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IN THIS ISSUE: ONLINE SCAMS ON THE RISE, STAY ALERT TO SCAM ARTISTS AND STAY PROTECTED













The Sultan of Space has become the rockstar of space, firing up the imagination of the UAE youth

At home in space

alling from the sky has never looked so good as it did when the capsule carrying Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi and his fellow space explorers had its perfectly planned splashdown in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Florida, United States, in early September (at 8.17am, September 4, for the UAE). It was the culmination of a hugely successful six-month stay for Al Neyadi — nicknamed "Sultan of Space" — on board the International Space Station (ISS). His achievement follows the eight-day stay onboard the ISS in 2019 by the first Emirati astronaut, Hazzaa Al Mansoori.

During his stay, Al Neyadi not only carried out a couple of hundred enlightening experiments, the findings of which will enrich the global repository of space knowledge, but he also made outer space accessible for the layperson down here on Earth. Through the initiative 'A Call from Space'; his videos of daily life on the ISS; fun moments like eating floating food in zero gravity; and dozens of stunning photographs of the world as seen from the orbit, the Sultan of Space has become the rockstar of space, firing up the imagination of the UAE youth. Our cover story looks at how this longer-term ISS mission has taken the UAE's extremely ambitious space programme forward and what this means for the nation's economic progress.

The UAE is constantly devising new ways to expand and diversify its economy, not willing to depend on oil, a finite resource whose use now needs to be scaled down for the sake of sustainability. Though it's nothing as surreal as space travel, a visit to the UAE's mega-malls can actually transport a person to another world. These iconic mega-malls — Dubai Mall and Mall of the Emirates are truly world-famous — are not just real estate developments; they're part of the brand identity of the nation and massive tourist magnets, contributing to a significant percentage of the non-oil GDP. As winter approaches again, and the nation prepares to receive millions of visitors, **999** salutes the concept of mega-malls and the way the UAE has completely owned this concept, using retail innovation to help local businesses compete effectively with e-commerce.

Ambition based on science and technology has helped the nation bring about an agricultural revolution. Rice (paddy), the staple crop of countries with long monsoons, is being grown in the UAE using agri-tech that utilises the natural heat of the desert lands but only needs a fraction of the water required in traditional farming. This is not just experimental technology — in an astounding development, the UAE can now grow its own rice in commercial quantities, at a cost 32 per cent less per tonne than the cost of imported rice. How this 'rice revolution' has unfolded is presented in our magazine this month.

One of our safety-focused features in this issue tells you about the latest ways in which scam artists are operating, with cryptocurrency investment being the new hook that fraudsters are using to fish for victims. These are very sophisticated rackets and they require several layers of extra-caution to be exercised by every one of us, because the channels through which scammers can reach us are only increasing.

Another safety feature speaks of summer fog, a befuddling weather phenomenon for which motorists, especially new motorists who've only just begun driving, may not be prepared at all. The article explains the factors behind summer fog and the driving precautions that need to be taken so that everyone gets home alive and well.

Keeping you safe is what **999** truly cares about, and this month again, we hope we've achieved that.







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

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IN THE AGE OF NONSTOP ONLINE SHOPPING, OFFLINE STORES HAVE TO STAY RELEVANT BY OFFERING CONSUMERS MORE THAN JUST MERCHANDISE. THIS IS WHAT THE MASSIVE, SOCIAL SPACES OF UAE MALLS ACCOMPLISH, GIVING PEOPLE A REASON TO STEP OUT, GATHER, AND ENJOY RETAIL THERAPY IN A SHINY, HAPPY ENVIRONMENT

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

39 UAE'S RICE REVOLUTION

The country has achieved an agri-tech milestone by growing the staple crop of riverine lands in its own desert environment and that, too, in commercial quantities. This is the next phase of food sustainability

46 STAY ALERT TO SCAM ARTISTS

More convenience through digital channels also means more pathways for con jobs. **999** looks at recent scams, the increasing variety of fraudulent activities, and ways to stay protected

57 NAVIGATE FOG SAFETY

Amidst the UAE's unexpected fog during even the warmer months, driving risks surge. **999** explores these hazards and provides crucial guidance for motorists braving the misty roads

65 TIPS & TRIVIA

Explore the unique dynamics of anger expression in both men and women, and learn effective strategies to channel this primal instinct into a productive force

71 CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

A fiercely independent person of determination is brutally murdered for petty gains, and the accomploce is a maid whom she trusted for years

Stay connected. Follow us on:

74 CRIME MYSTERIES

Meticulous analyses of unconventional evidence have been instrumental in unravelling intricate murder cases



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THE TRIUMPHANT CULMINATION OF EMIRATI ASTRONAUT SULTAN AL NEYADI'S MISSION ABOARD THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION UNDERSCORES THE UAE'S DEDICATION TO EXPLORING THE FINAL FRONTIER, BOLSTERING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION, AND PURSUING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE





NEWS Mol hosts global workshop for greater efficacy of UN Police

78 HISTORY

Domingo Badia, A spanish scholar well-versed in several languages, crossed north africa in the early 19th century and then arrived in Mecca, with an Arab name and a claim to the Abbasid bloodline

86 GADGETS

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

88 BOOKS

Explore seven intriguing books that present viewpoints on topics including ultra-processed foods, beauty startups, extreme heat, self-acceptance, and nonverbal cues

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

94 HOROSCOPE

What October has in store for you

96 PUZZLES

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





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



Ali Obaid Head of the News Centre at Dubai Media Incorporated



Dr Samar Al-Shamsi Internationally respected artist





UAE President, Mohammed bin Rashid lead hero's welcome for Al Neyadi

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, have hailed the return of UAE astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi during a hero's welcome ceremony in Abu Dhabi.

The UAE leaders welcomed Al Neyadi at Abu Dhabi International Airport after his historic six-month mission on the International Space Station. The UAE's Al Fursan aerobatic team performed a flypast in his honour. Their Highnesses congratulated Al Neyadi for his recordsetting journey— completing the longest-ever space flight by an Arab astronaut and being the first Arab to perform a spacewalk.

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed highlighted the UAE's collective pride in this achievement, while HH Sheikh



Mohammed bin Rashid emphasised upon its importance in the country's scientific progress and investment in its people.

Al Neyadi discussed his mission

experiences with them, accompanied by his father and children. He thanked the UAE leadership for their support and presented the President with a UAE flag that flew with him on the ISS.

Mohamed bin Zayed meets with world leaders at G20 Summit



HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed with Türkiye President Erdogan; Indonesian President Widodo; and Argentine President Fernández

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan met with several world leaders and heads of state participating in the 18th Group of 20 (G20) Heads of State and Government Summit, hosted by the Republic of India under the slogan "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed met individually with Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic; Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia; Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye; Alberto Fernández, President of the Argentine Republic; Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore; Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; and Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

During the meetings, His Highness discussed with the leaders cooperation between the UAE and their respective countries and ways to develop mutually beneficial ties in various fields while meeting shared aspirations for development and prosperity.

The President highlighted the UAE's upcoming hosting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in November—a global climate action event that underscores the UAE's commitment to supporting initiatives that aim to secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

UAE, Egypt bolster greater economic cooperation

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop cooperation to realise the aspirations of their peoples for sustainable development and prosperity.

During the meeting at Qasr Al Shati in Abu

Dhabi, His Highness welcomed El-Sisi. The latter congratulated His Highness on the UAE's achievement in the space field with the return of astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi following the longest Arab space mission in history.

The two leaders also discussed UAE-Egypt ties, particularly in the economic, investment, and development areas. The meeting also addressed various issues of mutual interest, as the two leaders exchanged views on regional and international developments.

Both sides underscored the importance of working towards peaceful solutions to regional crises through dialogue and diplomacy while bolstering regional peace and stability.



UAE approves end-of-service scheme for private sector employees



CHAIRED by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the UAE Cabinet has approved an alternative end-of-service benefits system for employees in the private sector, including free zones.

The optional scheme includes the establishment of a savings and investment fund that will be supervised by the Securities and Commodities Authority in coordination with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said that through these funds, employees can invest and save their end-of-service gratuities according to various investment options.

"The aim is to safeguard workers' savings, which constitute the end of service gratuities, and to ensure that they are safely invested in order to guarantee their rights and to achieve the stability of their families... Also, government sector employees can participate in the system for savings and investment purposes," His Highness added.

During the Cabinet meeting, His Highness also underscored that the UAE would carry on qualifying Emirati astronauts for more missions to the International Space Station.

UAE, Kuwait strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, held a meeting with Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Kuwait, at Za'abeel Palace in Dubai.

The meeting was attended by HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid welcomed Sheikh Ahmad, and conveyed his greetings of continued progress and prosperity to the Emir of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and cooperation across various sectors, highlighting the close coordination and consultation between the two nations at all levels.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on regional and international developments that are of mutual interest.

New law targets to enhance Dubai's medical and science research sector

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has issued Law No. (13) of 2023 establishing the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Establishment for Medical and Educational Sciences.

Additionally, His Highness issued Decree No. 32 of 2023 appointing Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum as the President of the organisation. Law No. (13) of 2023 outlines the goals of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Establishment for Medical and Educational Sciences, aiming to enhance the medical and educational sectors in line with international best practices.

It shall focus on promoting a culture of innovation, improving overall performance, supporting scientific research, and building capabilities in these critical sectors. It seeks to encourage excellence and innovation through scholarships, advanced laboratories, and partnerships on both local and international scales.

Furthermore, the Establishment aims to recognise and honour outstanding individuals and institutions contributing medical and educational services during various crises, including natural disasters, wars, pandemics, and famines.



Mansour bin Zayed leads Ministerial Development Council meeting



HIS Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of the Presidential Court, led a meeting of the Ministerial Development Council at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi.

The meeting aimed to address initiatives and projects focused on developing the government work ecosystem.

The Council discussed various initiatives and policies regarding industrial waste, urban area classification, support for the national industrial sector, and the development of Federal Government services.

The Council also deliberated on legislative matters concerning civil aviation, genetic blueprint, personal status, cooperatives, financial technology, and industrial property.

Additionally, the Council discussed supporting training programs in UAE Public Higher Education Institutions and reviewed government reports for the year 2022 on the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), GCC Economic cooperation, and the outcomes of the 'Youth Engagement Policy' in federal authorities.

UAE's new school complexes project with 920 classrooms unveiled

HIS Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, has announced the launch of 11 additional educational complexes under the Zayed Educational Complexes project.

Dubbed one of the UAE's largest educational initiatives, the project aims to further enhance the country's educational infrastructure in accordance with global standards.

The complexes collectively feature 920 classrooms, designed to accommodate over 28,000 students. These modern facilities include advanced laboratories, as well as sports and arts amenities. Each complex is equivalent to four schools, equipped with 86 to 92 classrooms, and has the capacity to house more than 2,500 students each.

The announcement was made by HH Sheikh Mansour during his visit to the Zayed Educational Complex at the Mohamed bin Zayed Residential City in Fujairah. His Highness was accompanied by HE Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure; HE Sarah Al Amiri, Minister of State for Public Education and Advanced Technology and the Chairwoman of the Emirates Schools Establishment (ESE); and HE Sara Musallam, Minister of State for Early Education; along with several senior officials.



Abu Dhabi Judiciary publishes 49,000 court rulings over 2 years

IN line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Presidential Court, and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD), the Department reported that it had published over 49,000 court rulings on its website from 2021 to 2022.

This initiative aims to enhance legal awareness amongst members of society, uphold the transparency and integrity of legal principles issued by courts, and boost the competitiveness of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the rule of law index within relevant international reports.

Counsellor Youssef Saeed Al-Abri, ADJD Undersecretary, stated that the publication of judgments issued by the Abu Dhabi Courts and their accessibility through the electronic portal follows HH Sheikh Mansour's directives to establish a world-leading judicial system.

Breaking down the figures for judicial rulings, a total of 49,032 judicial rulings

were published, with 24,639 in 2021 and 24,393 in 2022. These rulings were categorised by the degrees of litigation: 31,251 judgments from the courts of first instance, 14,433 judgments from the courts of Appeal, and 3,348 judgments from the court of cassation.

The published judgments were further distributed based on their classification by types of courts, comprising 23,889 in labour cases, 19,752 from the commercial court, and 5,391 in civil cases.



Abu Dhabi Crown Prince launches new media strategy



HIS Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, has launched a fresh vision and strategy for the Abu Dhabi Media Network. This strategy will be implemented across all the network's broadcast, digital, and print media platforms.

The new media network will operate based on strategic pillars, aiming to enhance impactful media content that mirrors the Emirati identity and showcases the nation's progress and development in key sectors. The strategy introduces the Aletihad News Centre, which will function as a unified media centre across the organisation's various news platforms. It will provide round-the-clock news bulletins covering finance, business, economic affairs, sports, and more.

As part of the strategy, Aletihad newspaper, featuring a revamped look, will now be published in both Arabic and English, upholding news reporting in accordance with the highest international media standards. Furthermore, the strategy focuses on producing a diverse range of media content that reflects the aspirations of the UAE community through the organisation's affiliated channels and media outlets.

The new strategy also emphasises themes related to women and families, presenting content in Zahrat Al Khaleej magazine in both Arabic and English. This content will spotlight the journeys of successful women in the UAE and the Arab world, as well as their personal, social, and national achievements.

ADIHEX commended for promoting Emirati heritage

HIS Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, visited the 20th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition (ADIHEX).

His Highness commended the exhibition for its role in preserving Emirati heritage and ensuring the continued appeal of timehonoured customs linked to falconry and horsemanship, as well as instilling the values behind local traditions in the hearts of youth.

Held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region and President of the Emirates Falconers' Club, the event took place at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) under the theme 'Sustainability and Heritage, A Reborn Aspiration'.

The Abu Dhabi Crown Prince praised the organising committee for its regional and international efforts in promoting local culture and traditional craftsmanship. This, he said, highlights the uniqueness of Emirati traditions.

During his visit, His Highness toured exhibitor pavilions and displays, and was briefed on innovations in equestrianism, falconry, and hunting. His Highness also reviewed products and technology solutions that are helping enhance the environmental sustainability of local traditional practices.

His Highness was accompanied by his children, as well as Major General Staff Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police and Chairman of the Cultural Programs and Heritage Festivals Committee - Abu Dhabi; and Majid Ali Al Mansouri, Chairman of the Higher Organising Committee of ADIHEX and Secretary-General of the Emirates Falconers' Club.





Saif bin Zayed lauds bust of world's biggest Captagon smuggling attempt



HIS Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, has commended the UAE police's operations that foiled the world's largest Captagon smuggling attempt, involving over 13 tonnes of Captagon pills valued at Dhs3.87 billion.

The seizure of this significant Captagon pill shipment was spearheaded by Dubai Police as part of "Operation Storm", resulting in the arrest of six members of an international drug ring.

The drugs were concealed within 651 doors and 432 decorative bars contained in five containers.

The Interior Minister stressed: "The

UAE stands fully prepared to counteract anyone who attempts to threaten the security and well-being of Emirati society."

"This commitment," the Minister added "ensures that the UAE remains resilient in the face of criminal members and drug dealers."

HH Sheikh Saif received a detailed briefing during a meeting with the Dubai Police team led by Lieutenant General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commanderin-Chief of Dubai Police, in the presence of Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior, and other Dubai Police officers.

Dubai Police praised the keen support of HH Sheikh Saif in combating transnational organised crime.

Interior Minister reviews Civil Defence Preparedness Programme

HIS Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, assessed the "Civil Defence Environmental Preparedness" Programme, aligning with the UAE's dedication to advancing environmental initiatives and technological progress.

The Programme acts as a unified global platform for fire incident data, engaging the world's largest firefighting organisations. This platform meticulously analyses and categorises fire incident data and carbon percentages by continent, providing this critical information to the respective global firefighting authorities.

Meanwhile, the Minister also reviewed Civil Defence's eight international fire forecasting certificates—including one from the National Fire Protection Organisation (NFPA), the world's leading civil defence body, as well as certificates from continental organisations worldwide.



These accolades, the Minister said, confirmed the global leadership of the Ministry of Interior and the UAE Civil Defence in leveraging artificial intelligence for fire prediction and mitigation.

During his visit to the Expo Fire Station's operations room, HH Sheikh Saif was briefed on an innovative electric firefighting mechanism.

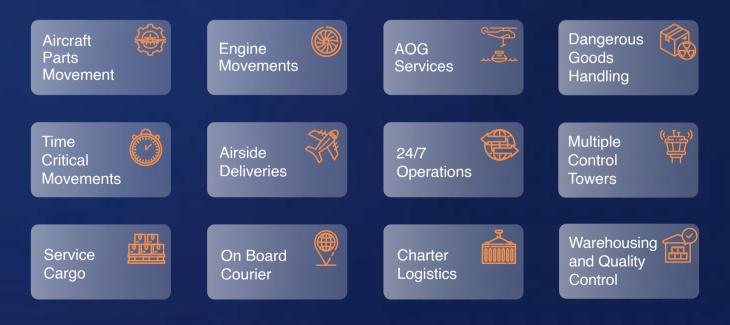
Mol, NYPD enhance joint coordination and police training

HIS Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, held a meeting with Olofunmilola Obe, Chief of Training at the New York City Police Department (NYPD). During their meeting in Abu Dhabi, the two sides discussed various issues related to strengthening the excellent bilateral relations between the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the NYPD in all domains. They also explored ways to improve training, enhance joint coordination, and facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge between the two entities.

The meeting was attended by several officials from the MoI and NYPD.

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Mol hosts global workshop for greater efficacy of UN Police



THE Ministry of Interior (MoI) hosted the second 'United Nations Police Performance Workshop'. The event was inaugurated by Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, who welcomed participants by affirming the UAE's keenness, under its visionary leadership, to enhance international collaboration for the benefit and enhancement of global security and stability.

Alexander Zuev, Assistant Secretary-General for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions at the United Nations, thanked the UAE for hosting this global event, which promotes police work, security, and peace worldwide. The visiting official spoke of the importance of benefiting from the experiences of police professionals, improving their specialised skills and capabilities in the comprehensive planning, performance, and evaluation system.

Zuev said: "The second United Nations Performance Workshop represents an excellent opportunity for UN police chiefs and senior UN officials to jointly consider the Secretary-General's five-year plan for change through the vision of UN police." This vision, he said, aims to help the UNPOL accomplish its operational missions and improve the efficacy of UN peacekeeping.

Furthermore, Lt General Faisal Shahkar, Police Adviser and Director of the UN Police Division, conveyed his appreciation to the UAE, represented by the Mol, for supporting the work of UN bodies and committees.

Shahkar said: "Improving the performance of United Nations Police is an integral part of strengthening the Secretary-General's Peacekeeping Action Initiative, as well as strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts and maintain peace."

During the workshop, international experts discussed various topics, such as improving the performance and the challenges in implementing peacekeeping operations; changing operating environments; emerging skill sets; capacity requirements; activating standards for evaluating the performance of individual police officers; and lessons learned through UN peacekeeping missions.

Mol receives Securities & Commodities Authority delegation

A delegation from the Securities and Commodities Authority visited the Strategic Management and Future Division at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to learn about best practices.

During the visit, the delegation learned about optimal methods for establishing and enhancing strategic partnerships. They received a detailed presentation on the Mol's expertise in managing federallevel partnerships, and took stock of procedures for identifying and evaluating strategic collaborators.

The delegation also reviewed the excellence management file and the Mol's participation in institutional excellence awards.





Al Mazrouei lauds astronaut Al Neyadi for historic milestone



MAJOR General Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police, conveyed his congratulations to President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Their Highnesses the Members of the Federal Supreme Council Members, as well as the officials of the UAE Government, on the successful return of the Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi to Earth from his historic space mission.

Al Neyadi spent six months on board the International Space Station and returned in early September. During this time, he conducted many experiments in space and did the first Arab spacewalk.

Al Mazrouei expressed the UAE's pride in Al Neyadi. He lauded the nation's youth who diligently strive to raise the national flag and bolster their contributions to humanity.

Al Mazrouei said, "Thank God for your safety, Sultan. Thank God for your return to Earth and for realising the dream of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, that space

would be a field for the ambitions of the UAE and the achievements of its sons."

Nothing stood in the way of achieving the aspirations of the nation of goodness and giving, added Al Mazrouei, praising the support and care of the country's wise leadership.

Abu Dhabi Police celebrate 'World Engineer's Day'



ABU Dhabi Police celebrated World Engineer's Day, appreciating their outstanding efforts contributing to the progress of police and security work.

Major General Khalifa Mohamed Al Khaili, Director of the Financial and Services Sector at Abu Dhabi Police, emphasised upon the support of the police leadership and its keen interest in enhancing the national competencies of engineers, especially in sustainability concepts.

Al Khaili honoured distinguished engineers at a ceremony held at the Engineering Projects Administration of the Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters, commending their efforts, effective role, perseverance in work, and excellence in advancing the path of safety and security.

Colonel Dr Engineer Hamad Al Aseri Al Shamsi, Director of the Engineering Projects Administration at Abu Dhabi Police, reiterated the commitment of engineers to implementing the plans for police buildings, assisting with technologies, and meeting all the infrastructure security needs of the police force.

In the same context, the Happiness and Positivity Team at the Information and Communications Centre of Abu Dhabi Police organised a celebration on the occasion, appreciating the efforts of all the national engineers working at the centre.

Brigadier Dr Engineer Mohamed Abdullah Al Zaabi, Director of the Centre for Information and Communication Systems, praised the work of all the engineers and their application of the best international standards.

Al Zaabi honoured outstanding engineers and presented them with shields for World Engineer's Day, along with appreciation gifts.

The honoured engineers thanked Abu Dhabi Police for organising training courses and specialised workshops for engineers inside and outside the country.



Dhahi Khalfan reviews Erada Centre's projects and initiatives

LIEUTENANT General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai, was briefed on the key programmes, projects, current and future rehabilitation and therapeutic plans of the Erada Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation in Dubai. Erada offers treatment to people with addiction to illegal substances.

Dhahi Khalfan was briefed about Erada's work to achieve the best results in combating addiction through the latest methods; to ensure the treatment recipients' return to society in good health; and to collaborate with partners to reintegrate them into the community by providing suitable work.

This review took place during a meeting held in Dhahi Khalfan's office in Dubai. It was attended by Mohammed Abdullah Falaknaz, Chairman of the Board of Erada Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation; Dr Abdulrazzaq Ameri, Executive Director of the Centre; Major General Ahmad Atiq Al Maqoudi, Director of the General Directorate of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Police and Public Security in



Dubai; and Major General Eid Mohammed Thani Harib, Director of the General Department of Drug Control in Dubai Police.

Dhahi Khalfan was also briefed on Erada's collaboration with relevant entities in the fight against drugs, such as Dubai Police, the Dubai Health Authority, and other entities in the country, thereby increasing the number of recoveries.

Dr Ameri reviewed the Erada achievements of the past year, including: winning the UAE

National Flag Award in the Flagship category; winning 8 awards at the level of the Emirate of Dubai; and 3 awards at the state level in the Aoun Award for Community Service; winning 1st place in the Sharjah Award for Educational Excellence in the distinguished student category; and the victory of people of determination in the Emirates Airlines competition through two female students and one male student, amongst others.

Al Shamsi highlights community role Big Heart Foundation



MAJOR General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, met with Maryam Al Hamadi, Director of the Big Heart Foundation, along with Aliaa Obaid Al Messebi, Head of the Media Department at the Foundation; Maryam Al Sarkal, Partnership Department Manager; and Samer Salim Al Sayegh, Partner and CEO of National Paints Factories Limited.

During the meeting, they discussed ongoing collaboration between the police and the Foundation, focusing on enhancing joint efforts to solidify the concept of humanitarian work and the prominent community role of the Foundation.

Al Shamsi affirmed the Foundation's significant global humanitarian initiatives, serving healthcare, education, and various other sectors. He added that this was aligned with the wise vision of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Federal Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, and the diligent follow-up by Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs in Sharjah and the Big Heart Foundation.

Al Hamadi conveyed her sincere appreciation of the efforts made by Sharjah Police and their continuous support for the Big Heart Foundation. She said that the prominent community role of the police had led to many achievements and visible impact on security and safety in Sharjah.

RAK Police Training Institute holds CSI course graduation

THE Ras Al Khaimah Police Training Institute, in cooperation with French police experts, organised a graduation ceremony for a Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) course.

The course included 17 participants and was attended by Brigadier Mohammed Obaid Al

Khateri, Director General of Resources and Support Services at Ras Al Khaimah Police, who praised the programme.

CSI is the technique of thoroughly examining a crime scene when the police team arrives at the crime scene for the first time. This is when most of the clues are likely to be found, and the CSI team looks for and collects those clues, along with attempting to establish the time of the crime, manner of the crime etc. CSI team members must have special equipment so as not to "contaminate" the crime scene and destroy any clues.



Al Marri leads Board of Trustees meeting for Hemaya Schools



LIEUTENANT General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, led a meeting of the Board of Trustees for Hemaya Schools for Education and Learning. The meeting was held at the Dubai Police General Command Headquarters. Hemaya Schools is a Dubai Police initiative for the sons and daughters of police employees.

The meeting was attended by Major General Prof. Dr Ghaith Ghanem Al Suwaidi, Acting Commander-in-Chief for Academic and Training Affairs, and Deputy Chairman of the Board, and the General Supervisor of Hemaya Schools; Major General Ali Ghanem, Director of the General Department of Logistics Support in Dubai Police; and members of the Board of Trustees from various departments and police stations.

Al Marri emphasised upon the importance of ensuring the quality of teaching and educational environment to the Board of Trustees of Hemaya Schools; proposing ways and means to enhance them; providing support; maintaining follow-up; and evaluating the results.

The attendees discussed the decisions of previous meetings as well as the agenda items, including the Board of Trustees guide; specialised strategic initiatives for Hemaya Schools; the Hemaya Education Fund; the school's smart platform; and the website of Hemaya Schools.

Sultan Al Nuaimi praises Al development for police work



MAJOR General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, praised the exceptional performance achieved by the comprehensive Al Nuaimiya Police Station in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its application in police work and customer satisfaction.

The police chief commended the efforts made in the smart transformation of service delivery, which enhanced customer happiness at Al Nuaimiya Police Station. He also noted the station's excellence in utilising Al in Metaverse technology to provide services and interact with customers, as well as the Al lab for improving the quality of police work.

Al Nuaimi reviewed the station's strategic plan and praised all the employees for their efforts and dedication to performing their duties to the fullest.

Fujairah Police tighten school zone traffic safety

COLONEL Abdullah Al Samahi, Deputy Director of the Traffic and Patrols Department at Fujairah Police, said that the department had intensified traffic patrols and control to monitor main and subsidiary roads in front of schools. The aim, he added, was to ensure the availability of warning signs in appropriate locations, emphasising the need for a security presence to facilitate smooth traffic flow in front of schools and prevent congestion. He pointed out that providing traffic safety for school students required the concerted efforts of entities concerned with student safety, starting from families, schools, educational and administrative authorities, all the way to supervisors and school bus drivers.



1 st

UAE's global ranking as the fastest 5G market in the second quarter of 2023, according to Ookla Speedtest Intelligence data. The download speed in the country recorded a median of 557.63 Mbps, with South Korea placing second at 501.56 Mbps.

1 st

UAE's leading position in the GCC and sixth globally in terms of per capita solar energy consumption, as stated in a report published by the Energy Institute Statistical Review of World Energy. The top countries listed in the report are Australia, The Netherlands, and Japan.

1 st

UAE's ranking in the Middle East and sixth globally in the list of the most powerful passports for investment opportunities, according to a new index by investment migration consultancy firm Global Citizen Solutions. This UAE's high ranking is driven by numerous advantages, such as zero personal taxation and a high gross national income per capita.

1 st

UAE's top ranking in the GCC and 16th globally in the list of the world's largest foreign direct investment (FDI) recipients. In 2022, the UAE's FDI rose to a record \$23 billion (Dhs84.4 bn), according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The UAE attracted approximately 61 per cent of the total FDI into the GCC region, as per UNCTAD.

Dhs27.2 billion

The combined net profit of the four largest banks in the UAE during H1 2023, showing the country's robust banking sector. This was a 71 per cent increase compared to Dhs16.15 billion a year earlier. First Abu Dhabi Bank, Emirates NBD, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, and Dubai Islamic Bank have a combined market cap of over Dhs368.4 billion as of Sept 19, 2023.

BE IN THE LOOP

AL KHAILI MEETS WITH KAZAKHSTAN AMBASSADOR



Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior (Mol), met with HE Madiar Menilikov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the UK. During the meeting held in Abu Dhabi, the two officials discussed ways to strengthen the relations between the two friendly nations in terms of safety and security. The meeting was attended by several Mol officers and officials from Kazakhstan's Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

MOI WORKSHOP PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY



The Ministry of Interior's Human Rights Department held a workshop to review and apply international human rights standards through national and regional legislation. Experts, including police chiefs and department heads, convened to assess adherence to global human rights standards in police operations. Colonel Dr Muhammad Khalifa Al Hamoudi emphasised upon the policy's importance in advancing human rights principles.

MOI HOLDS INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP ON COP28



The Ministry of Interior (MoI), in collaboration with the Office of the Conference of the Parties (COP28), hosted an introductory workshop for its members responsible for organisational tasks during the global event. The workshop, titled "COP28 Goals and Hopes", was held at the Police College in Abu Dhabi. The workshop was aimed at assisting the MoI's preparations for its participation in COP28.



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Belimo brings together what belongs together.







UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS



Two men in Abu Dhabi were arrested for possessing 5kg of cocaine, indicating an intent to distribute. The police acted on a tip-off, prompting surveillance that led to the suspects' arrest. The police are encouraging community members to actively contribute to the battle against drug trafficking by reporting any suspicious activities to the Aman phone service at 800 2626.

DHS500 8 4 BLACK POINTS

Ajman Police have rolled out the 'Your Vehicle's Safety Keeps You Safe' campaign, urging drivers to maintain functional lighting and signals in their vehicles. Violating the proper use of lights in foggy weather incurs a Dhs500 fine and 4 black points. Offences include improper use of high beams or hazard lights.

ò



In a mission dubbed 'Operation Storm', Dubai Police foiled a massive drug smuggling bid, seizing over 13 tonnes of Captagon pills valued at Dhs3.87 billion. Concealed in 600 door panels and furniture items across five shipping containers on a cargo ship, the contraband was detected using X-ray scanning and a K9 unit. A staggering 80 million pills were discovered hidden within the furniture, resulting in the arrest of six people connected to an international criminal gang.



Three suspects were arrested by Ras Al Khaimah Police for hacking a company's e-mail and stealing over Dhs1 million. They infiltrated communications between the company and a supplier, redirecting the funds to their own bank account. By creating a fake e-mail address mirroring the supplier's, they tricked the company into altering the payment details. The suspects had millions of dirhams in their bank account, and its origin is unknown, as per the police.



DHS1 MILLION

0

0

Fujairah Police have warned residents to safeguard their personal data, avoid logging into accounts on unsafe devices, and use only their own devices for any online transactions. The UAE's new Cybercrime Law imposes a minimum 1-year jail term and fines up to Dhs1 million for electronic fraud.



Sharjah Police have issued a warning, stating that failing to report a lost item is a crime. Last year, they received 9,151 lost item reports, with 8,001 reports so far this year. Article 454 of Federal Decree Law No. 31 of 2021 obliges finders of lost items to submit them to the police within 48 hours. The law stipulates fines of not less than Dhs20,000 or imprisonment for up to 2 years for this offence.



Umm Al Quwain Police have issued a strong call to all drivers, emphasising upon the need to adhere to tinting regulations for vehicle windows. Drivers were cautioned not to exceed 50 per cent tinting on the front, side, and rear windows, or tint vehicles without proper permission. Violation of these rules could result in a hefty fine of Dhs1,500.



THE TRIUMPHANT CULMINATION OF EMIRATI ASTRONAUT SULTAN AL NEYADI'S MISSION ABOARD THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION UNDERSCORES THE UAE'S DEDICATION TO EXPLORING THE FINAL FRONTIER, BOLSTERING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION, AND PURSUING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

BY ABDUL WASEY





66 The people of the UAE are immensely proud of you Sultan Al Neyadi and the entire team for achieving major advances in space exploration. You carried the dreams of a nation to new frontiers, and we celebrate your pioneering journey and safe return

66 In just six years since the launch of the UAE's Space Pioneers programme, we have celebrated two ground-breaking Emirati space missions. These achievements reflect the UAE's commitment to

shaping a brighter future for the world

HH SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN President of the United Arab Emirates HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

le vast expanse of space has always been a realm of wonder, the final frontier that has beckoned humanity with its mysteries. The UAE cemented the Arab World's role in exploring this frontier when Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi embarked on a historic six-month mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS) in early 2023. He and fellow astronauts returned to Earth on September 4, 8.17 am UAE time, with a splashdown in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Florida, United States - the return was technically on September 3, as the US is several hours behind the UAE.

This mission followed the eight-day stay aboard the ISS by astronaut Hazzaa Al Mansoori, who in September 2019 became the first Arab to journey into space. He took off on a Soyuz spacecraft from the Russian-operated Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

In between the space flights of Al Mansoori and Al Neyadi, the UAE also successfully put its Hope Probe in the Mars orbit, in collaboration with American researchers and the Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan; and then undertook a Moon mission, though the Rashid Rover could not reach the lunar surface, as scheduled for April 2023, because the mission lander suffered a failure.

The two Emirati spacefarers have both been trained at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States, and two more UAE nationals, Nora Al Matrooshi and Mohammad Al Mulla, are in a key phase of their training. In mid-August 2023, they underwent spacewalk training at NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL) at the Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

These developments have not only elevated the UAE's stature amongst spacefaring nations but also showcased its commitment to scientific exploration and international collaboration.

On September 3, 2023, as the SpaceX Dragon Endeavour spacecraft undocked from the ISS, it marked the triumphant culmination of Al Neyadi's ground-breaking journey. The spacecraft's descent and the splashdown were watched by millions worldwide, but its significance resonated most deeply in the heart of the UAE.

President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan congratulated Al Neyadi on the successful space trip. "The people of the UAE are immensely proud of you and the entire team for achieving major advances in space exploration. You carried the dreams of a nation to new frontiers, and we celebrate your pioneering journey and safe return," he said.





66 Today marks a historic moment in the UAE's journey in terms of its continued ambition to explore space



HAMAD OBAID AL MANSOORI Chairman at the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, encapsulated the nation's pride, stating, "In just six years since the launch of the UAE's Space Pioneers programme, we have celebrated two ground-breaking Emirati space missions." These missions, he emphasised, underscored the UAE's vision of shaping a brighter future for the world

The mission's success was a testament to the dedication and expertise of the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) team. Upon his return, Al Nevadi was welcomed by a team from MBRSC, including astronaut Al Mansoori and Dr Hanan Al Suwaidi, who promptly assessed his health. The meticulous care taken to ensure Al Nevadi's post-return well-being underscored the mission's complexity and the challenges of prolonged space travel.

As the astronaut returned, Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori, Chairman, MBRSC, reflected on the six-month ISS mission's broader implications, stating, "Today marks a historic moment in the UAE's journey in terms of its continued ambition to explore space." The experiments conducted by Al Neyadi aboard the ISS, he noted, had expanded human knowledge and set a benchmark for future space endeavours.

Salem Humaid Al Marri, Director General, MBRSC, emphasised upon the mission's pioneering nature, stating that it had set a precedent for future missions. Adnan Al Rais, Mission Manager, UAE Astronaut Programme, MBRSC, highlighted Al Nevadi's outreach initiatives, which kept the world engaged and informed about his activities in space.

The astronaut, besides carrying out extremely valuable research during his time in orbit, also shared lighter - and yet, informative - moments at the ISS, such as eating a slice of bread with some honey



spread, showing his audience how edible items behaved in zero gravity.

He also shared many breathtaking photographs of Earth as seen from the ISS, including magnificent images of the Himalayas.

RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS

Over 585 hours, Al Neyadi immersed himself in more than 200 advanced research experiments. These were not solitary endeavours. Collaborating with

10 international space agencies and 25 renowned universities from the UAE and beyond, Al Neyadi's work spanned a multitude of disciplines.

From the intricacies of the cardiovascular system, the mysteries of back pain, to the nuances of protein crystallisation growth and epigenetics, the research was comprehensive. Fluid dynamics, plant biology, material science, and even the effects of space on sleep patterns were studied in depth.

🖊 The astronaut, besides carrying out extremely valuable research during his time in orbit, also shared lighter — and yet, informative — moments at the ISS, such as eating a slice of bread with some honey spread, showing his audience how edible items behaved in zero gravity



One of the standout experiments was the Protein Crystal Growth Experiment (PCG) aboard the Kibo module, a collaboration between the Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU) in the UAE, Harvard Medical School in the United States, and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). Another significant study focused on sleep quality during extended missions. Given the unique conditions on the ISS, where astronauts experience 16 sunrises and sunsets daily, understanding sleep patterns is crucial. Al Neyadi's research in this area promises to shed light on sleep disorders experienced on Earth.

Al Neyadi's mission was not just about science; it was also about inspiration. Through the public engagement series "A Call from Space", more than 10,000 individuals from diverse backgrounds connected with the Emirati astronaut, taking part in live video calls and ham radio sessions Cardiovascular health, too, was under the microscope. Al Neyadi's participation in the 'Cardinal Heart 2.0' study (by Stanford University, United States) and the 'Cardiobreath' experiment (in collaboration with the Canadian Space Agency; Simon Fraser University, Canada; and the University of North Dakota, United States) sought to understand the heart's behaviour in microgravity. The implications of this research could be revolutionary, potentially mitigating cardiovascular risks for astronauts.

Al Neyadi's mission was not just about science; it was also about inspiration. Through the public engagement series "A Call from Space", more than 10,000 individuals from diverse backgrounds connected with the Emirati astronaut,







66 Space, this is not a goodbye. I will see you later, whether on a new mission to the ISS or a farther destination. I thank my beloved country for turning our dreams into achievements and all of you for your trust and affection

> SULTAN AL NEYADI UAE astronaut and Crew member of Expedition 69

taking part in live video calls and ham radio sessions. These interactions bridged the gap between Earth and space, making the wonders of the universe tangible for many.

Furthermore, Al Neyadi's work on the host-pathogen experiment, in collaboration with NASA's Johnson Space Center, promises to shed light on the interaction between astronauts and potential microbial pathogens in the space station environment. By



collecting biological samples, this study aims to understand the effects of stress hormones and latent virus reactivation on an astronaut's immune system.

As Al Neyadi's mission concluded, the focus shifted to the next steps. Director General Salem Humaid Al Marri, during a virtual news conference, outlined the MBRSC's plans, highlighting the continued focus on the scientific experiments and the administrative aspects of the mission. The UAE Astronaut Programme, managed by MBRSC and funded by the ICT Fund of the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA), exemplifies the UAE's commitment to research and development in the ICT sector and its aspiration to excel at the global level.

ARAB CULTURE BEYOND GRAVITY

During his stay aboard the ISS, Al Neyadi beautifully showcased Arab





culture and heritage to the world. "I felt a responsibility during the mission to bring a taste of Arab culture to space. Everybody is watching us; everybody is excited about space. I've heard many of my colleagues say, 'It's really nice to hear a different language on the station,'" said Al Neyadi, speaking to the British daily, *The Guardian*, during an interview from space.

"There's a vast audience in the Arab world thirsty to learn more about space. It's our duty to share this knowledge and these findings with them in an engaging and accessible manner. Especially the youngsters... I aspire to be a source of information and inspiration for them. It's truly a significant responsibility," he elaborated.

In an early tweet during his mission, Al Neyadi wrote: "Here is the beautiful and historical city of Baghdad, the cornerstone of the golden age of knowledge. Scholars from this great city ignited the flames of discovery, paving the way for modern science. Their legacy reminds us to keep reaching for the stars."

In another post featuring the Lebanese capital, he described Beirut as "the city that breathes art, culture, and beauty". He referred to the Suez Canal as the "heart of global trade... [that] has brought continents closer for over 150 years".

He mesmerised the world with a captivating view of the Philippines' highly active Taal volcano, sharing the snapshot from the ISS. He tweeted: "Kamusta Pilipinas! I captured this image of Taal Volcano, one of the smallest volcanoes in the world and the 2nd most active one in the Philippines from the ISS. The deeper we look at Earth from space, the more we understand its unique geographical diversity."

"This place is called the International Space Station. We have a vast audience that needs insights from both perspectives — an Arab astronaut living and working aboard the station, and then they learn about the culture and region we hail from," Al Neyadi shared with The Guardian. Two Saudi najmonauts (Arabic term for astronauts), Rayyanah Barnawi — the first Arab woman in space; she reached the ISS in May 2023 — and Ali al-Qarni, joined Al Neyadi for an eight-day mission. This marked the first instance where three Arabs were in space simultaneously.

Reflecting on this space milestone, Al Neyadi remarked, "Just the thought of two, or in this case three, astronauts meeting in space and conversing in Arabic — it's truly remarkable."





BOOK LAUNCH ABOARD ISS

The cosmos witnessed an unprecedented book launch as the Government of Dubai Media Office unveiled HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid's second children's book, *The Journey from the Desert to the Stars*, aboard the ISS on September 1, just two days before the conclusion of AI Neyadi's six-month mission. The book encapsulates the UAE's transformative journey for young readers.

Al Neyadi marked the occasion by reading excerpts from the book in space. The stories intertwine significant moments from HH Sheikh Mohammed's life with the UAE's landmark events.

With everything that has been achieved,

the ISS mission of the "Sultan of Space", as AI Neyadi is nicknamed, is more than a historic chapter for the UAE. It symbolises the nation's aspirations, its commitment to scientific exploration, and its vision for the future. As the UAE continues its journey in space, the world watches with admiration and anticipation, eager to see what new horizons the nation will explore next.

THE ECONOMICS OF UAE'S COSMIC QUEST

The UAE has made significant strides in the space economy sector, boosting global competitiveness and diversifying its economy.



INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

The country has invested more than Dhs22 billion in areas like satellite communications, Earth and space exploration, data transmission, satellite broadcasting, and mobile satellite communications.



STRATEGIC VISION

The space sector remains central to the UAE's vision for the next 50 years, aiming for a diversified and competitive economy. Meanwhile, the global space economy is expected to exceed \$1 trillion (Dhs3.67 trn) by 2040.



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

The UAE stands as a regional hub for space services, events, and specialised educational programmes.



INVESTMENT IN INNOVATION

The UAE had spent Dhs10.9 billion on the space sector by the end of 2020, marking a significant increase over seven years.



CONTRACTUAL GROWTH

The country has recorded 40 per cent increase in contractual agreements for space services and applications in 2020, according to the UAE Space Agency.



SPACE SECTOR INDUSTRIES

Ten industries, including space mining, space stations, space tourism, manufacturing, and space academies, present vast investment opportunities.



CURRENT LANDSCAPE

A total of 57 space companies and entities are operating in the UAE, with public and private sector support surpassing \$5.4 billion (Dhs19.82 bn)

Source: UAE Space Agency



Cheers all over

This achievement is a unique Arab achievement and a source of pride for the UAE and Arab youth, and reflects the vision of the wise leadership in challenging the impossible, developing human capabilities and investing in science, and achieving progress and development in all fields



HH SHEIKH ABDULLAH **BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN** Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Education and Human Resources Council

Sultan Al Neyadi returns to his family and loved ones, crowned with pride and achievement, as the first Arab to participate in the longest space mission in Arab history. Congratulations to Sultan, and kudos to MBRSC for this success



HE SARAH AL AMIRI hairperson of the UAE Space Agency

CONQUERING SPACE, STEP BY STEP

The UAE's journey in space exploration has been a series of strategic steps, each building upon the last, marking its place amongst global space pioneers. Here's a chronological look at the remarkable journey.

Early Aspirations

1976 🐌 ------ 1997 🐌 ------Thuraya's Inception (1997)



The UAE's space dreams began with its Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who engaged with NASA's Apollo 17 team. This interaction set the foundation for the nation's space ambitions.

The birth of the UAE's space sector can be traced back to the establishment of the Thuraya Telecommunications Company. It marked the nation's initial foray into the space industry.

2006 🕩 **UAE Space Agency & MBRSC**

مكالك الإعادات المة

The establishment of the UAE Space Agency and the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) showcased the nation's strategic focus on becoming a significant player in the global space arena.

2007 - Yahsat Takes Flight



A decade later, the momentum continued with the creation of AI Yah Satellite Communications Company (Yahsat), further solidifying the UAE's commitment to space exploration.



66 This milestone comes in light of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's care and interest in making the UAE a leader in space exploration.



ADEL BIN ABDUL RAHMAN ALASOOMI President of the Arab Parliament

66 The successful completion of Sultan Al Neyadi's mission signifies a strategic milestone for the UAE in space exploration. During his time aboard the ISS, Sultan undertook over 200 ground-breaking experiments and conducted the first Arab spacewalk.



ADNAN AL RAIS Mission Manager, UAE Astronaut Programme, MBRSC

2014
Strategic Policy Integration



The UAE's Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy was introduced in 2014, integrating the space economy as a key development pillar. The goal was to enhance national competitiveness, nurture talent, and position the UAE prominently on the global stage.

2019 Pioneering Space Legislation



The UAE took the lead in introducing regional legislation for space activities in December 2019, encompassing ambitious goals like space colonisation.

2017 🕩 Mars 2117 Project



One of the UAE's most ambitious endeavours, the 'Mars 2117 Project' envisions a hundred years' work to establish a human colony on the red planet.

2022 (**D** National Space Fund



With an investment of Dhs3 billion, the National Space Fund was launched, aiming to stimulate investments and foster growth in the space sector.





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

ELECTIONS: EMPOWERING PEOPLE'S VOICE, SHAPING THE UAE'S FUTURE

Participating in the UAE's elections is essential, forming a vital aspect of the nation's empowerment goals and competitive vision. However, candidates must broaden their focus beyond electoral plans

t has already been 18 years since the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan initiated a drive for people's strong involvement in governance. This model hinged on electing half the Members of the Federal National Council (FNC). It opened doors for women to be represented in the FNC, and ensured diverse representation across society within the electoral college.

The journey has evolved significantly, particularly as we approach the fifth election phase since 2006. Recently, on

the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), someone highlighted that the forthcoming elections could be the most challenging to date. I agree with this perspective. Modern-day voters are exceptionally well-informed and closely track the actions of both elected and appointed Members from past legislative terms. They possess the ability to make informed choices — to cast their vote or abstain - clearly reflecting their discontent with any candidates. This ability stems from the introduction of new voting mechanisms, a crucial step aimed at mitigating the impact of voter abstention on overall electoral participation.

This will undoubtedly influence the fifth electoral process, presenting a major challenge for today's

candidates, be they men or women, whether they have past FNC experience or are newcomers. Achievements and contributions are now being scrutinised closely by the voters.

The people of the UAE have a long history of engaging in consultations even before the Union was born. It reflects a sincere approach to the relationship between the Ruler and the citizens, with Councils of Rulers serving as a platform for exchanging opinions and discussing a range of issues and demands and listens to their proposals regarding the nation and its people. Additionally, the UAE has witnessed very rapid development over the past 10 years and launched massive projects, all aimed at

topics. In recent years, their mechanisms have evolved, where

the Ruler of each emirate meets with its citizens to fulfil their

over the past 10 years and launched massive projects, all aimed at the benefit of the citizens. Every concern citizens raised 20 years ago has been addressed. These plans cover employment for job seekers, education, diverse job opportunities, retirement concerns,

> family support, more infrastructure, housing, health, and more. These issues matter to all government bodies, not just the FNC. The key is to shape laws and keep a watchful eye on institutions that tackle these concerns and carry the responsibility.

Voting in these elections is a must. It's a vital part of the UAE's empowerment drive, aligning with its competitive ambitions. The FNC has crucial roles, too, in representing the UAE and engaging in international issues. Hence, candidates shouldn't just stick to regular electoral plans; they need to embrace a broader responsibility.

Their duty isn't just about the present. They must focus on the nation's long-term goals and plans for

the next 50 years. But, this doesn't mean ignoring current issues faced by the people and the nation.

Voting is essential, and securing a seat is challenging. Nevertheless, we should motivate people to cast their votes for a strong turnout. It demonstrates their understanding and concern for the nation. Those elected must act in the best interest of the people and the country. Their role should remain steadfast and unwavering.

about the present. They must focus on the nation's longterm goals and plans for the next 50 years. But, this doesn't mean ignoring current issues faced by the people and the nation

🕻 Their duty isn't just

The views expressed by **999** columnists are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Interior

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Q

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REGALATE OF THE STORE OF THE ACTION OF THE ACTION OF THE ACTION OF THE STORE OF THE

IN THE AGE OF NONSTOP ONLINE SHOPPING, OFFLINE STORES HAVE TO STAY RELEVANT BY OFFERING CONSUMERS MORE THAN JUST MERCHANDISE. THIS IS WHAT THE MASSIVE, SOCIAL SPACES OF UAE MALLS ACCOMPLISH, GIVING PEOPLE A REASON TO STEP OUT, GATHER, AND ENJOY RETAIL THERAPY IN A SHINY, HAPPY ENVIRONMENT

BY NASEEF CHEENATH









he mega-malls in the United Arab Emirates are some of the biggest and busiest in the world. They are seen more as leisure destinations than as necessities, serving as gathering spots for the local populace, and are incredibly well-liked by tourists.

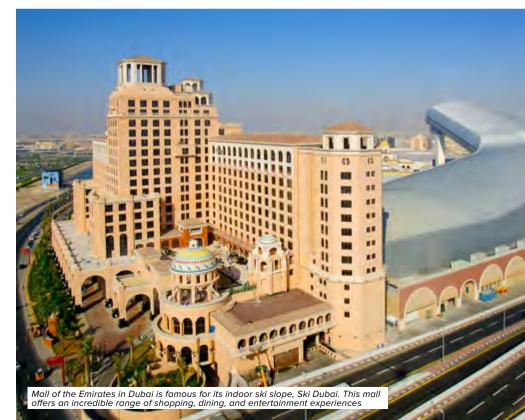
For instance, the largest mall in the world by total land area, Dubai Mall, attracts more than 80 million people each year. Visitors from across the world placed it second amongst the '15 best things to do in Dubai' on TripAdvisor.

In recent years, the UAE has witnessed a remarkable surge in the construction and popularity of megamalls. According to a recent paper in the journal *Sustainability*, Dubai itself has 10 malls under construction to add to the 65 that already exist.

The emirate had, in pre-pandemic times, announced plans for the 'Mall of the World' project, and then shifted its planned location from Mohammed bin Rashid City to Sheikh Zayed Road. To call it a "mall" would be the understatement of the year. As per plans — if those plans materialise — Mall of the World would actually be a multi-district city within the emirate of Dubai. Its planned area of 48 million sq. ft would be four times that of the 12 million sq. ft covered by the Dubai Mall complex.

These gigantic retail spaces are about much more than just retail; these are spaces where people come to make social connections. Online shopping











range of brands and products. Dubai Outlet Mall features over 240 retail outlets

There is the climate factor, which makes the temperature-controlled malls an integral part of daily life in the UAE. Then there is the community factor, with malls hosting cultural events, concerts, and competitions that bring people together

may give one great bargains, but offline shopping, especially the experience of shopping together, gives one a great feeling.

Of course, the pandemic changed things, practically rewiring people's brains and pushing them more towards all kinds of online transactions. Therefore, while the mega-malls contribute significantly to the GDP and iob creation in the UAE, the crucial question many have now is whether these malls can compete efficiently with e-commerce.

Innovation is a key factor, such as a hybrid experience, where the physical and digital stores of a brand work together. There is also the climate factor, which makes the temperaturecontrolled malls an integral part of daily life in the UAE. Then there is the community factor, with malls hosting cultural events, concerts, and competitions that bring people together.

EVOLUTION OF UAE MALLS

The UAE's first modern shopping mall, Al Ghurair Centre in Dubai, opened its doors in 1981, laying the groundwork for the development of the emirate's reputation as an unrivalled retail hub. This landmark reopened in 2013 with 130 new shops, restaurants, and service facilities after a remarkable





The UAE's overall consumer spending grew by 19 per cent in 2022 over the previous year. Within this band, retail spending increased by 13 per cent and non-retail spending by 29 per cent

renovation, which accommodated a five-star hotel, an apartment complex, and many office spaces.

The Middle East's leading mall operator, Majid Al Futtaim, launched its first property, Deira City Centre, in 1995. This complex would grow to become one of the biggest in the nation. It was yet another groundbreaking addition to Dubai's expanding retail sector.

After opening City Centre malls in Ajman and Sharjah, the conglomerate secured contracts with companies like the French supermarket chain Carrefour and launched a string of shopping centres around the UAE. In September 2005, the company opened the doors to the Mall of the Emirates, its biggest mall project to date.

A little more than three years later, in November 2008, came the most sensational mall opening in the world. Dubai Mall is not only the world's largest mall by area, but is also part of the complex on which stands Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building and one of the most iconic landmarks on the planet. Moreover, Dubai Mall has something absolutely unique: Dubai Aquarium, one of the largest suspended aquariums (not built at the ground level) in the world, housing thousands of marine creatures.

Meanwhile, in the UAE's capital city Abu Dhabi, the retail scene picked up in the 2000s when Marina Mall and Abu Dhabi Mall opened in 2000 and 2001, respectively. Activity surged even more in the subsequent decade, as the year 2014 saw the opening of Yas Mall, whose many attractions include the Yas Marina, a beautiful harbour and a boardwalk dotted by al fresco dining places.

The other emirates, too, have been scaling up their retail infrastructure, recognising the importance of mega-malls as places for more than just buying things.

With cutting-edge architecture, upscale brands, top-notch eating, and a variety of entertainment, mega-malls redefine leisure and recreation for urban populations. They also drive tourism and bring in huge revenues.

For instance, the 'State of the UAE Retail Economy Q4 Report' published by Majid Al Futtaim in March 2023 revealed that the country's overall consumer spending grew by 19 per cent in 2022 over the previous year. Within this band, retail spending increased by 13 per cent and non-retail spending by 29 per cent.

LIFELINE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Retail is a dynamic business, with the fortunes of small and large players rising and falling as consumers flock this way and that. Even if the overall consumer spending increases, not everyone stands to benefit equally.

One positive impact of mega-malls on the overall retail spending trend is that they draw people out of their homes and encourage them to shop physically, not just digitally. This is beneficial for even small retailers who are often concerned about the negative impact of online shopping giants such as Amazon and Alibaba on the high street and local markets.

Mega-malls draw a lot of customers, generating steady footfalls. This gives local companies the chance to present their goods or services to a large and varied audience. Local companies can draw mall visitors' attention with the right marketing and storefront placement. Even a small kiosk of a local brand has a better chance of being noticed at a mega-mall than in a regular market area.

When it comes to the UAE, there are reasons to think that mega-malls could be more resilient to e-commerce, as they are much more than just places to shop. "They are large indoor spaces where people can go during the summer months when the heat is too strong to even take a stroll outside," said Dr Laure Assaf, an assistant professor at New York University Abu Dhabi who

The Galleria (Al Maryah Island Galleria) is one of the top lifestyle destinations in Abu Dhabi, with 400 shops including 100 restaurants



Shopping malls in the Gulf can also be seen as public spaces where people go not only for shopping but for experiences like taking a stroll, meeting friends, going on a family outing

DR LAURE ASSAF Assistant professor at NYU Abu Dhabi and mall culture researcher

researches mall culture, particularly amongst young people, in an interview with *The National*.

"Shopping malls in the Gulf... can also be seen as public spaces where people go not only for shopping but for experiences like taking a stroll, meeting friends, going on a family outing," said the researcher.

Another factor, said Dr Assaf, was that these world-famous malls helped with shaping the image of UAE cities. "They've become very identified with the cities, very integrated to the form of urbanity that is being developed in the Gulf, and they're also very central to the project of economic diversification," she said.

ADAPT AND INNOVATE

Consumer behaviour and the factors that draw visitors to physical retail locations have changed drastically as a result of the growth of e-commerce. Many businesses have used this as an opportunity to innovate, adapt, and rethink their goals. Despite the fierce competition from online retailers, the UAE's mega-malls continue to be preferred not just for their convenience but also for their ability to elevate the experience of shopping. E-commerce is convenient, but it lacks the

in-person interactions at a store. Local



Ibn Battuta in Dubai is themed around the travels of the 14th-century Arab explorer Ibn Battuta. It consists of different sections representing the various regions he visited

businesses can leverage this advantage by giving clients more personalised customer care and letting them touch, feel, and sample things before buying them, helping them pick the best items through knowledgeable suggestions.

Furthermore, customers frequently incur additional delivery fees while purchasing online; however, some businesses provide free shipping for purchases that reach a specific amount. Brick-and-mortar businesses may succeed by delivering distinctive instore experiences, exclusive products, and practical benefits for customers.

Smaller businesses that set up shop within mega-malls benefit from their proximity to larger stores with huge footfalls. There is a strong possibility that customers coming out of the large-format anchor stores would also visit the nearby stores, provided the smaller businesses showcase goods or services consistent with the mall's general shopper profile.

UNIQUE MALL EXPERIENCES

The appeal of mega-malls lies not only in their expansive product offerings but also in their commitment to providing an unparalleled blend of entertainment, leisure, and unique experiences, meticulously designed to captivate and entice shoppers away from the digital realms of e-commerce.

Several malls in the UAE have integrated virtual reality (VR) experiences into their offerings. Visitors can enjoy VR games, simulations, and immersive experiences, making shopping trips more exciting.

At the World Government Summit in Dubai this year, Majid Al Futtaim announced the launch of 'Mall of the

Along the banks of Dubai Creek, Dubai Festival City has more than 400 shops and services, including waterfront restaurants, laser light shows, and cutting-edge entertainment venues 999 SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL 35



There has been an increased demand for digital experiences in the past few years and we work to leverage behavioural science and data to deliver customers what they want and desire

> FATIMA ZADA Director of Omnichannel and Digital, Majid Al Futtaim shopping malls

Metaverse', the first virtual mall in Dubai. Representing the company in Decentraland, a 3D virtual world browser-based platform, it provides the perfect playground for the increasingly Web 3-savvy clientele.

Customers' avatars can locate Carrefour, VOX Cinemas, THAT Concept Store, Ghawali, and Samsung Store inside the mall, with many additional retailers and exciting new features on the way.

"There has been an increased demand for digital experiences in the past few years and we work to leverage behavioural science

and data to deliver customers what they want and desire," said Fatima Zada, Director of Omnichannel and Digital, Majid Al Futtaim shopping malls. "We are a customer-centric and innovative company; thus, we want to make sure we are available to our consumers wherever they are, whether in a city or in a virtual world."

Even with the VR headsets off, megamalls can transport visitors to another world. One of the key attractions of Dubai Mall is the Dubai Aquarium and Underwater Zoo, where visitors can walk through a tunnel surrounded by marine life. Similarly, Yas Mall in Abu Dhabi features a massive underwater-themed attraction called 'The Waterfront', with aquariums and interactive displays.

A popular attraction at the Mall of the Emirates is Ski Dubai, an indoor ski resort with real snow. Visitors can enjoy skiing, snowboarding, and even interact with penguins in a controlled environment. The idea of skiing in the hot weather of the country is so unique that even 18 years after it first opened in 2005, Ski Dubai remains one of the top leisure destinations in the UAE.

Catering to affluent individuals looking for something special in a day of shopping, high-end malls like The Galleria on Al Maryah Island in Abu Dhabi offer personalised shopping experiences, including exclusive VIP lounges, personal shoppers, and exclusive brands for discerning shoppers.

Some malls have unique themed sections, such as Global Village in Dubai, which showcases various cultures and offers a wide range of international products, foods, and entertainment. The open-design shopping district City Walk in Dubai often hosts interactive art installations and exhibits, creating a dynamic and ever-changing environment for visitors.

These unique experiences and interactive features in UAE malls engage all age groups, making them more than just shopping destinations; they are entertainment and lifestyle hubs, too.

DIGITAL INTEGRATION

In recent years, big malls have undergone remarkable transformations by embracing cutting-edge technology to bridge the gap between the traditional in-person shopping experience and the growing realm of online retail. Mobile apps have emerged

At the World Government Summit in Dubai this year, Majid Al Futtaim announced the launch of 'Mall of the Metaverse', the first virtual mall in Dubai. Representing the company in Decentraland, a 3D virtual world browser-based platform, it provides the perfect playground for the increasingly Web 3-savvy clientele



Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technologies have pushed the envelope further, introducing immersive elements that blur the lines between physical and digital shopping

as indispensable tools in this transformation. They have evolved into personalised shopping companions that provide tailored recommendations based on a shopper's history and preferences.

Additionally, these apps offer valuable navigation assistance within the vast mall spaces, helping shoppers find their way efficiently. Real-time notifications about in-store deals and promotions have become commonplace, enriching the shopping experience and potentially driving more footfall to stores.

Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technologies have pushed the envelope further, introducing immersive elements that blur the lines between physical and digital shopping.

Also, beacon technology is deployed strategically throughout mega-malls to send targeted notifications to shoppers' smartphones when they are in proximity to particular stores or sections of the mall, enhancing the shopping experience with timely discounts, offers, or product information.



MALL CULTURE AND THE ECONOMY

The UAE government has been actively working on diversifying its economy away from oil dependence. Retail and tourism have been key sectors in this diversification effort, with shopping malls serving as focal points for retail activity.

Mega-malls are a significant part of the retail sector and play a substantial role in the UAE's economy. In early 2023, Majid Al Futtaim reported a 19 per cent increase in overall consumer spending compared to 2022. This growth was seen across sectors, including leisure and entertainment (29 per cent), fashion (25 per cent), hypermarkets and supermarkets (11 per cent), and general retail (9 per cent).

"The economic buoyancy of the UAE in conjunction with our internal focus to unlock the inherent power of our ecosystem, has enabled the group to deliver a solid halfyear performance," said Ahmed Galal Ismail, CEO of Majid AI Futtaim Holding.

This strong performance of the retail industry can be attributed to a multitude of factors, one of which is the influx of tourists.

In comparison to the 7.28 million tourists that arrived in 2021, the UAE welcomed 14.36 million visitors in 2022, a 97 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) increase. The UAE has continued its hot streak in 2023.

Dubai alone had 6 million visitors in the first four months of this year, and through the rest of 2023, it is expected to draw nearly as many tourists as it did in the preceding two years. The big malls, with their unique shopping experience and entertainment, are amongst the key attractions for tourists.

Mega-malls also create numerous jobs in retail, hospitality, and related industries. This employment contributes to the overall economy by generating income and consumption. As a result, the retail sector in the UAE has witnessed a significant increase in employment opportunities, with over 250,000 jobs created in the industry.

With its opulent shopping malls and high-end boutiques, Dubai alone captures a staggering 30 per cent share of the region's luxury market, making it a prime destination for luxury enthusiasts.

A study conducted on UAE citizens revealed that they allocate approximately 30 per cent of their monthly salaries towards indulging in luxury goods. This statistic showcases the immense appetite for luxury amongst the people here, further solidifying Dubai's status as a prominent player in the luxury sector.

UAE's status as a global retail hub is expected to be enhanced further, attracting tourists and investors from all corners of the world. The future looks bright for the country's retail industry, and its growth trajectory promises to leave a lasting impact on the region's economic prosperity.





MOBILE APPLICATIONS

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STON



Rice Revolution

THE COUNTRY HAS ACHIEVED AN AGRI-TECH MILESTONE BY GROWING THE STAPLE CROP OF RIVERINE LANDS IN ITS OWN DESERT ENVIRONMENT AND THAT, TOO, IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES. THIS IS THE NEXT PHASE OF FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

BY SANCHITA GUHA

OCTOBER 2023 | 999 SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL



Workers harvesting a fully grown sea rice variety in the deserts of Dubai in June 2019. Photo from Wuhan Haidao International Agricultural Development Co via China Daily

ice, as they say, is a "demanding" crop — it needs a lot of rainwater; fertile alluvial soil of floodplains; moist air; and high temperature. Countries like China, India, and Indonesia, criss-crossed by rivers and with an extended monsoon season, are the famous rice-growers of the world. The UAE, though it has neither of those geographical advantages, has brought about a quiet revolution by growing commercial quantities of rice in its own desert environment.

This is a major milestone in the country's food sustainability journey, as the UAE is one of the top global rice consumers on account of its large expatriate population of Asian riceeaters. This agricultural revolution, based on science and technology, helps



Chinese experts celebrate the sea rice project success in Dubai. Photo from Wuhan Haidao International Agricultural Development Co via China Daily

to not only shrink the country's carbon footprint but also its trade costs.

At present, the UAE is implementing a four-month ban (starting from July 28, 2023) on rice export, including the reexport of rice imported from India after July 20. On that date, India announced an export ban on its non-Basmati white rice, and the consequent UAE measure is meant to meet the local demand.

The impact of these see-saw

commodity movements might soon become negligible for this country, if its rice cultivation pilot runs mature into a full-fledged agricultural industry. Amidst the vagaries of the pandemic in mid-2020 came the very appetising news that a pioneering rice cultivation project undertaken in Sharjah had yielded 763kg of rice per 1,000 square metres. A total of 2,200 square metres were covered under the project.



In its quest for self-sufficiency and economic diversification, the UAE appears to have solved the riddle of how to grow a water-intensive crop like rice in a water-stressed region

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCAE) had launched this pilot project at the Ministry's research centre in Al Dhaid, Sharjah. Seeds sown in November 2019 gave the country a substantial rice harvest in May 2020. In order to facilitate the research, the harvest was done in three stages: on May 5, on May 10, and on May 30.

Two types of rice were cultivated: the short-grained Asemi (Japonica), cultivated and consumed in China, Japan, and Korea; and the long-grained FL478 (Indica), more popularly known as Basmati, grown in the Indian sub-continent.

Less than two years following this ground-breaking success of MoCCAE, it was reported in February 2022 that a UAE company was growing Basmati rice that would cost less than imported Basmati, Countries in the Indian sub-continent - India, Pakistan, and Nepal, in that order - are the world's largest exporters of this flavourful longgrained rice, used in the finest cuisines. When their exports go down, the prices of Basmati in the international markets go up. The UAE's homegrown Basmati could counter these price fluctuations, and also diversify local agricultural practices.

LESS WATER, MORE RICE

In its quest for self-sufficiency and economic diversification, the UAE appears to have solved the riddle of how to grow a water-intensive crop like rice in a water-stressed region.

The first pilot project in Sharjah, which began in late 2019 under MoCCAE, cultivated the two rice varieties that were best able to tolerate salinity and poor soil conditions. Though rice cultivation normally does require high temperatures, the summer temperatures in the Middle East are exceedingly high, which is why the seeds were sown during the UAE winter and the harvest was over before peak summer.

In order to maximise the harvest and minimise the water utilised for irrigating the area under rice cultivation, the researchers used an underground drip irrigation system.





66 Rice is one of the most important foods consumed on a daily basis in this region. We are focusing on driving innovation and exploring agri-tech in growing the crops that are in high demand locally. We seek to make the most of our resources and find the crops and methods that are

suitable for our desert climate



HE DR THANI BIN AHMED AL ZEYOUDI Minister of State for Foreign Trade

HE Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, who headed the Ministry at the time, said that the MoCCAE collaboration with the Rural Development Administration (RDA) of the Republic of Korea and the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) opened up new possibilities.

In a media statement, the Minister said, "The innovative venture is the first endeavour of its kind in the Middle East. If successful on a large scale, this groundbreaking project has the potential to shape the future of agriculture, as it can be replicated in other arid regions."

Al Zeyoudi added, "Rice is one of the most important foods consumed on a daily basis in this region. We are focusing on driving innovation and exploring agri-tech in growing the crops that are in high demand locally. We seek to make the most of our resources and find the crops and methods that are suitable for our desert climate. In this process, we are exploring and adopting more innovative solutions in every phase."

The highly successful Sharjah yield was also encouraging for the Korean partners. Kwon Yongwoo, who was then Ambassador of the Republic to Korea to

SHARJAH'S PIONEERING RICE CULTIVATION PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS







763KG

Quantity of rice harvested per 1,000 square metres as part of a 2019-2020 pilot project in Sharjah

2,200 SQ. M

Area covered under the Sharjah project, run jointly by Emirati and Korean researchers

6 MONTHS

Time taken from rice seeds being sown in November 2019 to rice crop being harvested in May 2020

0.9 LITRES

Water used for irrigation per kilogram of Basmati rice yield in Sharjah through a novel technology utilised by Terraplus Solutions

\$250 (DHS917)

Price savings per tonne if the UAE market opts for homegrown Basmati rice instead of imported Basmati

the UAE, said, "The Korean government and embassy are delighted that the co-operation of the two countries in the agricultural area has seen the first tangible success, especially during this difficult situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic." He added that his country would keep working with the UAE on the rice cultivation programme.

Indeed, just months later, in September 2020, the second phase of the programme was announced. If the yield rate of 763kg of rice per 1,000 square metres can be maintained and expanded over a larger cultivable area, then the UAE might end up doing better





66 Rice can be produced easily with unlimited water, but that is not a sustainable solution here in the UAE — the challenge was how to

make it profitable for market distribution



NICOLAS BRUYLANTS Terraplus Solutions Co-founder and entrepreneur

than India, where the financial year 2022 saw a rice crop yield rate of 2,809kg per hectare (=10,000 square metres).

Of course, the vast alluvial plains of East Asia are a natural home for rice. But the UAE has enough innovation to overcome its limitation.

PRIVATE SECTOR STEPS IN

Ensuring the availability of staples such as rice is part of the UAE's food sustainability plan, which also includes growing fresh vegetables, farming fish, and creating vegan meat by using extremely innovative agricultural technology. The private sector is as involved in this as the government agencies are.

The programme of rice cultivation, too, has private sector contribution. Terraplus Solutions is an Emirati-Belgian partnership of entrepreneurs and economists. Patrick Stevens, Managing Director and Cofounder of the company, became interested in water conservation after his stint at a mineral plant in Turkey.

As with the MoCCAE project, Terraplus chose Sharjah as the site of its rice cultivation experiment. The aim was to

UAE'S RICE EXPORT SUSPENSION TO STAY UNTIL END OF NOVEMBER 2023



On July 28 this year, the UAE Ministry of Economy imposed a four-month suspension on rice exports and re-exports from the country. This was in response to the sudden rice export ban put in place by India, a key source market for UAE traders.

As per reports, the UAE suspension will remain in place for a period of four months, according to Ministerial Resolution No. 120 of 2023. This move followed the decision by India taken on July 20.

The Government of India announced an immediate curb on the export of non-Basmati white rice, in order to supply the domestic market and bring down inflation. Basmati rice and parboiled (partially boiled) rice could continue to be exported.

CNN quoted a leading economist as saying that the ban on rice exports from India had "sent the Asian market into a panic", because the country was the source market for about 40 per cent of the global rice trade, and the banned rice types accounted for 15 per cent of the total exports.

The UAE's four-month export suspension measure has kept the local market calm, as local retailers said in an August 2 media report that they had enough rice stocks to last more than six months.

Some retailers have prudently put a cap on how much rice a consumer can buy at one go — this prevents panic-buying and pointless hoarding. The Al Adil chain put up notices informing customers that its store would sell only two packets of some varieties of rice, per transaction. This was a temporary limit and it was applied to both 2kg and 5kg packaging.

grow rice with minimal water supply. Reporting on this project in February 2022, *The National* said: "By using an innovative underground irrigation system delivering water directly to the roots, Sharjah farmers produced rice seedlings using just 0.9 litres for every kilogram of Basmati rice."

By using an innovative underground irrigation system delivering water directly to the roots, Sharjah farmers produced rice seedlings using just 0.9 litres for every kilogram of Basmati rice

Terraplus Co-founder and entrepreneur Nicolas Bruylants was quoted as saying, "Rice can be produced easily with unlimited water, but that is not a sustainable solution here in the UAE — the challenge was how to make it profitable for market distribution."

Water usage of 0.9 litres for every kilogram of Basmati rice grown by Terraplus is quite incredible, since that's a tiny fraction of the amount of clean water it takes with traditional methods. Across East Asia, where rainfall is



STUDY ON GROWING SALT-TOLERANT RICE IN THE UAE



The UAE has become quite the incubator for food production-related trials and technologies. One such study was conducted between September 2020 and May 2021 at the Dubai research station of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA).

This study made use of four salt-tolerant rice varieties from the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute: BRRI dhan 47; BRRI dhan 61; BRRI dhan 67; and BRRI dhan 78. The word "dhan" in Bengali means "paddy".

ICBA scientists researched how to grow these salt-tolerant rice varieties on UAE soil by using the most efficient irrigation method. They used three irrigation methods:

- sub-surface drip irrigation without plastic lining;
- sub-surface drip irrigation with a sealed iron sheet at the bottom (a weighing-type lysimeter); and
- surface drip irrigation with plastic lining.

Results showed that surface drip irrigation with plastic lining led to a yield of about 7.5 tonnes of rice per hectare. The researchers were also able to study how the rice varieties responded to the ambient temperature and how sowing dates would impact the yield.

Dr RK Singh, Programme Leader on Crop Diversification and Genetics, ICBA, and lead scientist of the experiment, said, "Our results showed that short-duration varieties can perform relatively better under local conditions. Moreover, we need to design low-cost permanent or semi-permanent irrigation systems. For example, it is necessary to instal durable plastic lining at the depth of 30cm in a large area to avoid percolation losses.

"We also need to screen rice germplasm to identify the most suitable shortduration, salt-tolerant and high-yielding genotypes. I think rice cultivation could be scaled up in the UAE after identifying and standardising the most appropriate practices under local conditions."

abundant, rice farmers sow the seeds in flooded open fields with fertile soil, which is not a luxury the UAE can afford.

Stevens said, "[Our] solution is the most economic way of farming that can save water and money. Feasibility in terms of water was the big question, so we completely changed the system of cultivation."

What's more, Terraplus claimed it could sell UAE-grown rice at \$550 (Dhs2,018) per tonne, a price far more competitive than the price of approximately \$800 (Dhs2,936) per tonne for imported rice. "We keep the soil moist around the roots, in the morning and evening. That way, we reduce the typical use of water from 6,000 litres per tonne down to 1,200 litres. I believe we can do it with less than 600 litres per tonne; that makes it absolutely viable to grow [rice] over here," said Stevens.

The company has taken its highly water-saving technology, named "T+", to date palm farming as well. In August 2021, the T+ technology was officially launched, and Stevens said then that "a trillion litres of water" could be saved every year, if all the date palm farms in the UAE began using the tech. He added that the T+ tech would aid the UAE's vision of food and water security.

NEED FOR HOMEGROWN

Food and water security, based on sustainable practices, becomes increasingly important as the global population keeps growing despite the huge pressure on planetary resources.

People in almost all countries of the world today expect an uninterrupted supply of food and water, regardless of the increasingly erratic climate patterns and disruptions in international goods movements. This puts the onus on national governments to come up with more and more tech-enabled solutions for homegrown supplies.

In September 2022, when India imposed a partial ban on its rice exports and also slapped high tariffs on exports that were still permitted, UAE retailers had to look for alternative source markets. In a media interview, Dr Dhananjay Datar, Chairman and Managing Director of the Dubai-based AI Adil Group, which is one of the biggest UAE importers of Indian food commodities, said that the high-tariff regime "thankfully excluded parboiled and basmati rice" and that other varieties would be sourced from Thailand, Indonesia, Pakistan, or Vietnam.

Even if it's possible to quickly find alternatives when one particular supply chain is disrupted, the ultimate solution is to grow the staples that a country needs.

The extreme weather patterns caused by climate change — evident in the droughts and wildfires across the world — require a closer look at how a country can improve what it has been doing, such as date palm farming, and also innovate in new areas, such as growing rice in the desert.



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





MORE CONVENIENCE THROUGH DIGITAL CHANNELS ALSO MEANS MORE PATHWAYS FOR CON JOBS. **999** LOOKS AT RECENT SCAMS, THE INCREASING VARIETY OF FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES, AND WAYS TO STAY PROTECTED

BY NASEEF CHEENATH







reativity and gullibility these may be said to be the two handy tools that keep the con job industry alive and well across the world. Creativity refers to the many new ways

in which scammers separate people from their money; gullibility refers to the ease with which people fall prey to these scams.

It has become almost inevitable that when we turn the pages of a newspaper or browse through headlines online, we'd find at least one report a day on someone being scammed somewhere. There's no such thing as a small scam or a big scam — for anyone losing any of their hard-earned money, it's painful; even more so, as the scammer could be completely out of the reach of local law enforcement.

For instance, the first week of September 2023 brought the news that an Asian businessman in Abu Dhabi had been conned out of \$20,000 (Dhs73,400) in a cryptocurrency scam. It began when he got a WhatsApp message from someone named "Nancy", who asked if he "still needed some products". The victim had earlier purchased some industrial chemicals from a vendor named Nancy and he automatically assumed that this was the same person.

The victim's first response was to tell this "Nancy" that he was no longer in the business of chemicals. But then, their conversation continued, as Nancy talked about a textile trading company and impressed the victim with her business knowledge. Gradually, she nudged the target towards opening a cryptocurrency account. One thing led to another, and the target had an initial investment of \$1,000 (Dhs3,670); within days, he made a profit of \$3,000 (Dhs11,000). That made him invest \$20,000 (Dhs73,400), and very soon he discovered that he had been scammed because he could no longer withdraw his profits.

The modus operandi of this crypto-scam was very similar to what the February 2023 issue of **999** had described in the article 'Bad Romance'. That article cited the case of certain a woman named "Coco" scamming

According to a report by the Californiabased Cybersecurity Ventures, published in May 2022, the global cost of cybercrime would increase at an annual rate of 15 per cent, reaching \$10.5 trillion (Dhs38.53 trn) by 2025 an Asian expat in Dubai out of \$180,000 (Dhs660,000) in exactly the same way: first, reeling the target in with smart business talk; then encouraging crypto-trading; then a show of great returns; and finally, taking a large chunk of cash and disappearing. These scammers may pretend to be potential romantic or business partners, but the end result is the same.

The *Khaleej Times* report in September 2023 said, "Scammers behind the racket... often start by pretending to have made a mistake and continue talking even after being corrected. Over time, they build trust and persuade victims to invest in cryptocurrency trading, offering insider tips. They guide victims to download an app or visit a website, which the scammers secretly control."

IF SCAMMERS WERE A COUNTRY..

Enabled by the various digital interactions people have in their lives every day, the number of scammers and the types of scams have only been increasing, even as law enforcement also develops sophisticated means of catching thesecon artists.

If all the scammers of the world taken together were a country, it'd be quite a big one. According to a report by the Californiabased Cybersecurity Ventures, published in May 2022, the global cost of cybercrime would increase at an annual rate of 15 per cent, reaching \$10.5 trillion (Dhs38.5 trn) by



IF SCAMMERS WERE A COUNTRY



Dhs38.5 trillion

Global cost of cybercrime by 2025, according to Cybersecurity Ventures



1 in 3 Customers in the UAE who struggle to spot fraud, according to a study by Visa and Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism



Dhs2,737 million

Cybercrime cost in the UAE per year, according to Comparitech



Projected increase of the global cybercrime cost from Dhs11 trillion in 2015 to Dh38.5 trillion by 2025, according to Cybersecurity Ventures



The number of people affected by cybercrimes every year in the UAE, according to Comparitech

CYBERCRIME Comparable to half of the United States GDP in 2022, which was

521.6 trillion

The most common forms of cybercrimes in UAE as per Abu Dhabi Police







Scam

3



Scam

Awareness is key. Never share your personal and financial information

4





2025; that's more than a 3x increase from \$3 trillion (Dhs11 trn) in 2015. Just for perspective, the size of the United States GDP at the end of 2022 was just under \$21.6 trillion (Dhs79.3 trn).

Scams have been on the rise throughout the world as more of our daily lives include online payments, with a significant increase in crimes since the coronavirus outbreak began.

The UAE, famed for its growing economy, is not immune to the devious schemes of swindlers and fraudsters. According to a poll conducted last year by Visa and Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism, one in every three customers in the UAE struggles to identify symptoms of fraud and scams. According to Comparitech, a UK-based consumer watchdog, cybercrime costs the UAE \$746 million (Dhs2,737 mn) each year and affects more than 166,000 people.

Since con artists come at their targets in so many ways, there's always a risk of being blindsided. Several UAE victims have reported being duped by phone calls claiming to be from police officers or others in authority. The authorities have time and again emphasised in their public service messages that no law enforcement agents would ever request someone's bank account information.

"The key factor in bringing down the number of incidents and victims is creating more awareness," said Yousif Al Ali, Chief Prosecutor at Dubai Prosecution's Bur Dubai division, speaking to the media in January 2023. "Official authorities would never ask you for this [personal finance] data."

PAY HEED TO REPEATED WARNINGS

The UAE authorities have repeatedly warned people about scams in which conmen mimic government officials. Residents have been cautioned about fake schemes masquerading as Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) schemes. "Beware of fraudulent correspondence and avoid responding to financial transfer requests over the phone or through email claiming to be from MoFA or its employees," said a government warning.

In one of their warning messages, Abu Dhabi Police listed the channels through which con artists operate — these include phone calls; links to fake websites; and text messages that appear to be from legitimate government agencies and offer the public fake goods and services.

A fake website may use the names of well-known restaurants and stores to entice customers to pay a charge in exchange for exclusive deals; however, as soon as they pay, the fake website steals their credit card information.

The government has also cautioned people against interacting with social media advertisements that put dogs up for adoption or sale and offer shipping and insurance from outside the UAE. Victims are occasionally requested to pay money into bank accounts set up with the aim of fraud.

Job-seekers are asked to double-check job postings, as many of them are posted by scammers. The fraudsters even create websites for fictitious businesses that are designed to look like recruiting agencies. Trusting candidates are asked to pay an "application fee", but the job never materialises, because it didn't exist in the first place.

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66 The key factor in bringing down the number of incidents and victims is creating more awareness

> YOUSIF AL ALI Chief Prosecutor at Dubai Prosecution's Bur Dubai division

EVER-VIGILANT AUTHORITIES

In August 2023, combating the rise of phishing and phone scams, Ras Al Khaimah Police tracked down a gang of scammers allegedly stealing huge sums of money from people's bank accounts.

Seven Asians were arrested in relation to the scam. According to the police, the gang operated by impersonating bank representatives and reaching out to residents through phone calls or fraudulent WhatsApp messages.

They'd scare their victims into disclosing their bank information by threatening to block the victims' bank accounts if they did not comply with whatever the scammers — posing as bank officials — wanted them to do. Many of the people targeted in this manner ended up giving scammers access to their bank accounts, and their deposits got wiped out in no time.

Officers confiscated a range of items connected to their criminal operation, which included cash, 67 credit cards, 32 mobile phones, 111 SIM cards, three iPads, and a laptop.

Brigadier Tariq Muhammad bin Saif, Deputy Director General of Police Operations at Ras Al Khaimah Police, said that the gang was nabbed after a thorough investigation. The officers, in collaboration with Sharjah Police, seized a "large number of bank cards" that belonged to the scammers.

Brigadier bin Saif said, "Do not respond to calls and messages from unknown numbers, especially those pretending to be bank employees. Banks do not ask customers to disclose personal information via SMS,





BRIGADIER TARIQ MUHAMMAD BIN SAIF Deputy Director General of Police Operations, Ras Al Khaimah Police

e-mails or phone calls under the pretext of updating accounts. In case you encounter such suspicious activities, report them to the <u>authorities immediately</u>."

MURKY WORLD OF SCAMS

Emmanuel Thomas, a 51-year-old financial manager at a Korean company in Dubai, lost Dhs22,000 to a "cop scam" last year. He told UAE-based *The National News* that received a call from a person claiming to be a Dubai Police officer who alleged that the documents Thomas had uploaded to the UAE's AI Hosn COVID-19 app were fake. Panicked and fearing deportation, the victim shared his bank and credit card details to pay a supposed "fine".

The caller seemed convincing, since there was a zero-tolerance approach to COVID rule violations. Thomas unsuspectingly provided his personal information, including an OTP, and lost all the money from his bank account. Despite reporting the scam to the police and his bank, he was unable to

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

The key to safeguarding yourself against scams lies in adopting a robust cyber strategy and maintaining awareness. For businesses, integrating employee awareness training is crucial. Here are some essential steps to stay protected:



Exercise caution with e-mail attachments:

Only open attachments from known and trusted sources.

Avoid suspicious links: Refrain from clicking on links in e-mails or text messages from unfamiliar sources, even if they promise enticing offers like fully paid holidays.

Simplify your security: Consider using a comprehensive security tool that combines antivirus features into one platform, eliminating the need for multiple software solutions.

Enable multi-factor authentication: Whenever possible, opt for multi-factor authentication. This extra layer of security requires two or more distinct methods of verifying your identity before granting access. Commonly, this involves receiving a unique code via text message on your mobile phone.

recover the stolen money.

Scams involving the impersonation of police, Dubai's immigration authority, and the UAE Central Bank are on the rise. The surge in cryptocurrency trading has also brought about a wave of new financial frauds.

An example is Ankit, a Dubai resident in the electronics wholesale business, who lost Dhs100,000 to a cryptocurrency scam recently. Despite taking precautions like meeting an agent's middleman in person and conducting a small transaction, he fell victim to the scam after transferring the funds. "I should have been more careful and gone with a more credible agent. Although police are investigating the transaction, it is difficult to predict who is trustworthy and who is a scammer," said Ankit.

Fake "special offers" for delivery services



like Aramex and Emirates Post as well as takeaway restaurants are of particular interest to the police and the prosecution.

In this fraudulent scheme, the victim is sent a URL, asking them to pay an "import tax"; this appears compelling, given recent modifications to the barrier for items imported from overseas, and victims often comply.

To create the most appealing social media ads possible, scammers have engaged designers, and to spread false links, big Telegram groups with thousands of acquired phone numbers are employed.

"Part of the gang is usually located outside the country and its role is to design fake social media pages and advertisements," said Yousif Al Ali of Dubai Prosecution. "By clicking on the ads, choosing a product and making a payment, all credit card data is transferred electronically to an account."

Without a complete username and password, it might be challenging to empty out someone's bank account, but it's easy to buy expensive items rapidly and resell them online using stolen credit card information. "Victims who bought a meal as cheap as Dhs30 found themselves charged thousands of dirhams for products they never received," said Al Ali.

He added, "People must know by now that they should never share such details or OTPs, especially since official authorities never ask for this data. I urge all members of the community not to click on any suspicious links or lucrative advertisements online."



7 TYPES OF SCAMS TO WATCH OUT FOR IN THE UAE





Smishing refers to fraudulent text messages containings deceptive links aimed at committing fraud. Criminals use this method to gain unauthorised access to victims' bank accounts and illegally withdraw money.

Devesh Mamtani, Chief Market Strategist at Century Financial, explained that smishing typically involved sending text messages with links to scam websites, where personal and financial information could be stolen.

Additionally, bank fraud can occur over the phone when fraudsters trick individuals into disclosing their banking details or security information. In a scam like this, the victim could be asked by the scammer to stay on the call and share an OTP. As soon as the victim shares the OTP, money would be siphoned out of the targeted account. This is when consumers are primarily approached via e-mail and get duped into divulging critical information including passwords, bank account numbers, credit card information and personally-identifying information (PII).

Voice phishing, commonly referred to as "vishing", is a fancy name for fraudulent phone calls made to individuals in an effort to coerce them into providing financial information or divulging personal details.

"Phishing is a known threat, while vishing is calling a victim and trying to lure out sensitive information under plausible pretext. A common form of it is the so-called 'support scam', when a victim is contacted by scammers pretending to be the tech support team for an application or a service," said Muhammad Khaled, Senior Solution Engineer – Middle East at Acronis, a Switzerlandheadquartered technology company.





Typically, this scam involves receiving an image via WhatsApp from an unregistered number. The image prominently displays the logo of a well-known hypermarket or major retailer in the UAE. The message accompanying the image claims that you've won a substantial cash prize and instructs you to contact a mobile number to claim your winnings. However, this is a ploy to trick you into sharing sensitive financial details, like your account number.

The extent of this fraud was so significant that two years ago, fraudulent messages featuring a hypermarket's logo were rampant, prompting the retailer to take out advertisements in national newspapers to warn residents about the scam.

Criminals employ a variety of cunning tactics at ATMs to steal your personal information. One method involves strategically positioning a tiny camera to record your hand entering your PIN.

In another scheme, a thief places a counterfeit keypad over the genuine one, secretly capturing your PIN as you enter it. After you finish your transaction, the fake keypad is removed.

Also, fraudsters may affix a device onto an ATM's card slot. When you insert your card, it scans both sides of it, storing vital information such as the card number, expiry date, and the three-digit security code, ultimately giving the scammer access to your card details.







This method exploits mobile phone-based authentication, a security measure your bank employs for online transactions on new websites or apps. When you enter your payment details and confirm the order, the bank sends a one-time password to your registered mobile number via SMS.

SIM swappers manipulate this process by contacting the victim's mobile service provider. Armed with personal information gathered from sources like social media, they impersonate the victim and answer security questions.

The fraudster falsely reports the loss of their phone and requests activation of a new SIM card, which they control. Then, they use your e-mail address to request a new password via OTP, granting them unauthorised access to the account.

In a dynamic trading hub like the UAE, businesses frequently engage with suppliers and clients worldwide, often through e-mail correspondence. Exercising caution is crucial when encountering suspicious e-mails, as they may contain hidden malware that can silently infiltrate your PC or smartphone.

Once inside, hackers can gain access to your screen and monitor your keystrokes, enabling them to collect supplier information and orchestrate impersonation schemes.

These impostors create fraudulent accounts, reaching out to victims and requesting payments to be directed to a new bank account or phone number. Businesses need to remain vigilant and verify the legitimacy of such requests to prevent falling victim to these scams.





In this scam, fraudsters who make online purchases from you may intentionally send a cheque for an excessive amount and then request a refund for the surplus. They might instruct you to return the extra money to them or another individual. These cheques may appear genuine but belong to individuals whose identities have been stolen.

By the time the bank detects that you've deposited a counterfeit cheque, the scammer has already received the funds you sent them, leaving you responsible for reimbursing the bank.

In certain instances, scammers pose as potential car buyers online and deposit fraudulent cheques at the bank. The seller receives a text message seemingly from the bank, confirming the completion of the sales process, and proceeds to hand over the vehicle. It's only later that the seller realises they've fallen victim to a car deal scam.

REPORT CYBERCRIMES



800-2626 or aman@adpolice.gov.ae Aman Service – Abu Dhabi Police

901 or **mail@dubaipolice.gov.ae** Dubai Police's eCrime Platform

999

For other emirates, you can call this hotline to report cybercrimes or go to the nearest police station in your area.



'My Safe Society' App:

A mobile application of the UAE's Federal Public Prosecution. This app is available on iTunes and allows users to report crimes directly.

Source: UAE Government's Official website





GOOD MORNING, ROSE, THE INSPIRATION FOR POETRY AND ROMANCE

Ali Obaid is a veteran Emirati commentator and writer on local issues; he currently heads the News Centre at Dubai Media Incorporated As the first gift in the history of gifts, the rose is a symbol of hope, optimism, and beauty

t is said that in a very distant time, a time steeped in the unknown, when the number of humans was very small, much less than the population of a small village in our time, a man would go out every day in search of food to share with his partner. One day, he went out as usual in search of something to hunt, but he returned carrying in his hand something strange. He told her: "I didn't catch anything today for our food. I brought you this beautiful creature I found hiding in the crevices of a rock."

This was the first gift in the history of gifts. It was a rose, and they called it "beauty". Every morning, he would greet her, saying, "Good morning, beauty", so

that beauty became associated with the rose, and "Good morning, rose" became the favourite greeting for anyone who saw beauty thereafter.

It is also said that there was no known "poetry", but the rose, which had been associated with beauty since humans knew it, inspired poetry. Since then, humans knew poetry through the rose, which became linked to the morning, a time that became an occasion to welcome life with more hope, optimism, and beauty.

As this story emerged from the box of words, humans continued to add to it. From the threads of stories, they began to weave their poem, which

they would one day recite to the hero of their tale. When the poem was complete and the time to harvest the rose arrived, Shahrayar had emptied all his permissible tales and fell silent. Scheherazade began to sail into the box of memory, extracting from it the most beautiful tales, the finest words exchanged between the star and the moon, and the whispers of what the rain had poured forth from its poetic soul.

Just as the history of the rose was linked to beauty and the history of poetry was linked to the rose, the rose remained a

Just as the history of the rose was linked to beauty and the history of poetry was linked to the rose, the rose remained a companion to the poets, and the poets remained loyal to the rose

companion to the poets, and the poets remained loyal to the rose.

One day, a poet decided to sever his relationship with his muse and entered the café to have a cup of coffee, hoping to forget her. What happened?

"I entered the café today,

Determined to forget our relationship,

And bury all my sorrows,

And when I ordered a cup of coffee,

A white rose emerged

From the depths of my cup!"

The rose came to poets and romantics on every occasion.

Earlier, people had very few occasions to give gifts, but times have changed; there are now more occasions for giving gifts. Indeed, the most beautiful gifts are those given without a specific occasion.

One of the strangest and most beautiful gifts a young woman received from her fiancé was a tightly sealed bottle containing a small note and dried roses. Along with it was a card that said: "In this bottle, I breathed air from my soul and depths, and I sealed the lid tightly so that no air would escape, as if, by owning this bottle, you possess my soul and my life in your hands. Preserve it well

and do not try to know what is written on the note inside, for if you try and open the bottle, it will break, and the air will escape, and I will escape from your life forever."

The girl said: "The gift delighted me and piqued my curiosity, and I still keep it to this day. Curiosity urges me to open it, but I promised not to."

There is still room for hope as long as there are people in the world capable of dreaming and giving a rose that makes us feel beauty or a candle that illuminates the paths of life.

The views expressed by **999** columnists are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Interior



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AMIDST THE UAE'S UNEXPECTED FOG DURING EVEN THE WARMER MONTHS, DRIVING RISKS SURGE. **999** EXPLORES THESE HAZARDS AND PROVIDES CRUCIAL GUIDANCE FOR MOTORISTS BRAVING THE MISTY ROADS

BY JORIN MCFEE







omeone says "fog" and we think of winter. No one thinks of "fog" and summer together. However, with weather patterns changing unpredictably because of climate change, in the summer or late summer, is the new and bewildering phenomenon. Fascinating though it may seem, fog on summer mornings can take motorists by surprise and increase traffic perils. It's important to understand this and stay prepared for a safe commute.

In the second week of September 2023, the National Centre of Meteorology (NCM) issued an alert for cloudy and foggy conditions, particularly in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Reporting this, the newspaper *Khaleej* Times said: "It will be humid by night and [in the] morning, with a probability of fog or mist forming over some coastal and internal areas, especially westward." The month of August 2023 saw several days of fog, rain, dust storm, and thunder storm in the UAE — it was as if most of the weather elements experienced throughout the year had been packed into a few days. Therefore, caution is the name of the game in October 2023, keeping in mind how the weather this summer has been and what its fallout could be.

Heat waves that have swept across the world this year haven't left the UAE unscathed. The maximum temperature in the country crossed 50 degree Celsius in July 2023. On July 16, the NCM recorded 50.1 degrees in Bada Dafas, in Abu Dhabi's Al Dhafra region, at 2.30pm.

Scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York have reported that July 2023 was the hottest month on record since 1880. NASA data reveal that the five hottest Julys since that year have all occurred in the past five years, indicating how bad global warming has become. "Climate change is impacting people and ecosystems globally. We anticipate many of these impacts to escalate with continued warming," said Katherine Calvin, Chief Scientist and Senior Climate Advisor at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

One such impact is the UAE's summer fog. This atmospheric puzzle not only challenges traditional beliefs about desert climates but also serves as a stark reminder of the ever-evolving intricacies of our global climate.

As the international community focuses on the UAE in the run-up to the pivotal 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP28, when the Global Stocktake on climate action will be held, this summer fog emerges as a symbol of the dynamic nature of planetary weather.

The science behind this occurrence is



The combination of high temperatures and increased humidity creates the perfect conditions for summer fog. It's the atmosphere's natural way of balancing out temperature disparities

relatively straightforward. The extreme summer heat leads to rapid evaporation of moisture from all sources, causing a spike in humidity levels. When this moisture-laden air meets the cooler ground in the early hours of the day, it condenses, giving birth to the summer fog.

Dr Ahmed Habib, a climate expert at the National Center of Meteorology (NCM), explained, "The combination of high temperatures and increased humidity creates the perfect conditions for summer fog. It's the atmosphere's natural way of balancing out temperature disparities."

AWE AND CONCERN

For many UAE residents, the sight of their familiar cityscapes blanketed in fog is nothing short of magical. As dawn breaks and the sun creates a mesmerising play of light and shadow in the fog, it's a sight to behold.

However, this beauty of nature also comes with reduced visibility, one of the main weather factors behind road accidents.

Faisal Siddiqui, a Sharjah resident, recalled his first encounter with the summer fog: "It felt like something out of a fairy tale. But the magic quickly faded when I had to drive my children to school through it. It's a stark reminder that nature's beauty can sometimes be deceptive."

Recognising the potential hazards of reduced visibility, the NCM has been at the forefront, issuing timely alerts about potential fog formations. These aren't mere routine advisories; they play a pivotal role in ensuring road safety during these obscured conditions. Other UAE authorities, including police departments of all the seven emirates, also regularly issue low-visibility warnings and advise motorists to remain cautious while driving during hazy weather conditions.

HAZARDS OF HAZY MORNINGS

Just how dangerous fog can be for motorists was evident in April 2022. A massive 28-vehicle pile-up on Dubai's Emirates Road highlighted the risks lurking within the mist. Such incidents have prompted the authorities to further amplify their road safety campaigns, leveraging various platforms, including social media, to spread awareness about driving safely in foggy conditions.



evaporation of moisture from all sources, causing a spike in humidity levels. When this moisture-laden air meets the cooler ground in the early hours of the day, it condenses, giving birth to the summer fog



Drivers must abide by traffic rules and keep themselves informed of weather updates. Allow extra time for your journey and check your planned route



BRIGADIER SAIF MUHAIR AL MAZROUI Director at the General Department of Traffic, Dubai Police

Brigadier Saif Muhair Al Mazroui, Director of the General Department of Traffic, Dubai Police, said, "Drivers must abide by traffic rules and keep themselves informed of weather updates." He urged drivers not to stop in the middle of the roads and switch to low-beam headlights, increase the distance between other vehicles, and slow down. "Allow extra time for your journey and check your planned route. It's also advisable to wait for the fog to clear until visibility improves," he stressed.

Similar advice came from Thomas Edelmann, founder of the online platform RoadSafetyUAE, who highlighted the common denominators in bad weather driving: low visibility and slippery surfaces. He asked drivers to maintain proper distance, avoid distractions and, most importantly, be educated about the conditions one is drivina in.

"While the summer fog phenomenon adds a touch of mystique to the scorching summer mornings, it also underscores the importance of being prepared and cautious on the roads," said Edelmann.

The risks of haze are heightened for new drivers in the UAE who may have got their driving licence guite recently and don't yet have the experience of moving through winter fog. For them, summer fog is even more dangerous, as it's unexpected, and knowledge is imperative.

For those unfamiliar with driving in fog, the experience can be daunting. The road ahead seems to disappear, landmarks become blurred silhouettes,

While the summer fog phenomenon adds a touch of mystique to the scorching summer mornings, it also underscores the importance of being prepared and cautious on the roads

> THOMAS EDELMANN Founder & Managing Director of RoadSafetyUAE

and the usual cues that guide a driver become obscured. Experts recommend several measures: reducing speed,

using fog lights, avoiding overtaking, and ensuring windows are clear of condensation. If the fog becomes too dense, the safest option is to pull over and wait for conditions to improve.

Edelmann has a rule of thumb for low visibility. "When you can't see well, slow down and pay more attention, keeping a greater distance from other vehicles," he emphasised, highlighting the direct correlation between reduced visibility and the need for sharper attention and increased distance between vehicles.

If and when one does have to stop driving - that may happen when the fog is so dense that visibility is almost nil - one must ensure that one's vehicle doesn't get hit by other vehicles. "If you have no visibility, pull over to the side of the road and turn on your hazard lights to alert other drivers of where you are, or pull into petrol stations or rest areas," said Edelmann.





DRIVING PRECAUTIONS

Summer fog, while fascinating from a meteorological perspective, poses significant challenges for motorists. The sudden reduction in visibility can be disorienting, and the bright sun behind the fog can create a blinding glare. Here are the top precautions a driver must take if they have to move through fog.



1 SLOW DOWN

The most immediate precaution is to reduce speed. It's essential to give oneself enough reaction time to respond to unexpected obstacles or sudden stops. "Adjust your speed so you can always stop within the line of visibility. Slow down," said Edelmann. With limited visibility, it takes longer for a driver to perceive a potential danger and react to it. Slowing down increases the reaction time, giving the driver a better chance to respond appropriately and avoid collisions.



Tailgating, which means driving too close to the vehicle in front, is a very bad idea in any condition; during foggy conditions, as someone could end up getting killed. The typical safe following distance in clear weather, often recommended as the distance that takes at least 3 seconds to cover, needs adjustment during foggy conditions. Edelmann suggested, "Increase the distance from the 3 seconds in good weather to a minimum of 5 seconds." He reiterated, "You must be able to stop within the distance of visibility," This increased buffer can mean the difference between a safe journey and a fatal collision.

3 USE FOG LIGHTS

While most vehicles are equipped with fog lights, drivers often forget to use them, even though these lights can significantly improve visibility. However, fog lights must be used right, and not randomly. Edelmann, addressing a common mistake, emphasised, "Do not use rear fog lights during normal visibility, as they can blind following drivers. Rear fog lights can also overpower your brake lights, making it difficult for following drivers to see when you're braking." Such actions can confuse other drivers. According to data from the Ministry of Interior, lack of judgment contributes to 10 per cent of road accidents in the country.









4 CLEAN WINDSHIELD & MIRRORS

Foggy weather significantly reduces visibility, and a dirty windshield or rear-view mirrors can further impair your ability to see the road, other vehicles, and potential hazards. Cleaning the windshield and mirrors helps maximise visibility and cuts glare from oncoming headlights. It's also important to use the vehicle's defroster or air-conditioning to prevent the windshield from fogging up on the inside, which can further decrease visibility. Data from the Ministry of Interior show that private cars were involved in 54 per cent of road crashes in the UAE in 2022, followed by trucks and buses (11 per cent).



5 AVOID HIGH BEAMS

Langel States Land

High-beam headlights are designed to illuminate the road at a greater distance, but during fog, they can cause glare and reduce visibility. The light from high beams can reflect off the water droplets in the fog, creating a bright, white glare that makes it difficult for the driver to see the road ahead. Instead, drivers are advised to use low-beam headlights, which direct light downward and reduce glare. Additionally, fog lights, if available, can be used to improve visibility in foggy conditions.



4 CLEAN WINDSHIELD & MIRRORS

Changing lanes in foggy weather conditions can be extremely dangerous due to poor visibility. As such, it's best to stick to one lane and maintain a constant speed to reduce the risks of an accident. "Stay in your lane and don't drift — there's a natural tendency to wander into the middle of the road when visibility gets bad," said Edelmann. This wandering can lead to major accidents, especially on highways where speed limits are generally higher.



Mystery behind misty summer mornings



The formation of fog, regardless of the season, is fundamentally tied to the interplay between temperature and atmospheric moisture. During daytime, the sun's intense rays heat the earth, causing the air near the ground to warm up. This warm air rises, mingling with the cooler air above, resulting in a consistent temperature gradient.

As night falls, the earth loses its warmth through radiational cooling. Consequently, the air closest to the ground cools, becoming denser and settling down. This creates a temperature inversion, where a warm layer of air traps the cooler air beneath it, preventing it from rising.

Simultaneously, the night's cooling effect increases the moisture content near the ground. When this moistureladen air cools to its dew point, the water vapour condenses into tiny droplets, forming fog.

Summer days, characterised by their extended daylight and heightened evaporation rates, contribute to this process. The intense daytime heat causes rapid evaporation from water bodies, saturating the air with moisture. As night approaches and temperatures drop, this moisture condenses, leading to fog, especially in areas with high humidity or near water sources.

The UAE, being close to the water, sees this summer fog phenomenon because of its high humidity levels.

A DRIVER'S GUIDE

7

Here's a comprehensive guide to ensure that your drive through the UAE's summer fog is as safe as it is scenic:



Always stay within your lane. The fog reduces visibility, making it essential to avoid sudden lane changes.



When in doubt, wait out

If visibility drops to near zero, it's safest to pull over at a safe spot. Ensure your parking and hazard lights are ON to alert other drivers.



Speed is your friend

Fog is unpredictable. Even if the road ahead seems clear, always maintain reduced speed to react to sudden changes.



3



Low beam lights lead the way High beams in fog can reflect back, reducing visibility. Always use low beams, and if you have fog lamps, turn them on.



Signal your intentions Always use indicators well in advance, especially before turns, to give other drivers ample warning.



Clear vision is crucial Ensure your windshields and windows are clean. Use defoggers to keep them clear.



Seat adjustments for better view Adjust your seat for optimal road visibility. If your car lacks height adjustment, keep the seatback straight for an unobstructed view.



Stay alert and focused Distractions can be deadly in fog. If driving at night, consider chewing gum to stay alert.



Ensure brakes & tyres are top-notch Sudden braking might be necessary in fog. Ensure your brakes and tyres are in prime condition.



Overtaking is overrated Avoid overtaking in fog. It's risky and can lead to accidents.



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10 HEALTHY WAYS TO KEEP YOUR COOL

EXPLORE THE UNIQUE DYNAMICS OF ANGER EXPRESSION IN BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, AND LEARN EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO CHANNEL THIS PRIMAL INSTINCT INTO A PEACEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE FORCE

BY GREGORY MATIAS



n the chaotic rush of everyday life, we've all been there — a fleeting moment of anger, perhaps at a colleague or another driver on the road. It could be a team member who consistently fails to meet their work deadline, a car cutting you off without signalling, or even just driving too slowly in the fast lane.

The spark of irritation flares, a surge of frustration rushing through your veins. You may make a snide comment or an exasperated gesture. This is a pressure relief valve mechanism we all have. However, anger — your own — has to be understood and managed before it spirals out of control. Even when you have a justifiable reason to be angry, calibrate your response to the trigger (e.g. the other person's behaviour), rather than give full rein to your feelings.

Anger is the result of aeons of evolution. It's our primal response system to threats, competition, and societal norms. This emotion propels our bodies into "fight or flight" mode, releasing adrenaline for an energy boost.

As described in *The Guardian*, anger is a complex product of our brain's intricate reward circuitry. Continually evaluating situations against our learned expectations, our brain sounds the alarm when expectations clash with reality, prompting the amygdala to initiate the anger response. The prefrontal cortex, our hub for decision-making and reasoning, then steps in, guiding us to express this potent emotion in socially acceptable ways.

Study author Dr Deborah Cox, a psychologist and assistant professor at SMSU, highlighted, "Women may be uncomfortable with feeling angry, but when you get right down to it, they often act on their anger just as well as men do"

This emotional symphony, however, plays out differently in men and women, as revealed by a notable study by Southwest Missouri State University (SMSU). This research debunked the conventional stereotype that women are less prone to anger. The study indicated that women experienced anger just as frequently as men did. The divergence, however, lay in how they managed and expressed it.

The SMSU study shed light on the fact that men often felt less effective when suppressing their anger, grappling with the containment of their emotions. In contrast, women displayed a remarkable ability to rein in impulsive reactions to anger, showing a greater comfort in holding it within. Additionally, men tended to connect the outward expression of anger with assertiveness, a correlation not as pronounced in women.

One of the study authors, Dr Deborah Cox, a psychologist and assistant professor at SMSU, highlighted, "Women may be uncomfortable with feeling angry, but when you get right down to it, they often act on their anger just as well as men do." The study underscored that societal expectations nudged women to find alternative methods of asserting themselves when they couldn't directly express their anger. Dr Cox added, "Perhaps women feel more effective if they selectively demonstrate their anger on the outside."

Those same societal expectations force women to bottle up their anger and stay quiet, even in extreme situations like physical or verbal assault, whereas it's acceptable for men to be frequently angry and loud. Recognising this is extremely important. In a blog on *Psychology Today*, author Bernard Golden, PhD, wrote: "[A]ctress Tracee Ellis Ross made her passionate plea to woman as part of her TED talk in April in Vancouver (2018). With powerful conviction she declared: 'Your fury is not something to be afraid of. It holds lifetimes of wisdom. Let it breathe and listen.'"

While everyone feels angry, for some people, be it men or women, controlling anger can be an immense challenge, leading to outbursts. Several factors contribute to this, including personal history, stress, and individual differences in brain chemistry.

Recognising these triggers and finding healthy outlets for anger is essential for personal well-being and maintaining relationships. The need to release anger in a healthy manner is imperative, ensuring that this potent emotion doesn't manifest itself destructively. Here are 10 tips for managing anger in a productive manner.





Think before you speak

Anger is like a fiery dragon. Sometimes, in the heat of the moment, we can say things we don't really mean. It's like throwing fuel into the fire. But taking a moment to think before responding is like having a shield. It gives you the power to choose your words wisely, to soothe rather than aggravate, and to keep the dragon at bay. A gentle reminder: once words leave your mouth, you can't take them back, so it's better to make them count.

Mindfulness and grounding techniques

When anger starts bubbling up, hit 'pause'. Stop whatever you're doing, and take a moment to step back. Pay attention to your breath. Take slow, deep breaths. Feel the air coming in and going out. It helps to count: breathe in for four counts, hold for four counts, and exhale for four counts. Look around you and describe what you see. This brings your attention to the present moment and helps you let go of racing thoughts. It's a practice that lets you step back from the whirlwind of anger and regain your clarity.



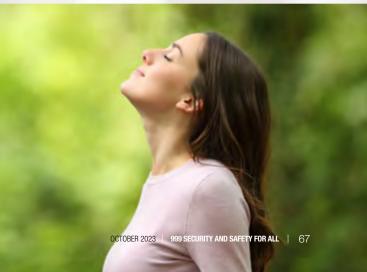




Have you ever felt like a kettle on the verge of boiling over when you're angry? That's all that bottled-up energy within you. Now, think of exercise as the steam valve on that kettle. Going for a run, hitting a punch bag, or even dancing it out releases that steam. Exercise not only helps you stay physically fit but also gives you an emotional detox, leaving you feeling lighter and more in control.

Deep breathing and meditation

These techniques can help you feel less angry and more relaxed when you're upset. They serve a mental and emotional reset button! What's more, they can help you find your calm centre amidst the "eye of the storm" swirling inside you. When you take a moment to breathe deeply, find that peaceful centre in your heart, mind and soul. The storm may still rage, but you find your peace amidst the chaos.





5 Creative expression

Think of creativity as your superhero cape when anger tries to take over. Anger can be this wild beast, but creativity is your lasso to tame it. Whether you're doodling in a sketchbook, penning down your thoughts, or strumming a tune on your guitar, you're using your creative powers to bring order to the chaos. Believe us, it can transform that angry energy into something beautiful and meaningful, leaving you feeling empowered and in charge.





Talking to a trusted person

Imagine anger as a heavy backpack you're carrying around all day. Sharing your feelings with someone you trust — whether in-person or remotely — is like taking off that backpack and sharing the load. Talking to a friend or a therapist is like lightening the emotional load, giving you relief and clarity. After all, you don't have to carry the weight of anger alone.



Writing it down is not just putting words on paper; it's acknowledging that your feelings matter and giving them a space to roam freely without judgment. It serves as a safe, open pasture for that "wild horse" inside you to run free. When you jot down what's bothering you, it's like inviting that wild horse to run and tire itself out. You're left with a sense of release and a clearer mind.







PMR is a technique where you consciously tense and then slowly release different muscle groups in your body. You start by tensing a muscle group for a few seconds, then gently releasing the tension. This process is repeated for various muscle groups throughout your body. This practice helps you recognise and release physical stress and can leave you feeling calmer and more relaxed.





When you're angry, your mind is filled with all sorts of frustrations and irritations. But when you dive into a hobby, your focus shifts away from what's making you mad. Hobbies also let you channel your energy in a positive way. For instance, when you're painting or playing a musical instrument, you're putting your energy into creating something beautiful rather than getting more upset. They help you unwind, switch gears, and let go of the tension that comes with anger.

Seek professional help

If anger becomes overwhelming or persistent, seeking assistance from a mental health professional is a proactive step. They can provide tailored strategies, coping mechanisms, and therapeutic interventions to address the underlying causes of anger and develop healthier ways to manage it. Reaching out for help is a sign of strength and a valuable resource.





Recent research in the June 2023 issue of *Journal of Research in Personality* suggests that hottempered individuals are more likely to believe in conspiracy theories — be it about specific events or more widespread in scope. The study was spurred by the rising interest in conspiracy theories since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a study involving 363 participants from Poland, those easily angered were found to be more inclined to believe in the conspiracy theory that "the COVID-19 pandemic is a global conspiracy."

Source: Journal of Research in Personality



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CRIME & PUNISHMENT

A FERCELY INDEPENDENT PERSON OF DETERMINATION

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT PERSON OF DETERMINATION IS BRUTALLY MURDERED FOR PETTY GAINS, AND THE ACCOMPLICE IS A MAID WHOM SHE TRUSTED FOR YEARS

BY WAGIH HASSAN



Image for illustration purposes only

τ.

ayla, a woman in her forties, lived a life shrouded in silence. She had been born with incurable hearing impairment, and this condition had shaped her life in unique ways. Layla's ability to communicate with the world relied heavily on her hands and facial expressions, and her speech, although not impossible, was often difficult to comprehend.

Her nephew, named Faisal, developed a close bond with Layla, who could truly be called a person of determination. Faisal, a university student, felt a special bond with his aunt. He admired her strength and resilience, often visiting her to check on her well-being. Layla, in turn, cherished her nephew's visits, as they provided her with a sense of connection that transcended words.

However, one day, Faisal arrived at Layla's house to find that something felt terribly wrong. His aunt, despite her

limitations, was a strong, self-reliant woman who had managed to build a life for herself. She lived alone in a small house that had been passed down the generations, standing as a symbol of her family's heritage.

Layla was deeply religious and found solace in her daily prayers. She would recite verses from the Quran during her quiet moments, and her faith was a source of strength that had helped her navigate a world that often misunderstood her. Some of these misunderstandings arose with her long-time Asian maid, named Samira, who occasionally found it hard to comprehend what Layla wanted. If things got unpleasant with

Samira, then the family members of Layla stepped in and soothed frayed tempers on both sides.

Her family, consisting of her three protective brothers — Majid, Jamal, and Hassan — and her two caring sisters, Sara and Mona, had always been her pillars of support. They loved her dearly and took every opportunity to ensure her well-being. Layla, however, was independent and rarely accepted help or sympathy from anyone, even her closest kin. This resistance to assistance, while admirable, sometimes put her at odds with her family when they worried about her welfare.

As the years went by, Layla's family noticed a growing tension between her and Samira. Of late, conflicts between them had escalated. Layla's hearing

Layla would recite verses from the Quran during her quiet moments, and her faith was a source of strength that had helped her navigate a world that often misunderstood her

impairment made verbal communication difficult, and misunderstandings between the two women became more frequent. The family members, including Faisal, her dear nephew, often stepped in to mediate and resolve disputes between Layla and Samira.

One ominous day, Faisal arrived at Layla's house for his routine visit, only to find the surroundings eerily different. The entire house was cloaked in darkness, and a foul, unfamiliar odour hung in the air. He knocked on the front door, but there was no response. Growing increasingly concerned, Faisal tried to call his aunt on her mobile phone, but it was switched off. Panic began to set in.

Unable to shake off the feeling of dread, Faisal decided to contact the local police. Within minutes, a patrol car arrived at Layla's residence. But they faced a challenge: the house was locked from the inside, and Faisal didn't

have a key to unlock it.

Considering the urgency of the situation, the officers made the decision to break the external lock with the consent of Faisal. As they pushed the door open, they could sense that they were about to uncover a chilling mystery.

Inside the house, a scene of horror unfolded before their eyes. Layla, bound tightly to her bed with ropes, lay lifeless. A shawl, tightly knotted around her neck, had been used as a murder weapon. Layla had been strangled to death in her own home.

A significant sum of money, two brand-new mobile phones, and valuable gold jewellery had been stolen from

Layla's home, making robbery the apparent motive for her brutal murder.

The police investigation led them to Samira, Layla's maid, and an unexpected revelation — Samira had an illicit relationship with Ahmed, an Asian worker with a criminal past. Together, they had hatched a sinister plan that involved Layla's murder and stealing her valuables.

As the police worked tirelessly to build their case against the accused, Layla's family grappled with the profound loss of their beloved sister and aunt. But they found justice when the court decided to hand down maximum sentences to Samira and Ahmed for their crime against Layla.

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





I mobilised the army

whoever tries to get

vou, I would smash

their attempts with

of your glory who

lifted the flags of

your victory, for

the rock of hope

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

THE ROCK OF HOPE

A battle-scarred soldier reflecting on the realities of war. Amidst the chaos, he encounters poignant moments of humanity and resilience

enderness came in and settled within me to soothe the heart. I only carry my helmet and gun. I am out of ammunition. My clothes are torn, covered in blood and mud. I lie helpless on the battlefield. Away, by the shore, I see boats landing. I see streets full of burning, fuming corpses. An old lady chases a chicken. A little girl cuddles her bride doll made of those torn, scattered clothes. At the far end of the city,

the wind blows into the window shutters of a coffee shop as if playing the symphony of defeat. Silent waves slam the shore awaiting the soldiers.

This scene depicts the battle that I had fought like many others. It is the battle of life in which courageous men once stood on its field, thinking they were stronger than weapons. But as soon as the drums of war started beating, and men exchanged the bullets of hope with life, they started falling, killed and wounded victims of the battle. In a moment of realisation, and as my feelings hovered around me, wrapped in

silence, I tasted it, sipping pains, snatched into the loneliness of the soul. I remained stuck at the bottom of sinister memories that blended me into letters of agony, despite the fact that I never allowed disappointment to mess with my life.

Suddenly, a girl smiled at me as if floating in the clouds; softly she said: "Do not try to play tunes with words." Air passes through my braids, and the old lady whispers in the ear of the chicken after she catches it: it is time to reap the fruits of the battle and tells me she wishes to go back in time. The string of her beads, which fell out, can no longer hold them; every fallen bead carries its own song. How could the string hold them again while it is not faithful to its prayer? Out of his pocket, he took out an invalid decree, labelled with the name of a 3D featureless state. For a moment, I started

> hearing him murmuring, waving at me and the old man. Is it possible to bring together a dancer, a prayer, and an old man who was leaning against a battle tank, waiting?

> With a thought on his mind, he says tearfully, "For your sake, I left behind my homeland, and you only danced on my nerves. You directed the arrows of your wrath from up above and you slayed hope in daylight. I thought that I was your confidant, your steadfast soldier on the frontline of your battle, enduring the bullets of hostility like a sentinel. You buried in the desert of

your pride every raider, as simple as throwing rocks into wells. I proudly raised high the sword of your glory, heralding victory over the villains. I brought down their forts and used the most lethal of weapons. I mobilised the army of your glory who lifted the flags of your victory, for whoever tries to get you, I would smash their attempts with the rock of hope."

The views expressed by **999** columnists are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Interior



POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

SOLVE CRIME RIDDLES II

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

POLICE LI

METICULOUS ANALYSES OF UNCONVENTIONAL EVIDENCE HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN UNRAVELLING INTRICATE MURDER CASES

BY MARK NITUMA



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BITE MARK

WHEN: JUNE 21, 1978 WHERE: WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

In Wood River, Illinois, a harrowing crime shook the community on June 21, 1978, forever changing the lives of those who knew Karla Brown. At just 22, she served as a cheerleader at Roxana High School and was a student at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Karla, an outgoing young woman, was engaged to her long-time partner, Mark. Despite their on-and-off dating history, they had decided to settle down together.

During the week of moving into their new home, Karla's lifeless body was discovered in the basement, partly undressed, with socks used as restraints around her neck and wrists. The scene suggested the killer had spent time in the house after the murder.

Initially, suspects included Mark and others. However, Mark was cleared as a suspect, as witnesses confirmed he was with friends, assisting with furniture moving at the time of the crime.

Investigator Alva Busch noted peculiarities at the crime scene, such as loosely applied restraints and signs of possible drowning. This led to the theory that the assailant knew Karla, hinting at a crime of passion.

The case went cold until Dr Homer Campbell, a forensic expert, re-examined crime scene photos, revealing lacerations possibly caused by nearby TV trays and a bite mark on the victim's collarbone.

FBI profiler John Douglas created a precise profile of the killer: an uneducated, unkempt white male in his late twenties, possibly

POISON IN A BOTTLE

WHEN: OCTOBER 1988

WHERE: ALTURAS, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

Parealyn and Peggy Carr wed in 1988, and Peggy moved into Parealyn's Alturas, Florida, home with their sons, Travis Carr and Duane Dubberly. In the same year, they had disputes with their neighbours, the Trepals, with George Trepal once threatening the Carr children. The Trepals were part of a high IQ organisation.

In October 1988, Peggy fell seriously ill and was hospitalised. Doctors couldn't initially explain her condition, but within a day of being discharged, her symptoms worsened, revealing thallium poisoning. She fell into a coma and passed away in March 1989.

Traces of thallium in empty soda bottles in the Carrs' home raised suspicions of product tampering. The FBI focused on their neighbour, George, a former chemist with a criminal history linked to amphetamines and thallium.

Detective Susan Goreck built a rapport with George and discovered his contempt for those he considered less intelligent or uncontrollable, traits matching the Carr family. George had previous methamphetamine convictions, and thallium was a by-product of amphetamine production.

To gather more evidence, Goreck went undercover and attended a "Murder Weekend" organised by George's wife. The detective learned that George was moving and arranged to rent their home, leading to the discovery of powdered thallium in the garage.

George was charged with seven counts of poisoning, and a subsequent search of his Sebring home uncovered chemistry books, poison-related information, and a bottle-capping machine. The evidence mounted, including traces of thallium in his garage,



driving a Volkswagen, with local ties. The police revisited the primary suspects, focusing on John Prante, Karla's neighbour.

Following media attention and exhuming Karla's body, a friend of John provided critical information. John had disclosed to this friend intimate details about the crime, leading investigators to consider him as the primary suspect.

John was arrested and later convicted of first-degree murder, with evidence from the bite mark and witness testimony. His trial marked a milestone in Illinois, employing criminal profiling, bite mark evidence, and photo enhancement.

Despite his claims of innocence, John served 36 years in prison before being granted parole in 2019. His legal team continues to fight to clear his name, arguing to discredit the bite mark evidence. However, the prosecutor maintains that John was responsible for Karla's tragic murder.



resulting in his arrest and murder charges.

During the trial, George rejected a plea deal and faced a jury, which found him guilty. He received a death sentence on March 16, 1991. Diana Trepal passed away in 2018, and George remains on Florida's death row, pursuing unsuccessful appeals.



CREDIT CARD RECORDS

WHEN: NOVEMBER 1986 WHERE: NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES

Helle Crafts, a Danish flight attendant, fell victim to a heinous crime at the hands of her husband, Richard Crafts, who was both an airline pilot and a special constable. This tragic event is often referred to as the "Woodchipper Murder" due to the gruesome method Richard used to dispose of Helle's body.

The wife had expressed concerns about her safety to friends, once saying, "If something happens to me, don't think it was an accident." She was aware of her husband's infidelities and had initiated divorce proceedings.

On November 19, 1986, Helle was last seen by a friend who dropped her off at her Newtown, Connecticut, home. Richard provided conflicting stories about her whereabouts when she appeared to be missing.

Suspicions grew, leading to a search of their property. Investigators found a carpet removed from their bedroom and a blood smear on their bed. Richard's credit card records showed purchases of a new freezer, bedding, and a woodchipper rental.

A private investigator hired by Helle's family found a chainsaw receipt amongst her papers. The chainsaw, recovered from Lake Zoar, contained blood and hair matching Helle's DNA. A snowplough driver who knew Richard reported seeing him operating a woodchipper near Lake Zoar on the night that Helle disappeared. The authorities conducted a search and found human remains, including bone fragments, teeth, and hair.

POSTAGE STAMP

WHEN: NOVEMBER 26, 2010 Whene: Brembate Di Sopra, Italy

In November 2010, a small Italian village was shaken when 13-year-old Yara Gambirasio mysteriously disappeared. The ordeal took a tragic turn when her lifeless body was discovered three months later, covered in unidentified DNA samples, baffling the local police force and leaving them with no immediate leads.

A relentless investigation ensued, marked by a massive dragnet involving tens of thousands of volunteers who willingly underwent DNA testing in the hopes of providing a vital clue.

DNA was extracted from Yara's clothing, but no signs of sexual assault were found. The mysterious DNA, known as "Unknown 1", did not match anyone in Yara's close circle.

Italian investigators collected DNA samples from club-goers, leading them to Giuseppe Guerinoni, a deceased bus driver whose DNA resembled "Unknown 1". But a significant problem arose: Guerinoni had passed away in 1999, 11 years before Yara's murder.

Investigators deduced that Guerinoni must have had an illegitimate child, and his widow produced a document with a postage stamp containing his DNA. This discovery led to a painstaking search for Guerinoni's child, eventually identifying Ester Arzuffi as the mother through DNA testing.

This revelation unveiled Giuseppe Guerinoni's illegitimate son, Massimo Giuseppe Bossetti, a 42-year-old builder. Bossetti's DNA matched the "Unknown 1" DNA sample, leading to his arrest and a life sentence for Yara Gambirasio's murder in 2016. This verdict was upheld in 2017 and confirmed by the Court of Cassation in 2018.



Hellen and Richard Crafts

Richard allegedly incapacitated Helle in their bedroom, froze her body, then dismembered her with a chainsaw and disposed of the remains in the woodchipper near the river.

After forensic evidence confirmed Helle's identity, Richard was arrested in January 1987. His trial faced media attention and ended in a mistrial due to jury deadlock. He was retried in Norwalk, Connecticut, and in November 1989, three years after Helle's disappearance, he was found guilty and sentenced to 50 years in state prison.



Massimo Giuseppe



Yara Gambirasio



DOMINGO BADIA, A SPANISH SCHOLAR WELL-VERSED IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES, CROSSED NORTH AFRICA IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY AND THEN ARRIVED IN MECCA, WITH AN ARAB NAME AND A CLAIM TO THE ABBASID BLOODLINE

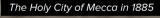
BY DR FALEH HANDHAL

999

HISTORY







II the travellers who passed through the Arab lands in the previous centuries left enlightening accounts of their observations and experiences. One such traveller was the pilgrim AI Hajj Ali Bey AI Abbasi, who arrived in Mecca in 1807.

This visitor claimed that he was a descendant of the Abbasid family, which once ruled the Abbasid Caliphate. He followed Islam, performed his obligatory prayers, and spoke fluent Arabic. Also, he left us a wonderful description of Mecca, the Holy Kaaba, and other Islamic and Arab landmarks.

But, in fact, this man was a Spaniard named Domingo Badia, a scholar wellversed in Western fields of knowledge who could speak French, Italian, and Spanish, in addition to Arabic. The reason for his journey to the Hijaz region was said to be as an envoy of the French ruler, Napoleon Bonaparte, who aimed to expand his influence in the East to rival Britain.

Al Abbasi began his journey from Marrakech, then reached Alexandria in 1806. He then travelled to the Red Sea, carrying precise astronomical instruments, and made stops in Yanbu, Jeddah, and other places, before finally arriving in Mecca in 1807, claiming to be of Turkish nationality and Abbasid descent.

It is worth mentioning that during that time, the Hijaz region, including Mecca, was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. The governor in

Domingo Badia, also known as Al Hajj Ali Bey Al Abbasi

Egypt was Muhammad Ali Pasha, while the ruler of Hijaz was Sharif Ghalib bin Musaid, who pledged allegiance to Muhammad Ali Pasha. As for the rest of Hijaz, it was controlled by Prince Saud bin Abdulaziz, whose influence extended to many parts of the Arabian Peninsula.

The traveller stayed in Mecca for an unspecified period of time, but he published his memoirs about these travels in 1814. He must have spent a considerable amount of time there because he provided us with a detailed description of the Hajj rituals, Eid al-Fitr celebrations, and other things.



The pilgrims must enter Mecca barefoot. As soon as I entered it, I performed ablution and walked in a procession with the people towards the Kaaba. The man leading us recited the prayers aloud as he walked

About his arrival in Mecca and his observations in the Kaaba. Al Abbasi wrote: "The pilgrims must enter Mecca barefoot. As soon as I entered it. I performed ablution and walked in a procession with the people towards the Kaaba. The man leading us recited the prayers aloud as he walked, and we repeated them word for word with the same intonation. This is how we reached the mosque, entering it through the Gate of Sa'ada. We passed through the corridor, and just before reaching the place where the House of God is located, our guide stopped and raised his finger towards the Kaaba, saying to me, 'Look, look, the Sacred House of Allah!'

"In the spacious courtyard of the mosque, the Kaaba was covered with cloth from top to bottom and surrounded by a circle of rectangularshaped lanterns. Inside it were beautifully arranged corridors with three rows of arches, and the adjacent rows were crowned with small domes resting on intricately carved columns. There were 19 gates leading to these corridors, each topped with seven minarets.

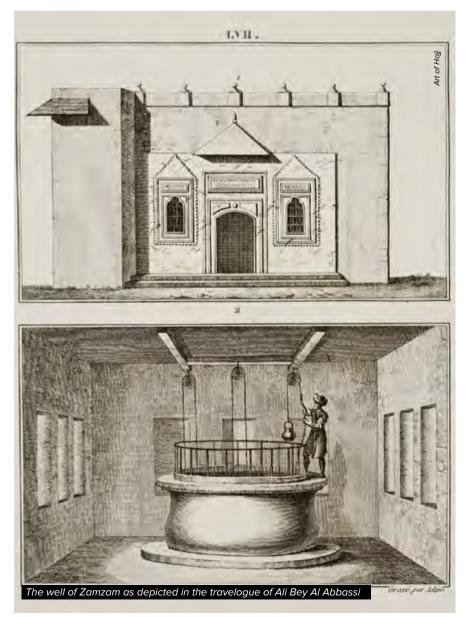
"The mosque's courtyard was paved with smooth stones leading to the centre. In the first courtyard, there were designated prayer areas for followers of the four Sunni schools of thought (madhahib). The Gate of Salam, adorned with ornate arches, led to the marble-paved central courtyard. To the right of this courtyard was an elevated pulpit, where the Friday preacher stood, and to the left was the Magam of Abraham, covered with cloth and supported by six columns, surrounded by a barrier of interlaced bars. It had a door locked with a silver lock. Inside this barrier, sacred items were covered with luxurious black and gold embroidered fabric, including the stone used by Abraham as a base for building the Kaaba.

"In the centre stood the Kaaba, covered with a black fabric adorned with gold, which was replaced every year. The old covering was cut into small pieces and distributed as souvenirs. The new covering was provided annually by Cairo and sent with the pilgrim caravan.

"As for the Black Stone, it was placed in the eastern corner, below the level of the door, encased in a silver frame. Inside the mosque, there was the Zamzam Well, and in a room nearby was a collection of pitchers from which pilgrims drank water. A large number of attendants worked under the supervision of the well's custodian. According to tradition, the Zamzam Well was miraculously provided by God to save Hagar and her son Ishmael from dying of thirst."

Then he described the pilgrim washing the Kaaba, saying: "The door of the Kaaba had been opened, and a large crowd had gathered at the entrance. When the Sharif arrived, he was carried on the shoulders, followed by the tribal elders. The black guards were preventing people from entering. I was standing at a distance, but the custodian of the Zamzam Well signalled for me to approach, following the Sharif's orders.

"The water carriers, men carrying leather bags filled with water, pushed them from hand to hand until they reached the guards at the mosque's entrance. They also had many small palm leaf brooms. Then, the guards began pouring water onto the marble-





paved ground, followed by rosewater. People rushed to collect this water. The guards then filled cups with this water and offered one to me so that I could drink from it. Indeed, I drank from this fragrant water, mixed with rosewater, which carried the blessings of God.

"The Sharif of Mecca himself swept the ground, and then the guards brought me several brooms. I went on to sweep with both hands, filled with deep faith until the ground became clean and smooth as glass. When the Sharif finished sweeping, we all gathered for prayer."

The sight of Mount Arafat during his pilgrimage left Al Abbasi struck with wonder. He wrote: "One cannot truly comprehend the magnificent scene that is represented by the Muslim pilgrimage except at Mount Arafat. Here, vast crowds from all nations and sects come from the farthest corners of the world, enduring countless hardships and difficulties to deepen their faith. Thus, one finds Caucasians reaching out to shake hands with Ethiopians, and Indians, Persians, Berbers, and Moroccans fraternising



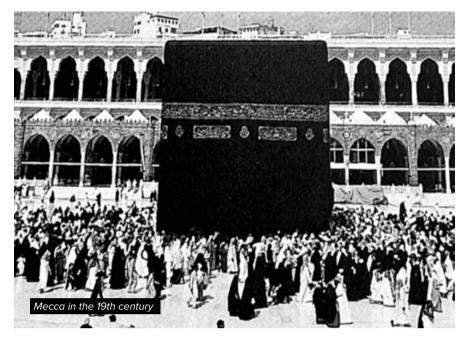
with each other. Everyone looks at each other as brothers and sisters of one extended family, bound by the ties of religion. Some speak, or at least understand, a common language, the sacred Arabic language. No other religion can bring forth a scene more powerful and grand than this."

So, philosophers of the world, allow Al Abbasi to defend his faith, just as you defend your schools of thought, be they spiritual, materialistic, or

One cannot truly comprehend the magnificent scene that is represented by the Muslim pilgrimage except at Mount Arafat . Here, vast crowds from all nations and sects come from the farthest corners of the world, enduring countless hardships and difficulties to deepen their faith

Mount Arafat during the annual gathering of pilgrims in 18





concerning emptiness and fullness.

On Mount Arafat, everyone is equal before the Creator, and all are convinced that it is their deeds alone that bring them closer to God or distance them from Him. What a deterrent this is against wrongdoing, and what an encouragement towards the path of virtue.

When Al Abbasi completed his journey around Hijaz, he returned to Cairo and from there to Europe. In 1814, he published the story of his journey in French in Paris, and later in 1816, he published it in English in London. In 1818, he travelled to Damascus, where he eventually passed away, succumbing to amoebiasis, an intestinal infection.

JOURNEY OF ALPHONSE DE LAMARTINE

Alphonse de Lamartine was a renowned French writer and poet who also dabbled in politics, running for the presidency of France but failing to secure the position. Consequently, he returned to writing and authored his book *Journey to the East* in 1853. In the book, he narrated the details of his travels to various countries along the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

However, when the book was published, the authorities banned it because the author wrote: "France is a nation afflicted with boredom and must open itself more to the world."

Dr Ahmed Mahmoud Al Khalil translated this travelogue in his book titled *Civilizations of the Ancient East*. Here, we present some of the topics covered in this journey.

REALM OF ARABIC POETRY

When Lamartine arrived in Palestine, two things captivated him: the Arabian horse and Arabic poetry. He praised the Arabian horse, saying: "We have no idea of the intelligence that the instinct of the Arabian horse can reach or the extent of its loyalty. The

When Alphonse de Lamartine arrived in Palestine, two things captivated him: the Arabian horse and Arabic poetry

horses here are smarter and nobler than those in our regions, because nature has endowed them with greater instincts and a closer bond with the people than what we have."

Given the close relationship between horsemanship and Arabic poetry, it was only natural for Lamartine to transition from discussing the qualities of the Arabian horse to talking about Arabic poetry.

He remarked: "I was with a group of men gathered under the shade of the largest olive tree, and they began reciting verses from the poet Antara. Antara is a warrior and a poet who wrote about the entire desert in his epic poems, expressing his grievances and philosophical thoughts. The verses were echoing on the tongues of those gathered, and I could hear their lips murmuring, heads nodding, and them exclaiming 'Allah, Allah.' However, I did not understand these verses initially, while translators tried to explain them.

"Gradually, I began to grasp some Arabic, and I became more interested in the poetry of Antara al-Absi. I found it to represent national poetry, as if it were a sacred book in the





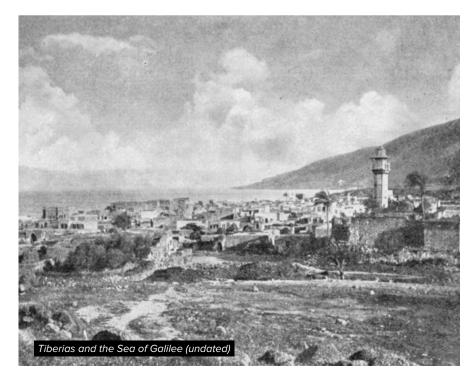


imagination of the Arabs. I must say that I had never read poetry like it, with a language whose details I didn't comprehend, but I saw in it the Arabian horse, the camel, the gazelle, and the fronds of palm trees sprouting above sand dunes. I also witnessed battles between two sides, and I saw young Arabian beauties. I felt a greater exhilaration than reading a foreign poet, experiencing complete enjoyment."

IN THE KURDISH CAMP

Lamartine then took us to another topic, describing what he witnessed

of the Kurds and a Kurdish celebration in Lebanon. He wrote: "We were on our way to Beirut when we heard loud cries, the beating of drums, and the sounds of flutes and pipes. Within moments, a crowd of people dressed in strange clothing surrounded us. Their leaders, adorned in splendid attire, approached us, bowed respectfully, and greeted us warmly. They asked us to accompany them into the forest. So, we rode on until we reached the heart of their camp. In front of the tent of one of the tribal elders, we dismounted from our horses. They laid out carpets under



the shade of a tree for us and offered us coffee and hookahs.

"It seemed that the Kurdish chiefs wielded absolute authority, as a mere gesture from them brought order, and the commotion caused by our arrival subsided into silence. The men were generally tall, strong, handsome, and had graceful figures. Many of them wore embroidered silk trousers and blue silk coats lined with fine fur. Their weapons were magnificent with intricate engravings and silver ornaments.

"As for the women, there were no restrictions, especially the young girls aged from 10 to 15, who wore loose pleated trousers that reached their feet and silver anklets on their legs. They covered their chests with cotton or silk shirts cinched by a belt. Their hair was braided in long strands that reached their ankles and adorned with decorative pins. They engaged in debates and were cheerful, showing no signs of shyness as we observed them.

"Some of them were incredibly beautiful, fair as ivory, and their faces left a lasting impression because one rarely sees faces with such qualities twice in a lifetime. On our way back, we encountered around a hundred Kurdish girls returning from Beirut, where they had gone to purchase pottery and fabrics as gifts for a girl who was to be engaged."

IN THE CITY OF DAMASCUS

In the year 1833, Lamartine arrived in Damascus, and after wandering



Commerce was the primary occupation of the people of Damascus

through its streets for a while, he left us with a description of one of the houses that he visited. He wrote: "We crossed the threshold of a spacious building and entered a courtyard adorned with marble fountains from which water gushed, shaded by trees. The courtyard was paved with broad stone or polished marble tiles, and in the courtyard, there were five or six doors, their columns also made of marble and carved with Arabic ornaments. Each door led to a residence, and these houses were inhabited by various families.

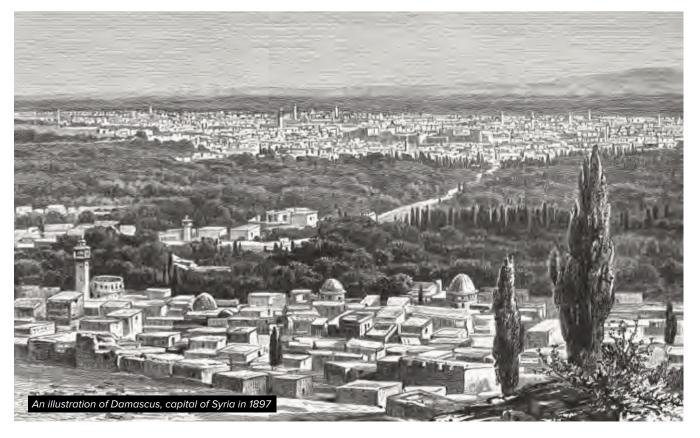
"Each house consisted of two parts: a lower section where the servants lived, and another section that was slightly elevated above the first. The two sections were separated by beautifully carved railings made of marble columns or cedarwood. In one of the corners, there was always a water fountain, or sometimes two fountains, with their edges adorned with flowers planted in exquisite vessels. Shelves made of bamboo and velvet lined the fountains, allowing passersby to quench their thirst at any moment. The walls of the



room were covered with marble up to a medium height, and adorned with colourful Arabic decorations.

"As for the furnishings, there were magnificent Persian carpets spread over a floor either made of white marble or covered with cedar wood. Along the room's sides, there were numerous silk cushions and luxurious covers. In the depths of the hall, there was a divan draped with fine fabrics and precious carpets, where children and women sat.

"Within the house, there was a courtyard reserved for the head of the family, where he received guests. He sat there on his divan, next to a pen holder with a golden handle, surrounded by papers for his accounts and business dealings. Commerce was the primary occupation of the people of Damascus."





SNAPPY MULTITASKER

In today's tech-centric world, the demand for immersive entertainment experiences on smartphones has reached an all-time high. People are increasingly seeking ways to escape into captivating visual adventures, savour high-quality audio, and engage with interactive content right on their mobile devices. It's a trend that's shaping the way we use our mobile phones. Introducing the **HONOR Pad X9**, a tablet designed for a supreme entertainment experience. The tablet is designed to stay snappy and responsive even during multitasking or intensive gaming sessions.

With its impressive 11.5-inch HONOR FullView Display, 6 Surround Speakers, and generous 128GB storage, this device offers a smart and elegant solution for entertainment enthusiasts. Whether you're a movie buff, a music lover, or simply enjoy spending time with friends and family, this tablet has something to offer for everyone.

What sets the HONOR Pad X9 apart from other tablets is that it is powered by the latest Android 13, which enables it to ensure smooth performance and efficient battery consumption.



PRICE: Dhs990 WEBSITE: www.hihonor.com

VERSATILE PORWEHOUSE



PRICE: Starts at Dhs2,750 WEBSITE: www.dell.com

A versatile laptop is an indispensable tool for modern users seeking seamless transitions between productivity and entertainment. **Dell's Inspiron 14 2-in-1 laptop** emerges as a perfect blend of strength and adaptability, catering to diverse needs with ease. With its innovative touch display and flexible design, this laptop stands out as a compelling gadget for tech enthusiasts and professionals alike.

The Dell Inspiron 14 2-in-1 laptop proves to be a powerhouse performer, thanks to its 13th-generation Intel Core i7 processor, generous 16GB RAM, and capacious 1TB storage. This winning combination delivers exceptional performance, making multitasking and resource-intensive tasks a breeze.

One of the standout features of this laptop is its 14-inch FHD+ 16:10 aspect ratio touch display, which not only offers crisp visuals but also provides a delightful experience for content creators and designers with its touch and stylus support.

Running on Windows 11 Home and equipped with Integrated Intel Iris Xe graphics, the laptop provides a seamless and visually immersive experience for both work and play. The versatility of the Inspiron 14 2-in-1 is further amplified by the various configurations available, allowing users to personalise the device to their specific requirements.

DYNAMIC CREATIVITY

In an era where visual content reigns supreme, having a versatile and highperformance action camera is crucial for thrill-seekers and content creators alike. **DJI's Osmo Action 4 Standard Combo** offers flexibility and stunning image quality to capture the most daring adventures and breathtaking moments. Equipped with a 1/1.3-inch sensor and exceptional low-light imaging, this action camera excels in capturing breathtaking shots throughout the day, from sunrise to sundown.

The 10-bit D-Log M colour mode elevates the camera's capabilities, providing over one billion colours and a wider dynamic range for post-editing, allowing creators to unleash their creativity during the post-production process. Meanwhile, for capturing action-packed scenes in slow motion, the Osmo Action 4 delivers buttery-smooth 4K UHD 120fps video, adding a cinematic touch to the footage. The ultra-wide 155-degree FOV (Field of View) ensures no detail is missed, capturing the full essence of the moment.

Beyond its impressive imaging capabilities, the Osmo Action 4 is built for adventure, being waterproof up to 18m and offering over 2.5 hours of continuous use with fast-charging support, ensuring the camera can keep up with even the most action-packed days.



PRICE: Starts at Dhs1,831 WEBSITE: store.dji.com



NOTHING IS EVERYTHING!



PRICE: Dhs2,198 WEBSITE: ae.nothing.tech

The Nothing Phone returns brighter, faster, and more fun than ever as its second handset model, **Nothing Phone 2**, is released with more refined features, catering to a bigger, younger, and more diverse market.

The Nothing Phone 2 has a flat 6.7-inch AMOLED display that's surrounded by thin bezels all around. The screen has 1080p resolution, HDR10+, and an adaptive refresh rate of 1Hz to 120Hz. Thanks to its LTPO screen, it allows for high refresh rates for games and scrolling.

This smartphone boasts a transparent glass back panel that serves as its central feature, allowing its users to catch a glimpse of its internal components. It is carefully designed to provide a sense of peering inside, while still keeping most of the components covered.

The most eye-catching feature is the Glyph system, which consists of several LED strips placed around the back of the mobile phone. These lights can display different patterns depending on what's happening — battery level alerts, notifications, volume level, and they can even act as a camera flash, amongst many other functions.

The Nothing Phone 2 is powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Plus Gen 1 chipset and is available with 8GB or 12GB of RAM. It features a dual-camera setup on the back, consisting of a 50MP main camera and a 50MP wide-angle camera. It can take excellent photos in good lighting conditions, with plenty of detail and not overly saturated colours.

ERGONOMIC TABLET

Experience the future of gaming with the **ASUS ROG Ally**, a handheld gaming device that seamlessly merges Windows 11 with on-the-go gaming. It features the powerful AMD Ryzen Z1 Extreme processor and RDNA[™] 3 graphics for an immersive gaming experience.

The ROG Ally boasts a 120Hz vibrant display and an ergonomic design for comfortable gaming. What sets it apart is the Special Edition of Armoury Crate, simplifying game management across multiple launchers. ASUS also includes a 3-month Xbox Game Pass Ultimate subscription for access to a vast game library.

Security is a priority with a Windows Hello fingerprint reader, and it offers robust parental controls for a family-friendly environment.



WEBSITE: rog.asus.com

PRODUCTIVITY COMPANION



PRICE: Dhs6,602 WEBSITE: store.google.com

The demand for multitasking capabilities has never been higher, given the evolving nature of work and productivity. Enter **Google's Pixel Fold**, which has a Split Screen

functionality that directly addresses this need, enabling users to boost their efficiency by running two apps simultaneously.

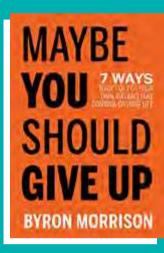
The Pixel Fold, in its closed state, has a silhouette of a 5.8inch Pixel smartphone that comfortably fits in the palm of your hand and effortlessly slips into your pocket. And when you unfold it, you're greeted with a remarkable 7.6-inch screen that features an immersive 7.6-inch display.

Powered by the custom-made Google Tensor G2, it's a game-changer in the world of smartphones. When using the Split Screen feature, effortlessly drag and drop files between various apps, such as transferring from Google Photos to Messages or Slides. Thanks to the dynamic Taskbar, it conveniently disappears once you've finished, ensuring it doesn't occupy valuable screen space. It also boasts top-rated security features, including the Titan M2 security chip and Tensor G2.





EXPLORE SEVEN INTRIGUING BOOKS THAT PRESENT VIEWPOINTS ON TOPICS INCLUDING ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS, BEAUTY STARTUPS, EXTREME HEAT, SELF-ACCEPTANCE, AND NONVERBAL CUES BY JASON RAZMUS



ALTERED COURSE

TITLE: Maybe You Should Give Up AUTHOR: Byron Morrison PUBLISHER: Morgan James Publishing PRICE: Dhs31

Byron Morrison, after battling self-sabotage, understands the frustration of hard work yielding minimal gains. His book addresses the question: How to achieve dreams when effort falls short? Amidst a deluge of self-help advice preaching "push harder", sustained success remains elusive. This reality often thwarts unfulfilled aspirations. The culprit? Unwitting self-sabotage, hindering progress.

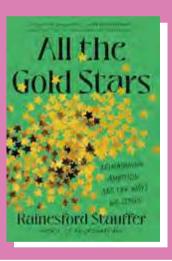
Morrison took an unconventional path. He shed fear's grip, relinquished dwelling on the past, and ceased comparing himself to others. He let go of self-criticism and postponed happiness no more. This pivot transformed his life. He dismantled his barriers, seizing control. Morrison's strategy pinpoints 7 self-sabotaging triggers, unlocking a path to the desired life.

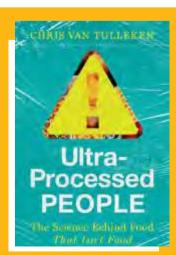
RECONCEIVING AMBITIONS

TITLE: All the Gold Stars AUTHOR: Andrea Lankford PUBLISHER: Hachette Go PRICE: Dhs59

Ambition is deeply embedded in Britain's history, shaping everything from early accomplishments to college admissions and work ethic. Yet, while we champion ambition, we inadvertently erect barriers that dictate who can openly strive for their goals. In spite of this, burnout is widespread, eroding motivation and leaving us feeling unappreciated by our efforts.

Within *All the Gold Stars*, the exploration spans societal, cultural, and personal expectations tied to ambition that contribute to the burnout crisis. These expectations make productivity the sole measure of our value, stifling creativity and driving us apart. The author, grappling with her own ambitious struggle, identifies shared factors, unravelling the impact of family pressures, capitalism, and self-esteem on our connection between self-worth and output.





SELF-EXPERIMENT

TITLE: Ultra-Processed People AUTHOR: Chris van Tulleken PUBLISHER: WW Norton & Company PRICE: Dhs36

Meet Chris van Tulleken, not just a scientist and doctor, but a genial voice we've encountered on BBC. His book boldly unveils how the partnership between governments and food corporations has spawned an epidemic of diet-related ailments. And there's a twist — a self-experiment we can't help but rally behind. Chris embraced an 80 per cent UPF diet, akin o what's all too prevalent in the United States. As he embarked on this journey, he sought counsel from experts and confronted his own UPF cravings head-on. The narrative spurns orthodox solutions and ushers in innovative viewpoints to tackle this pressing conundrum.



And the first second se

Ambition, Beauty, and the Inside Story of Emily Weiss's Glossier

Marris Minites

REVOLUTIONISING BEAUTY

TITLE: Glossy AUTHOR: Marisa Meltzer PUBLISHER: Atria/One Signal Publishers PRICE: Dhs55

This book uncovers the inner workings of Glossier, one of America's hottest startups, and the enigmatic woman behind its success. Forbes hailed Glossier as one of the most disruptive beauty brands, revolutionising the industry with innovative branding and influencer marketing. Emily Weiss, the former Teen Vogue "superintern" turned beauty blogger, was the visionary who fearlessly launched Glossier, leveraging every opportunity for personal success. Marisa Meltzer, journalist and author, delves into Glossier's culture through interviews with former employees, investors, and Weiss herself.

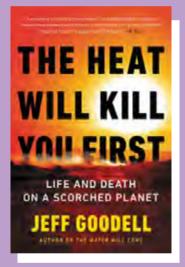
From fundraising to product launches, the book unveils the secrets behind the company's meteoric rise. This book not only portrays one of the most influential business leaders of her time but also captures the essence of an era — a gripping chronicle for the *Bad Blood generation*, akin to *The Devil Wears Prada*.

EXTREME CHANGES

TITLE: The Heat Will Kill You First AUTHOR: Jeff Goodell PUBLISHER: Little, Brown and Company PRICE: Dhs55

The Heat Will Kill You First unveils the alarming changes our planet is experiencing due to the climate crisis. California witnesses seasonal wildfires, the Northeast sees diminishing snow, and the Arctic and Antarctica ice sheets are rapidly melting. While stopping fossil fuel burning immediately won't halt rising temperatures instantly, this book emphasises upon the urgency of acting sooner rather than later.

Jeff Goodell, an award-winning environmental journalist, sheds light on how extreme heat is reshaping our world. He explores the consequences of earlier springs and delayed falls on food supply and disease outbreaks. The book delves into the potential future of cities like Chicago and Boston, experiencing scorching temperatures of 43°C, causing heatwaves to be a perilous event for all, not just the vulnerable.



Everybody's Favorite Mari

TALES FROM THE WORLD'S WORSY DERFECTIONIST

Illian Stone

Andres or spinst

PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

TITLE:Everybody's Favorite AUTHOR: Lilian Stone PUBLISHERS: Dey Street Books PRICE: Dhs55

Meet Lilian Stone: a former childhood evangelical, an AOL girlfriend, and an accomplished professional nail biter. Living perpetually on the edge of anxiety, Lilian's journey unfolds through the lens of her past experiences and present struggles. She takes on defying societal expectations, and the unplanned companionship of a hefty twenty-pound beagle.

In *Everybody's Favorite*, readers are treated to a narrative that delves into the essence of choosing oneself amidst the world's contradictory chorus. As Lilian navigates the labyrinth of adulthood, an ongoing dance with obsessive-compulsive disorder becomes a testament to self-acceptance and the burgeoning wellspring of compassion within. With a keen eye for humour and a penchant for introspection, Lilian has honed the art of combatting the allure of someone else's idea of perfection.

Abu Dhabi rolls out new grazing regulations to safeguard rangelands

In a move to safeguard natural rangelands and promote sustainable grazing practices, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has initiated the issuance of licences to livestock owners and breeders to regulate grazing and related activities in the emirate.

This move comes as part of the implementation of Law No. 11 of 2020, which focuses on grazing regulations in Abu Dhabi. The law was introduced by EAD under the guidance of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin

Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in the Al Dhafra Region and Chairman of the Board of Directors of EAD, who holds authority over environmental affairs in Abu Dhabi.

The newly introduced licensing policy aims to restore vegetation cover, foster biodiversity sustainability, and enable the natural regeneration of rangelands for the benefit of



future generations.

Interested applicants seeking a grazing licence must be UAE citizens, at least 21 years old, and possess a valid animal log wealth certificate approved by the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority.

To apply for a licence, livestock owners and breeders need to follow the specified

procedures, meet the requirements, and pay the prescribed fees. The application should include a copy of the applicant's identity card, an approved and valid animal log wealth certificate confirming ownership and registration in the Animal Identification and Registration System, and a copy of the Emirates ID for the individuals responsible for accompanying and caring for the livestock.

Licence holders are granted permission to graze

their livestock in open wild areas, ensuring they maintain a safe distance of at least 2km from protected areas, forests, residential, military, petroleum, and private zones, as well as roads and restricted access areas. Grazing unaccompanied is strictly prohibited, and the licence is valid for one grazing season only.

Like humans, elephants also vary what they eat for dinner

Researchers have discovered that African elephants, much like humans, prefer to vary their dinner choices. A recent study conducted by a global team of researchers, including conservation biologists from Brown University, delved into the dietary habits of elephants in Kenya.

While these majestic herbivores have a core diet of

staples, the study highlighted their incredibly diverse and individualistic food selection. Employing cutting-edge DNA metabarcoding, a genetic technique that matches DNA fragments from an elephant's food to a library of plant DNA barcodes, scientists precisely identified the composition of the elephants' diets.

The researchers were astounded by the vast diversity in the elephants' diet, with



some individuals showcasing more than 100 different plant species in their poop samples — including herbs, trees, and succulents, as well as various plant parts like leaves, fruits, bark, and twigs.

Surprisingly, they also exhibited adaptability, occasionally prioritising high-quality foods such as fruits or even scavenging from garbage dumps when nutritional rewards outweighed uncovered insights into elephants' physiological needs affecting their food choices. Pregnant or nursing elephants, for example, showed distinct dietary preferences, suggesting a type of "craving" that aligns with their specific requirements.

wild foraging.

The study also

Published in the journal *Royal Society Open Science*, the study emphasised

upon the significance of considering an animal's complete dietary needs for successful conservation efforts.

Tyler Kartzinel, study author and assistant professor of environmental studies and ecology at Brown University, underlined the importance of understanding individual dietary preferences for species like elephants, rhinos, and bison, ensuring their populations thrive sustainably.

New initiative launched to tackle stray dogs in Abu Dhabi

The Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT) has taken a proactive step to address the growing concern of stray dogs in Abu Dhabi.

In a bid to promote responsible pet ownership and preserve public health and safety, DMT has rolled out an awareness campaign aimed at educating the community about safe practices for handling and managing stray dogs.

Rescue groups in the UAE have noted a surge

in incidents of pets being abandoned by their owners in recent years. In Abu Dhabi, residents caught abandoning their furry companions await a fine of up to Dhs10,000. Additionally, the UAE law on animal control further prohibits the sale of pets to anyone under the age of 18. Violators of this law will



be subject to fines of Dhs3,000, serving as a deterrent against irresponsible practices that may harm innocent animals.

Through a series of informative messages shared on DMT's social media platforms, the campaign provides simple and effective guidelines for proper control and management of stray and lost dogs. By following these practices, public health and safety can be ensured.

As part of the initiative, DMT calls upon owners of farms, ranches, and individuals to play a pivotal role in safeguarding the community and its wellbeing. It urges them to keep their dogs within their premises and refrain from leaving food waste around the area, as it can attract animals.

The municipalities will be responsible for

managing the issue of stray and lost animals starting January 2024.

The comprehensive services offered will include the sterilisation of stray animals, providing guidance on proper handling, and conducting educational and awareness campaigns for the community.

Abu Dhabi casts greener net for recreational fishing

To safeguard marine life and promote sustainable fishing practices, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has introduced Decision No. 4 of 2023, which regulates recreational fishing in the emirate. This decision marks a significant step towards fostering responsible recreational fishing activities and marine fishing sports in Abu Dhabi's pristine waters.

With this new regulation in place, recreational fishing and the organisation of marine fishing competitions will now require a permit from EAD. The decision defines recreational fishing as "an

activity pursued by anglers and pleasure boat users, utilising fishing gear like lines, hooks, or spear guns during free diving".

Marine fishing competitions will be restricted to legal entities operating in the realm of marine activities.

Anglers seeking to engage in recreational fishing can obtain a licence by meeting



certain criteria. Applicants must be 18 years old or above, while those below this age limit can accompany an adult with a valid recreational fishing licence.

The application process can be conveniently carried out through the "Tamm" government services portal, allowing individuals to apply for both annual and weekly recreational fishing licences.

For those interested in spearfishing, safety measures are paramount. Boats must display the internationally recognised diving flag, and a minimum of three individuals, including a driver and two holders of a recreational licence for using a spear gun, must be present onboard.

The decision emphasises upon responsible fishing practices, allowing the disposal of caught fish only upon returning to land or reaching the designated anchorage or landing area. It strictly prohibits the selling of fish or marine

species to ensure the sustainability of aquatic life.

Furthermore, EAD stresses that marine species such as painted sweetlips, yellow grouper, red coral, sea horse fish, parrot fish, sharks, stingrays, sea turtles, whales, dolphins, dugongs, and corals, must not be fished, traded, kept, or harmed.



Can Artificial Intelligence predict Parkinson's disease?



Parkinson's disease, a neurological disorder impacting over 8.5 million people worldwide, often develops gradually, making early detection challenging. However, researchers from Moorfields Eye Hospital and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology in the United Kingdom have uncovered specific eye markers using Artificial Intelligence (AI) that may indicate the presence of Parkinson's disease, sometimes up to seven years before an official diagnosis.

Their findings, recently published in the journal *Neurology*, offer hope for earlier intervention and treatment. Dr Siegfried Wagner, the lead author of the study and Honorary Clinical Senior Research Fellow at the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at Moorfields Eye Hospital and UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, and his team harnessed Al to analyse data from two extensive datasets: the AlzEye dataset and the UK Biobank database.

The study focused on retinal eye scans obtained through optical coherence tomography (OCT). By scrutinising these scans, the researchers identified differences in two specific inner retina layers amongst individuals with Parkinson's disease: the ganglion cell-inner plexiform layer and the inner nuclear layer.

Dr Wagner explained, "Thinning of the ganglion cell-inner plexiform layer has been seen in several neurological diseases, from multiple sclerosis to Alzheimer's dementia, and it may reflect generalised loss of brain tissue. Abnormalities in the inner nuclear layer have only really been seen in cadaveric studies thus far."

The discovery of reduced thickness in these layers correlated with a heightened risk of developing Parkinson's disease. Dr Wagner said that this thinning might signify primary dopaminergic-related degeneration in Parkinson's patients since dopamine-utilising cells are situated between the ganglion cell-inner plexiform layer and the inner nuclear layer.

Wheat gluten linked to brain inflammation

A study involving mice conducted by the University of Otago in New Zealand found a connection between wheat gluten and brain inflammation. The study, published in the *Journal of Neuroendocrinology*, found that adding gluten to both low- and high-fat diets led to inflammation in the brain's hypothalamus, a region vital for metabolic control.

Gluten, a protein found in wheat and commonly used in processed foods, has long been a dietary topic of interest. However, this research suggests it may not only trigger peripheral inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract but also impact the central nervous system.

Lead researcher Dr Alexander Tups explained that the inclusion of gluten in the diets significantly increased the number of immune cells called microglia and astrocytes in the hypothalamus. These cells play a role in inflammatory responses.



In the study, male mice were divided into groups receiving either a low-fat diet with 10 per cent fat content or a high-fat diet with 60 per cent fat content, with or without 4.5 per cent wheat gluten. This level of gluten approximates the average daily human consumption. When gluten was added to a low-fat diet, it didn't significantly affect the mice's body mass. However, in a high-fat diet, the inclusion of gluten led to increased body mass and fat. Furthermore, gluten introduced to the low-fat diet resulted in higher levels of C-reactive protein, a marker for inflammation.



Study: Sweetened beverage heightens risk of liver cancer

A recent study, published in *JAMA*, has shed light on the potential connection between sugar-sweetened beverage consumption and liver health. Researchers focused on postmenopausal women and discovered that those who consumed one or more sugary drinks daily faced an elevated risk of liver cancer and chronic liver diseaserelated mortality.

This extensive study involved nearly 99,000 postmenopausal women, with data tracked over an average period of slightly more than two decades.

Participants provided detailed information on their consumption of sugary soft drinks and fruit drinks (excluding fruit juice), and their intake of artificially sweetened beverages was documented during a three-year follow-up. Based on their responses, participants were categorised into one of three groups:

- Those who consumed three or fewer servings per month or none at all.
- Those who consumed between 1 and 6 servings per week.
- Those who consumed 1 or more servings daily.

Over the follow-up period, researchers closely monitored the incidence of liver cancer and chronic liver disease-related mortality. They considered several factors, including smoking status, body mass index (BMI), and levels of physical activity.

The study revealed that participants who consumed one or more sugar-sweetened beverages daily faced a heightened risk of developing liver cancer and experiencing chronic liver disease-related mortality compared to those who consumed three or fewer sugary drinks per month.

The study's authors noted, "Our results support positive associations between sugar-sweetened beverage consumption and adverse liver outcomes amongst postmenopausal women. Replacing sugarsweetened beverages with coffee or tea may reduce the risk of liver cancer and chronic liver disease mortality."



Do plants really have the ability to cleanse indoor air of toxins?



A new study in Australia has revealed that plants possess a remarkable capacity to efficiently eliminate toxic gasoline fumes from indoor environments, including cancer-causing compounds such as benzene.

The research, led by Associate

Professor Fraser Torpy, a bioremediation expert at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), in collaboration with Ambius, a plantscaping solutions company, said that a small green wall, comprising a variety of indoor plants, excelled at removing hazardous, cancer-causing pollutants.

In this study, common household plants like Devil's ivy, Arrowhead plants, and Spider plants were tested in sealed chambers against petrol vapours, a major source of various volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The researchers assessed the vertical plant wall system using nine perspex boxes, each containing either four plants or none. They vapourised a small amount of petrol in the chambers and monitored gas levels.

Despite a minor gas reduction in the control chamber, the researchers found that the plants removed about 43 per cent of total levels of VOCs in the 8-hour test period. Notably, they were highly effective in removing three particularly harmful chemical classes: alkanes (98 per cent removal), benzene derivatives (86 per cent), and cyclopentanes (88 per cent).

The study stressed they evaluated plants' ability to remove individual chemical substances, not complex mixtures, under controlled settings with exposure levels — not realworld conditions.



WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



Aries (March 21 to April 19)

With fiery determination, Aries, march boldly into your professional arena. Your leadership skills are your secret weapon; use them to

conquer challenges and seize innovative opportunities. And don't forget to sweat it out at the gym and choose nourishing foods for turbocharged well-being.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Taurus, this is your time to cultivate the gardens of vour relationships. Nurture those bonds with care, and you'll find joy and contentment blossoming.

Meanwhile, keep a watchful eye on your finances, tending to them like a seasoned gardener to ensure long-term stability.



Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Gemini, let your words be your superpower the professional realm. Networking in and clear communication are vour tickets to exciting opportunities. Amidst the hustle,

remember to find a quiet corner for some self-reflection. like a literary scholar musing over life's mysteries.



Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Dear Cancer, tend to your own garden of wellbeing with utmost care. Nourish your body and soul for a balanced and fulfilling life. Simultaneously,

your career journey requires your nurturing touch. Your passion and dedication will lead to a successful and fulfilling future.



Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Leo, the world is your stage, and it's time to unleash your creativity and innovation. Shine brightly in your career by showcasing your unique ideas and

dynamic approach. When the spotlight dims, find happiness in everyday activities and hobbies, embracing your inner artist.



Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

Virgo, embark on a guest for self-improvement and enlightenment. Invest in education and personal development to propel your career forward. Just as meticulously, maintain a

balanced diet and exercise regimen, treating your body as the sacred temple it is.



Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Balance, dear Libra, is your guiding principle. Harmonise your professional ambitions with your personal well-being. As you navigate life's scales, find moments of tranquillity and relaxation amidst your busy schedule, much like an artist seeking inspiration.



Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Scorpio, embrace the metamorphosis in your career path with the grace of a phoenix rising from the ashes. Your adaptability and resilience will be your greatest assets. Alongside, keep your

physical vessel strong through exercise and nourishment.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)



Sagittarius, embark on a thrilling journey of exploration and adventure in your career. Your optimism is your compass; it will lead you to

success. When not on your quest, find happiness in the warm embrace of loved ones and the joys of life's adventures.



Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Capricorn, approach your career with the structured precision of an architect crafting a masterpiece. Set clear goals and work diligently towards them. Your well-being is your

foundation; maintain a harmonious work-life balance and safeguard your financial future through prudent investments.



Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Aquarius, let your mind soar like a visionary artist. Innovate and create in your professional realm; your inventive thinking is your muse.

Additionally, nurture your mental well-being through relaxation techniques and creative endeavours that set your soul free.



Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Pisces, trust your inner compass in navigating your career choices. Follow your intuition with the grace of a poet finding their muse. And just as you're

attuned to the ebb and flow of emotions, pay attention to your overall health and well-being, nurturing your body and spirit for a life well-lived.



Authëntic Arabic Flavöur **عليمة أصيلة**

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ACROSS

- 1) Improbable wish 6) A Muse 11) Environmental hazard, for short 14) Maternally related
- 15) Ruby or diamond, e.g.
- 16) Chicken_king

21) Likes and dislikes

27) Spiral-horned beasts

28) Type of clock or power

31) Brief period of time

38) Palindromic Bobbsey

4 I) Aphid, to a gardener

32) Mauna _ (Hawaiian peak)

36) Ancient Roman magistrate

39) "Deep Space Nine" character

23) Most risque

30) Rocky peaks

35) Hamlet's catch

40) "Me too"

- 17) Did a gymnastic maneuver
- 19) It may have a nap on the floor 20) Smart (obnoxious ones)

26) "_ of the Field" (Poitier classic)

- 59) Feudal vassal or lord
 - 60) Sidestep, as an issue

58) Anger

- 61) An inferior dog
- 62) Certain church officer
- 63) Transfer, as at a nursery

42) Word on a nutritional label

50) Cook with direct radiant heat

44) Cleans the slate

48) In an angry way

49) Nigerian currency

52) Add a soundtrack

53) Browns, as onions

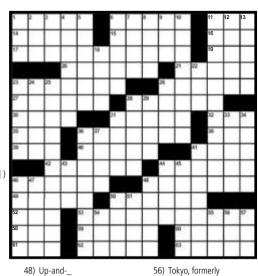
46) New delivery

DOWN

- 1) Christmas mo.
- 2) Canal site 3)
 - Gains
- 4) 5) Whimpered
- 6) Act the bouncer
- 7) Unpleasant smell
- Belt-hole makers 8)
- 9) Football formation

- 10) Aged one
- 11) Dramamine prevents it
- 12) High-pitched woodwind
- 13) Baseball backstops 18) Amerada_ (bygone petroleum
- company)
- 22) He fought Frazier three times
- 23) '80s fashions, now
- 24) How most fans cheer
- 25) Material for some bikes
- 26) Batty, in Spain 28) "There's no music in ..."
- -- Ruskin
- 29) Former Yugoslavian president 3]) Samoan money
- 33) It might come with a few pointers
- 34) Jittery
- 36) Acme
- 37) Huck Finn's boat
- 41) Type of resistance
- 43) Paddle kin
- 44) Ashtabula's lake

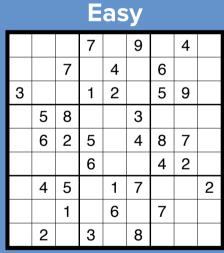
- 47) South Pacific island nation



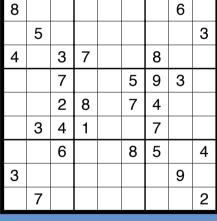
- 57) Fix, as a clock
- 51) Rush furiously, as a river 54) Feel pain, perhaps

55) Use the microwave

50) Raised racehorses



Medium



SOLUTI SOLUTIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE



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

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¹A¹C T¹U¹P ¹C R O N E ¹T A P I R

CORECONSTITUENT

CENTRALPOSITION

MIDDLEAGEDWOMAN

ARENA VINCI EATEN

MURKY

POET

AVAST

LAWN

E P E E

GNAW

AMASS

UNDO

VISE

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REST

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2 5 8

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8 9 4

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3 4

7

1 7

8

6

5

- Retrovirus contents, for short
 - - 45) Window-shade part
 - 46) Like Sanskrit, Hindi and Bengali

96	1	999 SECURITY /	AND SAFFTY	FOR ALL	OCTOBER 2023



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