

999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 90 JULY 2019

**CAUTION:
SLOW DOWN,
SPEEDING KILLS**

**CHANGING
FUTURE FOR
UAE EXPATS**

**ABU DHABI
SPOTLIGHT**

EXPAND YOUR
HORIZONS

GOLDEN YEARS AHEAD

ALL YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT THE
UAE'S NEW PERMANENT
RESIDENCY SCHEME



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



IN THIS ISSUE: THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SAFEGUARDS CHILDREN FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE



Zayed's Dream



The idea of organizing the (Zayed's Dream) event on the 48th National Day comes in the Year of Tolerance. The UAE has been seeking for many years to attract best expertise in all fields. Today, the UAE is preparing to embrace a new era of development and ambitions, on the path of achieving the aspirations of the wise leadership placing the UAE in an advanced and pioneering position. This necessitates the utilization of the sources of knowledge as well as the theories and practical applications of scholars and thinkers to benefit from knowledge contents in the formation of an integrated system incorporating creative national powers supported by a highly capable infrastructure, propelling the UAE to a pioneering status that creates opportunities serving the people and making them happy.



وزارة الداخلية
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR



From his headquarters at Qasr Al Hosn, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan transcended the dream of the federation to the dream where the sky is the limit. This is when he met on February 12, 1976 at his palace in Abu Dhabi's Al Bateen area American astronauts Thomas Stafford, Vance Brand and Donald Saiton, and American-Egyptian Nasa scientist, Farouk El-Baz, who visited Abu Dhabi at the invitation of the UAE government.

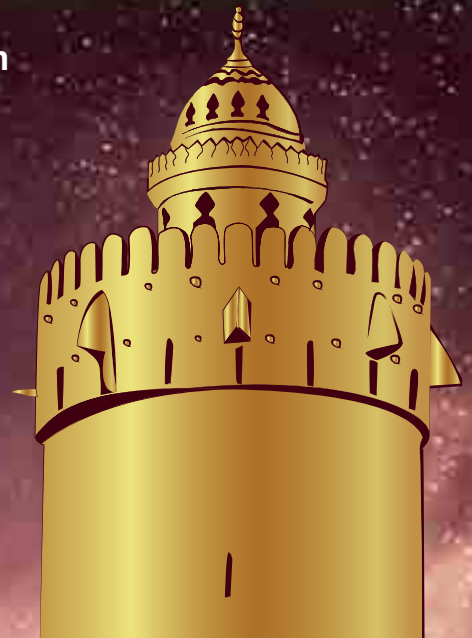
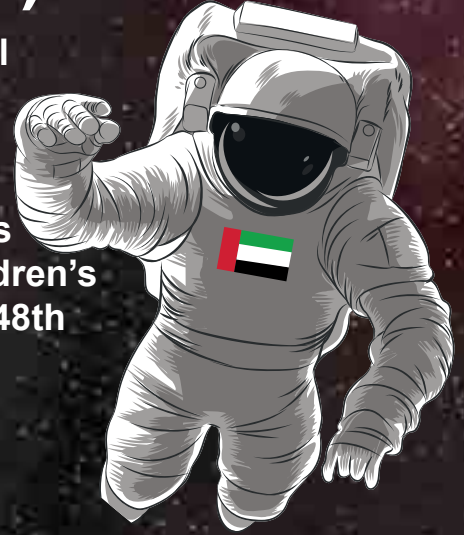
Zayed's message was to re-originate science, as he had always held the great Arab scientific achievement in a tolerant spirit, taking the federation to new heights. The UAE has truly been the only Arab example, not only in unity and federation, but also in the reproduction of a distinguished state aspiring to embrace the 21st century in a capable manner and in confidence.

The spaceship model (Zayed's Dream 2021)

The unveiling of the spaceship model (Zayed's Dream 2021), made by the fingerprints of elementary school students in the UAE, and it will be entering the Guinness World Records as the largest model made up of children's fingerprints on the occasion of UAE 48th National Day

Messages of Tomorrow's Pioneers

A total of 10,000 packages will be distributed at the country's schools. Children will leave their fingerprints on the Year of Tolerance card. These cards will be placed on the Zayed's Dream 2021 spaceship model as messages of peace and tolerance from the generation of future pioneers. The fingerprints will be put together on the Zayed's Dream 2021 spaceship model, and later, the model will be listed in the Guinness World Records as the largest model made up by children's fingerprints



The country enters a new era in which the people who've contributed to its prosperous present can feel more connected to its future

Yet another landmark

This is a landmark year for the UAE, a country that has significantly achieved a lot in its existence of less than five decades now. This year, the expatriate community has been gifted the opportunity to getting permanent residency. A couple of weeks before Eid, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced the Golden Card scheme for people who've invested in the UAE, and have helped the economy by generating jobs. Exceptional people in various fields, ranging from arts to science, may also be eligible. With this, the country enters a new era in which the people who've contributed to its prosperous present can feel more connected to its future. This card, which follows the earlier decision to grant 5-year and 10-year visas to individuals in certain categories, is expected to transform the UAE economy. As you'll read in our cover story, expats are all praise for these measures.

A related feature is the revamp of the end-of-service gratuity system in the UAE. Its core idea is a pension pot for expats. Now, as we all know, a comfortable retirement comes at the end of a long, productive life. So, we in the UAE—and at **999 Magazine**—always try to ensure that your life is long and productive. Thus, we have a timely report on the menace of speeding, which has cut short so many lives in the past few weeks. And for what? Just so that someone could reach somewhere five minutes sooner? Our report looks at the statistics and psychology of speeding, and the lesson is: speeding is injurious to your health (and life).

This summer, more families are likely to spend time together, and we'd like to tell the parents, even if you feel extremely provoked by something your children do, never hit them. It's against the law in the UAE and besides, there are other ways to discipline them.

On that note, we've also presented in this issue a feature on promoting tolerance in schools, a place where children spend a large part of their day. Teaching children tolerance and acceptance is as much an educator's responsibility as it is a parent's job.

Also, because this is summer, we've got an important feature on the Hassantuk fire alarm system that lets a building automatically alert the fire brigade. The article explains the real costs of false alarms to economies.

Finally, because most of you would travel this month, our 'Tips & Trivia' section talks about what to pack for good health on a vacation.

We'll see you next month—thanks, as always, for being with us.

An oil rig is silhouetted against a bright orange sunset sky. In the center of the image, several planets of various sizes are floating, with the largest one in the middle. The rig's derrick and platform are visible on the left side.

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Security And Safety For All



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18



THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SAFEGUARDS CHILDREN FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE. CHILD ABUSE IS A CRIME THAT CASTS A SHADOW THE LENGTH OF A LIFETIME. SO, DROP THAT ROD AND SPARE YOUR KIDS FROM HARM

14 FACTS & FIGURES

Some numbers and quotations in the media that grabbed people's attention

16 UAE NEWS BULLETIN

Police news, people, numbers and events

34 CHANGING LANDSCAPE FOR UAE EXPATS

Changes in residency visa rules and proposed reforms to the end-of-service gratuity system have encouraged expats to think of living in the UAE after retirement. **999** looks at the gratuity scenario and what employees can expect

40 SLOW DOWN, SPEEDING KILLS

Drivers flouting speed limit cast caution to the winds. They don't realise that this traffic violation can take many lives, including their own. Here's why drivers are still speeding despite its clear danger

46 TEACH TOLERANCE EARLY

With 2019 declared the 'Year of Tolerance', **999** spotlights how schools in the UAE promote an inclusive, compassionate environment amongst the youth

54 COUNTING THE COSTS OF FALSE FIRE ALARMS

The UAE has one of the most advanced fire alarm systems in the world. A building 'calls' the fire-fighters as soon as a blaze begins. However, false fire alarms could be a bane. **999** spotlights how the UAE civil defence tackles the hitches of these unnecessary callouts

60 ABU DHABI SPOTLIGHT

Explore history through photographs, let children participate in workshops, learn about a tasty tradition – the desert summer can be so engaging

66 TIPS & TRIVIA

Going on a vacation? Along with shopping for new clothes, do keep in mind some things that are very important for a great holiday but are often overlooked

70 CRIME MYSTERIES

Normally, it's police constables and officers who slap fine and arrest offenders, but in these cases, the police themselves were targeted by the violators – and some of them even got killed

74 CRIME & PUNISHMENT

A young man tries to force himself on a younger woman by digitally altering her photos. But she resists him and gets justice

78 HISTORY

Renowned french traveller tavernier has left a valuable account of the city he counted amongst the greatest in the Ottoman Empire

82 GADGETS

Take a peek at the newest must-have high-tech electronic devices

84 MOVIES

The hottest new international movie releases coming soon to cinemas near you

34



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26

COVER STORY

FOREVER HOME IN UAE

THE GOLDEN CARD AND LONG-TERM RESIDENCY VISA PROGRAMMES OF THE UAE GOVERNMENT ARE STEPS TO MAKE VALUABLE EXPATS FEEL MORE ROOTED IN THIS COUNTRY



10

NEWS

Al Sha'far receives Chinese Vice-Minister

86 BOOKS

Remarkable women share their life lessons, and there are scientific ways to get into better health

88 ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Campaign to bring together people from all segments of society for a common cause

91 HEALTH NEWS

Keep your health in check, stay updated

94 HOROSCOPE

What July has in store for you

96 PUZZLES

Have some fun and see how good you are with words and numbers

46



54

COLUMNISTS



33

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



52

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



64

Ali Obaid
Head of the News Centre at Dubai Media Incorporated



77

Dr Samar Al-Shamsi
Internationally respected artist

President's commitment to heritage restores 16th-century French theatre



IN recognition of the UAE's contribution to the restoration of the Château de Fontainebleau's historic Imperial Theatre, it has been renamed as the Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Theatre.

Following years of restoration works made possible by contributions from the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, the historic Imperial Theatre has reopened to the public.

Its meticulous restoration highlighted the commitment to heritage preservation of His

Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, according to His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

In a speech during the opening ceremony, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed said that the reopening of Château de Fontainebleau's historic Imperial Theatre is a true embodiment of the strong ties between cultural institutions in their efforts to preserve national heritage sites.

"These efforts are lessons we have carried

forward from the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan," His Highness said, adding that it also represents the UAE's diplomatic efforts with over 187 countries to ensure an integrated and promising future for all.

"For us in the UAE, preserving a nation's heritage and culture and presenting it to the youth and future generations is of vital importance and a key focus area for the UAE leadership.

"We cannot teach values of tolerance, if we cannot present to individuals the beauty in celebrating diversity. Individuals who visit museums will only be made aware that human civilisation and its development came about as a result of intellect and growth through varied means of thinking, production, and ingenuity," His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed added.

His Highness also emphasised that the UAE will continue to stand by countries suffering as a result of natural disasters and conflict, just as it will continue to support the arts, culture, and history across the world.

UAE Rulers condole with King Salman on death of Prince Mohammed bin Muttab

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has sent a cable of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia on the death of Saudi Royal Prince Mohammed bin Muttab bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Musa'ed bin

Jalawi Al Saud.

In the message, President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest his soul in Paradise.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister 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, also dispatched similar cables of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

President confers Order of Independence on Pakistan ambassador

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan conferred the Order of Independence, First Class, on the Ambassador of Pakistan to the UAE, Moazzam Ahmad Khan, in recognition of his efforts towards the development and strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The award ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan,

UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, officially conferred the Order on the Ambassador.

His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan commended the Ambassador for his meritorious services in enhancing ties between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Moazzam lauded the UAE leadership for its vision and policies that have guided the UAE to emerge as a global model for development, tolerance and co-existence.



HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, presents the Order to Moazzam Ahmad Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to the UAE.

UAE Cabinet approves National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031



Dubai Media Office

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 adopted a new set of comprehensive initiatives to make the quality of life in the UAE world-class.

Dubbed as "The National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031," the new programme aims to promote an integrated concept of wellbeing including the promotion of healthy and active

lifestyles, good mental health and positive thinking.

Aside from enhancing the individuals' wellbeing, the National Strategy calls for a national framework that would also include the society and the entire UAE. Amongst the 90 initiatives for this Strategy is the creation of a "National Wellbeing Observatory" that will monitor the physical and mental health of individuals. The Observatory shall also report to the UAE Cabinet, propose training programmes for government employees, launch the Academy of Wellbeing and form the National

Wellbeing Council to manage and coordinate the national strategy.

The Cabinet also adopted the following:

1. Amendment of the Federal Law on the Regulation and Protection of Industrial Property of Patents and Industrial Designs
2. Federal Law on Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms
3. Federal Law on Medical Liability
4. International conventions including ratification to the International Alliance for Green Development along the Belt and Road Initiative
5. Agreement between the government of UAE and Peru on providing exemption to visas of UAE and Peru passport holders
6. Agreement with Korea and with Peru on elimination of double taxation
7. Air service agreement between the UAE and Honduras

VP, ADCP receive UAE Rulers on Eid Al Fitr

ON the occasion of Eid Al Fitr, 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, received Their Highnesses Rulers of the Emirates, Crown Princes, and Deputy Rulers.

Well wishes for good health and continued march for progress and development for the benefit of the country were extended to President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan during the Eid reception.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al

Maktoum and HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed received HH Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme

Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, HH Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman, HH Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of



WAM

Fujairah, HH Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Umm Al Qaiwain and HH Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah.

VP hosts grand wedding reception for sons' wedding



Dubai Media Office

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

Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, hosted a grand ceremony to mark the weddings of his three sons: HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai; HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai; and HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation.

HH Sheikh Hamdan got married to Sheikh

Shaikha bint Saeed bin Thani Al Maktoum. HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed got married to Sheikh Maryam bint Butti Al Maktoum, and HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed got married to Sheikh Madiyah bint Juma Al Maktoum.

The grand wedding reception was attended by Their Highnesses the Crown Princes, Sheikhs, ministers, top dignitaries, state and senior officials, tribal chieftains, businessmen, entrepreneurs, and heads of top international and Arab companies in the UAE.

Mohamed bin Zayed, German President discuss bilateral ties



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, discussed with

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier ways to enhance cooperation and bilateral ties between the two countries, as part of His Highness' two-day state visit to Germany in June.

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed was welcomed by the German President and wished that His Highness' visit to Germany would contribute to advancing bilateral relations between their countries to a higher level.

HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperation, attended the meeting.

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed conveyed the message of progress and stability from President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the people of Germany.

During the meeting, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed underscored the UAE and the Federal Republic of Germany are anchors for peace and stability in their respective regions and are "partners in the drive toward boosting tolerance and co-existence amongst all peoples of the world".

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed also emphasised that relations between the UAE and Germany are not limited to political, economic and technological fields, but extend to cultural and educational domains.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, King of Malaysia bolster cooperation

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and His Majesty Sultan Abdullah bin Sultan Ahmad Shah, King of Malaysia, strengthened cooperation between their respective countries and discussed several topics of common interest.

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed welcomed His Majesty Sultan Abdullah and his delegation's visit to the UAE.

As part of the meeting, the two leaders talked through potential opportunities for cooperation in the areas of commerce, economy, investment and development.

Both sides then exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments of common interest.

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed said that the relations between the UAE and Malaysia are based on trust and mutual respect.

His Highness added that the UAE aims to expand its relations with friendly countries, as it believes in the importance of cooperation and joint work to achieving development,



prosperity and peace, as well as promoting the values of coexistence and tolerance around the region and the rest of the world.

Mohamed bin Zayed, Yemeni Premier review situation in Yemen



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, reviewed the latest development in Yemen with Prime Minister Dr Ma'een Abdulmalik Saeed.

The humanitarian efforts of the UAE to restore normal situation in Yemen were highlighted during the meeting of the two leaders.

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed

reaffirmed the UAE's determination to support the nation of Yemen. This, His Highness said, is part of the UAE's resolve to stand by all Arab peoples and support noble causes.

The Yemeni Premier conveyed his appreciation to the helping hand of the UAE in terms of the developmental, humanitarian, security and economic conditions in Yemen.

He also emphasised the support given by the UAE to rebuild public utilities, key educational facilities, and social services in his country.

Interior Minister reviews Expo 2020 Dubai security plans

HIS Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, reviewed security plans, as well as related preparations and procedures, underway the upcoming Expo 2020 Dubai.

During the meeting of the security council in charge of the Expo 2020 Dubai planning, the event's traffic plans and field operations were presented to HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed.

While reviewing maps of the Expo 2020 Dubai site, His Highness was also briefed about the strategy of the Criminal Investigation Sector, various support and supply sectors, and relevant teams.

Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation and

the Director-General of Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau, and Najib Al Ali, Executive Director of the Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau, updated His Highness on the latest developments in terms of site constructions and preparations.

The meeting was attended by Lt General Saif Al Sha'far, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior; Lt General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chief of Police and Public Security in Dubai; Major General



Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of the Dubai Police and Chairman of the Security Council; and several officials from the Ministry of Interior and Expo 2020 Dubai.

Saif bin Zayed briefed on ISNR Abu Dhabi 2020 preparations



HIS Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, has been briefed on the ongoing preparations for the upcoming edition of the International Exhibition for National Security and Resilience (ISNR Abu Dhabi 2020) to be held on March 17-19 2020, at

the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

His Highness listened to the opening and promotion plans of the event, which is expected to draw around 120 experts specialising in cybersecurity.

There are also 25,000 visitors from across the globe, in addition to representatives of 600 firms from over 50 countries.

The global event will focus on three main themes: industrial content, business and innovation. Panel sessions will be held on security-themed subjects, including Artificial Intelligence, and the impact of digital transformation on national security.

Interior Minister honours Mol's Ramadan Council participants

HIS Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, honoured entities, institutions and individuals who took part in the Ministry of Interior's 8th Ramadan Council 2019.

The ceremony was held in the presence of HE Dr Amal Abdullah Al Qubaisi, Speaker of Federal National Council, FNC.

Mol's Ramadan Council play an important role in building bridges of communication between officials and citizens.

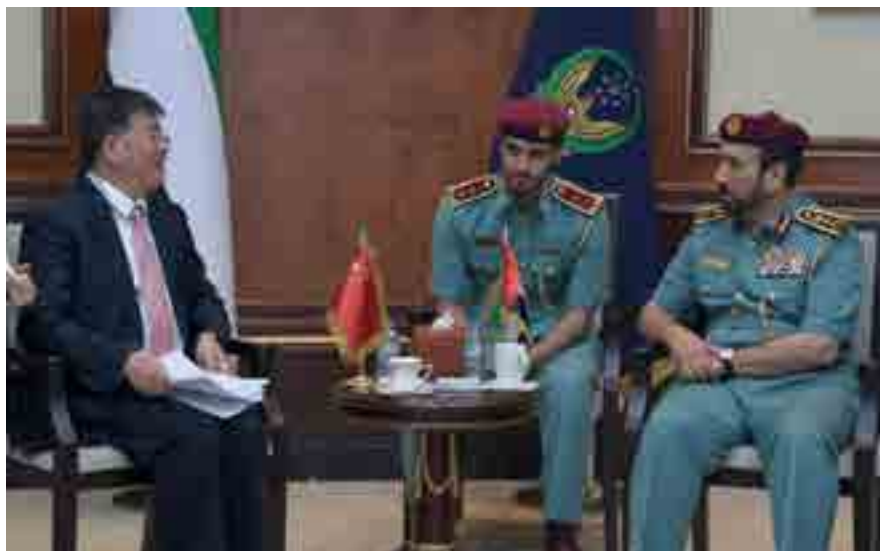
HE Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance; HE Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of

Culture and Knowledge Development; HE Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment; HE Nasser bin Thani Al Hamli, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization; HE Hessa bint Essa Buhmaid, Minister of Community Development; HE Jameela bint Salem Mesbeh Al Muhairi, Minister of State



for Public Education, and HE Shamma bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrui, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, were present.

Al Sha'far receives Chinese Vice-Minister



LT General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior, received HE Deng Weiping, Vice-Minister of Public Security in China, and his accompanying delegation at the Mol headquarters in Abu Dhabi, in the presence of Colonel Mohammed Butti Al Shamsi, Director of Public Relations Department, and a number of Mol officers.

During the meeting, methods for promoting cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and the Chinese Ministry of Public Security were discussed. Both parties exchanged their expertise and data in the field of crime control.

Mol patrols clear the way for response vehicles

THE Ministry of Interior has renewed its call for road users to give way to official vehicles, ambulance, civil defence, and police vehicles to perform their duties and serve emergencies that require rapid response.

The police have detected negative traffic behaviours demonstrated by some road

users, who disregard the necessity of giving way to response-and-rescue vehicles.

Mol has declared the launch of civil patrols to prevent any violations in this regard, secure rapid and smooth movement of emergency vehicles, and slap traffic tickets on those who underestimate

the importance of these vehicles.

Major General Expert Eng Mohammed Saif Al Zafeen, Chairman of the Ministry of Interior Federal Traffic Council, said that giving way to rapid response vehicles would make motorists active partners in serving society.

Leadership programmes at Mol reviewed

A delegation from the UAE Armed Forces Leadership Assessment Centre has reviewed leadership development programmes organised by the Leaders Development Centre affiliated to the Minister of Interior's office and the best global practices applied by the centre in this field.

Colonel Dr Omar Ibrahim Al Ali, Director of the Ministry of Interior's Leaders Development Centre, met with Lt Colonel Dr Abdul Wahed Mohammad Al Hashemi, Vice-President of the UAE Armed Forces Leadership Assessment Centre, and accompanying delegation.

The meeting included a brief explanation of the organisational



structure of the Leaders Development Centre as well as the missions and duties performed by the centre and its affiliated departments.

The meeting also included underlining

the role the centre plays in developing leaders and its programmes supporting the government's plan to provide leaders with the knowledge, greater capabilities, and better skills.

Abu Dhabi Police launch AI-based driving test project



THE Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters has launched the Smart Driving Test Project for those who want to obtain a driving licence.

This comes within the framework of employing the most up-to-date technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems to guarantee the sustainability of traffic safety on Abu Dhabi roads.

The test is conducted through a smart

vehicle containing advanced systems for monitoring, directing, and evaluating the performance of novice drivers. An electronic report records the test result in the traffic file directly.

Staff Major General Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police, examined one of the project's vehicles and its smart preparations. This took place in the presence of Brigadier Khalifa

Mohammad Al Khaili, Director of Finance and Services Sector, Brigadier Suhail Saeed Al Khaili, Director of Central Operations Sector, and Brigadier Mohammad Suhail Al Rashidi, Director of Criminal Security Sector.

Al Mazrouei was also briefed by Colonel Mohammed Al Ameri, Director of the Drivers and Vehicles Licensing Directorate, about the vehicle's work mechanism and the project's significance in minimising traffic accidents.

The project will be implemented in the three main testing centres in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and Al Dhafra. Each centre contains monitoring rooms for the test supervisors, electronic systems, monitoring display screens, and performance indicators.

The centres will be provided with 32 smart vehicles, including 19 automatic vehicles, 13 manual vehicles, and 28 buses, all connected to the control and monitoring rooms by an advanced communication network.

Abu Dhabi Police raise efficiency of K9 squad trainees

THE K9 Security Inspection Department in Abu Dhabi Police has implemented a number of training programmes and activities, with the aim of raising the efficiency of trainees.

Part of the plan was familiarising them with the newest global developments in caring for tracking dogs, in order to perform their security missions well, especially in the field of security inspection.

Brigadier Jamal Habash, Director of Security Inspection Department, underlined that remarkable successes were achieved in the field of training and correct treatment of tracking dogs, adding that the new building of the department aided the trainees better in their security duties.

The building contains a large number of



coops and a vet clinic equipped according to the best specifications. There is also a residence and a club for officers, non-commissioned officers, and other personnel.

Habash pointed out that the mission of

K9 dogs had expanded in scope, as they were used now in more security fields, including detecting drugs and weapons, searching in the rubble, and investigating break-ins, amongst many others.

Dhahi Khalfan honoured at Culture and Science Symposium

THE Culture and Science Symposium in Dubai celebrated winners of the Al Owais Creative Award in its 26th round.

The grand celebration witnessed the honouring of HE Dr Eng Abdullah bin Mohammed Belhaif Al Nuaimi, Minister of Infrastructure Development; Lt General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai; Ibrahim Bu Melha, Adviser to the Ruler of Dubai for Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs; Jamal bin Huwaireb, CEO of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation; writer Awad bin Hassoum Al Darmaki; writer Sultan Al Amimi, Director of the Poetry Academy in Abu Dhabi; and the winners.

The celebration was attended by Mohammad Al Murr, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mohammed bin Rashid Library; Saeed Al Raqbani,

Special Adviser to the Ruler of Fujairah; Abdullah Hamid Ali Al Mazrouei, Chairman of the Thamer Fund of Ajman University; Hala Badri, Director General of Dubai Culture & Arts Authority; Saeed Al Naboodah, CEO of the Culture and Heritage Sector in Dubai Culture & Arts Authority; literary writer Mohammed Al Qarq; Bilal Al Budoor, Chairman of the Culture and Science Symposium; Ali Ubaid Al Hamli, Vice-Chairman of the Culture and Science Symposium; and Mona Al Qarq, Deputy Director of the



Museums Department at Dubai Culture & Arts Authority.

Al Nuaimi conducts inspection at two police departments



MAJOR General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, checked the Operations Department and the Section of Special Missions. He was accompanied by Brigadier Ali Ubaid Al Shamsi, Director of the Strategy and Performance Development Department, and Colonel Mohammed Shaiban Suwaidan, Director of the Ajman Commander-in-Chief's Office.

They were received at the Operations Department by Major Saeed Ali Al Madhani, Deputy Director of the Operations Department, and Major Mohammed Hussein Al Shamsi, Head of the Section, along with a number of officers, non-commissioned officers and personnel.

UAQ jail inmates enjoy family event

THE management of the Penal and Correctional Institute in Umm Al Quwain organised an event for inmates and their

families, as part of the annual initiatives of the institute. Lieutenant Colonel Dr Saif Salem Zayd, Director of the Institute, explained that

this initiative aimed to foster a friendly atmosphere amongst inmates and their families in the 'Year of Tolerance'.

Al Marri inspects Muraqqabat Police Station

MAJOR General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, checked Muraqqabat Police Station, as part of the annual inspection programme of general departments and police stations.

The visit was attended by Major General Expert Khalil Ibrahim Al Mansouri, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Criminal Investigation Affairs; Brigadier Ali Ghanim, Director of Muraqqabat Police Station; Colonel Dr Saleh Al Hamrani, Deputy Director of the General Directorate for Excellence and Leadership; Colonel Khalid bin Suleiman, Director of the Control and Inspection Department; Colonel Issa Ahmed Salem, Deputy Director of Muraqqabat Police Station; Major Dr Abdul-Razzaq Al Mazemi, Head of the Inspection Department; and a number of officers.

During his tour, Al Marri reviewed the latest statistics of Muraqqabat Police Station, and statistics of traffic and criminal registration departments



during 2018. These included data on accidents, traffic and criminal reports, and traffic violations.

He paid homage to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and personnel of Muraqqabat Police Station for the great role they play in

maintaining security in their areas of competence. He highlighted the keenness of the Dubai Police General Headquarters to employ technology and human resource to help policemen do their best to combat crime and exceed client expectations.

Sharjah Police launch beach safety campaign

THE Sharjah Police General Headquarters has launched the campaign "Your Safety Is Our Happiness Towards A Safe Summer" to raise awareness on beach safety.

Lt Colonel Ibrahim Mir, Deputy Director of the Media and Public Relations Department in Sharjah Police, emphasised that the joint awareness campaign

launched by the department, in cooperation with the Rescue branch of Sharjah Police, aims to enlighten different age groups of society about the necessity of being careful at the beach.

The campaign also aims to spread awareness on the importance of following guidelines and instructions displayed on

signs fixed along beaches for the safety of the public.

Lt Colonel Faisal Jassim Al Dokhi, Director of the Rescue Department at the Department of Traffic and Patrols, asserted that his department worked on providing a comprehensive system for the safety of visitors to beaches.

RAK Police discuss traffic safety cooperation with ADP

THE General Headquarters of Ras Al Khaimah Police and the General Headquarters of Abu Dhabi Police discussed ways of coordination and cooperation in traffic safety.

Major General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police met with the delegation chaired by Brigadier Salem Abdullah Al Dhaheri, Deputy Director of Traffic and Patrols Directorate in Abu Dhabi Police.

Al Nuaimi spoke of the keenness of the Ministry of Interior to help police GHQs collaborate better for greater security. He underlined the importance of joint meetings and visits amongst police delegations to learn from each other's experiences and achieve the goals of the MoI.

At the meeting with Brigadier Dr Mohammad Saeed Al Humaidi, Director General of Central Operations at Ras Al Khaimah Police, the Abu Dhabi delegation

reviewed the procedures to minimise damage to lives and property during an accident.

The visitors toured the Traffic and Licensing Services Centre and reviewed the applicable processes and the most significant requirements for development.

Brigadier Ahmed Al Somm Al Naqbi, Director of the Traffic and Patrols Department in Ras Al Khaimah Police, gave a memorial shield to the delegation that expressed thanks and appreciation.

1st July 2019

Effective date to implement increased traffic penalty for drivers who block emergency vehicles on the road.

Dhs3,000

Fine for drivers who do not give way to emergency vehicles, such as ambulances, police cars, and official vehicles.

6 black points & 30-day vehicle confiscation

Other penalties for drivers who disregard the traffic rule of giving way to ambulances and other emergency vehicles on the road.

17th-19th March 2020

Date set for the International Exhibition for National Security and Resilience (ISNR Abu Dhabi 2020) to be held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

25,000

The number of visitors from across the globe, in addition to representatives of 600 firms from over 50 countries, who will take part in ISNR Abu Dhabi 2020.

BE IN THE LOOP

Expo 2020 preps up security measures



HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, reviewed the security plans for the upcoming Expo 2020 Dubai. Security preparations and measures for the global event are now in full swing to ensure the highest level of safety and security.

Give way to save lives



The Ministry of Interior has rolled out "Giving Way Saves Lives" campaign to curb the number of drivers impeding emergency vehicles to effectively perform their duty of saving lives. The drive stems from the new resolution to increase penalties for this serious traffic offence starting July 1, 2019.

Knowledge at your fingertips



UAE residents can now download the Ministry of Interior's mobile app (moiuae) that gives information on a full array of awareness programmes. The app is designed to provide a significant database in all areas of awareness and legal culture for the app users.

MicroSafe Dermacyn: Revolutionary Wound Care: Safe as Water

MicroSafe Dermacyn Wound Care is a super-oxidized wound care solution that has treated over 8 Million people worldwide, without a single side effect! Dermacyn Wound Care is a wound care and life saving product from the family of the MicroSafe Group of Products stemming from the US FDA approved Microcyn Technology. Dermacyn has earned several FDA, CE, and numerous worldwide governmental approvals, including the Ministry of Health in the United Arab Emirates. Dermacyn is indicated for use in the debridement, irrigation and moistening of acute and chronic wounds, ulcers, diabetic ulcers, any burns, cuts, bedsores and abrasions. Through reducing and eliminating the microbial load and assisting in creating a moist and sterile environment, Dermacyn enables the body to perform its own healing as it mimics our own

human immune system.

Alcohol Free / Chemical Free / Zero Side Effects

Dermacyn Wound Care Solution has demonstrated in a wide variety of research and clinical studies the ability to kill a wide range of pathogens, including antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria (MRSA & VRE), viruses, fungi, and spores while reducing inflammation and increasing oxygenation to treated tissue and being completely non-toxic to human tissues and cells. Dermacyn is safe for intra-abdominal irrigation for the treatment and prevention of peritonitis.



YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM IN A BOTTLE!

To learn more about the wide range of MicroSafe Products; please visit
www.microsafegroup.com

UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS



A car accident caused by speeding killed three Arab youngsters including a boy aged 15 and his two sisters, aged 11 and 12, and a nanny. Their mother, who was driving, was seriously injured. She lost control of the vehicle, which veered off the road and hit a lamppost. This mishap occurred in the Al Falah area on the first day of Eid Al Fitr.



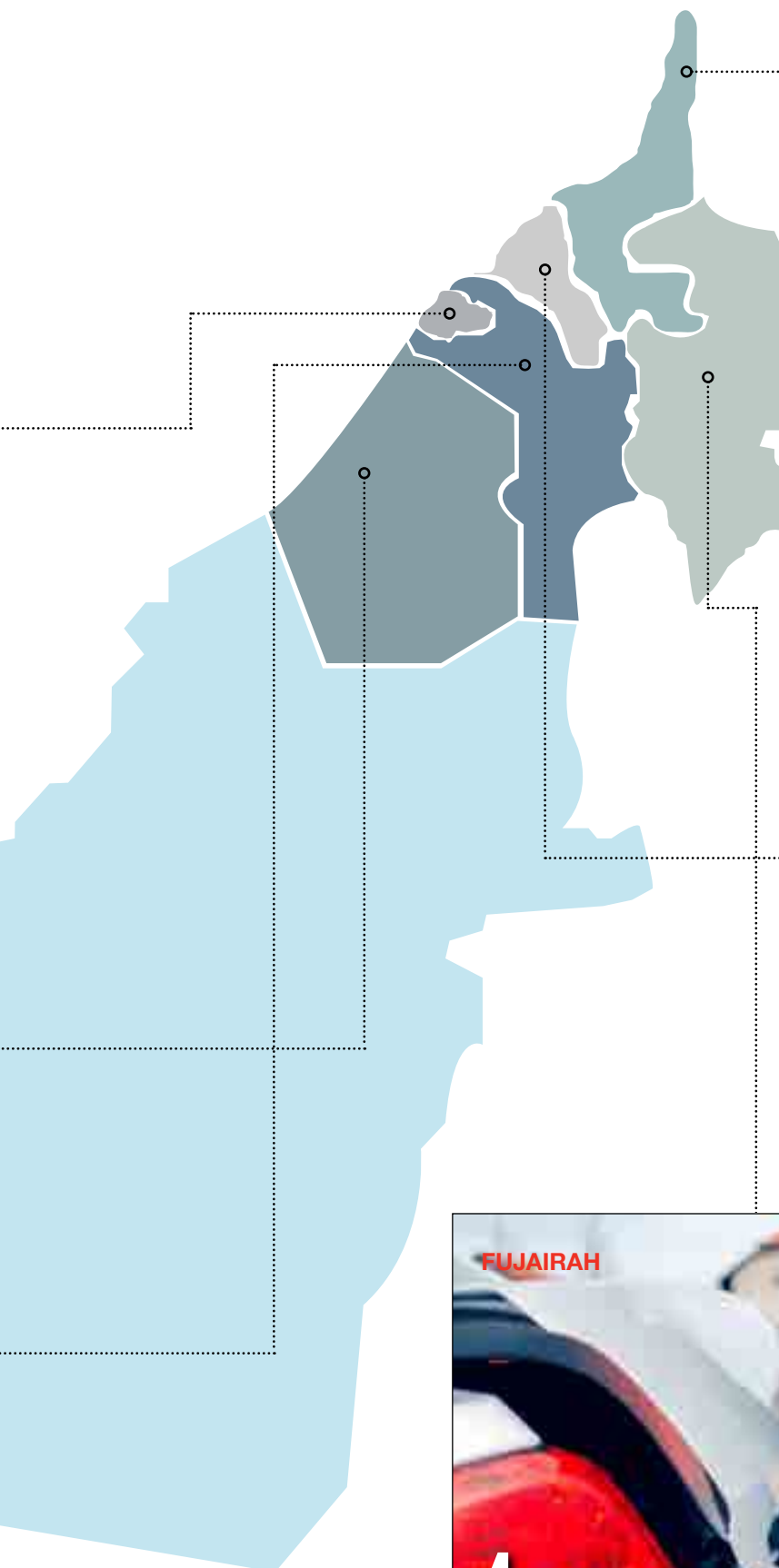
A fire that broke out inside a car around 1:40am was luckily spotted and immediately doused by civil defence, preventing any damage to surrounding cars and house. Firefighters and an ambulance arrived within three minutes after getting the report from Al Jurf 2 area. No one was injured.



A bus crash in the Al Rashidiya area killed 17 people. The bus driver, who sustained major injury in the accident, was about to drop his passengers at the Metro station. He failed to spot the parking area signage near the Metro station as his windshield had a curtain to block the sun. The bus, which came from Oman's capital Muscat to Dubai, crashed into a signboard.



The driver of an overloaded truck lost control and the vehicle overturned amidst busy afternoon traffic on Al Dhaid road. The truck was laden with heavy stones, which tumbled out and fell on cars moving on the other lane, killing a 13-year-old Asian girl and injuring seven. The truck first hit a car and then a lamppost.



An Arab twins aged two years and five months drowned in their neighbour's swimming pool in the Khuzam area. Police got a call about two missing children shortly after 10pm. A search was launched but the boys couldn't be found. About an hour-and-a-half later, came the second call about the drowned boys. A rescue team rushed to the site, got the toddlers out of the pool, and tried to revive them, but they didn't survive.



A dog named Peace was shot with 50 pellets. Workers in the industrial zone heard the gunshots and found the injured dog. The poor dog had been shot in a car, but the vehicle sped away before the workers could note down the licence plate number. Peace was shot in the chest, body, and legs and underwent emergency surgery. The Stray Dogs Centre UAQ is fund-raising for Peace's operations and treatment.



An Arab man was kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and murdered, by four men. The victim had been offered a ride from Fujairah Umbrella Beach. However, the accused drove to a farm in Kalba, Sharjah and took turns at assaulting the victims. When the victim tried to escape, he was caught, and locked in the car trunk. He managed to scream and was heard by a guard, who called the police. The victim was rescued by the police, rushed to a hospital but he died from acute suffocation. The case is now on trial.

Some photos are for illustration purposes only



STOP THAT BEATING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SAFEGUARDS CHILDREN FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE. CHILD ABUSE IS A CRIME THAT CASTS A SHADOW THE LENGTH OF A LIFETIME. SO, DROP THAT ROD AND SPARE YOUR KIDS FROM HARM

BY K NIVEDITA



HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, with children at Hamdan bin Zayed School in Abu Dhabi

“Our children are the wealth of today and the foundation of tomorrow and it is very important to protect them from all risks



HH LT GENERAL SHEIKH SAIF BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

For some people, being caned in school by a teacher or being given a slap at home by a parent is just part of growing up, or of being disciplined. But the UAE itself has banned corporal punishment. This is a crime against children that's also referred to as a form of 'shadow crime' because they usually happen behind closed doors and often go unreported. The UAE government has a zero-tolerance policy towards child abuse and a number of strict laws

are in place to combat the malaise. His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, said, "Proceeding from our visionary leadership to make the UAE one of the best countries in the world, we believe that we should work to make the UAE a beacon of civilisation in the fields of security and safety in general and in child protection in particular. All capabilities have been made available in order to achieve this goal."

His Highness added, "Our children are the wealth of today and the foundation of tomorrow and it is very important to protect them from all risks. The Ministry of Interior's Child Protection Centre (Mol-CPC) was created to ensure their protection and safety by all means through effective cooperation with various state institutions and community segments and by applying the best international practices through taking necessary measures against any risks threatening children's safety; thus making our strong nation a model to be emulated in this field."

The thing with corporal punishment is that it can spiral out of control. A well-meaning parent may administer a disciplinary action without really hurting a child, but a parent or guardian who doesn't know the meaning of cruelty might take it too far.

Take a recent case in Sharjah, when a mother was arrested and charged with assault for burning the hands of her seven-year-old twins with matchsticks because they were too naughty for her liking. The children's school teacher noticed the burns, and soon enough, the police stepped in. Under the UAE's Federal law No. 13 of 2016 on Child Rights (also called Wadeema law, namesake of the little girl Wadeema, who was killed by her father and his girlfriend), it's everyone's responsibility, by law, to report child abuse if they see it.

In the UAE, a person who's aware of a case of child abuse and doesn't report it is also liable for prosecution. This indicates just how committed the UAE is to eliminating this problem.

In the UAE, a person who's aware of a case of child abuse and doesn't report it is also liable for prosecution. This indicates just how committed the UAE is to eliminating this problem

WHAT IS CORPORAL PUNISHMENT?

The Sharjah mother who burnt the hands of her little girls told the police during interrogation that the girls were being unruly and disobedient. She added that she had warned the children first before slapping and penalising them.

Corporal punishment is located in the grey zone of children's discipline, balanced between concern about a child's upbringing and violence that may scar a young person. "Corporal punishment refers to the use of physical punishment, such as spanking as a way to correct a child or adolescent's behaviour," said Dr Kirin Hilliar, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Heriot-Watt University, Dubai Campus; and Psychologist at LifeWorks Holistic Counselling Centre, Umm Suqeim, Dubai, speaking to 999.

Even at the turn of the millennium, corporal punishment was looked upon as an effective disciplining tool amongst many adults. Even today, they talk fondly about teachers or family members who wielded the cane or the belt. "We turned out fine," they say about their



personal experiences of being slapped or smacked. A 2014 UNICEF report, titled 'Ending Violence Against Children: Six Strategies for Children', revealed that 60 per cent children between the ages of 2 and 14 years – or nearly a billion children worldwide – are regularly subjected to physical punishment by their caregivers.

In one Western country, a survey in 2013 found that 81 per cent of parents had the opinion that hitting was necessary for discipline, and two-thirds of the

adults said that they had used physical disciplining methods on their children. In the UAE, a poll in 2011 by YouGov Siraj, for Al Aan TV's Nabd al Arab (Arabs' Pulse) programme, revealed that 53 per cent of the 770 respondents said that parents should have the right to discipline their children, by physical punishment, if necessary. Only 21 per cent called corporal punishment a form of domestic violence, while 10 per cent labelled it as a backward practice.

WHAT IS MOI-CPC?

Set up in 2011, Child Protection Centre (CPC) is responsible for a range of actions, from preparing general policies, creating plans for child protection, overseeing and following up investigations into crimes against children to watching over the implementation of laws, making regulations about crimes against children in collaboration with the authorities concerned, and monitoring the execution of laws. "We need to work with the public as we want to ensure that all cases of child abuse are reported. Everyone in the Ministry is committed to ensuring every child in the country is safe," said Major Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi, Head of CPC.

The MoI-CPC has developed Child Interview Rooms. Present across the country, these rooms are decorated in playful colours and packed with

toys, sofas, a two-sided mirror and discreetly placed video cameras to record interviews and the child's testimony.

A specialist conducts the interview dressed in civilian clothes but wearing an ear piece. Investigators take their position behind the double-sided mirror and during the exchange. The interview recording is admissible in court so as to prevent the child from going through the painful memories repeatedly. "We want to reduce the number of times the child is questioned, so that the child does not have to relive the abuse over and over again. The child doesn't need to go to court," said Captain Ebrahim Hassan Al Beloushi, Head of the Child Investigation Section in MoI-CPC.

The department makes much effort to ensure that the identities of the victims are protected. All details are in codified databases that are accessible only to responsible people dealing with crimes

“Everyone in the Ministry is committed to ensuring every child in the country is safe



MAJOR DANA HUMAID AL MARZOUQI

Head of Ministry of Interior's Child Protection Centre

against children. This also ensures that when the children grow up, get married, or are looking for a job, they're confident that the past abuse would never become public knowledge.

PUNISHMENT TAKEN TOO FAR

In September 2018, another teacher appeared before the Sharjah Criminal Court for allegedly endangering a pupil's safety. According to prosecutors, the child had worn shoes of the wrong colour to school and, as punishment, the Grade 8 teacher confiscated his shoes, leaving him with no option but to walk barefoot in the scorching midday heat to his school bus. In keeping with the law, the school acted swiftly. A committee was formed to hear the testimonies of the pupil, others in the class, and the teacher. Disciplinary action was taken against the teacher. "The supervisor of the bus intervened and got the shoes back, but I noticed that my son had become withdrawn and didn't want to go back to school," said the boy's father, who had informed the police.

In November 2018, a teacher at a private school in Sharjah was sacked after she ordered a Grade 2 pupil to cut a classmate's hair as punishment for playing with scissors in the classroom.

WHY IS IT DANGEROUS?

Dr Hilliar spelled out some short-term and long-term impacts of corporal punishment: "Research suggests that, in the short term, children regularly exposed to this type of discipline are more likely to experience difficulties such as anxiety, depression, sense of unworthiness, and increased anti-social behaviour and aggression. This latter point is unsurprising as the use of corporal punishment on a child can reinforce the idea that violence and aggression is an effective way

to cope with stress or interpersonal conflict." She added

that, according to attachment theory, the use of corporal punishment could disrupt the development of a secure attachment to one's primary caregivers, and an insecure attachment is associated with a number of negative mental health outcomes for children. "Moreover, pain regularly inflicted by a caregiver has been found to increase cortisol, a stress hormone, in children's brains, and cause chemical disruptions of the brain's mechanisms for regulating stress," she added.

In the long term, research shows a link between exposure to corporal punishment as a child, and outcomes relating to neurological, cognitive, emotional and social development, as well as physical health. "Common mental health consequences include depression, feelings of unhappiness and hopelessness, anxiety, use of drugs and alcohol, and general psychological maladjustment. These negative effects have been found to be consistently observed across countries, cultures, race and ethnic groups, neighbourhoods of varying socio-economic status, and families with higher or lower levels of emotional warmth," said Dr Hilliar.

According to the Ministry of Education's 2017 code of conduct for schools, teachers and staff in schools cannot mock or verbally insult students

REASONS FOR HITTING CHILDREN

Dr Hilliar said that social learning theory would suggest that some parents and teachers used corporal punishment because that's the type of discipline that they were exposed to as children. "So, it's all they know. Others believe this form of discipline actually works (perhaps through their own personal experience), despite the scientific evidence to the contrary. There is evidence that the use of spanking a child at age one amongst families was associated with a 33 per cent increased risk of that family later being involved with Child Protective Services in the US

Research suggests that, in the short term, children regularly exposed to this type of discipline are more likely to experience difficulties such as anxiety and depression



DR KIRIN HILLIAR

Assistant Professor of Psychology at Heriot-Watt University, Dubai

when the child was aged 1 to 5 years (Lee, Grogan-Kaylor, & Berger, 2014). This suggests the use of corporal punishment can be an indicator of a wider cycle of family violence," said Dr Hilliar.

In the UAE, parents and teachers must set the standards of good behaviour, which includes staying cool and composed during stress. While schools could earlier substitute corporal punishment with detention, they're no longer allowed to do so. According to the Ministry of Education's 2017 code of conduct for schools, teachers and staff in schools cannot mock or verbally insult students, give detention after school hours, deprive students of food or using the toilet, confiscate their belongings, expel them from class, or lower their grades.

It's important to note that the code also includes methods that schools can use, such as verbal warnings, written warnings, mandatory programmes for behavioural reform and, if there has been a serious violation, the pupil can be expelled and be told to undergo a mandatory bad conduct rehabilitation programme.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

What makes corporal punishment difficult to tackle is that, like all forms of domestic abuse, it largely happens behind closed doors and the victims are too vulnerable to know their rights or seek the help of police or professionals.



“It is unacceptable to scare kids even if it is meant for raising or disciplining them. Physical punishment and improper psychological threats always have a negative impact on children



MAJOR GENERAL ALI ABDULLAH BIN ALWAN AL NUAIMI

Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police

In the UAE, the police are trying to bridge this awareness gap by being alert. There have been instances when the police have tracked down cases of abuse themselves. In February 2019, for instance, a man was tried by the Ras Al Khaimah Misdemeanour Court of Appeal because a viral video showed him frightening his young nephew

with a stun gun. Ras Al Khaimah Police had come across the video three days after it was uploaded in November 2018, and tracked down the man. “It is unacceptable to scare kids even if it is meant for raising or disciplining them. Physical punishment and improper psychological threats always have a negative impact on children’s self-confidence, behaviour, and their future. Parents and every member of society need to communicate better with children, listen to them, and never threaten them,” said Major General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police.

He added, “In the UAE, a lot of attention is given in a case of child abuse. The Ministry of Interior has established a special centre to protect children against any abuse or exploitation. The public is urged to report any violence against children on the Ministry’s toll-free number **116111**, which privately and safely deals with sensitive cases.”

In this case, the man told the court that he had been playing with the child using an electric shock device and not a stun gun in the presence of other family members. The case had come before the RAK Misdemeanour Court of First

Instance, which had found the man guilty of intimidating his nephew and ordered him to pay a hefty fine.

DROP THAT ROD AND RETROSPECT

Before raising their hand on children, adults should ask if the problem doesn’t lie with them. According to a study by a foreign university in 2018, abusive parenting styles may be passed down through generations. Parents who were beaten as children are more likely to take recourse to physical punishment to discipline their offspring.

In January 2019, a man in Dubai found that his methods for disciplining his child were becoming a point of conflict in his marriage. He came from a family and a culture where corporal punishment was more common and accepted, whereas his wife came from a family and culture where this was strongly frowned upon. His wife thought their young son was growing fearful of his father, and that her husband’s techniques were actually backfiring, making their son’s behaviour worse. He felt that he was trying his best, but making both his son and his wife unhappy.

During counselling sessions, he revealed that he was mirroring the disciplinary

UAE’s NEW APP RESPONSE

“Ensuring the safety of children and their rights are amongst the country’s top priorities



BRIGADIER MOHAMMAD ALI AL SHEHHI

Director of the Department of Human Rights at the Ministry of Interior

In April 2019, the Ministry of Interior launched a robot, powered by AI, which is expected to improve investigations into crimes against children, such as physical or emotional abuse and bullying.

This is said to be the first robot in the world to use AI in investigating cases involving children. “The robot, using a face recognition feature, can detect facial expressions and identify people that the child has recently been around,” said Major Marwan Rashid Al Muqbali, Head of the Mol’s Robotics Project Team.

The robot can analyse emotions, read questions written by police officers during interviews with children, display images through an iPad device in its chest and keep children at ease through different entertainment features and games.

“Ensuring the safety of children and their rights are amongst the country’s top priorities,” said Brigadier Mohammad Ali Al Shehhi, Director of the Department of Human Rights at the Mol, after unveiling the robot at the seventh Community Awareness Council entitled ‘Protecting our Children, Our Responsibility’ in Abu Dhabi.



The Ministry of Interior launches the first robot in the world to use AI in investigating cases involving children

techniques used by his own father when he was young. The psychiatrist discussed other, positive parenting strategies he could use instead. He had to challenge ingrained beliefs about his role as a father – that he was to be the primary disciplinarian and “my word is law” – as well as learn normal child developmental trajectories so he could understand his son’s behaviour better. He reported that his relationships with his son and wife improved markedly, and he also felt a lot calmer at home, now that he was not perceiving his son’s behaviour so negatively, and he was

using discipline techniques that were working. If you, too, want to stop the cycle of crime, here are a few helpful steps:

1. Look back without anger: It’s important to recall the moments of being hit by your parents, teachers or adult relatives when you were a child. This is often a difficult step because, as adults who live in a world that prescribes “moving on” from pain, we don’t want to acknowledge our hurt and vulnerabilities. Yet, facing your own experiences is the first step to ensuring

that you don’t inflict any real harm on children.

2. Recognise the pressure points: Are you prone to erupting on your child after a hard day at the office? Or are you angrier after losing a game at the club with your friends? This is the time that your spouse or other family members can step in and help you process your emotions so that you don’t resort to corporal punishment against your child.

3. Accept the dark side: You should

realise that it’s alright to be stressed and it happens to everybody. Enjoy hobbies and luxuries when you can. At the same time, celebrate the successes and positive results of the children in your care because they’re your victories as well.

4. Sign up for therapy: A professional may help you gauge and manage your emotions as well as channel your anger better than a helpful friend or a self-help guidebook. Enrol for a session with a psychologist or counsellor if you feel unable to cope.



WHAT THE UAE LAW SAYS

Article 274 of the UAE Law No. 3 (1987) Federal Penal Code stipulates that a person who fails to report a criminal offence is liable to prosecution.

Article 42 and 43 of the UAE Law No. 3 (2016) (aka Wadeema Law) stipulates that “teachers, physicians or anyone assigned to protect and care for children and any adult to which child abuse has been disclosed to, are obliged to report any child abuse”.

Law Article (61) stipulates a person shall be punished to pay a fine of not less than Dhs5,000 and not more than Dhs50,000 in case of not reporting suspicion of child abuse and falsely reporting or conveying false information or intending to mislead the investigation authority about a case involving a child.



INSIDE A CHILD'S MIND

Imran Al Khatib, a 12-year-old student in Abu Dhabi, told **999**, "Hitting children is dangerous in my opinion because the child can end up in hospital. I think it's better to discipline children like me by talking to them about their behaviour."

Adults, however, feel that the old method of spanking and slapping was effective because children of the 21st century were too self-indulgent and did not respond to discipline. There are several reasons for children becoming uncontrollable, such as:

HOME ENVIRONMENT:

If the environment at home is violent, children will be less likely to respond to discipline. The issue becomes noticeable when the school enforces discipline, but the child, attuned to the behaviours of his home, prefers to get out of duties and break rules. It's necessary that parents and teachers meet regularly to align responsibilities and expectations from children along common value systems.

REBEL WITHOUT A PAUSE:

Every new generation wants to transform the world and break the routine. Unruly children have emerged as geniuses of art, literature, science and technology. Parents and teachers could work on channeling the child's energies towards subjects and activities that he or she is passionate about.

UNDERLYING ANXIETIES:

Is a child's defiance or angry tantrums a defence mechanism against underlying anxieties, such as the fear of losing a parent or a friend, emotional insecurities emerging from a change in environment, or learning or other disabilities? If adults cannot break through to a child, a therapist might be of help.

INCONSISTENT STANDARDS:

Are adults consistent in their regulations? If one parent advocates an early bed time and the other does not support this, a child will pick up signals and may twist the situation to his or her advantage. The lesson learned here may influence other actions of the child and convince him or her that rules are to be manipulated rather than respected.

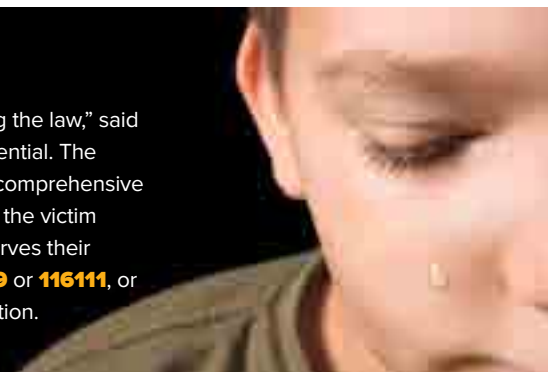
CRITICAL APPROACH:

Every child wants to feel special, appreciated and loved. A child's behaviour is likely to improve if parents and teachers are approachable, develop positive interpersonal relationships with the child and have a word of praise for an achievement or good behaviour.



HOW TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE

"If you see or are aware of abuse and you do not report it, you are breaking the law," said Major Dana Al Marzouqi. The Mol-CPC has made reporting easier and confidential. The identities of those reporting are confidential. Mol's app, Hemayati, is the first comprehensive app worldwide for reporting child abuse. The app maintains the anonymity of the victim and the person who reports the crime according to legal requirements, preserves their rights and protects them against any social implications. You can also call **999** or **116111**, or choose to contact the website: www.moi-cpc.gov.ae, or go to any police station.





A large, semi-transparent blue stamp is overlaid on the top right of the image. The stamp contains the text 'دولة الامارات العربية المتحدة' (UAE) in Arabic, 'UAE' in English, the date '17 JUN 2018', and the number '37407' repeated twice. The word 'ENTRY' is also visible on the right side of the stamp. The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Dubai skyline, featuring several tall skyscrapers, with the water of theDubai Marina in the foreground.

FOREVER HOME IN UAE

THE GOLDEN CARD AND LONG-TERM RESIDENCY VISA
PROGRAMMES OF THE UAE GOVERNMENT ARE STEPS TO MAKE
VALUABLE EXPATS FEEL MORE ROOTED IN THIS COUNTRY

BY K NIVEDITA

66 The Golden Card is our way to welcome all those seeking to be a part of the UAE's success story and making it a second home



HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

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

In an announcement that has sent ripples across the world, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched an initiative called the Golden Card on May 21, 2019. "We have launched the Golden Card system to grant permanent residency to investors and exceptional doctors, engineers, scientists, and artists. Throughout history, the UAE has opened its door to millions of people looking to pursue their dreams and better their lives. The Golden Card is our way to welcome all those seeking to be a part of the UAE's success story and making it a second home," said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The spouse and children of the cardholder are also beneficiaries of the

permanent residency system, so it cements social ties.

Since July 2018, when the Cabinet, chaired by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, announced a slew of new residency rules as part of a legislative package, the country has been opening its doors wider for visitors, residents, families, and even people overstaying their visa.

Amongst the benefits of the new policy are a two-year extension of the residency period for those dependent on their parents after finishing their university studies; exemption of all entry fees for the first 48 hours for transit passengers, (transit visa can be extended for up to 96 hours for a charge of Dh50); and giving widows and divorced women a one-year residency

extension — from the date of death or divorce — without the need for a sponsor.

The UAE also initiated an amnesty programme for visa violators and illegal residents from August 1, 2018. They could change their status legally during the amnesty period — which ran initially from August 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018, and was then extended to December 31, 2018 — or they could leave the country without fear of prosecution.

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT

The Golden Card is a high point of these new initiatives. Officially referred to as the Golden Residence Permit, it is a part of the 'Investors Permanent Residence System' of the UAE Cabinet's Resolution No. 56 for 2018. It is issued by the Federal Authority



“The ICA communicates with investors and business leaders outside the country to showcase the UAE’s economic and social advantages



**BRIGADIER SAEED SALIM
BALHAS AL SHAMSI**

Executive Director of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Abu Dhabi

for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) and takes the reforms to a new level.

“The ICA communicates with investors and business leaders outside the country to showcase the UAE’s economic and social advantages and consolidate its regional and international leadership in creating a suitable environment, through providing facilitation, ensuring freedom of movement, and helping investors and their families stay in the country,” said Brigadier Saeed Salim Balhas Al Shamsi, Executive Director of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Abu Dhabi.

The first to receive the Golden Card was Indian resident MA Yousuf Ali, Chairman and Managing Director of the LuLu Group. Explaining the impact, he said, “The Golden Card will encourage investors who have played a defining role in the nation-building process.”

With the UAE economy expected to gain further growth momentum, according to a June 2019 report by Moody’s Investor Service, and Gross Domestic Product growth is set to rise to 3 per cent by next year, the UAE is maximising its assets, which includes its demographic diversity and the large population of expats to aggressively bolster its economy.

The new permanent residency initiative has identified the first 6,800 residents from 70 countries qualified for the Golden Card. Together, they have Dhs100 billion worth of investments.

“We want the exceptional talents and everyone who positively contributes to the success story of the UAE to be permanent partners in our journey. Residents are an

indispensable part of our country. The Golden Card offers unprecedented benefits to the cardholders and their families while creating an attractive environment for business and growth,” said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Many others who have lived in the UAE for decades can now think of settling down here. The changes in the visa policy are part of the UAE’s intention to spur the growth of the economy.

LONG-TERM VISAS

One of the highly publicised steps that paved the way for the Golden Card was the long-term residency visa for entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals, amongst others. A 5-year and 10-year residency visas enable its recipients to live, work and study in the UAE without the need for a national sponsor and with 100 per cent ownership of their business on the mainland.

In January, the government granted the first batch of long-term visas to 20 scientists who were the winners and finalists of the Mohammed bin Rashid Medal for Scientific Excellence.

In June, eminent individuals who can drive change and fuel the economy were awarded the 10-year residency visa. Amongst them are Dr Ram Buxani, Chairman of ITL Cosmos Group; Rizwan Sajjan, Founder and Chairman, Danube Group; Vasu Shroff, Chairman, Regal Group of Companies; and Khushi Khatwani, Managing Director, Khushi Group of Companies & Al Nisr Cinema Film.

“The Golden Card will encourage investors who have played a defining role in the nation-building process



MA YOUSUF ALI

Chairman and Managing Director of the LuLu Group

LOWER COSTS NOW

Earlier, most ordinary residency visas were tied to one’s employment. With the revision of rules, the costs of the 5-year and 10-year residency visa are Dhs650 and Dhs1,150, respectively.

“By issuing a long-term visa of 10 years, the UAE has taken a huge leap in creating a rare confidence amongst the expat community here. The announcement of the Golden Card at the same time shows that long-term visa is not the end of the road. We can expect many more things,” said Buxani.

Areas that are expected to be buoyed by the new permanent visa are foreign investment, entrepreneurship, and engineering, science and academics. Different nations have their own criteria for offering permanent residency. In the United States, the Green Card is issued to priority workers, relatives of residents, and \$1 million-plus (Dhs3.6mn) investors. The

THE NUMBERS



3 PER CENT

Acceleration in GDP growth in the UAE by 2020, according to Moody’s Investor Report



6,800

Residents from 70 countries identified for the Golden Card



100 PER CENT

Ownership in business that a 5-year and 10-year residency visa enables for its recipients

66 The decision of the UAE Cabinet to introduce the Golden Card will give expats an option to look at the UAE as home, rather than a temporary plan



LEWIS ALLSOPP

Chief Executive of Allsopp & Allsopp

Golden Visa of Portugal is given to people who invest in real estate, have businesses, or are involved in creation of jobs.

FOR ADDED MEASURE

In June 2019, the UAE Cabinet also introduced the National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031, which aims to raise the quality of life in the UAE to unprecedented heights. Fourteen key areas have been identified and there are nine strategic objectives, such as promoting healthy and active lifestyles, good mental health, and adopting positive thinking.

The first National Wellbeing Observatory, for instance, will support the policymaking process by monitoring wellbeing indicators,

update the UAE Cabinet, form training programmes for government employees, and start the Academy of Wellbeing for the next generations. The multi-pronged strategy is set to create a developed nation with a strong society and happy, prosperous individuals.



PROPERTY HIGH

The property market was jubilant after the announcement of the Golden Card. Lewis Allsopp, Chief Executive of Allsopp & Allsopp, real estate agents, said that the initiative was a "milestone for the UAE and for the property market". He added, "In the past few years, the UAE has taken a number of steps to improve the property market. After the 5-year retirement visas, long-term visas, and 10-year visas, the Golden Card will stabilise the UAE by encouraging more distinguished professionals to stay in the country."

According to the news agency WAM,

people in the UAE remitted Dhs164.3 billion back home in 2017. Most expats do this because of two reasons: many of them need to support family members back home; and most of them know they'd eventually go back to their home country and need to build up funds there or buy property there.

"A number of expats come to the UAE with the intention of making money and then return to their home countries," said Allsopp. "The decision of the UAE Cabinet to introduce the Golden Card will give expats an option to look at the UAE as home, rather than a temporary plan," he added.

THE GOLDEN TYCOON

Based in Abu Dhabi, MA Yousuf Ali is the richest expat in the UAE, according to Forbes magazine's 2019 list of billionaires. He is worth \$4.7 billion (Dhs17.25bn). In June 2019, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Abu Dhabi, awarded the first Golden Card to Ali during a ceremony that also honoured him for his role in promoting economic growth in the country.

Known as the Retail King of the Middle East, Ali had arrived in Abu Dhabi in 1973 to join his uncle's small distribution business. He was 16 and had almost no money with him. While in the UAE, Ali ensured that the business grew by expanding the import and wholesale distribution arms of the company in the 1990s. Then, he ventured into the supermarket business and the rest is history.

Being the first person to receive the



The UAE Gold Card gives MA Yousuf Ali permanent residency in the UAE.

Golden Card was a "proud and emotional moment in my life", said Ali.

"For 45 years, the UAE has been my home. Whatever I am today is because of this great country, which has given me more than what I can dream of. I

sincerely thank the visionary rulers of this great country. It is their far-sighted vision which has made the UAE one of the safest, most secure, tolerant, and developed nations in the world," he said.

EMINENT EXPATS GIVEN THE 10-YEAR RESIDENCY VISA



DR RAM BUXANI

Chairman of ITL Cosmos Group

In 1959, Dr Ram Buxani was drawing a salary of Rs 125 per month in Dubai – that's around Dh6.62 by today's rates. Today,

his estimated personal net worth is more than \$81 million (Dhs297.27mn), while the company he owns, ITL, is estimated to be worth \$250mn. Buxani was named by Forbes Middle East amongst the top Indian business leaders in the ME region in 2014, 2016, and 2017. He also received the magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017.

He said about his journey, "The desert around the UAE is full of dunes that symbolise the ups and downs of life. In my life of 60 years in the UAE, I, too, have experienced ups and down and, every time the UAE in general and Dubai in particular, comes out victorious. This is a rare country, which focuses on the development of its expats. It is difficult to find a parallel. We should reciprocate in the same spirit. The UAE nurtures talent and I strongly feel that the new breed of

“ This is a rare country, which focuses on the development of its expats. It is difficult to find a parallel

entrepreneurs should give back to the country.”

On June 2, 2019, Buxani received a call from the office of Major General Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs – Dubai, about getting a 10-year residency visa. "I don't mean that, earlier, getting a two- or three-year visa was cumbersome, but the 10-year visa gives a better sense of belonging to the country. It is now necessary to sit and reflect as to what we have done for the host nation. Our role in CSR activities locally require a lot of attention," he said. "Dubai is home for my family and me. We have seen the city grow. We are fortunate to receive this long-term residency."

Buxani said, "I am honoured and feel immense gratitude for this. The good news is coming to other investors who have put their faith in the UAE and its government. My humble advice to new entrepreneurs would be to show a sense of gratitude to the nation which is ready to welcome you with open arms with world class infrastructure."



RIZWAN SAJJAN

Founder and Chairman,
Danube Group

Rizwan Sajjan arrived in the UAE in 1991 to work with a building materials trading company that was paying

him Dhs1,500. He set up Danube Building Materials Trading in 1993, at the age of 30. He and his wife, Sameera Sajjan, invested their entire savings into the new company. "I was at the right place at the right time and in the right trade. The building construction sector began to grow, so the demand for building materials grew, and success came with it," he said.

His company has now grown to a conglomerate of 10 companies that operate in a range of sectors, from manufacturing and real estate to building materials and fashion retail, with an annual turnover of Dhs5.14 billion. Sajjan's personal net worth is estimated to be more than Dhs3.7bn.

"I came here with nothing and everything I have achieved has been in the land of the UAE. The profits earned from my businesses have all been reinvested in the UAE as I have

“ This is the beginning of a new chapter in the UAE economy, as it further liberalises the economy to attract more investment

immense trust and faith in the way this country encourages entrepreneurs like me," said Sajjan. Six members of his family also received the 10-year residency visa and are now awaiting the Golden Card.

Sajjan said that the 10-year visa reaffirmed the appreciation of the UAE government for hard work and achievements. "I am very excited and happy. We were waiting for this news for a long time. If you look at my investment, it goes into billions. The authorities recognise the value of the business community in the development of the economy and the country; hence they were the first to be awarded the long-term visa," he added.

He feels the move will encourage more investors to enter the UAE market. "This is the beginning of a new chapter in the UAE economy, as it further liberalises the economy to attract more investment. Initiatives such as the 10-year visa, 100 per cent ownership of companies in selected economic sectors and finally the permanent residency are some of the game-changing developments that will re-define our relationship with this wonderful land of opportunities," he said.



DR AZAD MOOPEN

Founder Chairman and Managing
Director of Aster DM Healthcare

Dr Azad Moopen came from Kerala, a state in south India, in 1987 to work with an Indian doctor at a clinic in Ajman. The same year, he opened a clinic in Dubai and over the next three decades, he turned Aster DM Healthcare into a leading integrated healthcare provider network.

The company now operates 24 hospitals, 116 clinics, and 219 pharmacies in the Middle East, India, and Asia. Three hospitals will open shortly in Jebel Ali, Qusais, and Muhaisnah in Dubai, and a fourth in Sharjah.

Dr Moopen has received the Padma Shri award, one of the highest civilian honours given by the Government of India, as well as the country's Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, an honour for exceptional work by a non-resident Indian. The 10-year residency visa, he said, made him feel "like a citizen in the UAE, which I have considered my own country".

He added, "I have spent as much time in the UAE as in my motherland, and my children and wife have spent more

“Receiving the 10-year residency visa reinforces our commitment to the UAE. We thank HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and the UAE government for this visionary initiative

time in the UAE than in India. Dubai is the springboard of our achievements, so this is a fulfilling moment for my wife and me because we feel recognised.

"Receiving the 10-year residency visa reinforces our commitment to the UAE. We thank HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and the UAE government for this visionary initiative and assure that we will be living up to His Highness' expectation."

The 10-year residency visa, he added, would encourage others also to invest and commit to the UAE. "We are proud, happy and thankful to the rulers for conceiving of this special residency status for those who are invested here. This definitely gives an investor more stability when looking at the country. Earlier, when the residency was for two or three years, you knew you had to go through the process of getting it again. But this brings more commitment and confidence," he said.



VASU SHROFF

Chairman, Regal Group of
Companies

Vasu Shroff came to the UAE in 1960 on a vessel called MV Dara from Mumbai. He was a part of his family business, which had one trading store. At present, the group is spread across the GCC, with multiple businesses. "We have had the good fortune to experience the UAE's growth. We have seen the country's open-minded and pro-business policies, which gave our company the chance to grow our businesses not only in the UAE but also in the region," said Shroff.

He added that the merchant community from India was "extremely happy" with the UAE government's steps of

“The ease of doing business here will send signals globally that the UAE is indeed a preferred destination for business and investment

issuing long-term visas. "The ease of doing business here will send signals globally that the UAE is indeed a preferred destination for business and investment," he said.

All 11 members of his family, including his wife, children, and grandchildren, also got the long-term visa. "The service was great, and we got the visas issued within 10 minutes. It was very quick, the fastest service I have ever seen in my life. They checked our passports, cancelled the old visas and issued the new ones," said Shroff, signing off, "I am home."



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

WHY DO WE TAKE PART IN FNC ELECTIONS?

Citizens are duty-bound to be involved in the political process of a country

The Federal National Council (FNC) announced the end of its legislative term, wishing the successor Council all the best for the new phase that will be initiated by new members. This has been their call after promising their full commitment to a new electoral programme announced by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The FNC's 2019 elections are based on a national political model that flows from the national identity.

The most prominent aspects of this model are the increased participation of young people by 67 per cent, women's participation by 48 per cent, and most importantly the increased number of members of bodies in different emirates to 224,279 citizens. It also provides half of the seats for women, allows new ways of voting for voters unable to read or write, and determines the method of voting, whether voting within the state or from overseas.

Some may wonder: why do we participate in elections? What will the Council do if elected? What have its members provided us over the years? Where are their electoral programmes after entering the parliament? These would be questions asked by individuals who are well aware of the significance of the role of parliamentary institutions.

We live in a country that provides us with the best opportunities in all areas. We are not exaggerating if we say that we have a

government that fulfils our needs even before any demands are made, including housing, education, health, or any other issues of concern to UAE citizens.

However, while everything has been achieved for us, we must not forget our political role as citizens in choosing the most appropriate candidates to represent us. And it must not stop there. If we see that any of the elected members fail to

execute their duties, it is imperative that we follow up and communicate with them. And if need be, we should ask them about those programmes with which they convinced us to give them our votes.

We will see and read about electoral programmes submitted by candidates in each emirate. We will find no difference between them because the goal is one, although the formulae are different. What matters

is that we should be keen to ensure that these programmes will be implemented for the betterment of our people and nation. The electoral programme will begin where the previous ones in the FNC ended. The worst mistake that any leader can make is to ignore everything that has been accomplished before he took over the position. We wish all success in this experience. We should be proud to participate in the first elected Council of the UAE.

The worst mistake that any leader can make is to ignore everything that has been accomplished before he took over the position



Changing landscape for UAE expats

CHANGES IN RESIDENCY VISA RULES AND PROPOSED REFORMS TO THE END-OF-SERVICE GRATUITY SYSTEM HAVE ENCOURAGED EXPATS TO THINK OF LIVING IN THE UAE AFTER RETIREMENT. **999** LOOKS AT THE GRATUITY SCENARIO AND WHAT EMPLOYEES CAN EXPECT

BY ROOPA RAVEENDRAN-MENON

With its well-developed infrastructure, world-class healthcare facilities, safety, security, and high happiness-income dynamics, the UAE has always been an appealing destination for expats. With its attractive benefits and scope for a diverse range of professionals and entrepreneurs, the UAE is eyed by many as a potential retirement location.

Many finance industry experts believe that longer-term residential visas and flexibility for retirees, and the setting up of a robust retirement fund would also influence the investment behaviour of the expatriate community. With the government making extensive changes to the visa system, they have the option of spending the same funds in the country. This would be beneficial for the domestic economy.

In the words of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, "The UAE will remain an international global incubator for exceptional talents and a permanent location for global investors. We are certain that an open environment, tolerant values, infrastructure, and flexible laws are the best way forward to attract global investment and outstanding talents to the country."

Today, those tides are fast turning. The beginning of a new era is slowly being set in motion by the UAE government. Shankar Menon is amongst the growing number of expats that have started looking upon the UAE as a possible retirement location.



"Having grown up here, I have always considered this country to be my home. The recent steps taken by the government to initiate relaxed visa rules for the expatriate community along with the possible overhaul of the current end-of-service gratuity system has clearly opened up a whole lot of long-term possibilities for expats like me," he told **999**.

Coming close on the heels of defining changes in the residency visa rules is the UAE government's plans to create a savings retirement fund for the expatriate community that would supplement the existing end-of-service gratuity system. For expats, this comes as a very positive piece of news, since this would promise financial security even after retirement.

The Federal Authority for Government Human Resources (FAHR) has recently

“Setting up investment funds for the retirement benefits of UAE expats will help employees and officials to properly chalk out their future by taking advantage of end-of-service benefits



HE DR ABDULRAHMAN ABDUL MANAN AL AWAR

Director General of the Federal Authority for Government Human Resources

completed a Work Incentives & End-of-Service Benefits (WIESB) study and also held a meeting to discuss and advise the best industry practices for pension fund systems and gratuity benefits.

HE Dr Abdulrahman Abdul Manan Al Awar, Director General of the Federal Authority for Government Human Resources, emphasised, "Setting up investment funds for the retirement benefits of UAE expats will help employees and officials to properly chalk out their future by taking advantage of end-of-service benefits, and utilise their financial resources post-retirement. It will also provide employment opportunities for new generations."

He pointed out that the establishment of a special fund for retirement benefits and end-of-service gratuity for workers in the UAE would have a tremendous impact



on their socio-economic conditions and efficiency as a whole, based on the study prepared by FAHR. He also underlined that the project was aligned with the astute leadership's directions that workers must be given all their entitlements, including end-of-service benefits, constructive work environment conducive to happiness, family stability, and social well-being.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) has been consistently taking steps to ensure that all the labour force in the UAE enjoy a favourable working environment. Last year, a training workshop on 'Arab Labour Standards' was organised by MOHRE, in collaboration with the Arab Labour Organisation that was aimed at discussing the Arab Labour market at large. Dr Omar Al Nuaimi, Undersecretary at MOHRE's Communication and International Relations said, "The UAE pays particular attention to its labour portfolio, which is managed by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization, under an integrated system of legislation, policies, and regulatory tools. The country's consistent objective is to boost protection, workers' rights as well as ensuring the employers' interests, that would lead to stability in the work environment, and support the far-reaching development work."

MORE CONFIDENCE

The recent measures taken by the UAE



“ These new measures could provide a distinct advantage to the country's global competitiveness, thereby consolidating UAE's position as a preferred destination for outstanding talent



HE SULTAN BIN SAEED AL MANSOORI
UAE Minister of Economy

government have begun to instil a lot of confidence amongst the expatriate community.

New Zealand citizen Matthew Slidrecht, who has been working in the UAE for the past ten years, said, "I've been working in the UAE for a decade now, and my family and I love it here. Be it a wonderful lifestyle, or the superb amenities, or the high saving potential that the country offers, the UAE has a lot of positives."

Lauding the UAE government for taking steps to make it feasible for the expatriate community to settle here even after retirement, Slidrecht added, "In light of all the measures taken by the government to make it possible for the retirees to continue to live here, this has really got me thinking. After all, who

“ The country's consistent objective is to boost protection, workers' rights as well as ensuring the employers' interests



DR OMAR AL NUAIMI
Undersecretary at MOHRE's Communication and International Relations Affairs

wouldn't want to retire and live in one of the happiest places in the world?"

Having a solid retirement plan in place is crucial for expats, said Sara Yaghoubi, a UAE resident for 20 years. She said, "Being a professional, one of my key considerations while looking at a possible retirement destination is the financial security for retirees. The recent proposal by the UAE government to move towards a system that can be a source of income even after retirement is highly encouraging. Now, I can seriously start contemplating living in the UAE even after my retirement."

BENEFITS TO ECONOMY

The implications of a new end-of-service gratuity system go beyond the happiness of expats, who can now think of staying on. An overhauled system would help build a sustainable environment of innovation, one that would help the younger generation to be globally competitive.

HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansoori, UAE Minister of Economy, said, "These new measures could provide a distinct advantage to the country's global competitiveness, its ability to attract investment, thereby consolidating UAE's position as a preferred destination for outstanding talent."

He also highlighted that these measures would give a major fillip to entrepreneurship, with global investments in the medical, engineering and science segments leading to a lot of opportunities.

“This initiative will provide the expat employees with the opportunity to receive additional financial returns along with the end-of-service gratuity payment



DR HASSAN ELHAIS

Senior Partner at Al Rowaad Advocates and Legal Consultants

CURRENT GRATUITY SYSTEM

Dr Hassan Elhais, Senior Partner at Al Rowaad Advocates and Legal Consultants, explained the proposed initiative taken by the the Federal Governmental Human Resources Authority to set up a retirement fund. He said, “This initiative will provide the expat employees with the opportunity to receive additional financial returns along with the end-of-service gratuity payment. Accordingly, employees shall have sufficient financial resources since the employee’s tenure will be long and he

could have the opportunity to get a good lump sum amount.”

Meanwhile, Dr Theodor Strohal, Founder and Senior Partner at Strohal Legal Group, recommends that all employees familiarise themselves with the UAE Labour Law and urges all to refer to it from time to time to be aware of their rights as an employee. For details of the labour law, it can be

accessed at www.uaelaborlaw.com.

Clemens Daburon, Partner at Daburon & Partners Legal Consultants LLP, throws light on the existing end-of-service gratuity system in the UAE. “Currently, employees in the private sector are entitled to gratuity in accordance with the Labour Law (Federal Law No. 8 of 1980, as amended),” said Daburon to 999.



DIFFERENT PROVISIONS IN THE FEDERAL LABOUR LAW

1. TERMINATION BY THE EMPLOYER

In case of termination of the employment by the employer, the same gratuity rules apply for an unlimited employment contract and an employment contract for a limited period of time, namely:

- If employees have served for less than 1 year, they are not entitled to any gratuity pay, at all.
- If employees have served more than 1 year but less than 5 years, they are entitled to 21 calendar days’ basic salary for each year of the first five years of work.
- If employees have served more than 5 years, they are entitled to 21 days’ basic salary for the first five years and then 30 calendar days’ basic salary for each additional year, provided the entire compensation does not exceed 24 months’ basic salary.



2. RESIGNATION BY THE EMPLOYEE

a) For employees with contracts for a limited period of time:

In case of a limited-term contract, an employee is not entitled to an end-of-service gratuity if he/she resigns with fewer than 5 years of service. If he/she has worked for more than 5 years with the employer, he/she is entitled to the same end-of-service gratuity as under an unlimited employment contract.

b) For employees with unlimited contracts:

- If employees resign before completing 1 year of service, they are not entitled to any gratuity pay.
- If employees resign between 1 and 3 years, they are entitled to 7 days’ basic salary as gratuity pay.
- If employees resign between 3 and 5 years, they are entitled to 14 days’ basic salary as gratuity pay.
- If employees resign after more than 5 years, they are entitled to 21 days’ basic salary as gratuity pay for the first 5 years and 30 days’ basic salary per year for any additional period of service.

“ Under Article 132 of the Labour Law, an employee in the private sector who has spent one year or more in continuous service is entitled to end-of-service gratuity



CLEMENS DABURON

Partner at Daburon & Partners Legal
Consultants LLP

Citing the eligibility criteria to receive the end-of-service gratuity, he detailed, “Under Article 132 of the Labour Law, an employee in the private sector who has spent one year or more in continuous service is entitled to end-of-service gratuity. The only exception is where an employee has been terminated under any reasons contained in Article 120 of the Labour Law (for example breach of confidentiality, gross misconduct or causing significant damage to the employer, in which case the gratuity would be forfeited).

“Generally, the gratuity depends on i) the type of employment contract (limited / unlimited), ii) the duration of the employment, iii) the party terminating the contract (employer or employee), and iv) the employee’s basic salary at the time of leaving. The basic salary excludes housing, transport, or any other kind of allowances.”

OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYEE

About what an employee can do if a company does not pay the end-of-service amount, Daburon explained the steps that an employee can take: “The employee can raise a complaint with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation via telephone or e-mail for a mediation hearing with the employer. The system is similar in free zones (other than DIFC and ADGM), where usually a special department of the free zone authority deals with such labour disputes. In any case, if the employer still does not pay a valid claim for gratuity despite the mediation of the authorities, the employee

will receive a letter from the concerned mediation centre, permitting him/her to file a claim against the employer in the courts.”

As to whether the amount received as end-of-service could be adequate for retirement, Daburon explained, “It could be, depending on the gratuity amount,

the place of retirement, the personal living standard, and the length of the remainder of one’s life. However, in most cases, the end-of-service gratuity will be insufficient for retirement, as the maximum amount to be paid is two years of basic salary.”

WHAT’S IN STORE FOR EMPLOYEES OF UAE FIRMS?

PROVIDENT SCHEME

The Emirates airline runs a system for senior workers, called Provident, which works along the lines of a pension scheme.

On leaving the company, an employee is eligible for an end-of-service gratuity or Provident scheme payment, whichever is higher. The Provident scheme is a long-term savings arrangement that is offered to senior level positions, and it is devised to help plan for retirement.

The company provides 12 per cent of basic salary. The employee is required to provide 5 per cent of his/her basic salary.

SAVINGS SCHEME

The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) has recently proposed a new mandatory DIFC Employer Workplace Savings scheme, designed to replace the existing gratuity regime. Some of the key elements of the proposed savings scheme are as follows:

Effective 1 January 2020, all DIFC entities will no longer accrue gratuity. Instead, they will be required to contribute to the savings scheme, which the employer will have to support on a monthly basis. This scheme will be managed by trustees appointed by the DIFC.

All DIFC employers and employees will need to participate in the savings scheme, unless an employer operates a qualifying system of their own. This scheme is not expected to be a pension scheme. An employee could withdraw everything from the savings scheme when he/she is no longer employed with DIFC or could leave the funds until a later date.

SLOW DOWN, SPEEDING KILLS

DRIVERS FLOUTING SPEED LIMIT CAST CAUTION TO THE WINDS. THEY DON'T REALISE THAT THIS TRAFFIC VIOLATION CAN TAKE MANY LIVES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN. HERE'S WHY DRIVERS ARE STILL SPEEDING DESPITE ITS CLEAR DANGER

BY ANA PEARSON





The bus crash that claimed 17 lives and injured nine passengers on June 6, 2019

Albeit the number of lives being lost in road mishaps due to speeding, many drivers still put their feet down without thinking about its real danger. During an earlier campaign against speeding, Major General Mohammed Saif Al Zafeen, Chairman of the Federal Traffic Council and Dubai Police Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Operations, said, “When a person is driving 40kmph over the speed limit, the driver is no longer in control of the vehicle, but the vehicle is driving him. At this speed, the driver’s reflexes may not be fast enough to prevent an accident.”

Just last month, there were 17 people who died and nine injured when their bus, carrying a total of 31 passengers, crashed into a barrier near Rashidiya Metro Station in Dubai. The passengers were returning from Oman after an Eid break and the bus windshield was partly covered to protect the driver from the sun. This prevented the driver from noticing the height restriction barrier. But what made the crash lethal was the speed: the driver was going above the 40kmph speed limit on that road, investigations revealed. At a more controlled speed, the collision impact could have been less.

“Driving at a high speed causes the most serious traffic accidents. We advise

“ When a person is driving 40kmph over the speed limit, the driver is no longer in control of the vehicle, but the vehicle is driving him



MAJOR GENERAL ENG MOHAMMED SAIF AL ZAFEEN
Chairman of the Federal Traffic Council and
Dubai Police Assistant
Commander-in-Chief for Operations

you to adhere to the legal speed limits,” said Dubai Police on Twitter in the wake of the crash.

This road mishap happened the day immediately after a car accident in Abu Dhabi killed four people – three siblings aged 11 to 15 years and their nanny – and that one, too, was caused by speeding. It was the mother of the three children who was driving, and she herself was badly

injured in the accident. Her car veered off the road, and hit a lamppost. “Preliminary investigation showed that she was driving recklessly and lost control over her car. She didn’t have a licence,” said Lt Colonel Abdullah Al Suwaidi, Deputy Director of the Department of External Zones at Abu Dhabi Police Department of Traffic and Patrols. He urged motorists to respect traffic rules, pay attention on the road, maintain speed limit, and always wear their safety belts.

“Apart from being a huge violation, driving a car without a licence is very dangerous and poses a threat to both the driver and other road users,” emphasised Al Suwaidi, warning motorists that stiff penalties await offenders. That includes a maximum jail sentence of three months and/or a minimum Dhs5,000 fine. He added, “The police will not show any leniency in implementing penalties against offenders who violate the laws, in order to maintain safety of road users.”

Driving at a high speed causes the most serious traffic accidents. We advise you to adhere to the legal speed limits

“Speeding is one of the main killers on UAE roads and ranks in the top three main causes of fatal accidents, according to data of the Ministry of Interior



THOMAS EDELMANN

Founder & Managing Director of RoadSafety UAE

THEY DON'T LEARN

“Speeding is one of the main killers on UAE roads and ranks in the top three main causes of fatal accidents, according to data of the Ministry of Interior,” said Thomas Edlmann, Founder and Managing Director of RoadSafety UAE, speaking to 999. “Speeding does not shorten time, but it shortens life instead,” he added.

Edlmann told 999 that speeding caused the deaths of 230 people in the UAE in the year 2017, according to Dubai Police, citing data from the Ministry of Interior. The number had dropped by 26 per cent from 312 road fatalities linked to speeding in 2016.

RUNNING LATE?

Edlmann said that a lot of motorists thought they could make up for lost



time by driving faster. However, this could only cause misbehaviour such as aggressive driving, bullying, tailgating, illegal overtaking, and so on. “Every UAE motorist must start every trip a bit early and we recommend to start at least 10 minutes early. This reduces the stress levels of motorists, which is beneficial to their health, wellbeing and safety, as it is to the safety of their passengers and other traffic participants. Start early, then there’s no need to speed,” he advised.

WHY IS SPEEDING DANGEROUS?

Most drivers feel that they’re in control even when they’re flying their cars, but experts point out the dangers. While travelling at very high speeds, a driver can’t stop immediately if he or she spots a danger or an obstruction. By the time the driver takes a precautionary action, the car has got too close to the danger. So, the driver must brake harder now, and the

impact of the crash could be deadly.

All cases of speeding come down to a handful of reasons. A 2015 survey of RoadSafety UAE from 1,005 respondents found that most people tried speeding because they were running late (67 per cent), for fun or to impress others (53 per cent), out of habit (45 per cent).

The multiple-choice survey also nailed down other main reasons for speeding, aside from “running late”, which was the top excuse across all age groups. People in their late twenties, aged 25-29 years, were most likely to overspeed to impress others and increase their cool quotient (62 per cent). Those aged 30-34 years (37 per cent) hit the accelerator as they believed the roads were designed for speed; people in their 40s would do it out of habit (49 per cent); and fifty-three percent of drivers aged 18-24 said they know the locations of speed traps.

SPEEDING AT A GLANCE

ROAD FATALITIES DUE TO SPEEDING IN THE UAE

312
YR 2016



230
YR 2017

ROAD ACCIDENTS DUE TO SPEEDING IN THE UAE

1,787
YR 2016



1,535
YR 2017

Source: Ministry of Interior

What is your reason for speeding?	Ave.	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40+
Running late	67%	72%	71%	72%	65%	60%
For fun/to impress others	53%	55%	62%	46%	50%	50%
Out of habit	45%	40%	45%	45%	42%	49%
Knowledge of speed camera locations	39%	53%	29%	42%	41%	39%
Roads are designed for speed	27%	10%	25%	37%	25%	28%
To test car's abilities	22%	30%	25%	18%	23%	21%
Unlikely to be caught	15%	13%	11%	11%	20%	18%
Speeding fines are too low	5%	8%	6%	3%	8%	5%

Source: RoadSafety UAE 2015 Study

IS SPEEDING ADDICTIVE?

Once a person “tastes the thrill”, they seem unable to stop. The feeling of raw power laced with danger comes with a certain kind of high that drivers, especially youngsters, want to revisit every time they’re behind the wheel. In March 2019, a 23-year-old man in Ras Al Khaimah racked up fines of Dhs1.16 million after committing 1,251 traffic violations, of which 1,200 were for speeding up to 200kmph, according to Colonel Waleed Mohammed Juma, Head of the Al Mamoura Comprehensive Police Station.

MENACE OF STREET RACING

Police in all emirates have also formed a joint plan to deter street racing. This offence entails a fine of Dhs2,000 and 23



Older and experienced drivers are usually a little more responsible, according to our behaviour studies

black points, with vehicle impoundment for up to 60 days.

Modifying a vehicle’s engine or chassis without appropriate permit can set one back by Dhs1,000 in fines and 12 black points. The vehicle can be impounded for 30 days. The police are also sweeping away street racing videos on social media. People posting such videos would be held legally accountable.

Traffic police said that young, irresponsible drivers tend to race against each other on highways and residential areas, endangering not only their own lives but also the lives of other motorists and pedestrians.

Edelmann said, “Young drivers who’ve just earned a driving licence have a feeling of invulnerability. Older and experienced drivers are usually a little more responsible, according to our behaviour studies.”

RAY OF HOPE

All year round, the UAE police organise road safety awareness drives that contribute to the decline in road accidents across the country. Statistics show that accidents due to speeding in 2017 dropped to 1,535, down from 1,787 in 2016.

The awareness drives are matched by advance technology and stringent implementation of the traffic law on overshooting the speed limit on highways. The Ministerial Decision No. 178 of 2017 that amended Federal Traffic laws imposed hefty fines for various traffic violations in the UAE. And flouting speed limit is on top of the list.

EXCEEDING THE SPEED LIMIT BY	FINES AND PENALTIES
More than 80 kmph	Dhs3,000, 23 black points, and 60-day car confiscation
More than 60 kmph	Dhs2,000, 12 points, and 30-day car confiscation
More than 59 kmph	Dhs1,500, 6 black points, and 15-day car confiscation
More than 49 kmph	Dhs1,000
More than 39 kmph	Dhs700
More than 29 kmph	Dhs600
More than 19 kmph	Dhs300



TIPS TO CHECK OVERSPEEDING

- ❗ Adhere to the speed limits at all times
- ❗ Adjust your speed in 'tricky' situations, for example in curves, on parking lots, when pedestrians are on the street
- ❗ Adjust your speed in bad weather conditions
- ❗ Make sure that you park your vehicle within the distance of visibility
- ❗ Plan your trip well to be on time without speeding

Source: RoadSafety UAE

TIMELINE: HIGH-SPEED TRAGEDIES

WHEN: APRIL 2019

WHERE: SHARJAH

A 22-year-old man was trying to help another driver whose car had broken down. He was hooking her up with his vehicle and jump-starting her car when another speeding vehicle ran him over. The police operation room was informed and a team of officers from the industrial area station, including experts, patrols and an ambulance, rushed to his aid but the man was dead. The speeding driver was taken into custody. Once again, the police warned the public to respect speed limits as well as keep their eyes on the road.

WHEN: MAY 2019

WHERE: ABU DHABI

Two racing cars in Al Ain ended in a sticky mess when one clipped the other, causing it to spin out of control and hit a lamppost. The driver and the passenger of one of the two vehicles were killed. The second vehicle veered out of control and ran over two women who were crossing the road, killing them instantly. "Young drivers should not indulge in dangerous street racing and flouting speed limit on the roads and residential areas. The police have implemented a zero-tolerance policy towards such illegal activities and reckless driving," said Brigadier Salim bin Barak Al Dhaheri, Deputy Director of the Traffic and Patrols Department at Abu Dhabi Police.

WHEN: JUNE 2019

WHERE: SHARJAH

One man died and six were injured when four vehicles crashed into one another. "A speeding car rammed into three cars that were trying to enter the roundabout. The speeding car overturned many times after the collision, leading to the death of the driver and serious injuries to a passenger," a police officer said. The five other injured people were in the other cars.

WHEN: JUNE 2019

WHERE: RAS AL KHAIMAH

A man in his 50s was run over by a speeding vehicle. He sustained serious injuries all over his body and excessive bleeding. The driver was a 16-year-old with a car that he shouldn't have been driving. "The driver did not have a licence. He fled after the accident, but surrendered to RAK Police around 1:40am on the same night," said Colonel Waleed Kanfash, Head of Maamura Police Station.





TEACH TOLERANCE EARLY

A photograph of three young children of different ethnicities sitting at a wooden desk, smiling at the camera. The child on the left is a boy with light skin and blue eyes, wearing a striped shirt. The child in the middle is a girl with light skin and brown hair, wearing a grey shirt. The child on the right is a girl with dark skin and long braids, wearing a pink shirt. The background is a blurred classroom setting.

WITH 2019 DECLARED THE 'YEAR OF TOLERANCE', **999** SPOTLIGHTS HOW SCHOOLS IN THE UAE PROMOTE AN INCLUSIVE, COMPASSIONATE ENVIRONMENT AMONGST THE YOUTH

BY ROOPA RAVEENDRAN-MENON

In today's diverse landscape, tolerance and compassion are prized qualities that need to be instilled and developed from an early age. These are also qualities that are best learned through an example, like the eight-year-old Emirati boy Omar Mohammed Al Hajjaj, who has caused a sensation in the UAE for growing his hair to donate it to cancer care organisations to make wigs for cancer patients.

His story is unique. Having seen his aunt suffer, he, along with his siblings, pledged to take up initiatives to support cancer patients. Omar does his share by growing his hair to a certain length; then he cuts it, so that he can contribute it for making wigs for cancer patients.

Omar's compassionate act at such a tender age is testimony to how inculcating the qualities of tolerance, inclusiveness, compassion, and courage can yield positive results for society. In short, children's critical role in nation-building and its advancement is one that cannot be underestimated.

However, the entire onus of teaching these qualities and moulding the children to be better individuals doesn't rest on the parents alone. This is where schools and academic institutions can exert their influence.

LET'S BE INCLUSIVE

The year 2019 being named the 'Year of Tolerance' by the UAE not only highlights the country's multi-cultural fabric, but also showcases the country's pride in its inclusive landscape, with people of 200 nationalities, with different religious beliefs, calling the UAE their home. One of the primary goals behind this theme is to underline the UAE's global appeal, as it successfully promotes a thriving

Schools or any educational institution in Dubai cannot refuse admission to students with special educational needs or a disability (SEND)



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, lauded Emirati boy Omar Mohammed Al Hajjaj for his compassion to donate his locks of hair to cancer care organisations to make wigs for cancer patients

atmosphere of harmonious co-existence.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has rightly called tolerance the cornerstone of advanced societies, intellectually and humanely. His Highness has also emphasised on the fact that it's one of the tools of empowering civilisations, and ensuring flourishing of nations.

It's tolerance that the recently launched Dubai Inclusive Education Policy Framework by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) brought to the fore when it stipulated that schools or any educational institution in Dubai cannot refuse admission to students with special educational needs or a disability (SEND).

"Inclusiveness is one of the building blocks of our school's culture," said Siobhan Brady, Head of Inclusion and Safeguarding, Gems Founders School (GFS), speaking to 999. "At present, at least 6 per cent of the 3,800 students in school are those with high needs and require extensive learning support. An additional 7 per cent is being monitored, and if they don't make progress, their support would be increased."

Highlighting how committed the school is to its inclusive programme, Brady said, "Right from the time of the school's inception, we have always welcomed

children with a range of learning preferences, including students with special education needs and disabilities, gifted and talented students who are English language learners.

"By setting aside adequate resources, including a fully trained and qualified inclusion team, we hope to ensure that students receive the support they need to feel that they belong to their school and community at large.

"We also hope they feel appreciated for their contributions, interact confidently in learning and experiencing academic, social, and emotional triumphs in a day-to-day learning environment."

For schools like the Gems United Indian School, fostering an inclusive environment is a continuing effort backed by commitment and assessment. About the process, K George Mathew, Principal/CEO, Gems United Indian School, said, "While it is an ongoing effort to identify the deficits in the learning ability, the obvious ones are problems with reading, math, reasoning, being focused on a task, and speaking. However, we are careful not to term mild intellectual disability, deafness, blindness, and behavioural disorders like learning disabilities."

He explained, "The severity of the learning disability is determined after a school-based diagnostic test, and parents are required to bring a specialist's report on

the learner. Based on the report, a meeting should be held amongst Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC), the parents, a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) grade level teacher, and an educational administration team headed by the principal. The decision to appoint a shadow teacher is taken at that point, if necessary. Later, accommodation, modification of curriculum, IEP, and transition plans are drawn up.”

LET'S BE COMPASSIONATE

Tolerance not only represents acceptance, but also includes compassion. Instilling this quality along with mindfulness and empathy can prevent children from being bullied or even developing a tendency to bully. In a 2015 survey carried out by the International Journal of Preventive Medicine Research of the American Institute of Science amongst more than 1,000 students in the UAE, it was found that 40 per cent of them had been victims of bullying, with 85 per cent of bullying cases occurring on school campuses.

Voicing his concern, His Excellency Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education, said, “Bullying shouldn’t be excluded or ignored. It can have a direct impact on a student’s surrounding, and could create a gap between him/her and the school community, in the event it is not handled in a disciplined manner, or the root cause is not probed



“Bullying shouldn’t be excluded or ignored. It can have a direct impact on a student’s surrounding, and could create a gap between him/her and the school community



**HE HUSSAIN BIN IBRAHIM
AL HAMMADI**
Minister of Education

“Bullying negatively affects students’ educational performance and their emotional and mental growth



**HE JAMEELA BINT SALEM
MESBEH AL MUHAIRI**
Minister of State for Public Education



and treated.” Her Excellency Jameela bint Salem Mesbeh Al Muhairi, sent a strong message on the short and long-term effects on victims and on the wider society. She said that, “Bullying negatively affects students’ educational performance and their emotional and mental growth. For example, repeated name-calling, teasing and physical assault are often causes for increased absenteeism amongst those students who feel vulnerable, insecure and alienated.”

Meenakshi Dahiya, Principal and CEO, The Winchester School, Jebel Ali, is supportive of schools taking initiatives to tackle bullying. She said, “Bullying and cyberbullying are two sides of the same coin. Both are linked and display many of the same patterns, characteristics and methods. Both have a massive impact,

“By making kids aware that a safe world is everyone’s responsibility, we empower them to take positive actions



MEENAKSHI DAHIYA

Principal and CEO of
The Winchester School, Jebel Ali

physically and mentally, on its victims. Schools must establish strategies and practices to encourage positive student behaviour, recognise, and reinforce student achievement and wellbeing, and manage disruptive student behaviour, as outlined in their Student Behaviour Code of Conduct.”

She also underscored the need to create a positive environment for children. “By making kids aware that a safe world is everyone’s responsibility, we empower them to take positive actions – like reporting a bully, flagging a cruel online comment, or not forwarding a humiliating photo – that ultimately can put a stop to an escalating episode of cruelty. By creating a culture of care and encouraging kindness, tolerance and looking out for each other, we can provide a warm, caring, and inclusive environment.”



Over 200 students have been trained by Dubai Police to become ‘Safety Ambassadors’ to report incidents of bullying at their schools

UAE GOVERNMENT’S INITIATIVES

In 2018, the UAE government had initiated a programme titled ‘In the Footsteps of Zayed’, to promote tolerance both in public and private schools. The aim of this programme is to strengthen the ideals of peaceful existence, acceptance, respect, and positive communication between students of all grades.

HE Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, the Minister of Tolerance, who had launched the project, stated, “The UAE has always believed in active and honest dialogue to exchange information. We believe in listening respectfully to the ideas and opinions of others, and seek to coexist in a friendly and peaceful environment.”

The recently organised Special

Olympics in Abu Dhabi epitomises the UAE’s ongoing efforts to assimilate the special needs section with the mainstream to shape an inclusive society of the highest order. The UAE has always believed that by including people with special needs at every level of society and placing them within easy reach of every opportunity is what marks a truly efficient society.

ERADICATING BULLYING

The UAE government has always frowned upon bullying in any form and has always taken impactful decisions to clamp down heavily on such acts.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has initiated the National Bullying Prevention Week to raise awareness and give students, educators, and parents the skills needed to tackle bullying. This programme has been carried out under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women’s Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, and by partnering with more than 20 local and federal entities.

The UAE has also taken significant steps to curtail cyber-bullying. In 2012, based on the UAE Cybercrime Law, cyberbullying, including hostile impersonations, bogus accounts, has now been characterised as a criminal offence, with harsh punishments stipulated. According to the law,





“ The student ambassadors educate their fellow youth about their rights and what to do if they face violence, negligence and abuse



**BRIGADIER DR MOHAMMAD
ABDULLAH AL MURR**

Director of the Human Rights Department at
Dubai Police

cybercriminals could receive a life sentence and a fine varying between Dhs50,000 and Dhs3 million.

With cyberbullying becoming rampant in this day and age, especially amongst teenagers, the UAE has also set up effective campaigns in every school, emphasising on the importance of social media safety and urging them to inform an adult if they face cyberbullying.

As a part of an initiative to improve the levels of security on campuses and classrooms, Dubai Police started the 'Safety Ambassadors' programme in 2016.

Under this programme, there are now 204 students who have been trained by Dubai Police to become 'Safety Ambassadors' to

patrol campuses and report incidents of bullying and abuse at their schools.

Talking about this programme, Brigadier Dr Mohammad Abdullah Al Murr, Director of the Human Rights Department at Dubai Police, said the programme targets students from the age of six to 16. The qualified students will wear badges on their arms to identify them as 'Safety Ambassadors.'

"The programme aims to support children and protect them against any harm or violence," Al Murr said, adding that, "The student ambassadors educate their fellow youth about their rights and what to do if they face violence, negligence and abuse."

STEPS SCHOOLS CAN TAKE

"A properly devised and implemented Code of Behaviour and Discipline in schools can be the most influential measure in countering bullying behaviour," said Meenakshi Dahiya, Principal and CEO, The Winchester School, Jebel Ali. Here are some of her recommendations:

- Ensure that the prevention of bullying is an integral part of a written Code of Behaviour and Discipline in all schools.
- Student Behaviour Code of Conduct must be inclusive and respect other students, their teachers, school staff, and community members.
- The Code of Conduct must emphasise the need not to bully, harass, intimidate, or discriminate against anyone in the schools.

REPORT CASES OF CYBERBULLYING

TO REPORT IN PERSON: Visit the nearest police station to report cyber-crimes or call 999 for help.

TO REPORT ONLINE: Download the 'My Safe Society' app launched by the UAE Federal Public prosecution (on iTunes or Google Play).



WE WERE CHILDREN OF OUR TIME

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

The UAE law says you can't hit a child, no matter how badly they behave

Slap. Angry backlash or understandable frustration? Tough love, some would say. Being cruel to be kind perhaps. But not all would agree.

This is a real 'minefield' because those of you who grew up in the middle of the last century, as I did, accepted corporal punishment as the norm – expected it, feared it, yet still occasionally incurred it. Did we complain?

Corporal punishment – what does that mean exactly? It sounds like a low-ranking soldier with an unusual surname. In fact, 'corporal' – and apologies to true Latin scholars as distinct from reluctant school-age Latin students such as myself – means 'of the body.'

While my upbringing was in my view impeccable, while in my youth I accepted corporal punishment with good grace, while I would even now espouse a correctional slap on the backside, would I resort to slapping my own children?

Let's say the threat of such would probably be just as effective as before, can it be applied in 2019? No, because we must move with the times.

Much as we of previous generations may have accepted and would perhaps even now support the use of reasonable corporal punishment, psychiatrists would not support such a view and generally would advise against it on the grounds that it may cause lasting psychological damage to the child.

Let's understand that there are strict rules and guidelines in

place in the UAE, as in many countries worldwide, to 'safeguard' children who are, or are perceived to be, in danger of abuse – even from their own parents.

By its very nature, this is a very difficult area to enforce, as very often a parent who had slapped his child may argue that he only did so in anger and under extreme provocation. Also, as the saying goes, "A man's home is his castle." Unless there's really

hard evidence of abuse taking place against a child, breaking down a door is really not a smart law-enforcement option.

So how do we regard those who transgress these modern rules? Are they monsters? Are they cruel? Are they criminals? Whatever your personal take is, the law is clear: corporal punishment is not on the agenda, and if you use it, you are risking the full majesty of the law and all its associated effects and consequences.

Accepting that is the way it is and not likely to change any time soon, what are the alternatives to old-fashioned punitive measures? Suspension of privileges? Grounding (keeping the child at home rather than being free to go out and socialise)? Allowances withheld?

It's interesting to note that such sanctions affect the child on a psychological rather than a physical level. No punishment is without potential 'knock on' effects.

Nothing is perfect. Not a child's behaviour, not a parent's response. But no one ever said parenting would be easy.

Nothing is perfect. Not a child's behaviour, not a parent's response. But no one ever said parenting would be easy



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COUNTING THE COSTS OF FALSE FIRE ALARMS

THE UAE HAS ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD. A BUILDING 'CALLS' THE FIRE-FIGHTERS AS SOON AS A BLAZE BEGINS. HOWEVER, FALSE FIRE ALARMS COULD BE A BANE. **999** SPOTLIGHTS HOW THE UAE CIVIL DEFENCE TACKLES THE HITCHES OF THESE UNNECESSARY CALLOUTS

BY MIKE HAMPTON

As summer comes in full swing, one particular topic that again grabs the headlines is fire. Losing a property, much more lives, wreaks havoc to one's family. This is why firefighters play significant role in every society. However, one of the major hiccups facing fire brigades in saving lives and properties are caused by false fire alarms. It's now considered as a costly headache of many countries around the world.

In the United Kingdom, for example, more than 75 per cent of automatically generated fire alarms are categorised as "false" or "unwanted", according to Siemens, a multinational industrial manufacturing company in Europe. A study conducted by the UK's Fire Industry Association (FIA) gives an overview of the scope of this problem. It said: "Fire and rescue services alone attended around 226,000 false fire alarms (41 per cent of total callouts) in the year 2017-2018." The total cost of these false alarms amount to over £1bn (Dhs4.6bn) per year.

To understand the massive financial disruption that a single false fire alarm can cause, let's zero in on one incident in April 2016 at the Auckland International Airport in New Zealand. The airport suspended its operation by several hours due to a false fire alarm. The terminal building at the airport, which handles thousands of passengers daily, was evacuated and flights were delayed, causing a major lost for airlines at an estimated cost of over NZ\$1 million (Dhs2.4mn).

There is a stark contrast in the number of false fire alarms recorded in the UAE compared in other parts of the world, but the UAE Civil Defence wants to ascertain that false fire callouts will not create a bottleneck in its Hassantuk



Lt General HH Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, during a lecture creating awareness on Hassantuk

“

Through a combination of effective fire prevention and response initiatives over the years, the UAE has managed to rank first globally in terms of having the lowest rate of fire incidents in 2017

system. Albeit less staggering in figures, the UAE is not immune to false fire alarms. According to Atif Al Braiki, Director of Strategic Projects at Injazat Data Systems, one of the partners in UAE's new fire technology system called Hassantuk, "So far, more than 2,500 fire alarms were received by the operations room (as of February 2019), and half of this number turned out to be false fire alarms. That's why we are carrying out a countrywide awareness campaign amongst residents."

THE BANE OF FALSE ALARMS

Through a combination of effective fire prevention and response initiatives over the years, the UAE has managed to rank first globally in terms of having the lowest rate of fire incidents in 2017. It was also ranked second in the list of countries with the lowest rate of fire fatality, 0.4 cases of death for every 100,000 population, as highlighted by Lt General His Highness Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, during the Federal National Council Meeting in April 2018.

One of the most innovative fire technology systems rolled out in the country is the "Hassantuk", which means "Protect you" in Arabic. It's based on a smart technology that links buildings to the Alarm Receiving Centre of the civil defence. So in case a fire breaks out, a building will send alert to the Centre even without human intervention. It is connected to smoke, temperature, and fire detection systems of villas and establishments, ensuring a comprehensive warning mechanism.

However, the smoke and heat detection

THE NUMBERS

1st

Global ranking of the UAE in terms of having the lowest rate of fire incidents in 2017, according to Federal National Council Meeting in April 2018

150,000

The number of buildings targetted by the civil defence to link to its operation rooms through the 'Hassantuk' initiative

0.4 cases

Fire fatality for every 100,000 population, enabling the UAE to place second in the list of countries with the lowest rate of fire-related deaths in 2017, according to Federal National Council Meeting in April 2018

2023

Target year of completion for Hassantuk installation in all buildings across the UAE

“ The Ministry of Interior is working diligently to implement the fire monitoring system as per the government directives to link



up residential homes to the civil defence control rooms

**MAJOR GENERAL JASSEM
MOHAMMED AL MARZOUQI**

General Commander of Civil Defence at the
Ministry of Interior



systems of a number of buildings have been found faulty. And this can potentially hit the snag if overlooked or disregarded. The upshot is that when the installed Hassantuk device receives false fire alarms, the system can be clogged. Examples of which are set off by smoke from cigarettes or incense sticks. Not only it can divert the attention of the civil defence to unnecessary callouts, but it will also induce a sense of complacency with the public, as they can become used to false alarms.

KNOW MORE ABOUT HASSANTUK

This fire alarm system began in the UAE during the latter part of 2017, under the directive of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and follow-up by Lt General His Highness Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. It was the result of a partnership between the Ministry of Interior (represented by the Civil Defence General Command), the Emirates Telecommunication Group

Company (Etisalat), and Injazat Data Systems LLC.

Major General Jassem Mohammed Al Marzouqi, General Commander of Civil Defence at the Ministry of Interior, said that the centralised system target to connect over 150,000 buildings and facilities. Meanwhile, the initiative 'Hassantuk for Villas' targets to cover 400,000 homes/ villas in six years. "The Ministry of Interior is working diligently to implement the fire monitoring system as per the government directives to link up residential homes to the civil defence control rooms. The Ministry has always exerted its best efforts to protect lives and properties by utilising the most innovative safety systems available."

VERIFICATION PROCESS

The good thing about Hassantuk is that its verification process enables it to determine a genuine from a false fire alarm. Hence, preventing waste of time and effort. Following a fire warning flashed on the giant monitors at the Alarm Receiving Centre, the house or establishment owner would be

“ The features that distinguish Hassantuk are: its ability to precisely determine the type of emergency and location, and facilitate the workflow of civil defence by directing manpower and equipment to the right place, at the right time



COLONEL ALI AL MUTAWA

Assistant General Manager for Smart Services
at Dubai Civil Defence

immediately contacted. Hassantuk would automatically contact the phone numbers provided in their system to verify if there is really a fire. This process only takes less than two minutes.

Colonel Ali Al Mutawa, Assistant General Manager for Smart Services at Dubai Civil Defence, described that, "The features that distinguish Hassantuk are: its ability to precisely determine the type of emergency and location, and facilitate the workflow of civil defence by directing manpower and equipment to the right place, at the right time."

Lt Colonel Eng Ahmed Jassim Al Mansouri, Head of the Civil Protection and Security Management Department at the Civil

“ All Hassantuk devices installed buildings go through a series of thorough testings at international laboratories. These devices also come with a five-year warranty and general maintenance for a period of ten years



Installation of the Hassantuk system in a building

“

The Hassantuk fire alarm device can be muted, but it won't stop transmitting signals, either fire or repair alarms, to the Alarm Receiving Centre

Defence General Command in the Ministry of Interior, explained that all Hassantuk devices installed buildings go through a series of thorough testings at international laboratories. These devices also come with a five-year warranty and general maintenance for a period of ten years, in accordance with the contract signed with the Etisalat, the company implementing Hassantuk.

MAINTENANCE ALERT

The Alarm Receiving Centre receives a maintenance alert from time to time. It would automatically pass on the information to a fire alarm panel, alerting building owners and the maintenance

company that has the responsibility to repair malfunctions. In case the company fails to implement the repair within a specified timeframe, a notification is directly sent to the Civil Defence to take the appropriate action.

The Hassantuk fire alarm device can be muted, but it won't stop transmitting signals, either fire or repair alarms, to the Alarm Receiving Centre.

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

The Ministry of Interior has given Injazat the responsibility of linking all commercial

establishments in the country to the Hassantuk system. Since its launch in 2017, it has linked an estimated 5,000 building to the Alarm Receiving Centre of the UAE Civil Defence. The company is targeting to link 150,000 buildings by 2021.

But how does the government aim to bring the country's older buildings up to the level of required fire safety? Retrofitting equipment is one of the options. In preparation, the civil defence has already begun surveying old buildings to see which ones need urgent attention.

STRICTER FIRE SAFETY CODE



In 2017, the UAE revamped its Fire Safety and Life Protection Code, imposing stricter penalties for violators to further heighten public safety. The guidelines for the code also doubled from 707 pages in 2011 to 1,562 pages, including 20 chapters and 784 3D illustrations to help engineers comply with regulations and plan safer buildings.

This code provides that all new buildings must use fire-safe external cladding and that existing buildings must comply with new maintenance standards.



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EXPAND *your* HORIZONS

EXPLORE HISTORY THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS, LET CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOPS, LEARN ABOUT A TASTY TRADITION – THE DESERT SUMMER CAN BE SO ENGAGING

BY DIPALI GUHA

FAMILY

Learning is fun

SUMMER CAMP AT AL QATTARA

The Al Qattara Arts Centre is holding a children's summer camp. The programme includes art workshops, educational workshops, and archaeological workshops, as well as weekly trips to the cultural sites of Al Ain. This is for the age group 6-13 years. The workshops run all through July, and on some days, there will be tours of places such as Al Ain Palace Museum, Al Qattara Oasis, Al Ain Oasis, Qasr Al Muwaiji, and Al Jahili Fort.



DÉCOUPAGE WORKSHOP

Participants will use paper and images to create paintings on plates, cups, boxes and other items.



POTTERY WORKSHOP

Participants will use clay to create artworks and accessories.



DRAWING ON GLASS WORKSHOP

Participants will learn the various ways of drawing on glass and the best colours to use.



MOSAIC WORKSHOP

Participants will create small artistic cubes from clay and then decorate them by adding shells, stones and glass, to produce a creative piece of artwork.



HANDICRAFTS WORKSHOP

Participants will use paper, cloth and colours to create hand-made artistic objects.



RECYCLING WORKSHOP

By collecting paper, magazines, cups and old objects, participants will learn how to combine them into a piece of artwork and then how to decorate them using accessories.



DRAWING WORKSHOP

Participants will learn drawing techniques and styles, and ways of using coordinated colours.

Where: Al Qattara Arts Centre, Al Ain

When: July 1-31, 2019; 8am-8pm

Fee: Dhs315 per pax

Contact: 037118225;

e-mail: qac@dctabudhabi.ae

CULTURE

A tribute to natural heritage

LIWA DATE FESTIVAL

In consonance with the charming ambience and unique heritage of the city of Liwa, also known as the Gate of the Empty Quarter, in the Al Dhafra region, the Cultural Programmes and Heritage Festivals Committee – Abu Dhabi is organising the Liwa Date Festival under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs.

The festival pursues the Committee's strategy of preserving and sustaining Emirati heritage, specifically the country's palm trees and Ratab (half-ripe dates). For centuries, palm trees and Ratab have been an integral part of Emirati society and its deep-rooted traditions. The festival will feature various internationally acclaimed Emirati heritage activities and competitions that have been extremely popular in past editions. Today, the Liwa Date Festival is widely recognised as a unique gathering for those passionate about the role of palm trees and Ratab. Visitors can attend the Date Beauty Contest (Mazayna) and its accompanying activities and events.



Where: Liwa, Al Dhafra

When: July 18-28, 2019 (4pm-10pm)

Entry: Free

Website: turathuna.ae

PHOTOGRAPHY

Through the earliest lens

PHOTOGRAPHS: AN EARLY ALBUM OF THE WORLD

This summer, Louvre Abu Dhabi brings the world to you! Take a journey across continents with some of the earliest photographers and discover the world as your ancestors did: one photograph at a time. Following the development of photography in the mid-1800s, Western societies eagerly sent European photographers on voyages of exploration to capture distant civilisations on film for the first time. At the same time, the first international photographers set up their own studios and started to capture their own cultures and landscapes. This exhibition displays more than 250 of the earliest photographs ever seen of the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and the American continents.

Where: Louvre Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat Island

On till: July 13, 2019

Entry: Dhs60 (discounted tickets for under-22s and UAE teachers available)

Website: www.louvreabudhabi.ae



Finetune your photography

QASR AL MUWAIJI: A LENS ON HISTORY

Can you remember the first time you took, or saw, an amazing shot that inspired you to learn a little more about photography? Millions of people capture pictures every day, but what does it really take to refine your photography skills? Express yourself with a professional photography programme at Qasr Al Muwajji in Al Ain, titled A Lens on History.

This programme will give the opportunity to learn about the methods and tools used to document historical sites, and let you in on the finer details to preserve ancient history. If you're a lover of art and history, this is just the programme for you.

Photography was one of the key elements that helped to preserve the history of the UAE and document its events. It provides a rich resource of knowledge for generations to come. Photographs also make a remarkable contribution to the restoration works of Qasr Al Muwajji.

Where: Qasr Al Muwajji, Al Ain

When: Till September 14, 2019; 3pm-6pm

Entry: Free

Register: Call 037674444





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

THE RIGHT EQUATION OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

Here's why the UAE enjoys a reputation of being a leading destination for expats, tourists, and holidayers

One of the most peculiar traffic violations reported about a law enforcement officer was in May this year. A girl received a traffic violation for a reason she did not expect: "excessive beauty on public roads", as written on the ticket. This incident happened in the city of Paysandú in western Uruguay. And the story circulated on social media as netizens found it absurd (no offence to police forces anywhere). News agencies published the story under offbeat reports.

The unidentified cop is now under investigation with the police department.

For one, we all have responsibilities to carry out in our respective jobs. It just so happened that police forces must enforce the law amongst us. Some jobs, on the other hand, revolve around appreciating the value of beauty. Take, for example, salespeople of cosmetic and skin care brands. It is part of their career description to praise the beauty of their clients. Why? They need to persuade them to buy their products.

But what we want to discuss here are the police services in the UAE. Putting this topic on the spotlight could never be more timely, as we now approach the summer travel season. But one thing is for sure,

airport and immigration officers in different entry and exit points across the UAE carry out their missions and duties well.

People who spent time off during the Eid Al Fitr holiday are probably midair, ready to go back to work. There's a chance that they would experience various kinds of airport and security staff on their way back to the country. Some are hospitable, while others are frowning, treating passengers as if

they were crime suspects. This approach varies from one country to another. Is this resulting from culture? Or they, too, merely follow orders and stay true to their mission? In any case, religion is innocent on this matter.

Does the end of the article look different from its beginning? Yes, but what I mean to convey is that the UAE police forces are different, so is our state. Many countries wish to attain the same. Yet, this is an equation hard to arrive at. Thanks to our wise leadership, the security and safety in the UAE is just over the top. That said, our men and women in uniform always show fairness and politeness towards all visitors.

Hence, the UAE enjoys a huge number of expatriates, tourists, and holidayers.

Our men and women in uniform always show fairness and politeness towards all visitors. Hence, the UAE enjoys a huge number of expatriates, tourists, and holidayers



The Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE

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Conquer summer

BY DIPALI GUHA

GOING ON A VACATION? ALONG WITH SHOPPING FOR NEW CLOTHES, DO KEEP IN MIND SOME THINGS THAT ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR A GREAT HOLIDAY BUT ARE OFTEN OVERLOOKED

“All my bags are packed/ I’m ready to go.” Humming this song?

Summer vacation begins in UAE this July, that time of the year when expats sit down with a checklist of tourist attractions, their dream destinations and plan for a great holiday, with family or on their own.

Tourist attractions are lovely, but it won’t hurt if we miss one or two. What we do want to miss is anything that could cause damage to our body and completely ruin our perfectly planned holiday.

Here’s the recent experience of Sian, a travel writer, who arrived on the cool Greek island of Santorini in the last week of April. She was prepared for the day-night temperature fluctuation – packed clothes that can be layered. It was still spring, so she expected days ranging from mild to warm.

What she wasn’t prepared for was how fierce the Greek sun would be on clear days – even before the arrival of summer – and how badly it would affect her eyes. As someone who likes to travel light, she sacrificed a few items while packing, and the sunglasses in their big, fat case were left behind. Big mistake.

The sunlight reflected by the dazzling white houses around Santorini made it hard for Sian to look at anything. On her second morning, her left eye was inflamed and watering badly. It was a sunglasses emergency: she had to quickly find an affordable pair with good UV protection lenses. “Without those live-saving sunglasses, I wouldn’t have been able to enjoy Santorini at all,” says the travel enthusiast.

So, here are some things to keep in mind before flying to your dream vacation this summer.



PROTECT YOUR SKIN AND EYES

Places across the northern hemisphere get a lot of sun in summer, even in countries that we think of as cold. A travel-size pack of good sunscreen that suits your skin is essential; a tan might feel good but sunburn will not. Prolonged exposure to UV rays in the afternoon can also increase the risk of skin cancer, even if you have a dark skin tone. It's particularly important to be careful about sun exposure if you're travelling with young children to a tropical destination or to a seaside place. Get some sun block for children or ask a doctor which one to buy.

If you're headed for a place that's hot and sunny, bring caps with visors and UV-protection sunglasses for yourself and family members. Also, though most of us tend to wear short-sleeved clothes in summer, long-sleeved tops and shirts in light-weight fabric give better protection during long walks outdoors. For places that have changeable weather, bring a long cotton scarf or a stole to stay snug when the evening gets cool. This item of clothing is more versatile than a jacket and takes up less baggage space.

Look up websites created by locals in that city / town or the specific tourism authority to get more tips on what to pack.

Did you know?

Many people apparently choose their holidays on the basis of how good the place can make them look on social media. Quoting a survey by the UK company Schofields, the business magazine Forbes reported that "more than 40% of respondents under 33 consider 'Instagrammability' the most important factor in choosing their holiday destination". This, said the magazine, would be one of the top travel trends in 2019.



TAKE BASIC MEDICATION, WITH A PRESCRIPTION

You've got travel insurance, which is great. But it's wise to bring a small quantity of basic medication, such as meds for dysentery (a very common ailment in hot places), vomiting, and headache (also common when the temperature spikes). A lot of foreign cities may not have pharmacies at frequent intervals, and if there is one, you may not be sure if it's the right medicine for you or if your body will react well to it. Better to take trusted medicines, and with a doctor's prescription – even if the meds are sold over the counter in the UAE – in case there are questions asked at your destination airport.

Your medicine box could include a few sachets of water solution glucose mixture in case you plan to do some outdoor activities during your vacation. It'll help prevent dehydration and give you a shot of energy at the same time.



PICK THE RIGHT FOOTWEAR

The kind of shoes you select for a summer trip is as important as clothing. Chances are you won't be carrying too many pairs of shoes, since they're the most space-consuming items in one's suitcase, so take some time to think about what you'll take, depending on the destination climate and terrain.

Boots or sneakers trap heat in the body, while sandals allow heat to escape. Very thin soles are fine for the beach, but for city walks and country trails, you need something with sturdy soles and good grip. Canvas shoes with rubber soles serve the dual purpose of letting your feet breathe and also protect the skin. If you're going to cover a lot of different territories – from attempting a hill climb to going to the restaurant – in the same shoes, invest in a strong pair of sports sandals in a good colour palette to combine heavy-duty functionality with style. With that, pack some socks in complementary colours for cool evenings.

The key takeaway is not to wear brand new shoes on a trip, no matter what material they're made of. Any new shoes might cause blisters and bad chafing on the first few days, so make it a point to break them in before starting the vacation. Your feet are going to carry you everywhere; they deserve love and care.



COPS UNDER ATTACK

NORMALLY, IT'S POLICE CONSTABLES AND OFFICERS WHO SLAP FINE AND ARREST OFFENDERS, BUT IN THESE CASES, THE POLICE THEMSELVES WERE TARGETED BY THE VIOLATORS – AND SOME OF THEM EVEN GOT KILLED

BY DIPALI GUHA

WHAT: COP ON CAR BONNET FOR 5KM
WHERE: UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA
WHEN: MAY 2019

Few things are more common in cities than the sight of a car driver or motorbike rider blatantly violating traffic rules. For some people, jumping the red light, blocking the pedestrian crossing, and driving on the wrong side come as easily as breathing. A constable named Mahboob Ali, 30, tried to stop a car that was not only speeding, but was also doing so on the wrong side of a road. Ali was on routine checking duty when he spotted the car and signalled the driver to stop. The car stopped, but the driver immediately got out of the vehicle and started berating the constable.

Ali kept his cool and asked for the vehicle's papers. The fuming driver got back into the car, apparently to get the documents, but then he suddenly started the car, and hit Ali, who was standing in front of the vehicle. In a split second, the policeman realised that the driver was trying to run him over to escape a small fine. To save himself, the cop jumped on to the bonnet, while the offending driver – later identified as Sher Khan, 28 – kept going at a high



Constable Mahboob Ali

speed. Trapped on the bonnet, Ali shouted for help. The car covered a good 5km before some locals, including a few motorcycle riders, chased the vehicle and forced it to stop by blocking its way.

A shaken Ali was injured, though luckily it wasn't too serious. The driver was arrested. A case was registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

WHAT: CONSTABLE SHOT DEAD
WHERE: DELHI, INDIA
WHEN: NOVEMBER 2012

In a very tragic incident, a head constable of Delhi Police was shot dead in the line of duty – the murder also highlighted the menace of unlicensed firearms in the National Capital Region of India.

Head constable Ram Kishan, 48, was doing the duty of routine vehicle checks at a toll point on the outskirts of the capital city around 2am. He had stopped a luxury sedan and asked for their car papers. They refused and an



Head constable Ram Kishan

argument began. A police colleague who was working with Ram Kishan later said that all the four people in the car appeared to be armed. The head constable

asked the four men to come out of the car. Again, they refused. While this argument was going on, the person in the front passenger seat fired at Ram Kishan and wounded his upper leg. The brave constable wasn't deterred; he grabbed the man who fired at him and began pulling him out of the car. "At this, another man sitting in the rear seat fired two shots at Ram Kishan. He was hit in the shoulder and collapsed," said his brother Bharat Singh in his statement to the police.

A few other policemen, who were in the vicinity, heard the gunshots, came running, and found Ram Kishan in a pool of blood. The victim was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. Meanwhile, the culprits, who had been coming from the direction of Haryana, a state adjoining Delhi, took a U-turn and sped away from the spot, effectively escaping from the jurisdiction of Delhi Police. The victim was described by his colleagues as kind and upright, and he was also a fit, brave man, having been a champion wrestler for the Delhi Police sports team. Some years before he was murdered, Ram Kishan had received the Asadharan Kary Puraskar, an award for outstanding performance.

WHAT: POLICE OFFICER'S HEAD SMASHED
WHERE: NEAR MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
WHEN: FEBRUARY 2019

A video made by a bystander showed what the local media described as a “sickening attack” on a police officer at a place called St Kilda, near Melbourne. The video showed two officers trying to make an arrest early in the morning, around 3am. But they were outnumbered and attacked by six people – men and women.

The bystander’s video showed one cop being punched and falling on the road, and then his head being repeatedly smashed into the concrete road surface by the assailants. Talking about it later, a senior police officer called it “rag-dolling”. Four adults – three men and a woman – were arrested in this case and charged with assaulting police, affray, violent disorder, and intentionally causing injury. The



Victoria Police

Police released mobile phone footage which showed an officer being pushed into the ground

police association said that this was “one of the most horrific assaults on a police officer” ever seen in the city. The other officer also suffered serious shoulder injuries in the attack. The bystander who filmed the attack later told the media that he thought he was witnessing a murder.

WHAT: FEMALE POLICE KICKED IN THE HEAD
WHEN: LONDON, ENGLAND
WHEN: NOVEMBER 2018

The Metropolitan Police Federation reacted with anger after a vicious attack on a female police constable when she and a male officer tried to make an arrest in Merton, south London. There was video footage of the two officers during the incident – the male officer was dragged around the road, trying to hold on to a suspect; the female officer was kicked in the head so hard that she lay on the road dazed, at risk of being run over by a bus. Both officers were later admitted to hospital. Two of the three suspects involved in the attack, one was later arrested.

What angered senior police officials was the public apathy – many passing cars whose drivers saw the officers being attacked did nothing and just drove past the scene of crime. “Are we now in a society where, if we think we can’t detain



Evening Standard

Jump kick: One of the suspects takes a flying kick at the female police officer, knocking her over

somebody, we just let them go? It’s just not worth it. We don’t come to work to get assaulted, and if we’re not going to be backed up in what we’re doing then what is the point?” asked a Federation office-bearer. He spoke to English media, blaming severe cost cuts for the lack of reinforcement when an officer was attacked, and this knowledge making the criminals bolder. “Society has changed, people think it’s OK to drop kick a police officer in broad daylight because they have impunity – nothing really happens,” said the Federation official.

WHAT: POLICEMAN SHOT DEAD
WHERE: CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES
WHEN: DECEMBER 2018

An Indian-origin policeman, Corporal Ronil Singh, 33, was shot dead by a gunman when he was carrying out a routine traffic stop-and-check. Tragically, Singh was working overtime on the night of December 25 to earn more for his family during the festive season – he had a wife and a young child. The suspect fled the scene in his vehicle, and Singh was taken to the hospital, but was declared dead.



Ronil Singh Facebook



FROM BLACKMAIL TO JAIL

A YOUNG MAN TRIES TO FORCE HIMSELF ON A YOUNGER
WOMAN BY DIGITALLY ALTERING HER PHOTOS. BUT SHE
RESISTS HIM AND GETS JUSTICE

BY WAGIH HASSAN

Cybercrime is a form of illegal and immoral conduct, committed using electronic devices, that harms the victim's reputation, finances, body or mind, directly or indirectly.

The motives behind cybercrimes range from spreading corruption and hatred amongst susceptible minds to the desire of making money through blackmail.

It's lust that drove Suleiman, a 23-year-old computer operator at a private company. He digitally altered several photos of a girl he knew.

Suleiman first obtained her photos by hacking her personal computer, and then set about changing those images through a method known as 'morphing'. His purpose was to blackmail this girl, who belongs to an honourable family.

His target, Anood, a 20-year-old college student, was not so easy to blackmail, though. Her own upright nature and her family's good reputation gave her the strength to reject this cybercriminal's lewd advances. When rebuffed, Suleiman threatened to publish those indecent, fake photos on the Internet for her family, friends, acquaintances, and whoever has two eyes to see.

Anood wasn't going to relent and give in to his desire, but she wanted to try to make Suleiman come to his senses. So, the student asked the computer operator to meet her at a café and talk about the matter calmly.

So, they met, and she asked him to apologise to her for his wrongdoing, for

trying to tarnish her reputation. But since Anood refused to let him come any closer, either physically or emotionally, Suleiman immediately carried out his threat.

He published the fabricated photos on a webpage and sent the link to the victim's mobile phone. He threatened to post that link on several forums, e-mail lists and groups, which was intended to put a scar on her reputation amongst her relatives and acquaintances.

“

**Her heart sunk,
fearing for her
reputation,
dreading
people's gossip
and merciless
allegations**

The victim felt desperate about finding a way out of this trap. If the photos were published, Anood knew the scandal could ruin her life.

At first, she thought of revealing the whole thing to her parents and two brothers, but she did not. Instead, she told her dear friend, 22-year-old Afaf, with whom she has always confided.

Afaf advised her to talk to her mother first then her brothers, Sharif and Assem. Anood promised to do as Afaf advised, yet for one reason or another, she did not do so.

But keeping the secret of the blackmail was taking its toll on her; she could no longer bear its weight. Her heart sunk, fearing for her reputation, dreading people's gossip and merciless allegations. She was horrified at the thought of their eyes looking at her with contempt whenever she passed by them, going to college, the market or wherever, blaming her for an act she never committed.

As a promising college student, she planned to graduate in a few years and then serve herself, her family, society, and her country with all the abilities she has. But in a blink of an eye, those ambitions could potentially be destroyed by a cyber criminal who wanted to abuse her as if she were a cheap commodity or a toy to satiate his lust.

Finally, Anood accepted the advice of her cousin Afaf and headed with her family to the police station, where she filed a report. The police investigation included getting data on Suleiman's activities from his mobile service provider. He was tracked down soon enough, taken into custody, and his digital devices seized and checked for evidence of his crime.

After interrogation by the Criminal Investigations Department, he stood trial and was given the strict punishment he deserved. The fake photos were destroyed to protect the victim, and the criminal's digital tools were all confiscated. Thus, the law made him an example that anyone who might be hatching a similar blackmail plot will experience the full power of the law.



WITHOUT CONSCIENCE

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.

People have now become the image of a world where imbalances rule, values and principles mixed up and traded with no regard to their worth

Some of us look for leads or facts about others to describe them or get an insight into who they are, in a way to run from our own depiction, our own faults. Some may see themselves as veteran leaders with unparalleled experience, wit and decency, yet the truth is they are as hollow as a tree trunk that breaks easily, unfit to resist even a simple wind.

People have now become the image of a world where imbalances rule, values and principles mixed up and traded with no regard to their worth, advantages and disadvantages. You come across the precious and the cheap; some with modesty written on their foreheads while others wear pretense as a second skin with delusion and dishonesty lying underneath. If only they take off that skin, look at their reflection in the mirror, they would see the real cat they are which they had mistaken for a lion. How could people see themselves other than who they are? How could they fool their

own selves before fooling others? How could they keep at it to a point where they believe their own lie, insist on beguiling an entire society?

“And never think those who rejoice in

Some may see themselves as veteran leaders with unparalleled experience, wit and decency, yet the truth is they are as hollow as a tree trunk that breaks easily

what they have perpetrated and like to be praised for what they did not do,” a

wise man once said, for lying to oneself is of irreparable damage.

When the hollow audaciously attack people of principle, laymen deem such an act as unreasonable and insensible. An ignorant criticises politics, an extremist assails religion, and the immoral condemns ethics. Woe to such unconscionable, deceptive ways that only make the pretentious slip more into their vanities.

If you look around, you will see some successful professional lady with a sense of pride that is almost lacking in today's men, yet she remains righteous, a devotee observing fast and faith obligations; a human being with indescribable great qualities, serving still her husband and children, looking after them at the expense of herself, wanting to see them happy and healthy. Shall she look into the deceiving mirror, she will certainly realise her true worth, regardless of how those without conscience see her.

THE GLORY OF ALEPPO

RENOWNED FRENCH TRAVELLER TAVERNIER HAS LEFT A
VALUABLE ACCOUNT OF THE CITY HE COUNTED AMONGST
THE GREATEST IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

BY DR FALIH HANDHAL



Journeys of Europeans who visited the Levant form a significant source in studying the history, social conditions, and architecture of that region. Travellers' documentations abound in depictions of life in the past and people's customs, traditions, costumes, markets, and cafés. They also contain portrayals of special occasions like religious feasts and processions of pilgrimage and rulers.

Europeans' interest in the Islamic East was driven by several motives. Some came to study Eastern monuments. Others came as tourists, attracted by the captivating East, to seek affluence, and enjoy the beauty of the region. Some aimed at trading. Still others were sent by their rulers to gather news about the East. Whatever their motives, they have recorded glorious pages that support our heritage as useful sources.

The book "Journeys in the Levant" records the experiences of five travellers who visited two great Levant cities of what now is Syria during the middle of the Ottoman reign in the 17th century. One traveller wrote about Aleppo and the other four about Damascus.

DESCRIPTION OF ALEPPO BY JEAN-BAPTISTE TAVERNIER

Tavernier wrote a description of Aleppo when he visited the city in 1638, during the reign of the Ottoman Sultan Murad IV, who was at the time heading for Baghdad to fight against Safavids. He wrote: "This city is built on four cliffs, on the highest of which lies the castle to be in the heart of Aleppo. In some areas, the castle is based on cellars for fear of soil erosion under the castle. The castle is huge. Its circumference perhaps amounts to five or six hundred



Aleppo Castle Gate

seven fathoms deep. Money is brought to the castle through a canal carrying water from streams of the city. A military force is stationed in this castle. Perimeter of the city exceeds three miles and the city has ten entrance gates.

"There are no trenches or movable bridges. Below one of these gates, there is a place revered by people who keep in there lighted lanterns, believing that Prophet Iliyas (Elias) stayed a while in that place.

"Aleppo has no rivers, except a small stream outside the city that Arabs call Queiq and that waters the gardens where fruits grow amply, especially the Aleppine pistachio. Walls of building, both public and private, were covered in coloured marble and wood veneers gilded with ornamental gold lines. The city has nearly a hundred and twenty mosques, of which six

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DOMES

steps. The castle has only one entrance located southwards. It has no movable bridge and is connected to the door by a few vaults through a trench some six or

or seven boast a considerable amount of grandeur and beauty with gorgeous domes. The main mosque, which is the largest in the city, had formerly been a church said to have been built upon orders of Saint Helena. Aleppo has two or three schools where a number of literary writers are hired to teach rules of the Arabic language, philosophy and Islamic studies.

"All the pathways of the city are paved, except markets where merchants and artisans had their shops. The most prominent artisans were silk weavers and tailors of garments made of goat fur. There were nearly forty caravanserais in the city and fifty public bathrooms for men and women, each of whom had their special turn. Women felt great joy in going to public bathrooms; they would save money



Old nostalgic photo of Syria

throughout the week to pay for them and used to go there in a dancing and singing mood. The suburbs of the city are big and fully inhabited by people. All the Christians of Aleppo lived in those suburbs, where they had their churches and homes. Aleppo had four Christian denominations: Romans, Armenians, Syriacs, and Maronites. Romans were around fifteen or sixteen thousand and their church was named after Saint Georgios. Armenians were nearly two thousand and their church was named after the Holy Virgin. Syriacs were not more than ten thousand and their church was also named after the Holy Virgin. As for the Maronites, they followed the Pope. The total population of Aleppo was about two hundred and fifty thousand people.

"Aleppo witnessed a flourishing trade movement based mainly on trading in silk textiles and fabrics made of goat fur. There was also the trade of oak galls, tanning using oak galls peel, soap industry, and other commodities. Merchants from all over the world visited the city, like Turks, Arabs, and Indians. In Aleppo, there are always sizeable numbers of French, Italian, British, and Dutch people. Each had their own consulate that disposed of their affairs. Authority of the city was held by a '*pasha*', who ruled the entire region from Scanderoon to the Euphrates river. Private guards of the pasha were often three hundred soldiers. There was also the '*agha*', who was chief of the cavalry who led around four hundred soldiers, and another

'*agha*', who led seven hundred Janissaries (the elite infantry units guarding the sultan). This *agha* was responsible for guarding the gates of the city and to him their keys were carried every evening.

"The castle was under leadership of another commander who was directly under the authority of Istanbul and had a hundred horsemen under his authority. Amongst his munition was the artillery that was formed of twenty-five or thirty cannons. There was the '*soubashi*', who was in charge of enjoining good and forbidding evil. He was the commander of the city guards and had officers under his authority. Amongst the duties of the *soubashi* was executing death sentences issued by the *pasha*. As for the judiciary and civil laws, there was a judge who had no jurors, and when a death sentence was issued against someone, the case was referred to the *pasha* to act as he thought right. The judge concluded all marriage and divorce contracts and sale and purchase deeds. He also appointed crafts leaders who were assigned supervision of crafts. Collection of taxes to be deposited at the Sultan's treasury was the duty of the '*defterdar*' (top official of finance, like present day 'minister of finance'). As regards religious affairs, the *mufti* was the highest religious authority and in charge of all sharia matters, and there was the '*sheikh*' who was responsible for teaching Islam to all converts and familiarising them with principles and customs.

"In Aleppo, the French consul was quite busy announcing the glad tidings of the

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IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY,
AFTER ISTANBUL AND
CAIRO, THE GREATEST IN
THE ENTIRE OTTOMAN
EMPIRE

king's birth. He requested permission of the *pasha* to hold celebrations. Once permission was obtained, he held a great banquet to which he invited the British and Dutch elite. After toasting, celebration was held as was possible within the circumstances of the place.

"Three days after my arrival in Aleppo, the Ottoman Sultan Murad IV was heading for Baghdad to besiege it, for it was in the hands of Safavids. Sufi dervishes hurried to receive the Sultan at a distance of half a parsec from the city. The Sufi sheikh gave a speech before the sultan, and from that place to the Castle of Aleppo, the dervishes walked before the horse of the sultan while whirling incessantly with their full power until they foamed at the mouth. Some of those dervishes whirled that way around themselves for two hours without rest. Advent of the sultan to Aleppo coincided with that of Egypt's Pasha with two thousand Janissaries in his procession, each wearing purple trousers reaching down to the tarsus and above them a Turkish qumbaz (male robe) made of English baize and a colourful cotton shirt. Most of them wore golden buttons with buttonholes embroidered with silk and held swords plated with silver. The *Pasha* walked at the front of this procession and wore simple garments. Two days after the arrival of the Sultan, European consuls asked to be granted permission to appear before His Majesty. They were permitted to do so, and amongst them was the senior French consul. So they met the Sultan and presented their gifts to him."

Here stops the traveller's description of Aleppo. He concluded by saying: "Actually nothing would cause boredom in a city boasting such vastness and grandeur. It is undoubtedly, after Istanbul and Cairo, the greatest in the entire Ottoman Empire."

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

USE IT AS YOU WILL



Now that a constant dose of 'moreness' is taken for granted by consumers of electronic devices, brands are constantly racking their brains for what 'more' they can do. The **Asus Zenbook Pro Duo Laptop** gives you one more: a 32:9 ratio screen just above the keyboard, along with the regular 16:9 ratio laptop screen. Called ScreenPad Plus, the secondary display can work in conjunction with the main display, letting you see a single website spread over the two surfaces. You can also do two separate things (e.g. watching a movie while typing a document) with the two displays. Space has been made by moving the keyboard down and shifting the trackpad to the right – though we think this would be a problem for left-handed people. Under the hood, there's Intel Core i9 processor, Nvidia graphics, and up to 32GB of RAM.

Website: www.asus.com/us
Price: TBA

NOT A MOBILE PHONE
BUT A PC

It's hard to believe just now exponentially fast consumer electronics technology is evolving. Bendy screens in mobile phones are on the verge of becoming practically common. The next inevitable step would be the bendy laptop screen. So, here's the **Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Foldable PC**, recently previewed and demo-ed at a major tech show and set to be available by 2020. Lenovo says that the PC is for "highly mobile, tech-savvy professionals who demand the best tools" and clarifies that "is not a phone, tablet, or familiar hybrid; this is a full-fledged laptop with a foldable screen". The PC, with Intel processor and special Windows OS, has a jaw-dropping display – 13.3" OLED 2K screen from LG – that can be opened and closed and angle-adjusted like a book.



Website: www.lenovo.com/us
Price: TBA

GET SET, GO!



Website: www.dji.com
Price: \$349 (Dhs1,282)

Is this the younger, more glamorous cousin of GoPro? The **DJI Osmo Action Camera** is cooler-looking, dust-proof, shock-proof, water-proof, and withstands very hot and very cold weather. The 1/2.3-inch sensor takes 12MP stills and 4K video. One great feature is the RockSteady image stabilisation for great footage even on a bumpy ride. Since we live in the age of the selfie, the camera scores well there, too. The slo-mo feature lets you take some great action shots. The camera runs on Action OS, an interactive system aided by three accessible buttons. If you have particular camera mode preferences, the Custom Mode feature lets you set those for easier access. The camera lens has three aspherical layers to cut glare and distortion, and a protective, anti-fingerprint coating on the lens filter cap repels oil, water, dirt, and other particles. The battery won't drain too fast even when the temperature dips to minus 10°C. Optional accessories are available.

TONY STARK'S CHOICE

The One Plus 6 or 6T has just been overtaken by **OnePlus 7 Pro**. As smartphones go, it has got swag – because Robert Downey Jr aka Tony Stark aka Iron Man has been posing with it. Now, to the specs. The mobile phone has a 6.67-inch, QHD+ bezel-free Fluid AMOLED screen (this has been made possible by the pop-up selfie camera first seen recently in a Vivo phone). The camera capabilities are impressive: a 48-megapixel main camera, plus ultra-wide-angle and 3x telephoto lenses. The chip is Qualcomm Snapdragon 855, the RAM is worth 12GB, and a 20-minute Warp Charge puts enough juice in the 4,000 mAh battery.

Website: www.oneplus.com
Price: From \$699 (Dhs2,567)



AFFORDABLE LITTLE BROTHER

One of the expensive flagship mobile phones out there just got a little brother – not littler in size as such, but with a littler price tag. The **Google Pixel 3a** costs less, but still packs a big punch tech-wise. The 12MP rear camera has the desirable Night Shot mode for low-light images, a powerful portrait mode, and an automatic selective colour mode. You get unlimited photo storage via Google Photos. The two variants have 5.6- or 6-inch OLED display, 4GB of RAM, a Snapdragon 670 processor, USB-C quick charging, and active edge sensors.

Website: store.google.com/product/pixel_3a
Price: From \$399 (Dhs1,465)

SOUNDS GOOD

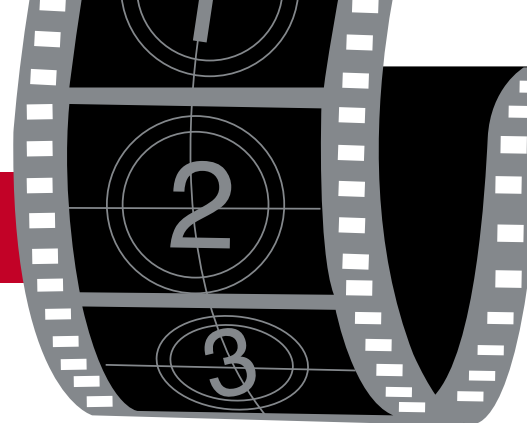
The brand name is synonymous with fabulous sound, so the **Bose Home Speaker 300** makes one's ears perk up right away. The aluminium-bodied smart speaker supports Alexa and Google Assistant. Bluetooth allows for more direct connection. An LED strip on the front indicates mic activity. If you own an iOS device, the speaker has AirPlay 2 for streaming music. This little speaker can be linked up with any other Bose speakers you might have already.

Website: www.bose.com
Price: \$260 (Dhs954)





NEW INTERNATIONAL MOVIE RELEASES COMING SOON TO CINEMAS NEAR YOU



SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME

DIRECTOR: JON WATTS

STARRING: TOM HOLLAND, JAKE GYLLENHAAL, MICHAEL KEATON, ZENDAYA, MARISA TOMEI

MOVIE TYPE: SUPERHERO, SEQUEL

Tom Holland returns as the web-spinning young superhero, last seen in *Avengers: Endgame* as having been brought back to life by the infinity stones, along with half of all living things earlier wiped out by Thanos. He gets his own sequel – after *Spider-Man: Homecoming* two years ago – and a new villain, Mysterio (Gyllenhaal), though the previous villain, Vulture (Keaton), is expected to show up as well. Zendaya is also back as the nerdy, ‘new MJ’, replacing the rosy-cheeked Mary Jane of the Tobey Maguire movies.



ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD

DIRECTOR: QUENTIN TARANTINO

STARRING: LEONARDO DICAPRIO, BRAD PITT, MARGOT ROBBIE, KURT RUSSELL

MOVIE TYPE: TRUE STORY

The film visits 1969 Los Angeles, where everything is changing, as TV star Rick Dalton (DiCaprio) and his long-time stunt double Cliff Booth (Pitt) make their way around an industry they hardly recognise anymore. While Pitt and DiCaprio definitely look the part, it's the first image of Margot Robbie that has stunned movie fans. She shared a photo of herself in costume recreating the late Sharon Tate's famous look, sporting a black turtleneck alongside the ivory-coloured dress and boots and looking spookily like the late American actress and model.



21 BRIDGES

DIRECTOR: BRIAN KIRK

STARRING: CHADWICK BOSEMAN, STEPHAN JAMES, J.K. SIMMONS, SIENNA MILLER, TAYLOR KITSCH

MOVIE TYPE: THRILLER



A disgraced detective in the New York Police Department is given a shot at redemption. Thrust into a citywide manhunt for a cop killer, he begins to uncover a massive conspiracy that links his fellow cops to a criminal empire. Now he must decide who he is hunting and who is actually hunting him. During the manhunt, Manhattan is completely locked down for the first time in its history – no exit or entry to the island including all its bridges.

★ THE LION KING

DIRECTOR: JON FAVREAU

VOICES: DONALD GLOVER, JAMES EARL JONES, CHIWETEL EJIOFOR, BEYONCE KNOWLES, SETH ROGEN, BILLY EICHNER, JOHN OLIVER

MOVIE TYPE: LIVE-ACTION/CGI

One of Hollywood's all-time blockbusters returns as a live action/CGI movie, with the classic story of good versus evil. This is also an entirely new cast; only James Earl Jones, who voiced the regal Mufasa in the original animation movie, reprises his same role. Set on the African savannah, the story sees a young lion named Simba cast out into the wilderness after his father, Mufasa, is killed by his evil uncle Scar. Years later, Simba returns to reclaim his throne.



★ SUPER 30

DIRECTORS: ANURAG KASHYAP, VIKAS BAHL

STARRING: HRITHIK ROSHAN, PANKAJ TRIPATHI, MRUNAL THAKUR

MOVIE TYPE: BIOGRAPHICAL DRAMA

One of the most awaited Hindi films of the year has Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan starring in a completely different role. The plot is based on the now-famous Super 30 coaching programme, started by an Indian teacher who wanted to give 30 brilliant yet underprivileged students a shot at cracking the admission test for India's top technology institutes.

★ STUBER

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL DOWSE

STARRING: DAVE BAUTISTA, KUMAIL NANJIANI, IKO UWAIS, NATALIE MORALES, BETTY GILPIN, JIMMY TATRO

MOVIE TYPE: ACTION, COMEDY

This is a (sort of) buddy movie about an Uber taxi driver named Stu (Nanjiani) and a grizzly cop (Bautista), after the latter more or less commandeers the taxi in order to work the most dangerous case of his career. On the way, Stu learns how to shoot not-quite-straight and inject some fast-paced adventure into his otherwise abysmally dull life.





GET A GRIP ON YOUR LIFE AND MONEY, AND MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME WITH CHILDREN – ALL BY READING

MYSTERY IN THE TUNDRA

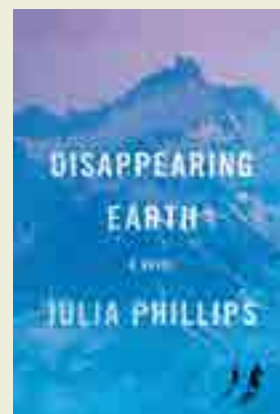
Title: Disappearing Earth

Author: Julia Phillips

Publisher: Knopf

Price: \$26.95 (Dhs99) (Hardcover)

One August afternoon, on the shoreline of the Kamchatka peninsula at the northeastern edge of Russia, two girls – sisters aged eight and eleven – go missing. In the ensuing weeks, then months, the police investigation turns up nothing. Echoes of the disappearance reverberate across a tightly woven community, with the fear and loss felt most deeply amongst its women. Taking us through a year in Kamchatka, the book has a cast of richly drawn characters, all connected by the crime: a witness, a neighbour, a detective, a mother. The reader is transported to vistas of rugged beauty – densely wooded forests, open expanses of tundra, soaring volcanoes, and the glassy seas that border Japan and Alaska.



REDEFINE SUCCESS

Title: Own Your Everyday: Overcome the Pressure to Prove and Show Up for What You Were Made to Do

Author: Jordan Lee Dooley

Publisher: WaterBrook

Price: \$18.99 (Dhs70) (Hardcover)

Does it ever seem like you still have to find your purpose or that you're stuck with "unfigured-out dreams"? Do you feel the pressure to prove yourself or worry about what others will think? From accidentally starting a small business instead of using her college degree, to embarrassing herself onstage in front of thousands, to wasting time worrying about what others think or say, the author knows exactly how that feels – and she has learned some important lessons along the way. Through this book, she helps you to tackle obstacles such as disappointment, comparison, and distraction; remove labels and break out of the box of expectations; identify and eliminate excuses and unnecessary stress about an unknown future; overcome the lie that you can't live your purpose until you reach a certain goal or milestone; overcome shame, practise gratitude, and redefine success.

ACHIEVE FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Title: The Latte Factor: Why You Don't Have to Be Rich to Live Rich

Authors: David Bach, John David Mann

Publisher: Atria Books

Price: \$20 (Dhs73) (Hardcover)

In this heart-warming parable, the authors tell the story of Zoey, a twenty-something woman living and working in New York City. Like many young professionals, Zoey is struggling under debt, working long hours at her dream job but still not earning enough. She makes friends with Henry, the elderly barista at her favourite coffee shop. Henry soon reveals his 'Three Secrets to Financial Freedom' ideas, which Zoey dismisses at first but whose true power she ultimately comes to appreciate. Over the course of a single week, Zoey discovers that she already earns enough to secure her financial future and realise her truest dreams – all she has to do is make a few easy shifts in her everyday routine.



THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON

Title: It's the Manager: Gallup finds the quality of managers and team leaders is the single biggest factor in your organisation's long-term success

Authors: Jim Clifton, Jim Harter

Publisher: Gallup Press

Price: \$34 (Dhs125) (Hardcover)

Packed with 52 discoveries from Gallup's largest study on the future of work, the book shows leaders how to adapt their organisations to rapid change, ranging from new workplace demands to managing remote employees, a diverse workforce, the rise of artificial intelligence, gig workers, and attracting – and keeping – today's best employees. Who is the most important person in your organisation to lead your teams through these changes? Gallup research reveals: it's your managers. The new workforce wants their work to have purpose, they want coaches who inspire them, communicate with them, frequently and develop their strengths.



DARK OBSESSION

Title: Cari Mora

Author: Thomas Harris

Publisher: Grand Central Publishing

Price: \$29 (Dhs107) (Hardcover)

From the creator of Hannibal Lecter and The Silence of the Lambs comes a story of greed, and the consequences of dark obsession. Twenty-five million dollars in cartel gold lies hidden beneath a mansion on the Miami Beach waterfront. Ruthless men have tracked it for years. Leading the pack is Hans-Peter Schneider. Driven by unspeakable appetites, he makes a living fleshing out the violent fantasies of other, richer men. Cari Mora, caretaker of the house, has escaped from the violence in her native country. Beautiful, marked by war, Cari catches the eye of Hans-Peter as he closes in on the treasure. But Cari Mora has surprising skills, and her will to survive has been tested before.

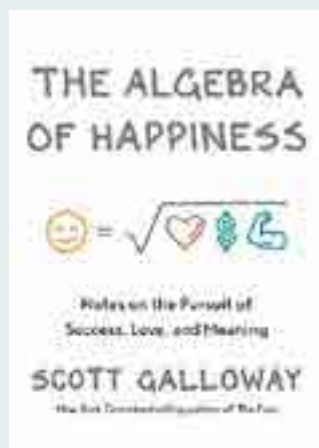
ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

Title: The Algebra of Happiness: Notes on the Pursuit of Success, Love, and Meaning

Author: Scott Galloway

Publisher: Portfolio

Price: \$21 (Dhs77) (Hardcover)



The author teaches brand strategy at NYU's Stern School of Business, but his most popular lectures deal with life strategy, not business. He regularly offers hard-hitting answers to the big questions: What's the formula for a life well lived? How can you have a meaningful career, not just a lucrative one? Is work/life balance possible? What are the elements of a successful relationship? The book draws upon his mix of anecdotes and clear insights to share hard-won wisdom about life's challenges, along with poignant personal stories.

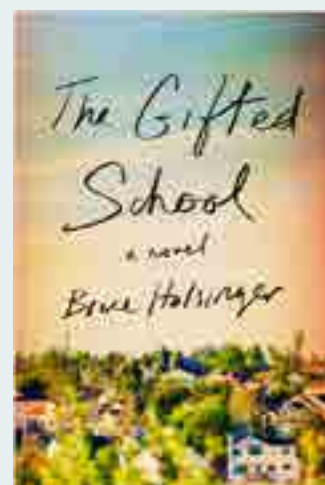
PURSUIT OF PRESTIGE

Title: The Gifted School

Author: Bruce Holsinger

Publisher: Riverhead

Price: \$17.74 (Dhs65) Hardcover



This book is about a previously happy group of friends and parents that's nearly destroyed by their own competitiveness. The conflict started when an exclusive school for gifted children opens in the community. It captures the relentless ambitions of these parents for their children. The story reveals not only the lengths that some adults are willing to go to get ahead, but also the impact of pursuit of prestige, no matter the cost, on children, marriages, and careers.

Clean-up of UAE's waterways

PLASTIC pollution in the water affects the UAE just as much as it affects any other. Emirates NBD Private Banking and Divers Down UAE have joined hands to clean up the country's waterways.

Divers Down, a Fujairah-based group, has cleared huge amount of waste from Dubai Creek and other sites. This is part of a programme called Keep the Creek Clean, which not only cleans up but also raises awareness of careful disposal of plastic waste.

The clean-up drive has yielded three tonnes of waste, including tyres, carpets and aluminium cans. Michela Colella, operations manager at Divers Down, said, "We would love to see more companies get involved training their staff to become divers – and therefore custodians of the seas – and develop their corporate social responsibilities."



WWW.PROJECTAWARE.ORG

UK's supermarket trials packaging-free sales



THE enormous packaging waste generated by the supermarket culture is one of the banes of modern civilisation. At least one major supermarket is going against the tide of trash – Waitrose, in the UK, began trialling packaging-free sales in June and this soon became one of the most talked about initiatives in the world.

The idea is simple: people can bring

their own containers to take what they need, or they can pay a small deposit and borrow a container from the supermarket, and get a deposit refund when they bring the container back.

The products at the Waitrose outlet in Oxford are put in dispensers and there are refill stations for various kinds of items. Some of the shoppers immediately

embraced the idea; some felt it was a bit "old-fashioned".

What's more, the loose products are cheaper, and customers can only buy as much as they need, without forking out for a pre-determined package size. However, customers have the option of also buying the packaged version if they absolutely insisted on it.

"This test has potential to shape how people might shop with us in the future so it will be fascinating to see which concepts our customers have an appetite for," said Waitrose's Tor Harris.

Ariana Densham of Greenpeace UK said, "This is a genuinely bold step from Waitrose to trial food dispensers so customers can use refillable tubs and jars. Lots of supermarkets are starting to sell loose fruit and vegetables, but this kind of innovation could spark a refill culture that's so desperately needed to cut plastics in mainstream shops."

"The top 10 UK supermarkets produce 810,000 tonnes of throwaway packaging each year, so we need to see other major retailers taking plastic reduction seriously and following Waitrose's lead," she added.

Can cactus curb the plastic menace?

THINK cactus and what comes to mind are spiky plants serenely braving the heat or sitting ornamentally on someone's window sill. But it can do a lot more than that.

According to Sandra Pascoe, a Mexican researcher from the University of the Valley of Atemajac, there's a possibility of making bioplastics from cactus juice. She used the most common variety of edible nopal cactus (*Opuntia cacti*). The English word is prickly pear. "The plastic is basically made out of the sugars of nopal juice, the monosaccharides and polysaccharides it contains. The sugars, pectin and organic acids in the juice give it a very viscous consistency. Thanks to the viscosity, a solid material can be produced," she said. Ingredients such as glycerol, natural waxes, proteins, and colorants are mixed with the juice after fibre removal. The mix is then dried on a hot plate to make plastic sheets.

Pascoe is now working with the



University of Guadalajara Centre for Biological and Agricultural Sciences to check the decomposition of this plastic. "We've done very simple degradation tests in the laboratory; for example, we've put it in water and we've seen that it does break down [but] we still

have to do a chemical test to see if it really did completely disintegrate. We've also done tests in moist compost-like soil and the material also breaks down," said Pascoe. The plastic is strong enough for shopping bags, cosmetic containers, and toys.

Asia's soup craze is wiping out sharks



THE repulsive practice of finning – cutting off a shark's fin while it's still alive and then tossing it back into the water to die – is increasing because of the rising demand for shark fin soup from Asian countries. It's

estimated that millions of sharks every year fall prey to this Asian soup craze.

Many Asian countries have substantially big markets for shark fin soup, according to the conservation organisation WildAid. Even

in the European Union, where the practice of finning is banned, shark fin soup is still found on several restaurant menus. This is because while finning is banned, fins aren't banned.

Confused? This is how it works. Graham Buckingham, campaign director of the charity Bite-Back, said, "It is perfectly legal for any adult travelling to Europe to bring 20kg of shark fins as part of their personal import allowance. People caught bringing meat or cheese into Europe would have that seized and destroyed. However, somehow, 20kg of shark fins is OK. It's enough to make 705 bowls of soup and would be worth around £3,500 (Dhs16,390) on the black market."

Ali Hood, director of conservation at the UK-based Shark Trust, said, "[A shark fin ban] represents a ban on the trade of a product within a country – something that is not applied in the UK or EU. Hence, fins from certain sharks can be legally traded and sold to the public for consumption."

Scotland plans shark and whale protection

THE Scottish government is planning to create Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) – also called ‘blue belts’ – over a sea area of 5,000 square miles for minke whales and basking sharks. The MPAs would safeguard their feeding grounds and help them thrive.

These blue belts, said the Scottish government, would also help other marine creatures, including dolphins. In response, the charity Whale and Dolphin Conservation said that it was “delighted”.

The proposed sites are in the outer Moray Firth, north east Lewis, the Sea of the Hebrides, and Shiant East Bank.

When an area is declared an MPA, human activities such as fishing and dredging are prohibited, reducing the level of disturbance for marine animals. However, the needs of local people are taken into account when designing the management of each specific blue belt.

Alison Rose, a conservationist, said, “We can use Marine Protected Areas as a tool



to control some of the activities that might affect the minke whales. So, things like noise pollution, possibly fishing activity.”

However, Phil Taylor, from Open Seas, said, “Although, on the face of it, this is a step forward, the majority of

Scotland’s existing MPAs deliver no form of protection whatsoever and these sites must not fall into the same trap. We need to ensure that lines are not just drawn on maps to greenwash problems and give an illusion of environmental protection.”

Forests grow stronger with age



WHEN it comes to ageing, forests do much better than humans – they’re far more resilient to climate change and support more biodiversity, says a new study.

Carried out by researchers at the

University of Vermont, United States, and published in *Global Change Biology*, the study analysed forests’ capacity for carbon storage, timber production, and biodiversity support. They found that older forests in

North America weathered climate change better than younger forests. “This study shows that older forests in the Upper Midwest to New England are uniquely resilient to climate,” said Dominik Thom, lead author and postdoctoral researcher at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont, and Gund Institute for Environment. “Our finding that essential services are better protected against climate change by older forests is a milestone in the debate on how to prepare our forests for the uncertain environmental conditions ahead,” Thom said.

For the purpose of the study, the researchers analysed field data from 18,500 forest plots in the United States and Canada. They saw that younger forests east and southeast of the Great Lakes were less resilient to climate change. Older forests – usually 150 years or more – tend to be more complex, with trees of varying heights and larger canopy gaps, supporting a larger variety of species.

Young Emiratis may have mobile addiction—study

THE UAE has one of the highest mobile phone penetration rates in the world. Though that sounds good for the digital era, the bad part is people's excessive attachment to their mobile phones. Indeed, according to a study by the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), about a third of all young Emiratis are 'addicted' to mobiles.

The sample population of 350 consisted of 18- to 33-year-olds at the Al Ain campus, who used their mobile phones for more than seven hours every day. Only 11.7 per cent admitted that their mobile phone use could be "problematic". Upon analysis of all the subjects' responses to various questions, the researchers concluded that 29 per cent of the respondents used their mobile phones "in a manner that could be characterised as dependent and potentially addictive". These findings were published in the journal *Addictive Behaviours Reports*.



"A lot of other literature tells us that obsession or addictive tendencies towards technology emerges in a context where there is a rapidly developing economy, which is precisely what's happened here," said lead researcher Zahir Vally, assistant

professor in psychology and counselling at UAEU. "People who have experienced upwards social mobility over a short period of time, or have high disposable income, can have a fascination with everything that's cool and innovative," Vally added.

Fungus weaponised with spider toxin is a mozzie-killer



ONE of the most incredibly irritating and disease-spreading creatures in the world, the mosquito, is also incredibly hard to get rid of. Repellents, coils, creams, sprays—nothing seems to keep the horrible hordes away. They want your blood, and they will have it. And that bite not only stings, but also spreads diseases on a large scale. Malaria and dengue are two of the diseases spread by mosquitoes across the tropical belt. So, it's good news then, that science has made use of genetic modification to create something more than a bigger tomato.

A new study suggests that a genetically

modified fungus, capable of producing spider venom, can kill malaria vector mosquitoes in massive numbers. The trials in Burkina Faso, West Africa, were very encouraging — mosquito populations were wiped out by 99 per cent within 45 days. Which is great,

since an estimated 219 million cases of malaria are diagnosed worldwide each year, as per the World Health Organisation.

The study, published in *Science*, was a joint venture of researchers at the University of Maryland, United States, and the IRSS research institute, Burkina Faso. They first identified a fungus, *Metarhizium pingshaense*, which is a natural enemy of *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Then they set about enhancing the natural toxin of the fungus to make it more lethal. "They're very malleable, you can genetically engineer them very easily," said Prof. Raymond St Leger, from the University of

Maryland, in a BBC interview.

They recoded the fungus' genes to let it make the venom of a spider species found in Australia. The venom would be dispensed through the fungus spores. To test the method, the scientists created a fake habitat — a 6,500 sq ft village with plants, huts, water sources, and food for mosquitoes — was created in Burkina Faso. Mosquito netting around this habitat prevented the insects from escaping.

To infect the mosquitoes with the spider venom produced by the fungus, the researchers mixed the fungus spores with organic oil and wiped them on black sheets — this was a trick to lure the mozzies; they've evolved to be drawn to the heat signature of darker colours, because darker clothes on people's bodies trap more heat.

The experiment started with 1,500 mosquitoes. Before the sheets were used, the mosquito numbers rapidly increased in the fake habitat. Then, the killer sheets were brought in. After 45 days of sheet use, there were just 13 mozzies left here. The best part was that the venom in the fungus spores didn't kill very important insects such as bees.

UAE to eradicate Hepatitis C virus by 2030

THE UAE eyes to eliminate Hepatitis C by the year 2030 with early detection and diagnosis.

To date, the country is near the 2030 World Health Organisation's goals, as the prevalence of the virus is less than two per cent due to educational initiatives of the UAE Government.

In cooperation with the DHA, the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention launched awareness campaigns last year entitled 'Ready to be Hepatitis C cured' and 'Dubai without C' to promote diagnosis of the virus.

The DHA also included free screening and treatment for Hepatitis C under the basic benefit plan of the Dubai mandatory health insurance scheme to extend the number of people who would be covered.

"Physicians should feel empowered to drive screenings and be fully equipped with the knowledge required for early detection and treatment in patients,"



said Dr Mohamed Farghaly, Director of Insurance Policies and Health Economics at an event organised by Gilead Sciences, in a report of The National.

Hepatitis C is a viral infection that causes liver inflammation, sometimes leading to

serious liver damage. The Hepatitis C virus (HCV) spreads through contaminated blood.

Chronic Hepatitis C is usually a "silent" infection for many years, until the virus damages the liver enough to cause the signs and symptoms of liver disease.

Working overtime increases risk of stroke



ACCORDING to a new study, working long hours (more than 10 hours on at least 50 days per year) is linked to an increased risk of stroke.

Researchers from Angers University and the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research studied the trends of smoking and working hours from a

population study of more than 143,000 adults, reported BBC.

The study published in the journal "Stroke" of the American Heart Association reported that people working long hours had a 29 per cent greater risk of stroke, and those doing so for 10 years or more had a 45 per cent greater risk.

"The association between 10 years of long work hours and stroke seemed stronger for people under the age of 50. This was unexpected. Further research is needed to explore this finding," said Dr Alexis Descatha, who led the research.

She added that, "I will advise my patients to work more efficiently and I plan to follow my own advice."

This study looked at numbers, rather than reasons. Dr Richard Francis, head of research at the Stroke Association, said: "There are lots of simple things you can do to reduce the risk of a stroke, even if you work long hours.

"Eating a healthy diet, finding the time to exercise, stopping smoking and getting the recommended amount of sleep can make a big difference to your health."

More people in UAE are kicking the butt, says ministry



FROM 2016 to 2018, the number of people quitting tobacco products rose by 122 per cent, said the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP), on the occasion of World No-Tobacco Day on May 31.

Clinics that help people to quit smoking recorded a 47 per cent increase in people seeking treatment during this period, as per the data released.

Dr Hussein Abdel-Rahman Al-Rand, Undersecretary at the Ministry, said, "MoHAP has adopted the best international practices in this regard, including the establishment of 16 smoking cessation clinics, in addition to a plan for expanding and further supporting the service in the coming years."

Highly processed food doesn't look so good for health

TWO large European studies, published in The BMJ, speak of associations between the consumption of highly processed food and an increased risk of cardiovascular disease and mortality.

The researchers talked about 'association' and not a 'direct link', saying that more study was required. However, they have urged the laying down of policies that would promote the consumption of fresh or minimally processed food. Highly processed food aka ultra-processed food includes those that most people buy from supermarkets daily, e.g. packaged baked goods and snacks; fizzy drinks; sugary cereals; ready meals; packaged vegetable soups; and tinned meat and fish products. These are believed to increase the risk of obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and even cancer.

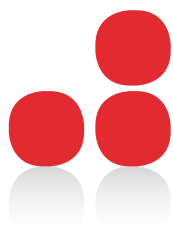
The two studies were carried out by French researchers in cooperation with Brazilian researchers, and by Spanish researchers. The first study looked at potential associations between ultra-processed food and risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease (conditions affecting blood supply to the heart and brain). They analysed 10-year health



data from a huge sample population of 105,159 French adults. The results showed that a 10% increase in the share of ultra-processed food in one's diet was associated with significantly higher rates of overall cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease, and cerebrovascular disease (increase of 12%, 13%, and 11% respectively).

The second study evaluated associations

between ultra-processed food intake and risk of death from any cause. This sample size was nearly 20,000, and 10-year health data were analysed. Here, too, results showed that higher consumption of ultra-processed foods (more than four servings per day) was associated with a 62% increased risk of all-cause mortality compared with lower consumption (less than two servings per day).



WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Financial success will be immediate and substantial in this phase of your life. But remember not to fall into the trap of being too pleased with yourself. Being boastful about what you have achieved will not do good to your reputation. Stay your feet on the ground and remember to always look back to where and how you started.



Taurus (April 20 – May 21)

Keep your temper under control and all the wrinkles in your life will be ironed out easily. Your family and friends can help you get positive vibes in life. If you feel that life is throwing you lemons, don't falter. Instead, use these experiences as you move forward in life. These will make you prudent in terms of life and career choices.



Gemini (May 22 – June 20)

Trust your instincts and keep your cool. That means you have to let things settle down a bit. Once you've had time to think, the solutions will come naturally. As much as possible, take one step at a time when shadows cast doubts on what you can achieve in life. As a wise man once said, everything in the universe will conspire to help you achieve your dreams no matter how hard it seems.



Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Your ingenuity will spark ideas for you to think of new sources of income that play to your strengths. This month also welcomes harmony and pleasant vibes in your personal life. Your calm and focused mind will be helpful for your next set of tasks that you need to complete. Your sociable nature will be important for your next step as you may be travelling overseas this month.



Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Communication will be the key to your success as your efficiency allows you to deliver resolutions in a snappy, fun way that is received well. You will find your voice through your generous heart that keeps on giving love and affection. These traits will help ripple positivity to those who work with you and even at home with your family. Again, your ability to talk the talk will be mesmerising. This also adds a sprinkle to matters of the heart.



Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

Your expansive energy brings people together with your message of inclusivity. Finding a way to keep calm will be beneficial as you channel your artistic or creative mind to doing something you've never done before. This month, you will naturally respond to life with enthusiasm and positivity. Your ability to communicate and bridge gaps between people, concepts, and ideas will flourish.



Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Maintain your level-headed mindset to make sensible decisions and all should go well. Practice behaviours that restore a sense of equilibrium to you. A lovely sense of harmony awaits you this month as well especially with those who matter to you the most. You are deeply in tune with all of your best qualities, balancing tenderness with power and resolve. These are the traits that makes you a very magnetic individual indeed.



Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Your self-confidence will help you bring your visions to reality as things are beginning to kick off for you. You are able to persuade and influence very easily. The desire to change jobs or expand your business may be on your mind, but any change will be beneficial with lots of exciting new opportunities. Look at the options and use what is best for you – and when you choose, you should remain focused on the task at hand and avoid distractions.



Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

When you hit your comfort zone, you should learn to step it up and push beyond your boundaries as this is where you will learn and grow. Use every challenge as an inspiration – and you will be on your way towards a great learning journey in your life. As you rise up with each challenge, your sense of accomplishment will fulfill your desire for a positive phase in your life where you are able to work harmoniously with your colleagues.



Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Your aim in achieving a beneficial work-life balance will slowly come to fruition before your very eyes. Your flexibility, adaptability and persuasiveness in the workplace will shine as an outstanding trait that your fellow employees would love to emulate. It is easy for you to impress others and your relationships are flecked with electric excitement. You can use this time to make some very positive changes.



Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Your ability to think fast, multitask, think beyond the box, and get things done will be enhanced as you take in more valuable experience from people around you. This is the month in which your friends will gather around you. You learn effortlessly and easily, absorbing new information like a sponge. You are experiencing life as it should be lived, and you deserve to enjoy every moment of it.



Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

You will notice things happening around you and begin to receive appreciation for your hand in making things work. This energises you to want to do more. You will also be drawn to spending quality time with your family and loved ones. You are continuing to be very proactive this month, getting things going and making things happen. You may want to spend a bit of time on your own to channel your creative spirit and indulge in a world of art and poetry.

[illegible]

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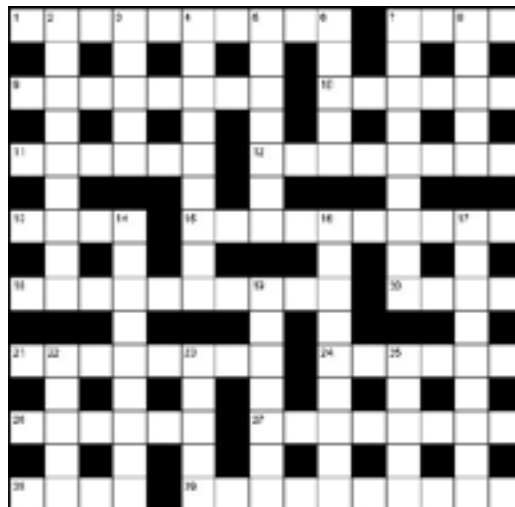
PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 1 Rush around in old car, to find escaped criminal in Oz (10)
- 7 A disease singular to sponge (4)
- 9 English is almost never spoken poetically in Telford, for example (8)
- 10 Rotter is in modern art emporium (6)
- 11 Copper into Turner gets depression (6)
- 12 I am unpretentious? No (8)
- 13 Clothe with part of a corset (4)
- 15 Get mean about bird call (10)
- 18 Present on the waves (3,7)
- 20 Who should really have written Diary of a Nobody? (4)
- 21 See 4
- 24 Enjoy the flavour (6)
- 26 Composer of Semiramide and La Mer? No (6)
- 27 As were the leftovers a man ate, being overdrawn? (8)
- 28 Scolded infant without a trace of leniency (4)
- 29 4,21's Mount is an irregular cube next to a generation symbol (missing centrepiece) (10)

DOWN

- 2 Auntie hit boiling asphalt (9)
- 3 Told of journey to university to find poem (5)
- 4 21 This general axed threat strategically (9,3,5)
- 5 Not, we hear, a problem for 4,21 (7)
- 6 To take up weapons again, changing sides (5)
- 7 4,21's country; erected around the last stages of 300 (as it's written) (9)
- 8 Aeolian and Doric, say, in 12 (5)
- 14 Quarrelled over a sin (9)
- 16 Outside port finally, make fast a vessel—one that's engine driven (5,4)
- 17 Some garment to stitch, it's said—or more than one (9)
- 19 One goes into troubled centre, having some guts (7)
- 22 Erica (5)
- 23 Residential area in upwardly mobile part of Bruxelles (5)
- 25 Student priest in Guanaco (5)



Easy

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

Medium

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

SOLUTIONS FOR THE JUNE ISSUE



www.alberichcrosswords.com

www.dailysudoku.com

easy

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

medium

1	2	3	6	4	5
6	4	5	2	3	1
5	6	1	4	2	3
4	3	2	1	5	6
2	5	6	3	1	4
3	1	4	5	6	2





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