

999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 158 MARCH 2025

OFFENCES THAT
WARRANT LIFE
TERMS IN UAE

ADVANCED
FINGERPRINT LAB
AIDS UAE POLICE

SPOTLIGHT:
SAFE TRAVELS
WITH UAE POLICE

An illustration featuring several hands of various skin tones (brown, tan, light skin, dark brown, black) reaching upwards towards the center. The hands are set against a background of light blue and white geometric shapes. The text 'Hand in hand, we thrive' is written in a red, cursive font across the middle of the image.

*Hand in
hand,
we thrive*

EMBRACING THE UAE'S
YEAR OF COMMUNITY 2025

IN THIS ISSUE: UAE DEPLOYS AI-POWERED TECH, BOLSTERS RESEARCH TO KEEP DENGUE AT BAY

Expertise in the Aerospace Logistics



Origin & Destination
Services in

150+
Countries

Surface
Transportation in

06
Continents

Aircraft
Parts
Movement



Engine
Movements



AOG
Services



Dangerous
Goods
Handling



Time
Critical
Movements



Airside
Deliveries



24/7
Operations



Multiple
Control
Towers



Service
Cargo



On Board
Courier



Charter
Logistics



Warehousing
and Quality
Control



*When a community
moves as one,
progress knows
no limits, and
everyone rises
together*

The Year of Community

March is here, and with it comes a renewed focus on something truly powerful—community. With 2025 declared the Year of Community in the UAE, the nation's wise leadership encourages everyone to contribute to a stronger, safer, and more united future. In this issue, **999** spotlights how the UAE is transforming the spirit of community into meaningful impact—because when hands join in purpose, no challenge is too great.

Speaking of overcoming challenges, crime detection has always been a relentless battle against increasingly sophisticated criminal methods. But forensic experts at Sharjah Police have gained an invaluable asset—the newly launched fingerprint detection laboratory equipped with advanced chemical processing and digital imaging forensic tools. This state-of-the-art facility ensures that even the faintest fingerprint is detected, helping bring criminals to justice.

Achieving justice is the core function of laws, serving as the foundation of a fair and just society that safeguards fundamental rights. In the UAE, the justice system consistently upholds the supremacy of law, ensures equality before it, and demands accountability. In this issue, **999** outlines the serious offences that warrant life imprisonment.

They say a country's character is often judged by how well it welcomes and protects its visitors. The UAE police have made safety an integral part of the tourism experience. From mountain rescues to reuniting lost belongings with their owners, police forces here go the extra mile to ensure every visitor feels safe and well looked after.

What if the threat isn't from crimes or accidents, but something much smaller—something as tiny as a mosquito? Dengue fever remains a global health challenge. To keep dengue at bay, the UAE now employs a combination of advanced technology, surveillance, and strategic dengue prevention measures.

Whether it's forensic scientists solving crimes or experts mitigating health risks, ensuring safety and well-being is a collective duty—driven by the dedication of many working together. This issue honours those hands, seen and unseen, that help build safer, stronger communities.

As we step into this month, let's ask ourselves: How can we contribute to this shared vision? Remember, when a community moves as one, progress knows no limits, and everyone rises together.



**Ministry of Interior
United Arab Emirates**

Khalil Dawood Badran
Head of the Development
Committee of 999 Magazine

Editor-in-Chief
Col. Awadh Al Kindi

Managing Editor
Issam Al Sheikh

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

magazine999@moi.gov.ae
Toll Free: 800 9009

Subscriptions
Dhs50 – Individuals
Dhs100 – Companies & government
departments

Published on behalf of
the Ministry of Interior by



New Perspective
media

PO Box 77910
twofour54
Abu Dhabi, UAE
Tel: 02- 491 7100
editorial@newperspectivemedia.com
www.newperspectivemedia.com

Distributed by Tawzea



Tel. 8002220 Fax 02-6424842

Disclaimer:

Published articles express the writer's opinions and do not necessarily represent the official views or policy of the UAE Ministry of Interior. Copyrights for all the articles, features, photos and topics published are reserved for 999.

30



ADVANCED LAB BOOSTS CRIME DETECTION

SHARJAH POLICE HAVE LAUNCHED A STATE-OF-THE-ART FINGERPRINT DETECTION LABORATORY, FEATURING CUTTING-EDGE CHEMICAL PROCESSING, DIGITAL IMAGING, AND FORENSIC TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE CRIME DETECTION

14 FACTS & FIGURES

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

16 UAE NEWS BULLETIN

Police news, people, numbers, and events

38 LAWS FOR LIFE

UAE laws safeguard lives and uphold justice with due process and fairness. While certain offences warrant life imprisonment, the aim is not to instill fear but to uphold laws as a shared social contract. **999** explains the serious crimes that carry the toughest penalties

48 SAFE TRAVEL, ALWAYS!

From mountain rescues to lost valuables, UAE police prove that security goes hand in hand with hospitality, creating a tourism environment where safety and security define the experience

56 TECH SWATS DENGUE

The UAE employs advanced technology, scientific research, and strategic measures to control mosquito populations and mitigate the risk of dengue outbreaks

66 TIPS & TRIVIA

Everyone is encouraged to be mindful of the customs observed during Ramadan in the UAE. This comprehensive guide covers key traditions, etiquette, and timing adjustments for the Holy Month

72 SHATTERED DREAMS

As two former addicts near release, they reflect on their past and what awaits them outside prison. With shattered families, can they reclaim their lost years, or will the past pull them back?

76 CRIME MYSTERIES

There's nothing amusing about mistaken identities—especially when they land innocent people behind bars

72 LOST YEARS



Stay connected. Follow us on:



twitter.com/999english



facebook.com/999english

18 COVER STORY

HAND IN HAND

AS THE UAE DECLARES 2025 THE YEAR OF COMMUNITY, **999** HIGHLIGHTS THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE ACTION THROUGH INITIATIVES THAT CHAMPION VOLUNTEERISM, SOCIAL COHESION, AND A SHARED COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A UNITED FUTURE

10



NEWS

UAE Police Chiefs Council discusses crime prevention, security policies

80 HISTORY

From bustling markets to thriving pearl trade, William Gifford Palgrave's accounts of his 1863 journey to Bahrain depict its commerce, architecture, and cultural heritage

86 GADGETS

A slew of smartphones, a smart kitchen garden, and a mighty mini PC—this month's gadget lineup is packed with power and convenience

88 BOOKS

This month's picks explore the many facets of freedom, journey to rediscover roots, and the preservation of cherished heritage

90 ENVIRONMENT NEWS

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

92 HEALTH NEWS

Keep your health in check, stay updated

95 HOROSCOPE

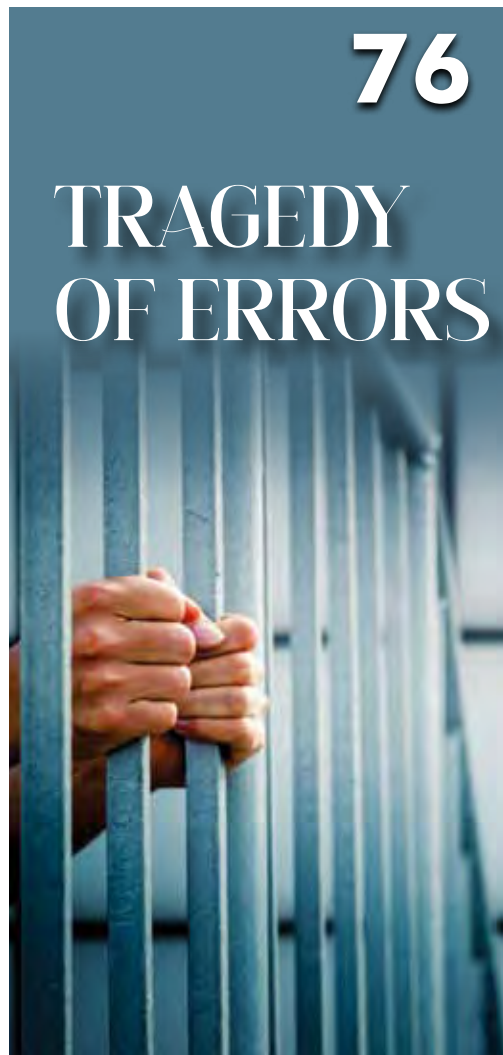
What March has in store for you

96 PUZZLES

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

76

TRAGEDY OF ERRORS



COLUMNISTS



28

Ali Obaid
Veteran Emirati
commentator, journalist,
and writer on local issues



36

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



65

Dr Samar Al-Shamsi
Internationally
respected artist

President declares 2025 as Year of Community in UAE



PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has declared 2025 as the Year of Community under the slogan “Hand in Hand”, reinforcing the UAE’s commitment to strengthening social bonds and fostering collective progress.

Announcing the initiative on X (formerly Twitter), His Highness stated: “Hand in hand, we will work to strengthen social bonds, foster shared responsibility, and unlock potential for inclusive and sustainable growth.” His Highness encouraged all residents to actively contribute to community betterment and national progress.

The Year of Community will focus on preserving cultural heritage, nurturing intergenerational connections, and creating inclusive spaces for shared experiences. Moreover, it will promote community service, volunteering, and impactful contributions, fostering a culture of shared responsibility.

The initiative also aims to unlock the full potential of individuals, families, and organisations by fostering skills development, innovation, and entrepreneurship, particularly in emerging sectors like artificial intelligence.

Mohamed bin Zayed meets global leaders at WGS 2025

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan met with several world leaders and high-level delegations at the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2025 in Dubai, held under the theme “Shaping Future Governments”.

His Highness held separate discussions with HRH Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait; Gustavo Petro Urrego, President of Colombia; Andrzej Duda, President of Poland; and Masrour Barzani, Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The talks focused on strengthening economic, trade, and development ties, fostering mutual growth and prosperity, and advancing sustainable economic strategies.

The discussions also underscored the global significance of the summit, particularly in shaping the future of governance and accelerating global development.



HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed's arrival at World Governments Summit 2025 in Dubai

His Highness visited the ‘Edge of Government’ exhibition and explored

innovative government initiatives and solutions aimed at tackling global challenges.

President reconstitutes AI and Advanced Technology Council

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued a resolution to reconstitute the Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technology Council (AIATC). The Council will be chaired by His Highness Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi and National Security Adviser, with His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan,

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, as Vice-Chairman.

The AIATC plays a crucial role in positioning Abu Dhabi as a global leader in AI and advanced technology, focusing on research, investments, and collaborations with international partners.

The resolution also appoints HE Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, HE Dr

Ahmed Mubarak bin Naww Al Mazrouei, HE Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, HE Jassem Mohamed Bu Ataba Al Zaabi, HE Mohamed Hassan Al Suwaidi, HE Faisal Abdulaziz Al Bannai, and Peng Xiao as members.

Since its establishment in January 2024, the AIATC has been developing policies and strategies to regulate and implement AI and advanced technologies across Abu Dhabi.

Mohammed bin Rashid announces UAE's historic Dhs3 trillion trade



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced that the UAE's foreign trade reached a record Dhs3 trillion by the end of 2024, marking a historic milestone.

On X (formerly Twitter), His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid praised President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for strengthening global economic partnerships, stating that the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) contributed Dhs135 billion to non-oil trade, reflecting a 42 per cent year-on-year increase.

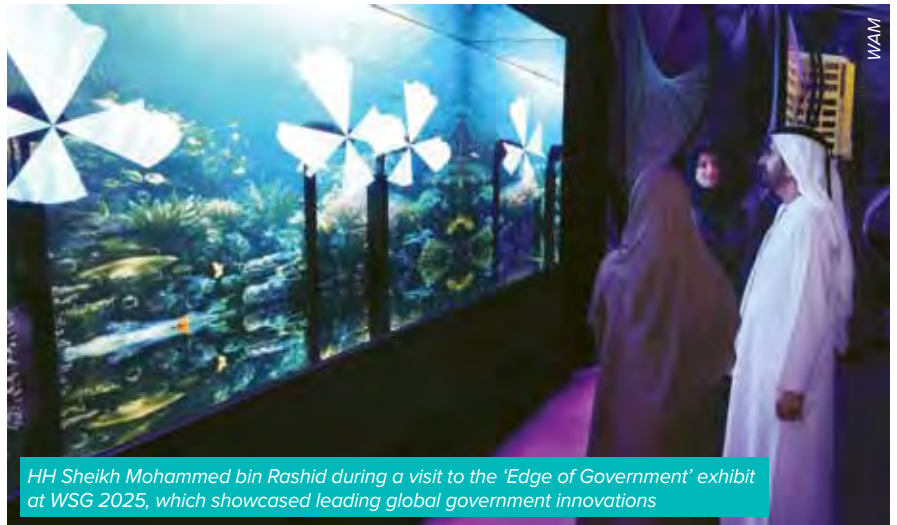
His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid highlighted that in 2021, the UAE set a target of Dhs4 trillion in foreign trade by 2031, and with 75 per cent of that goal already achieved, the nation is on track to surpass it ahead of schedule. His Highness said that the UAE prioritises economic growth over politics, focusing on stability, prosperity, and global trade expansion.

World Gov't Summit 2025 highlights UAE's commitment to innovation

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, visited the 'Edge of Government' exhibit at the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2025, where he reviewed leading global government innovations.

Accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed emphasised that innovation is the foundation of a better future, enhancing quality of life and sustainable progress. His Highness praised the innovative projects showcased, reaffirming the UAE's commitment to fostering human and institutional creativity.

Governments, according to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed, must integrate innovation across all sectors,



embedding it into their operational framework to drive development and prosperity.

Following the success of WSG 2025, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed met with

UAE ambassadors and diplomatic representatives, recognising their efforts in showcasing the nation's role in driving global innovation and advancing collaborative governance.

Dubai issues law regulating use of emirate's official emblems

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has issued Law No. (1) of 2025 to regulate the use of Dubai's official emblems.

The law establishes distinct official emblems for both Dubai and the Government

of Dubai, reflecting the emirate's identity, heritage, and vision. These emblems may only be used in designated locations, events, documents, and seals by authorised entities.

Strict prohibitions apply to the unauthorised use of the emblems for commercial purposes, advertising, or any action that could distort

or diminish their value. Individuals or entities found violating the law face up to five years in prison and fines ranging from Dhs100,000 to Dhs500,000.

This legislation reinforces Dubai's commitment to protecting its official symbols and ensuring their proper use.

Mansour bin Zayed leads Ministerial Dev't Council meeting



HH Sheikh Mansour during the Council meeting at the National Library and Archives in Abu Dhabi

HIS Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, led the Ministerial Development Council meeting at the National Library and Archives in Abu Dhabi.

The meeting reviewed government sector progress and discussed key reports from ministries and federal entities. The agenda covered economic policies, media regulations, infrastructure projects, and financial market competitiveness, along with initiatives to develop human capital and workforce programmes.

Discussions also focused on youth empowerment, housing policies, inclusion of People of Determination, and economic growth strategies. The council assessed the implementation of national strategies and explored measures to enhance clean energy initiatives and improve financial efficiency.

UAE, Kuwait strengthen bilateral relations across sectors

HIS Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, received Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Minister of Interior of Kuwait, at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi.

The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral ties between the UAE and Kuwait, exploring opportunities for collaboration across various sectors to serve both nations' shared interests. The two sides also discussed regional and international matters of mutual concern.



HH Sheikh Mansour and Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah during their meeting at Qasr Al Watan

The meeting was attended by several ministers and senior officials, reflecting the

deep-rooted relations between the UAE and Kuwait.

Winners of GovTech Prize, Global Best M-Gov Award honoured

IN the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, honoured the winners of the Global Best M-Gov Award and GovTech Prize at WGS 2025.

His Highness Sheikh Mansour stated: "The World Governments Summit serves as a global platform that nurtures and accelerates innovation. Through its specialised awards, it recognises outstanding achievements in leveraging technology to empower societies and enhance governments' readiness for the future."

The awards spotlight pioneering projects that harness technology to enhance government services, drive innovation, and improve societal well-being.

GLOBAL BEST M-GOV AWARD WINNERS

Gold Prize: ExoHeal (Germany), an AI-driven rehabilitation system for stroke survivors and individuals with paralysis.

Silver Prize: TERA (Senegal), an initiative that tackles agricultural losses caused by inefficient storage.

Bronze Prize: AccessWay (India), an AI-powered navigation, AR-enhanced guidance, and accessibility mapping for mobility-impaired individuals.

GOVTECH PRIZE WINNERS

Best Use of Generative AI in Government Services: VICA 2.0 (Singapore), an AI-powered virtual assistant used by over 60 government agencies.

Best Human-Centric Government Service: Citizen Service Counter Programme (Brazil), an initiative that provides in-person government assistance, free internet, and digital skills training.

Best Government Service in the World: Suomi.fi (Finland), a nationwide digital public services portal used by 95% of Finnish adults.

Abu Dhabi, Dubai Crown Princes attend WGS 2025



HH Sheikh Khaled and HH Sheikh Hamdan during their meeting on the sidelines of WGS 2025

HIS Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, and His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council, attended the opening of the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2025 in Dubai.

The summit brings together a record number of global leaders, government officials, and experts to discuss governance and future policies.

Their Highnesses toured the Edge of Government exhibit, organised by the Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation. It showcased 10 breakthrough innovations from 19 countries, selected from over 150 global projects that tackle pressing global challenges and shape future societies.

His Highness Sheikh Khaled emphasised the importance of innovation in governance, stating that creative thinking and forward-looking solutions are crucial for building future-ready governments.

Top cadets honoured at Police College's graduation ceremony



HH Sheikh Khaled, alongside HH Sheikh Saif (left) and Major General Al Khaili (right) during the ceremony

UNDER the patronage of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, attended the Police College graduation ceremony in Abu Dhabi.

The ceremony was held in the presence of His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin

Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. It was also attended by Major General Staff Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, several commanders-in-chief and senior officials at police forces across the UAE.

His Highness Sheikh Khaled congratulated the 388 graduates, including 53 international cadets from 31 countries, and emphasised the importance of excellence in policing through

advanced training and best practices.

His Highness honoured top graduates, awarding the Sword of Honour to Officer Cadet Abdullah Ali Abdullah bin Zayed Al Makhzoumi, who ranked first overall; Officer Cadet Salem Waleed Salem Abdulrahman Al Shamsi, the highest-ranking male university graduate; and Officer Cadet Sarah Abdullah Ali Hassan Al Zaabi, the top female university graduate.

Abu Dhabi celebrates excellence in customer service innovation

HIS Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, honoured the winners of the inaugural Abu Dhabi Effortless Customer Experience Awards, organised by the Department of Government Enablement – Abu Dhabi (DGE).

The ceremony brought together over 500 decision-makers, innovators, and customer experience leaders to recognise 32 government entities and companies committed to service excellence.

His Highness Sheikh Khaled affirmed that the awards reflect Abu Dhabi's commitment to enhancing government services, improving

efficiency, and delivering seamless, customer-centric experiences. He highlighted the role of innovation, AI, and smart solutions in driving excellence in public services.

The awards featured three main categories: Best Service, Best Life Moment, and Effortless Customer Experience Superstars, along with special recognition awards.

Saif bin Zayed reaffirms UAE's unwavering global commitment



HH Sheikh Saif delivers a keynote address at WGS 2025 titled "Humankind: The Core of Civilisation and Pioneer of the Future"

IN the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Lt General

Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, delivered a keynote address at WGS 2025 titled "Humankind: The Core of Civilisation

and Pioneer of the Future".

His Highness emphasised the UAE's unwavering commitment to its global commitments, stating: "The UAE was founded on the sincere promises made by our founding fathers. Today, the UAE is one of the safest countries in the world and leads global indicators in entrepreneurship, wealth inflow, and economic stability."

The Interior Minister said, "The UAE shines like a diamond in challenging times, always honouring its commitments. This is the credibility for which President His Highness Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is known. This is the credibility of the UAE."

His Highness Sheikh Saif also praised His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid's visionary leadership, urging Emirati youth to strive for greater achievements. His Highness also highlighted the UAE's humanitarian leadership, noting that Operation Gallant Knight 3 provided over Dhs800 million in aid to Gaza, accounting for 42 per cent of total global relief.

Council of Arab Interior Ministers bolsters key security initiatives

HIS Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, led the UAE delegation at the 42nd session of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers in Tunis.

His Highness was received by Tunisian President Kais Saied, along with other Arab Interior Ministers at Carthage Palace. The UAE Interior Minister conveyed the greetings of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The session gathered representatives from INTERPOL, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, Europol, and other international organisations to discuss regional security



The Council of Arab Interior Ministers during their 42nd session, held in Tunis

efforts. Key topics included anti-narcotics measures across Arab nations, emergency

response and disaster management, and strategies to combat cybercrimes.

Global innovation in governance recognised at WGS 2025

IN the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, His Highness Lt General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, honoured the winners of

the Global Government Excellence Award during World Government Summit (WGS) 2025.

The Award, now in its third edition, recognises pioneering global initiatives that enhance quality of life and address societal challenges.

Amongst the winners are the following:

Technological Innovation for Social Inclusion: 'Ubongo' digital learning

programme (Tanzania) – Bridges educational gaps with digital content in maths, science, and languages, offering interactive tools for teachers.

Innovation in Environmental Sustainability and Community Engagement: Municipality of Cascais (Portugal) – The 'iRec' recycling project uses smart devices to promote recycling, rewarding participants with points for services.



لذة الطعم بكل تفاصيلها



Delicious is in the details



YRTK.com

UAE Police Commanders-in-Chief Council discusses crime prevention



Dhahi Khalfan in a virtual meeting with police commanders-in-chief and senior officers from the Mol during the Council meeting

LIEUTENANT General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai and Chairman of the UAE Police Commanders-in-Chief Council, led a virtual meeting of the Council, attended by police commanders-in-chief across the emirates and senior officers from the Ministry of Interior (Mol).

The Council reviewed a report on the 2024 performance indicators of the National Committee for Combatting Drug Trafficking, highlighting key achievements and challenges in tackling drug-related crimes nationwide. The Council assessed the outcomes of the Criminal Risks Committee for Communities, noting the impact of preventive measures on crime reduction.

A policy was approved for organising the handling and disposal teams within the Mol, ensuring structured operations at the national level.

The Council also examined a report on internationally wanted vehicle cases, discussing major challenges and the importance of international cooperation.

Lastly, a project for the readiness centre system across police leaderships was reviewed, with a keen focus on emergency preparedness and response.

Mol hosts National Committee for Updating Drug Prevention meeting

THE Ministry of Interior (Mol) hosted the second meeting of the National Committee for Updating Drug Prevention at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi. Organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the meeting focused on strengthening awareness, knowledge, and capacity-building efforts to combat drug abuse and enhance prevention measures.

Key discussions centred on reviewing and updating the national drug prevention guide, as well as developing in-person and interactive training courses via the Mol's electronic platform. The initiative aims to equip the education community



Participants of the second meeting of the National Committee for Updating Drug Prevention at the Mol headquarters in Abu Dhabi

with essential resources to identify narcotic substances, recognise signs of abuse, and

implement early intervention strategies to protect students.

Mol partners with Microsoft on lecture about AI's role in policing

AS part of the UAE Innovates 2025 initiative, the Ministry of Interior's (Mol) Innovation Centre, under the General Directorate of Strategy and Performance Development, hosted a virtual lecture in collaboration with Microsoft. The session, led by Dr Ahmed Farag, Regional Director for Security and Justice Department (Europe, Middle East, and Africa) at Microsoft, brought together Mol officers and police leadership from across the UAE.

Dr Farag underscored the transformative

role of generative artificial intelligence in security operations, highlighting its capacity to enhance command centre efficiency and manage vast amounts of data for faster decision-making. "Artificial intelligence has become indispensable in addressing cybersecurity threats, serving as a crucial tool for secure and effective data analysis," he said.

He further explained how AI-driven digital data analysis aids in crime detection by providing accurate digital evidence, accelerating investigations and identifying

perpetrators efficiently. He emphasised the need for enhanced cooperation amongst security agencies to optimise AI applications, calling for stronger technological infrastructure to improve coordination and response times.

"The future of security will undoubtedly be linked to advancements in artificial intelligence and modern technologies," Dr Farag noted, stressing that continuous investment in AI is essential for strengthening security capabilities against evolving threats.

Al Muhairi reviews development plans at Musaffah Police Station



Al Muhairi and Al Nahyan alongside senior police officers of Abu Dhabi Police and police teams at Musaffah Police Station

MAJOR General Ahmed Saif bin Zaitoon Al Muhairi, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police, accompanied by Major General Sheikh Mohammed bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Director General of Abu Dhabi Police, visited Musaffah Police Station, under the External Areas Police Directorate, to review key development plans and initiatives.

The visit underscored the police leadership's commitment to overseeing operations, evaluating performance, and fostering continuous improvement across various police departments.

Al Muhairi was accompanied by senior Abu Dhabi Police officials, including Major General Mohammed Suhail Al Rashidi, Director of the Criminal Security Sector, his deputy

Brigadier Muslim Mohammed Al Ameri, Brigadier Saif Saeed Al Shamsi, Director of the Protocol and Public Relations Department, Brigadier Mohammed Hussein Al Khoori, Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs and Operations at the External Areas Police Directorate, and Brigadier Hamad Abdullah Al Neyadi, Director of the Capital Police Directorate.

Upon arrival, the delegation was received by Brigadier Salem Aadha Al Buqami, Acting Director of the External Areas Police Directorate, Colonel Yusuf Mohammed Al Muhairi, Director of Musaffah Police Station, Lieutenant Colonel Falah Fayee Al Gahtani, Executive Office Director of Abu Dhabi Police, along with station officers.

Al Muhairi commended the officers for their role in the "Shield of the Nation 2/2025" exercise, highlighting their efficiency in emergency response. He emphasised Abu Dhabi Police's dedication to implementing the directives of the UAE's wise leadership, ensuring ongoing development in security strategies.

Abu Dhabi Police warn public against evolving online fraud schemes

ABU Dhabi Police have issued a strong warning about the dangers of evolving online fraud, where scammers deceive victims with false promises of instant wealth. These criminals operate through fake trading platforms, fraudulent websites, and deceptive advertisements, using social media to reach potential targets.

Major General Mohammed Suhail Al Rashidi, Director of the Criminal Security Sector at Abu Dhabi Police, highlighted cases where scammers illegally use images of influencers to gain credibility. "Victims are shown fake profits after making an initial deposit, encouraging further investment. However, when they attempt to withdraw their funds, the money is inaccessible," he explained.

He also warned against fraudulent websites impersonating legitimate businesses, such as insurance companies, well-known restaurants, and retail stores. These sites lure users

with special offers but steal financial information, leading to unauthorised fund withdrawals once credit card details are entered.

Job scams on social media are another growing concern. Fraudsters pose as accredited recruitment agencies, tricking job seekers into paying fees for non-existent employment opportunities.

Al Rashidi urged the public to remain vigilant, safeguard personal information, and avoid sharing sensitive data to prevent falling victim to cyber fraud, extortion, and phone scams. He emphasised the need for stronger collaboration between law



Al Rashidi

enforcement, banks, media, and social media platforms to combat these sophisticated cybercrimes effectively.

Dhahi Khalfan meets new Kuwaiti Consul to reaffirm diplomatic ties



Dhahi Khalfan (2nd from the right) with Al Zaabi (3rd from the right), Kuwait's new Consul General in Dubai and the Northern Emirates

Zaabi, Consul General of the State of Kuwait in Dubai and the Northern Emirates, who visited to extend his greetings upon assuming his new role.

Dhahi Khalfan warmly welcomed Al Zaabi, wishing him success in his diplomatic duties and in further enhancing the long-standing UAE-Kuwait relations across various sectors. Al Zaabi conveyed his appreciation for the reception, highlighting the longstanding ties between the two nations.

Also present at the meeting was Major General Ahmad Atiq Al Maqoudi, Director of the General Directorate of the Office of the Deputy Chairman of Police and General Security in Dubai.

LIEUTENANT General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of

Police and Public Security in Dubai, met with Khalid Abdul Rahim Al

Dubai Police Executive Council assesses strategic projects, initiatives

MAJOR General Expert Khalil Ibrahim Al Mansoori, Acting Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, led a meeting of the Executive Council of Dubai Police General Headquarters, held at the Dubai Police Officers' Club. The meeting brought together assistant chiefs, department directors, police station heads, and council representatives to discuss key initiatives and strategic developments.

The Council reviewed proposed programmes across various police departments and the latest administrative updates. Officials were briefed on compliance and supervision results related to the Customer Policies and Procedures Manual, the Criminal Complaints and Reports Manual, and efforts to reduce bureaucracy.

The Council examined findings from a Dubai Police delegation's recent visit to China, the leadership qualification system



Al Mansoori (centre) reviewing proposed programmes across various police departments during the meeting

within Dubai Police, and the 2024 strategic projects report.

Al Mansoori credited the force's achievements to the continuous follow-up and dedication of Lieutenant General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, to enhancing security operations. He also commended the relentless efforts of police teams in

maintaining excellence across criminal, traffic, and administrative sectors.

Highlighting the importance of teamwork, Al Mansoori stressed the need for innovative initiatives that align with evolving security challenges. He affirmed that ensuring the safety, security, and happiness of the community remains a top priority for Dubai Police.

Sharjah Police, MoEc sign MoU for intellectual property protection

SHARJAH Police signed a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Economy (MoEc) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing intellectual property protection.

The MoU, signed by Major General Abdullah Mubarak bin Amir, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, and Abdulla Ahmed Al Saleh, Undersecretary of the

Ministry of Economy, focuses on strengthening collaboration and raising awareness on safeguarding intellectual property rights.

The MoU outlines joint initiatives, including knowledge exchange, consultations, and support for registering intellectual property, industrial designs, and patents. It also enhances the intellectual

property examination system through the Emirati Examiner programme, equipping individuals with specialised skills in intellectual property assessment.

The partnership aligns with the strategic objectives of both entities, fostering innovation and reinforcing legal frameworks to protect creative and industrial assets.

Forum highlights Fujairah Police's commitment to innovation



Student winners of the Fujairah Police Innovation Idea Award showcase their projects to participants of the Institutional Innovation Forum

FUJAIRAH Police, through the Strategy and Performance Development Department, organised the Institutional Innovation Forum under the theme "We Innovate to Serve the Community". The event

aimed to embed innovation as a core principle in institutional practices, aligning with the UAE's National Innovation Strategy.

Brigadier Mohammed bin Nayie' Al Tunaiji, Deputy Commander-in-

Chief of Fujairah Police, toured the exhibition showcasing innovative projects by Fujairah Police and other participating entities. The event also highlighted the winning inventions during the Fujairah Police Innovation Idea Award, which included student projects. A panel discussion explored the role of innovation in enhancing institutional leadership.

Moreover, three Memorandums of Understanding were signed with Dibba Al Hisn Sports Club, Fujairah Science Club, and Fujairah Research Centre, strengthening collaboration in research and innovation.

Al Tunaiji also honoured speakers, participants, and Fujairah Police Innovation Idea Award winners, reaffirming the police force's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation to enhance community service.

Police innovations showcased at RAK Innovation Exhibition 2025

BRIGADIER Dr Tariq Mohammed bin Saif, Director General of Police Operations at Ras Al Khaimah Police, inaugurated the RAK Police General Headquarters platform at the Ras Al Khaimah Innovation Exhibition 2025 under the theme "The Power of Innovation".

This year's edition holds special significance as it marks the 10th anniversary of UAE Innovates, celebrating a decade of creativity and excellence. The RAK Police platform at the exhibition showcased pioneering projects aimed at advancing security strategies and operational excellence.

Tariq bin Saif stated that Ras Al Khaimah Police's participation underscores its commitment to fostering innovation in policing. He



Tariq bin Saif visits the RAK Police General Headquarters platform at the Ras Al Khaimah Innovation Exhibition 2025

added that through its annual participation in the Innovation Month exhibition, RAK Police continue to support and nurture innovators, encouraging them to develop new

ideas that enhance security, public safety, and community service. The initiative also reinforces efforts to provide high-quality services across all police departments.

Al Nuaimi inspects Ajman Police's Special Tasks Department

MAJOR General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, visited the Special Tasks Department to assess performance indicators and ongoing development

efforts. He was received by Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Hussein Al Shamsi, Head of the Special Tasks Department, along with senior officers.

The visit focused on enhancing security

strategies and modernising operations to uphold the highest safety standards in Ajman. Al Nuaimi commended the department's dedication to maintaining security and protecting the community.

1st

UAE's ranking in MENA and 8th globally in the Henley Passport Index, granting access to 184 countries. It is the only Arab nation in the top 10 and the biggest gainer in the past 10 years.

1st

UAE's ranking in MENA and 3rd globally in the 2025 Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index, which assesses logistics competitiveness, highlighting the country's strong investment strategies and digital readiness.

1st

UAE's ranking as MENA's best-funded startup ecosystem, securing \$146 million (Dhs535.82 mn) across 11 deals, as per Wamda's latest report. Saudi Arabia follows with \$94 million (Dhs344.98 mn), while Egypt ranks third with \$16 million (Dhs58.72 mn) in funding.

1st

UAE's ranking as the most diversified economy in the GCC, as per the 2025 Global Economic Diversification Index. It analysed 115 countries over 24 years using publicly available indicators to ensure transparency.

1st

UAE's ranking in the Arab world and 9th globally in the list of nations with the most number of AI companies per million people. The Global AI Competitiveness Index analysed over 55,000 AI companies worldwide to assess the presence of the AI industry.

BE IN THE LOOP

MOI LAUNCHES UAE INNOVATES 2025 EVENTS, ACTIVITIES



The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has launched its activities for UAE Innovates 2025, marking the tenth edition of UAE Innovation Month. Under the theme "The Power of Innovation 10 – Where Does Your Power Lie?", the MoI is organising interactive events, exhibitions, and training sessions to foster a culture of innovation.

MOI REVIEWS SOCIAL SUPPORT PLANS FOR YEAR OF COMMUNITY 2025

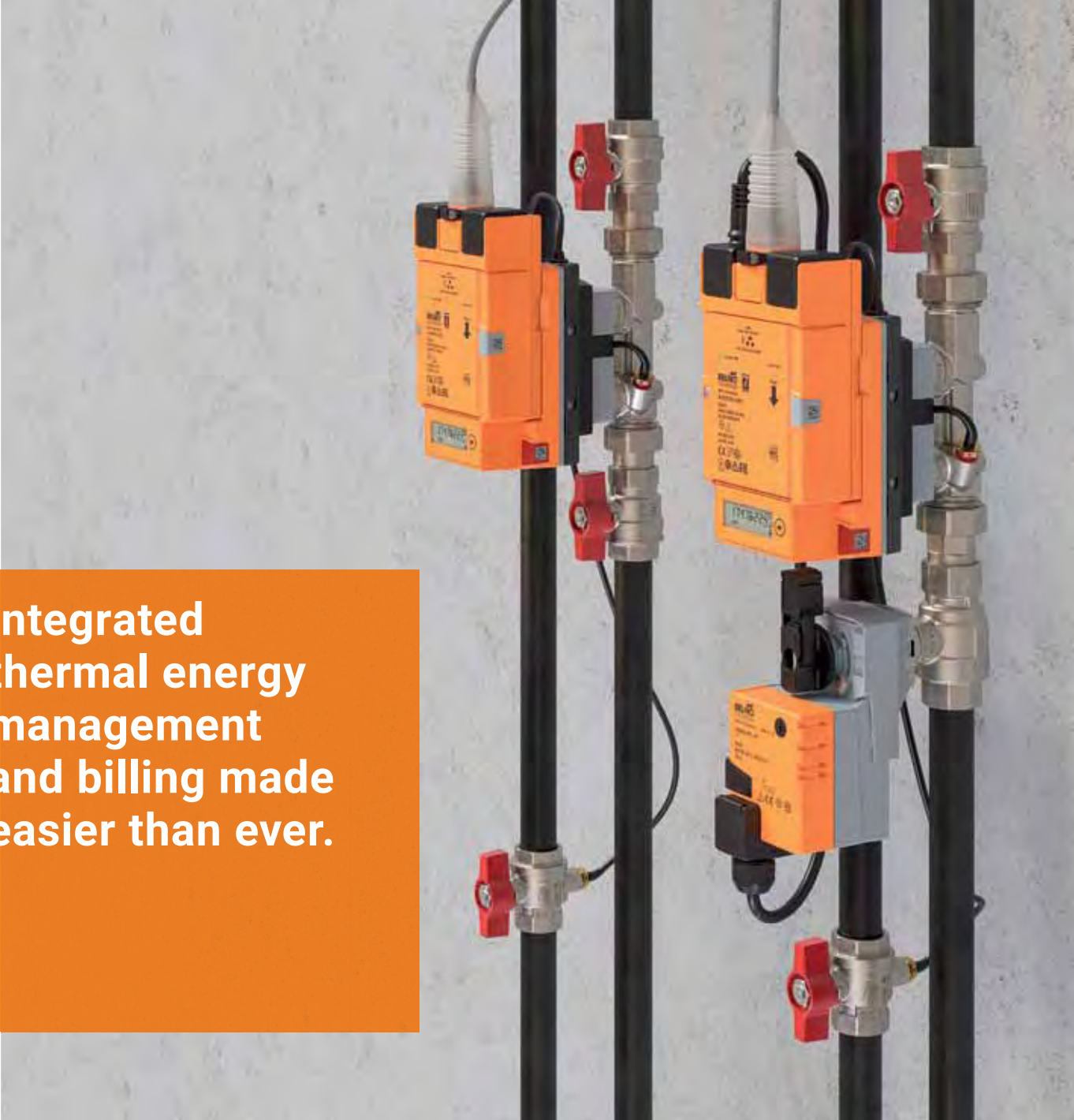


The Ministry of Interior's General Directorate of Community Protection and Crime Prevention held a meeting with federal social support centres to discuss strategic plans for the Year of Community 2025. Key discussions focused on enhancing family security, addressing societal challenges, and implementing community initiatives to promote family cohesion.

MOI GIVES CHILD PROTECTION TALK TO RABDAN ACADEMY STUDENTS, FACULTY



The Ministry of Interior's Child Protection Centre delivered a lecture at Rabdan Academy, showcasing the UAE's pioneering efforts in child protection. The session covered the Child Rights Law ("Wadeema" Law) and key policies, legislation, and security measures aimed at safeguarding children and enhancing community safety. Rabdan Academy students gained insights into national child protection initiatives.



**Integrated
thermal energy
management
and billing made
easier than ever.**

Belimo Energy Valve™ and Thermal Energy Meter

Belimo, the leading manufacturer of damper actuators, control valves and sensors for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technology, brings the worlds of “energy control” and “certified energy measurement and billing” together. The new range of Belimo Energy Valves™ and Thermal Energy Meters integrates energy metering, energy control, and IoT-enabled billing in one device.

Belimo brings together what belongs together.



**Find out more
[belimo.com](https://www.belimo.com)**

UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS

ABU DHABI

DHS15,000

Abu Dhabi Family Court ordered a company to pay Dhs15,000 in compensation to a worker injured on duty. The accident occurred at a construction site where a concrete piece fell on him due to inadequate safety measures and the absence of a safety supervisor.

AJMAN

DHS500,000

Ajman Municipality has intensified its crackdown on veterinary establishments failing to dispose of expired products through accredited companies within three months. Non-compliance carries fines of up to Dhs500,000 under Federal Law No. 9 of 2017 on veterinary products.

DUBAI

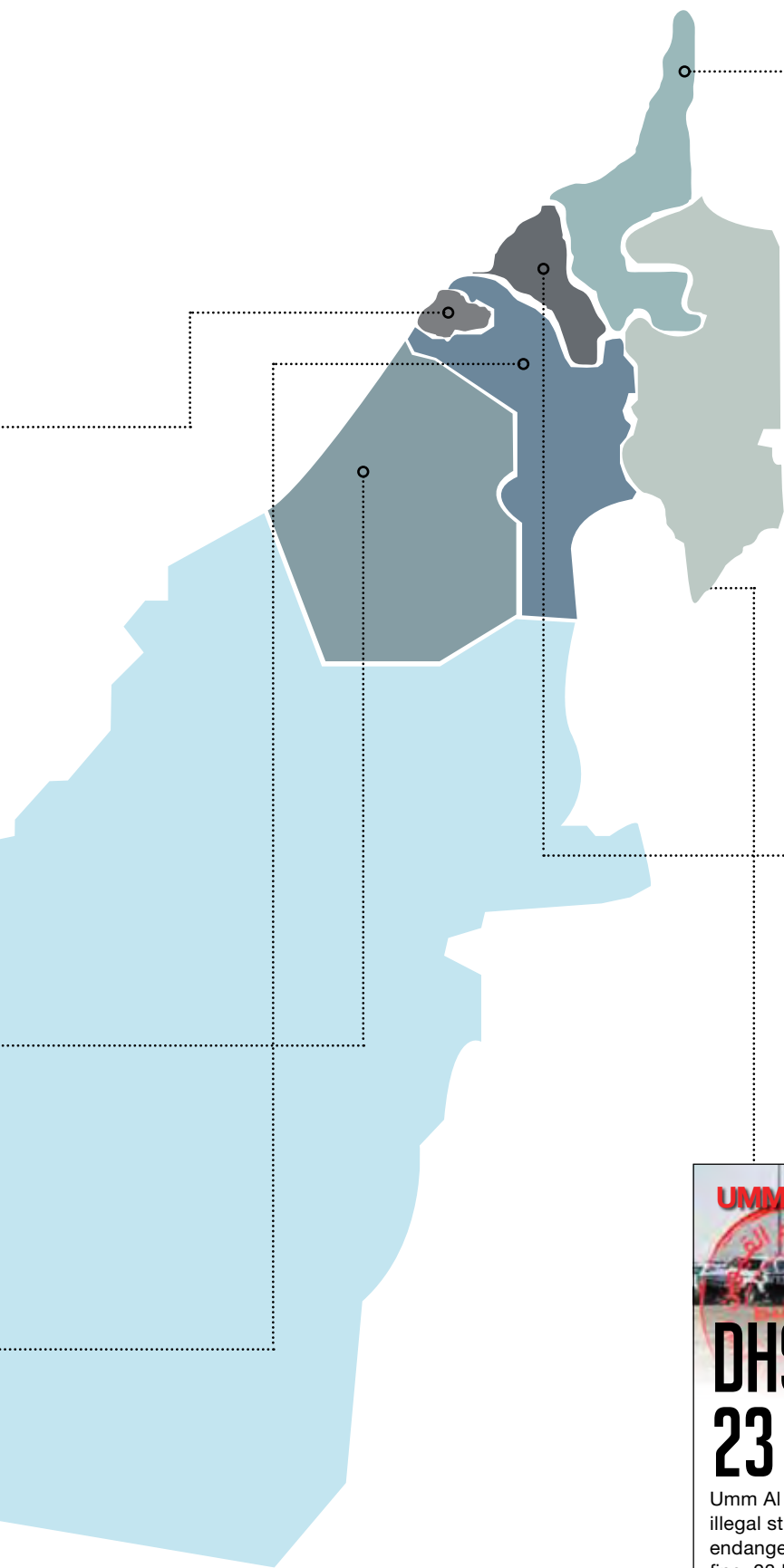
DHS528,000

Dubai Criminal Court sentenced two men and a woman to six months in prison and fined them Dhs528,000 for stealing branded jewellery from a villa in Al Barari, Dubai. The first defendant broke into a safe and sold the loot to the second, who enlisted his spouse to smuggle the jewellery. Their plan was foiled by authorities.

RAS AL KHAIMAH

DHS100,000

Ras Al Khaimah Misdemeanours Court has slapped a restaurant owner with a Dhs100,000 fine for breaching food safety regulations. Both the owner and an employee were charged with distributing harmful food, including spoiled seafood soup. The employee was separately fined Dhs5,000.



FUJAIRAH

29

Fujairah Municipality shut down 29 food outlets in 2024 for breaching public health standards. Violations included operating without licences, poor hygiene, and staff neglecting food safety protocols. Some outlets were closed after accumulating fines.

Fujairah Municipality

SHARJAH

51-YEAR-OLD

A 51-year-old European woman suffered severe head injuries in a motorcycle accident in Sharjah's Al Badayer area. She was airlifted to Al Dhaid Hospital by air ambulance team of the Air Wing Department at the General Directorate of Security Support at the Ministry of Interior for urgent medical treatment.

X @moiauae

UMM AL QUWAIN

DHS2,000 & 23 BLACK POINTS

Umm Al Quwain Police have intensified action against illegal street racing and dangerous stunts that endanger public safety. Offenders face a Dhs2,000 fine, 23 black traffic points, and vehicle impoundment for two months, with a Dhs50,000 release fee.

UQAQ Police

Some images are for illustrative purposes only.

HAND IN HAND

AS THE UAE DECLARES 2025 THE YEAR OF COMMUNITY, **999** HIGHLIGHTS THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE ACTION THROUGH INITIATIVES THAT CHAMPION VOLUNTEERISM, SOCIAL COHESION, AND A SHARED COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A UNITED FUTURE

BY K NIVEDITA



“Hand in hand, we will work to strengthen social bonds, foster shared responsibility, and unlock potential for inclusive and sustainable growth

HH SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN
President of the UAE



“The foundation of our nation’s strength lies in a united community, where individuals are connected, and care is extended to each other

HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

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



When disaster strikes anywhere in the world, the UAE responds swiftly. Citizens and residents alike rally to help prepare aid, whether for victims of earthquakes, floods, or humanitarian crises. A recent example was the overwhelming nationwide support for those affected in Gaza. As part of Operation Chivalrous Knight 3, the UAE

dispatched 100 trucks carrying 1,442 tonnes of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip via the Rafah Border Crossing in January 2025.

In 2023, the ‘Tarahum for Gaza’ campaign saw a massive volunteer turnout. Within hours of launching, thousands—children, students, corporate employees, and people from all walks of life—gathered at Qalaat Alremaal Events

Hall in Dubai to pack food parcels and essentials. This, amongst many other instances, highlights how collective generosity thrives in the UAE, even in a fast-paced digital world where virtual connections often overshadow real-life interactions.

Recognising the need to further strengthen social bonds, the UAE leadership has reinforced its commitment to community. President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan declared 2025 the ‘Year of Community’ under the slogan “Hand in Hand”, reaffirming the nation’s unity and collective responsibility. “Hand in hand, we will work to strengthen social bonds, foster shared responsibility, and unlock potential for inclusive and sustainable growth,” stated His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, encouraging residents to “think ambitiously and act boldly” to ensure the UAE remains an “inspiring model of progress and prosperity”.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said, “The foundation of our nation’s strength lies in a united



Thousands united for the ‘Tarahum for Gaza’ campaign in Dubai, packing aid parcels with urgency and compassion



Volunteers set up a free Iftar in front of a mosque in the Business Bay district, sharing the spirit of Ramadan

community, where individuals are connected, and care is extended to each other. A strong community thrives on fortified families and lays the groundwork for a brighter future for generations to come.”

The UAE has long embedded social responsibility into its national identity. Initiatives such as the ‘Year of Giving’ in 2017, the ‘10 Million Meals’ initiative in 2020, and the ‘1 Billion Meals’ campaign exemplify how government and people work seamlessly to create meaningful impact.

The ‘Year of Community’ aims to further strengthen the UAE’s solidarity with the world and ensures that a sense of community remains at the heart of its national identity, setting a global example of what it means to stand hand in hand.

A NATION OF GIVERS

The country has a deeply ingrained culture of volunteering, rooted in the legacy of the UAE’s Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose leadership was defined by generosity and inclusivity. His values continue to be honoured each year on Zayed Humanitarian Day, observed on the 19th day of Ramadan, when individuals, organisations, and

“ We are a nation built on giving. No matter how fast the country develops, our strength is in our people’s compassion ”

institutions come together in service of the greater good.

The UAE’s diverse expatriate population has embraced this culture, with many companies encouraging employees to engage in social work. Schools also integrate volunteering into their curriculum, instilling values of compassion from a young age. “We are a nation built on giving,” said Jalfar Al Suwaidi, a volunteer in Dubai. “No matter how fast the country develops, our strength is in our people’s compassion.”

This spirit is exemplified by the ‘Ramadan Sharing Fridges’ initiative, where people leave food in community fridges for labourers and those in need. “Even a meal, a bottle of water, or a juice drink—small acts matter,” said Mildred Gomez, an expatriate who regularly donates to community fridges. “It’s not about how much you give, but about caring for those around you.”

RAMADAN’S SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

During Ramadan, mosques and

communities set up tents offering free iftar meals to thousands, while volunteers distribute food packets outside mosques, in labour accommodations, and on busy streets. Families prepare extra food to share with neighbours and workers, ensuring no one breaks their fast alone.

“In my building, we always exchange food during Ramadan. It’s our way of connecting, regardless of where we come from,” said Aisha Al Kaabi, a regular community iftar volunteer in Abu Dhabi. “We have people from different countries, but sharing a meal makes us feel like one family.”

Dr Mustafa Taher, Coordinator of the Dawoodi Bohra Community in Sharjah, highlighted the UAE’s commitment to unity, social responsibility, and progress. “The Year of Community 2025 reflects the UAE’s dedication to fostering civic engagement and national solidarity,” he told **999**. “We remain committed to contributing through impactful initiatives that uplift and empower society.”

He noted that mobilising volunteers

“ People across the country are eager to support, especially when they see their efforts translating into real impact



DR MUSTAFA TAHER
Coordinator of the Dawoodi Bohra Community in Sharjah

in the UAE is relatively easy due to the nation's strong culture of philanthropy and well-structured initiatives. “People across the country are eager to support, especially when they see their efforts translating into real impact,” he added.

Dr Taher described volunteering as a “transformative experience that instils a sense of purpose, gratitude, and belonging while developing leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.”

“ Volunteering contributes to community development, conservation, and social welfare, enhancing overall living standards



DR RAHAF AJAJ
Chair of the Environmental and Public Health Department, College of Health Sciences in Abu Dhabi University

GOLDEN RECOGNITION FOR VOLUNTEERS

Dr Rahaf Ajaj, Chair of the Environmental and Public Health Department, College of Health Sciences in Abu Dhabi University, emphasised that volunteering fosters social cohesion by bridging cultural gaps. “Volunteering contributes to community development, conservation, and social welfare, enhancing overall living standards,” she told **999**. It also

offers personal benefits. “It instils purpose, confidence, and mental wellness by reducing stress. It helps individuals gain new skills, expand social networks, and develop a deeper cultural awareness. In the UAE, sustained community service can even lead to a Golden Visa,” said Dr Ajaj.

The UAE ensures that acts of kindness are recognised. Beyond the immediate impact of volunteer work, the country incentivises humanitarian efforts through the prestigious Golden Visa—a five- to ten-year residency granted to those making significant contributions to public service, humanitarian causes, or social welfare.

Those who have served in international and regional organisations or civil associations for at least five years, received an award from a humanitarian organisation, or donated over Dhs2 million to charitable causes are eligible.

UNIQUE RAMADAN INITIATIVES

Across the UAE, diverse volunteering initiatives flourish, from corporate social responsibility programmes to grassroots efforts and government-backed



The UAE's commitment to social responsibility shines through initiatives like 'Year of Giving', '10 Million Meals' and '1 Billion Meals'



The UAE rewards impactful volunteerism with the Golden Visa, granting long-term residency to those dedicated to public service and humanitarian efforts

campaigns. Those dedicating time to community work become part of a deeply ingrained culture of giving.

For Rafah Arjeh, Office Manager at Al Tamimi & Co., Abu Dhabi, volunteering has been transformative. A Golden Visa recipient recognised for her active community work, she believes giving time to others reshapes priorities, proving that fulfilment comes not from what is gained but from what is given.

“Volunteering has been life-changing. It’s taught me empathy, teamwork, and resilience, and given me a strong sense of purpose,” Arjeh told 999. Her involvement spans various causes, from supporting children with special needs to advocating for environmental sustainability, animal welfare, and corporate social responsibility.

“One unforgettable moment was during a project with children with special needs—their joy and laughter showed me how small acts of kindness can create a big impact,” she recalled.

As the UAE embraces 2025 as the ‘Year of Community,’ its commitment to social responsibility, philanthropy, and unity stands as a beacon of global inspiration—

How to be a licensed volunteer



Eligibility

To volunteer in the UAE, individuals must be residents or citizens. The legal age requirement is 18, but minors can participate with written parental consent. They must be medically fit.



Types of permits

Individual: For individuals looking to participate in voluntary work.

Group: For groups of five or more volunteers.

Organisation: Required for legal entities seeking to engage volunteers in their operations and programmes.



Registration and licensing

Prospective volunteers must register on volunteers.ae/abudhabi to apply for a licence. The process includes submitting an official letter stating the application’s purpose. The standard processing time is around 30 days, and the licence remains valid for two years.



Volunteer vest

Licensed volunteers in Abu Dhabi receive an official vest, which must only be worn during authorised activities. The vest cannot be shared or lent to others and must be kept clean and in good condition. A damaged or dirty vest should not be worn.



FINES FOR VIOLATORS

Dhs10,000 to Dhs100,000

Engaging in volunteer work without a valid licence or participating in an unlicensed project.

Up to Dhs30,000

Disclosing confidential information obtained during volunteer activities.

Dhs50,000

Raising funds or seeking financial assistance without a legal permit.

proving that, together, people can build a stronger, more compassionate society.

Here are some of the most unique initiatives that foster a deep sense of community:

TACKLING FOOD WASTE

While numerous campaigns focus on acts of kindness, a critical issue requiring collective action during Ramadan is food



The UAE's culture of volunteering reflects the legacy of Sheikh Zayed, honoured annually on Zayed Humanitarian Day, observed on the 19th day of Ramadan

The Authority of Social Contribution Ma'an, in partnership with the Ministry of Interior, regularly rolls out the 'Ramadan Aman', a decade-old initiative aimed at reducing road accidents by distributing iftar meals to drivers

wastage. According to the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, the UAE discards an estimated 3.27 million tonnes of food annually, costing the economy approximately \$3.5 billion (Dhs12.8 billion) per year.

With the government aiming to halve these figures by 2030, Arjeh urges residents to support the National Food Loss and Waste initiative, Ne'ma, which redistributes surplus local produce to families across Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and Sharjah.

REDUCING ROAD RISKS

If patience is a virtue, rush hour before iftar is its ultimate test. Nothing fuels reckless driving quite like an empty stomach and a ticking clock. As sunset approaches, many motorists speed home, pushing limits in a race against time.

To curb this dangerous trend, the Authority of Social Contribution Ma'an, in partnership with the Ministry of Interior, regularly rolls out the 'Ramadan Aman', a



An Abu Dhabi Police officer hands out an iftar meal to a motorist at a traffic signal



Abu Dhabi Police's free iftar meals campaign promotes road safety by preventing motorists from rushing home, reducing the risk of accidents

“I am inspired by the many incredible Emirati women who have contributed to building the nation as active and valued members of its institutions and businesses



EMMA BROWN

Lawyer and President of Soroptimist International of the Gulf in Dubai

decade-old initiative aimed at reducing road accidents by distributing iftar meals to drivers. With more than 45,000 volunteers nationwide, this campaign promotes safer roads by addressing the persistent problem of hunger-induced haste leading to reckless driving.

Arjeh, a consistent Ramadan Aman volunteer, said, “Volunteering during Ramadan is all about bringing people together and spreading kindness. It’s a time when we can give back and ensure that no one is left out, especially those who might be struggling. Ramadan is a month of compassion, and through volunteering, we get to share that spirit with others—whether by offering food, support, or just a helping hand.”

WOMEN IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Emma Brown, an English lawyer and President of Soroptimist International of the Gulf in Dubai, was immediately struck by the UAE’s strong culture of volunteerism upon her arrival in 2020.

“I have always enjoyed volunteering and actively supported local charities during my university days,” she told 999. “When living in London, I spent weekends teaching English to refugees. When I moved to Dubai, I knew I wanted to continue giving back to the community.”

Inspired by her grandmother, a Soroptimist member for 30 years, Brown joined the organisation, which is a global network of women leading grassroots initiatives to build stronger communities. “One summer, she suggested I reach out to the local Soroptimist club in Dubai as a way to get involved in volunteering, give back to the community, and meet like-minded women.”

“Our Dubai chapter primarily focuses



The UAE’s culture of volunteering reflects the legacy of Sheikh Zayed, honoured annually on Zayed Humanitarian Day, observed on the 19th day of Ramadan

Under Federal Law No. (13) of 2018 on Volunteer Work, individuals must be residents or citizens, aged 18 or older, though minors can participate with parental consent. Volunteers must also be medically fit for their assigned roles

on projects addressing women’s health issues in Africa and Asia,” she explained. “In leading the UAE chapter, I am inspired by the many incredible Emirati women who have contributed to building the nation as active and valued members of its institutions and businesses. I am also inspired by everyday women everywhere who strive to make the world a better place for their families, communities, and themselves.”

STRICTLY FOR PUBLIC GOOD

Community volunteering in the UAE must be unpaid and free from financial motives. Volunteers cannot expect rewards or use the platform to promote products, services, or personal interests. The primary purpose is to contribute to the public good and strengthen social cohesion.

Under Federal Law No. (13) of 2018

on Volunteer Work, individuals must be residents or citizens, aged 18 or older, though minors can participate with parental consent. Volunteers must also be medically fit for their assigned roles.

To volunteer in Abu Dhabi, individuals must register on volunteers.ae/abudhabi to apply for a licence. The process requires submitting an official letter stating the application’s purpose, with approval taking around 30 days. The licence remains valid for two years.

According to the Department of Community Development, registration is mandatory. Volunteers receive a reference number, allowing them to browse and apply for official volunteering opportunities in Abu Dhabi. Licensed volunteers are issued an official vest, which must be worn only during authorised activities. It cannot be shared, lent, or worn in poor condition.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WHETHER THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION, HUMANITARIAN AID, OR ANIMAL WELFARE, JOINING THESE INITIATIVES HELPS TO STRENGTHEN THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN THE UAE



Journey of Generations

Since 2019, Journey of Generations has been fostering meaningful interactions between senior citizens and youth across Abu Dhabi. Organised by the Authority of Social Contribution – Ma'an, this initiative enhances community engagement and promotes a healthy lifestyle, giving older residents a stronger sense of belonging.

Youth volunteers participate in various activities, such as meetups and group walks at Umm Al Emarat Park, strengthening intergenerational bonds. The initiative has already attracted over 600 volunteers and engaged 450 senior citizens and residents. Partnering with the Al Mubarakah Foundation, Ma'an continues to refine the volunteering experience, ensuring a rewarding journey for all involved.

How to join:

Volunteers can register at maan.gov.ae/en/support-our-mission/volunteer/ or arab.org/contact-us/ or call +971 2 444 4239.



Save the Dolphins

Despite the presence of over 10 whale and dolphin species in the Arabian Gulf, research on their populations remains limited. The UAE Dolphin Project, a non-for-profit initiative, seeks to bridge this gap by monitoring coastal dolphin populations and implementing research programmes.

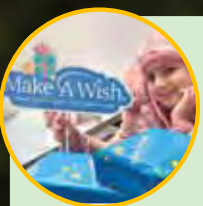
Volunteers play a key role in supporting conservation efforts, participating in:

- Field research to track dolphin movements
- Public awareness campaigns
- Educational initiatives for schools and organisations

Opportunities range from one-time event participation to long-term commitments of three to six months, requiring five to ten hours per week. For marine enthusiasts, this is an opportunity to contribute to critical conservation efforts while gaining invaluable experience in marine biology.

How to join:

Volunteers can register by emailing sighting@uaedolphinproject.org or calling +971 566717164.



Make-A-Wish UAE

Make-A-Wish UAE has been fulfilling the wishes of children battling critical illnesses since its establishment in 2010. The initiative aims to uplift children and their families by turning their dreams into reality, instilling hope and resilience.

In the past three years alone, over 7,000 wishes have been granted. The organisation relies on individuals, corporations, and volunteers who contribute time, services, in-kind gifts, and funds. Volunteers undertake various roles, from administrative tasks to directly helping fulfil children's wishes, ensuring every moment is filled with joy and encouragement.

How to join:

Volunteers can register by contacting info@makeawish.ae.



Take a Pledge

With climate change threatening ecosystems worldwide, The Climate Tribe, a UAE-based organisation, has launched 'Take a Pledge' to encourage community-driven climate action. As of the latest count, 52 pledges have been taken, reflecting a growing commitment to sustainability across the UAE. Through storytelling and collaboration, the initiative urges residents to adopt sustainable habits, reducing their carbon footprint.

Participants can take pledges such as:

- **Breath of Fresh Air Pledge:**
Commit to planting at least two trees annually and tracking their growth.
- **Trash Terminator Pledge:**
Dedicate efforts to composting, segregating, and recycling waste.
- **Urban Farmer Pledge:**
Support or establish a community garden to promote local produce.
- **Pedal Power Pledge:**
Opt for cycling as a mode of transport, enhancing health while reducing emissions.

How to join:

Volunteers can register at theclimatetribe.com/en/contact-us.



Light the Way

Every three minutes, a child is born with a cleft lip or palate, a condition that can hinder basic functions such as eating and speaking. Operation Smile, a global non-for-profit organisation providing free reconstructive surgeries, has launched its annual **#LightTheWay** campaign for Ramadan 2025, aiming to raise awareness and support for children in need.

Community members can contribute by spreading awareness, participating in campaign events, or donating for surgeries. Medical professionals volunteer their expertise, while corporate sponsors provide essential surgical supplies, ensuring life-changing treatments for those in need.

How to join:

Volunteers can register by contacting volunteer@operationsmileuae.ae or calling **+971 (2) 658 47 90 / +971 (2) 658 47 99**.



Second Chance for Stray Dogs

For animal lovers, the Stray Dogs Centre offers multiple volunteer opportunities, helping abandoned and rescued dogs find comfort and care. In Umm Al Quwain, activities include taking dogs on desert walks and offering them exercise and socialisation. There is also the 'Doggy Socialisation' programme, which is designed to help newly rescued dogs adapt to human contact, socialise with other dogs, and learn to walk on a leash.

In Dubai, volunteers can participate in Adoption Days, assist with veterinary runs, and help transport donations. While some activities require personal transportation, others demand a fixed weekly time commitment and a minimum age requirement.

How to join:

Volunteers can register at straydogscenteruae.com.



Misterlight®



Best Brands. Low Prices.

Offering reliable brands
that cater to different
electrical categories

Misterlight has made a strong presence as a leading supplier for electrical cables and accessories in the GCC and UAE market for over 30 years. We are sole agents and stockists for very well known products in this market like Firecel - Cavicel, Paige Electric, Italian Cable Company, COT Manyfolk, Rupam, ACE SuperImpex, Geros, Siechem, Remora and many more.

We have made our presence known in every industry including urban construction, oil & gas, transport, utilities as well as industrial sectors. Through our experience in this market, we have grown to develop a very strong sales network throughout the GCC region.

We have been part of many prestigious projects such as Burj Khalifa, Dubai Metro, Dubai Tram, Dubai Airport Terminal 2 & 3, Al Maktoum International Airport, Expo 2020 pavilions, Seaworld Abudhabi, Mohammed Bin Rashid Library, The Palm Jumeirah, Coca Cola Arena, Opera Grand Tower, Airports around GCC, Malls and Resorts around UAE and many more...

Our Products

Contact us for more information on
mrl@misterlight.com

Misterlight FZCO - Dubai Branch
P.O.Box: 55331, Plot Number - TP020701, National Industries Park, Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 4 889 4959, Fax: +971 4 889 4894

www.misterlight.com



THOSE DAYS

Ali Obaid is a veteran Emirati commentator, journalist, and writer on local issues

Ramadan was once simple but deeply cherished in the UAE. Modern life has reshaped its traditions

Time moves fast, sweeping away the world we once knew. Life had a different rhythm, and as children, we simply went along without questioning. Now, looking back, those days feel like distant echoes, slipping further away with each passing year.

Back then, the Maghrib call to prayer signalled the start of something special. Parents, who were usually strict about curfews, made rare exceptions during this time of the year. Ramadan nights stretched longer, filled with laughter and games. The streets were alive in a way they never did during the rest of the year. We wished those nights would last forever, but they always disappeared too soon, like sand slipping through our fingers.

Ramadan carried simplicity back in the days, an unspoken beauty in the way the community came together. The aroma of home-cooked meals filled the air, drifting from open windows as families prepared for iftar. Children carried plates of food to neighbours. Lanterns flickered, casting playful shadows on the walls, and suhoor meant the comforting voice of an elder waking everyone before dawn—not an alarm buzzing in the dark. These little moments, seemingly insignificant at that time, now feel like lost treasures.

It was a time before screens ruled our lives.

Television was a novelty, its signal wavering, dependent on weather and distant stations. Before the country had its own broadcasts, we clung to whatever we could catch from beyond the borders. Do you remember when you first fasted? It was at an age that today's children would find impossible. Maybe it was

a challenge, maybe just an attempt to be like the grown-ups. Either way, fasting young was our norm. Now, with endless comforts, young ones sleep through daylight, missing the essence of the holy month.

What remains of those memories? What pieces of the past refuse to fade? The details may blur, but

the feelings remain even as everything changes. The faces that once filled them fade, traditions evolve, and modernity rewrites the script. What was once a rich, proud identity now feels like a faded photograph.

Have those days truly disappeared, or do they still live on in the quiet corners of our hearts? The traditions that once shaped the holy month, the ones we always recall, have been swallowed by the rush of modern life. It's a thought that resurfaces every Ramadan. In every sight and sound of Ramadan today, one can't help but reflect on how things were in the past. In those memories, solace is found amidst the march of time.

Fasting young was our norm. Now, with endless comforts, young ones sleep through the daylight, missing the essence of the holy month



CommScope connectivity powers the smart building.

Connectivity is redefining how today's smart buildings serve the people who live, work and play in them. And CommScope is redefining how in-building connectivity is engineered, deployed and managed.

Employees, customers and visitors demand always-on wireless service. Facility operations and security systems increasingly rely on IP-connected Internet of Things devices. No wonder enterprises around the world count on CommScope to deliver reliable, ubiquitous in-building connectivity—making smart buildings smarter, and helping to manage them better.

Contact MEAMarketing@commscope.com
or learn more at commscope.com

COMMSCOPE®

ADVANCED LAB BOOSTS CRIME DETECTION



SHARJAH POLICE HAVE LAUNCHED A STATE-OF-THE-ART FINGERPRINT DETECTION LABORATORY, FEATURING CUTTING-EDGE CHEMICAL PROCESSING, DIGITAL IMAGING, AND FORENSIC TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE CRIME DETECTION

BY ZUBAIDA DODIN





Sharjah Police's fingerprint detection lab builds a database to track offenders and prevent crimes

“By applying high-resolution digital imaging, precise chemical processing, and specialised forensic tools, we can provide irrefutable forensic evidence that strengthens criminal cases



BRIGADIER EXPERT NAJEE MUHAMMAD AL HAMADI

Director of the Forensic Evidence and Laboratory Department at Sharjah Police

Fingerprints may be invisible to the naked eye, but they are powerful evidence in solving crimes and delivering justice. As unique as a signature, they link suspects to crime scenes and strengthen cases in court.

Recently, Sharjah Police took a significant step forward in forensic science with the launch of a state-of-the-art fingerprint detection laboratory. Designed to enhance crime-solving capabilities and improve forensic accuracy, this specialised facility utilises the latest chemical processing techniques, digital imaging systems, and advanced forensic tools to aid criminal investigations.

The laboratory focuses on developing and enhancing latent fingerprints, a crucial element in identifying suspects and linking evidence to crimes. Traditional fingerprint detection methods often struggle with smudged or partial prints, but this facility employs cutting-edge chemical reagents to reveal hidden details on various surfaces. It also uses infrared and ultraviolet lighting techniques to lift fingerprints that would otherwise go undetected.

Brigadier Expert Najee Muhammad Al Hamadi, Director of the Forensic Evidence and Laboratory Department at Sharjah Police, told **999**, “Our goal is to increase the accuracy, efficiency, and reliability of fingerprint detection using advanced scientific techniques. By applying

high-resolution digital imaging, precise chemical processing, and specialised forensic tools, we can provide irrefutable forensic evidence that strengthens criminal cases.”

The facility also features a digital image analysis unit, which enhances

fingerprint clarity using high-resolution imaging and specialised forensic software. This allows forensic experts to capture, analyse, and compare prints with greater precision, reducing errors and expediting case resolutions. Beyond detection and analysis, the lab plays a vital role



Sharjah Police's fingerprint detection lab enhances forensic investigations with advanced fingerprint analysis

in building a comprehensive fingerprint database in the UAE, which helps connect cases, track repeat offenders, and prevent future crimes.

Al Hamadi emphasised the expertise of the forensic team, stating, “The team comprises fingerprint experts and forensic analysts who prepare detailed technical reports, ensuring evidence is accurately interpreted. Their work directly contributes to solving and preventing crimes, aligning with our strategic mission of enhancing security and safety for all.”

Moreover, Sharjah Police prioritise collaboration with other security and judicial entities. The forensic laboratory works closely with the Criminal Investigations Department, Narcotics Control, local police stations, and international law enforcement bodies like Interpol. These partnerships enhance intelligence-sharing, cross-border crime-solving, and the overall efficiency of law enforcement efforts.

What are the strategic objectives of Sharjah Police in establishing this state-of-the-art fingerprint detection laboratory?

Al Hamadi: Fingerprints are amongst the most critical forms of forensic evidence used to identify crime suspects. To enhance accuracy and efficiency in crime scene investigations, Sharjah Police established this specialised laboratory equipped with advanced chemical processing techniques to develop and enhance latent fingerprints, even those that are smudged or unclear.

Could you identify the techniques involved in developing and enhancing latent fingerprints?

Al Hamadi: Latent fingerprints consist of sweat, oils, and organic compounds left behind when a person touches a surface. These residues contain amino acids, lipids, and salts, which react with specific chemicals to create visible, fluorescent, or colour-contrasting impressions. To detect them, the laboratory’s chemical processing unit applies specialised reagents, such as silver nitrate for paper, ninhydrin for porous surfaces, and fluorescent steam processing for sensitive evidence. Infrared (IR) and ultraviolet (UV) lighting techniques further enhance fingerprint visibility and extraction. Superglue fuming, a technique that vaporises cyanoacrylate, is also employed to develop prints on non-porous materials like glass, plastic, and metal.



Strategic goals of Sharjah Police’s fingerprint detection lab



Improve detection accuracy by employing the latest chemical processing methods to visualise latent fingerprints from crime scene evidence.



Enhance efficiency by accelerating the analysis process using cutting-edge forensic techniques, saving both time and resources.



Preserve evidence integrity by reducing the risk of damage through precise, controlled processing.



Strengthen forensic databases by contributing to a comprehensive fingerprint repository for case linkages and investigative analysis.



Train specialised personnel in forensic fingerprint processing, ensuring expertise in modern forensic methodologies.



Key processing techniques utilised by Sharjah Police's fingerprint detection lab



SILVER NITRATE PROCESSING

Reacts with salt deposits in fingerprint residues to reveal prints on paper and other porous surfaces. The prints become visible after exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light.



FLUORESCENT STEAM PROCESSING

Employed for highly sensitive evidence, where fluorescent vapours adhere to fingerprint residues, making them visible under specialised lighting conditions.



NINHYDRIN APPLICATION

Used for detecting fingerprints on porous materials such as paper, cardboard, and fabric. It reacts with amino acids in sweat, producing a purple print for easier analysis.



SUPERGLUE FUMING

Vaporises cyanoacrylate, allowing the fumes to adhere to fingerprint residues and create a white, hardened print on non-porous surfaces such as glass, plastic, and metal.



DIGITAL IMAGE ANALYSIS

Utilises high-resolution imaging equipment and advanced software to document, enhance, and clarify fingerprints before and after chemical processing, ensuring greater accuracy in forensic comparisons.

Our digital image analysis unit improves fingerprint documentation through high-resolution imaging and advanced software, ensuring greater accuracy in forensic investigations.



What are the most advanced technologies used in Sharjah Police's fingerprint detection laboratory?

Al Hamadi: The laboratory integrates state-of-the-art forensic devices to process and enhance fingerprints effectively. Key technologies include spectral imaging devices and ultraviolet and infrared systems, which detect invisible fingerprints on various surfaces, such as paper, metal, and plastic. Moreover, magnetic and fluorescent powders enhance fingerprint contrast, making detection on challenging surfaces more effective. Advanced biochemical compounds, such as DFO (1,8-Diazafuoren-9-one) and ninhydrin, react with fingerprint components like salts and amino acids to reveal intricate details on paper and other porous materials.



How does the Forensic Evidence and Laboratories Department ensure best international forensic standards?

Al Hamadi: The Sharjah Police General Command upholds international forensic standards by implementing an integrated quality management system, adhering to ISO certifications, such as ISO 9001 (Quality Management), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management), ISO 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety), and ISO 55001 (Asset Management).

To stay ahead in forensic science, the Department actively monitors global advancements, participates in local and international forensic conferences and exhibitions, and adopts the latest technologies and equipment to enhance evidence analysis.



What aspect of this advanced laboratory makes you most proud?

Al Hamadi: I take immense pride in the dedication and expertise of our forensic team, whose efforts have been instrumental in advancing crime detection. Fingerprint examination is a meticulous process that requires a strong foundation in chemistry, physics, and forensic science. Our specialists are highly skilled in chemical processing techniques, image enhancement, and digital fingerprint analysis, ensuring evidence is handled with precision. Their keen attention to detail

and sharp analytical thinking are crucial, as even the slightest misinterpretation can affect an investigation.



How do you think artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance crime detection and support police investigations?

AI Hamadi: AI and machine learning are rapidly transforming forensic science by significantly improving the speed and accuracy of crime detection. For example, AI-driven systems can analyse vast datasets to identify patterns and assist in crime scene reconstruction. Meanwhile, AI-powered predictive analytics can help law enforcement anticipate criminal activity and allocate resources more effectively. The Forensic Evidence and Laboratories Department at Sharjah Police is keen to integrate these intelligent solutions in the future to further enhance forensic analysis.



How will this specialised laboratory contribute to maintaining safety and security in the emirate of Sharjah?

AI Hamadi: At Sharjah Police, we are dedicated to staying ahead by equipping our forensic teams with the latest tools and expertise to handle cases with precision. This laboratory plays a crucial role in that vision—enhancing investigative accuracy and speeding up evidence processing. With strong leadership support and continuous advancements, we remain committed to maintaining safety in the Emirate of Sharjah, reducing crime rates, and ensuring a more secure community for all.



What key entities, both within and outside the police, do you collaborate with to strengthen forensic investigations?

AI Hamadi: Forensic investigation is a team effort across multiple departments and agencies. Within the police force, we work closely with the Criminal Investigations Department, Narcotics Control, and police stations to provide them with the forensic evidence they need to solve cases efficiently. Beyond that, we collaborate with judicial authorities, other police leadership, and international organisations like Interpol through official security channels. These partnerships help us share intelligence, enhance investigative capabilities, and tackle cross-border crimes more effectively, ensuring that our forensic work supports not just local security but also global law enforcement efforts.



Advanced fingerprint detection tools by the lab



Spectral imaging devices

Detect invisible fingerprints on various surfaces, including paper, metal, and plastic, by analysing light absorption and reflection patterns.



Ultraviolet and infrared systems

Specialised lighting systems that reveal latent fingerprints on surfaces where traditional methods may fail, such as dark, reflective, or multi-textured materials.



Magnetic and fluorescent powders

Enhance fingerprint contrast on difficult surfaces by adhering to sweat and oil residues, making latent prints visible for examination and documentation.



Advanced biochemical compounds

Examples are DFO (1,8-Diazafluoren-9-one) and ninhydrin, which react with fingerprint components, such as salts and amino acids, to develop intricate ridge details on porous materials like paper and fabric.



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

GOVERNMENT OF TRANSPARENCY

The UAE's global leadership is driven by bold vision, innovation, and adaptive governance to rapid global shifts

Despite the UAE's rise to global leadership, the nation remains unwavering in its commitment to accountability and transparency. For its visionary leaders, success is not merely about reaching the top but continuously refining systems to enhance efficiency and excellence.

The Zero Government Bureaucracy programme was launched a year ago—ample time, as His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, emphasised, for entities to adopt best practices. From the outset, His Highness made the programme's core mission clear: to enhance quality of life by eliminating system inefficiencies.

Defining bureaucracy, His Highness recently stated on X (formerly Twitter): "Bureaucracy is the art of turning simple things into complicated ones and the practice of creating administrative systems that stifle individual creativity." His Highness added, "In government bureaucracy, procedures take precedence over results, paperwork is more important than service delivery, and regulations are designed to limit thinking outside the box."

Staying true to his words during the programme's launch in February 2024, His Highness announced the top-performing government entities in the first Zero Government

Bureaucracy programme last month, recognising those that have successfully streamlined services. These high achievers were honoured at the World Government Summit 2025, showcasing to the world that the UAE's global leadership is built on bold vision, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to efficiency.

Every agency was given a full year to streamline operations and prioritise outcomes over processes. However, despite this, some still chose to lag

behind. The programme serves as a wake-up call for these entities—true government service demands accountability, decisive action, and the courage to reform outdated systems that impede progress.

"We would like to tell those who do not exert sufficient efforts that the bad systems government bureaucracy creates over the years can

be changed with bold and quick decisions in a few days. The same goes for people and officials," His Highness stated, issuing a stern warning that inefficiency would neither be ignored nor tolerated.

The country's achievements are not left to chance but built through strict oversight, rigorous assessment, and a culture that rewards excellence while correcting inefficiencies. Those in office must recognise this well.

Bureaucracy is the art of turning simple things into complicated ones and the practice of creating administrative systems that stifle individual creativity

DAMAC

INTRODUCING

SAFA ONE

de GRISOGONO
GENEVE



THE NATURE OF LUXURY

Where natural brilliance meets emerald elegance
LUXURY APARTMENTS FROM AED 1.6 MILLION

With breathtaking views as far as the eye can see, find your tropical paradise at Safa One.



Rooftop
Tropical Island



Private
Pools



Exclusively branded by
de GRISOGONO



Beach
Pools



Dining &
Leisure

*Terms and conditions apply.
RERA Permit No: 1251959528

+971 4 520 5111

DAMACPROPERTIES.COM






LAWS FOR LIFE

UAE LAWS SAFEGUARD LIVES AND UPHOLD JUSTICE WITH DUE PROCESS AND FAIRNESS. WHILE CERTAIN OFFENCES WARRANT LIFE IMPRISONMENT, THE AIM IS NOT TO INSTIL FEAR BUT TO UPHOLD LAWS AS A SHARED SOCIAL CONTRACT. **999** EXPLAINS THE SERIOUS CRIMES THAT CARRY THE TOUGHEST PENALTIES

BY ABDUL WASEY



Abu Dhabi's ranking as the world's safest city by Numbeo for the ninth consecutive year in 2025 is no coincidence. The Capital is joined by the emirates of Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, and Ajman in the top 10, further cementing the UAE's global reputation for safety.

At its core, the nation's staunch commitment to public safety and security ensures that citizens, expat communities from over 200 nationalities, and millions of tourists coexist in perfect harmony. It is the foremost reason why the UAE serves

as a global hub where businesses thrive and prosper.

Serious offences—such as kidnapping, drug trafficking, extremism, premeditated murder, human trafficking, rape, armed robbery, and money laundering—are met with the harshest penalties. The laws of the land are enforced impartially and without exception. After all, justice is not a privilege for a select few but a right for all.

Here's a comprehensive list of the most serious offences in the UAE, each carrying a life sentence:

Human trafficking

The latest Global Report on Trafficking in Persons by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recorded a 25 per cent increase in known human trafficking victims worldwide compared to pre-pandemic levels, underscoring the growing scale of the crime. Often hidden in society's shadows, human trafficking strips individuals of their freedom and dignity.

HE Abdullah Sultan bin Awad Al Nuami, UAE Minister of Justice, stressed the UAE's firm stance against human trafficking. "Acknowledging the evolving nature of the crime and the continuous development of its criminal patterns, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking has assessed and reviewed the related policies and legislative frameworks. The aim is to prevent innocent people, especially children, from becoming victims and to utilise modern technology to monitor crime patterns and receive reports from victims," Al Nuami stated.

The Committee's efforts led to the enactment of Federal Law No. 24 of 2023, increasing the penalties for sex trafficking and labour trafficking—now ranging from five years to life imprisonment, fines of no less than Dh\$1 million, and mandatory deportation for non-citizens.

One of the first cases tried under the new law involved two Asian nationals sentenced to life imprisonment by a Dubai court for detaining women in a brothel. The case took a tragic turn when one victim died after attempting to escape by jumping from a building.

“The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking has assessed and reviewed the related policies and legislative frameworks. The aim is to prevent innocent people, especially children, from becoming victims



HE ABDULLAH SULTAN BIN AWAD AL NUAMI

UAE Minister of Justice

Forms of exploitation

- Sexual exploitation
- Prostitution
- Forced labour
- Organ removal
- Forced service
- Slavery
- Begging
- Any practices similar to slavery or servitude



What is human trafficking?

As per Federal Law No. 24 of 2023, whoever does any of the following shall be deemed to have committed a human trafficking offence:

- Engages in the sale, recruitment, transport, deportation, sheltering, or receipt of persons within or across borders, using force, threats, coercion, abduction, fraud, abuse of authority, or exploitation of vulnerability.
- Gives or receives money or benefits to obtain consent from a person who controls another individual for exploitation.
- Additionally, if the victim is a child or an incapacitated person, the act is considered human trafficking even without the listed coercive elements.

FACTS YOU MUST KNOW

- **Global human trafficking surge:** UNODC's Global Report recorded a 25% increase in known human trafficking victims worldwide compared to pre-pandemic levels, highlighting the crime's growing scale.

- **Legislative action:** The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking reviewed policies, leading to Federal Law No. 24 of 2023, which increases the penalties for sex and labour trafficking. The law prescribes sentences ranging from 5 years to life imprisonment, fines of no less than Dh\$1 million, and mandatory deportation for non-citizens.

Drug trafficking

From bustling cities to quiet suburbs, drug trafficking is a global menace, fuelling crime, addiction, and the disintegration of families. It is linked to various transnational crimes, funds terrorism, and threatens public safety.

Last month, a Dubai court sentenced a man to life imprisonment after finding him guilty of drug trafficking. Dubai Police's Anti-Narcotics Department conducted a sting operation, leading to his arrest as he attempted to sell 1,035 methadone pills. Acting on intelligence, authorities tracked the suspect's arrival at Port Rashid and set up a controlled purchase. An undercover officer, posing as a buyer, arranged to acquire the narcotics for Dhs4,500. As the suspect handed over the pills inside the officer's vehicle, police moved in. Despite a last-ditch attempt to discard the cash, he was swiftly taken into custody. Forensic analysis confirmed the pills contained methadone, a controlled substance under UAE law.

In another major case, a European national wanted under an INTERPOL Red Notice for transnational drug trafficking was sentenced to 25 years in prison by the Dubai Criminal Court in December 2024. Authorities arrested him in a sting operation after he was found in possession of cannabis, intended to be distributed to an accomplice.

The Federal Decree-Law No. 30 of 2021 imposes life imprisonment for trafficking, smuggling, or distributing large quantities of narcotics, particularly when minors are involved.

The UAE's fight against drug crime extends beyond its borders. In 2024, Dubai Police, working closely with international agencies, dismantled multiple drug networks, resulting in 308 arrests of traffickers, seizure of over 2 tonnes of narcotics, and identification and blocking of nearly 1,900 drug-related social media accounts.

This relentless pursuit of drug offenders is part of a broader global

“Dubai Police have made noteworthy progress in combating drugs internationally, leading to the apprehension of 550 international suspects and the seizure of 29 tonnes of drugs



**BRIGADIER KHALID
ALI BIN MUWAIZA**

Acting Director of the General Department of Anti-Narcotics at Dubai Police

intelligence-sharing effort, as per Brigadier Khalid Ali bin Muwaiza, Acting Director of the General Department of Anti-Narcotics at Dubai Police. “Over the past five years, Dubai Police have disseminated 894 pieces of intelligence to 74 countries, leading to the arrest of 550 international suspects and the seizure of 29.45 tonnes of drugs,” he said.



FACTS YOU MUST KNOW

● Severe legal framework

Federal Decree-Law No. 30 of 2021 imposes life imprisonment for major drug crimes, with Articles 48 and 52 outlining strict penalties, including long-term imprisonment and heavy fines.

● Global anti-drug operations

In 2024, Dubai Police, in collaboration with international agencies, arrested 308 traffickers, seized over 2 tonnes of narcotics, and blocked 1,900 drug-related social media accounts.

● International intelligence

Over the past five years, Dubai Police have shared 894 intelligence reports with 74 countries, leading to 550 arrests and the seizure of 29.45 tonnes of drugs worldwide.

Extremism

When fear takes root, it spreads like a poison, corroding the very foundations of society. It dismantles trust, disrupts economies, and turns communities against one another. Left unchecked, extremism preys on the vulnerable and distorting ideologies to justify brutality. But not in the UAE. This nation built on diversity, tolerance, and coexistence “condemns, in the strongest terms, terrorism in all of its forms”, per a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on its official website.

As a global hub for over 200 nationalities who live and work side by side, the UAE stands as a fortress of security in the region. In July 2024, an Abu Dhabi court sentenced 43 individuals to life imprisonment for operating a terrorist organisation linked to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Governments must not merely react to threats of extremism but actively prevent them. For one, terrorism does not exist in isolation; it is fed by a network of illegal activities that fund its operations. Money laundering, arms smuggling, cybercrime, and extremist propaganda all serve as lifelines for terror groups.

“Through stringent laws, advanced technology, and strong international cooperation, the UAE has created



a secure environment where people can thrive without fear

AHMED ZAKI

Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs at Al Hamra

Ahmed Zaki, Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs at Al Hamra, told **999**: “The UAE has implemented a firm and uncompromising strategy to combat terrorism, prioritising the safety of its citizens, residents, and visitors. Through stringent laws, advanced technology, and strong international cooperation,

Tolerance as a national priority

Minister of Tolerance

The UAE appointed its first Minister of Tolerance in 2016 to promote coexistence and counteract the narratives that fuel extremism.

International Institute for Tolerance (Dubai)

Established to instil a spirit of openness and civilised dialogue while rejecting intolerance, extremism, and discrimination.

The 2019 Human Fraternity Meeting

Hosted by the UAE, this historic event brought together religious leaders to discuss global efforts to foster peace. It resulted in the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, signed by Dr Ahmed El Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar, and Pope Francis, Head of the Catholic Church.

The Abrahamic Family House

A landmark project featuring a mosque, a church, and a synagogue to promote interfaith harmony and send a strong message that religion should unite, not divide.

FACTS YOU MUST KNOW

Arteries of extremism

Terrorism thrives on money laundering, arms smuggling, cybercrime, and extremist propaganda. The UAE enforces strict penalties to cut off these financial and logistical networks.

Legal framework

Federal Law No. 7 of 2014 imposes some of the harshest penalties worldwide for terrorism, including life imprisonment or capital punishment for using nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

Promoting interfaith harmony

Landmark projects like the Abrahamic Family House and historic events such as the 2019 Human Fraternity Meeting demonstrate the UAE's commitment to fostering peace and preventing extremist narratives from taking root.

the UAE has created a secure environment where people can thrive without fear.”

Federal Law No. 7 of 2014 on Combatting Terrorism Crimes imposes severe penalties for terrorist-related activities, including:

- Life imprisonment for unlawfully seizing transport for terrorist purposes.
- Life imprisonment or execution for manufacturing or using nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons for terrorism.
- The same severe punishments for those who lead or manage terrorist organisations.

By addressing both the symptoms and the roots of extremism, the UAE ensures that its communities are not just protected from terrorism but are actively resistant to it.

Kidnapping



Few crimes are as terrifying as being forcibly taken and held against one's will. Beyond the immediate physical harm, kidnapping inflicts lasting psychological trauma.

One such case made headlines in May 2023, when the Dubai Criminal Court sentenced an Asian restaurant owner to life imprisonment for kidnapping and raping his waitress over an eight-day ordeal. The victim was abducted in International City and held captive in a villa, where five other men also assaulted her.

For four days, she was confined in an apartment before being moved to another location in Al Barsha, where the abuse continued. "They blindfolded me, beat me, and raped me. He threatened to hurt me even more if I reported them," she testified.

In a desperate act of survival, she used

her teeth to untie herself and escaped while her attackers slept. A passer-by spotted her and called an ambulance, which rushed her to Rashid Hospital for treatment. Following an intensive manhunt, police arrested the restaurant owner, while efforts to locate the five other suspects continued.

Advocate Safwat Mounir, a Dubai-based legal consultant, told **999** that UAE law treats any form of illegal detention as a serious crime. "Any act that deprives a person of their freedom without legal justification—whether committed directly or through an accomplice—falls under kidnapping. Those guilty of such crimes face severe penalties, including life imprisonment," said Ismail.

Under Article 395 of Federal Decree-Law No. 31 of 2021, kidnapping penalties range from temporary imprisonment to

“Any act that deprives a person of their freedom without legal justification falls under kidnapping



SAFWAT MOUNIR

Dubai-based legal consultant

life imprisonment, depending on the circumstances.

PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

While most people associate kidnapping with violent crime, parental child abduction is also a form of this offence.

For example, consider a British couple who divorced, with the mother granted custody of their five-year-old daughter in the UAE. The father, during a visit, took the child to Europe without informing the mother. In some countries, this might lead to a custody dispute. In the UAE, however, it is classified as parental child abduction—a serious crime.

To prevent such incidents, a parent can obtain a court order to impose a travel ban on their child, ensuring they cannot be taken out of the country without permission from the legal guardian. The courts treat such cases with the utmost seriousness, as they violate parental rights and disrupt the child's well-being.

Aggravating factors

The penalties for kidnapping are particularly harsh when aggravating factors are present, such as:

- Impersonating a public official or using deception to carry out the crime.
- Using violence, physical or psychological torture, or threats of serious harm.
- Being carried out by two or more armed individuals.
- Holding a victim for more than one month.
- Targeting women, children, or individuals with mental impairments.
- Committing the act for financial gain, revenge, rape, or forcing the victim to commit a crime.
- Kidnapping a public servant while they are performing their duties.

FACTS YOU MUST KNOW

● Penalties of kidnapping

UAE law treats all forms of illegal detention as serious crimes, with penalties ranging from imprisonment to life sentences and hefty fines under Article 395 of Federal Decree-Law No. 31 of 2021.

● Parental child abduction is a crime

Unlike in some countries where it results in custody disputes, in the UAE, taking a child without the legal guardian's consent is classified as a serious criminal offence.

● Preventative legal measures

UAE courts allow parents to obtain travel bans on minor children, ensuring they cannot be taken out of the country without permission, protecting parental rights and the child's welfare.

Armed robbery



In the UAE, armed robbery is as rare as it is short-lived. With CCTV cameras watching every corner, smart monitoring systems tracking movements, and police maintaining an active presence, criminals stand little chance of getting away—let alone escaping the full force of the law. Here, crime doesn't pay, and when it does happen, justice is swift.

Take a 2017 bank heist in Sharjah as an example. A five-member gang executed a bank robbery, with three

masked men storming the premises—one disguised in an abaya and niqab to distract staff. Armed with a gun, they grabbed cash from the tellers and fled in a waiting vehicle. But their escape was short-lived. Sharjah Police launched a full-scale investigation, analysing CCTV footage and tracking the getaway car, leading to the gang's arrest.

The Sharjah Criminal Court sentenced the mastermind, an African man, to life imprisonment, while four accomplices

received 15-year jail terms for their role in the armed heist. All convicts will be deported after serving their sentences.

Under Article 383 of the UAE Penal Code, theft involving coercion or weapons carries a fine of up to Dh\$200,000 and life imprisonment under aggravating circumstances such as night-time offences, multiple perpetrators, and use of violence or weapons. Why such a stiff penalty? The UAE treats robbery as an act that threatens public safety and confidence.

FACTS YOU MUST KNOW

- **Robbery is an uncommon occurrence in the UAE**

Advanced surveillance systems, active police presence, and smart monitoring technology leave criminals with little chance of escape.

- **Strict legal framework**

Under Article 383 of the UAE Penal Code, robbery involving coercion or weapons can result in fines up to Dh\$200,000 and life imprisonment in aggravated cases.

- **Deterrent case**

A five-member robbery gang in 2027 was brought to justice. The mastermind was sentenced to life imprisonment, while four accomplices received 15-year jail terms, with deportation after serving their sentences.

Murder

World Bank data shows that the UAE's murder rate stood at just 0.47 per 100,000, significantly lower than the global average of 5.61 per 100,000 in 2022, as reported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Since 2014, this figure has never exceeded 0.70, highlighting the nation's unwavering commitment to public safety.

Murder is legally defined as the unlawful killing of another person, either without justification or with malicious intent. Under the UAE Penal Code, murder is addressed from two perspectives. The first is based on Sharia law, where the victim's family has a role in determining the offender's fate. The second is a criminal sentence, where the court independently decides the punishment. Even if the victim's legal heirs choose to pardon the offender,

imprisonment is still mandated under criminal law.

Article 332 of the UAE Panel Code mandates life imprisonment for intentional murder, escalating to capital punishment in cases involving premeditation or additional crimes.

Article 384 of the Federal Decree-Law No. 31 of 2021 reinforces these provisions, prescribing either life imprisonment or capital punishment, depending on judicial rulings. However, if the victim's legal heirs grant a pardon, the sentence may be reduced to a minimum of seven years.

In December 2024, a man was sentenced to life imprisonment for the premeditated murder of his friend. After committing the crime, he attempted to flee the country but was apprehended before escaping.



Categories of murder under UAE law

Murder in the UAE is classified into four main categories, each carrying distinct penalties under the UAE Penal Code:

● Unintentional murder:

Occurs when a person causes death by mistake of fact or action without intent or knowledge. Article 342 of the UAE Panel Code prescribes imprisonment and/or a fine, with harsher penalties (1-7 years) if the act results from professional negligence, intoxication, or failure to assist the victim.

● Premeditated murder

Defined as intentional killing planned or linked to another crime. It carries a life sentence due to the severity and deliberate nature of the act.

● Murder without intent

When an assault leads to death without premeditated intent. Article 336 mandates up to 10 years in prison, depending on aggravating circumstances under Article 332.

● Attempted murder

Governed by Articles 34 and 35, attempted murder involves initiating an attack with the intent to kill but failing due to circumstances beyond the offender's control. Punishments vary from temporary jail term to life imprisonment if the crime resulted in death. The court considers individual case circumstances and has the discretion to reduce, dismiss, or enhance the sentence accordingly.

Source: AL ADL LEGAL CONSULTANTS

FACTS YOU MUST KNOW

● Exceptionally low murder rate

The UAE's murder rate stood at just 0.47 per 100,000 in 2021 per World Bank data, significantly lower than the global average of 5.61 per 100,000 per UNODC.

● Dual legal approach

The UAE addresses murder from two perspectives—Sharia law, where the victim's family may pardon the offender, and criminal law, where imprisonment is still mandatory regardless of pardon.

● Legal framework

Federal Decree-Law No. 31 of 2021 enforces harsh penalties—life imprisonment for intentional murder, escalating to capital punishment for premeditated cases or those linked to additional crimes.

Rape

Globally, one in eight girls and women experience rape or sexual assault before turning 18, according to UNICEF. Under UAE law, rape is defined as non-consensual sexual intercourse achieved through force, threat, or deception, with both men and women recognised as potential victims.

Recent legal reforms, including the Federal Crime and Punishment Law of 2022, impose life imprisonment for assault or non-

consensual sex. This law raises the juvenile age limit from 14 to 18 and criminalises sexual assault with imprisonment or a fine of at least Dh50,000, regardless of the victim's gender.

Victims are encouraged to report incidents, with police ensuring confidentiality and sensitivity. While cases can be reported up to three years after the crime, timely reporting is crucial, as forensic evidence plays a vital role in securing a conviction.

When does capital punishment apply?

An offender faces capital punishment if:

- The victim is under 18 years old.
- The victim was unconscious, physically incapacitated, or unable to resist.
- The offender is a family member, caretaker, employer, or holds authority over the victim.



FACTS YOU MUST KNOW

• Global prevalence of sexual violence

1 in 8 girls and women experience rape or sexual assault before turning 18, according to UNICEF.

• Strict penalties under UAE law

The Federal Crime and Punishment Law of 2022 imposes life imprisonment for assault or non-consensual sex, ensuring severe consequences for offenders.

Report crimes in your emirate

EMIRATE	POLICE HOTLINE	ONLINE SERVICES
Abu Dhabi	999 (Emergency), 8002626 (Aman Service)	https://www.adpolice.gov.ae
Dubai	999 (Emergency), 901 (Non-Emergency)	https://www.dubaipolice.gov.ae
Sharjah	999 (Emergency), 901 (Non-Emergency), 06-563-2222	https://www.shjpolice.gov.ae
Ajman	999 (Emergency), 80040 (Non-Emergency)	https://www.ajmanpolice.gov.ae
Ras Al Khaimah	999 (Emergency), 901 (Non-Emergency)	https://www.rakpolice.gov.ae
Fujairah	999 (Emergency), 092051999 (Non-Emergency)	https://www.fujairahpolice.gov.ae
Umm Al Quwain	999 (Emergency), 901 (Non-Emergency)	https://moi.gov.ae/en

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

MINIMIZE OPEX MAXIMIZE REVENUE

We are an information technology services provider led by a team of subject matter experts with more than 12 years' experience in domains of information technology and consultancy services.

We help companies minimizing their operation expenses and maximizing their revenues through offering multiple pay as you go engagement modes through which companies can utilize our expertise to deliver their projects on time and maintain customer satisfaction and full ownership of software assets and documentation.

From small development up to large enterprise digital transformation projects, we work closely with our client to achieve their ultimate objectives by being engaged with them from the very early stages up to the project closure.



Time & Materials



Fixed Price



Dedicated Team



Startup Mode





Safe travels, always!



FROM MOUNTAIN RESCUES TO LOST VALUABLES, UAE POLICE PROVE THAT SECURITY GOES HAND IN HAND WITH HOSPITALITY, CREATING A TOURISM ENVIRONMENT WHERE SAFETY AND SECURITY DEFINE THE EXPERIENCE

BY 999 STAFF



Zayed Airport

Zayed International Airport in Abu Dhabi

If airports were a reflection of a nation's energy, then the UAE is perpetually buzzing. Passenger traffic at Abu Dhabi's five airports surged to 29.4 million in 2024—a 28 per cent increase—driven by Zayed International Airport's expansion, which now connects travellers to 125 destinations with 29 new routes. Over in Dubai, DXB Airport, the world's busiest for international travel, shattered records with 92.3 million passengers passing through its terminals last year.

Few destinations command global appeal quite like the UAE. With its glittering skyline and record-breaking attractions, the country continues to soar as a global tourism hub. Last year, it ranked 1st regionally and 18th globally in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index. The sector's economic contribution to the UAE's GDP is projected to reach Dhs236 billion, or 12 per cent, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council.

Beyond the sights, what keeps visitors returning to the UAE is the feeling of safety they experience here. Whether soaring above the skyline or venturing into the dunes, visitors experience a

destination where safety and security are as vital as hospitality. The country maintains an exceptionally low crime rate, because as UAE airports never sleep, neither do its police forces.

The Ministry of Interior sees to it, through the police general commands across the emirates, that visitors feel both welcomed and protected. Dedicated tourism police officers are visible everywhere, keeping a watchful eye and offering assistance. From guiding lost visitors to responding swiftly to emergencies, these officers always go the extra mile.

999 takes a closer look at the security mechanisms of these tourism police departments, highlighting how they enhance security and contribute to making the UAE a haven for travellers.

POLICING VISITORS

Major General Mohammed Suhail Al Rashidi, Director of the Criminal Security Sector at Abu Dhabi Police, highlighted that the Capital's world-class infrastructure, entertainment venues, and cultural landmarks make it a premier tourist destination. "Throughout the year," he told

999, "various events cater to both local and international visitors, including major sports tournaments, business forums, and cultural exhibitions."

The scale of tourism is immense. The Louvre Abu Dhabi alone, for instance, welcomed over 1.4 million visitors in 2024, its highest attendance since opening. With landmarks and attractions bustling year-round, ensuring a safe tourism experience is no small feat.

To maintain safety and security, Abu Dhabi Tourism Police officers are regularly deployed across Abu Dhabi City, Al Ain, and Al Dhafra, responding swiftly to incidents and preventing crime with professionalism. This initiative aligns with the force's strategic vision to position the emirate as a global leader in sustainable tourism security, reinforcing public safety while introducing proactive services that meet government directives and future trends.

AWARENESS DRIVES

Al Rashidi said that tourism police patrols also assist visitors by distributing multilingual awareness brochures detailing local laws, transport guidelines, and



DXB Airport

Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest for international travel

“We are keen to implement awareness activities for tourists, guiding them on adhering to the laws and respecting the UAE’s customs and traditions



MAJOR GENERAL MOHAMMED SUHAIL AL RASHIDI

Director of the Criminal Security Sector at Abu Dhabi Police

emergency contact information. To foster a welcoming atmosphere, officers also hand out gifts and flowers.

“We are keen to implement awareness activities for tourists, guiding them on adhering to the laws and respecting the UAE’s customs and traditions,” Al Rashidi said. “Visitors are also informed about key tourist sites, beach regulations, taxi

services, vehicle driving conditions, and emergency contact procedures should they require assistance.”

The Abu Dhabi Tourism Police comprise highly trained professionals fluent in multiple languages, including English, French, Chinese, Filipino, Urdu, and Persian. “They have undergone specialised training in tourism security, fostering an environment of tolerance and global coexistence,” Al Rashidi added.

Operating within a structured framework that integrates education, security, and

crime prevention, these officers patrol high-traffic tourist areas to ensure public safety while strengthening community engagement.

SECURITY AT FINGERTIPS

The General Command of Abu Dhabi Police also offers the ‘Aman Service’, a high-tech security system designed to receive reports and information from tourists around the clock. Powered by an advanced database, the service enables a swift and professional security response, reinforcing confidence in Abu Dhabi Police’s commitment to public safety.

The Aman Service serves as a direct communication channel for tourists and residents, strengthening crime prevention efforts while fostering public involvement in maintaining security. It allows users to report incidents, share information, and contribute to community safety with full assurance of privacy and confidentiality.

Available in Arabic, English, and Urdu, the Aman service can be accessed through the toll-free number 8002626 (AMAN2626), via text message at 2828, or by email at aman@adpolice.gov.ae—ensuring security assistance is always within reach.



Abu Dhabi Tourism Police officers hand out information leaflets to tourists arriving at the Abu Dhabi Cruise Terminal



Tourism officers warmly welcome tourists in Abu Dhabi

MULTI-PLATFORM COMMUNICATION

Dubai thrives as a global destination, drawing millions seeking adventure and luxury. Ensuring their safety is a massive task for the Dubai Police’s Tourist Police Department, which actively promotes security awareness across hotels, resorts, and recreational areas.

To enhance visitor support, Dubai Police offer various electronic and smart communication channels. Brigadier Khalfan Obaid Al Jallaf, Director of the Tourist Police Department at Dubai Police, told **999**: “The Tourist Police Department at Dubai Police always seeks to engage with visitors from around the world,

FROM MISHAPS TO HAPPINESS

For most travellers, police exist in the background—a comforting presence, but not necessarily a direct part of their experience. In the UAE,

however, police forces create moments of relief and even happiness.

Whether it's rescuing stranded adventurers, tracking down lost valuables, or fulfilling a simple wish, UAE police prove

that hospitality doesn't stop at hotels and resorts but extends all the way to the streets, the mountains, and even the skies. Here are some examples of how UAE police go above and beyond their duties:

Rescue in Hatta

A thrilling adventure turned into a survival test for five mountaineering tourists in Hatta when they became trapped in treacherous terrain. Their distress call to Dubai Police's Command and Control Centre triggered an immediate response. The Air Wing team swiftly deployed a helicopter, carrying two paramedics, two pilots, and a navigator, to carry out the rescue mission.

With no safe landing zone, the crew executed a crane-assisted airlift, lowering paramedics to the stranded climbers before safely extracting them one by one. The tourists, shaken but uninjured, hailed the swift and skilful response, grateful that their adventure didn't take a dangerous turn.



Dubai Police Air Wing in action, rescuing five stranded mountaineers in Hatta

Stranded at great heights

If there's one rule about mountain climbing, it's that going up is always easier than coming down. Recently, two Asian tourists in Ras Al Khaimah learned this the hard way when exhaustion left them stranded 3,000 feet above ground.

The RAK Police Air Wing (Police Aviation), with the assistance of the Search and Rescue Department at RAK Police, wasted no time. Within minutes, a helicopter was dispatched to the site, and the climbers were located, assessed, and airlifted to safety. The mission showcased the rescue police's precise coordination and efficiency.



The two Asian tourists rescued 3,000 feet above the ground

Diving for lost memories

Dropping your mobile phone in a lake is instantly heartbreaking, but imagine doing so while on holiday—when that device holds every travel photo, video, and priceless memory.

At Al Leem Lake near Hatta Dam, several tourists recently watched helplessly as their devices vanished beneath the water. Dubai Police's Marine Rescue Team saw the problem not as a loss but as a mission. Officers dived in, retrieving the phones and returning them to their owners.

One tourist summed it up best: "Losing my phone was painful—not because of the price, but because of the memories. I had no hope of getting it back. But Dubai Police made the impossible happen."



A Filipina tourist reunited with her mobile phone, retrieved by Dubai Police divers from Hatta Dam

Race against time

Many travellers have experienced that moment of panic at an airport, especially when they misplace or lose something important. But for one Arab tourist, the fear was real. He had mistakenly taken the wrong suitcase at Dubai Airport in February 2025, leaving his own behind—containing travel documents and \$7,000 (Dhs25,690).

With a flight to catch, he rushed to the General Department of Airport Security at Dubai Police at the arrivals hall, where officers immediately sprang into action. Surveillance footage was reviewed, airline staff were alerted, and within 30 minutes, the correct bag was identified—still in the hands of another tourist unaware of the mix-up.

Thanks to Dubai Police's precision and speed, both travellers recovered their belongings and continued their journeys stress-free.



Dubai Police swiftly resolved a luggage mix-up between two passengers at DXB in February 2025

Lost but not forgotten

Most assume that losing a device means saying goodbye to it forever—but not in the UAE. Recently, a Gulf tourist who lost his SIM-less mobile phone thought it was gone for good. However, the phone found its way to the lost and found section of Dubai Police. The force was able to contact the owner in his home country and his mobile phone was returned. Overcome with gratitude, he penned a heartfelt letter praising their dedication.

In another case, a foreign traveller unknowingly left her laptop behind at Dubai Airport. The device contained critical work-related data, making its loss especially distressing. When police informed her it had been recovered, she was overwhelmed with relief and gratitude.



For illustrative purposes only

A dream come true

For most, a police patrol car is a symbol of law and order. But for one six-year-old tourist in Ras Al Khaimah, it was the ultimate dream ride. When police learned of the child's fascination, they arranged a special patrol tour, letting him sit inside, flash the lights, and take home souvenirs from the Tourist Police Department. It was a small act—but one that left an indelible mark on a young visitor who will forever associate the UAE with kindness and generosity.



RAK Police made a six-year-old tourist's day with a special patrol ride



Dubai Mounted Police patrolling a popular tourist spot

“The Tourist Police Department at Dubai Police always seeks to engage with tourists, addressing their inquiries and providing services that ensure an exceptional experience in Dubai



**BRIGADIER KHALFAN
OBAID AL JALLAF**

Director of the Tourist Police
Department at Dubai Police

addressing their inquiries and providing services that ensure an exceptional experience in Dubai.”

Key platforms include the Tourist Police service on the Dubai Police smart app (available for iPhone, Android, and Huawei users), allowing tourists to submit inquiries, comments, and reports from anywhere. The Dubai Police website (www.dubai.police.gov.ae) and Smart Police Stations (SPS) across the city provide 24/7 report submission without human intervention.

For non-emergencies, tourists can contact the 901 Call Centre, while urgent matters should be reported via the e-crime platform or emergency hotline 999. Assistance is also available via email at

touristpolice@dubai.police.gov.ae.

Dubai Police also utilise AI innovation to enhance security services. The Digital Twin for Tourist Police, an AI-powered system, instantly responds to tourist inquiries and complaints through the Dubai Police smart app. It delivers real-time assistance, supports travellers in emergencies, and aids with travel planning.

“Digital Twin for Tourist Police is a way for Dubai Police to boost its security services and ensure visitors receive real-time support around the clock,” said Al Jallaf.

ADVENTURE SAFETY

During peak seasons, especially winter

when desert adventures surge, police teams intensify safety campaigns. They conduct inspections at recreational motorcycle rental offices, enforcing strict compliance with laws—limiting riders per vehicle, setting age-appropriate speed regulations, and banning unsafe modifications that increase speed or noise pollution.

The Tourist Police Department at Dubai Police also regulates safari trips, educating drivers on safety protocols to prevent off-road accidents. Officers conduct field visits to rental offices to ensure adherence to safety standards, while also leading traffic regulation campaigns for safari operators.



The Tourist Police Department at Dubai Police enforces safety protocols for safari operators

ICONIC

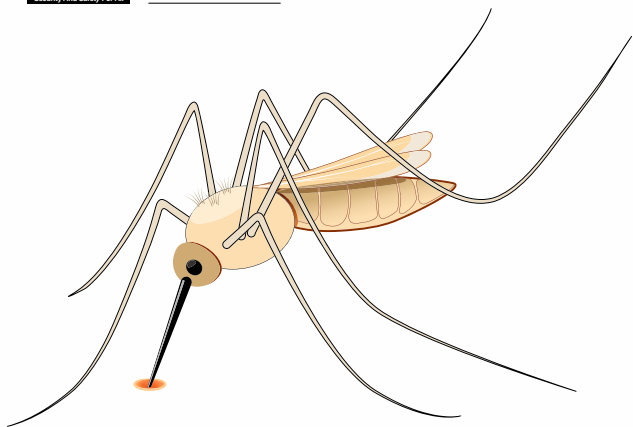
A world-class lifestyle destination offering
panoramic views of the city skyline and
Al Marayah.

روزوود أبو ظبي

ROSEWOOD
ABU DHABI

ROSEWOOD ABU DHABI AL MARYAH ISLAND ABU DHABI UAE

rosewoodhotels.com



TECH SWATS DENGUE

THE UAE EMPLOYS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND STRATEGIC MEASURES TO CONTROL MOSQUITO POPULATIONS AND MITIGATE THE RISK OF DENGUE OUTBREAKS

BY ANURIMA RUHEL





A team at Dubai Municipality's Public Health Services Department working round the clock to control mosquito populations in a residential area

Climate change enables mosquitoes to thrive in new regions, and the UAE is no exception. To curb outbreak risks, authorities across the emirates have intensified control measures, acknowledging that rising temperatures are accelerating the spread of neglected tropical diseases globally.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCAE) and local authorities launched targeted interventions, combining clean-ups, fogging, and awareness campaigns. On the other hand, the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) mobilised nine specialised teams, established an insect laboratory, and conducted 1,200 mosquito surveys in collaboration with relevant agencies.

Beyond conventional biosecurity methods, the UAE has also employed cutting-edge technology in its fight against dengue. The government has integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, AI-driven monitoring, and drone surveillance. In January 2025, Dubai Municipality installed 237 smart, solar-powered traps to detect and eliminate mosquito hotspots.

“There is no specific treatment for dengue fever, only supportive treatment, but early detection and access to proper medical care lower fatality rates below 1 per cent

■ The Department of Health-Abu Dhabi

THE DENGUE THREAT

Dengue, or “breakbone fever” due to the severe muscle and joint pain it causes, is a viral infection spread by infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. This species breeds in stagnant water and is most active in the early morning and late afternoon.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that nearly half the world’s population is now at risk of dengue, with 100–400 million infections annually. As of September 2024, over 12.7 million cases had been reported globally—nearly double the 2023 total.

Most infections are asymptomatic, but common symptoms include sudden high fever (up to 40°C), severe headaches, nausea, vomiting, and a distinctive skin rash. Some patients experience mild bleeding, such as nosebleeds or gum bleeding. Severe cases can escalate to Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) or

Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS), requiring urgent medical attention. Without treatment, these conditions can be fatal.

The Department of Health (DoH) Abu Dhabi stated: “There is no specific treatment for dengue fever, only supportive treatment, but early detection and access to proper medical care lower fatality rates below 1 per cent.”

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NEW HOTSPOTS

On average, 19 per cent of current global dengue cases are “attributable to climate warming that has already happened,” said infectious disease ecologist Erin Mordecai of Stanford University.

As per UAE experts, rising dengue risk in the UAE is climate change-induced, a pattern observed in previously low-risk countries, such as the US, UK, Italy, France, and Spain. WHO experts warned that these trends may indicate a broader shift in

“ Climate change has altered mosquito distribution and behaviour. Shifting precipitation patterns create new



**ENGR OTHAIBAH
SAEED AL QAYDI**

Director of the Municipal Affairs
Department at the Ministry of Climate
Change and Environment

**breeding
grounds,
while higher
temperatures
extend
mosquito
seasons**

global dengue prevalence.

Engr Othaibah Saeed Al Qaydi, Director of the Municipal Affairs Department at MoCCAE, explained, “Climate change has altered mosquito distribution and behaviour. Shifting precipitation patterns create new breeding grounds, while higher temperatures extend mosquito seasons.”

One promising solution is the introduction of genetically modified mosquitoes incapable of transmitting dengue. British biotech firm Oxitec has engineered a modified *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that passes on a gene preventing female offspring from reaching adulthood. This method, currently being tested in several countries, aims to reduce mosquito populations and curb disease transmission.

BOOSTING BIOSECURITY

According to H-Abu Dhabi, previously reported dengue cases in the UAE were largely travel-related. However, in 2023, dengue infections were confirmed in individuals with no travel history, indicating a growing risk of local transmission.

In a virtual meeting of the National Committee of Biosecurity, HE Dr Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, reaffirmed the UAE’s commitment to protecting public health against mosquito-borne diseases.

“We are working to ensure sustainable national biosecurity in all the emirates, with a special focus on efforts to control mosquito proliferation, especially following the exceptional weather



How can you contribute to reducing mosquito spread?

- 1 Planting certain types of plants that repel mosquitoes, such as basil.
- 2 Fixing water leaks, which are the main source of mosquito life.
- 3 Cleaning areas where rainwater accumulates and monitoring water ponds to prevent the breeding and spread of mosquitoes around them.
- 4 Disposing of unused items where mosquitoes may hide.
- 5 Cooperating with specialised teams for mosquito control spraying

Source: MoCCAE



Symptoms of dengue fever

Dengue fever is diagnosed through blood tests. The Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) advises residents to seek medical attention if they experience any of the following symptoms:



High fever (40°C)



Severe headache



Pain behind the eyes



Joint and muscle pain



Swollen glands



Nausea and vomiting



Skin rash

“We are working to ensure sustainable national biosecurity in all the emirates, with a special focus on efforts to control mosquito proliferation



**HE DR AMNA BINT
ABDULLAH AL DAHAK**

Minister of Climate Change and Environment

conditions in the country,” said Al Dahak.

She further stated, “We will take all necessary steps in collaboration with the relevant authorities to accomplish this goal and remain committed to the cause going forward.”

In line with the country’s biosecurity measures, DoH-Abu Dhabi has instructed healthcare providers to remain vigilant for dengue symptoms, regardless of patients’ travel backgrounds. It has also emphasised the immediate reporting of suspected cases, proper waste disposal, and the use of personal protective measures to prevent mosquito bites.



An expert from MoCCAEE collects mosquito samples to monitor and control disease-carrying species

The Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre (ADPHC) has also intensified its mosquito and fly control measures across residential areas and farms. Dr Ahmed Al Khazraji,

Acting Director-General at ADPHC, stated: “At ADPHC, we continue to take all preventive and precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of all members of society in the emirate. We have developed and

How can you prevent mosquito-borne diseases?



Eliminate stagnant water in discarded tyres, cans, and flowerpots to prevent mosquito breeding.



Use mosquito repellents regularly.



Wear protective clothing that covers arms and legs.



Install anti-mosquito screens and nets at home and workplaces.



Set up mosquito traps to reduce their numbers.



Maintain gardens and yards by regularly cleaning and preventing water stagnation.

“ We have developed and activated an integrated plan to monitor and combat mosquitoes and flies in residential areas, farms, and estates in the emirate



DR AHMED AL KHAZRAJI

Acting Director-General at the
Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre

activated an integrated plan to monitor and combat mosquitoes and flies in residential areas, farms, and estates in the emirate.”

He noted in May last year that the Centre had inspected and treated over 17,000 watershed sites and valleys, more than 30,000 stormwater drains, 2,300 farms and estates, 150 parks, and 2,000 construction sites.

ADPHC employed a multi-pronged approach, including vacuum, biological, and physical control methods, as well as pesticides tailored to the nature of the

pests and smart traps to ensure effective management.

The Centre urged residents to eliminate stagnant water indoors to prevent mosquito breeding and mould growth. Additionally, the public is encouraged to report stagnant water in their surroundings to relevant authorities, as it poses health and safety risks to the community.

FREE PEST CONTROL SERVICES

Dubai Municipality has led extensive disinfection initiatives, treating 102 water collection sites and over 75,000 drainage outlets in May 2024, using biological and chemical methods. These measures have eliminated more than 400 breeding sites, significantly lowering public health risks.

To enhance public health protection, Dubai Municipality provides free pest control services. UAE nationals can request assistance for all public health pests, while expatriates can access services targeting disease-carrying pests such as mosquitoes, flies, and rodents. Requests can be submitted via the Dubai Municipality app or its official website chatbot. A municipal team will be dispatched to the specified location for treatment. If the issue persists, residents may file a follow-up request 15 days after the initial treatment.

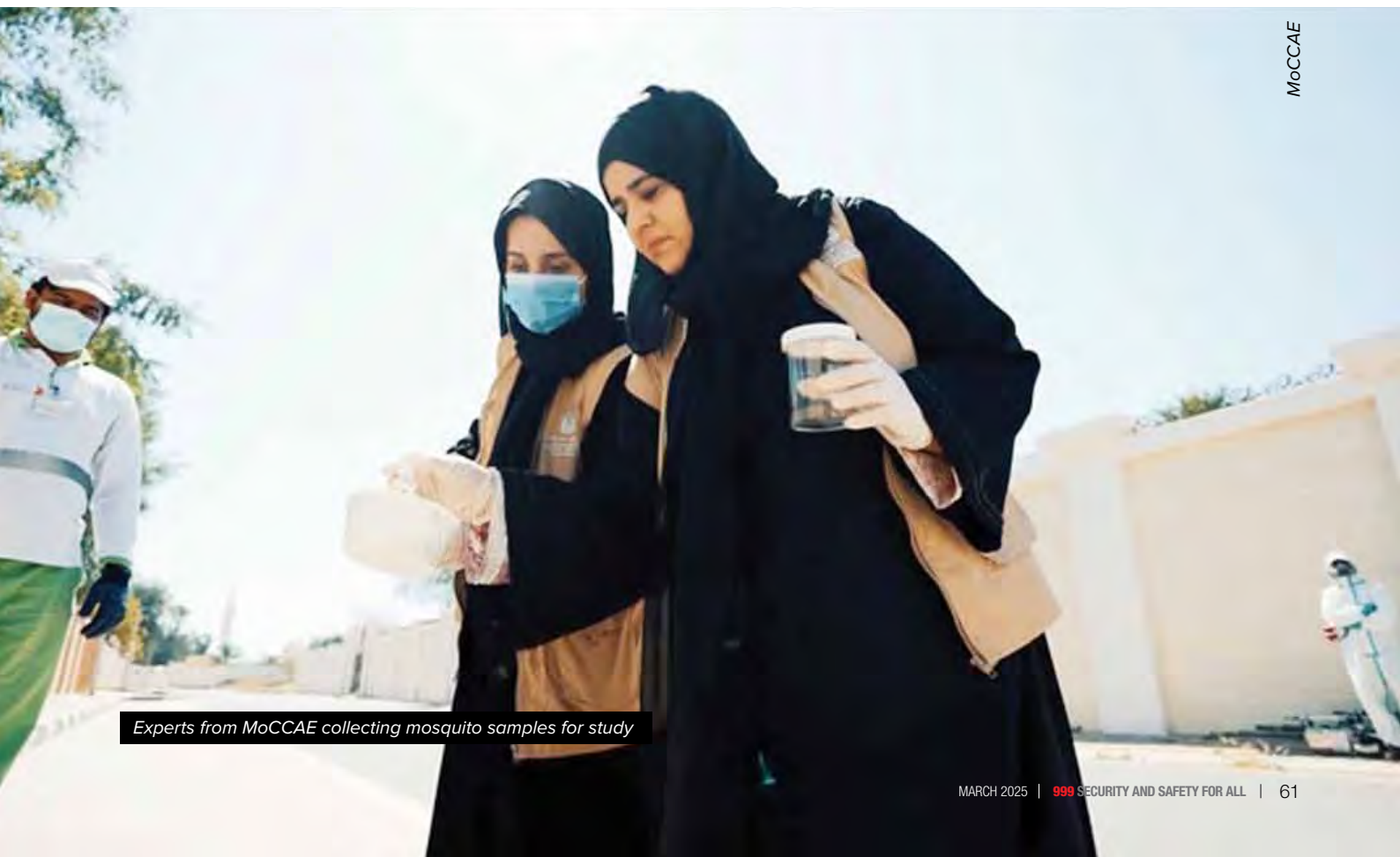
PUBLIC VIGILANCE MATTERS

MoHAP has launched bilingual awareness campaigns in Arabic and English, leveraging visual tools to educate the public on protective measures. These include using mosquito repellents, wearing long sleeves, and installing screens and nets to keep insects at bay.

Meanwhile, MoCCAEC appeals to residents to report mosquito sightings or breeding grounds, underscoring the importance of community participation in identifying and eliminating potential hazards.

DoH Abu Dhabi has also issued a directive to health institutions, instructing them to educate patients and their families on effective mosquito control. Recommendations include proper solid waste disposal, window screening, and using insect-repellent creams both indoors and outdoors.

By integrating government-led initiatives, active community engagement, and cutting-edge mosquito control technologies, the UAE is reinforcing its fight against disease-carrying pests. These combined efforts ensure a proactive approach to minimising health risks, improving environmental safety, and maintaining a high standard of public well-being.



MoCCAEC

Experts from MoCCAEC collecting mosquito samples for study

HIGH-TECH BATTLE vs DENGUE



SMART TRAPS

Dubai has installed 237 solar-powered smart traps to monitor and control mosquito populations. These eco-friendly devices provide real-time data, enabling authorities to track distribution patterns and identify breeding hotspots. Strategically placed across various areas, the traps support Dubai's Integrated Public Health Pest Management system by reducing pesticide use and enhancing predictive monitoring. The data collected is analysed using artificial intelligence and machine learning models to predict potential outbreaks, considering factors like climate data, mosquito activity, and reported cases. This proactive approach allows for timely interventions in high-risk areas, improving public health responses.



Dubai Municipality

A smart mosquito trap installed by Dubai Municipality, using advanced technology to monitor and control mosquito populations

DRONE PATROLS



Abu Dhabi and Dubai have deployed drones equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors to locate and eliminate mosquito breeding grounds in hard-to-reach places. These drones conduct aerial surveys over vast terrains, capturing detailed images and thermal data to identify potential breeding sites, such as stagnant water bodies. Upon detection, drones can apply biological larvicides directly to these areas, ensuring precise treatment and minimising environmental impact. This method is more environmentally friendly compared to traditional widespread spraying techniques.





GIS MAPPING

Following heavy rainfall that led to stagnant water accumulation, the UAE utilised Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to map and eradicate mosquito breeding sites across the emirates. This initiative resulted in the elimination of 409 breeding sites, significantly reducing the risk of dengue transmission. GIS plays a crucial role in dengue control by mapping disease incidence, identifying breeding sites, and predicting outbreaks. Health authorities also use GIS to visualise case distribution, detect transmission hotspots, and overlay environmental data like rainfall and temperature to pinpoint high-risk areas. This information guides targeted interventions and monitors the effectiveness of vector control efforts.



INSECT LABS



MoCCAEE operates an insect laboratory to analyse mosquito samples and test pesticide efficacy. Collaborating with the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority, more than 1,200 mosquito surveys were conducted, and 309 DNA samples were analysed last year. These efforts enhance understanding of mosquito behaviour and resistance patterns, informing more effective control strategies. Advanced diagnostic tools in these labs enable the detection of dengue virus within mosquito samples, facilitating timely vector control measures to prevent outbreaks. Regular testing for insecticide resistance ensures the continued effectiveness of control strategies.



REPORT DENGUE CASES

Emirate	Health authority	Contact information
FEDERAL (UAE-WIDE)	Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP)	E-mail: info@mohap.gov.ae . MOHAP Call centre: 80011111 Website: http://www.mohap.gov.ae
ABU DHABI	Department of Health – Abu Dhabi	Call centre: 800555 Website: https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/contact-us
DUBAI	Dubai Health Authority (DHA)	Call centre: 800342 Website: https://www.dha.gov.ae/en/ContactUs
SHARJAH	Sharjah Health Authority	E-mail: info@sha.gov.ae Phone: +971 6 556 9455 Website: https://www.sha.gov.ae/en/contact-us
AJMAN	Ajman Medical District	Phone: +971 6 703 3666 Website: https://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/mohap-offices/ajman-medical-district
UMM AL QUWAIN	Umm Al Quwain Medical District	Phone: +971 6 765 6151 Website: https://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/mohap-offices/umm-al-quwain-medical-district
RAS AL KHAIMAH	Ras Al Khaimah Medical District	Phone: +971 7 222 3111 Website: https://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/mohap-offices/ras-al-khaimah-medical-district
FUJAIRAH	Fujairah Medical District	Phone: +971 9 222 7000 Website: https://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/mohap-offices/fujairah-medical-district



Dr Samar Al-Shamsi is an internationally respected artist who is renowned for her commissioned portraits of high-profile individuals, including Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Barack Obama, and others.

A LATE REGRET

Life teaches its hardest lessons through loss. Too often, we realise the true value of someone or something only after it's gone

I have deceived myself, thinking I am in control of everything and not caring about anything. I listened only to myself and heard only my voice. I ignored her, blocked my ears, and locked my mind behind walls of pride. As she loved me, I thought she had become completely under my control, that she would move and think as I wanted. I forgot, or simply ignored, the fact that everyone has their own capabilities, which may outweigh my own.

I didn't imagine the loss I was going to face as an inevitable result of my actions. The loss wasn't in terms of money or property. It was something far greater—the loss of a heart that had once loved me, and a love I had once returned. I thought I could freeze such feelings so they wouldn't change. There were indications that warned me I was going in the wrong direction, but as usual, I ignored them and went on in my spite and obstinacy.

My beloved lady was very patient with me and warned me in her most tender way. I didn't notice or feel that her feelings had started to dry up. I used to ignore all this, even as a clear red light began to blink, warning of the catastrophe that was bound to happen.

Her heart was a haven when I was lost, a garment when I felt cold, a vessel for my feelings, a balm for my wounds, and a sun whenever my sky was cloudy. But when I became cruel, love turned to alienation, and happiness to misery. I found myself alone even when surrounded by people, melancholic even as I put on a smile, grieving for

the heart of a woman whom I failed to keep; a heart that I had lost forever; a heart that I would never find again anywhere in the world.

That Arabian mare had loved me, but I hadn't been up to her genuineness; I hadn't appreciated her real value. I used to feel very upset when people looked at her when we were together. Their eyes would focus on her while I felt extremely nervous and stressed. Still, I didn't notice the balance. I used to ignore everything and think that I was the best.

I forgot, or simply ignored, the fact that everyone has their own capabilities, which may outweigh my own

My nervousness and stress started to grow until the moment of the clash between us. I found myself getting smaller and pettier. That's when I lost her forever. Her love had turned into hatred,

evident in her eyes. My heart started to burn to such an extent that I thought the people around me might even smell it. I left my life behind and went away, emptiness all around me, talking to myself as if my tongue couldn't speak to anybody.

As for her, she left for good. She faced every challenge with resilience, gaining more fame and recognition until she became a star known by everyone. Whenever I see her surrounded by people, all waiting for a word or a glance from her, a deep sense of loss lingers—not just for what I lost but for what I let slip away. She once brought light into my life, but I lost her through my own misjudgment. Now, I see her everywhere—on walls, in the streets, even in my dreams. Only now do I fully grasp the weight of regret, but my realisation came too late.

Ramādān Guide 2025

EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO BE MINDFUL OF THE CUSTOMS OBSERVED DURING RAMADAN IN THE UAE. THIS COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE COVERS KEY TRADITIONS, ETIQUETTE, AND TIMING ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE HOLY MONTH

BY OLIVE CAYCUN





Each year, millions in the UAE observe Ramadan, the ninth and holiest month in the Islamic calendar. This sacred time is about more than fasting—it is a period for deepening one's faith through prayer, Qu'ran recitation, and acts of kindness. For Muslims, Ramadan is a cherished time to strengthen their bond with their family and community, especially now that 2025 was declared as the "Year of Community" by President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Fasting, a core pillar of Islam, is observed by all Muslims, except for children, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and those unwell. Rather than being seen as a challenge, fasting is embraced as a meaningful spiritual practice that builds empathy and discipline.

Life in the UAE adjusts during Ramadan, with shorter working hours for both public and private sectors, giving families and individuals more time for reflection and prayer. Restaurants close during daylight hours and reopen after *Maghrib* prayers to serve *iftar*, the evening meal that breaks the fast.

Non-Muslims can participate by showing respect for the customs of the holy month—avoiding eating, drinking, or smoking in public during fasting hours and dressing modestly are simple ways to honour the holy month. This guide highlights customs, etiquette, and timing changes during Ramadan.



Suhoor: the early meal

Before dawn, Muslims gather in quiet camaraderie for *suhoor*, the pre-fasting meal that marks the start of the day. Accompanied by prayer, it concludes with the morning call to prayer.

During the week, families often enjoy *suhoor* at home, sharing a peaceful moment before the day begins. Weekends, however, see a livelier atmosphere, with many heading to special tents to savour a meal before the first light of day. Across the UAE, numerous restaurants offer *suhoor* menus, welcoming both Muslims and non-Muslims to partake in this spiritual tradition.



Siyam: the fast

Fasting during Ramadan serves as a means of purifying both body and soul, encouraging worship, atonement, and gratitude. *Siyam*, meaning “to refrain”, refers to the daily fasting observed during Ramadan. From sunrise to sunset, Muslims abstain from eating, drinking, and smoking. But siyam is more than physical restraint—it is also about avoiding negative thoughts, actions, and words, fostering a deeper sense of spiritual discipline. As sunset approaches, homes come alive with the quiet preparation for iftar, marking the culmination of *siyam* with gratitude and togetherness.



Iftar: breaking the fast

At sunset, marked by the *Maghrib* prayer, the roar of cannons signals the end of the fast—ushering in iftar. Across the UAE, people join billions of Muslims worldwide in breaking their fast as Prophet Muhammad did, with a sip of water and a few dates.

Many individuals and companies alike generously offer free *iftar* dinners, setting up tents near mosques and other key locations. These gatherings showcase the essence of Emirati hospitality and traditions. Amongst the staples served during *iftar* are harees, a porridge-like dish, and lamb thareed, a rich marrow stew poured over crispy flatbread.



Taraweeh: the night prayers

It takes place after the Isha prayer and before the Witr prayer. The name “Taraweeh” comes from the Arabic word meaning “rest and relaxation”, as the prayer is performed at a steady, unhurried pace with short breaks between each set of prayer cycles. Praying Taraweeh is highly encouraged during Ramadan, offering spiritual benefits and

fostering discipline. These extended prayer sessions teach effective time management by encouraging individuals to prioritise their spiritual obligations while balancing daily responsibilities. It also nurtures self-discipline and commitment, qualities that can positively influence other areas of life even after Ramadan.

Workplace etiquette activity



Shortened working hours

By law, all employees, regardless of religion, have their workday reduced by two hours during Ramadan without any impact on their salary. This is outlined in Article 15 (2) of the 'Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022 on the Implementation of Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021'.



Designated eating areas

Employers must provide specific spaces for non-fasting employees to eat discreetly. This ensures respect for those observing the fast.



Meeting schedules

Plan meetings with care, avoiding prayer times and considering the fasting hours. Mid-morning is often the most suitable time. Offering virtual meetings can also help colleagues and clients avoid unnecessary travel in the heat.



Respectful practices

Show consideration during meetings by refraining from offering food or drinks. If participating in virtual meetings, avoid eating or drinking on camera to maintain a respectful atmosphere.

Public conduct during Ramadan



Dress modestly

Wear modest clothing, avoiding anything too revealing or tight, to show respect for the Holy Month. Residents and tourists wearing inappropriate attire in public may face penalties of up to three years in jail and deportation for violating the country's public morals.



No eating or drinking in public

Eating, drinking, smoking, or chewing gum in public during daylight hours is not allowed. It's both disrespectful to those fasting and against the law, with fines of up to Dhs2,000 or a month-long jail sentence as penalties.



Keep noise levels low

Avoid loud or disruptive behaviour in public, including playing loud music, even in your car, as it is frowned upon in the UAE. If listening to music, use headphones and keep the volume discreet.



Mind your language

Offensive language or swearing is considered highly inappropriate in the UAE, especially during Ramadan, and may result in serious consequences.



School timings

Official school hours for Ramadan 2025 are yet to be announced, as of press time. However, based on last year's schedule, private schools in the UAE operated for up to five hours per day, with Friday classes ending by noon. Similar timings are likely this year to accommodate Ramadan routines.



Can I visit a mosque during Ramadan?

Yes, visitors are welcome to visit mosques during Ramadan, but it's important to check for any restrictions, especially during prayer times. Dress modestly and behave respectfully while visiting. Some mosques also organise special Ramadan tours to help visitors learn about the significance of the month and Islamic traditions.



Don't tolerate begging

Begging is illegal in the UAE and can result in fines or deportation. To help maintain safety and order, report such incidents to the relevant authorities:

- **Abu Dhabi:**
Call **999** or **8002626**, SMS **2828**, or email aman@adpolice.gov.ae
- **Dubai:**
Call **901, 800243**, or **8004888**
- **Sharjah:**
Call **901, 80040**, or **06-5632222**
- **Ras Al Khaimah:**
Call **07-2053372**
- **Ajman:**
Call **06-7034310**
- **Umm Al Quwain:**
Call **999**
- **Fujairah:**
Call **09-2051100** or **09-2224411**



Parking fees

During Ramadan, paid parking hours change to suit the Holy Month's routines:

- **Ramadan hours:**
8 am to 6 pm and 8 pm to 10 pm.
- **Year-round hours:**
8 am to 10 pm.
- **Multistorey parking buildings:**
They remain payable 24/7, regardless of the season.
- **Weekdays and weekends:**
Peak hours (9 am to 5 pm) cost Dhs6; off-peak hours (7 am to 9 am and 5 pm to 2 am) cost Dhs4.
- **Sundays:**
Both peak and off-peak hours are charged Dhs4.
- **Free hours:**
No charges apply from 2 am to 7 am on any day.

Shopping



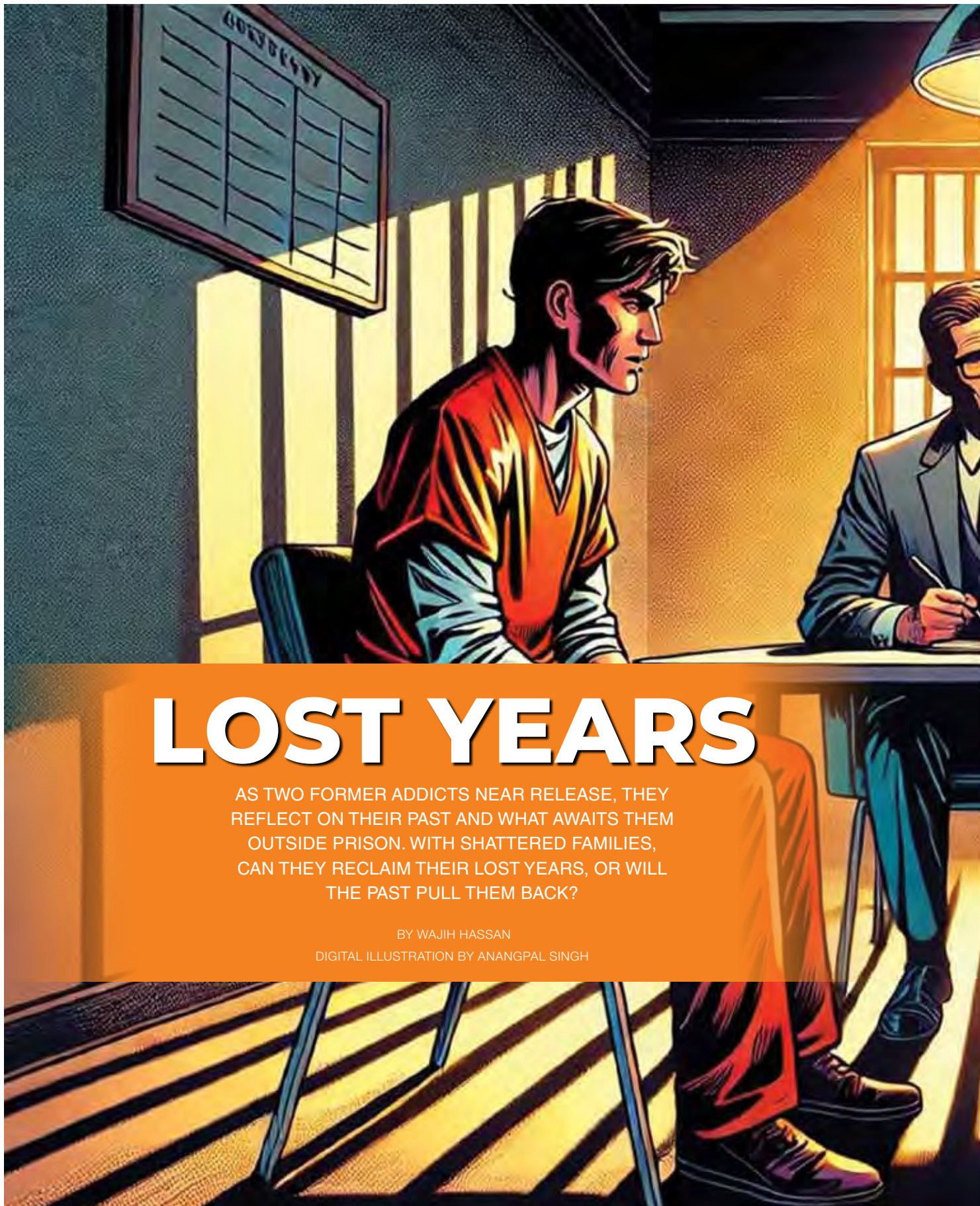
Malls

Extend their hours into the night, catering to those observing Ramadan and evening gatherings.



Supermarkets and grocery shops

They operate as usual, ensuring convenience for shoppers.



LOST YEARS

AS TWO FORMER ADDICTS NEAR RELEASE, THEY REFLECT ON THEIR PAST AND WHAT AWAITS THEM OUTSIDE PRISON. WITH SHATTERED FAMILIES, CAN THEY RECLAIM THEIR LOST YEARS, OR WILL THE PAST PULL THEM BACK?

BY WAJIH HASSAN

DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION BY ANANGPAL SINGH



Saifan and Abid sat in their prison’s counselling room, staring at the floor. Their release was just days away, and this session was meant to prepare them for the outside world. Two men in their 40s, once full of promise, had seen their lives unravel from illegal drugs. What began as experimentation spiralled into urges, desperation, and a habit that consumed everything.

They had promised their spouses and children countless times that they would change, but that change never came. Desperation to fund their next fix had led them to peddle narcotics.

Saifan spoke first in front of their counselling officer.

“This poison took everything. I haven’t seen my children, Khaled and Masoud, or my daughter, Zina. My wife, Aisha, begged me to stop, but I wouldn’t listen. She left me.

My children don’t visit. They’re ashamed.”

He added, “There was a young man who wanted to marry Zina. When he found out about me, he backed out. He said, ‘I won’t marry a girl whose father is a convict.’”

Saifan shook his head. “I lost everything. And for what? A high that never lasted.”

Abid nodded. “I fell in with the wrong crowd. I thought I was in control, but I wasn’t. First, I bought. Then I sold. It became my life.” He recounted, “I was arrested in a market. The police had been watching me. And here

I am spending my final days in prison but worried about what awaits me outside.”

The counselling officer spoke.

“We see worse than this every day. Drugs not only destroy users but also tear families apart. They wreck minds. Every drug, no matter the type, leads to the same thing—loss. Some users hallucinate, others act out, and some overdose. But the end is always never good.”

He paused. “People start for different reasons. Peer pressure like you Abid, family problems, stress. Some think drugs help them escape.”

“The only way to avoid this is to stay away. Choose your friends wisely, because if you don’t, you’ll definitely end up seeing me again here in jail,” he added.

The counsellor continued, “This is your opportunity to rebuild, to prove to yourselves and your families that change is possible. It won’t be easy—temptation

will be waiting, old habits will try to return. But if you focus on the life you want, on the people who still care about you, you’ll find a way forward. Take responsibility for your choices, seek support when you need it, and remind yourselves every day why you never want to go back to the life you left behind.”

Saifan and Abid sat in silence. Soon, they would step outside these walls, back into a world they had once abandoned. But for the first time in a long while, they found something they had lost—hope.

It won’t be easy—temptation will be waiting, old habits will try to return. But if you focus on the life you want, on the people who still care about you, you’ll find a way forward

The names and characters mentioned in the story are fictitious, and any resemblance with real people is purely coincidental.



TRUSTED ACROSS
GENERATIONS
FOR
MONEY TRANSFERS &
FOREIGN EXCHANGE
SERVICES

ثقة متوارثة
من جيل الى جيل
في
خدمات التحويلات المالية و
صرف العملات الاجنبية



GLOBAL
TRANSFERS

تحويلات إلى جميع
انحاء العالم



QUICK
CREDITS

إيداعات
سريعة



BEST
RATES

أفضل أسعار
الصرف



www.redhaalansari.com



facebook.com/redhaalansariex



twitter.com/redhaalansariex



Customer Service 600541118



TRAGEDY OF ERRORS

THERE'S NOTHING AMUSING ABOUT MISTAKEN
IDENTITIES—ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY LAND INNOCENT
PEOPLE BEHIND BARS

BY JUDE LEICESTER

WHO: RICHARD JONES**WHERE: KANSAS CITY, USA****WHEN: 1999**

For 17 years, Richard Jones sat behind bars for a crime he insisted he never committed. His conviction rested solely on eyewitness testimony—no DNA, no fingerprints, no physical evidence. Just two witnesses who believed they had picked the right man. But they hadn't.

Jones was accused of aggravated robbery in Kansas City after a woman's purse was snatched in a Walmart parking lot. Witnesses described the suspect as a light-skinned Hispanic or African-American man, and Jones' photo was selected from a lineup. That identification sealed his fate, sending him to the Lansing Correctional Facility for nearly two decades.

Jones fought for years to prove his innocence, but it wasn't until he teamed up with the Midwest Innocence Project and the University of Kansas School of Law that the truth emerged. Investigators found a lookalike inmate, Ricky Amos, who bore an uncanny resemblance to Jones—same age, same skin tone, same cornrows. When presented with their photos, witnesses, including the victim, could no longer tell them apart.

A judge ordered Jones' release in June 2017 and was awarded a \$1.1 million (Dhs 4.037 million) settlement by the state of Kansas. Amos, however, denied involvement, and due to the statute of limitations, he was never charged. Now free,



Midwest Innocence Project

Jones hugging his mother after his release in 2017

Jones is focused on rebuilding his life and helping others wrongfully convicted find justice.

WHO: SHAURN THOMAS**WHERE: PENNSYLVANIA, USA****WHEN: 1990**

Shaurn Thomas was just a teenager when he was sentenced to life in prison for a murder he didn't commit. The 1990 killing of Philadelphia businessman Domingo Martinez was a crime he had no part in, yet despite having an alibi, he was convicted based solely on a case that lacked physical evidence. His whereabouts on the day of the murder could have been proven—he was at a juvenile correctional centre for an unrelated case—but by the time of his trial, the sign-in logs had disappeared.

For decades, Thomas refused to give up. His breakthrough came when Dechert LLP, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, took on his case. Attorney James Figorski, a former Philadelphia police officer, spent years fighting for his release. Their persistence paid off when the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office vacated the conviction, allowing Thomas to walk free.

Despite spending more than two decades behind bars, Thomas holds no grudges. "I don't have animosity towards anyone. What for? Life's too short for that," he said.



Pennsylvania Innocence Project

Thomas (centre) raises both arms in triumph alongside Attorney Figorski (left) and Marissa Bluestine (right) following his release after 24 years

WHO: BALA SINGH

WHERE: UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

WHEN: 2006

Bala Singh's life changed in an instant when the police came knocking. Accused of a murder he had no part in, he found himself in handcuffs, labelled a fugitive, and sentenced to a decade behind bars. His only mistake? He had no documents to prove his identity when the police came looking.

The case dated back to 2001, when his brother Pappu and three others were accused of homicide in a village. Three suspects were arrested, but Pappu remained on the run. Pressured by the courts to close the case, the authorities arrested Bala, presented him as Pappu, and the court sentenced him to prison despite his protests.

For nearly a decade, Bala fought to prove his innocence. It wasn't until nine years later that the police finally ran a fingerprint test—comparing Bala's prints to those taken from Pappu in a previous case. The results confirmed what Bala had always said: he was not Pappu.

The police did not explain why they delayed the test for nearly a decade. His elderly mother, Rajkumari, a poor labourer, spent years struggling to get legal help. It was only when she finally secured a lawyer that the test was done, leading to Bala's exoneration.

By then, Pappu had fled to Nepal, where he was eventually killed. Bala walked free, but his youth was stolen, and his family was drained of resources.



For illustrative purposes only

WHO: MOHAMMED NAVED BASHIR

WHERE: HALIFAX, UK

WHEN: 2014

For three days, Mohammed Naved Bashir endured freezing cells and food he couldn't eat due to a chronic condition—all because of a name mix-up. The Halifax-based cook was simply on his way to deliver a pizza when an unmarked police car pulled him over. They claimed his insurance was invalid, but when they ran his name through a database, it matched that of a fraud suspect from Glasgow who was on the run. Despite Bashir's protests and his willingness to provide fingerprints to prove his identity, he was handcuffed and taken to the station.

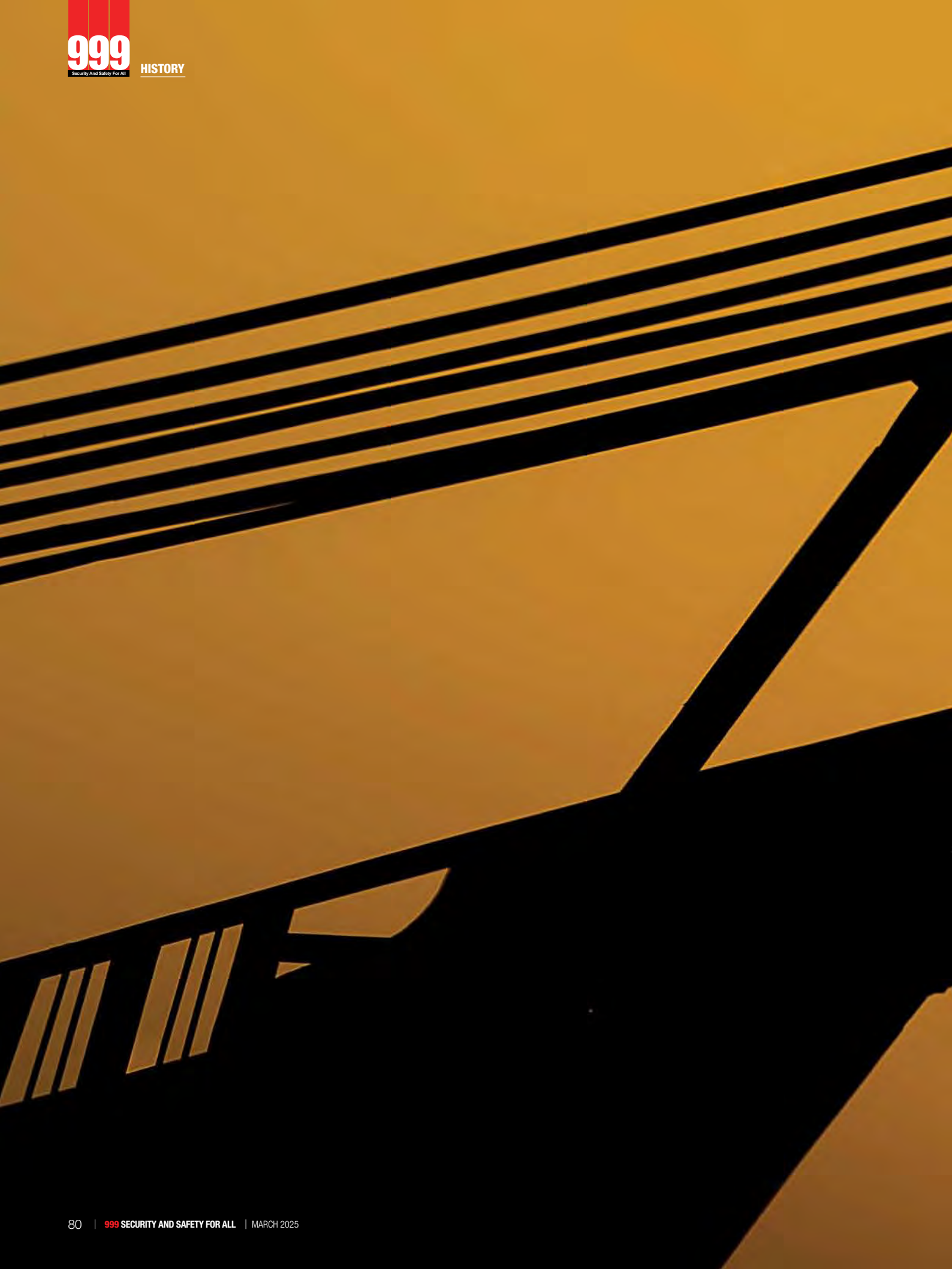
Held for 26 hours, he was then transported 200km to Glasgow, where he spent another night in a cell. His ordeal ended only when he was finally brought before a judge. The moment of truth came when the real suspect's lawyer looked at him and said, "That's not my client."

The authorities handed Bashir his jacket and walked him out of the courtroom.



Bashir

Yorkshire Live





PALGRAVE'S JOURNEY TO BAHRAIN

FROM BUSTLING MARKETS TO THRIVING PEARL TRADE, WILLIAM GIFFORD PALGRAVE'S ACCOUNTS OF HIS 1863 JOURNEY TO BAHRAIN DEPICT ITS COMMERCE, ARCHITECTURE, AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

BY DR FALEH HANDHAL



A row of arches at Qal'at al-Bahrain, the ancient fortress in Karbabad

The previous instalment of this series followed English traveller William Gifford Palgrave's visit to the UAE in 1863. His detailed accounts provided us with valuable insights into the country's trade, culture, and maritime activities.

As he journeyed through the Arabian Gulf, his observations, although not all accurate, captured the essence of each place he visited. This article continues his journey, chronicling his experiences in Bahrain.

His accounts, though written through a foreigner's lens, preserve invaluable historical details of a time when pearl diving flourished and trade routes connected the Gulf to far-reaching ports.

Bahrain, daughter of the sea

Palgrave arrived in Bahrain in 1863, during the rule of Sheikh Mohammad bin Khalifa Al Khalifa. The ruler, who had taken power in 1843, belonged to the same royal family that governs Bahrain today. Palgrave crossed the Gulf from Saudi Arabia aboard a boat manned by Bahraini sailors from the island of Muharraq.

He described the crew: "Their physiques were slender but strong, their skin dark yet pleasant to the eye. They were skilled

“Bahrain is the daughter of the sea, and the sea will always remain her compassionate mother

sailors, well-mannered, and cheerful. Their attire consisted of a bright fabric wrapped around the waist, secured between the legs during work, with a large scarf tied around the head. Aboard the ship, we drank coffee, smoked the hookah, and shared meals. Slowly, with the side wind in our favour, we sailed towards Muharraq before anchoring offshore. A small boat ferried us to land, where we continued into the city.”

Palgrave concluded his observations on Bahrain with a poetic remark: “Bahrain is the daughter of the sea, and the sea will always remain her compassionate mother.”

Muharraq, city of Arab character

Describing Muharraq, he wrote: “The city lies on the right side of the island bearing its name, separated from Manama by a long channel. The two serve as maritime ports facing each other. Muharraq's houses are painted white, and among them are huts made from palm fronds.”

Upon arrival, Palgrave and his companions sought refuge in a coffeehouse, a common resting place in many Eastern cities, as formal hotels were rare. After a brief stay at the coffeehouse, the owner directed him to lodgings. Loading his belongings onto a donkey, he navigated the winding alleys of the market before reaching a khan—a simple lodging consisting of two palm-frond huts.

His impression of Muharraq was overwhelmingly positive: “Muharraq is a city worth visiting, predominantly Arab in character. The houses are small yet elegant, and the market is well-organised with high display shelves, exuding vibrancy. Although not crowded, the market remains lively.”

He also noted the presence of palaces belonging to the ruling Al Khalifa family. During his stay, he was received courteously by the ruler's uncle, engaging in pleasant conversation before continuing to Manama.

Manama, centre of trade

Palgrave offered a more detailed account of Manama, the political and commercial heart of Bahrain.

He observed: “Larger than Muharraq, Manama serves as the centre of trade and governance. On its western side



Arad Fort, a 15th-century fortress in Muharraq, predates the Portuguese invasion of Bahrain

“Larger than Muharraq, Manama serves as the centre of trade and governance. On its western side stands a prominent white building fronted by cannons

stands a prominent white building fronted by cannons—the residence of Sheikh Ali bin Khalifa, brother of the ruler. Few other structures stand out, aside from the shoreline teeming with sailors and fishermen.”

He described the city’s layout, noting that most of it lay about twelve feet above sea level. The coastline stretched longer than the city’s width, a feature typical of coastal settlements.

The city’s architecture reflected its social divisions. Sailors and fishermen lived in simple palm-frond huts near the shore, with many flying flags to indicate wind direction. The elite, including merchants, landowners, and government officials, resided in spacious brick and stone houses with windows. The marketplace ran through the city’s core, lined with shops and featuring a central square where the main coffeehouse was located. Religious spaces were abundant, with numerous mosques scattered throughout the city.

He also remarked on a fortress standing

at the far end of a plain beyond Manama. According to local accounts, the structure was attributed to the Qarmatians, though by Palgrave’s time, it had fallen into ruins.

Socio-economic landscape

Pearl diving was the backbone of Bahrain’s economy, according to Palgrave. Strict taxes were imposed on pearl divers, and those who attempted to work without

government permission faced hefty punishment.

“During the diving season, from April to October, as many as 2,000 ships set sail for the pearl banks, often employing African divers renowned for their ability to remain underwater for extended periods,” he wrote.

“Trade in Bahrain was dominated by the wealthy elite, who conducted business across Basrah, Bombay, Karachi, and Zanzibar. They relied on Indian clerks to manage their accounts and financial affairs,” he continued.

Meanwhile, Bahrain’s craftsmanship was renowned throughout the East, with



The Gold Souq in Manama, a marketplace for jewellery and Bahraini crafts



Manama's modern skyline at sunset

artisans excelling in weaving, metalwork, leatherwork, and woodworking. Their skill and artistry were renowned for precision and style.

Agriculture on the island was limited due to poor soil quality, with only citrus fruits and dates being cultivated. However, Bahrain's surrounding waters provided an abundance of fish.

Palgrave also made an important observation about Bahrain's religious and ethnic diversity. He remarked: "People of various faiths coexist in Bahrain, including Muslims, Jews, and Magians. The Prophet Muhammad's letter to Bahrain's ruler Munzir ibn Sawa acknowledged their presence, ensuring they paid the jizyah tax while living peacefully."

He noted the presence of Persians, Omanis, Indians, and Baluchis, commenting that discussions in the city revolved around trade, politics, and maritime affairs rather than religious debates.

Year of the gale

Before leaving Bahrain, Palgrave documented a violent storm, known locally as The year of the gale: "A fierce northern wind swept through, accompanied by heavy rain and thunder. The sea surged inland, flooding the land, sinking ships, and destroying boats. Even palm trees—

“I witnessed a spring of freshwater bubbling up from the sea. Women waded in, balancing jars on their heads, collecting water



Traditional dhows sail from Manama's harbour

despite their deep roots—were uprooted by the storm's fury."

He also described a remarkable phenomenon—freshwater springs emerging from the sea: "I witnessed a spring of freshwater bubbling up from the

sea. Women waded in, balancing jars on their heads, collecting water that remained separate from the surrounding seawater."

After twenty days in Bahrain, Palgrave prepared to set sail for Qatar, eager to continue his exploration of the Arabian Gulf.

KARAK YOUR WAY

كركك على مذاجعك

Just Chill
DRINKS CO.



3 in 1

Authentic Arabic Flavours

نكهة عربية أصيلة

[f](#) [@](#) [v](#) /justchilldrinksco



A SLEW OF SMARTPHONES, A SMART KITCHEN GARDEN, AND A MIGHTY MINI PC—THIS MONTH'S GADGET LINEUP IS PACKED WITH POWER AND CONVENIENCE

RAPID ANDROID

The **OnePlus 13** is a strong contender in the Android flagship lineup this year. Powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Elite chip, it delivers smooth performance, from quick app launches to fast, responsive gestures. The ultrasonic fingerprint scanner ensures instant unlocking, while the 6,000mAh silicon-carbon battery offers solid battery life with rapid charging. Its 6.8-inch quad-curved display is reminiscent of the OnePlus X in 2015. With an IP68 rating for water resistance and an extra IP69 rating to withstand 80°C water jets, it's built to handle more than just everyday spills.

PRICE: Dhs3,299

WEBSITE: www.oneplus.com



POWER PLAYER



Need a high-performance phone that won't break the bank? The **Realme Neo7** delivers, packing a 6.78-inch LTPO OLED display with a smooth 120Hz refresh rate and a dazzling 6,000-nit peak brightness. Photography lovers will appreciate its 50MP main camera with OIS, 8MP ultrawide lens, and a 16MP selfie shooter. Gamers, take note—the 7,700mm² VC heatsink keeps things cool during intense sessions. The real star? A massive 7,000mAh battery that lasts up to three days, with 80W fast charging to keep you going with minimal downtime.

PRICE: Starts at Dhs1,442

WEBSITE: www.realme.com

THERMAL SNAPPER

For adventurers who love the wild, the **Ulefone Armor 28 Ultra Thermal Version** is one for the books. With a 64MP infrared night vision camera and 4 IR LEDs, it captures the unseen, from nocturnal wildlife to home insulation issues. SharpenAI and FusionAI technology ensures its ultra-clear thermal imaging. Powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 9300+ SoC, it hit over 2.3 million score on the gadget benchmarking app AnTuTu. Plus, its 1-inch 50MP Sony IMX989 main camera delivers crisp shots in any terrain. Tough, smart, and built for discovery, this could be your ultimate outdoor companion.

PRICE: TBA

WEBSITE: www.ulefone.com



MIGHTY MINI PC

Who says serious computing needs a bulky setup? The **Miniproca Mini PC** proves that power can come in a compact, travel-friendly form. Weighing just 855 grams and housed in a sturdy aluminium alloy shell, this ultra-portable machine fits easily into a backpack. Its 7-inch multi-touch screen, adjustable from 0 to 90 degrees, makes it perfect for quick edits, presentations, or browsing. Under the hood, an RX 680M core graphics card, DDR5 memory slots, and PCIe 4.0 SSD support deliver serious performance. With an extensive I/O selection, including USB, HDMI 2.1, DP 1.4, and 2.5G RJ45 ports, this mini PC is ready for any setup, anywhere.

PRICE: Starts at Dhs2,500

WEBSITE: www.kickstarter.com



SALAD FARM



Growing fresh ingredients at home just got easier with **Plantaform's Smart Indoor Garden**. This futuristic planting gadget lets you cultivate herbs and veggies indoors with minimal effort. Using "fogponics"—a NASA-developed evolution of aeroponics—nutrient-rich fog waters the roots, ensuring optimal growth. The self-watering, self-cleaning system fits neatly at 26.2 inches on each side and can nurture up to 15 plants at once. Its glowing lights and mist give it a high-tech kitchen planter vibe.

PRICE: Dhs1,835

WEBSITE: <https://plantaform.com>

SMART LOOKOUT

Video doorbells have become a must-have for modern homes, offering security and convenience at the doorstep. The **SwitchBot Video Doorbell** makes things even easier by including its 4.3-inch touchscreen display—no need for extra smart devices or voice assistants. Simply place it on a desk or mount it on a wall for instant access to ring notifications and two-way talk. With 2K resolution, a 165-degree viewing angle, and colour night vision, it delivers crisp footage day or night. AI motion detection even distinguishes between people and other movements.

PRICE: TBA

WEBSITE: www.switch-bot.com





THIS MONTH'S PICKS EXPLORE THE MANY FACETS OF FREEDOM, JOURNEY TO REDISCOVER ROOTS, AND THE PRESERVATION OF CHERISHED HERITAGE

BY ROD MARTIN



ROOTS AND RENEWAL

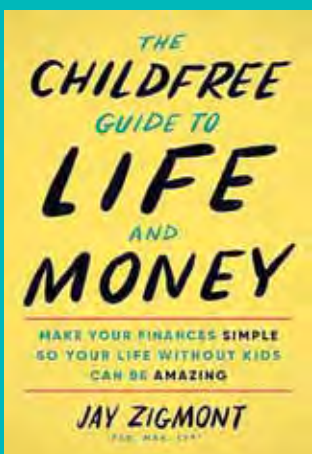
TITLE: *Ingrained: The Making of a Craftsman*

AUTHOR: Callum Robinson

PUBLISHER: Ecco

PRICE: Dhs70

Callum Robinson, the son of a master woodworker, reflects on his journey from apprentice to craftsman and back to his roots. After pursuing commercial success, he faced the collapse of his workshop and rediscovered the joy of handcrafting timeless furniture. In poetic prose, Robinson explores nature, craftsmanship, and community, urging readers to reconsider and cherish enduring creations. Blending memoir and nature writing, this book is a heartfelt meditation on resilience, tradition, and the transformative power of working with one's hands.



FREEDOM SIMPLIFIED

TITLE: *The Childfree Guide to Life and Money: Make Your Finances Simple So Your Life Without Kids Can Be Amazing*

AUTHOR: Jay Zigmont

PUBLISHER: Sourcebooks

PRICE: Dhs62 (Paperback)

Dr Jay Zigmont redefines financial independence for DINKs (dual-income, no kids) and SINKs (single-income, no kids), introducing the FILE life (financial independence, live early). Challenging traditional paths, he offers eight 'no-baby steps' to help childfree individuals shape fulfilling lives. From housing choices to taxes, investments, and retirement, Zigmont provides practical advice for maximising wealth and personal freedom. Whether single, married, or creating a unique living arrangement, this guidebook equips readers with the tools to break norms and live life on their terms.



BREAKING FREE

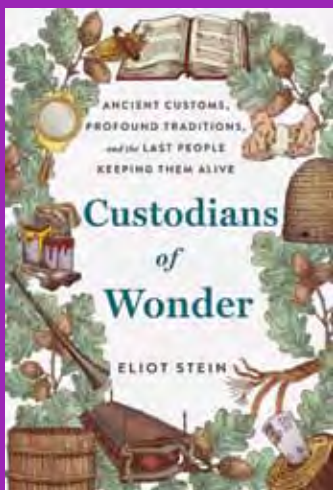
TITLE: *The Let Them Theory*

AUTHOR: Mel Robbins

PUBLISHER: Hay House LLC

PRICE: Dhs83

Mel Robbins, creator and host of the award-winning 'The Mel Robbins Podcast', unveils the secret to happiness and success in two simple words: Let Them. This transformative book empowers readers to break free from the judgments and drama of others, refocusing on personal goals, happiness, and life. This book offers practical guidance to stop wasting energy on the uncontrollable and take charge of one's destiny. With empowering insights, Robbins provides a roadmap to shed external pressures and build an authentic, fulfilling life.



PRESERVING HERITAGE

TITLE: Custodians of Wonder: Ancient Customs, Profound Traditions, and the Last People Keeping Them Alive

AUTHOR: Eliot Stein

PUBLISHER: St. Martin's Press

PRICE: Dhs96

Eliot Stein embarks on a global journey to uncover extraordinary traditions and their keepers. From Japan's ancient soy sauce recipe to Italy's rarest pasta and India's mystical metal mirror, Stein showcases cultural treasures. He meets Scandinavia's last night watchman, a West African griot of 27 generations, and Cuba's final cigar factory readers. This book celebrates the resilience of heritage, revealing remarkable people who safeguard fading customs and keep humanity's profound stories alive.



IMPERIAL COLLAPSE

TITLE: The Last Tsar: The Abdication of Nicholas II and the Fall of the Romanovs

AUTHOR: Tsuyoshi Hasegawa

PUBLISHER: Basic Books

PRICE: Dhs119

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa examines Tsar Nicholas II's abdication and catastrophic impact on Imperial Russia. Based on newly uncovered archives, *The Last Tsar* reveals how Nicholas's resistance to reform and poor leadership alienated allies and plunged his country into chaos. Featuring key figures like Alexandra and Rasputin, the book narrates the monarchy's unravelling amidst aristocratic and legislative struggles. Nicholas's missteps led to civil war, the Romanov dynasty's demise, and the Soviet Union's rise. Hasegawa delivers a definitive account of one of history's most dramatic collapses.



WIT'S REDEMPTION

TITLE: Cabin: Off the Grid Adventures with a Clueless Craftsman

AUTHOR: Patrick Hutchison

PUBLISHER: St. Martin's Press

PRICE: Dhs95

Patrick Hutchison, writer and builder from the Pacific Northwest, shares his journey from office life to restoring a dilapidated, 120-square-foot off-grid cabin in Washington's Cascade Mountains. With no carpentry skills, Hutchison spent six years transforming the cabin on Wit's End Road, discovering resilience and a love for renovation along the way. *Cabin* is a heartfelt memoir about embracing challenges, finding possibilities in imperfection, and falling in love with a place and process. A relatable tale for dreamers and doers, it celebrates the joy of biting off more than you can chew—and making it work.

Dubai initiative releases sharks, stingrays to boost marine life

Dubai has bolstered its effort in marine conservation with the release of three Honeycomb Stingrays and 20 Arabian Carpet sharks into the Arabian Gulf. The initiative, led by Atlantis Dubai in partnership with Dubai Municipality and Nakheel, was conducted at Jebel Ali Wildlife Sanctuary with the support of volunteers.

Since its inception in 2019, the programme has facilitated the release of 58 sharks and 10 stingrays, aiming to enhance shark and ray breeding—key indicators of a healthy marine ecosystem.

The released marine animals, aged eight to 10 months, were bred and nurtured at Atlantis, The Palm, in its



Volunteers releasing an Arabian Carpet shark at Jebel Ali Wildlife Sanctuary

specialised fish hospital. Both species are native to the Arabian Gulf and thrive in coral reefs, lagoons, and mangroves.

Highlighting the importance of such efforts, Kelly Timmins, Executive Director

of Sustainability and Marine Animal Operations at Atlantis Dubai, stated: "Atlantis Dubai is home to over 65,000 marine animals, and we acknowledge the vital role aquariums play in enhancing biodiversity conservation through initiatives such as breeding and reinforcement programmes."

The Arabian Gulf supports diverse marine life, but over a third of its sharks and rays are now considered threatened. This initiative underscores Dubai's commitment to protecting and restoring its marine ecosystem, fostering biodiversity, and ensuring a sustainable future for its native species.

Atlantis Atlas Project

Bird hunters face legal action as Fujairah ramps up monitoring at beaches

The Fujairah Environment Authority has intensified efforts to combat poaching of shorebirds, taking legal action against poachers and illegal bird hunters after receiving multiple reports of such activities along the emirate's beaches.

An investigation confirmed the complaints, and the Authority emphasised its commitment to preserving the rich ecological diversity of Fujairah's coastline, home to local and migratory bird species. In November 2024, the Authority confiscated 19 illegal bird-hunting devices after a visitor reported suspicious activity linked to hunting equipment.



In a similar incident in Sharjah, the Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) rescued 11 endangered migratory birds—10 curlews and one bustard—illegally captured in Al-Buhais in October 2024. Two sound-emitting devices used

to lure the birds were confiscated in coordination with local authorities.

To strengthen these efforts, the Fujairah Environment Authority has ramped up coastal monitoring and urged beachgoers to report any violations by contacting the toll-free number 800368. "Strict observance of environmental laws is a priority, but instilling social responsibility across all sections of society is equally vital," the Authority stated.

The Authority has also increased public awareness campaigns, aimed to educate people about the importance of shorebirds to the ecological balance and the severe environmental damage caused by irresponsible hunting practices.

Scientists discover mega coral visible from space in Pacific Ocean

Scientists from National Geographic's Pristine Seas research team have uncovered the world's largest coral, a *pavona clavus*, in the waters of the Solomon Islands. The mega coral, measuring an extraordinary 34 metres wide and over five metres high, is three times larger than any coral previously recorded and visible from space.

Unlike typical coral colonies, this massive structure is a single network of coral polyps thriving in the southwest Pacific Ocean. It resembled a giant rock, but a diver's inspection revealed its true nature.



Enric Sala, National Geographic Explorer in Residence and founder of Pristine Seas. "It's made of nearly one billion polyps, pulsing with life and colour."

Believed to be around 300 years old, the coral could offer insights into historical oceanic conditions, crucial for understanding marine ecosystems. However, Sala warned that global warming and human activities threaten its survival despite its remote location.

Local communities were unaware of its presence, even though it lies just beneath the ocean's surface.

"This is a significant scientific discovery, like finding the world's tallest tree," said

The discovery underscores the importance of protecting marine biodiversity and serves as a reminder of the hidden wonders beneath the ocean's surface.

242 million students experience school disruptions due to climate disasters

A UNICEF analysis has revealed that nearly a quarter of a billion children faced education disruptions in 2024 due to extreme weather events, intensifying what the organisation calls an "existing learning crisis".

The report highlights that at least 242 million students—one in seven globally—across 85 countries experienced interruptions caused by climate-induced disasters such as heatwaves, storms, floods, droughts, and tropical cyclones.

Heatwaves emerged as the leading hazard, with April 2024 marking the peak of climate-related school disruptions. At least 118 million children in countries like Bangladesh, Cambodia,



India, the Philippines, and Thailand were affected. September recorded the highest number of weather-related school suspensions, with events such as Typhoon Yagi impacting education in at least 16 countries.

South Asia bore the brunt of the crisis,

with 128 million students affected, followed by East Asia and the Pacific region, which saw disruptions for 50 million children.

UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell underscored the urgency of addressing the issue, stating: "Children are more vulnerable to the impacts of weather-related crises, including stronger and more frequent

heatwaves, storms, droughts, and flooding. Education must be prioritised in climate-related plans."

The report also noted that while low- and lower-middle-income countries accounted for the majority of disruptions, no region was immune.

Forget 21 days, forming habits takes twice as long



Cybernetics, where the plastic surgeon observed that his patients adjusted to their post-surgery appearance within 21 days. However, UniSA's meta-analysis of 20 studies, conducted between 2008 and 2023, involving over 2,600 participants, revealed a different finding.

As reported by CNN, researchers measured behaviours such as exercising, drinking water, taking vitamins, and flossing to identify how long individuals needed to develop sustainable habits. They found that the median time for habits to form ranged from 59 to 66 days, while some took up to 335 days to become second nature.

The findings, published in the journal *Healthcare*, aim to encourage persistence amongst those trying to adopt healthier lifestyles. While the road to self-improvement may be longer than expected, the study offers reassurance that success doesn't depend on quick fixes but on sustained effort.

Forget the 21-day rule—forming healthy habits takes much longer than popular wisdom suggests. New research from the University of South Australia (UniSA) reveals that establishing new

routines typically requires two months or more, with some habits taking almost a year to stick.

The study debunks the myth rooted in Maxwell Maltz's 1960 book *Psycho-*

Study links weather patterns to adolescent mental health

Exposure to extreme weather may influence the mental health of adolescents and young adults, according to a study published in *JAMA Network Open*. The research, led by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), examined how temperature variations affect psychological well-being in young people.

The study tracked around 3,900 adolescents in the Netherlands and nearly 900 in Spain between 2015 and 2022. Researchers observed that prolonged exposure to cold temperatures in the Netherlands was linked to internalising issues such as anxiety, depression, and social withdrawal. Conversely, elevated heat levels in Spain were associated with attention difficulties.

The analysis evaluated weather patterns spanning three days to two months before participants reported psychiatric symptoms. Although the study does not establish causation,



it highlights a correlation between temperature extremes and mental health issues. Researchers suggest that extreme weather may disrupt the body's temperature regulation, triggering stress and inflammatory responses that could contribute to these problems.

The findings underscore concerns that climate change, with its increasing

temperature fluctuations, may exacerbate mental health challenges amongst youth. While further investigation is needed to confirm direct links, the research adds to the growing evidence of climate change's impact on human health, emphasising the need for proactive measures to protect vulnerable populations.

Research reveals effects of widely used drugs on dementia risk levels



A recent study published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia* highlights the impact of prescribed medications on dementia risk, offering new insights into prevention strategies for the condition that affects over 55 million people worldwide. Researchers analysed data from over 130 million medical records, reviewing studies up to August 2023.

The study identified drug classes linked to either increased or decreased dementia risk.

Using machine learning and statistical modelling, the team focused on large datasets, including electronic health records and administrative claims, to pinpoint patterns. The analysis centred on medications prescribed to cohorts ranging

from thousands to millions, with follow-up periods spanning years.

The findings revealed that antimicrobials, anti-inflammatory drugs, and vaccines such as those for hepatitis and typhoid were associated with reduced dementia risk. These results suggest a protective role of immune modulation and infection control in mitigating cognitive decline. Conversely, frequent use of antipsychotics, benzodiazepines, and certain diabetes medications was linked to an elevated risk of developing dementia.

The study underscores the importance of evaluating long-term neurological risks associated with specific drug classes, particularly for at-risk populations. Researchers emphasised the potential benefits of addressing inflammation and infections as part of dementia prevention strategies.

This large-scale review provides a foundation for future research, advocating for careful medication management to reduce the global burden of dementia.

Adults with ADHD face reduced life expectancy—study

A groundbreaking study led by University College London researchers and published in *The British Journal of Psychiatry* reveals that adults diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) may have significantly shorter life expectancies. The analysis involved anonymised data from 30,029 UK adults with ADHD, compared to 300,390 individuals without the condition, matched by age, sex, and primary care practice.

The findings indicate a reduction in life expectancy ranging from 4.5 to 9 years for men with ADHD and 6.5 to 11 years for women. Despite these stark figures, the study also highlights that fewer than one in nine adults with ADHD have been formally diagnosed, meaning the total impact on the population is likely underestimated.

ADHD, a neurodevelopmental condition present from childhood and



increasingly recognised in adults, is characterised by differences in attention, impulsiveness, and time management. While individuals with ADHD can exhibit intense focus on activities they find engaging, they often struggle with

routine tasks, leading to challenges in education, work, and long-term planning. These difficulties may contribute to higher risks of accidents, mental health issues, and other factors that could affect longevity.

Oxford research highlights AI's pandemic preparedness potential



health while calling for stringent ethical guidelines.

Unlike previous AI studies focused on individual patient care, the research shifts attention to population health, presenting how AI can predict outbreaks even in regions with limited data.

"In the next five years, AI has the potential to transform pandemic preparedness," said lead author Professor Moritz Kraemer from the University of Oxford's Pandemic Sciences Institute. "It will help us better anticipate where outbreaks will start and predict their trajectory, using terabytes of routinely collected climatic and socio-economic data."

With some AI models performing effectively even with incomplete datasets, the study highlights their potential for both high-income and low-income countries. However, scientists caution that AI alone is not a panacea. Integrating human expertise into AI modelling remains crucial for addressing limitations and ensuring ethical and transparent implementation.

A study published in *Nature* highlights how artificial intelligence (AI) can revolutionise pandemic preparedness, offering new ways to predict and mitigate infectious disease outbreaks.

The research, conducted by a global coalition of scientists from the University of Oxford and institutions across five continents, underscores the importance of AI-driven advancements in public

Why do some people recall dreams while others don't?

A new study published in *Communications Psychology* sheds light on why some individuals vividly recall their dreams while others wake up with no memory of them. Conducted by researchers at the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca in collaboration with the University of Camerino, the study tracked over 200 participants aged 18 to 70, monitoring their sleep and cognitive traits over 15 days.

Participants recorded their dreams upon waking using voice recorders, while their sleep patterns were tracked via actigraph wristwatches. The findings reveal that individuals with a positive attitude toward dreams and a tendency for mind-wandering were significantly more likely to remember their dreams. Sleep structure also played a role—longer periods of light sleep increased the chances of dream recall.

"Our findings suggest that dream recall is not just a matter of chance but



a reflection of how personal attitudes, cognitive traits, and sleep dynamics interact," said lead author Professor Giulio Bernardi of the IMT School.

Interestingly, younger participants had higher dream recall rates, while older individuals often experienced "white dreams", where they felt they had dreamt but couldn't recall details. Seasonal

variations also emerged, with dream recall lower in winter compared to spring, hinting at environmental or circadian influences.

"These insights not only deepen our understanding of the mechanisms behind dreaming but also have implications for exploring dreams' role in mental health and in the study of human consciousness," Bernardi added.



WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



ARIES (MARCH 21 TO APRIL 20)

Your energy levels are soaring, but so is your impatience. This month, harness that drive into something constructive—perhaps a new skill or project. Rash decisions could lead to setbacks, so pause before acting. Progress comes not from speed, but from strategy. Stay focused, and success follows naturally.



LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22)

Balance is your strength, but even the most poised need to recalibrate. You've been accommodating others, but have you been fair to yourself? This month nudges you towards boundary-setting. Saying "no" isn't selfish—it's self-respect. The clearer your priorities, the smoother everything else falls into place.



TAURUS (APRIL 20 – MAY 21)

Slow and steady wins the race, but even you can't ignore the shifting winds. Be prepared for an unexpected opportunity—one that demands flexibility. Financially, a well-calculated risk might pay off. Stay grounded, but don't let comfort breed stagnation. Growth often comes from stepping beyond familiar borders.



SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21)

You're known for resilience, but is it time to stop enduring and start transforming? This month asks you to release old patterns that no longer serve you. A breakthrough is within reach—but first, a breakdown of outdated beliefs is necessary. Embrace change, and control returns in a new form.



GEMINI (MAY 22 – JUNE 20)

Your curiosity is a gift, but this month calls for deeper focus. Multitasking might dilute your effectiveness, so prioritise what truly matters. Conversations bring insights, but be wary of misinformation. A long-overdue decision needs resolution—trust your logic over fleeting emotions. Choose clarity over chaos, and everything aligns.



SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21)

The world is vast and not every road needs to be travelled. Restlessness pulls you in multiple directions, yet the answer lies in focus. One path pursued with intent is better than five half-hearted ventures. Clarity arrives through experience—immerse yourself fully in one thing, and momentum follows.



CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22)

Routine feels suffocating, but change requires courage. Small, deliberate steps bring bigger rewards than reckless leaps. Take stock of habits, surroundings, and commitments—what needs realigning? Introspection isn't indulgence; it's preparation for growth. Financially, discipline is key. Structure brings stability, and stability breeds confidence. Trust the process.



CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19)

Ambition is your trademark, but even machines require maintenance. Pushing forward relentlessly is admirable, but sustainability demands balance. This month, efficiency trumps exertion. Work smarter, not harder. Delegate, streamline, and redefine what true productivity looks like. Progress isn't measured by exhaustion—it's measured by effectiveness.



LEO (JULY 23 – AUGUST 22)

A leadership moment arrives, but the question is—will you lead with authority or with wisdom? This month tests not your ability to take charge, but your ability to listen. People are watching how you handle pressure. Choose collaboration over control, and your influence will stretch far beyond expectations.



AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18)

Your mind brims with ideas, but without action, they remain fantasies. Innovation is valuable only when executed. This month, focus on bringing one concept to life—something tangible. The world needs more doers, not just dreamers. Take the first step, and the momentum will handle the rest.



VIRGO (AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22)

Overthinking won't change reality, but action will. There's no perfect moment—just the one you decide to seize. This month demands practical solutions, not flawless theories. Small missteps aren't failures; they're data points for improvement. Let go of the need for precision, and productivity will flow effortlessly.



PISCES (FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20)

Intuition is a powerful compass, but even instincts need confirmation. This month, blend insight with facts before making decisions. Sensitivity is strength, but boundaries are essential. Not every emotion requires action—some just need observation. Channel your creativity into something meaningful, and inspiration will follow.

PUZZLES

ACROSS

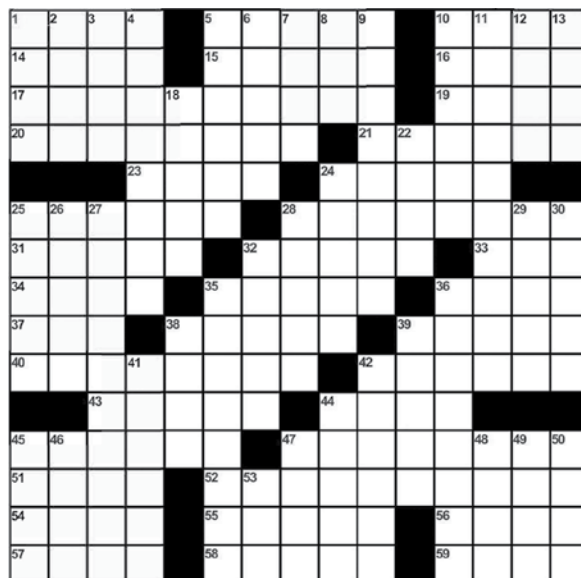
- 1) Jason's ship
- 5) Scarecrow's stuffing
- 10) Sound of a hoofbeat
- 14) Saturday service site
- 15) English Channel harbour town
- 16) Fury
- 17) Fish measurement
- 19) Cay
- 20) Talked, talked and talked
- 21) Scrabble unit
- 23) Attention-attracting sound
- 24) Twisted lock?
- 25) Fastens anew
- 28) Half-moon
- 31) A void capture by
- 32) Skirt fold
- 33) Bluejacket
- 34) Gentlemen
- 35) Turned sharply
- 36) Birthday party centerpiece
- 37) 2,000 pounds
- 38) Acted the farrier
- 39) Minds your own business?
- 40) Goulash containers
- 42) Answers skillfully

- 43) Sweeties
- 44) No longer working (Abbr.)
- 45) Eighth of a circle
- 47) They play by themselves
- 51) Sheep calls
- 52) Hare ball?
- 54) Lake near Niagara Falls
- 55) Teamsters, for one
- 56) Sandwich cookie
- 57) Bellow
- 58) Absorbent cloth
- 59) Go by bus

DOWN

- 1) Like a post-volcanic landscape
- 2) Ostrich cousin
- 3) Island discovered by Magellan
- 4) Unmarried ladies, once
- 5) Germ cells
- 6) Carved pole
- 7) Highway or street alternative
- 8) "Aladdin" prince
- 9) Knowledgeable, via books
- 10) Film reviewer
- 11) Perfectionist's concern
- 12) Look up and down

- 13) Jury member
- 18) Slightly amused reaction
- 22) "___ of Eden"
- 24) Raise Labradors, e.g.
- 25) Bandstand breaks
- 26) "Adam Bede" novelist
- 27) Was a coward
- 28) Parts of a crossword puzzle
- 29) In one's birthday suit
- 30) Highlight holder?
- 32) Conspires
- 35) Timesaver
- 36) IOU holder
- 38) Bridge measurement
- 39) Scaler's spike
- 41) Animal that goes "pop"
- 42) Arson or robbery, e.g.
- 44) Helicopter blade
- 45) Follow, as orders
- 46) Be concerned
- 47) Cookbook direction
- 48) Delhi dress
- 49) Drew even with
- 50) ___ gin fizz
- 53) Best-selling number?



Easy

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

Medium

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

SOLUTIONS

SOLUTIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE



www.alberichcrosswords.com

www.dailysudoku.com

easy

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

medium

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

ARGO	STRAW	CLOP
SHUL	POOLE	RAGE
HEAD	TOTAL	ISLE
YAMMER	BRAID	LETTER
RETIES	CRESCENT	
ELUDE	PLEAT	TAR
SIRS	SLUED	CAKE
TON	SHOED	PRIES
STEW	POTS	FIELDS
DEARS	RETD	
OCTANT	SOLOIST	S
BAAS	COTTON	TAIL
ERIE	UNION	OREO
YELL	TERRY	RIDE

أول سيارة مازدا CX-60 و CX-90 على الإطلاق



THE FIRST EVER
MAZDA CX-60 & CX-90



INTELLIGENCE IN MOTION

LEADING THE FUTURE OF A.I. MOBILITY



GULF STAR MOTORS
SUBSIDIARY OF ALI & SONS HOLDING

800 XPENG | xpeng.com/ae