

# 999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 143 DECEMBER 2023

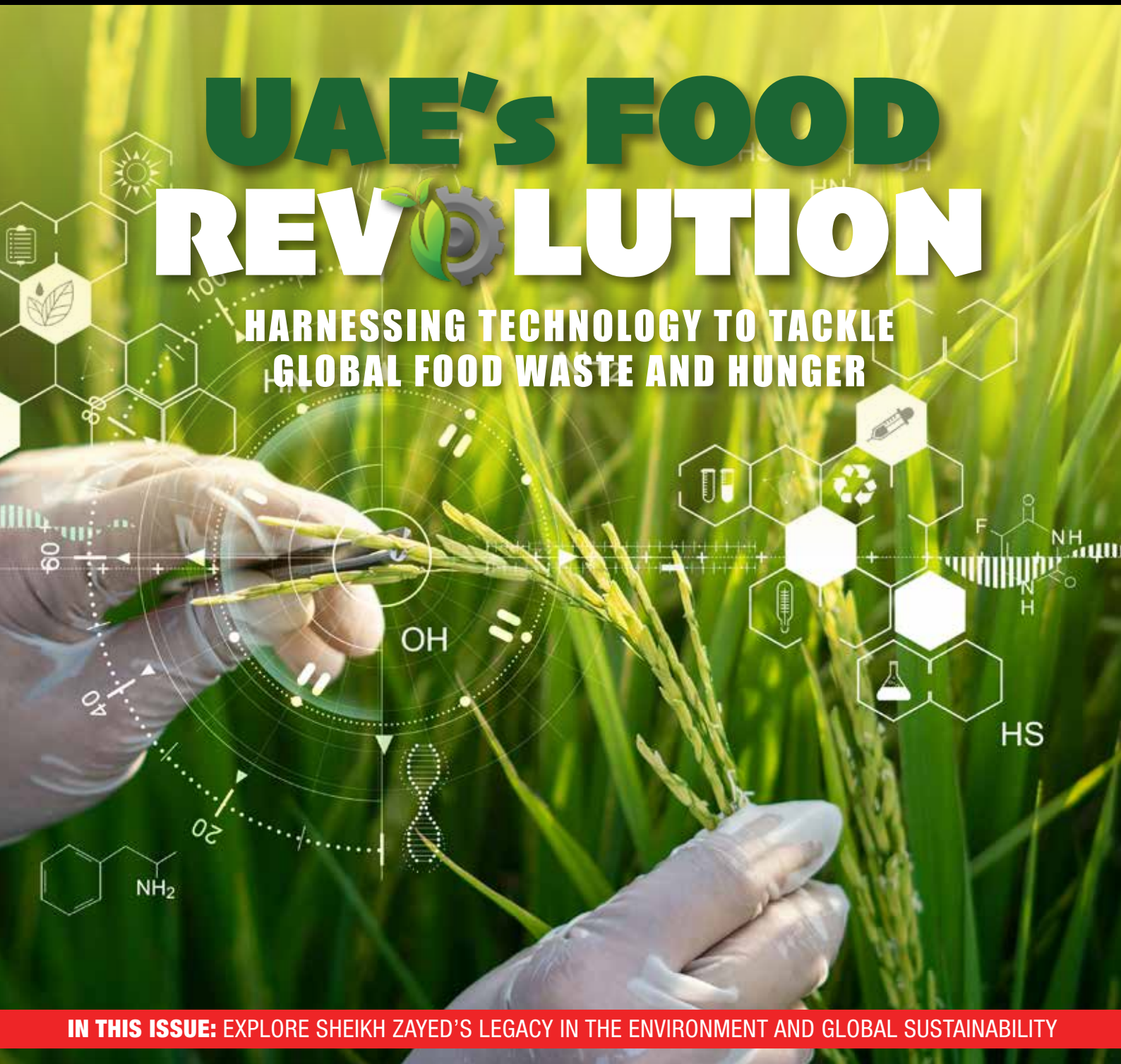
UAE ADOPTS  
GREEN AVIATION

PHONE DOWN,  
DRIVE UP



# UAE's FOOD REVOLUTION

HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY TO TACKLE  
GLOBAL FOOD WASTE AND HUNGER



IN THIS ISSUE: EXPLORE SHEIKH ZAYED'S LEGACY IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY



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*Honouring its past  
while shaping its  
future—this ethos  
defines the UAE's  
unique character  
as a nation and  
explains the reason it  
maintains leadership  
in various sectors*

## Legacy, honour, sustainability

**A**s the UAE commemorates its 52nd Union Day and opens its doors for the hosting of the 28th Conference of the Parties, aka COP28, the nation goes beyond mere festivities and gatherings. It does so with a deep sense of honour, weaving through its commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and the safety of its people.

In the face of staggering global food wastage, amounting to one-third of global production, the UAE honours its commitment to global responsibility. Transformative initiatives, both locally and globally, supported by the UAE's wise leaders, are gaining momentum. Our cover story delves into how the UAE, through initiatives like the Food Bank and Ne'ma, curbs global food wastage, food loss, and hunger. It highlights the country's multi-pronged approach: providing global access to food, reinforcing the circular economy, and exploring sustainable agriculture.

These tangible, sustainable steps reflect the principles of Sheikh Zayed. In this issue, **999 Magazine** turns the spotlight on the UAE's Founding Father's environmental legacy. His profound respect for nature set benchmarks in environmental stewardship, earning him a reputation as "the Man of the Arab Environment". From afforestation projects and mangrove protection to the creation of the High Environmental Council, Sheikh Zayed's commitment to biodiversity and conservation continues to influence the UAE's global sustainability initiatives, exemplified by the Zayed Sustainability Prize.

Honouring its past while shaping its future—this ethos defines the UAE's unique character as a nation and explains the reason it maintains leadership in various sectors, including aviation and policing. Two of our features this issue discuss these topics.

Our feature on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) highlights the nation's pioneering steps to transform commercial air travel. This eco-friendly fuel promises a substantial reduction in aviation CO2 emissions, heralding a transformative era in commercial air travel. With a robust fleet of aircraft, the UAE steers its bellwether aviation sector towards sustainability and carbon neutrality.

As you flip through the pages, you'll get a picture of the country's commitment to preserving safety and security on all fronts, spearheaded by the Ministry of Interior.

Safety is attained through a collective journey, where the path is paved by adherence and awareness. Unfortunately, some individuals compromise safety by thinking they can multitask on the road, using their mobile phones while driving at the same time. Our **999** feature focuses on the perils of distracted driving and provides tips for responsible driving habits.

The UAE's dedication to upholding Sheikh Zayed's legacy for the country, the environment, its people, and the world gives us more reason to celebrate the spirit of the Union. Happy 52nd UAE Union Day!





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## President leads national celebrations of UAE Flag Day



**PRESIDENT** His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan led the national celebrations of UAE Flag Day last November 3.

At a ceremony at Qasr Al Hosn, Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed raised the national flag alongside Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi.

On the social media platform X, His Highness wrote: "On Flag Day, we stand in unity to raise the UAE flag which symbolises the pride and loyalty of the nation."

"As we join together to mark this occasion, I remain fully confident in the ability of the next generation to create a brighter future for all," His Highness added.

Leading up to the occasion, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, urged institutions to raise the UAE flag at 10:00 am on November 3, stating: "Our flag will continue to fly—a symbol of our pride and unity. It will remain high in the sky, representing our pride, glory, and sovereignty in the realm of achievement, loyalty, and fulfillment."

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, raised the UAE flag at Qasr Al Watan.

His Highness Sheikh Mansour stated: "The country has reached a prestigious position on the global level with its qualitative achievements and outstanding projects. With God's permission, our beloved nation will continue with confidence and determination to the future with more excellence and distinction."

## President attends 9th Union Fortress military parade on Yas Island

**PRESIDENT** His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan witnessed the 9th Union Fortress military parade on Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, organised by the Ministry of Defence.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed underscored the Armed Forces' vital role in safeguarding the UAE's progress, saying: "The Armed Forces have faithfully guarded the UAE's developmental journey for decades and will continue to be a symbol of the nation's resilience and honour."

The President also commended the security forces across the emirates for their dedication to the country's safety and security.

The parade showcased advanced Armed Forces units, demonstrating their cutting-edge defensive capabilities.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, Abu Dhabi Police, and security agencies, the Armed Forces carried out live demonstrations of mock-up combat scenarios.



## Mohamed bin Zayed appoints MOHRE Undersecretary for Emiratisation



**HIS** Highness President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan issued a Federal Decree naming Aisha Mohamed Ahmed Belharfia as Undersecretary for Emiratisation at the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE).

Belharfia served previously as acting undersecretary for Emiratisation Affairs and assistant undersecretary for Labour Affairs at MOHRE.

She oversaw responsibilities related to labour and licences, and played a key role in developing laws and legislation governing the labour sector.

She also spearheaded multiple projects and initiatives dedicated to enhancing the efficiency of the UAE labour market.



# Mohammed bin Rashid inaugurates first FNC session



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid during the inaugural session of the 18th legislative chapter of the FNC

**ON** behalf of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, opened the first ordinary session of the 18th legislative chapter of the Federal National Council (FNC).

The inaugural FNC session, held in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the

Presidential Court, saw the reading of Decree No. 165 of 2023, issued by HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed to convene the first ordinary term of the 18th legislative chapter.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid wrote on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter): "Today we inaugurated the convening of the new Federal National Council. We had a successful electoral experience and we established a new milestone in the journey of empowerment."

"The Council launches as a supporting, guiding, and assisting authority for the government, conveying the aspirations of the people of the Union," His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid added.

In October 2023, half of the 40-member Emirati parliamentary group was elected, and the remaining 20 were appointed by the rulers of each emirate. The FNC Members, half of whom are women, represent the UAE population.

## Global Star Ratings unveiled for 124 federal service centres

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, revealed the results of the 5th Global Star Rating System for Services, which assesses government service centres.

The extensive evaluation covered 124 government service channels across 25 ministries and federal entities—including their

websites, smart applications, and call centres.

Notably, six service centres received a prestigious 6-star rating. Three of these top-rated centres were affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, specifically the Fujairah Traffic and Licensing Service Centre, Sharjah Traffic and Licensing Service Centre, and Wasit Comprehensive Police Station in Sharjah.

The other three 6-star centres were under the

Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security, including Al Barsha Customer Service Centre in Dubai, Customer Service Centre in Al Dhafra, and Al Rashidiya Customer Service Centre in Dubai.

The goal of these assessments is to ensure that government services in the UAE are delivered efficiently and of the utmost quality to meet the needs of the people.

## Law transforms DTC into public joint-stock company

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, issued Law No (21) of 2023, amending the legal status of Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC). The law also officially changed the name to Dubai Taxi Company PJSC.

DTC is now recognised as a public joint-stock company, gaining financial and

administrative autonomy. It can proceed with launching its shares for an initial public offering (IPO).

This move aligns with Dubai's 2021 decision to list 10 government and state-owned companies on the Dubai Financial Market, aiming to boost the total volume of its stock markets to Dhs3 trillion.

Additionally, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al

Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, approved Council Resolution No. (93) of 2023, detailing the 'Dubai Taxi Company's' Articles of Association, covering regulations for the IPO, defining objectives, and outlining procedures for the Board of Directors' appointment and election, amongst other operational regulations.

## Mansour bin Zayed leads Ministerial Council for Dev't meeting



**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, led the Ministerial Development Council meeting during the UAE Government's Annual Meetings 2023 in Abu Dhabi.

The meeting focused on projects and initiatives geared towards improving the government's operational framework. Discussions encompassed various sectors, including energy, the environment, the UAE's Net Zero objective, human resources, new safety and security legislation, as well as decisions regarding government finance and financial markets in the UAE.

In addition, the Council members reviewed key 2023 government reports, including the Ministry of Finance's participation in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting and the Ministry of Economy's involvement in the G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting 2023.

## UAE joins Extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh

**ON** behalf of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, led the UAE delegation to the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit.

The Summit was inaugurated by HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In this joint summit of the League of Arab States and the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation, leaders of Arab and Islamic countries and their representatives stressed the urgency of a ceasefire in Gaza.

They called for the protection of civilians and the establishment of safe humanitarian corridors for the delivery of urgent relief and medical aid.

The summit was held in the presence of Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States; Hissein Brahimi, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation; alongside a representative of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.



## UAE launches National Platform for Gender Balance



**HIS** Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, launched the 'National Platform for Gender Balance', aimed at providing crucial data on gender balance at both federal and local government levels.

The launching ceremony was attended by officials from key executive councils and members of the UAE Gender Balance Council (UAE GBC).

His Highness Sheikh Mansour applauded the UAE's significant progress in gender equality, and directed the UAE GBC to initiate collaborative efforts with the

private sector to advance gender equality.

"The private sector is a vital partner in perpetuating the UAE's ongoing development. Now, we aspire for it to play a vital role in our aim for gender balance, thus elevating the UAE to a global leader in this field," said His Highness.



## Khaled bin Mohammed bin Zayed honours UAE flag



HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed during the flag raising ceremony at the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, raised the UAE flag at the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court on November 3.

In commemoration of the event, His

Highness Sheikh Khaled said that UAE Flag Day is a cherished national event, celebrated with immense pride of its people because it symbolises the nation's values of unity and cohesion. His Highness also highlighted the UAE's ongoing march towards progress, initiated by the UAE's Founding Father, the

late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

This journey, His Highness said, is dedicated to steering the nation towards a prosperous and bright future. His Highness also reassured that our flag will always fly high, under the UAE's wise leaders who relentlessly pursue its people's aspirations.

## Abu Dhabi, Dubai Crown Princes announce Sirb's rollout phase



HH Sheikh Khaled (right) and HH Sheikh Hamdan (left) during the announcement of the Sirb project's implementation phase

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi, and His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed

bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, have announced the implementation phase of the "Sirb" radar satellite constellation project.

Their Highnesses received insights into the project's objectives, advanced satellite technology, and the process of development, manufacturing, and operation by a national industrial alliance under Emirates Space Agency supervision.

The first satellite, set to launch in 2026, will enhance the country's investment in remote sensing technologies, providing diverse sectors with precise satellite images day and night, in all weather conditions.

The Sirb project, a unique initiative for radar satellites, aims to address climate change, environmental sustainability, urban development, disaster response, food security, and more.

## Emirates Genome Council meeting focuses on precision medicine

**HIS** Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, has spearheaded a meeting of the Emirates Genome Council, focusing on precision medicine initiatives and research and development (R&D) to advance genetic disorder prevention and treatment solutions.

Highlighting the significance of these areas, His Highness underscored that the wise leadership aims to further boost the public health sector and solidify the country's global position in genomic research and innovation.

In the field of genomics R&D, 41 studies, approved by the UAE's Institutional Review Boards (IRB), are in progress.

Sarah bint Yusef Al Amiri, Secretary General of the Emirates Genome Council, stated: "Establishing priorities for genomic R&D is essential for the integration of effective precision medicine programmes."



HH Sheikh Khaled's discussion with Emirates Genome Council members

## Interior Minister commemorates UAE Flag Day



HH Sheikh Saif pays respect to the UAE national flag at the MoI headquarters

**HIS** Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, attended the UAE Flag Day celebration at the Ministry of Interior headquarters.

His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed

raised the UAE flag during the singing of the national anthem.

On the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter), His Highness wrote: "It is a day of pride and honour, a moment when loyalty is reaffirmed. This day stands

as the eternal symbol of citizenship, uniting the people of this blessed land. It serves as a pillar of unity, and beneath its banner, nation-building perseveres, guided by the wise leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (May God Protect Him)."

"Together, we move forward on the path of glory and pride, aiming for a more cohesive, developed, and pioneering future," the Interior Minister added.

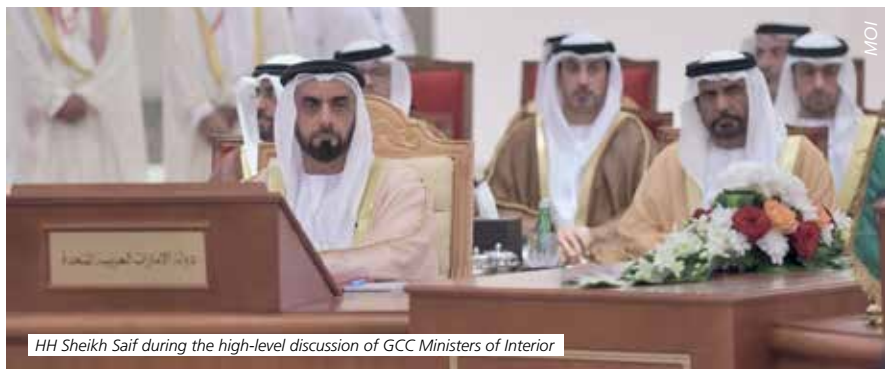
The flag-raising ceremony at MoI was attended by Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior, and several high-ranking officials and officers from the Ministry, police and civil forces, and heads of local departments.

## UAE partakes in 40th GCC Interior Ministers meeting

**HIS** Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, led the UAE delegation to the 40th meeting of the Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, held in the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting aimed to enhance co-ordination amongst GCC countries to bolster security and stability. Discussions zeroed in on advancing joint security cooperation in line with the GCC leaders' aspirations. Specialised technical topics and reports from the undersecretaries of the GCC Ministries of Interior were also reviewed.

During his arrival in Muscat, His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed was received by Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Omani



HH Sheikh Saif during the high-level discussion of GCC Ministers of Interior

Minister of Interior, and several officials.

The UAE delegation included HE Mohammed bin Nakhira Al Dhaheri, UAE Ambassador to Oman; Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary at

the Ministry of Interior; Major General Staff Sheikh Mohamed bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Director of the Special Tasks Sector at the Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters, and several Ministry of Interior officers.

## Mol, National Guard ink MoU on internal security



HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed witnesses the MoU signing between the MoI and the National Guard

**HIS** Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Interior and the National Guard in boosting operational co-ordination and internal security operations.

The MoU aligns with the UAE leadership's vision to enhance integration and co-ordination across various fields. It seeks to maximise the exchange of expertise, and unify efforts supporting internal operations for the security and stability of the UAE community.

It was signed by Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior, and Major General Salem Saeed Gafan Al Jabri, Commander of the National Guard.

It was part of the continuous effort to enhance joint security and training activities between the two parties.





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We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending  
our sincerest congratulations and best wishes to

His Highness Sheikh

**Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

President of the UAE

His Highness Sheikh

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

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

**and Their Highnesses Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates**

**and to the people of the UAE**

**On the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Union Day**

بنك أبوظبي التجاري

**ADCB**







## Established land crowned by remarkable achievements

HH Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

**ON** the 52nd UAE Union Day, we take immense pride in commemorating the remarkable journey of our blessed nation. With deep reverence, we reflect upon the historic events that marked the inception of our extraordinary accomplishment. We honour the visionary leadership and unwavering determination of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's Founding Father, along with his fellow founding leaders. Their wisdom and foresight laid the enduring foundations of our country.

Through the spirit of the Union, the UAE merges tradition with modernity. Our land serves as the cradle of time-honoured heritage and pioneering innovations. It has inscribed—in golden letters—a unique model of development in global history, combining rich cultural heritage with groundbreaking progress.

Our march continues at an accelerated pace under the guidance of the architect of its present and its future, President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. In his stewardship, the dreams of the past, the aspirations of the present, and the ambitions of the future find realisation. We harvest the fruits of empowerment and renaissance—rising to unparalleled leadership positions on the global stage and evolving into a beacon of progress and prosperity. Today, the UAE stands as a global and cultural focal point for tolerance, co-existence, and peace, embodying the noblest human values that encapsulate the essence of Emirati society.

Assisting the President in the country's monumental missions and ambitions is His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. As a brother and steadfast companion, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid plays a crucial role in advancing our country's ambitions and in fostering a comprehensive cultural renaissance. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid stands as an inspirational leader, whose sincere and dedicated contributions continue to achieve significant milestones within the national framework.

The seamless harmony and integration of the visions and aspirations of the two leaders, who continue to embrace the dreams and hopes of the people of the UAE, have forged a distinctive and exceptional union fostering growth and prosperity, evident in every corner of this beloved nation. The aspirations of our people for a blessed future find resonance in the principles of these two exemplary leaders, as mirrored in the successful missions they have collectively taken.

On this glorious UAE Union Day, we stand on solid ground crowned with remarkable achievements. We witness the continuation of a journey marked by pride, sovereignty, prosperity, and empowerment. These efforts encapsulate lofty values, crystallised in tolerance, peace, and brotherly cooperation. Each step taken by the UAE projects a bright picture. Let us look forward to a brighter future that radiates the spirit of unity and cohesion.



## Celebrate UAE's exceptional journey

Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili  
Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior

**ON** the 52nd UAE Union Day, we convey our highest congratulations and best wishes to the leader of the march, President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his brother and companion on the path, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, their brothers, Their Highnesses the Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates, Crown Princes, and the citizens and residents of this generous nation.

On this day, we celebrate a memory that is precious to our people—the anniversary of the establishment of the Union. This was the result of the efforts of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's Founding Father, and his fellow founding leaders.

Today, we are at the highest level of leadership, excellence, sustainability, global competitiveness, and prosperity thanks to the vision and wisdom of our empowering leadership led by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Tales of pride in the UAE's achievements in various fields will be handed down through generations. In record time, our country has achieved prosperity and happiness for the citizens and residents of our land, and became a global model for tolerance, security, safety, and sustainability.

As individuals and institutions, we celebrate and affirm our keenness to make sincere efforts in honouring our homeland with grateful hearts, to protect its precious leadership, in which we enhance the achievements and preserve the nation's gains as well as its role in advancing our society. We embrace positive citizenship, working together in solidarity and interdependence in a system united by the doctrine of complementarity under the national flag. The UAE stands tall in all areas of human endeavour and continues to enhance its status and reputation globally.





## Union's banner flies high in the fields of right and duty

Major General Salem Ali Mubarak Al Shamsi

Assistant Undersecretary for Resources and Support Services at the Ministry of Interior

**ON** the 2nd of December every year, the people of the UAE stand with pride and appreciation as we celebrate our Union Day. It is a national occasion in which we reflect and admire the country's resilience and progress, thanks to God Almighty. Upholding the principles of our founding leaders, national unity has been solidified through the continuous pursuit of the principles of justice and right.

Since the inception of the Union, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's Founding Father, and his brothers, the founding leaders of the Union, set a clear goal of developing, supporting, and advancing the state. They were keenly aware of the vital role of prioritising the well-being of the people and placing them at the centre of development. This principle stemmed from Sheikh Zayed's understanding that people form the fundamental pillar of the Union. President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan applies this principle today, inspired by Sheikh Zayed, by focusing on strengthening the educational sector.

The country's human capital has been and will remain the UAE's greatest priority, as they are the true wealth of the nation and the highest goal to which all efforts must be harnessed.

The Ministry of Interior always pays utmost attention to the human capital in order to raise the standard of police work. We, in Resources and Support Services, are working hard to achieve the vision of His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, in terms of consistently focusing on the qualification and training of national cadres. This proactive approach is aimed at preparing them for leadership roles within police commands and departments. Our efforts ensure the attainment of optimal results that will reflect positively on enhancing security and stability throughout the country.

On this occasion, I extend my highest congratulations and gratitude to our wise leadership, led by President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Their Highnesses Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates. We renew our pledge of loyalty—redoubling efforts and working to preserve the gains of the Union, and making its banner fly high. May God Almighty reward us on this momentous occasion and grant our people pride, security, stability, well-being, and prosperity.



## Founding leaders' sacrifices and generosity

Major General Dr Ahmed Naser Al Raisi  
Inspector General at the Ministry of Interior

**ON** the 52nd UAE Union Day, the nation proudly and gratefully reflects on the sacrifices and generosity of our founding leaders. It is through their contributions that the UAE continues to lead with distinction and excellence, achieving remarkable milestones that allow our nation to write its own historic achievements.

Today, we celebrate a more prosperous and developed country that continues to rise on the global competitiveness ladder, propelled by the visionary leadership and the ambitious spirit of its people. From venturing into space to achieving unparalleled milestones across various fields, the nation instils in us a profound loyalty and a deep sense of belonging. We pray to God Almighty to guide us for our ongoing journey towards further progress and prosperity.

As we mark the anniversary of the Union, we pay homage to our founding leaders who tread the path of kindness, generosity, and continuous accomplishment for our country. The UAE has evolved into a haven of progress and development under their guidance. As a modern nation, the UAE serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration not only for its citizens and residents, but also for nations both near and far.

With its commitment to security, stability and tolerance, the UAE has emerged as a preferred destination for visitors and talents from across the world and a haven for investments and decent living. All of these achievements are a testament to the vision of our wise leadership. Through their steadfast support and empowerment of every member of society, the UAE ensures that its journey of development will endure.





## Great historical milestone

Major General Dr Jassim Mohammed Al Marzouqi

Commander-in-Chief of Civil Defence at the Ministry of Interior

**ON** the 2nd of December every year, we celebrate UAE Union Day, marking the anniversary of the establishment of the Union in 1971. The UAE has positioned itself as an exceptional country conceived by a union of vision and pledge of loyalty. It is a nation that believes in itself and in the capabilities of its people, and provides every opportunity for them to be leaders and distinguished decision-makers recognised across the world.

On this momentous and historic 52nd anniversary of the Union, we renew our loyalty and affiliation to this dear nation. We pledge to our leaders and its loyal people that we will work tirelessly for more accomplishments that can contribute to elevating the country's reputation and strengthening its global position.

And let us not forget, this day is rooted in the insightful vision and astute wisdom of our founding leaders who relentlessly built this nation despite the challenges and difficulties that the region had witnessed at that time. It confirms to the world that the interconnectedness and cohesion between the people of this generous land are firmly rooted in its values, which guided us in our journey. And with determination and unity, the nation has achieved significant milestone amidst hardships.

Today, we harvest the fruits of the Union and celebrate a more prosperous and developed country. These achievements came from the determination of the sons and daughters of this nation, who continue to contribute to the incredible journey initiated by our founding leaders. With the spirit of the Union, the UAE continues to raise the banner of tolerance, peace, and co-operation to chart a secure path for the region and the entire world.

Finally, on this joyous occasion, we offer our highest congratulations to the wise leadership, the UAE Government, and its loyal people, hoping for greater progress and success as we continue to contribute towards a promising future for our children and beyond.



## Nothing is impossible with vision

Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim

Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai

**OUR** beloved country celebrates the 52nd anniversary of the establishment of the UAE. Together, we reflect on a remarkable journey marked by numerous achievements. The relentless determination and principles of our founding leaders became the guiding light of this nation to progress, prosperity, and excellence. Led by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, our founding leaders gathered with one heart on the 2nd of December 1971. They declared the establishment of the UAE and worked with all their strength to elevate the status of this nation and raise its flag high amongst the nations of the world.

The Union's journey continues today under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, and their brothers, Their Highnesses the Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates, who move with confident steps on the same path drawn by the founding leaders towards a bright and promising future.

As we celebrate the 52nd anniversary of the Union, we can proudly say with great pride that the UAE's qualitative achievements and its high rankings in numerous global competitiveness indicators prove that it is on the right path, as planned, to attain the first place globally in various fields.

For our leaders, nothing is impossible as proven by our record of achievements. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said: "In the Emirates, we have moved from dreaming of what we aspire to recording achievements that no one would even dare to achieve. It is dreamed of because we believe in our people and their ability to create the future they want."

Who would have expected that this country, young but rich in ambitions, would reach such heights on the world map, surprising the world by reaching outer space, and achieving what many countries preceding it in history, civilisation, and capabilities could not achieve?

Moreover, its achievements did not materialise out of thin air. Rather, they were results of a rational and sincere leadership that possesses a clear vision for the present and the future.

I would like to convey my highest congratulations and best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, their brothers, Their Highnesses the Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates, Crown Princes, and deputy rulers.

I also extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior; and to the honourable people of the UAE. We convey gratitude to God for the blessing of security and safety.

We earnestly pray to God Almighty to shield our country from all adversities, to safeguard our leaders, to grant them health and wellness, and to reward them for their efforts. Best wishes to our beloved country, our leaders, and our people.





## Prosper, our beloved country

Lieutenant General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri  
Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police

**ON** the occasion of the 52nd UAE Union Day, we convey our sincerest congratulations and best wishes to President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, and their brothers, Their Highnesses the Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates, and the people of the UAE.

Today, we celebrate with pride and honour a journey marked by exceptional achievements, celebrating decades of development and progress. Fifty-two years since the establishment of the Union that unified visions, goals, and aspirations, embodying the essence of tolerance, generosity, and solidarity between the leadership and the people. The UAE's achievements have been comprehensive and sustainable in all sectors, built on solid foundations, strategic policies, and wise vision, earning the country today a leading position and a well-respected reputation amongst nations.

The journey of the Union continues on the same path as its predecessors, a journey initiated by its founding leaders, led by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's Founding Father. It was then solidified by Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan by building a modern nation and a stable, secure society. Following in their footsteps is His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, our exceptional leader who has achieved groundbreaking accomplishments. His Highness has reinforced peace and security in the region and the world, promoted the principles of tolerance and peaceful co-existence amongst religions and societies, and fostered a global humanitarian missions.

We reaffirm our loyalty to our leaders and commitment to our nation that the Dubai Police General Command will redouble efforts and work relentlessly to preserve the achievements of the Union, enhance safety and security, harness all potentials to safeguard the nation's gains, and achieve further accomplishments for our dear homeland.



## Global model of sustainable progress

Major General Staff Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazroui  
Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police

**THE** 2nd of December is a day to strengthen the existing solidarity between the people and our leaders—a great historic day that cements loyalty to the homeland and pride in the achievements that the UAE has accomplished since the Union.

The UAE, through the spirit of the Union, has proven its ability to achieve, excel, lead, and innovate, continuing what the founding leaders, led by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, had started. Working hand in hand to make the dream of a Union into reality, their priority was to provide a decent life for the people of our land. Indeed, our country has provided an exemplary model in our modern world.

History vividly documents the Union's journey, which, fuelled by determination and willpower, brought the dreams of the people of the UAE to fruition. Under the guidance and support of the wise leadership, this journey continues today, reaping significant economic, political, cultural, and social achievements. Most notably, the development of the country's human capital, which is crucial to empower our people to fulfill their roles in nation-building. This contributes to the comprehensive sustainable development process, preserving the country's identity and culture, while establishing the foundations for a prosperous present and a promising future for all our citizens and residents alike.

On this precious occasion, we convey our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his deputies, and their brothers, Their Highnesses the Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates. We commend the monumental achievements accomplished by the UAE through the path of goodness and generosity, which have solidified the its leadership, fostering unity locally, regionally, and globally.

We reaffirm our pledge and loyalty to the wise leadership, assuring that Abu Dhabi Police will work effectively and efficiently in maintaining safety and security, spreading reassurance, and enhancing the quality of police operations.



## Exceptional journey of giving and development

Major General Maktoum Ali Al Sharifi  
Director General of Abu Dhabi Police

**ON** the 2nd of December 1971, a momentous day unfolded, inscribing itself into the fabric of history as the beginning of an extraordinary journey marked by generosity and progress. This significant day marked the establishment of the Union, guided by the UAE's Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his visionary brothers—the founding leaders who scripted a new chapter for our nation, the region, and the world.

This day will forever stand as a memorable day—a moment when we reiterate our commitment to both leadership and nation. We pledge to continue our efforts with unwavering resolve and determination to achieve greater successes for our nation and to build a brighter future for ourselves and for generations to come.

The celebration of this historic anniversary is not just a commemoration; it is a celebration of the human spirit as the true wealth of our nation. The 2nd of December will endure as a testament to a journey spanning 52 years, a journey filled with achievements that have bolstered the UAE's global standing. This progress has been realised under the guidance of our wise leadership with a keen vision for the future.

Following in the footsteps of Sheikh Zayed, President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates, are continuing the Union's journey. Sheikh Zayed's commitment to instilling goodness has led to monumental achievements—reaching out towards the horizons, even extending to the planet Mars, embodying co-existence, peace, love of country, kindness, and giving.

On this precious occasion, we convey our highest congratulations and best wishes to President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his deputies, and their brothers, Their Highnesses the Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates. We applaud the colossal achievements attained through the path of goodness and giving, which have fortified the leadership of the UAE locally, regionally, and internationally.

We reiterate our commitment and loyalty to the wise leadership, on behalf of the officers and members of the police, civilians, and women. We all stand as devoted soldiers to our leadership, vigilant in safeguarding the nation and its accomplishments.





## March towards a more sustainable future

Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi  
Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police

**ON** the occasion of the 52nd UAE Union Day, I convey my highest congratulations and best wishes to President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, their brothers, Their Highnesses the Members of Supreme Council and the Rulers of the Emirates, Crown Princes and deputy rulers, and to the people of the UAE.

Under the banner of the Union and our wise leadership, we find security and stability. We are dedicated to spreading humanity and hope, confronting challenges with courage and determination. With passion, we aspire to a bright and prosperous future for our national identity. We reaffirm our commitment and renew our resolve to adhere to the principles of the founding leaders of the Union. We pray to God Almighty on Union Day to preserve our nation, its flag, leadership, and all the citizens and residents of this generous nation, ensuring that the UAE remains a symbol of humanity, safety, stability, and peace.

We pledge to continue the journey of the Union with more resolve and determination to build a sustainable present and future. We pray to God Almighty to safeguard our state, ensuring security, safety, and progress in all fields.



## Union Day, source of pride and honour

Major General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi  
Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police

**THE** true significance of UAE Union Day is reflected in the accomplishments and virtues of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's Founding Father, dubbed the Wise Man of the Arabs, and his brother, the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, along with their fellow founding leaders who established the Union. This day stands as a source of pride and honour—it's a day for our nation and its citizens.

Every citizen has the right to take pride in the country's remarkable achievements since the inception of the Union. In the area of sustainability, the UAE continues to excel through its wide-ranging initiatives, serving as an example for other nations to emulate.

The UAE's distinguished position on the global stage has made it a centre of excellence, leadership, modernity, and sophistication. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the wise vision of our leadership and their forward-looking aspirations towards a future marked by boundless success and distinction.

Undoubtedly, this occasion holds a special place in our hearts, originating from the Union of the seven emirates of the country. It serves as a reminder of the achievements and efforts made by the sons and daughters of the UAE to realise the dream of unity and withstand all challenges.

Union Day is a national occasion that touches the heart of every Emirati citizen, not just members of the police or the Ministry of Interior. Today, we call upon the members of our police force to extend your hands, support, and dedication, because they form part of the foundation of our country's progress. Stay committed to your work, exert every effort to contribute to the progress of our nation, and lead it towards greater heights. The UAE motivates, encourages, and supports everyone who is diligent and sincere in their work. The Union is indispensable, as it is a banner that elevates and upholds the esteemed status of our beloved country. With our strength, unity, and sincerity, we shall continue to rise.



## UAE's new phase of progress

Major General Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla  
Commander-in-Chief of Umm Al Quwain Police

**THE** 2nd of December marks our country's Union Day celebration. This year, we commemorate the 52nd Union Day of our beloved nation. Proud of the UAE's achievements, its leadership and people carry the legacy of our Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his fellow founding leaders who became steadfast in the face of crises of their time.

Every year, the UAE selects themes to ensure that the crucial values of its nation and global issues are met with pioneering strategies to achieve specific goals. This year, the wise leadership has declared 2023 as the 'Year of Sustainability' under the slogan "Today for Tomorrow". In this initiative, the UAE adopts a variety of strategies to preserve our natural resources, minimise waste in areas such as water and energy, mitigate the impact of climate change, encourage a healthy lifestyle, and drive economic growth. We firmly believe that these initiatives have great potential to make a tangible impact, promoting a more sustainable world for humanity.

For the wheel of sustainability to move forward, it's essential to give due attention to the security aspect. Security's importance in the stability of societies and its profound impact on various facets, including the economic, political, and social dimensions, is no secret. This direct correlation between security and these areas hinges on critical factors, such as distinctiveness, flexible approach, and creative ambition. Currently, the UAE is confidently embracing the vision of "We The UAE 2031" as a vital strategy to achieve a more accomplished future in the coming decades, including all scientific and practical fields.

The UAE's path to progress is drawn from the nobility of its past, ongoing victories, and unwavering passion for the future. The hands of Zayed's children played a vital role in the nation's construction, motivated by words that challenged them to give more. To their right, a leader who says, "Don't worry, the house is united," providing reassurance. To their left, a leader who accepts nothing but first place and the best for his people. They excelled, broke records, and entered space in a historic event that placed them on the path of glory. All of this became possible thanks to the blessing of security bestowed upon us by God Almighty. Praise be to Him, from whom all blessings flow.

In conclusion, I offer my sincerest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 52nd Union Day to President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, and Their Highnesses the Members of Supreme Council and the Rulers of the Emirates, Crown Princes and Deputy Rulers, and to the loyal people of our homeland. Best wishes to our beloved country, our leaders, and our people.





## United by love of country

Major General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi  
Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police

**TODAY**, we commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the establishment of the United Arab Emirates, led by our Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his fellow founding leaders. United by love of country and a profound connection to its soil, they took the initial steps in a journey characterised by generosity, progress, and prosperity.

Today, as we celebrate this national occasion, the UAE stands at the forefront amongst many countries globally, excelling in various indicators of distinguished government performance and demonstrating leadership in numerous fields. These accomplishments owe much to the wise vision of our leaders, led by President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his brothers Their Highnesses the Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates. The unwavering loyalty of our people, their deep-rooted connection to our homeland, and their steadfast commitment to its leadership remain constant day and night. Our leaders tirelessly work towards attaining the utmost levels of happiness and well-being for all citizens and residents.

The country actively pursues a forward-thinking approach by making significant strides in the fields of education, healthcare, economy, and social development. Ongoing efforts focus on empowering individuals across various aspects of life, aiming to cultivate a generation capable of not only preserving our national achievements but also actively participating in the continuous processes of nation-building.

Empowering individuals across various aspects of life is a central theme in the UAE's vision. The country places keen emphasis on youth development and creating opportunities for all segments of society. Through these initiatives, the UAE is laying the foundation for a prosperous and harmonious future.



## Union Day, a timeless historic day

Major General Mohammed Ahmed bin Ghanem Al Kaabi  
Commander-in-Chief of Fujairah Police

**OUR** Union Day is a momentous occasion to reflect on the significance of unity, solidarity, and cooperation. The union of the seven emirates is a historical event, and today, we celebrate the 52nd anniversary of our great nation. On this occasion, we reiterate our commitment and enduring loyalty to our wise leadership and gratitude to our founding leaders, led by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The founding leaders made our country a beacon of safety and security. Their keen dedication to nurture its people had become the main driving force for behind the wheel of progress.

Today, the UAE has a record full of achievements thanks to the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates.

Our nation has actively worked to establish strong relationships with various countries worldwide, driven by the commitment of our wise leaders to coexistence, respect, dialogue, and tolerance—positioning our country as a trusted and appreciated partner in the international community.

At the security level, the UAE has achieved remarkable milestones, ranking first globally in terms of the feeling of security and safety. The nation is equipped with advanced security forces and systems dedicated to crime detection, maintaining security, and ensuring justice for all residents.

Under the Ministry of Interior, the Fujairah Police General Command has consistently exceeded the level of the tasks entrusted to it, earning numerous local, regional, and international accolades. This success has transformed it into a modern, smart police force with a strategic vision adaptive of innovations in our modern world.

We take pride in our country's security achievements, guided by the directives and constant follow-ups of His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. Our police force remains dynamic, staying abreast of changes and comprehensively monitoring security developments. Their focus on performance excellence extends to both human capital and material resources.

On this occasion, we convey congratulations to our wise leadership, the people of the UAE, and our dedicated police force, comprising officers, non-commissioned officers, military, and civilians. We wish them continued success in serving our generous and great nation.



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**1<sup>st</sup>**

The UAE's ranking in the Middle East and North Africa region and 37th globally in the 2023 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index, scoring 0.64 points on the general index. The WJP Rule of Law Index is a leading source of original, independent data, measuring the rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions through expert and household surveys.

**1<sup>st</sup>**

The UAE's top spot in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region as one of the lowest-risk nations, according to the Global Risk Report Q2 2023. Published by data and analytics company GlobalData, the report evaluates current and future country risk levels based on a comprehensive analysis of qualitative and quantitative factors.

**1<sup>st</sup>**

The UAE's leading position in the Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey region for attracting climate technology funding, securing \$401 million (Dhs1.47 billion) or 62 per cent of the total \$651 million (Dhs2.39 billion) regional investments from 2018 to 2022, according to the State of Climate Tech Venture Capital Report by data platform Magnitt.

**1<sup>st</sup>**

The UAE's top ranking in the Arab World and 26th globally in the Global Knowledge Index 2023. This index assesses key areas of education such as pre-university and higher education, technical and vocational education, scientific research and innovation, economic development, and information and communication technology.

**1<sup>st</sup>**

The UAE's leading position in terms of employee numbers in the 'Fortune 500 Arabia'. The 87 UAE-based companies included in the list recorded 681,390 employees. The country placed second to Saudi Arabia in the overall 'Fortune 500 Arabia' rankings.

## BE IN THE LOOP

### MOI'S SUPREME COMMITTEE FOR INTERNAL SECURITY MEETS AT COP28 VENUE



*Led by Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior, the Supreme Committee for Internal Security met at Expo City Dubai's COP28 Operations Centre. The meeting focused on strategic projects enhancing security, public safety, and performance indicators. It scrutinised the Ministry's programmes and exercises aligning with security and safety objectives.*

### MOI-UNODC PARTNERSHIP BOLSTERS FIGHT AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIMES



*The 7th Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement Forum in Abu Dhabi, co-organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Ministry of Interior, witnessed the participation of 110 representatives from police, customs, and public prosecution sectors, spanning 35 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The forum zeroed in on preserving biodiversity and combatting organised crimes targeting wildlife.*

### MOI JOINS SPECIALISED UN TRAINING FOR FEMALE POLICE LEADERS



*The Ministry of Interior (MoI) actively took part in a women's leadership training in Brindisi, Italy, preparing police participants from various nations for roles in the United Nations' humanitarian and peacekeeping missions. The MoI's participation underscored the UAE's commitment to promoting international co-operation.*



# UAE

## UNION DAY

We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending  
our sincere congratulation and best wishes to

**Their Highnesses**

**Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates**  
and to the people of the UAE

**On the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Union Day**



لاري للصرافة  
LARI EXCHANGE

# UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS

**ABU DHABI**



## DHS700,000

The Abu Dhabi Family, Civil, and Administrative Cases Court ordered a man to pay Dhs700,000 to a woman who entrusted him with Dhs600,000 and designated Dhs100,000 as a debt. The court, considering notarised acknowledgements, found the man received both amounts but lacked evidence of repayment. He was also ordered to pay Dhs50,000 fine.

**AJMAN**



## 1 MINUTE

Ajman Police quickly apprehended an Asian suspect just 1 minute after he committed a murder in the Al Rawda area. The first responder patrol reached the scene within a record time, catching the perpetrator red-handed as he left the victim's room after the assault. He was referred to Ajman Prosecution for legal action.

**DUBAI**



## DHS132 MILLION

Dubai Police have arrested 43 suspects involved in an international gang that used AI-powered deepfake technology to steal \$36 million (Dhs132 million) from two Asian firms. The gang impersonated company directors, manipulating voices to convince the accounts managers to carry out large fund transfers to a bank account based in Dubai.

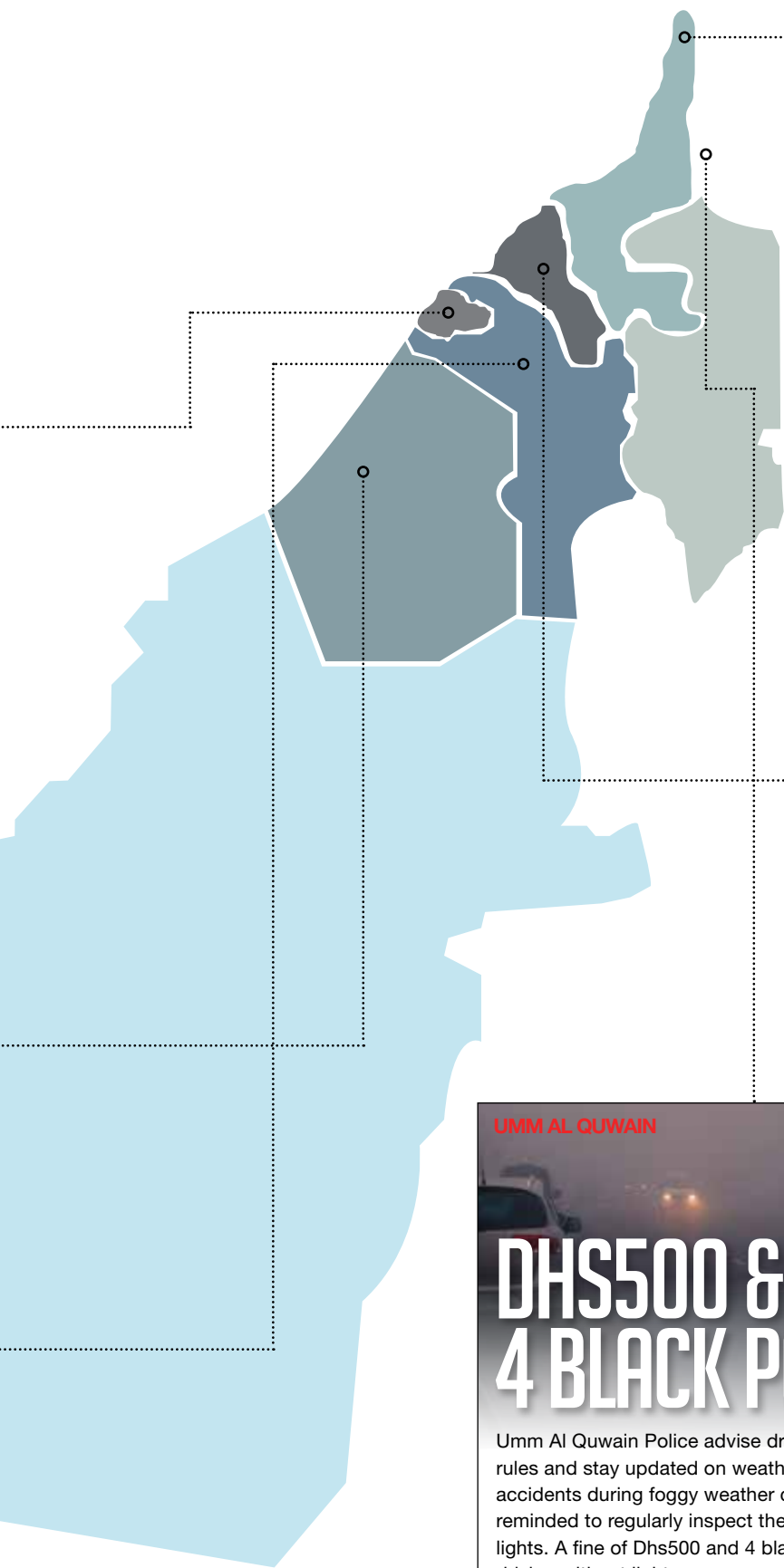
**RAS AL KHAIMAH**



## DHS3,000

The Ras Al Khaimah Court fined an Arab Dhs3,000 for assaulting an Asian during a dispute in a bird shop. The disagreement arose over the defendant's attempt to return a purchased parrot for a refund, leading to a physical altercation in which the victim collided with an iron birdcage, sustaining injuries.





## FUJAIRAH

Fujairah Police

# DHS2,000 & 23 BLACK POINTS

Fujairah Police confirmed no casualties after a vehicle was swept away in a flooded valley, addressing a viral video. The driver of the vehicle has been called for legal proceedings. As per the Ministry of Interior, entering flooded valleys will result in hefty penalties of Dhs2,000 fine, 23 black points, and a 60-day vehicle impoundment.

## SHARJAH

# 3:30 PM

Sharjah Civil Defence swiftly contained a warehouse fire storing spare parts for used cars in Sharjah's industrial area. Responding to a report received at 3:30 pm, firefighters prevented the blaze from spreading. No injuries were reported, and police investigations into the fire's cause are underway.

## UMM AL QUWAIN

# DHS500 & 4 BLACK POINTS

Umm Al Quwain Police advise drivers to follow traffic rules and stay updated on weather alerts to prevent accidents during foggy weather condition. Drivers are reminded to regularly inspect their vehicles, particularly lights. A fine of Dhs500 and 4 black points await those driving without lights.

*Some photos are used for illustrative purposes only.*

# UAE'S FOOD REVOLUTION

AS THE COP28 HOST, THE UAE IS PIONEERING A TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH TO FOOD WASTE—ADVOCATING FOR MINDFUL CONSUMPTION AND SUSTAINABILITY. 999 FINDS OUT HOW INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE UAE FOOD BANK AND NE'MA ARE SETTING A GLOBAL BENCHMARK IN FOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

BY ABDUL WASEY









“Our world is faced with complex and unprecedented challenges, most notable amongst them being climate change, which now affects the world’s stability and security, including food security



**HH SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN**  
President of the United Arab Emirates

“We seek to foster the sharing of knowledge and advance the adoption of new technologies and solutions that promote equitable access to food resources and sustainable food production



**HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM**  
Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

The global food sector finds itself at the threshold of a critical transformation aimed at achieving net-zero emissions. This shift carries vital implications. It extends beyond the reduction of our carbon footprint, as it also holds the promise of ecological restoration and increased resilience in the face of the pressing challenges posed by climate change.

“Our world is faced with complex and unprecedented challenges, most notable amongst them being climate change, which now affects the world’s stability and security – including food security,” stated President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a speech at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022.

Many countries have yet to fully realise the potential of integrating food systems into their climate strategies. From the farm to the table, there exists a multitude of strategies that can effectively address climate change, promote biodiversity, and provide support to communities most vulnerable to environmental disruptions.

While the path to transformation may vary across the globe, the urgency and significance of these efforts are universally recognised.

With great resolve, the UAE is actively contributing to the global effort to enhance food security by proactively pursuing internal solutions.

This effort, with its transformative potential, stands poised to bring about substantial changes in global food security.

#### KNOWLEDGE SHARING

“We seek to foster the sharing of knowledge and advance the adoption of new technologies and solutions that promote equitable access to food resources and the sustainable production, distribution and consumption of food worldwide,” His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, had said in February this year.

As per the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE), the annual cost of food wastage in the UAE amounts to Dhs13 billion, mirroring a worldwide trend of wastage with grave repercussions.

A staggering one-third of global food production — enough to feed 800 million people — is discarded every year. That’s equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes of food going to waste, worth approximately \$1 trillion (Dhs3.67 trn), according to the

World Food Programme (WFP).

A United Nations (UN) report, released in Abu Dhabi in October 2023, has cautioned that, if unchecked, climate change will disproportionately amplify women’s vulnerability to poverty and hunger, undermining significant developmental gains.

“Globally, by mid-century, under the most severe climate projections, climate change could propel an additional 158.3 million women and girls into poverty—16 million more than men and boys. The number of women and girls facing food insecurity could rise by 236 million, compared to an increase of 131 million men and boys,” stated the report titled “Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023”.

#### GLOBAL ‘HUNGER HOTSPOTS’

The global hunger outlook is grim. Owing to fragmented international policies, the looming threat of inflation and soaring food prices is palpable. This crisis is further intensified by heatwaves.

David Beasley, former Executive Director of the WFP, offers a sombre perspective. “We’re facing a perfect storm. It’s not just the poorest of the poor who are at risk; millions of families, who



## GLOBAL HUNGER HOTSPOTS

### HUNGER HOTSPOTS

Acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate in 18 hotspots comprising a total of 22 countries or territories including 2 regional clusters from November 2023 to April 2024.

### HIGHEST CONCERN LEVEL

Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan, and Sudan remain at the “highest concern” level. Palestine has been added to this list due to severe escalation of conflict.

### VERY HIGH CONCERN

Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Pakistan, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen are hotspots of “very high concern” with a high number of people facing critical levels of acute food insecurity.

### NEW ADDITIONS TO HUNGER HOTSPOTS

Since May 2023, Chad, Djibouti, the Niger, Palestine, and Zimbabwe have been added to the list of hunger hotspot countries/territories.

*Sources: United Nations, WAM*

have so far managed to stay afloat, are now in jeopardy,” he cautioned. The UN has recently pinpointed countries such as Angola, Lebanon, Madagascar, and even Ukraine as “hunger hotspots”.

The UAE is employing a dual-pronged strategy. On one front, it is zealously exploring agritech innovations for self-sufficiency. On the other, it highlights the collective responsibility of its citizens, expatriates, and businesses. The aim is clear: to advocate for mindful consumption and to consider the needs of the less fortunate. The government is mobilising all sectors—public, private, and community—to champion this cause.

#### UAE FOOD BANK

In response to the paradox where global food production is ample yet hunger prevails, the UAE has pioneered numerous transformative initiatives to tackle food waste.

In 2017, designated as the UAE’s Year of Giving, His Highness Sheikh



#### GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**158.3 million:** Projected increase in the number of women and girls at risk of poverty by 2050 due to climate change

**236 million:** Estimated number of women and girls facing potential food insecurity by 2050 as a result of climate change



#### FOOD WASTE AND HUNGER

**1.3 billion tonnes:** Annual loss or waste of food worldwide

**Dhs1 trillion per year:** The global economic value of wasted food annually

**1/3 of production:** Global food waste, equivalent to the amount needed to feed 800 million people

*Sources: United Nations, WAM*

Mohammed bin Rashid initiated the UAE Food Bank to combat food waste and nourish vulnerable communities worldwide. Focusing on food, a fundamental human need, this initiative operates under the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives,

collaborating with authorities and charities to collect surplus food from various sources, such as hotels, supermarkets, restaurants and farms.

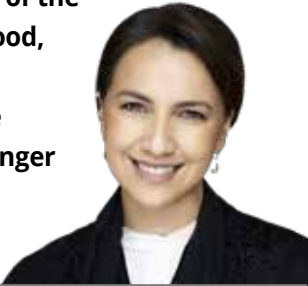
This initiative is not solely about charity. It represents a strategic shift towards environmental stewardship and sustainability, in line with the UAE’s aspiration to be a global frontrunner in surplus food management. The UAE Food Bank’s strategy for 2023-2027 echoes the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, aiming to bolster food security and support humanitarian efforts.

In 2023, the UAE Food Bank has

**In 2017, designated as the UAE’s Year of Giving, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum initiated the UAE Food Bank to combat food waste and nourish vulnerable communities worldwide**



**“Food waste is a pressing global challenge. If we can repurpose even half of the wasted food, we could eradicate global hunger**



**HE MARIAM AL MHEIRI**

Minister of Climate Change and Environment

already achieved considerable progress: It provided meals to over 12 million beneficiaries by utilising surplus from food establishments. In the aftermath of disasters in Türkiye, Syria, and Libya, the Food Bank, in collaboration with the Emirates Red Crescent, has been a beacon of hope, dispatching hundreds of tonnes of food aid.

Environmental preservation is also at the forefront of the UAE Food Bank. It has prevented over 3,800 tonnes of food from being consigned to landfills, conserving the equivalent of 1.5 million meals. The digital transformation of its operations is set to refine the linkage between donors and beneficiaries, fortifying the circular economy and ensuring the sustainability of resources.

#### NATIONAL INITIATIVE

The UAE's response to the global food waste dilemma is encapsulated in the National Food Loss and Waste Initiative (Ne'ma). This nationwide collaboration was inaugurated in partnership with MOCCA and the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court. Ne'ma mirrors President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's vision of sustainability, social accountability, and the diminution of food loss and waste.

The Ne'ma initiative was launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed stressed the importance of acknowledging that food security goes beyond governmental roles. His Highness emphasised the critical contributions of both the private sector and consumers in ensuring food security.

Her Excellency Mariam Al Mheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, has been spearheading



*This year, the UAE Food Bank has provided 12 million meals across the globe by utilising surplus from food establishments*



*A staggering one-third of global food production — enough to feed 800 million people — is discarded every year, as per WFP*

**Environmental preservation is also at the forefront of the UAE Food Bank. It has prevented over 3,800 tonnes of food from being consigned to landfills, conserving the equivalent of 1.5 million meals**

a campaign to adopt a whole-of-nation approach to combat food waste. She insists that all stakeholders, including the government, private sector, non-for-profit organisations, and the wider community, must unite in this mission.

“Food waste is a pressing global challenge,” said Al Mheiri. “If we can

repurpose even half of the wasted food, we could eradicate global hunger.”

The Ne'ma initiative is a clarion call to action, mobilising both the public and private sectors to proactively address food waste and advocate for responsible consumption.

Al Mheiri launched the “Ne'ma



**“The establishment of the Abu Dhabi Food Hub underscores the UAE’s commitment to strengthening its food supply chain and reinforcing its status as a global trade hub**



**MAHER ABOUD**  
CEO of Ghassan Aboud Group

Pledge” to ignite collaborative efforts and spark a national movement. This pledge aligns with the UAE’s commitment to the National Food Security strategy, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the nation’s goal to halve food waste by 2030.

Al Mheiri’s advice to all UAE citizens and residents is clear-cut: Purchase only what is necessary and prepare just the right amount of food to avoid wastage. She argues that consumer behaviour is critical in safeguarding food security.

#### ABU DHABI FOOD HUB

The Abu Dhabi Food Hub is a keystone project. Keen to become the centre for food trade, processing, and distribution in the region, the Abu Dhabi Food Hub is being developed in partnership with the Ghassan Aboud Group. Collaborating with France’s Rungis International Market, the initiative is designed to bolster food security, minimise food waste, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Maher Aboud, CEO of the Ghassan Aboud Group, recently said: “The establishment of the Abu Dhabi Food Hub and the Global Auto Hub – Abu Dhabi, each spanning 3.3 square kilometres, along with other



#### CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS CATERING

Al Mheiri recently called on F&B vendors to champion ‘Climate Conscious Catering’ on a grand scale, in preparation for the pivotal climate conference this month. “Our aspiration for COP28 is to present delegates with a

expansive industrial developments in the area, underscore the UAE’s commitment to strengthening its food supply chain and reinforcing its status as a global trade hub.”

comprehensive perspective on the climate challenges facing the world. Recognising the intricate link between our food systems and the health of our planet, we’ve taken the proactive step to ensure that the catering at the event is both responsible and climate-conscious. This is in line with the focus we’ve placed on the Emirates Declaration,” she said.

“This approach, a ‘COP first’, is centred around the Sustainable Catering Strategy devised for COP28. It aims to demonstrate the lasting benefits and legacy of such a strategy,” Al Mheiri added

The strategy aims to showcase the

## UAE INITIATIVES TO REDUCE FOOD WASTAGE



### AS COP28 SUMMIT HOST

The UAE places a high priority on enhancing sustainable agricultural and food systems, making them a key focus on COP28’s agenda



### THE UAE FOOD BANK

**30 per cent:** Food waste reduction goal by 2027

**12 million:** Meals provided to beneficiaries across the globe

**3,800 tonnes:** Food diverted from landfills (equivalent to 1.5 million meals)

نعمّة ne'ma

### UAE’S FOOD LOSS AND WASTE INITIATIVE (NE’MA)

Its main objective is to cut food waste in the UAE by half throughout the entire value chain, from production to consumption, by 2023



### ABU DHABI FOOD HUB

Strategically located between Dubai and Abu Dhabi, this 3.3 sq km area aims to boost food trade and minimise food waste



### ABU DHABI AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

It has facilitated 1,536 farms in obtaining certification from GlobalGAP, a globally recognised standard ensuring Good Agricultural Practices



### DUBAI MUNICIPALITY

It collaborates with recycling and waste treatment firms to collect around 4,000 tonnes of food waste annually



### ABU DHABI AGRICULTURAL GENOME PROJECT

It aims to cultivate local breeds of food crops, animals, and fish, ensuring enhanced agricultural production

### PLAN OF ACTION

- Nationwide drive towards responsible purchase and preparation of food to avoid wastage
- Collaborative efforts required across all sectors for food security
- Education and awareness are critical for sustainable change

Sources: United Nations, WAM

viability of providing sustainable food and beverages on a large scale, and pledges to offer a two-thirds plant-based menu, reduce the carbon and water footprint of the food served, and ensure a focus on nutrition, appropriate portion sizes, affordability, and waste reduction. Both the MOCCA and COP28 are seeking F&B partners who share this ethos.

“Implementing this programme will require substantial collaboration and commitment from the event’s caterers. However, I am optimistic about the prevailing willingness. The food must be palatable, and we are dedicated to presenting the concept to attendees in a compelling and informative way. Both elements are crucial for instigating behavioural change,” Al Mheiri added.

### FOOD INDUSTRY’S STEPS

In Dubai, hotels are not merely discarding leftovers; they are analysing and reducing waste at the source. A leading hotel group is even utilising artificial intelligence (AI) to tackle food waste, according to the Dubai Municipality. The Municipality’s efforts in managing food waste are significant, with around 4,000 tonnes of food, including inedible items, being repurposed annually into organic fertilisers or animal feed.

In a significant push for sustainability, 2023 saw the Dubai Municipality donate over 70 tonnes of food to the UAE Food Bank and transform nearly 400 tonnes into valuable compost. This initiative is in line with Dubai’s ambitious food security strategy, which aims to diversify imports, increase local production, and cut food waste, which globally accounts for over 30 per cent of food produced, according to FAO statistics.

Dawoud Al Hajri, Director-General of Dubai Municipality, emphasises that the drive will reduce the food industry’s environmental impact, targeting decreased greenhouse gas emissions and a lower carbon footprint. The Municipality has also developed guide for retail food outlets to minimise waste and provided educational materials to importers and exporters to improve supply chain efficiency.

### SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION

The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) is making significant progress towards agricultural and food sustainability, in line with the National Food Security Strategy 2051.

ADAFSA is cultivating an integrated



*ADAFSA fosters food security with modern agriculture, focusing on water efficiency and productivity through greenhouses*

food security system, focusing on modern agricultural technology to curb water consumption and boost productivity — through greenhouse agriculture and the augmentation of local production of crops and livestock to ensure uninterrupted access to safe and nutritious food.

The efforts of ADAFSA are buttressed by the nation’s robust urban infrastructure. Facilities like those in Khalifa Industrial City (KIZAD) provide a safeguard during crises and emergencies.

The Authority is also enacting initiatives to alleviate water scarcity that are suitable for agriculture, aiming for agricultural sustainability and the conservation of natural resources. Farms are also urged to participate in the Abu Dhabi Good Agricultural Practices (AD GAP) programme, with 1,536 farms already certified under GlobalGAP, a globally recognised standard ensuring Good Agricultural Practices.

ADAFSA is also heavily investing on research and development (R&D) to



*ADAFSA’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan includes developing local species of plants, animals, and fish to boost agricultural production*





## EMIRATI FIRM TRANSFORMS USED COOKING OIL INTO BIODIESEL

A forward-thinking Emirati entrepreneur based in Dubai, Yousif bin Saeed Al Lootah, is spearheading a green revolution by innovatively converting used cooking oil into biodiesel. As the Founder and CEO of Lootah Biofuels, the 32-year-old is dedicated to fostering a circular economy, where waste materials are repurposed, reducing environmental impact. His commitment extends beyond the UAE, as his biodiesel is now being used to power vehicles not only locally but also in regions beyond the borders of the emirates.

For over a decade, Lootah has been collecting waste oil from major companies and refining it into clean fuel, which is now powering fleets of trucks and being exported to countries like the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, and India. His efforts are a testament to the potential of reusing products to conserve resources and reduce environmental impact.

Lootah's journey began with the SS Lootah Group's green car programme, sparking the idea of using alternative fuels to cut emissions. "Biodiesel blends emerged as a possible answer," he said. His company, established in 2010, has grown to produce 60 million litres of biofuel annually, contributing to a reduction of over 500 tonnes of carbon dioxide last year alone.

The state-of-the-art factory in Dubai Industrial City, capable of supplying 100,000 litres of biodiesel daily. As the UAE's largest collector of used cooking oil, Lootah Biofuels collaborates with prominent hospitality and retail groups, showcasing the scalability of sustainable practices.

He envisions every fuel station in the country offering biofuel, a move he believes is crucial for energy diversification and a step towards decarbonising transport.

As fossil fuel prices continue to fluctuate, biofuel emerges as a stable and eco-friendly alternative. Lootah's innovative approach not only paves the way for cleaner energy but also inspires a shift in consumer and corporate behaviour towards environmental responsibility.

discover new plant varieties that are drought-resistant, salt-tolerant, and climate-adapted.

These efforts have enhanced water utilisation in agriculture, contributing to the preservation of water resources and fortifying the food security system in Abu Dhabi.

ADAFSA's Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 features the Abu Dhabi Agricultural Genome Project, which aims to develop local species of plants, animals, and fish to bolster agricultural production and tackle environmental challenges.

### GLOBAL BLUEPRINT

For the UAE, averting a global food crisis is of national importance. As the

nation reverts to foundational principles, it offers a blueprint to the world: through unity, frugality, and innovation, we may find the solution to one of our most pressing challenges. Through strategic planning, international collaborations, and a dedication to education and awareness, the UAE is establishing a gold standard in tackling one of the most urgent issues of our era.

The world is hopeful that the declarations made at COP28 will be supported by concrete, measurable actions and are translated into tangible outcomes to ensure that the necessary changes take root for a more sustainable and resilient future for our global food systems.

**ADAFSA is also heavily investing on research and development (R&D) to discover new plant varieties that are drought-resistant, salt-tolerant, and climate-adapted**



# SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY: UAE'S COURSE OF ACTION

THE COUNTRY HAS CRAFTED STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY, RALLYING COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRACTICES. HERE'S A RUNDOWN

BY ABDUL WASEY







## LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

A robust legal and regulatory framework underpins the UAE's agricultural sector, bolstered by the National Food Security Strategy 2051 and the formation of the Emirates Council for Food Security. These initiatives aim for rapid food self-sufficiency, reduced reliance on imports, soil preservation, and optimised water usage, particularly of groundwater resources.

A pivotal decision by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in July 2018 catalysed community agriculture, advocating for the use of residential spaces, rooftops, and educational institutions to foster agricultural activities, thereby serving the community, enhancing environmental benefits, and expanding green spaces.



## GLOBAL RECOGNITION

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has recognised the UAE's efforts in community agriculture, particularly during the "Grow Your Food" campaign, which motivates families and schools to cultivate climate-appropriate produce, aligning with sustainability principles.

The General Women's Union's "My Self-Sufficient Farming" initiative focuses on increasing green spaces and instilling agricultural values amongst women, thus supporting food security strategies and equipping them with innovative farming skills.



## SMART FARMING SOLUTIONS

The UAE's commitment to innovation is evident in its adoption of smart solutions for home gardening initiatives. The "Bustani" exhibition at Masdar City's Sustainable Villa is a testament to this, displaying over 15 cutting-edge solutions for food production, water management, and waste recycling, including chemical-free vegetable cultivation and smart poultry farming technologies.

The Sharjah Research Technology and Innovation Park is also leading the charge, developing new methods for agricultural production and solar-powered water desalination, contributing to a comprehensive sustainability system.



## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE FARMING COMMUNITIES

The Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority recently released a comprehensive guide to community gardening, offering instructions for growing fruits and vegetables in various settings. Additionally, the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority has distributed successful fruit varieties to encourage the concept of productive home gardens, furthering the nation's strategy for food security and the sustainability of agriculture.



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

## WHO HOLDS THE SECOND DECISION?

While the authority to terminate your employment may rest in the hands of others, the power to shape the course of your journey afterward lies in your own decisions

**T**he story is told that the renowned Egyptian journalist and writer Mohamed Hassanein Heikal once attended a meeting where each participant introduced themselves and mentioned the positions they currently or previously held.

When his turn came, Heikal, often referred to with the title “professor”, simply said, “Mohamed Hassanein Heikal... Journalist!”

Attendees were surprised by Heikal’s modest introduction, considering his various prestigious roles, including serving as the Minister of Information and editing the renowned Egyptian newspaper, *Al-Ahram*.

He left *Al-Ahram* in 1974 when the former Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat, issued a decree for him to move from *Al-Ahram* to the Abdin Palace as a presidential advisor.

Heikal declined the transfer. He left the newspaper and responded to international news agencies with the statement: “The president has the decision to remove me from *Al-Ahram*, but as for where I go afterward, that decision is mine alone, and my decision is to devote myself to writing my books and nothing else.”

Later, Heikal summarised his stance in a statement to the British newspaper *The Sunday Times*, saying: “I exercised my right to express my opinion, then President Sadat used his power. The president’s authority allows him to tell me to leave *Al-Ahram*, but it does not empower him to determine where I go after that. The first decision is his alone, and the second decision is mine alone.”

I recalled this story when Bassel Souraya, *999 Magazine* assistant editor, called me, asking about the descriptor I would like to use for myself in the article and whether I wanted to mention my profession.

I replied that I have never defined myself by my job in all the articles I have written throughout my life because positions change over time and eventually fade away.

However, the descriptor “Emirati Writer and Journalist” that I always wanted to accompany my articles remains for a lifetime. People take it with them to their graves while leaving behind all occupational titles for those who will replace them.

This is the cycle of life that we inherit from those who preceded us, and we must pass it on to those who come after us.

I return to Heikal’s words, which sparked my interest in writing

about this topic when he said that the second decision belongs to him alone. This indeed happened after the professor left *Al-Ahram* upon President Sadat’s decision.

He went on to accomplish his writing projects, releasing the book *The Road to Ramadan* in 1975, which entered the list of the top five best-selling books in Britain in its first week of release by Collins, the largest publishing house in Britain.

The book was translated into Arabic. In the same year the book was published, former Egyptian Prime Minister Mamdouh Salem, who was tasked with forming a new ministry, contacted Heikal, proposing his participation in the new ministry as deputy prime minister in charge of media and culture. However, Heikal declined.

I frequently find myself perplexed when encountering individuals

who label themselves as journalists or writers without any observable body of journalistic work, articles, or published books. Despite my extensive 50-year involvement in the media scene and ongoing vigilance over cultural developments during this period, their contributions remain elusive to me.

I feel protective of the media, which I have dealt with as a hobby and passion more than a job, and I do not object to labelling these individuals as influencers because many of them do have an impact, regardless of whether it is positive or negative, on various segments of society

with different ages, cultures and interests.

However, they all eventually influence people with various messages and provide advice, ranging from medical and economic to social and even political. Despite the young age of some of these influencers, the limited culture and education of others, and their lack of specialisation in the topics they address, their messages still affect many.

Despite the clear commercial nature dominating their messages, where advertisements constitute a significant source of income for many, this is a legitimate right that no one can object to, as long as what they offer does not conflict with the values, ethics, customs, and traditions of society, and does not violate the laws and regulations of the state.

I concur with Heikal’s perspective that while someone may possess the authority to terminate your employment, they do not hold sway over the choices you make regarding your subsequent path.

**I replied that I have never defined myself by my job in all the articles I have written throughout my life because positions change over time and eventually fade away**



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**On the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Union Day**





# THE MAN OF THE ARAB ENVIRONMENT

THE UAE HONOURS SHEIKH ZAYED'S ENVIRONMENTAL VISION  
AT COP28. **999** EXPLORES HOW THE NATION IS INTEGRATING HIS  
LEGACY INTO ITS GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

BY CASSANDRA SANDERS

UAE Cultural Foundation



**“We pay the utmost care and attention to our environment for it is an integral part of our country, our history and our heritage. Our forefathers and our ancestors lived in this land and co-existed with its environment, on land and at sea, and instinctively realised the need to preserve it**

**— SHEIKH ZAYED BIN SULTAN  
AL NAHYAN  
UAE Founding Father**

*Sheikh Zayed visits a farming initiative during the 1970s*

**A**s the UAE commemorates its 52nd UAE Union Day amidst the pivotal COP28 Summit, this is a moment of introspection on the green legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the nation's founding father.

His visionary leadership laid the foundations for the union of seven emirates and set a benchmark in environmental stewardship—earning him the well-deserved title of ‘the Man of the Arab Environment’.

Sheikh Zayed's leadership was marked by a deep respect for nature, an ethos embedded in the UAE's policy framework since its inception. His early decree to revise local water ownership rights highlighted a commitment to equitable resource distribution and foresight in curbing water wastage — a critical issue in the arid landscapes of the Gulf.

“We pay the utmost care and attention

to our environment for it is an integral part of our country, our history and our heritage. Our forefathers and our ancestors lived in this land and co-existed with its environment, on land and at sea, and instinctively realised the need to preserve it,” Sheikh Zayed had once said.

Under his watch, the city of Al Ain flourished into one of the greenest cities in the Arab world. This transformation was not merely an agricultural achievement but a testament to Sheikh Zayed's belief in the balance between human advancement and environmental conservation.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

In 1975, the creation of the High Environmental Council solidified the Founding Father's conservation ethos. The subsequent hunting prohibition in the 1980s, aimed at safeguarding indigenous

wildlife, was a courageous step that highlighted his commitment to preserving the nation's biodiversity.

This prohibition aligned with conservation programmes such as the Arabian Oryx breeding initiative, which rescued the species from the verge of extinction.

Sheikh Zayed's afforestation projects received international acclaim. Over 140 million trees were planted in Abu Dhabi alone, earning him accolades such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Gold Medal and the World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) Golden Panda Award. These honours were not mere commendations, but a recognition of the UAE's emerging role in the global environmental discourse.

For half a century, Sheikh Zayed was at the forefront of sustainable development, a role recognised by the Arab world and beyond.

## ZAYED SUSTAINABILITY PRIZE

The Founding Father's environmental advocacy is enshrined in initiatives such as the Zayed Sustainability Prize, which continues to incentivise global innovations in health, food, energy, and water sectors.

President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan pursues this green campaign. His Highness designated 2023 as the "Year of Sustainability", a move that echoes the nation's foundational values and Sheikh Zayed's environmental legacy.

Today, the UAE's environmental policies represent a union of ethical obligation and strategic foresight, in line with the nation's "Principles of the 50" development vision. The global outreach of the Zayed Sustainability Prize, having influenced the lives of 370 million people across 151 countries, stands as a testament to the extensive impact of Sheikh Zayed's vision.

## SKY IS THE LIMIT

Sheikh Zayed's dedication to sustainability resonates within the UAE's space exploration programmes, which employ modern science to address climate challenges. The "Space Data Centre", inaugurated during COP27, exemplifies this approach, providing a digital repository of space data to drive solutions for national and international sustainability issues.

This Centre is pivotal to the UAE's strategy to nurture an innovative ecosystem, harnessing space data to confront global sustainability challenges.



It aims to stimulate the growth of the space industry, increasing the number of companies and patents, and fostering a culture of space expertise within the nation.

The UAE Space Agency's Space Analytics and Solutions (SAS) Programme further emphasises this commitment. By cultivating local and international partnerships, the SAS Programme is poised to develop solutions for global sustainability challenges, reinforcing the UAE's status as a leader in the space industry.

Collaborations such as the one with "Planet Labs" to create a loss and damage atlas highlight the UAE's proactive approach. This atlas, informed by satellite data, will be crucial in assisting nations to manage the impacts of climate change.

The UAE's space exploration programmes also include plans to launch Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites, which aims to provide invaluable data for a multitude of applications, from urban planning to climate change mapping.

These satellites will be used for remote sensing, offering high-resolution images that are essential for environmental monitoring and analysis.

Projects such as MeznSat, a nanosatellite developed in partnership with the UAE Space Agency, the American University of Ras Al Khaimah, and Khalifa University, underscore the UAE's commitment to scientific research in space. MeznSat's mission to monitor greenhouse gases and the red tide phenomenon is a testament to the UAE's dedication to environmental monitoring and research.

Furthermore, the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre and Dubai Municipality's launch of "DM-SAT1," the first environmental nanometric satellite, marks a significant advancement in environmental data analysis. This satellite's mission to monitor air pollutants and greenhouse gases will provide crucial data for devising strategies to tackle urban pollution and climate change.







Sheikh Zayed supervises the implementation of an irrigation system in a date plantation during the 1970s

### BANKING ON GREEN INITIATIVES

In a move that resonates with the environmental vision of Sheikh Zayed, the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) recently collaborated with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the Emirates Institute of Finance (EIF), and the COP28 Presidency to launch the COP28 UAE TechSprint. This initiative encourages global financial innovators to contribute to the development of tech solutions in sustainable finance.

The COP28 UAE TechSprint aims to leverage state-of-the-art technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) to address three critical challenges in sustainable finance: enhancing reporting and disclosure, auditing and transparency, and informed impact assessments.

Meanwhile, the UAE's national banks are aligning with this initiative, directing over \$51.8 billion (Dhs190 bn) into sustainable projects in 2022 alone. First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) leads with a \$75 billion (Dhs275 bn) pledge to green financing by 2030, while Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) has formulated a science-based plan to reduce its carbon footprint. Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) is advancing its green financing and investment initiatives, with a \$1.7 billion (Dhs6.2 bn) allocation to sustainable projects.

Emirates NBD has made significant strides by signing the UAE Climate-Responsible Companies Pledge, furthering the nation's decarbonisation goals. Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) has made a landmark \$1 billion (Dhs3.67 bn) sukuk issuance for sustainable financing, the largest by a Middle Eastern financial institution.

Mashreq's \$20 billion (Dhs73.4 bn) contribution to sustainable financing in the first half of the year is a testament to the sector's commitment to supporting the UAE's sustainability goals, including the ambitious target of net zero by 2050.

The UAE's banking sector, by channelling funds into green initiatives, is not only honouring Sheikh Zayed's legacy but also reinforcing the UAE's position as a hub for green finance and innovation.

### MANGROVE PLANTATION

In the spirit of Sheikh Zayed's environmental legacy, the UAE has taken a significant step in the global fight against climate change by endorsing the Mangrove Breakthrough. This initiative, a focal point at COP28, aims to restore and protect 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030.

The Mangrove Breakthrough, is a collaborative effort between the Global Mangrove Alliance and the UN Climate Change High-level Champions. It is a crucial aspect of the upcoming Mangroves Ministerial, a high-level meeting at COP28 designed to bring together governments, civil society, philanthropy, financial institutions, and scientists to accelerate the preservation

**In the spirit of Sheikh Zayed's environmental legacy, the UAE endorsed the Mangrove Breakthrough. This initiative, a focal point at COP28, aims to restore and protect 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030**



and restoration of mangrove ecosystems.

“The Mangroves Ministerial aims to shape a robust pathway to advance nature-based solutions in our collective fight against climate change. It will focus on accelerating finance, policy, and technology to meet the Mangrove Breakthrough global target of restoring and protecting 15 million hectares of mangroves, as well as halting their destruction, by 2030,” said Her Excellency Mariam Al Mheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

The UAE is poised to lead by example, with a national target to plant 100 million mangroves by 2030, reflecting Sheikh Zayed’s vision of harmonising nature with development.

### CLEAN ENERGY

In a bold move that resonates with the environmental stewardship of Sheikh Zayed, the UAE recently pledged a transformative \$4.5 billion (Dhs16.5 bn) to escalate clean energy projects across Africa. This investment, announced at the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, is a testament to the UAE’s commitment to fostering sustainable development and combating climate change on a global scale.

His Excellency Sultan Al Jaber, UAE’s Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and Special Envoy for Climate, and the COP28 President-designate, outlined that this initiative would target

African nations with robust transition strategies and the necessary regulatory frameworks to support the development of a cohesive grid infrastructure.

This strategic investment is set to spark a wave of innovation and infrastructure development in clean energy across the continent, aligning with Sheikh Zayed’s vision of progress through conservation and sustainability.

The UAE, in collaboration with India and France, has also embarked on a tripartite co-operation agreement focusing on solar and nuclear energy projects. This partnership highlights a shared commitment to tackling climate change and enhancing biodiversity, particularly in the Indian Ocean region.

The foreign ministers of the three nations have agreed to a roadmap to implement this initiative, which includes the Mangrove Alliance for Climate spearheaded by the UAE, and the Indo-Pacific Parks Partnership led by India and France. These efforts will address critical environmental challenges such as plastic pollution, desertification, and food security, with a special emphasis on the International Year of Millets.

This series of strategic alliances and investments by the UAE shows that the UAE is leaving no stone unturned to make the future, green and prosperous. Sheikh Zayed had once said: “We spare no effort in caring for the environment because it

**“The UAE is poised to lead by example, with a national target to plant 100 million mangroves by 2030, reflecting Sheikh Zayed’s vision of harmonising nature with development**

is one of the essential ingredients of our history and heritage. Our forefathers have lived on this land in co-existence and with respect to its land and marine environment, knowing by nature and perception the need to preserve it, taken only what they needed from it, and saved what would be useful for the coming generations.”

Sheikh Zayed’s environmental philosophy—a unique union of traditional respect and progressive sustainability—remains a cornerstone of the UAE’s climate action and ecological conservation efforts. The hosting of COP28 by the UAE, bringing together world leaders to address global climate issues, showcases Sheikh Zayed’s sustainable legacy guiding our nation’s path towards a greener future.



Shams 1 solar power station project, Abu Dhabi

Shams Power

# UAE'S KEY CLIMATE INITIATIVES



## UAE Net Zero 2050

A strategic initiative to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, aligning with the global vision to limit temperature rise and economic development.



## Ozone Layer Protection

Active participation in the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol to phase out ozone-depleting substances since 1989.



## Clean Energy Investments

Over US\$40 billion (Dhs146.8 bn) invested in clean energy projects globally, aiming for a clean energy production capacity of 14 GW by 2030.



## Energy Efficiency Programmes

Launch of initiatives like the Smart City strategy, Green Building standards, and regulations to optimise energy consumption and carbon emissions.



## National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017–2050

Serves as a roadmap for climate mitigation and integrating climate change measures into national policies.



## Masdar Initiative

A US\$15 billion (Dhs55 bn) commitment to renewable energy, focusing on the development and commercialisation of sustainable technologies.



## Clean Development Mechanism Projects

Implementation of projects under the UN framework to reduce GHG emissions, with investments in renewable and nuclear energy.



## New Energy Strategy

Incorporation of nuclear, solar, and natural gas to meet energy needs.



## Sustainable Transportation

Investment in mass transit systems to reduce emissions from the transport sector.



## Reduction of CO2 Emissions

Significant reduction in per capita CO2 emissions from 1990 to 2010 and a commitment to further reductions through improved technologies.



## Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

Development of CCS projects to mitigate climate change by capturing CO2 from large point sources.





We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending  
our sincere congratulation and best wishes to

**Their Highnesses**

**Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates**  
and to the people of the UAE

**On the occasion of the 52nd Union Day**



بنك دبي الإسلامي  
Dubai Islamic Bank





# UAE ADOPTS GREEN AVIATION

THE NATION SPEARHEADS BOTH THE ADOPTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF SUSTAIN-  
ABLE AVIATION FUEL. THIS ECO-FRIENDLY FUEL IS POISED TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE  
AVIATION CO2 EMISSIONS AND IS ANTICIPATED TO USHER IN A  
TRANSFORMATIVE ERA IN COMMERCIAL AIR TRAVEL

BY K NIVEDITA







“The UAE announced its goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Our development model will consider this goal, and all agencies will work as one team to achieve it. The UAE will invest Dhs600 billion in clean and renewable energy by 2050, and will play its global role in combating climate change

**HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM**  
Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai



With a robust fleet of around 900 commercial aircraft and fresh orders secured at the Dubai Airshow 2023, the UAE is resolutely committed to steering its aviation sector into a more sustainable direction.

This direction is leading towards greater adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), seen as a game-changer alternative for conventional jet fuels. It has the capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from flying by an impressive 80 per cent compared to fossil-based jet fuel.

Propelled by a nod from UAE leaders and substantial investments from key industry players, the use of SAF is expected to gain momentum.

In October 2023, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, stated on X (formerly Twitter): “The UAE announced its goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Our development model will consider this goal, and all agencies will work as one team to achieve it.”

“The UAE will invest Dhs600 billion in clean and renewable energy by 2050, and will play its global role in combating climate change,” His Highness added.

Numerous SAF-related research and development initiatives in the country are specifically focused on improving the production processes and cost-effectiveness of this eco-friendly fuel.

As these efforts continue to advance, the outlook is optimistic, with SAF expected to become more accessible and

economically viable. This, in turn, is likely to further encourage its adoption by the UAE’s burgeoning aviation industry.

#### SAF EXPLORATION

Currently, the global aviation industry predominantly relies on fossil fuels — typically unleaded kerosene or a blend of naphtha and kerosene. Combustion of these fuels results in the emission of various pollutants, including carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and nitrogen oxides, known as greenhouse gases (GHGs).

A number of noteworthy initiatives aimed at championing sustainable air travel using SAF are being pursued by Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways, Dubai-based Emirates, and UAE renewable energy company Masdar.

In October 2023, Dubai International Airport’s (DXB) Emirates Flight EK 412 fuelled by SAF took off for Sydney. The supplier, Shell Aviation, had delivered 315,000 gallons of blended SAF to the DXB airport fuelling system.

Before this, Emirates welcomed the UAE’s Year of Sustainability with a demonstration flight on 100 per cent SAF on January 30, 2023. It was the first flight out of the Middle East and North Africa to be powered by 100 per cent SAF.

Meanwhile, in November 2022, Etihad transported COP27 delegates from Washington Dulles Airport to Abu Dhabi via Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on a net-zero emissions flight powered by SAF. It was part of the Dreamliner programme.

Etihad had introduced its Greenliner

Programme in 2019, dedicating a Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner to focus on sustainability initiatives. This programme was developed in collaboration with Boeing and engine manufacturer GE.

#### GLOBAL AVIATION EMISSIONS

According to the World Economic Forum, citing Our World in Data, aviation is responsible for approximately 2 to 2.5 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions, with most aircraft powered by jet petrol.

In Europe, aviation emissions increased from 1.5 per cent of total emissions in 1990 to 4.7 per cent in 2019, the year preceding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the post-pandemic rebound, aviation emissions in 2022 reached almost 800 metric tonnes (Mt) of CO<sub>2</sub>, about 80 per cent of the pre-pandemic level.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) stated in its 2023 report: “Many technical measures related to low-emission fuels, improvements in airframes and engines, operational optimisation and demand restraint solutions are needed to curb growth in emissions and ultimately reduce them this decade in order to get on track with the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 (NZE) Scenario.”

#### SAF PRODUCTION

In 2022, SAF production tripled to 300 million litres, up by 200 per cent from 100 million litres in 2021, as per the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Airlines purchased all the available SAF supply globally — despite the price differential to conventional jet fuel.

Last year, IATA estimated the average SAF price at around \$2,400/tonne (Dhs8,800/tonne), albeit with significant differences across regions — around two-and-half times higher than the price of conventional jet fuel.

Still, the SAF market remains in its early stages of development, thus posing a huge challenge to the task of estimating a global SAF price. SAF fuel production remained very low, a mere fraction (0.1 per cent) of the overall volume of jet fuel in 2022.

Legal mandates form a significant factor in the SAF equation. In May 2023, the European Union announced a mandate stipulating that fuel manufacturers and suppliers must provide 2 per cent of all fuel at airports as SAF by 2025. This quota is set to rise to 6 per cent in 2030, 20 per cent in 2035, and an ambitious 70 per cent by 2050.

Moreover, anticipated "blending mandates" and production goals are expected to stimulate SAF activity. Spearheading this initiative is the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), which has pledged to achieve net zero operations in global commercial

## DID YOU KNOW?

**In 2022, the aviation sector emerged as a notable contributor, accounting for 2 to 2.5 per cent of global energy-related CO2 emissions. Its growth in recent decades has outpaced that of rail, road, or shipping.**

**As the world gradually recovered from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, aviation emissions in 2022 surged to nearly 800 million metric tonnes of CO2, reaching approximately 80 per cent of the pre-pandemic levels.**

Source: Our World in Data, International Energy Agency



aviation by 2050. That date may be a long way off. But, without corrective measures, current trends could triple the aviation industry's carbon emissions by then, as warned by the United Nations.

## WHY SAF MATTERS

Over the next 30 years, in addition to the electrification of aviation, SAF can significantly cut carbon emissions in all aviation segments, as per IATA.

Today, SAF forms part of a multi-

pronged approach to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°Celsius, as agreed in 2015 at COP21 (also known as the "Paris Agreement").

While 1.5°C seems insignificant, it could make extreme heatwaves more widespread as greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide in particular, increasingly trap the heat in the planet's atmosphere. Significantly, a temperature rise of 1.5°C



In November 2022, Etihad flew COP27 delegates from Washington to Abu Dhabi via Sharm El Sheikh on a net-zero SAF flight



Emirates' Flight EK 412 destined for Sydney on October 24, 2023, stands amongst the pioneering flights to utilise SAF



“Powering flights from our Dubai hub is just one of the steps we have taken to reduce emissions and concretely help our customers minimise their own carbon footprint



**SIR TIM CLARK**

President of  
Emirates Airline

would result in approximately 14 per cent of the global population experiencing severe heatwaves at least once every five years. According to NASA's calculations, if the temperature rises by 2°C, this number will escalate to 37 per cent.

#### TURBULENCE AHEAD

Amongst the challenges of making the aviation's transition to SAF is scalability. Produced from sources, such as cooking oils and animal waste, SAF costs two to five times more than conventional jet fuels.

“SAF will always cost a premium compared to kerosene. The industry recognises the problem and is doing everything it can to address it. We need to achieve the targets because there isn't an option here



**WILLIE WALSH**

Director General of the  
International Air Transport Association

It is also manufactured in small quantities. In September 2023, Willie Walsh, Director General at IATA, said, “SAF will always cost a premium compared to kerosene. I believe the industry is ready to embrace that. The industry recognises the problem and is doing everything it can to address it. We need to achieve the targets because there isn't an option here.”

Mariam Al Qubaisi, Head of Sustainability at Etihad, told the media in December 2022: “This is an industry that has had free rein on pollution for many

“This is an industry that has had free rein on pollution for many years. We can do better together, because sustainability is not an area for competition, it's an area for collaboration



**MARIAM AL QUBAIS**

Head of Sustainability at  
Etihad Airways

years and it's about time we own up to our responsibility to decarbonise.”

“We can do better together, because sustainability is not an area for competition, it's an area for collaboration,” she added.

#### SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Various factors play a role in low SAF adoption amongst airlines, one of which is the pending authorisation for the full adoption of 100 per cent SAF in regular commercial use. Additionally, not all airports have the requisite infrastructure to facilitate SAF, and its production facility must be near the airport to prevent offsetting emission reductions achieved during flights with emissions from transportation-related activities.

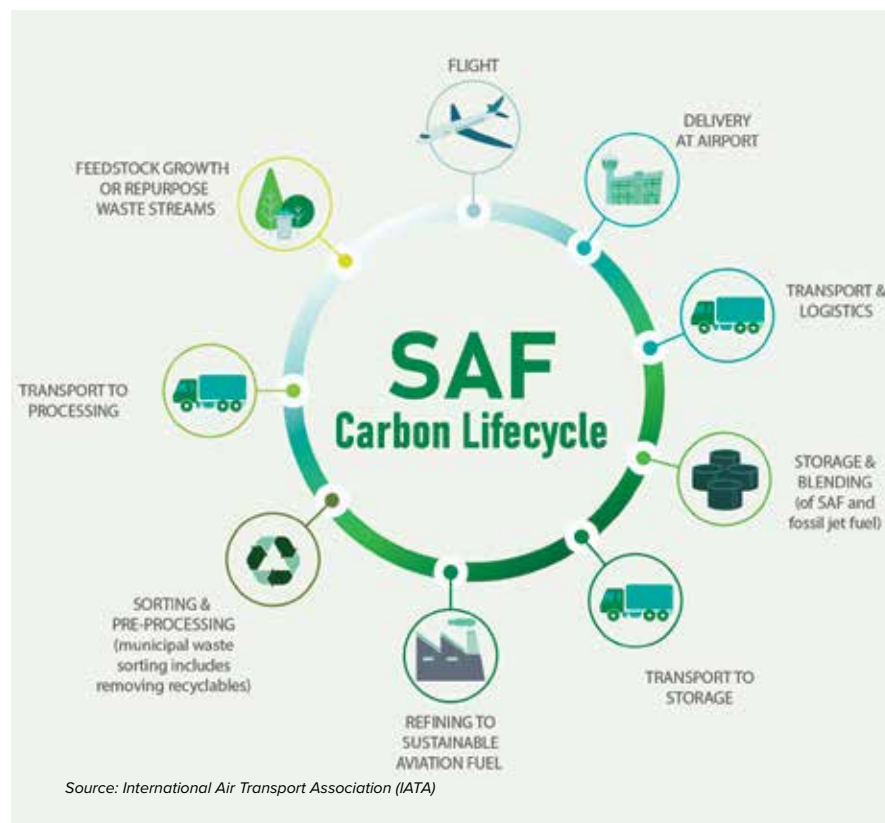
Sir Tim Clark, President of Emirates Airline, acknowledged that there is still “a long road ahead” to achieve more substantial progress in achieving net zero in the aviation sector.

“Powering flights from our Dubai hub is just one of the steps we have taken to reduce emissions and concretely help our customers minimise their own carbon footprint,” Clark remarked following the take-off of Emirates flight EK 412 fuelled by SAF last month.

“We still have a long road ahead, and we hope that our partnership with Shell Aviation inspires more producers to address the supply gaps and make SAF readily available in major hubs like Dubai, as well as other points on our network,” Clark added.

#### TRENDS BEYOND THE UAE

Globally, airlines are acknowledging the urgency of minimising their carbon footprint and are progressively turning



**“ Other decarbonisation programmes that we have put in place include investing in fuel-efficient NEOs and adoption of fuel-efficiency best practices that support the aviation industry's goal of flying net zero by 2050**



**ALEXANDER LAO**

President and Chief Commercial Officer at Cebu Pacific

to SAF as a practical solution. A notable example is Cebu Pacific, the Philippines' leading airline, which launched its inaugural SAF-powered flight from Tokyo-Narita, Japan, to Manila, Philippines, in October 2023.

The flight utilised an Airbus A321neo and incorporated 40 per cent blended SAF sourced from Neste Corporation and supplied by Itochu Corporation. This initiative led to a 44 per cent reduction in carbon emissions per passenger.

Alexander Lao, President and Chief Commercial Officer at Cebu Pacific, said: "Other decarbonisation programmes that we have put in place include investing in fuel-efficient NEOs, optimisation of flight plans, and adoption of fuel efficiency best practices to minimise fuel consumption. All these are concrete sustainability initiatives that bolster our commitment and support for the aviation industry's goal of flying net-zero by 2050."

In the same month, the airline signed an MOU with Neste, the largest producer of SAF in the world. This effort aims to attain net-zero CO2 emissions by the year 2050.

#### OPPORTUNITIES ON THE HORIZON

The Middle East and North Africa, despite being known for fossil fuel reserves, offer significant potential for sustainable aviation fuel. Initiatives led by various stakeholders aim to diversify the energy mix and reduce carbon emissions.

As a non-conventional aviation fuel classified under the umbrella of "biofuel", SAF is commonly derived from diverse biomass sources. These include corn

grain, oilseeds, agricultural residues, forest residues, wet waste like manures and wastewater treatment sludge, wood waste, and dedicated energy crops.

A sustainability industry report by 4Air underscores the region's access to seawater and significant solar potential, providing opportunities for both biomass and non-biomass feedstocks, including solar- and wind-power-to-liquid (PtL) solutions.

In the UAE, salicornia, a plant resilient to salt, has proven successful as a locally cultivated sustainable fuel. In 2019, Etihad Airways operated a flight using this fuel, in collaboration with the Sustainable Bioenergy Research Consortium. The fuel production process brought extra advantages by employing the Seawater Energy and Agriculture System, enabling the simultaneous cultivation of seafood in the same environment as the crop.

Moreover, teaming up with the World Economic Forum, the UAE has devised a plan to produce SAF and renewable hydrogen through PtL technologies by

2050. The collaboration's report suggests that PtL SAF could fulfil up to 73 per cent of the fuel demand for flights refuelling in the country.

The UAE has also identified possible resources for the production of SAF, such as halophytes, or plants that grow in salt marshes and other brackish conditions, municipal solid waste, used cooking oil, agricultural waste and microalgae, amongst others.

#### WINGS OF CHANGE

The pathway to achieving net zero aviation will undergo thorough examination at the Global Sustainable Aviation Forum during COP28. Deliberations will cover aspects such as SAF readiness, demand projections, production challenges, and airline commitments.

Notably, the UAE has proactively made substantial investments and exerted efforts well in advance of this event, positioning itself as a committed host of COP28.

## SAF BY THE NUMBERS

**Dhs600 billion**

The UAE's investment earmarked for clean and renewable energy over the next 30 years

**85%**

Reductions in greenhouse gas emission over SAF's lifecycle compared to fossil-based jet fuel

**2%-2.5%**

The global aviation industry's share of greenhouse gas emissions, according to the World Economic Forum, citing Our World in Data

**3.5%**

The global aviation industry's share of global CO2 emissions by 2030, according to the International Energy Agency

**50%**

Amount of SAF that can replace traditional jet fuel in a modern jet aircraft







In 2020, the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Initiative (SAFI)-UAE was launched to guarantee the aviation sector's growth "by enabling, promoting, and developing a vibrant Sustainable Aviation Fuel industry in the country".

Meanwhile, in October 2023, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's (ADNOC) Ruwais refinery earned the International Sustainability Carbon Certification (ISCC), marking a significant development in SAF production. While SAF currently constitutes less than 0.1 per cent of global aviation fuel, ADNOC, being the first Middle East company with ISCC, plans to fuel international airlines at Zayed International Airport (formerly Abu Dhabi International Airport) using SAF derived from recycled cooking oil blended with jet fuel.

At Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2023, Tadweer, Masdar, ADNOC, and Etihad Airways announced a collaborative feasibility study exploring SAF, renewable diesel, and naphtha production from

municipal solid waste and renewable hydrogen. The study could lead to the establishment of the first commercial-scale manufacturing site in Abu Dhabi.

Cassie Mackie, Vice President Procurement & Supply Chain at Etihad Airways, said: "The industry must get serious about decarbonisation and this type of collaboration between governments, corporates and the aviation sector, which increases SAF supply and availability at airports, helps pave the way for broader adoption."

Etihad stated that, while aviation makes up only 2 per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, it still requires the sector "to learn how to establish initiatives that will make a difference".

#### AVIATION R&D TO FIGHT EMISSIONS

In May 2023, Emirates announced that it was committing \$200 million (Dhs735.6 million) to a research fund aimed at reducing the impact of fossil fuels in

commercial aviation.

This was deemed the biggest single commitment by any airline to sustainability, with the funds allocated over a three-year period. Emirates said it is actively seeking partnerships with prominent organisations focused on developing solutions in advanced fuel and energy technologies.

Clark said: "We looked long and hard at the reality we face in commercial aircraft and engine technology, fuel supply chain, and our industry's regulatory and eco-system requirements. It's clear that with the current pathways available to airlines in terms of emissions reduction, our industry won't be able to hit net zero targets in the prescribed timeline."

"We believe our industry needs better solutions, and that's why we're looking to partner with leading organisations on R&D to contribute meaningfully to practical solutions for the long-term sustainability of commercial aviation."



# UAE'S INITIATIVES TO ENABLE SAF TRANSITION



1

## CERTIFICATION

In October 2023, the Ruwais refinery of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) received the International Sustainability Carbon Certification (ISCC) to produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The SAF is manufactured from used cooking oil feedstock, which is blended with jet fuel. ADNOC is the first company in the Middle East to get this certificate.

2

## 100% SAF

In January 2023, Emirates marked the UAE's Year of Sustainability with a significant flight. A Boeing 777-300ER, powered by 100 per cent SAF in one engine, flew for over an hour over Dubai. This symbolic move demonstrated SAF's performance, safety and reliability. The test flight, showcasing SAF blends in higher proportions, contributed valuable insights for industry standardisation and future approval of 100 per cent drop-in SAF as a jet fuel replacement.

3

## COMMERCIAL-SCALE SAF PRODUCTION

This year also began with Tadweer (Abu Dhabi Waste Management Company), Masdar, ADNOC, Etihad Airways, amongst others, announcing at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2023 that they would carry out a joint feasibility study to explore the production of SAF and products, such as renewable diesel and naphtha, using municipal solid waste and renewable hydrogen. Based on the studies, the partners will also consider setting up the first commercial-scale manufacturing site in Abu Dhabi.

4

## NET-ZERO AVIATION

On December 6, 2023, COP 28's Global Sustainable Aviation Forum in the Green Zone will explore the trajectory to net-zero aviation. Experts, including government and industry representatives, will assess SAF readiness, demand projections, production challenges, and airline commitments. Panel discussions will focus on scaling up SAF production, feedstock availability, and the role of blended finance in supporting SAF production in the developing world to meet sector-wide goals.

5

## MASDAR-BOEING PARTNERSHIP

The UAE's clean energy company, Masdar, has partnered with aerospace company Boeing to supercharge the SAF industry in the country and beyond. The MoU, signed in October 2023, will support the commercial aviation industry's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. "Global net-zero goals can only be achieved through international collaboration and innovation. Ahead of the UAE hosting COP28, we will continue to leverage our combined knowledge, expertise, and passion to support industry and create a more sustainable future for all," said Mohammad Abdelqader El Ramahi, Chief Green Hydrogen Officer at Masdar.





We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending  
our sincerest congratulations and best wishes to

His Highness Sheikh

**Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

President of the UAE

His Highness Sheikh

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

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

**and Their Highnesses Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates**

**and to the people of the UAE**

**On the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Union Day**

  
**الفطيم لوجيستكس**  
**Al-Futtaim logistics**



**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.

## PURE SOULS

Silence is the best answer to painful questions, and an honest smile is better than honey talk

**E**very morning, I wait for a beautiful message from a heart that I am fond of, carried by the soft morning breeze. My heart and soul cheer up with those simple letters from my beloved. Life smiles at me. Delighted, my heart beats as a beautiful wish crosses my mind: that the hearts of people be pure and shiny like the morning lights and the magnificence of the universe, spirits that are alike, roaming in the spacious hearts that spare not a moment to embrace affection, love and care.

Man is a creature that is pleased and displeased by a word, that is comforted by a word, and maybe killed and revived by a word.

To you—whose heart and mind dried up of feelings and sensations—the complainer and attention seeker, why do you go so far looking for femininity while you neglect and abandon the nearest to you, your lover, your unbendable, unwavering other half? Look at her as the most beautiful, the softest of all women and you will see wonders. Femininity is everywhere but it is the woman who decides when and how to show it. A woman needs a man to listen to her heavy heart struggling for air, to understand her sad eyes, to feel her pain through the tone of her voice. A woman needs a man who is full of feelings and not of himself.

My mother once said that the might of silence cannot be sold with cheap words. Words are like medicine. If you overdo it, it kills you. If you take a little, it benefits you. Behind silence, there might lay hesitance or complaint, longing or pain. My mother also taught me that silence is the best answer to painful questions and that an honest smile is better than honey talk. Some might see my forgiveness as surrender and my silence as defeat. Yet, they do not know that forgiveness requires a much bigger power than vengeance, and that silence is more powerful than the most sophisticated expressions. My silence is more powerful than my words, and that's enough.

A pure heart lights up life. It brings people together. Wherever there is purity, there is happiness. Wherever there is loyalty, there would be more stability and security. There is an ample energy of love within each and every one of us that is released only towards those we love. True love is not found, it is built. Love is the most sublime of feelings in this existence. Writers and philosophers wrote much about it. Poets have sung it since the beginning of time. With love, you own hearts and you shorten distances between you and others.

This is especially true when a woman says to you: I am a queen in my father's castle. I am pride and dignity. I was born to be the queen of the knight of knights who steals my

heart and softly sweeps me off my feet, who protects my heart and my dignity. I was not born to be humiliated. I stand tall, honourable and dignified. I was born tender yet intellectually strong. I am as proud as Cleopatra, as pretty as Nefertiti. I am virtuous. I am embellished with the beauty of my soul. Ethics are my weighty crown. I will always remain fantastically made and

fictionally spoken. I will always remain mysterious. My words are unrestrained. My thoughts and whispers are limitless. My dignity is unparalleled.

I am unique amongst all women. I refuse to live in darkness. I refuse to be a toy on the shelves of memories. Inside of me lives a little girl who defies rough feelings with innocent sensations, a girl who gives peace despite tragedies and disappointment. I am the only home for the heart that loves me. I am pride and pride is me. I do not bow unless to kiss the head of the one who made me a queen. I will be his certainty. My arrogance makes me a rebellious woman. I live with myself in bliss. I dream of a rosy tomorrow. I have destroyed the temple of lies, stone after the other to build the kingdom of honesty with the hands of pure souls.

**Words are like medicine. If you overdo it, it kills you. If you take a little, it benefits you**



# Phone down, drive up

USING YOUR MOBILE PHONE WHILE DRIVING CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES, ENDANGERING YOUR LIFE AND THE LIVES OF OTHER ROAD USERS. 999 EMPHASISES RESPONSIBLE DRIVING BEHAVIOURS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ACCIDENTS

BY NASEEF CHEENATH









Abu Dhabi Police share a video of multi-vehicle smash up caused by erratic driver, blamed on mobile phone

**B**elieve it or not, the human brain is incapable of multitasking when driving. It's a scientific fact. Using a mobile phone while behind the wheel might appear harmless; truth be told, it brings serious risks to your life and limb.

In early October 2023, Dubai Police disclosed that six fatalities in road accidents this year were attributed to drivers using mobile phones. Over the first eight months of this year, 35,527 drivers were caught for using their mobile phones. This traffic violation was linked to 99 accidents, which resulted in 50 injuries. Major General Saif Muhair Al Mazrouei, Director of the General Department of Traffic at Dubai Police, emphasised that mobile phone usage while driving significantly impairs reaction time, especially when engaging in activities like browsing social media or texting. He stressed that a momentary lapse can lead to accidents, injuries, and lasting consequences for both the driver and other road users.

Point of fact: Motorists using their devices while driving may commit various errors. Such errors compromise road safety, not just for the distracted driver but for everyone around him.

Many people believe they can multitask "safely", convinced that answering a call or sending a quick message won't divert their attention.

If you're convinced this to be the case, it's worth considering the words of John

Medina, a prominent developmental molecular biologist and author of the internationally acclaimed bestseller *Brain Rules*. He wrote: "The brain is not capable of multitasking. We can talk and breathe, but when it comes to higher-level tasks, we just can't do it...The brain is a sequential processor and large fractions of a second are consumed every time the brain switches tasks."

#### EFFICIENCY OR TRAGEDY?

A humorous saying encapsulates this truth: "Multitasking is the art of messing up everything all at once." But this "messing up" is not funny. When it comes to activities like calling or texting while driving, they not only impact our own lives but also jeopardise the safety of other road users.

"Using a phone while behind the

wheel not only diverts a driver's attention but also significantly increases the likelihood of accidents," said Al Mazrouei. "A momentary lapse in concentration while checking social media or texting can have devastating consequences."

#### PENALTIES

The UAE traffic regulations, as outlined in Ministerial Resolution No. (178) of 2017 on Rules and Procedures of Traffic Control, detail the penalties for such violations.

A driver caught using a mobile phone while driving, or found to be distracted by any other means may incur a fine of Dhs800, in addition to the imposition of four black points on their driving license.

As per law enforcement agencies, even utilising a hands-free device to answer a call diverts your attention from the road,

**In early October 2023, Dubai Police disclosed that six fatalities in road accidents this year were attributed to drivers using mobile phones. Over the first eight months of this year, 35,527 drivers were caught for using their mobile phones**

**“A momentary lapse in concentration while checking social media or texting can have devastating consequences**



**MAJOR GENERAL SAIF MUHAIR AL MAZROUEI**

Director of the General Department of Traffic at Dubai Police

**“The use of mobile phones while driving has become an addiction for many motorists, especially youngsters. And it’s a very big danger to road safety**



**BRIGADIER MOHAMMED DHAHI AL HUMAIRI**

Director of the Traffic and Patrols Directorate at the Central Operations Sector at Abu Dhabi Police



providing no significant safety improvement when taking calls while driving.

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) handbook strongly recommends establishing the practice of exclusively using mobile phones when your vehicle is stationary. When driving, it advises having a passenger manage your phone calls or allowing incoming calls to be directed to voicemail instead. This approach prioritises safety on the road and minimises distractions.

#### **CAN'T THAT CALL WAIT?**

Various forms of driver distraction exist, but the use of mobile phones is a paramount concern for traffic authorities. The available evidence underscores a concerning trend, indicating that this behaviour is on the rise, largely driven by the widespread use of mobile phones.

Traffic safety hinges on undivided attention and complete awareness of your surroundings. Any distraction becomes a perilous ingredient in the mix.

When a driver uses their mobile phone while behind the wheel, the consequences become glaringly evident. The vehicle's pace can become frustratingly sluggish on a highway, compelling others to overtake. Equally concerning is the driver's inability to maintain a straight path, occasionally drifting into neighbouring lanes, putting themselves and others at risk. Then the question arises: why would anyone willingly assume responsibility for such dire consequences? As is often the case, certain human behaviours seem to defy common sense.

“The use of mobile phones while driving has become an addiction for many motorists, especially youngsters. And it’s a very big danger to road safety,” Brigadier

## **4 MOST COMMON MOBILE-INDUCED DRIVING MISTAKES**



### **1 LANE STRADDLING AND VEERING**

Drivers using mobile phones may inadvertently drift across lanes or veer off their intended path due to distraction, increasing the risk of collisions.



### **2 INCONSISTENT DRIVING PATTERNS**

Mobile distractions can lead to inconsistent speeds, abrupt stops, or sudden accelerations, creating unpredictability on the road and increasing the chances of accidents.



### **3 NOT MAINTAINING ADEQUATE DISTANCE**

Distraction from mobile phone use may cause drivers to neglect maintaining a safe distance, increasing the likelihood of rear-end collisions and reducing reaction time.



### **4 LAPSES IN JUDGMENT AND AWARENESS**

Mobile-induced distractions can result in lapses in judgment, where drivers may fail to assess situations accurately or be less aware of their surroundings, contributing to poor decision-making on the road.

Source: RTA Dubai



## MOBILE PHONE USAGE WHILE DRIVING IN THE UAE



**11.3 per cent**

Drivers who habitually text or chat while driving



**13.8 per cent**

Drivers who engaged in phone conversations while driving

*Source: 2017 study of the Department of Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management at University of Sharjah*

### GROWING TREND

In a 2020 report from the World Health Organization (WHO), it was revealed that studies from various nations indicate a growing trend in the use of mobile phones by drivers while on the road.

This trend has seen a surge in the past decade, with observed usage rates as high as 11 per cent at any given moment, potentially even higher when hands-free mobile phones are considered.

In many countries, the full extent of this problem remains uncertain: data on mobile phone usage is not routinely collected in the aftermath of traffic accidents.

UAE authorities have put in place strict regulations and penalties to deter the use of mobile phones while operating a vehicle.

In January 2021, Abu Dhabi Police introduced a cutting-edge automated system designed to identify seat belt and mobile phone violations amongst drivers in Abu Dhabi, known as the Vehicular Attention and Safety Tracker (VAST). This innovative system is a network of radar monitoring systems equipped with AI-powered cameras capable of capturing high-resolution images. Motorists who commit violations receive a prompt text message detailing the nature of their infringement.

Previously, in 2020, Abu Dhabi Police had introduced smart patrols that were strategically positioned on various roads throughout the Capital. These smart patrols

Mohammed Dhahi Al Humairi, Director of the Traffic and Patrols Directorate at the Central Operations Sector at Abu Dhabi Police. He added that using a mobile phone while driving causes a loss of concentration on the road which leads to serious accidents.

Drivers, he said, are breaking the law when they use their hand-held devices

to take photographs, record movies, browse the Internet, interact on social media, talk on the phone, or take pictures.

“Motorists should stop the dangerous habit of using mobile phones while driving to guarantee their safety and the safety of other road users,” said Al Humairi.







leverage advanced technology to detect and address traffic offences such as failure to wear seat belts, mobile phone usage while driving, speeding, and other violations.

Dubai Police are also taking proactive measures by conducting multiple awareness campaigns aimed at highlighting the consequences of mobile phone distractions. These campaigns feature real-life incidents where individuals were engrossed with their

phones while driving, resulting in devastating accidents, debilitating injuries, or, in the worst cases, fatalities.

“Unfortunately, some only learn when tragedy strikes,” Al Mazrouei said. He emphasised the utmost importance of all road users adhering to traffic regulations and steering clear of any distractions while driving, be it making calls, texting, or indulging in social media browsing.

### KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON THE ROAD

A 2017 observational study conducted by researchers from the Department of Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management at the University of Sharjah investigated the personal characteristics influencing mobile phone usage while driving. The researchers found that 11.3 per cent of drivers were texting while driving, and an additional 13.8 per cent were engaged in phone conversations.

Meanwhile, a study by Monash University in Malaysia revealed that young drivers' time spent with their eyes off the road increased by a shocking 400 per cent when texting.

Distracted driving can lead to a wide range of errors, some of which may be fatal. These include a lack of awareness of surrounding road users and potential hazards, failure to observe road signs and warnings, difficulty maintaining the recommended safe speed, insufficient following distance from the vehicle in front, and poor lane discipline, including changing lanes without signalling.

RTA Dubai underscored the dangers of mobile phone distractions in its light motor vehicle driving handbook, stating “Mobile phones distract drivers and can cause them to either make mistakes that they would not otherwise make or to react too slowly.”

The handbook goes on to list several common errors that distracted motorists are prone to, including straddling lanes on multi-lane roads, erratic speed fluctuations, difficulty maintaining a safe following distance, and lapses in judgment and awareness of safe traffic gaps.



**“Motorists should avoid using phones while driving their vehicles because it breaks the concentration of the driver and could lead the vehicle to veer off its lane, which could result in accidents**

— **BRIGADIER SALEM ABDULLAH BIN BARAK AL DHAHERI**  
Deputy Director of the Traffic and Patrols Directorate at Abu Dhabi Police

#### BETTER TURN IT OFF

In 2019, a tragic incident occurred in Ajman, where a 49-year-old Arab national lost his life, while his 35-year-old wife and their two young children, aged 3 and 4, sustained minor injuries. This unfortunate event unfolded on Al Ittihad Street in the Al Zawra area in Ajman when their vehicle overturned.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Saif Abdullah Al Falasi, Director of the Traffic and Patrols Department at Ajman Police, this accident resulted from the driver's distraction with a mobile phone, leading to the vehicle abruptly swerving and colliding with the pavement before ultimately overturning onto the central reservation.

Regrettably, the driver could not survive the injuries he sustained during the vehicle's overturning, as he had neglected to fasten his seat belt.

Al Falasi emphasised that distractions caused by mobile phones have become a significant factor contributing to traffic accidents. He underscored the importance of driver concentration, avoiding mobile phone use while driving, ensuring seat belt usage, and adhering to traffic regulations.



## TIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE MOBILE PHONE USE



### Power off before you set off

Turn off your phone before embarking on your journey. This eliminates the temptation to use it while driving.



### Take timely breaks

Use breaks as opportunities to check messages or make calls.



### Avoid hands-free use

Hands-free technology may seem safer, but it can still be distracting.



### Park safely before making a call

If you need to make an urgent call, find a safe spot to park your vehicle before using your mobile phone.



### Respect others' safety

Do not call or text someone you know is driving. Encourage them to call you back when they have safely reached their destination.

#### SERIOUS RISK

A 2020 survey by Abu Dhabi Police revealed that approximately 80 per cent of road fatalities and serious injuries are caused by drivers chatting on social media, browsing the Internet, speaking on phones, and other distractive behaviours.

Brigadier Salem Abdullah bin Barak Al Dhaheiri, Deputy Director of the Traffic and Patrols Directorate at Abu Dhabi Police, said using a mobile phone while driving has become commonplace amongst many drivers, particularly young people. This

poses a serious risk to public safety.

“Motorists should avoid using phones while driving their vehicles because it breaks the concentration of the driver and could lead the vehicle to veer off its lane, which could result in accidents,” said Al Dhaheiri. “Studies have revealed that many road accidents were being caused by a lack of concentration and negligence mainly because of drivers speaking on mobile phones, chatting on social media or taking videos while driving.”

Traffic officials are reminding drivers to refrain from snapping “selfies” or images while driving as doing so diverts their attention from the road and impairs their ability to react to other vehicles, causing them to run red lights or swerve into other lanes without warning.

The decision to put down the mobile phone while driving is not just a matter of personal choice; it's a commitment to the safety and well-being of ourselves and those sharing the road. As we navigate the fast-paced world of technology, let's not forget the fundamental responsibility we hold behind the wheel. By choosing to be present, focused, and attentive, we contribute to a safer driving environment for everyone. Remember, the call or message can wait, but the safety of yourself and others cannot. Let's drive up our awareness, putting safety first on every journey.





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**On the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Union Day**







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

## NURTURING PROGRESS AND UNITY

A reflection on the UAE's remarkable 52-year journey, defined by its steadfast commitment to diplomacy, human development, tolerance and sustainability

**A**s December unfolds in the UAE, the atmosphere carries a distinct energy. It's not just the end of one year and the dawn of another; it's a time of introspection, a moment to appreciate the 52-year journey that has shaped the country into what it is today—a beacon of progress, unity, and pride.

And, well in advance, extensive efforts are underway to ensure that the UAE reaches its centennial milestone with even greater levels of pride and glory.

The UAE's accomplishments, viewed against the backdrop of its relatively brief history, take on a unique significance. Through international diplomacy and carefully devised strategies, the UAE has emerged as the most connected country to the continents. This approach not only defines the nation's identity but also influences its global standing, shifting its focus from regional leadership to a broader, more impactful role in the international arena. This diplomatic journey is built on tolerance, co-existence, and building bridges with humanity.

However, its success story isn't confined to the realm of international relations. The UAE has been proactive in adapting its legal framework to mirror societal changes. Over 70 per cent of its judicial legislation has undergone modernisation. It underscores the commitment to staying agile to evolving challenges.

Some might think talks about the UAE's achievements are exaggerated, but the fact that other nations, even global heavyweights, are adopting its model proves its impact. In a mere five decades, the UAE has transitioned into a global model for governance, development, safety and security.

The recent UAE Government's Annual Meetings 2023,

chaired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, brought together government officials with a shared vision and renewed commitment to advance government initiatives. Ministers showcased diverse projects that contribute to the nation's overarching strategies, services, and future accomplishments within a unified framework. These meetings don't merely reflect on past achievements but create new goals in the years ahead.

The UAE's pride goes beyond bringing happiness to its citizens and residents; it extends to sharing its experiences with brotherly countries, viewing them not as competitors but as collaborators in the pursuit of collective progress.

Our Union Day is not just a celebration of the past, but a powerful reminder to the present, and a timeless lesson for the future. As we mark the 52nd UAE Union Day, our collective prayer is for the UAE to continue in charting its unique course towards a flourishing future.



**Through international diplomacy and carefully devised strategies, the UAE has emerged as the most connected country to the continents. This approach not only defines the nation's identity but also influences its global standing, shifting its focus from regional leadership to a broader, more impactful role in the international arena**



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# THE YEAR THAT WAS

**999** SHOWCASES ITS COVER STORIES OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, CHRONICLING SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS IN THE UAE'S HISTORY. NOW ETCHED INTO OUR NATION'S NARRATIVE, THESE STORIES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO STEER THE UAE TOWARDS GREATER PROSPERITY, EMBODYING THE SPIRIT OF INNOVATION, RESILIENCE, AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

BY MARK NITUMA









## JANUARY

The January cover story of **999** explores the UAE's space programme, a venture characterised by swift progress that continuously unlocks new economic potential. It highlights the country's remarkable achievements in space exploration, spotlighting the Rashid Rover's journey to the Moon. The moon lander was propelled by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from

Cape Canaveral, Florida, on December 11, 2022. Despite the setback of this first Arab-built lunar spacecraft after it experienced a failed landing on April 25, the mission provides valuable lessons that can enhance technological maturity in future space missions.



## APRIL

While deeply rooted in culture and history, the UAE embraces the future through technology, evident in its advanced security apparatus. The synergy of teamwork and technology, vital for national and local law enforcement, takes the spotlight in the April cover story of **999**. Offering a glimpse into the second edition of the World Police Summit (WPS) this feature story

provides insights into global collaborative policing efforts. It showcases cutting-edge innovations, from automated snipers to AI-powered patrol vehicles. Our cover story also explores why technology is hailed as the backbone of efficient modern policing.



## FEBRUARY

Armed with cutting-edge technology, UAE authorities tirelessly combat racketeers and syndicates while raising public awareness. If the police prioritise our safety, should we not reciprocate with vigilance? The February cover story of **999** tackles the digitalisation challenge—securing personal data and finances amidst online transactions, discerning fraudulent communications from

genuine ones. Despite awareness of obvious traps like lottery scams, many still fall for disguised attacks like SIM swaps. This cover story underscores the problem's gravity, providing a comprehensive list of scams for a safer year.



## MAY

Traditionally, energy sources like wood, coal, oil, and gas posed environmental challenges, depleting forests and contributing to climate change. The May cover story of **999** focuses on the fifth solution: renewables, highlighting the UAE's strides in green energy. It spotlights the UAE's construction of some of the world's largest solar power projects. As the host of COP28, the

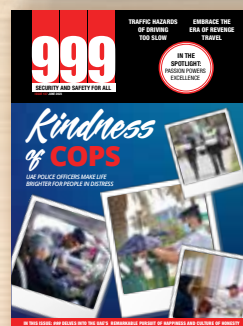
UAE is at the forefront of advocating for renewable energy, setting an example for global sustainability. The cover story underscores the pivotal role nations play in addressing the pressing issue of climate change.



## MARCH

Each individual carries the responsibility to absorb and disseminate authentic information. The March cover story of **999** explores fake news, highlighting the dangers of trusting online rumours. It underscores strict UAE penalties for proliferating false information. Case in point: baseless claims of a Dubai earthquake circulated on social media in January 2023. Also,

fake news videos falsely linking the February 2023 Türkiye and Syria earthquake to a nuclear plant explosion had used unrelated footage. The propagation of fake news by malicious rumour-mongers can adversely impact society, create a climate of uncertainty, and erode public trust.



## JUNE

The UAE's commitment to spreading happiness is woven into its police mission, extending beyond crime fighting. The June cover story of **999** spotlights police officers actively engaging in acts of kindness, from assisting distressed citizens, residents and tourists, to aiding animals. Noteworthy instances include Sharjah Police helping a destitute

Russian tourist return home and Dubai and Ajman Police officers showing compassion towards an exhausted bird. These actions, both at the organisational and individual levels, highlight the police force's dedication beyond crime intervention, contributing to a happier society.





## JULY

While fully embracing technological advancements, the UAE remains devoted to its most valuable asset: its people. The July cover story of **999** explores the ideas, goals, and values of the unique initiative 'Heroes of Tomorrow' by Abu Dhabi Police. Catering to Emirati students aged 11-15, this youth summer programme fosters individual growth and a collective national identity.

Brigadier Hussein Ali Al Junaibi, who leads the 'Heroes of Tomorrow' programme, shares insights in an exclusive interview with **999**. The programme's doubled participation figure this year underscores the enthusiastic reception amongst the youth.



## OCTOBER

Descending from the sky never looked as captivating as when the capsule carrying Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi and fellow space explorers executed its flawless splashdown off the coast of Florida, US, early in September (at 8:17 am, September 4, UAE time). The September cover story of **999** delves into the culmination of Al Neyadi's immensely successful

six-month stint in the International Space Station (ISS), earning him the moniker "Sultan of Space". The cover story explores how Al Neyadi's six-month record-breaking mission propels the UAE's ambitious space programme, contributing to the nation's economic advancement.



## AUGUST

Since the country's inception, women, owing to the vision of the UAE's Founding Father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, have been equal contributors to nation-building. Their progress, guided by the government, spans various fields, placing Emirati women at the forefront of education, culture, engineering, and space research. The August cover story of **999**

celebrates Emirati Women's Day, emphasising sustainability as this year's theme 'We Collaborate for Tomorrow'. It envisions a future where UAE women, alongside men globally, play a vital role in both sustainability and climate progress.



## NOVEMBER

The 28th Conference of the Parties, aka COP28, sounds the clarion call to address the increasing impact of the global climate crisis. The November cover story of **999** assesses why this global climate event emerges not as a mere assembly. It underscores that COP28 lays the groundwork for the planet's fate, as nations strategise to mitigate global warming and fight climate change. Evaluating progress

since the Paris Agreement's 2016 inception, the cover story discusses the importance of reducing our individual carbon footprint to save the planet. This cover story highlights that, collectively, we hold the key to shaping a better future.



## SEPTEMBER

Money laundering, intricately linked with terrorism financing, remains a highly damaging form of fraud. The September cover story of **999** details how the UAE is combatting criminals through stringent legislation and intensified field operations. Results speak volumes; recent data from the Ministry of Interior reveal the seizure of Dhs4 billion in illicit

funds and the arrest of 387 individuals within the past two years. Recognised as a global hub for business and one of the safest countries in the world, the UAE collaborates with international agencies to counter money laundering and terrorism financing, as outlined in our cover story.



## DECEMBER

The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment reveals that annual food waste costs the country Dhs13 billion, echoing a global issue where one-third of global food production, enough to feed 800 million people, is discarded yearly. The December cover story of **999** spotlights UAE's initiatives, such as the Food Bank and Ne'ma, that serve as a transformative approach

to combating food waste. It explores key projects designed to bolster food security, minimise food waste, and promote sustainable agriculture. For instance, a government-led project seeks to discover new plant varieties that are drought-resistant, salt-tolerant, and climate-adapted.





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دار الهندسة للتصميم والاستشارات الفنية  
(شاعر ومشاركوه)

dar



# CLICKS AND COURTESIES

LEVERAGE ONLINE PLATFORMS TO BUILD CONNECTIONS AND POSITIVELY IMPACT OTHERS, RATHER THAN PUSHING THEM AWAY WITH EXCESSIVE POSTS AND MESSAGES

BY RACHELLE MORTY

**T**his is a season of celebration with the upcoming UAE Union Day on December 2 and New Year's Day just around the corner. Brace yourselves for a flurry of festive photos and videos on social media, accompanied by greetings and messages. As digital citizens, our social circles expand through

friends and contacts on online platforms. In this interconnected web, we often find ourselves in the dual roles of contributor and spectator—sometimes the one sharing, and other times the one receiving content. And, quite often, we navigate the spectrum between the two.

The beauty of this interconnectedness lies in our shared experiences—the laughter, the

heartfelt messages, the snippets of life that we exchange with one another.

However, much like anything in life, the use of social networks requires mindful consideration. It's a tool that should be wielded with care and intention. Here's a guide on how to make the most of your social media presence during this festive season:





## 1 Don't send excessive festive greetings

When sending festive greetings, it's advisable to exercise restraint and consider your audience. Focus on extending warm wishes to those individuals who would genuinely appreciate the sentiment and the effort you put into remembering them during the holiday season. If your relationship with the message recipient is formal, especially in a work context, it's more suitable to convey your greetings through a professional medium. In such cases, sending an email greeting card is a more appropriate and considerate choice compared to a casual social media chat message. This distinction helps maintain a level of professionalism, ensuring that your festive greetings align with the nature of your relationship with the recipient.

## 2 Keep your OOTDs in check

Hold off on transforming your social media into a one-person show. While those impeccably ironed hair and dazzling 'outfit of the day' (OOTD) posts are captivating, a little moderation is needed. The allure of a glossy lifestyle doesn't truly define a person's attractiveness; it's the depth of your thoughts that forges connections with those who become genuine friends. Besides, too much of a good thing can turn your social feed into a solo performance. So, keep your selfies and OOTDs in check unless you're secretly auditioning for the next blockbuster film.



## 3 Be real, not perfect

The essence of social media lies in connecting with others on a personal level. When individuals share authentic moments and experiences, they invite others to connect with the real person behind the profile. This authenticity creates a sense of trust and relatability, forming a solid foundation for genuine connections.

Instead of trying to be perfect all the time, share real moments and experiences. People connect more when they see the real you, not just the polished version. So, don't be afraid to show the ups and downs, the little quirks, and the authentic side of your life. It makes your social media space more welcoming and friendly.







## 4 Avoid FOMO or 'fear of missing out'

Take a moment to tally how frequently you check your social media accounts for the latest status updates throughout the day. If you find yourself leaning toward the excessive end of the spectrum, you might be experiencing what psychologists term the 'fear of missing out' or FOMO.

This is a psychological phenomenon where individuals feel anxious or apprehensive about potentially missing out on social events, experiences, or opportunities that others may be enjoying.

To avoid succumbing to FOMO, limit your time on social media platforms and be conscious of how frequently you check for updates. Understand that not every social event or opportunity is essential for your personal growth or happiness.

## 5 Add context to your selfie posts

Provide the photograph with some context by revealing a portion of the background (and ensure strangers are excluded from the picture, as UAE cyber law prohibits posting people's pictures without their consent).

If you find yourself overwhelmed by holiday cheer and decide to capture a selfie featuring the duckface-and-arched-eyebrow pose, it's advisable to keep that image confined to your mobile phone memory. Pointless and excessive selfies rank as the number one pet peeve on the Internet, according to a 2017 survey of British web users conducted by the website Casumo.com.

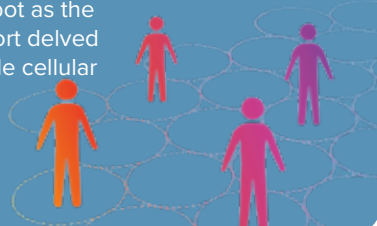
Enrich the image with an extended caption. Explain how the gathering transpired and include an interesting tidbit from your conversation.



## DID YOU KNOW?

According to a May 2023 survey by global proxy provider ProxyRack, the UAE has claimed the title of the social media capital of the world, with an impressive score of 9.55/10, surpassing all other countries. But that's not all – the UAE has also secured its spot as the most connected country globally, earning a connected score of 7.53/10. The report delved into Internet usage, social media platforms, fixed broadband subscriptions, mobile cellular subscriptions, and the percentage of the population using the Internet.

Source: ProxyRack



# Jealousy's deadly grip





## A PROMISING RELATIONSHIP TURNS TROUBLED WHEN JEALOUSY TAKES HOLD, LEADING TO A HEARTBREAKING ACT OF VIOLENCE

BY WAGIH HASSAN  
ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN VIRGIL GUNDA

**J**ealousy, a corrosive emotion that can poison the human heart, can spark irrational thoughts and lead to devastating outcomes. Such was the tragic tale of Alex, a man whose unchecked jealousy corroded the foundation of his relationship with Olivia, culminating in a horrifying act of violence.

Alex and Olivia hailed from the same country. Their professional connection blossomed into love, and the idea of embarking on a journey of marriage began to take shape. As they strolled hand in hand through life's twists and turns, they discovered a mutual passion for capturing the beauty of nature through photography.

The images they created together felt like snapshots of their own relationship, each one preserving a timeless memory. However, beneath their seemingly flawless relationship, jealousy lurked, causing frequent quarrel.

Despite these tumultuous moments, their relationship remained resolute. They believed that marriage would solidify their bond, yet the spectre of jealousy always loomed, threatening to fracture the life they had envisioned together.

Alex grappled with insecurities and often accused Olivia of being too friendly with other men, leading to fiery arguments.

One fateful day, an overwhelming jealousy consumed Alex as he witnessed Olivia engaged in conversation with a male co-worker.

Alex: "Why are you always so friendly with him? I saw the way he looks at you!"

Olivia: "We're just talking about new deliveries, Alex! You're overreacting."

Alex: "Overreacting? You're naive if you don't see how he's trying to get close to you!"

Olivia: "This jealousy is tearing us apart, Alex. I can't live like this."

The next day, an ominous tension hung in the air in their workplace. Alex's anxiety was palpable, and when Olivia

suggested he see a doctor, he vehemently refused. Alex believed that harming Olivia would somehow assuage his anger.

In their workplace's changing area, Alex launched a horrifying assault on Olivia with a knife, leaving her defenceless.

The shocking act did not escape the notice of those around them. Panic and cries for help resounded through the building, alerting the authorities. The police arrived swiftly, their flashing lights and sirens piercing the morning's tranquillity.

Amidst the ensuing chaos, they arrested Alex, who stood trembling with the weight of his deeds.

The court proceedings unfolded. Admitting to the crime, Alex told the court: "At that moment, as I raised that knife, I didn't see Olivia anymore; I saw the darkness consuming me. Her expression of terror – it's a nightmare that haunts my every waking moment."

He acknowledged that he allowed his irrational jealousy to lead him to commit a terrible crime. "I thought I was protecting what we had, but in truth, I destroyed it all. Jealousy turned me into a monster, and I can't undo the pain I've caused," he said.

He continued: "I'll carry the weight of what I did to Olivia for the rest of my life. I can never make amends for the life I took, and the remorse is a constant, haunting presence in my heart."

The court sentenced Alex to a lengthy prison term, which would be followed by deportation.

On the day of the verdict, Alex stood in sombre silence, the judge's words pressing

down heavily upon him. A chilling realisation crept over him, as he understood that his jealousy-fuelled rage had not only irreparably shattered Olivia's life but also his own.

Love, a force meant to unite and elevate, stood in stark contrast to the destructive power of jealousy and revenge that had torn Alex and Olivia apart.

The moral of this harrowing tale is clear: to choose love, kindness, and empathy over jealousy and vengeance, as they are the cornerstones of healthy relationships and the path to a brighter and more harmonious future.

**The images they created together felt like snapshots of their own relationship, each one preserving a timeless memory. However, beneath their seemingly flawless relationship in photographs, jealousy lurked, causing frequent quarrel**

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





# Justice in pixels

THE PROPER USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN PLAY A  
VITAL ROLE IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

BY ALEXA DORPING



## BOSTON MARATHON BLAST

**WHEN:** APRIL 15, 2013

**WHERE:** BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

The Boston Marathon attack on April 15, 2013, involved the detonation of two homemade pressure cooker bombs near the race's finish line, separated by 14 seconds and 210 yards (190 m). This incident resulted in the tragic deaths of three individuals and left over 260 people injured.

The role of social media emerged significantly in the aftermath as law enforcement agencies aimed to identify and arrest the individuals responsible for the blast.

Shortly after the incident, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released images of two suspects, leveraging social media to crowdsource information and identify potential leads. The dissemination of these images on social media triggered an extensive online manhunt, with the public responding promptly and collaboratively. Users actively analysed photos and videos, providing valuable information to investigators.

This became instrumental in identifying the suspects, later revealed to be brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. Following their identification, the Tsarnaev brothers committed further crimes, including the killing of MIT policeman Sean Collier and a subsequent car kidnapping. A shootout with the police in Watertown ensued, resulting in severe injuries to two officers.

Dzhokhar was discovered hiding in a boat in a Watertown resident's backyard, leading to his arrest after sustaining gunshot wounds. Tamerlan was shot multiple times and run over by his brother while attempting to escape in a stolen car, resulting in Tamerlan's death.



*Immediate aftermath of the Boston Marathon attack*

Aaron Tang

During interrogation, Dzhokhar claimed self-radicalisation, asserting no connection to external terrorist groups and indicating he followed his brother's lead. He faced 30 charges, including malicious destruction of property resulting in death. Two months later, he received a death sentence, later vacated by the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Following Supreme Court consideration in the 'United States versus Tsarnaev' case, the death penalty was upheld, reversing the First Circuit Court's decision, with ongoing appeals.

## HANNAH ANDERSON KIDNAPPING

**WHEN:** AUGUST 3, 2013

**WHERE:** BOULEVARD, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

The abduction of 16-year-old Hannah Anderson on the afternoon of August 3, 2013, gained widespread attention in the United States. James Lee DiMaggio, a family friend, committed the kidnapping after murdering Hannah's mother and brother.

The police investigations began with the discovery of a gruesome crime scene in Boulevard, California, in August 2013. The residence of James was engulfed in a fire, revealing two charred bodies in the aftermath — identified as Hannah's mother, Christina Anderson, and her 8-year-old brother, Ethan.

Police determined that Christina had been bound, gagged, and fatally beaten. Both bodies were severely burned, hindering immediate recognition. Investigation of the debris led authorities to conclude that James had not only perpetrated the killings but had also set the house ablaze in an attempt to conceal the crime.

Concerns for Hannah's safety arose immediately amongst police and family members, as she had last been seen after cheerleading practice, and was scheduled to receive a ride home from James.

Amber Alerts were swiftly disseminated across various social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, engaging a broad audience and seeking public assistance in locating the missing teenager.

A group of horseback riders discovered James and Hannah in the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho on August 10, a week after the abduction. Having seen information about the case in the news and recognising the two from the Amber Alert, the



*Hannah Anderson, left, and James Lee DiMaggio, right*

San Diego Sheriff's Department

riders alerted law enforcement, leading to the successful rescue of Hannah. During a confrontation at the campsite, James was killed by FBI agents in a shootout.

At the time of her rescue, Hannah was unaware of her mother and brother's tragic demise. In an emotional interview with *Today* in 2013, she recounted Ethan's compassionate nature, mentioning that he "had a really big heart". She also acknowledged her mother's influence in instilling a resilient spirit that helped her cope with the harrowing experience.



## BABY DOE MURDER

**WHEN:** JUNE 25, 2015

**WHERE:** BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

The Baby Doe case unfolded in Boston in June 2015, when the lifeless body of an unidentified young girl was discovered on the shores of Deer Island in Boston, Massachusetts, on June 25, 2015.

The child, referred to as “Baby Doe”, remained an enigma for months, prompting widespread public interest. The discovery took place when a woman walking her dog stumbled upon the tragic scene, initiating an investigation with the primary objective of identifying the child.

Faced with a dearth of leads, law enforcement turned to social media for public assistance. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children released a computer-generated image depicting the possible appearance of the girl. The goal was to elicit tips leading to her identity and to uncover the individual or individuals responsible for her tragic fate.

Following the release of the reconstruction image on various social media platforms and nationwide news coverage, the case garnered substantial public attention.

The turning point occurred when a composite image of Baby Doe was shared on Facebook by a family friend. A vigilant tipster recognised the child as Bella Bond. The information swiftly reached the authorities, resulting in the identification of Bella's mother, Rachelle Bond, and her mother's partner, Michael McCarthy, as the prime suspects.



*A computer-generated image of “Baby Doe” (left), later identified as Bella Bond in real life (right)*

Police investigations revealed that Bella had been murdered by McCarthy, with her mother involved in the subsequent cover-up. Bella's lifeless body had been disposed of on Deer Island, and the couple had fabricated a false narrative to mislead authorities.

Bella's mother faced charges of being an “accessory after the fact” and pleaded guilty through a plea deal. Meanwhile, McCarthy faced murder charges and was convicted of second-degree murder. On June 28, 2017, he received a life sentence with the possibility of parole in the future.

## LEE RIGBY MURDER

**WHEN:** MAY 22, 2013

**WHERE:** WOOLWICH, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

The brutal murder of British soldier Lee Rigby on May 22, 2013, in Woolwich, London, drew international attention. Fusilier Lee Rigby, a drummer in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, became the target of two extremists, Michael Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale, near the Royal Artillery Barracks in London.

Armed with knives and a cleaver, the assailants intentionally ran over Rigby with a car before carrying out a horrific attack in broad daylight. Shockingly, they lingered at the crime scene, urging bystanders to film and photograph the aftermath with their smartphones.

The attackers made no effort to escape. Instead, they confronted law enforcement officers until they were shot and apprehended by armed police. Adding to the gravity of their actions, the assailants requested witnesses to record statements justifying the killing, intending to disseminate their extremist message through social media.

Immediately following the attack, images and videos circulated rapidly on platforms such as Twitter and YouTube, triggering a public outcry and demand for justice. The distressing footage and shared images online proved to be crucial evidence for the subsequent investigation.

In the ensuing trial, both Adebolajo and Adebowale were convicted of the murder of Lee Rigby. They received life sentences, with Adebolajo handed a whole-life order, ensuring he will never be released.



*Public tribute to Lee Rigby during the Manchester Day parade in June 2013*



# BENJAMIN OF TUDELA'S ARABIAN CHRONICLES

TRAVELLING CITY TO CITY, BENJAMIN OF TUDELA OFFERS UNIQUE INSIGHTS INTO THE DIVERSE CULTURES OF THE ARAB ISLAMIC EAST. FROM ALEPPO'S RICH HISTORY TO THE CALIPH'S OPULENT PALACE IN IRAQ, HIS OBSERVATIONS PROVIDE A CAPTIVATING GLIMPSE INTO A HISTORICAL ERA

BY DR FALEH HANDHAL









The Umayyad Mosque in the ancient city of Damascus, the capital of Syria

**B**enjamin of Tudela's captivating eight-year journey from the Iberian Peninsula to the Arab Islamic East (1165–1173) provides a unique perspective on history. With meticulous footnotes, he unveils the conditions of each city he visits, highlighting the era and Islamic rulers. Continuing his exploration, Benjamin delves into ancient cities, such as Damascus and Babylon. He offers a concise yet rich narrative that illuminates a bygone era through the eyes of a perceptive and astute observer.

Benjamin writes: "In Damascus, there is a mosque for Muslims known as the Damascus Mosque. I did not find another building comparable to its beauty. It is said that it was built on the ruins of the palace of Ibn Hadad Malik Iram, and its walls were made by magicians.

"In this mosque, there are parts embellished with gold and silver, round in shape, and very large so that it can accommodate several people at a time.

"Amongst the relics of this mosque are huge bones. It is said that these bones belonged to "King Anaq", and his name is intricately engraved on stones adorning his grave."

Here, Benjamin's narrative ends. A comment is necessary on it, as he said

that Mount Hermon overlooks the city of Damascus; today, it is known as Mount Qasioun.

As for the "Damascus Mosque", this is the Umayyad Mosque in our present day. The mosque was built between 705 and 715 on the orders of the Caliph al-Walid I. It was built on the site of the Byzantine church of Saint John the Baptist. The mosque still houses the relics of the Prophet Yahya today. The church itself had replaced a Roman temple.

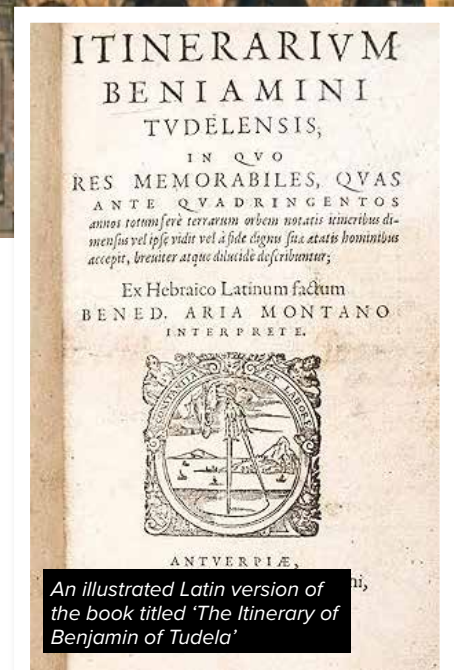
The Umayyad Caliph Al-Walid bin Abd al-Malik renewed the building and added minarets to it. As for "King Anaq", it's a character in a Jewish myth that recounts a historical event with the phrase, "A long time ago, Auj bin Anaq."

From Damascus, Benjamin continues his journey, passing through Beirut, Sidon, Tyre, Acre, and Haifa. He only enumerates descriptions of these cities, and the Jews there, and explains their social situation.

#### FROM NABLUS TO MOSUL

About Nablus, also known as "Shechem" in the Torah, Benjamin tells us

**“Amongst the relics of this mosque are huge bones. It is said that these bones belonged to "King Anaq", and his name is intricately engraved on stones adorning his grave**



An illustrated Latin version of the book titled 'The Itinerary of Benjamin of Tudela'

about a sect of Samaritan Jews. He arrives in Mosul (in present-day Iraq), describing it as a town in Assyria the Great.

Mosul is cut through the middle by the Tigris River, with a bridge existing between them and Nineveh, on the left bank of the Tigris River at the confluence of the Khosr (a tributary of the Tigris). The remains of the ancient city of Nineveh are today found on the outskirts of the modern city of Mosul, which stands on the other side of the river.



**“In the Caliphate palace, there is something that boggles my mind. The buildings contain marble and decorated tiles in gold, adorned with rare and precious stones**

From Mosul, Benjamin then travels to the centre of Iraq, talking about Anbar, a town near Fallujah, located on the Euphrates River, until he arrives in Baghdad. This was during the days of the Abbasid Caliphate (or Abbasid Empire).

He states: “Baghdad, the great city, the seat of the Caliph’s kingdom, Commander of the Faithful, the Abbasid. The Caliphate palace in Baghdad spreads across Tanuf. Its circumference is three miles, with a garden in the middle.”

He also passes through Homs and Hama (in Syria) quickly. When he reaches Aleppo (about 310 km north of Damascus), he describes it as the seat of the Kingdom of Nur al-Din, surrounded by a solid wall. “The city is not watered by rivers or springs, so the people collect rainwater. In every house, there’s a well, in which rainwater is collected,” he writes.

In Benjamin’s own words, he describes Aleppo as an ancient city, a point of conflict between the Persians and the Byzantines. The Arabs entered it in 638 AD, and the Hamdanid Dynasty arose there. It was besieged by the Crusaders several times, and Salah Uddin recovered it for the Ayyubid Sultanate in the year 1183.

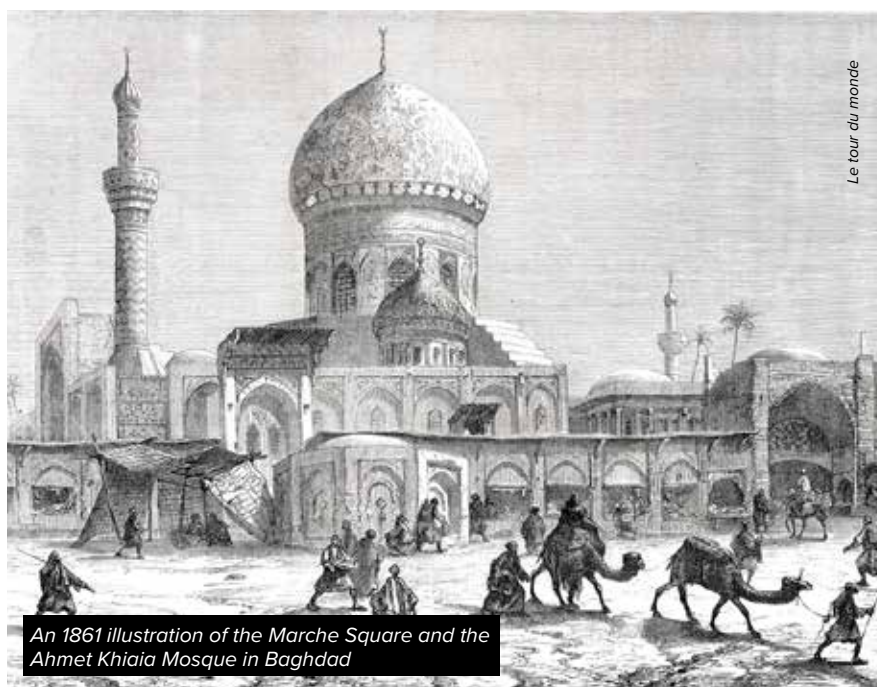
#### JOURNEY THROUGH IRAQ

After leaving Syria, Benjamin heads to northern Iraq, a place teeming with all sorts of interesting animals. He writes: “In Al-Rawdah, there’s this big lake; its waters come from the Tigris River. The Caliph would go there to hunt and picnic, gathering all kinds of birds and fish. It is also the place where the Caliph holds an Al-Abbasi council.

“The Caliph is good to the Jews, loyal, and has a number of people in his entourage. He is knowledgeable in several languages. He eats from the palm of his hands, and he makes brocade shawls. His men sell it to princes and nobles, bringing him abundant wealth. The Caliph is described as a man of piety, honesty, uprightness, and seeking



An Assyrian wall relief depicting a royal lion hunt



An 1861 illustration of the Marche Square and the Ahmet Khiaia Mosque in Baghdad

goodness for the pilgrims who visit him on their journey to Mecca.”

Benjamin also observes that there was a supervisor in the Caliphate palace. He says: “Pilgrims come to her with full respect and humility.”

He adds: “There are a number of princes from the house of the Caliphate detained in their own palaces, guarded to prevent any disobedience against the Caliph. However, they live in elegant palaces, owning cities and estates that bring them abundant wealth.

“In the Caliphate palace, there is something that boggles my mind. The

buildings contain marble and decorated tiles in gold, adorned with rare and precious stones. The palace holds abundant treasures and safes overflowing with gold, silk, and precious jewels. It is the custom of the Caliph to leave his palace on Eid Al-Fitr. People gather from far and wide to celebrate and watch. When he comes out, he rides a painted horse wearing a gold-brocaded cloak and silver. His head is crowned with a studded hood adorned with precious stones.

“The procession moves surrounded by Muslim nobles, all dressed in bright clothes, riding on horseback. They are the





Babylon ruins in Hillah, Iraq

great Arabs, Turks, Daylamites, Persians, Ghaz, and from the surrounding areas of Samarkand. The procession heads to the Grand Mosque located in Bab al-Basra (Gate of Basra), adorning all the roads and markets with the most beautiful fabrics and silk. People greet him with cheers, calling out, 'Peace be upon the Commander of the Faithful and the light of Islam'.

"The Caliph responds with a wave. If he enters the mosque, he ascends the pulpit and delivers a sermon explaining the rulings of Sharia law. After the prayer, the ceremonies end, and the Caliph returns to his palace with the same hospitality."

#### DAR-AL-MARISTAN

Benjamin recounts: "In Baghdad, there are about sixty physicians' stores which are provided from the Caliph's house with drugs and whatever else may be required. Every sick man who comes is maintained at the Caliph's expense and is medically treated. Here is a building which is called Dar-al-Maristan, where they keep charge of the demented people who have become insane in the towns through the great heat in the summer."

He adds: "About 40,000 Jews live in Baghdad with safety, pride, and prosperity under the rule of the Caliph."

The city of "Baghdad" had conflicting opinions about its name in ancient times. Some say it means "Bustan" and "Dad" is the name of a Persian man from the days of King Shirvan. Others suggest it comes from the verbal Aramaic "Kadad House". Al-Muthanna bin Harith Al-Shaibani found a market for horses near a river called "Degla", and it was known as Baghdad

**“ In Baghdad, there are about sixty physicians' stores which are provided from the Caliph's house with drugs and whatever else may be required. Every sick man who comes is maintained at the Caliph's expense and is medically treated**

Market before Al-Mansour built the city more than a hundred years ago.

Regarding the caliph "seeking goodness for the pilgrims", history tells us that this caliph was one of the best, rectifying injustices, and being stern against corruption.

#### 'RUINS OF BABYLON'

From Baghdad, Benjamin heads towards Babylon, writing a description under the title "Ruins of Babylon". Before we delve into his words, some background information is necessary about this city and the Jews taken captive in it.

Historically, numerous captivities befell the Jews due to military campaigns against them. The first of these were Assyrian campaigns around 700 BC, followed by another after 22 years, and a third after 70 years. Each time, the Assyrians took a number of them as prisoners to the northern part of Persia, and they did not return.

The Chaldean state later appeared in Persia, with King Nebuchadnezzar ending their existence in Palestine, taking them captive and settling them in Babylon around 600 BC.

The Jews lived in Babylon for about a hundred years, during which the "Babylonian Talmud" was written,

containing explanations and orders of the Torah. In Babylon, the Prophet Ezekiel appeared, and his shrine, named Dhul-Kifl, still exists today.

Returning to Benjamin of Tudela's account of the ruins of Babylon, he describes it as "ancient Babylon the Great", with nothing remaining today but ruins stretching for about 30 miles.

The palace of Bakht Nasr is visible but people are afraid to enter due to the large number of scorpions and snakes. Five kilometres away lies the shrine of Ezekiel on the bank of the Euphrates, a building containing sixty silos, each a tower.

#### FATE OF THE JEWS IN BABYLON

In the middle of the largest silo is a pulpit, behind which stands the shrine of the Prophet Ezekiel. The Jews perform pilgrimage there every year.

It is a fact that the Jews enjoyed protection under the benign rule of the Caliphs. One might ask how the fate of the Jews ended in Babylon. The answer is that in 540 BC, approximately 70 years later, Cyrus occupied Persian Babylon and allowed them to return to their country.

However, the fate of the Jews took a different turn when the Romans came, subdued them, and dispersed them across its expansive territory and kingdoms.



We take immense pride and great pleasure in extending  
our sincerest congratulations and best wishes to

His Highness Sheikh

**Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

President of the UAE

His Highness Sheikh

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

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

**and Their Highnesses Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates**

**and to the people of the UAE**

**On the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Union Day**

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## AI MARVELS

Google's **Pixel 8** and **Pixel 8 Pro** smartphones are revolutionising the mobile experience with the aid of artificial intelligence (AI). These devices are powered by the Google Tensor G3 chip, delivering groundbreaking features and an impressive seven years of software updates, including Android OS upgrades and security enhancements. The Magic Editor in Google Photos utilises generative AI to enhance your photos.

The Pixel 8 offers an elegant design with refined contours, metal finishes, and eco-friendly materials. It has a 6.2-inch Actua display, 42 per cent brighter than its predecessor. The Pixel 8 Pro, on the other hand, boasts a 6.7-inch Super Actua display, suitable for outdoor use, featuring a unique temperature sensor for effortless object temperature measurements.



PRICE: Pixel 8 (Dhs2,565); Pixel 8 Pro (Dhs3,666)

WEBSITE: [store.google.com](https://store.google.com)

## PORTRAIT POWERHOUSE



Vivo introduces the **V29**, the latest addition to its captivating V series, bringing studio portrait capabilities to your pocket. With the innovative Aura Light and Smart Colour Temperature Adjustment, this smartphone promises an elevated photography experience.

The increased light ring size improves low-light and night photography, while the 50 MP AF Group Selfie and Super Group Video features ensure that every smile is perfectly captured.

Not just about aesthetics, the V29's Smart Colour Temperature Adjustment adapts to different environmental colour temperatures. Vivo's V29 is a powerhouse for those seeking to immortalise every moment with style and ease.

PRICE: Starts at Dhs1,647

WEBSITE: [www.vivo.com](https://www.vivo.com)

## ICONIC DESIGN

The **Samsung Galaxy S23 FE** continues the iconic S series design, featuring a new floating camera and premium finish protected with IP681 water and dust resistance, ensuring a sleek yet durable display.

The Galaxy S23 FE excels in photography with pro-grade camera features, including a 50MP high-resolution lens and 3X optical zoom for sharp, detailed shots. Its 'Nightography' mode enables clear low-light selfies and portraits, supported by advanced image stabilisation.

In gaming and streaming, its powerful processor, heat control, and a long-lasting battery make it a formidable choice. The 6.4-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2X display with Vision Booster technology enhances the viewing experience.



PRICE: Dhs 2,299 (256GB)

WEBSITE: [www.samsung.com](https://www.samsung.com)



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and Their Highnesses Members of the Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates

and to the people of the UAE

**On the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Union Day**





EMBARK ON A JOURNEY THROUGH THESE NEW BOOKS TO UNCOVER INNOVATION, RESILIENCE, AND THE UNWAVERING HUMAN SPIRIT IN OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVE ONE'S ASPIRATIONS

BY JASON RAZMUS



## ELON'S REVOLUTION

**TITLE:** Elon Musk

**AUTHOR:** Walter Isaacson

**PUBLISHER:** Simon & Schuster

**PRICE:** Dhs73

From the renowned author of best-selling biographies, including *Steve Jobs*, comes an intimately astonishing account of one of the most captivating innovators of our time. Elon Musk, a maverick visionary who defied conventions, played a pivotal role in ushering in the age of electric vehicles, space exploration, and artificial intelligence (AI). In a two-year journey, Isaacson closely shadowed Musk, participating in his meetings, exploring his factories, and conducting extensive interviews with Musk, his family, friends, colleagues, and adversaries. The result is a revelatory narrative that traces Musk's life from his formative years to the present, brimming with incredible stories of triumphs and trials.

## ATOMIC PIONEER

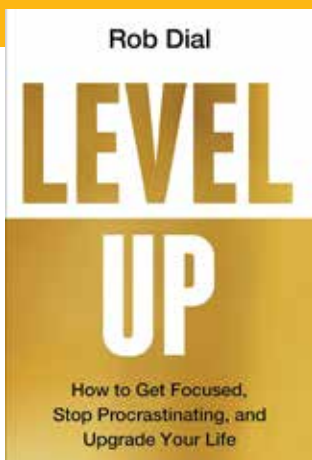
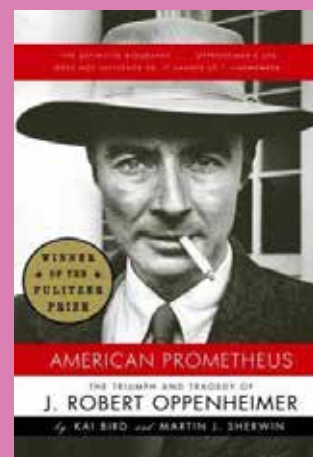
**TITLE:** American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer

**AUTHOR:** Kai Bird & Martin J. Sherwin

**PUBLISHER:** Vintage Books

**PRICE:** Dhs55 (Kindle)

*American Prometheus* offers a meticulously researched account of J. Robert Oppenheimer's life, the iconic figure behind the atomic bomb. The book delves into his early years at New York City's Ethical Culture School, his personal challenges at Harvard and Cambridge, and his profound involvement in pivotal 20th-century events such as the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War. With access to a vast array of records, letters, FBI files, and numerous interviews, the biography provides a rich portrayal of this brilliant yet flawed man. It paints a vivid picture of mid-century America, making it an essential source for comprehending our recent history and shaping our future choices.



## PEAK POTENTIAL

**TITLE:** Level Up: How to Get Focused, Stop Procrastinating, and Upgrade Your Life

**AUTHOR:** Rob Dial

**PUBLISHER:** HarperOne

**PRICE:** Dhs88

Authored by world-renowned high-performance coach and host of *The Mindset Mentor* podcast, Rob Dial, this book offers a transformative approach to achieving your life goals. Dial provides an innovative roadmap for unlocking your full potential and creating lasting change. By deciphering the secrets of peak performance, readers can apply these principles to their own lives. This step-by-step guide facilitates a swift journey from your current state to the life you genuinely desire. Dial's work promises to revolutionise the way readers approach their aspirations and to help them make rapid progress toward their goals.

## A pinch of wisdom: Skipping salt cuts heart disease risk

A study presented at the recent annual meeting of the European Society of Cardiology in Amsterdam found that forgoing the salt shaker could reduce the risk of heart disease by a remarkable 18 per cent.

Researchers from Kyungpook National University Hospital in South Korea analysed data from the UK Biobank, encompassing over half a million participants aged 40 to 70 in the United Kingdom. Their aim was to investigate the link between salt consumption and atrial fibrillation, a condition characterised by an irregular heartbeat or arrhythmia, which, if left unaddressed, can lead to life-threatening complications like stroke, heart failure and blood clots.

They found that those who abstained from adding salt to their meals entirely exhibited an 18 per cent lower risk of being



diagnosed with atrial fibrillation compared to their salt-savvy counterparts who sprinkled salt with every bite.

This finding underscores the potential health benefits of a salt-conscious diet.

Those who occasionally indulged in salt experienced a 15 per cent lower chance of heart issues, while even the moderate salt users saw a 12 per cent decreased risk compared to those who always used salt.

## Your favourite music can tackle pain, new study reveals



New research has uncovered the healing potential of music. According to a study published in the journal *Frontiers in*

*Pain Research*, listening to music can significantly reduce pain.

The study, conducted at McGill

University in Montreal, involved participants receiving moderately painful thermal stimuli on their inner forearms, akin to the sensation of a hot cup of tea against the skin. During the experiments, participants were asked to listen to music excerpts lasting about seven minutes.

As per the results pain was notably diminished when participants listened to their favourite tunes.

Darius Valevicius, a doctoral student at Montreal University, explained that the emotional experiences triggered by music contributed to lower ratings of pain unpleasantness.

"We found that reports of moving or bittersweet emotional experiences seem to result in lower ratings of pain unpleasantness, which was driven by more intense enjoyment of the music and more musical chills," Valevicius told a media report.

These "musical chills", the researchers said, reflect a neurophysiological process that effectively blocks pain signals.

Previous studies have highlighted the emotional influence of music, suggesting its potential benefits for conditions such as depression and speech impediments.



## Osprey breeding population soars in UAE, new EAD survey finds

A recent survey conducted by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) on Osprey breeding in the Capital has found an encouraging trend: the Osprey population is on the rise.

The survey, deemed the most comprehensive of its kind in the UAE, documented an impressive 127 breeding pairs of Ospreys across more than 40 coastal and island locations in the emirate. This data underscores the positive trajectory of Osprey numbers and highlights the importance of ongoing conservation efforts.

The Western Osprey, referred to locally as “Dammi”, is a native breeding bird species in the UAE. It preys on fish and primarily inhabits marine environments, with minimal nesting occurring inland.



Ospreys in the UAE engage in breeding activities from December to March, and they typically construct sizable ground nests comprising dried vegetation around their nesting sites.

This species is incorporated into the Action Plan aimed at conserving migratory birds of prey as part of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of

Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptor MoU).

The EAD highlighted that the increasing Osprey population serves as a positive indicator of the overall ecological quality of the marine ecosystems in the region.

Ahmed Al Hashemi, Executive Director of the Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at the EAD, said, “The comprehensive survey and regular monitoring of the breeding population will provide the agency with

the information on the Osprey to assess trends in numbers and enhance efforts to protect and preserve the birds.”

“Fifty-six per cent of the Osprey nests are present in EAD’s marine nature reserves, which enhances the agency’s role in protecting and preserving the environment,” Al Hashemi added.

## 158.3 million women, girls at risk of poverty due to climate change

A recent United Nations report launched in Abu Dhabi underscored the grave threat of climate change to women’s well-being and gender equality.

The report, titled ‘Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023’, produced by UN Women and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, revealed that

under a worst-case climate scenario, up to 158.3 million more women and girls could be pushed into poverty globally by mid-century, exceeding the number of men and boys affected by 16 million. Moreover, the prevalence of food insecurity could rise by



up to an additional 236 million women and girls, in contrast to 131 million more men and boys.

The report highlights the urgent need for action, suggesting that investing in a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

stimulus package could reduce the number of women in extreme poverty. However, the most effective strategy remains mitigating climate change to prevent further escalation.

The report advocates for a multi-stakeholder approach to tackle the problem, underscoring the significance of enhancing women’s access to education, healthcare, economic prospects, and information.

In response, the report encourages comprehensive and unified initiatives to promote gender equality, urging directed financing and co-operation amongst stakeholders in support of the gender equality agenda.

# WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



## Aries (March 21 to April 19)

This month, your assertive energy can lead to success. Focus on your career and set ambitious goals. Be mindful of impatience, and you'll accomplish a lot. Embrace teamwork and avoid conflicts.



## Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Financial matters come to the forefront. Budget wisely, invest prudently, and secure your future. Your practicality will shine. Maintain a healthy work-life balance.



## Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Communicate clearly and express your ideas effectively. Strengthen your social bonds through networking. Learning opportunities abound. Keep your mind active and open to new experiences.



## Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Home and family are your focal points. Nurture your domestic life and relationships. Gatherings with family and friends will bring joy. Be sensitive to loved ones' needs.



## Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Your creative spark ignites. Pursue your passions, whether it's art, hobbies, or projects. Showcase your talents and let your inner light shine. Share your creativity with others.



## Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

Organise your life and enhance productivity. Health and well-being are key. Pay attention to diet and exercise. A structured approach will lead to personal growth.



## Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Balance is essential. Focus on relationships and collaborations. Diplomacy is your strength. Avoid unnecessary conflicts, and seek harmony. Your charm and grace will lead to success.



## Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Introspection is encouraged. Dive into self-discovery and personal growth. Face your fears and embrace transformation. Let go of what no longer serves you. Regenerate and heal.



## Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Expand your horizons. Travel, study, or explore new interests. Broaden your knowledge and worldview. Your optimism and enthusiasm will draw exciting opportunities.



## Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Focus on your career and ambitions. Set clear goals and work diligently. Your patience and discipline will lead to professional success. Financial stability is within reach.



## Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Embrace your unique qualities and individuality. Express your innovative ideas. Connect with like-minded individuals who share your vision. Forge new alliances and collaborate.



## Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Dive into your intuition and creativity. Engage in spiritual practices and artistic pursuits. Trust your inner wisdom. Nurture your emotional well-being. Dreams hold hidden insights.



# PUZZLES

## ACROSS

- 1) Not for
- 5) Light-headed?
- 10) Give up land
- 14) Creature for Crockett's cap
- 15) Tattered and torn
- 16) Catch wind of
- 17) Vamoose
- 20) City sought by Raleigh
- 21) Thing in the plus column
- 22) Suffix for "acrobat"
- 23) "... slithy toves did \_ and gimble" ("Jabberwocky")

25) Enter a pool

- 29) Homestyle entree
- 33) Dull, hollow sound
- 34) Oscar winner Sean
- 35) Direction away from "to"
- 36) Make a beeline toward

## BRAINPAN

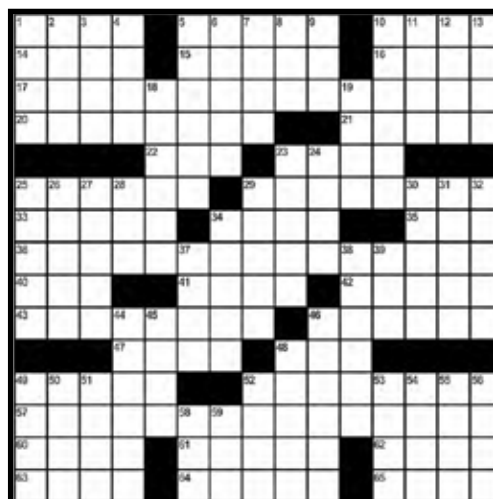
- 40) Money roll
- 41) Superior rating
- 42) Construction support
- 43) School gathering

- 46) Bart and Belle
- 47) Use a beam for surgery
- 48) Summa\_ laude
- 49) "Who knows?" gesture
- 52) Apprehended by cops
- 57) Traveling straight up?
- 60) Allocate (with "out")
- 61) Alpine tune
- 62) Common food fish
- 63) Lofty poems
- 64) How coquettes chat
- 65) "Clapping" aquatic animal

## DOWN

- 1) Result of overtraining, perhaps
- 2) Holiday tune
- 3) Frog's relative
- 4) Chinese leader?
- 5) Bring up, as a subject
- 6) Adds fat for cooking
- 7) Football great Graham
- 8) Extreme utmost degree
- 9) Do a salon job
- 10) Carpentry tool
- 11) Congers and such

- 12) Chip's cartoon chum
- 13) Prefix with "while," once
- 18) Searches for weapons
- 19) Rind's mate
- 23) "Arabian Nights" character
- 24) Yin partner
- 25) Upside-down "e"
- 26) Answers to charges
- 27) Readies, as a rifle
- 28) "Go on ..."
- 29) Irving's "A Prayer for Owen\_"
- 30) Bidder's amount
- 31) Loud, as a stadium crowd
- 32) Government paperwork
- 34) Member of the wking. class
- 37) File folder parts
- 38) Contract workers?
- 39) Unknown, on a TV sched.
- 44) Dodges
- 45) The kings of "We Three Kings"
- 46) "... you jest!"
- 48) Barbaric
- 49) Schmendrick
- 50) Act on, as advice
- 51) Assign stars to, perhaps
- 52) Mark of "Game of Thrones"



- 53) Reckless
- 54) Not false
- 55) Sicilian
- 56) Indian lentil dish (Var.)

- 58) Empire State Bldg. site
- 59) Baby's first word, sometimes

## Easy

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

## Medium

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

## SOLUTIONS

SOLUTIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE



### easy

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

### medium

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

A	T	T	I	C		C	R	E	W		C	M	O	N
C	O	R	E	R		A	U	T	O		L	O	N	E
M	O	O	S	E		O	N	T	H	E	L	O	O	S
E	L	M		E	T	C	H		S	A	N	D	E	R
O	D	O	R		C	L	A	R	E	T	S			
R	A	N	I	S		S	A	R	I		S	P	A	
B	L	E	E	P		O	N	T	H	E	C	R	E	E
S	I	S		A	L	E	E		E	U	R	O	S	
V	E	N	T											
T	I	A	R	A	S		O	S	L	O		G	T	O
B	O	S	U	N	O	N	T	H	E	O	C	E	A	N
A	L	E	S		R	O	T	E		M	A	T	T	E
R	A	S	H		T	W	O	S		S	T	I	E	S

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