

999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 124 MAY 2022

UAE POLICE
SALUTE HONEST
RESIDENTS

INSECT'S LIFE
EXPLAINS HUMAN
DEATH

IN THE
SPOTLIGHT:
10 TYPES OF NEW
ENTRY, RESIDENCE
VISAS

UAE POLICE VS NEW-AGE CRIMES



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



IN THIS ISSUE: NEW MOBILITY REGULATIONS FOR BICYCLES, E-BIKES AND E-SCOOTERS IN ABU DHABI AND DUBAI

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Crimes of fraud and theft committed through digital channels have seen a sharp spike across the globe, prompting police forces in the UAE to up the ante against criminals

Protection from online prowlers

The UAE has just celebrated the holy month, and most people put material pursuits aside for those few weeks to introspect and connect with their communities. However, all through the year, no matter whether it's Ramadan or any other season to spread joy, there are always people with unholy thoughts; their pursuits are completely illegal.

Over the past two years, because of the digitalisation push necessitated by the pandemic, crimes of fraud and theft committed through digital and telecom channels have seen a sharp spike across the globe, prompting police forces in the UAE to up the ante and stay ahead of the criminals. Our cover story on "policing versus new-age crimes" gives the reader an overview of the types of crimes in this age of digital technology and Artificial Intelligence.

Also in this issue, we draw your attention to crimes like vehicle theft and illegal street trade. Being the land of luxury cars, the UAE sees an onslaught of vehicle thefts, which makes it imperative for car owners to take some precautions. Illegal street vendors pose another kind of risk to the general populace, as they often sell counterfeit goods and sub-standard food — one harms your financial health; another harms your physical health.

Fortunately, there are plenty of examples of uplifting acts by honest people. Our feature on "honesty in the UAE" focuses on recent examples of upstanding residents and citizens who've returned significant amounts of misplaced money to their owners, through the police. In turn, law enforcement has honoured these role models of respect for the law. **999** explores the factors behind the high level of honesty in this country.

As we point out in this feature, police in the UAE recognise and reward not only people who return cash and valuables, but also people who abide by traffic rules, because that's honesty, too, and it saves lives. Keeping that in mind, turn the pages to read our feature on regulations for electric bikes and electric scooters. The use of these alternative modes of personal transport has been increasing in the UAE, and so have the accidents. We tell how to enjoy these clean-energy vehicles without hurting someone.

An extremely interesting feature in this issue is about forensic entomology, which is the study of the colonisation of a dead body by insects. The kind of insects found on a dead body and the life stage of the insects when the body is discovered can give investigators accurate information on when the person was killed, which is one of the most important clues in suspected murder cases. The Dubai Forensic Entomology Database is being developed to fully utilise this branch of forensic science.

The feature that'll have the most immediate and direct impact on you, dear reader, is our "visa 101" report, an explainer on all the latest reforms in the UAE visa regime. In a perfect Eid gift for families, the reforms allow resident parents to sponsor their sons up to the age of 25 years now, replacing the earlier limit of 18 years. Children of determination will be granted a residence permit at any age.

Tourists will also have a lot more time to enjoy the many attractions of the UAE, since the reforms allow them to stay for 60 days at a stretch in this country, replacing the earlier limit of 30 days.

The visa reforms can potentially transform the post-pandemic economy of the UAE. We hope that you'll benefit from them and earn your best life in this unique country. See you next month!



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United Arab Emirates**

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999 and MA'AN BRING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

UNDER A RECENTLY SIGNED AGREEMENT, THE TWO GOVERNMENT ENTITIES JOIN HANDS FOR SOCIO-CIVIC PROGRAMMES, WITH THE AIM OF BUILDING A STRONGER SENSE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH COLLABORATIONS ON MEANINGFUL INITIATIVES

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The UAE police have created a database of insects that feed on dead flesh, helping forensic entomologists in the Arab region analyse the insects' life cycle to understand the time and cause of a person's death

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Taking advantage of the UAE's generous and happy state of mind after Ramadan, these unlawful sellers target people in the streets, and they pose a great risk to unsuspecting passersby. Here's how the police are curbing the menace

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Bicycles, e-bikes, and e-scooters are now firmly a part of alternative mobility in the UAE. Though lightweight and less speedy than cars, these two-wheeler vehicles still require utmost precautions and compliance with the law. **999** presents all the information

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Gangs engaged in stealing vehicles or scamming vehicle owners have become very active globally in recent years. In the UAE, where high-end cars are often targeted by criminals, it's essential to know how these rackets operate. **999** gives you the lowdown

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Abusing his position of trust at a private firm's warehouse, a security guard starts stealing and selling expensive copper cables



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COVER STORY

POLICING VS NEW-AGE CRIMES

LAW ENFORCERS TODAY MUST FIND THEIR WAY AROUND THE DARK ALLEYWAYS OF DIGITALISED CRIME, WHERE VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES CAN DO FAR MORE DAMAGE THAN THE USUAL STREET VIOLENCE. THE UAE HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN COMBATING INTERNET-BASED CRIMES BY HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY AND TEAMWORK. **999** OUTLINES THE DEVELOPMENTS



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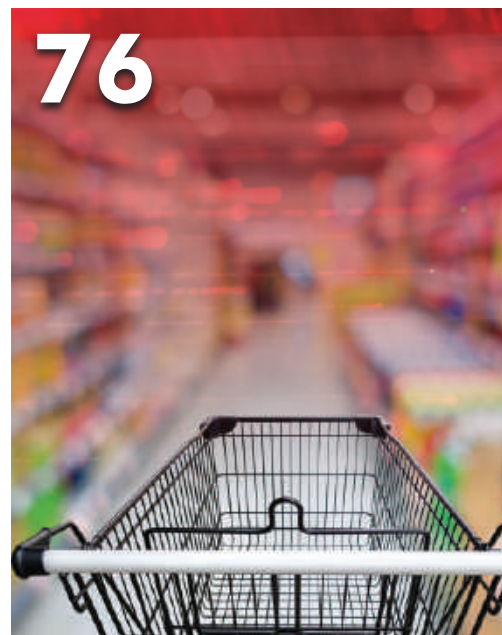
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Dr Samar Al-Shamsi
Internationally
respected artist

Khalifa reunites 540 inmates with their families during Ramadan



PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has reunited 540 inmates from correctional and penal facilities with their respective families during the holy month of Ramadan.

This move, which was announced ahead of the holy month, was part of the President's humanitarian initiative based on the values of forgiveness and tolerance. It aims to give the inmates a chance to change for the better and get a new lease of life.

The annual initiative also aims to strengthen family ties.

UAE leaders condole with King Salman on death of Saudi princess

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan sent a message of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, HRH King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the death of Princess Lolwah bint Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.



Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, sent similar cables to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

Their Highnesses Supreme Council Members and

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin

Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin

Rulers of the Emirates, crown princes, and deputy rulers also conveyed their condolences to HRH King Salman.

Khalifa confers Zayed II Medal of the First Class to Chinese envoy

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has conferred the Zayed II Medal of the First Class to Ni Jian, Chinese Ambassador to the UAE, in appreciation of the efforts he made during his tenure.

HE Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, presented the Medal to the Chinese Ambassador at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

During the meeting, Al Hashemy stressed the UAE's keenness to strengthen the strategic partnership with China in all domains, and praised the ambassador's contribution to developing this relationship, through advanced bilateral cooperation during his years of work in the country.

Al Hashemy conveyed her appreciation to the Chinese envoy for his efforts and wished him success in his future assignments.



HE Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy presenting the Medal to Ni Jian, outgoing Chinese Ambassador to the UAE

UAE to unveil transformational projects in vital sectors



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has announced that the UAE will be rolling out a string of major transformative projects in vital sectors to further boost the country's target to become the world's best and most vibrant economy.

This, His Highness said, will be implemented through a new methodology of focusing on short-term economic initiatives that would help the UAE achieve its economic roadmap, guided by the 'Principles of the 50'.

"The UAE Government launched a new methodology for federal government work, which focuses on

short-term transformational projects and gives greater authorities to federal ministries, guided by the 'Principles of the 50' in paving its new government path," said the Vice President.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid emphasised that the government work model and the demands for ministries have already shifted in terms of approach and scale from that of ten years ago.

In this respect, the UAE Government has organised several sessions to discuss major projects aimed at supporting the efforts of ministers and federal authorities in drafting plans, presenting proposals for major projects in vital sectors and linking them to national priorities.

UAE Cabinet approves new sweeping visa reforms

THE UAE Cabinet, chaired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has approved the executive regulations of the Federal Decree-Law on Foreigner Entry and Residence to introduce 10 new entry and residence visas, in a bid to bolster the country's position as a desirable place to live, work, and invest in.

The decision will take effect in September 2022.

Under the federal decree, visitors will have the option of staying for 60 days in the UAE compared to the current 30 days. Most of the newly introduced visas also no longer require a host or a sponsor to secure entry permits.

Meanwhile, the Golden Visa programme will be expanded, and additional entry visas for job seekers, fresh graduates, top talents and entrepreneurs will be offered in a streamlined system.



VP forms Supreme Committee for Expo 2020 Dubai District



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, issued Decree No. 15 of 2022, establishing the Supreme Committee to supervise the Expo 2020 Dubai District.

The new Committee, which will serve for three years, will be spearheaded by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, with HE Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani, Director General of HH The Ruler's Court of Dubai; HE Reem bint

Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation; HE Abdul Rahman Saleh Al Saleh, Director-General of the Government of Dubai's Department of Finance; and HE Helal Saeed Al Marri, Director General of Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, as Members.

The Supreme Committee is tasked to define a general strategy for the development of the Expo 2020 Dubai District, and oversee its development, execution, and governance.

Mohamed bin Zayed lauds UAE's '1 Billion Meals' drive



Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has been lauded by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

His Highness Sheikh

countries, echoed the UAE's humanitarian value in assisting people in need.

"The visionary '1 Billion Meals' initiative, launched by my brother Shiekh Mohammed bin Rashid, has received generous support from the UAE people. Its success is a testament to our country's humanitarian values and our longstanding commitment to helping those in need," His Highness tweeted.

Dubbed as the region's largest food donation drive, the initiative collected 76 million meals within just six days since its launch.

The global initiative was organised by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, with a keen focus on vulnerable populations such as children, refugees, displaced individuals, and disaster and crisis victims.

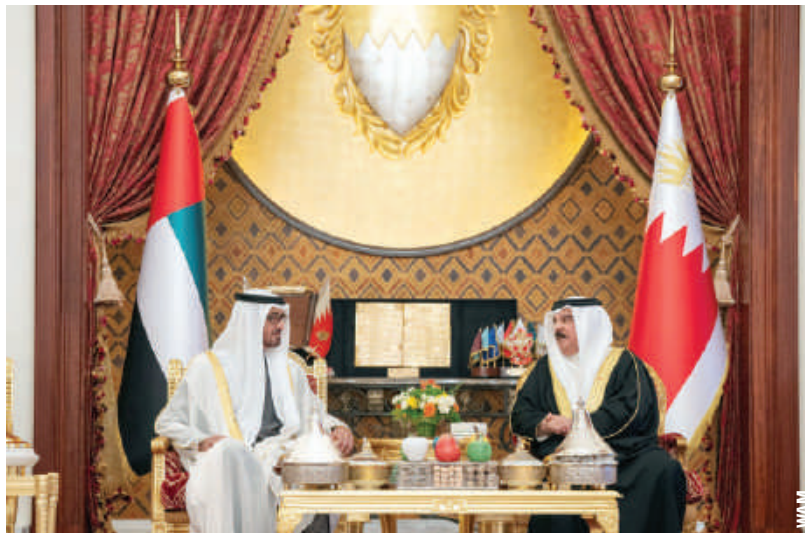
THE '1 Billion Meals' initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime

Mohamed bin Zayed highlighted that the global initiative, which offers nutritional assistance to poor communities in 50

UAE, Bahrain discuss ways to bolster bilateral cooperation

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, met with HRH King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain to discuss ways to strengthen their countries' brotherly relations across various sectors.

The two leaders spoke cordially about the UAE's and Bahrain's long-standing relations, as well as their shared desire to advance their mutual interests and meet their people's ambitions for greater growth and development. They



also talked about various regional and global issues and developments.

Both leaders also stressed the need to explore ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of science and technology, the environment and renewable energy, as well as health and education to make their countries' shared goals a reality.

This meeting between HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and HRH King Hamad bin Isa reaffirmed their commitment to a collective effort of addressing issues of common concern based on their people's aspirations.

Mohamed bin Zayed orders release of Dh340mn to social aid

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has ordered the disbursement of Dh340 million to recipients of social assistance across the country, on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

This will be disbursed in addition to the

monthly aid provided to them as part of the social assistance to all eligible categories across the UAE.

In the UAE, various vulnerable groups are eligible for social security under Federal Law No. 2 of 2001.

Amongst these groups are widowed and divorced Emiratis, people of determination, senior UAE nationals, orphans, children of

unknown ancestry, sick people, married students, prisoners' families, abandoned vulnerable people, and citizens married to foreigners.

The social aid is the latest amongst the string of Abu Dhabi Government programmes aimed at raising the standard of living and providing a good life for all Emirati families.

VP honours Saif bin Zayed's exceptional effort behind Expo's success



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, honoured His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, in recognition of his exceptional contributions in the success of Expo 2020 Dubai.

The Vice President tweeted: "Sheikh Saif bin Zayed played a great role behind the scenes in supporting the success of the Expo and supporting the success of the Summit. He deserves honour from the people of the Emirates."

Under the Interior Minister's watch, security and safety were maintained throughout the UAE's hosting of the global event.

Saif bin Zayed spearheads ISA Interior Ministers' summit in UAE

HIS Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, led a high-level meeting of the Interior Ministers of the International Security Alliance (ISA) hosted by the UAE.

The hybrid event was attended by Interior Ministers of France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Morocco, Spain, Israel, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, and the Netherlands, which recently joined the alliance. Also in attendance were delegates and representatives of ISA-member countries and relevant security officials.

In his keynote speech, HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed conveyed the greetings of the UAE leadership, and welcomed the Netherlands to the Alliance, describing its move as a great addition to the joint integrated action of protecting societies, security, and stability, as well as combating all forms of crime.

Several prospective projects and initiatives



were approved, in a bid to improve the member states' security and safety, unify security and police ideas, and bolster mutual experience in crime-fighting.

During its conclusion, the Alliance issued a ministerial statement, which stressed its commitment to step up efforts to confront

organised and transnational crimes and to combat extremism.

"We remain committed to a serious and positive partnership, and we will continue to stand and work together, based on unity, common purpose and an enduring commitment to peace," the statement read.

Sheikh Saif inks cooperation agreements with Albania, Israel

HIS Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, met with Albanian and Israeli government ministers to ink separate cooperation agreements.

His Highness signed a cooperative agreement with his Albanian counterpart, Bledar Çuçi, to deepen the security and crime

prevention coordination between the UAE and Albania. This came following their meeting in December 2021 which discussed ways to bolster safety and security coordination.

Meanwhile, HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed also met with Israel's Minister of Transportation and Road Safety, Merav Michaeli, for the

signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the mutual recognition of drivers' licences issued by their respective governments, without requiring holders to take theory and practical tests.

The MoU signing was attended by a delegation representing the Israeli Ministry of Transport and Road Safety.

Mol holds sessions on education, event management



UNDER the patronage of His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, the Ministry held forums on education and event management as part of the 11th session of the Ramadan Virtual Council.

The first forum titled 'The Future of Global Education' was organised by the Law Respect Culture Bureau at the Mol, under the slogan 'Global Directions for the Future'.

The participants included the Japanese

lecturer Hiroshi Ishi, who spoke about the topic of human-computer interaction; the American academic Francesca Gino, who spoke about innovative talents; and Sir John Jones, who gave a speech on the future of education.

The keynote speakers presented their respective lectures in the presence of HE Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education, and several police and educational leaders. Media presenter Amira Mohammad moderated the Council session.

The second forum was organised by the General Administration of Relations and Protocols at the Mol. It served as a training workshop on hosting conferences and events on official occasions.

The workshop was attended by a large number of police officers, non-commissioned officers, and civilians from various sectors of the Mol and general commands of police forces in the country.

Lecturer and certified trainer Rana bint Abdullah Al Dabian, previously the director and founder of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Al Qassim region for women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led the workshop activities.

The participants learned about scientific and practical methods of planning, organising, and managing the work of various events; effective preparation; setting goals for successful conferences and events; mechanisms for developing practical operational plans; and trends and creative methods in the field of event management.

'Riaya' forum bolsters child protection response

THE Security Scenarios Administration, under the General Directorate for Federal Central Operations at the Ministry of Interior (Mol), organised the first virtual exercise titled 'Riaya' (means 'care' in Arabic) on how to handle reports about children exposed to danger.

It was jointly organised by the General Directorate for Federal Central Operations and the Office of International Affairs, in cooperation with the Mol Child Protection Centre, in order to develop a mechanism to ensure a speedy response to child protection reports.

This would improve the quality of services provided to the public, ensure timely decisions are taken, and guarantee the preparedness of all units at the Mol, Public Prosecution, Abu Dhabi Police, and strategic partners.

During the exercise, numerous potential security scenarios that could happen to children were reviewed and discussed, along with a mechanism to protect children from such dangers.



Colonel Abdullah Al Hurr Al Suwaidi, Director of the Security Scenarios Department, said that this exercise was meant to raise the efficiency of workers in the field of child protection. It was also aimed at measuring the response and coordination of operating centres

and rooms in dealing with complaints related to child protection.

He pointed out that the exercise targeted hotline staff at Child Protection Centres and operating rooms at the Mol, as well as employees in social support centres and police stations.

Al Mazrouei honours distinguished security teams

MAJOR General Staff Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police, stressed that police forces are the mainstay of enhanced security and safety.

Al Mazrouei made the remark during the honouring of police teams, in the presence of Major General Maktoum Ali Al Sharifi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Police, and Major General Mohammed Suhail Al Rashidi, Director of the Criminal Security Sector.

He expressed his appreciation of the police teams' efforts and keenness in performing their duties efficiently and praised the wise leadership's directive and support for the security system that has made Abu Dhabi the safest city in the world.

Addressing the distinguished police teams, Al Mazrouei spoke of the importance of following up on project developments, exchanging experiences with international security organisations, and keeping pace with



Major General Al Mazrouei (centre), Major General Al Sharifi (1st from right in the first row), and Major General Al Rashidi (2nd from left) during the honouring of police teams at Abu Dhabi Police

international developments in crime-fighting.

For his part, Al Sharifi congratulated the security teams for their outstanding

and pioneering efforts and stressed the importance of continuous improvement, thereby advancing security work in accordance with best practices.

Abu Dhabi Police's auction raises Dhs111 million for '1 Billion Meals'



ABU Dhabi Police's auction of exclusive vehicle plate numbers and mobile phone numbers has helped raise Dhs111 million for the '1 Billion Meals'.

All proceeds from the 'Most Noble Numbers' charity auction will go towards

the '1 Billion Meals' humanitarian initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

Major General Khalifa Mohammed Al

Khaili, Director of Finance and Services Sector at Abu Dhabi Police, said that the proceeds will contribute to providing meals to those in need across the globe, realising the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid.

"Coinciding with Zayed Humanitarian Day, the Most Noble Numbers charity auction in Abu Dhabi took place to support the efforts of the '1 Billion Meals' initiative, where five special vehicle plate numbers were put for bidding. The entire proceeds of the auction will go to support the humanitarian goals of the initiative by providing a food safety net that extends from the UAE to those in need in 50 countries across the globe and address the challenge of hunger that threatens the lives of 800 million people around the world."

The top grosser was the vehicle plate number 2, which sold for Dhs23.3 million.

Meanwhile, Etisalat's Diamond mobile numbers collectively sold for Dhs419,000, and the special mobile numbers put up by du fetched Dhs601,000.

Dhahi Khalfan praises police study on drug control

LT General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai, praised a study presented by a working group led by Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police.

The study, which covered several future security challenges and solutions, was presented in a meeting, in the presence of Major General Ahmed Ateeq Al Maqoodi, Director of the General Department of the Office of the Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai.

The study focused on predicting the future of drug control and the rehabilitation of drug users through scientific tools and methods. The study was undertaken in cooperation with the University of Houston, United States. As a result of this study, the 'Future Foresight Laboratory' in Sharjah Police was launched during the UAE's 50th-anniversary celebrations, in conjunction with the International Day for the Future, which was first adopted on December 2, 2021.

Regulations and laws on drug abuse were covered under the study, along with solutions based on Artificial Intelligence (AI)



Lt General Dhahi Khalfan (5th from left) during a presentation of a drug control study by a team at Sharjah Police, spearheaded by Major General Al Shamsi (6th from left)

and peer-to-peer system. The study assessed a future scenario in which AI could be used to tackle all kinds of crimes. It included an analysis of the Houston methodology, and how to benefit from it in achieving the objectives of the UAE's strategy for future foresight and setting up global partnerships.

Moreover, the meeting discussed areas handled by the Foresight Lab, such as the future of cyber-security; future crimes in narcotics; rehabilitation of drug users; money laundering; future of penal and correctional institutions; rehabilitation of inmates; work systems; planning and influence; amongst others.

Al Shamsi reviews customer service at Sharjah Police



Major General Al Shamsi (centre) during Sharjah Police's annual meeting on customer satisfaction

MAJOR General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, led the annual meeting of the police force on customer satisfaction based on the results of numerous services indicators.

The meeting discussed the proactive services of Sharjah Police and the

percentage of customers' use of digital channels, in addition to reviewing the results of the mystery customer experiment for the Customer Happiness Centres, the website, the smart application, and the 901 call centre. Results of opinion polls and the results of the customer visit management system were also reviewed.

Al Shamsi affirmed the police force's keenness to develop its digital services to customers as per global best practices. He directed employees to continue applying the best international standards and praised their efforts to enhance the quality of life for community members.

Al Marri commends exceptional efforts of Expo 2020 Dubai teams

LT General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, commended the efforts of the work teams at Expo 2020 Dubai.

These teams had poured in exceptional efforts starting during the announcement of the UAE's successful bid to host this global event — they carried out their tasks with utmost sincerity and efficient coordination, displaying the finest team spirit to achieve the aspirations of the nation's wise leadership.

Al Marri extended his thanks and gratitude to the honourees — the Volunteers Department, the Private Security Department, the Wasl Team, the Mobility Team, the Sustainability Team, the Opportunity Team, the Jubilee Team, the



Knights Team, the Inspection Team, the Control Rooms Team, and the Technical Team — for their invaluable efforts in enhancing security and safety and the happiness of visitors.

He said that the work teams' high level of professionalism enhanced the reputation of the UAE and reinforced the country's ability to organise the largest

events in the world.

The event was attended by Major General Expert Khalil Ibrahim Al Mansouri, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Criminal Investigation Affairs; Major General Abdullah Ali Al Ghaithi, Director of the General Department of Security of Organisations, Facilities and Emergencies; Brigadier Saif Muhair Al Mazrouei, Director of the General Traffic Department.

Also present were Rashid Al Hashemi, Executive Vice-President of Operations at Expo 2020 Dubai; Abeer Jassim Al Hosani, Director of the Expo Volunteer Programme Department; Saeed Al Shaqsi, Senior Director of the Volunteer Programme, and several team officials.

Sultan Al Nuaimi inaugurates vehicle inspection centre

MAJOR General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, inaugurated the "Fast" centre for vehicle inspection and registration in the Al Jarf area, which is managed by the Security Services Support Authority.

Al Nuaimi said that the establishment of the centre was part of efforts to enhance the quality of services provided to the public in the area of vehicle inspection and registration.

He made an inspection tour with officers from the various sections of the centre and was briefed on the customer service and the mechanism for vehicle inspection. One of the main goals of the centre is to offer speedy services, thereby improving customer satisfaction.



Ali Al Nuaimi expands RAK Police's iftar initiative

MAJOR General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, has expanded the force's Ramadan initiative titled 'Iftar with an Official' to all police stations throughout the emirate.

During the launching of the initiative at Al Madina Comprehensive Police Station, in collaboration with the Happiness and Quality of Life Team, Al Nuaimi emphasised the importance of such initiatives in strengthening the bond between officers and their staff members.

This, he said, would result in inculcating a sense of loyalty and belonging, leading to a positive and more productive work environment, as well as better cooperation between police departments.

Fujairah Police launch anti-narcotics campaign

FUJAIRAH Police, represented by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Media and Public Relations Department, launched the campaign 'Committed to Our Country; Drugs are a Scourge', which targets the youth, parents, families and the local community, and seeks to enhance society's awareness of the causes and the severe consequences of drug abuse.

Lt Colonel Khalid Rashid Al Saadi, Deputy Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration at Fujairah Police, stressed that the campaign was aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of drugs and their causes, reinforcing methods of prevention, and educating the public about legal, penal and educational aspects, as well as the importance of family and community cooperation with the concerned authorities in reporting/rehabilitating drug dependents for treatment in absolute privacy.

MINIMIZE OPEX MAXIMIZE REVENUE

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1st

The UAE's top spot in the Arab World in the latest Henley Passport Index. The country ranked 15th globally in this list of the most powerful passports in the world, the highest ranking it achieved since the index was launched in 2006.

175

The number of destinations around the world that UAE passport holders can enter visa-free, according to the latest Henley Passport Index, which ranks the strength and global mobility of 199 passports.

1st

The UAE's leading global ranking as the travel industry's most recovered country for 2022, surpassing its pre-pandemic tourism levels, as per a report by Travelport, a leading international travel technology company. The country posted a 110 per cent recovery rate from the 2019 travel levels.

1st

The UAE's top regional ranking in Kearney's 2022 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index. At the 14th spot globally, the country is one of only four emerging markets on the 2022 index along with Qatar, China, and Brazil—owing to the UAE's continued investment in advanced technological infrastructure and diversified economy.

1st

The UAE's outstanding regional ranking in the International Express Mail Service (EMS) Performance Index for 2021, which evaluated 192 member countries of the Universal Postal Union based on 16 key performance indicators, such as on-time delivery percentage and on-time transmission performance, etc. The UAE ranked 2nd globally in the index.

BE IN THE LOOP

MOI DISCUSSES INTERNAL SECURITY PLANS, INITIATIVES



Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khailli, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) spearheaded a meeting of the MoI's Permanent Supreme Committee for Internal Security to discuss future security plans and programmes, as well as the systems of operations centres. The meeting also focused on ways to strengthen coordination between the various police general headquarters and their cooperation with strategic partners. The meeting was held at the Dubai Police Officer's Club, in the presence of police commanders-in-chief and director generals.

MOI SHARES BEST PRACTICES WITH MOEI DELEGATION



The Ministry of Interior (MoI) welcomed in a virtual visit a delegation from the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI). The online visit, organised by the MoI's Centre for Research and Development, was aimed at sharing with MoEI's staff the best practices of MoI in terms of institutional excellence, strategic project development, institutional performance, amongst others. This was held in the presence of Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khailli, Undersecretary at the MoI, HE Hassan Mohammed Juma Al Mansoori, Under-Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport Affairs at the MoEI, along with assistant undersecretaries and officials from both Ministries.

MOI SENDS MISSION TO MECCA TO PERFORM UMRAH



The Ministry of Interior (MoI), represented by the Office of Retirees Affairs in the General Directorate of Relations and Ceremonies, sent a delegation to Mecca to perform Umrah during the holy month of Ramadan. The mission, called 'Labbaik Umrah', was composed of a group of retired officers from various general police headquarters and sectors at the MoI. The initiative was rolled out in cooperation with Faza'a.

UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS



The Abu Dhabi Criminal Court has convicted 11 members of a gang for defrauding insurance companies by faking vehicular accidents. They were given jail sentences of 1 year to 10 years. Their modus operandi was to insure vehicles for higher amounts (to be paid out by the insurer as the price of the vehicle, if the vehicle was damaged beyond repair), and then stage accidents to claim compensations. They would split the insurance payout amount amongst themselves.



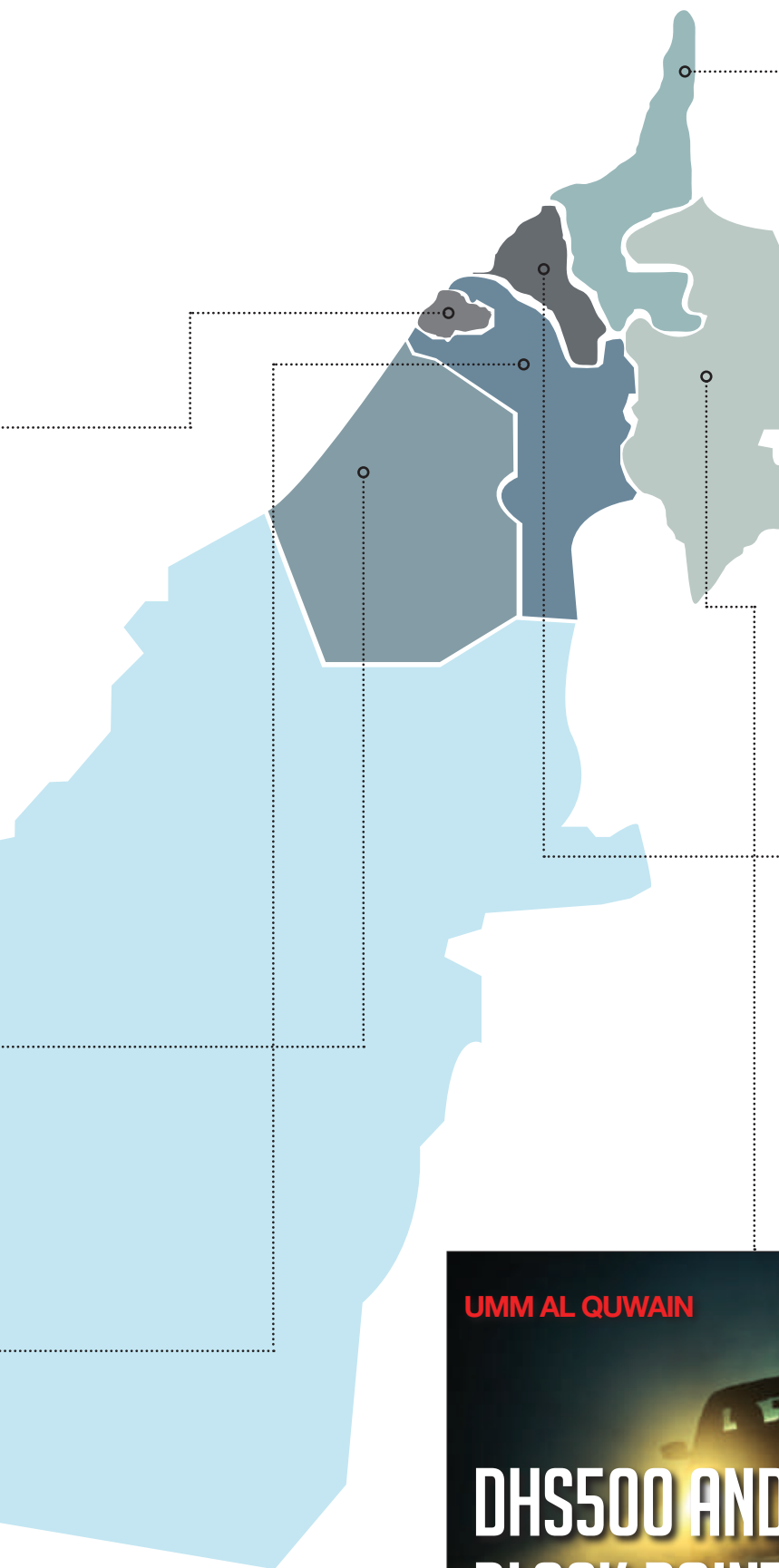
As part of the 'Safety of Pedestrians and Drivers from Run-over Accidents' awareness campaign, Ajman Police have reminded motorists of the dangers of not slowing down at pedestrian crossings. The police force cautioned that such reckless driving behaviour may result in tragic accidents, especially at night due to poor visibility. This traffic violation attracts a fine of Dhs400.



Dubai Police have arrested a beggar who collected more than Dhs40,000 in cash, in different currencies, from his street racket of seeking alms. He was one of the 178 panhandlers apprehended by the police from March 18 until the first week of Ramadan 2022. The police released photographs of the man with wads of cash. The UAE has a zero-tolerance policy on begging, as it is linked to other crimes such as illegal drugs and human trafficking.



A civil court in Ras Al Khaimah has ordered a man to pay his spouse Dhs9,000 after he was convicted of domestic violence. Aside from physical abuse, the woman also dealt with mental and emotional problems due to her husband's persistent sending of offensive and inappropriate messages on a social media platform, the court heard.



10KG

Dibba Municipality has confiscated more than 10kg of expired cosmetic products following 180 visits to beauty salons across Fujairah. Some 15 salons were also fined for flouting public health rules, such as failure to sanitise equipment. Meanwhile, 12 businesses have been fined for breaching COVID-19 safety measures.



7,000

Sharjah Municipality seized more than 7,000 abandoned vehicles from last year till the first quarter of 2022. This was the result of 44,000 inspection campaigns that the authorities have launched in order to maintain the general appearance of the emirate and provide a safer environment for all citizens, residents, and visitors.

UMM AL QUWAIN

**DHS500 AND FOUR
BLACK POINTS**

Umm Al Quwain Police have reminded motorists of the dangers of driving without properly functioning vehicle lights. The police force advise drivers to switch on their fog lights during dense fog and low visibility conditions especially at night. Drivers are also being reminded to monitor and follow any changes in speed limits and keep enough distance with the vehicle in front. Driving at night or in fog without lights awaits a fine of Dhs500 and four black points.

POLICING VS NEW-AGE CRIMES

LAW ENFORCERS TODAY MUST FIND THEIR WAY AROUND THE DARK ALLEYWAYS OF DIGITALISED CRIME, WHERE VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES CAN DO FAR MORE DAMAGE THAN THE USUAL STREET VIOLENCE. THE UAE HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN COMBATING INTERNET-BASED CRIMES BY HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY AND TEAMWORK.

999 OUTLINES THE DEVELOPMENTS

BY K. NIVIDETA



The advancement of modern technology, such as the Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence (AI), promises a higher quality of life and better standards of policing. Sadly, it also breeds new-age crime and new criminals.

The massively increased use of technology by common people of all ages across the world has meant a lot of backdoors accessible by criminals, even when the police are monitoring the front gates. This necessitates greater vigilance by technology users themselves, so that the police have assistance from the public when it comes to thwarting criminals.

With ever-increasing changes in crime methods and criminal activity — thanks to the popularity of the virtual world — the traditional ways of maintaining safety and security need a booster shot. To catch criminals in the unfettered online world, global crimefighting organisations, especially police agencies, are adopting modern tech-led strategies.

In the past few years, digital technologies such as cryptocurrency, robotics and virtual reality have all advanced at a very rapid pace. Existing regulatory structures have been struggling to keep up, resulting in mostly reactive responses to new-age crimes, though more proactive prevention is necessary.

Amidst these emerging trends, the UAE police forces are leading the curve of fighting crime in a digital-first

“Enforcers, regulators, and innovators must join forces to create an environment where innovation can thrive, outside of crime’s shadow



LT GENERAL DHAHI KHALFAN TAMIM

Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai

world. Its law enforcement is involved in the continuous development of new regulatory frameworks, which take into account global statistics on borderless crimes.

Lt General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai, stated at the recently concluded World Police Summit that the UAE police were engaged in learning newer methodologies of crimefighting to adapt to this generation. “As enforcement agencies, our primary concern is how we can best protect our people, even in a digital age. Enforcers, regulators, and innovators must join forces to

create an environment where innovation can thrive, outside of crime’s shadow. We have always worked closely with other stakeholders to develop policies and create awareness around new technologies,” said Dhahi Khalfan.

In March 2022, Abu Dhabi Police utilised AI-powered technology to pinpoint six men responsible for stealing Dhs460,000 from unsuspecting victims through fraudulent means such as online scamming. Photos uploaded by the police force on social media showed blurred faces of all six individuals with thousands of dirhams piled up on a table.

This case also highlights errors in judgement amongst the public leading to financial fraud, the sort of fraud that could potentially siphon millions of dirhams off bank accounts in a matter of seconds. Despite constant caution from police in the UAE, several people have still been falling prey to the “instant wealth” promise of



“ Even with incidents happening outside the UAE, we work closely with law enforcement partners around the world to identify and detect those who engage in deceptive practices, such as fraud



HAMID AL ZAABI

Director General of the UAE Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing

company director's voice was easily cloned to deceive a bank manager in an Asian city into transferring \$35 million (Dhs128.45mn) from the company's account to a string of accounts. Fraudsters used 'deep fake', one of the newer, innovative forms of technologies; it accurately replicates an individual's likeness in audio and visual formats.

Deepfakes are potentially a grave threat to modern civilisation. Wrong use of the technology could range from committing fraud to causing an economic crisis.

Hamid Al Zaabi, Director General of the UAE Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing, underscored that local authorities were closely working with partners worldwide to identify these criminals and take action against them.

“Even with incidents happening outside the UAE, we work closely with law enforcement partners around the world to identify and detect those individuals who knowingly engage in deceptive practices, such as imposter fraud. The UAE pursues to the fullest extent of the law these individuals, ensuring they are held accountable and brought to justice quickly,” said Al Zaabi.

In 2021 alone, UAE authorities confiscated over Dhs2 billion, of which Dhs1.1 billion was from offences involving money laundering. The UAE, in collaboration with Interpol, anti-crime agencies, and national governments, also caught 145 individuals in the emirates

fake cryptocurrency schemes.

Fortunately, the intricacies of the virtual world do not discourage the UAE police forces from extending the long arm of the law. They unmask anonymous criminals online in order to bust those rackets.

Major General Mohammed Suhail Al Rashidi, Director of the Criminal Security Sector, Abu Dhabi Police, stressed that the police were keeping up with the new ways in which con artists operate. These mechanisms, he said, included bolstering all police stations and departments in the emirate with state-of-the-art technology. “Technology powered by Artificial Intelligence is part of Abu Dhabi Police's strategy to respond and deal with reports of fraudulent activities quickly,” said Al Rashidi.

Meanwhile, Rory Corcoran, Director – Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre at Interpol, spoke of the need for

a sense of urgency amongst both the law enforcement authorities and the public to always be on the lookout for these online fraud schemes, monitoring and identifying possible threats as criminals become more tech-savvy.

“As we know, human error plays a huge part in financial crime, particularly fraud schemes, so creating and maintaining awareness with the public is hugely important. We place a particular focus on working with the private sector to identify particular trends, remedies, and solutions for member countries to try to tackle the threat of more sophisticated crimes more effectively,” said Corcoran.

DEEPFAKES AND MONEY LAUNDERING

Criminals are taking advantage of discovering security loopholes even in the most sophisticated security measures in highly guarded facilities. One incident in 2020 showed how a

“By updating key legislative instruments and coordinating with other UAE authorities such as the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Ministry of Interior, we have been able to implement these changes effectively



**HE ABDULLAH BIN SULTAN
BIN AWAD AL NUAIMI**

UAE Minister of Justice

“The roles and duties of policing will have to adapt to keep pace with the broader social, technological and economic developments which are shaping communities



JÜRGEN STOCK

Secretary General
of Interpol

“Through close cooperation and open dialogue, I believe we can reach a consensus on restricting criminal use of technology while creating an environment with appropriate use



**COLONEL MUBARAK SAID
AL KHYELI**

Director General, GCCPOL

who turned out to be international wanted criminals. This marks a 380 per cent increase in the number of extradition requests from 2019 to 2021, evidence of the UAE's ongoing efforts to use modern technology and global collaboration to catch criminals.

HE Abdullah bin Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi, Minister of Justice, stated that the UAE had made significant strides in the strict implementation of laws that penalised this new wave of criminals. He said, “Since money laundering and terrorist financing techniques continue to evolve, we are constantly enhancing our approach. By updating key legislative instruments and coordinating with other UAE authorities such as the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Ministry of Interior, we have been able to implement these changes effectively.”

Al Nuaimi added, “Collectively, we achieved a lot in a short time span, but our work is not finished. We are firmly committed to the national objective of maintaining a strong, effective, and sustainable anti-money laundering and counter funding of terrorism system, as well as sharing information with our counterparts to confront cross-border financial crime.”

CALL FOR GLOBAL DIALOGUES

Jürgen Stock, Secretary General of Interpol, stressed, “Innovation is a continuous journey and one where transparency, accountability, and trust are the key issues for law enforcement.

Innovation is also about identifying new and more efficient processes. The roles and duties of policing will have to adapt to keep pace with the broader social, technological and economic developments which are shaping communities. This is where global dialogue and collaboration will play an important role in ensuring law enforcement can develop best practices in serving its citizens.”

To be able to transition to a more digital-first world, there's a compelling need for law enforcement to leverage technology to fight crime on all fronts. For example, advanced tools such as biometric identification and genealogy chemistry are currently being utilised in forensic science.

Colonel Mubarak Said Al Khyeli, Director General, GCCPOL, believes that balancing the complex relationship between innovation, regulation and enforcement would counter the proliferation of criminal activities that use new tools and modus operandi.

Al Khyeli underscored, “Technology is neither inherently good nor bad; what matters is the intent of the user. Through close cooperation and open dialogue, I believe we can reach a consensus on restricting criminal use of technology while creating an environment with appropriate use.”

UNMANNED DRONES

Apart from financial crimes, the UAE is also on the lookout for potential security threats posed by unmanned utility vehicles (UAVs).



Shaun Ryles, counter-drone team lead at British consultancy Global Security and Disaster Management, highlighted the need for global law enforcements to undergo training for counter UAV attacks. He said that preparedness could be achieved with public-private cooperation.

“A resilient approach will, by its nature, also address the key components of crisis communication, and aftermath management, which technology alone will not address,” said Ryles.

“One of the most striking and recurring themes that I’ve encountered working on the frontline of counter-drone activities has been the disproportionate benefits from relatively modest investment in counter-drone education, training, and awareness of the counter-drone technology landscape,” added Ryles.



CRYPTOCURRENCY SCAMS

In March 2022, two members of a gang were sentenced each to three years in jail by the Dubai Court of First Instance for duping a businessman out of Dhs3.7 million in cash and valuables. He was scammed by one of the defendants after being lured into cryptocurrency purchase by cash. During their supposed transaction inside a villa in Al Barsha, the men attacked him and stole Dhs3 million from him, along with two expensive watches worth Dhs750,000.

The victim told the court, “I found a card on my car about the sale of Bitcoins at a rate that was cheaper than the market rate. I called the number on the card and made a deal with them to buy cryptocurrency. They asked me to come to a villa in Al Barsha with the money.”

The two fraudsters received a jail sentence and also a fine of Dhs3.7 million and they will be deported after serving their jail term. The police are still in pursuit of the other members of the gang.

Crypto-scammers in the UAE now face a stiffer fine of up to Dhs1 million, based on a new law that came into effect in January 2022. The fine also entails a prison time of up to five years, as part of the UAE’s move to stamp out financial frauds.

Dr Hassan Elhais of Al Rowaad Advocates said in a media interview, “As per Article 48, posting misleading ads or inaccurate data online about any product will be subject to legal repercussions. The same penalty applies to members of the public who promote cryptocurrencies

“To combat crypto-scams in Dubai, we have introduced new regulations, effective early 2022, that criminalise dealing and promoting unlicensed cryptocurrencies



MAJOR GENERAL DR ABDUL QUDDUS ABDUL RAZZAQ AL OBAIDLI

Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Excellence and Leadership Affairs in Dubai Police

unrecognised by authorities in the country.” He added, “Article 54 states that using or modifying electronic robots to share, re-share or circulate fake news in the country can be subject to a prison term of two years or a fine of up to Dhs1 million, or both.”

Globally, total crypto-crimes in 2021 reached \$14 billion (Dhs51.38bn), up by 79 per cent from \$7.8 billion (Dhs28.62bn) in 2020, according to blockchain analysis firm Chainalysis.

Globally, total crypto-crimes in 2021 reached \$14 billion (Dhs51.38bn), up by 79 per cent from \$7.8 billion (Dhs28.62bn) in 2020, according to blockchain analysis firm Chainalysis.

Criminals on the dark web are disguised under an elusive virtual mask, making it challenging for police forces to track them down. The recent arrest in the United States of the ringleader of the longest-running Bitcoin money-laundering service operator on the darknet, which moved nearly \$336 million (Dhs1,233mn) worth of cryptocurrency, spotlights the severe impact of new-age crime and the sheer difficulty of countering it.

This criminal group offered cryptocurrency commingling services for a fee to help people conceal or disguise the source or owner of particular cryptocurrency units. The racket went unnoticed for nearly 10 years before it was discovered.

Moreover, according to a recently released awareness campaign by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, US, scammers have been making innocent people use physical cryptocurrency ATMs and digital QR Codes to complete malicious transactions.

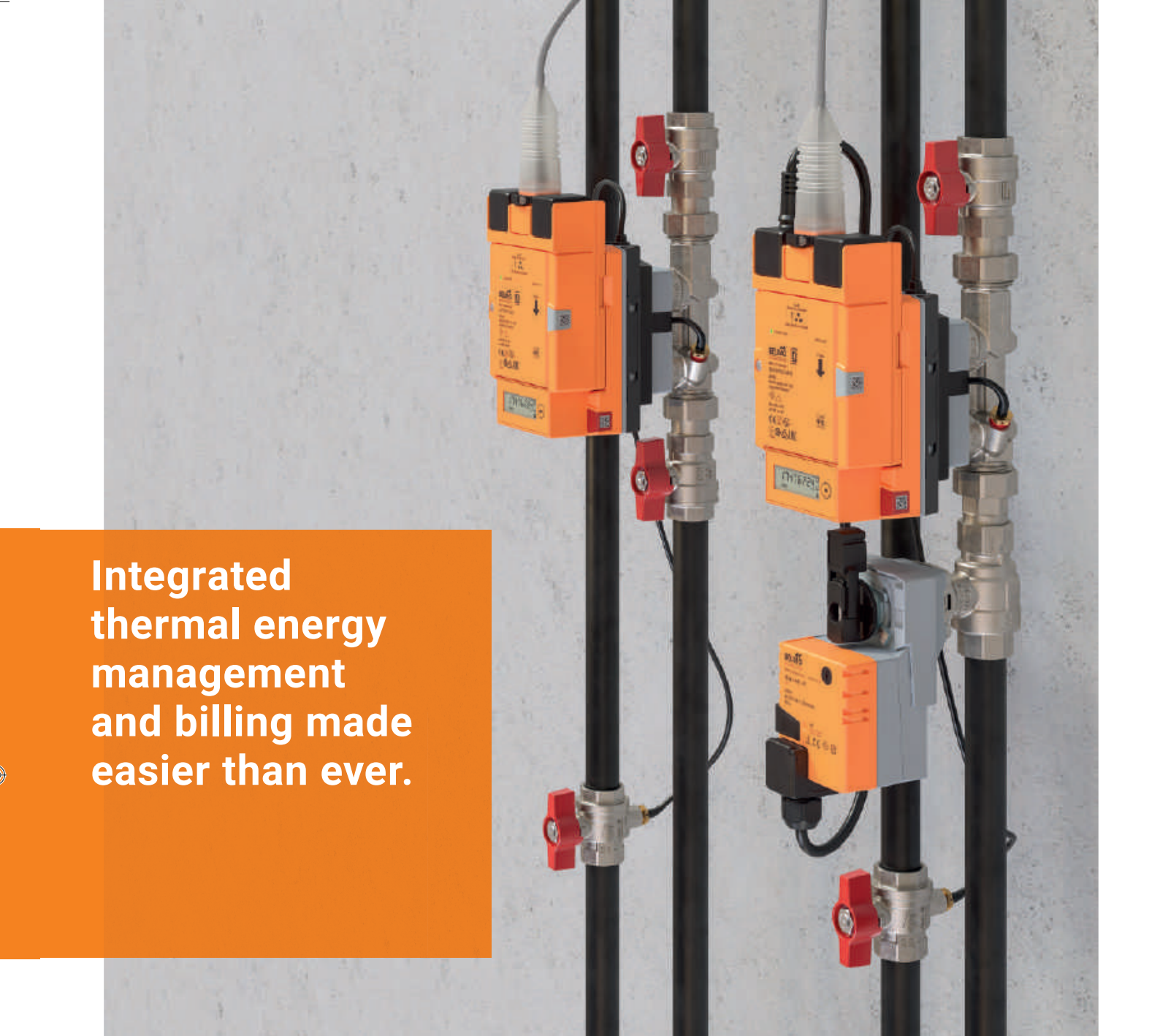
Major General Dr Abdul Quddus Abdul Razzaq Al Obaidli, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Excellence and Leadership Affairs in Dubai Police, stated that the UAE government had been proactive in implementing laws that mitigated risks of

newly emerging forms of crime. He said, “Police and law enforcement agencies must ensure [that] their regulations and operations are kept abreast with recent technological developments. For instance, to combat crypto-scams in Dubai, we have introduced new regulations, effective early 2022, that criminalise dealing and promoting unlicensed cryptocurrencies.”

A key instrument that Dubai Police are currently exploring is the use of non-fungible tokens (NFTs). The authorities recently released their first set of 150 NFTs, which symbolise the importance of the values of security, communication, and innovation. Brigadier Khalid Nasser Al Razooqi, Director of the General Department of Artificial Intelligence at Dubai Police, said that everyone, whether inside or outside of the country, could own these digital assets free-of-charge, so long as they participated in the campaign.

“All that those interested have to do is share the announcement of Dubai Police Value NFT post with their friends and send a direct message with their names, e-mails, and NFT wallet addresses to Dubai Police on their social media platforms. NFT is a unit of data stored on a type of digital ledger called a blockchain, and every NFT is a unique copy in itself, containing complete information about the date of creation and owner,” said Al Razooqi.

“Globally, total crypto-crimes in 2021 reached \$14 billion (Dhs51.38bn), up by 79 per cent from \$7.8 billion (Dhs28.62bn) in 2020, according to blockchain analysis firm Chainalysis



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999 and MA'AN BRING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

UNDER A RECENTLY SIGNED AGREEMENT, THE TWO GOVERNMENT ENTITIES JOIN HANDS FOR SOCIO-CIVIC PROGRAMMES, WITH THE AIM OF BUILDING A STRONGER SENSE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH COLLABORATIONS ON MEANINGFUL INITIATIVES

Within the framework of implementing the directives of His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, to strengthen public-private partnership

in the UAE, **999** Magazine signed a joint cooperation agreement with the Authority of Social Contribution – Ma'an.

Under the agreement, the official monthly publication of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) will provide annual

contributions to support initiatives and campaigns launched by Ma'an with the aim of making a positive and sustainable social impact.

Maan was established by the Department of Community Development in February



HE KHALIL DAWOOD BADRAN
Chairman of the **999** Magazine
Development Committee



HE SALAMA AJLAN AL AMIMI
Director General of Ma'an Authority for
Social Contribution



COLONEL AWADH SALEH AL KINDI
Member of the Committee for the
Development and Editor-in-Chief of
999 Magazine

2019 to bring the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, together. Its initiatives and programmes are focused on Abu Dhabi.

The agreement was signed by HE Khalil Dawood Badran, Chairman of the **999** Magazine Development Committee, and HE Salama Ajlan Al Amimi, Director General of Ma'an Authority for Social Contribution, in a virtual meeting.

Badran said, "This agreement would help advance the tenets of safety and security being promoted by the Mol, as well as strengthen the relationship of **999** Magazine with various public and private entities, aligned with its motto 'A New Concept of the Police Relationship with Society.'"

Khaled Al Rumaithi, Director of the Resources Department at the Social Investment Fund from Ma'an, thanked **999** Magazine for putting its faith in the Authority and its role in enabling social institutions, civil enterprises, and public benefit organisations, thus helping to build an active, cohesive,

This agreement would help advance the tenets of safety and security being promoted by the Mol, as well as strengthen the relationship of 999 Magazine with various public and private entities, aligned with its motto 'A New Concept of the Police Relationship with Society'

and cooperative society.

"Ma'an is keen to develop innovative programmes and campaigns that enable various sectors in Abu Dhabi to build a strong sense of community by actively participating in making a significant social impact," said Al Rumaithi.

For his part, Colonel Awadh Saleh Al Kindi, Member of the Committee for the Development and Editor-in-Chief of **999** Magazine, stressed, "This partnership shows the essence of how collaboration can build stronger communities that support initiatives beneficial to society. It aims to activate and combine efforts to launch more initiatives that fall under the Social Investment Fund sector, including but not limited to: health issues such as the cancer awareness and treatment project; support projects for People of Determination; senior citizens support projects; and other projects that will be announced successively with the aim of creating a positive social impact."



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VISA REFORMS 101

THE UAE HAS GIVEN RESIDENTS A RAMADAN GIFT
WITH 10 TYPES OF NEW ENTRY AND RESIDENCE VISAS.

999 PRESENTS AN EXPLAINER

BY MARK NITUMA





In a sweeping visa and residency reform, the UAE on April 18 introduced 10 types of entry and residence visa schemes with simplified requirements and more benefits. This, along with the expanded 10-year residency scheme called Golden Visa, aims to attract and retain entrepreneurs and top talents, especially those in the tourism, economic, and educational sectors.

The new visas (such as the Green Residence Visa for skilled employees, freelancers, and investors; job exploration visa; business entry visa; tourist visa; visiting relatives/friends visa; temporary work mission visa; and entry permit for

study/training) require no host or sponsor; offer multi-entry, 60 days validity; and has one unified application platform. Visitors and holidaymakers can now enter and stay in the country for 60 days as standard, as compared to the 30-day visit visa on arrival for most nationalities prior to the introduction of the new law.

The decision effectively doubles the time tourists can stay in the UAE. Earlier, there was only a nine-day grace period before fines for overstaying were applied — Dhs200 on the first day and Dhs100 for each consecutive day.

A job exploration entry visa was amongst those newly introduced. “It is

granted to those classified in the first or second or third skill level as per the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization and the fresh graduates of the best 500 universities in the world and the minimum educational level should be a Bachelor’s degree or its equivalent,” the Cabinet decision states.

Meanwhile, more benefits are offered to facilitate family members’ residence, and longer flexible grace periods that reach up to 6 months to stay in the country after the residence permit is cancelled or expired, in addition to simplifying the requirements of all residence types.

For Green Residence Visa holders,

“A job exploration entry visa is granted to those classified in the first or second or third skill level as per the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization and the fresh graduates of the best 500 universities in the world and the minimum educational level should be a Bachelor’s degree or its equivalent

— UAE Cabinet decision

the new system provides more benefits, allowing residents to easily issue residence permits for their family members, including spouse and children. The age of children who may be sponsored has been raised to 25 years (previously 18 years), with no age limit for unmarried daughters. Children of determination are granted a residence permit, regardless of their age.

Green Residence Visa holders are allowed to issue residence permits for their first-degree relatives, and in all cases, the residency of family members will have the same validity duration as the original residence holder.

The Golden Residence Visa scheme has been made more extensive. Now, a Golden Visa holder can sponsor his or her family members, including spouse and children, regardless of their age. They can also sponsor domestic workers without any limit on their number. There is now no restriction related to the maximum duration of stay outside the UAE in order to keep the Golden Residence Visa valid.

The following are the 10 new entry and residence visas:

1 Green Residence for Skilled Employees

This new track provides a 5-year residency for skilled employees, without

a sponsor or employer. The applicants should have a valid employment contract, and should be classified in the first, second or third occupational level as per the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation. The minimum educational level must be a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, and the salary should not be less than Dhs15,000.

2 Green Residence for Freelancing and Self-Employment

In line with the growing importance of flexible work models, this track provides a 5-year residency for freelancers and self-employed individuals without requiring a sponsor or employer in the UAE. It requires obtaining a freelance/ self-employment permit from the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation, the minimum educational level should be Bachelor's degree or specialised diploma, and the annual income from self-employment for the previous two years should not be less than Dhs360,000, or that the applicant proves financial solvency throughout his/ her stay in the country.

3 Green Residence for Investor or Partner

This residence permit is introduced to encourage investment, providing a 5-year residency for investors establishing or participating in commercial activities.



The Golden Residence Visa scheme has been made more extensive. Now, a Golden Visa holder can sponsor his or her family members, including spouse and children, regardless of their age



It replaces the previous residence that was valid for 2 years only. Requirements include approval of the investment and proof of investment. If the investor (partner) has more than one licence, the total invested capital will be calculated. Approval of the competent local authorities is mandatory.

4 Job Exploration Entry Visa

This visa is introduced to attract young talents and skilled professionals to explore job opportunities available in the country; it does not require a sponsor or a host. It is granted to those classified in the first or second or third skill level as per the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation and the fresh graduates of the best 500 universities in the world, and the minimum educational level should be a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent.

5 Business Entry Visa

This type enables easy entry without requiring a sponsor or host to encourage investors and entrepreneurs to explore business and investment opportunities in the UAE.

6 Tourist Visa

In addition to the regular tourist visa that is sponsored by tourism establishments in the UAE, a 5-year multi-entry tourist visa was introduced.

This type does not require a sponsor and it allows the person to stay in the UAE for up to 90 continuous days, and it may be extended for a similar period, provided that the entire period of stay does not exceed 180 days in one year.

This visa requires proof of having a bank balance of US\$4,000 (Dhs14,680) or its equivalent in foreign currencies in the six months prior to submitting the application.

7 Entry Permit to Visit Relatives or Friends

As per the current amendment, a visitor can apply for this entry permit if he/she is a relative or friend of a UAE citizen or resident. It does not require a sponsor or a host.

8 Entry Permit for a Temporary Work Mission

This type is intended for those who have a temporary work assignment like probation testing or project-based mission, and is sponsored by the employer. It requires a temporary work contract or a letter from the employer clarifying the visit purpose and proof of health fitness to work.

9 Entry Permit for Study and Training

This type is intended for those attending training and study courses and/or participating in internship programmes. The sponsor can be universities or educational or research institutions licensed in the

country or government or private entities. It requires a letter from the entity, clarifying the details of the study or training or internship programme and its duration.

10 Expanded Golden Residence

Substantial amendments are introduced to the Golden Residence Scheme to simplify the eligibility criteria and expand the categories of beneficiaries. This long-term 10-year residence is granted to investors, entrepreneurs, exceptional talents, scientists and professionals, outstanding students and graduates, humanitarian pioneers and frontline heroes.

10.1 Golden Residence for Scientists

This residence is granted to scientists and researchers with high achievements and contributions in their field, based on recommendation from the Emirates Scientists Council.

The candidate should have a PhD or Master's degree in the disciplines of engineering, technology, life sciences and natural sciences from the best universities in the world, as well as substantial research achievements.

10.2 Golden Residence for Professionals

A major expansion is introduced in this category to attract highly skilled workers with educational

qualifications and professional experience in all disciplines, including medicine, sciences and engineering, information technology, business and administration, education, law, culture and social sciences.

The applicants should have a valid employment contract in the UAE and should be classified in the first or second occupational level as per the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation's classification, which is aligned with the International Standard of Classification of Occupations ISCO by the International Labour Organisation.

The minimum educational level must be a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, and the monthly salary should not be less than Dh\$30,000.

10.3 Golden Residence for Exceptional Talents

This residence is granted to top talents in vital fields. It is awarded based on talent only, regardless of the educational qualification, employment status, monthly salary, or professional level.

It requires the recommendation or approval of a federal or local government entity and includes talented individuals in culture, art, sports, digital technology, inventors and innovators and other vital fields.

10.4 Golden Residence for Real Estate Investors

Real estate investors can obtain Golden Residence when purchasing a property worth no less than Dh\$2 million.

As per the new amendments, investors are also entitled to obtain the Golden Residence when purchasing a property with a loan from specific local banks. Investors can also obtain Golden Residence when buying one or more off-plan properties of no less than Dh\$2 million from approved local real estate companies.

10.5 Golden Residence for Entrepreneurs

The executive regulations set flexible requirements for entrepreneurs eligible to obtain the Golden Residence; an entrepreneur should own or be a partner in a startup registered in the country in the small and medium enterprises category and generating annual revenues of not less than Dh\$1 million.

In addition, obtaining approval for a startup idea from an official business incubator or the Ministry of Economy or the competent local authorities is sufficient to obtain this visa.

Moreover, if the person is a founder (one of the founders) of a previous entrepreneurial project(s) that was sold for a total of not less than Dh\$7 million, he/she will be entitled to the Golden Residence. The approval of the Ministry of Economy or the competent local authorities is required for projects or ideas.

10.6 Golden Visa for Outstanding Students and Graduates

This residence targets high-performing students in UAE secondary schools, and outstanding graduates from

UAE universities and the best 100 universities worldwide, according to specific criteria that include their academic performance (cumulative average), the year of graduation, and the university classification.

The executive regulations of the Federal Decree-Law on Entry and Residence of Foreigners shall come into force after 90 days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.



AT A GLANCE: UAE's NEW ENTRY AND RESIDENCE VISAS



GOLDEN RESIDENCE

It is granted for the following categories for **10 years**

Investors

- Public investment
- Real estate investment entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs

- Owner of a registered successful startup
- Approved idea of a startup
- Previous founder of a successful startup that was sold inside or outside the UAE

Exceptional Talents

- Culture & Art
- Inventors & Innovators Sports
- Digital Technology
- Other Vital Fields

Scientists & Professionals

- Scientists
- Chief Executives and Senior Officials
- Science Professionals
- Engineering Professionals
- Health Professionals
- Education Professionals
- Business and Administration Professionals
- Information Technology Professionals
- Legal, Social and Cultural Professional

Outstanding Students & Graduates

- Best performing students in secondary schools
- Best graduates from UAE universities
- Graduates of the best 100 universities worldwide

Frontline Heroes

- Frontline workers with extraordinary efforts in a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic

Humanitarian Pioneers

- Distinguished members of international and regional organisations
- Cultural professional
- Outstanding members of associations of public benefit
- Recipients of recognition awards in humanitarian fields
- Distinguished volunteers and sponsors of humanitarian efforts

AMENDMENTS IN BENEFITS

10
years

Renewable years of residence



No sponsor or employer is required for many visa categories



Duration of stay outside the UAE does not nullify the Golden Residence



No limit on the number of support service labourers



Residence for family members, including spouse and children with a relaxed age limit

6
months

Validity of Entry Visa with multiple entries to proceed with residence issuance

RESIDENCY PERMITS



FOR WORK 5 YEARS

No Sponsor/ employer required

- Green Residence for Skilled Employees
- Green Residence for Freelancers (Self-Employment)

2 YEARS

Standard Employment Residence



FOR INVESTMENT 5 YEARS

No sponsor required

For Green Residence for Investors and Partners



FOR EDUCATION 2 YEARS

Sponsored by a licensed educational establishment in the UAE

Residence Visa for Students Enrolled in Educational Entities



FOR LIVING

1 YEAR
Remote Work

5 YEARS
Residence Retirement

2 YEARS
Real Estate Owner's Residence

No sponsor required



FAMILY MEMBERS RESIDENCE

The resident can sponsor family members, including spouse and children till the age of 25 and unmarried daughters

Children of determination are granted a residence permit, regardless of age

The Green Residence holder can sponsor first degree relatives

The duration of family members' residence shall be the same as their sponsor's



HUMANITARIAN CASES

A female resident whose UAE husband has passed away

Spouse and children of GCC citizens who hold foreign passports

The parents or children of UAE citizens who hold foreign passports

ENTRY VISA OPTIONS



TOURIST VISA

Sponsored by tourism establishment

MULTI ENTRY TOURIST VISA

5 years without host/ sponsor



VISITING RELATIVES/FRIENDS VISA

No host/ sponsor required



TEMPORARY WORK MISSION VISA

Working on temporary projects or probationary periods



EXPLORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES VISA

Easy entry for young talents and skilled workers to explore job opportunities without requiring a host/ sponsor in the UAE



EXPLORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES VISA

Easy entry to explore investment and business opportunities without requiring a host/ sponsor in the UAE



MEDICAL TREATMENT

Sponsored by a medical establishment



DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS

For holders of diplomatic, special and UN passports



STUDY OR TRAINING

Sponsored by educational entities or public and private entities for training and Internship programmes



EMERGENCY

For transit, sailors, flight crews, medical and flight emergencies



GCC RESIDENTS

Residents of GCC countries and their escorts



CommScope connectivity powers the smart building.

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

CELEBRATE HUMANITY

The 19th day of Ramadan is the death anniversary of the UAE's founding father, but his principles and policies live on

The 19th day of Ramadan is etched into the memories of all those who witnessed the announcement of the death of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's founding father and the driving force behind its renaissance. The late Sheikh Zayed was a leader who distinguished himself from other leaders, as the UAE has known in its 50 years of existence.

Only the greatest wisdom could have made his principles and policies irreplaceable, and all the love he received on his deathbed was due to the humanitarian, political, and economic positions he took, benefiting millions.

Zayed Humanitarian Day, which falls on the 19th of Ramadan each year, is an expression of the values that the late leader left to humanity — a love of goodness and humanitarian work that has found echoes in international gatherings as an appreciation of his efforts.

Amongst all the medals, awards, and a appreciation that he received for his great humanitarian activities, one of the most notable was the Golden Document, presented by the International Organisation for Foreigners in Geneva in 1985, when Sheikh Zayed was named the most important figure of that year for his humanitarian, civic, and financial work in his own country and abroad.

The work did not stop with the death of Sheikh Zayed but was expanded in scope under the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan with the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, as well as His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Since the emirates came together as one nation, the UAE has aided other countries with more than Dhs275 billion.

The humanitarian work that Sheikh Zayed set as an approach cannot be reduced to material value alone, despite the importance of the budgets allocated by the UAE. Human values are many and varied, but the most important one is tolerance, which makes humanity the priority in all that we do. The value of tolerance transcends colour, gender, race, and religion.

This goodness includes everyone in the UAE and extends way beyond the borders of the country; it originates from a generous and unconditional spirit of love that has no bounds when it comes to accepting all religions. This is a brave humanity with a soul of wisdom and forgiveness.

In 50 years, the humanitarian approach of the UAE has become

a model from which future generations can learn. It requires a soul that transcends everything and distances itself from the differences that have abolished humanity in many spheres. Conflicts and wars over the course of history have decimated humanity and the UAE has been keen to distance itself from them, in order to support people at all times.

Educating our children on humanity is the root of their survival. Those who stand by their brother in solidarity today

will have their brother by their side tomorrow. Those who forgive today ensure there will be no hostilities to impede their countries' development tomorrow. True human beings respect human nature and enhance humanity by seeking to resolve disputes.

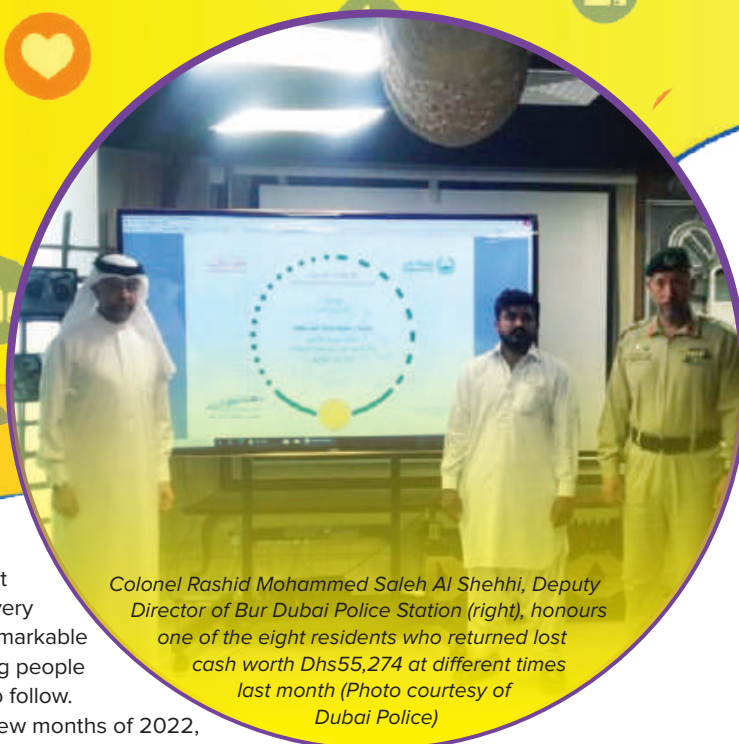
That is what we want our children to learn and pass down the generations. What has been achieved in the 50 years of the UAE is the fruit of human thought, sacrifice, and giving that should extend hundreds of years from now. In honour of our father Zayed, we should celebrate our humanity each day.

Those who stand by their brother in solidarity today will have their brother by their side tomorrow

HONESTY IN THE UAE

AS RAMADAN ENDS, **999** DOFFS ITS CAP TO ALL
THE RESIDENTS WHO'VE PROVEN THE TRUE SPIRIT
OF COMMUNITY BY REUNITING LOST POSSESSIONS
WITH THEIR OWNERS

BY SANCHITA GUHA



Colonel Rashid Mohammed Saleh Al Shehhi, Deputy Director of Bur Dubai Police Station (right), honours one of the eight residents who returned lost cash worth Dhs55,274 at different times last month (Photo courtesy of Dubai Police)

As the holy month of Ramadan comes to a close, citizens and residents in the UAE have had time to introspect on some of the most fundamental questions of life. And one of those is: if “honesty is the best policy”, then how well does UAE society act upon this policy? The answer is: this country puts a very high premium on honesty, because that’s the very basis of human civilisation.

Honesty leads to trust amongst people and nations; trust leads to a closer connection at social and economic levels; that closer connection leads to collective progress. The absence of honesty is like the absence of light; people stumbling around in the dark can’t build a cohesive society. This is why government agencies in the UAE, especially the

police forces, make it a point to highlight every instance of remarkable honesty, giving people role models to follow.

In the first few months of 2022, before and during Ramadan, the country has seen several instances of honest expats being rewarded, proving how well the expatriate community upholds the core values of the nation. These examples come as no surprise — though they’re always welcome — because these are only the latest in a series of honest acts seen in the country over the years.

On April 16, eight residents in Dubai were honoured by the police for returning a total of Dhs55,274 in cash at different times. At the honouring ceremony, Colonel Rashid Mohammed Saleh Al Shehhi, Deputy Director of Bur Dubai Police Station, said, “Rewarding the honourees comes in line

with the keenness of Dubai Police to strengthen the concept of community partnership and social responsibility.”

In March, a taxi driver in Ajman was honoured for returning a large sum of money left on the backseat by a passenger; and a student in Dubai was paid an appreciation visit by the police for his act of returning a wallet.

In February, a man in Dubai was honoured for handing over to the police misplaced cash worth Dhs15,000.

In January, a Dubai resident was recognised for handing over Dhs5,000 in lost cash to the police.

In December 2021, a cabbie in Sharjah was feted — not just by the police but also by his native country’s diplomatic mission — after he returned the huge sum of Dhs100,000 left behind by a passenger.

These recent incidents follow several similar incidents of honesty that came to light earlier in the UAE. All of these cases reinforce the UAE’s global image as a largely honest nation. Indeed, a few years ago, this was proved through a very interesting exercise called the “wallet drop experiment”.

In this social experiment, the results of which were published in January 2015 by the video-sharing website LiveLeak.com, a man in a suit “accidentally” dropped his wallet at various places around the UAE — the wallet was dropped not only across several emirates but also in different settings, e.g. near a bus station, inside a hotel, along a busy street, and in front of restaurants and coffee shops. In each instance, someone picked it up, called out to the man who had “dropped” his wallet, and returned it to him.

There was no particular ethnicity that was more honest than the others; the dropped wallet was picked up and returned by people who seemed to be Emiratis, other Arabs, Pakistanis, Indians, or other nationalities. According to LiveLeak, this wallet drop experiment was conducted at 45 different places, and every time, the wallet came back to the owner safe and sound.



An official of the Ajman Public Transportation Authority honours Waseem Arshad Muhammad Arshad, a taxi driver, for returning a large sum of money left behind by a passenger on the back seat of his vehicle

Apart from publicly honouring those who return cash and valuables, the police here also recognise and reward those who drive according to all the rules, because that's a kind of honesty, too

This, of course, doesn't mean that 100 per cent of the lost wallets or cash or valuables are returned in the UAE, but mostly they are. You'd have a much higher chance of getting something back if you lose it in the UAE, compared to your chances in many other nations.

PIONEER OF THE HONESTY KIOSK

Based on this idea of the UAE being an honest country, there were reports in July 2016 that "honesty kiosks" might be set up in several places. These would be roadside kiosks selling fruits and veggies with no staff to take payment from a buyer. Such a kiosk depends on the honesty of the shopper; it works on the assumption that shoppers would pay for everything they take from the kiosk.

The first such kiosk was set up off the Maliha-Hatta motorway in early 2016, and the owner was a Sharjah-based Emirati farmer named Abdullah Al Qaydi, who had farms in Maliha and Dhaid in Sharjah, and also in Ras Al Khaimah. To his delight, he found that people were always honest about paying for what they took from his shop.

Al Qaydi's friends had tried to dissuade him — they said that the venture wouldn't work, that people would just take the fresh farm produce and not bother paying. But the farmer kept his faith and he was rewarded: after the first few months of operation, Al Qaydi saw that he was never short of one single dirham when he calculated the sales (against the goods taken) at the end of each day.

Speaking of his plans to set

up a few more honesty kiosks, at places within reach of his farms, Al Qaydi told an Abu Dhabi-based publication, "I want to show that the UAE is a secure country. I want to make these shops for the world to see that we can trust all the people. When I [first] discussed the idea with friends, they said I was crazy, that people would take my vegetables and just go. I thought, 'It's okay if people do that. It's theirs to keep.'"

WHAT KEEPS PEOPLE HONEST?

Since the UAE is home to more than 200 nationalities, there's no one single culture that can be credited with the high level of honesty here. Therefore, it has to be a combination of efficient security systems, sufficient incomes, the messages sent out by the leadership, and the high visibility given to honest behaviour. Apart from publicly honouring those who return cash and valuables, the police here also recognise and reward those who drive according to all the rules, because that's a kind of honesty, too.

There are some factors behind the kind of honesty that prevents people from stealing — be it a dropped wallet or vegetables at an unstaffed kiosk. One factor is a country's average income level: people who don't feel deprived have less of an urge to steal. Another factor is the pack mentality: people are more likely to be honest if they feel most others around them are also honest.

A third and very crucial factor is the unwillingness to hurt others: most people, unless they're out-and-out criminals, are unlikely to steal if they believe that their action would be

really bad for someone else.

This is the instinct that keeps human societies together. Every culture, every religion explains this in its own way, but the basic idea is the same: we don't want to harm others in a way that we don't want to be harmed ourselves.

The wallet drop experiment shown on LiveLeak.com in 2015 was repeated later on a much bigger scale by other researchers, and the results were published in June 2019, in the journal *Science*. The data highlighted one aspect: the more money a wallet contained, the more likely it was to be returned. This may seem astounding and inexplicable, but it's not. "What if it happened to me?" is the question that stops us from committing most of the usual crimes, because our survival depends on it.

THE SAME PUZZLING FINDING

In this experiment, the researchers, led by Alain Cohn from the University of Michigan, dropped 17,000 wallets around the world, stuffing them with varying amounts of cash. The study had started on a small scale in Finland, where a researcher posing as a tourist handed over a few wallets to employees at nearby banks or post offices. He told each employee that he had just found a wallet lying nearby, and asked that employee to take care of that "lost" wallet until it was claimed by the owner. These wallets had different amounts of cash in them.



A unique store in Sharjah that sells fruits and veggies and is left unattended



say that it would feel like stealing if they do not return the wallet”.

HIGH LEVEL OF TRANSPARENCY

One of the key reasons behind the high level of honesty in the UAE could be the high level of transparency in rules and regulations here, and the ease of doing transactions at government departments.

In the Corruption Perceptions Index 2021, published by Transparency International, the UAE ranked a high 24th globally, slipping only slightly from its 22nd rank in CPI 2020. This small change in ranking was because of a 2-point drop in its overall score from 71 in 2020 to 69 in 2021. Even so, the country had this rank amongst 180 surveyed nations.

The CPI score indicates how corrupt or not a country's public sector is perceived to be — the higher the score, the better the perception. The score is given according to the perception of experts and the business community. Transparency.org explains: “Each country's score is a combination of at least 3 data sources drawn from 13 different corruption surveys and assessments. These data sources are collected by a variety of reputable institutions, including the World Bank and the World Economic Forum.”

The UAE (at No. 24) had the highest CPI 2021 ranking in the Middle East and North Africa, with the top 25 of the index dominated by European and North American nations, and a few exceptions like Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Uruguay, and Seychelles.

“People were more likely to return a wallet when it contained a higher amount of money. At first, we almost couldn't believe it and told [the researcher posing as a tourist] to triple the amount of money in the wallet. But yet again, we found the same puzzling finding



ALAIN COHN

Lead author of a global study on honesty

This achievement hasn't come in a vacuum. It's the result of years of investment in government excellence and a strategic plan to meet, or even surpass, global standards of good governance.

Good governance makes a nation more competitive globally and increases its GDP; a corresponding rise is usually seen in the average level of honesty amongst the people. A 2015 study titled ‘Honesty and Beliefs about Honesty in 15 countries’, by David Hugh-Jones, Associate Professor at the School of Economics, University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom, found: “There are large differences in honesty across countries. Average honesty correlates with per capita GDP.”

Creating a culture of honesty takes work. Mainly, that work needs to be done in the areas that enable the better side of human nature to rise. In the UAE, a high level of honesty is the leadership's reward for its endeavour to create the best country in the world.

One of the key reasons behind the high level of honesty in the UAE could be the high level of transparency in rules and regulations here, and the ease of doing transactions at government departments

ROLE MODELS OF HONESTY

These residents across the UAE have given honesty goals to the rest of the population

2022



April: Eight residents were honoured by Dubai Police for returning a total of Dh55,274 lost cash. Police said that different amounts of cash were returned at separate times. The honouring ceremony was held at Bur Dubai Police Station.



March: Dubai Police gave a very pleasant surprise to a student named Azam Khalid Dhif Allah (3rd from left), honouring him at his high school for returning a wallet that he had found in Lulu Village and deposited at Al Qusais Police Station. He was presented with a certificate of appreciation.



February: An Arab man named Ibrahim Mohsen Hamad (3rd from left) was honoured by Al Qusais Police Station for returning Dh15,000 cash that he had found in the area. Hamad thanked Dubai Police for the honouring and expressed his pride and joy.



January: A man named Abdulsabour Choudhry Mohammad (right) was honoured by Dubai Police, as he had found Dh5,000 in cash in the Qusais area and handed it over to the nearest police station.

ROLE MODELS OF HONESTY

These residents across the UAE have given honesty goals to the rest of the population

2021



Nigerian Embassy

December: Sharjah-based Nigerian cabbie Abraham Airaodion (left in the photo) caused quite a sensation after returning a huge sum of Dhs100,000 left behind in his vehicle by a passenger. He handed over the money to the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), Dubai. Although the exact date of the incident was not known, the cabbie was honoured by the Sharjah Taxi Corporation on December 13. His story went viral online and he was praised by millions of compatriots. Abraham Airaodion was also honoured by the Pro Nigerian Group in UAE as well as the Nigerian Embassy.

HE Muhammad Dansanta Rimi, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the UAE, said, "Abraham's action should bring out the goodness in us, as well as letting the world know that Nigerians are not fraudulent [and] dishonest; rather we are hardworking, sincere, industrious, and responsible and, above all, law abiding."

The cabbie also earned praise from the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO) UAE. "Abraham's act of integrity is necessary as it would change perceptions and further prove to the good people of the UAE, the government, and residents

that many Nigerians are honest, reliable, trustworthy and law-abiding," said the NIDO UAE, in a Facebook post on December 20, 2021.



Dubai Police

November: An Emirati named Khalid Mohammad Jasem Al Hosni (centre) found a wallet with Dhs15,000 at the site of Expo 2020 Dubai and handed it over to a police kiosk at the Expo. He was later honoured for this act.



Dubai Police

August: A man in Dubai, named Mohammad Saleh Al Waqdi (4th from left), who had returned a lost bag of cash (more than Dhs45,000) and a cheque (for Dhs70,000), was paid a surprise visit by the police at his workplace, to thank him and honour him.

“Abraham’s action should bring out the goodness in us, as well as letting the world know that Nigerians are not fraudulent [and] dishonest; rather we are hardworking, sincere, industrious, responsible and, above all, law abiding



HE MUHAMMAD DANSANTA RIMI

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the UAE



March: An Asian man, named Ismail Sebugwaawo (left) was honoured by Abu Dhabi Police, and was given a gift, after he handed over a large sum of lost cash to the police.



INSECT'S LIFE EXPLAINS HUMAN DEATH

THE UAE POLICE HAVE CREATED A DATABASE OF INSECTS THAT FEED ON DEAD FLESH, HELPING FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGISTS IN THE ARAB REGION ANALYSE THE INSECTS' LIFE CYCLE TO UNDERSTAND THE TIME AND CAUSE OF A PERSON'S DEATH

BY ORLANDO WILSON



When the body of a deceased person is found, it's the job of the police to identify how and when they died, and if there were suspicious circumstances involved. The police in the UAE, in addition to their traditional detective skills, have at their disposal state-of-the-art forensic laboratories and expert forensic pathologists, who employ cutting-edge scientific techniques. All the lab facilities and techniques have been adapted for the environments found in the UAE, to help the police solve crimes mysteries.

When a person dies, nature quickly begins to work: the body starts to decompose, and if it's left unattended, insects use the body to feed, breed, and live on. For the forensic investigators, these insects (and their life stage) can indicate the time of death and also give some clues as to whether it was a natural death or a criminal act.

The study of insects in death investigations is called Forensic Entomology, and the first recorded example of it being used in a criminal investigation dates back to 13th century China. A forensic science book from The Song Dynasty (960-1279 AD), written by physician, judge, and forensic medical

scientist Song Ci in 1247, contains the details of a murder case.

In this case, a villager was stabbed to death with a sickle, a tool used for cutting rice. The local magistrate took the sickles from other villagers, and placed them together. Within a few minutes, flies gathered around one sickle, attracted to it by the scent of traces of blood that were unseen by the human eye. The owner of that bloodstained sickle was the murderer and admitted to the crime.

Since this first recorded case of Forensic Entomology was used in a criminal

investigation nearly a thousand years ago, things have advanced tremendously, especially in the past 30 years. The police in the UAE have taken full advantage of these scientific advancements.

In 2018, Dubai Police introduced a forensic entomology database that provides investigators with solid scientific materials and evidence support. The database contains the scientific details of insects and other arthropods that are found on and in decomposing bodies. The database helps forensic experts as they investigate the insects, the larvae morphology, growth histories, species distribution and toxic contents in their tissue when investigating the time and circumstances of a person's death.

Dr Hannah Moore, Lecturer at Cranfield Forensic Institute (CFI) in the United Kingdom, said, "Knowing how long someone has been dead, particularly in the case of murder, is vital in proving the innocence or guilt of suspects. Insects can also tell us if the person consumed drugs and if their body was moved or whether it has been frozen — they're the most reliable witnesses in many cases.

"These compounds act like a fingerprint and are species-specific. This provides a complementary method of identifying

“The study of insects in death investigations is called Forensic Entomology, and the first recorded example of it being used in a criminal investigation dates back to 13th century China

“The time of death, or the time interval between the death and corpse’s discovery, aka post-mortem index (PMI), can be estimated from insect colonisers found on corpses



MAJOR GENERAL AHMAD EID AL MANSOURI

Director of the General Department of Forensic Science and Criminology

and ageing insects which has proved extremely accurate. The robustness of this method may be useful in court cases for presenting reliable and clear-cut evidence in the future.”

Forensic pathologists can give an accurate post-mortem estimate of a person’s death up to 72 hours after death. After this time period, if required, forensic entomologists are called in to analyse the insects that inhabit decomposing remains to give a more accurate indication of how long the person has been dead. The easiest way to estimate the time the insects have been on the corpse and their age is to look at their length as well as other variables; temperatures and environmental conditions also have to be considered.

Prior to the database development, Dubai Police forensic experts took part in an interactive Forensic Entomology course, which included practical scenarios for studying insects, larvae, and egg development on corpses in the natural temperatures and environments of the UAE. Forensic experts of Dubai Police studied decomposing animal samples within internal environments, such as houses and rooms, and also outdoors to determine the actual time of larvae production and local insect behaviour.

Forensic entomologists study the growth and development of flies, beetles, mites, moths, wasps, ants, centipedes, bees, spiders, crickets, cockroaches, ladybugs on a corpse. Environmental considerations that impact a corpse’s decomposition and insect development include the weather conditions,



Larvae found in a badly decomposed corpse help forensic entomologists identify the person’s estimated time of death

Dubai Police

moisture levels, exposure to the sun, air conditions, the geography of the area, and if the corpse was submerged in water or fluid.

Coroners could only estimate the approximate time of death, but the Dubai Police forensic entomologists were able to give an accurate time of death — it was 63 hours-and-a-half from the body being discovered

ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF TIME

In January 2022, an unidentified, decomposed body was found in an abandoned building in Dubai. The General

Department of Forensic Science and Criminology at Dubai Police was able to determine the time of death with the help of the forensic entomology database. Due to the badly decomposed state of the corpse, coroners could only estimate the approximate time of death, but the Dubai Police forensic entomologists were able to give an accurate time of death — it was 63 hours-and-a-half from the body being discovered.

Major General Ahmad Eid Al Mansouri, Director of the General Department of Forensic Science and Criminology, stated, “The time of death, or the time interval between the death and corpse’s discovery, aka post-mortem index (PMI), can be estimated from insect colonisers found on corpses. Forensic entomologists can also determine and detect any alterations to corpse’s position, manner, and cause of death, which can help investigators find leads to close cases and provide reliable and scientifically proven evidence for court.”

The officer stressed the importance of the inclusion of forensic entomology in the criminal investigation procedure.

A lot of detailed work and experiments

We distributed corpses of mice in mountains, shores, deserts, industrial areas and populated cities. We then put these under close monitoring and studied insects that fed on the mice over the decomposition process. These experiments contributed greatly to the Dubai Police forensic entomology database



went into the development of the Dubai Forensic Entomology Database, with the involvement of several forensic experts and law enforcement experts.

Captain Dr Sarah Ali Al Maqhawi, Head of the Medical Examination Department at the Forensic Medicine Department and Head of the Strategic Project to Develop a Forensic Entomology Database, said that the team had started conducting experiments to collect data from dead mice that were exposed to different geographical environments and climates within the UAE.

She said, "We distributed corpses of mice in mountains, shores, deserts, industrial areas, and populated cities. We then put these under close monitoring, studied insects that fed on the mice over the decomposition process, made notes on how the environment variable affected the dead creatures and recorded the insects' larvae stages. These experiments contributed greatly to the Dubai Police forensic entomology database and enriched our knowledge on the link between policing and entomology."



Talking about the body found in January, Captain Al Maqhawi added, “Determining the time of death was crucial for the investigation of the case, as the body had neither been reported nor [was it] unidentifiable. In forensics, we normally give an approximate time of death for decomposed bodies, and in this case, a few days was our best estimation. However, things changed when we exposed a mouse corpse to similar conditions and observed the species of insects that came into being and fed on the dead rodent and waited until they evolved into the same larvae stage of the man’s corpse at the time of discovery. Thanks to this experiment, we were able to give an accurate time of death of 63 hours and 30 minutes.”

TIMELINE OF DECOMPOSITION

According to Dr Arpad A. Vass, Senior Staff Scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Adjunct Associate Professor in Forensic Anthropology at the University of Tennessee, United States, human decomposition begins

around four minutes after a person dies. Throughout all the stages of decomposition, insects are present on a corpse.

Below are the general stages of decomposition for an unattended corpse in a natural environment and the basic behaviours of the insects.

■ Fresh stage (Days 1-2 depending on environmental conditions):

This stage begins at the moment of death and ends when the bloating stage begins. The estimation of the time of death by entomological data after 24 hours is more accurate than a medical examiner’s estimation based on the soft tissue examination. Insects are attracted to a corpse within the first 10 minutes of death, but without egg-laying behaviour. Even though morphological changes and odours are not obvious to humans, the chemicals released from the cellular breakdown attract insects even in this early stage.

■ Bloated stage (Days 2-7):

Putrefaction begins at this stage; gases produced cause inflation of the abdomen and the carcass forming a balloon-like appearance. Insect activities combined with the putrefaction processes cause the internal temperatures of the corpse

to rise. Great numbers of adult flies will be attracted to the corpse at this stage. By Day 4, depending on environmental conditions, larval stage flies will be present on the corpse. In some cases, at the beginning of Day 2, predators of fly larvae have been recovered from the corpses.

■ **Decay stage (Days 5-13):** Abdominal wall is penetrated, resulting in the deflation of the corpse, and ending the bloated stage. Decaying odours are high and there will be a conversion of corpse biomass to fly and insect larval biomass. The larvae, subsequently, will depart from the corpse to pupate.

■ **Post-decay stage (Days 10-23):** At this stage, insect larvae leave the carcass, leaving behind bones, cartilage, hair, small portions of tissue, and a large amount of wet, viscous material known as byproducts of decay (BOD). The BOD is the major site of insect activity during this stage.

■ **Remains stage (Days 18-90+):** This final stage is characterised by bones with little cartilage remaining and the BOD has dried up. The transition from post-decay to remains stage is gradual, with declining adult and larval Diptera populations.

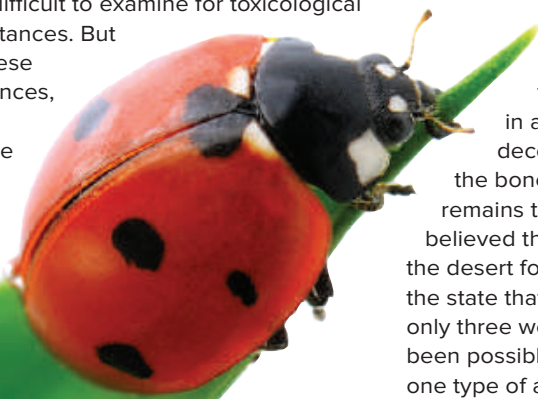




Dubai Police

A forensic expert at Dubai Police's General Department of Forensic Evidence and Criminology showing a piece of evidence for examination to a group of university students

The larvae of the insects that feed on a corpse can accumulate drugs ingested by the deceased person. Dead bodies that are in the advanced stages of decomposition or are skeletonised are difficult to examine for toxicological substances. But in these instances, the larvae



feeding on this body can be analysed and toxins found in the larvae can help to identify the cause or condition of the person when they died.

Lieutenant Hussein Al Marzouqi, Assistant to Biologist Expert, Scientific and Field Supervisor of the Dubai Forensic Entomologists Team, confirmed

that the team had identified 21 specific species of insects that feed on corpses over a year of continuous experiments, in all climate conditions, across the different geographical locations throughout the emirate.

Al Marzouqi said, "In one of the experiments, we left a dead mouse in a desert area. When the decomposition stage reached the bones, we presented the remains to forensic experts who believed the corpse had been left in the desert for three months. However, the state that the rodent reached took only three weeks. This could not have been possible if we weren't aware of one type of ants called *Camponotus fellah*, which inhabits the Middle East deserts and feeds on corpses and leaves them in a state that confuses forensic experts and investigators when determining the time of death."

He added, "There is a comprehensive and large database of hundreds of insect species that feed on dead flesh available for forensics in different parts of the world. We should have one that focuses on Arab regions and their environmental conditions and climates. This project will revolutionise

This project will revolutionise the scientific scene in the region with a comprehensive database that could be used to solve the mysteries of many criminal cases

the scientific scene in the region with a comprehensive database that could be used to solve the mysteries of many criminal cases."

With such a focused approach, police officers and investigators within the UAE are not only learning from their international colleagues, but are also developing procedures and techniques specifically for the UAE and the Arab region. This means the law enforcement and public safety departments within the UAE are at the forefront of forensic investigations that will help the country and the wider region.



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Al Ain Municipality

WEEDING OUT ILLEGAL VENDORS

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE UAE'S GENEROUS AND HAPPY STATE OF MIND AFTER RAMADAN, THESE UNLAWFUL SELLERS TARGET PEOPLE IN THE STREETS, AND THEY POSE A GREAT RISK TO UNSUSPECTING PASSERSBY. HERE'S HOW THE POLICE ARE CURBING THE MENACE

BY GLENN LYFORD

In recent weeks, people across the UAE have been generous and patient with most strangers, in keeping with the spirit of Ramadan, followed by Eid. This is the time when it gets easier to approach passersby in the street and get their attention; and that's the fact exploited by illegal vendors.

Like the pernicious presence of the begging rackets that work the streets during Ramadan, these illegal vendors, too, step up their activity during this season. With members of the public looking to buy gifts for Eid, it's not hard to pull them in with some offers. But the police are always on the lookout for any unlicensed commercial activity, and they're quick to outline the risks of buying from such illegal vendors.

Customers may — and they do — end up with a variety of sub-standard goods, such as fake gold jewellery and herbal concoctions of dubious origin, after handing over their hard-earned money to these illegal vendors. The worst-case scenario is that they might be handed an item that's harmful to health, or they might be sold goods that are stolen. These vendors could be part of a gang that burgles homes and then sells those things on the street. In short, one never knows what one might be getting from an illegal vendor.

How can one tell if a vendor is illegal or not? Well, clues include a shifty, secretive manner, and goods for sale stuffed in a

duffle bag or similar. And then, there's the best clue of all: if the offer price looks too good to be true, then it is.

Police forces in the UAE often catch these illegal vendors, but what's necessary is for the target customers to simply brush off these dodgy sellers. Or else, the fight against illegal vendors would become never-ending.

SUB-STANDARD RAMADAN SNACKS

In April 2022, municipal authorities in the northern emirates of Sharjah, Ajman, and Fujairah conducted a crackdown and urged the public not to buy cheaper snacks from street vendors.

The civic authorities said that these snacks were sold near labourers'

“The civic inspectors would not only target mobile vendors but also small food outlets that function during Ramadan without obtaining licences from the municipality



OBAID SAEED AL TUNAJI

Director General of
Sharjah Municipality

accommodations, and they found many buyers as the food sold illegally was cheaper than normal cafe takeaway. However, warned the civic bodies, these cheaper snacks were often made with expired ingredients and caused food poisoning. Being unlicensed, these businesses were able to flout all the health norms required by law.

Sending out a stern warning to these illegal vendors, Obaid Saeed Al Tunaiji, Director General of Sharjah Municipality, said, “The [civic] inspectors would not only target mobile vendors but also small food outlets that function during Ramadan without obtaining licences from the municipality.”

Khalid Al Hosani, Director of the Health



“We warn them against practising illegal commercial activity without prior authorisation from the concerned government authorities, and we demand them to stop selling food immediately and get a licence to make their business legal

– Law Respect Culture Bureau, Ministry of Interior

and Environment Department at Ajman Municipality, said that mobile food vending was a violation of the health regulations in the emirate.

Hassan Al Yamahi, Director of Dibba Fujairah Municipality, issued a similar cautionary note, adding that the

municipality was putting in great efforts to crack down on these vendors, who would often visit residential, commercial areas, and mosques to pester people for donations without adhering to COVID-19 measures.

The Law Respect Culture Bureau at the Ministry of Interior also issues stern warnings against such businesses. In an earlier interview with **999**, the Bureau had said: “We warn them against practising illegal commercial activity without prior authorisation from the concerned government authorities, and we demand them to stop selling food immediately and to get a licence to make their business legal. We also order them to take into consideration the health and professional instructions and precautions in preparing, keeping, and delivering foods after they get the licence, so that they do not cause harm to any of their customers, thus avoiding facing legal prosecution for that.”

The Bureau added: “Police patrols, in cooperation with municipal and economic departments and the food control departments, are also conducting campaigns to control unlicensed street vendors, and monitoring campaigns on websites and social media to control unlicensed online food sellers.”





12 members of a gang who were arrested by Sharjah Police for selling fake gold in March 2022



Arrested gang composed of 11 members, who had stolen 662 computers worth Dhs2.4 million from a warehouse of an electronics company in Sharjah in May 2020

TALE OF FAKE GOLD

In March 2022, a team from the Criminal Investigation Department of Sharjah Police arrested a gang of 12 members, who were selling fake gold.

The fake jewellery vendors usually offered “gold” pieces with Arabic inscriptions and targeted mall-goers. They’d tell the shoppers to take the items to a jewellery store to check their authenticity. But this was just part of their tactic to quell any doubts of the potential buyer. Once the purchase had been made, it would be too late for the customers to realise that the jewellery they had just bought was nothing

but gold-plated metal pieces.

Colonel Omar Ahmed Abu Al Zoud, Director of Sharjah Police CID Department, said that the gang members confessed to their illegal activity and revealed that the gold pieces in their possession were smuggled into the country. The case was referred to the Public Prosecution.

Al Zoud called upon members of the public to refrain from dealing with illegal vendors. He also urged people to report street vendors through the channels provided by the police, including the Sharjah Police website or through the hotline 800400.

“ Sharjah Police caution the owners of companies and shops against purchasing goods without checking the original invoices or other documents indicating their source, so as not to expose themselves to legal accountability for stolen goods



COLONEL OMAR AHMED ABU AL ZOUD

Director of the Criminal Investigation
Department of Sharjah Police

SALE OF STOLEN ITEMS

The perils of buying illegally sold products are real. Aside from getting knockoffs, there’s also the danger of getting illegally obtained or stolen items. And under existing laws, any person or establishment caught in possession of stolen items may be held liable even if they didn’t have any knowledge as to how the item was obtained.

In May 2020, the CID team of Sharjah Police arrested a gang of 11 members, who had stolen 662 computers with an astounding value of Dhs2.4 million from a warehouse of an electronics company. They had intended to sell their loot to individuals and small gadget stores.

According to Colonel Al Zoud, a search and investigation team was formed and it swung into action immediately after getting the report of this theft. The police discovered that the gang had cut off the surveillance cameras in the warehouse and stolen the digital storage device for the CCTV to execute the heist. The gang also stole two cars to use for transporting the items stolen from the warehouse.

“It was organised, starting from the prior monitoring of the warehouse, distributing roles, and reaching an agreement with a person to complete the sale of devices immediately after obtaining them, and escaping from the police,” said the CID official.

“Sharjah Police caution the owners of companies and shops against purchasing goods without checking the original invoices or other documents indicating

ABU DHABI TAKES ACTION VERSUS ILLEGAL FOOD VENDORS



Unlicensed food seized by Al Ain Municipality and other relevant authorities from illegal vendors in 2019

Al Ain Municipality

The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) urged individuals and food establishments operating in Abu Dhabi to refrain from selling food products on public roads using pick-up vehicles or any other unauthorised means.

The Authority said that it was taking all measures to prevent improper and unhealthy products from entering the emirate's markets by relying on technical regulations, systems and legislation, which ensured that all food products were strictly controlled across the supply chain.

The Authority added that it had fined hundreds of illegal street vendors Dhs500 each, while dozens were referred to prosecutors for further legal action. Campaigns across Abu Dhabi and its suburbs will continue as necessary, or in response to citizens' complaints.

their source, so as not to expose themselves to legal accountability for stolen goods," said Colonel Al Zoud, adding that warehouse managers and business owners should raise their defences against gangs of thieves.

VENDOR-CUM-BEGGARS

999 has found that some vendors carried with them false sob stories to convince people to purchase their products. Once they spotted a kind-looking stranger, they'd poke him/her and say something on the lines of, "Madam/Sir, I wonder if you could help me earn a little by buying my product. It would greatly help me to buy the medicines much needed for my bedridden child/parent."

Others, instead of talking to potential customers, especially during the pandemic, would secretly hand out or leave leaflets or cards on occupied restaurant tables, detailing their

"heartrending story" as well as the prices of their products. Once a customer took note of the story and waved his hand as a signal, the vendor would immediately come nearer and open a bag loaded with items. If the items didn't appeal to the customer, these vendors would instead hold out an envelope to solicit cash.

Most of these vendor-cum-beggars go around wearing normal clothes, making it impossible to distinguish them from everyone else. Unless they get caught in the act, it's hard for security personnel or police patrols to identify them as people engaged in something illegal.

Mohammed Bahjat, an Abu Dhabi resident, shared, "I often observed some people covertly selling inside restaurants and food courts in malls. They offered small toys, rice cakes, or odd-looking herbal medicines in bottles that they claimed were for certain diseases." He added, "I have a couple of first-hand

experiences where they'd ask for money if you didn't buy."

Lina (real name withheld), who works in Karama, in Dubai, said that even inside a supermarket, some illegal vendors would quietly nudge her into buying skincare products, with the claim that they're cheaper than the items on supermarket shelves. "Every now and then, I'd encounter some individuals, usually females, who'd convince me to check their items — ranging from skincare, cosmetics, and slimming teas. They come in twos. The other person carrying the items would be waiting outside the store."

She recalled an incident when she was pestered: "A few years ago, I was convinced to go with a lady who offered me a slimming tea. It was a rip-off, so I didn't buy it. But she followed me everywhere I went inside the mall, insisting that I should try it. When I firmly said no, she then asked me to just give her money."



“Foods sold without a licence or legal permission are not subject to the control of the competent municipal and health authorities. Those who buy them can be exposed to serious health hazards such as food poisoning, digestive system diseases, skin allergies, etc

—Law Respect Culture Bureau, Ministry of Interior

SERIOUS HEALTH HAZARDS

Even more than fake watches, fake bags, or fake gold, unsuspecting customers cornered by illegal vendors are at real risk from a lack of food safety.

As food safety is an essential element of food security in the UAE, illegal vendors are also clearly stepping on the government's health and sanitation policies, because the foodstuffs they sell do not go through strict regulatory standards, according to the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA).

The UAE is now well into the recovery phase from the impact of the pandemic, but such illegally sold food items may cause infection cases to rise amongst people — some of those may even become COVID-19 infection cases, as the virus hasn't gone, but has only been fought off by vaccines.

In a statement given to 999 in 2018, the Law Respect Culture Bureau at the Ministry of Interior stated that food sold by illegal vendors could negatively impact food safety and consumers' health in the

country. “Foods sold without a licence or legal permission are not subject to the control of the competent municipal and health authorities, as is the case in hotels, restaurants and cafes. Therefore, these foods are more vulnerable to contamination and germs, and those who buy them can be exposed to serious health hazards such as food poisoning, digestive system diseases, skin allergies, etc,” said the statement.

The Bureau added: “Scientifically, foods get affected due to the lack of hygiene of the cook or seller, as they do not follow general health and safety instructions; and the lack of cleanliness of the tools and surfaces that they use to cook, keep, or deliver food.”

IS HOMEMADE FOOD SOLD ONLINE LEGAL?

One trend that emerged during the pandemic was homemade foods sold online. In the UAE, these homemade foods sold online included falafel, baked cookies, cakes, samosas, beans, etc.

In a media report, some consumers

raised a concern about the hygiene of such items, which were being promoted on social media and delivered to people's doorsteps. Pricing was also a concern for some of these consumers, who felt that the home cooks were charging too much. That's a matter of debate, since home chefs catering to just a few customers don't have the economies of scale that large cafes or restaurants do.

Nonetheless, one aggrieved consumer told the media, “The eateries that sell them are making more money than the regular restaurants, as they sell a small dish of pasta for Dhs25, while its actual price is only Dhs10. They also sell small cakes for Dhs70, adding a delivery fee of Dhs30 to it.”

The safety of these products has long been under the scanner of the Law Respect Culture Bureau, which emphasised that online sale of foodstuffs from unlicensed businesses was illegal.

The Bureau told 999 that licence/permission from the concerned federal or local government departments was the first thing a seller must get before practising any kind of trade. “Selling food

FINE & PUNISHMENT

- **Trading harmful or spoiled food**
Minimum of **three months in jail** and a fine of no less than **Dhs100,000** and no more than **Dhs2 million**, or one of these two penalties
- **Trading, promoting or publishing a false description of any food to mislead consumers**
No less than **Dhs10,000** and not more than **Dhs100,000**

Under Federal Law No. 10 of 2015 regarding Food Safety and its executive regulations

without a licence, whether to pedestrians or by delivering to people who order through social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, or WhatsApp and others, is an illegal act in the UAE, as it violates the Federal Law No. 10 of 2015 regarding food safety and its executive regulations, which was approved by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan in January 2016. [The law] aims to ensure the safety of food and remove or reduce all the risks associated with it, to protect consumers and facilitate the flow of food trade,” it stated.

“This law provides for imprisonment for a period of no less than three months, and a fine of no less than Dhs100,000 and no more than Dhs2 million, or one of these two penalties, for whoever trades with harmful or spoiled food. It also provides for a fine of not less than Dhs10,000 and not more than Dhs100,000 for anyone who trades, promotes, contributes, or publishes a false description of any food to mislead consumers.”

IMPORTANCE OF FOOD LABELS

How can people identify foods from



HOW TO REPORT ILLEGAL VENDORS IN THE UAE

800555
Abu Dhabi Government Communication Centre

04 223 2323
Dubai Municipality Public Health Department

80040
Sharjah Police Criminal Investigation Department

80070 hotline
Ajman Department of Economic Development

80036
Fujairah Municipality

06 765 2200 / 06 765 3322
Umm Al Quwain Department of Economic Development

07 204 4444
Ras Al Khaimah Department of Economic Development

legitimate businesses? This is where the importance of food labels comes in.

As per the Ministerial Decree No. 239 of 2018 on National Food Accreditation and Registration System, any food, whether imported or locally produced, must be registered in the electronic system (ZAD), which is an integrated smart platform for food products data, before being handled in the UAE’s markets.

Sharjah Municipality reminded stores

that it was mandatory for all grocery stores to only display food with labels (including its ingredients, source, and the expiry date) because the authorities always carry out regular inspections.

For homemade food, the municipality said that it handed out licences for homemade food businesses after obtaining approval from the Food Control Department, which issued a certificate after ensuring that the items were prepared in hygienic conditions.

This is done in coordination with the Sharjah Economic Development Department (SEDD), the concerned agency for ensuring that the workers making the food are free of diseases and hold health fitness certificates. Violators face tough penalties, including fines and closure of business.

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS LEGAL

The Mol’s Law Respect Culture Bureau is raising awareness amongst UAE nationals and residents not to engage in illegal selling of food. If people want to make it a business, the Bureau said: “A licensed online vendor in the UAE must have learned the basics of food safety, have a health card proving that he is free of food-borne diseases, wear clean and appropriate uniforms during work, and practise work in a known location that meets environmental and health requirements.

In addition, a list containing the food they would like to sell (the food menu) is pre-determined, and a food safety department inspector in the municipality, the economic department or the food control department is allowed to enter the food preparation place at any time to conduct necessary inspections, to maintain food safety and keep consumers in good health.”



“ Selling food without a licence, whether to pedestrians or by delivering to people who order through social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and others, is an illegal act in the UAE, as it violates the Federal Law No. 10 of 2015 regarding food safety and its executive regulations

—Law Respect Culture Bureau, Ministry of Interior



THE WORLD OF SNOW CRASH IS UPON US

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

A book written exactly 30 years ago spoke of a civilisational change that mirrors the current era

The American fantasy novelist Neil Stephenson published *Snow Crash* exactly 30 years ago, in the summer of 1992. This novel followed the late cyberpunk or post-cyberpunk tradition of combining evolutionary science, computer viruses, and other high-tech themes with Sumerian mythology, along with the social induction of laissez-faire capitalism and collective ownership. At the time, no one could have predicted the quantum leap in technology, which is now moving at an unprecedented pace in human history.

Everyone today talks about the “Metaverse” as if it were an upcoming freeway that will transport mankind from earth to the cyber universe, to the point that Facebook founder and owner Mark Zuckerberg changed the name of his brand from Facebook to “Metaverse” in order to give his subscribers access to a virtual three-dimensional world.

When Stevenson wrote his novel, was it his intent to inspire real-life inventions, such as the Metaverse of Zuckerberg, one that has become a registered trademark and is laying golden eggs for the latter

The answer, according to the author of *Snow Crash*, is no. “I was aware of that fact thirty years ago when I wrote “Snow Crash,” but I didn’t necessarily expect it to happen,” he said in a media interview. Meanwhile, the only link between Zuckerberg and Stevenson is the author’s term “Metaverse”, which the Facebook founder shortened to “Meta” to rename his brand after a big malfunction in October 2021.

A seven-hour outage that caused Instagram, WhatsApp, and Facebook Messenger to be suspended, impacting billions of users around the world, coupled with the crisis of leaking incriminating internal documents, led Zuckerberg to rename the mother company.

Snow Crash begins a few years after the global economic crash, but it also explores other parts of the world. Covering

history, linguistics, anthropology, archaeology, religion, computer science, politics, cryptography, memory science and philosophy, the book presents the Sumerian language as the firmware programming language for the brainstem.

In his novel, the author coined the term “metaverse” for the virtual space that connects the Internet with reality. Users are represented by avatars, and they can interact with other humans and software agents. Software agents are a computer program that works for the user.

Described as cyber-punk dystopia, this book depicts a corrupt fantasy society—a world that has stripped humans of their humanity, transforming society into a complete chaos. The Metaverse arrives

to escape the corporate mafia and mercenaries.

The development of technology impacts animals living in a digital world that can run and play, eat what they want, and live in the Metaverse. This term combines “meta” meaning “beyond” and “universe” meaning “world”. Metaverse is used to describe what could be the future of the Internet consisting of static and shared three-dimensional virtual spaces linked to a realistic virtual idea.

Are we about to enter a virtual world that is separate from the reality in which we live?

This is one of the non-virtual questions that impose itself on us each time we listen and watch what is happening around us because we are the audience that will use these applications and technologies, whether we like them or not. Through the events that we have experienced, and the times we have lived through, we have learned that we do not have freedom of choice.

Although a snow crash is inevitable, the biggest danger comes from the destruction of values, morals, and beliefs, and their transformation into a virtual world that does not exist on the ground.

The biggest danger comes from the destruction of values, morals, and beliefs, and their transformation into a virtual world that does not exist



RIDE IT RIGHT

BICYCLES, E-BIKES, AND E-SCOOTERS ARE NOW FIRMLY A PART OF ALTERNATIVE MOBILITY IN THE UAE. THOUGH LIGHTWEIGHT AND LESS SPEEDY THAN CARS, THESE TWO-WHEELER VEHICLES STILL REQUIRE UTMOST PRECAUTIONS AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW. **999** PRESENTS ALL THE INFORMATION

BY RYAN WALSH

‘Mobility options’ has become a big catchphrase in the UAE — it refers to alternative modes of transport such as e-scooters and bicycles, which saw a surge in their popularity amongst residents during the pandemic.

Like digitalisation, the move towards non-polluting personal transportation across the UAE got a fillip from that crisis, though work had already started on making the emirates less congested and more eco-friendly.

Electric bicycles and electric scooters introduced as part of shared mobility fleets give people a chance to breathe in fresh air and take advantage of a mobility hub, rather than take out their private cars and sit through traffic.

These new modes of transport require a new set of rules, in order to ensure that the level of safety matches the level of convenience. In keeping with that, Abu Dhabi and Dubai have rolled out new mobility regulations for the users of alternative means of transport. This set of rules is designed to ensure the highest safety of riders and is part of a general drive to provide suitable alternatives to cars in order to reduce congestion and cut carbon emissions.

Both Abu Dhabi and Dubai have implemented ‘one bicycle, one rider only’ policy. Pillion riders or anything that increases the risk of the cyclist losing their balance is prohibited. Bicycle riders are restricted to using certain roads with speed limits below 60kmph. They are limited to running at a speed of 30kmph on dedicated tracks, and 20kmph on those shared with pedestrians — this is usually applicable to tourist areas, public parks, or residential neighbourhoods. They’re prohibited from moving on jogging or walking tracks.

E-bikes are motorised bicycles that can be propelled by electricity as well as pedalling, letting the rider cover more ground without getting tired and moving at a higher speed than they’d achieve on regular bikes. The battery of an e-bike is charged in the same way that an electric car is charged. Because of the higher speeds they can reach, compared to regular bicycles, e-bikes require greater regulatory oversight.

In Abu Dhabi, as outlined in the new regulation released by the Integrated Transport Centre (ITC) of the Department of Municipalities and Transport, in cooperation with Abu Dhabi Police,

AT A GLANCE

NEW ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT RULES IN ABU DHABI, DUBAI

‘ONE BICYCLE, ONE RIDER ONLY’ POLICY

New mobility rule for bicycle, e-bike, e-scooter riders



60KMPH AND ABOVE

Speed limit of roads with ‘no-entry policy’ for bicycle and e-bike riders



20KMPH

Speed limit allowed for bicycles, e-bikes, and other micro-mobility transport for lanes shared with pedestrians



30KMPH

Speed limit allowed for bicycles, e-bikes, and other micro-mobility transport for dedicated tracks



2 DAYS

Application period for cycling permits in Abu Dhabi for amateur cyclist groups who want to practise riding on roads with a speed limit of 80kmph

Sources: ITC Abu Dhabi, RTA Dubai

bicycle riders must stay on the far right-hand side of the road, sidewalks or pavements.

In Dubai, the Executive Council Resolution No. 13 of 2022 issued by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, now requires electronic road permits for e-scooter riders. A similar system was introduced in Abu Dhabi in August 2021, requiring amateur cyclist groups to get a permit if they wanted to practise long-distance cycling on roads where the speed limit was 80kmph.

DIVERSIFYING TRANSPORTATION

This move to establish an integrated

and sustainable system for all types of alternative transportation comes as part of the UAE’s efforts to diversify transport.

Lt General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, affirmed that the similar move of the Dubai government “will encourage the use of electric bikes and scooters in mobility” and “cements the government drive to rank as a bicycle-friendly city”.

He said, “Dubai Police [are] keen to ensure the compliance of road users with the applicable rules, in line with the policy aimed to make Dubai the ideal place for living and doing business, the favourite and safest destination of visitors, and the city with the least carbon footprint worldwide. The step also contributes to realising the UAE Energy



A Dubai Police officer doing an inspection round to check the technical specifications of bicycles and e-bikes

“ It is our duty in Dubai Police to control the road, and ensure that cyclists, e-scooter riders and users of all other mobility means comply with the safety conditions to protect them as well as others against the risks of roads



LT GENERAL ABDULLAH KHALIFA AL MARRI

Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police



A Dubai Police officer inspecting technical specifications of bicycles and e-bikes

The February 2022 death of a student aged 17 in Sharjah showed how quickly fun could turn into tragedy. The young adult fell to his death from the rooftop of a building while riding his e-scooter

Strategy 2050. It is our duty in Dubai Police to control the road, and ensure that cyclists, e-scooter riders and users of all other mobility means comply with the safety conditions to protect them as well as others against the risks of roads.”

INCREASING ACCIDENTS

As electric kick scooters, also known as e-scooters, become a common sight in UAE

cities for short trip options, the number of crashes involving this motorised individual transport has also been rising. While the authorities constantly remind users about designated spaces and safety gears, some riders remain reckless, even going to the extent of performing e-scooter stunts.

The February 2022 death of a student aged 17 in Sharjah showed how quickly fun could turn into tragedy. The young adult fell

to his death from the rooftop of a building while riding his e-scooter. This incident should serve as a wake-up call for parents, who must explain — and strictly enforce — the safety protocol when they give their children access to e-bikes and e-scooters. The police cannot be expected to prevent accidents that occur in private areas, and members of the public must shoulder their responsibility.

Also in February 2022, following various accidents involving e-scooters, Dubai Police launched a safety campaign in city areas including Al Rigga Street, Al Muraqqabat Street, and Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard. “Several e-scooter riders were recently involved in severe accidents resulting in various injuries due to negligence and non-compliance with traffic rules,” said Brigadier Saif Al Mazrouei, Director of the General Department of Traffic at Dubai Police. He added, “E-scooter riders must comply with the rules and regulations set by the relevant authority, which are aligned with the traffic laws.”

To prevent accidents, aside from controlling the use of e-scooters as strictly as cars, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) of Dubai announced in April 2022 that e-scooter licence permits were made mandatory in the emirate, as part of Executive Council Resolution No. 13 of 2022 issued by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid. Riders must be aged 16 and above, and they can apply for free e-scooter permits on the RTA website after attending training courses and passing an online test.

There are exemptions for people already licensed to drive other vehicles. "Obtaining this [e-scooter] permit shall be a prerequisite for permitting the riding of scooters on safe roads in the announced areas. However, holders of vehicle driving licences, international driving licences, or motorcycle driving licences are excluded from obtaining such a permit," said the RTA in a press release.

ABU DHABI PERMITS FOR AMATEUR CYCLISTS

Amateur cyclist groups that want to practise on roads with speed limits of 80kmph can apply for a permit on the Abu Dhabi Police website, allowing for at least two working days for the permit to be issued. The measure was implemented by the police force in August 2021, in cooperation with ITC, Abu Dhabi Sports Council, and Abu Dhabi Cycling Club.

Cyclists must meet requirements such as wearing a helmet, placing front and rear lights on the bike, and providing an escort vehicle to protect the group of riders. "The vehicle must be equipped with hazard lights and adhere to security and safety requirements such as placing bicycles in the places designated for them without impacting or obstructing traffic," it added in a statement in August 2021.

NUMBERS SHOW THE RISKS

The UAE authorities have good reason to intensify their campaign against cyclists flouting safety measures and traffic rules. Abu Dhabi Police said that they had recorded 109 bicycle accidents in 2019 and 2020, about 4 per cent of total road crashes. In Dubai, around 10,000 bicycles were confiscated in 2021, mainly from Deira and Bur Dubai.

Brigadier Al Mazrouei of the Dubai Police Traffic Department said, "Some cyclists break traffic laws and endanger their lives and others'

“ RTA will launch through its website a link enabling interested individuals to apply for free to obtain permits for riding e-scooters on safe roads identified by RTA. The process involves attending training courses and passing an online test



HE MATTAR AL TAYER

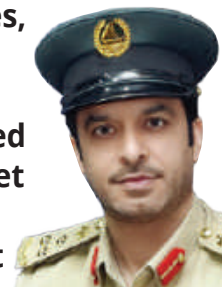
Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA Dubai

lives by cycling on pavements in commercial markets and narrow alleys."

He warned violators, "Bicycle-related accidents can be fatal, especially when cyclists are recklessly driving or riding against the flow of traffic. As a simple collision could have serious consequences, cyclists need to wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet and a high visibility vest, always ride in the same direction as other vehicles and never ride against traffic."

According to traffic statistics released by Sharjah Police in February 2022, around 25,000 two-wheelers were seized from 2019 to 2021, of which 2,000 were bicycles used by illegal street vendors and workers, mostly in industrial areas.

“ Bicycle-related accidents can be fatal, especially when cyclists are recklessly driving or riding against the flow of traffic. As a simple collision could have serious consequences, cyclists need to wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet and a high visibility vest



BRIGADIER SAIF AL MAZROUEI

Director of the General Department of Traffic at Dubai Police

Sharjah Police also reported having seized 384 e-scooters and mopeds in 2021 for flouting various regulations. The force urged riders to follow safety measures, such as wearing of protective helmets, installing front and rear lights and ensuring the brakes work properly to reduce the risks of head injuries.

STICK TO SAFE TRACKS

Following the huge success of the trial operation of e-scooters that started in October 2020, Dubai identified 10 designated areas for e-scooters with effect from April 2022.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA Dubai, said, "The initial phase covers the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard, Jumeirah Lakes Towers, Dubai Internet City, Al Rigga, 2nd of December Street, The Palm Jumeirah, and City Walk. It also covers safe roads and tracks within specific zones at Al Qusais, Al Mankhool, and Al Karama, in addition to 167km-long tracks designated for bicycles and scooters across Dubai, excluding the cycling tracks at Saih Assalam, Al Qudra, and Meydan."

Al Tayer explained, "The selection of these districts was guided by specific criteria, such as high population density, special development areas, areas served by public transport and Metro stations, the availability of integrated infrastructure, and areas with a high level of traffic safety.

"By the end of this month (April), RTA will launch through its website (www.rta.ae) a link enabling interested individuals to apply for free to obtain permits for riding e-scooters



Sharjah Police seize two-wheelers including bicycles and motorbikes for flouting various traffic rules



Riders must stick to 20kmph on routes shared with pedestrians and 20kmph on dedicated bicycle lanes

GDMO

“ Under Federal Traffic Law No. 21 of 1995, as amended, e-scooters are considered to be in the same category as motorcycles as a ‘motorcycle’ is defined as a vehicle of two wheels equipped with a mechanical engine and is intended to transport persons or things



ANDREW FAWCETT

Partner in the Digital & Data team of
Al Tamimi & Company

on safe roads identified by RTA. The process involves attending training courses and passing an online test.”

MULTI-PRONGED REGULATIONS

Andrew Fawcett, Partner in the Digital & Data team of Al Tamimi & Company, a leading independent law firm in the Middle East, said that the concerned UAE authorities were constantly studying and monitoring the impact of e-scooters in other countries, in order to

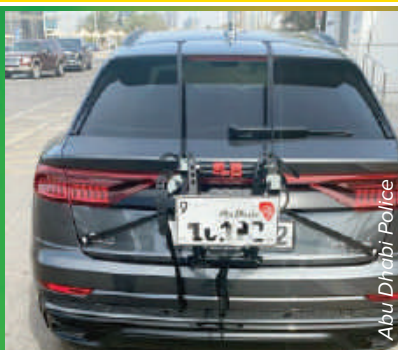
address issues regarding its use and to implement safety regulations. He added that each emirate had its own transport authorities who were responsible for the registration and licensing of vehicles in that emirate.

Fawcett said, “Under Federal Traffic Law No. 21 of 1995, as amended, e-scooters are considered to be in the same category as motorcycles (as a ‘motorcycle’ is defined as a vehicle of two wheels or more and equipped with a mechanical

engine and is intended to transport persons or things).

“As a result, the relevant UAE bodies are positioning themselves to introduce measures to ensure the safe use of the vehicles for both riders and other road/pavement users. Such measures are likely to include road safety training, controls, regulations, and effective signage. Telecommunications regulations will also apply to e-scooter rentals, because of the technology used by these services.”

BICYCLE CARRIER LICENCE PLATE IN ABU DHABI



Since December 2021, Abu Dhabi Police have required motorists to fix additional licence plates on their bicycle carriers to avoid being fined Dhs400.

According to officials, obscuring vehicle number plates even with objects like bike racks is a traffic offence. The requirement of an additional licence plate is aimed to avoid blocking the vehicle's plate. The police said that additional plates should be placed on the base of the bicycle holder at the boot or the trunk of vehicles carrying bicycles.

10 DESIGNATED E-SCOOTER ZONES IN DUBAI



1. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard
2. Jumeirah Lakes Towers
3. Dubai Internet City
4. Al Rigga
5. 2nd of December Street
6. The Palm Jumeirah
7. City Walk
8. Al Qusais
9. Al Mankhool
10. Al Karama

E-scooters can also be used at tracks designated for bicycles and scooters throughout Dubai, excluding those at Saih Assalam, Al Qudra, and Meydan.

CHECKLIST FOR RIDING AN E-SCOOTER

- Check the e-scooter technical specification
- E-scooters must be manufactured and tailored according to the climatic conditions and specifications of the UAE
- E-scooters must comply with the specifications approved by the authorities concerned with setting e-scooter specifications and standards
- The maximum e-scooter speed limit must be set at 20kmph
- The RTA reserves the right to introduce any further stipulations in future, as appropriate
- Check if the head and rear lights are working
- Check if the horn is fixed on the steering arm (T-bar)
- Check the roadworthiness of the tyres
- Check the brakes on the front and back tyres

Source: RTA Dubai

NEW MOBILITY LAW FOR BICYCLES AND MICRO-MOBILITY DEVICES

ABU DHABI

The following penalties are as per Decision No. 21 of 2022 issued by the Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT) in Abu Dhabi

FOR INDIVIDUAL RIDERS

	FINES
● Failure to meet the registration conditions of a bicycle	Dhs200
● Non-compliance with the instructions contained in the signboards or any means for bicycles	Dhs200
● Not abiding by the approved technical specifications	Dhs200
● Riding a bicycle, e-scooter on road and in open spaces	Dhs500
● Stopping bicycles randomly on pedestrian paths, roads, entrances and exits to homes or buildings	Dhs1,000

FOR RENTAL COMPANIES:

● Failure to conform to the approved technical specifications for bicycles and micro-mobility devices	Dhs500
● Failure to maintain a bicycle or a micro-mobility device according to the requirements issued by the Integrated Transport Centre (ITC)	Dhs500
● Failure to provide a contact number for bicycle and micro-mobility device users to report any emergency during the rental period	Dhs500
● Failure to provide safety conditions and instructions for riding bicycles, devices by any means determined by the ITC	Dhs500
● Failure to provide electric bicycles, devices with GPS or tracking system that conforms to the approved technical specifications	Dhs500
● Failure to provide data, information, reports and documents requested by the Department of Municipalities and Transport or the ITC	Dhs1,000
● Renting out bicycles, devices for those under 18 years of age	Dhs1,000
● Practising the activity with an expired permit	Dhs2,500
● Non-compliance with the limits of the permit	Dhs2,500
● Practising the activity without a permit from the ITC	Dhs5,000

Source: Abu Dhabi Government Media Office

DUBAI

The following penalties are outlined in Dubai's Executive Council Resolution No. 13 of 2022

● Failure to cycle or use the bike on the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) of Dubai's designated cycling paths	Dhs200
● Cycling or using an electric bike on a road where the speed limit sign is more than 60 kmph	Dhs300
● Cycling in a reckless way that may endanger the life of the cyclist or others	Dhs300
● Riding or leaving the bicycle on paths designated for walking or jogging	Dhs200
● Using an electric scooter or any other type of bike specified by RTA without receiving a driving licence	Dhs200
● Pillion riding on an unfitted bicycle or electric bike, or in case the cyclist and pillion rider does not wear a jacket and helmet	Dhs200
● Failure to respect RTA's specified speed limits on cycling paths	Dhs100
● Pillion riding on electric scooter	Dhs300
● Cycling without adhering to safety and security requirements specified in this resolution and its bylaws	Dhs200
● Failure to meet the technical requirements for bikes	Dhs300
● Parking the bike in non-designated areas, or in a way that may interrupt traffic or pedestrian movement, or in a dangerous way for road users	Dhs200
● Non-compliance with the instructions on the directional signs specified on the road and tracks	Dhs200
● Solo cycling of kids below 12 years without adult supervision (older than 18 years)	Dhs200
● Not dismounting from the bike while crossing at pedestrian crossings	Dhs200
● Failure to notify RTA, Police or Ambulance Services, without a valid reason, about incidents the cyclist caused or was a victim of, and resulted in injuries or material damage	Dhs300
● Using the left side of the road while cycling or using the electric bike, and changing lanes without ensuring it is free	Dhs200
● Cycling opposite the direction of the traffic	Dhs200
● Parking or driving a vehicle on cycle paths or attempting to disable the use of the cycle path	Dhs300
● Towing the bike with a vehicle, or towing things with the bike	Dhs300
● Failure to obtain group training licence from RTA before training	Dhs200

Source: Government of Dubai Media Office



Mohammed Jalal Al Rayssi currently heads the Emirates News Agency (WAM) as Director General

EXPO 2020 DUBAI: A STORY FOR THE FUTURE

By organising the world's greatest show amidst the pandemic, the UAE has removed the word 'impossible' from its lexicon

After 182 days of diverse and rich activities and events, which were enjoyed by millions of visitors from across the world, the curtains came down on Expo 2020 Dubai, the first world expo held in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region and the first hosted by an Arab nation. A spectacular closing ceremony was held on March 31, 2022, at the iconic dome-structured Al Wasl Plaza.

The six-month-long exposition, staged under the central theme 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future', defied the tremendous challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, delivering a resounding success.

By organising the world's greatest show amidst such challenges, the UAE has removed the word "impossible" from its lexicon to present a wonderful edition in the event's long history, as His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said in an audio message delivered at the closing ceremony of the mega global event.

We will not be exaggerating if we repeat what millions of visitors have said: Dubai's remarkable success offers a great challenge for those to come.

Expo 2020 Dubai, which brought together 192 participating nations, was not a mere event that told the culture and history of participating countries. Rather, it was an invitation to engage and share visions to address challenges facing humanity.

The UAE's selection of the theme, 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future', did not come by chance. The UAE has always looked at the future with proactive visions. Despite the human race passing through the most difficult time due to the pandemic and its negative effects on the global economy, there was no confusion in the UAE's approach and calculations.

Projects neither stop nor get affected by hesitation. They

continued in an unprecedented harmony that encouraged the international community to participate with confidence. Millions of visitors and their families enjoyed events and activities on a scale that they may not experience again, and they will proudly tell these stories to the future generations.

Since the International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE) announced on November 27, 2013, in Paris that Dubai had won the bid to host Expo 2020, no one doubted the UAE's ability to present to the world the most beautiful and brightest image of an event that had been exclusively hosted by certain cities in regions far away from the Middle East and North Africa.

The UAE has a proven track record in the areas of communication and fresh innovative concepts and ideas that have been turned into reality over the past decades. An indicator of the Expo's success is that a huge number of visitors came from outside the country.

Over six months, Expo 2020 Dubai brought together nations, organisations, and academic institutions, in a defining moment to exchange new ideas and perspectives, inspire meaningful change, and create a brighter future for all through sustainability, mobility, and opportunity.

There is no better place and environment than Dubai and the UAE in general to discuss issues that are of major concern to the world. This was clearly reflected in the

World Government Summit 2022, which was the best conclusion to an exceptional event.

It was an opportune coincidence that hosting this event preceded the UAE's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2021, as the UAE shared its visions, ideas and rich experience in development with the world.

The UAE deserves the deepest congratulations for the remarkable success of Expo 2020 Dubai, as the world prepares to welcome Expo 2025 Osaka in Japan.

Expo 2020 Dubai brought together nations, organisations, and academic institutions in a defining moment to exchange new ideas and perspectives, inspire meaningful change, and create a brighter future for all



CAR THIEVES IN ACTION

GANGS ENGAGED IN STEALING VEHICLES OR SCAMMING VEHICLE OWNERS HAVE BECOME VERY ACTIVE GLOBALLY DURING THE PANDEMIC. IN THE UAE, WHERE HIGH-END CARS ARE OFTEN TARGETED BY CRIMINALS, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO KNOW HOW THESE RACKETS OPERATE. **999** GIVES YOU THE LOWDOWN

BY ANDY WILSON

We all know that the UAE is amongst the world's safest country to live and work in.

The police throughout the UAE work diligently to ensure the safety and security of citizens, residents, and visitors; they always react quickly and deal thoroughly with all reported crimes. But it's also everyone's responsibility to help the police by securing their valuables and reporting suspicious people who could be up to no good.

One thing there's an abundance of in the UAE is luxury cars, which many people like to admire; but some individuals see other's cars and valuables as potentially free money.

Car crime is nothing new, and over the past few years, the global incidents of car theft have skyrocketed. These criminals are often connected to organised crime groups that are involved in a wide range of other criminal activities, too. Stealing cars and car parts is a low-risk way for criminals to make a profit, as it usually doesn't involve any violence and carries far lighter criminal charges and jail sentences than other crimes.

Car crime includes not only car theft but also the international trafficking of stolen vehicles and spare parts. It has a major financial implication for insurance companies, and it may even damage the reputation of car manufacturers. Organised crime groups that are involved in car crimes are often also a part of drug trafficking, arms dealing, human trafficking, and extremism.

Moreover, the illegal trade in car spare parts poses a serious risk for motorists whose cars might get fitted — knowingly or otherwise — with stolen spare parts, as these stolen parts might be damaged and not up to safety standards. The Internet has contributed to a dramatic increase in the resale of stolen vehicles and spare parts; these days, it's easy for criminals to communicate and ply their trade internationally.

DATABASE OF STOLEN VEHICLES

The international law enforcement agency Interpol has set up a Stolen Motor Vehicle (SMV) database to help combat international vehicle theft and trafficking. The SMV database includes information on stolen cars, trucks, motorbikes, trailers,

caravans, buses, and spare parts. In 2020, around 248,976 motor vehicles worldwide were identified as stolen, based on the Interpol's SMV database. But due to the vast amount of car crimes, it's impossible to have an accurate global estimate of these crimes.

THE MODUS

The trail of a car crime begins when a potential buyer approaches a car dealer, who is part of an organised crime group, and places an order for a car they want to buy. The criminal car dealer reaches out to their network of car thieves in other countries via secured messaging apps, to see which one of these thieves can find the required make and model of car. When a car is located, photos and videos of it are sent to the dealer and potential buyer. If the car is what the buyer wants, then it is stolen and trafficked to the buyer.

The organised crime groups use various methods to traffic the cars — sometimes the cars are driven to the buyer's country with fake documents; at other times, the cars are shipped in containers with fake export documents or hidden behind other goods.



In 2020, around 248,976 motor vehicles worldwide were identified as stolen, based on the Interpol's SMV database

In some cases, where a specific and new luxury car is required, the criminals will give someone the money to purchase the car from a legal dealer. When the car is bought, the keys are given to the criminals so they can traffic it, and the person who bought the car from the dealer reports it stolen. This fake buyer and the criminal gang then make an insurance claim to get the money back for the purchase of the car. Once the insurance company pays up, the money is usually split between the buyer and the criminal group.

The same thing happens with rental cars. A luxury car is rented by someone with fake papers, or the car is reported stolen. For



In 2021, Dubai Police busted one criminal gang of five Asians, who stole catalytic converters, estimated to be worth Dh3.64 million, from 431 cars they had rented from two car rental companies. The criminals would cut a car's exhaust to extract the catalytic converter and then reweld and finish the cut to disguise the theft from the rental agency.

Sameer Salih, owner of a car repair shop in Sharjah, said in a Dubai media report, "Many drivers who came to our shop for repairs, discovered that their cars' catalytic converters were stolen. These converters are made of precious metals, which makes them a target for thieves. Even some repair shops and unscrupulous mechanics have been involved in these rackets."

Salih added a warning: "The cost of a catalytic converter may reach Dh6,000. Vehicle owners must make sure that the device is no longer valid before agreeing to a replacement. The test of its validity can easily be done through a computerised system."

In the summer of 2021, Sharjah Police intensified their patrolling to curb theft of valuables from parked cars. Lt Colonel

these crimes, the criminal groups can use the same "legitimate" buyer or renter only once.

Another modus operandi being employed by criminals is exporting stolen vehicles as scrap car parts. The vehicles will be taken to a "chop shop", cut in half and then exported in two parts as a "scrap car". This saves the criminals money on official import and export taxes and disguises the stolen car. When the car arrives at its final destination, the two parts are welded back together and refinished. This means that not only is the vehicle stolen, but it's also not 100 per cent safe to drive due to the weak welding.

POLICE URGE BETTER VIGILANCE

In March 2022, police forces in the UAE have urged vehicle owners and car rental companies to remain vigilant against car crime gangs. One car part that's prized by criminals is the catalytic converter, which could in many cases be more valuable than gold. Catalytic converters contain valuable metals like palladium, platinum, and rhodium. From 2020 to 2021, the prices of rhodium hit record highs, climbing more than 200 per cent and far outpacing the price of gold.



“To prevent thefts, valuables and cash should be kept in safe places and a vehicle should be parked safely, especially when its owner is out of the country for long



LT COLONEL MOHAMMED BIN HAIDER

Acting Head of the Al Buhaire Police Station

Mohammed bin Haider, Acting Head of the Al Buhaire Police Station, said that the three types of car crimes they were working to prevent were: the theft of valuables and belongings from inside vehicles; the theft of parts of vehicles; the theft of whole vehicles.

Lt Colonel bin Haider stated, “Usually, they break the triangular glass on a car window to open doors of a vehicle and steal whatever valuables they can lay their hands on. At times, cars are left unlocked by owners near supermarkets, bakeries, houses, public facilities, or isolated areas. Such negligence gives a windfall opportunity to thieves.

“Motorists should take necessary preventive measures by ensuring that the doors and windows of their cars are closed, and vehicles’ engines are not running. To prevent thefts, valuables and cash should be kept in safe places and a vehicle should

be parked safely, especially when its owner is out of the country for long.” He urged the public to call on 999, 901, or toll-free number (Najeed) 800151 to report any crime or abnormal or suspicious behaviour.

NOVEL SCAMMING TACTICS

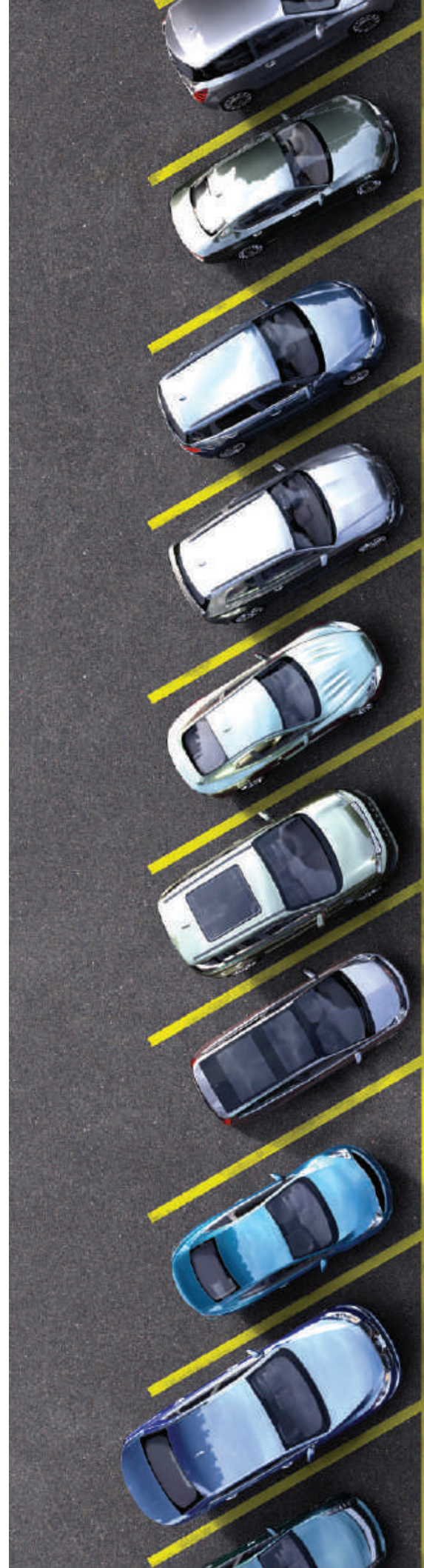
In addition to the blatant theft of cars, the criminals are also using scamming tactics to steal cars, buy themselves time to traffic the cars, and conceal their crimes for a short while at least.

In November 2021, a British expat in Dubai found his stolen Dhs360,000 car on sale in another Gulf country. He spotted his stolen Shelby GT500 Ford Mustang, a very exclusive car, advertised for sale on the Instagram pages of several garages in that Gulf country. This expat had fallen victim to what the police say is an increasingly common scam. He had sold his car for Dhs340,000, but the cheque he received written in Arabic was postdated for 2025.

The buyer who stole the car contacted the expat through a classified ads website. The expat stated, “I was initially contacted by a woman saying she wanted to make an offer for the car on behalf of her husband. I told them I’d sell the car but would only accept cash or a banker’s draft. She said that was fine.”

When the victim met the buyer, the buyer stated straight away that he wanted the car, and he even started to take the number plates off the car. The victim said, “He was very controlled and authoritative, really looking the part, and we went into the RTA office where he gave over the paperwork for the transfer of the car’s ownership. Then, we went outside, and he took out his chequebook and wrote me a cheque in Arabic.”

CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES LINKED TO CAR THEFT



THINGS TO DO WHEN YOUR VEHICLE GETS STOLEN



- In the event that you see someone stealing your car, do not try to stop him physically. Instead, make as much noise as possible and call the police.
- Report the theft as soon as possible. Stolen vehicles are often used to commit other offences (bank robberies, murders, etc).
- Never accept any attempt at blackmail or “business offers” from criminals in order to regain your vehicle. Inform the police in case of any contact with criminals.
- Be prepared; always have the following information about your vehicle ready: year, make/model, licence plate, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), colour, any distinguishing features, radio number and GPS number.

Source: Interpol

The expat victim took a picture of the cheque and sent it to an Arabic-speaking friend, who said everything was in order; unfortunately, the friend didn't spot that the cheque was dated for 2025. The car was loaded onto a transporter and the expat never saw it again until he spotted it for sale on Instagram. The victim also said that his insurance company was refusing to pay out for the theft of his car, as it was not what could be classed as car theft and it was his fault.

Dubai Police received at least 250 reports during the COVID-19 pandemic from residents who had been scammed into giving their vehicles to criminals posing as buyers

CRIMINALS PROWLING ONLINE

Captain Ahmad Al Sammahi of Dubai Police had previously warned the public about such a scam by organised criminal groups. In this scam, a woman would make the initial arrangements to buy a car, only for a man to arrive in person claiming it was too difficult to carry cash, and he would try to persuade the seller to accept a cheque. He stated, “Some of the ringleaders operate outside the country, so we're working with the authorities to bring them in.”

Police forces in the UAE have previously warned residents who are selling their cars online to be extra careful, as this scam became very common from 2020. Dubai Police received at least 250 reports during the COVID-19 pandemic from residents who had been scammed into giving their vehicles to criminals posing as buyers.

The car crime rackets, run by criminals who generally enter the UAE on tourist visas, have a common way of operating. They target people who are selling cars online, approach them, and agree to buy the car. If a deposit for the car was made via a mobile banking app, they'd withdraw the entire amount they had transferred after



A 'chop shop' of spare parts (from stolen vehicles) intercepted by an international operation led Frontex and supported by Interpol in October 2020 in a European country

two hours. In some cases, cheques were given as methods of payment that bounced on empty accounts or were forged.

Another victim, a UAE resident, stated, "I put my Range Rover up for sale on an e-commerce website. Then after two days, I received a call from a GCC national who offered to buy the car for Dhs230,000, which was the price I set in the ad." When the victim met the prospective buyer, "he told me that he would hand over 40 per cent of the selling price of Dhs230,000 in cash. He promised to pay the rest of the sum through two post-dated cheques, which I can cash in over two months."

When the victim thought the deal was done, the buyer said that he couldn't withdraw a large amount of cash via the ATM, so he'd instead transfer the money via a banking app. The victim said, "I had no option but to agree to his proposal. I withheld the agreement to transfer the vehicle until he did the financial transaction. Unfortunately, the prospective buyer pulled a fast one on me. Though he deposited the sum, he withdrew it after two hours."

Police sources confirmed that this transfer reversal option was available on some banking apps. However, they warned that misuse of such a feature was an offence punishable by 1-year imprisonment and a Dhs1 million fine.

In 2021, Dubai Police arrested three gangs that were running organised car crime operations. These arrests were made with the help of Sharjah Police and Ajman Police. Law enforcement has warned the public not to deal with people whose identities couldn't be verified.

YOUR ROLE IN PREVENTION

As an individual, you can't stop the car crime rackets, but you can take a few precautions to make things more difficult for car thieves.

To begin with, take care of your car keys. Cloning key fobs is a criminal tactic used for stealing cars. Technological advancements mean criminals can now intercept the signal from the key fob that's used to open modern vehicles and start the ignition. Such devices are for sale on the Internet.

Criminals target a victim's key fob at their home, office, or shopping mall parking lot and then replicate the signal and steal the vehicle in a matter of minutes. So, always be aware of suspicious people around you

while you unlock and lock your car, and always check that the car doors are locked before leaving the vehicle.

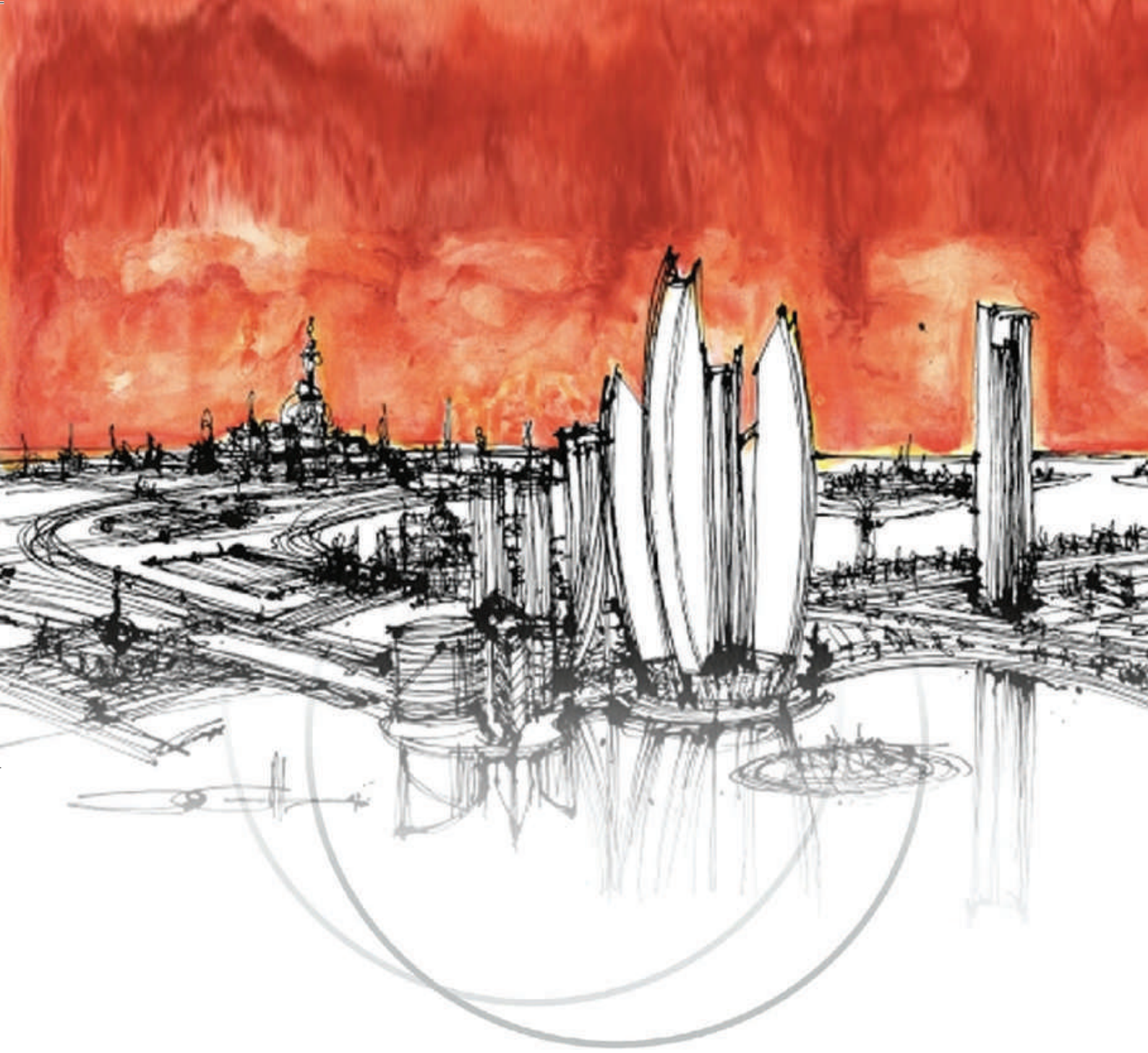
Do not leave your key fob next to your front door or window or anywhere it can be accessed and copied. It's best to store keys in an RFID box to stop a signal being emitted and always park your vehicle in a secure area to deter criminals targeting your vehicle.

If your car is stolen or you're a victim of a scam, then you should contact the police as soon as possible and ensure you have the full details of your car, including the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Take photos of your car's registration and VIN on your mobile phone and store them somewhere safe.

SAFELY BUYING A SECOND-HAND CAR

- Make sure the stamped Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) corresponds with the number on the car documents and small plates elsewhere in the vehicle. You can find the VIN on the right side of the engine bay.
- Check the VIN online; it will tell you what sort of vehicle you should be looking at. Several websites do this, such as www.carfax.com/, www.vindecoder.net/ and <http://vindecoder.eu/>.
- Check by daylight the door locks, the ignition lock and the chassis number so as to spot any scratches or irregularities. Signs of tampering could indicate a stolen vehicle.
- Ask for all the keys that should come with the car (an official distributor can advise). If the seller cannot produce all the keys, they should give a reasonable explanation.
- Check if the price is in line with the condition of the car. If the vehicle is much cheaper than similar vehicles on the market, then it could be stolen.
- If buying from a private individual, make sure that a mobile phone number is not your only contact with the seller.

Source: Interpol



TIPTOP
تيب توب ميديا للاعلان والنشر

P.O.Box 66625 Al Ain, UAE Tel. 037664614 Fax. 037663238



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.

THE BATTLEFIELD

A poetic expression of affection between two souls unravels with an underlying desire to be together amidst the harsh battlefield

In the battlefield, a distinctive kind of affection unravels. Hearts compete with one another despite the harsh reality.

A woman tells her fighter spouse the stirrings of her ardour: "Hail, ye, from soul to soul, my man with the flavour of a grapes vine, who dazes me, the cup replete. A man like ye, comes prime for the deadly wars, to behead the temptation of whims, sharpen the swords of his love to spill the blood of hatred if ever touched me. Entangled in your veins, I am the only one who owns your heart. Hail, ye, with whom the day dawns early.

"As your dreamy hands move away the curtain of the night, the stage is flooded with feelings from a story of sighs and passion, filling up chests, and heroic moves run through the charms of sorrow. What kind of a man are you? You weave gasps into a dream and turn the mill of dreams into a stupor of love, grinding the droughty fear, and sprinkling feelings with rain. The buds of longing blossom around desire.

The man replies: "Who are you, my lady? You wipe away all other women around me. You are the steering gear of my life. You fill it with hope. Hail, the lady of embers who is never put out by ashes of illusion even if made of wood. Our talks make me reminisce old days with an artful

rhetoric that elevates the meanings of my core and the eloquence of my happiness to cover the body of desire. I become a novel of words crafted with nothing but feelings. I bring my hand to my heart. I have never been fearful, but you, you are my pain. You grind my dreams to crash your distress in front of my eyes.

"How can I wander in a homeland if you were not my home? In my mind, I see myself falling back. I am no retreater but the fighter I see in your eyes, tempts me. Every time I embrace reality, the temptation of absence falls, and you become my victory. Your ferocious presence ravages the pleasure of others in invading your heart. I am the subject despite being king and you are the queen of my heart. You give me life with your own laws of attraction. I become Qais, lost, doubtful as my heart loses sight of you. I become forever a prisoner as long as you do not set me free.

"I love you. No language can speak of my love. The eloquence of my soul

refuses to express my longing. No figure can ever surpass my passion. I am a weak lion's den as long as the lioness of love lives not within. You are mine. Only me. I will fight for you no matter how unjust my time. I swear allegiance to you, time and again no matter how fierce the battlefield is."

**I am no retreater
but the fighter I see
in your eyes, tempts
me. Every time I
embrace reality,
the temptation of
absence falls, and
you become my
victory**

5 FORMS OF ONLINE REVENGE

THAT'LL PUT YOU BEHIND BARS

USING THE INTERNET TO TAKE REVENGE AGAINST SOMEONE CAN LAND YOU IN HOT WATER IN THE UAE. HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD GET RID OF THESE THOUGHTS IN YOUR MIND

BY JORGE PARKER



Revenge could be everybody's instant course of action when someone has wronged them, and all too often, the Internet becomes an "agony aunt" of netizens. However, revenge using social media can be a double-edged sword. It can land you in great trouble.

One of the most common cases is blackmailing between ex-couples on social media. A study in 2018 published by Kaspersky Lab and Toluna found that there's a sizeable number of couples in the UAE who openly share with their partners access to their digital accounts. This, despite the danger of leaving their digital footprints exposed, and secrets — good or bad — laid bare. The survey results said 62 per cent of the respondents share their device PINs

A study found that 36 per cent Internet users surveyed in the UAE have spied on their partners online. One of the most common reasons of these individuals was to seek revenge

and passwords with their partners, and 32 per cent have their fingerprints on their partners' devices.

The study also found that 36 per cent Internet users surveyed in the UAE have spied on their partners online. One of the most common reasons of these individuals was to seek revenge as a result of the emotional pain that they experienced during their break-up.

Ian McKee, PhD, of Adelaide University in Australia, said that these are

individuals who want to save face by putting the dignity and shame of the other party on the line. "People who are more vengeful tend to be those who are motivated by power, by authority and by the desire for status. They don't want to lose face," said McKee in his paper published in Social Justice Research.

999 presents the most common types of online revenge that can land a person in jail in the UAE, which has a stringent cybercrime law.

1 LEAKING INFORMATION

One of the most common types of online revenge is leaking information from or sharing sensitive screenshots of private conversations on social media. Recently, a woman got convicted of violating her spouse's privacy when she shared his photo and mobile number via Instagram. In court, she stressed that she only chatted with her husband's sisters to find solutions for their monetary situation. However, the husband felt offended, stating that his spouse essentially leaked and shared their problem with other people by posting their private conversations and even the photos of their kids on Instagram. He then lodged a complaint and filed a lawsuit against his wife. The woman found herself paying Dhs2,000 as a penalty.

Fine and punishment: Up to Dhs5,000 fine or up to six months of imprisonment as per Article 374 of the Federal Law No. 3 of 1987.

2 REVENGE PORN

A woman filed a case against her partner who had shared their intimate, private photos on her Facebook account. This was after the man learned that the woman was, in fact, married. But even then, when the woman wanted to call it quits, the man still insisted they continue their relationship. He concocted a plan to steal her mobile phone and when he did, he blackmailed her that he would share their photos on social media if she dumped him. When the woman refused, the man forwarded their intimate photos to her husband and brother via WhatsApp. It was then that the woman filed a report to the authorities that her mobile phone got stolen and that she was being blackmailed.

The man was sentenced to two years in prison and will be deported after serving his sentence.

Fine and punishment: Imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years and a fine of no less than Dhs250,000 and not more than Dhs500,000, or either of these two penalties.

3 SENDING EXPLETIVES

In February 2021, a European woman was supposed to relocate back to her home country for good. However, she was shocked when she got offloaded from her flight at Dubai International Airport due to a police case against her. She was told that her flatmate filed the case after a heated argument that erupted when she sent an explicit remark using WhatsApp. The two had a spat over which one of them would get to use the dining table while working from home. She pleaded to her flatmate to drop the case, but to no avail.

Fine and punishment: Up to Dhs250,000 and a minimum of six months jail time.

4 SPREADING RUMOUR

One of the biggest UAE cybercrime fines levied to an individual last year was that of an Abu Dhabi resident, who was instructed by the court to pay Dhs60,000 to the family of his estranged wife for damages. The couple split some three years back due to irreconcilable problems, but the father-in-law alleged that the man never stopped harassing his daughter and their family through the years even after the two got divorced. The father-in-law of the accused filed the case seeking Dhs1million for the

material and moral damages after the man threatened to kill him and his daughter and spread malicious rumours about her. The father showed the court all the WhatsApp messages they received which the man allegedly posted on social media to shame the family and their honour.

Fine and punishment: Up to Dhs500,000 and a minimum of six months of jail time.

5 BLACKMAILING

Even minors are at risk of blackmail and online threats. In a case in October 2021, a girl found herself being harassed on social media by a man after she sent him her intimate photos and videos. She reported that the man was blackmailing and threatening that he would leak the photos and videos on social media unless she did as he pleased.

A team from Dubai Police immediately headed out and arrested the man within 24 hours of the report. Brigadier Abdullah Khadem bin Suroor, Director of Bur Dubai Police Station and Chairman of the Police Stations Directors Council, said that the most common modus operandi of these individuals was to earn the trust of people they talk to, get them to share personal info, and then threaten them afterwards.

"Parents must teach children about the dangers of sharing their photos and information through websites, social media platforms and electronic games, as well as guide them on how to act when they fall into the trap of extortion," said Brigadier bin Suroor.

Fine and punishment: Up to Dhs1 million fine and a minimum of six months imprisonment.

Did you know?

As per research by Kaspersky Lab and Toluna published in 2018, 79 per cent of people surveyed in the UAE believe that couples should have private space, both online and offline. Often, the issue of privacy and secrecy of a person's online activities also lead to relationship quarrels – 39 per cent have argued after a partner viewed something which the other didn't want to share.

Andrei Mochola, Head of Consumer Business at Kaspersky Lab. "It is important to get the balance right between a transparent, honest relationship and keeping your digital life secure."

Source: Kaspersky Lab and Toluna 2018 Survey





GUARD TURNS TRAITOR

ABUSING HIS POSITION OF TRUST AT A PRIVATE FIRM'S WAREHOUSE, A SECURITY GUARD STARTS STEALING AND SELLING EXPENSIVE COPPER CABLES

BY WAGIH HASSAN

Security is the most fundamental requirement for prosperity, and a person entrusted with it has a very important job. Businesses depend on the trustworthiness of their security personnel to make sure that they don't lose things of value. Theft by a guard, therefore, is one of the worst acts of treachery for companies.

That's the kind of case that came to light when an Asian man, aged 33, was caught red-handed with Dhs15,000. This was part of the money he had made from the sale of Dhs130,000 worth of materials — electric cables, scrap materials — stolen from the warehouse that he was supposed to guard.

The guard didn't know that he wouldn't be able to hide the truth for long. He was discovered by the assistant security officer of the private company that owned the warehouse.

The assistant security officer spotted a medium-sized truck that was transferring the stolen goods from the warehouse. The guard, who was involved in the theft, offered him Dhs2,000 as a bribe, in exchange for turning a blind eye, not exposing him to the company's management or reporting him to the police.

This bribery attempt, however, didn't work out well, as the assistant security officer resisted the temptation offered by the guard; instead, he quickly reported the incident at a nearby police station.

After the guard-turned-thief was arrested, he was detained for 24 hours and then referred to the Public Prosecution, which sent him to the Criminal Court on charges of committing the felonies of theft and bribery. The court sentenced him to six months' imprisonment and slapped him with a fine of Dhs135,000.

During investigations, the accused said that he had been working as a warehouse guard for about one year, and that his task was limited to guarding and paying attention to cables. He said that he

couldn't think about stealing from the company that had got him a residence visa, claiming that he considered his workplace to be his second home.

However, explained the guard, he was approached by a man who asked him if he possessed scrap materials intended for sale, including copper cables. "We have in the warehouse large quantities of electrical cables of pure copper, which is expensive, of course," the guard told the man.

The guard was able to transfer all the materials in one night by loading them onto a truck, belonging to one of his relatives. He committed such a theft eight times before he was spotted by the assistant security officer and was reported to the police.

When the assistant security officer caught him, the guard justified by saying, "I used to sell old, unusable cables. The company wouldn't need it at any time, so I moved it and sold it."

The assistant security officer told the police, "On one of my days off, I was on a tour of observation around the company's warehouse, and I saw a man with a medium-sized truck. I asked him why he was at the site on this off day. When I insisted on getting honest answers, he offered me Dhs2,000 as a bribe in return for not exposing his crime. I refused to take his money and asked him, 'A guard and a traitor at the same time?'"

The guard was convicted, as were his truck operator relative and the buyer of the stolen items. They were all sent to prison to serve their sentences.

“

He committed such a theft eight times before he was spotted by the assistant security officer and was reported to the police



SUPERMARKET HEISTS

HOME TO MILLIONS OF PRODUCTS, SUPERMARKETS MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC, AND THEY ALSO ATTRACT SOME CRIMINALS WHO EITHER STEAL OR FENCE PRODUCTS FOR EVEN BIGGER RETURNS

BY NEIL BIE



'DISTRACT AND STEAL' GANG

WHEN: APRIL 2021

WHERE: GREATER MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

An organised ring of thieves based in Oldham, Greater Manchester, in the United Kingdom was caught red-handed with £160,000 (Dhs649,110) worth of grocery items that they stole within their town and even as far as Scotland, Wales, Wigan, Bury, Bolton.

Three of the six accused individuals were caught in their house at Darwin Street with tonnes of looted perfumes, razors, and nappies.

Local authorities revealed that the modus operandi of the gang was to gather all the products that they intended to steal and then hit the supermarket's security alarms in order to distract security guards. This, according to officials, happened at least 81 times since April 2020 when the gang first targeted the Asda store.

Cheshire Police opened a probe after Asda reported a theft at a Northwich shop. Local police officers, the store's protection team, and the National Business Crime Centre collaborated to figure out the sequence of the offenders' activities.

CCTV video, ANPR cameras, and credit card information were utilised to establish the men's involvement in the scheme. "They set up their base in Oldham and from there, they travelled to stores across the UK and stole hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of items. They believed that they could evade justice by spreading their crimes across the



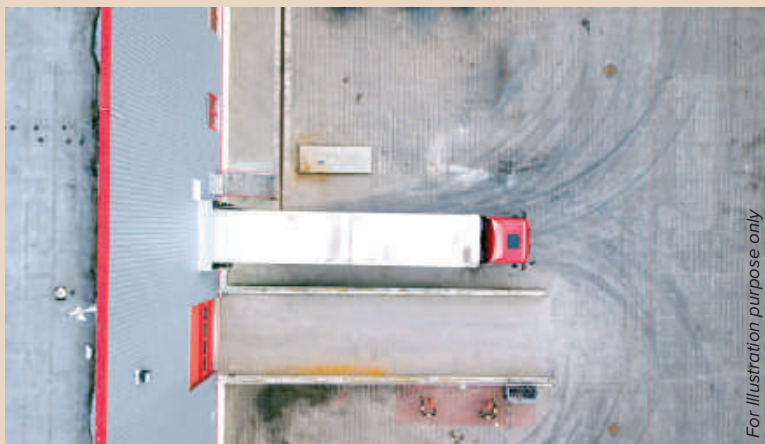
country in a bid to keep a low profile. While their plan worked initially, they underestimated the partnership work between the police and the business community and they are now behind bars, facing the consequences of their actions," said Detective Constable Paul Matchett, of the Northwich Beat Initiative Team.

Florin Costea, 51, Marius Meiosu, 25, and Gabriel Mocanu, 36, the three men detained in Oldham, have all been sentenced to 42 months in prison. Their accomplices Nicolea Ilea, 36, Alin Mahai, 27, and Stefan Florin, 31, all received the same sentence at a hearing at Chester Crown Court. All six pleaded guilty to theft conspiracy.

RETAIL CRIME

WHEN: FEBRUARY 2007

WHERE: CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES



In 2005, the Oakland Police Department received complaints about a wholesale shop that allegedly resold stolen goods such as medical supplies and baby formula. The report stated that these goods were, in fact, stolen by a gang from huge retailers.

This prompted an investigation that would drag on for two years in search of what local authorities saw as a crime ring that was selling to at least three brick-and-mortar

shops, as well as through the Internet.

By February 2007, agents conducted searches at six warehouses, including two convenience stores suspected of selling stolen products.

Investigators estimate that they confiscated more than 20 tractor-trailer loads of items at those facilities. Cases of vitamins, cold medication, various over-the-counter drugs, infant formula, and hygiene goods were recovered.

Some of the items were allegedly sold in the convenience stores, but the majority of it was allegedly transported to a wholesale warehouse of the ringleader.

During the police raid at the warehouse, hundreds of abandoned security tags and bar code labels from major shops were discovered in dumpsters outside the site.

The men named in the case were sentenced to at least six and a half years in prison in 2009 for conspiring to purchase stolen merchandise from major retailers, conducting mail fraud and conspiring to participate in interstate transportation of commodities.

DIRTY MONEY

WHEN: MAY 2008

WHERE: KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES

In 1988, Abduhl Sulaiman put up a humble business in Lexington, Kentucky with a dream of providing for his family. However, fast forward to January 2002, his aim to earn took a devious turn when he started dealing with Eyad Suleiman.

Eyad started sending Abduhl wire transfers and third-party cheques for the sale of stolen goods — and with each cheque and transfer, Abduhl got to earn 0.75 per cent of the deposited funds. For the next five years, Abduhl earned at least \$613,464 (Dhs2.25mn) by laundering a grand total of \$69,981,766 (Dhs254mn) across 368 transactions, as per reports from local authorities. The funds, according to officials, were from the sales of stolen beauty products, baby formula, and other goods for health and well-being.

The duo was linked with an organised ring of ‘street boosters’—people who steal products intending to resell them—who sold significant amounts of over-the-counter medications and beauty supplies to convenience stores or wholesalers.

According to federal investigators, Abduhl gave the fences substantial sums of cash, as well as a paper trail, allowing the fences to claim the products, which were obtained legally.



For illustration purpose only

By May 2008, the FBI and local police had sufficient evidence to arrest Abduhl, who faced charges of money laundering with 28 counts of conspiracy, and failure to file federally required reports of currency transactions greater than \$10,000 (Dhs36,700). Eyad was also caught and charged with three counts of tax fraud, two counts of transferring stolen property across state lines, conspiracy, and violating pharmaceutical regulations.

CODE SWITCHERS

WHEN: JANUARY 2017

WHERE: MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

Universal product codes (UPC) aka barcodes are the world’s most identifiable marker to help determine the actual price of items — unfortunately, it is also through these markers that some unscrupulous individuals have been stealing from stores by switching these codes to get expensive items for dirt cheap.

Amongst these individuals was a couple from Union, Missouri, in the United States who thought they could get away with switching UPCs of particular products in a Walmart store in January 2017. The couple, 45-year-old Edward Smith and 33-year-old Jessie Herring, were accused of swapping the UPC labels of items at Walmart that they intended to buy and get away with at lower price points.

Authorities state that the couple was seen shopping at Walmart together with their two children. Later on, Jessie left the store with their kids and left Edward to do a self-checkout for the family’s groceries. His groceries cost a total of \$105.62 (Dhs388), but a Walmart loss prevention staffer indicated that the transaction value should have been greater based on the number of things purchased.

While reviewing the receipts, loss prevention personnel noticed Edward had not scanned numerous products. Other goods were discovered to have changed out UPC labels.

“People are going in and finding similar items and then



For illustration purpose only

cutting the barcodes off one and taping it to another. Then they go up to self-checkout and scan it,” said Washington Police Detective Sgt Steve Sitzes.

Jessie was charged with one felony count of forgery, a misdemeanour count of first-degree trespassing, and a misdemeanour count of unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. Meanwhile, Edward was charged with one felony count of forgery and a misdemeanour count of stealing items valued at less than \$150 (Dhs550).



A broken treaty

THE TALE OF THREE ISLANDS CONTINUES IN THE DAYS LEADING
UP TO THE HISTORIC UNIFICATION OF THE EMIRATES

BY DR FALEH HANDHAL



Al Ittihad

The tussle for the three small but strategically located islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa began in 1887 and it has not been resolved to this day, despite mediation by the British government — before the unification of the emirates — and discussions at the United Nations.

For decades before the unification, Iran kept up its military campaigns to occupy the islands. These islands were at the time under the governance of Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah.

The climax came on November 30, 1971, the last day of the British forces in the Trucial States, as the emirates were preparing for their unification just hours away, in a ceremony to be held on December 2, 1971.

On the morning of November 30, the Iranian forces attacked from the air and the sea—an event that martyred a number of UAE policemen on Greater Tunb. They also occupied Lesser Tunb in order to take control of the islands, turned Abu Musa into a military base, and later violated the terms of its island treaty with Sharjah.

As the British forces were leaving, Iran figured this would create a military void that a new country like the UAE would not be able to fill immediately. Although the British had always emphasised that these three were Arab islands, not



The Union founding fathers gather around the UAE flag on December 2, 1971

Iran has attempted to discuss the issue of these two islands with British authorities in the past, but has not been successful, since no proof exists that these islands were ever its property

Iranian islands, there was a lack of firm international position regarding these territories all through the 1960s, the last decade when it would control the affairs of this region. In 1971, Britain announced it was withdrawing from the emirates and that it would be gone by December 1.

The Iranian government took advantage

of the opportunity well before the withdrawal. The Shah of Iran demanded control over the three islands, and claimed that he had security authority and military dominance in the Gulf. Additionally, he ordered his army and navy to conduct continuous manoeuvres throughout the Gulf, the Arabian Sea, and the Indian Ocean.

In response, Sheikh Saqr bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, then Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, wrote to the Secretary-General of the Arab League, on November 20, 1971, stating: “You must have heard the news concerning the threats that Iran is making to seize these islands by force after the evacuation of the British forces from the islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb, which are part of the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. Iran has attempted to discuss the issue of these two islands with British authorities in the past, but has not been successful, since no proof exists that these islands were ever its property.”

His letter ended by urging the Arab League to help present the issue before public opinion and to raise it at the UN Security Council.

However, Iran’s military moved faster



An old souq in Abu Dhabi in the 1970s



left: Hantoush Abdullah Muhammad and Muhammad Abdullah. They were captured, handcuffed, pushed into the helicopter, and then flown to Tehran for questioning about the presence of military forces in Ras Al Khaimah. The wounded were transported to the Lengeh City Prison Hospital for treatment and investigation.

The nearby tiny island of Lesser Tunb was also seized by the Iranian forces.

As they entered the town on Greater Tunb, the Iranian forces asked the local people to gather their necessities, and then they were taken by ships to Ras Al Khaimah. The people thus displaced by the attack were greeted by a large crowd of Arab citizens and residents, including the Ruler, Sheikh Saqr bin Muhammad Al Qasimi.

The next day, on the morning of December 1, 1971, large crowds flooded the streets of Ras Al Khaimah. Similar scenes were also observed in various regions of the UAE, condemning the act of aggression by Iran.

The Ras Al Khaimah government lodged a strong protest with the British government. Though the British had just left the Trucial States, they were still responsible, under the existing treaties, for protecting the two islands — Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb — governed by the emirate.

Additionally, the Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah sent communications to all Arab leaders, presidents, the president of the Security Council, and the British Prime Minister Edward Heath. This issue was then presented to the Arab League, and it is still pending to this day.

MANOEUVRES AROUND ABU MUSA

The island of Abu Musa was under the governance of the emirate of Sharjah. But Iran started making moves to seize the island as the British withdrawal date approached.

Iran asserted its claim to the island and used several tactics, including an offer of the Shah's protection to the Sharjah government in exchange for a voluntary handover of Abu Musa to Tehran; otherwise, the island would be occupied by force.

Faced with this threat to the Arab

First Policeman Salem Suhail Khamis and his six colleagues were preparing for morning exercises when the guard noticed military destroyers circling the island and three warplanes dropping leaflets in Persian over the houses

than these diplomatic attempts. It attacked and occupied Greater Tunb just hours before the United Arab Emirates came into being.

ASSAULT ON GREATER TUNB

This is the account of the battle on Greater Tunb, as described in the file of the island's police station. The time was 5.30 am on Tuesday, November 30, 1971.

First Policeman Salem Suhail Khamis and his six colleagues were preparing for morning exercises when the guard noticed military destroyers circling the island and three warplanes dropping leaflets in Persian over the houses.

Hovercraft-type warships soon arrived at the island, and soldiers got off; also, a helicopter landed with Iranian commandos. The policemen retreated to their station, while the Iranian soldiers advanced towards the station. When they were within a distance of 50 metres, the Iranians opened fire, wounding two policemen.

As soon as they were attacked, the policemen began returning fire. First Policeman Salem Suhail Khamis went



First Policeman Salem Suhail Khamis, the first Emirati martyr

outside the station to take cover, but he was fatally wounded by several bullets.

As the attackers intensified their fire, the remaining policemen tried to resist. At the same time, the helicopter opened fire, destroying the station and injuring another policeman.

Now, there were only two policemen



National Archives

An aerial view of the Qasr Al Hosn in Abu Dhabi, 1970

heritage of Abu Musa, the Sharjah government did not remain silent. It presented the situation to brotherly Arab countries and asked them to fulfil their responsibilities in repelling Iranian threats to occupy the island of Abu Musa. Sharjah also urged the Arab nations to take a unified stand on the conspiracy against Gulf Arabism.

Sir William Luce, the British special envoy, presented a report that contained two points. The first was the sharing of the island between Iran and Sharjah for a sum of money to be negotiated later, provided both Sharjah and Iran did not claim sovereignty over Abu Musa for two years, after which its fate would be decided. The Arab policemen would remain on the island and the Iranian government would have the right to establish bases in any area of Abu Musa.

Sheikh Khalid bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, then Ruler of Sharjah, rejected the proposal, which he deemed as affecting the emirate's sovereignty, and he again appealed to the Arab countries to take a position on the issue.

The Shah of Iran set his terms, including that Iranian forces would occupy Abu Musa Island and that police authorities from Sharjah would withdraw from the island. As for sovereignty, he said that it should wait two years, after which sovereignty should pass to Iran, and he

would assist Sharjah through financial aid each year, beginning with the arrival of the Iranian forces on the island. He said that if oil was discovered, Sharjah would receive a percentage of the proceeds.

The circumstances of that time in the Arab world — weakness and different opinions — made it difficult to present a unified Arab position on any problem facing any of the countries. Given the lack of a unified Arab response on Abu Musa, the government of Sharjah decided that it should reach an

before its departure from the Gulf.

The decision was then made to divide the island between Sharjah and Iran, so that Iran had full control of the areas marked within the agreement and the Iranian flag flew over those areas, while Sharjah had full control over the rest of the island and its flag remained raised there. Any oil revenues would be divided equally between the two parties, as per the agreement.

But did Iran stick to the agreement? It did not.

Instead of honouring the amicable arrangement, Iran committed a series of treaty violations, including encroachment on the part under UAE control. Sixty workers were expelled from the island in 1992. Also, some Arab teachers working on the

island and some UAE citizens were prevented from entering.

On April 14, 1992, some citizens were expelled from the island city and prohibited from returning. The Arab school and police station were then closed.

In light of this, and to confirm its goodwill and desire to resolve this issue, the UAE made a series of contacts with Iran in order to address the island developments. But Iran refused to discuss anything concerning the islands, and also declined to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

Instead of honouring the amicable arrangement, Iran committed a series of treaty violations, including encroachment on the part under UAE control

understanding, focused on saving what was possible, in line with the British proposal.

In a statement broadcast on Sawt Al Sahel Radio on November 29, 1971, the Ruler of Sharjah announced that he had to reach an agreement with Iran in order to share sovereignty over Abu Musa Island, due to the explicit threat that the island would be taken by force if there was no agreement. Furthermore, Britain previously stated clearly that it could not defend the islands against Iranian moves unless specific arrangements were made

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

WALKMAN WAVES BACK

Sony's iconic music player **Walkman** is waving back with highly expensive price tags than during its heyday in the '80s until the '90s when it primarily served as a means of playing mixtapes full of songs recorded from live radio.

The company has shifted its focus on the Walkman from the regular public to the more niche market of individuals who wish to enjoy "lossless" audio formats which incorporate both low and high-frequency bass, trebles and everything in between those octaves.

The Sony Walkman is available in two versions depending on the storage space: the storage capacity of the NW-WM1AM2 is 128 GB, while the NW-WM1ZM2 is 256 GB. Both devices enable microSD cards, providing for more capacity if needed. The materials utilised in the case fabrication differ between the two variants. The NW-WM1AM2 is composed of aluminium,



PRICE: NW-WM1ZM2 (L) for Dhs11,570 and NW-WM1AM2 (R) for Dhs5,870
WEBSITE: <https://electronics.sony.com>

while the NW-WM1ZM2 is made of the same oxygen-free copper as Sony's high-grade audio cables. To further improve the audio quality, the copper has been coated with a 99.99 per cent pure gold coating.



SNAPSHOT BUDDY

Smartphone developers continue to upgrade their innovations in today's highly competitive market. Huawei's latest gadget – **the Huawei nova 9 SE** – ticks all the checkmarks with its 108MP main shooter as part of its quad-cam setup, alongside other prominent features.

The 108MP AI Quad Camera system in the HUAWEI nova 9 SE has a 108MP primary camera, an 8MP ultra-wide-angle lens, a 2MP Bokeh lens, and a 2MP macro lens. This 108MP ultra-high-definition primary camera has an amazing pixel count, allowing users to express their ideas in stunning detail. The smartphone's bigger sensor and superior imaging technologies enable it to take crystal-clear photos in high-resolution mode.

The HUAWEI nova 9 SE can be charged by 60% in 15 minutes or completely charged in 36 minutes thanks to the 66W HUAWEI SuperCharge.

PRICE: Dhs1,199

WEBSITE: <https://consumer.huawei.com/en/>

ENDURANCE-PACKED MOBILE

Majority of mobile phone batteries only last half a day. TECNO Mobile's newest smartphone, the **POVA Neo**, is the company's response to this market demand, as the device has a huge 6,000 mAh battery, along with other topnotch specs such as an 18W flash charge feature, 13MP HD rear camera, and a huge 6.8" display.

In addition, it has a 'Super Battery Lab' feature, which allows for long standby, 24-hour continuous music streams, video streams for 20 hours, and phone conversations for up to 40 hours, to name a few.

Gamers will enjoy its huge 6.8" display, with software powered by TECNO Mobile's very own RT Engine. It steps up their regular graphic display with a higher refresh rate and allows for a more dynamic control adjustment, making their gaming sessions more fun and exciting.



PRICE: Dhs620

WEBSITE: www.tecno-mobile.com



DROP THE BASS

A clear-cut quality audio experience usually requires a lot of speakers and setups to enjoy and is limited to an indoor space. Now, Huawei has partnered with Devialet, one of the world's most popular brands of speakers, to bring the **Huawei Sound Joy**. It packs 4-unit Punchy Sound, bringing you the real beats of the bass when the music plays on your portable speaker.

The Huawei Sound Joy easily connects with your preferred device – laptop, smart TV, smartphone, or any other gadget – via

Bluetooth to take your audio experience to the next level. It's supported by a huge 8,800 mAh battery and a 40W super-fast charging feature to allow continuous music playback throughout the day.

In addition, one of the best features of the Huawei Sound Joy is its light ring on top of the speaker, which has a range of purposes such as a battery-level indication, a function indicator that illuminates your speaker in multi-coloured light effects whenever music is played.

PRICE: Dhs599

WEBSITE: <https://consumer.huawei.com/en/>

COMPACT GAMING

In the age where portable machines are in higher demand, Asus has upped the ante through its **ROG Flow Z13**, which packs 12th-gen processors and NVIDIA's RTX 3050 Ti with 16GB of pre-installed RAM at a mere 1.1 kg, effectively helping users bring their gaming sessions anytime, anywhere.

The Asus ROG Flow Z13 supports multiple input methods and graphics acceleration with XG Mobile. Users will also appreciate the 170-degree kickstand adjustability and the detachable full-sized keyboard.

Asus has implemented a vapour chamber cooling solution along with liquid metal to help keep this powerhouse from overheating during your gaming sessions, and the 0dB Ambient Cooling guarantees the computer remains remarkably quiet even under full load.



PRICE: Dhs9,999

WEBSITE: <https://rog.asus.com>

HEALTH SIDEKICK



PRICE: Dhs580

WEBSITE: www.mi.com

One of today's latest smartwatches, the **Xiaomi Watch S1**, bundles a 1.43" AMOLED display with screens that make it

look strikingly similar to a traditional watch with a leather strap, sapphire glass protection, and several must-have smartwatch health apps and monitors.

The Xiaomi Watch S1 display is constructed with sophisticated energy-saving technology and is covered with sapphire crystal to provide you with a great visual experience, converting the slow passage of time into art. The sapphire glass shield is very durable and wear-resistant, with scratch resistance significantly beyond that of regular glass.

As a health monitor, it also encourages timely blood oxygen monitoring, which can offer a more accurate picture of your physical status, thanks to its sophisticated technology and software. The sensor reliably measures your heart rate even during high-intensity activity and gives out notifications when your heart rate is too high.



EXPLORE IDEAS ON DEFYING NORMS TO ADVANCE YOUR GOALS, RAISE INTELLECTUALLY AND EMOTIONALLY MATURE CHILDREN, AND LEARN SUREFIRE WAYS TO RESTORE YOUR FOCUS

BUDGET CONTROL

TITLE: Finance for the People: Getting a Grip on Your Finances

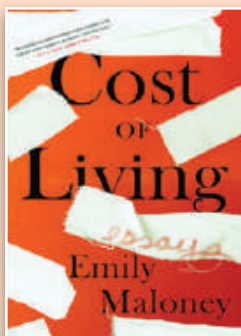
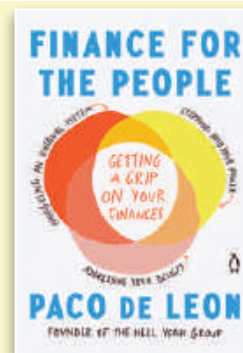
AUTHOR: Paco de Leon

PUBLISHER: Penguin Life

PRICE: Dhs49

Unlike most personal finance books that focus on skills and behaviours, this book asks you to examine your beliefs and experiences around money — it blends extremely practical exercises with mindfulness, and includes more than 50 illustrations and diagrams to make the concepts accessible (and even fun). With deep insider expertise from years spent in many different corners of the financial industry, Paco de Leon is a friendly, approachable, and wise guide who invites readers to change their relationship with money. With her holistic approach, you'll learn how to: root out your unconscious beliefs about money; untangle the mental and emotional burden of student loans to pay them off, and break out of the debt cycle and begin building wealth.

This book is for anyone who feels unseen, ignored, or bored by the way personal finances are approached and taught, and is ready to go on a journey of self-discovery and step into their financial power.



HEALTHCARE WOES

TITLE: Cost of Living: Essays

AUTHOR: Emily Maloney

PUBLISHER: Henry Holt and Co.

PRICE: Dhs88

When we fall ill, our lives are itemised on a spreadsheet. A thousand dollars for a broken leg, a few hundred for a nasty cut while cooking dinner. Then there are the greater costs for even greater misfortunes, such as car accidents, breast cancers, blood diseases, and dark depressions.

When Emily Maloney was 19, she tried to kill herself. An act that would not only cost a great deal personally, but also financially, sending her down a dark spiral of misdiagnoses, years spent in and out of hospitals and doctor's offices, and tens of thousands owed in medical debt. To work to pay off this crippling burden, Maloney became an emergency room technician, doing the grunt work in a hospital, and taking care of patients at their most vulnerable moments, chronicling these interactions in searingly beautiful, surprising ways.

Shocking and often slyly humorous, this book is a brilliant examination of just what exactly a healthcare system asks people to pay, as well as a look at what goes on behind the scenes at hospitals and in the minds of caregivers.

DEVELOPING YOUNG MINDS

TITLE: Raising Critical Thinkers: A Parent's Guide to Growing Wise Kids in the Digital Age

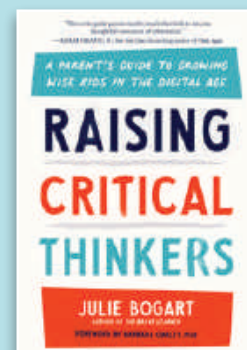
AUTHOR: Julie Bogart

PUBLISHER: TarcherPerigee

PRICE: Dhs59

Education is not solely about acquiring information and skills across subject areas, but also about understanding how and why we believe what we do. At a time when online media have created a virtual firehose of information and opinions, parents and teachers worry about how students will interpret what they read and see. Amidst the noise, it has become increasingly important to examine different perspectives with both curiosity and discernment. But how do parents teach these skills to their children?

Drawing on more than 20 years' experience homeschooling and developing curricula, Bogart offers practical tools to help children at every stage of development to grow in their ability to explore the world around them, examine how their loyalties and biases affect their beliefs, and generate fresh insight rather than simply recycling what they've been taught. Full of accessible stories and activities for children of all ages, this book helps parents to nurture passionate learners with thoughtful minds and empathetic hearts.



FINDING FULFILMENT

TITLE: Hero on a Mission: The Power of Finding Your Role in Life

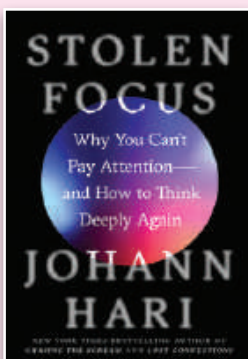
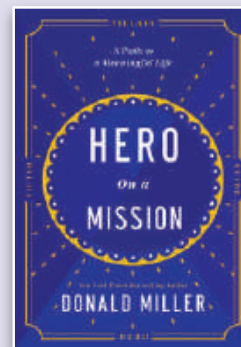
AUTHOR: Donald Miller

PUBLISHER: HarperCollins Leadership

PRICE: Dhs65

In his mid-20s, Donald Miller was lost. He was overweight and poor as a broken coin bank. Lamenting the cards he was dealt, Miller was allowing himself to be a victim of circumstance. He knew something had to change. Standing in front of the mirror, he took responsibility for the choices he was making, beginning the transition from playing the victim to playing the hero in his life and finding the fulfilment he was searching for.

In this book, Miller shares the correlation between owning your life and finding more enjoyment in everything you do. He lays out the transformational, yet practical plan that took him from slowly losing sight of all his goals to rapidly gaining a new perspective of his own life's beauty and meaning, igniting his motivation, passion, and productivity.



DEFYING DISTRACTIONS

TITLE: Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention — And How to Think Deeply Again

AUTHOR: Johann Hari

PUBLISHER: Crown Publishing Group (NY)

PRICE: Dhs68

In the United States, teenagers can focus on one task for only 65 seconds at a time, and office workers average only 3 minutes. Like so many of us, Johann Hari was finding that constantly switching from device to device and tab to tab was a diminishing and depressing way to live. He tried all sorts of self-help solutions — even abandoning his mobile phone for three months — but nothing seemed to work. Hari went on an epic journey across the world to interview the leading experts on human attention, and he discovered that everything we

think we know about this crisis is wrong.

We think our inability to focus is a personal failure to exert enough willpower over our devices. The truth is even more disturbing: our focus has been stolen by powerful external forces that have left us uniquely vulnerable to corporations determined to raid our attention for profit. Hari found that there are 12 deep causes of this crisis, from the decline of mind-wandering to rising pollution, all of which have robbed some of our attention.

Crucially, Hari learned how we can reclaim our focus — as individuals, and as a society — if we are determined to fight for it.

DEBUNKING CONSPIRACIES

TITLE: Off the Edge: Flat Earthers, Conspiracy Culture, and Why People Will Believe Anything

AUTHOR: Kelly Weill

PUBLISHER: Algonquin Books

PRICE: Dhs88

Since 2015, there has been a spectacular boom in a nearly 200-year-old delusion — the idea that we all live on a flat plane, under a solid dome, ringed by an impossible wall of ice. It is the ultimate in conspiracy theories, a wholesale rejection of everything we know to be true about the world in which we live. Where did this idea come from? Weill draws a straight line from today's conspiratorial moment back to the early days of Flat Earth theory in the 1830s, showing the human impulses behind divergences in belief. Faced with a complicated world out of our individual control, we naturally seek patterns to explain the inexplicable. The only difference between then and now? Social media. And, powered by Facebook and YouTube algorithms, the Flat Earth movement is growing.

Incisive and clear-eyed, this book tells a powerful story about belief, exploring how we arrived at this moment of polarised realities and explaining what needs to happen so that we might all return to the same spinning globe.



UAE reaffirms focus on low-carbon economic growth

The UAE maintains its position to continue the country's growth and development with sustainable, environmentally-conscious steps to ensure its long-term economic prosperity.

HE Dr Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and Special Envoy for Climate Change, stated that the UAE is accelerating low-carbon economic growth in order to create new jobs, industries, and revenue streams.

Amongst these steps is the country's initiative to be the first to sign and accept the Paris Agreement, committing an economy-wide reduction in emissions, and the first to announce a Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative. The minister mentioned that the UAE decided to lead in these areas because it saw climate difficulties as an opportunity to seize rather than a problem to solve.



"We all need to recognise that the energy transition will take time and require sober, thoughtful planning. It is more evident now than ever before that this cannot be rushed. The push to divest from hydrocarbons has led to a supply crunch that is having the biggest impact on the most exposed. The clear lesson is that we should not adopt climate policies that lead to energy poverty. We need to keep investing in low-cost, low-carbon energy that can provide

move forward and people needed to start treating climate risks as potential global security risks.

"We should not have to choose between the two. We can and we must make progress on both," said Dr Al Jaber. He concluded his statement by extending the UAE's invitation to private sectors, financial institutions, civil society, and the government to create solutions for the climate and the economy.

the baseload power that the world relies on," said Dr Al Jaber during the recently held Middle East and North Africa Climate Week (MENACW2022).

He urged the international community to continue to fulfil the \$100 billion (Dhs367bn) climate pledge made for the developing countries over a decade ago, stating that bold targets needed to

Abu Dhabi rescues over 250 endangered, threatened turtles

Abu Dhabi has ramped up its efforts to conserve marine life, rescuing over 250 sea turtles in the first four months of 2022.

Out of the rescued and rehabilitated turtles, 150 have been released back into the ocean while three were satellite-tagged.

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), together with its Wildlife Rescue Programme partner and the largest aquarium in the Middle East, the National Aquarium of Abu Dhabi (TNA), stated that its dedication to taking care of the UAE's aquatic resources had translated into an increase in manpower and inclusion of new state-of-the-art facilities, reinforcing the efficient and effective rehabilitation of the rescued wildlife, especially sea turtles.

In 2020, EAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with TNA to create the



Wildlife Rescue Programme, devoted to rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing native wildlife in Abu Dhabi. This resulted in the rescue of several species of turtles, such as the endangered Loggerhead Turtles and the threatened Olive Ridley Turtles, and their release back into the Arabian Gulf.

"Through our strategic partnership with TNA, we have been able to rescue

and rehabilitate a number of turtles to ensure the longevity of several different turtle species found in Abu Dhabi waters. Furthermore, after releasing a large majority of these turtles back into their natural habitat, our specialised research team is monitoring them regularly and frequently studying their behaviour

and habits," said Ahmed Al Hashmi, Executive Director, Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD.

He added, "As part of our efforts, we are very pleased to include the rehabilitation of an Olive Ridley Sea Turtle, a species rarely seen in UAE waters; this is a sign of the abundance of our biodiversity, which we aspire to conserve so that future generations can enjoy it for decades to come."

Sheikh Sultan promotes sustainable agriculture in Mleiha

His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, underscored anew the importance of sustainable agriculture in achieving food sustainability in the emirate.

Recently, His Highness approved three landmark decrees and inaugurated a wheat farm project in the Mleiha area. The new decrees allow for the establishment of associations for livestock breeders, vegetable farmers, and wheat farmers.

HH Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad highlighted that agricultural production would help preserve human health, as the production will be free from toxins and harmful



pesticides along with the constant progressive evolution in farming and the modern processes involved in wheat cultivation.

Sharjah's natural potential spans all across the region, which means that the emirate could both transform and enhance farming

that covers more than 9 million square metres to provide farms for the neighbourhood. This also serves as an extension of Sharjah's plans to provide natural pastures that provide the right environment, facilities, and services to graze livestock.

areas that can offer job opportunities and support local food production.

HH Sheikh Sultan urged farmers and small businesses to make use of the services of Sharjah government, covering all stages of production, treatment costs, pasture supplies, and research to conserve indigenous breeds.

Last March, His Highness also inaugurated Al Nozha Pasture in Al Madam, a pasture

Dubai starts work on massive 6.3 MW solar parking project

Dubai will soon be home to one of the UAE's largest solar parking shades in a master-planned 6.5-megawatt project, set to launch at the Dubai Multi-Commodities Centre (DMCC).

DMCC's solar shades will be installed across the Jumeirah Lake Towers (JLT) district's car parking areas. This will help to reduce the power consumption for the district while generating savings for property owners each year.

This installation across JLT is a 20-year agreement and is part of the Dubai Clean Energy and Net Zero Carbon Strategy 2050, providing 100 per cent of Dubai's total power capacity from clean energy sources. Once done, JLT will be one of the UAE's largest



districts to have solar car shade installation.

In addition, this project is part of DMCC's extensive sustainability strategy that lessens the impact of the business district's water and energy usage on the environment.

"As seen at COP26, sustainability and decreasing carbon emissions are amongst

the most critical issues people and businesses face today. Sustainability is integrated into every level of DMCC, which is why we are proud to be driving Dubai's decarbonisation efforts. Through initiatives such as this, we can deliver an enormously positive impact to the 100,000 people who live and work in the JLT district," said Feryal Ahmadi, Chief Operating Officer of DMCC.

The construction began in March

2022, with other energy reduction initiatives to come in the future. Authorities assure DMCC and JLT community residents that there will be no additional expenses since the cost savings will be achieved through energy generation.

WHO underscores three strategies to prepare for ‘next pandemic’



The World Health Organization (WHO) has called upon countries to embrace new healthcare innovations and technology in order to bolster their defences against future pandemics.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, cautioned that the COVID-19 pandemic won't be “the last” one to try the strength of healthcare systems across the world.

Dr Tedros said, “It's certain that COVID-19 won't be the last pandemic, but how likely is it to occur? And how much damage [will it] cause when it does? Those are areas over which we have influence. We must

learn the lessons of this pandemic.”

The WHO chief recommended a three-pronged strategy to the global healthcare community to better manage and fight unprecedented health developments.

1 PRODUCE, DISTRIBUTE VACCINES FAIRLY

According to Dr Tedros, it is critical to embrace new technology in order to achieve more equitable vaccination production and distribution.

“In many countries, vaccines have helped to turn the tide on the pandemic, saving lives and protecting health systems,” said the WHO chief.

“It has become obvious that equity cannot be left to market forces, or the goodwill of donors... Expanding local production of vaccines, and other health products, is a high priority for WHO,” he added.

2 IMPROVE HEALTH SYSTEMS

Dr Tedros noted, “A resilient system is not the same thing as an advanced medical care system. The backbone of public health is robust primary healthcare for detecting outbreaks at the earliest possible stage, as well as for preventing disease and promoting health at the community level.”

3 ENHANCE PROACTIVENESS

Dr Tedros also highlighted the need to ramp up cross-collaboration in terms of pandemic prevention, readiness, and response.

He said, “In the face of a global crisis, no single country, organisation, or agency can go it alone.”

The WHO chief added that new systems and digital technologies need to be implemented to “prevent, detect, and respond rapidly to epidemics and pandemics”.

He concluded, “Above all, the pandemic has shown us that health is not simply an outcome of development, but the foundation of social, economic, and political stability.”

1 in 2 skin lightening products contain high levels of mercury—study

Almost 50 per cent of the world's skin lightening products (SLPs) contain dangerous levels of mercury in their formula, a new study of the UN's Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) has found.

Conducted between 2020 and 2022, the study found levels of mercury above 1ppm (parts per million) — the international legal limit imposed by the Minamata Convention on Mercury — in 129 products out of 271 from over 40 online sites.

“This investigation confirmed that most e-commerce platforms are not sufficiently motivated to verify the legality of products sold,” wrote the ZMWG researchers. “When these platforms were notified in the past of sales of illegal high-mercury products, a common response was that they voluntarily removed those products from sale, and that they put more filters in place as a deterrent.”



Exposure to high concentrations of mercury can cause eye damage, breathing problems, nervous system damage, and

kidney disease. It may also lead to skin rashes, discolouration, and blotching, according to ZMWG.

Study: Human voice could predict coronary heart disease risk

A recent study published by the *American College of Cardiology* established that a person's voice recordings processed through an Artificial Intelligence-based (AI-based) computer algorithm could give an insight into his or her likelihood of getting heart problems.

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, in collaboration with a researcher from the University of Tel Aviv, Israel, showed that people with a high voice biomarker score in the AI voice analyses were 2.6 times more likely to develop coronary artery disease (CAD).

The study included 108 patients who were referred for a coronary angiogram. They were asked to record three



30-second voice samples using the Vocalis Health smartphone application.

The AI-based system analysed features of the voice recordings, such as frequency, amplitude, pitch and cadence — determining those with a high and low voice biomarker score. Study participants were tracked for two years. Of those with a high voice

using our human brains and our human ears.”

Scientists have not concluded why certain voice features seem to be indicative of CAD, but the autonomic nervous system may play a role because it regulates bodily functions that include the voice box, heart rate, and blood pressure.

biomarker score, 58.3 per cent visited the hospital for chest pain or suffered acute coronary syndrome

“We can't hear these particular features ourselves,” said Dr Jaskanwal Deep Singh Sara, a cardiology fellow at Mayo Clinic and the study's lead author. “This technology is using Machine Learning to quantify something that isn't easily quantifiable for us

Oral bacteria linked to higher hypertension risks in older women

New research published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association* offers more evidence that certain oral bacteria can cause higher risk of hypertension in postmenopausal women.

The longitudinal study of more than 1,200 women (with an average age of 63) showed the importance of oral care amongst the female age group in order to prevent the disease.

“Since periodontal disease and hypertension are especially prevalent in older adults, if a relationship between the oral bacteria and hypertension risk could be established, there may be an



opportunity to enhance hypertension prevention through increased, targeted oral care,” said one of the study's senior authors Dr Michael J. LaMonte, who is a research professor in epidemiology at the University at Buffalo – State University of New York.

Conducted for a decade, the study found that 15 types of mouth bacteria

were linked to the odds of developing high blood pressure. Most of these could increase the risk of developing hypertension; others were potentially protective.

According to LaMonte, the findings do not prove if brushing

and flossing can help control your blood pressure, too.

The findings echo other earlier studies that suggest that people with high blood pressure tend to have a different oral microbiome (refers to the trillions of bacteria and other microbes that dwell in the human body) than people with normal blood pressure.



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WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



Aries (March 21 to April 20)

Aries author Marge Piercy writes, "I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart, who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience, who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward, who do what has to be done, again and again." Aries, you'll be wise to be like a person Piercy describes. You're entering a phase of your cycle when diligent work and impeccable self-discipline are most necessary and most likely to yield stellar rewards.



Taurus (April 20 – May 21)

In 1879, Taurus-born Williamina Fleming was working as a maid for astronomer Edward Charles Pickering, director of the Harvard Observatory. Impressed with her intelligence, Pickering hired Fleming to do scientific work. By 1893, she had become a prominent, award-winning astronomer. Ultimately, she discovered the Horsehead Nebula, helped develop a system for identifying stars, and catalogued thousands of astronomical phenomena. She ought to be your role model for the duration of 2022. If there has ever been a year when you might achieve progress like Fleming's, it's this one.



Gemini (May 22 – June 20)

"I am very much afraid of definitions, and yet one is almost forced to make them," wrote painter Robert Delaunay (1885–1941). "One must take care, too, not to be inhibited by them," he concluded. In his early years, he considered his work to be Neo-Impressionist. Later he described himself as a "heretic of Cubism," and during other periods he dabbled with surrealism and abstract art. Ultimately, he created his own artistic category, which he called Orphism. Everything just said about Delaunay can serve you well in the coming months, Gemini. You'll be wise to accept definitions for yourself, while at the same time not being overly bound by them.



Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

During the next four weeks, some of the best lessons you can study and learn will come to you while you're socialising and communicating. Even more than is usually the case, your friends and allies will offer you crucial information that has the power to catalyse dynamic decisions. Lucky encounters with Very Interesting People may open up possibilities worth investigating. And here's a fun X-factor: the sometimes surprising words that fly out of your mouth during lively conversations will provide clues about what your deep self has been half-consciously dreaming of.



Leo (July 23 – August 22)

"Hold on tight, I would tell myself, but there was nothing for me to hold on to." A character in one of Haruki Murakami's novels says that. In contrast to that poor soul, Leo, there will indeed be a reliable and sturdy source for you to hold onto in the coming weeks—maybe more than one. Now is a time when you'll be smart to get thoroughly anchored. It's not that you will be in jeopardy. Rather, you're in a phase when it's more important than usual to identify what makes you feel stable and secure. It's time to bolster your foundations and strengthen your roots.



Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

"In all the land, there is only one you, possibly two, but seldom more than 16," said comedian and actor Amy Sedaris. She was making a sardonic joke about the possibility that none of us may be quite as unique as people imagine themselves to be. But it might be wise to mess with her joke and give it a positive tweak. If what Sedaris says is true, then it's likely that everyone will all have soul twins somewhere in the world. It means that there are numerous people who share many of your perspectives and proclivities. You should keep these thoughts in mind, Virgo, because the coming months will be an excellent time for meeting and playing with such people.



Libra (September 23 – October 22)

British Admiral Horatio Nelson (1758–1805) was born under the sign of Libra. He was a brilliant and unconventional strategist whose leadership brought many naval victories for his country. Yet he was blind in one eye, was missing most of his right arm from a battle wound, and was in constant discomfort from chronic seasickness. May he inspire you to do your best and surpass your previous accomplishments even if you're not feeling perfect. (But also keep in mind: the problems you have to deal with will be far milder than Nelson's.)



Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Smallpox has been eliminated thanks to vaccination, but it was once amongst the most feared diseases. Over the course of many centuries, it maimed or killed hundreds of millions of people. For 35 percent of those who contracted it, it was fatal. As for the survivors, their skin had permanent scars from the blisters that erupted. As disfiguring as those wounds were, they were evidence that a person was immune from future infections. That's why employers were more likely to hire them as workers. Their pockmarks gave them an advantage. This is a useful metaphor for you. In the coming weeks, you will have an advantage because of one of your apparent liabilities or imperfections or "scars." Don't be shy about using your unusual asset.



Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

"The artist must train not only his eye but also his soul," said Sagittarian painter Wassily Kandinsky. Inspired by his observation, you should keep this in mind: "The practical dreamer should train not only her reasoning abilities but also her primal intuition, creative imagination, non-rational perceptivity, animal instincts, and rowdy wisdom." You ought to embody this piece of advice in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. Now is a favourable time to make abundant use of the other modes of intelligence that help you understand life as it really is—and not merely as the logical, analytical mind conceives it to be.



Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

The language spoken by the indigenous Cherokee people is at least 3,000 years old. But it never had a written component until the 1820s. Then a Cherokee polymath named Sequoyah formulated a syllabary, making it possible for the first time to read and write the language. It was a herculean accomplishment with few precedents in history. This should be your inspirational role model for the rest of 2022. You are poised to make dramatic breakthroughs in self-expression and communication that will serve you and others for a long time.



Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

A study by psychologists concludes there is a good way to enhance your willpower: For a given time, say one week, use your non-dominant hand to brush your teeth, wield your computer mouse, open your front door with your key, or perform other habitual activities. Doing so boosts your ability to overcome regular patterns that tend to keep you mired in inertia. You're more likely to summon the resolution and drive necessary to initiate new approaches in all areas of your life—and stick with them.



Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

In his book *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche wrote, "You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist." According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will be justified to say something like that in the near future. Now is a favourable time to honestly acknowledge differences between you and others—and accept those differences just as they are. The important point is to do what you need to do without decreeing that other people are wrong or misguided.

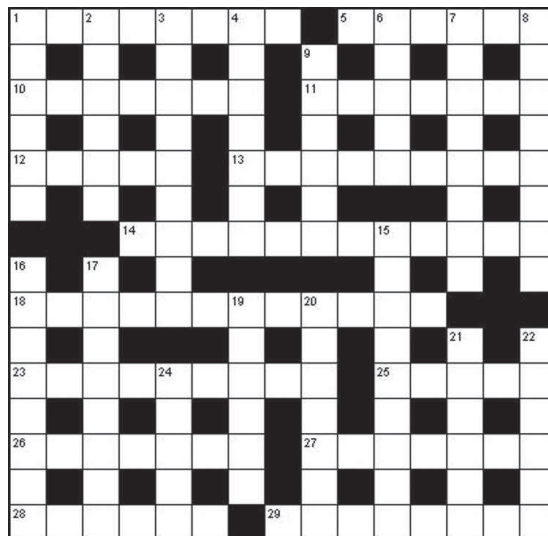
PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 1 History test
- 5 Honest person
- 10 Put gas
- 11 Fan fellow
- 12 Mournful narration
- 13 Chap in class
- 14 Repeated evaluation
- 18 Kinky form
- 23 College girl
- 25 Bespectacled bishop
- 26 Moderate soldier
- 27 Ditching spouse
- 28 Greeting card
- 29 Scottish town

DOWN

- 1 Succeeding priest
- 2 Accepted price
- 3 Wet coats
- 4 Unrest
- 6 Mischievous fellow
- 7 Special records
- 8 Shaping generations
- 9 Complain peevishly
- 15 Scoring technique
- 16 Terrific solving
- 17 Avoiding reality shows
- 19 Artist
- 20 Fundamentalist
- 21 Woman gets round
- 22 Working student
- 24 Second teacher



Easy

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				7			6	3	

SOLUTIONS

SOLUTIONS FOR THE APRIL ISSUE



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www.dailysudoku.com

easy

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

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7	8	9	4	3	6	2	1	5
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	D	E	R					T	R	D					
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	T	I	O					O	O	E					
14	M	E	R	C	E	N	17	A	R	Y	18	W	O	N	G
	E	U	Y					V	E	E	S				
19	R	U	B	L	E		20	U	N	D	E	R	W	E	
	R	B	L	A	N			S	A						
24	I	C	E	D	A	N	C	E		25	K	I	R	S	C
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26	E	P	I	T	H	E	L	I	U	M	27	I	B	E	X
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Contact us for more information on
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