

# 999

Society and Security Monthly



**Ministry of Interior**  
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Consultative Board

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## Khalifa, Hamad hold talks

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Emir of Qatar H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani held talks at Al Rodah Palace in the presence of the Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and H.H. General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince

of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Sheikh Khalifa welcomed Sheikh Hamad and his entourage, wishing further growth to fraternal relations between the two countries. The two sides exchanged views on a number of issues of common interest on the Arab and international arenas. They

expressed their satisfaction on the growth of relations in the framework of joint coordination regarding the regional and Arab issues.

The talks also tackled the relations and ways to bolster them in all fields.

Emir of Qatar expressed his pleasure about visiting the UAE, hailing the depth of relations between the leadership of two sisterly countries.

## Presidential decree creates award for talented women

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued federal decree no. 82 for 2010 on instituting of the Sheikhha Shamsa bint Suhail Award for Creative Women.

The Award aims at highlighting the status gained by women in all walks of life in the UAE, as well as honouring the creative Emirati women and motivating them to contribute in the development of the Emirati society and to enrich it with their creative and innovative experiences.

The Award will be give the creative

women in the fields of education, public service, business, trade and literature. It will also be given to the women with special needs who made significant and creative contributions.

The decree sets out rules for the award. It stipulates that the subject nominated for the award is written by the nominee and that it has not been nominated for another award.

The decree also grants the Award's jury the right to propose regulations that are consistent with the nature of the

Award and that such regulations shall be submitted to the Award's Board of Trustees for approval.

Sheikh Khalifa also issued resolution no. 1 for 2010, naming the Board of Trustees of the Sheikhha Shamsa bint Suhail Award for Creative Women.

According to the resolution, the Board shall be headed by Dr Mouza Obaid Ghobash. Its term shall be for three renewable years.

The Board shall name a Deputy Head and a Rapporteur from its members.

# Mohammed bin Rashid attends extraordinary Arab summit



Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum today attended opening of the extraordinary Arab summit in the Libyan city of Sert.

Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Al Qaddafi chaired the summit's

opening session.

In his opening remarks, Colonel Al Qaddafi welcomed the Arab leaders and said that the summit would discuss a new structure for the Arab joint action.

He added that a five-member committee under his chairmanship was formed during the last summit in Sert to oversee

implementation of the new structure.

Arab League's Secretary General Amr Musa stressed that the League rejects any attempts to marginalise its role or the collective Arab opinion in the pressing topics like the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as the situation in Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan and Mauritania.

## Visits CRPSN and HCT in Fujairah

The Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum visited the Centre for Rehabilitation of People with Special Needs of the Ministry of Social Affairs in Fujairah.

Sheikh Mohammed was accompanied during the tour by Dubai Crown Prince HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed

bin Rashid Al Maktoum and a number of ministers.

He met at the centre an Emirati blind Salma Al Ka'abi, a teacher at the centre, who overcome her disability to obtain a degree. Sheikh Mohammed commended her for perseverance to be useful for community, especially for the children with special needs.

Sheikh Mohammed also visited the

Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) for Girls, where he was received by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and President of HCT, a number of officials and teaching staff.

He met at the HCT building a number of students, who study at the newly created electronic engineering section.

# Mohammed bin Zayed receives King of Swaziland

General H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces received at Qasr Al Bahar King Mswati III of Swaziland and his accompanying delegation.

They discussed relations of friendship between the two countries and ways to enhance them.

Sheikh Mohammed welcomed King Mswati and expressed UAE's keenness to develop ties of Swaziland and to expand bilateral cooperation in educational, economic, agricultural and energy fields.

King Mswati said he was pleased to visit the UAE. he expressed thanks for the warm hospitality accorded to him during his visit. He also expressed his country's desire to further cooperation with the UAE and praised the progress made by the country under the wise leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.



## Receives UAE Special Olympic Team

H.H. General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces underlined that President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan is keen to provide support to sports sector in general and special sports sector in particular to help build unique UAE citizen.

This came during his reception of the UAE Special Olympic Team in the presence of Mohammed Fadil Al Hamili, board chairman of the UAE Association for Sports of People with Special Needs and other officials.

The UAE team won 24 gold medals, 18 silver and 27 bronze medals. 49 Emirati players participated in the seventh Middle East and North Africa Regional Special Olympics, held recently in Syria.



Sheikh Mohammed expressed his deep faith in the abilities of Emiratis who scored successes at the Special Olympics. He shook hands with all

of them to appreciate their resolve and determination to overcome all the challenges and scored 69 medals.



## Saif bin Zayed briefed on the police distinguished initiatives

The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior Lt. General HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has been briefed during the meeting of Committee of the Excellent Initiatives of the General Headquarters of Abu Dhabi Dhabhi, on the best initiatives implemented as per the strategic plan of Abu Dhabi Police.

The meeting was held to honour owners of the distinguished initiatives for their contribution to realising the vision of Sheikh Saif bin Zayed, which aims to bolster the developmental efforts of police work and enhancement of services.

Present were Major General Nasser Lakhraibani Al Nuaimi, secretary

general of the office of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, Staff Major General Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, assistant undersecretary of the ministry of interior for resources and support services, Major General Dr Abdul Qadoos Abdul Razik Mohammed, director of the general department of total quality and a number of officers.

## Receives Pakistani, Chinese counterparts

HH Lt.General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, received his visiting Pakistani counterpart Rehman Malik. The two ministers reviewed bilateral cooperation in areas of police and security.

Sheikh Saif also received the visiting Chinese State Councilor and Public Security Minister, Meng Jianzhu, and discussed ways of enhancing joint cooperation in police and security fields.

A number of issues of mutual interest were also touched.



Sheikh Saif highlighted during the audience the depth of bonds between the two friendly countries

and stressed the sincere desire of Emarati and Chinese leaders to further boost joint cooperation.

# Al Shaafar heads UAE delegation to Kuwait security meeting



The UAE has participated in the meeting of the preparatory committee of Ministry of Interior undersecretaries in the AGCC, held in Kuwait recently. The aim of the meeting was to prepare for the 29<sup>th</sup> convention of the AGCC Ministers of Interior.

The delegation of the UAE was headed by Lieutenant General Saif Al Shaafar, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior. The Kuwait meeting discussed several topics including joint strategic security planning, cooperation in criminal investigations, combating terrorism and

fighting the drugs menace.

Other topics included efforts to facilitate the movement of nationals and expatriates in the AGCC states and coordination in the media field as well as the development of the comprehensive security agreement.

Officials also discussed recommendations submitted by security committees in the framework of security coordination.

The UAE delegation included senior officials from various police administrations in the UAE.

## 25 officers complete strategic planning course

A total of 25 officers have completed a strategic planning course organised by the Police College.

Staff Major General Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Support Resources and Services, attended the graduation ceremony held recently at Al Ittihad (Union) Hall of the police College. The ceremony was attended by a number of high-ranking officers.

“The Ministry of Interior’s training plans have focussed on

modern concepts for development and catching up with the latest in the world of continuous education”, Staff Maj Gen Al Khaili said.

He added: “This is a very important component of the culture and strategy of the Ministry of Interior.”

He stressed the necessity of linking training with the needs of the law enforcement agencies.

The week-long training course was organised at the Officers Training Institute.

## Ministry of Interior signs an agreement with Datel Systems and Software

The Ministry of Interior has signed an agreement with Datel Systems & Software Company to provide integrated online services to Naturalization and Residency Services in the country.

Datel Systems and Software is a technology and professional services company that specialises in providing consulting, outsourced technology and business strategy solutions for

corporate and government entities in the Middle East.

Major General Nasser Al Awadhi Yahya Al Minhali, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Naturalization, Residency and Outlets Affairs, signed the agreement on behalf of the ministry, and Thani Abdullah Suhail Al Zafeen, General Manager and Member of Board of Directors of Datel Systems & Software, signed on

behalf of the company.

According to the agreement, Datel Systems & Software will deliver electronic and instant services to the public on the internet, with high security controls to achieve utmost possible protection of transactions related to visas, entry permits and residency and any other services that the Ministry of Interior may seek to be provided for the public.

# Abu Dhabi Police utilise state-of-the-art technology to serve the public

Abu Dhabi Police has been using advanced technology to serve the public, officials said during the 30th edition of Gitex Technology Week (Gitex), the leading ICT exhibition in the region.

Staff Major General Obaid Al Hiri Al Kitbi, Deputy Chief of Abu Dhabi Police, accompanied by Major General Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, Director General of Central Operations, visited the exhibition to acquaint themselves with the latest technologies showcased by ministries and local government departments as well as major international companies.

The two officials were also briefed on the exhibits at the stand of the General Headquarters of Abu Dhabi Police and the various electronic programmes offered by the capital's police.

They also visited, among others, the stands of the UAE Ministry of Economy, the Justice Department, Dubai Police, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai and the Roads and Transport Department in Dubai (RTA).

"The stand of Abu Dhabi Police is an



opportunity for the public to acquaint themselves with the latest technologies utilised by Abu Dhabi Police in the service of the public", said Staff Maj Gen Al Kitbi.

Abu Dhabi Police participated in Gitex by showcasing a number of initiatives. It showcased its well known-exciting motorbike the "Falcon", Abu Dhabi

Police services on mobile phones, especially the iPhone and iPod Sets, which include special programmes of Abu Dhabi Police.

Abu Dhabi Police also exhibited its model of changing paper documents to an electronic archive and adoption of the concept of "paper-free Environment".

## New Civil Defence organisational structure set in motion

The committee tasked with the implementation of the new organisational structure of Civil Defence General Headquarters, headed by Major General Khalil Dawood Badran, Director General of Finance at Abu Dhabi Police and Head of the committee, was briefed on the presentations relevant to the implementation process.

Efforts underway to prepare job descriptions were discussed at the meeting. The presentations were made by the various civil defence administrations in the country.

Maj Gen Badran praised the efforts of the teams. He said: "The implementation of the organisational structure is very important so as to contribute towards the development efforts in accordance with



the strategy of the Ministry of Interior to meet future needs".

Captain Fawaz Ali, head of the Media Support Section at the Security Media Department, said the media plan incorporates print and broadcast media as

well as electronic media and billboards. The committee also reviewed the recommendations of the previous meeting and a report of achievements by the various work teams at the ministry's level.

## Ministry of Interior's Executive Council mulls overall development project

The Executive Council of the Ministry of Interior held its 8th meeting of 2010 recently at the Ittihad (Union) Hall of the Ministry of Interior, under the chairmanship of Major General Naser Lakhraibani Al Nuaimi, Secretary-General of the Office of His Highness the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

Major Hamad Abdul Rahman Al Nuaimi, Director of the Higher Committees at the Ministry of Interior, reviewed the agenda of the meeting which included the tools to develop work methods.

Lieutenant Colonel Faisal Sultan Al Shuaibi, Director of the Strategy and Performance Development at Abu Dhabi Police, made a presentation



on the comprehensive development at the Ministry of Interior as part of the 2011-2013 strategy. The meeting also reviewed the Sheikh Khalifa

Government Excellence Award project. A number of recommendations to upgrade performance at the ministry were made at the meeting.

## Dhahi Khalfan receives UPS Director of Operations

Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, the Dubai Police Commander-in-Chief, received in his Office Mr. Mark Martin Fischer, Director of Operations for United Parcel Service Inc – Turkey, Middle East and Central Asia., who thanked Dubai Police for their efforts and cooperation following the crash of a Boeing 747-400 cargo plane operated by UPS shortly after takeoff into a military compound near Dubai's airport recently, killing two

crew members. The plane was en route to Cologne, Germany.

The meeting was attended by a number of Dubai Police and UPS officials, and discussed ways to bolster cooperation between Dubai Police and United Parcel Service Inc.

The UPS team visited the command centre at the General Directorate of Operations at Dubai Police and were briefed on the functions of the centre.



## Ajman Police, Emirates Transport sign agreement on cooperation

Ajman Police have signed a deal with Emirates Transport Corporation to enhance cooperation between the two sides. Brigadier Ali Abdullah Alwan, Director General of Ajman Police and Mohammed Abdullah Al Jarman, Director General of Emirates Transport Corporation signed the agreement. Brig. Alwan said the agreement

comes in line with the efforts to bolster strategic partnerships with various corporations.

The agreement aims to identify the framework of the partnership in a way that fulfills the objectives of both parties and achieve customer satisfaction. On his part, Jarman said the deal aims at exchanging expertise.





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## RAK Police and 'Saaed' sign cooperation agreement

Major General Sheikh Taleb bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Police, has praised the cooperation with Saaed service that started in Ras Al Khaimah recently. The Saaed programme, developed by Saaed for Traffic Systems, will achieve greater efficiency through the use of modern technologies in investigating traffic accidents.

"The Ras Al Khaimah Police, after the success achieved by Saaed for Traffic Systems in Abu Dhabi, has decided to utilise the service to bring about better performance in police work in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah", said Maj Gen Sheikh Taleb.

The statement by Maj Gen Sheikh Taleb came after the signing of the cooperation agreement between Ras Al Khaimah Police and Saaed for Traffic Systems. It was signed on behalf of Ras Al Khaimah Police by Lieutenant Colonel Naser Salem Mardad, Director of Traffic and Licensing Department and on behalf of Saaed by Engineer Colonel Hussain Ahmed Al Harthi,



Chairman of Saaed for Traffic Systems' Board of Directors.

The Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Police was briefed on the equipment and vehicles used by Saaed.

Engineer Col Al Harthi said the Saaed system was developed to meet the requirements of traffic investigation in the UAE and the GCC and wider Middle East regions. 'Saaed' plays a positive role in reducing traffic congestions

resulting from traffic accidents, through reducing the required time to arrive at accident sites and completing preparation and writing of accident reports through an integrated database of vehicles and drivers. 'Saaed' has developed a programme that can complete investigations of a minor accident in ten minutes from the time of patrol arrival to handing accident reports to the involved parties to repair their vehicles.

## UAQ Police chief receives Special Security Forces team



Colonel Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla, Acting Director of Umm Al Quwain Police, recently received a delegation of the Special Security Forces, headed by Major Abdullah Al Hurr Al Suwaidi.

The meeting was intended to honour Umm Al Quwain Police for their efforts in making the internal security

drills in Umm Al Quwain a success. The delegation also honoured Lieutenant Abdullah Ahmed bin Abood from Police Operations at Umm Al Quwain Police for his active role in the VIP protection exercises.

The meeting was attended by a number of officers.

## Graduation of two training courses in Fujairah

Two training courses concluded recently in Fujairah and a graduation ceremony for graduates was held. The first course was on Scientific Research Basics, under the supervision of the Officers Training Institute, and the other was on Loyalty and Professional Ethics.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Brigadier Mohammed Ahmed bin Ghanim Al Kaabi, Director General of Fujairah Police and a number of officers.

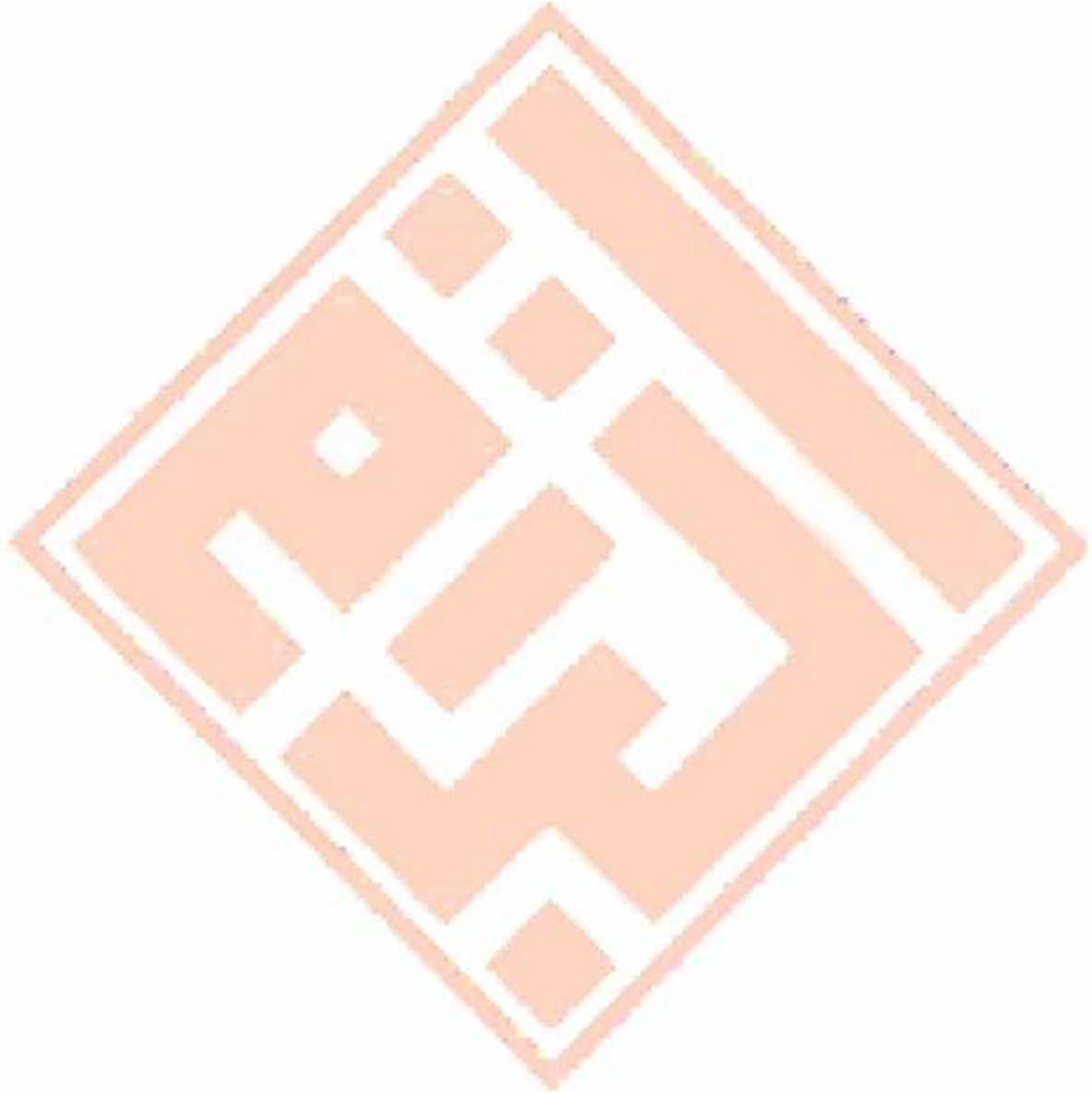
Certificates were distributed to the attendants at the end of the function.





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# A child's safe haven

A national committee has been tasked with child protection against exploitation



Efforts are being made to make the UAE a safe haven for children, protect vulnerable minors and help them in all legal, social and psychological spheres, Major General Naser Lakhraibani Al Nuaimi, Secretary-General of the Office of His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

Maj Gen Al Nuaimi is also the Chairman of the Supreme Committee of Child Protection at the UAE Ministry of Interior. He said the vision of His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, is to make the UAE a safe haven for children. A decree was issued by the Minister of Interior, creating the permanent supreme committee.

In an interview with 999, Maj Gen Al Nuaimi said partnerships at the local and federal levels were set up to enhance cooperation and conduct a study on an integrated child protection project. This project was submitted to the United Nations and was highly praised by member states. That was followed by the implementation of the

The committee is to set up a database of people involved in child abuse

comprehensive project in the country.

Excerpts:

**Q. What are the objectives of the Supreme Child Protection Committee adopted by the Ministry of Interior?**

A. There are many objectives of the committee and for setting up a child

protection centre tasked with the crimes affecting children and with combating all phenomena that lead to the exploitation of children. The committee seeks to find solutions and create initiatives aimed at protecting children, as well as to monitor exploitation cases on the Internet including sexual exploitation. Violations against children at cafés and general networks are also being fought. The committee also seeks to spread awareness on the ideal use of the Internet, enhance supervision by the family over the use of the Internet by their children and explain the negative effects of the Internet if used inappropriately. The committee conducts academic programmes and training sessions with its partners to achieve these goals. Committee experts also monitor suspicious financial transactions on the Internet that have to do with child exploitation, and supervise the building of an integrated database on child sexual exploitation crimes and their perpetrators. We have also to mention that the committee scrutinises legislation that are in line with international laws and to set up a database containing the names

of people involved in child abuse and create mechanisms of privacy and confidentiality to protect child victims.

**Q. What are the child categories targeted in this project?**

A. Any child who has fallen victim to abuse in various ways. The committee is responsible for taking care of these children and helping them overcome their ordeals. The committee also seeks to deter any abuser from robbing children of their innocence. Protecting children is a collective responsibility.

**Q. What are the challenges faced by the project?**

A. There are, unfortunately, a number of challenges. The responsibility in dealing with crimes against children is only that of the police; it is the responsibility of the whole society. The biggest challenge is that some parents think that their responsibility towards their children ends with educating them on how to use technologies and the Internet, without monitoring them or giving them the tools to protect themselves against the adverse effects of Internet use. We find many children using the Internet for long hours, exposing themselves to dangers. There are also gaps between parents and their children; when a child is exposed to exploitation, he or she won't go to the parents to complain. That is why parents have to communicate with their children on a continuous basis. There is also another challenge which is that the age of the victims is in most cases below six years. This makes the uncovering of the crime more difficult as well as the investigation and court proceedings. A child of that age cannot comprehend the abuse, and that is why families have to protect their children in the first place. A child abuse incident could be the start of deviation and could hinder the child's natural integration in society. Through the committee, we work to protect children from possible dangers before child exploitation could become a phenomenon.

**Q. Who are your strategic partners in the project, and how have they been selected to contribute towards this initiative?**

A. We have been happy with the contribution of strategic and effective partners in the committee. They include the Ministry of Justice, ►

the Emirates Identity Authority and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority. We interact with all society and there are corporate entities that have a great social responsibility like Microsoft. We hope all companies would have the same corporate social responsibility to protect children against exploitation in all possible ways.

**Q. What are the mechanisms to prevent crime against children?**

A. A number of mechanisms are under study. They include the setting up of a database of criminals

involved in crimes against children, especially sexual exploitation; the endorsement of compulsory programmes for perpetrators with periodical psychoanalysis; enactment of necessary legislation against perpetrators posing threats to children and the society, the exchange of information on sexual exploitation cases with other countries and the setting up of mechanisms to guarantee privacy and confidentiality for child abuse victims in accordance with best international practices.

**Q. How will the UAE benefit**





## from being the only Arab member in the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT)?

A. There are many specialisations of the subcommittee to follow up the requirements of the membership in the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT).

The subcommittee supports the efforts of the VGT in establishing an international partnership to achieve some objectives, like making the Internet a safer environment and identifying children facing dangers and prosecuting perpetrators

involved in child abuse. Other functions include the exchange of information, supporting operations and education and training, as well as the development of mechanisms for monitoring inside and outside the UAE, among others.

## The specialisations of the committees

### There are many specialisations of the project's committee.

> The specialisations of the subcommittee for legislative development and governing guidelines include: putting together an appropriate draft law and implement it through various institutions in line with international regulations; incriminating the possession of pornographic material involving children; studying the need to integrate sexual crimes against children in the criminal penal code; studying the enactment of legislation to compulsorily report violations and pornographic materials involving children to legal authorities by various parties and ensuring that stiff penalties are meted out to perpetrators; studying the possibility of discussing the criminal liability of children taking part in the production of pornographic material, taking into consideration in all legislation that "the child is the victim and, he or she, is a witness whether or not they are or are not accomplices; and studying the possibility of

confiscating the property and money generated from pornographic activities involving children, and the use of the confiscated money in supporting support programmes for children exposed to sexual exploitation and those who need special care.

> The subcommittee for awareness, media and research: The subcommittee is tasked with planning awareness and training programmes to combat sexual exploitation of children. The subcommittee also enhances work on all awareness activities, organises specialised conferences and supports studies and research.

> The subcommittee for studying amendments to the organisational structure and the setting up of the Ministry of Interior's centre for child protection: The subcommittee studies the creation of a child protection centre in line with best practices in the world. It is also tasked with developing analytical methods to contribute towards enhancing work systems and obtaining information.

The subcommittee studies lists of those involved in child abuse cases and revises procedures adopted in the granting of work and visit visas to the country. It also studies the possibility of making it obligatory for comers to the country to produce certificates of good conduct attested electronically, to ensure they do not have criminal records, especially sexual crimes. The tasks also include studying the setting up a child abuse hotline

> The specialisations of the technical subcommittee includes the comprehensive evaluation of approval process regarding the Child Exploitation Tracking System (CETS) and its implementation. That includes the pre-assessment of procedures; the study and analysis of necessary prerequisites including human cadres and technical needs; presenting a timeframe for the project; supervising the training process of employees; assisting parents in the monitoring effort; and coordination with all parties concerned locally and internationally.

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# 'Life is what you make it'

A construction company executive went to a building site and saw three workers crushing stones. He asked the first worker: "What are you doing". The worker said: "I am crushing rocks at the instructions of my boss". He asked the second: "What are you doing". The labourer said: "I cut the rocks in nice and symmetric shapes". The executive repeated the same question to the third worker, who answered: "Don't you see? I am building a skyscraper".

Despite the fact that the three labourers were doing the same thing, each one of them viewed his work in a different way. The first labourer saw it as implementing orders from the boss, the second was an artist enjoying his work. But the third was different: he was so self-confident and ambitious.

What does that mean? It means that each one of us is a mirror of own views and judgments. These views and judgments shape our lives and progress in life.

I recently met a school friend, 25 years after we graduated from high school. We met at a shopping mall; he was the same person I knew; quiet and shy. I asked him what he did for a living, and he said that after graduation from university, he found a job as a clerk at the warehouses of a government ministry. He said he never sought to get another job, nor did he get any promotion throughout all these years. He told me he was so comfortable in his job and that he never wanted to be in the spotlight; he said he is now waiting to get early retirements. I asked him whether he wanted to start his own business after retirement. He smiled and said: "Do you think I should be looking for headaches after all these years? Do you think we still have many years in this life?"

I did not find his answers strange at all. That has been his personality since we knew each other. He was a type of person who would stand in the middle; not outstanding in his study, nor a bad student he was. He could have done better in school if he was ambitious, but he was a man of compromises and half-baked solutions. He was afraid of taking advanced steps, preferring to stand where he is without any forward movement.

This old friend of mine reminds me of the first worker who crushes stones, obeying the orders of his boss. There are other types of people who chose different ways for their life to achieve their goals, like that labourer who said he was building a skyscraper. Those are the ambitious people who do not believe in impossibilities and who have been able to assume the positions they wanted for themselves.

Look at yourself and try to judge your character. What type of character are you? It's true that circumstances play a major role in your choices, but if we leave it to circumstances, we won't be getting what we deserve and love.

We should not forget that circumstances are the excuse given to cover up our failures and defeats when we don't find ourselves in the positions we want and deserve.

## Perspectives



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YOUR GATEWAY TO  
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# 999

# Growing young at 40

**999 magazine - from humble beginnings to a publication that sets a new perception in the relation between police and the community**

Special to 999

**T**his month marks the 40th anniversary of 999 magazine. The first issue was brought out in November, 1970. It had the title “Ashurta wal Amn al A’am” [Police & General Security], and has been the only continuously published magazine in the UAE since then. The magazine went through different phases of development, catching up with the progress of Abu Dhabi Police, improving its look and content, constantly upgrading its services to society and contributing effectively to homeland security and stability. The idea behind the publication was simultaneously simple and complex. In 1970, the police apparatus in Abu Dhabi, then in its infancy, wanted to show itself in the public eye as a service provider. At that time, the idea sounded a bit bizarre in this part of the Arab world where a policeman was looked at as a source of fear and veneration. Abu Dhabi was too small a city; its population was tiny and the city did not have an advanced infrastructure. The emirate was on the threshold of a new era of comprehensive development under the rule of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The late Sheikh Zayed was busy

working on the unification of the Trucial Coast which was about to come into existence after years of negotiations and debate.

Amid these circumstances, and as the police apparatus in Abu Dhabi expanded and developed its scope, the need emerged for a media outlet that could build a bridge of communication with the public, play the role of security awareness and open channels of interaction with the people.

The magazine was born in 1970 as a cultural medium, 13 years after the inception of Abu Dhabi Police. 999 had a mediocre look from the technical point-of-view; it was a pamphlet containing a limited number of printed pages on the archaic Stencil machine, which resembled copying on carbon paper. The binding was so primitive – with a single pin – and the distribution was personal as copies were distributed directly at the police headquarters.

The fifth issue of the magazine was a turning point in the history of 999 as the magazine started to look like a proper magazine from a technical perspective. That was in March 1971 (a copy of that issue is distributed along with this edition of 999 as a gift to our

readers on the 40th anniversary).

Between March 1971 and today, 999 went through a series of developments on all fronts. The magazine has been catching up with the comprehensive development of the UAE.

In May 1973, the magazine’s name was changed to ‘Ashurta’ (The Police). It continued to have this name till September 2008 when the title ‘999’ started to be used (in the October 2008 issue). This came at the directive of His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, to enable the magazine to have a modern identity in terms of look and content and to become a companionable part of the tapestry of police environment. The direction was also to think up a name that expresses a number of transformation elements, and at the same time preserve the rich heritage of the police magazine, its media values and principles and the balanced and objective messages aimed at serving society. The direction encourages the criticism of negative phenomena in society, and supports efforts to find workable solutions to the problems, as well as to highlight the achievements of the law

## Milestones

**November 1970:** the first issue of 'Police & Public Security' magazine was brought out.

**March 1971:** the fifth issue of the magazine in a new look, printed in Abu Dhabi.

**December 2, 1971:** the UAE federation came into existence.

**July 1971:** Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohammed Al Nahyan is Minister of Interior and Hmouda bin Ali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior.

**January 1973:** The 1st Arab Police Chiefs Meeting in Al Ain.

**May 1973:** The name of the magazine was changed to 'Ashurta' (The Police).

**December 1973:** Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohammed is Minister of Interior and Hmouda bin Ali as Minister of Interior Ministry Affairs.

**March 1974:** Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Juma Al Dhahiri is General Director of Abu Dhabi Police.

**September 1975:** Lieutenant Colonel Hamad Saeed is Director General of Abu Dhabi.

**September 1978:** Graduation of the first batch of policewomen in Abu Dhabi.

**October 1983:** Inauguration of the new General Headquarters of Abu Dhabi Police.

**November 1990:** Graduation of His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan from the Police College.

**May 1991:** Colonel Thani Obaid Al Rumaithi is Director General of Abu Dhabi Police.

**December 1992:** Staff Lieutenant General Dr. Mohammed bin Saeed Al Badi is Minister of Interior.

**December 1997:** His Highness Brigadier Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan is Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior.

**March 2004:** The formation of the editorial team of Ashurta magazine following a decree issued by His Highness the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior.

**November 2004:** The appointment of His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, as Minister of Interior.

**November 2004:** The death of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

**October 2008:** The police magazine is given a new name of '999'.



The late Sheikh Zayed during a graduation ceremony of police cadets



H.H. Sheikh Khalifa browses the "police magazine" in early 70's

enforcement agency in Abu Dhabi and the various parts of the UAE.

### The beginnings

The first issue of the magazine in November 1970 coincided with decisive developments affecting what was known at the time as the 'Trucial States', as these states moved towards unification under the leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The official declaration on the formation of the UAE was in December 1971.

The Abu Dhabi Police force was going through a phase of development, after the late Sheikh Zayed became the ruler in 1966. Abu Dhabi Police was called 'Police & General Security Headquarters', a name that continued

to be used from 1967 to 1971. It changed to Local Ministry of Interior from 1971 to 1974.

The name of the magazine changed to Ashurta in Issue No. 30, in May 1973. The magazine kept this name for 35 years, after which the name changed to 999, with the beginning of a new phase in the qualitative and strategic development of Abu Dhabi Police under the command of His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan. When His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif became Minister of Interior in November 2004, a fresh beginning of support for police work started in all departments under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior.

The massive process of change

witnessed by the Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters necessitated a police magazine that is in line with progress march, to become an efficient and effective tool in delivering messages to targeted audiences. His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed, then undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, issued decree No. 8 on March 15, 2004 regarding the editorship of Ashurta magazine. A team was formed, headed by Brigadier Khalil Dawood Badran, Director of Financial Affairs Department, with Dr. Saeed Khalfan bin Rakan Al Dhahiri, Technical Advisor to the office of His Highness the undersecretary, and Major Thani Butti Thani Al Shamsi from the Capital Police Department, as members.

The decree stated the specialisations of the team:

Supervising the editorial content of the magazine.

Development of the magazine in terms of look and content, and enhancing the cultural and social aspects while retaining police culture.

Seeking the assistance of active staff members in the process of developing the magazine.

The magazine has achieved impressive jumps in technical quality and editorial standards in a matter of few years, reaching out to larger segments of society through playing its core role in social education and security awareness.

999 is keeping up its promise under the directives of His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, and the supervision of His Excellency Major General Khalil Dawood Badran, head of the magazine's development committee, performing its role as the 'magazine of social and security culture'. The magazine transcends its role in the police sphere to include topics relating to the various issues of importance to the country.

In the last few years, the magazine started to communicate its message to non-Arabic speaking audiences in the country by bringing out a regular supplement in English. A website was also launched as part of the official website of the Ministry of Interior to enable people all around the world to read its contents at the beginning of every month.



Abu Dhabi police premises in it's early days

999 photo library

## Down the memory lane

In the late 1960s, the area extending from Al Husn Palace to the location where the British Embassy is located today was the main street in Abu Dhabi. All buildings consisted of one floor, and the shops there sold various items for daily use like canned foods, clothes as well as building material.

In that area were the clinics of Indian doctor Hakimi and British doctor MacColi. There was a number of government buildings like the municipality and the police headquarters. The police building was in the middle of the road, and at entrance were many parked Land Rovers. The guard there was a policeman wearing the military attire with the traditional (black and white) checkered head cover (Kofeye) and Akal.

Inside the building was the office of the late Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohammed Al Nahyan. He was tall and slim, and had a strong military look. He was a professional military man. Next to his office was the office of the late Hamouda bin Ali, who had the rank of Major.

The Traffic Police had an office at the headquarters, but cars did not have numberplates at the time.

Driving permits were given to expatriate seekers upon showing the driving licence issued in their home country. I imported a car which was transported to Abu Dhabi by sea through the Begal Creek, and was driven on Abu Dhabi roads without being registered and with a Jordanian numberplate. I sold the car without police registration. However, this situation did not last long; the police system was put in place gradually thanks to the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and with the determination and dedication of the late Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohammed Al Nahyan.

The birth of the police magazine marked a major development. Articles were often written by police officers from other Arab countries who worked in the police force. It did not have a lot of news. The magazine improved gradually and national officers, graduating from high institutions and police colleges, started to publish articles in it. Today, the magazine has become a major publication whose popularity has been on the rise as it depicts the prosperity and advanced security level attained by the UAE.

Dr. Faleh Hanzal



Morpho (Safran group), formerly Sagem Sécurité, congratulates Abu Dhabi Police on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 999 **Culture and Security Magazine**.

On this occasion, Morpho wishes Abu Dhabi Police all the best in its continuous efforts in protecting the nation's security and stability under its higher leadership of HH Sheikh Khalifah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates.

### **Morpho Partnership / MOI and Abu Dhabi Police**

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Morpho started its business in the UAE 16 years ago, based in the capital, Abu Dhabi. Since then, it has deployed prestigious projects such as the **Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)** for the UAE Ministry of Interior (MOI), which was successfully conducted and delivered in 1994.

Over the last decade, Morpho has established a strong relationship with the UAE Ministry of Interior and Abu Dhabi Police.

Morpho has deployed a prestigious project and achieved major milestones with the strong partnership of the MOI and Abu Dhabi Police:

- UAE Population Register and Smart ID Card project.
- **Speed Radar** (first solar panel operated radars with EDGE wireless communication in the world).
- Biometric Border Control.
- Deployment of livescan booking stations for fingerprints and palmprints all over the UAE.

In May 2010, Morpho and the Ministry of Interior formed "eIMASS" (electronic Identity Management and Security Solutions) a joint venture to develop services related to road safety, as well as advanced systems for multibiometric identification, registration of citizens, issuance of identity documents and automated border control solutions. Moreover, this JV will be responsible for supplying biometric solutions to UAE government entities.

Through this JV, the newly formed company will deliver international standard services based on state-of-the-art technologies that reflect the image of Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates' leadership.



# Morpho

Morpho, a Safran group company, is a leading international provider of security solutions. A pioneer in identification and detection systems and a major player in e-documents, Morpho is recognized for its excellence in the key technologies, skills and expertise needed for all security solutions.

Morpho is the only company in the world covering all aspects of identification systems and data security. To maintain this leadership it draws on 35 years of experience in biometrics, plus advanced expertise in shape recognition, secure data processing, smart cards, secure printing, cryptography, tomography, advanced system architecture and mass spectrometry.

Capitalizing on its proven capability for innovation, Morpho develops solutions that meet the needs of individuals, companies and governments around the world. These solutions span personal identity management, documents for citizens and travelers, access to airports and other high-value sites, and logical access for online transactions or via secure terminals.

The world leader in automated fingerprint identification systems (AFIS) and identity management, Morpho has amply demonstrated its ability to manage large-scale projects and develop personalized local solutions.

Morpho has delivered more than 1,600 tomography-based detection systems and 300 million ID documents to date. With systems already deployed in nearly 70 countries, Morpho creates a climate of confidence by contributing to the safety and security of transportation, people, data and countries everywhere in the world.





# 'Cyber crime poses a serious security challenge'

**Top e-crime investigator recommends ways to avoid falling victim to the designs of unscrupulous cyber tricksters**

By Rasha Fikri

**T**he UAE has been one of the front-runners in enacting legislation to fight cyber crime, a top cyber crime investigator said efforts should be consolidated at many levels to prevent people, men and women, from falling victim to these criminal activities.

Major Saeed Al Hajiri, Director of the Cyber Crime Division at the Criminal Investigation Department of Dubai Police, in an interview with 999, said e-crime poses a major security

challenge to law enforcement agencies around the world.

## **Excerpts:**

### **Q. What is e-crime?**

A. It is any crime committed by an individual against another with the use of modern technological tools like the Internet, computer, mobile phones, attacking databases, spam, phishing, obscene and offensive content, among others. This may cause a damage that is punishable by law.

### **Q. How does an e-crime occur?**

A. The crime does not occur till a person actually commits an illegal act like extortion, threatening and defamation. When websites are attacked, for instance, a crime is committed. Cyber crime has become a colossal challenge as electronic devices have become available for anyone of all ages.

**Q. What are the types of cyber crime,** and when has it started to appear and spread in the UAE?

A. Cyber criminal activities are classified in various ways. Some crimes are against computers; others target personal databases and intellectual copyright. Crimes are classified in accordance with the role played by computers, like hacking, manufacturing and spreading viruses and attacking and disabling networks, impersonation, harassment, pornography, grooming, defamation, fraud and others.

**Q. When was the first e-crime registered in the UAE?**

A. The first cyber crime in the country was in 1995 and 2000. It had to do with hacking the telecommunications infrastructure and establishing an immoral website involving girls.

**Q. What is the extent of electronic extortion cases involving women in the UAE?**

A. The crimes involving the extortion of women in the country do not assume a large proportion in comparison with other crimes, as they do not constitute more than 10 per cent of e-crimes.

**Q. What are the types of extortion or e-crime women are exposed to in general?**

A. There is a number of e-crimes women are exposed to, including defamation and abuse through publishing their photos or insulting them. Extortion is another crime, through emotionally blackmailing them or threatening them to publish their photos after hacking their personal data or their bank accounts.

**Q. What are the acts by women while using modern e-technologies that could make them fall prey to cyber crime?**

A. There are many things that women have to be careful about, including the sending of personal photos, storing photos on computers connected to the Internet, opening or receiving suspicious files or emails from unknown websites or people, placing their photos and personal information on social networking sites like facebook, sending their PC to dishonest technicians or through fake advertising websites whose aim is to defraud people. There is also the irresponsible use of the Internet without monitoring.

**Q. What are your recommendations to any computer or smart phone user in order to avoid being victims of extortion? ►**

A. Youngsters should be monitored and they should not get technologies that they do not need. Information, photos or videos should not be put on these devices, and people should be educated on how to protect their data. Latest editions should be used to avoid any loopholes. Commercial websites should also be investigated properly to ascertain their credibility before making any purchases. Unknown files or emails should not be opened, and unknown members in social networking circles should not be accepted on PCs or smart phones.

**Q. What are the legal measures taken against cyber criminals, after incidents involving women?**

A. After the investigation is completed, the culprits are referred to the Public Prosecution. One of the crimes is that of a girl who knew a young man in a chat room. She met him several times without her family's knowledge, and was later raped by him. There are also many girls who were victims of extortion and fraud.

**Q. Are women or young girls the only victims of electronic extortion, or have they been accused of having committed extortion against young men?**

A. There are cases of young girls having committed extortion against young men; an old girl friend of a married man caused his separation



from his wife. There are also cases of defamation.

**Q. It is understood that most cyber crimes are of fraud and deception. What is the main cause of the rise of phishing cases?**

A. The lack of awareness and the availability of modern technology. Some people use the Internet and phones for illegal activities like sending emails claiming that there is a prize or a big amount of money to the person or persons giving them financial services. They take advantage of the ignorance of some victims. These cases spread in the UAE because of the poor awareness of residents, high costs of living, the global financial crisis and the availability of affordable modern technology.

**Q. Dubai has 'cyber crime patrols'. How do they work, and can they stop a cyber crime?**

A. Cyber crime patrols on the Internet have had a prominent role in curbing crime. Patrols detected many culprits before these criminals could expand their activities. The cases are mainly those of fraud, defamation, grooming, stealing electronic information from emails, bank accounts and others.

**Q. You have been able to foil a 'fake investment portfolio' by a woman on the Internet. What was the method used by that woman to persuade her victims to join the portfolio in which millions were lost?**

A. The suspect promoted her portfolio on the Internet and won the confidence of members in forums, who were deceived by profit prospects. She defrauded her victims of large amounts of money.

**Q. You have previously spoken about the hierarchy of social marketing adopted by some companies and warned people against it. What is this structure and how does it constitute a crime?**

A. Hierarchy of social marketing is a type of fraud as the double value is limited after a certain stage and there is not a big critical mass that could cover such marketing. The benefit goes the founders only.

**Q. You have also warned against electronic recruitment and marriage websites. What are the crimes committed in the name of these websites?**



A. Through advanced technologies, such websites were created, and databases are constructed of names and personal information of service seekers. Those administering these websites abuse the database in many ways including impersonation, fraud, stealing bank account numbers, defamation and others.

**Q. What is your advice to young people from both sexes in dealing with these websites?**

A. They should ascertain the credibility of these websites. For marriage websites, young people should seek other alternatives and they should avoid pasting their personal information on these websites.

**Q. Is the law combating cyber crime enough to deter tricksters in cyber space?**

A. Federal law no. 2 of 2006 has many aspects, but there are calls to introduce some additions to make it deterrent enough.

**Q. In some cases of cyber crime, suspects are released for lack of sufficient evidence. Do we still have a problem in understanding the core of cyber crime?**

A. No, we do not. Dealing with various cases depends on the law, the charge sheet of the prosecution and the danger posed by the culprit.

### What you should do to avoid being a victim of cyber crime?

Maj Al Hajiri gives some pieces of advice for Internet users to help them avoid falling prey to cyber criminals.

- Avoid entering personal details in unknown websites.
- Do not send personal material like photos, videos and bank account details to anyone or to websites.
- Check the credibility of commercial websites.
- Whenever possible, do not let others see your files.
- Do not accept 'strangers' on social networking without a convincing reason.
- Parents should monitor Internet use by their children.
- Do not give your email passwords to others.
- Download latest anti-piracy software to curb malicious programmes.
- Ensure that security levels are high on bank websites.
- Whenever possible, avoid leaving personal files on PCs. Keep them in a separate memory.



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# Victims of the big guys' game

## Divorce leaves deep scars in the life of children and converts them into delinquents

By Khalid Al Dhanhani & Nawal Salem

**D**ivorce is not a new topic. However, alarming statistics show that the number of divorce cases is almost half the number of registered marriages in some Arab countries.

Figures show divorce cases in Saudi Arabia reached 21 per cent, in the UAE 44 per cent, Qatar 30 per cent, Kuwait 40 per cent and Rabat city in Morocco 46 per cent. In Egypt, there is an average of 240 divorce cases daily, that is one divorce case every six minutes.

Divorce brings devastating social problems in the long run. The most disastrous effect is on children who

deal with their despair by moving out to the streets and getting involved in problems posing dangers to the security of society. This is evident in drug abuse and theft cases by children of divorced couples.

At the Social Support Centres and some other agencies, we find many cases of children who have fallen victim to divorce. There are also many divorced women who are also victims. A juvenile delinquent, A. J., said after the divorce of his parents, his psychological condition was serious and his three brothers also suffered like him. "Bad friends led me to alcohol and drugs. We were

arrested and taken to a juvenile delinquency centre. I always wonder whose victim I am; my parents' or society's", he said.

A divorced woman said her life after separation had been an ordeal, and regretted having asked for divorce. She said: "I live for my children; I tried to compensate them for the absence of their father, but I failed. I read in their eyes too many questions about their father. They hardly remember his face. They progressively became aggressive and the youngest boy attempted to commit a murder. I am really regretting the decision I took at ►

### A lump in the throat

Hakeem Ankar in Rabat

In Morocco, there is a number of legal agencies and organisations offering their help to juvenile delinquents. The problem of delinquency has many social and security ramifications.

"Statistics show that conditions inside the family unit have a direct impact on the emergence of juvenile delinquency", said Saeed Al Rajihi, Executive Director of the National Centre for Children Rights.

He stressed that precise statistics regarding juvenile delinquency are not accessible. But he admitted that the phenomenon has been assuming large proportions. The most serious

involves drugs and hallucination pills, and this is the biggest challenge for schools in Morocco.

Al Rajihi said protection efforts should always cover all the rights of children. "For this purpose, Morocco has been implementing the 'Children's Parliament' experience, as part of a national awareness programme to highlight the dangers surrounding children", he underlined.

The National Centre for Children Rights conducted research and field studies that covered schools, workplaces and children's centres. Causes of delinquency were found to be related to family disintegration as a result of divorce; the absence of social protection mechanisms; legal problems emanating from divorce; sexual assaults on children; the effects of



Najeeba Adeeb

immigration from the countryside to cities and the problem of drug abuse.

Najeeba Adeeb, Chairperson of 'Matkeesh Wuladi' Association, said: "There are many aspects of juvenile delinquency in

Morocco... I think that divorce is just one factor among many, and we cannot blame it solely for the problem of juvenile delinquency, drug abuse by minors or pedophiles.

"I have seen tens of cases in which children in socially and financially stable families became delinquents or fell victim to sexual exploitation".

time of anger; I had to think about the future and the children. I confess I was selfish”.

A 19-year-old girl became the victim of her parents’ divorce. She and her four siblings lived a harsh life as the parents quarreled endlessly. The girl refused to pursue her study as she did not want to leave her mother, thinking wrongly that she could protect her mother against the father. She ended up in hospital for psychological treatment. When her mother got married again after divorce, the girl could not stay in the same house where her mother lived with the new man. That resulted in serious psychological disorders.

Civil society plays an important role in rectifying social blunders emanating from divorce. Brigadier Najm Abdullah Al Hosani, Director of Social Support Centres Administration at Abu Dhabi Police, said the centres provide guidance to families to solve social problems. He added: “We deal with various cases under the supervision of experts... the centres dealt with 138 cases last year, and all these cases related to issues that emerged after divorce.

We dealt with 125 cases of the same type in the first half of 2010”.

He explained that the centres’ intervention contributed to saving many families. One example was that of a woman, A. M., who got divorced after 10 years of marriage. She had five children and suffered a lot during the marriage years. Her ex-husband was alcoholic and spent his salaries on his desires. After divorce and obtaining custody of the children, the husband did not allow her to enter her previous home to take her belongings and personal documents. Though she could have forced him to abide by the law, she preferred to seek the assistance of the Social Support Centres to solve the issue amicably. Consultants succeeded in reaching a solution after meeting the ex-husband and convincing him that despite the divorce, he remains the father of the children and responsible for them socially, psychologically and financially.

“We also educated the divorced parents on how to deal with any possible problems in the future”, said the official.

## Children are the victims

By Abdullah Omar in Gaza

Palestinian society has been facing the threat posed by the consequences of divorce in recent years, as the divorce rate has jumped to 22 per cent.

Dr. Zainab Al Ghunaimi, legal researcher, conducted studies for the Women’s Affairs Centre to highlight the negative impact of divorce and how to deal with them.



Zainab Al Ghunaimi

According to Dr. Al Ghunaimi, children of divorced couples suffer from internal conflicts as a result of the collapse of the family. “A child in this situation could develop serious problems related to emotional and mental growth, resulting in shaken personality that would consequently lead to social issues and conflicts”, she said.

## ► The imbalance

Yousuf Al Baluchi in Muscat

In the Sultanate of Oman, divorce cases increased in recent years. Yahya bin Mohammed bin Zaher Al Hanai, Director General of the General Department of Family Development at the Ministry of Social Development, said divorce has incalculable negative impacts including the disintegration of the family unit, psychological

disorders in children and juvenile delinquency.

He said: “The department exerts great efforts to increase awareness and help reduce the divorce rate. Awareness lectures are given at schools and women’s associations in various parts of the country. Cases are also followed up by the department to ensure negative impacts of divorce on children are minimised”.

Hakima bint Yousuf Al Muamari,

social researcher at the Court of First Instance, said:

“Not all children of divorced couples become aggressive, but a large proportion start behaving awkwardly and get engaged criminal activities”..



Yahya Al Hanai

## ► Beyond divorce

Reem Mohammed in Cairo

Divorce has assumed large and alarming proportions in Egyptian society that sociologists and psychologists feel this high rate could worsen the security situation and crime rates.

According to the Central Administration of Statistics, Egypt has the highest number of divorce

cases in the Arab world. A report by the administration showed that most cases were of couples were around 30 years old.

Dr. Azza Kareem, professor of psychology and sociology at the National Centre for Social and Criminal Studies, said: “Divorce cases have always been there, but what is new is the high rate of divorce. In the past, a divorced woman suffered a lot and to initiate divorce proceedings

was difficult for fear about the future of children. These days, new realities have emerged and divorce became easy for people, resulting in a worrying divorce rate in Egyptian society”.

She said financial dependence has made women more confident and enabled them to file for divorce. “Studies show that children from divorced parents fall victim to delinquency, resulting in an increase in the crime rate in society”, she added.

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# Role indispensable

The Arms and Explosives Department receives a shot in the arm to further boost its critical functions

By Amani Al Yafei





**T**he Arms and Explosives Department at Abu Dhabi Police has an indispensable role in crime prevention and investigation. The department recently embarked on a modernisation drive to catch up with the overall development of Abu Dhabi Police.

Colonel Humaid Khamis Al Afreet, Director, said his department has been contributing to the implementation of Abu Dhabi Police' strategy through various initiatives and unraveling the mystery of crimes. "This is one of the priorities of the strategy", he said.

He added that the department was set up in 1985 under the name of 'Arms and Explosives Licensing Branch'. In 2005, the branch was transformed to a division and the organisational structure was changed. There were two branches for Arms and Explosives Licensing in the Western Region and Al Ain affiliated to the department technically only. This year, the department was created and the two branches in the Western Region and Al Ain were upgraded to divisions. Col Al Afreet said local staff at the department make up 90 per cent of the personnel. There are four



Colonel Humaid  
Khamis Al Afreet



Lieutenant Colonel  
Salem Hamoud Salem



Major Khalid  
Mohammed Al Shihi



First Lieutenant  
Khalifa Al Fleiti

experts from outside the UAE. The specialisations required at the department include ammunitions and explosives technicians, electronic device technicians, arms technicians. Electronic engineers, mechanical engineers and human resources.

"The department has been seeking to develop the skills of its personnel through specialised courses inside and outside the UAE, and through training contracts that we have with some countries", said Col Al Afreet.

He underlined that future projects would include the electronic link-up of all sections of the department through the technical information network. "The most important step is the link-up of the information centre and the website of the department, which are currently ►

under construction", he explained. Lieutenant Colonel Salem Hamoud Salem, Deputy Director of the department, said the department has many functions including the securing of VIP meeting venues and events in the emirate; dealing





First Lieutenant Saeed  
Rashid Al Dhanhani



Lieutenant  
Matar Al Shamsi

with various cases of suspicious material; chalking out security plans for government buildings; licensing arms and explosives; supervising the storage of explosive material for commercial purposes, among others.

Major Khalid Mohammed Al Shihi said the sections the department cooperates with include Protection and Guards, Central Operations, Police Operations, Civil Defence, Crime Scene, Training, Institutes, Abu Dhabi Shooting Branch and Security Inspection.

Regarding training courses, First Lieutenant Khalifa Al Fleiti from the department said: "Before joining the department, each staff member has to undergo specialised training and at various levels in accordance with the task that they are assigned". He said the department took part in 26 specialised conferences in various countries including China,



Germany, the United States and Switzerland.

On the equipment used by the department, First Lieutenant Saeed Rashid Al Dhanhani said a large number of state-of-the-art devices are used to detect explosives, in addition to vehicles specially designed to defuse devices and to detect liquids of various types.

He said the so-called 'eco-oven', a device to get rid of unwanted explosives, is being created and work on it started early this year at the instructions of His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy

Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. The 86kg capacity, eco-friendly device is very useful, said the official, as some metals can be retrieved like lead and copper, to be re-manufactured or sold to ammunitions factories.

Lieutenant Matar Rashid Al Shamsi said the 'Explosives Information Centre' was created last year and is still in the process of completion. "The centre provides field teams with the necessary and correct information on explosives. In the future, it will be the main source of technical and specialised information at the local and federal levels", he said.

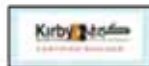


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## Al Khatiri: “My aim is to implement the law with integrity”

Lieutenant Zainab Yehya Al Moez

It was a beautiful day in February last year when the telephone rang in the office of First Lieutenant Mohammed Saeed Al Khatiri, officer at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Ras Al Khaimah Police.

It was a report about the disintegrated body of a woman, found on the beach in Ras Al Khaimah. A 12-member police team was formed to investigate the incident.

The team was headed by Major Hamad Al Dabani, Director of the CID, and First Lieutenant Mohammed Saeed Al Khatiri was one of the team members. Al Khatiri was in charge of keeping a watchful eye on the area where the body was found and to monitor the movements of suspects. He was also in charge of collecting information round-the-clock.

Al Khatiri and his teammates spared no efforts to unravel the mystery of the case. He visited many neighbourhoods to collect information on the victim. In five days, Al Khatiri got some clues. After the identification of the victim through DND tests, he was able to discover the identity of the culprit; it was through a bag used by the alleged killer to hide a knife, the weapon of the crime. The name of the shop written on the bag led to additional useful information.

Utilising surveillance cameras of the shop, Al Khatiri was able to discover the culprit who left the country two days after the murder. The culprit was married to the victim and had a four-year-old daughter, but told no one about that marriage.

Investigations showed that the child had been beaten repeatedly by her

mother who was addicted to alcohol. The husband was angry with his wife and murdered her while he was under the influence of alcohol.

The alleged killer was brought back to the UAE from his country through Interpol.

Al Khatiri was honoured for his achievement and the speed with which the murder was discovered and the precise information reached by him. He was honoured by Brigadier Mohammed Al Nobi Mohammed, Deputy Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Police, at the instructions of Major General Sheikh Taleb bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Police.

Al Khatiri said: “My main aim is to implement the law with honesty and integrity to keep our country as an oasis of safety and security”.

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## The 'bullet poet'

A poem entitled 'The Bullet', which gave him massive popularity, is the reason behind the nickname.

First Lieutenant Saeed Bakheet Al Kitbi, the bullet poet, was born in 1981. He graduated with a BA degree in police sciences from the Police College in 2004. He works at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Abu Dhabi Police. His hobby, poetry, has made him a star at many poetry festivals.

"The talent (in poetic art) is a gift from God. I honed this talent and read a lot of poems by famous poets. My early poems at the age of 14 were simple, and my eldest brother, Ahmed,

encouraged me and corrected my mistakes. At the age of 20, I wrote the first poem that I consider complete, without help from any one", said Al Kitbi.

One of the biggest successes he has achieved was his participation in a poetry evening honouring Emirati poet Saud Al Masbai at the UAE University. He also took part in poetry evenings organised by Zayed University and the Higher Colleges of Technology in Abu Dhabi and Dubai on the occasion of the National Day. Al Kitbi also participated in events organised for people with special needs in Dubai.

Al Kitbi said his participation in

the first edition of the television programme, Poet of the Million, was the turning point; his poem, 'The Bullet', which is full of pride and dignity, has given him the name 'The Bullet Poet'.

Al Kitbi appeared in many television programmes including 'Al Mignas', 'Mahlaha Biladi', and 'Poetry and Songs'. Poetry is very important for Al Kitbi, and calls it 'a friend in leisure time'. "Poetry translates facts that we live and emotions that we feel". His other hobbies include sports and horse riding.

He hopes that he will write great poems in the love of the homeland, and that they will reach a large audience.



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## Life of challenge

**Determination and hard work can yield amazing results**

By Khalid Al Dhanhani

**A**hmed Abdullah Khalfan Al Muhairi was born on June 20, 1984 in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. He has been living a life of challenge and determination with his parents and eight siblings. He has worked hard to achieve success. His father Abdullah Al Muhairi said: "Ahmed was a normal child. However, as he grew up, we noticed that he had hearing difficulties and sight problems. Doctors inside and outside the UAE checked him but there was not any significant improvement in his condition. He lost hearing at the age of eight years, when he was in grade 4. And he lost his eyesight when he was

grade 10. Despite that, he continued his study and obtained his high school certificate with 'very good' rating". The father added: "Ahmed is a hard working person. His condition had no negative impact on his relations with his siblings. His life was difficult but he played with them and with the neighbours. Despite difficulties at school, he accepted the challenge and overcame them". Ahmed joined the Ministry of Interior's Centre for People with Special Needs, and was keen on achieving his goals and fulfill his commitment to serving his homeland. He graduated from the

centre three years ago after specialising in computer and administrative affairs. His father added: "We have been very happy with his achievement. We saw in Ahmed the epitome of challenge and patience, and we continue to be by his side all the time". Ahmed joined the Armed Forces sometime ago as an administrative clerk. The job has opened new horizons for him and given him the opportunity to serve his homeland. The father hopes his son will be able to pursue higher studies at a university to continue the march of achievement and success.



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# The people's voice

**Rhymed Nabati poetry is the native poetry of the Arabian Peninsula, and has been playing a major role in the life of Arabs and their popular literature.**

By Khalid Al Dhanhani

Nabati poetry, also known as the 'People's Poetry' and 'Poetry of the Bedouins', receives a lot of support from the authorities and people in general. Festivals and symposiums are held regularly in the Arab world to celebrate Nabati poetry and poets. This is because Nabati poetry has been playing great roles in the Arab society.

Dr. Rashid Al Mazroui, researcher and head of the Poetry Committee at the Emirates Heritage Club, said: "Nabati poetry throughout history has been an honest reflection of the social, economic, political and religious life of the UAE society. Nabati poetry is a record of events and peoples and each Nabati poem has a story to tell. We have known the history of the region through Nabati poetry... the names of rulers and the kind of society that existed".

He added: "Nabati poetry was also a tool for poets representing society to talk about the issues and challenges like high dowry, the hunger crisis during World War Two, the diving crisis and others. Poets also discussed issues related to agriculture, camels, the sea, diseases and many other issues. We also knew the life of art and stories of love".

Dr. Al Mazroui said poetry was a solution for many political, economic and social problems in society. "Poetry influenced people of authority and was a factor behind changing things in society. One example is the poem by a prison inmate who recited a Nabati poem addressing the Grand Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa, (ruler of Abu Dhabi between 1855 and 1909). When the sheikh heard the poem, he ordered the release of the prisoner. This shows the strong influence Nabati poetry had in Arab society".

Nabati poetry, according to Rashid Sharar, a poet and media person, reflects the passions of the people in a variation of the language that is close to their hearts. "Nabati poetry is regarded in many instances as a message from the people to the ruler. That is why Nabati poetry has a very influential and necessary role as it provides a communication link. Through it we can see and diagnose our problems and requirements in



Sami Al Basili



Maryam Al Fazari



Dr. Rashid Al Mazroui



Balqasim Al Marzouki



Rashid Sharar



Hamed Mnawer

the social, cultural, economic and political spheres".

Jordanian poet and researcher Sami Al Basili poetry in general is one of the most influential arts. Its importance is also reflected in the role it plays in music.

"Arabs are so much attached to poetry as a form of art. Poetry registers events and it also entertains and educates... Poetry, whether Nabati or in classical Arabic, forms an inseparable part of the lives of the Arab people", said Al Basili.

There are many examples of how poems influenced the social, economic and political life in Arab societies in the past. Al Basili said poets who influenced history include Antara bin Shaddad, Hassan bin Thabit, Abu Al Tayeb Al Mutanabi, Rakan bin Hathleen, Obeid Al Ali Al Rashid, Nimr bin Adwan and Al Shaer Al Awni (nicknamed "the poet of disputes and wars").

Balqasim Abdul Latif Al Marzouki, a Tunisian poet, defines Nabati poetry as the 'tongue of society that is understood by the literates and illiterates... by the young and the old... and it affects all layers of society'.

Al Marzouki said Nabati poetry has many functions and categories.

"Nabati poetry deals with wisdom, pride, courage, knighthood, belonging, praise, description, love and an endless list of other topics. It has great influence on all aspects of life in society, including politics and economics", said Al Marzouki.

Documenting Nabati poetry, stressed Al Marzouki, is very important as it enriches the cultural movement. He thanked the UAE for being a leader in setting up the first 'Poetry Academy' that takes care of Nabati poetry in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

For Hamed Mnawer, a Saudi poet, poetry is life. He said: "If you cannot find joy in poetry, don't look for it anywhere else". Mnawer said the role of poetry in society was enhanced in recent years.

Social worker Maryam Al Fazari said young poets have been discussing sensitive issues in their poems. The topics include women, children, people of special needs, globalisation, the Arabic language and others.

"This makes us listen to Nabati poetry and take it seriously. This kind of poetry makes feel the pulse of the street. Nabati poetry addresses all people, and we hope that the role of Nabati poetry in society will continue", she concluded.



## The building of a nation

**Abu Dhabi - from snail-pace development to a splendid example of white revolution and statehood of rock-solid foundations**

By Dr. Faleh Hanzal

**T**he modernisation and infrastructure development process started in Abu Dhabi in 1960, financed by the onshore and offshore oil revenues going to the emirate's treasury. Though oil was discovered at that time, export operations did not start then. The modernisation process had the pace of a snail and without proper economic planning; the emirate's annual income did not exceed £500,000, and the population was less than 5,000. However, oil experts knew that the emirate was sitting on huge oil reserves, and the infrastructure will soon get developed. Oil companies and the

British political agency were putting pressure on the ruler, the late Sheikh Shakhboot bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to allocate a budget of which the highest portion would go to the development of the country. Sheikh Shakhboot was not interested in listening to what these people said, and did not want to throw open the door to modernisation. He favoured a step-by-step, slow approach. In 1960, he gave the go-ahead to British company John House to start drawings of the Abu Dhabi city, as 14 companies showed interest in getting a share of the work at the emirate's oil fields, including Lebanon's Cat, African Eastern, six British companies, four

companies from Dubai, one company from Palestine and another from Bahrain.

A year later, 84 businessmen from Britain and 30 from other countries arrived in Abu Dhabi, and the door was open to receive Asian workers. A worker at the time received not more than seven Indian rupees as a daily wage. A labour department was set up in 1961, headed by Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamed. A hotel was built to host the businessmen (Beach Hotel, now the Sheraton Hotel is in its location) in 1962.

The problem of drinking water was a major problem for UAE nationals and expatriates. A decision was taken to



build Baidar desalination plant). Two more plants were later built but they were not enough to meet demand. The rescue came through a water pipeline from water wells in Al Sadd area near the oasis city of Al Ain.

The need for telephones and telegraphs led to the opening of the first telegraph office in December 1960. Phone lines did not exceed 70 in number at the time.

Two doctors came to Abu Dhabi, Dr. Mandoodi and Dr. Cord. The latter went back to his home country, while the former stayed on for a period of time as he was given an excellent salary of 1,000 rupees (in addition to 300 rupees as food allowance) by the ruler. The doctor was practising at the residence of the British agent.

There was only one electricity generator for lights turned on for two hours. In 1964, machines were imported to build a power house.

As the capital Abu Dhabi is separated from the mainland by a kilometer-long waterway, people waited for the tide to cross to the other side on camels. A company, ADCO, created a strong turf passage at a later stage. The late Sheikh Shakhboot thought about building a steel bridge and instructed Khansaheb company to study the project, but it was not executed.

The first school was opened in 1950, but did not last long. In 1961, two traders from Abu Dhabi travelled to Jordan to select teachers to teach in the emirate, and they wanted to pay their salaries, but the ruler did not approve that and instead, built two schools. The principal's salary was 1,000 rupees and the teacher's 650 rupees.

As business started to flourish, the

British Bank opened a branch in Abu Dhabi in 1959, followed by two banks; the Eastern Bank and the Ottoman Bank. Other banks, First National City and Arab Bank, also submitted applications to open branches in Abu Dhabi.

The nucleus of a police force was established in 1957, consisting of 30 policemen. The number rose to 200 policemen, and each received a monthly salary of 100 rupees.

What was noticeable in the development of Abu Dhabi and a comparison of its income that rose to £5 million with Dubai's income that did not exceed £1 million was that the commercial environment in Dubai was stronger than that of Abu Dhabi. Two psychological factors emerged to dominate public opinion in the emirate towards the development plans implemented by the ruler; the first related to the people's keenness to spontaneously benefit from financial resources to improve their living conditions without thinking about the future; and the second related to people's realisation that the implementation of the development plan had the pace of a snail and that it won't end poverty. Most importantly, planning did not take into consideration the human capital which should be the basis of the development process. Therefore, there was a necessity to set up a system that achieves prosperity. The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan took over as ruler and embarked on a modernisation drive.

The road from Al Souk area to Al Bateen neighbourhood in the heart of Abu Dhabi was poor back in 1966, and there were no landmarks except the palace of the late Sheikh Khalid bin Sultan Al Nahyan (Emirates

Palace has been built at the same location). That palace appeared as if it was drowning in the sea and from a distance, no one knew how to get to it. As one gets closer, he would see a hill overlooking the sea and there were five palaces surrounded by trees. People said at the time a major meeting was held by the Sheikhs and emirs of the Emirates with the sheikhs of Qatar and Bahrain. I asked a UAE national friend about what happened and what he heard about that meeting. He said: "We, the Arabs of the Gulf, have many things in common, but we require the administration that puts things in motion... The late Sheikh Zayed tried to do that... Arabs of the Gulf belong to the same social tapestry, and there are many similarities in social thought and lifestyles, most important of which is the life that depended on pearl diving.

"The links among the Gulf people require a political leadership".

In the early 1950's, the British formed a council of the Emirates' rulers and it continued for five years. Meetings yielded only some simple organisational procedures. On February 27, 1968, the sheikhs of the seven Emirates met with the sheikhs of Bahrain and Qatar to discuss unification options. On May 25, 1968, they met again to discuss what they called 'the suggested Arab Emirates' and they selected the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan as president of the Supreme Council. The policy of working quietly adopted by Sheikh Zayed has worked.

Today, we are reaping the fruit of the successful experience and the white revolution led by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.



A policeman asking the driver of a car in Abu Dhabi to pull over after the latter committed a traffic offence.



A group of police cadets during an exercise at the Police College.



Pupils standing in lines ahead of their participation in Traffic Week activities.



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## The federation is the winner

There is no denying that what the United Arab Emirates has achieved has enabled the country to diversify its sources of income and increase its revenues. The pride we derive from what has been accomplished on the land of the Emirates in various fields should not take away from the fact that we need to assess the performance of the country in two sectors that are the basis of the development process: education and health.

There is a long way to reach the desired level of development in these two sectors, which are the most important elements for human development. The two sectors have been facing massive challenges, and one of them is the separation between local and federal authorities. Other challenges include the dependence on foreign experts and consultants and the marginalisation of local experts, and the administrations being run by non-specialists. These challenges were the results of a more serious challenge; the claim by some officials that they are working in the interest of the country. Driven by private agendas, they selected 'leaders' to work in these sectors. Ideas and plans by them yielded negative results that contradict the purpose for which they sectors exist. The separation between local and federal authorities, the dependence on foreign (teaching and health service) staff who brought the standards of education and healthcare to low levels. Work systems have been too many, depriving people of the services that were made available by one federal authority.

These officials, to rectify the situation, resorted to the amputation of some sick organs to get rid of the disease rather than to proper treatment. This amputation process brought about more negative effects. We cannot say whether or not the UAE has been able to reap the fruit of local independence in the sectors of education and healthcare. What can we expect in the light

of what we have been seeing as results of this diversification in services that does not serve the federation nor individuals in the UAE in education and healthcare? The first step is to diagnose the problems, and further steps should follow.

The UAE Minister of Education has been frank, saying that the sector was suffering from contradiction in opinion and direction. We have to move decisively to learn from the mistakes of the past, not only in the education sector but also in all other sectors.

Attention given to the economy, tourism projects and construction should not come at the expense of education and healthcare. Any decline in the standard of these two sectors means regression in overall development. Proper evaluation requires openness by officials to deal with the causes of separating local from federal authorities and weakening the local authorities. In the light of the federal strategy and the existence of benchmarks for government excellence at the federal government level, and in the agreement among the seven emirates to face the challenges of the future, proper investment can be made by allocating budgets for education and healthcare in the various emirates.

Education and healthcare sectors cannot be dealt with as sources of income generation. Looking back at these sectors in the last two years, we can see that the commercial way used in managing them has brought us disasters; high tuition fees, thousands of complaints against health insurance systems and the incredible high costs of the medical sector that have drained the resources of individuals and governments.

It is not bad to admit mistakes. What is bad is to continue in managing these important sectors in the same way, while we know the causes of the problem and how to confront it. Admitting one's wrong deed is a virtue.



**Maysa Rashid**

Member of the UAE Federal  
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