

# 999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 114 JULY 2021

DEEPFAKES:  
TREND OR  
THREAT?

MEET UAE  
POLICE'S BONE  
DETECTIVE

**IN THE  
SPOTLIGHT**  
LET'S GO ON  
A ROAD TRIP  
IN UAE

## ALMOST NORMAL ARRIVES IN

# UAE

LIFE IN UAE THROUGH  
THE EYES OF EXPATS



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



**IN THIS ISSUE:** EXPATS WHO GOT THEIR 10-YEAR GOLDEN VISAS HOPE TO MAKE BIGGER CONTRIBUTIONS TO UAE'S NATIONAL ECONOMY

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*This rapid return  
to a state of  
'almost normal'  
is yet another  
landmark  
achievement  
of the UAE  
leadership*

## It's all getting better

**T**he sun is really shining over the UAE — the country has vaccinated the large majority of its population; customers are back in retail and hospitality establishments; and expats are looking forward to stable incomes in an economy set for a resurgence on the back of prompt action to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. This rapid return to a state of 'almost normal' is yet another landmark achievement of the UAE leadership — the **999** cover story in this issue looks at the country today through the eyes of six expats, whose life and career have been tied to the fortunes of the country for many years now, and who are all optimistic about where the country is headed after the pandemic. Alongside one of the world's most efficient nationwide vaccination programmes, there are local measures such as the 'green pass' issued by the emirate of Abu Dhabi that creates a very systematic way to ensure an uptake of leisure and recreation options, by giving people the confidence that they'd be safe when visiting all public places, from malls to beaches.

With the same rising confidence and releasing the pent-up desire to travel, people in the UAE are discovering their country by undertaking long road trips. International travel is still uncertain, with flights irregular and quarantine upon arrival still required in many places, so "getting stuck in the UAE" is the best thing to have happened to residents with wanderlust, as each of the seven emirates has a unique character and a wealth of heritage, natural beauty, and entertainment to offer. Our feature on the great UAE road trip gives you all the information you need to get started.

While all of you are out there, revelling in the fresh air and bright days, do try not to let trivial things upset you. "COVID rage", a state of mind that has made us more impatient and more easily roused to anger, is actually a thing — some of us have been more affected by the pandemic, for both psychological and clinical reasons, and that's manifested by outbursts that we regret almost immediately. In the interest of our own peace of mind and social harmony, let's identify signs of COVID rage in ourselves and make a change today.

Amongst our other features in this issue, we take a look at a fascinating — and potentially dangerous — trend of "deepfakes", digitally manipulated media created by AI-power technology. So far, deepfakes of the Queen of England, Mark Zuckerberg, and other world-renowned celebrities have been created by people who have done so to amuse their audience. But this tech carries the risk of fraudulent clips — visual and voice clips — being created to cheat people or cause more damage. We, at **999**, have presented information that'll help you understand this phenomenon and raise your own defences.

We also bring you an overview of the unique 'cultural visa' introduced by Dubai, on the lines of the UAE's Golden visa, and how it's poised to attract top creative talent to the emirate and give a boost to this sector of the economy.

Our security-related feature this month has the lowdown on a forensic technology that we call "the bone detective" because it helps investigators find the clues hidden in the bones and recreate an accurate picture of a scene of violence.

Like in every issue, our effort is focused on putting together between the covers of **999** all that's highly interesting and extremely useful, making our day that much better.





# 100 MILLION ACTUATORS

EST. 1975

## Belimo sets 100 Million Milestone

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



**999**  
Security And Safety For All



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THE UAE TOURISM SECTOR IS SEEING A RAY OF SUNSHINE AS LOCAL TRAVEL PICKS UP SPEED THIS YEAR. **999** EXPLORES HOW THE GROWING TREND IN ROAD TRIPS CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF TRAVEL AND LEISURE IN THE COUNTRY

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The pandemic has done many things to us — one of them is that furious outbursts have become more frequent. **999** explores the phenomenon and presents ways to manage anger

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The lucrative Arabian Gulf trade of pearl diving got a lot of unwelcome attention from European merchant companies, but they were thwarted by the British authorities. This coincided with the rapid spread of cholera in many parts of the world including the Gulf



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COVER STORY

# ALMOST NORMAL

999 LOOKS AT THE UAE THROUGH THE EYES OF EXPATS WHO'VE SURVIVED A DIFFICULT PHASE OF THE PANDEMIC AND ARE NOW UPBEAT ABOUT THEIR ROLE IN THE ECONOMIC RESURGENCE RIDING ON THE COUNTRY'S RIGOROUS VACCINATION DRIVE



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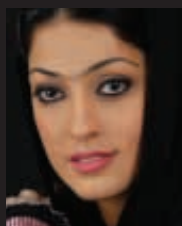
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# UAE elected to take a seat on UN Security Council



**UNDER** the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE was elected to serve on the UN Security Council starting 2022 until 2023, thanks to the country's staunch commitment to advance inclusion, spur innovation, build resilience, and secure regional and global peace.

The UAE, whose election ran unopposed, was elected by the 75th session of the General Assembly to serve as a non-permanent member of the Council. It's one of the five new non-permanent members of the Security Council winning 179 votes out of the total 190 cast by the General Assembly members. Aside from the UAE, serving at the world's top diplomatic table for two-year terms are Albania, Brazil, Ghana, and Gabon.

According to His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the country's bid to be part of the Council was based on its firm belief in building bridges to foster relationships amongst Council members and renew nations' commitment to respond to complex and daunting threats to global peace and security.

"The UAE has always been ready to shoulder its share of responsibility for the world's most pressing challenges in collaboration with the international community and this was the driving force of our bid," said His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed.

# UAE tops world rankings for COVID-19 vaccination

**THE** UAE has outpaced the rest of the world in terms of COVID-19 vaccination, with more than 14 million people now inoculated.

As of June 20, a total of 14,460,522 people in the UAE have already received the jab. This includes both the number of fully vaccinated individuals and those who have received their first vaccine shot.

By the second week of June, about two-thirds of people eligible for the jab in

Dubai are now fully vaccinated, according to Dubai Health Authority (DHA).

DHA Deputy Director General Alawi Alsheikh Ali told the media that this translates to 64% of people aged over 16 in the emirate.

Such progress was made possible by the UAE leaders' major inoculation push to provide its nationals and residents alike with free of charge COVID-19 vaccines. Given

on an optional basis, the vaccines are offered in more than 200 centres across the seven emirates.

With an average of 80,837 doses administered each day, the country's vaccination rate as of June 20 has reached 146.21 doses per 100 people. With this rate, the UAE can vaccinate 10% of its population within just 25 days—the fastest rate in the world.

# UAE hailed as No. 1 most competitive country in MENA region

**UNDER** the guidance of His Highness President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE leads the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in the World Competitiveness Ranking 2021 of the Institute for Management Development (IMD) for the fifth consecutive year.

Globally, the country retained its ninth spot in the IMD list this year.

Commenting on this yet another feat for the country, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and

Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said: "We have topped the world in 20 development indicators, and the UAE is amongst the top 10 countries in competitiveness and first globally in the government's ability to adapt to changes."

"We did not stand still during the pandemic, and we will not stop moving forward," His Highness underscored.

Despite the effects of the global pandemic, the UAE outperformed leading countries, such as the United States, Finland, Canada,

Luxembourg, Germany, the United Kingdom, and France, and was the only country in the region to rank in the top 10 for five consecutive years.

The UAE placed 3rd for government efficiency, 8th for business efficiency, and 9th for economic performance in the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking.

According to this year's report, the UAE ranked No. 1 in 22 indicators; No. 5 in 62 indices; and stood in the top 10 of 120 indices.

# Mohammed bin Rashid forms UAE Genomics Council



**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has approved the formation of the UAE Genomics Council to provide a world-class healthcare system.

To be chaired by HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Office, the new Council will regulate, oversee, and guide the implementation of the Emirati Genome Programme into the healthcare system of the country.

Incorporating genomics—an

interdisciplinary study on the development of genome-scale technologies and their application to all areas of biological investigations—into the healthcare system is part of the UAE's efforts to reduce the prevalence of genetic disorders, disabilities and mortality rates.

The Council will regulate data acquisition and storage and establish a system for issuing ethics and consent approvals for all genomics programmes. It is also tasked to support technology start-ups and companies and build partnerships with world-leading technology firms to drive cutting-edge genomics research.

## VP highlights UAE's COVID-19 fight as a story of strength, fortitude

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, commended the UAE's effective fight against the COVID-19 pandemic as a story of strength, fortitude and endurance.

However, the Vice President acknowledged that, same with the rest of the world, COVID-19 had tested the country's resilience due to the pandemic's unprecedented disruptions to people's lives. "We have been tested in our ability

to deal with this unforeseen situation, but we have emerged out of it tougher," His Highness stressed.

Noting that it was one of the biggest challenges faced by humanity in its known history, His Highness nevertheless praised how UAE society came together to mobilise efforts and resources needed to tackle the impact of the pandemic.

The Vice President said the pandemic highlighted the investments that the UAE had made over the past years to create a

world-leading infrastructure, enabling the country to counter today's challenges.

"In many ways, the UAE has proved to be one of the best-prepared countries to deal with this pandemic. Not only have we effectively safeguarded the health and well-being of citizens and residents, but we have also weathered the economic impact of the crisis," His Highness said. "The joint effort of the public and private sectors in mounting a strong healthcare response is one of the examples of this spirit of solidarity."

## Vice President orders to hold 80% of litigation hearings virtually

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has directed the Ministry of Justice to hold 80 per cent of litigation sessions virtually on a permanent basis before the end of 2021.

The decision of the Vice President was based on the successful remote litigation scheme adopted in view of the pandemic.

In a statement, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said: "The UAE has

succeeded in adopting virtual litigation systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, we directed the Ministry of Justice to turn 80 per cent of litigation hearings to virtual sessions on a permanent basis before the end of 2021. Our goal is to be the fastest, the best and the fairest in judicial services."

The UAE, His Highness continued, boasts an advanced infrastructure that has been developed across the recent years on a solid basis. The aim now is to expand the

government services that rely on holistic digital solutions to ensure the delivery of social justice.

"The UAE has turned the COVID-19 challenges into unprecedented opportunities for growth and development, and secured qualitative jumps in developing the country's vital sectors and digitising services, thanks to its forward-thinking vision and readiness to continue to provide optimum services for the people," His Highness said.

## Mohamed bin Zayed meets Commander of NATO's Resolute Support

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and General Austin Scott Miller, Commander of NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, discussed the bilateral relations and ongoing cooperation between the UAE and the United States in the defence field.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed received Miller at Qasr Al Shati in Abu Dhabi, where they exchanged views on some recent developments in the region.

Attending the meeting were HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in the Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Emirates Red Crescent; Staff Lt General Engineer Issa Saif



bin Ablan Al Mazrouei, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces; and Major General Saleh Mohammed Saleh Mujren Al Amiri,

Commander of Joint Operations, along with the delegation accompanying the US commander.

## Mohamed bin Zayed, Pakistan PM Imran Khan review bilateral relations



**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has discussed with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan ways to further strengthen relations between their two friendly countries.

In a phone conversation, the two leaders tackled issues of common interest, including strengthening joint actions and solidifying regional and global peace and stability.

They also touched upon the continuing efforts of the UAE and Pakistan in the battle against coronavirus.

The two leaders underscored the importance of a united global response, to minimise the economic, social, and humanitarian fallout of the pandemic.

## Abu Dhabi Crown Prince appoints officials at two social dev't entities

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, has issued two resolutions appointing new officials at two separate social development entities.

His Highness named Salem Rashid Al

Nuaimi as Managing Director on the Board of Directors of the Abu Dhabi Pension Fund (ADPF), and Abdulla Humaid Al Ameri as Director General of the Abu Dhabi Social Support Authority (ADSSA).

The ADPF manages contributions, pensions, and end-of-service benefits for UAE nationals (and their beneficiaries)

working in or retired from the government and private sectors in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The ADSSA, on the other hand, falls within the framework of community development that aims to empower families through financial support and economic empowerment programmes.



## Saif bin Zayed witnesses MoU signing for faster arrival of medics in emergencies

**HIS** Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that aims to streamline procedures to make it easier to bring foreign medical practitioners into the UAE during emergencies.

The MoU was signed between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health and Prevention, Department of Health Abu Dhabi, and Dubai Health Authority.

This partnership brings the 'Bin Wariqah Service' into effect, in order to facilitate the



arrival of doctors and other medical frontliners during unprecedented situations. It also intends to improve cooperation amongst institutions and departments.

The Service was named after Saeed bin Wariqah Al Ameri, one of the companions of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, the UAE's founding father.

## Interior Minister leads Happiness & Positivity Council meeting



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

of Interior, led the Happiness & Positivity Council virtual meeting for the discussion of strategic performance indicators and results.

Other topics on the agenda during the meeting were

the presentation of several initiatives and projects aimed at developing police and security systems,

improving the quality of services as well as the health and safety protocols for the employees of the Ministry of Interior.

His Highness Sheikh Saif was briefed on the progress of the "E-Police in Your Mobile" service, and the extent of the service's achievements so far, in line with the strategic objective of facilitating customers and enhancing their happiness through smart services.

Before the meeting concluded, members of the Council also presented to the Interior Minister the results of the 'Feeling of Safety Index', one of the indicators of the national agenda.

## Saif bin Zayed praises Emirati girl who rescued minor from harassment

**HIS** Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, praised on a phone call the brave effort made by a young Emirati vlogger to save a 13-year-old girl from online harassment.

Maitha Mohammed, an Emirati content maker from the New Media Academy, earlier published an online video clip titled 'My Story with a Victim of Harassment', in which she recounted how she helped a 13-year-old girl who was subjected to online harassment. She educated the girl that her rights are protected in the UAE, and that she must not yield to any blackmailing.

She had also advised the girl to use the Mol's

Hemayati app, in order to communicate the online harassment that she had experienced with the authorities.

Talking about how she felt when she received a call from Sheikh Saif, Maitha said: "I felt that I was on the right path and that I began to reap the fruits of my effort."

"Sheikh Saif's message was for everyone. It was for us all. The 'thank you' message was for everyone who shared my video. Let's continue to serve and do good for our community," the elated Emirati said.

The Hemayati mobile app, which is available on Apple Store and Google Play, was designed



Maitha Mohammed

by the Mol to enable users to report child abuse cases. The identity of the victim will be kept confidential.

# Al Shafar leads internal security meeting



Al Sha'far

**LT** General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior (Mol), and Chairman of the Higher Permanent Committee for Interior Security, led the Committee's 5th regular meeting in 2021.

The meeting was held virtually in the presence of the commanders-in-chief of police forces, directors general, and members of the Committee.

It discussed the latest internal security plans and developments, the continuation of work, relevant key performance indicators, precautions and preventive measures put in place by the Mol in

coordination with prevention partners to contain COVID-19.

These measures are also in line with the UAE government directives to improve the quality of life and increase the safety and security indicator score.

The meeting also reviewed the training plans and awareness programmes implemented by the Mol, as well as future projects for internal security operations.

Al Sha'far commended the efforts made with partners, stressing the importance of strengthening preventive and precautionary measures.

## Al Raisi represents Mol at Interpol General Assembly

### MAJOR

General Dr Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, Inspector General of the Ministry of Interior, and a Member of the Executive Committee of the International Criminal Police Organisation



Al Raisi

(Interpol) for the continent of Asia, participated in the General Assembly of the global police organisation, held via video conferencing.

Al Raisi affirmed the Mol's keenness to support Interpol, to strengthen partnerships with member countries, and to exchange information and best practices, in order to achieve strategic goals of police work.

He also virtually met with Luis Antonio, National Director of the Portuguese Judicial Police. They discussed issues of common interest and ways to enhance security cooperation.

## Mol takes part in GCC meet on correctional system

**THE** Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Directorate of Punitive and Correctional Establishments, participated in the 23rd meeting (held online) of officials of GCC Penal and Correctional Establishments, organised by the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Mol delegation was headed by Brigadier Hamad Khamis Al Dhaheri, Deputy Director General of Punitive and Correctional Establishments, and included Brigadier Yasser Ali Al Harami, Major Hassan Ali Al Badawi, and Captain Tariq Abdullah Al Shehhi.

The meeting discussed setting general policies for the development of penal and correctional establishments, methods of rehabilitation and reform, and real experiences and challenges in facing COVID-19.

Brigadier Al Dhaheri gave a presentation on the efforts of the Mol and its pioneering role in fighting COVID-19 within the penal and correctional establishments in the UAE. He noted that the Ministry provided vaccinations and PCR tests for inmates, besides undertaking relevant initiatives.

## Abu Dhabi civil defence brought fire under control in record time

**CIVIL** defence teams in Abu Dhabi controlled a fire that broke out in a 12-storey residential building in the Al Mamoura area.

Two people were slightly injured in the incident, but everyone was safely evacuated.

Brigadier Mohamed Ibrahim Al Ameri, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority, explained that the blaze was brought under control in record time, thanks to the preparedness of firefighters, rescue and ambulance personnel, and police teams clearing the way for the fire engines.

Al Ameri praised the efforts of the Abu Dhabi Police Traffic and Patrols Directorate in alerting drivers about the closure of some roads leading to the accident site and diverting traffic to alternative roads.

He called on the owners of establishments to always abide by the

safety and prevention requirements in residential and commercial buildings, in order to enhance efforts to avoid such accidents.

On the other hand, the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority have completed their preparations for the summer season, focusing on enhancing public awareness of fire safety measures in homes, shops, and other commercial establishments.

The Authority plans to raise the number of field teams to further shorten the response time alongside increasing public awareness. Also, inspection campaigns will be undertaken to check the prevention measures in place.

Householders and restaurant owners have been urged to ensure safety checks for cooking stoves, gas delivery pipes, gas cylinders, exposed electrical networks, and general appliances such as air-conditioners.

Drivers have been reminded of



Al Ameri

vehicle safety checks and maintenance to prevent fire accidents, and the need to have fire extinguishers inside cars.

The Authority also urged the public to give way to fire engines, ambulances, and rescue vehicles.

## Abu Dhabi Police organise blood donation camps



A Special Tasks Sector employee donating blood

**THE** Special Tasks Sector, in coordination with the Medical Services Department in Abu Dhabi Police and the Central Blood Bank, organised blood donation campaigns in Abu

Dhabi, Al Ain, and Al Dhafra.

These campaigns stem from the importance of donating blood as a national and humanitarian action, which consolidates a culture of social solidarity,

contributes to saving the lives of patients and injured people, supports hospitals by providing the required quantities of blood of various types, and renews the body's health and vitality.



# Al Marri initiates meeting with Police Academy students



**LT** General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, chaired the meeting of the Dubai Police Senior Leadership Council, with the participation of students nominated from the Dubai Police Academy and representatives from the Dubai Police Council for college and university students. Al Marri praised the students’

participation in the meeting, saying they can contribute greatly to police and community works.

Major General Abdul Quddus Al Obaidly, Dubai Police’s Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Quality and Excellence, reviewed the new mechanism for testing officers in leadership positions by adopting an innovative electronic

system. This system reveals performances that exceed expectations and supports the development of the human element in police work, in order to achieve the Dubai Police strategy for the next 50 years.

Meanwhile, Colonel Abdullah Hassan Muftah, Director of Performance and Job Motivation Department in the General Administration of Human Resources, explained the ‘Together to Support Expo 2020’ initiative, related to a reward and recognition programme for dedicated police employees.

Lt Colonel Faisal Al Khamiri, Director of the Strategic Planning Department, then reviewed the results of the Sense of Security Index for Dubai residents, conducted by the Federal Centre for Competitiveness and Statistics and considered one of the indicators approved in the National Agenda.

## Dubai Police discuss cooperation with MBRSC

**LT** General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, met Hamad Obaid Al Mansouri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), to discuss ways to enhance cooperation between the two sides.

The meeting was held in the presence of Yousef Hamad Al Shaibani, Director General of the Centre, and Major General Dr Ahmed Eid Al Mansouri, Assistant Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police for Criminal

Investigation Affairs, and several officials from both sides.

Al Marri stressed the keenness of Dubai Police to communicate and cooperate with all government and private institutions that served the country and the public interest. He praised the efforts of MBRSC employees and the support provided by the Centre to all government agencies and vital sectors.

The Dubai Police delegation toured the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre complex and reviewed the Operations

Room, the Centre’s projects and initiatives and smart systems, then moved to the satellite manufacturing laboratories and their special programmes.

During the tour, Al Marri met Nora Al Matrooshi and Mohammed Al Mulla, two new astronauts in the second batch of the UAE Astronaut Programme, and listened to their explanation about the training programme, wishing them continued success.

## UAQ Police intensify precautionary inspection campaigns

**MAJOR** General Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla, Commander-in-Chief of Umm Al Quwain Police and Chairman of the Local Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Team in the Emirate of Umm Al Quwain, led a meeting with the audit and follow-up team in charge of the

implementation of COVID-19 precautionary measures.

During the meeting, Al Mualla directed to increase members of the inspection team to ensure full adherence of residents and commercial establishments with precautionary measures in place, in

cooperation with other related institutions.

His directive was in line with the national efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. He underscored that it was also within the framework of the Ministry of Interior’s strategy for the continuous development and improvement of police services.

# Al Shamsi attends awarding ceremony of 'UAE Innovates' Award



Al Shamsi giving a speech during the award ceremony

**MAJOR** General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, attended the announcement of the winners of the latest edition of the 'UAE Innovates' Award, held at the Police

Science Academy.

Al Shamsi said the launch of the Award was made possible by the great support of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the

Supreme Council of the UAE and Ruler of Sharjah, and His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, Chairman of Sharjah Executive Council and Chairman of Sharjah Police Science Academy.

He highlighted that the objective of the Award is to help position the UAE amongst the most innovative countries in the world. He added that it is in line with the aim of the wise leadership to promote a culture of participation amongst all segments of society, especially during the global pandemic.

The 'UAE Innovates' Award, Al Shamsi said, came from the perspective that minds exist to continuously strive for novel innovations that can serve society.

# Ajman's Masfout area records zero serious crime for second year in a row

**MAJOR** General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, praised the excellent police performance of Masfout Comprehensive Police Station after it recorded zero per cent of serious crime rate for the second year in a row.

Al Nuaimi attributed this yet another feat to the police station's intensified campaign against all forms of crime, during the inauguration of a new building of the Masfout Comprehensive Police Station.

At the sidelines of the inauguration, Al Nuaimi was briefed on work systems in place at the station, as well as other initiatives for further development and modernisation of their

policing work.

He inspected the Investigation and Criminal Research and Security Information Branch, where he reviewed the statistics and mechanisms done when a crime is lodged or received.

Al Nuami also inspected the Traffic and Patrols Branch, and the Customer Service Unit, and lauded the level of distinguished services provided to customers.



Al Nuaimi speaking with officers at Masfout Comprehensive Police Station

## RAK Police open new Customer Happiness Centre

**RAS** Al Khaimah Police opened a new Customer Happiness Centre at its general headquarters, in a bid to enhance customers' services.

Major General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, said that the Centre was opened within the framework of the Ministry of Interior's strategy to provide advanced services through a qualified team who hold diplomas in customer happiness and are skilled in dealing with the public.

The Centre offers 22 services as well as a platform that gives customers direct communication with the Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, in order to meet their needs and hear them directly.

## Fujairah Police launch new anti-narcotics campaign

The Fujairah Police General Command, represented by the Anti-Narcotics Department and the Media and Public Relations Department, launched a campaign called "Let's Protect Our Children from Drugs".

This drive against narcotics aims to enhance society's awareness of the scourge of illegal drugs. It primarily targets the youth, families, and the local community to inform them about the legal and penal aspects of drug abuse and drug peddling.

Lt Colonel Khaled Rashid Al Saadi, Deputy Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration, said the launch of the campaign coincided with World Anti-Drug Day.

Al Saadi called on all members of the community, especially families, to help drug users by placing them in rehabilitation/treatment facilities.

# No. 1

Top world ranking of the UAE in terms of COVID-19 vaccination, with an inoculated population of more than 14 million as of press time. Its outstanding vaccination rate (146.21 doses per 100 people as of June 20th) is considered the fastest in the world according to various global vaccine trackers such as Our World in Data.

# 1st

The UAE's ranking in the MENA region in the recently published Coursera's Global Skills Report 2021 that listed the most competitive nations in the world in terms of overall business skills. Globally, the UAE took 2nd spot in the report that benchmarked skills proficiency across business, technology, and data science in over 100 countries.

# 188

The number of students from various federal and local departments and agencies, as well as companies in the UAE private sector, who graduated from the 6th batch of the Ministry of Interior's Customer Happiness Diploma. Their graduation was witnessed virtually by HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

# 26,065

The number of homes across the emirates now installed with the smart fire alarm system called 'Hassantuk', according to the UAE Civil Defence. It included 10,800 homes of low-income families in the UAE.

# 100

The number of crime investigators from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) who participated in an advanced training programme on crime scenes. This MoI initiative was launched in cooperation with the US-based International Association for Identification, the largest and leading forensic organisation in the world.

## BE IN THE LOOP

### AL SHA'FAR LEADS HIGHER COMMITTEE'S MEETING



Officers and members of the Higher Permanent Committee for Interior Security

Lt General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, and Chairman of the Higher Permanent Committee for Interior Security, led the Committee's fifth regular meeting for 2021. Held via a remote conference, the meeting discussed the latest interior security plans and developments, as well as relevant KPIs related to preventive measures put in place by the MoI.

### AL RAISI REPRESENTS MOI AT INTERPOL'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Participants of Interpol's General Assembly

As a Member of the Executive Committee of the Interpol, Major General Dr Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, Inspector General at the Ministry of Interior, took part in the meeting of the General Assembly, the supreme governing body of the global police organisation. The attendees discussed several topics related to combating terrorism and organised crimes, as well as ways to bolster coordination amongst member states and cooperation amongst police forces across the globe.

### MOI JOINS VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF ARAB SECURITY MEDIA




Attendees of joint meeting for heads and representatives of security media agencies in Arab countries

The Security Media Department at the Ministry of Interior's General Directorate of Security Support participated in a joint meeting for heads and representatives of security media agencies in Arab countries. The meeting was organised by the Secretariat of the Arab Council of Ministers of Interior. The MoI delegation was spearheaded by Lt Col Abdel Muttaleb Al Hammadi, Director of the MoI Media Security Department. The meeting addressed various topics related to security media and ways to enhance Arab coordination in this field.



*Fifty years in the service of the nation*

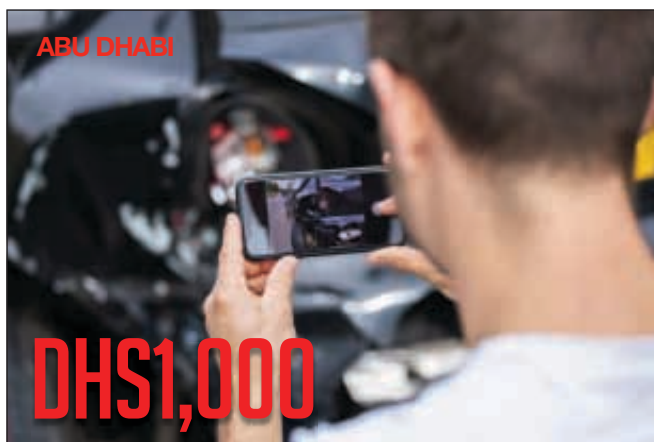


We extend our best wishes to  
the  Magazine issued by  
the Ministry of Interior on an occasion  
**The Magazine's golden jubilee**

 **FIVE C TECHNOLOGY**

# UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS



Abu Dhabi Police and Abu Dhabi Civil Defence have called upon the public to avoid gathering at the site of traffic accidents or fires, as crowding hinders the efforts of the first responder teams. Taking photos/videos of the vehicles involved in accidents and the injured, and posting them on social media without permission are completely illegal. A fine of Dhs1,000 will be imposed for obstructing traffic (by gathering) during accidents, according to Article No.74 of the Federal Traffic Law.



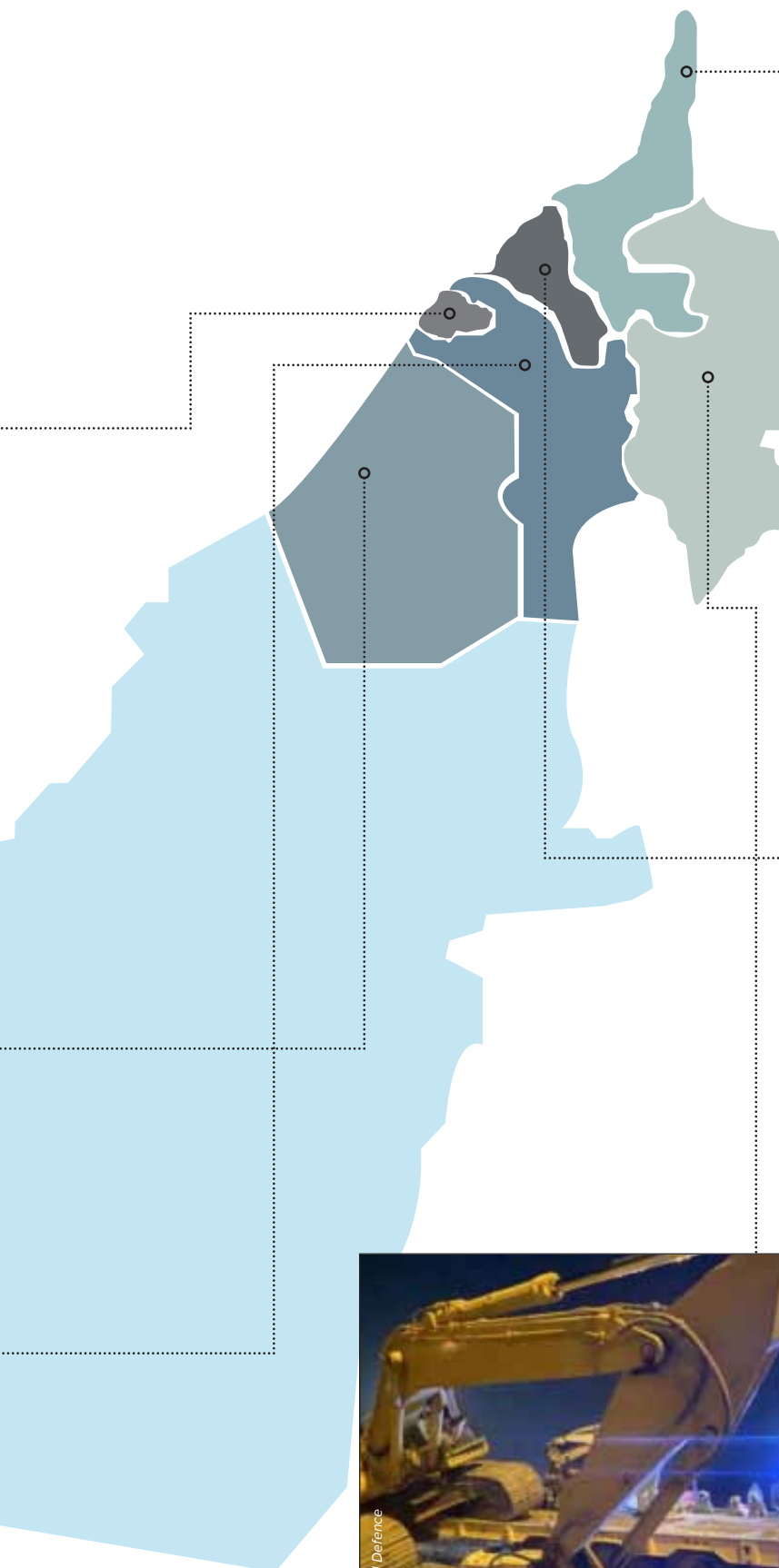
Ajman Criminal Court sentenced six people to jail on charges of stealing and smuggling cars worth Dhs6.35 million. The case dates back to April 2020 when Ajman Police launched 'The Container of the Darkness' operation, in cooperation with police forces from other Arab countries to arrest the gang involved in renting vehicles in the emirate, then stole and ship them outside the UAE. The authorities managed to recover 55 stolen vehicles from the criminal group.



An Asian man was arrested for putting other passengers riding the Dubai Metro in danger. Inside the train, he was captured in a video flouting COVID-19 rules while displaying uncivilised conduct. He was already fined Dhs5,000 for not wearing a face mask, but he could also face up to six months in jail if convicted over performing a disrespectful act in public.



An Asian woman, aged 40, died after falling off the fourth floor of a residential building in the Al Taawun area in Sharjah. A team of police patrols, members of National Ambulance, and forensic officials rushed to the scene as soon as the incident was reported. The woman, however, succumbed to the injuries in her skull and a fracture in her neck. Investigation revealed that the woman had been dealing with a family issue prior to the incident.



#### RAS AL KHAIMAH

## DHS5,000

A Ras Al Khaimah court has ordered a man to pay his spouse Dhs5,000 for destroying her belongings that were of sentimental value. His wife told the court that he kicked her out of their house and destroyed some of her belongings. She initially demanded Dhs20,000 as compensation, but the court ruled that damages were limited to a pair of sunglasses. The man was also reprimanded about his negative behaviour towards his spouse.

#### UMM AL QUWAIN

## 32 YEARS OLD

An Asian woman, 32, drowned while swimming with her family – husband and two children – in the waters off Al Beit Al Mutwahid Beach in Umm Al Quwain. Later on, they began to struggle against the current. The son was able to get back to the shore while the father desperately shouted for help. A beachgoer came to the rescue and pulled the woman and her four-year-old daughter out of the water. They were taken to the hospital, but only the child survived.



Fujairah Civil Defence

#### FUJAIRAH

An Asian driver sustained injuries when his gas tanker crashed into a flatbed truck on Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Road, which links Fujairah and Masafi cities, at around 8:45 pm. Fujairah Police said the injured driver was rushed to the hospital for treatment. They ruled out that the mishap occurred due to reckless driving.

Some images are for illustrative purposes only







A photograph of a waterfront at sunset. The sky is a warm, golden yellow. Several seagulls are in flight, their silhouettes dark against the bright sky. In the foreground, a wooden pier or walkway runs along the water. A man in a light blue shirt and a face mask is taking a photo with his smartphone. Other people are visible in the background, also enjoying the view. The water is calm, reflecting the golden light of the sunset.

# ALMOST NORMAL

**999** LOOKS AT THE UAE THROUGH THE EYES OF EXPATS WHO'VE SURVIVED A DIFFICULT PHASE OF THE PANDEMIC AND ARE NOW UPBEAT ABOUT THEIR ROLE IN THE ECONOMIC RESURGENCE RIDING ON THE COUNTRY'S RIGOROUS VACCINATION DRIVE

BY MARK NITUMA  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON JOHN SILVA ECHEVARRIA







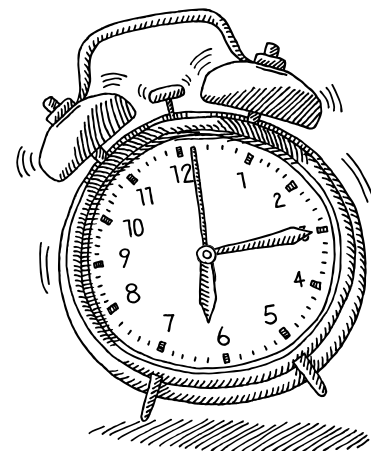
**I**t was just past 6am when Seychelle accepted the Zoom call from 999. Her sleeping mask was still on her head and the grumpy sound of her flatmates' alarm clocks could still be heard in the background. Eyes half-open, her flatmates were racing into the kitchen and the shower room to get ready for work — that's a typical early morning scenario that ordinary workers in the UAE are accustomed to. It was a vivid picture of how life continues to flow for most expats in the UAE, despite the pandemic.

For Seychelle, a Malaysian expat who has been working as a retail store supervisor in Al Karama for 10 years now, there's nothing much to fear from COVID-19 in the UAE, where the government and the people are usually on the same page — be it about respecting general rules or about abiding by COVID-19 safety protocols. Discipline has been enforced successfully in the country, curbing infections and allowing the retail business here to open fully much before that in other nations, securing the livelihood of people working in this sector.

About her life during the course of the pandemic, she shared, "You'd think I'm strange, but I really haven't experienced many changes except, of course, that everyone must wear a face mask whenever we step out. Maintaining proper social distancing is also being enforced everywhere. However, routine-wise as a worker, it's the same thing as before, for us here in the UAE. Or, could it be that my ultimate duty, at the end of the day, is

to bring food to the table for my family? The pandemic cannot change that... and the need to keep moving and work.

"I think the saying, 'Not all storms come to disrupt your life, some come to clear your path', applies to what we're currently experiencing, in the sense that the pandemic allowed us, for me personally, to give much more importance to our relationships with our families, and to love our jobs because these are things that sustain us and give us courage to carry on,



no matter what the situation."

Her role at work hasn't changed much; what has changed is how she views that role now — like everyone fortunate enough to remain employed despite the global economic erosion caused by the pandemic, Seychelle is grateful and happy that she has a steady job. "I'm excited to go to work every day, even though my daily task is the same," she said. "My fears have receded because more than half

of the country's population have already been vaccinated against COVID-19, and so the virus would no longer infect a lot of host bodies," she added.

The UAE has outpaced the rest of the world in terms of COVID-19 vaccination. By June 15, 2021, more than 13.96 million vaccine doses had been administered in the UAE, overtaking Israel's 10.7 million. This includes both fully vaccinated individuals and those who've received

more so these days. Well, that could be one of the reasons why the UAE is one of the very few countries that are open for tourism amidst the pandemic."

As the face of their shop, along with her store staff, she began attending to masked shoppers who peppered her with questions about some product prices and details. Then, she walked us through the labyrinth of shelves filled with stocks, explaining that the store never witnessed any panic buying or shortage. "Our store shelves are constantly being replenished with stocks — they're overflowing or full, to say the least, at all times," she said. "Even if you happened to visit us last year, we had never experienced supplies running low."

In 2020, the UAE government revealed that the country was now producing 6 million tonnes of food every year, clearly reflecting its move away from dependence

She was referring to the message of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, during a Ramadan Majlis held in May 2020, well into the pandemic, titled 'Nourishing the Nation: Food Security in the UAE'. He said, "The UAE at this time is not and will not be affected, whether it's local produce, stockpile or imports." However, he said to the public, that abundance wasn't a reason for wastage. "We want to part ways with such traditions (culture of excess) that are not useful to us and not Islamic as well," said HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed.

That the UAE's food supply was stable was very well reflected in the tonnes of food relief and other aid material that it shared with many other countries across the globe. After all, you can only share something when you have enough of it.



*UAE nationals walking on a pavement*



*Some residents fishing at the backdrop of Abu Dhabi buildings*

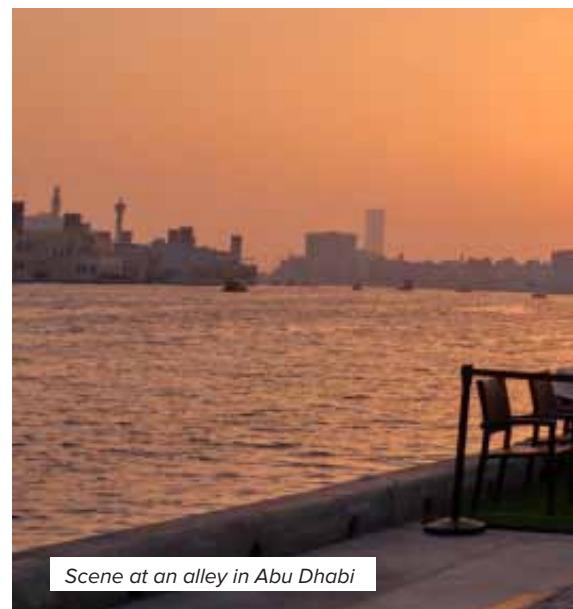
their first vaccine shot.

Meanwhile, Seychelle began taking **999** through her daily commute in the new normal, walking past buildings in Deira. While waiting for the RTA's bus, she showed us over Zoom all the bus passengers lining up to board the bus en route to Al Karama, her destination to get to their shop. The bus queue was impeccably organised, with proper roadside signs that reminded: "2 metres: Keep safe distance". On the bus, passengers could occupy alternate seats. The in-between seats were demarcated with a sticker saying: "Please do not sit here for your own safety".

Seychelle said, "See, I told you. That's how organised things are here. If they were already meticulous before, it's much

on imported goods. Local produce got a special section in supermarkets to show shoppers the full range.

Seychelle recalled the government's appeal to the public at that time to rein in the "culture of excess" — not because the stocks were plummeting, but to remind them that there was no cause for anxiety over the food supply as long as people didn't keep wasting food. "During the early days of the outbreak, I remember some people buying, for example, more bags of rice than they could consume in a month; or some customers buying as many face masks as they could get at one go. [But] after that message from the government, and with the assurance that everything was under control, the mindset of the public changed."



*Scene at an alley in Abu Dhabi*



## HIGHER CONFIDENCE

From the point of view of 37-year-old sous chef Adara Yosouf from Oman, the UAE is just inches away from achieving complete normality. In Abu Dhabi, where Yosouf lives and works, she said that restaurants, hotels, and live entertainment were again picking up pace. Thanks to the UAE's largescale vaccination drive, consumers now have very little fear about coming out and indulging in leisure activities again.

"Most residents here are confident that it's safe to visit commercial establishments like malls, supermarkets, restaurants, and the like. In our case, the number of daily diners at our restaurant is about 60 per cent of the pre-pandemic figure. This is understandable, because we have to follow the maximum capacity rule," said Adara. "Despite the smaller number of diners compared to the pre-pandemic levels, takeaway meals are compensating for that. So our kitchen staff, including myself, have been as busy as in 2019.

"Lately, we've also noticed more families entering our restaurant. Perhaps, it's one outdoor activity they missed the most during the pandemic. Last year, families couldn't sit together at one table; those with larger families had to be split into groups of four."

From the first week of June 2021, Abu Dhabi's Emergency, Crisis & Disaster Committee has allowed members of the same family to sit at one table — with no limits on numbers — in restaurants



## HOW DOES THE ABU DHABI GREEN PASS WORK?

Abu Dhabi has created six categories for its residents, and the validity of the green pass granted to each person is based on a negative PCR test result and their vaccination status. The green pass, which came into effect from June 15, gives one entry into the emirate's commercial establishments. The categories are:

**FULLY VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19:** If you have received the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days ago (from the date of registering for the green pass), and if you get a COVID-negative PCR test result, your green pass will remain active for 30 days.

**SECOND DOSE GIVEN LESS THAN 28 DAYS AGO:** If you got the second dose of the vaccine less than 28 days before registering for the green pass, a COVID-negative test result will give you a green pass valid for 14 days.

**PARTIALLY VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19:** If you have received only the first shot, a negative PCR test result will give you a green pass for 7 days.

**LATE FOR THE SECOND DOSE:** If the appointment for your second dose of vaccine is delayed by 48 days or more, a negative PCR test result will give you a green pass for 3 days.

**EXEMPTED FROM VACCINATION:** If you have a vaccine exemption certificates as per the approved processes, a negative PCR test result will get you a green pass for 7 days.

**ELIGIBLE BUT COMPLETELY UNVACCINATED:** If you are in the vaccine eligible group but haven't received even the first shot, a COVID-negative test will get you a green pass for 3 days.

and cafes, as long as the establishment adheres to precautionary measures and limits the total number of diners.

"This announcement comes as great news for us in the hospitality sector. It's a sigh of relief and gives us hope that more of our staff who had been laid off last year would be called by the management to report for work again," said Adara.

Taking effect from June 15, another new protocol introduced in Abu Dhabi was the use of the 'Al Hosn' app for safe entry to several commercial establishments and public spaces in the emirate. This was intended not to curtail the number of people visiting public places covered by the 'green pass', but to boost the level of confidence amongst the public that

commercial shops are safe to visit.

The 'green pass' is one of three colour codes reflected on the 'Al Hosn' app, based on the app user's COVID-19 vaccination status and PCR test result. The other two colours are grey (means PCR validity has ended), and red (means PCR test result is positive). The colour-coding scheme applies to those aged 16 years and above and is currently enforced in shopping malls and supermarkets, gyms, hotels, public parks, and beaches, private beaches and swimming pools, entertainment centres, cinemas, museums, and restaurants and cafes. The validity of the Abu Dhabi 'green pass' is different for individuals, depending on their vaccination status and PCR test result (see box).







Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi

### HOTELS READY FOR GUESTS

From July 1, 2021, the UAE's capital Abu Dhabi has allowed quarantine-free travel, though there will be different COVID-19 test requirements for visitors from countries segments as high-risk or low-risk.

This decision, which was announced at the Arabian Travel Market in May 2021, was followed by Abu Dhabi once again being recognised as the No. 1 destination for luxury travel, topping the global ranking of cities for luxury hotels, listed by the travel website luxuryhotels.com.

The Capital was hailed as the city with the highest concentration of five-star hotels in the world — these include Emirates Palace and Qasr Al Sarab. The survey revealed that 47 of the 146 hotels across Abu Dhabi are five-star hotels. This means the Capital has a 32 per cent concentration of luxury hotels. Dubai also landed in the top 20 of the list with five-star hotels accounting for 6.35 per cent of its hotel offerings.

Christopher Lund, Head of Hotels at Colliers, an international commercial property services company, attributes the UAE hospitality sector's success in mounting a post-pandemic comeback to the effective health bubble, as a result of the extremely speedy national COVID-19 vaccination programme. "International visitors are expected to feel more confident and comfortable in travelling to the UAE, due

**“ International visitors are expected to feel more confident and comfortable in travelling to the UAE, due to it being perceived as one of the world's safest tourism destinations ”**



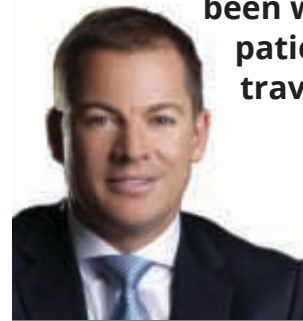
**CHRISTOPHER LUND**

Head of Hotels at Colliers

to it being perceived as one of the world's safest tourism destinations,” he said.

Charles Clark, General Manager of ME Dubai hotel, a property renowned for being designed by Zaha Hadid Architects, said, “With the relaxing of restrictions, international borders and the introduction of travel corridors, we are definitely seeing positive indicators of recovery. There is pent-up demand for leisure travel amongst travellers, who have been waiting patiently

**“ With the relaxing of restrictions, we are definitely seeing positive indicators of recovery. There is pent-up demand for leisure travel amongst travellers, who have been waiting patiently to travel again ”**



**CHARLES CLARK**

General Manager of ME Dubai hotel

to travel again. Additionally, corporate travel investment is increasingly growing, further aiding economic growth.”

In mid-May this year, Dubai also eased COVID-19 restrictions for hotels, allowing them to operate at full capacity. Indoor events were now allowed to host 1,500 people; for outdoor events, 2,500 people — as long as they're all vaccinated.

The decision came hot on the heels of scientific data released during this year's



*Restaurant chefs wearing a face mask to maintain the highest level of health safety standard*



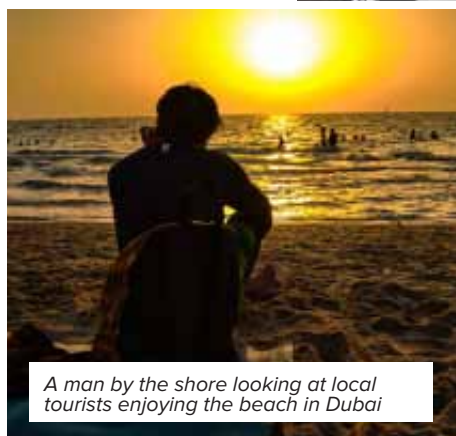
*A bellhop wearing a face mask*

Ramadan, showing that despite many visitors at hotels, the caseloads did not rise as expected, thanks to the authorities' effective awareness campaigns and implementation of COVID-19 safety measures. In this period, as per hotel data specialist STR, the emirates of Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai had hotel occupancy rates of 67.2 per cent, 63.6 per cent and 59.7 per cent, respectively. These were higher than the average occupancy rate, 53.1 per cent, in the Middle East during this period.

Dubai Tourism Chief Executive Issam Kazim expressed optimism that visitor numbers from newer markets in Europe, Africa, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) would see a spike this year. "All of these markets will start to add up and, hopefully, fill the gaps and give us a much stronger foundation to build a confident rebound going forward," he told the media at the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai in May.

## RENEWED BEGINNINGS

The promising forecast of a rebound gives hope to employees in the leisure and hospitality industry. Shawn Torillo, a Mexican bellhop at a hotel in Dubai, said, "The scenario in our hotel right now is very much different from last year. It's as if we turned back time [to] the pre-pandemic [period], almost. It sort of brings good news amidst the bleak situation in other parts of the world. I'm very thankful to Dubai, which is my second home for nine years now, because I was able to keep



*A man by the shore looking at local tourists enjoying the beach in Dubai*

my job that supports my wife and children back home."

The current scenario in 2021, as described by Shawn, is a far cry from what was witnessed in 2020, when around half of the global workforce in the hospitality sector, including in the UAE, were believed to have lost their regular income due to the pandemic, according to a survey conducted by CaterGlobal.com, a hospitality job board. The result of the survey, which polled 1,500 respondents globally, including nearly 700 workers in the UAE and other parts of the Middle East, said that the majority of the employees in the industry, roughly 33 per cent, had been furloughed (i.e. temporarily relieved of their duties), while 15 per cent had been made redundant.

The survey results, published in October 2020, also revealed that half of the respondents (54 per cent) admitted that the pandemic had affected their mental health and wellbeing, citing



*A salon in Abu Dhabi named 'Kabayan', which means "fellow countryman" in Filipino language*

"feelings of isolation", "concern for own and others' health" and "concern for financial / job security" as factors that caused the most worry.

That despondency is gone now and hotels are readying to receive more guests in the run-up to the World Expo this October. Amongst those who are excited about their new jobs is Chef Maria Gallegos Carranza, also from Mexico, who now leads Trader Vic's restaurant at Hilton Dubai Jumeirah as head chef. With her appointment, the restaurant is now fully female-led.

Talking about her appointment, Maria, who arrived in the UAE in 2015, said, "I'm very excited to take on a new challenge working for a renowned global brand. I have tremendous respect for Trader Vic's legacy and its long successful tradition. I heard about Hilton's commitment to diversity before joining the company and I am delighted to join a company that is so supportive of female talent."





## WRITERS UNBLOCKED

There's a condition called "writer's block", in which an author is unable to produce new work or experiences, but the pandemic created a different kind of roadblock for people who make a living as writers in the UAE.

Used to being a rolling stone as independent writers, Heba Hashem and Roopa Menon had suddenly found their world (and career) coming to almost a standstill last year. Fortunately, they now have a steady income again, ascribing this to the quick recovery of the economy.

Recalling how the pandemic affected her work as a writer until the third quarter of 2020, Heba said, "Things were rough when the pandemic started. A lot of companies started doing their work in-house instead of giving out it to freelancers to cut down on expenses. Some did so temporarily while others made this change permanently. It was quite scary to hear this from my clients, as freelancing already comes with a lack

of stability; there is no guarantee that you'll have steady work or income from one month to the next. Also, at the onset of the pandemic, many of my clients took longer than usual to pay. This affected my finances and put me in debt."

Roopa, who has been working as an independent writer for the past five years, shared, "I had ample projects with agencies, companies, and independent clients until the pandemic hit. Overnight, my work came to a grinding halt. Then last September, I got a break and ever since I feel things have been looking up. The level of work has not been back to what it was before the pandemic, but it has really started to look up."

Asked how she overcame that rough patch, Heba said, "I was lucky to continue getting assignments since I had previously diversified my income by working with different companies and offering different services. However, I could no longer just wait for clients to offer me work — I had to go out of my way by approaching new

clients and pitching more frequently to magazines."

Both the writers are grateful for the prompt government responses that helped the UAE economy recover swiftly. A vibrant business ecosystem also means better income for independent writers like them.

"The UAE government was very helpful and supportive in that it did not pressure freelancers to pay their annual licence fees. I remember I was two weeks late in paying my fees and they did not charge me the late payment penalty. Also, because the UAE safely resumed business earlier than other countries, this helped spur economic activity and indirectly benefited freelancers. For example, I continued to translate social media posts for a shopping mall, because Dubai allowed malls to fully reopen in June last year," said Heba.

Roopa said, "Kudos to the UAE government for its relentless and committed approach and management of the pandemic. The UAE has been extremely resilient when it comes to managing the COVID-19 crisis. The vaccination programme and the stringent enforcement of safety protocols have ensured that the country's economy is on an upward surge. I, for one, feel very positive about what's in store for me opportunity-wise."

**“The UAE has been extremely resilient when it comes to managing the COVID-19 crisis. The vaccination programme and the stringent enforcement of safety protocols have ensured that the country's economy is on an upward surge**







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# Let's go for a **RIDE**



THE UAE TOURISM SECTOR IS SEEING A RAY OF SUNSHINE AS LOCAL TRAVEL PICKS UP SPEED THIS YEAR. **999** EXPLORES HOW THE GROWING TREND IN ROAD TRIPS CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF TRAVEL AND LEISURE IN THE COUNTRY

BY JAMES GOLDENBERG











“Working as one team in the tourism sector will bring long-term benefits to every part of the UAE and boost our status globally as a single destination that offers rich and diverse experiences

**HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM**

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

**T**he rapid spread of the novel coronavirus disease (with numerous variants emerging) has hurt the travel and aviation industry more than most others. With cancellation of flights and cruises in most parts of the world, people with wanderlust have had few options to travel so far, even when they're vaccinated and looking forward to their next vacation. That brings us to the great UAE road trip. Four wheels can take the traveller wherever the heart desires, especially within the borders of one's own country — no quarantine, no risk of getting stranded, just the road and the excitement of reaching the next point of interest.

This summer, the UAE is seeing a resurgence in the humble road trip. Packing some extra face masks, which is now a necessity, groups of families and friends are setting off in a car or on minibuses to relish time together safely after months of not being able to mingle with each other. The very high rate of vaccination in the country — the total number of doses administered reaches nearly 14 million— has made this possible.

As a result, leisure travel in the emirates is bouncing back robustly, with hotels reaching their allowed maximum capacity for vacationers, while other road-trippers take a step back from luxurious staycations to do camping and hiking.

In May this year, the emirate of Dubai allowed hotels to start operating in full capacity, after the Eid celebrations. During Ramadan, it was observed that the caseload of COVID-19 in the country had not increased, even though experts had feared that infections could

surge as a result of people and families breaking the COVID-19 protocols. But the UAE government's campaigns to caution offenders proved to have the right deterrent effect. Also, during this period, hotels in the emirates had almost reached their allowed maximum capacity.

That's a ray of sunshine for the domestic hospitality sector, which can look forward to recovering some of its 2020 losses through this surge in domestic tourism in 2021.

The current propensity to go on driving holidays is the result of the pandemic, when keeping one's distance from strangers, especially on shared modes of transport, became a necessary practice. A car — whether private or rental — gives travellers a protected space in which they can relax and enjoy the ride.

#### TRICKLE-DOWN EFFECT

The large number of people doing road trips, whether driving their own car or renting a vehicle, has a trickle-down effect on hotels and holiday getaways, especially during weekends and school vacations.

In March 2021 alone, statistics cited by the Emirates Tourism Council showed that there was a 112 per cent growth in the number of UAE nationals who checked in as hotel guests, compared to 2020. Average hotel occupancy also rose to 63 per cent during the first quarter of 2021 according to data from local tourism authorities.

During the pandemic year, the UAE recorded the world's second-highest hotel occupancy rate at 54.7 per cent, second only to China, thanks to the push for local tourism led by the UAE's leadership, the Ministry of Economy said. When the UAE government eased movement from the end of April 2020, people were free to drive between the emirates as long as they stayed indoors between 10pm and 6am, the time for the large-scale disinfection of public spaces. That may have been a factor behind people checking into hotels for the night.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched earlier this year a comprehensive tourism strategy that capitalises on local tourism to promote the country's destinations for everyone who lives here.

“The UAE Strategy for Domestic Tourism marks the beginning of unifying our efforts and coordinating our capabilities towards harnessing all of our tourism resources in the best possible way. Working as one team in the tourism sector will bring long-term benefits to every part of the UAE and boost our status globally as a single destination that offers rich and diverse experiences,” said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid.

He noted that domestic tourism spending had reached Dhs41 billion in 2020 and expressed optimism that the contributions of the local market and the collaboration amongst federal entities would bring about more engaging opportunities across all seven emirates. “Each of the seven emirates

## THE NUMBERS

### 1st

Top ranking of the UAE in the MENA region in terms of hotel occupancy rate, and 2nd to China in global ranking, according to the Ministry of Economy

### 112 per cent

Percentage increase in the number of UAE nationals who checked in as hotel guests in March 2021, compared to the same period in 2020, as per statistics cited by the Emirates Tourism Council

### 63 per cent

Average hotel occupancy during the first quarter of 2021, according to data cited by the Emirates Tourism Council

### 1 out of 4

Number of hotel guests comprising UAE nationals during the first quarter of 2021, according to data cited by the Emirates Tourism Council

features rich tourist experiences, massive resources and cultural, archaeological and architectural treasures. We aim to unify our efforts to maximise returns,” he shared.

Since the launch of the campaign for domestic tourism, Emiratis with their families and friends hit the road to rediscover the marvels of the seven emirates. Their inter-emirate travel translated to 25.6 per cent or 1 out of 4

hotel guests that comprised UAE nationals during the first quarter of 2021.

### MORE DRIVING NOW

A first-of-its-kind study in the country, titled ‘UAE Car Occupancy Study’, led by the portal RoadSafetyUAE and the insurance company Noor Takaful, found that 74 per cent — nearly 3 out of 4 residents — have used their private cars across the roads a lot

more during the pandemic.

In this multiple-choice survey, published in October 2020, half of the overall 54 per cent respondents who drove their own car — 3 out of 6, or 50 per cent — ticked the box “drive for entertainment”, including visits to restaurants, cinema, shopping malls, sports activities, etc. Of the overall 29 per cent of respondents who rode as passengers, 33 per cent were in private cars or hired transport (taxi, limo, minibus/van) for the abovementioned entertainment activities.

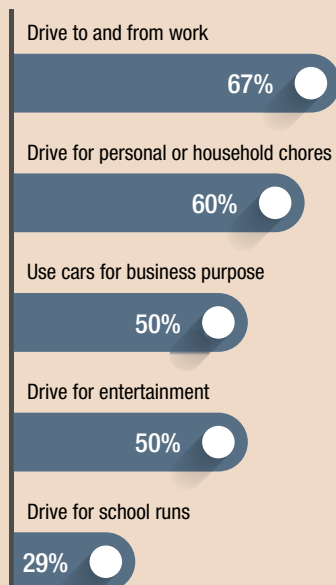
### GDP GROWTH DRIVER

The government is giving a major push to local tourism because the sector contributed 11.9 per cent to the country’s GDP in 2019. His Excellency Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and SMEs and Chair of the Council of Ministers at the Emirates Tourism Council, has expressed hope that with the adoption of the UAE Strategy for Domestic Tourism and a Unified Tourism Identity, this contribution would gradually increase to 15 per cent over the next decade.

“Guided by the directives of its wise leadership, the UAE was able to quickly contain the outbreak’s impact on the local

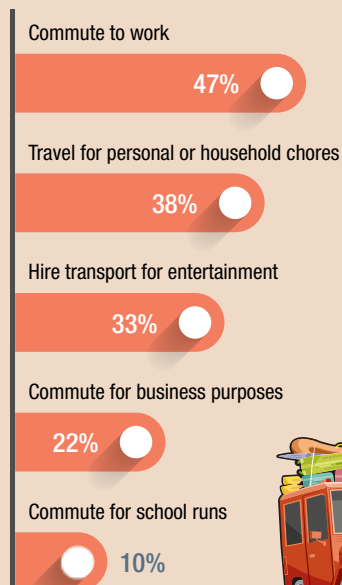
## UAE CAR OCCUPANCY STUDY

### Why people drive

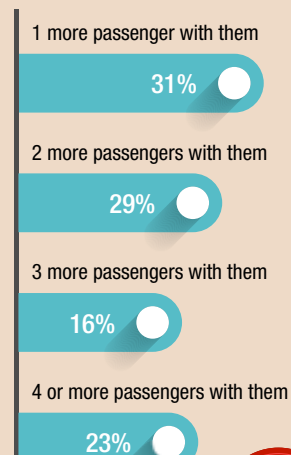


### Why passengers travel

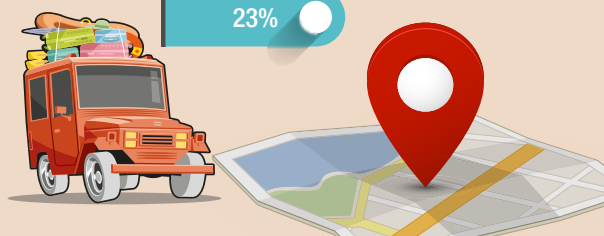
(Passengers of private cars, taxis, limos, and vans/minibuses)



### Passengers' company



Source: RoadSafetyUAE and Noor Takaful Ethical Insurance



## “Strengthening domestic tourism is essential for ensuring the tourism sector’s full recovery and driving faster economic recuperation



**HE DR AHMAD BELHOUL  
AL FALASI**

Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and SMEs  
and Chair of the Council of Ministers at the  
Emirates Tourism Council

tourism sector, relying on innovation and agility in its efforts to provide incentives, launch initiatives, and create opportunities to accelerate the recovery of the tourism sector and boost its contribution to the GDP,” said Al Falasi.

With the government’s strong determination to promote tourism, UAE residents were appreciating the beauty of the country and didn’t need to travel further to savour a vacation, said the minister. This, he added, was reflected in the occupancy across hotels and advance bookings made at various tourist destinations since the country eased mobility restrictions last year.

“Despite the tremendous challenges it brought onto the industry, the pandemic also created new opportunities for domestic tourism, with a surge in demand



*Local tourists en route to Hatta, Dubai*

recorded over the past year, especially during the holidays and vacation season, and some establishments even reporting full occupancy. This reflects the high quality of the services the sector provides, which rank among the best in the world,” said Al Falasi.

This confidence is reflected in the increasing appetite for travel in 2021, according to the latest survey from YouGov, which revealed that 72 per cent of UAE and GCC residents either have already travelled or have already booked for their road trips this year. Furthermore, residents who are planning to visit domestic destinations also saw a boost from 53 per cent in 2020 to 57 per cent in 2021.

The Minister said that the UAE’s drive to boost local tourism would also create

more jobs and opportunities for residents and drive the country’s economy forward, aided by cutting-edge technology. “Strengthening domestic tourism is essential for ensuring the tourism sector’s full recovery and driving faster economic recuperation. The UAE can benefit from its advanced infrastructure, modern facilities, and wide range of services and activities to promote itself as a tourist destination with a lot to offer [to] visitors — be they UAE residents or travellers from abroad,” said Al Falasi.

### REVISITING THE EMIRATES

With restrictions and quarantine measures still in place across international destinations, many expats have also chosen to embark on road trips in the UAE.

Vinayak Mahtani, CEO of BnBme –

Holiday Homes, told 999 that they had witnessed a notable increase in families taking local staycations, especially during school breaks. “We’ve been seeing UAE residents visit local destinations around the beach for the past year fairly frequently. Occupancy and demand go up whenever school breaks start and, much to our surprise, the weather has not had a major impact. We expect areas like Downtown to also start



*Al Rabi Hike in Khor Fakkan,  
Fujairah*



*Hatta, Dubai*



**“The Department of Tourism's strategic campaigns were focusing on targeting the domestic market, because international travel will take more time to fully recover. The UAE hospitality market has definitely benefited from this shift in domestic travel**



**RICHARD HADDAD**

CEO of Jannah Hotels and Resorts

doing better these days as the restrictions ease. The Palm witnesses a large number of Emirati visitors during the summer, especially for those who love to use the private pools,” revealed Mahtani.

“There are still concerns about a third wave of COVID-19, which might lead to travellers getting stuck in foreign territories. Many tourists have used this concept to their advantage to get ‘stuck’ in the UAE. They’ve made the most of the fantastic infrastructure and numerous things to do for visitors here in the country,” said Mahtani.

To date, domestic travel driven by UAE residents who enjoy long scenic routes comprises 62 per cent of total searches for hotel searches, with the hotels serving as their stops before the next leg of the drive. This, in turn, has created opportunities for the local F&B and retail markets to ride the emerging wave of local tourism.

“Promoting tourism is critical for the entire country’s economy and not just tourism. Real estate has started to do very well; retail and F&B are starting to see rebounds, as they benefit from the boost in the local tourism sector. It is but natural for UAE and GCC residents to stay in the country, compared to travelling to risky countries, as the money they’ll spend will trickle down not only for our economy, but for all industries as well,” said Mahtani.

Richard Haddad, CEO of Jannah Hotels and Resorts, told 999: “The trend of road trips will continue in the UAE as there are

**“Promoting tourism is critical for the entire country’s economy and not just tourism. Real estate has started to do very well; retail and F&B are starting to see rebounds, as they benefit from the boost in the local tourism sector**



**VINAYAK MAHTANI**

CEO of BnBme – Holiday Homes

so many incredible places to discover in the seven emirates, which are all easily accessible by car. It is a fun and relaxed way for a quick getaway during weekend.”

He added: “During these challenging times, the domestic market leads the rebound to recovery in the industry. It was always predicted to be the faster to recover. As we see the potential to explore UAE with competitive pricing and attractive promotions of hotels. The Department of Tourism’s strategic campaigns were focusing on targeting the domestic market, because international travel will take more time to fully recover. The UAE hospitality market has definitely benefited from this shift in domestic travel. The biggest challenge is to create a sustainable demand from the domestic travel and make sure it does not migrate once travel restrictions are lifted.”

**“The game is changing now: it’s moving away from governments keeping airlines on life support to thinking of a roadmap to getting back to air travel and an industry that can stand on its own feet**



**BRIAN PEARCE**

Researcher and Chief Economist at the International Air Transport Association

The UAE’s aggressive vaccination rollout is not only helping domestic travel but will also be the key to easing restrictions on air travel, which has witnessed progressive improvements in the past few months.

Brian Pearce, Researcher and Chief Economist at the International Air Transport Association (IATA) stated that this was the turning point that airlines needed as they prepared for the time when they would completely remove all COVID-19-related restrictions.

“We see light at the end of the tunnel now; we can see the point in the future when international travel markets will be opened up as vaccinations roll out to a substantial number of the population. The game is changing now: it’s moving away from governments keeping airlines on life support to thinking of a roadmap to getting back to air travel and an industry that can stand on its own feet,” said Pearce.

## TOURISTS DISTRIBUTION IN UAE

Studies show that Dubai is still the top destination, accounting for 44 per cent of the tourism demand, with many family-friendly destinations, major retail offerings, and a huge variety in F&B offerings, according to CBRE research. This is followed by the capital city Abu Dhabi, with 32 per cent of the tourism demand, capitalising on its culture, nature, and corporate events.

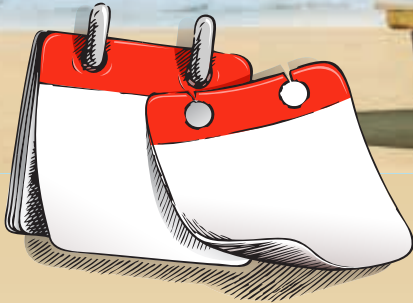
Tourism in the Northern Emirates, comprising Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah, and Sharjah, as well as the emerging markets in Ajman and Umm Al Quwain, represents the remaining 24 per cent of the demand, with their awe-inspiring coastlines, beaches, and unique island experiences.

# YOUR GUIDE TO A UAE ROAD TRIP

BY NEIL BIE

The UAE is rich in local tourist destinations that you and your loved ones can choose from. It's only a matter of planning ahead to ensure that you create perhaps some of the most unforgettable memories of your second home.

Here are the steps and activities that you can enjoy:



**SET THE DATE:** Decide together with your friends or family on the date and place where you want to go. The UAE has seven emirates that you can explore and has implemented COVID-19 safety measures across all destinations to ensure an infection-free, hassle-free trip.

## CHECK THE WEATHER FOR CAMPING:

One of the most popular road trip activities in the UAE is camping — if you plan to pitch a tent at one of the UAE's campsites, be sure to check the weather to anticipate climate conditions, especially horizontal visibility.



**SECONDARY DRIVER:** Road trips usually last for hours on end, and might cause the driver to feel drained. It helps to have a passenger as your second driver, to take over the wheel as you rest.



## BACKPACKING ESSENTIALS:

If you're planning to do trekking or backpacking across the UAE's mountain ranges, be sure to bring only your essential needs such as food and sunblock — and never forget to bring water with you! With the changing temperature now, you would require constant hydration.



**DOCUMENT YOUR TRIP:** Bring your camera or extra power banks for your mobile phones. The UAE's tourist spots offer some of the most Instagrammable places in the world. You shouldn't miss taking videos and photos, especially with name signs of the iconic places you'll visit.



# UAE'S MUST-SEE DESTINATIONS FOR SUMMER 2021



## GLIMPSE OF NATURE

**What:** Kite Beach Centre at Umm Al Quwain

**Location and timings:** Umm Al Quwain Beach Hotel, 6am to 10pm

**You shouldn't miss:** Kayak and stand-up paddleboard experience

There's no better way to cool down during the UAE's summer season than to visit the beach! The Kite Beach Centre at Umm Al Quwain is popular not only for its titular kite experiences but also for relaxing kayak experiences and exploring the shallow waters with a stand-up paddleboard.

Umm Al Quwain's magnificent white sandy beach is ready to receive tourists and local visitors to create lasting memories as they swim on its crystal clear waters with the warm beach breeze.



## PICTURESQUE ISLAND

**What:** Snoopy Island

**Location and timings:** Sandy Beach Resort, Fujairah

**You shouldn't miss:** Mother Nature's rock formations

People familiar with the cartoon character Snoopy will love the fact that there's a unique island bringing Snoopy's shape to life!

The Sandy Beach Resort in Fujairah features a unique beach experience where travellers can wade into the waters, with Snoopy Island minutes away from the shores. Whether you're an early riser or prefer the evenings, marvel at Mother Nature's rock formations that resemble the shape of the iconic canine cartoon critter.



## WATERFALL WONDERS

**What:** Shees Park

**Location and timings:** Khorfakkan St. in Sharjah, 8am to 11pm

**You shouldn't miss:** Landscape and waterfall views

Sharjah recently opened a brand-new park for the public where visitors can marvel at the sights of an artificial waterfall and three terraces that you can climb to get a better view of the entire landscape.

The Shees Park at Khorfakkan is one of Sharjah's must-visit sites, apart from its beautiful beaches and towering mountains. Here, families can let their kids enjoy themselves at a massive play area, and have their barbecue next to the Instagrammable waterfall that plunges 25 metres, ending in a beautiful lake.

## MAJESTIC LAKES

**What:** Moon and Love Lakes, Dubai

**Location and timings:** Al Qudra

**You shouldn't miss:** Bird's-eye view of these lakes

Two man-made lakes have captured the hearts of many UAE citizens, residents, and tourists in the UAE.

The first is the 'Moon Lake', located at Al Qudra in Dubai. Visitors may only see shrubs and sand dunes on their horizontal perspective, but this space has an awe-inspiring aerial view. Netizens who first spotted the unique 'Moon Lake' reported sightings of the Arabian Oryx in the area, a medium-sized antelope that's native to the Arabian deserts.

Meanwhile, the 'Love Lake' has trees and shrubs in the middle of the desert that highlight a unique masterpiece on Dubai's landscape. Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre's KhalifaSat captured a beautiful view of the lake.







### SCENIC FORMATIONS

**What:** Al Wathba Fossil Dunes, Abu Dhabi

**Location and timings:** 24/7, best visited during sunrise and sunset

**You shouldn't miss:** Historic rock formations

When netizens first spotted curious rock formations in Al Wathba, they marvelled at the sight of the dunes that stood out across the barren deserts. The unique shapes of these rock formations were from the interaction between sediment supply and wind force.

Tourists are still free to visit this area. The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi has already deemed the dunes as fragile and prone to damage, which is why it has spearheaded the drive to protect the site through monitoring and regular inspections.

### BEACHFRONT FUN

**What:** Bin Majid Hotels and Resorts

**Location and timings:** Al Jazeera Al Hamra, Ras Al Khaimah. Book anytime

**You shouldn't miss:** The Beach

Find your adventure at Ras Al Khaimah! Individuals who wish to retreat from their busy lives in the city and enjoy the lavish experience of the heat and the seas can now head to the Bin Majid Hotels and Resorts.

The Longbeach Campground allows children to interact with farm animals to feed them at the petting zoo. Adults will enjoy the waterpark obstacle course, while others who enjoy more tranquil mornings can take part in the beach yoga session.

These resorts also feature their own private sandy beach with scenic views of the sea as well as Ras Al Khaimah's gulf area.



### SAILING HERITAGE

**What:** Dhow Yard

**Location and timings:** North side of Ajman Creek, near Al Boom Marine. Visit anytime

**You shouldn't miss:** Historic views of wooden dhows

Witness master craftsmen use their tools and techniques handed down for generations in creating traditional dhows, used for fishing and pearl diving for the past centuries.

Ajman's Dhow Yard remains one of the world's largest dhow-building centres. It also makes fibreglass dhows, powered by diesel engines, for racing events across the country.





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# DEEPFAKES: TREND OR THREAT?

THE ABILITY OF AI-POWERED TECH TO MAKE THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND DANCE MAY SEEM AMUSING AT FIRST, BUT THE POTENTIAL RISKS ARE TOO MANY AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THIS NEW-AGE DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

BY MALOU BARTOLOME

**C**an you make the stately Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II record a zesty dance video as her audition for the TV show *Strictly Come Dancing*? Or get social network mogul Mark Zuckerberg to look earnestly at the camera and say that he's sitting on a whole pile of "stolen data", ready to control the future? Or have the flamboyant Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise entertain his followers on TikTok?

Normally, none of these famous people would consent to anything of this kind; but with 'deepfake' technology, someone has gone ahead and made them do all that and say all that, anyway.

To those who don't always keep track of tech trends, these videos might even look genuine, so refined is the technology, and that's where the danger lies — while deepfake is essentially the same morphing concept (putting one person's face on another's body) that has existed for a couple of decades now, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has taken it to the next level. It's Photoshop on steroids.

This latest media manipulation got its name in 2018, as a new compound word

**“ We are at the point where most legitimate uses of deepfake tech can be controlled to a degree by limiting legitimate access, but these controls likely will have little effect on the potential for malicious use**

coined by a subreddit user from "fake" image and "deep" learning algorithm. Deep learning is a subspecialty of AI, the science of making machines think and act like humans.

To achieve believable video manipulation, tremendous volumes of data from a source face are needed to transpose them to other visual cues. Neural networks, almost with little or no human intervention, "feed and build" a system where they can generate and synthesise a fake persona.

For the past decades, the entertainment industry has been using and enhancing technology to create visuals to improve its storytelling and make them more realistic. Visual effects have become a staple in fantasy flicks

from *Star Wars* to *Superman*, from *Avatar* to *Lord of the Rings*. Thus, viewers see Tom Hanks in *Forrest Gump* shaking hands with President John F. Kennedy in the Oval Office, and carelessly muttering "I need to pee". More recently, post-production experts of *Furious 7* meticulously completed the movie with actor Paul Walker, who had died in a car crash, using computer-generated imagery (CGI) and advanced compositing techniques.

All the current deepfake videos that have gone viral are just outright amusing or contain some kind of a social message — such as a second video showing Mark Zuckerberg calling himself "naïve" and confessing, "I've been refusing to see Facebook's negative impacts clearly, which is necessary to make Facebook better" — that the video-makers want to spread through a headline-making name.

But given just how realistic deepfakes are to the untrained eye, they can create

huge complications for culture, geopolitics, and security. Potential threats include everything from basic fraud targeting individuals to crime syndicate operations that could severely disrupt governance, and perhaps even trigger a war.

A cyber-security expert said to 999, "We are at the point where most legitimate uses of deepfake tech can be controlled to a degree by limiting legitimate access, but these controls likely will have little effect on the





potential for malicious use.”

People in the UAE must be informed about this phenomenon because they’re not immune to the insidious rise of deepfakes, which can be used to malign a person’s integrity. Deepfake can be used for text, video and audio content.

In February 2020, a Dubai resident became a victim of audio deepfake. A manipulated audio recording was submitted as evidence by his ex-wife before the court in the United Kingdom. It was a case of a custody battle, as the mother refused to give the Dubai resident access to their children. To prove to the court that the Dubai resident was a danger to their children, an audio recording was played portraying the father making violent threats to his wife.

The man’s lawyer said that they were lucky to have got the original file. The file was submitted for forensic analysis to verify the authenticity of the recording. Just by extracting the metadata — data embedded into the audio file — the lawyer found out that a recorded phone conversation was spliced using a software app audio file that made him sound like he was threatening her.

“We were able to see it had been edited after the original phone call took place and we were also able to establish which parts of it had been edited,” said the lawyer in an interview with UAE media. “If we hadn’t been able to

challenge this piece of evidence, then it would have negatively affected [the client] and portrayed him as a violent and aggressive man,” he added.

The lawyer said that this was his first encounter with deepfake being used in a court proceeding as evidence. The petitioner in this case was less sophisticated, thus the audio was a bit crude. Such “cheap fakes” may be easy to spot, but the lawyer urged courts to be more vigilant. The technology is constantly advancing, and deepfake creators may soon become skilled enough to elude forensic or metadata analyses. “It raises all sorts of questions about what sort of evidence you can actually rely on,” stressed the lawyer. Because of the secrecy law, it’s not known how the court battle ended.

#### **TYPES OF DEEPFAKES**

Yossi Naar, Chief Visionary Officer and Co-Founder of Cybereason, a cybersecurity technology company founded in 2012, headquartered in Boston, United States, with offices in London, Tokyo, and Tel Aviv, told **999** that it was important to delineate the three main types of deepfakes so that we can understand their implications.

Naar, a veteran software developer and architect, stressed, “Each of these applications poses a separate and distinct threat on its own if misused, but

in combination, [they] have the potential to produce ‘generative personas’ that in the near future will be extremely difficult to distinguish from the real thing. This is where the security implications come into play.” The three types are:

**Mimicking fakes:** This is a technique where the video of one person is superimposed on a target video using AI to enhance and mask the manipulation. Think of this as an advanced “green screen” process that effectively lets one person do all the talking while it appears to be someone else, right down to movements and gestures.

**Generative fakes:** This technique also employs AI algorithms, but in this case, they’re used to completely synthesise new audio and video from existing materials to produce ultra-realistic content.

**Generative text fakes:** This more common technology uses AI applications such as the OpenAI GPT-3 to allow

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**“ In February 2020, a Dubai resident became a victim of audio deepfake in a custody battle**



**“If this deepfake technology can be applied in real time and coupled with advanced audio fakes, there is the potential that you might one day find yourself in a video conference call with someone you think is your CEO but is actually an attacker**



**YOSSI NAAR**

Cyber-security expert and Chief Visionary Officer and Co-Founder of Cybereason

computers to generate text content on almost any subject that is incredibly close to actual human writing.

#### **MALICIOUS APPLICATIONS**

Naar warned, “Generative text fakes using GPT-3 level tech (autoregressive language model that uses deep learning to produce human-like text) can be used by online crooks to make phishing attacks far more convincing and much harder to detect in an automated fashion. By using this technology, one can create deep-phishing messages that will be impossible for the current generation of anti-phishing systems to identify, leaving targets at risk.

“Right now, advanced generative text technology is largely confined to a defined group of people that OpenAI granted access to. They blocked the last generation of the tech from public release due to fear of abuse. So, for the moment, that channel isn’t a significant

threat. That said, the massive knowledge base used in model training means the tech is getting very close to being indistinguishable from actual human authorship, and it’s not clear that a strategy exists to better detect these fakes in the future.”

Meanwhile, “mimicking fakes” with superimposed video, while still an evolving technology, are already good enough to convince a less cautious viewer. “If this technology can be applied in real time and coupled with advanced audio fakes, there is the potential that you might one day find yourself in a video conference call with someone you think is your CEO but is actually an attacker. The technology is not quite there yet, but before long it may result in a very effective attack vector,” said Naar.

The most common type of deepfakes proliferating online — the generative fakes, such as the ones featuring the fake Queen and fake Zuckerberg — have the most potential for a serious threat if used for nefarious purposes. “Consider the implications [that] a convincing deepfake video of a high-profile figure, going uncontrollably viral on the Internet, could have on public safety or geopolitical relations. The potential for real harm is significant,” Naar warned.

#### **PERSONALITIES ARE TARGETED**

While less common so far in the law enforcement or judicial settings, deepfakes are seen frequently and tolerated, apparently, on adult sites. An Amsterdam-based AI company named Sensity reported in 2019 that 96 per cent of deepfake videos it had monitored online were non-consensual adult videos. “[The] top four websites dedicated to deepfake pornography received



more than 134 million views on videos targeting hundreds of female celebrities worldwide,” wrote Giorgio Patrini, Founder and CEO of Sensity.

Without naming names, Patrini said that the top celebrities whose faces were digitally inserted in pornographic videos included two British actresses, three K-Pop singers, three American actresses, an Australian actress, and an Israeli actress.

American actress Kristen Bell of the television series *Veronica Mars* told the media that it was her husband, Dax Shephard, who first learned about her face being used on deepfake adult sites. “I was just shocked, because this is my face. It belongs to me,” she said. “It’s hard to think about, that I’m being exploited.”

Bell thought that with the #MeToo movement gaining ground in policy conversations, so should this type of sexual abuse online. “You know, we’re having this gigantic conversation about consent and I don’t consent. So it’s not okay. Even [if] it’s labelled as ‘This is not actually her’ – it’s hard to think about that,” she said.

*Avengers* actress Scarlett Johansson’s face, too, has been plastered into dozens of graphic sex scenes. One video was even labelled falsely as “real leaked” footage, and garnered millions of views. The 36-year-old American actress has already had her fair share of online abuse; her private photos were hacked and posted online in 2011. The hacker was traced, tried, and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Johansson also sued a person from Hong Kong who made a life-size robot using her exact face. But going against the creators of her deepfake

## IDENTIFYING DEEPFAKES

Generally speaking, the successful detection of fake generated media will be based on our ability to recognise repeated patterns generated by the algorithms used in their production.

“As for video deepfakes, at this point, they generally have a perceivable ‘artificial quality’ to them, even really well-executed fakes. The best weapon we humans have for determining if a video is a deepfake for now is for us to learn to recognise and acknowledge that uneasy feeling that what we’re looking at doesn’t feel real and is somewhat alien. This ‘uncanny valley’ is the key to unravelling fakes — they just feel wrong intuitively,” said Yossi Naar, Co-Founder of Cybereason, a US-headquartered cyber-security technology company.

“As these technologies improve, it’s clear that more than human intuition will be required to make a solid determination on authenticity, and it may be the case that it is simply not going to be possible without the creators of the technologies or the fakes themselves intentionally leaving an indicator of some sort, like a virtual watermark,” Naar added.

“Today, the tools are being built because no good ones exist to my knowledge. Luckily, current generation video deepfakes are not good enough to be a big concern. What concerns me more are generative text fakes because it is not clear that a strategy exists to detect them — because they’re based on a deep and massive knowledge base. They’re getting very close to human authorship.”

videos, she said, would be a “useless pursuit — legally.”

“Every country has their own legalese regarding the right to your own image, so while you may be able to take down sites in the US that are using your face, the same rules might not apply in Germany. Even if you copyright pictures with your image that belong to you, the same copyright laws don’t apply overseas. I have sadly been down this road many, many times,” said the actress in an interview with an American publication.

Johansson said that those pornographic deepfakes, however demeaning they were, did not affect her as much because “people assume it’s fake” — an A-list Hollywood star couldn’t possibly be in those videos. The traffic that these deepfakes attract is unbelievable. The three biggest porn websites that host deepfake

videos are ranked in the top 10 biggest sites across the entire web, and their visitor count exceeds that of Wikipedia, Amazon, and Reddit.

### NO WOMAN IS SAFE

Of late, women who are Instagram, Twitch, and YouTube influencers are becoming the subject of deepfake videos. With millions of viewership traffic comes more money for the website owners.

Even ordinary women aren’t spared. Noelle Martin, 24, an Australian law graduate, was victimised by perpetrators of deepfake non-consensual pornography when she was 18. She found this out entirely by chance, when she tried some “vanity Googling” — a person putting their own name as a search term in the browser. What she saw made her sick; her own face surfaced on several lewd pictures as the search results came up. “I really cannot put into words the feeling



**“The CEO of a UK energy company was tricked into wiring €220,000 (Dhs979,518) to the bank account of a foreign supplier. He thought he was talking to his German boss on the phone. It turned out that a fraudster used AI voice tech to imitate the German boss**



of when I first saw those pictures,” said told an Australian news portal. “It is so violating and it feels like someone is pouring paint stripper onto your dignity. It’s so dehumanising.”

The experience turned her into a campaigner against online image-based abuse. As her activism grew, the name “Noelle Martin” began to bring up news-related search results, but the violation of her rights still hurts. “This is probably one of the most difficult things because fake porn and my name will be forever associated. My future children will have to see things,” she said in an interview.

Danielle Citron, Professor of Law at Boston University, United States, said

that deepfakes were “weaponised” disproportionately against women, making this technology a new tool to degrade, humiliate, harass, abuse, and silence women. “Deepfake sex videos say to individuals that their bodies are not their own and can make it difficult to stay online, get or keep a job, and feel safe,” said Citron.

With deepfakes, the threat of “revenge adult video” has exponentially increased, too. A vindictive ex-lover can simply post deepfake videos of the woman who spurned him. If the jilted lover has access to her Facebook or Instagram photos, it’s as easy as copying and pasting them in a face-swapping app. “In a sense, face-

swapping apps are deepfakes, as they use the same type of technology,” said Naar. “All applications that allow us to pretend to be someone else, with growing accuracy, can be abused for social engineering. Worse still, they can create convincing ‘fake news’ by having someone say things they never actually said.”

#### IMPACT ON FINANCIAL WORLD

Aside from hacking into very secure firewalls of banks and financial institutions, fraudsters are also using deepfake technology to conduct financial transactions. And recently, some have been regrettably successful.

The chief executive officer of a UK energy company was tricked into wiring €220,000 (Dhs979,518) to the bank account of a foreign supplier. A report by *The Wall Street Journal* said that the CEO thought he was talking to his German boss on the phone. It turned out that a fraudster used AI voice technology to imitate the German boss.

The software was able to imitate the voice, the tonality, the punctuation, the accent and his “melody”, said Euler Hermes Group SA, the insurance firm of the energy company, speaking to the *Washington Post*. Aside from the phone call, an e-mail also arrived, so the CEO obliged.

Then, the fraudster called again to falsely claim that the money had been reimbursed, and sought a follow-up payment. The CEO grew sceptical, because he could see that such a reimbursement had not been made and

## CAN GOVERNMENTS KEEP UP?

A Machine Learning engineer wrote in a blog that he could make a deepfake video in just 5 minutes. Greek AI and software engineer Dimitris Pouloupoulos, whose clients include the European Commission and International Monetary Fund, said that with just a single photo of a bust statue and a video of Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio talking, he was able to create a deepfake without writing a “single code”. He got the source code, then created a simple shell script using a deep-animator and — voila! — a deepfake video of a busted sculpture-talking Leonardo DiCaprio.

If that’s how fast one can make a deepfake video, can governments keep up? American states like Texas, Virginia, and California have criminalised deepfake pornography and banned the use of deepfakes in the context of an election. The National Defense Authorisation Act was also signed in 2020, the first federal law criminalising deepfakes.

In China, publishers of deepfake are required to disclose that a piece of content is deepfake, and for content providers to detect deepfake content themselves. South Korea and the United Kingdom are also taking action on deepfakes.



**“Fake content like videos, photos, emails, transactions, etc., are an enormous risk to enterprises and society as a whole. In my opinion, this is the most significant risk we must deal with in an AI/ML world**



**ANDREW GARDNER**

Vice President of Research, AI at Avast

that the call came from an Austrian phone number. Then, he called the German boss. When the CEO found himself handling calls from both the fake boss and the real boss, he was alerted to the racket. The money could no longer be traced.

An officer of software security company Avast warned that deepfakes were threats for enterprises, too. A fake clip could show a CEO announcing false bad news about his or her company, sinking the stock price and harming the brand. “Fake content like videos, photos, e-mails, transactions, etc, are an enormous risk to enterprises and society as a whole. In my opinion, this is the most significant risk we must deal with in an AI/ML world: How do you make decisions when you don’t know what is real?” said Andrew Gardner, Vice President of Research, AI at Avast.

#### THE TREND IS HERE TO STAY

Technology is galloping ahead at an exponential speed, and while it all seems marvellous, people have to be aware of its opposite aspects.

A decade ago, it would take Hollywood studios years and millions of dollars to create believable CGI special effects. The magnificent 3D film *Avatar*, which was released in 2009, took four-and-a-half years to create. *Avatar 2* and *Avatar 3* together took only four years to make, with a slight delay due to the pandemic. *The Irishman*, which made 79-year-old Al Pacino and 76-year old

## BIG TECH BUILDS DEFENCE

As expected, the pace of law or policymaking is not as agile as advances in technology. So tech companies are now trying to build defences. Facebook banned deepfakes in 2020 and has recruited researchers from Berkeley, Oxford, and other institutions to build a deepfake detector to enforce its policy. YouTube also stopped deepfake videos related to the US election, voting procedures, or the 2020 US census. Twitter plans to tag any deepfakes that are not removed outright.

Two programs, ‘Reality Defender’ and ‘Deeptrace’, meanwhile, are also working to keep deepfakes out of your life. Deeptrace works on an API (application programming interface) that will act like a filter to pre-screen incoming media and divert those that are suspected to be manipulated videos to a ‘quarantine zone’. Reality Defender attempts to tag and bag manipulated images and videos before they can do any damage.

For individuals, the best defence for now is to become better digital citizens. How? “We have to move from the Information Age to the Knowledge Age. This will require us all to learn how and where to consume more trustworthy information, how to distinguish the real from the fake, and how to interact more respectfully with each other online, even with those with whom we disagree,” said Hany Farid, Professor at the University of California Berkeley School of Information and Digital Forensic Specialist.

**“We have to move from the Information Age to the Knowledge Age. This will require us all to learn how and where to consume more trustworthy information, how to distinguish the real from the fake**



**HANY FARID**

Professor at the University of California Berkeley School of Information and Digital Forensic Specialist

Robert De Niro look like 30-ish, only took two years in post-production.

Deepfakes have become very helpful for comedy shows. Then, of course, movies are eternally spoofed, for example, *Home Alone* became *Home Stallone* superimposing Sylvester Stallone in the original movie starring child sensation Macaulay Culkin.

After cinema and television, the advertising industry would not be far behind. In 2020, former football star David Beckham was digitally aged, as if he was in his 70s with wrinkles and a grey beard, delivering a powerful message about ending malaria within our lifetimes. Aside from the “Malaria No More” ad, Beckham also appeared in another ad where he spoke in nine languages in a

“Malaria Must Die” voice petition.

For the past two years, there have been websites and smartphones apps that can deepfake anyone’s face in funny videos or animation and share them on the Internet or private online parties. Reface, MyHeritage, Zao, FaceApp, Deepfakes Web, DeepFace Lab are just a few.

But, if only everyone had good intentions regarding these technological advances. The tech itself is just like a knife — it can be used to either chop vegetables or to kill someone. The deepfake video of former President of the United States Barack Obama has shown us what this tech can do in the wrong hands. Soon, it’ll become a case of “What’s not fake anymore?”





# MEET THE BONE DETECTIVE

A REVOLUTIONARY 3D TECHNOLOGY — MICRO-CT — IS BEING INCREASINGLY ADOPTED BY POLICE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING IN THE UAE, TO FIND CLUES HIDDEN BEYOND THE FLESH

BY MARK NITUMA





WMG, University of Warwick

3D printed model of a murder victim's humerus bone

Security and technology go hand in hand these days, and the UAE puts equal emphasis on both. Alongside the tech-led services introduced in fields like public transport and banking, the crime-fighting apparatus in the country is also continuously enhanced by new chemical, physical, and digital techniques.

Futuristic forensic science techniques deployed by the police forces in the UAE play a crucial role in criminal investigation, analysis, and evaluation of evidence, leaving no stone unturned to deliver justice.

Any forensic process starts with the crime scene, just like what we see in thrillers. This is the scene that yields most of the immediate clues to the how, why and who of the crime. Progressively, forensic science is enabling investigators to find even those clues that aren't visible with the naked eye. This serves the twin purpose of speeding up investigations and zeroing in on suspects with greater accuracy. One of the newest technologies adopted by police in the UAE is micro-CT, a 3D imaging technique using X-rays that allows the investigators to see inside a solid object.

This is the same technology used for the 2015 forensic analysis of the remains of King Richard III, the 15th-century English monarch who died in the Battle

of Bosworth Field in 1485. The use of the micro-CT technology — that's short for micro-computer X-ray tomography — enabled historical researchers to see and analyse all the clues left in the remains as to how the king may have died in combat.

#### SLAIN BABY GETS JUSTICE

The new technology is also helping police forces to solve "cold cases", i.e. cases in which the trail of investigation has gone cold, meaning no new clues are to be found, and the probes are going nowhere.

In April 2019, micro-CT technology proved that a woman had crushed her little baby, Teri-Rae, to death. The baby had died in January 2017, and at first, no wrongdoing had been suspected, as there was no external injury. The mother claimed that she woke up on a settee, lying next to the baby, and found the infant "blue and lifeless". However, a medical exam on the baby's corpse revealed fractured ribs, and so a police case file was opened.

It took months of investigation, and finally, the micro-CT scan of the baby's body — in collaboration between the



WMG, University of Warwick

Prof. Mark Williams (left) and Detective Superintendent Mark Payne (right) looking at several high-resolution 3D scan images of small body parts

**“The successful application of micro-CT tool mark analysis reflects Dubai Police’s keenness on keeping pace with the latest scientific advances across all fields**



**MAJOR GENERAL DR AHMAD  
EID AL MANSOURI**

Director of the General Department of Forensics and Criminology at Dubai Police

police and the University of Warwick — to reveal the injuries, including several hairline rib fractures, that confirmed the mother had crushed the baby to death, suffocating her over several hours. “We were able to show that Teri-Rae suffered 10 rib fractures over a four- to 12-hour period between 3am and 11am on January 2, 2017,” said Sergeant Mick Byron from the Child Abuse Investigation Team, speaking to the media. “Significant force is required to cause rib fractures in a baby... the presence of rib fractures in a baby of this age is indicative of abusive, deliberately inflicted, injury.”



A Dubai Police’s forensic officer examines human bones



A forensic officer from Dubai Police looking at a piece of evidence

The mother was charged with manslaughter and was jailed for 13-and-a-half years after she was found guilty by a jury.

The 3D images of the micro-CT scan were “1,000s of times more enhanced than traditional hospital CT scans”, said a report. This technology can reveal the smallest injuries and their type, helping law enforcement to match the injuries with the time, place, motive, and murder weapon.

#### **BODY IN THE DESERT**

Micro-CT also aided Dubai Police in April 2021 in solving a murder mystery. Major General Dr Ahmad Eid Al Mansouri, Director of the General Department of Forensics and Criminology at Dubai Police, said that they were able to provide reliable evidence for the Dubai Public Prosecution to proceed with the case. He said: “The successful application of micro-CT tool mark analysis reflects, once again, Dubai Police’s keenness on keeping pace with the latest scientific advances across all fields and utilising available technologies in the policing work.”

It began when police got a report about a corpse left in a remote desert area of the emirate. A team went there but found no murder weapon anywhere nearby. Post mortem showed that the victim was stabbed to death, even though no such knives were found nearby. The heat and weather erosion also made it next to impossible to find any fingerprints on the body.

Further investigations led the police to six suspects believed to have attacked the dead person with white weapons (knives and similar weapons). Though the weapons were missing at first, the diligent police force continued looking for the knives and found them buried somewhere far away from the desert where the body was left. Then, there was another problem: all bloodstain traces on the weapons had been wiped out by natural processes, making it impossible for the police to match any stains with the victim’s blood.

It was a puzzle: the weapons had to be connected with the murder for the case to proceed, but how would it be done?

Lieutenant Eng. Mohammad Al Shamsi, Head of Firearms and Tool Marks Section at Dubai Police, said, “The suspects intentionally buried the crime tools in a different remote area to mislead detectives and divert investigation... At first, it was impossible to link crime tools either to the suspects or the case. Therefore, the evidence was handed over to Dubai Police’s forensic analysts who specialise in tool marks in human bones and cartilage.”

**“In April 2021, forensic analysts of Dubai Police used micro-CT technology to match the injury marks on a victim’s bones and cartilage with the type of weapons used in the killing**

**“After collecting tool mark prints from the victim’s wounds and bones and comparing them to the weapons, specialists were able to provide convicting evidence that could stand in court and serve justice**



## LIEUTENANT ENG. MOHAMMAD AL SHAMSI

Head of Firearms and Tool Marks Section at Dubai Police

The forensic analysts used micro-CT technology to match the injury marks on the victim’s bones and cartilage with the type of weapons used in the killing. “After collecting tool mark prints from the victim’s wounds and bones and comparing them to the weapons, specialists were able to link them to the murder case and provide convicting evidence that could stand in court and serve justice,” Al Shamsi said.

### MUTE WITNESS SPEAKS

“Wherever he steps, whatever he touches, whatever he leaves, even



A micro-CT setup

unconsciously, will serve as a silent witness against him. Not only his fingerprints or his footprints, but his hair, the fibres from his clothes, the glass he breaks, the tool mark he leaves, the paint he scratches, the blood or semen he deposits or collects. All of these and more, bear mute witness against him.”

In criminal investigations, this principle formulated by Dr Edmond Locard, a pioneer in forensic science who became known as the “Sherlock Holmes of Lyon”, in France, serves as the basic guiding principle. It stresses that every contact of anyone to anything leaves a trace. That’s how the Dubai murder case was solved.

It was the injury marks on the victim’s bones and cartilage, perfectly matching the thickness and shape of the knife

blades, that helped the police piece the evidence together. The perpetrators couldn’t have imagined such a thing would be possible; they must have thought the body’s flesh would decompose rapidly in the desert heat, and they were right — but they hadn’t been prepared for the “bone detective”, the forensic science (and scientists) that reads the crime story concealed in the bones.

As Locard’s principle states: “This is evidence that does not forget. It is not confused by the excitement of the moment. It is not absent because human witnesses are. It is factual evidence. Physical evidence cannot be wrong, it cannot perjure itself, it cannot be wholly absent. Only human failure to find it, study and understand it, can diminish its value.”

### HOW MICRO-CT WORKS

Micro-CT, a 3D imaging technique utilising X-rays, provides a means to see and examine a specific feature of interest in greater detail. It is similar to hospital CT scan imaging, but it produces images of forensic specimens with a much higher resolution. It can provide clear scanned imaging of an object with pixel sizes as small as 100 nanometers. Due to this capability, enabling one to examine the smallest details of any object, micro-CT is being used by forensic scientists and investigators to magnify hairline injuries and marks in bodies undergoing autopsy.

One of its main advantages over the usual CT scan imaging and X-ray is that micro-CT can produce three-dimensional





**“These versatile micro-CT machines give a vastly superior technical performance that covers the needs of most police homicide investigations**



**PROF. MARK WILLIAMS,  
PHD FIMECHE**

Head of the Metrology and Visualisation research group at WMG, University of Warwick

images of the object under study, unlike the flat two-dimensional images produced by the commonly used medical technology.

First, micro-CT scanners capture images of the object's successive layers, 180 degrees to 360 degrees. These images will then go through a computation process called “reconstruction” to create 3D models, which can greatly help in post mortem analysis. Experts can examine abnormalities in multiple views and angles — an aspect that's lacking in traditional microscopy or X-ray.

Prof. Mark Williams, PhD FIMECHE, Head of the Metrology and Visualisation research group at Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) at The University of Warwick, wrote in his article published



in *Ingenia Magazine*: “Micro-CT can also provide 3D analysis of objects involved in what are known as ‘sharp force injuries.’” This explained why Dubai Police used the same technology in the mystery of the body in the desert.

“Tool-mark analysis and weapon-wound matching, a developing area within forensic pathology, helps to establish the weapon class used to commit a homicide or to link a particular object to a specific crime,” wrote Williams. “The process of creating an object through the laying down of successive layers of material formed under computer control suits the generation of models for key pieces of evidence that can be presented at court.”

#### INTERNATIONAL TREND

With its unprecedented level of detail that aids forensic analysis of a crime, micro-CT is now being widely used

by police forces in the United States and the United Kingdom, especially for establishing the link between an injury and a crime weapon.

This technology is also used in determining bone thickness and structure, volume fraction, defect analysis, particle size and density, amongst others. Its importance in preserving the integrity of an object, evidence, and remains cannot be emphasised enough. It's a non-destructive procedure that need not cut the samples or specimens, to come up with pathological evidence.

“Micro-CT has the capability to characterise forensic specimens at up to a thousand times the resolution available in the healthcare scanning technology and can be used to identify and classify microscopic injuries. These versatile micro-CT machines give a vastly superior technical performance that covers the needs of most police homicide investigations,” said Williams, of the University of Warwick.

Detective Chief Superintendent Mark Payne, who heads homicide investigation for West Midlands Police, the force that nailed the Abigail Palmer case, said, “It's a fantastic development in the field of forensics and, as we've proved in the few cases to date, can be crucial in helping us uncover the truth behind some of our most serious crimes.”

#### DECODING HISTORICAL DEATH

The revolutionary micro-CT technology became an important part of the forensic repertoire that unearthed the many secrets behind the death of King Richard III in the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485.



A reconstruction of King Richard III's face (from Manchester Evening News)

The remains of the last English king to die in battle were exhumed beneath a parking lot in the city of Leicester in 2012, some 527 years after his death on the battlefield. Before he was reburied with a royal farewell, his remains were subjected to an extensive series of studies led by the University of Leicester.

Using multiple forensic techniques, including micro-CT, experts examined traumas found in his skeleton. This was the first time that micro-CT was used to examine an archaeological investigation on battle injuries of a historical figure. The research was able to shed light on the real cause behind the death of Richard III, who was believed to have fallen in the battle at the age of 32.

It took the researchers six to eight hours to scan each bone of the skeletal remains, but the imaging paved the way for them to see in great detail the traumas that the 15th-century monarch suffered before he breathed his last.

The experts found that the king had 11 injuries near the time of his death. No evidence of healing was noted in his wounds, which meant he died immediately after sustaining the injuries. Of these injuries, nine were spotted in his skull, which the researchers concluded were inflicted using various bladed weapons, such as a halberd, or axe blade. The most fatal blow hit his inferior cranium, which likely led to



a subarachnoid haemorrhage (injury to the brain) and killed him almost instantly.

"This trauma tells us that Richard III sustained multiple blows to the head from a number of different bladed weapons, suggesting he was ferociously attacked from all sides, probably by more than one person," said the researchers in their study published on the website of the University of Leicester.

The position of his injuries indicated that Richard III had lost both his horse and his helmet when he was attacked. "None of the skull injuries could have been inflicted on someone wearing a helmet of the type favoured in the late 15th century; so it would appear that Richard III lost his helmet, or had it forcibly removed during the battle," the researchers explained.

It was also surmised that the fresh corpse of the king had suffered an "insulting" blow before he was paraded back to Leicester by his enemies. "One wound, a stab through the buttocks, may be a symbolic 'insult injury' delivered to the king's body after death. This would corroborate accounts that his body was treated less than reverently after the battle. Polydore Vergil tells us that after the battle, Richard III's body 'naked of clothing' was 'laid upon a horse back with the arms and legs hanging down on both sides'. It is easy to imagine then, the last and most insulting blow being delivered by a victorious Lancastrian soldier

to the king's body as it was paraded back to Leicester," the researchers established. Vergil was a renaissance scholar who wrote historical accounts about Richard III.

### HUNCHBACK OR NOT?

Interestingly, the release of the micro-CT scanning results on the limbs of Richard III became a moment of truth for the public, who recognised him in literary pieces for his physical abnormalities.

According to the researchers, although there might be a grain of truth as to how the great playwright William Shakespeare depicted the English king as "hunchbacked" in the latter's tragedy play titled Richard III, the monarch may not have had such an overt limp.

Although his battle-scarred skeleton had a striking spinal curvature when it was excavated, the researchers said that it was the result of his idiopathic adolescent-onset scoliosis, but this disability would not have been obvious in Richard III when he was alive. Only the ones closest to him, his family and confidants, would have possibly known that he had scoliosis.

"The physical disfigurement from Richard's scoliosis was probably slight. His torso would have been short relative to the length of his limbs, and his right shoulder a little higher than the left. However, a good tailor and custom-made armour could have minimised the visual impact of this. A curve of 70–90° would not have caused impaired exercise tolerance from reduced lung capacity, and there is no evidence that Richard would have walked with an overt limp, because his leg bones are symmetrical and well-formed," said the researchers.





## CAUGHT BETWEEN GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

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

The pandemic has shown us the fragility of the human race. Even while we develop more medications, more new diseases surface

I sit in front of my computer and watch/read the news from all over the world. I was shocked to learn that after announcing cases of black, white, and yellow fungus disease, India had recorded the first case of “green fungus” in a person who had recovered from COVID-19. This green fungus, as mentioned in the news, is the latest infection of Aspergillosis, which occurs as a result of a type of mould affecting the respiratory system, attacking the patient’s lungs and causing bleeding from sinuses. The 34-year-old patient had been infected with COVID-19 for two months and made a full recovery, before developing a nosebleed and a fever. Tests confirmed that he had a green fungus infection.

On the same page, news from the United States said that in a crucial move to confront COVID-19, the US had allocated \$3.2 billion (Dhs11.74bn) for efforts to develop anti-viral pills for COVID-19 and other dangerous diseases that could turn into epidemics. Dr Anthony Fauci, the country’s top infectious disease expert, announced the anti-viral pill programme at a White House press conference.

According to the news, the pills were under development, and could be launched by the end of the year; they were awaiting completion of clinical trials. The huge funding will accelerate these trials, and provide additional support for private-sector research, development, and subsequent manufacturing.

News items, some disturbing and some joyful, keep us in a state of confusion. Do we remain captives to the anxiety and fear that have been in our souls for a year-and-a-half now, or do we open the doors of hope for ourselves to breathe fresh air and get a sense of reassurance?

COVID-19 came at a time when we were closing the second

decade of the 21st century and preparing to enter its third decade with the highest ambitions ever, the ambition that we have come close to defeating the deadly diseases and epidemics that had been attacking generations of humans.

Were we arrogant to the level where we believed that nothing could stop us, until we found ourselves locked up at home, forced to wear face masks and sanitise almost everything we touched? Did we forget that we are fragile humans who got defeated by creatures — the multiplying virus — the naked eye could not see?

We will continue to revolve around this vicious circle for years to come. Perhaps, we will get out of the circle of the pandemic without getting out of the circle of these questions. These have become more like existential issues that humans have been unable to solve for centuries, since Allah created humans and the prophets, and since philosophers have been busy with their dialectical dialogues that caused some to get out of the circle of faith.

Perhaps we came close to some logical and illogical answers to these questions, or we remained in the circle of confusion that surrounds our present lives right now, and our future, about

which we know nothing.

One of the remarkable phenomena since the COVID-19 outbreak is that ordinary people have become scientists who talk in their daily conversations about the types, forms, origins, methods of prevention, and treatment of viruses — this has a dangerous impact on society. It is not wrong for a person to educate himself, but it is a serious mistake for non-specialists to confront what is outside their sphere of experience, especially when human lives are at stake and caught between news that raises concern and news that reassures anxious souls.

**Were we arrogant to the level where we believed that nothing could stop us, until we found ourselves locked up at home, forced to wear face masks and sanitise almost everything we touched?**





# BREATHE OUT THE CORONA RAGE

THE PANDEMIC HAS DONE MANY THINGS TO US — ONE OF THEM IS THAT FURIOUS OUTBURSTS HAVE BECOME MORE FREQUENT. 999 EXPLORES THE PHENOMENON AND PRESENTS WAYS TO MANAGE ANGER

BY RAKHEE ROY TALUKDAR



**A** construction worker in Dubai has been jailed for three years recently for stabbing his compatriot supervisor 11 times, only because his name did not figure in the repatriation list and he needed to urgently see his sick mother back home. His supervisor, who survived the attack, said that he was only following company management instructions and did not have any hand in passenger selection.

In April this year, a young couple in Delhi got arrested after a video went viral, showing them abusing and misbehaving with the police, simply for asking them to wear masks and follow COVID-19 curfew norms. And this was happening in a city badly affected by the second wave of the pandemic, making it everyone's basic

responsibility to observe protocol at all times. The couple later blamed each other for their unusual outburst.

On a short fuse? Feeling angry, piqued over petty issues? This seems to be part of the new normal. The deadly virus seems to have twisted our tempers as well, causing flare-ups over issues that we would have just overlooked in our pre-pandemic days.

Timir, 25, is normally a composed person. But the other day, he got extremely annoyed when he was being bypassed continuously while standing in a queue at a commercial outlet. He flew into a rage and hurled quite a few expletives at the other customers who were trying to break into the line. On other days, he might have just browsed through his mobile phone while waiting in the line and

not bothered about out-of-turn takers.

Later, reflecting on his sudden outburst, Timir thought he could have made others see reason without yelling. Yet, all he did then was shout at the top of his voice; and that wasn't the only time he had felt so angry in the recent months.

Initially, he couldn't diagnose his sudden fury at even inconsequential things. But when family members started pointing out its increased frequency, he knew that the novel coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent movement restrictions, isolation, and uncertainty were perhaps the real culprits.

Timir said, "I can feel that I'm getting irritable over silly things. And I'm ready to pounce at the slightest provocation, not just at home but outside, too — not my normal self. This uncertainty and the fear that nothing is going to be alright ever, is aggravating the change in my behaviour."

Psychologists say that becoming overly sensitive, coupled with angry outbursts, is now part of COVID-19 folklore. Forced to work from home (WFH) for months at a stretch, struggling to find some peace and quiet in households always full of people, or unable to travel anywhere for leisure due to border closure in the destination city or country are some of the factors that trigger this behaviour. Social interactions, too, are quite limited as of now, and no one knows if they're welcome in someone else's home for even a brief visit.

In terms of health, the second wave of the pandemic has been deadlier than the first, and there's apprehension over what the third wave might bring. In the UAE, with almost 82 per cent of the population





fully vaccinated, the risk of transmission is now much lower, enabling the country to gear up for its deferred World Expo extravaganza, marking the nation's Golden Jubilee.

Nonetheless, simmering just below the surface of renewed hope, there's still a lot of cumulative human emotions to deal with — fear, anxiety, depression and, yes, anger.

## BREAKING THE SILENCE

Experts say that a kind of suppressed anger is always lurking in our subconscious minds and many times it just blows up, as there's an increasing feeling now that we've lost control over so much of our lives.

In a report published in April 2021 by an Abu Dhabi-based newspaper, it was said that the demand for anger management counselling had doubled in the UAE since the onset of the pandemic. It added that a quick online search showed just how many services and advice portals specifically related to anger and COVID-19 had sprung up in recent months. Psychologists now feel that the need for anger management is a prominent issue in the UAE.

The report quoted Sneha John, a psychologist with Medcare Camali Mental Health Clinic, as saying, "There is a rise in marital problems and stress between parents and children... Having to adapt to new systems for work tasks and grocery queues being longer than normal, a result of physical distancing, were also increasing frustration and irritability levels."

She added, "Another issue was the fact [that] many people still attach a stigma to the need for



**“ Many people still attach a stigma to the need for anger management. Anger management is sometimes belittled and seen as insignificant. This causes several people to suffer in silence until the anger starts affecting work and personal life**

anger management. Anger management is sometimes belittled and seen as insignificant. This causes several people to suffer in silence until the anger starts affecting work and personal life, especially in terms of relationships.”

The pressure of adapting to WFH — a system where the workday often doesn't end — and supervising children who attended online classes for months has added to people's stress of fearing for immediate family members' health and that of close relatives, especially elderly parents, who live in their home countries.

Psychologists and counsellors list sleep loss, work-related pressure, fatigue, and anger as major disruptors as the pandemic rumbles into its 16th month. COVID-19 patients are also showing signs of irritability and anger even after they recover.

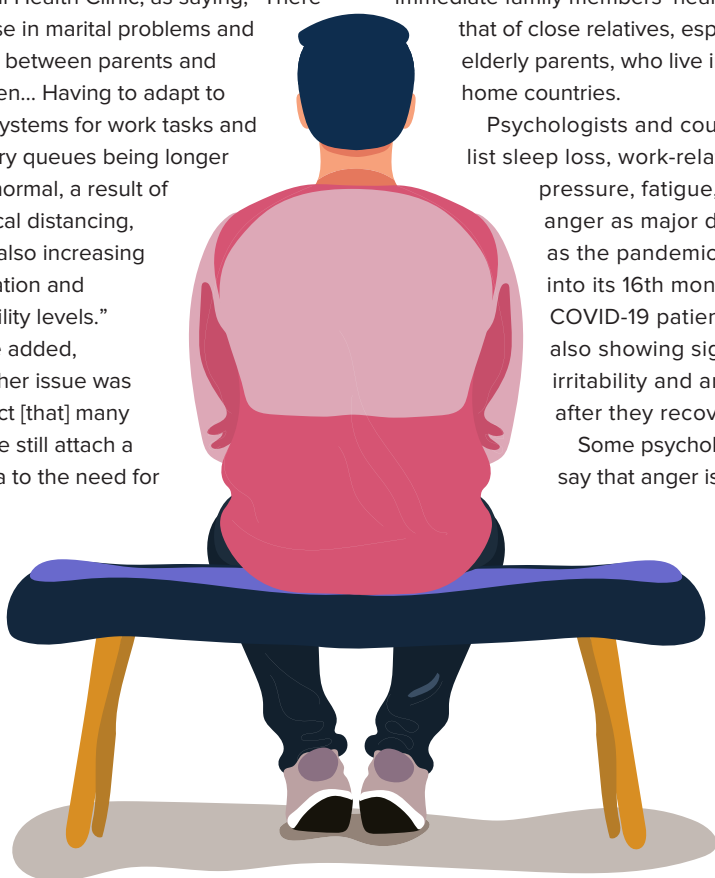
Some psychologists say that anger is a part of

everyone's emotional makeup, helping us to navigate the contingencies of life, but one needs to understand it better in order to rein it in when necessary.

Speaking to 999, Dr Amaka Kate Uzu, Consultant in Family Medicine at Bareen International Hospital, MBZ City, said that anger is a normal emotion that most people experience from time to time; however, it becomes a problem if it starts to affect one's life and becomes uncontrollable.

Her views match that of Dr Hans Steiner, Professor Emeritus of Stanford's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences. In an interview on the Stanford Medicine website, he said, "Getting angry signals that we are being threatened, in danger and there is a need to protect ourselves. But anger is also the most undervalued and misunderstood of our emotions. The [pandemic] situation has presented us with unprecedented challenges which interfere unrelentingly with all our lives. Social isolation may be the best tool to keep the virus under control, but this clashes directly with the need for social interventions which help us resolve anger and rage when being at the mercy of injustice and uncertainty.

"By its very nature, anger and aggression are quintessentially social. We are not just angry; we are angry at someone or something that someone has done. And this fact calls for a socially based intervention like couples therapy,





family therapy, co-counselling of business partners, etc.”

### **RAMPANT ‘CORONA RAGE’**

Mental health coaches say that they’re getting complaints like feeling angry over trifles, uncontrollable temper, abusing people and even animals in these COVID times. This is affecting everyone, young or old, rich or poor. Many are calling it the “corona rage”, a state in which people are not acting their normal self and becoming agitated over non-issues.

Some UAE residents (names changed or shortened to respect privacy) shared moments when they experienced this so-called “corona rage”. Speaking to **999**, Karim said, “It was June [2020] when I lost my job. One time, in the supermarket, I raised my voice to a cashier over the delay in punching some grocery items in my basket due to missing bar codes. After that, I rode a cab and headed home. Again, I almost shouted at the cabbie when the vehicle failed to stop right in front of our building. He apologised. But then, I found myself crying while I was walking towards the building’s entrance.

“I couldn’t understand why I got so emotional at that time. Was it the encounter, the ‘sorry’ of the cabbie, or the realisation that I was not that kind of a person who’d yell at a stranger who did nothing wrong to me.”

He analysed this and understood what was happening: “It soon dawned on me that the effects of the pandemic were affecting my emotional state. I did not seek

an expert’s help, but I talked it out with my wife as well as my friends. To my surprise, it was not only I who experienced an outburst of emotion at least twice when the pandemic put us almost in house arrest and isolated us from the rest of the world.”

Once the problem was identified, the solution came, too. “We decided to Zoom every week and check on each other regularly. And having a support system helped us a lot with getting through that period. I’m also grateful that all of us in my circle have found jobs,” said Karim.

The long periods of social seclusion, the subsequent waves with deaths and disease and negative news all around have been stressful for most people. More so for expats who are cut off from their family back home and can’t rush to them in an emergency. Experts say that these are

**“Social isolation may be the best tool to keep the virus under control, but this clashes directly with the need for social interventions which help us resolve anger and rage when being at the mercy of uncertainty**

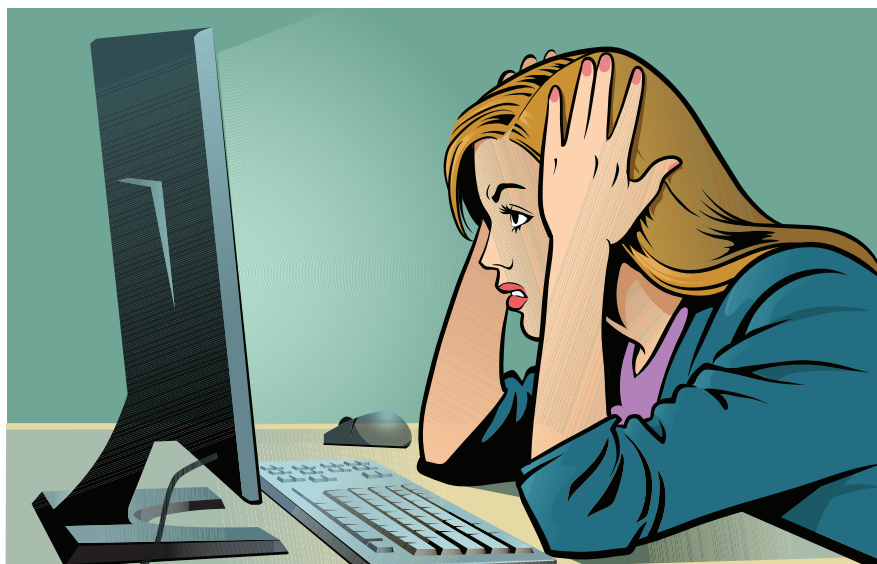


### **DR HANS STEINER**

Professor Emeritus of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, Stanford University

enough to make one impatient and trigger temperamental bouts.

Dr Nicole El Marj, UK-registered clinical psychologist, shared with **999**: “Everyone copes differently, and often we do not experience our emotions in isolation. It’s possible to be angry about something and happy about another thing at the same time. Based on my experience, I haven’t quite seen anger problems as a standalone. Anger management concerns might be the reason that people come into therapy, but shortly after, we discover that



**“The most common causes of anger are: a feeling of being treated unfairly; or people not respecting one’s feelings; and being interrupted when trying to achieve a goal**



**DR AMAKA KATE UZU**

Consultant in Family Medicine at Bareen International Hospital, MBZ City



there’s a lot of other things going on.”

A study investigating the impact of COVID-19 and mobility restriction measures on the mental health of adults in the UAE between May and June 2020 found that over one-third of participants experienced increased stress from work, home and financial matters during the pandemic. The study suggested that clinical interventions targeted towards vulnerable groups were needed to mitigate the influence of the pandemic and alleviate triggers of distress, such as low social, financial, and emotional support, feelings of fear, isolation and uncertainty and threats to health and well-being.

Also, in June 2021, a Dubai-based newspaper reported, quoting experts, that mental health in the UAE was at the “breaking point” because of the pandemic. Findings cited in this report indicated that people who’ve been through a bout of COVID-19 developed certain psychological problems. Dr Arun Kumar, Psychiatrist at

Aster Jubilee Medical Complex, Bur Dubai, was quoted as saying that mental health was affected by “the stress related to the disease/isolation; its treatment including hospital/ICU stays; fear of complications; and could also be due to the direct effect of the viral infection or its immunological consequence on the brain”.

The report further said, citing other studies, that being infected by the novel coronavirus led to neuro-psychological problems in some 20 per cent people in the first three months of recovery; these problems could even include — though in rare cases — episodes of psychosis and bipolar disorder. So, if someone is experiencing frequent bouts of anger after recovering from the infection, it could indeed be “corona rage”.

#### **BRIEF SENSE OF CONTROL**

Experts observe that the emotional and behavioural response to COVID-19 is multi-factorial. It relies not only on external factors but on personal and innate ones as well. A significant increase in boredom, frustration, phobia, worry, and anger has been observed as the

pandemic progressed.

Dr Uzu said that most common causes of anger were: a feeling of being treated unfairly; or people not respecting one’s feelings; and being interrupted when trying to achieve a goal. The way we react to anger could depend on our current situations, past experiences, use of substances such as drugs and alcohol, and now the pandemic.

Dr El Marj said that the pandemic had aggravated the feeling of loneliness and exasperation of not being able to do what one would’ve done generally. She said, “Some of the reasons people are seeking psychological support is due to chronic feelings of loneliness due to social isolation or country-mandated quarantine; stress in relation to work (this could be burnout, getting laid off, struggles with finding a new job); concerns regarding life resuming back to ‘normal’ and what the ‘new normal’ looks like; body image and disordered eating issues; and mainly coping with loss and grief.”

In this situation, being angry might just make someone feel in charge for those few moments. Dr El Marj said, “While anger is a normal emotion to experience from time to time, how we react to the feeling of anger may be the problem in itself. Anger is a powerful emotion that often can be seen. When someone gets angry, he/she may raise their voice, slam the door, make demands, express their disapproval or dismay, have a flushed face, sweat, frown, or cross their arms. These are just a few examples of how anger can be seen. This creates the





**“Anger and aggression act as protectors of raw feelings. The truth is beneath the surface, there are other hidden emotions such as fear, sadness, helplessness, shame, grief, and insecurity**



**DR NICOLE EL MARJ**

Clinical Psychologist

illusion that for a moment, one is in control.

“When I see someone in my clinical practice expressing anger, it makes me think of what other underlying feelings this person might be experiencing or masking. I’m not implying that the person would be doing this deliberately. This typically occurs outside of the person’s conscious awareness. And sitting with those raw emotions can sometimes be more difficult to deal with than just anger.”

#### CAN ANGER HELP?

Some evolutionary psychologists and mental health professionals, however, suggest that anger has valuable qualities and can be beneficial to the human condition, too. Anger is not just an aggressive reaction, but it also provides us with information that allows us to better engage with the world.

Richard J Davidson, Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States, and author of the book *The Emotional Life of Your Brain*, said that anger “mobilises resources, increases vigilance and facilitates the removal of obstacles in the way of our goal pursuits, particularly if the anger can be divorced from the propensity to harm or destroy”.

When we’re angry, that anger strongly motivates us to do something about its cause. In day-to-day situations, anger serves as a positive force to motivate us to stand

## DOCTORS’ TIPS ON DEALING WITH ANGER

The following anger management tips are suggested by Dr Nicole El Marj, Clinical Psychologist and Adjunct Instructor:

- **Recognise that anger is a secondary emotion to protect yourself from feeling pain.** It is usually a response we feel when we think we have been treated unfairly or have been wronged by someone (that someone can be ourselves, such as failing to meet our own expectations).
- **Identify what makes you feel angry.** You can’t help yourself if you don’t really know what’s ticking you off in the first place.
- **Accept the feeling of anger.** This might sound like a given, but a lot of the time, I hear people say, “I am angry that I’m feeling angry and I shouldn’t feel this way.” What tends to happen when you push your feelings aside? They don’t go away. On the contrary, they intensify.
- **Ask yourself, “Is my anger masking other feelings?”**
- **If you find yourself in a difficult situation** and begin to notice that you’re starting to tense up and you’re worried that you will “blow up” then step away, literally. Remove yourself from the situation for as long as it takes for you to cool down. Remind yourself of all the previous times you ever spoke in anger and that it wasn’t helpful.
- **As a temporary relief to calm yourself,** it helps to throw some cold water on your face or to hold some ice cubes.

up for ourselves and creatively find solutions to the challenges we face. Also, we often experience anger when we’re denied our rights or face injustice and exploitation. Standing up for lack of fairness can prevent people from taking advantage of us.

Similar to Sigmund Freud’s defence mechanisms that exist to protect the personality from an unbearable anxiety when the ego is under attack, anger serves this critical psychological function. Anger is a raw, superficial emotion that blocks you from feeling even more painful emotions.

Although psychologists also say that mild to moderate anger can help us, chronic and extreme anger can be detrimental to our health and well-being.

A sudden angry outburst puts your heart at great risk, say doctors. “In the two hours after an angry outburst, the chance of having a heart attack doubles,” said Chris Aiken, MD, Instructor in Clinical Psychiatry at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine and Director of the Mood Treatment Centre in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, United States.

Anger ups the risk of a cerebral stroke, too. One study found that there was a three times higher risk of having a stroke from a blood clot in the brain or bleeding within the brain during the first two hours after an angry outburst.

Our immune system can be compromised as well. In another study, Harvard University scientists found that in healthy people, simply recalling an angry experience from their past caused a six-hour dip in levels of the antibody immunoglobulin A, the cells’ first line of defence against infection.

Corona rage is unnerving as it happens with a sudden, drastic change in mood and behaviour and can have long-term effects on health. Experts advise counselling before it becomes troublesome.

Dr El Marj clarified, “Experiencing feelings of anger and anxiety, as uncomfortable as they are, doesn’t mean that a person has a mental disorder. We’re human beings and by default we experience a range of emotions, albeit some of them can be very difficult to sit with. However, excessive anger or anxiety can be debilitating and can affect the quality of your life and relationships (with yourself and with others). In other words, it can be maladaptive. It can lead to physical and mental health problems. If you suspect that you’re experiencing such emotions frequently and intensely and that you’re finding it difficult to cope, especially during the pandemic, then it might be a good idea to reach out to a mental health professional. You’re not alone. We’re here and we can help.”



## THE RISE OF UAE'S SOFT POWER

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

Creating a bridge between this Arab land and distant America, the UAE's multi-faceted strategy has led to the idea of "Emirati Day" in New York

One of the notable developments around the recent G7 summit (participants being Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States) was the warning by China that the era of world politics being shaped by "a small group of countries" was gone. All of the seven countries mentioned above are amongst the world's most advanced economies and liberal democracies, supported by technological progress, so the Chinese statement seemed like a challenge to the established way of things.

Putting aside the geopolitics of that statement, it is worth exploring what leadership on the world stage means now. A country is now considered strong because of its vision, capabilities, and tools that are different from the powers utilised in the past. The strength of countries today is measured not only by what weapons and equipment they possess, nor by their population size or even their wealth. Strength today is shown by multiple forces that may be subtle or soft and can still help nations achieve their strategy and support their policies.

Soft power may be one of the most important tools for countries today to enhance their reputation and highlight their achievements. The UAE had, in September 2017, launched the 'UAE Soft Power Strategy', as part of the government's annual meetings. This strategy aims to prepare a comprehensive government system to develop sustainable programmes and policies with a regional and global dimension, encompassing all the economic, cultural, artistic, tourism, humanitarian, and societal elements of the country. The end goal is to build on the UAE's reputation and shed light on its civilised image and holistic advancement.

Since the UAE launched that strategy, we have begun to notice the difference in the tools used by the institutions, through which they were able to highlight the image of the UAE at various

international forums. The world could see the UAE's efforts in the humanitarian and cultural fields.

Perhaps the proposal of Senator Kevin Thomas, the US Senator from New York state, to designate December 2, 2021, as "Emirati Day" in New York, in order to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UAE, exemplifies how effectively soft power has been used — it has created a bridge between societies that are geographically and culturally distant.

The US Senator was born in Dubai, and immigrated with his family to New York when he was 10. He saw what the UAE has

achieved and was totally convinced of the importance of celebrating these achievements in this landmark year.

Located at the southern tip of New York state, the densely populated and iconic New York City is one of the most influential in the world in the fields of commerce and finance, media, art and fashion, science and technology, education, entertainment, and tourism. As the central point of the state-wide "Emirati Day" celebrations, the city presents a great global platform to showcase the milestones reached by the UAE in the past 50 years and its potential for the next 50 years.

When a country grows its power based on humanitarian and cultural ties with the rest of the world, on sharing knowledge, and on social harmony maintained for generations, its power comes from its people, and no coercion is needed.

The measure of countries' success today is their ability to influence and change social and public opinion through the channels of political and non-political organisations, which we hope to achieve not only in the state of New York but also in every city and country. We aspire for this to be a driving force for the UAE and its journey, which cannot continue without global support, with the help of soft power channels and tools.

**Soft power may be one of the most important tools for countries today to enhance their reputation and highlight their achievements**

# GOLDEN GIFT FOR EXPATS



THE INTRODUCTION OF DUBAI'S CULTURAL VISA, ON THE LINES OF THE UAE'S 10-YEAR GOLDEN VISA, HAS COME AS A BLESSING FOR CREATIVE EXPATS, WHO NOW HOPE TO MAKE BIGGER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

BY NEIL BIE



Dubai Media Office

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai (9th from left); HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai (11th from left); HH Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior (10th from left); HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs (8th from left); and officials of the GDRFA Dubai along with residents who received special visas in Abu Dhabi including Prof. Afaf Kamal Eldin (2nd left), and Dr Ghaleb Hussein (4th from left)

The flurry of residency reforms that the UAE has seen over the past several months has led to the world's first exclusive long-term visa for creative individuals in the field of art and culture. The 10-year 'cultural visa' being issued by Dubai is derived from the idea of the nation's Golden visa, a 10-year stay permit for the people perceived as most likely to contribute to the UAE's sustained progress and economic diversity. 999 shares the stories of people in both categories whose hard work in this country was rewarded by the federal and local

governments.

Golden visas, enabling a 10-year stay for expats and their families, were granted to two professors, Afaf Kamal Eldin and Ghaleb Hussein, as an acknowledgement of their studies in the field of nutrition and chemotherapy. Also, outstanding expats in the fields of art and culture recently got a cultural visa.

For the UAE government, granting this privilege to people who represent excellence in diverse fields is a way to ensure breakthrough achievements and continued global recognition in the run-up to the national centenary.

His Excellency Dr Ahmad bin Abdullah Humaid Belhou Al Falasi, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) and Minister in Charge of Tourism, said that the long-term

**“Talent attraction represents a key milestone for developing the innovation and investment in human capital within the UAE**



**HE DR AHMAD BIN ABDULLAH HUMAID BELHOUL AL FALASI**

Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and Small & Medium Enterprises, SME, and Minister in Charge of Tourism

stay of the most talented expats would bring new knowledge to the country and that in turn would help future leaders and changemakers in the UAE.

“Talent attraction represents a key milestone for developing the innovation and investment in human capital within the UAE. This policy will allow entrepreneurs, especially the local SMEs, to optimise new knowledge and positively employ that in their commercial activities. This strategy will contribute to enhancing the state's efforts towards empowering the entrepreneurs and allow them to gain



**“ This strategy will boost technology, scientific research, and innovation transfer and localisation. It also will support the UAE’s effort towards generating a knowledge-based economy**



**HE DR THANI BIN AHMAD  
AL ZEYUODI**

Minister of State for Foreign Trade, and  
Minister in Charge of Talent Attraction

the best skills and techniques, leading them to be successful in their enterprises in the administrative, operational, productivity, and marketing aspects,” said the minister.

#### **KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY**

The Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) has been instrumental in drawing the world’s best talent to the UAE and has created several measures to retain them for many years.

His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmad Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, and Minister in Charge of Talent Attraction,

**“ The changes in the residency system reflect the UAE’s interest in not only attracting creative and talented people, but also in ensuring they remain in the country through providing them with a stimulating environment**

praised the efforts of ICA, which has laid down transparent guidelines, benchmarks, and criteria for the Golden visa.

“We will closely work with our partners in ICA to expand the experiences and knowledge base owned by the UAE in different areas through supporting and retaining the expertise existing within the country as well as to attract the best human talent around the globe. This strategy will boost technology, scientific research, and innovation transfer and localisation. It also will support the UAE’s effort towards generating a knowledge-based economy in line with the National Plan 2030 and the UAE Vision in the long run, as per the UAE Centennial 2071,” said the minister.

Mohammed Shael Al Saadi, CEO of the Corporate Strategic Affairs sector in Dubai Economy, said that the sweeping residency reforms would act as a springboard for the UAE’s sustainable growth powered by talent and creativity. He said, “The changes in the residency system reflect the UAE’s interest in not only attracting creative and talented people, but also in ensuring they remain in the country through providing them with a stimulating environment and increasing family stability. This will have a positive impact on development, especially in promoting investment, including foreign investment.”

#### **SCIENTIFIC SUCCESSSES**

Sudanese-born Prof. Afaf Kamal Eldin has been at the forefront of the UAE’s research on camel’s milk and dates. The 59-year-old professor took it upon herself to find out how the UAE can capitalise on the abundance of these two food products in the

country and highlight their benefits for mass consumption.

When the UAE first announced that it would issue Golden visas, Prof. Eldin shared that she was delighted upon learning that she was amongst the first to get the 10-year visa. “Now I can spend the rest of my life in the UAE and continue my mission with a purpose. It will be directed to camel’s milk, dates research and development,” she told local media.

Part of her research involves studies on the anti-diabetic properties of camel’s milk and finding out how to add date fibre to bread to improve the nutritional value of this staple food. While Prof. Eldin has earned her Swedish passport after working and living there for two decades, she is grateful for the UAE Golden visa opportunity not just for herself but also for her 17-year-old daughter, who can now study in the UAE, a country culturally similar to Sudan.

“This country is young but moving very fast towards being well-recognised in terms of knowledge. There is a need for a coherent task force of people who will dedicate their time in this direction,” said Prof. Eldin.

In the field of cancer research and chemical engineering, 45-year-old

### **CULTURAL VISA: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The service request for the Cultural Visa must be submitted via [culturalvisa@dubaiculture.ae](mailto:culturalvisa@dubaiculture.ae) accompanied by the following documents:

- Passport and visa copies
- A copy of the Emirates ID
- The candidate’s resume
- Contact numbers
- Address and place of residence

#### **THE PROCESS**

- Applicants will be notified of the approval by email or phone.
- An accreditation permit for the applicant will be issued.
- Applicants need to visit the accredited office for the issuing of the long-term residence visa.
- Dubai Culture reserves the right to amend or remove any of the terms stipulated in this document, or add on to them, at any time as it deems appropriate.
- Obtaining an approval or a permit issuance from Dubai Culture does not comprise a final approval; it is a conditional approval as part of the required procedures to obtain other approvals from local and/or federal authorities concerned with issuing the visa.



Dr Ghaleb Adnan Ghaleb Hussein is currently in the process of discovering how microscopic capsules could transport chemotherapy directly to the cancerous tumour. This innovative research aims to help cancer patients avoid the long-term side effects of chemotherapy.

The studies are ongoing at the American University of Sharjah, where he and his team of scientists are currently testing it on mice.

His efforts in the lab didn't go unnoticed by the UAE, as Dr Hussein was also one of the first scientists in the country to receive the 10-year Golden visa, which has since empowered him to strive harder to achieve his goals here in the country. "(The Golden visa) gives you ownership of what you do. You feel that whatever you do in the lab is going to be translated to help the UAE, which is your country," he told local media.

The scientist expressed his gratitude to the UAE for the visa that allows him and his family of three children to stay longer in the country. "I believe the heart of the UAE is young. There is nothing impossible; you can do everything here. This is what I love. I live off this energy," said Dr Hussein.

### CREATIVE HUB

A derivative of the UAE's Golden visa is Dubai's very own 'Cultural Visa', which grants a 10-year-stay for residents whose passion lies in the arts. This visa — the first of its kind in the world — has now become the key for many creative individuals in the UAE to prolong their stay and create more masterpieces within the country that the world will be proud of.

**“ This country is young but moving very fast towards being well-recognised in terms of knowledge. There is a need for a coherent task force of people who will dedicate their time in this direction**



**PROF. AFAF KAMAL EL DIN**  
Food Science Professor at UAE University

Hala Badri, Director General of Dubai Culture, said that the cultural visa helped provide a stimulating and supportive environment for creativity and creators. "The long-term cultural visa provides talented people with a stable base in Dubai and contributes to enhancing the emirate's growth by stimulating the creative economy. This will result in creating more jobs in the sector, especially as Dubai has a strong cultural foundation and diverse creative sectors that offer attractive opportunities to intellectuals and creative people. Enabling more eligible individuals to receive this visa has always been part of this pioneering initiative's strategic plan," said Badri.

Speaking of this cultural push, Major General Mohamed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General of the General

**“ I believe the heart of the UAE is young. There is nothing impossible; you can do everything here. This is what I love. I live off this energy**



**DR GHALEB ADNAN GHALEB HUSSEINI**

Chemical engineering professor at the American University of Sharjah

Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai (GDRFA), said that the UAE and Dubai provide a home for expats from around the world who seek to fulfil their dreams in the field of art and culture, without any fear of discrimination, thanks to the country's policy of tolerance.

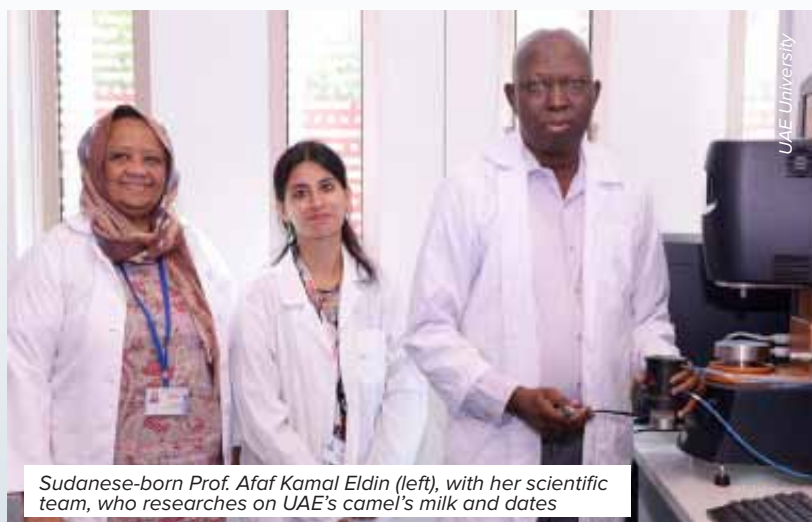
"Dubai offers a high-quality lifestyle and a vibrant cultural environment that have made it a preferred city to live and work [in]. Attracting intellectuals and creatives will contribute to the country's economic growth and boost Dubai's profile as a global destination," said Al Marri, whose office helps facilitate the issuance of the cultural visas.

### ARTISTS' HAVEN

When Indian artist Masarratfatima Mohd Toufique Sulaimani first landed in



Dr Ghaleb Adnan Ghaleb Hussein in a science laboratory at the American University of Sharjah



Sudanese-born Prof. Afaf Kamal Eldin (left), with her scientific team, who researches on UAE's camel's milk and dates

“ Attracting intellectuals and creatives will contribute to the country’s economic growth and boost Dubai’s profile as a global destination



**MAJOR GENERAL MOHAMED AHMED AL MARRI**

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

“ The long-term cultural visa provides talented people with a stable base in Dubai and contributes to enhancing the emirate’s growth by stimulating the creative economy



**HALA BADRI**

Director General of Dubai Culture

the UAE about 10 years ago, she had a simple dream to showcase her talent in hand-cut paper arts to the multicultural society of this country. During this decade, the country has provided her with many opportunities to exhibit her work, including the Sikka Art Festival. It was her participation in this exhibition, held in collaboration with Dubai Culture, that got her application rolling.

“The Sikka team nominated me for the Golden visa, and I then submitted my application to the cultural visa team. I am grateful to them as well for nominating an emerging artist like me and supporting me in my endeavours. The cultural visa will prove to be a path-breaking achievement in my career, as it would help me gain accreditation worldwide and motivate me to create more such paper-cut art in the future and contribute my

## CULTURAL VISA: REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

Residents who wish to acquire a long-term visa under Dubai Culture must first specialise in one of the following fields: art and design, heritage, culture, or performing arts.

In addition, they must meet at least five of the mandatory conditions, as follows:

### 1 CREATIVE PORTFOLIO

The applicant’s creative profile must include a distinct artistic production in a creative field that is personal in nature and has a positive impact on the community.

- Creative profile (the main information contained in the file: name, specialisation, nationality)
- Experiences
- Artistic productions or services (including achievements, contributions, and participations)

### 2 AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

All recognitions, such as medals, prizes, and certificates of appreciation, from renowned parties/organisations must be stated clearly as part of an applicant’s creative journey. Each award must be accompanied with a short description that includes the purpose of the work, when the recognition/award was granted, and the granting entity.

### 3 COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

The applicant’s documents must include a detailed overview of involvement in community programmes that involve creative and cultural contributions as well as an explanation of the creative work done in support of the respective programmes’ goals and agenda. A list of community contributions (including voluntary work), a brief description of the involved-in fields, the number of volunteered hours, the impact on the community.

### 4 ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

Attested educational certificates must be included with the submissions as well as any accreditations obtained by the applicant or records of training courses that they had completed.

- The most recent degree obtained by the applicant in their field of specialisation.
- A list of training courses and certificates related to the technical field.

### 5 MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Any membership obtained by the applicant from an NGO or any cultural and creative organisations must be listed.

#### Employment type

The type of work performed by an applicant based on practised hours is to be mentioned, whether in a full- or part-time employment capacity, or even if it is on a freelance basis or as a self-employed individual. The entities that the applicant had supported or worked with must be mentioned.

#### Income sustainability/financial stability

Applicants are to provide sources of income detailing legitimate income generation.

- A one-year bank statement must be submitted
- Proof of a minimum annual income of AED120,000





Shrutika Gosavi holding a brush that streaks across her canvass



Masarratfatima Mohd Toufique Sulaimani showing her talent in hand-cut paper arts

share to global art. Having a cultural visa provides stability and gives me a purpose to work harder with zeal and motivation,” Sulaimani told **999**.

She prepared her documents, portfolio, and experiences for the past decade after she got nominated. She received her accreditation letter and passed it on to the immigration office, where she got the final approval. She received her visa copy within 15 days. “When I got the news that I was approved for the cultural visa, I was elated and my first reaction can never be described in words. It was a surreal moment for me. It felt like a dream and I felt so proud to receive such a prestigious visa.”

Sulaimani added, “I would like to convey my humble gratitude to the leaders of the country for granting me an

opportunity so big and encouraging me to progress in my artistic journey. The chance being given to artists such as me to receive the cultural visa, for which I am grateful, is to empower and enable talent to compete on the global stage and also boost the creative economy.”

#### MORE RESPECT

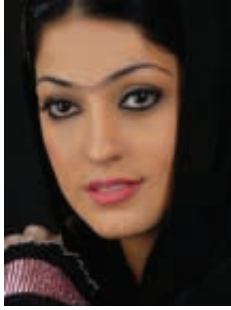
Fresh out of her Master’s in Visual Arts in 2011, Shrutika Gosavi moved to the UAE and started her work as a freelance artist. Similar to Sulaimani, it was also the Sikka Art Festival that provided her with the opportunity to apply for the cultural visa. She was nominated, had her paper processed, and got the approval in 10 days; the visa was hers by around mid-May.

She said, “Artists who are living in the UAE and have dedicated their lives to art and different art practices can [now]

work with more free spirit. Numerous professional opportunities have opened up for us, and we have started getting more respect in society.”

In a decade of creating visual arts in the country, Gosavi has witnessed that the artistic and cultural landscape of the UAE has been transformed with the help of creative expats. “I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the rulers of this land. I feel very honoured and fortunate to have the world’s first cultural visa. I would like to share with my fellow artists: please believe in yourself and in your art. I can tell you a golden advice from my mother and also my experience from my 11-year career is that ‘just be focused and try to surrender yourself to your passion completely’. If you are good at what you do and [are] honest with your art practices, opportunities and success will follow you,” she said.





## STARK NAKED WITH WORDS

**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.

Free our shoulders from the unnecessary weight of words that don't matter to our lives.

**T**oday we speak of naked words and their mantle, the tongue. Any person can lay oneself bare or take cover using words. When we speak, we reveal who we truly are. Our tongue can wrap us up or completely unmask us—our wounds or our strengths and weaknesses. While there are people who fell into the abyss of shame because of their tongue, there are also those who rose to heights because of it.

There are moments when our hearts bleed with pain for reminiscing about a trivial thing, or ingratitude hurled by someone. Words can hurt our emotions because they are akin to lethal knives. Enough with pain, though. Why don't we just try to mend the cracks in our relationships with our words? They can help us heal from the burns of offence or keep us safe from fire.

Our smiles could hide deep wounds or silent screeches that echo off the sands of the shore. When words are fired, hearts can be torn apart, leaving no

room for love. Going to the depths of relationships can become very painful as if we're floating on a surface feeling numb.

Many are those who were stabbed by betrayal, slashed with disappointment. But tears are not merely a sign of pain, as with anger or silence. They are also ways to rise above trivial words, when an apology can

no longer fix a broken soul.

That said, let us crown our pride with the laurel of dignity and honour, and relieve ourselves from bare words and hurtful tongues. Free our shoulders from the unnecessary weight of words that don't matter to our lives.

Honest words lift us. Evil words lower us. The word is a mantle. A

mantle is a cover. Let us choose which mantle to wear to shield us from pain. If the tongue is the trigger, then words are the ammunition and the weapon. Choose the best of words so that you are covered with dignity before you are made bare.

**If the tongue is the trigger, then words are the ammunition and the weapon**



A close-up, slightly blurred image of a hand with several white question marks floating around it, serving as the background for the article title.

# QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD (NOT) ASK IN AN INTERVIEW

WHEN A JOB INTERVIEWER INVITES YOU TO ASK A QUESTION, IT'S A MOMENT THAT COMES WITH SOME DOS AND DON'TS. 999 HAS THEM ALL COVERED

BY DREW RUSSELLE





One of the most crucial points to achieve your goal of being part of your dream company is the interview. Bear in mind that most recruiters follow the 40-second rule in glancing through a job application, because they receive a lot of resumes for just one position.

While an applicant's journey to his/her dream job is decided within the first few minutes of the interview, it also holds true that the last impression you give can make or break your chances of getting hired.

The question that most applicants get towards the end of an interview is, "Do you have any questions for me?" Once you've heard this from the interviewer, you need to formulate valid questions that create a great last impression about you and your work ethics. Your enquiries should not make you look like you're lacking in knowledge of the company or interest in the position. The key here is to project yourself as a flexible and productive employee that any company would like to get on board immediately. 999 has compiled tips on topics you should refrain from raising, as well as thoughtful queries that are appropriate during an interview:

## WHAT YOU SHOULD ASK

**1 WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY AT THE COMPANY?**  
Asking about the company's normal day-to-day operations and learning the daily routines in your role shows your dedication to become a member of the organisation and attention to detail. This question will give you a chance to know more about the company's critical insight on the workday in your prospective role.

**2 WHAT ARE THE BEST ATTRIBUTES OF THE COMPANY'S CULTURE?**  
Seeking specific insight into the culture of the company will help both the applicant and the recruiter to decide if you are fit culturally for the organisation. From there, you can ask about the type of people you will work with. However, be careful of focusing on personalities as it will give the impression to the recruiter that you are only open to working with like-minded people.

**3 HOW ARE EMPLOYEES RECOGNISED?**  
This question will show how the company treats its employees and how it upholds its values and morals. Asking specific questions like these will show how the company handles crisis and challenges in accordance with its core values.

**4 CAN YOU GIVE EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION WITHIN THE COMPANY?**  
This will give an impression that you are invested in what you can contribute to the organisation as

well as your interest in joining hands with your would be co-workers. This will also give you an opportunity to learn the company's work atmosphere and culture.

**5 WHAT ARE THE GOALS YOU EXPECT ME TO ACHIEVE IN THE COMPANY?**  
Asking this question will help you gauge what the company is expecting of you and the tasks that you must focus on and accomplish. Make sure to ask questions that are not already answered in the job description and ask for specific details from the interviewer. Also follow up this question to clarify if their expectations change over time to help you further understand your role.



## WHAT NOT TO ASK

**1 WHAT DOES YOUR COMPANY DO?**  
Asking basic questions, such as the role you are applying for, the company's main business, and its main competitors makes it appear that you did not research about the company or were not paying attention to details in the job description. Researching the company is one of the basic tasks for an applicant before an interview. Failing to do this is considered a red flag to any hiring manager or recruiter.

**2 HOW MUCH WILL I GET AS SALARY?**  
Questions about remuneration are not deemed appropriate, especially during the first few minutes of the interview. "Never ask about benefits, pay, what they will do for you in a first or even second round interview. This will be negotiated once they make you an offer and prior to you accepting," said Amy Stake-Michalenko, Career Services Manager at Fresh Start Women's Foundation.

**3 DO YOU LIKE YOUR BOSS?**  
"What is the worst thing about working here? Can I add you on social media?" Asking employers or interviewers about personal topics is a no-no. Asking about their personal judgements about their co-workers or managers brings negativities in your interview. No matter how casual or candid the atmosphere of your interview, asking personal questions is inappropriate and unprofessional.

**4 WHEN WILL I GET PROMOTED?**  
Basic interview etiquette states that inquiries about promotions or salary raise should not be asked for a job you haven't been offered yet. While seeking career advancement is admirable, you should not bring these up; instead, focus on what you can offer to the organisation you intend to join.

**5 WILL I HAVE TO WORK BEYOND DUTY HOURS?**  
When can I start taking vacation days? Sick leave? Questions like these can have a negative impact on how the interviewer perceives your work ethics and dedication. Furthermore, it suggests that you are inflexible and already want exceptions to be made for you.



## Did you know?

**A**ccording to the interview platform BrightHire, men often dominate women candidates in job interviews. The analysis reveals that men talk 30 per cent faster and more often when they interview women compared to how they talk when interviewing men. Men also dominate the discussion by 60 per cent when interacting with opposite sex. Furthermore, men spoke 20 words per minute faster than their female counterparts, yet their meetings were 9 per cent longer.

The study also shows that men are more than twice as likely as women to get a chance to interview for a position. And their interviews averaged 31 minutes compared with 26 minutes allotted for their female peers.





# HUGE HEIST

TAKE A DEEP DIVE INTO SOME OF THE MOST  
CONFOUNDING ROBBERIES THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

BY NEIL BIE



## MILLENNIUM MYSTERY

**WHEN: NOVEMBER 2000**

**WHERE: LONDON**

It was the dawn of the new millennium in 2000, and London had planned to display unique diamonds at the Millennium Dome, its latest landmark that it had completed after many years. The centrepiece of the show was the perfect, large pear-shaped diamond ever to be discovered in the world, named the 'Millennium Star'.

The announcement of the display of the 203-carat diamond created by De Beers excited the imagination of the public, including a group of highly organised thieves. In the months prior to the official display of the Millennium Star, the thieves began planning their operation to pull off the \$500 million (Dhs1.84 billion) robbery.

On the day of the Millennium Dome's opening, the thieves began their operation by disguising themselves as workmen, and drove an excavator, getting past the security guards who thought they were regular maintenance men. When they got inside the Dome, they immediately put on their gas masks and threw smoke bombs to obscure the vision of at least 64 VIPs and hundreds of other visitors and staff. They drove the large yellow excavator to smash through all the walls.

When they headed to the Dome's money zone, where all of the diamonds were kept, they began to smash the reinforced glass display cases to steal the 'Millennium Star', along with 11 other unique blue diamonds.

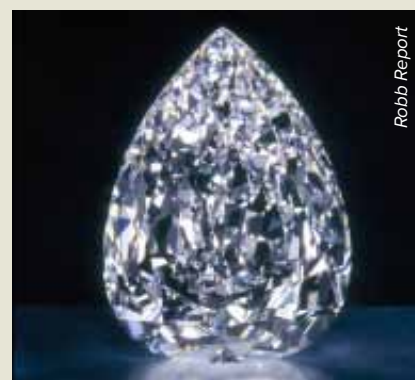
However, all of their plans got thwarted when the Dome's cleaners revealed themselves to be police officers from Scotland

Yard; they arrested all the robbers on the spot. Four were arrested within the Dome, five accomplices were caught in raids across England, and two more who attempted to flee on a powerboat were also caught.

It turned out that the police had known of the robbery plan ahead of time, and as a preventive measure, they had already switched the diamonds within the Dome with fake ones.

"When the robbers went into the vaults, they effectively imprisoned themselves and were ordered to come out at gunpoint by the officers," said Detective Superintendent Jon Shatford, who spearheaded the successful operation that involved the participation of over 100 police officers.

He added that had the police not known about the heist, it could have been the "largest robbery" in the world. The police assured that no one was harmed during the heist.



The 'Millennium Star' diamond

Robb Report

## EXPLOSIVE LEASH

**WHEN: AUGUST 2003**

**WHERE: PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

One morning in August 2003, 46-year-old Brian Wells entered a bank in Erie, Pennsylvania, with a strange bump under his shirt. When he approached the teller, he only gave a note that instructed the bank to "gather access codes" to the vault and "fill the bag with \$250,000 [Dhs918,000]", with a 15-minute time limit.

Wells then revealed that the bump on his shirt was a time bomb.



Brian Wells escaping the bank with a rigged bomb on his chest

Erie Federal Courthouse

The teller stressed that she couldn't get to the vault within the prescribed 15-minute limit. Noting the sense of urgency, the bank immediately filled the bag with the cash that they had at the counters – reaching \$8,702 (Dhs32,000). Wells grabbed the bag, hopped into his car and drove off. However, he got caught within 15 minutes by police officers.

Wells then revealed that he was approached by several men who collared the bomb to his neck, with specific instructions on how to go about the robbery. He pleaded that any attempt to remove the collar would cause the bomb to go off immediately. This information led officers to take their positions behind their cars. For the next 25 minutes, the middle-aged man remained on the pavement, before asking an officer if they had already informed his boss about the incident.

After that question, the collar bomb started to make a distinct, accelerating noise. In a few seconds, the device detonated, leaving a huge gash on Wells' chest and blasting him off to the wall. He breathed his last and died on the pavement a few seconds later.

Police officers found startling evidence in Wells' car that involved a string of specific instructions and riddles that would point them to 59-year-old Bill Rothstein. However, they couldn't pinpoint the blame on him even after Rothstein courteously allowed police officers inside his home. A year later, Rothstein died of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

## 'THE TERMITES'

**WHEN: MARCH 2010**

**WHERE: PARIS, FRANCE**

In March 2010, a group of four men got their pickaxes ready, not to mine gold or other precious ores, but to carefully dig through a bank to gain access to the vault of the Credit Lyonnaise branch, near the Louvre in Paris. The men, whom the French media would soon call 'The Termites', dug an underground tunnel to the bank.

When they managed to get inside the bank, they



Facade of the Credit Lyonnais bank

immediately tied up the security guard before he even got a chance to phone for assistance. After that, they spent a total of seven hours emptying the contents of over 200 safes. When they got the loot, it was time to use the flamethrower that they bought to start a fire. This triggered the bank's sprinklers, which flooded the entire basement and helped them cover their tracks.

"The criminals were ice cool and determined. It is thought that they spent at least seven hours in the vault and were undisturbed throughout. The tunnel was found by another staff member who arrived early on Sunday. By this time, the robbers were long gone. They are a highly professional gang," said one of the detectives during the investigations.

It was found that the branch that 'The Termites' targeted had been closed for weeks due to ongoing renovations. The location of the bank itself was also isolated, in an office block that was completely deserted during the weekends, except for the guard on duty.

In total, police officials estimate that the 'Termite gang' escaped with £22 million (Dhs114.4 million).

The Paris Criminal Brigade has been unsuccessful in its investigations and no criminal has ever been found to this day. A spokesman said that the fire had "undoubtedly damaged the crime scene, making the compilation of evidence difficult".

## THE 'SOUTH WEST GANG'

**WHEN: AUGUST 1963**

**WHERE: GLASGOW-LONDON ROYAL MAIL TRAIN**

In August 1963, a group of 15 men known as the 'South West Gang' rode separately on the Glasgow-London Royal Mail Train as passengers and pulled off one of the biggest robberies of the decade.

The 15 men had two accomplices working with them at the time. One was an insider who shared details and information on the train's schedules and cargo, and another one provided a hideout for the robbers at the Leatherslade Farm in Buckinghamshire.

When they started their operation, they turned off a green track signal and used batteries to put a red signal instead. When the train's fireman checked the lights, he got captured by several men. It was then that all 15 men began to take a total of 120 mail bags containing a grand total of £2.3 million (Dhs12 million) of used banknotes to their hideout.

After dividing the loot amongst themselves, they decided to part ways and left six of their fellow robbers to burn down the farmhouse where they had hidden. However, the six didn't do so well in their final task of burning the farmhouse, and that led investigators to discover fingerprints of all 15 men and other incriminating evidence.

Police officers caught 12 of the 15 robbers. They were convicted and sent to a prison term of over 10 years. In 1965, Ronnie Biggs escaped from prison and had his face altered via plastic surgery and fled to



Three arrested suspects of the 'South West Gang'

several countries. When he returned to the UK in 2001, he got arrested once again.

The leader of the gang, Bruce Reynolds, lived a lavish life when he escaped with his wife and his son to Mexico. However, he ran out of money and moved to several other countries before returning to the UK, where he got arrested in 1968. He was released from prison a decade later. In one of his interviews in 2003, he said that being the mastermind of the heist meant that his past always chased him wherever he went.

"Having reached the age that I am now, 71, I've always felt that I can't escape my past. And in many ways, I feel that it is like a line from the Ancient Mariner and that the notoriety was like an albatross around my neck," said Reynolds, who died a decade later after this interview in 2013 at the age of 81.



# MARRIAGE ON THE ROCK

A YOUNG WIFE'S PERSISTENT ATTEMPTS TO ADD MORE  
COUPLE TIME TO THEIR MARRIAGE LEADS TO A VIOLENT  
OUTBURST FROM HER SPOUSE

BY WAGIH HASSAN



**T**here are multiple factors that may trigger marital disputes between couples. What one of the spouses may consider a trivial matter may gradually lead to significant problems. In this day and age, when most people are on social networks, these apparently small issues often start in the digital communication space.

One such story began with WhatsApp messages. It escalated into a crime of domestic violence that led to the separation of a newly married couple — wife Heyam, 22, and husband Khalaf, 32 — just six months after their wedding.

Wishing to infuse romance into their new relationship, Heyam started sending messages to her husband via WhatsApp while he was at work. These messages consisted of idioms and tips on how to be an ideal partner. However, these implicit comparisons with other men put Khalaf under psychological pressure.

While Heyam believed that what she was doing was the typical behaviour of wives, Khalaf felt like he wasn't being appreciated by his spouse in an appropriate manner. To his great annoyance, she continued sending them these types of messages even though he had already told her to refrain from doing so.

On top of these messages that Khalaf already disliked tremendously, Heyam began sending videos talking about an ideal marriage and the perfect life of a couple. For instance, Heyam once sent Khalaf a video of a husband opening the car door for his wife. Another video

she sent was of a man helping his spouse with cooking, cleaning, and other housework. She also sent him a video of a friend's trips to Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, posted on Instagram. The friend, named Ayesha, had forwarded these videos to Heyam to show how happy she is with her marriage. And Heyam, in turn, sent them to Khalaf probably to present him with a romantic example of couple time.

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**Their parents on both sides tried to mediate several times in a bid to fix the relationship, especially as it was only the beginning of their married life**

This stream of daily messages — and now videos displaying other people's happy marriage — began to make Khalaf feel that Heyam was looking down upon him, that he somehow fell short of what she wanted in a husband.

This led to various disagreements between the couple. Their parents on both sides tried to mediate several times in a bid to fix the relationship, especially as it was only the beginning of their

married life.

Heyam's parents knew that these arguments were partly her fault. But even with their intervention, all their attempts to rebuild the relationship did not work. The altercations between Heyam and Khalaf intensified day by day. Quarrels and screaming continued each night.

While Khalaf struggled to understand that Heyam was seeking more attention from him, Heyam also failed to see that she was putting too much pressure on her spouse. Not only did she keep sending him the same kind of messages and videos, but also increased their number and frequency.


One day, during yet another quarrel between the two, Khalaf lost control of his anger and threw a bowl of steaming hot soup on Heyam's face, which caused severe burns. She howled in pain and he rushed her to the nearest hospital, in order to try and treat the burns on her face, neck, and chest.

Although Heyam's parents understood the root of the problem in their marital life, they couldn't overlook Khalaf's violent reaction and the terrible injury he had inflicted on his wife. So they reported the incident to the police, who arrested Khalaf for further investigations.

During the interrogation, he defended his point of view and was then referred to the court for the final ruling. Eventually, the situation led to a divorce and Khalaf received a guilty verdict for the assault on his spouse, and was sentenced to imprisonment.

*Fifty years in the service of the nation*



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







# RIVALS FOR PEARLS

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THE LUCRATIVE ARABIAN GULF TRADE OF PEARL DIVING GOT A LOT OF UNWELCOME ATTENTION FROM EUROPEAN MERCHANT COMPANIES, BUT THEY WERE THWARTED BY THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES. THIS COINCIDED WITH THE RAPID SPREAD OF CHOLERA IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD INCLUDING THE GULF

BY DR FALEH HANDHAL







*Small fishing village in Kumzar in Musandam, Oman*

**T**he sixth part of the 1908 book *Gulf Guide*, written by British political resident John Gordon Lorimer, was full of historical news and geographical descriptions of the Arabian Gulf, with its Arab and Persian shores. The historical section was filled with news and stories that were usually brief and sometimes detailed. We have extracted the most important news and presented their contents in this column.

The first thing that Lorimer briefly wrote about was the issue of earthquakes and tremors, the most severe of which occurred on the Persian coast, especially on the island of Al Qasm or Qeshm, opposite the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. On May 20, 1884, a strong earthquake occurred and caused the demolition of some villages and the death of 132 people who were buried under the rubble. The tremors also reached the town of Lengeh and an earthquake occurred in Ras Al Khaimah in June the same year.

Another severe earthquake hit Qeshm Island on January 11, 1897, which turned the island's buildings into ruins, and only two mosques and three or four buildings remained standing. It was said that more than 1,600 bodies were exhumed from under the rubble. The tremors also extended to the west of Lengeh.

In this context, it is worth mentioning the book *Annals in the History of the Emirates* by the late Youssef Muhammad Al-Sharif, a resident of Ras Al Khaimah who died in 1917. He, too, wrote about several earthquakes that struck the emirate.

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**A NUMBER OF PEARL  
DIVERS FROM THE  
GULF USED TO GO TO  
THE ISLAND OF SILAN  
IN INDIA AS WELL AS  
TO THE FISHERIES OF  
SOCOTRA ISLAND AND  
THE RED SEA**

What Lorimer talked about in detail is the subject of “pearl fisheries, snails and shells in the Arabian Gulf”. He wrote about the formation of pearls and their types; then he moved to the pearl trade and those working in this business, including sailing on the diving ships.

The author described the seasons, such as the great fishing season, and “Al Qaffal”, meaning the return of ships from a pearl-diving trip. He indicated that a number of pearl divers and fishermen from the Gulf used to go to the island of Silan in India as well as to the fisheries of Socotra Island and the Red Sea. He described the lifestyle and daily routine on the diving



*The Pearl Monument standing along the Corniche in Doha, representing the vibrant pearl trade in Qatar*

“

LORIMER TALKED ABOUT EUROPEAN RIVALRY TO ENTER THE GULF REGION WITH MODERN FISHING VESSELS AND DIVING EQUIPMENT THAT WOULD HELP ONE DIVE DEEPER AND STAY LONGER UNDER WATER

ships from dawn until the sunset prayer.

These historical accounts included the details of the distribution of profits from the pearl trade and the financial systems that were followed in this regard. Writing about pearl markets and the courts judging disputes, Lorimer gave an example of an important case that he called “The Kumzar Case 1899-1901, which talks about a man from the people of the Kumzar region” of the Sultanate of Oman in Musandam. This man had found a rare and expensive pearl that he sold to a merchant in Sharjah for 2,000 dollars, and when the pearl was sent to Bombay, they estimated its price at 400,000 rupees and then sent it to London.

When the Sultan of Oman heard about it, he requested the annulment of the contract of sale, given that the original owner of the pearl was from his people. As a result, the pearl remained in London, while a court was formed in one of the Trucial States, according to which the pearl was returned to Bombay and sold there for 100,000 rupees, of which the

Sultan’s share was 12,000 dollars.

#### EYES ON PEARL PROFITS

One important topic that Lorimer talked about came under the heading “International Political Issues in the Arab Side 1857 - 1907”. He talked about European rivalry to enter the Gulf region with modern fishing vessels and diving equipment that would help one dive deeper and stay longer under water. Thus, even this basic profession of pearl diving was being taken from the hands of the Arabs of the region.

The idea began in 1857, when the Bombay-based Watton Company proposed this project to the British Political Resident in the Gulf, who rejected it because it would lead to aggression and possibly violence. However, the year 1862 witnessed another development, which is that the steamship Johnstone Castle, belonging to the Bombay Merchants Guild, sailed without permission and headed to Bahrain and dropped off three divers, then headed to the Persian port of Bushehr.

Upon its arrival, the British Political Resident learned about it, so he sent a

government ship that prevented Johnstone Castle from operating, so it returned to Bombay and its divers only obtained 23 pearls.

This unauthorised act raised the fears of traditional pearl divers and traders in Bahrain. A meeting was held to discuss this, and the fear was that companies belonging to other countries might win a concession from one of the Arab rulers with a project like this. Thus, a recommendation was issued that the Government of India consider the Gulf region closed for pearl diving for any individuals coming from abroad, and also refuse to protect any individuals who violated this regardless of their nationality and that such a measure would prevent Europeans from entering the Gulf banks.

In 1872, the Turkish governor in Baghdad, Midhat Pasha, tried to enter this trade and made an agreement with a British company for this purpose, but the British Political Resident sent him a message that he would not receive any protection if there was an attack on European divers. So the Pasha withdrew. Then, another British company called



Pearl roundabout in Manama, Bahrain





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A RECOMMENDATION  
WAS ISSUED THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSIDER THE GULF  
REGION CLOSED FOR  
PEARL DIVING FOR ANY  
INDIVIDUALS COMING  
FROM ABROAD

Smith & Co. tried to enter the trade by obtaining the approval of the region's sheikhs and contacted the ruler of Bahrain, but no agreement was reached.

However, the various companies' attempts to take a share of the pearl trade did not stop. In 1889, a British merchant named Streeter submitted a request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for permission to fish for pearls in depths that Arab divers could not reach. He also submitted a note with data from different sources regarding where the pearls could be found.

When the case was presented to the British Political Resident in the Gulf, he replied that the Arabs, since ancient times, considered the seas their property and resisted all foreign interference, and that pearl extraction from the deep waters affected the fertility of the shallow waters, and that the issue might lead to demands and problems from the governments of Persia and Turkey.

Streeter then withdrew from the field. This was followed by other attempts made by some European merchants, but all of them were rejected by the people of the Gulf and by the British authority.

#### ARRIVAL OF MISSIONARIES

Lorimer then moved on to talk about the religions and sects in the Gulf region. He talked about Judaism and Christianity and focused on their situations in Iraq and not in the Gulf emirates. Later, he talked about Islamic sects, focusing on the Shiites in Iraq and some areas of the Gulf, and he also talked about Ibadis in the Sultanate of Oman, and Wahhabism in



*A European pearl diver in the 1890s wearing a pearl diving suit*

Saudi Arabia.

His most important account in this regard is the history of Christian missionaries to Iraq and the Gulf. It goes back to the days of the Portuguese presence, when they established a monastery in Basra in 1623. Then the Carmelites came and established a centre in Baghdad and another one in Basra.

As for the Gulf, the author said that the first mission was carried out in 1891 by James Cantine and Father Samuel Zwemer and they chose Basra as the main centre for the mission.

In 1893, they established a centre in Bahrain under the auspices of Zwemer, who soon suggested opening another centre in Muscat. The city of Manama in Bahrain was the main centre, and a hospital was established there in 1903 — the Mason Memorial Hospital, run by two doctors and a number of nurses.

In 1905, the number of patients at this hospital reached 126. Also, 1,413 patients attended the outpatient clinic, and 87 surgeries were performed. A school was opened there with 85 students.

As for Muscat, there was no hospital or any public institution. In general, there were no problems between the people and these missions, but the people viewed them as medical institutions, not religious ones. As for the issue of evangelisation, it was not successful.

However, the general opinion of the missionaries, after years of experience, was that the Arabian Peninsula, as an Islamic region, was free of religious fanaticism.

#### SPREAD OF CHOLERA

The historical section of the sixth part of Gulf Guide refers to “epidemics and health measures in the Gulf”, where Lorimer spoke in detail about the spread of cholera not only in the Gulf but also in Europe in a terrifying way, similar to what is happening today due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The author said that cholera was first found in India in 1783 and the nature of this disease was not understood well at that time. In 1817, the disease became an epidemic, affecting the entire Indian sub-continent and, with it, the island of Ceylon (later Sri Lanka). From there, it began to attack the rest of the world.

By 1831, cholera had reached the European continent and entered the British islands and caused the death of more than 5,000 people; then it moved to France, Spain, Italy, North, and Central America.

In 1841, the epidemic moved from India or China and reached Iraq and Hijaz. In 1847, it spread through Russia and Germany, and was even more deadly than before.

In 1865, the disease spread from India

# NOTICE.

## PREVENTIVES OF CHOLERA!

Published by order of the Sanitary Committee, under the sanction of the Medical Council.

### BE TEMPERATE IN EATING & DRINKING!

*Avoid Raw Vegetables and Unripe Fruit !.*

**Abstain from COLD WATER, when heated, and above all from Ardent Spirits, and if habit have rendered them indispensable, take much less than usual.**

New York Historical Society

Handbill from the New York City Board of Health, 1832 campaigning about the lack of understanding of cholera and its causes

along the Persian coast in the Gulf and from there it crossed into the Arabian Peninsula and entered the city of Diriyah and then to the city of Jahra in Kuwait, and reached Basra. As for Muscat, it faced a “great disaster” because of cholera.

To deal with this outbreak, which had become a pandemic, an international conference was held in Constantinople in February 1866, with the participation of representatives from Turkey, Persia, Britain, France, and several other countries.

The discussion was scientific and it was concluded that India, where the disease had always been present, was the main source of the Asian cholera outbreak, and that physical interaction between people was the reason for the spread of this disease. It was also concluded that vast desert regions could prevent the disease from spreading.

The conference recommended a 10-day quarantine system and strict health measures for those coming from the cholera-affected areas.

In 1874, another international conference was held in Vienna to reconsider the issues of the epidemic, where it confirmed that water was a means of transmission of infection. But, as soon as the conference ended, the pandemic returned to Europe in 1884 and remained

there until 1887, causing the death of 8,000 people in Italy and 120,000 in Spain.

Then the disease jumped to South America and only gradually went away in 1887, after killing around 250,000 people in Europe and 50,000 in America.

Bahrain was hit by cholera in 1893, and 700 people died there and on the neighbouring islands, Qatif, and the Trucial Oman coast.

In 1899, Oman was severely exposed to the epidemic, and more than 700 deaths occurred in Muscat and Matrouh. The disease again attacked Bahrain,

“

BAHRAIN WAS HIT BY CHOLERA IN 1893, AND 700 PEOPLE DIED THERE AND ON THE NEIGHBOURING ISLANDS, QATIF, AND THE TRUCIAL OMAN COAST

and it was said that more than 1,200 cases occurred; while in the Trucial Coast region, the number was about 8,000.

This is what Lorimer said about cholera, and no matter what the accuracy of his numbers, this was a tragic outbreak at a time when there was no cure for this fierce and lethal disease.

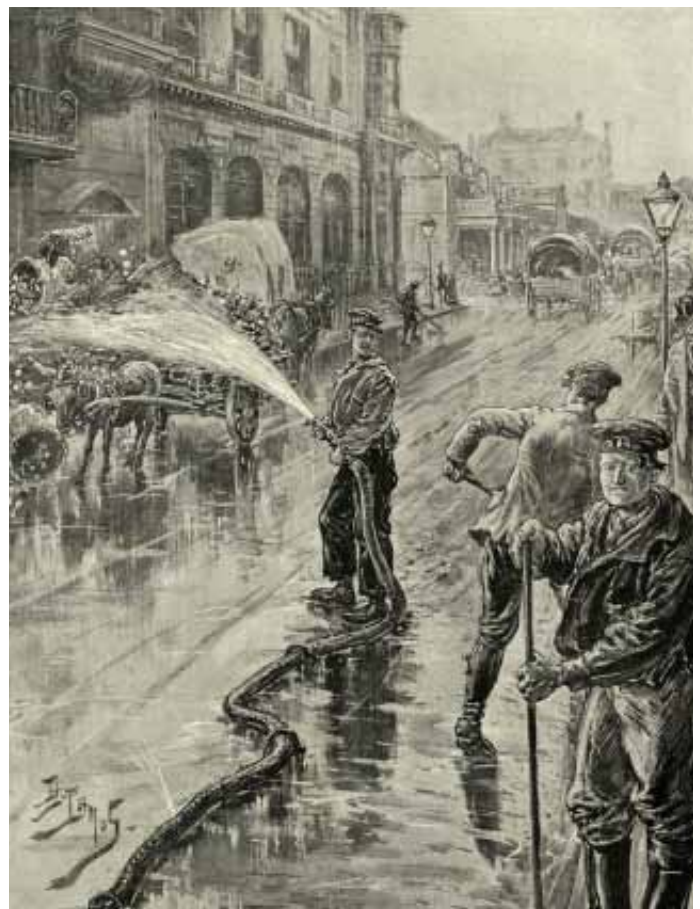


Illustration from the 1890s showing washing of streets around Covent Garden, London with antiseptic during cholera pandemic

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

## ULTRA LENS

When shoppers search for smartphones these days, one of the first features they take into consideration is the power of its camera, both for taking photos and videos.

Xiaomi has taken this to a whole new level with the most prominent camera attached to a smartphone that it has ever launched, with the **Xiaomi Mi 11 Ultra**. The smartphone features a triple camera system comprising a 50-MP wide-angle main camera along with a massive, 1/1.12" sensor, f/1.95 aperture, optical image stabilisation, and laser focus.

Its secondary camera is a 48MP ultra-wide camera that sports an f/2.2 aperture, which enables it to double as the smartphone's macro camera as well. Finally, the third lens is a 48MP telephoto camera that features an f/4.1 aperture with up to 5x optical zoom. All three main cameras can take 8K video and night mode as well.

The selfie camera doesn't disappoint either, with a 20MP sensor that provides soft tones and hues, especially after removing all beautifying options that are common nowadays with apps.

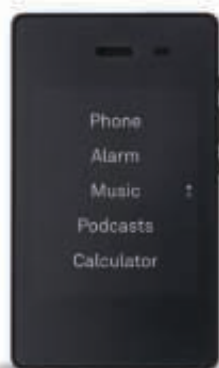
In addition, the Xiaomi Mi 11 Ultra packs a huge 6.81 inch AMOLED display and a 5,000 mAh battery, to ensure users wouldn't need to charge the phone often. It packs up to 12GB of RAM, enabling fast transitions between apps and larger storage for your photos, videos, and memories within your phone.



PRICE: Dhs4,500

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

## MINIMALIST MOBILE



The clutter of social media and endless stream of notifications on your smartphone might leave you distracted and out of focus on the real task at hand most of the time. This rings true especially in the family, where it's now commonplace for everyone to be glued to their smartphones even when they are seated close to each other.

Enter **The Light Phone II**, a minimalist mobile phone that takes its users back to the bare essentials of any mobile phone. It gets rid of social media, e-mails, Internet browsers and left the basics such as phone calls, text messages, Bluetooth, alarm, calculator and music.

All of these tools are powered by its very own LightOS. For music and calls, it also has a 3.5mm headphone jack. It supports hotspot tethering as an additional tool.

The phone features an electronic paper screen, usually found in e-readers nowadays. Unlike most smartphones these days, The Light Phone II doesn't emit any blue light making it easier on the eyes. In addition, it's likewise visible in direct sunlight, with only two colour options: black and white.

PRICE: Dhs1,100

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

## SMART FACE TRACKER

Vloggers, holidaymakers and individuals who love posting Instagram and videos on their TikTok accounts all have one thing in common: selfie videos!

With this demand for a dependable selfie tool in mind, Belkin has introduced its **Magnetic Phone Mount** powered with a Face Tracking module. Limited to iPhone 12 users, Belkin's Magnetic Phone Mount recognises its user's face through the iPhone – allowing the mount to rotate and adjust to the face of its owner, as it ensures to keep the face within the centre of the screen.

The mount is accompanied by an app that follows and analyses the user's movements to optimise its video capturing mode with a perfect magnetic alignment and 360 degrees of rotation.

It tracks the facial reactions and movements of its user as they record their videos. What's even better is that the app may also be linked directly to the user's social media channels, enabling real-time, hassle-free posts to their accounts.



PRICE: Dhs250

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



## FITNESS BUDDY



PRICE: Dhs630

WEBSITE: [buy.myzone.org](http://buy.myzone.org)

The second half of the year is here and many are still struggling with their resolutions to lose weight and be healthier, and now a new gadget is available for those who have decided to renew their desire to get fit.

The **MZ-Switch Heart Rate Monitor** keeps track of your physical activities. This watch can be used whether you're outdoors, at the gym and even while swimming. The monitor can be worn in three ways —on the chest, arm, or wrist. When you do your workouts, the device will tell you which zone you're in when worn on the wrist, thanks to the flashing indicator light. It also features an accurate ECG sensor when used on the chest, and a PPG sensor for your wrist and arm, to ensure that you remain in the best of health during your workouts. When you swim, the tracker itself is waterproof to a depth of 10m. It also shows live workout stats that you can view via the accompanying app, on your smartwatch, or on the screen in your gym. This device also stores up to 26 hours of its wearer's exercise data, with a battery life of three to six months between charges.

## RETRO CAMERA

While smartphones now sport high-tech cameras, nothing beats the satisfaction of clicking a camera to take that perfect shot — with an instant printed photograph.

The **Fujifilm Instax Mini 40** features a high-quality feel and texture with premium silver accents, giving that retro vibe to the touch. Each photo you take with its f = 60 mm, 1:12.7 lens produces a 62 mm x 46 mm photo, that develops approximately within 90 seconds, depending on ambient temperature. It also has a constant firing flash with an effective flash range of up to 2.7m, to help bring more light to each photo that it produces.

Whenever you take photos with the Fujifilm Instax Mini 40, it automatically adjusts to the surrounding brightness to avoid whitewash and blurred photos. The camera is battery powered with two AA-sized alkaline batteries, that is estimated to last for at least 100 shots per pair of batteries. To help conserve energy, the camera itself has auto power off after five minutes of remaining inactive.



PRICE: Dhs400

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

## INNOVATIVE TOASTER



PRICE: Dhs1,300

WEBSITE: [us.balmuda.com](http://us.balmuda.com)

In the age of air fryers and microwaves, the humble toaster might have initially taken a back seat since it's only mostly used for breakfast.

**Balmuda's 'The Toaster'** brings back that traditional deliciousness of bread on every table, fusing a unique steam technology with precise temperature controls to help families prepare bread to their preferences.

The steam technology uses 5 cc of water that's poured onto the toaster prior to its use. This develops that thin layer of steam that covers the bread to help keep inner moisture and flavour from escaping as you toast it.

It also has five modes for families to choose from: the classic Sandwich Bread mode; the Artisan Bread mode for crisp and delicious surfaces; a Pizza mode to reheat last night's takeout while ensuring that it remains fresh; a Pastry mode for delicate sweet desserts; and a general Oven mode that can heat up to 450F for those speciality dishes.



FEED YOUR MIND WITH INSIGHTFUL GUIDES TO ATTAIN BUSINESS GOALS AND SELF-IMPROVEMENT, AND EXPLORE MEMOIRS OF SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN RECENT HISTORY

## WORLD UNBOUND

**Title:** Amazon Unbound: Jeff Bezos and the Invention of a Global Empire

**Author:** Brad Stone

**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster

**Price:** \$14.99 (Dhs55)

This book presents a deeply reported, vividly drawn portrait of how a retail upstart became one of the most powerful and feared entities in the global economy. Stone also probes the evolution of Bezos himself—who started as a geeky technologist totally devoted to building Amazon and transformed to become a billionaire with global ambitions. He ruled Amazon with a firm hand, even as he found his personal life splashed over the tabloids.



## LAUGH AND LEARN

**Title:** You Will Get Through This Night

**Author:** Daniel Howell

**Publisher:** Dey Street Books

**Price:** \$15.45 (Dhs56)

**Hardbound**

Written in conjunction with a qualified psychologist, in an entertaining and personal way from the perspective of someone who has been through it all—this book gives you the tools to understand your mind so you can be in control and really live. It is divided into three chapters for each stage of the journey. These chapters offer a guide on how to get through your toughest moments and be prepared to face anything; small steps to change your thoughts and actions with a big impact on your life; and help to look after yourself in the long term and not just survive, but thrive.



## UNEXPECTED TASK

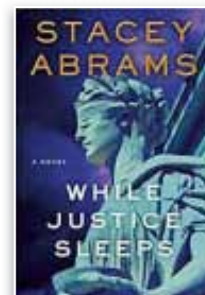
**Title:** While Justice Sleeps

**Author:** Stacey Abrams

**Publisher:** Doubleday

**Price:** \$19.24 (Dhs71) Hardcover

The life of Avery Keene, a brilliant young law clerk, turned upside down when the shocking news breaks that her boss, the legendary Justice Howard Wynn, has slipped into a coma. She is immediately notified that Wynn has left instructions for her to serve as his legal guardian with a power of attorney. Plunged into this role, Avery finds that the ailing judge had been secretly researching one of the most controversial cases before the court including a dangerously related conspiracy that infiltrates the highest power corridors of Washington. She discovers that Wynn had a much more personal stake in the controversial case and realises his complex puzzle will lead her directly into harm's way in order to find the truth.



## PURPOSEFUL LEADERSHIP

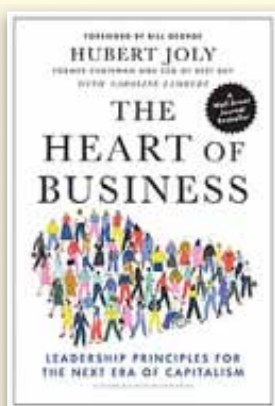
**Title:** The Heart of Business: Leadership Principles for the Next Era of Capitalism

**Author:** Hubert Joly

**Publisher:** Harvard Business Review Press

**Price:** \$14.99 (Dhs55) Hardcover

"It was Fall in Minnesota. It was getting cold and we were supposed to die." This is how the author describes the early, dark days as CEO of Best Buy. At that time, Amazon was tearing a disruptive path through retail, but in the face of that existential threat Joly did something remarkable: he saved Best Buy and remade it into a thriving company rated as one of the most desirable businesses to work for. This book tells about the astonishing turnaround by a leader with a remarkable philosophy: "Find your noble purpose. Put people at the centre. Unleash human magic."



## TRAILBLAZING WOMEN

**Title:** When Women Invented Television: The Untold Story of the Female Powerhouses Who Pioneered the Way We Watch Today

**Author:** Jennifer Keishin Armstrong

**Publisher:** Harper

**Price:** Dhs55

It was the Golden Age of Radio and powerful men were making millions in advertising dollars by reaching thousands of listeners every day. When television arrived, only few moguls were interested in the upstart industry, but four women — each an independent visionary — saw an opportunity and carved their own paths, and in so doing, invented the way we watch TV today.

Irna Phillips turned real-life tragedy into daytime serials, featuring female-dominated casts. Gertrude Berg turned her radio show into a Jewish family comedy that spawned a play, a musical, an advice column, a line of house dresses, and other products. Hazel Scott, already a renowned musician, was the first African American to host a national evening variety programme. Betty White became a daytime talk show fan favourite and one of the first women to produce, write, and star in her own show.

Together, their stories chronicle a forgotten chapter in the history of television and popular culture. This amazing and heartbreaking piece of history, illustrated with photos, tells it all for the first time.



## SURVIVORS' ACCOUNT

**Title:** Luck of the Titanic

**Author:** Stacey Lee

**Publisher:** G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

**Price:** Dhs40 (Kindle)

Loosely inspired by the recently uncovered account of six Titanic survivors of Chinese descent, this novel presents a richly imagined story of Valora and Jamie Luck, twin British - Chinese acrobats travelling aboard the Titanic on its ill-fated maiden voyage.



In 1912, 17-year-old Valora has quit her job in Southampton and smuggled herself aboard the Titanic with two goals in mind: to reunite with her twin brother Jamie — her only family now that both their parents are dead — and to convince

a part-owner of the Ringling Brothers Circus to take them on as acrobats. Val talks her way into opulent first-class accommodations and finds Jamie with a group of fellow Chinese labourers in third class. But in the rigidly stratified world of the luxury liner, Val's ruse can only last so long, and after two long years apart, it's unclear if Jamie even wants the life Val proposes. Then, one moonless night in the North Atlantic, the unthinkable happens — the supposedly unsinkable ship is dealt a fatal blow — and Val and her companions suddenly find themselves in a race to survive.

## CLOCK IS TICKING

**Title:** Six Weeks to Live

**Author:** Catherine McKenzie

**Publisher:** Atria Books

**Price:** Dhs88 (Hardcover)

Jennifer Barnes never expected the shocking news after seeing her doctor: she has a terminal brain tumour and only six weeks left to live.

The 48-year-old mother decides to spend what little time she has left with her family. But when she realises she was possibly poisoned a year earlier, she's determined to discover who might have tried to get rid of her before she's gone for good.

The clock is ticking and she wants to find the perpetrator who commits this crime and the reason behind it. She zeroes in on her suspicious estranged husband. But with her daughters doubting her campaign against their father, Jennifer can't help but wonder if the poisoning is all in her head — or if there's someone else who wanted her dead.



## DOMESTIC SECRETS

**Title:** Local Woman Missing

**Author:** Mary Kubica

**Publisher:** Park Row

**Price:** Dhs48

Shelby Tebow goes missing. Not long after, Meredith Dickey and her six-year-old daughter, Delilah, vanish just blocks away from where Shelby was last seen, striking fear into their once-peaceful community. Are these incidents connected? After an elusive search that yields more questions than answers, the case eventually goes cold. Now, 11 years later, Delilah shockingly returns. Everyone wants to know what happened to her, but no one is prepared for what they'll find. In this chilling thriller, the author takes domestic secrets to a whole new level, showing that some people will stop at nothing to keep the truth buried.





# Abu Dhabi's largest solar-powered car park now operational

Abu Dhabi's newly opened vehicle parking space, equipped with 7,542 solar panels, is now the emirate's largest solar-powered car park, poised to save 5,300 tonnes of carbon dioxide emission every year.

Abu Dhabi Airports and Masdar announced the completion of the 3-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) project, which will serve as car shading for the short-term car park of the Midfield Terminal at the Abu Dhabi International Airport. Solar energy generated from over 7,500 panels will be used for the car parking facility, with excess energy to be allotted for other areas within the airport.

Shareef Al Hashmi, Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Airports, stated that the new solar-powered car park was a testament to the emirate's full support for the government's push for sustainability and environmental awareness.

"The Midfield Terminal is designed to not only deliver a state-of-the-art smooth and seamless passenger experience but also to safeguard the UAE's beautiful natural heritage. Throughout its development, we have integrated technology which enables sustainability,



The Midfield Terminal's solar-powered car park

Abu Dhabi Airports/Masdar

protects the environment, and creates a cleaner, greener, and more ecologically friendly building," said Al Hashmi.

The car park operates under Masdar's Energy Services, which was also responsible for the entire construction design, financing, and procurement to make the project a reality. The company will likewise be responsible for the

maintenance under a 25-year lease.

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar, said, "The delivery of this landmark project for the new Midfield Terminal highlights the commitment of Masdar and Abu Dhabi Airports to support the UAE's Energy Strategy 2050 and its climate change mitigation goals."

## Hydroelectric power plant in Hatta is 23% complete



DEWA

The Arabian Gulf's first-ever hydroelectric power plant, worth Dhs1.421 billion in investments, has reached 23 per cent completion to date.

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's latest project, the Hatta hydroelectric power plant, is expected to have a lifespan of

position globally as an international model for sustainable energy practices. "The pumped-storage hydroelectric power plant at Hatta is part of our efforts to increase the share of clean and renewable energy in Dubai's energy mix and contribute to promoting the emirate's position as a

80 years, producing 250 megawatts (MW) with a storage capacity of 1,500-megawatt-hours upon completion.

Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, is optimistic that the hydroelectric power plant will boost the UAE's

global hub for clean energy and green economy," said Al Tayer.

He added, "It also enhances Hatta's position as one of the most prominent tourist attractions in Dubai. This strategic project supports the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 to provide 75 per cent of Dubai's total power capacity from clean energy sources. The project is part of DEWA's initiative to provide innovative job opportunities for the people of Hatta, in addition to developing the area to meet its social, economic, and environmental needs."

In addition, DEWA is also working on two more projects for Hatta. One is the 'Dubai Summit', a 5.4km cable car system that will transport tourists from the ground towards the highest natural summit of Dubai at Um Al-Nesoor. The other one is the 'Hatta Sustainable Waterfalls' project, which aims to transform the topography of the upper dams to create a natural waterfall in the area.

# Abu Dhabi exerts full effort to preserve Fossil Dunes



Tourists and residents alike usually flock to Abu Dhabi's Al Wathba Fossil Dunes, a marvel spanning centuries of wind force and sediment supplies.

In line with this, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has spearheaded a comprehensive plan to protect and develop the said dune formations where the authority will develop the services, infrastructure,

and tourism facilities. The aim is to declare the site as a natural reserve to promote eco-tourism and protect Abu Dhabi's natural heritage.

Dr Sheikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary General of EAD, stated that the dunes not only served as a tourist site, but more importantly, these lithified dunes were also key habitats of certain flora and fauna.

"Abu Dhabi is rich with a unique diversity of environments, habitats, and scenic natural formations. Amongst these are the fossil dunes of Al Wathba. These distinctive and rather rare sand formations are densely located in the Al Wathba area to the south of the Al Wathba Wetland Reserve. These fossil dunes, which are also present in other areas of the emirate, have been classified as lithified sand dunes under EAD's Habitat Map and serve as an important habitat for many wildlife species," said Al Dhaheri.

However, she also noted that these sand dunes were extremely fragile despite their solidity, which is why government authorities needed to work together to protect the site through regular inspections.

"A team consisting of biodiversity experts and a number of engineers in EAD implemented more than 20 evaluation visits to the site over the past three months. EAD also held a series of consultations with the concerned entities and other key stakeholders to further protect the site and ensure its sustainability," said Al Dhaheri.

## Sharjah expedites rescue for stranded marine animals

Sharjah has officially launched a new initiative aimed at rescuing stranded animals along its beaches in the shortest possible time.

The main objective of the Sharjah Strandings Response Programme, spearheaded by the emirate's Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA), is to monitor, research, and rescue wildlife found at critical areas near the shores even before they get stranded on the beach.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, Chairperson of EPAA, stated that the programme would pinpoint threats to marine animals and figure out how the government can help protect these animals from getting beached and dying outside their natural habitat in the depths of Sharjah's seas.

"The Sharjah Strandings Response Programme is an integral part of EPAA's plans. Through the examination of stranded marine reptiles, mammals, and sea birds, the programme aims to expand our existing knowledge on the biodiversity, ecology, and threats of marine fauna. In addition to working as a research and marine life-saving programme, the Sharjah Strandings Response Programme also acts as an environmental



awareness and education campaign for the community," said Al Suwaidi.

The programme also seeks to expand EPAA's current knowledge on marine biodiversity by conducting regular investigations and observations for marine mammals, reptiles, and marine birds, in order

to identify possible problems and threats that these species might encounter months ahead of time. This will help support environmental conservation measures and shape policies in favour of preserving marine habitat. The programme will also generate public awareness on key conservation practices.



# Two-thirds of UAE residents suffer from dry eyes



A study involving hundreds of residents in Dubai revealed that two out of three people in the UAE are suffering from dry eyes, three times higher than the global average of one out of five people.

The study, titled 'The prevalence, severity, and risk factors for dry eye disease in Dubai', found that people spending long hours on the screen are at a higher risk of

developing the condition.

The research, published in the journal *BMC Ophthalmology*, involved 452 students and staff at the Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences, and workers at Mediclinic's City and Parkview hospitals in Dubai.

The said participants were quizzed on the state of their eyes using the Ocular Surface

Disease Index (OSDI), a well-established questionnaire. The study found that the overall prevalence of dry eye disease amongst participants was 62.6 per cent.

The findings showed that people who spent more than six hours of screen time a day had a prevalence rate of 66 per cent, while those who spent three to six hours each day had a 61 per cent prevalence rate. The prevalence was lowest, at 50 per cent, for those who spent less than three hours a day looking at screens.

"A high amount of screen time is associated with dry eyes due to the decrease in the blink rate in screen users, which disturbs the tear film," the researchers said. People who wore contact lenses were at a higher risk of developing dry eyes, too, they found.

The researchers suggested that factors such as climate and lifestyle differences between the locations could have influenced results. They also suggested that exposure to air-conditioning and climate condition could contribute to high rates of dry eye disease "because low humidity is a risk factor for dry eyes".

# Singapore approves COVID-19 breath test trialled in Dubai

Singapore has granted a provisional approval for a COVID-19 breath test that provides accurate results within a minute.

Developed by National University of Singapore-spinoff startup company Brethonix, it underwent trials twice in Singapore and then again in Dubai earlier this year, in collaboration with Dubai Health Authority and the Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences.

The test is significantly faster than currently available screenings, such as the PCR tests, whose results can take 24 to 48 hours before it becomes available.

NUS and Brethonix said in a joint release that they were now working with the Singapore Ministry of Health to run a deployment trial of their technology at one of the land checkpoints, where incoming travellers will undergo screening with the BreFence Go COVID-19 breath test system.

Inventors said that it worked like a standard breathalyser — a person exhales into a disposable one-way valve mouthpiece. The exhaled breath is collected and then fed



into a cutting-edge mass spectrometer for measurement.

The machine detects volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in a person's exhaled breath produced by biochemical reactions in human cells. A Machine Learning software algorithm then analyses the VOCs biomarkers and generates results in less than a minute.

"Cross-contamination is unlikely as the

disposable mouthpiece has a one-way valve and a saliva trap to prevent inhalation or saliva from entering the machine," said Dr Jia Zhunan, one of the researchers of the study.

If a traveller tests positive in the breath test, he or she will be screened in a confirmatory PCR swab test. The BreFence Go COVID-19 breath test system will be carried out alongside the mandatory COVID-19 antigen rapid test.



# Nearly half of all UAE cancer patients are under 50

New research conducted in the UAE has revealed that almost half of all cancer diagnoses in the country are for people aged under 50.

Figures from the UAE National Cancer Registry showed that 45.4 per cent of all cancer diagnoses in 2017 — the most recent figures available — are for people aged between 20 and 49. The figure is up from 42.3 per cent recorded two years earlier, according to Dr Humaid Al Shamsi, the author of the study. The figure is significantly higher than in the same age groups in the UK, US, Canada, China, and India.

Al Shamsi, a cancer specialist and associate professor at the University of Sharjah's College of Medicine, acknowledged that the UAE has a large portion of young people in its demographic. He said that the findings triggered a warning, as the figures were still significantly higher even if international workers were excluded.

The research showed that women in the UAE were at a higher risk of cancer, with 51.3 per cent of the total number of new



malignant cancer cases in 2017, compared with 38.3 per cent in men.

"Every day, 11 people are diagnosed with cancer in the UAE, with two to three people dying, which is shocking," Al Shamsi stressed. "Increasing rates of cancer is the reality and we have to be ready for it."

The study suggests that hereditary and environmental factors such as poor lifestyle habits, inactivity and diet could be at play. Moreover, wider access to screening and increased awareness of cancer is also contributing to higher rate of cancer in people under 50.

# COVID-19 immunity may last for years, studies suggest



Immunity to COVID-19 may last at least a year or probably a lifetime, and improves over time after vaccination, according to two new studies. Both reports focused on people who had been exposed to the coronavirus about a year earlier.

The studies suggest that most people who recovered from COVID-19 and were later fully immunised may not need a third shot of the vaccine or boosters.

The findings also suggest that COVID-19

vaccines improve the antibodies of those who were never infected as well as those who caught the virus but only produced a weak immune response.

According to Michel Nussenzweig, an immunologist at Rockefeller University in New York and lead researcher in one

study, they identified antibody-producing cells that retain a memory of the virus in the bone marrow and may produce antibodies whenever needed.

Nussenzweig's team analysed blood from 63 people who had recovered from COVID-19 about a year earlier, of whom 26 received either Pfizer or Moderna jabs.

The study, published in the journal *Nature*, said that the memory B cells produced in response to infection with SARS-CoV-2

coupled with COVID-19 shots got a terrific response against emerging variants of the virus even without receiving a booster shot.

The other study, also under review for publication in *Nature*, discovered that memory B cells continue to mature and improve for at least 12 months after the infection.

Researchers from Washington University in St. Louis obtained blood samples from 77 people at three-month intervals, starting about a month after their infection with COVID-19. The team collected bone marrow samples from 19 people roughly seven months after they had been infected. Fifteen had detectable memory B cells, but the rest did not.

According to lead researcher Ali Ellebedy, six of the 77 participants had been hospitalised for COVID-19 while the rest exhibited mild symptoms.

The research reveals that the antibody levels in these individuals dropped rapidly four months after infection and decreased slowly later on, while memory B cells remain in the bone marrow and will act against the virus when needed.

# WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



## Aries (March 21 – April 20)

Aries actor Leonard Nimoy became mega-famous by playing the role of Spock, an alien from the planet Vulcan in the Star Trek franchise. He always enjoyed the role, but in 1975 he wrote an autobiography titled 'I Am Not Spock'. In it, he clarified how different he was from the character he performed. In 1995, Nimoy published a follow-up autobiography, 'I Am Spock', in which he described the ways in which he was similar to the fictional alien. In the spirit of Nimoy's expansive self-definition, Aries, and in accordance with current astrological potentials, you should always make it clear to people exactly who you and who you aren't. No one knows you better than you do.



## Taurus (April 20 – May 21)

Your guiding wisdom comes from Taurus author Annie Dillard. She writes, "I think it would be well, and proper, and obedient, and pure, to grasp your one necessity and not let it go, to dangle from it limp wherever it takes you." Dillard's approach will enable you to maintain a righteous rhythm and make all the right moves during the coming weeks. Your crucial first step will be to identify the nature of your "one necessity." Not two necessities. Just the single most important. Sometimes it's a challenge to try to figure out what's important and what's not important. Sometimes you need a bit of extra help as you try to understand how your problems might be opportunities in disguise.



## Gemini (May 22 – June 20)

"I remember wishing I could be boiled like water and made pure again," writes poet Jeffrey McDaniel. Judging from the current astrological omens, Gemini, you could be made reasonably pure again without having to endure an ordeal like being boiled like water. Do you have ideas about how to proceed? Here are some suggestions: Spend 15 minutes alone. With your eyes closed, sitting in a comfortable chair, forgive everyone who has hurt you. Do the best you can. Perfection isn't necessary. Spend another 15 minutes alone, for a total of one hour of self-reflection. Remember ten amazing moments that you enjoyed between ages five and 13.



## Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

On June 23, 1940, Wilma Rudolph was born prematurely to a family that already had 19 other children. During her childhood, she suffered from pneumonia, scarlet fever, polio, and infant paralysis. The latter two diseases damaged her left leg, and she wore a brace until she was 12 years old. Nevertheless, by the time she was in high school, she had become a very good athlete. Eventually she competed in the Olympics, where she won four medals and earned the title "the fastest woman in history." Icons such as Rudolph should be your official role model for the rest of 2021. May she inspire you to overcome and transcend your own personal adversity.



## Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Author Umberto Eco declared that beauty is boring because it "must always follow certain rules." A beautiful nose has to be just the right shape and size, he said, while an "ugly nose" can be ugly in a million different unpredictable ways. This definition is narrow and boring, and philosopher Francis Bacon presents a better perspective. He wrote, "There is no excellent beauty that hath not some strangeness in the proportion." Then there's the Japanese concept of wabi-sabi, which reveres beauty that's imperfect, transitory, and incomplete. Beginning now, and for the rest of 2021, Leo, you should ignore Eco's dull definition of beauty and cultivate your relationship with the more interesting kind.



## Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

One of the more evocative passages in JRR Tolkien's novel 'The Return of the King' is about the warrior Eowyn. It says, "Then the heart of Eowyn changed, or else at last she understood it. And suddenly her winter passed, and the sun shone on her." There will be a comparable transformation for you in the near future, Virgo. There'll be some fundamental shift in the way your heart comprehends life. When that happens, you will clearly fathom some secrets about your heart that have previously been vague or inaccessible. And then the sun will shine upon you with extra brilliance.



## Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Libran author Oscar Wilde disproved the misconception that Libras are wishy-washy, overly eager to compromise, and inclined to overthink everything. His writing had wit and flair, and his life was vivid and daring. He wrote, "There are moments when one has to choose between living one's own life, fully, entirely, completely—or dragging out some false, shallow, degrading existence that the world in its hypocrisy demands." One of those pivotal moments will soon be coming up for you. Be Wilde-like!



## Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Philosopher Simone Weil wrote, "Only the light that falls continually from the sky gives a tree the energy to push powerful roots into the earth. The tree is actually rooted in the sky." As you bolster your foundations in the coming months, as you deepen your roots, you ought to keep Weil's brilliant observation in mind. Like a tree, the nourishment that will help you grow the stamina and strength and structure you need will come as you turn to the brightest, warmest, highest sources of inspiration.



## Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Fragile intensity or intense fragility? Ferocious gentleness or gentle ferocity? Vulnerable strength or strong vulnerability? These will be some of the paradoxical themes with which you'll be delicately wrestling in the coming days. Other possibilities: sensitive audacity or audacious sensitivity; fluidic fire or fiery fluidity; crazy wisdom or wise craziness; shaky poise or poised shakiness. You should regard rich complexities like these as blessings, not confusions or inconveniences.



## Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Congratulations on being such a duty-bound, no-nonsense adult. May you continue to ply your dogged persistence and beast-of-burden attitude as long as it gets important tasks done, helps you feel useful, and doesn't make you sick. But if you do get tempted to depart from the sacrificial path anytime soon, please know that you will not incur a karmic debt. In fact, you would feel like you have that clearance to dabble with lightheartedness for a while. You should feel free to experiment with fun and games that appeal to your sense of wonder.



## Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Aquarian author James Dickey celebrated "the holy secret of flowing." But he added, "You must be made for it." In other words, he implied that the secret of flowing is a luxury only some of us have access to. And because we "must be made for it," he seemed to suggest that being in possession of the secret of flowing is due to luck or genetics or privilege. But I reject that theory. Anyone can tap into the secret of flowing if they have the desire and intention to do so. Like you! Right now! You're primed to cultivate a robust relationship with the holy flow.



## Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Piscean author César Aira praises the value of escaping one's memories. He writes, "Forgetting is like a great alchemy free of secrets, transforming everything to the present." You should enjoy such alchemy like that in the coming weeks, Pisces. It's a favourable time to lose at least some of the inhibitions and limitations you think you have to accept because of what happened in the past. As Aira says, forgetting "makes our lives into a visible and tangible thing we hold in our hands, with no folds left hidden in the past."

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

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



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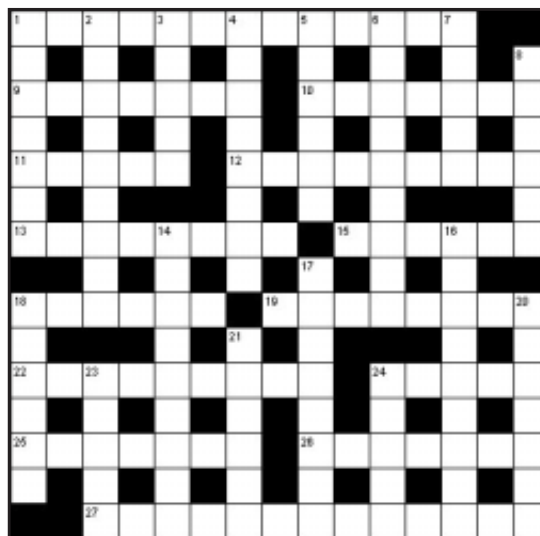
# PUZZLES

## ACROSS

- 1 Prize winner (5,8)
- 9 Migratory bird (7)
- 10 Raise level (7)
- 11 Trunk containers (5)
- 12 Paired up (9)
- 13 Captivating girl (8)
- 15 Former professor (6)
- 18 After party (6)
- 19 Old instruments (8)
- 22,8 General requests (6,3,6)
- 24 Panicking student (5)
- 25 Horizon spotted (7)
- 26 Misplacing vowels (7)
- 27 Diary scientist (12)

## DOWN

- 1 Victorious burst (7)
- 2 Complicated outcome (3,3,3,2,7)
- 3 Give money (5)
- 4 Rising tides (7)
- 5 Giving aid (6)
- 6 Cake consumed (5-4)
- 7 Frolicking with antelope (5)
- 8 Requesting assistance
- 14 Legendary seafarer (9)
- 16,2 Possible outcomes (3,3,3,2,7)
- 17 Noon attendants (8)
- 18 Tense situations (6)
- 20 Victorious girl (7)
- 21 Citizen hounded (6)
- 23 Torn apart (5)
- 24 Lofty home (5)



## Easy

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

## Medium

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

## SOLUTIONS FOR THE JUNE ISSUE



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

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

### easy

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


### medium

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



*Fifty years in the service of the nation*



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



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