to Arabic, the Arabic text shall be the applicable text in the State.

The Memorandum of Association shall be attested by the competent authority in person or by electronic signature as determined by the authority.

In specific cases, as deemed by the authority, a Notary Public shall attest the Memorandum of Association.

The decree-law shall be effective from the day of issuance.

# President issues two Federal Decrees appointing new officials

**PRESIDENT** President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued two Federal Decrees appointing new officials.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed first issued a Federal Decree appointing Ahmed bin Ali Mohammed Al Sayegh as

Minister of State, and issued another on the appointment of Dr Ahmed bin Mubarak Ali Rashid Al-Mazrouei as Chairman of the Office of Abu Dhabi Ruler at the Ministry of Presidential Affairs.

Al Sayegh, who holds bachelor's degree in economics from Lewis & Clark

College, Oregon, USA, is currently the chairman of Abu Dhabi Global Market as well as the managing director for Dolphin Energy and a board member of Etihad Airways. He is also the Secretary General of the Executive Council and board member of the Emirates Foundation.



# UAE Cabinet approves new law for retiring expats



**THE** UAE Cabinet, chaired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has approved a new law allowing expatriates to stay in the UAE for a period of time after their retirement.

"The UAE Cabinet approved a law to provide special residency-visa privileges for expats retirees over the age of fifty-five years for a period of five years, with the possibility of renewal, according to specific conditions," Dubai Government Media Office said.

To qualify for the special residency visa privilege, retiring expats should qualify in at least one of the following: (1) an expat

with a property investment worth Dhs2 million in the UAE; (2) an expat with financial savings of no less than Dhs1 million; or (3) an expat with an active income of no less than Dhs20,000 per month.

"In effect as of 2019, the law outlines requirements to qualify for the long-term visa such as having an investment in a property worth 2 million dirhams, or financial savings of no less than 1 million dirhams, or having an active income of no less than 20,000 dirhams per month," the media office said.

The new law, which will be implemented starting 2019, is expected to help boost the real estate market in the country.

## VP, Crown Prince swear in new minister, judges

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, administered the oath of office of a new minister of the UAE government and two judges.

Ahmed bin Ali Al Sayegh was sworn in as Minister of State and two new judges, Sabri Shamseddine Mahmoud and Tayeb Abdul Ghafour Al Qadi.

Their Highnesses expressed wishes for success to Al Sayegh as part of his duties to effectively contribute to the development journey of the UAE. Their Highnesses also expressed their well-wishes to Mahmoud

and Al Qadi, calling on them to ensure the principles of justice and law enforcement are consolidated.

Their Highnesses Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior; Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs; Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, along with a number of ministers and senior officials, attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Al Sayegh and the two judges expressed



their gratitude for the trust shown by the UAE leadership and affirmed their commitment to carry their duties in light of the vision and guidance of the leadership for the development and advancement of the country and achieving its objectives across various endeavours.

## Vice President tackles fresh ideas with brainstorming team



**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, held the annual

brainstorming meeting with a government team to discuss detailed new ideas and future plans.

During the meeting, His Highness said the UAE has become a model for the entire region by sustaining the country's position as an icon for development and prosperity.

"Nothing can stop our ambitions," His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said. "Ideas are like trees: they need a lot of care, so we can reap their fruits," His Highness added.

Praising the team's efforts, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid went on to

say, "I am proud of every one of you and everyone who serves this country."

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, and His Excellency Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future, attended the meeting.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and the team tackled a number of proposals and ideas in addition to local, regional and international initiatives organised by the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future.

# Mohamed bin Zayed greenlights Dhs50 billion dev't plan for Abu Dhabi



**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, approved the Dhs50 billion

development plan for Abu Dhabi.

The three-year development accelerator programme, dubbed 'Ghadan 21', was approved during a meeting with members of the Abu Dhabi Executive Committee.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed ordered the allocation of Dhs20 billion to the 2019

development package.

"The aim of Ghadan 21 is to enhance the competitiveness of Abu Dhabi, based on four main tenets: business and investment,

society, knowledge and innovation, and lifestyle. The first phase includes over 50 initiatives that reflect the priorities of citizens, residents and investors," His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed said.

The first objective is to stimulate business and investment and promote economic development in Abu Dhabi by creating an attractive and conducive environment for enterprise growth, competitive work environments, developed private sector and SME growth, as well as industry projects including the renewable energy sector.

The second objective targets to ensure employment of the citizens, the launch of housing projects, the provision of quality education at reasonable costs, and the establishment of social welfare and other development initiatives for the people.

The third one focuses on developing the knowledge and innovative systems in the Capital by encouraging emerging companies in the field of technology, attracting talent to Abu Dhabi, supporting research and development centres, and training and developing talent and expertise.

# Crown Prince, Pakistani PM discuss regional, global issues

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan reinforced bilateral relations between the UAE and Pakistan during a meeting on the sidelines of Khan's state visit to the UAE.

The latest developments on the regional and international development were given a high emphasis during their meeting.

"The UAE under the leadership President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan is determined to maintain robust ties with other countries on the basis of mutual respect, trust and common understanding of each other's interests," His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed said, reaffirming the country's keenness to promote peace, tolerance, and peaceful co-existence on the regional and international levels.

For his part, the Pakistani leader reinforced his country's resolve to maintain resilient relations with the UAE and underscored the importance of concerted efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region.

Their Highnesses Lt General Sheikh Saif bin



Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior; Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs; Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and a number of ministers and senior officials

attended the meeting.

The Pakistani leader was accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi; Finance Minister Asad Umar; and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhary along with Pakistani Ambassador to the UAE Moazzam Ahmad Khan.

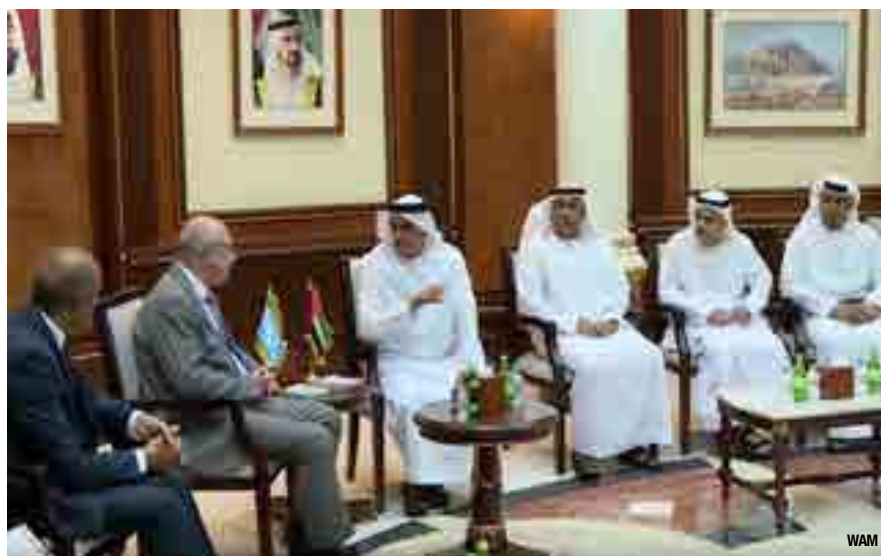


## Saif bin Zayed holds talks with Under-Secretary-General of UN Counter-Terrorism Office

**HIS** Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, met with Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office, to tackle ways of bolstering international efforts to counter terrorism and extremism.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed means of boosting cooperation between the UAE Ministry of the Interior (MoI) and the UN Counter-Terrorism Office on issues of mutual concern, especially those related to countering terrorism.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier Mohammed Hamid bin Dalmouj Al Dhaheri, Acting Secretary - General of the Office of the Minister of the Interior, and a number of MoI officers and senior UN officials.



## Interior Minister receives Grand al-Nuri Mosque's reconstruction committee



**HIS** Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, received the members of the Joint Committee for Reconstruction and Restoration of al-Nuri Mosque and the al-Hadba' Minaret in Mosul.

The meeting was held in the presence of HE Noura bint

Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development.

In April 2018, the UAE and Iraq signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cultural cooperation, to restore some of the latter's most famous cultural sites, al-Nuri Mosque and the al-Hadba' Minaret in Mosul, which were destroyed in June 2017.

The restoration of the said landmarks also includes the construction of a new memorial site with community and educational spaces which will all be accessible to the public. The UAE also signed an agreement with UNESCO to fund and support the project.

The five-year cultural project is being supervised by a joint committee that includes representatives from the UAE, Iraq, UNESCO, the Iraqi Sunni Endowment, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) Regional Office in Sharjah.

## Saif bin Zayed conveys condolences to Obaid Al Nuaimi on son's death

**HIS** Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, conveyed deepest condolences to Obaid Saleh Al Nuaimi on the death of his son Khalid.

HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed expressed heartfelt sympathy and solace to the family of the deceased during a visit to the mourning Majlis in Falaj Hazza area in Al Ain.

His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed also prayed to Allah Almighty to rest his soul in paradise and to grant patience and solace to his family.



## Al Sha'far discusses cooperation with Kosovo delegation



**LIEUTENANT** General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior, met Abdel Salam Shkodra, Deputy Minister of Interior of the Republic of Kosovo and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Kosovo delegation's visit to the UAE, where they met a number of

officials in the security and police departments under the UAE Ministry of Interior (Mol).

The discussion included ways of cooperation and coordination in terms of security between the UAE and Kosovo.

It was attended by Colonel Ahmed Saeed Al Mazroui, Head of the International Cooperation Department

at the Ministry of Interior. The Kosovo delegation visited the Police College in Abu Dhabi, and was received by Brigadier Waleed Salem Al Shamesi, Director General of the Police College, and Colonel Khalifah Ali Hleis Al Niyadi, the Deputy Director, and assistants of the director.

The delegation listened to a brief presentation on the history of Police College in Abu Dhabi as well as its foremost achievements since its inception; the educational and training programmes for cadets; and the stages for the college programmes to become internationally accredited.

The delegation was briefed about the Master's programmes at the College, as well as the future projects for the in-demand programmes, according to opinion polls. The visitors also viewed the mini-exhibition of the books prepared by the cadets. At the conclusion of the visit, memorial shields were exchanged between the two sides.

## Institutional Development Council tackles police activity

**THE** Institutional Development Council at the Ministry of Interior (Mol) discussed developmental indicators, initiatives and systems at the Mol.

The Council's meeting was held at the Federation auditorium at the Mol headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

As part of the agenda in the meeting, they discussed topics related to the development of police activities and enumerated a number of recommendations.

The meeting was attended by Major General Salim Ali Mubarak Shamsi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary of Resources and Support Services at the Ministry of Interior; Major General Dr Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, Inspector

General of the Ministry of Interior; Major General Mohammed bin Al Awadhi Al Menhali, Member of the Deputy Prime Minister Advisory Office at the Minister of Interior; Major General Dr Abdul Quddus Abdul

Razzaq Al Obaidly, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Quality and Excellence, Dubai Police; Brigadier Mohammed Hamid bin Dalmouj Al Dhaheri, Secretary General of the Office



of HH Minister of Interior; Colonel Faisal Sultan Al Shuaibi, Director General of Strategy and Performance Development, Ministry of Interior; and a number of officers.



# Al Rumaithi inspects work management at Al Dhafra

**MAJOR** General Mohammed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police, inspected the processes and work progress at the Al Dhafra region Police Directorate.

The inspection covered the procedures of providing excellent services, and preparedness for providing security.

Al Rumaithi held a meeting attended by Brigadier Mohammed Suhail Al Rashidi, Acting Director of the Criminal Security Sector, and Colonel Hamdan Saif Al Mansouri, Director of the Directorate and Directors of Centres and Departments, and heads of centres and departments.

The Abu Dhabi Police Commander-in-Chief praised the patronage and support of the wise leaders in improving the safety and security in Abu Dhabi by adopting a comprehensive strategy and development initiatives for police and security work.



He also emphasised that: "The Abu Dhabi Police General Command is keen on promoting public participation in crime prevention. Utilising this strategy, the public would be prompted to take active participation in societal matters and play a role complementary to that

of the police."

Urging the personnel to continue with their endeavour to satisfy the residents, Al Rumaithi underlined that police primary concern is to promote societal partnership and to cement this concept amongst the members of society.

# Al Sharifi honours business support team



**MAJOR** General Maktoum Ali Al Sharifi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Police, honoured members of the business support team at the communication centre of the Abu Dhabi Smart Solutions and Services

Authority (ADSSSA) in recognition of their concerted efforts and cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Police General Command.

The event took place at the headquarters of the Abu Dhabi Police Command.

Amongst those who were honoured included Muna Abdullah Al Marzouqi, Director of Business Support; Amira Rashed Al Busaidi, Business Support Analyst, and Mohammad Said Al Harbi, Business Support Analyst at the centre.

Al Sharifi explained that Abu Dhabi Police adopted a plan of digital transformation that would allow police services to be characterised by innovation to raise levels of satisfaction.

He praised the role of the awardees and their pioneering contributions within the context of development efforts under the patronage of the Abu Dhabi Government.

Further, he spoke of the pride that the police took in their relations with the partners, and the force's sustained efforts to build upon these partnerships in order to achieve the utmost efficiency and a happier society.

## Dhahi Khalfan leads brainstorming on cryptocurrencies



**LIEUTENANT** General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai, presided over a discussion session on 'Probing the future of cryptocurrencies and their security dimensions'.

It was attended by Major General Expert Khalil Ibrahim Mohammed Al Mansouri, Assistant Commander-in-Chief of Criminal Investigation at Dubai Police; Judge Jassem Mohammad Al Balushi, Appeal judge in Dubai Courts; Judge Ahmad Said Al Mazroui, First Instance judge in Dubai Courts; Salah Amin, Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Islamic Bank; Shehab Issa Al-Zu'abi, Head of Licensing in the Banking Supervision and Examination Department; Brigadier Khaled Nasser Al Razooqi, Director of the General Department of Artificial Intelligence, Dubai Police; and First

Expert Brigadier Ahmed Matar Al Muhairi, Acting Head of the General Department of Forensic Science and Criminology at Dubai Police, along with a number of experts and specialists from the departments of electronic crimes and economic crimes, the specialised departments of Dubai Police, and the Dubai Securities Commission and other specialised quarters.

The panel discussion generated the following recommendations:

- Issuance of a UAE cryptocurrency that would be coded using blockchain technology to expedite the implementation of the Emirates strategy for digital dealings;
- Appealing to the legislative quarters to form a higher national committee to develop laws and to organise the

trade in cryptocurrencies;

- Amending the money-laundering and counter-terrorism laws to include clauses related to cryptocurrencies;
- Appealing to society to be cautious in dealing with cryptocurrencies and to ascertain their sources to avoid illegitimate activity;
- Holding training programmes and specialised workshops for officers and personnel at security institutions, so that they can investigate crimes in digital transactions;
- Strengthening public awareness on the risks associated with the websites promoting investment and trade in these currencies;
- Urging the banking sector to provide information to the investors about cryptocurrencies and their positive aspects and risks.

## Sharjah Police forge partnership with university to develop pioneering projects

**MAJOR** General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, visited the American University of Sharjah, accompanied by Brigadier Abdullah Ibrahim bin Nassar, Director of the Police Training Institute at Sharjah Police; Colonel Dr Mohammed Khamis Al Othmani, Director General of the Police Sciences Academy in Sharjah;

and Captain Hamid Khalfan Al Kindi from the office of the general commander.

They were received by the university director consultant, Dr Björn Kjerfve, in the presence of Hussein Mohammad Al Mahmoudi, CEO of the Research, Technology and Innovation Complex; Saud Al Suwaidi, Head of the

Department of Technology Transfer and Partnerships; and Saeed Al Shamsi, Chief of Protocol at the university.

During the visit, a discussion on cooperation between the two sides was held to develop pioneering projects and initiatives aimed at raising the standard of security and public services in Sharjah.

# Al Marri spearheads Executive Leadership Council meeting

**MAJOR** General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, chaired the regular meeting of the Executive Leadership Council of Dubai Police.

The meeting was attended by Major General Dr Al Sallal Saeed bin Huwaidi Al Falasi, Director of the General Department of Administrative Affairs; Major General Mohammed Said Bakhit, Director of the General Department for Services; Major General Ahmed Hamdan Bin Dalmouk, Director of the General Department for Training; directors of general departments and police centres; as well as representatives of Dubai Police councils.

The participants discussed the decisions of the previous meeting; the programmes and plans presented for implementation at Dubai



Police departments and centres; the latest administrative developments; using the new institutional identity on buildings, signage, patrols, vehicles, military uniform, and sports attire; reading studies prepared by general departments and police centres about administrative operations and best practices;

and analysing reports on participation in social events and activities.

Al Marri directed the executive leaders and the personnel of administrative operations to apply international best practices, and to document all the results of the initiatives implemented by public departments and police centres.

# Al Mualla oversees demography meeting

**THE** auxiliary committee for population composition held a meeting chaired by Major General Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla, Commander-in-Chief of Umm Al Quwain Police.

The meeting took place in the presence of HE Hamid Rashid Al Shamisi, Secretary

General of the Executive Council in Umm Al Quwain; Colonel Khalifa Salem Al Shamisi, Office Manager of the Commander; Major Dr Hamid Ali Yousef, Deputy Director of the Department of Strategy and Performance Development; and the directors of local and federal

departments in UAQ.

The committee tackled a number of topics, including the policies and initiatives supporting Emirati families and marriage to reduce divorce rates in the community. The committee produced a number of recommendations.

## Thaqif traffic patrol launched in RAK

**MAJOR** General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, inaugurated the Thaqif traffic patrol, in the presence of general directors, directors of departments, heads of sections and branches, and a number of officers.

Al Nuaimi underscored that the patrol, which emerged from the concept and preparation of Chief Assistant Ahmad Abdel Hamid Kandar, one of the affiliates of the traffic education and media branch, emphasised the role of the police in protecting road users.

## Fujairah traffic plan focuses on school students

**THE** Traffic and Patrols Department at Fujairah Police prepared a plan associated with the new academic year 2018-2019.

This is in line with the strategic goal of the Ministry of Interior and the Fujairah Police General Command for the traffic sector.

The plan encompassed making the roads safer; promoting traffic awareness amongst all segments of society; safeguarding school students during the school commute; and achieving the highest standards of traffic safety.

# Al Nuaimi holds meeting on Mol happiness programme

**MAJOR** General Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, chaired a meeting of the Ministry of Interior's programme for happiness and positive outlook.

The meeting was attended by public sector directors and Ajman Police officers, and

Colonel Nasser Khadem Al Kaabi, Director of the Department of Happy Traders, Chairman of the Committee of Happiness and Positivity at the Ministry of Interior.

Colonel Al Kaabi lauded the performance of Ajman Police and their achievements in the previous years, and the launch of the 901

enquiry service. He emphasised that excellent performance can only be possible under a distinguished leadership with a wise vision.

Major General Al Nuaimi thanked everyone for their support to Ajman Police, enhancing the police force's readiness and performance.



# 1st

Abu Dhabi has been named safest city in the world for second year running by Numbeo, a website for crowd-sourced global data. Abu Dhabi's crime index was 13.63, better than 14.41 last year. The index ranked 338 cities and is an estimation of overall safety levels in any given city or a country. It also measures the cost of living, pollution, the cost of travel and quality of life.

# 10

The number of languages by which the smart service for international driver's licence recently launched by the Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with the Automobile & Touring Club of the UAE, will be available.

# 1st

The ranking achieved by the UAE Police Women's Team under the Ministry of Interior during the Second International Pistol Shooting Championship, held in Hungary in September 2018 and was participated in by 17 teams from various countries around the world.

# 8%

Percentage drop in the road fatalities index in the UAE between January 1, 2018 and August 26, 2018.



"Electronic money will eventually replace cash, but this will only happen safely if their underlying systems can be controlled and rendered transparent. Not all cryptocurrencies will achieve the trust levels as long as their source and tracking system remains unknown."

**Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim**, Deputy Chairman of Dubai Police highlights the need to develop a legal and law enforcement framework to deal with unmonitored large-scale electronic financial transactions that inevitably pose a substantial amount of risk.



"The preventive measure pertaining to passengers less than 145cm in height is applied in many global traffic systems. It has been proven that the seat belt at the neck position for passengers in this category poses a threat to their safety if they're in the front seat, so sitting at the back is safer for them."

**Major General Expert Engineer Mohammed Saif Al Zafeen**, Assistant Commander-in-Chief of the Dubai Police Operations Department and Chairman of the Federal Traffic Council at the Ministry of Interior, underscoring the importance of following the rules on seat belt in saving lives from road accidents.



# *Thank you, Mohammed bin Zayed*

Following the initiative of His Highness  
**Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,**  
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai,

We would like to extend our appreciation to a great leader who has won the hearts of his citizens through love, dedication and modesty;  
the man who works day and night for the advancement of his people and the symbol of loyalty and leadership: His Highness  
**Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.



# UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS



ABU DHABI

**3**

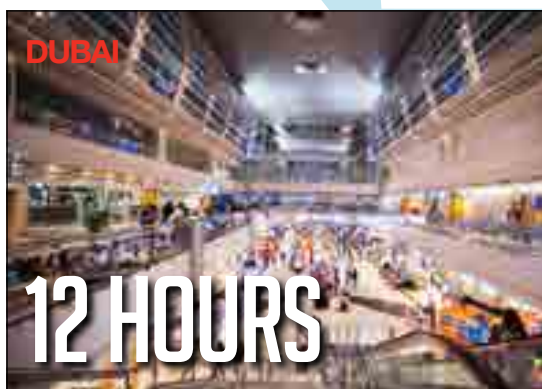
Speeding and sudden swerving by one driver led to a three-car collision just before Maqta Bridge along the Abu Dhabi-Ai Ain road. The accident left an Arab with critical injuries. The offending motorist was overspeeding that one of the cars flipped over.



AJMAN

**2X**

Two African men, both illegal residents in the UAE, had been running a money doubling scam. The racket was busted following an undercover operation by the police. While making the arrests, the police seized paper and equipment that the duo used for printing fake notes.



DUBAI

**12 HOURS**

An elderly woman who got lost at Dubai International Airport – with no money on her and no knowledge of English – was found 12 hours later and put on a plane, as she had missed her flight. The woman had been travelling from Johannesburg, South Africa, to Seattle, US, via DXB. Her daughter made a frantic call to Dubai Police when she lost contact with her mother after the plane landed in Dubai – and so the 'rescue' began. Airport and aviation authorities as well as the airline worked together to get her a new flight ticket.

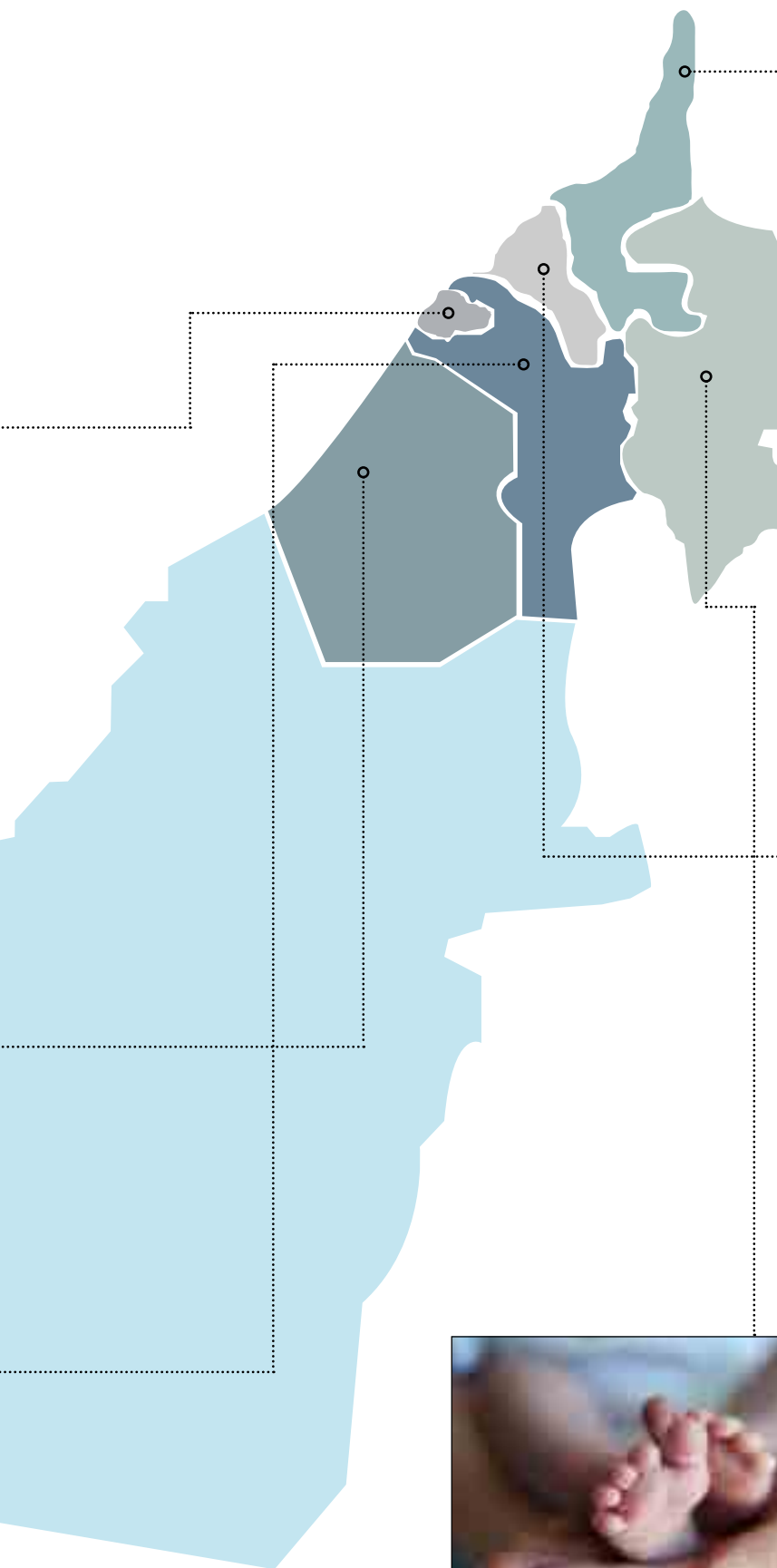


SHARJAH

**DHS200,000**

A diving instructor, whose employee drowned at sea during a training session, was fined Dhs20,000 and ordered to pay Dhs200,000 in blood money to the family. The Khor Fakkan-based instructor and his employee had gone out sailing, but they went further than their permit allowed. The instructor returned alone and informed the police that his employee was missing.





**RAS AL KHAIMAH**

**10PM**

A young Asian man died after being hit by a car around 10pm on the Ras Al Khaimah Airport Road. Investigations showed that the motorist wasn't at fault and that it was the pedestrian who had failed to check if it was safe to cross. The motorist had tried to avoid hitting the pedestrian, but it was too late, as per a police statement.



**UMM AL QUWAIN**

**EXIT 90**

An Asian man, who was involved in a road accident near the UAQ Exit 90, lost his memory and kept asking for his brother, who had died in the mishap. The survivor had suffered serious head injuries, including a skull fracture. He appeared to have no memory of the accident. His family was trying not to tell him that his brother had died in the accident.



**FUJAIRAH**

**7-MONTH-OLD**

A seven-month-old baby, an Arab boy, died in a fire that broke out because of a faulty air-conditioning machine in the baby's room. Firefighters reached soon enough, but the infant couldn't be saved.



# THE MENACE OF UNDERAGE DRIVERS

**YOUNG ADULTS BEHIND THE WHEELS AND WITHOUT A LICENCE CAUSE SERIOUS ACCIDENTS AND ROAD FATALITIES. THE UAE POLICE HAVE RENEWED THEIR EFFORTS TO WARD OFF THESE TROUBLEMAKERS ON THE ROAD**

BY K NIVEDITA





**“ During the training and testing process, there is also an emphasis on hazard perception in both the theory and practical tests so that the new drivers have the skills to anticipate dangers and prevent accidents**



**ARIF ABDUKARIM AL MALIK**

Director of Drivers Training & Qualification  
Dept, Licensing Agency at RTA

**P**olice forces across the country are working on reducing traffic casualties from about 6 per 100,000 people to 3 per 100,000 as per the UAE Vision 2021. Apart from patrolling and conducting inspections, they hold awareness campaigns through the year to make young people become aware of traffic rules and the laws about driving.

Abu Dhabi Police have recently announced wide-arching plans to tighten supervision in the Capital's streets, especially in residential areas, to curb underage driving. "The UAE traffic law requires drivers to produce a valid driving licence when requested by traffic patrol police. Parents, who allow children below 18 to drive on the roads, endanger the lives of their children and of others as well. They'll be held accountable under the juvenile delinquency law," said Brigadier Ahmed Al Hantubi, Deputy Director of Central Operations at Abu Dhabi Police.

A 25-year-old Asian worker was crossing the road in Fujairah when a car came from nowhere and hit him at full speed. When the police arrived, they found the pedestrian dead from severe injury to his skull. The body was moved to a morgue at the Dibba Al Fujairah Hospital for burial formalities. This accident, which occurred in April, had one thing in common with other fatal accidents in the UAE – a teenage, unlicensed driver behind the wheel.

In this case, the driver was an Arab youth, who was traced and detained for questioning.

Just a month later, there was a recurrence. On a warm summer's day in Dubai, a licence-less minor got behind the wheel of an SUV that belonged to his friend's father. The friend sat in the front passenger seat. They moved into a road with a speed limit of 100kmph; the underage driver stepped on the accelerator, and the car sped up to 140kmph. The outside was a blur to both of them – until the vehicle rammed into a metal barrier and a lamp-post, flipped over three times and came to a stop. In this accident, one person was killed and three others were injured, including the friend whose father owned the SUV. He admitted to the police that they took the car without permission; the father concurred that he had no idea his son was out with the car.

Arif Abdulkarim Al Malik, Director of Drivers Training & Qualification Dept, Licensing Agency, Roads & Transport Authority, Dubai, explains to 999. "The testing process is strict to ensure that all qualified drivers have the required knowledge and skills to drive safely on our roads. During the training and testing process, there is also an emphasis on hazard perception in both the theory and practical tests so that the new drivers have the skills to anticipate dangers and prevent accidents."

#### GRIM STATISTICS

The glamour of fast cars today means that adolescents, even those barely into their teens, literally can't wait to hit the road. They're old enough to know that they're committing a serious breach of the law, but brush that knowledge aside in their haste to find new thrills.

Abu Dhabi Police released statistics in July on this peril of the road. Between January and June this year, 17 accidents in the Capital were caused by underage motorists and 342 such minors were arrested for driving their parents' vehicles without a licence. Of these, 86 teenagers

## THE NUMBERS

**3 MONTHS AND/OR  
A MINIMUM  
DHS5,000**

Maximum prison sentence and minimum penalty for driving without a licence for underage drivers

**17**

Accidents in Abu Dhabi between January and June 2018 due to underage driving

**342**

Minors arrested for driving their parents' vehicles without a licence in Abu Dhabi in first half of 2018

**“ If the minors are caught for the second time after the pledge is signed, strict legal action would be taken against them**



**BRIGADIER KHALIFA  
MOHAMMED AL KHAILI**

Director of Traffic and Patrols Department in the Central Operations Sector at Abu Dhabi Police

were caught driving without a licence for the second time and the police referred them to the family court. The officers dealt with the remaining 256 of the arrested teenagers by calling in their parents.

These parents signed a pledge that they wouldn't let their children drive. "If the minors are caught for the second time after the pledge is signed, strict legal action would be taken against them," said Brigadier Khalifa Mohammed Al Khaili, Director of Traffic and Patrols Department at Abu Dhabi Police.

#### **WAS THAT A CHILD?**

The UAE has stringent rules on underage driving – a maximum prison



sentence of three months and/or a minimum Dhs5,000 fine.

In May, an expat in Abu Dhabi narrowly escaped being run over by a fast car. He said that he couldn't believe his eyes when he turned around to look at the driver. "There was a child of around eight years, sitting on the driver's knees and steering the car. Both of them seemed unconcerned by the risk they posed to me or to anyone else on the road. I took note of the car's registration number just before they sped away and reported it to the police," he said.

The UAE has one of the highest vehicle densities in the world. According to the Roads and Traffic Authority of Dubai, the emirate had 540 cars per 1,000 people – more than one car for every two people – in 2015. This is twice as many as in London. In Abu Dhabi, the number of vehicles rose from about 27,000 at the turn of the millennium, to 213,000 in 2006, to over 1.2 million in 2015. How many of these cars are being driven by youngsters without any sense of social responsibility or even a knowledge of navigating the roads?

A few years ago, a police report stated that most youngsters were either gifted cars by their families or had taken vehicles from parents and relatives without their knowledge or permission to drive.

#### **PEOPLE MUST OBEY**

"Driving without a licence when one is underage is breaking the law, as simple as that. The UAE government has reasons

**“ Driving without a licence when one is underage is breaking the law, as simple as that. The UAE government has reasons to set the minimum driving age. Like with all laws, the public has to obey**



**THOMAS EDELMANN**  
Managing Director, RoadSafety UAE

to set the minimum driving age. Like with all laws, the public has to obey," said Thomas Edelmann, Managing Director of the organisation, RoadSafetyUAE, speaking to 999. He added, "In 2016, young drivers (with driving licences) accounted for 45 per cent of accidents in the UAE, and it's vital to give young drivers the proper training and tricks for safe driving."

Young motorists, even when they do have a licence, are amongst the most accident-prone people. In March 2017, it was revealed by UAE law enforcement that drivers aged 18-30 years had caused almost half the road accidents in the



## **WHAT'S THE HURRY?**

**International studies show that the following factors are responsible for youngsters' hurry to start driving:**

- Peer pressure / Passenger distractions
- Unaware of the danger of accidents
- Lack of experience
- Banned substances
- Bad habits picked up from parents

previous year. Speeding, talking on the mobile phone when driving, and not keeping a safe distance between cars were common offences of motorists in this age group, said Lieutenant General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior, at the opening of Gulf Traffic Week.

On top of that, if they haven't even earned a licence, one can imagine the damage they can inflict on others. In general, said Edelmann, "There's a feeling of being invulnerable in young drivers compared to older drivers, as our behaviour studies testify. It seems that only with experience and when growing older, UAE's motorists adjust their behaviour and drive safer."

#### STRICTER POLICE ACTION

In Dubai, police held a month-long campaign, titled 'Our Youth, Our Treasure', in May, to spread awareness amongst young drivers about the dangerous impact of modified vehicles, which is a huge attraction for youngsters high on adrenaline. "Parents should watch their children as modifications on cars can be

noticed easily by their sound. There were instances when parents had paid up to Dhs500,000 compensation when their minor children caused accidents," said counsellor Salah bu Froushah, Head of Dubai Traffic Prosecution.

#### GLOBAL MENACE

Underage driving is a problem across the world. In an Asian country, police made news across the world by arresting parents of teenagers who were caught driving without a licence. In a Western country, more than 1,000 driving bans were handed to underage drivers – the youngest of them being 12 years old – in 2017, and the police found that video games were giving youngsters the confidence to get behind the wheel.

In another Western country, motor vehicle crashes are considered to be the leading cause of death for 15- to 18-year-olds, and 2,082 teen drivers were involved in fatal crashes in 2016.

It's imperative to talk to your children about driving, and this should be done often as they grow up and approach the legal driving age. Recent research has

shown that teenagers place themselves at great risk by what they drive (e.g. modified cars); when they drive (e.g. at night or in fog); how they drive in terms of speed and the decision to wear seat belts, amongst others; and why they drive. The last revolves around teenagers who drive to sort out an emotional condition and are, metaphorically, driving to get away from it all. In this condition, they're more invested in their own anger or sorrow than on the road.

“

**Parents should watch their children as modifications on cars can be noticed easily by their sound. There were instances when parents had paid up to Dhs500,000 compensation when their minor children caused accidents**

### BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEM OF YOUNG DRIVERS

Thomas Edelmann of RoadSafetyUAE says, "There's a feeling of being invulnerable amongst young drivers, compared with older drivers, as our behaviour studies testify." Here are some data from RoadSafetyUAE's surveys for young drivers, aged 18-24 years:

**Only 63%**

'always' buckle up in the driver's seat

**Only 34%**

of young drivers ask their passenger 'always' to buckle up

**Only 52%**

'always' buckle up in the front passenger seat

**Only 7%**

'always' buckle up in the back seat (in taxis, limos, in friends' cars, etc.)

**Only 29%**

'never' use their mobile phones while driving

**Only 56%**

'always' use their indicator





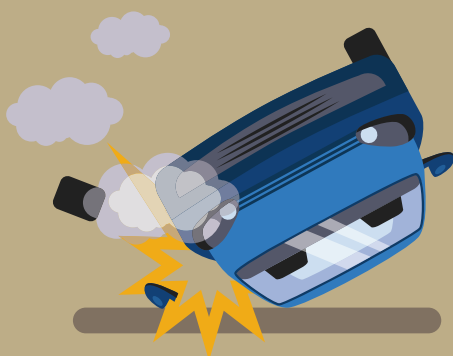
## HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND IF YOUR CHILD INSISTS ON DRIVING

**1 IT'S NOT ONLY TO OTHERS THAT UNDERAGE DRIVERS ARE A THREAT.** Research published in 2017 by the UAE University's College of Medicine and Health Sciences showed that a dozen injured drivers – amongst those admitted to Al Ain's two hospitals with traffic-related injuries or who had died in accidents – were under the legal age of 18. The research was conducted amongst patients aged between 15 and 24 over an 18-month period. "Despite legislation and increased enforcement in the UAE, the use of restraints amongst the youth is still very low," the study concluded, and described underage driving as a serious problem on the roads.



**2 CHILDREN ARE EXCITEMENT JUNKIES AND DISLIKE RULES.** In May, a man in Abu Dhabi noticed an SUV with loud music blaring in a lane. "Out of curiosity, I stole a glance at the car. Imagine my surprise when I saw that the person in the driving seat was a child who looked barely 12 years old. There was another child of the same age in the passenger seat. Both were grooving to the music. There were no adults in the car," he said. Pre-teens such as these often use cars as party venues – and throw caution to the winds.

**3 YOUNGSTERS LIKE SPEED, BUT DON'T KNOW THE COST.** Very often, they'll sneak away in vehicles of adults that have been modified to increase speed. Police say that it's difficult for drivers to control the vehicle when the engines are modified to increase speed. For an immature driver, controlling such a car would be near impossible. Police have also come across cases of aviation fuel being used in cars to increase speed. There were four accidents in 2016 – though none in 2017 – caused by vehicles that had breached modification standards in Dubai.



**4 THEY OFTEN DON'T KNOW HOW TO REACT.** In January, a teenager who was driving without a licence lost control while trying to overtake a truck in Ras Al Khaimah. Seven teenagers, aged 13-16 years, were injured in the collision. Brigadier Dr Mohammad Saeed Al Hamidi, Director General of the General Directorate of Central Operations at Ras Al Khaimah Police, said, "The teenage driver sped up to avoid a car coming from the opposite direction and, as a result, hit the tyre of the truck. He lost control over the wheel and the vehicle veered off the road and overturned several times. Some of the teenagers were thrown out of the vehicle due to the impact of the collision."

**5 YOUNG DRIVERS ARE ALSO CARELESS DRIVERS.** According to studies, texting on mobile phones while driving has been a major cause of road accidents – 11 per cent of all road fatalities – in the UAE, even when the drivers are adults. Teenagers are more easily distracted. So critical is the problem that in April, a nationwide campaign led by Lt General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, reached out to students, asking them to pledge they wouldn't text on mobile phones while driving.





## PARENTS, DO YOUR BIT TO MAKE ROADS SAFER

**Tim Maycock** is Director of Maycock Training Ltd, an international consultancy firm

A reckless teenager at the wheel of a fast car spells disaster. The police can't be everywhere all the time, so it's up to mum and dad to discipline their kids

**W**hy is it that as we get older, it seems we want to be younger? We try to be slim. We try to conceal the wrinkles appearing on our flesh. We fight the inevitability of spectacles, hearing aids, dentures and so on.

Some of us still squeeze into tight clothing for sporting purposes, and frankly, that often provides an excellent counter-argument to wearing glasses – some things are simply better left unseen.

Equally, when we're young, why, oh why, are we so eager to grow up quickly? If only we knew then what we know now. They say that youth is wasted on the young.

I can clearly recall (and I'm sure you can, too) one aspect of wanting to grow older quickly – the aching desire to drive a car. I used to watch my father driving (mothers didn't drive in those days) and mimic his actions, somehow subliminally storing the information gained for my future as a driver.

Young people would perform casual work on farms, just to get a chance to drive a tractor. The most popular fairground rides were those that involved 'driving' a toy or imitation car. Boys loved train sets and motor-racing toys.

That magic age of 14 or 15 or 16 or 17, or whatever your country decrees as the legal minimum driving age, seems so far away when the desire to get behind the wheel is burning bright within that young soul.

The temptation becomes unbearable and manifests itself in illicit driving by youngsters who clearly believe they're capable but soon find out they are not.

Motor vehicles in the wrong hands are essentially mechanical killing machines.

Many legal statutes in defining the elements of an offence will describe a criminal act as 'intentional or reckless', so 'reckless' is right up there with a pre-meditated act.

When a recklessly driven vehicle drifts out of control, perhaps it leaves the road and cuts through a crowd of shoppers, or maybe it smashes head-on into a busload of passengers and so on.

Our police are, of course, very aware of this problem and from time to time, they'll run a concerted campaign to catch these young law-breakers.

Given the fact that our police only have a certain amount of time and resources to apply, who 'picks up the slack'? The parents, of course. After all, we chose to have a family. We brought our little darlings into this world, we taught them how to behave, so we must take ultimate responsibility for their behaviour and conduct, mustn't we?

How then do we prevent this kind of behaviour and its all too frequent tragic outcomes? Well, there are obvious practical and logical solutions such as ensuring the family cars are locked, alarmed, and the keys hidden away.

But then, a determined youth (or more likely a group urging one another to take a risk or a dare) will perhaps look to "borrow" a car left unsecured by some careless owner. A further step may be to break into a car and "hotwire" it to get it going. Breaking in and engine starting 'skills' can be easily found on the Internet.

So, there's no 'silver bullet' here. A combination of sound education, attentive parenting, and careful monitoring is the best way forward.

Not an easy one, my friends, but hey, no one ever said parenting would be easy.

**A combination of sound education, attentive parenting, and careful monitoring is the best way forward**

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



## **WELCOME TO A BETTER EXPERIENCE NOVEL HOTEL CITY CENTER**

Formerly known as Mercure Centre Hotel Abu Dhabi, the 215 room hotel is situated in the heart of Abu Dhabi's bustling business district of Hamdan street.

Upgraded to 4 star hotel, Novel Hotel City Center is the new brand of Danat Hotels & Resorts a division of the National Corporation for Tourism & Hotels (NCT&H).

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# DON'T GET TO THE POINT OF NO RETURN

COMMITTING CERTAIN CRIMES IN THE UAE MEANS NOT ONLY A JAIL TERM, BUT ALSO BEING TURFED OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HOW DOES DEPORTATION WORK, AND WHY IS IT NECESSARY? **999** BRINGS YOU THE ANSWERS

BY MAHA ISMAIL

**J**ust as many people arrive in the UAE every year to live and work, some others are convicted of wrongdoing and face deportation after their jail term.

There are quite a few crimes for which one might get deported; these include sexual assault, cybercrime, defamation, fraud, forgery and hate speech against religion. One might wonder, why is deportation necessary? Isn't conviction and a jail term plus fine enough? There's absolutely a reason for this legal provision.

Maryam Mohammed Al Ahmadi, a human rights consultant at the Abu Dhabi Police Community Police Department, said that the UAE has become one of the world's most attractive countries for different types of people, each of whom follow a different culture and idea about what constitutes an offence. But for the UAE, it's important to have some overarching laws that ensure harmony in the community as well as protection of human rights.

Hence, the country considers it important to have a process of cleansing the social fabric, by getting rid of corrupt or threatening elements. The goal is to curb the spread of any violations and preventing the emergence of new types of crimes.

## 2 TYPES OF DEPORTATION

There are two types of deportation – legal and administrative. The first follows a conviction in a criminal case and is issued by a panel of judges in court. This type of deportation is mandatory and would be used against those who've committed heinous crimes such as sexual assault or rape.

The second is issued by the Ministry of Interior and the bodies related to it, such as the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs and the Ministry of Labour. This type of deportation is discretionary and is issued against individuals who are thought to be a threat to public safety and welfare.

## 1. LEGAL DEPORTATION

Al Ahmadi said that judicial order or legal deportation is one of the criminal measures established by law. It is issued by judicial decree once a UAE legislator finds that there are security challenges facing the country. The legal text was amended in accordance with Article 121 of the Federal Penal Code of 1987, which states: "If a foreigner has been sentenced to a custodial penalty in a felony or misdemeanour, the court may call in its judgment for the deportation of the convicted foreigner from the state. Deportation orders shall also apply to felonies perpetrated on [an individual's] honour."

## 2. ADMINISTRATIVE DEPORTATION

Al Ahmadi explained that: "Administrative deportation is a measure taken to preserve social stability by uprooting corrupt elements or individuals who deliberately disobeyed the law."

She added that crimes for which an administrative deportation order is issued include all cases that violate public morality, endanger lives and property, and those that can be categorised as crimes against social security, such as drug smuggling.

The names of deportees are put on a special list. Whoever enters the UAE after

his/her deportation, is fined Dhs10,000, put back on a plane, or detained. It may be noted that some of those who were sentenced to deportation and tried to return to the country had committed acts such as thefts and fraud.

### LEGAL DETERMINANTS

Al Ahmadi explained that in 2017, the UAE authorities issued an amendment to the provisions of Article 23, in accordance with Federal Law No. 17, to provide for "the Federal Attorney General or his authorised representative, the Chairman of the Federal Authority for Identity and Nationality or whoever authorises the Director General of the Commission to order the deportation of the alien, even if he has a permit, visa or residence permit, if such deportation is required by public interest, public security, public morals or public health or [the person] has no apparent means of subsistence".

The mechanism of deportation is without prejudice to the human rights of any Arab or non-Arab resident or tourist. Article 26 states: "The Minister of Interior may order that the deportation expenses of an alien and his family shall be incurred by the alien himself if he has money, or on the account of the country to which he is belonging; otherwise the Ministry shall

“

Administrative deportation is a measure taken to preserve social stability by uprooting corrupt elements or individuals who deliberately disobeyed the law



**MARYAM MOHAMMED AL AHMADI**

Human rights consultant  
Abu Dhabi Police Community Police  
Department

bear the deportation or exit expenses." The expenses of deportation can be borne by the person who has brought the foreigner, if the latter has no financial means to do so.

Article 27 of the same Act No. 6 of 1973 on Immigration and Residence states: "If an alien, against whom a deportation order has been issued, has interests in the country that need to be settled, he shall be granted a grace period after providing



Criminals who were ejected out of the UAE for crimes related to forgery and cybercrimes



A gang who were handed deportation sentence for peddling illegal substances in the UAE



## CRIMES REQUIRING DEPORTATION

Al Ahmadi explained that in accordance with the legislation in the UAE, the decision to deport a tourist or foreign resident would be taken if he or she committed crimes related to:

- **Sexual assault**
- **Prostitution**
- **Promotion of narcotics and psychotropic substances**
- **Fraud**
- **Libel**
- **Ideas that threaten social peace**
- **Violation of the community values in UAE society**



### 3-years jail term & Dhs10,000

Punishment for any person who forges a visa or entry permission or licence or a card for the purpose of entering the country or uses knowingly any forged document, aside from deportation

a guarantee to clear these interests. The Ministry of Interior shall determine the period, which shall not exceed three months." So, there is an opportunity for the foreigner to obtain his or her material dues, if that person is being deported for security concerns, but that right has nothing to do with the decision.

#### CASE 1: INFILTRATION AND FORGERY

In July 2018, the Sharjah Criminal Court ordered the deportation of a man after serving his jail time. He had forged a document, so that he could bring his lover to the UAE.

The man produced a fake marriage certificate, and submitted the document to the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Sharjah, where he was apprehended. He initially admitted to forging the document, but later claimed that he only received the contract from his home country, not knowing that it was fake. The Court asked the accused to provide a valid marriage contract, to no avail.

Federal Law No. 6 of 1973 and Federal Law No. 17 of 2017 define the types of crimes that require judicial

judgment of deportation. Article 31 of Federal Law No. 17 of 2017 stipulates: "Every alien who has been arrested after having illegally infiltrated or entered, and any foreigner who commits the act in contravention of the provisions of the law shall be punished by the same penalty. In all cases, the Court shall order the deportation of the alien from the State and the confiscation of funds obtained from any activity during the period of his residence."

Article 34 (3) of Federal Law No. 17

of 2017 stipulates: "Any person who forges a visa or entry permission or licence or a card for the purpose of entering the country or residing therein, or any document in order to avoid the provisions of this law, or uses knowingly any forged document, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years and a fine not exceeding Dhs10,000 or with either of these two punishments; and the court may order his deportation from the country."



## CASE 2: CYBERCRIME

In June 2016, the Abu Dhabi Court held the administrator of a pirate website liable for illegal uploading and streaming of copyrighted television series, movies, and misusing direct-broadcast satellite provider OSN's intellectual property rights. The court convicted him and handed him a six-month imprisonment sentence. He was then deported to his home country and ordered to pay Dhs50,000 as compensation to OSN for copyright and trademark infringement.

Sophie Moloney, General Counsel of OSN, said, "The authorities have adopted extreme vigilance against all forms of television piracy, which has resulted in websites streaming illegal content being blocked in the UAE."

The counsel said the court action would serve as a stern warning against TV piracy. She added, "The public can contribute to fighting it by voluntarily staying away from accessing illegal content on any platforms."

According to estimates by the International Data Corporation, television piracy – through the use of illegal set-top boxes, unauthorised VPN subscriptions,



### **Article 42 of Law No. 5 of 2012 on Combating Information Technology Crimes states: "The court shall order the alien convicted of any of the offences set out in the law to be deported after the execution of the sentence, namely imprisonment or fine**

and torrent downloads – leads to over \$750 million (Dhs2.75 billion) in losses every year for the content and consumer product creation industries in the Middle East and Africa.

Other examples of cybercrime are: using the Internet (or any electronic

means, including text messaging) to perpetrate crimes of insult and defamation; facilitating acts contrary to morality; publishing pornographic material; insulting religions; trading in organs and antiquities, weapons; manufacturing incendiary materials, explosives or any other instrument used in terrorist acts; inciting hatred or communicating with foreign parties to undermine security and peace through the Internet, by creating or managing a website or using information on the Internet or an information technology device for the purpose of inciting acts; publishing or broadcasting information, news, cartoons or any other images that endanger the security of the state and its supreme interests; or assault on law enforcement officers or any of the provisions of law enforcement.

Article 42 of Law No. 5 of 2012 on Combating Information Technology Crimes states: "The court shall order the alien convicted of any of the offences set out in the law to be deported after the execution of the sentence, namely imprisonment or fine."



## CASE 3: PROSTITUTION AND DRUG DEALING

In the pursuit of fake pleasures and money, some people completely lose sight of morality and don't even stop to think about what might happen when the arm of the UAE law enforcement catches up with them.

Gerry, 23, had met Lena, 28, (names withheld) without his family in his home country knowing anything about it. Nor did the family have any idea that they posed as 'husband and wife', and lived together in a rented flat in the UAE.

But not long after the couple moved in, their neighbours sensed that something weird was taking place – they saw strangers going in and out of the couple's flat almost every day, during the day and at night. Suspecting that something illegal was happening, the neighbours went to

#### CASE 4: DISCRIMINATION AND HATRED

A high-profile chef in Dubai lost his position and may stand trial after posting anti-Islam comments on the social media platform Twitter in June 2018.

He directed a tweet at an actress, saying that “Hindus have been terrorized by Islam [for] over 2000 years”. Although he immediately deleted his tweet, it drew criticism for its religious hostility. Internet users also tagged Dubai Police in their responses, citing UAE laws on using online platforms for hateful messages against

Islam. Despite issuing an apology, the chef could still face prosecution.

Discrimination against and dissemination of hatred are considered criminal acts. Federal Decree No. 2 of 2015 criminalises acts of contempt and violation of the sanctity of religions; hate speech; and discrimination based on religion sect, race, colour or origin. The law says: “[An offender] shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than five years and a fine of not less than Dh5250,000 and not exceeding Dh51 million, or one of these



#### THE BANNED LIST



**The name and identity of the person deported from the UAE is added to a banned list, so police forces and immigration officials are very much aware of who is not allowed to re-enter the country. Someone attempting to do so could be put back on a plane or detained.**

two penalties. A penalty of at least seven years' imprisonment and a fine of not less than Dh500,000 and not more than Dh52 million shall be imposed on anyone who assaults, challenges, defames or abuses the divine spirit or harasses one of the prophets or messengers.”

The law applies to organisations, not just individuals. Article 18 of Federal Decree No. 2 of 2015 states: “Without prejudice to the imposition of the penalties provided for in the Decree-Law, the Court shall adjudicate the dissolution of associations, centres, bodies, organisations, and groups and their subsidiaries temporarily or permanently.”

the police and reported the matter.

The police put the flat occupied by Gerry and Lena under round-the-clock surveillance. Two more reports came to the police regarding the same flat; both alleged that the flat was a den for drug trading and other kinds of crimes.

The surveillance didn't have to go on for too long – the husband fell into the police net while he was selling narcotic pills to a buyer in front of the apartment building. Both were arrested on the spot, handcuffed, and taken to the police station. They were handed over to the criminal investigation department at the police general headquarters. Next, members of the CID team went to the flat and fetched the woman to listen to what she had to say.

Facing interrogation, Lena admitted that she had been engaged in

prostitution for some easy cash. She also confessed that she had a false marriage with Gerry under a marriage contract in her native country. The fake husband was the one who brought her customers, while he himself took orders, procured, and sold drugs.

Gerry didn't deny the charges: drug

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**Those who set up or run a  
brothel for prostitution will  
be penalised by a prison  
term and a fine of at least  
Dhs100,000**

abuse and drug dealing with the help of his younger brother Shawn, who had escaped the police once earlier. He led the police to the hiding place that both his brother and his fake wife used when needed. That hiding place was nothing more than a room that they had rented.

Shawn, too, was tracked down, and admitted to everything, corroborating what his brother had told the police.

Following these confessions, all the three accused were referred to the judicial authorities, and they were sentenced to prison and deportation.

Those who set up or run a brothel for prostitution will be penalised by a prison term and a fine of at least Dh5100,000, as per the new law issued by President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan in September 2016.





# Seize UAE's benevolent gesture to restart new life

**999** TACKLES TALES AND HOPES OF THOSE WHO'VE STEPPED OUT OF THE DARK TO FACE THE DAWN OF A FRESH BEGINNING

BY ABDUL BASIT



It's truly a big gift with a bunch of smiles for thousands of overstaying expats who have availed of the three-month UAE General Amnesty scheme that started on August 1.

As the visa amnesty called 'Protect Yourself by Modifying Your Status' nears its deadline at the end of this month, October 31, Brigadier Saeed Rakan Al Rashidi, Acting Director General of Residence Affairs at the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (FAIC), said: "The amnesty registration centres across the country are accommodating a big number of illegal residents seeking to avail of the amnesty scheme." To process more applications and offer respite for those waiting in long queues, a second tent was set up last month at the Shahama centre in Abu Dhabi, as well as in amnesty centres in Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah.

"We have expanded the registration centres in some areas by setting up more tents that are fully equipped, so that officials can handle the huge number of amnesty-seekers," Brigadier Al Rashidi said.

Meanwhile, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) in Dubai revealed that it has issued 25,086 new sponsor visas and renewed around 2,916 residencies, as of the second week of September. In Dubai alone, Amer centres were able to process over 32,843 transactions since the amnesty period started on August 1.

In anticipation of the rush of amnesty seekers this October, Major General Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General of GDRFA, said: "We have equipped these centres with all the required services to ensure easy completion of transactions." In this setup, amnesty seekers can have all visa-related transactions processed, including entry permits and visit visas. It has been made a one-stop shop that issues or renews residency visa, cancels visa, and releases Emirates ID, amongst other related government services.

**The General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai revealed that it has issued 25,086 new sponsor visas and renewed around 2,916 residencies, as of the second week of September**



Brigadier Saeed Rakan Al Rashidi during his tour in amnesty initiative service centres in Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah and Umm Al Qaiwain

**“ We have equipped these centres with all the required services to ensure easy completion of transactions**



**MAJOR GENERAL MOHAMMED AHMED AL MARRI**

Director General of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai

The visa relaxation has provided new hopes for over-staying foreigners and allayed their fears of facing hefty fines or incurring a ban. A couple of countries, in addition to providing documentary support, are also offering jobs, free air tickets, skill training, and shelters to illegal over-stayers once they get back home.

Two months after the rollout of the amnesty, 999 visited some amnesty centres to take a look at how this benevolent initiative gives a helping hand for many and keeps the spirit of the Year of Zayed.

#### THE WHEEL OF LIFE KEEPS TURNING

Manuel, an African national, 28, who decided not to disclose his real identity told

**“ We have expanded the registration centres in some areas by setting up more tents that are fully equipped, so that officials can handle the huge number of amnesty-seekers**



**BRIGADIER SAEED RAKAN AL RASHIDI**

Acting Director General of Residence Affairs at the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship

999 his story. He came to the UAE on a visit visa to seek to greener pastures. However, he admitted that his credentials were not enough then to enter the job that he had been aspiring. "I increased my efforts to look for a job even after my visa expired and thought I would pay the fine once I got hired," he said. But since he had to send money home and help his family, he accepted a job in a tyre shop in Sharjah, where he lived and overstayed for the last five years. He admitted that he felt fear for the fines and possible sanctions in those years and described it as "hiding in the dark". But he felt relieved when the amnesty initiative was announced.

On the day that 999 met Manuel, all his visa violation fines were waived off, and he was



able to get six-month visa that would give him an opportunity to find a new employer who could sponsor his stay in the country. Teary-eyed, he said the wheel of life would now keep turning for him in the UAE.

"I am happy and very thankful that despite my inadequacies to rectify my visa status early on, the UAE government offered its helping hand. Finally, I can walk on the streets without fear or having to hide. I feel free," he said.

It was the same case for a 40-year old Arab national Husani (named withheld). He is an electrician by profession. When this magazine chanced upon him at the Amer centre, he was applying for his exit pass as he did not have a visa and passport or any other document with him. He overstayed in the UAE for seven years. When asked what the visa amnesty meant for him, he shared that it will give him an opportunity to be reunited with his family back home after rectifying his visa status. He is also determined to come back to the UAE and advised others to only go through proper channels to work in the UAE.

The overstaying cases of Manuel and Husani are relatively short compared to others who had lived in the UAE for decades illegally. Amongst thousands of those who approached the amnesty centres across the country, there are compelling tales of expats who had their millions of dirhams fines being



waived off. Their stories proved that the country is behind them to make things better and easier for them.

An Arab man got over Dhs7 million in fines waived off by the immigration centre in Ras Al Khaimah, thanks to the amnesty scheme. He has been overstaying with his wife, sister and his four children in the country since 1995. The fines quashed on a single day, August 5, reached nearly Dhs14 million, according to Brigadier Sultan Yusuf Al Nuaimi, Executive Director of the Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Ras Al Khaimah.

Similarly, a Southeast Asian woman living in Ras Al Khaimah came forward after 31 years of overstaying. Though the amnesty, she was

able to have her visa violation fines worth Dhs1.08 million waived off. She had entered the country on a visit visa in 1985 and worked as a house help on a legal residency visa in the first two years but turned into an illegal resident since then.

Another Asian family with nearly forty years of illegal status reached amnesty centre in Ajman. Their total fines amounted to Dhs3.7 million. The mother was born in the UAE in 1979, but her parents did not obtain a birth certificate, passport or a visa for her and that's the reason she lived illegally for 39 years in Ajman. Her four daughters have also been living illegally since they were born and have never entered to school.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR AMNESTY?

### THE AMNESTY PROGRAMME COVERS THE FOLLOWING CASES:

**Violators who reside in the UAE illegally.** The programme will grant them a grace period to settle their status or to leave the UAE voluntarily without any legal consequences or fines.

**Overstaying job seekers.** They can obtain a six-month self-sponsored temporary visa. Job seekers will have an opportunity to look for employment by registering in the virtual job market available on the website of Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation.

**Those who entered the country illegally.** They will be given amnesty by exiting the UAE with two-year ban.

**People with absconding reports.** They can apply for amnesty and leave the country without a ban.

**Nationals of countries suffering from wars and disasters.** They will be given a residence visa for one year, regardless of their residency conditions.

**Widows or divorced women.** Their visa and their children's will be extended for one year without the need for a sponsor.



### WHERE TO APPLY FOR THE AMNESTY PROGRAMME?

Applicants can apply for amnesty through nine centres set up across the UAE, near customer happiness centres of General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs – GDRFA across the country, which are open from 8am to 8pm on weekdays.

### FEES RELATED TO AMNESTY

Illegal residents wishing to exit the country can approach the respective GDRFA office and get an exit permit against a fee of Dhs220. They must exit within 10 days after getting the exit pass. GDRFA is charging a minimal fee of Dhs500 for changing visa status.



## THIS LIFE HAS BECOME WAY TOO BITTER

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

When a husband kills his wife because there's not enough sugar in his tea, we need to rethink what we're doing with our world

**A** husband in his thirties murders his young wife with a stab to her neck with the kitchen knife, because she forgot to add enough sugar to the cup of tea he asked for.

A wife shoots her husband and admits that she did it as a punishment, because he hit their pet cat soon after they moved to their new home.

After fifteen years of marriage, during which they had five children, a husband kills his wife, because of disagreement about holiday sweets, as his wife asked him to buy sweets for their children. The husband refused, because he couldn't afford it, then he killed his wife.

A university professor shoots his children before ending his own life at home, after a custody request for their children is granted to his wife, who had deserted him.

A father claims that his children were kidnapped on the morning of Eid, then admits that he threw them into a water channel, claiming that he wanted to save them from the torture of this life, because he loves them. He admits that he killed the children because he thinks he doesn't deserve to be a father for them, because he did things that might have shamed the children when they were older.

What is happening? Why are such crimes so widespread in our societies? What has changed in our times for these crimes to spread like this? It was rare to hear about such crimes in the earlier times. Is it a matter of having no faith? Is it a psychological illness for those who commit crimes like that, and in cold blood?

Apparently, the pressures of this time we live in play a crucial role in the spread of these kinds of crimes. These pressures vary from material to psychological and social; they were less in the

past before this material abundance.

Now, the sight of this abundance has made some of the low-income classes aspire to imitate those in a higher-income bracket – this puts a big pressure on some families. The main earner is under a lot of stress, because the needs of each family member is different. The children and young adults want video games, mobile phones, laptops, and other means of entertainment that were not available to their fathers and grandparents. The adults aspire to own lavish homes, fancy cars,

stylish clothes, perfumes, or expensive watches.

As for social trends, the emergence of new professions requiring special skills has led to the rise of a social class that makes money but lacks the culture that's an important factor in decision-making. This is particularly true when people face a problem that requires taking a proper decision, which won't lead to the disintegration of the family.

This does not exonerate those who commit crimes similar to what we mentioned in the beginning of this essay

– they're holders of high education degrees right up to a doctorate, for instance, the professor who killed both his children before killing himself, because his ex-wife won the custody battle. This means that the scientific and cultural levels are not enough to create an emotionally balanced person who can take proper decisions regarding the various aspects of life.

Therefore, I think we need to reconsider our way of thinking. Man does not live by material needs alone. Life is way more complicated than we think in some ways; yet, it is far simpler than we think in other ways. When a missing spoon of sugar is the reason for a lost soul, this life becomes way too bitter.

**Man does not live by material needs alone. Life is way more complicated than we think in some ways; yet, it is far simpler than we think in other ways**

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



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# THE UNDERBELLY OF ILLEGAL PARLOURS

THE UAE GOVERNMENT IS CRACKING DOWN ON THE SHADY BUSINESS OF ILLEGAL MASSAGE AND TATTOO PARLOURS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AS PROVEN BY THE RECENT ARRESTS

BY K NIVEDITA

**T**he two nurses who turned up at an apartment in Abu Dhabi promised the lady of the house that they could make her look younger in a few minutes. Their magic solution was Botox fillers and the process of injecting these would be cheaper than at regular hospitals, they said. But the result of this home service was the absolute opposite of what the client had hoped for – and was promised. This was yet another instance of an illegal beauty-wellness treatment gone horribly wrong. The UAE government is cracking down on this shady business, as proven by the recent arrests.

The abovementioned female victim of two clearly untrained nurses lost much more than money. She says, “They charged me Dhs3,000 for the Botox fillers,

which were administered to my legs.” That was three years ago, and since then, the woman has been battling serious infections on the left side of her body. Her thighs and legs have been badly disfigured. “My friend has had a similar experience. This has ruined our lives. It has become a nightmare,” says the victim, adding that she wants to warn others, to let them know that beauty therapy is best done at registered clinics and by certified professionals. “I want to share my story to help others. Any person, who wants to have a procedure, should do it from licensed [professionals], so that they wouldn’t have to suffer like us,” she says.

In July this year, Dubai Police nabbed seven African women who lured victims to a massage parlour, stripped them naked,

and threatened them that they would publish their nude pictures before stealing their cash. It all started when an Asian man dropped his boss off at the airport, and was given Dhs60,000 to deposit at the bank. Instead of going straight to the bank, he dialled the number of a parlour after seeing it on Facebook. He went to this parlour while still carrying the money. The doorbell was answered by some African women. The man, before he could react much, was allegedly dragged inside, stripped naked, and photographed. His money was allegedly snatched by the women, who threatened to publish the nude photos unless he complied. The man went to the police, an investigation was started, and soon the women were tracked down.

Interestingly, a few days before this, the gang had done exactly the same thing to another man, who called the parlour after seeing the publicity card. This man lost about Dhs5,000. The police had been informed on that occasion, too, but the women had disappeared from the apartment by then.

Brigadier Ahmad Thani bin Gulaitha, Director of Rafaa Police Station and Head of the Police Stations Council in Dubai Police, told **999** that “problems start when people go to illegal massage parlours in order to save a few dirhams”. He added, “People shouldn’t go to suspicious places. They should also be wary of the massage cards distributed in buildings or [left] on cars. We’re investigating how to crack down on this illegal activity.”

### RISKY PRACTICES

Illegal massage parlours, doorstep beauty services, spas, and tattoo joints pose a variety of risks for customers. While the African women were running a criminal racket, there are those who do provide a service, but that service could include anything from banned products to staff pretending to be professionals. As the crackdowns intensify every now and then, this ugly underbelly is exposed.

Abu Dhabi Municipality began this year by inspecting 686 hair and beauty salons, from where they seized 1,045 packs of banned and expired materials. Amongst these was black henna, which is banned in the country as the chemicals it contains causes skin burns. The civic officials served eight court injunctions to parlours for unsanitary conditions and other offences, and issued warnings to 45 salons.

Between January and May, Al Ain Municipality inspected 460 male salons and 330 beauty parlours, during which 485 offences were registered and 715 warnings were issued. They found that many of the parlours inspected used oil-stained or non-sterilised towels, expired and unlicensed cosmetics, such as creams and fragrances, and had a poor sense of public hygiene. “A team of inspectors and supervisors visited women’s beauty centres and male salons regularly to ensure that they complied with hygiene rules. The municipality will continue its endeavours to raise public awareness about public health and safety aspects in beauty parlours and salons through regular workshops,” said Ali Saeed Al Ketbi, Head of the Public Health Department at Al Ain Municipality.

### SOCIAL PRESSURE

There’s a social pressure of looking good. The country doesn’t merely have an ambitious and wealthy segment of people with a high style quotient, but it’s also one of the most rapidly growing wellness and spa markets in the world.

According to the Global Wellness Institute (GWI), the international wellness tourism market in the UAE – that includes the spa sector – is leading in the Middle East and North Africa region and is twice the size of its next closest competitor, Morocco. The country’s spa sector, which includes standalone spas and spas within hotels, grew from \$582 million (Dhs2.14 bn) to \$742 million (Dhs2.72bn) between 2013 and 2015.

GWl also ranks the UAE as one of the top 20 national spa markets in the world. Susie Ellis, Chief Executive of the

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People shouldn’t go to suspicious places. They should also be wary of the massage cards distributed in buildings or left on cars. We’re investigating how to crack down on this illegal activity



**BRIGADIER AHMAD THANI BIN GULAITHA**

Director of Rafaa Police Station and Head of the Police Stations Council in Dubai Police

### THE NUMBERS

**1,045**

Packs of banned and expired materials seized by Abu Dhabi Municipality in January 2018 after inspecting 686 hair and beauty salons

**8**

The number of court injunctions served so far this year by civic officials from Abu Dhabi Municipality for unsanitary conditions and other offences

**10,000**

Average number of massage cards picked up daily this year by Dubai Municipality workers

**715**

The number of warnings issued by officials from Al Ain Municipality from January-May 2018 after inspecting 460 male salons and 330 beauty parlours.

**35%**

Share of MENA’s spa revenue driven by the UAE







Global Wellness Institute, said, “The UAE dominates in MENA, driving 35 per cent of the region’s spa revenue.”

#### LICENSING PROCESS

The Public Health and Safety Department of Dubai gives us an idea of how much care is taken before granting a licence to salons and personal care centres. These include “wearing light-coloured uniforms (preferably with long sleeves), and dark-coloured uniforms for hair colouring”. Also, “each employee must have 3 uniforms and he should wear it during the work hours and keep it clean (it can be replaced with white, long-sleeved aprons)”.

Some requirements for the space and furniture are: the facial room area is not to be less than 6 sqm, with fitted walls; the use of curtains is not allowed; it must be suitable and provided with a bed that is comfortable, movable, free of cracks and rusts, and made of materials that can be cleaned and disinfected; the room must be also provided with a private hand wash basin.

The purpose of these regulations is to ensure that all salons are hygienic and that customers are safe. While the law comes down on such services, it’s the customers themselves who are the first line of defence. Any business – including illegal ones – survive and grow from patronage. The common people must take responsibility for their own health and that of society.

#### CHEAP, NOT CHEERFUL

A woman, who doesn’t want to be named, tells 999, “I go to local parlours because they are cheaper. I feel that well-known spas may be very clean but I thought they are unaffordable.” Most people use unregistered spa, tattoo and massage services because

“  
**While the law comes down on such services, it’s the customers themselves who are the first line of defence. Any business – including illegal ones – survive and grow from patronage**

they believe they’re getting the same service at a lower rate.

A woman in Dubai had probably thought the same thing when she used an unlicensed beautician to apply henna. “I wanted to dye my hair, but with natural products just to give it a darker black colour, before I went for my brother-in-law’s wedding,” she said. After 30 minutes of keeping the henna on, her hair was washed. “As soon as the wash was over, I started itching and, within no time, my scalp was red and my neck started to swell. I took some antihistamine tablets, expecting it to go. As soon as I got home, I washed my hair over and over, hoping that, perhaps, this would rinse the dye off. I also put some olive oil, which seemed to calm the burning sensation,” she narrated.

What had happened was that the woman’s skin had reacted to the herbal henna – this is a condition called phytodermatitis, in which the human body is allergic to certain plants. Ideally,

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**The UAE dominates in MENA, driving 35 per cent of the region’s spa revenue**



**SUSIE ELLIS**

Chief Executive of the Global Wellness Institute

the beautician should have tested the henna paste on the back of the ear or the inner surface of the forearm and waited for half-an-hour before proceeding with the treatment.

After being injected with cortisone and antihistamine for three days, an additional steroid injection to clear the inflammation and swelling, and oral medication for a week, the woman began to recover. But more than a week later, one side of her face was yet to heal. Even natural products can cause allergies – a trained professional would’ve known that. Ultimately, the cheap therapy came with a high price.

#### THINGS TO CONSIDER

Unregistered parlours offer services at easy-on-the-pocket rates. But, here are a few things to consider before you book your next session:

##### **1 THEY MAY BE SLEAZE DENS**

A massage parlour in the Musaffah industrial area in Abu Dhabi was doubling as a prostitution den, a fact that came to light earlier this year when the lover of one of the girls murdered five people. In April, the Abu Dhabi Criminal Court of First Instance heard a case in which a man used a kitchen knife to stab another man, whom he suspected of having an affair with his girlfriend. After stabbing the alleged lover to death, the accused attacked and murdered four other women at the parlour. Eight other men, who had shielded the accused, were also charged in the case. Your unlicensed parlours could be encouraging a crime. This is one of the main concerns

of the police – that unregistered massage parlours are no more than fronts for the flesh trade, which has a severe punishment in the UAE, including deportation, for those found guilty.

## 2 THE PARLOUR MAY FLOUT THE COUNTRY'S CUSTOMS

When the Consumer Protection Department of Fujairah Municipality conducted a number of surprise inspections throughout June on massage parlours, it found that several of these were operating illegally out of private houses and apartments. The law in the UAE states that massage parlours should provide services to one gender only, male or female, and the massage should be given to a person by a staffer of the same gender – male masseuse for male clients and female for female clients. If a massage centre provides services for both men and women, it needs to have separate entrances and the parlour must mention opening hours for each gender at the entrance of the premises. Unprofessional parlours, however, do not adhere to this norm. After the raid, 15 massage parlours were shut down in Fujairah for violating the country's rules on gender separation, amongst others.

## 3 THE PLACE MAY HAVE THIEVES

While all spas ask you to take care of your belongings, you'll have to stay especially alert at an unregistered massage parlour. Such parlours, by their very nature, don't attract top professionals



or have high ethical standards. In August, Dubai Criminal Court heard a case in which an unemployed man said that his iPhone5 and cash were stolen while he and two friends were getting a massage at an apartment in Al Baraha, Dubai. In a revenge attack, the trio ransacked the parlour and stole thousands of dirhams and electronic equipment. They choked one worker with a stick. Masseuses jumped out of a window to save themselves. Police found one of the masseuses hiding in an electricity cabin in the basement of the building. They also recovered the stolen goods.

## 4 UNSECURED PREMISES

Illegal massage parlours have very little or no security at all. The premises are vulnerable to attacks by criminal gangs who take advantage of the lack of guards and the fact that the clients inside are completely unprepared to either resist or escape. In April, the Abu Dhabi Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced a gang of seven men to 10 years in jail each for robbing a massage parlour and assaulting workers. Some of the men had told the police that they habitually carried out robberies at massage centres. In the attack in which the gang was caught, they had stormed the parlour at an apartment in Abu Dhabi with swords. They had threatened the workers, beat them up, tied their hands and legs with ropes, and taped their mouths shut. Then they stole money, cell phones and other valuables from the parlour. Before fleeing, the men locked the workers inside.

## 5 A SCAR IN PLACE OF A TATTOO

In July, Dubai Police sent an undercover officer to an illegal tattoo parlour that was being advertised on social media. "He was using unlicensed tools and fake ink to provide cheap tattoos. Such fake inks and tools harm health," said Major General Expert Khalil Ebrahim Al Mansouri, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Criminal Investigation Affairs of Dubai Police. They arrested the tattoo artist, who said that he usually tried to attract women and teenagers and also provided home services. Al Mansouri added that use of unsterilised tools could lead to a transmission of serious diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis. Also, a person's skin might react with the tattoo ink and swell, break out in rashes, or be permanently scarred.

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**Your unlicensed parlours could be encouraging a crime. This is one of the main concerns of the police – that unregistered massage parlours are no more than fronts for the flesh trade**



# CARD PLAY

**Littering:** One of the ways in which dubious massage parlours are advertised is through cards that have lewd images of scantily dressed women. It's common return to a parked car and find the windscreen plastered with cards bearing names, addresses, and phone numbers of massage parlours. If male customers are hooked by these images, their intentions are not very pure either.

Gathering up these cards is a headache for the civic authorities. In 2017, Dubai Municipality workers collected 6,000-7,000 massage service cards per day. In the first half of 2018, almost 10,000 cards were being collected daily. "The massage cards are showing no signs of reduction, making it a tedious task for

our workers. Despite stern warnings, the distribution of illegal massage cards in Dubai has increased. Therefore, before the end of 2018, we could start deporting the massage card distributors, in order to send out a strong message, as most of them are on visit visas," said Abdul Majeed Abdul Aziz Al Saifaie, Director of the Waste Management Department, Dubai Municipality.

At present, the penalty for distributing massage cards is Dhs500 under the head of "littering". Dubai Municipality is collaborating with Dubai Immigration, Dubai Police, and telecom operators to impose stricter penalties for card distributors, including immediate deportation.

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Most of the massage cards that are collected are from unregistered parlours. Many times, the same company prints out 10 cards in different ways, hoping that the customer would choose one of the 10 cards

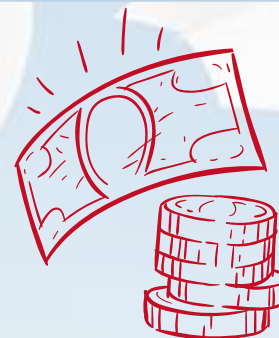


**ABDUL MAJEED ABDUL AZIZ AL SAIFAIE**

Director of the Waste Management Department, Dubai Municipality

## FINES:

"Massage parlours are of two types – some are registered with a trade licence and some are not. If they're registered, the first fine issued to them for distributing massage cards is Dhs5,000 and every other time the fine is doubled. Beyond the third time, they lose their trade licence. Many times, the same company prints out 10 cards in different ways, hoping that the customer would choose one of the 10 cards," Saifaie explained.



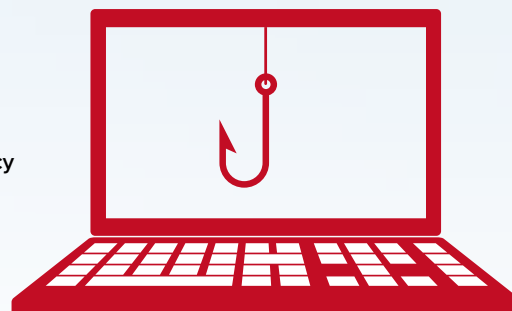
## BAD FOR KIDS:

Shop owners grumble that "we're tired of cleaning the sidewalk in front of our outlet of the heaps of massage cards delivered at all times, every day". A parent says, "It's not okay that my children are, all the time, seeing indecent photos on these cards. My teenage daughter once picked up a card lying on the road and called them up for a massage. The person answering the phone said they'd come over in five minutes and pick her up. My son, who is 14, asked me if he could call them up, too. I was alarmed."

Saifaie said, "People should pick up the cards and throw them into the litter bins. They can also call our toll-free number 800 900 or, better still, report it to the Department of Economic Development at **600 545 5555**."

## ONLINE LURE:

Some massage parlours have graduated from paper cards to digital technology. People often find messages from parlours – with pictures of semi-clad women offering a massage – on their social networking accounts. This is a breach of privacy and violates the country's cybercrime law. But, most people at best block these numbers manually to save themselves the discomfort of reporting them.







# Look at yourself & mind your manners, please

THE UAE IS A DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE IN AND TO VISIT,  
BUT THE LEVEL OF SAFETY THAT MAKES IT ATTRACTIVE IS  
BACKED BY SOLID LAW ENFORCEMENT. HERE'S THE CODE OF  
CONDUCT THAT YOU MUST FOLLOW AT ALL TIMES TO AVOID  
REGRETS IN THE END

BY K NIVEDITA

**E**very year, millions of people visit the UAE and thousands try to start a career here. In a survey of global talent, Abu Dhabi and Dubai are the only two Middle East cities featured by Boston Consulting Group and recruitment agency, The Network, in the ranking of cities that were most attractive to the global workforce.

What we have are millions of different cultures converging on the UAE. That's why the country is promoting tolerance amongst cultures and religions to avoid clash. While such a thing may be an academic issue in other countries, it is a legal issue in the UAE.

Over here, swearing or kissing in public doesn't just attract frowns; it can get you arrested and deported. Even what it's in your bag – such as adult magazines or banned animal parts – are forbidden. Last year, 15,260 items were confiscated at Terminal 3 of Dubai International Airport alone. Amongst these were narcotics, counterfeit goods, weapons, and restricted medicines.

It only goes to show that the very high level of security here is backed by a very high rate of law enforcement. So it pays to know the rules and the code of conduct at all times.

#### **HICCUPS OVER COUGH SYRUP**

One of the most common arrests at UAE airports, as per the authorities, is carrying a suspicious amount of medication.

When authorities in Dubai conducted an awareness campaign for travellers in July, the law about medication was their chief priority. "Anybody entering the UAE with suspicious amount of medications – that includes painkillers and cough syrup – without a medical prescription will be questioned and their case will be transferred to Dubai Public Prosecution," says Brigadier Mohammed Ahmed bin Dylan Al Mazrouei, Assistant Director

“

**Anybody entering the UAE with suspicious amount of medications – that includes painkillers – without a medical prescription will be questioned and their case will be transferred to Dubai Public Prosecution**



**BRIGADIER MOHAMMED AHMED BIN DYLAN AL MAZROUEI**

Assistant Director General of Operations at Dubai Airport

General of Operations at Dubai Airport. A person caught without a prescription can get a prison term of six months to two years, and a possible fine of Dh\$10,000.

Elijah Rodrigues, a 20-year-old university student and travel blogger from another country, tells 999 how being pro-active has made his travel smooth and stress-free. When he landed at Abu Dhabi airport in February, all he wanted was to have was "a shower at the airport before I headed out on the town for a 15-hour layover". He says, "I zip through security just fine but, as I clear

customs, a guard asks to see my passport. It turned out that they find a pill in my small jeans pocket," he says. It was an antibiotic

that Rodrigues had been prescribed for toothache and, as a seasoned traveller who had researched the laws of the UAE, he was carrying a copy of the prescription as well as a letter from his dentist.

So why are the police strictly watchful for the amount of medicines that a passenger brings with them into the country? There are narcotic substances, e.g. marijuana, that are legal in some countries, but in the UAE, a whiff of that would mean arrest.

"Smart people always care about the law of the land, but many others come to know of it only after they're caught breaking it," says Imran Khan, advocate with IK Lawyers, speaking to 999. He adds that all it needs is a quick check of the official portal of the UAE to find out what not to carry when coming into the country. A few examples are: gambling tools and machinery; three-layered fishing nets; original engravings, prints, lithographs, sculptures, and statues in any material; used, reconditioned and inlaid tyres; radiation-polluted substances; printed publications, oil paintings, photographs, pictures, cards, books, magazines, stone sculptures, and mannequins that contradict Islamic teachings, decency, or deliberately imply immorality or turmoil.

"There's a low crime rate in the UAE, as the police forces are consistent even on small offences," adds Khan.

#### **DOUBLE CHECK, TRIPLE CHECK**

Reading the law on medication, Khan says, "If, for medical or emergency reasons, one needs to carry any medicine, one should have a medical prescription from a licensed doctor. If treatment was undertaken outside the UAE, one must carry both a doctor's prescription as well as a detailed medical report, both of which should be suitably attested."

“ **There's a low crime rate in the UAE, as the police forces are consistent even on small offences**



**IMRAN KHAN**

Lawyer





## RIGHTS OF MANY OVER THE RIGHTS OF ONE

Interview with Nasif Kayed, CEO and Founder of The Arab Culturalist, which guides and educates people and businesses in the UAE.

**In your work with people who are new to this country, what are some of the most important things that you always remind them about?**

We are free to speak logically, peacefully and for the betterment of humanity. You are not free to cause harm to others by any means. No reason for us to demean, belittle, disgrace anyone, regardless of how we feel in the moment. We are not allowed to incite violence and cause harm and havoc in society or spread rumours, or even expose someone's shortcomings, as that is considered a sin in Sharia law. Those whom you harm can demand justice, or they can forgive you if they choose, so remember, a sincere apology goes a long way. Above all, we are encouraged to help others overcome their struggles and shortcomings, as we all have our own.

**In this age of the Internet, social media and booming tourism, why is the Sharia law more important than before?**

In simple terms, the Sharia law gives rights to everyone to live in peace over the rights of those who want to do wrong or harm. The idea is that the right of the majority is first over the right of an individual to be free to behave in a way that can negatively affect society. Those individuals who act against the social norms or laws should be deterred, stopped or removed from society. Just like the old saying, one bad apple spoils the whole bunch; the idea is to remove the bad one before it ruins the rest. These two concepts together help protect everyone's right to live in peace and security.

Regarding the issue of taking a photo of someone without their permission. How many stories do we hear these days about pictures being Photoshopped or getting into the wrong hands and used to blackmail or misrepresent the truth? Social media can be used for positive or negative actions and is one of the areas that the UAE has been proactive in creating legislation that protects people from having their image posted without permission, and rumours and gossip

**The idea is that the right of the majority is first over the right of an individual to be free to behave in a way that can negatively affect society. Those individuals who act against the social norms or laws should be deterred**



### NASIF KAYED

CEO and Founder of The Arab Culturalist

spread that are harmful to individuals and society.

The UAE places a high importance on family values, so cohabitation is not permitted in the UAE. While no one is knocking on the doors and asking for marriage certificates, if you're trouble with the law, this will eventually come to light and be a cause for additional legal problems.

**How should expats be familiar with the etiquette in the UAE?**

Enjoy your freedom but stay in the middle as neither extreme is welcomed here, either too conservative or too liberal. There is plenty of information out there on how to enjoy living in the UAE so read, ask and join programmes to learn the facts. Set aside negative stereotypes and explore for yourself. There are plenty of good things to enjoy in the UAE, let us tolerate one another and be happy to live together in peace and harmony.

## POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND WHILE CARRYING MEDICINE

- 1 Residents and non-resident patients can bring into the UAE at most a three-month supply of prescription medicine, for their personal use.
- 2 Psychotropic medicines can be brought by non-residents to cover their personal consumption for a maximum of three months.
- 3 You should not bring narcotic medicines into the country without the prior approval of the Ministry of Health.
- 4 For more information related to restrictions on carrying of medicines, drugs and chemicals into the

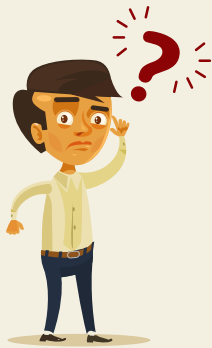
UAE, one must check the Dubai Customs website.

- 5 Avoid accidentally carrying bakery products that might contain banned things. Also banned are qat leaf, betel leaf or nuts, niswar, gutkha. These are not permitted in the UAE.

The portal of the Federal Customs Authority gives a list of the restricted goods, amongst others, and airports have awareness boxes in the Customs area that inform travellers about illegal items, such as laser pens, pepper sprays, guns and knives.

Source: Imran Khan, advocate with IK Lawyers

## OOPS! THEY DID IT AGAIN



**ZERO RECALL:** A 26-year-old tourist couldn't recall that he headbutted two policemen so badly that they had to go to the hospital? The police officers, however, had a perfectly good memory. "We were the closest police patrol to the location, at nearly 3am that day, when we were tasked by the operations room to investigate reports of a man causing a disturbance," said one officer. They realised that the accused consumed an illegal substance and they could smell it on him. When the patrol team brought him to the police station, the accused headbutted the first officer as he stepped out of the vehicle and injured his nose. He headbutted the other before being brought under control.

**TWIN TROUBLE:** A pair of twin sisters, both of whom are legal consultants from another country, was arrested and charged at the Dubai Court of First Instance in April for abusing and assaulting a woman police officer. The police were informed that the women were causing a disturbance outside a hotel and rushed to the scene. The woman police officer told the court that the sisters "pushed me and as I fell down, the back of my head hit the ground. I got injured in my right arm, elbow, fingers and pelvis". The accused were transported to the general directorate of criminal evidence and criminology for toxicology tests. "They verbally abused me there. They spoke badly about Arab women and I was the only woman around. One of them also grabbed me by my right wrist, injuring me with her long fingernails," said the officer.



**PRIVATE PUBLIC:** In January, the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi upheld a lower court order sentencing a couple with a year each in jail for the crime of being alone in private, despite not being married or related. The police swooped down on the pair after they posted intimate photos of themselves on social media. They were seen to have violated UAE Penal Law, Section 5, Article 312, Paragraph 3, which involves "crimes that affect religious beliefs and practices". The man was also charged with violating information technology laws and fined Dhs250,000.

**IN THE FRAME:** The laws in the UAE take the right to privacy very seriously, as two men and a woman in Dubai found out in April. They took a video of a businessman, who was allegedly wanted in corruption cases in their home country. The video shows the businessman with a luxury car and the video emphasised that he was living in luxury while police in his home country were looking for him. Brigadier Ahmad bin Galita, Director of Rafaa Police Station, said, "The accused breached the privacy of the businessman by posting the video without his approval." The cops let the woman go but sent the men to the public prosecution.



## OFFENCES IN TWILIGHT ZONE

The laws regarding hardcore crimes are similar across the world. Two brothers, who had swallowed 1,300g of heroin in a smuggling attempt and then got arrested at Dubai International Airport in April, would be considered criminals anywhere. But what of actions in the twilight zone? Passengers can be arrested in the UAE for insulting security officials and airline staff, making derogatory statements about the country, and for using a mobile phone while passing through security.

Anywhere in the country, at the airport or in a city, public display of affection is banned. In fact, kissing between two people of the opposite sex – if they aren't married – is unlawful even if it's not done in public. This was evident from the May 2017 arrest of an Arab man and woman who were kissing in a service station restroom. They were inside for too long. An attendant went to look, and spotted the kissing pair. Immediately, the police were called and in the court, they were meted out with corresponding punishments.

In June, a couple was found to be guilty of 'beautifying the sin' by a Sharjah court and was sentenced to one year in jail, to be followed by deportation. The woman's roommate, a 19-year-old from another country, also found herself in the dock. The Sharjah Criminal Court charged her for not reporting to the police that her female roommate was living with a man to whom she was neither married nor related. The roommate told the court that she was new to the UAE and was unaware that, under Sharia law, cohabiting was a crime. She had earlier been sentenced, in absentia, to six months in jail to be followed by deportation. She has now confessed to the crime of violating the Sharia and is appealing for mercy.

# 10 THINGS YOU MUST NOT BRING IN THE UAE



Careful with what you put in your luggage. Several things are on the banned list of the UAE government, and detection could lead to a stiff penalty.



- 1**  
All kinds of narcotics



- 2**  
Crude ivory and rhinoceros horn



- 3**  
Gambling tools and machinery



- 4**  
Three-layered fishing nets



- 5**  
Original engravings, sculptures and statues



- 6**  
Used and inlaid tyres



- 7**  
Radiation polluted substances



- 8**  
Printed publications that contradict Islamic teachings



- 9**  
Forged and duplicate currency



- 10**  
Cooked and home-made foods

Source: Dubai Airports







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

## A 'THANK YOU' TO RETIRED EXPATS

The new long-term UAE residency rule for people aged 55 or more – provided they meet certain criteria – spells the country's gratitude to those who have been loyal to it

**T**he progress achieved by the UAE has always been recognised by people around the world; many even aspire to rise to this level. This progress and the related developments in all fields did not happen in a vacuum; they were the fruits of the considerable efforts made by the country's wise leadership, along with the assiduous work of the UAE people, who spared no effort to follow policies. And in this way, aspirations became tangible outcomes.

These outcomes could not have been achieved without the help of our Gulf, Arab, and non-Arab brothers and sisters – they contributed, and are still contributing, to building the renaissance of our beloved UAE.

The people of the Gulf countries, e.g. Kuwait and Bahrain, contributed to building the two sectors of education and health. These sectors, and many others, were supported by the Arabs.

People from the Asian countries have participated in the UAE's nation-building project from its very beginning up till now.

Within this course of time, which does not exceed 50 years, the challenges faced by the UAE people, including expats, were many. Yet, they led to big gains – for individuals and for society. Through the many work opportunities that it offered to foreigners, the UAE has helped so many people improve their life and build their future.

This country became the second home for a large number of people, if not the only country for some of them. This is where they lived for decades and had children. All of these people gave the UAE a lot of their time and effort, and the country has tried to give them all the things for happiness.

In the second week of September, and particularly at the first meeting of the council of ministers after the end of summer vacation, the council – under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai – approved the special privilege of granting people over 55 years of age a long-term residence visa.

The new provisions aim to create a suitable environment of

welfare and investment for those retired people who want to continue their life in the UAE.

By virtue of this law, a renewable five-year residence visa is being granted to retirees aged 55 or more, subject to certain conditions, including that a retiree should have an investment of Dhs2 million; or that his/her financial savings should not be less than Dhs1 million; or that he/she should prove that his/her monthly income is not less than Dhs20,000. This law will come into effect from the beginning of 2019.

This resolution was highly praised by expats, especially those who have spent

most of their life in this country. Most of them no longer think of any place but the UAE as home – this is particularly true of those whose native countries have fallen prey to war or those who are in dire need of comfort and stability after retirement.

So, those who have sincerely and diligently served the UAE will be treated honourably.

The UAE was, and still is, an oasis of prosperity and it will remain the land that shows gratitude and love to whoever has been loyal to it. So, a thank you to the retirees.

**“The UAE was, and still is, an oasis of prosperity and it will remain the land that shows gratitude and love to whoever has been loyal to it**

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# A CLICK AWAY FROM PRISON



MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE UAE CYBERCRIME  
LAW, BUT WITH PEOPLE STILL DOING THINGS THAT ARE  
CONSIDERED UNLAWFUL, IT'S WORTH OPENING THE  
PRIMER AGAIN

BY K NIVEDITA



**A**lmost everyone in the UAE has an Internet connection, but not everyone knows how to use it by staying on the right side of the law. **999** points you in the right direction – away from a police station and, perhaps, prison.

The fact that people still go in the wrong direction is evident from some recent high-profile cases of social media users being slapped with massive fines and even being deported.

In June, the Abu Dhabi Court of First Instance sentenced a man for tweets that were considered insulting to an Arab woman and fined him Dh\$250,000 for defamation and misuse of the Internet.

Days later, a man was arrested in Dubai for uploading a video of a man crying. The person who was filmed was a client who had discovered that his relative had accumulated Dh\$20,000 in traffic fines.

Yet another example: an expletive thrown by a motivational speaker and fitness coach at someone led to his arrest in Dubai in January. He had used the word in an Instagram post. His estranged wife filed a complaint, and

though nobody was named in the post, the law in the UAE considered the word offensive and punished him with a fine of Dh\$250,000, followed by deportation.

As for accidents, which are magnets for camera-ready social media buffs, Abu Dhabi Police found 71 people guilty of posting photos and videos of accidents in the first six months of 2018.



#### **ALWAYS BE CONSERVATIVE**

The UAE's tough cybercrime laws often come as a surprise to new expats. Barney Almazar, director at the corporate-commercial department of Gulf Law in the Middle East, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom, tells **999** that the cybercrime laws in the UAE are different from its Western counterparts. It's advisable to be rather more cautious than one would normally be in one's own country.

"You should always be on the conservative side when on the net. For instance, though a lot of websites offer an array of funny emojis, avoid those that may offend the UAE culture, such as the 'middle finger' or any other vulgar

**“You should always be on the conservative side when on the net. For instance, though a lot of websites offer an array of funny emojis, avoid those that may offend**



**BARNEY ALMAZAR**

Director of Gulf Law

stickers even if it is intended only as a joke. Remember that the conversation has a record history and everything you send can be retrieved and used against you in the future," says Almazar.

**“The phenomenon of illegal fundraising harms the UAE, whose humanitarian organisations set a good example of charitable work through legal channels**



**DR HAMAD SAIF AL SHAMSI**  
Attorney General of the UAE



#### IS THIS OVER-REACTION?

Many must have wondered if the cybercrime law is too strict about social media usage. When a rumour is not prevented from its roots, it can spread like wildfire and cause disastrous results like the lynch mob killing of a dozens of people two months ago over a rumour on social media.

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 terrorist activities.

In February, intelligence officials of a powerful Western country put cybercrime alongside terrorism as pushing the world to the brink. There's a huge cost to the economy. According to the latest Norton Cyber Security Insights Report, cybercriminals

made a killing by defrauding people in the UAE of Dhs4 billion in 2017.

The police have dug in their heels to fight the menace. The UAE Cybercrime Law No. 5 of 2012 stipulates penalties like jail terms that could go up to a life sentence and/ or a fine ranging between Dhs50,000 and Dhs2 million. Attorney General of the UAE, Dr Hamad Saif Al Shamsi, said that the country is establishing a public prosecution, called the Federal Public Prosecution for Information Technology Crimes to handle cybercrime. Its mandate covers crimes of using infotech to damage public morale; human trafficking; illegal arms activity; insulting religions; dealing in narcotics; and transacting in illegal funds, amongst others.



#### DON'T LOOSEN YOUR PURSE STRINGS ONLINE

All too often, messages pop up on social media about an 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. In June, Dr Al Shamsi 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 of illegal fundraising harms the UAE, whose humanitarian organisations set a good example of charitable work through legal channels,” he said.



**“We're living in a world that's witnessing a deluge of information, and we must be cautious and positively address this issue, and we must not circulate or post any negative information**

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.



#### TECH SPIKE SPURS OFFENCES

In the UAE, mobile phone penetration reached 228.3 phones per 100 people at the end of March 2017, according to statistics from the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA).

March 2017 saw 132,000 more new telecom subscriptions than in February 2017. This took the total number of UAE subscribers to 19.84 million. A huge percentage of these mobile phone users are also on social media. So, anybody with a mobile phone can become a victim of cybercrime or perpetuate it. And many do, as the figures reveal – for instance, in 2017, Abu Dhabi Police investigated 774 cybercrime cases.

If you post or forward a message that spreads panic or misinformation or

violates the codes of conduct in the UAE, you're amongst the guilty. “We're living in a world that's witnessing a deluge of information, and we must be cautious and positively address this issue, and we must not circulate or post any negative information,” says Major General Salem Shaheen Al Nuaimi, Director of Command Affairs at Abu Dhabi Police.



## DON'T FALL FOUL OF THE LAW

“The success of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media sites has led to exciting ways for people to interact. According to TRA, Twitter has around 360,000 users in the UAE who share around 2.5 million tweets per day. This social media tool 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,” says Almazar. These few recent cases can serve as a warning:



1

**RUMOUR-MONGERING:** In July, a message spread like wildfire on social media that smoking shisha in restaurants and coffee shops could give you the deadly space-occupying lesion (SOL) of the brain. SOL usually happens due to malignant tumours but, Internet rumour-mongers insist that it can also result from drawing on the shisha. Dubai Municipality called out this rumour for being all smoke and no fire. Of course, tobacco consumption is harmful for health and has been linked to respiratory tract infections and cancer but, civic officials said, shisha sessions are usually of 20-80 minutes, during which a smoker may indulge in 50-20 puffs, while a cigarette smoker usually takes 8-12 puffs over five minutes, ingesting around 0.5 of a litre of smoke. Dubai Municipality stressed that it had a number of measures in place to safeguard the health and safety of people.

**TAKEAWAY:** Such rumours spread panic and fear and endanger businesses.



2

**ONLINE HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** Two men, from the same country, were arrested in February in Dubai and found guilty of human trafficking by the Court of First Instance in June for trying to sell a female expat for Dh5,500 online. Two other men, who abetted them, were also sentenced. The criminals will have to pay a fine of Dh100,000 jointly, serve five-year jail term before deportation.

**TAKEAWAY:** With the Federal Law No. 51 of 2006, as amended by Federal Law No.1 of 2015, the UAE intensified its crackdown on human trafficking as part of an international effort to eliminate this serious crime against human rights.



3

**DRUG PEDDLING:** In April, an accused who was standing on trial had been peddling drugs on WhatsApp. A lieutenant at the Dubai Police anti-narcotics division narrated: "We had a reliable source tipping us off that the accused, a 41-year-old driver, was taking and possessing drugs for peddling at his place in Al Waheeda. Our information was that he used social media, including WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram, to peddle drugs. His mobile phone was seized and he was taken to the general directorate of anti-narcotics. He was later referred to the general directorate of criminal evidence for drug tests." The police studied the accused peddler's voice notes and recordings of conversations from his mobile phone and came across several uncommon words that were likely to be codes for transaction of drugs.

**TAKEAWAY:** The UAE takes a hard line when it comes to narcotics. This year, Dubai Police have blocked 18 websites in order to check online purchases of illegal drugs from outside the country. Last year, 60 websites were blocked, which was an increase from 40 in 2016.



4

**CRIME SCENE FILMING:** An incident in Ajman in January shows how strict the police are about people who film gruesome events. A crime scene in which two men died had shocked an observer so much that he took out his mobile phone and began to make a video. The clip showed the dead men as well as the police patrol and officers doing their duty. It went viral and, within an hour, came to the attention of Ajman Police. In the video, the voice of the 27-year-old photographer can be heard describing the injuries and the police work. Ajman Police tracked down the photographer and arrested him.

**TAKEAWAY:** Major Mohammed Yafour Al Ghafli, Deputy Director of the Criminal Investigations Department at Ajman Police, says, "Sharing gruesome images on social media, posting pictures of accidents and victims is a punishable offence. Publishing 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."



5

**PHOTOGRAPHING STRANGERS:** People have landed in trouble for taking pictures of others without permission. Dubai Police said in March that a number of these offences took place on Jumeirah Open Beach, Umm Suqeim Beach, and Al Mamzar Beach Park last year. They arrested 725 people for committing various offences on beaches in 2017, and 289 of this number was only for taking pictures of women on the beach without their knowledge.

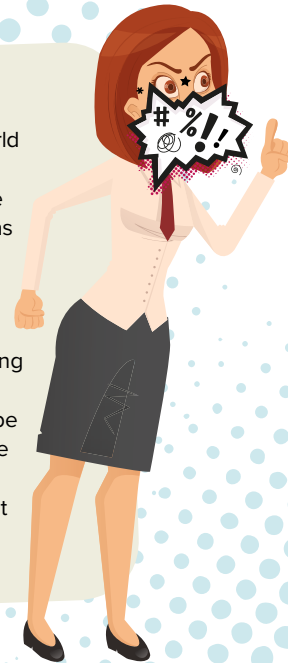
**TAKEAWAY:** "The UAE Penal Code considers it an offence to transmit someone's photograph without their consent. Moreover, pursuant to the intellectual property rights laws, a person who takes a picture of another cannot distribute or publish the same without the consent of the person appearing in such a picture," says Almazar.



6

**HATE SPEECHES:** A chef made his opinion about a religion known to the world on Twitter in June that created a whirlwind across nations. He later deleted the tweet and said that it was a “major error” that was “made in the heat of the moment”, but the damage was done. Although the Dubai establishment he was associated with said that it did not share his views, angry social media users questioned why the chef was still there. Within days, the management of the hotel where the chef had started the restaurant fired him.

**TAKEAWAY:** “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.



7

**SPILLING SECRETS:** There was a storm of reaction from the public after a government employee illegally accessed confidential information and posted it online. In June, the Abu Dhabi Criminal Court of First Instance heard how the man had hacked into the department’s electronic system, copied details on a sensitive topic and posted these after adding a few misleading and contradicting comments to increase his number of followers on social media.

**TAKEAWAY:** The law seeks to protect confidential information at work and prohibits the disclosure or use of company information for personal purposes.



## FINE AND PUNISHMENTS FOR VIOLATORS



### **Dhs50,000-Dhs2 million**

Penalty for misusing the Internet, according to the UAE Cybercrime Law No. 5 of 2012, and/or jail term that could go up to a life sentence



### **Dhs150,000**

Penalty for filming road accidents and uploading the images on social media, and/or jail term



### **Dhs250,000**

Penalty if found guilty of spreading rumours and fake news, and/or jail term for up to three years



### **Dhs500,000**

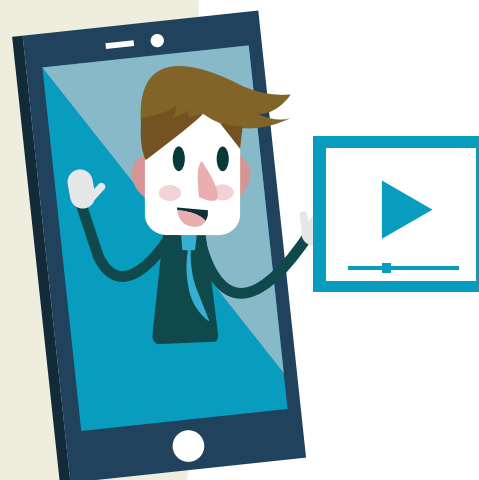
Penalty for slander, use of abusive language or hurling of insults against another person or entity through a computer network, and/or imprisonment



8

**BREACH OF PRIVACY:** In April, two men and a woman were arrested for posting a video of a businessman, who is allegedly wanted in corruption cases in their home country. The trio took a video of him next to his luxury car, and uploaded it. Brigadier Ahmed bin Gulaita, Director of Rafaa Police Station, said that the accused had posted the video without the businessman's approval and claimed that he was a scam artist who was living in luxury in Dubai while he was wanted in another country.

**TAKEAWAY:** "Disclosing secrets or information pertaining to a person's private life, without his consent, is punishable under the Penal Code and the cybercrimes law. This would include unauthorised disclosure of information concerning the private lives of the complainants, or the unauthorised release of proprietary information. Employees should exercise caution when disclosing company information as it may likewise attract legal liability," says Almazar.



## READ THIS FIRST

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

- **Do not tag other users without their consent.** The UAE law contains broad provisions relating to the protection of privacy and reputation.
- **You should not share your password** or otherwise do anything that might jeopardise the security of your account.
- **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.
- **Respect the UAE government,** its leadership, political institutions and ultimately the UAE's cultural heritage and social norms and customs.
- **You must not publish direct,** specific threats of violence against others. This also includes hate speeches, and content that is threatening or contains graphic or gratuitous violence.
- **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.



# Saved by the skin

**SKIN GRAFTING IS A PROCEDURE USED FOR PATIENTS WITH BADLY EXPOSED WOUNDS, AND A UAE HOSPITAL RECENTLY TREATED AN ACCIDENT-HIT WOMAN WITH CADAVERIC SKIN, GIVING HER A SECOND SHOT AT MOBILITY**

BY INAYAT-UR-RAHMAN

**A**s the UAE works to diversify its economy, one of the sectors that's getting a lot of attention is health care. The sector is currently witnessing a structural shift and is poised to record a strong growth of 60 per cent in the next five years, reaching Dh5103 million by 2021, according to latest research by MENA Research Partners (MRP).

The country aims to achieve a world-class healthcare system and be counted amongst the world's most advanced nations in terms of the quality of healthcare available to its citizens and residents, according to the UAE Vision 2021 National Agenda.

One of the most interesting and useful advanced treatments for accident victims is skin grafting. Recently, Rashid Hospital doctors successfully carried out a highly complicated grafting procedure to save the life of a Filipina expat who was left with exposed bones and muscle tissue after being run over by a car.

Dr Khalid Al Awadi, Head of the Hand and Microsurgery Unit at Rashid Hospital, told **999** that the patient, 34-year-old Ana Marisa Perez, was admitted to the hospital on May 11. She was crossing the road with her dog when the car hit her. She fell down but the driver didn't immediately notice what happened and continued to run over her body.

"Perez was admitted to Rashid Hospital's ER with serious injuries. She lost a large area of skin from her groin to her left foot exposing her bones and muscle tissue. She

**“ Perez was admitted to Rashid Hospital's ER with serious injuries. She lost a large area of skin from her groin to her left foot exposing her bones and muscle tissue**



**DR KHALID AL AWADI**

Head of the Hand and Microsurgery Unit at Rashid Hospital

also sustained a pelvic and leg fracture. After examining the case, Rashid Hospital doctors advised that an immediate grafting procedure be made to prevent any further complications," added Dr Al Awadi.

Explaining the procedure, he said that a skin grafting was used to permanently replace damaged or missing skin or to provide a temporary wound covering.

This covering is necessary because the skin protects the body from fluid loss, aids in temperature regulation, and helps prevent disease-causing bacteria or viruses from entering the body. Skin that is damaged extensively by burns or trauma can compromise the patient's health.

#### **PROTECTIVE LAYER**

Dr Al Awadi explained to **999** that in Perez's case, using her own skin for grafting, although being ideal, was not possible immediately because her bones and muscle tissues were exposed. The skin had been completely torn away.

So, to cover her badly injured leg, skin from a human corpse was used – this is also known as cadaveric skin, which is skin removed from a deceased person, and then processed and distributed by skin and tissue banks.

**“ Skin protects the body from fluid loss, aids in temperature regulation, and helps prevent disease-causing bacteria or viruses from entering the body**





34-year-old Ana Marisa Perez, a Filipina expat who has successfully undergone skin grafting in the UAE

“The first step was cleaning the wound, and due to its severe state, it required numerous sessions. Because the bones were exposed, there was no base to graft the patient’s skin on, so we decided to use cadaveric skin and apply it on the exposed bones and tendon to act as a scaffold,” he said.

“Five days later – after we made sure that the grafting procedure was successful and that the woman’s body had accepted and adapted to the new cadaveric skin – we started the second phase, which includes grafting the patient’s own skin and covering the cadaveric skin and wound,” he added.

Dr Al Awadi reiterated that conducting this procedure was necessary to prevent the internal tissues from being exposed to air-borne microbes, moisture, and polluting particles. All these factors would prevent the wound from healing and make it more

“

**I’m so happy because I thought I’d never walk again. Seeing my foot recovering and moving and my skin intact is truly a blessing**

prone to infection, he said.

Following the completion of both procedures, the doctors conducted tests and found that there were no infections, meaning the body had accepted and adapted to the transplanted skin.

“The procedure was a complete success and she has completely recovered from the grafting surgery. She is now continuing her treatment with other departments at the hospital for the fractures she sustained and they will, hopefully, discharge her soon in good health,” said Dr Al Awadi.

#### **THIS IS A FIRST**

Dr Al Awadi mentioned that skin grafting had been available for a long time. It was one of the techniques that plastic surgeons used to cover wounds. However, because certain parts of the body could not be properly covered with skin grafting – and also with the advancement in medical science and technology – doctors had started using artificial materials in order to heal and cover the wounds.

“Skin from a human body, also known as cadaveric skin, or animal skin are processed properly, so that a patient’s body could accept it,” he added. The Filipina’s case was the first time that grafting with cadaveric skin was done at Rashid Hospital, said the doctor.

This technology is mostly used for burn cases or when there is exposed bone or tendons and the patient’s general condition doesn’t allow for a lengthy procedure. Grafting with cadaveric skin would be ideal in such cases.

Dr Al Awadi gave an example of one of his previous patients, who sustained 80 per cent burns five years ago and was brought to Mafraq Hospital, Abu Dhabi. The doctors there covered his burns by grafting skin from his own body, along with processed skin from an animal, in such a way that his wounds would heal slowly. With proper treatment, the patient recovered and was able to come out of the hospital with very good aesthetic results.

About the cost of skin grafting, Dr Al Awadi said that the basic procedure isn’t expensive, but the use of cadaveric skin would make it expensive.

Commenting on the procedure from her hospital bed, Perez told **999** that she was pleased with the health care she received. “I’m so happy because I thought I’d never walk again. Seeing my foot recovering and moving and my skin intact is truly a blessing. I thank Rashid Hospital and my doctors for this,” she said.



Rashid Hospital doctors successfully carried out a highly complicated grafting procedure to save the life of a female expat



Skin grafting is mostly used for burn cases or when there is exposed bone or tendons



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**PORSCHE**

# MOBILE SPENDING SURGING IN THE UAE



The country is on track to touch Dhs20 billion by 2019, as mobile phone users swipe and pay for a range of things, according to PayPal and Ipsos



**Dhs20 billion**  
Projected mobile spending in the UAE by the end of 2019



**26%**  
Projected increase in mobile spending from 2018 to 2019



**25%**  
Further growth in this sector expected from 2019 to 2020



**64.5%**  
Mobile penetration in the Middle East as of March 2018



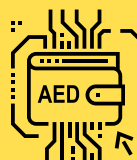
**61.2%**  
Expected average mobile phone Internet penetration worldwide by end of 2018

**SOUQ**  
an amazon company

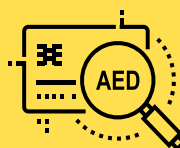
**\$650 million (Dhs2.387 bn)**  
Price that e-retail giant Amazon paid to acquire the e-commerce site Souq.com in 2017



**Dhs36 billion**  
Overall online spending (not just through mobile) projected by the end of 2018



**49%**  
Adults surveyed by PayPal and Ipsos who said they'll spend more online



**37%**  
Adults surveyed who said they intend to increase or start shopping online



SOURCE: PAYPAL AND IPSOS





## THE LESSONS OF LIFE

**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.

Tough life experiences can be taken with either destructive pessimism or healthy optimism.

**L**ife often teaches us hard lessons as we go on its roads. Such lessons are the most expensive lessons we have ever had, simply because we price is taken from our most precious asset: our life itself.

In our relations with others, sometimes we spend years to discover that some of them were not up to the trust we have given them. In this case, the lesson is very hard and expensive because it cost us those years of our life that will never come back again.

This fact makes many people very careful in their relationships with others and very cynical in their view of human nature and its fluctuation and greed.

A man was betrayed by a friend who he thought to be loyal, but turns out to be planning to manipulate him and take his money. Therefore, he lost trust in everybody and started to deal with considerable skepticism with everyone. A lady has loved a man and gave her whole life to him, to discover later that he is a cheap Don Juan who left her as soon as he found another victim. Therefore, she suffers from a deep wound that shakes her trust in men. So, she lost self-confidence and got detached; not willing to open her heart to love and life again.

Such tough experiences and thorny relationships destroys common trust in human communities and undermine healthy relationships amongst people as fear and preconceptions become the norm. Additionally, they ruin the healthy life of people and confine them in a circle of destructive pessimism that reflects on their physical health itself.

On the opposite side, we find people whose characters were enhanced through the same sort of experiences, but they decide not to spoil their life and lose their positive energy in living on the bitter experiences of the past. Therefore, they don't lose trust in people at the first setback, and don't close their hearts to love and life just because of a single episode. They insist on their right to life, happiness and achievement. They are healthily resilient as to rise again after each fall, dust their clothes and proceed in the path they choose for themselves; the path of healthy, positive outlook to life and people. They are armed with the blessing of forgiveness and forgetfulness that would ultimately enhance both their psychological and physical health.

**Those people deserve to be our role models because through their own experiences and approach, they give us free lessons of life!**

These people are the blessing of earth; who face betrayal with more trust, meanness with more generosity and baseness with more sublimity.

Those people deserve to be our role models because through their own experiences and approach, they give us free lessons of life!



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



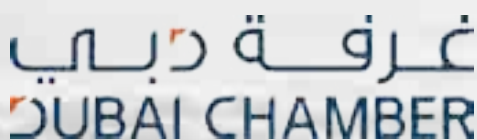
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## THE COLOURS OF

# Autumn

THE WEATHER IS PERFECT FOR THE OUTDOORSY TYPES,  
MANY RESTAURANTS ARE BUSTLING WITH NEW FLAVOURS,  
AND THERE'S MUSIC TO ENRICH YOUR SOUL TOO

BY HS PARAMITA





[www.abudhabicricket.ae](http://www.abudhabicricket.ae)

## T20 is here!

Some of the best cricket is on offer as the First Abu Dhabi T20 gets under way in October. Amongst those who'll show their prowess will be the West Indies batsman Chris Gayle, who has several T20 records to his name, playing for the Afghan side, Boost Defenders. The other teams that'll vie for the trophy include Yorkshire Vikings and Lahore Qalanders. The tournament, which is expected to attract a crowd of 20,000, is being held under the aegis of the Abu Dhabi Sports Council and is supported by the International Cricket Council and the Emirates Cricket Board.

**Where:** Zayed Cricket Stadium

**When:** October 4-6

**Tickets:** starting from Dhs25

**Contact:** +971 2 558 8331

## Every drop counts

The opera, *Water in the Desert: A Zayed Legacy*, is directed by the acclaimed Karen Gillingham and unfolds through music, drama, movement, design, and film, as well as performances by two professional opera singers and more than 80 school children. It's based on the Founding Father's, Sheikh Zayed, vision for a green desert and is presented by Cranleigh Abu Dhabi School and the Ministry of Tolerance UAE.

**Where:** The Red Theatre, The Arts Centre, New York University

**When:** October 25-26

**Tickets:** TBA

**Contact:** +971 2 628 6868

الماء في الصحراء : إرث زايد  
Water in the Desert: A Zayed Legacy



[www.nyuaad-artscenter.org](http://www.nyuaad-artscenter.org)



[www.duplays.com](http://www.duplays.com)

## Ready to sail

The promise of the high sea, where the wind is in your hair and the blue sky meets the blue water, is the USP of the Abu Dhabi International Boat Show. It's being held at ADNEC (Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company) in association with British Marine Boat Shows, who organise the London Boat Show and Southampton Boat Show. You can meet companies from all over the globe, displaying, discussing and demonstrating their leisure marine options for your needs and budget – in case you have some spare change for a yacht.

**Where:** ADNEC

**When:** October 17-20

**Entry:** Free

**Contact:** 80023632

## Ready, steady, go

The gaming multiverse is about to open at the Middle East Games Con, where you could meet YouTube stars and watch your online world come alive. An event that is "created for fans, by fans", the Middle East Games Con celebrates the coming together of tech, art and character enthusiasts. Fans who've spent hours jumping from one adventure to another – as they teeter on the edge of virtual worlds – will find that they're not alone in the frenzy.

**Where:** Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company

**When:** October 25-27

**Entry:** Dhs116 onward

**Contact:** [www.me-gamescon.com](http://www.me-gamescon.com)



[www.me-gamescon.com](http://www.me-gamescon.com)

## Sound and sight

Venezuelan composer Carlos Guedes is inspired by the images of jinn (or djinn) of Arabia to create a piece in which music is complemented by other artists. So we have Kiori Kawai (to dance live), Nella Turkki (on video), Cristina Ioan (on the flute), and Kirk Woolford (as media artist). The choreo-musical work explores the link between bodily movement in dance and its inherent musicality. This is the world premiere of the piece, called Jinn.

**Where:** The Black Box, New York University

**When:** October 10-11

**Entry:** Price on request

**Contact:** [nyuad.artscenter@nyu.edu](mailto:nyuad.artscenter@nyu.edu)



[www.nyuad-artscenter.org](http://www.nyuad-artscenter.org)



## Reel fun

Characters from films get out of the screen and roam around you, as you participate in games, chomp through delicious snacks from a food truck, listen to live performances, soar and sway in a ride, or boogie to choreographed pieces. Yas Movies in the Park is back at Yas Island on popular demand. An immersive film experience for all age groups, it will include blockbusters such as Moana, It, Jurassic World, My Best Friend's Wedding, The Lion King, and Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, amongst others. Other thrills include making your own flower crowns, a fancy dress competition, and a photo booth.

**Where:** du Arena, Yas Island

**When:** October 18 and 20

**Entry:** Free (register at [yasmovies.ae/registration/](http://yasmovies.ae/registration/))

**Contact:** [yasmovies.ae](http://yasmovies.ae)

## Race the wind

Start your Sunday the healthy way, by walking, jogging, running or riding at the Yas Marina Circuit. Even if you cannot cover the 5.55km distance, your activity would increase your fitness level. The 'StartYAS' initiative, which urges people to hit the Formula 1 track on Sundays, is a community health programme presented by Daman ActiveLife, Health Authority Abu Dhabi, and Abu Dhabi Sports Council.

**Where:** Yas Marina Circuit

**When:** Every Sunday

**Entry:** Free (register at [www.yasmarinacircuit.com](http://www.yasmarinacircuit.com))

**Contact:** [www.yasmarinacircuit.com](http://www.yasmarinacircuit.com)



[www.yasmarinacircuit.com](http://www.yasmarinacircuit.com)



[www.nyuad-artscenter.org](http://www.nyuad-artscenter.org)

## Musical bridges

When a master of the flamenco guitar gets together with a chaâbi star of the Algerian mandole, the result can only be a sonorous conversation between two cultures. Chaâbi Flamenco takes audiences into an experience in which Juan Carmona and Ptit Moh create a language of cultural richness, rooted in tradition yet travelling vast worlds of music.

**Where:** The Red Theatre, The Arts Centre, New York University

**When:** October 19, 8pm

**Tickets:** Price on request

**Contact:** +971 2 628 6868

# MURDER, IT WAS

KILLERS OFTEN THINK THEY'RE CLEVER ENOUGH TO  
MAKE A HOMICIDE LOOK LIKE A SUICIDE. BUT IN THESE  
CASES, THEIR STORIES FELL APART

BY DIPALI GUHA





**WHO: LALIT JAIN**  
**WHERE: DELHI, INDIA**  
**WHEN: DECEMBER 2017**

Seven years of marriage and many fights later, Lalit Jain, 36, one day decided to kill his wife, also 36. Apparently, they had frequent – and fierce – arguments over whether Silky was forcing him to live away from his parents or Lalit was giving more importance to his family than his wife.

During one such quarrel, Lalit turned violent. He strangled Silky and left her half-dead. Then he rang his brother and two other relatives, after which he grabbed a hammer and bludgeoned her to death. Next came the question of how to dispose of the body. All four of them together put the dead woman's corpse into a sack, and put the sack into a car boot. Then they drove out of town, towards the hill station of Mussoorie, in Uttarakhand, about an overnight drive from Delhi. Once they were in the mountains, they stopped at a deserted place, and threw the body into a gorge. Lalit let eight days pass after the killing before filing a missing person's complaint for Silky. He claimed that his wife had left the house, but hadn't returned. The police contacted her parents, who said that they didn't know anything about this, and immediately named their son-in-law as a suspect.



At first, when interrogated, Lalit tried to lie his way out of it. What gave the game away was footage from a neighbourhood surveillance camera – the activity around the car that night, eight days before the missing person's complaint, was captured by the camera. The police intensified their interrogation, and Lalit broke down and confessed to the crime. Delhi Police, with the help of Uttarakhand cops and Indo-Tibetan Border Police, recovered the murder victim's body from a gorge by the Hathipaon-Mussoorie route.

Lalit was named the main accused in the murder. Along with him, his father, brother, sister-in-law and his brother's brother-in-law were also named as passive participants in the murder.

**WHO: STEPHEN HUMPHREYS**  
**WHERE: DEVON, UK**  
**WHEN: SEPTEMBER 2000**

Initially, the death of Jean Humphreys was treated as suicide, which is exactly what it was designed to appear. Her body was arranged in such a way that it looked like she had hanged herself from a bannister. Since the police at first saw it as suicide, the scene of death wasn't examined properly – a lot of the evidence was lost, and even photographs weren't taken. So, how did they figure out at all that it could be homicide? Because when the investigators returned with a dummy to reconstruct the death, they found a suspicious clump of Jean's hair at the bottom of the stairs. Carol

Anthony, a girlfriend of Stephen who left him later, said that on a particular night, he had returned from a meeting with Jean with scratches on his body. Stephen said that they had had an argument over their jointly owned house and that she had scratched him. Jean was found dead two days later. Interestingly, Carol's infant son had also died 'in a fall' down the stairs while in Stephen's care.

But the police had a suspicion. They went over the available evidence and post-mortem reports again. And in July 2001, an inquest was told that Jean had almost certainly been strangled with a ligature, and the homicide was made to look like a suicide. There had been injuries on her body that suggested a struggle down the stairs. Stephen protested his innocence, claiming that he was a victim of police incompetence. His likely motive would be the insurance payout on their joint property. The ex-husband also claimed that there were fingerprints at the scene of death that were neither his own nor his ex-wife's, suggesting that an intruder might have come in.

However, Stephen was given the benefit of doubt. The Home Office forensic pathologist said that while he was 95 per cent certain that Jean had been strangled, he couldn't prove that absolutely. The South Devon coroner recorded an open verdict – meaning the suspicious death was confirmed, but the jury couldn't reach any other verdict.





Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney

**WHO: BRAULIO CASTILLO**  
**WHERE: VIRGINIA, US**  
**WHEN: MARCH 2014**

Braulio and Michelle Castillo were in the middle of divorce proceedings – after 18 years of marriage – when it might

have struck him that revenge was in order. He was also looking at a large bill in child support, since he and his wife had five children, including one adopted.

One day in March, Michelle was found hanging from a shower head in a basement. The water had been left on all night. It did look like a suicide, but what put Braulio in the dock was the testimony of his children. While they were still married, Michelle got a protective order against her husband, and they lived separately.

As the investigations progressed, it was clear that Braulio had entered the house where Michelle lived on the night of her death. In May, two of their sons – aged 8 and 11 – testified in court. The younger boy said that he saw his father in the house that night. The older boy said that his father had offered him a gold coin in exchange for the house's alarm system numbers. In June, the eldest son – aged 23 – testified that he had seen a neighbour's security camera footage, and recognised his father being near his mother's house.

According to prosecutors, Braulio first suffocated Michelle to death with a pillow and then staged the hanging scene.

He remained mostly free for more than two years after she died. But in June 2014, with all the evidence pulled together, the jury declared Braulio guilty of murdering Michelle.

**WHO: XANDER BYLSMA**  
**WHEN: MAY 2018**  
**WHERE: STELLA TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

Sharnelle Hough was a 17-year-old hosteller at Stella high school. Xander Bylsma was a dark, quiet, 19-year-old hunter and farm boy who lived 100km away. They had been dating. Then the teenage romance was over at some point – she wanted to move on; but he couldn't. At first, there were threatening messages, which were shrugged off as harmless. But at the end of May, a few weeks after the breakup, Sharnelle and her close friend Marna Engelbrecht were found dead in their school hostel. Sharnelle's body was found in a bathroom, while Marna's corpse was found slumped on the staircase, a backpack strap round her neck. At first, both the scenes suggested they had killed themselves. But Xander was called in for questioning, and investigators pieced together a scenario in which he had first strangled the girls to death with his bare hands, and then he made it look

like a double suicide. Recently, the murder suspect has confessed to the crime.



www.network24.com



# DEN OF VICE

A COUPLE AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES ARE  
FOUND TO BE ENGAGED IN PROSTITUTION

BY WAJIH HASSAN

MUHAMMAD SALEM  
ART DIRECTOR



In many instances, criminals and law offenders understand the real cost of their behaviour too late when all they can do is shed tears in jail. Let's hope that others take a lesson from this and stay away from such a fall.

Take the case of a couple named Taleb, 34, and Layla, 27. They were arrested on suspicion of running a brothel and being involved in actions that go against honour and virtue. In one smooth move, a patrol from the Criminal Investigation Department raided the house of Taleb and Layla, and arrested not only them, but several others as well, including Jamil, Hanadi, Fathiya, Hammad, Fotoun, and Saad.

The CID questioned all of them, and their statements were taken without

## **People often only realise the price they have to pay for their illegal acts in the end**

duress. Each of them confessed to committing the illegal acts which was the clinching evidence of their crimes.

It was found that the couple, the main accused, and the others were part of a prostitution racket. They weren't doing this under any compulsion, financial or otherwise. According to their confessions, they found a lot of pleasure in practising this immoral action, particularly when they were high on illegal drugs.

One of the accused, Hanadi, revealed

that she used to practise prostitution earlier in another city. Her ex-husband, who had died in a violent fight, was the pimp – he'd bring her clients and take the money.

Another accused, Hammad, admitted that he helped Taleb, who was his cousin, to run the brothel. Also, his wife Fotoun used to help her cousin Layla meet clients, satisfy their desires, and make money.

All the suspects were ordered to undergo medical and forensic examinations. The tests confirmed that the women had slept with several men, with disregard to all morals, traditions and laws.

While taking the suspects into custody, the CID team had searched the house. They found things like a big TV screen with a remote control, and four external and internal monitoring cameras fixed in various places; packs of contraceptives; a number of mobile phones; and a remote control for opening doors. The patrol also found indecent magazines, revealing clothes, several grams of heroin in small nylon bags, Captagon pills, and several bottles of illegal substances.

Any of the items that could be treated as evidence was taken away by the police. The case had developed from prostitution to that of possession of narcotics and illegal substances.

People often only realise the price they have to pay for their illegal acts in the end. Following a thorough round of investigations, the accused were all produced in court to face judgment. They were given prison terms proportionate to their offences.





# RETURNING TO OLD PATHS THAT THE PROPHET WALKED

THE SWISS EXPLORER JOHANN LUDWIG  
BURCKHARDT WENT TO MEDINA AND TO OHOD  
MOUNTAIN AS A PILGRIM. HE FINISHED HIS JOURNEY  
IN YANBU, BEFORE RETURNING TO CAIRO, THE CITY  
WHERE HE NOW LIES BURIED

BY DR FALIH HANDHAL

**T**he Swiss-born explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt travelled across Arabia and embraced Islam. He changed his name to Ibrahim Ibn Abd Allah and visited the holiest cities for the followers of this faith. He left some detailed descriptions of Mecca and Medina, which he saw in 1814-1815.

On January 15, 1815, after having thoroughly absorbed the sights and sounds and culture of Mecca, Burckhardt left the city with "with a small convoy of pilgrims to visit the tomb of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him)". And on January 28, 1815, the group "entered Medina at dawn".

### THE CITY OF MEDINA AND ITS GREAT MOSQUE

In his book *Travels in Arabia*, Burckhardt wrote: "Medina is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen in the east. This means it comes after Halab. The main street in Medina is its widest street and the majority of Medina stores are located [here], and there is another street that extends from the Prophet Mosque to the Syrian gate. There are a few big houses or general buildings spread around Medina. As for the Holy

Mosque, it is the only mosque there. In addition, there are two schools, one public school named Al Hamdia, and another close to the Mosque.

"Next to it, there is a big grain warehouse. There is also a bathing salon and it is the only one in the city, built by Mohammed Ali Pasha, the delegate of Sultan Suleiman. On the west of Medina, there is a place called Al Manakh, where camels rest; therefore, it is always crowded with camels and Bedouins. It has many huts and small umbrellas in rows where people sell food and supplies such as grains, dates, vegetables, and butter. There are also some cafés, crowded with visitors all day long.

"As for the suburbs of the city, there are yards with buildings surrounding them, with residences separated from one another by gardens and farms occupied mostly by Bedouins and farmers. Animals are usually left in the middle of the buildings, as there is a well in the middle of each yard.

"Medina is supplied by fresh water coming to it via an underground channel that brings water from Qebaa, which is about 45 minutes' walking distance from Medina. The channel water is 20-25 feet in depth and comes from several wells close to Qebaa. There are many wells scattered around the city. The water is used for irrigating gardens. This gives Medina an advantage in water abundance over all other cities in the north.

"The core of Medina, which puts it almost at par with Makkah, is the Holy Prophet's Mosque. The mosque's length is 165 steps, its width is 130 steps; there is a wide hall surrounding it on all sides, with corridors of columns; and the walls themselves are asymmetric in size. On the right, where the Prophet's tomb is located, is the most sacred part of the mosque. There we find that the spaces in between columns are bigger than in any other area of the mosque. The column

“  
THE CORE OF  
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PAR WITH MAKKAH,  
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PROPHET'S MOSQUE



*Historical writings of Johann Ludwig Burckhardt  
Credit: Historisches Museum Basel*



October 15th, 2017 marked the bicentenary of the death of Johann Ludwig Burckhardt (1784–1817)  
Credit: Historisches Museum Basel

“

THERE IS A BIG  
ROCK ON WHICH HE  
LEANED FOR A FEW  
MINUTES ON HIS WAY  
TO OHOD. HERE, THE  
VISITOR IS ASKED TO  
LEAN AGAINST THIS  
ROCK, THEN READ  
FATIHA

diameter is around 2.5 feet and they all are covered in white plaster with a height of 6 feet above the ground surface.

“The columns are decorated with arabesque flowers and inlaid till the middle with glossy green tiles. These tiles are ceramics coming from Venice. The ceiling of the column corridor is made of a group of small domes covered from outside in white. As for the floor, it is tiled in marble in between columns. In addition, the areas close to the Prophet’s tomb are covered in beautiful ornamental tiles, forming one of the most graceful samples or types of decoration in the whole east.

“The mosque has high, big windows, with glass frames. I have never seen its parallel all over the Hejaz area. The glass of some of these windows is tinted. Close to the southeastern corner, there is the Holy Tomb and the wall protecting the Tomb is an iron wall, painted in green, with a height of two-thirds of the columns surrounding it. The iron bars are well-made and they are entwined with bronze ornaments. On the southern side of the wall, the iron bars are covered in a light layer of silver, with the words ‘La Illah Ila Allah, Al Haq Al Mobain’ inscribed on it. This wall can be passed by people from four gates; three of them are permanently closed.

“One gate opens in the morning and at night to allow the workers to enter to clean the floor and light the lamps. The permit to enter [beyond] this wall, which is called Hajra, is only given to important people and heads of Hajj convoys, but other people can buy the permit or get it from them for a consideration. It shows from inside a circular curtain that has an alleyway between it and the wall, with the same elevation as the iron

wall. It is made of premium multi-colour silk. It has a group of golden patterns.

“The floor between the curtain and the iron wall is tiled with marble ceramics and crystal chandeliers are hung around the curtain. The chandeliers and lamps are lit in the evenings and stay lit all night long. The room, in general, has a ceiling with a fancy dome higher than other domes – people can see it from a long distance outside Medina. The visitors of Medina, once they see this dome, start rehearsing their prayers. This dome is covered in copper, in the form of a big ball with a bright golden crescent.

“The Prophet Mosque’s ceremonies are represented in that a visitor, before entering Medina, has to perform ablution and wear perfume, if possible, and if he desires to visit the tomb of the Prophet. The guide takes him to the Assalam door, [and] they should put their right foot on the inside of the door. Then they start saying some prayers, then they go to the Holy Rawda to say the Rakaa prayer as a Mosque salutation. Then they head towards the wall and the room as they repeat prayers for the Prophet.

“Then the visitor would ask for the Prophet’s Shafaa, and the Shafaa for his family and companions whom they desire to be included. Then they approach a window that looks at Abu Bakr’s Tomb (May Allah Be Pleased with Him). Then to the window overlooking Omar bin Khatab’s tomb, and so on.

“In the evening, the lanterns are lit from iron bars and the workers and servants light the lamp. In exchange for a gift or a small token given to the servants, they allow visitors to light the lamps. Visitors look forward to carrying out such a significant act.

“The head of the workers is called the Holy Mosque’s Sheikh. He is also the main character in Medina. His rank is even higher than that of the Agha, and I have seen myself Tusun Pasha (the son of Mohammed Ali Pasha) kissing the hand of the Sheikh when they meet.

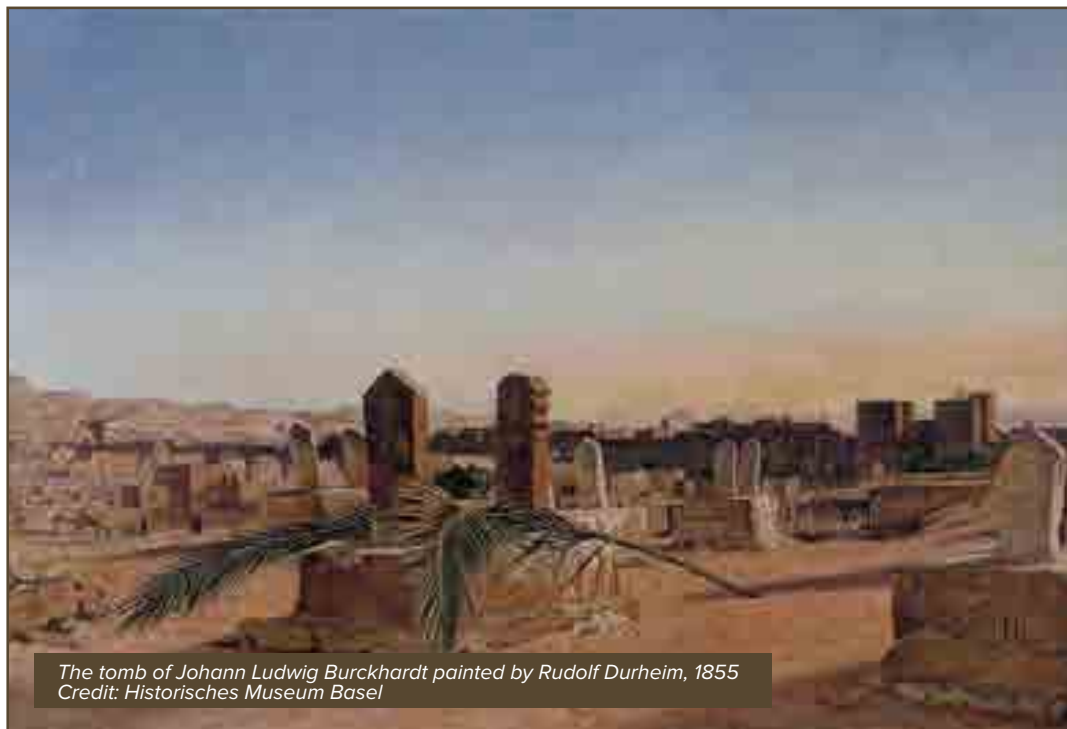
“When I decided to visit Ohod Mountain, I went there with my guide and some other visitors. The visits are usually on Thursdays, and on our way, we passed by a number of wells that supplied pilgrims with water during their visit. The road is lined with palm trees scattered here and there.

“Around one mile from Medina, there is a building made of rocks, where people say a short prayer in memory of the Prophet’s visit to put his shield there when they went to fight the enemy. There is a big rock on which he leaned for a few minutes on his way to Ohod. Here, the visitor is asked to lean against this rock, then read Fatiha.

“When we arrived at Ohod Mountain (now called Mount Uhud), we passed by a water channel with around two feet in depth. It was the remnant of rain that fell about five days ago. There we saw a small mosque where Hamza, the Prophet’s uncle, is buried and the tombs of important persons killed in the battle of Ohod.

“Medina citizens visit Ohod Mountain and pitch their tents there. Particularly those in recovery who vowed to sacrifice a goat while they were sick in honour of Hamza, if they healed from their diseases. As for Qebaa, a mosque was built at the place where Prophet Muhammad’s camel refused to walk. But I have not seen any decorations or inscriptions there, except for the names of pilgrims painted in white.





*The tomb of Johann Ludwig Burckhardt painted by Rudolf Durheim, 1855  
Credit: Historisches Museum Basel*

“As for the Medina residents, the majority are communities from everywhere from the Islamic Empire. Those with Arab origins are Ansar from Aws and Khazraj tribes. The nobility of Medina is originally from Makkah, but the majority are from foreign origins who settled in Medina and converted from the second and third generation to Arabs. Medina clothing styles are similar to Turkish clothes. People there have no occupations like Makkah people. This means that trade is limited to local consumption; that is why no big traders live in Medina. So, there are no public institutions such as banks, as the Turkish laws prohibit [paying] interest on money. The industry there is only one furniture-maker, one blacksmith, and very few builders. In light of what I saw during my stay there, Egypt provides Medina for all its needs.

“On April 21, 1815, I ended my visit to Medina and decided to go to Yanbu to sail back to Egypt.”

### DESCRIPTION OF YANBU AND ITS PEOPLE

“On April 27, we arrived in Yanbu city (called Yanbu’ al Bahr) and could not easily find a place to live in. The accommodations were filled with soldiers who were ordered to return to Cairo after their conquest of the Wahhabis, in addition to the pilgrims who wished to return to their countries. Mohammed Ali Pasha’s wife was amongst

those pilgrims. Finally, I found a room and when I went to one of the cafés, I passed by three funerals at short intervals, and within the remaining time of the day, I saw many other funerals. It came to my mind that the

“

**ALTHOUGH THERE  
ARE NO RICH PEOPLE  
IN YANBU, THEY  
HAVE BLESSING AND  
ABUNDANCE**

reason may be the black plague.

“My impression of the city is that it is an absolutely Arab city and only two or three Indian people are there, [as] store owners. All traders are Arabs, except for a few Turkmen Yanbu people who wear Bedouin clothes and wear a striped shawl in green and a yellow one made of silk. They also wear white abayas and thoubes made of cotton, belted with leather. The food, habits and mannerisms of these people are pure Bedouin and each branch of the Juhayna tribe has its own Sheikh.

“Although there are no rich people in Yanbu, they have blessing and abundance, more than Makkah people. The trade in Yanbu is mainly in supply and provisions. In

stores, there are Indian and Egyptian clothes for sale. The transportation to Medina is the main occupation of a big number of the residents. All traders have agents. The convoy travelling to Medina goes every two weeks.

“All Yanbu people have weapons and they walk with thick sticks. Tribal people have good species of Najd horses. Yanbu is one of the cheapest cities in Hejaz, regarding provisions and food. Water is available there in abundance. Its weather is the healthiest, which is why it is agreeable to live there.”

### RETURN TO CAIRO

At the end of Burckhardt’s journey, he decided to return to Cairo. He did not mention when he left Yanbu, but mentions his ride on the ship that takes him to Egypt. It seems that the ship took him first to Sudan coasts.

What happened to Burckhardt during this voyage is that he discovered that there were many plague patients accompanying him. There were six of them; one died on the second day of sailing and the body was thrown overboard.

The Swiss explorer’s own health deteriorated and he suffered from pain. He lost his appetite but was treated well by fellow passengers. After a long journey along the coast, from Sudan to Egypt, he arrived at the port on June 26, 1815. From there, he proceeded to Cairo. About his arrival, he wrote that it made him very happy, thanks to the cheering letters he got from England. “But my health did not allow me to enjoy the merits of success. I only regained my health two months later in Alexandria, and I met the British ambassador in Cairo,” he wrote.

What we can conclude from this account is that after reaching Cairo, Burckhardt wrote his book *Travels in Arabia*, which was later translated into Arabic. The explorer died in Cairo in 1817 and was buried there.



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# Waste not want not

THE TREE THAT BEARS THE FRUIT, THE LAND THAT YIELDS THE CROP, THE ANIMALS USED FOR MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, ALL THESE ARE HELPING TO KEEP US ALIVE AND STRONG, AND WE NEED TO RESPECT THAT GIFT

BY DIPALI GUHA

As another World Food Day comes around on October 16, it would be interesting to look at how our relationship with food has changed – and not necessarily for the better. That would be a start for improving things.

First, the facts. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO): “Per capita waste by consumers is between 95-115kg a year in Europe and North America, while consumers in sub-Saharan Africa, south and south-eastern Asia, each throw away only 6-11kg a year.” Note that this is food directly wasted by consumers, not food lost in the supply pipeline. The total amount of food wasted worldwide every year is a lot more. “Roughly one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every

year – approximately 1.3 billion tonnes – gets lost or wasted,” says FAO.

In 2015, it was reported that in the UAE, some 3.27 million tonnes of food, worth around Dh\$13 billion, either produced locally or imported, is wasted on a yearly basis.

In 2013, even at the height of austerity in the United Kingdom, figures showed that British households were collectively throwing away 4.2 million tonnes of edible food every year.

In 2010, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the country’s food waste stood at 30-40 per cent of the total food supply. As per estimates by the USDA’s Economic Research Service, this would mean some 60 billion kg of food, worth \$161 billion (Dh\$591bn).



### TOO MUCH, TOO EASY

How did we become such appalling wasters? Two main reasons: too much is available on the shop shelves now; it's too easy to throw away food casually and buy more. Urban populations have lost all contact with the land – therefore, few, if anyone, thinks of the massive environmental cost of such wastage, and the sheer act of wasting resource in a finite world. So, what do we do now? Let's get a grip on our consumption habits, starting today.

### SHOW SOME RESPECT

In traditional societies, food is considered sacred. In some countries, such as India, children aren't allowed to waste anything on their plate. That automatically means that they'd help themselves to only what they could eat, and little or nothing would be thrown away. With the advent of fast food and food courts and buffet catering, that has changed. People heap their plates and don't eat half of it. But whether we eat out and dine at home, we can teach our children – and demonstrate by example – that food deserves respect. It can't be thrown away carelessly. The tree that bears the fruit, the land that yields the crop, the animals used for meat and dairy products, all these are helping to keep us alive and strong, and we need to respect that gift.



### DON'T BUY TOO MUCH

This is common sense, but many people appear to be devoid of it. Especially, around festive seasons, when large family meals are cooked at home, supermarket shoppers with overloaded trolleys are a common sight. You know just by taking one look that much of it is going to be wasted. Either the packages will never be opened and will go straight into the bin after a while, or food would be cooked in excessive quantities and then discarded. If you have that much money to burn, better to donate some food and light up someone else's life.



## SUPPORT LOCAL PRODUCERS

Farmers within the country who are trying to do organic farming deserve every bit of our support. There's likely to be much less wastage along the supply chain, and the carbon footprint of our consumption would be much smaller as well. Don't expect rock-bottom prices at local farmers' markets. It won't be as cheap as food sold at supermarkets, but it's much better quality, and you'd buy what you need, not buy because of the shiny packaging.



## DO A REGULAR FRIDGE AUDIT

Check the contents of your fridge once every day or two days, and use up anything that's likely to go bad. A lot of food can be used up in a variety of ways – such as making chutney out of tomatoes going soft, making cottage cheese out of extra milk, using up excess meat in salads or as sandwich filling, etc. Being creative is so much more fulfilling than being wasteful.

## DONATE EXCESS FOOD

If you find yourself regularly throwing out perfectly edible food – cooked or uncooked – and unable to cut down on the wastage for some mysterious reason, try finding a local NGO for food donations. If you run a food-related business and have food to donate, the right number to call is the UAE Food Bank ([www.foodbank.ae/en](http://www.foodbank.ae/en)). If you're a householder, look out for sharing fridges in your neighbourhoods. These are especially popular during Ramadan, but there may be one available near your house all year round. Ask to join [www.facebook.com/groups/uae Fridges](https://www.facebook.com/groups/uae Fridges) and post a query on how to donate.



## *Did you know?*

Ramadan Sharing Fridges began with a single fridge in 2016, and now the Facebook group has nearly 28,000 members. The initiative also has the patronage of Emirates Red Crescent. It also fostered a community spirit, with the understanding that everyone is helping everyone else.



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

## TELLY TECH GOES BIGGER

If high-specification enthusiasts were in love with 4K televisions until now – though 4K content isn't widely available yet – they can now marvel at something else: 8K television. For the lay TV buyer, 4K TV is basically a television with resolution four times better than 1080 Full HD TV, and 8K has about sixteen times better resolution, though 1080 FHD by itself is impressive enough for everyday television viewing.

The Samsung Q900R 8K TV is the company's first in this category. Since hardly any 8K content is available to viewers, the television set has artificial intelligence to 'upscale' lower-resolution videos or television content to 8K. Support for HDR+ (high dynamic range) is available and this telly boasts 4,000 nit (a measure of light output to correctly deliver the images on the screen) peak brightness and 100% colour volume. The television set comes in 65", 75", 82", and 85" models.

Website: [www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)  
Price: TBA



## KEEP DATA SAFE



With so much electronic transaction going on, keeping accounts safe is a priority for everyone. While receiving a one-time password in the registered mobile number completes the two-factor authentication, that's not an absolutely fool-proof system because thieves have been known to obtain duplicate SIMs.

The Google Titan Security Key might be worth a look if account safety is imperative for you. The gadget – a USB key or a Bluetooth-based key or both – is a physical token that a user must have in order to log into any account through a mobile phone or a computer as long as you have Google Chrome installed. Attachable to a keyring, the keys work with a variety of apps and services.

Website: [www.cnet.com](http://www.cnet.com)  
Price: \$50 (Dhs180) for two keys, or \$25 (Dhs90) for one (to be available on Google online store later)

## TOUGH GUY

As more and more of us reach for our mobile phones to take photos everywhere, the devices must get used to the rough and tumble of a hiking, rowing, or some other adventure trip. Therefore, smartphones built for such conditions have been multiplying.

The latest is the Doogee S55 Smartphone – it's built to IP68 specifications for water and dust resistance. Even if it falls into shallow water, it can resist the water pressure for up to 24 hours and extreme temperatures aren't a problem either. The octa-core chip runs Android 8.0 and there are dual Samsung-sourced cameras on the rear and a 5.5-inch screen.

Website: [www.doogee.cc](http://www.doogee.cc)  
Price: \$150 (Dhs550)





## A NICER MOUSE

Forearm pain, especially at the wrist, from prolonged use of a computer mouse is a common problem across the world. In response, mouse design has been evolving.

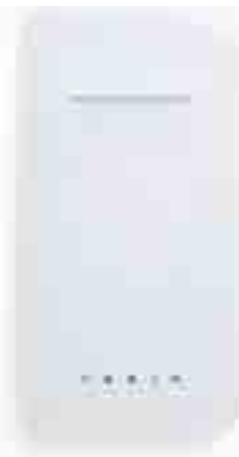
The Logitech MX Vertical Mouse is modelled on the natural 'handshake position'. The 57-degree vertical angle takes some pressure off the forearm and wrist, and the textured rubber surface ensures a comfortable grip. The 4,000 DPI sensor requires less hand movement and there's a cursor speed switch too for more precise movements. It connects over Bluetooth or USB-C and has a long-lasting battery.

Website: [www.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)  
Price: \$100 (Dhs370)

## WORTH THE WAIT

Tesla has made its name with cars, but what goes under the radar is its battery technology. The currently available power bank from the company has a 3350mAh capacity, which is why the Tesla Portable Wireless Charger with a 6000mAh cell was of interest when it was spotted – briefly – at its online store. It's not there now but might return soon. Specs include a built-in inductive, Qi-compatible charging pad, and integrated USB C and A cables for corded devices.

Website: <https://shop.tesla.com>  
Price: \$65 (Dhs240)



## LIKE BRACELETS?

Some people are so busy that they don't have the time to even reach into their pocket and look at the smartphone screen. They might need this stylish accessory.

The Nubia Alpha Wearable Smartphone is a device with a flexible OLED screen which is placed inside a metal band. The band, which can be worn like a bracelet, has a camera in a plastic case. Not much more is known at this point but watch out for this gadget later in the year.

Website: <https://techiescoops.com>  
Price: TBA





## HEART-IN-YOUR-MOUTH THRILLERS AND SUCCESS KNOWHOW FOR STUDENTS AND ENTREPRENEURS – IT'S ALL ON THE SHELVES

### AFTER THE WAR

**Title:** Cherry  
**Author:** Nico Walker  
**Publisher:** Knopf  
**Price:** \$26.95 (Dhs99)  
(Hardcover)

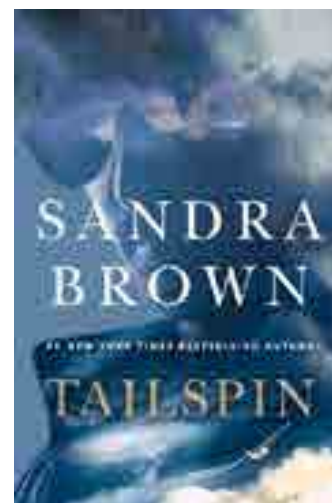


Every day, more than 115 people in the United States die after overdosing on opioids, report from US Department of Health shows. Nico Walker's *Cherry* is said to be the first great novel of the opioid epidemic. The book's protagonist, a college freshman, meets a girl named Emily – and they experience an instant connection. But when he almost loses her, he decides to make a statement: he joins the US Army. And then he gets sent to Iraq. However,

this is not a war story; this is a story of what comes after the war. By the time the protagonist returns, he himself has post-traumatic stress disorder. He meets Emily again, and they're both swept up in the opioid medication dependence. The couple become addicts, and when the money dries up, in desperation they turn to what appears to be the only solution – robbery.

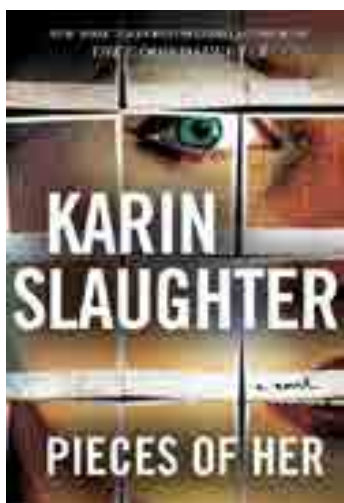
### ROMANCE ON THE RUN

**Title:** Tailspin  
**Author:** Sandra Brown  
**Publisher:** Grand Central Publishing  
**Price:** \$27 (Dhs99)  
(Hardcover)



Rye Mallett, a fearless pilot charged with flying cargo to far-flung locations, has a rock-solid reputation: he will fly in the foulest weather, day or night, and deliver the goods. So, when Rye is asked to fly into a completely fogbound town and deliver a mysterious black box to a Dr Lambert, he doesn't ask questions. As Rye's plane nears the isolated landing strip, more trouble than inclement weather awaits

him. He is greeted first by a sabotage attempt on his plane that causes him to crash land, and then by Dr Brynn O'Neal, who claims she was sent for the box in Dr Lambert's stead. Soon Rye and Brynn are in a treacherous race to deliver the box before time runs out. With everyone from law enforcement officials to hired thugs hot on their heels, they must learn to trust each other so they can protect their cargo from those who'd kill for it.



### WHO'S THAT WOMAN, REALLY?

**Title:** Pieces of Her  
**Author:** Karin Slaughter  
**Publisher:** William Morrow  
**Price:** \$27.99 (Dhs103) (Hardcover)

As with the author's previous books, the main characters of this story are women, and the revelations in their lives come after an encounter with violence. The protagonist, Andrea, knows everything about her mother,

Laura. She knows that her mother has spent her whole life in the small beachside town of Belle Isle; she knows her mother never wanted anything more than to live a quiet life as a pillar of the community; she knows her mother never kept a secret in her life. Because we all know our mothers, don't we? But all that changes when a trip to the mall explodes into violence and Andrea suddenly sees a completely different side to Laura.



# WE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



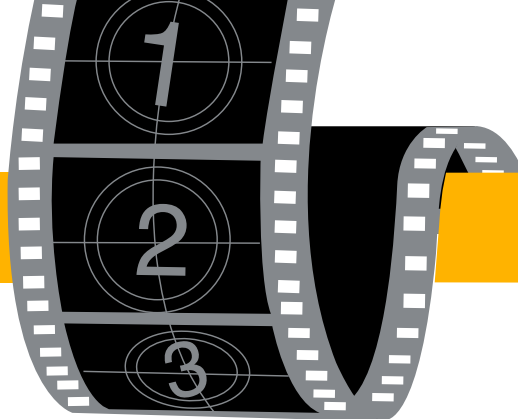
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## ★ **JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN**

**DIRECTOR:** DAVID KERR

**STARRING:** ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, JAKE LACY, BEN MILLER, MIRANDA HENNESSY, DAVID MUMENI

**MOVIE TYPE:** COMEDY

The new adventure begins when a cyber-attack reveals the identity of all active undercover agents in Britain, leaving Johnny English (Atkinson) as the secret service's last hope. Called out of retirement, English dives head first into action with the mission to find the mastermind hacker. As a man with few skills and analogue methods, Johnny English must overcome the challenges of modern technology to make this mission a success. Sounds like a classic Rowan Atkinson plot.



## ★ **VENOM**

**DIRECTOR:** RUBEN FLEISCHER

**STARRING:** TOM HARDY, RIZ AHMED, MICHELLE WILLIAMS, JENNY SLATE, WOODY HARRELSON

**MOVIE TYPE:** ACTION

The alien entity known as Venom, first seen in Spider-Man 3 (2007), gets its own movie, and possibly the beginning of a franchise. Eddie Brock (Hardy) is a journalist hunting for a story, at the centre of which is a powerful but shady scientist (Ahmed). Brock finds himself going through a bit of a hard time, but that's nothing compared to what happens when his normal life disappears. In the course of his news-gathering, he becomes host to a black liquid parasite that fixes itself to a human and then gives the host its superpowers. Eddie tells the parasite – called a symbiote in the film – that if it wants to stay in his body, it must agree to hurt only the bad people. The symbiote, however, has a mind of its own, and Eddie isn't always in control. Here's yet another superhero – or maybe anti-hero – movie from Marvel, and Hardy makes the viewing worth it.

## ★ **A STAR IS BORN**

**DIRECTOR:** BRADLEY COOPER

**STARRING:** BRADLEY COOPER, STEFANI GERMANOTTA (LADY GAGA), ANDREW DICE CLAY, SAM ELLIOTT, DAVE CHAPPELLE

**MOVIE TYPE:** MUSICAL

In this second retelling of a classic – the 1954 original had Judy Garland in the lead, and the 1976 remake had Barbra Streisand – the role of the rising star goes to one of the most iconic pop stars of our time: Lady Gaga. The plot follows Jackson Maine (Cooper), a country music star whose career is on the decline when he discovers a talented unknown named Ally (Stefani Germanotta aka Lady Gaga). As the two begin a passionate love affair, Jack coaxes Ally into the spotlight, catapulting her to stardom. But as Ally's career quickly eclipses his own, Jack finds it increasingly hard to handle his fading glory.





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# Throw-and-use plastic adds to global warming

**WHEN** you buy a single-use bottle of water or a single-use plastic shopping bag and then throw it away, does it occur to you that you're contributing to global warming? Well, you are.

Much has been said about how plastic is killing marine animals and releasing harmful chemicals into the soil when dumped in the landfill, but the real picture is worse than that. New research shows that the tossed away common plastics release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere because they start degrading with exposure to the elements. Methane and ethylene, as per the research, are the gases most commonly released when

discarded plastic is exposed to sunlight.

The study was carried out by scientists from the University of Hawaii, Manoa School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, and published in PLOS One. The team tested polycarbonate, acrylic, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polystyrene, high-density polyethylene, and low-density polyethylene which are all plastics used in making food storage, textiles, construction materials, and various common plastic goods.

Polyethylene, used in shopping bags, is the most commonly discarded synthetic polymer across the world. It is also the

biggest source of methane and ethylene when it degrades in sunlight. Even the plastic floating in the marine environment releases these types of gases when they're hit by sunlight, apart from choking fish and sea turtles. And once the breakdown of plastic and greenhouse gas emission starts, it continues even when the sun goes down.

Lead author Sarah-Jeanne Royer said, "Considering the amounts of plastic washing ashore on our coastlines and the amount of plastic exposed to ambient conditions, our finding provides further evidence that we need to stop plastic production at the source, especially single-use plastic."



# Can fruit peel remove pollutants from water?

**WANT** to make that jug of water a little cleaner? Drop a lemon peel in it. A new study, published by a chemistry professor at Dickinson College, Pennsylvania, US, demonstrates that peels from about a dozen common fruits and vegetables offer a natural, low-cost way to remove pollutants.

Cindy Samet and her students performed experiments with peels and seeds from pumpkin, okra, lemon, and banana. The water for the

experiment was coloured with methylene blue, lead, and copper. They found that the peels and seeds removed the pollutant through adsorption, the chemical bonding of the pollutant molecules and the peels.



The study, 'Fruit and Vegetable Peels as Efficient Renewable Adsorbents for Removal of Pollutants from Water: A Research Experience for General Chemistry Students,' was published in the Journal of Chemical Education. Suresh Valiyaveetil, Samet's co-author and a professor at the National University of Singapore, had earlier done a similar experiment with avocado, hami melon and dragon fruit peels.

# Fish stocks have dwindled by two-thirds

**INDISCRIMINATE** overfishing has led to a situation where global fish stocks have fallen by about two-thirds of what we had half a century ago. This was found out by an international study that looked at how far industrial fishing trawlers are sailing and how much fish they catch.

The study was carried out by researchers from the 'Sea Around Us' initiative at the University of Western Australia and the University of British Columbia (Canada). They mapped how industrial fisheries have grown since 1950 and found that 90 per cent of the world's oceans are now fishing grounds and that the trade is dominated by huge fleets from a handful of nations. However, while these trawlers are covering an area larger than ever, their catch – per kilometre travelled – is only one-third of what they could get 65 years ago. This is indication of how rampant, unsustainable overfishing has been wiping out fish populations.

"While most countries continue to focus their fishing efforts on local waters, some Asian countries have aggressively subsidised vessel and fuel



costs to encourage their fleets to operate thousands of kilometres from their home ports," said lead author David Tickler, a postgraduate student at UWA's School of Biological Sciences.

As a result of the plunder of marine resources, the catch rate of the top 20

fishing countries has dropped from more than 25 tonnes per 1,000km travelled in the early 1950s to approximately 7 tonnes per 1,000km travelled in 2014. These 20 countries collectively account for 60 million tonnes on annual catch, or 80 per cent of the global industrial fishing catch.

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## Greener and natural ways to treat water

**AS** the human population keeps growing, more and more countries need to find ways to treat water for human consumption. This is an energy-intensive process, bringing about other types of pollution in the environment.

In a positive development, scientists have reported a greener and a more natural method to treat water.

An international team, led by water engineering experts from the University of Exeter, UK, has found a way to include ecological processes in water treatment. Their solution doesn't do away with the artificial process but incorporates the natural process in the treatment pipeline. Elements such as carbon, phosphorus, and nitrogen are removed from wastewater

and turned into renewable energy and materials.

The system is called REPURE and the details were published in the journal Science Advances. Professor Xu Wang, co-author of the paper and part of Exeter's Centre for Water Systems, said, "Our design includes the carbon capture and nutrient retention services provided by soils, as they were found to help reduce adverse environmental effects during the land use of the biosolids and reclaimed water. More importantly, this new design can be promoted in many places, as soil is a major component of the planet and exists in nearly every country."

The research team believes that REPURE could mean wastewater treatment without the need for any energy, and the recovered elements could be used for industrial sectors such as renewable energy, fertilisers, biopolymers, and green chemicals.





# Are probiotics really that great?

**AS** science tells us these day, all bacteria aren't to be feared. There are good bacteria, including the "friendly" gut bacteria that help in digestion. It's believed that probiotics boost the numbers and activity of the good bacteria, and are therefore beneficial.

But while probiotics are marketed as being very effective, how good are they, really? New literature published in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine* says that there isn't enough information on whether these products are truly all that effective or if they're even safe for regular intake.

The researchers were from the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research and other institutions. They analysed the published findings of 384 random controlled trials on probiotics (containing good bacteria), prebiotics (aiding good bacteria), and synbiotics (covering both functions). "One-third of the trials gave no information on harms," the study authors wrote. "Only 2 per cent adequately reported key safety components."



They added: "One strong belief about probiotics and prebiotics is that they are safe. Yet adverse events (AEs) arising from their use are poorly understood."

The bottomline is: don't fall for the marketing hype, and if you're taking any food with probiotics, do be observant about your body's reaction to it.

## One drop can tell so much about your brain



**INJURY** to the brain is one of the worst kinds of the injuries and it isn't easy to detect the damage. As yet, the only reliable

diagnosis is through the CT scan, which is expensive. However, in the near future, traumatic injury to the brain may become

much easier to discover thanks to a portable device that only needs one drop of blood to do the job.

Researchers from the University of Geneva (UNIGE), in collaboration with the Hospitals of Barcelona, Madrid and Seville, have developed the portable device, which they call Point-of-Care Test (PoCT). The device takes the drop of blood, analyses the protein level in the blood and detects the possibility of mild traumatic brain injury. This discovery, the details of which are out in *PLOS ONE*, will help doctors to decide how much immediate care people need when they're brought to the hospital. Patients will be spared both panic and expenses.

Brain injury can result from a fall or getting badly hit in the head by something. Symptoms include blurred vision, vomiting, loss of consciousness or memory for a short while. But these symptoms may not indicate an actual lesion; they may just be the result of shock.



# WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



## Aries (March 21 – April 19)

You may feel that you at your lowest point but cheer up! This is not your permanent destination. The lack something grand does not mean that you are living a dull life; it is a chance for you to reflect and compose yourself. You may need some time and once a spark comes your way, you will be unstoppable again. You will land successfully on your feet and project a stronger, better image to the world.



## Taurus (April 20 – May 21)

This is a perfect time to invest in your creativity and try out a new hobby: play the guitar, compose a song, learn how to cook. Consider your stubbornness as a sign of passion. If you already have a talent or a skill you are honing, this may be a great month to put your creations out there or grow your audience. Focus on the message of your craft. Once you put your mind into it, you can be great at doing something you would never consider otherwise.



## Gemini (May 22 – June 20)

Adventure awaits you this month. You will experience being more outdoorsy or trying something out of the routine. Take advantage of this urge, you may feel yourself lured into nature, scanning travel blogs and planning a hiking trip. Take some time off from work and appreciate the environment. The beach and the mountains will do you good. You will feel renewed when you come back from your trip.



## Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

This month will be all about yourself. While everyone is hanging out and going out doors, you may find yourself having reservations about spending time with friends. It is okay to be a homebody because it will give you time to focus and cherish your privacy. You may be consuming much of your energy at work or in your current relationship; having space and time for yourself will help you feel renewed.



## Leo (July 23 – August 22)

You have a tendency to get attached to memories and people you've met in the past. Do not make this a hindrance for you to move on and live your life to the fullest. It is alright to look back in hindsight and remember how good things were but always remember that things are always bound to change. It's the only constant thing in the world. What worked then could also be applicable to your current situation. Some answers may be found in your past.



## Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

You're everyone's best friend this month. You may find yourself being approached by a casual acquaintance asking for advice, do not pass up on this chance. If the opportunity shows up to extend a shoulder to cry on, or to empathise with other people, do it. You will not lose anything by showing people that there is a silver lining to every problem.



## Libra (September 23 – October 22)

A self-check is in order for Libra. Since it is your birth month, you may feel overwhelmed with all of the attention given to you. It is important to have someone looking out for you and will call you out when you cannot wrap your head around certain things. Keep certain people at arms' length and talk to friends who have known you for a long time. Clarity is coming towards you so hang on to your senses.



## Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

You have a lot on your plate, but things are about to change for the better. One moment you feel like you are drowning; the next, you feel like you are on cloud nine. Life is not always black and white and it is important to know where you place yourself in that gradient, and your career will soon flourish. If you are not in ideal terms with your colleagues, then a newly acquired fortune may be knocking on your door soon. Luck will favor you even when you least expect it to.



## Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

It's all about friends this month, working on building new friendships and rekindling old ones will give you that much-needed peace. If you find juggling too much pears, look for the balance in who you spend your time with. Make sure your relationships have a mutual give and take. However, if you feel it takes too much energy to maintain your relationship, it is okay to pause for a while. Perhaps now is just not the right time. Your true friends will understand, and they will be patiently wait for your return.



## Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

This month will bring you abundance in terms of relationship with your family and friends. You're going to meet the person who will bring out your best qualities and will show you things about yourself you did not know before. That person will give you a newfound confidence as well and whether he/she will last by your side permanently or for a short time, you will be better equipped for the future.



## Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Aquarius, you need to stop looking for happiness elsewhere; all you have to do is look at the mirror. Only you can assure yourself that the peace you keep looking for has been inside you all along. The only validation and assurance you need is from yourself. If you feel like you are getting what you need, focus on nourishing aspects of your life that you rarely spare a second glance. Focus on the people who already invested their time and energy in you.



## Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

You may find yourself shifting into a career with room to express your individuality. Although you work well in an office environment, you somehow find yourself discontent if you are not leading a team. Your natural curiosity and competitiveness make you stand out. If you are doing alright with your current job but feel unsatisfied, try to picture your future. Where do you want to see yourself in a few years?

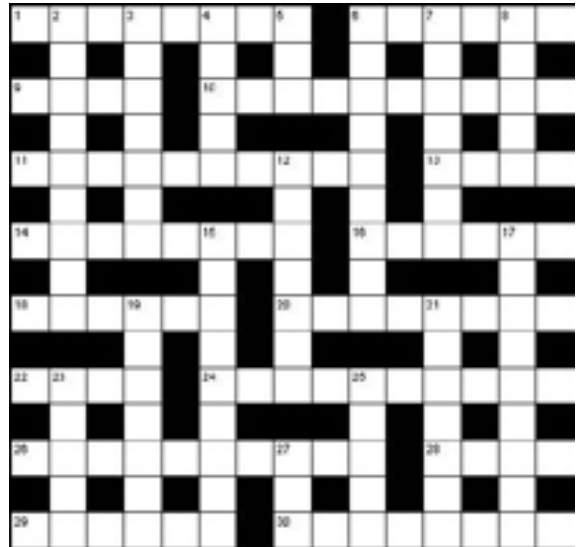
# PUZZLES

## ACROSS

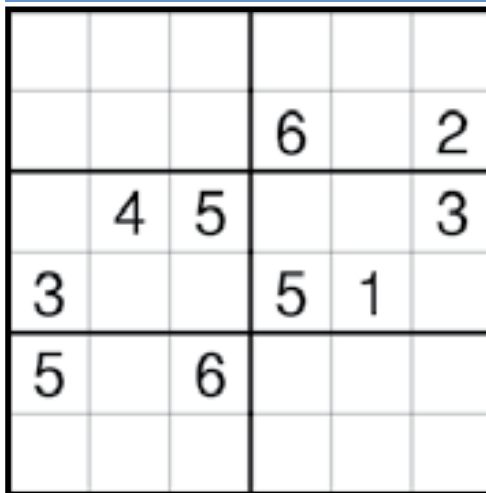
- 1 Winter – victory – end (8)
- 6 Nasty accident leading to wrong use of words (6)
- 9 What doctor Campbell did once in his life? (4)
- 10 It may be good going for proof (4-6)
- 11 Make an accident popular, definitely (3,7)
- 13 Indian dance requires one (4)
- 14 Plan to have no box for games console (8)
- 16 Surrounded by mountains, I'd explore interior (6)
- 18 Soiled underpants stubbornly refused to take off (6)
- 20 I am important, so I begin working (3,5)
- 22 The idea of going head first (4)
- 24 Advance made by hotel reception, which is great (10)
- 26 Highly placed opposition to 11? (2,2,3,3)
- 28 Outstanding recital of Pindar's work (4)
- 29 Private has to finish then start (6)
- 30 Bear laying odds in New York (8)

## DOWN

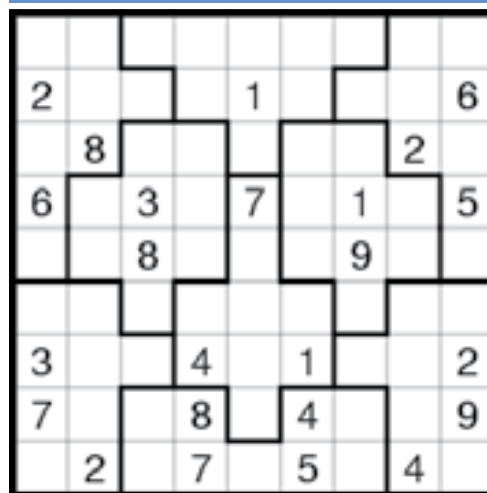
- 2 It might go off, dear. Look for directions inside (9)
- 3 Flowering plant, second raised on bed (7)
- 4 Bottom seen and massaged by tax collectors (5)
- 5 Declared part of total (3)
- 6 What supporter is doing is consigned to trash (9)
- 7 Taking out shotgun, crosses adversary (7)
- 8 One with attitude about fabulous writer (5)
- 12 Bemoan a version of a simple life (7)
- 15 Presumably sensible person knocked senseless? (3,4,2)
- 17 Find a restaurant (9)
- 19 Is there a race with more than one finish? (7)
- 21 Possibility of cave sections having a switch (7)
- 23 Project that is keeping politician supported (5)
- 25 Sign that's right in the middle of a Spanish port (5)
- 27 Clerical attire in royal blue (3)



## Easy



## Medium



## SOLUTIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE



[www.alberichcrosswords.com](http://www.alberichcrosswords.com)

[www.dailysudoku.com](http://www.dailysudoku.com)

### easy

3	1	4	2	8	5	9	6	7
2	7	9	3	1	6	5	4	8
6	5	8	7	9	4	2	1	3
8	6	3	4	7	9	1	5	2
5	4	2	1	6	3	7	8	9
7	9	1	8	5	2	4	3	6
4	3	6	9	2	1	8	7	5
1	2	7	5	3	8	6	9	4
9	8	5	6	4	7	3	2	1

### medium

6	5	9	3	4	1	7	8	2
8	4	2	5	7	9	1	6	3
7	3	6	2	9	8	5	1	4
1	2	8	7	5	6	3	4	9
3	7	1	6	8	4	9	2	5
4	9	5	1	2	3	8	7	6
9	6	4	8	3	7	2	5	1
2	8	3	4	1	5	6	9	7
5	1	7	9	6	2	4	3	8



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