

999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 147 APRIL 2024



BEWARE OF
'PROFESSIONAL'
BEGGARS



ESSENTIAL
WATER SAFETY
GUIDELINES

SPOTLIGHT:
EID
ESCAPES



POLICING IN THE ERA OF AI



IN THIS ISSUE: UAE POLICE CRACK DOWN ON NOISY VEHICLES; VIOLATORS RISK HEFTY FINES & LICENCE SUSPENSION

Expertise in the Aerospace Logistics



Origin & Destination
Services in
150+
Countries

Surface
Transportation in
06
Continents

Aircraft
Parts
Movement



Engine
Movements



AOG
Services



Dangerous
Goods
Handling



Time
Critical
Movements



Airside
Deliveries



24/7
Operations



Multiple
Control
Towers



Service
Cargo



On Board
Courier



Charter
Logistics



Warehousing
and Quality
Control



*The UAE
encourages global
collaboration
in leveraging
technologies to stay
ahead of criminals
who harness new
technologies for
nefarious purposes*

Technology against crime

Ramadan signifies a period of spiritual reflection, where our Muslim brothers and sisters set aside the daily pace of life to deepen their Islamic faith and values such as generosity and compassion. However, amidst this sacred occasion, there's a surge in beggar activity, prompting the UAE police to remind the public that begging is a criminal offence.

In the emirate of Dubai, for example, 90 per cent of apprehended beggars in the past few years consider begging as their "profession". And most of them fabricated stories to elicit sympathy and amass substantial amounts of money each day.

The UAE's law enforcement alerts us to the fact that funds obtained through begging often fuel illicit transnational activities—including drug smuggling, human trafficking, and terrorism.

The link between begging and transborder crimes underscores the interconnectedness of global issues. Recognising this, the UAE, through initiatives like the World Police Summit, encourages global collaboration in leveraging technologies to stay ahead of criminals who harness new technologies for nefarious purposes.

Another pressing concern affecting cities worldwide is noise pollution. In the UAE, authorities are implementing multi-pronged strategies to tackle loud vehicle disturbances. Advanced technologies such as noise radar technology, pioneered by Abu Dhabi Police, augment noise monitoring and policing. Stringent penalties, including hefty fines and black traffic points, serve as deterrents against driving loud vehicles.

As you may know, the UAE has a rich seafaring heritage and the authorities are increasing efforts to ensure its maritime safety, especially for sailors, divers, and water sports enthusiasts. It's essential to acknowledge the hazards lurking beneath the surface of the seas. In our cover story, **999** provides insights into the most common sea emergencies and pre-departure protocols.

The sanctity of one's home should be sacrosanct, yet some employers jeopardise this—their own home and the safety of their own family—by hiring undocumented household help. **999** provides the correct legal procedures and compliance for hiring domestic workers.

Furthermore, the formative years of children within families play a crucial role in shaping their character and behaviour. Parents and guardians are encouraged to equip themselves with the right information about various neurodevelopmental, mental, and psychological conditions affecting children—enabling them to provide appropriate support and care.

As we welcome Eid Al Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan, many people in the country seek respite from the summer heat by travelling abroad. This time, why not explore the hidden treasures within the UAE itself? Instead of ticking off overseas destinations from your bucket list, consider embarking on a road trip to gain a deeper appreciation for the country's rich cultural heritage and beauty. In our Tips & Trivia section, we've listed exciting UAE destinations that are just a car or bus ride away.

May this period be filled with peace, reflection, and spiritual growth for all.



**Ministry of Interior
United Arab Emirates**

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Subscriptions
Dhs50 – Individuals
Dhs100 – Companies & government
departments

Published on behalf of
the Ministry of Interior by



New Perspective
media

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

Distributed by Tawzea



Tel. 8002220 Fax 02-6424842

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POLICING IN THE ERA OF AI



ON ITS THIRD EDITION, THE WORLD POLICE SUMMIT CONVERGES TECHNOLOGY AND CONVENTIONAL POLICING METHODS, HELPING LAW ENFORCEMENT FOSTER SAFER, MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

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The Arab scholar and traveller Ahmad Ibn Fadlan met the Saliqaba king and received a warm welcome. Despite facing an issue related to an unmet promise by Abbasid Caliph al-Muktadir, he was allowed to explore the customs of different communities and taught Islamic principles during his visit

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(FNC), and UAE writer



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Internationally
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President receives Rulers of the Emirates for Ramadan well-wishes

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan welcomed Their Highnesses the Members of the Federal Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates, exchanging greetings for the holy month of Ramadan.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed received His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Federal Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah; His



His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and Their Highnesses the Members of the Federal Supreme Council and Rulers of the Emirates gather on the occasion of Ramadan

of the Federal Supreme Council and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah.

Their Highnesses prayed to Allah Almighty for it to be a month of goodness, blessings, and mercy, as well as for security, stability, and

prosperity for the UAE and its people.

Additionally, at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed welcomed Their Highnesses Crown Princes and Deputy Rulers, alongside a number of sheikhs, senior officials, and other guests.

President directs allowance for imams, release of 735 prisoners

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has directed the provision of a monthly allowance equal to 50 per cent of the basic salary for all mosque staff, including imams and muezzins working under the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments (GAIAE).

Dr Omar Habtoor Al Darei, Chairman of

GAIAE, said the allowance will be automatically included in the monthly salary. This initiative, Al Darei said, is a gesture of appreciation from HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed towards the imams of mosques and muezzins, who diligently uphold a conducive environment of worship and serenity, adhering to the highest standards of quality.

Meanwhile, ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed has directed the release of 735 prisoners from rehabilitation and correctional centres. His Highness will also personally cover all fines and penalties imposed on the inmates, who had been sentenced to jail terms for a variety of offences.

Mohamed bin Zayed approves key appointments in Presidential Court



Sheikh Theyab



Al Mazrouei



Al Neyadi



Al Hameeri



Al Ameri

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued several federal decrees, outlining key appointments and the establishment of a new office within the Presidential Court.

The decrees included the appointments (with the rank of ministers) of HH Sheikhha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as Deputy Chairperson of the Presidential Court for National Projects; and HH Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as Deputy

Chairman of the Presidential Court for Development and Fallen Heroes' Affairs.

Meanwhile, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed established the President's Office for Strategic Affairs within the Presidential Court, with HE Dr Ahmed Mubarak Ali Al Mazrouei appointed (with the rank of minister) as Chairman of this Office alongside his ongoing roles.

HE Humaid Saeed Amer Hamad Al Neyadi was appointed (with the rank of minister) as Director of the Office of the Chairman of the

Presidential Court.

HE Sultan Dahi Sultan Al Hameeri was appointed (with the rank of minister) as Advisor at the President's Office for Strategic Affairs within the Presidential Court, alongside his ongoing roles.

HE Rashid Saeed Salem Al Ameri was appointed (with the rank of minister) as Advisor at the President's Office for Strategic Affairs within the Presidential Court, alongside his ongoing roles.

Mohammed bin Rashid unveils Ramadan initiative, pardons 691 prisoners



HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has directed the release of 691 prisoners of various nationalities from Dubai's rehabilitation and correctional centres ahead of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Chancellor Essam Issa Al Humaidan, Attorney General of Dubai, explained that the pardon reflects HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid's commitment to reuniting the pardoned individuals with their families, offering them a chance for a fresh start and community reintegration.

Additionally, HH Sheikh Mohammed launched a Dhs1 billion education fund through the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) to

support disadvantaged families worldwide ahead of Ramadan.

This initiative, named the Mothers' Endowment campaign, aims to provide educational materials, social programmes, and school facilities for millions of underprivileged individuals globally.

HE Mohammad Al Gergawi, Secretary General of MBRGI, said that the fund's allocations will be conducted in collaboration with humanitarian organisations.

Donors can contribute through various channels such as online pledges, SMS donations, or bank transfers, with further information through the hotline on 800 9999 or the Mothers' Endowment Campaign website (<https://mothersfund.ae>).

UAE passport gets validity extension from 5 to 10 years

CHAIRMAN by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the UAE Cabinet has approved extending the validity of the UAE passport from 5 to 10 years for individuals aged 21 years and above.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid wrote on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter): "The executive regulations of the Federal Law on Citizenship and Passport have been amended, and the validity period of the UAE passport has been increased from 5 to 10 years for those aged 21 years and above. The authorities will provide more facilities and comprehensive digital services as part of the new amendments."

Meanwhile, the UAE Cabinet reviewed significant developments in the country's labour market.



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid announced, "The UAE ranked first globally in labour disputes, according to the Global Competitiveness Yearbook. It also topped the world in its ability to attract talent, according to the Prosperity Index, ranking third globally."

During the same session, the UAE Cabinet adopted a new structure for the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization and established a coordinating council for the labour market to enhance its stability and competitiveness.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid stated, "The workforce is the real engine of the economy. Ensuring their affairs are properly managed and protecting their rights are fundamental to the growth of our national economy."

New taxation law for foreign banks takes effect in Dubai

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has issued Law No. (1) of 2024 regarding the taxation of foreign banks operating in Dubai.

The law applies to all foreign banks in the emirate, excluding those licensed in

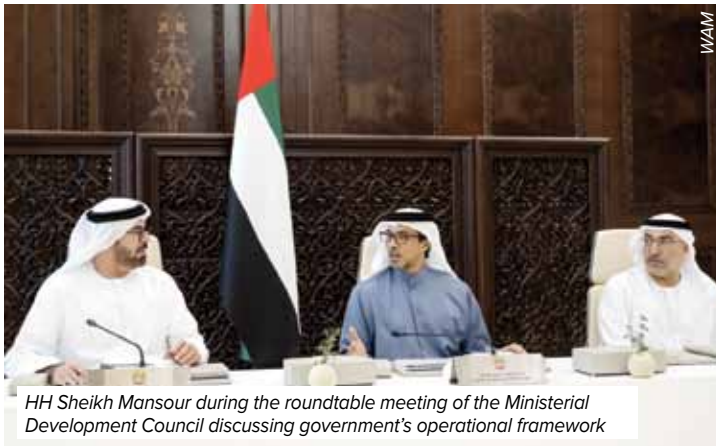
the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC). Foreign banks will be subject to a 20 per cent tax on their annual taxable income.

It details principles for calculating taxable income, tax filing, and audit procedures. The law outlines the rights of foreign banks and branches licensed by the Central Bank

of the UAE, including procedures for tax audit results and objections.

Violations will be determined by the Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, with penalties capped at Dhs500,000, doubling for repeat offences within two years to a maximum of Dhs1 million.

Mansour bin Zayed leads Ministerial Development Council



HH Sheikh Mansour during the roundtable meeting of the Ministerial Development Council discussing government's operational framework

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

The Council examined initiatives, projects, and policies aimed at bolstering the government's operational framework in the UAE. Discussions encompassed the outcomes of national initiatives to enhance the country's labour market, developments in the industrial sector, and economic policy outcomes.

Sustainability initiatives and updates on renewable energy strategies were also deliberated, alongside educational projects. Additionally, the Council reviewed government reports for 2022 and 2023 and discussed Emiratization results in the banking, financial, and insurance sectors.

ETCC greenlights Dhs6.4 billion Nafis budget for 2024

HIS Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, spearheaded the inaugural meeting of the Emirati Talent Competitiveness Council (ETCC) Board of Directors in 2024.

The session, also attended by HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice Chair of the ETCC Board, saw approval of approximately Dhs6.4 billion for the 2024 Nafis programme.

Aligning with UAE leadership directives, the Board approved the 2024 Emiratization targets for the private sector, targeting the recruitment of 36,000 Emirati citizens. Reflecting on achievements, the Board noted a surge in private sector Emiratization in 2023, with around 92,000 citizens employed, thanks to collaborative efforts.

Notably, over 41,800 citizens joined the private sector in 2023, with Dhs4.2 billion

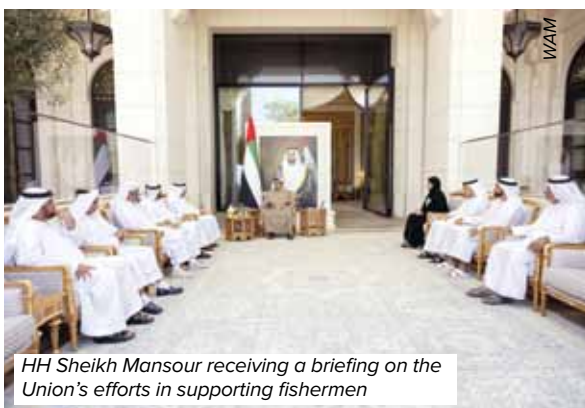


HH Sheikh Mansour with the Emirati Talent Competitiveness Council Board of Directors

disbursed through the Nafis programme. Additionally, the Board lauded the signing of

more than 51 agreements with strategic partners across various sectors.

Mansour bin Zayed meets with Fishermen's Cooperative Union



HH Sheikh Mansour receiving a briefing on the Union's efforts in supporting fishermen

HIS Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, welcomed a delegation from the UAE Fishermen's Cooperative Union, accompanied by HE Dr Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment.

HH Sheikh Mansour received a briefing on the Union's efforts in supporting fishermen, addressing challenges, and preserving fish wealth—a crucial aspect of UAE heritage.

Emphasising the leadership's commitment to bolstering the fishing industry, HH Sheikh Mansour highlighted its significance in ensuring food security and sustainable marine environments. The delegation conveyed gratitude for the leadership's continuous support, acknowledging its pivotal role in sector development.

They praised HH Sheikh Mansour's personal interest in fishermen's affairs and his dedication to addressing their challenges.

Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed convenes ADNOC's ExeCom

HIS Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, led an Executive Committee meeting of the ADNOC Board of Directors.

Held at ADNOC's headquarters, His Highness assessed the progress of strategic initiatives within ADNOC's portfolio, focusing on its transformation, decarbonisation, and



HH Sheikh Khaled during the Executive Committee's session at ADNOC's headquarters

future-proofing efforts to support an equitable energy transition. HH Sheikh Khaled

commended ADNOC for its integration of artificial intelligence (AI) across operations and endorsed plans to further accelerate AI adoption for enhanced safety, reduced emissions, and improved efficiency and value.

ADNOC has been at the forefront of AI development, with solutions like the Panorama Digital Command Center and Thamama Centre of Excellence driving significant value across its value chain through AI integration.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince welcomes Ramadan well-wishers

HIS Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, welcomed a delegation of well-wishers to Al Bateen Palace for the holy month of Ramadan.

His Highness exchanged congratulations and blessings with the well-wishers, comprising sheikhs, senior officials from various civil, military, and security organisations, as well as dignitaries and citizens.

The well-wishers prayed for a brighter and more prosperous future for the nation under the leadership of President His



HH Sheikh Khaled hosts well-wishers at Al Bateen Palace for the holy month of Ramadan

Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, conveying heartfelt wishes for

enduring prosperity and blessings on Arab and Islamic nations worldwide.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince marks Emirati Children's Day

HIS Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, marked Emirati Children's Day by visiting the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood in Abu Dhabi.

During the visit, His Highness was briefed about the Council's efforts to support motherhood and childcare, under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima bint



HH Sheikh Khaled with the officials of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, alongside youth leaders

Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, and Mother of the

Nation. HE Al Reem bint Abdullah Al Falasi, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, highlighted the UAE's commitment to protecting children's rights and promoting healthcare, education, and social development.

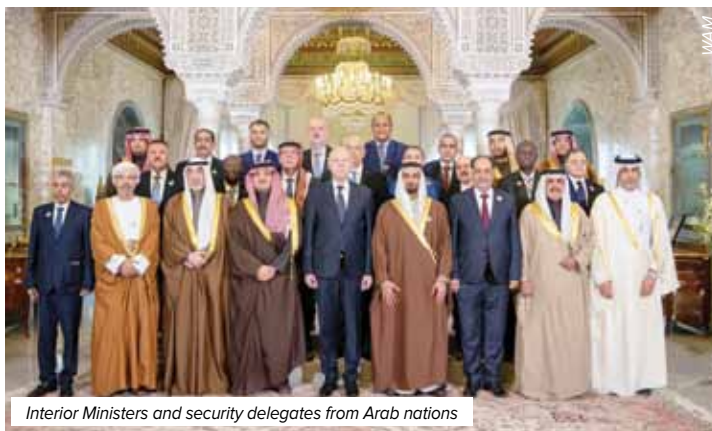
HH Sheikh Khaled met with members of the Children's Advisory Council, the Emirati Children's Parliament, and UNICEF's Youth Climate Ambassadors, recognising their role as future leaders.

Saif bin Zayed attends 41st Arab Interior Ministers Council meeting

HIS Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, led the UAE delegation at the 41st Arab Interior Ministers Council meeting in Tunis, Tunisia.

Upon arrival, HH Sheikh Saif was welcomed by his Tunisian counterpart, Kamel Feki, and other officials.

Tunisian President Kais Saied received the Arab Interior Ministers at Carthage Palace.



Interior Ministers and security delegates from Arab nations

For his part, HH Sheikh Saif conveyed President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's greetings, as well as his gratitude for the warm hospitality.

The session gathered Interior Ministers and security delegates from Arab nations, along with representatives from various international organisations. Discussions zeroed in on enhancing Arab cooperation in security and policing.

Interior Minister bolsters cooperation with Arab counterparts

HIS Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, engaged in extensive bilateral discussions with several Arab counterparts during the 41st session of the Arab Interior Ministers Council in Tunis, Tunisia.

HH Saif bin Zayed met individually with

the Ministers of Interior of Jordan, Mazin Abdallah Al Farayeh; Egypt, Major General Mahmoud Tawfiq; Bahrain, General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa; and Lebanon, Judge Bassam Mawlawi.

The meetings aimed to strengthen fraternal ties and enhance security

collaboration, touching upon regional developments and the importance of comprehensive peace for stability.

Additionally, discussions focused on bolstering cooperation in security, policing, and combating transnational organised crime, underscoring mutual dedication to building a prosperous and secure future.

Islamic arts take centre stage at Majlis Mohamed bin Zayed

HIS Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, attended the inaugural session of this year's Majlis Mohamed bin Zayed Ramadan lectures titled 'Islamic Arts: History and Heritage.'

The Majlis was also attended by HH Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, along with several sheikhs, ministers, senior officials, and Islamic arts specialists.

Held at Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the lecture was delivered by Dr Ibrahim Shabouh, a renowned researcher, historian, and expert in Islamic archaeology, widely recognised for reinterpreting the works of the 14th century historiographer and philosopher Ibn Khaldun.

Dr Shabouh shared anecdotes, including the fascination of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's Founding Father, with the



HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed greets globally renowned historian and expert in Islamic archaeology, Dr Ibrahim Shabouh

detailed descriptions of the methods used in the production of centuries-old copies of the Quran, produced on leather parchment and painstakingly written in gold.

Highlighting the significance of Islamic arts in fostering cultural understanding, the lecture underlined the UAE's commitment to preserving religious and cultural values and promoting intercultural dialogue through art.

Great Mosque of Kairouan during a visit to Tunisia in the mid-1970s.

The lecture explored examples of unique artworks and architecture from the dawn of Islamic civilisation, including intricate mosaics – such as those found in the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus – that depict early interpretations of paradise.

Another topic covered in the talk was early Arabic calligraphy, with the speaker giving

The lecture was moderated by calligraphy artist Maryam Al Balooshi and featured pre-recorded contributions from Khalid Aljallaf, President of the Emirates Society for Arabic Calligraphy; visual media artist Alya Alsanad; and visual artist Patricia Millns, discussing how Islamic arts, such as calligraphy, architecture, and decoration continue to influence artists and designers in the UAE and beyond.



اعرف أكثر عن
كل شيء نقدمه



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Largest edition of ISNR Abu Dhabi set for May 2024

UNDER the patronage of His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, the International Exhibition for National Security Resilience (ISNR Abu Dhabi 2024) is set to return for its 8th and largest edition from 21st – 23rd May at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).

Organised by the Ministry of Interior and ADNEC Group, with a strategic partnership from Abu Dhabi Police, the event serves as a vital platform that brings together experts and stakeholders in national security and cybersecurity with exhibitors and stakeholders from both public and private sectors.

Major General Dr Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, Inspector General at the Ministry of Interior and President of the Interpol and Chairman of the Supreme Organising Committee of ISNR Abu Dhabi 2024, stated, "We gather at the 8th edition of ISNR Abu Dhabi 2024 to affirm the pivotal role of the exhibition in advancing the fields of national security protection, confronting cybersecurity challenges, and

artificial intelligence, which are essential to safeguarding the nation's security and its assets."

Al Raisi emphasised that ISNR Abu Dhabi 2024 serves as a fundamental platform for enhancing mechanisms of innovation and dialogue, shaping the future of national security, and working on risk prevention. "The exhibition aims to boost cooperation in innovation and support cybersecurity efforts, involving officials, exhibitors, and supply chain stakeholders to enhance national security," Al Raisi said.

Humaid Matar Al Dhaheiri, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ADNEC Group, anticipates extensive participation from leading specialised companies and experts worldwide, making this edition the largest in the exhibition's history. Al Dhaheiri stated, "ISNR Abu Dhabi 2024 plays a key role in promoting innovation,



Al Raisi

cooperation, and readiness to address numerous security challenges, and dealing with them to achieve a comprehensive security concept locally, regionally, and globally."

Al Marzouqi conducts review of Etihad freight train operations



Al Marzouqi along with the Mol delegation and officials and staff of Etihad Rail

MAJOR General Dr Jassim Al Marzouqi, Commander-in-Chief of Civil Defence at the Ministry of Interior (Mol), conducted a comprehensive review of the operations of Etihad's freight train during a visit to the UAE National Railway Network's main operating and maintenance centre in Al Fayah, Abu Dhabi.

The primary objective of the visit was to gain insights into the latest advancements in operational procedures aligned with global standards and to review the latest progress of the railway network.

During the visit, Al Marzouqi and the accompanying Mol delegation were provided with a detailed briefing on the

operational processes of the freight train, including the preventive measures implemented at all network stations to ensure the highest levels of security and safety. Additionally, they boarded the first model of the passenger train, experiencing firsthand the seamless connectivity between Al Fayah in Abu Dhabi and Al Qudra in Dubai.

Al Mazrouei discusses cooperation with foreign ambassadors



Al Mazrouei gives a commemorative token to the Malaysian Ambassador to the UAE

MAJOR General Staff Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police, hosted Ahmad Fadil

Shamsuddin, Ambassador of Malaysia to the UAE, at the Abu Dhabi Police General Command headquarters. They deliberated

on strategies to bolster collaboration in police and security domains.

The meeting was attended by Major General Thani Butti Al Shamsi, Director of Saif bin Zayed Academy for Police and Security Sciences, and Brigadier Imran Ahmed Al Mazrouei, Director of Human Resources Sector at Abu Dhabi Police, amongst other officials.

Moreover, Al Mazrouei also met with Bogdan Octavian Badica, Ambassador of Romania to the UAE. The meeting was attended by Major General Maktoum Ali Al Sharifi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Police. Their discussion centred on enhancing cooperation to realise shared objectives in police and security realms.

Also in attendance were Major General Al Shamsi, Brigadier Muslim Mohammed Al Ameri, Deputy Director of the Criminal Security Sector at Abu Dhabi Police, and Brigadier Khalfan Abdullah Al Mansouri, Director of the Strategy and Institutional Development Centre at Abu Dhabi Police.

Abu Dhabi Civil Defence awarded for business continuity leadership

ABU DHABI Civil Defence Authority clinched 1st place in compliance with the 'Business Continuity Management System for Government Entities', awarded during the Business Continuity Forum hosted by the Emergency, Crisis, and Disaster Management Centre Abu Dhabi.

Brigadier Salem Abdullah bin Barrak Al Dhaheiri, Acting Director General of Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority, affirmed the Authority's leadership in business continuity, risk management, and institutional resilience. He lauded efforts aligned with Abu Dhabi government directives, stressing the commitment to excellence across all domains.

Al Dhaheiri stressed its agility in navigating the dynamic global business landscape. He underscored the role of personnel training and capability enhancement in ensuring efficiency and quality amidst evolving risks and crises.

Colonel Raed Ali Al Muhairi, Head of the Business Continuity Team at the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority, echoed the significance of this achievement. He underscored the Authority's unwavering efficiency and resilience in confronting



Officials of Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority receive the award onstage during the Business Continuity Forum

challenges and maintaining service continuity.

Moreover, Al Muhairi viewed this award as a catalyst for further advancements aimed at bolstering safety standards in Abu

Dhabi. The Authority, he said, remains committed to leadership and innovation, embracing global best practices and cutting-edge technologies to elevate its capabilities.

Al Marri lauds crime detection rate of Criminal Evidence Department

MAJOR General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, commended the General Department of Criminal Evidence and Criminology for its significant contributions to law enforcement in the emirate of Dubai.

During his recent inspection of the department, Al Marri praised its role in solving numerous complex crimes, attributing its success to the thorough analysis of scientific evidence. Notably, the department achieved an impressive 99 per cent crime detection rate in both 2022 and 2023, a testament to its efficiency and professionalism.

The inspection visit was conducted in the presence of Major General Ahmad Thani bin Ghalita Al Muhairi, Director of the General Department of Forensics and Criminology at Dubai Police, along with his deputies Brigadier Expert Ahmed Matar Al Muhairi for Technical Affairs and Brigadier Makki Salman for Administrative Affairs; Brigadier Dr Saleh Al Hamrani, Deputy



Al Marri speaking with the staff of the General Department of Criminal Evidence and Criminology during his inspection visit

Director of the General Department of Excellence and Pioneering; and Brigadier Khaled bin Sulaiman, Deputy Director of the Organisational Office of the Command; as well as directors of subordinate departments and several officers.

Al Marri underscored the importance of

the department's work in apprehending perpetrators and ensuring justice through solid evidence. Moreover, Al Marri highlighted Dubai Police's commitment to continuously enhancing its human resources by investing in advanced scientific training for personnel.

Ghanem commends Al Faqaa Police Station for exceptional performance

MAJOR General Ali Ghanem, Acting Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Community Happiness and Logistics Support Affairs at Dubai Police, commended the exceptional performance of Al Faqaa Police Station during his recent inspection. He praised the station's dedicated team for their relentless efforts in maintaining high levels of security and safety within their jurisdiction area.

Ghanem noted that Al Faqaa Police Station achieved remarkable results, including zero serious anonymous reports, zero unknown traffic reports, and zero cases of "no grounds for legal action" for the 5th consecutive year. "This achievement underscores the station's commitment to excellence and professionalism," he stressed.

The inspection visit was held in the presence of Major General Dr Tariq Tahlak, Director of Naif Police Station and Chairman of the



Ghanem during a photo-op with the officers and staff at Al Faqaa Police Station

Police Stations' Directors' Board; Brigadier Saeed Hilal Al Khaili, Director of Al Faqaa Police Station; Colonel Ahmed Mohamed Al Muhairi, Deputy Director of Inspection and Control Department; and Colonel Saeed Al Ketbi, Deputy Director of Al Faqaa Police Station, along with several officers.

Ghanem emphasised the importance of effective communication with the community and stakeholders. He highlighted the station's efforts in implementing security plans, covering all areas comprehensively, and fostering partnerships with various entities.

RAK Police sign MoU with armoured vehicle manufacturer STREIT Group

RAS Al Khaimah Police signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and collaboration with STREIT Group, a leading armoured vehicle manufacturer.

Major General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al

Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, and Guerman Goutorov, President of STREIT Group, witnessed the MoU signing, alongside senior police officials and delegates from both entities.

Al Nuaimi stated that the MOU is part of RAK Police's drive to enhance technical and security services concerning armoured equipment and vehicles for its security and field operations.

Al Nuaimi praises efficiency of Ajman Police's Operations Department



Al Nuaimi inspects the operations room, which managed to receive over 1 million calls in 2023

MAJOR General Sheikh Sultan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, lauded the exceptional performance of the Operations Department

during his recent inspection visit.

Accompanied by Colonel Hisham Abdullah Bushhab, Director of the Operations Department, and Colonel Ahmad

Rashid Al Suwaidi, Director of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Al Nuaimi conducted a thorough review as part of the annual inspection programme.

During the visit, Al Nuaimi commended the department's efficiency in handling incoming reports and swift response to emergencies. He expressed appreciation for their professionalism in managing over 1 million calls received by the operations room in 2023.

Inspecting the mobile operations room and modern technologies, Al Nuaimi emphasised the importance of monitoring and enhancing response rates to ensure public safety. He also reviewed initiatives and development projects aimed at improving operational efficiency.

In a meeting with officers, performance indicators were discussed, and plans for further development were outlined. Al Nuaimi underscored the significance of continuous improvement to uphold the highest standards of security and safety in Ajman.

Fujairah Police host MoHaP's service excellence benchmarking visit

THE Traffic and Licencing Services Centre at Fujairah Police welcomed a delegation from the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHaP) for a benchmarking visit, aimed at exploring top practices for service enhancement and customer satisfaction.

Aligned with the Ministry of Interior's strategic goal to boost customer happiness and institutional excellence, the visit delved into understanding how the Centre was able to achieve a 6-star rating under the UAE Government's Global Star Program System. Discussions encompassed evaluation experiences, customer journeys, proactive services, and developmental initiatives.

Colonel Juma bin Hashel, Director of the Vehicle and Driver Licencing Department and Deputy Director of the Traffic and Licencing Services Centre, and Colonel



Officials of the Traffic and Licencing Services Centre at Fujairah Police and the MoHaP delegation during a roundtable meeting

Abdullah Mohammed Al Samahi, Deputy Director of the Traffic and Patrols

Department, along with several officers, met with the delegation during the visit.

Sharjah Police conclude 'Desert Police Park' with over 112,000 visitors

SHARJAH Police concluded the 5th edition of the Desert Police Park in the Al Kuhayf area, Al Batayeh, under the theme "Together, Time Is Beautiful", drawing 112,158 visitors.

Major Majid Saeed Al Muhairi, Head of the Organising Committee, noted visitor satisfaction reached 93 per cent, while volunteer satisfaction was at 95

per cent. The number of volunteers comprised 75 individuals including police personnel, families, and partners from 16 entities.

1st

UAE's ranking in the 'Strong and Stable Economy' indicator of the 'Global Soft Power Index 2024'. This reflects the country's exceptional progress and reputation in the global market, based on a survey of over 170,000 people evaluating the 193 United Nations member states.

1st

UAE's position as the premier soft power in the Middle East and 10th worldwide in the 2024 'Global Soft Power Index 2024' by international brand evaluation organisation Brand Finance. The UAE stands as the only GCC country amongst the world's top 10 soft powers.

1st

UAE's ranking in the Middle East on the Gender Inequality Index, securing the 7th spot globally. This marks a climb of four positions from last year's ranking in the annual index by the United Nations Development Programme, showcasing the nation's commitment to enhancing gender parity.

1st

UAE's position in the Middle East in the Global Knowledge Index (GKI) 2023. The GKI, which monitors the knowledge status of countries in key areas including education, innovation, and information and communications technology, assessed 155 variables from more than 40 international databases. It covered a total of 133 countries, including 12 Arab states.

1st

UAE's ranking in the Middle East and North Africa region and 2nd globally in terms of green-field FDI projects for 2023, according to an Emirates NBD report. The UAE recorded a 36 per cent year-on-year increase in green-field FDI investments last year.

BE IN THE LOOP

MOI LAUNCHES 'DRIVING WITHOUT USING PHONE' AS NEW UNIFIED TRAFFIC CAMPAIGN



The Ministry of Interior (MoI), alongside the Federal Traffic Council, launched the "Driving Without Using Phone" awareness campaign during the Unified GCC Traffic Week 2024. The three-month traffic campaign aims to enhance road safety and reduce traffic accidents through responsible driving behaviour. The Unified GCC Traffic Week was attended by Major General Dr Jassim Mohammed Al Marzuqi, Commander-in-Chief of Civil Defence, and Brigadier Ahmed Al Sam Al Naqbi, Head of the Traffic Awareness and Safety Team at the MoI's Federal Traffic Council.

UAE PARTICIPATES IN 67TH SESSION OF UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS



The UAE, represented by the Ministry of Interior (MoI), participated in the 67th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), held in Vienna. The session discussed international drug control resolutions and the need for global cooperation. Brigadier Saeed Abdullah Al Suwaidi, Director General of the Federal Drug Control at the MoI, at the MoI, led the ministry's delegation. In his speech, Al Suwaidi emphasised the various strategies of the UAE, including initiatives for drug prevention amongst youth and utilising social media, exhibitions, and workshops to highlight the dangers of drug abuse.

MOI's SOCIAL SOLIDARITY FUND SENDS 50 EMPLOYEES, RETIREES TO UMRAH



A delegation from the Ministry of Interior (MoI), comprising 50 employees and retirees, flew from Zayed International Airport to Saudi Arabia for Umrah during the holy month of Ramadan. This initiative, part of the Social Solidarity Fund's Hajj and Umrah Initiative for MoI personnel, aims to honour their contributions while promoting religious values. The Fund has arranged comprehensive services and facilities to ensure a smooth and spiritually enriching experience for the pilgrim.



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UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS

ABU DHABI

WAM

2

Abu Dhabi Police and the National Search and Rescue Centre conducted a rescue operation in the Liwa Desert in the Al Dhafra region, evacuating two individuals with moderate injuries from a car accident. The team transported the injured to Madinat Zayed Hospital for treatment.

AJMAN

MOI

2.75 MILLION

A joint operation between UAE and Kuwait authorities led to the arrest of a gang member in Ajman caught in possession of 2.75 million tablets of a controlled medication misused as a party drug. This followed the detention of two individuals found with 1 million tablets at Kuwait International Airport.

DUBAI

DHS1 MILLION

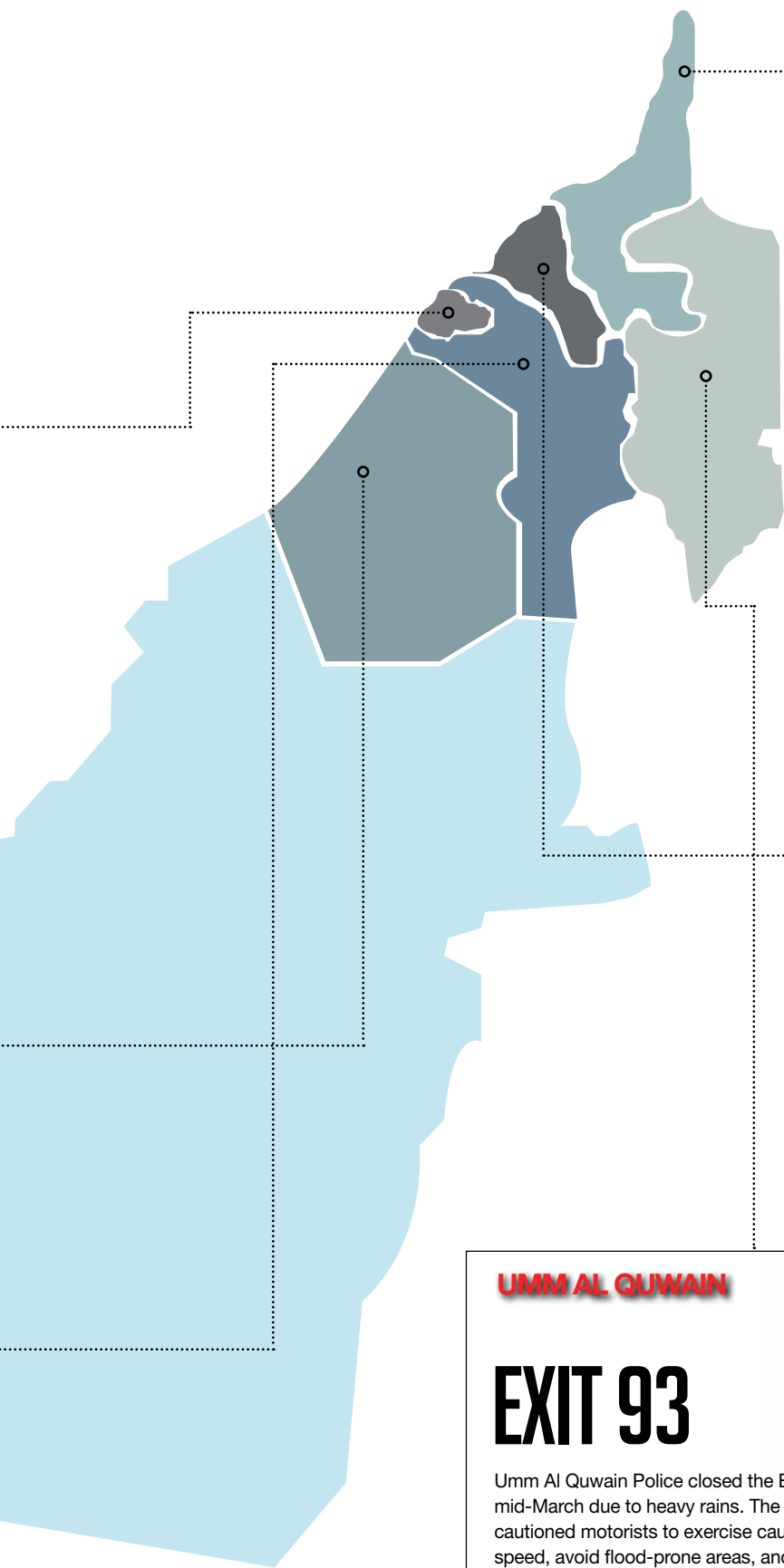
A 45-year-old beautician in Dubai was sentenced to 3 months in jail for attempting to extort Dhs1 million from a 57-year-old consultant by threatening to defame him with sensitive information from their past intimate relationship. Post-jail, she will be deported.

RAS AL KHAIMAH

RAK POLICE

9

Ras Al Khaimah Police, alongside the Public Services Department and Mina Al Arab, apprehended 9 drivers for performing stunts in a viral video. The drivers faced Dhs2,000 fines, 60-day vehicle impoundment, 23 black traffic points, in addition to a Dhs10,000 vehicle release fee.



FUJAIRAH



Fujairah Police

DHS2,000 FINE & 23 BLACK TRAFFIC POINTS

Fujairah Police have arrested several drivers for reckless driving and road racing. A collision occurred when one of the vehicles hit a metal barrier. The drivers face a Dhs2,000 fine, 23 black traffic points, and vehicle impoundment for 60 days, with a release fee of up to Dhs50,000

SHARJAH



19 YEARS OLD

A tragic jet ski collision off Al Mamzar Beach in Sharjah resulted in the death of a 19-year-old girl and severe injuries to her 20-year-old brother. The accident took place when the jet ski they were on was struck by another jet ski, operated by one of their siblings. Al Buhairah Comprehensive Police Station has launched an investigation.

UMM AL QUWAIN

EXIT 93

Umm Al Quwain Police closed the Exit 93 tunnel in mid-March due to heavy rains. The police force has cautioned motorists to exercise caution, reduce speed, avoid flood-prone areas, and stay updated on alternative routes during adverse weather conditions for safety.



UQA POLICE

POLICING IN THE ERA OF AI

ON ITS THIRD EDITION, THE WORLD POLICE SUMMIT CONVERGES
TECHNOLOGY AND CONVENTIONAL POLICING METHODS, HELPING LAW
ENFORCEMENT FOSTER SAFER, MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

BY ABDUL WASEY





Micropolis



“The World Police Summit aims to explore new approaches to addressing major challenges faced by law enforcement agencies through workshops and sessions



**LIEUTENANT GENERAL
ABDULLAH KHALIFA AL MARRI**
Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police

The global battle against crime is evolving, with new challenges emerging on the digital frontier. Hence, there is a pressing need for police to always stay ahead of the curve, developing innovative methods to combat criminals in both online and offline domains. This rationale underpins the inception of the World Police Summit (WPS), recently held in Dubai for its third edition. The summit aims to bolster the UAE's reputation as regional and global leader in safety and security.

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the summit was inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai.

“Dubai Police have emerged as global innovators in police services, and we take pride in our strategic partnerships that safeguard the safety and security of communities worldwide,” stated HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid.

The summit's agenda featured the Tech Expo, conferences, and workshops, providing a platform for constructive dialogues amongst global police forces, security experts, and industry leaders.

In his keynote address, during the opening ceremony, Lieutenant General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, said, “We unite in a summit that embodies our leadership's vision for a future characterised by stronger connections and safer communities.” The event, he

added, “aims to explore new approaches to addressing major challenges faced by law enforcement agencies through workshops and sessions”.

The summit's discussions zeroed in on the role of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in improving policing, combating financial crimes, K9 training, as well as the intersection of sports and law enforcement.

IMPACT OF GENERATIVE AI

Generative AI is transforming policing by utilising machine learning to forecast crime hotspots and streamline investigations. Through analysis of diverse data sources, AI algorithms predict criminal activity, enabling proactive resource allocation. At WPS 2024, a significant workshop on the impact of GPT & ChatGPT on law enforcement provided salient insights into policing's future, highlighting the transformative potential of generative AI technologies.

Presight, an IT service management company, presented an AI-driven analytics platform that aims to assist investigators in reducing investigation time, enhancing policing, and fostering community trust. The platform is capable of swiftly processing vast amounts of multi-source data.

Additionally, Presight showcased an investigative solution suite powered by an AI virtual assistant, aiding authorities in understanding natural language queries, accessing critical information, and managing evidence. The company also demonstrated a digital forensics platform incorporating advanced

analytics for analysing digital footprints and evidence across various devices.

Workshops on responsible AI in law enforcement, led by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), highlighted the ethical deployment of AI technologies. Meanwhile, collaborative sessions with INTERPOL on drone technology addressed the technical and forensic aspects of using unmanned utility vehicles (UAVs) in crime fighting.





The MoI and Abu Dhabi Police unveiled a prototype of the Smart Traffic Signal Drone



The Ajman Patrol showcased at Mol's pavilion

EYE IN THE SKY

During the summit, the Ministry of Interior (MoI), in collaboration with Abu Dhabi Police, unveiled a new technology called the Smart Traffic Signal Drone. This innovation eliminates the need for immediate deployment of police officers to manage traffic during signal malfunctions, designed specifically for emergencies and traffic light failures.

Developed locally by the MoI's

Innovation Centre, the drone will ensure uninterrupted vehicle flow and enhance road safety. The smart traffic signal drone, crafted through 3D printing, offers a 25-minute operational window on a single charge, serving as a temporary aid until police units are deployed. After two months of development and testing, including trials in windy conditions, the drone is set for an official launch soon.

The MoI also showcased the UAE Sniper. Developed by Ajman Police, this device utilises paintballs to mark suspected criminals or locations, aiding law enforcement efforts. During its three-month trial period, the UAE Sniper demonstrated an impressive 98 per cent accuracy rate. Operated through air pressure, it offers a non-lethal method for law enforcement to identify and monitor suspicious activities.

Meanwhile, Zenith Technologies, a long-standing partner of Dubai Police, showcased its groundbreaking AI EagleEye Intelligent Patrol technology. This revolutionary solution, embedded within the Policing Lightbar, integrates AI-powered drones to provide real-time surveillance and situational awareness for law enforcement patrols.

The precursor to this technology is already integrated into Dubai Police's fleet. Its latest advancements with lightbar-embedded AI drone capabilities have garnered further recognition, as it becomes an integral component of Saudi Arabia's new smart fleet. This was highlighted during the World Defence Show in Riyadh in February 2024.

The Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with Abu Dhabi Police, unveiled a new technology called the smart traffic signal drone. This innovation eliminates the need for immediate deployment of police officers to manage traffic during signal malfunctions

INNOVATION IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

Generative AI enables forensic scientists to create realistic simulations of crime scenes, aiding evidence interpretation and courtroom presentations. As forensic science evolves, the role of generative AI promises to be indispensable in unravelling crime mysteries. This role of generative AI in forensic science took centre stage in both the exhibition and workshops within WPS 2024.

Dubai Police highlighted its use of virtual autopsy. "The latest technology we have is a virtual autopsy, what we used to see in movies, when they see a corpse, the doctor takes it, opens its chest and sees the organs, and this process takes approximately five hours. Now, we use artificial intelligence



An Airbus helicopter that aims to safely carry passengers in demanding environments

“The latest technology we have is virtual autopsy. Now, we use artificial intelligence so that we can determine whether we need an autopsy or not

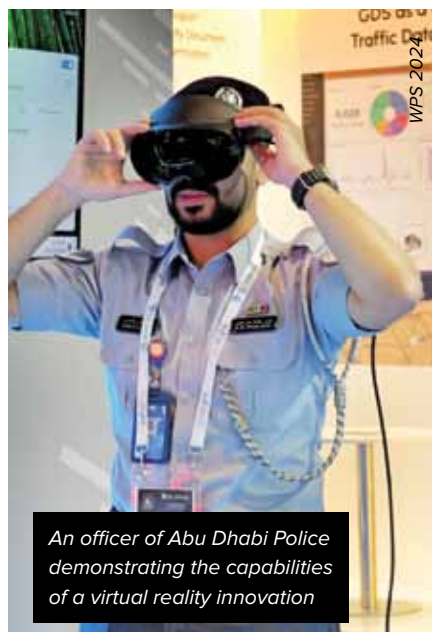


MAJOR GENERAL AHMAD THANI BIN GHALITA AL MUHAIRI

Director of the General Department of Forensics and Criminology at Dubai Police

so that we skip this process to a small process that determines for us whether we need an autopsy or not,” Major General Ahmad Thani bin Ghalita Al Muhairi, Director of the General Department of Forensics and Criminology at Dubai Police, told the media.

Meanwhile, a multi-faceted emergency response management platform, similar to one used by the UAE’s National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority was amongst the standout innovations in forensic science. This platform integrates data from multiple service providers, enabling first responders to react more swiftly and effectively in emergencies, thereby reducing the impact on lives and property.



An officer of Abu Dhabi Police demonstrating the capabilities of a virtual reality innovation

ENHANCING K9 UNIT TRAINING

The summit also delved into the innovative application of AI in K9 units and their integration into SWAT operations, illustrating the dynamic convergence of technology and conventional policing methods.

For instance, forward-thinking law enforcement tools, such as robotic dogs, were also examined. These mechanical canines could soon enhance crime prevention and major raids, representing a stride towards a sci-fi reality. While they have yet to match the capabilities of real dogs, ongoing efforts persist.

“The robotic dogs currently functioning as sniffing dogs have not attained the proficiency of a standard dog, but we are actively researching and engaging with advanced companies on the topic of robotic dogs,” remarked Lieutenant Colonel Salah Al Mazrouei, Director of the Dubai Police Security Inspection Department K9.

Meanwhile, at the summit, Worldwide K9 Academy (WWK9) showcased its K9 squads’ proficiency in explosive detection, narcotic detection, security, patrol duties, and more. Additionally, the team highlighted how its innovative training methodologies and cutting-edge techniques contribute to the cultivation of stable, confident, and highly effective working dogs.

COMBATING FINANCIAL CRIMES

In a significant move to bolster the nation’s capacity to investigate financial crimes, the UAE Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (EO AMLCTF) and Dubai Police have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their joint efforts in combating financial crimes. The MoU, inked by Hamid Al Zaabi, Director-General of the Executive Office for Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT), and Major General Expert Khalil Ibrahim Al Mansouri, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Criminal Investigation Affairs at Dubai Police, underscores a deep commitment to collaborative actions in tackling money laundering and financial crimes.

Al Zaabi emphasised that the agreement will significantly enhance the UAE’s capabilities in investigating and combating financial crimes. “Police forces serve as an indispensable pillar in the battle against financial crimes, spearheading investigations into suspected illicit activities and collaborating closely with

INNOVATIONS at WPS 2024

1



Traffic light UAV

Developed by the UAE’s Ministry of Interior’s Innovation Centre, the drone traffic light is designed to swiftly replace malfunctioning traffic signals, ensuring seamless vehicle flow and road safety. This UAV can function autonomously, reducing the need for police or public traffic management during signal outages. The drone is capable of operating for up to 40 minutes in stable weather.

2



Smart police hat

Abu Dhabi Police’s cutting-edge hat is designed to monitor tension and concentration levels in high-stress policing roles. This technology targets officers in critical positions such as operations, patrols, and aircraft monitoring. The smart police hat, connecting to an app on the user’s phone, uses a dry sensor to analyse brain signals, offering real-time data on focus levels and suggesting exercises to improve concentration. After over 350 tests and three years in development, this futuristic invention is nearing its launch.

“ In recent years, law enforcement agencies have made several high-profile arrests for financial crimes, reflecting the



HAMID AL ZAABI

Director-General of the Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT)

substantial efforts to foster a secure national economy

prosecutors to secure convictions. In recent years, law enforcement agencies have made several high-profile arrests for financial crimes, reflecting the substantial efforts to foster a secure national economy. The activities set out in this MoU will bolster these capabilities, sending a clear signal to criminals that their illicit actions have no place within the UAE's borders," Al Zaabi remarked.

Al Mansouri affirmed that this agreement is part of Dubai Police's ongoing efforts, in collaboration with relevant entities, to enhance measures against financial crimes. "The joint efforts under the wise leadership's directives have achieved remarkable success, recently getting the UAE off the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) grey list. Today, through our collaborative efforts, we continue

to develop tools and enablers that achieve the strategic objectives between the parties and contribute to establishing effective mechanisms to confront financial crimes decisively," stated Al Mansouri.

SPORTS IN POLICING

The summit also brought attention to the convergence of sports and law enforcement, highlighting its potential to facilitate community engagement, build trust, and encourage positive interactions between police officers and the public. By embracing the values and principles inherent in sports, authorities can foster a more inclusive and effective approach to policing.

The Athletic Caravan, a collaborative initiative with the Dubai Sports Council, emphasised the significant role of sports in policing and provided insights into Dubai Police's sporting activities and accomplishments.

In sports, success often relies on effective teamwork, communication, and mutual support amongst teammates. Similarly, in law enforcement, collaboration between officers, community members, and other stakeholders is vital for ensuring public safety and addressing crime effectively.

The World Police Summit highlighted the UAE's position as a trailblazer in innovation and collaboration in global law enforcement, setting a new standard for addressing the multifaceted challenges of modern crime through unity, technology, and visionary leadership.

3 Brain analyser

A brain scanner, equipped with electrodes and clips for ear attachment, can discern if a suspect was present at a crime scene by analysing brain activity. Touted to surpass the traditional polygraph, which relies on physiological responses that can be manipulated, this scanner delves into the less controllable realm of brain waves.

Suspects are shown crime scene photos while the device monitors their brain's reaction to familiar versus new images. A comprehensive report is generated, offering insights into their involvement.



4 AI patrol technology

Zenith Technologies' AI EagleEye Intelligent Patrol technology, embedded within the Policing Lightbar, integrates AI-powered drones to provide real-time surveillance and situational awareness for law enforcement patrols. The predecessor of this innovative technology is already integrated into Dubai Police's fleet. Its latest advancements, featuring lightbar-embedded AI drone capabilities, have garnered further recognition, becoming an integral component of Saudi Arabia's new smart fleet. This development

was revealed at the World Defence Show in Riyadh in February 2024.



An UAV with video-centric AIoT capabilities invented by Dahua Technology





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

THE OPPENHEIMER PARADOX

Individual ambitions must be tempered with a sense of responsibility towards humanity to avoid catastrophic consequences, as depicted by the blockbuster biopic 'Oppenheimer'

Oppenheimer, the blockbuster biopic about the race to build the first atomic bomb, has won seven Oscars after being nominated in 13 categories, during a ceremony held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles last March. This event, eagerly awaited by cinema enthusiasts worldwide, serves as a celebration of the finest works and performances in Hollywood. The film won awards for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Editing, Best Cinematography, and Best Original Score.

The film, screened in cinemas in mid-2023, narrates the life of American theoretical physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Los Alamos Laboratory under the Manhattan Project during World War II. The mission of the individuals involved was to develop the world's first nuclear weapons, earning Oppenheimer the title "the father of the atomic bomb".

"Mr. President, I feel I have blood on my hands," Oppenheimer reportedly told then-US President Harry S. Truman after the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the very bombs he contributed to creating. These were the first and last atomic bombs used in warfare. However, Truman was infuriated, asserting he had the sole responsibility for the decision to use nuclear weapons against Japan. Truman reportedly remarked, "I never want to see that [expletive] in this office again." Nevertheless, in recognition of his services, Oppenheimer was awarded the Medal for Merit by President Truman in 1946.

Perhaps the contradictions in Oppenheimer's life, along with the film's technical and production factors, propelled it to become one of the best films of 2023, according to the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures and the American Film Institute. Additionally, it grossed over \$900 million (Dhs3,300 million) in ticket sales, surpassing its production budget of \$100 million (Dhs367 million).

Most importantly, the film sparked a debate regarding nuclear armaments, rekindling the broader question of achieving nuclear balance to prevent a new world war. This balance, designed to deter major powers from unleashing their nuclear arsenals, prompts scrutiny regarding its efficacy in today's landscape. Some major powers persist in harbouring ambitions to dominate smaller nations, assert hegemony, or secure strategic advantages like access to warm waters, amongst other justifications for the potential use of nuclear weapons.

Throughout the film, we are immersed in the human and political turmoils entwined with the

nuclear research, culminating in the creation of the first two atomic bombs in the early 20th century. These conflicts transcend eras, becoming increasingly prevalent in our contemporary world, where tensions escalate, ambitions expand, and ideologies dictate state policies. The pursuit of chemical and nuclear armaments is no longer the exclusive domain of major powers; it extends to smaller states and even terrorist factions, posing a significant threat to global security.

Nevertheless, the triumph of a film focusing on political, military, and scientific themes, rather than the typical emotional narrative, at the prestigious Oscars, regardless of technical

prowess, highlights a shift in the art world mirroring broader societal changes.

This shift isn't solely a result of progress; it reflects the wisdom of individuals recognising the peril of ongoing conflicts and the dire consequences if decisions are left in the hands of self-serving individuals.

So let the "Oppenheimer paradox" reign as a caution for the forthcoming era, permeating art, politics, and every facet of existence.

The pursuit of chemical and nuclear armaments is no longer the exclusive domain of major powers; it extends to smaller states and even terrorist factions, posing a significant threat to global security



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BEWARE OF YOUR EMOTIONS WHEN APPROACHED FOR MONEY ON THE
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999 DELVES INTO THE MENACE OF 'PROFESSIONAL' BEGGING

BY K NIVEDITA



Ramadan is a time when people in the UAE take a break from the hustle of daily life to connect with their spiritual well-being, focusing on deepening their faith and practising Islamic ideals such as love, tolerance, giving, and kindness. However, it is also a time when beggars are most active and the UAE's police forces are reminding people that begging is a criminal offence, with an anti-begging crackdown in effect across the UAE until mid-April 2024.

If someone solicits money from you on the streets, be cautious, as the individual may appear sickly and impoverished but could be playing a role, cautioned the UAE police.

Dubai Police found that 90 per cent of the beggars they have apprehended in recent years consider begging to be their "profession". These individuals fabricate stories to elicit sympathy from potential donors, often pocketing thousands of dirhams after a day of begging. The police advise against aiding panhandlers, as those who assist them inadvertently support illegal activities. Citizens, residents, and visitors alike who offer alms may also fall victim to theft, cautioned the police.

On the first day of Ramadan 2024 alone, Dubai Police arrested 17 beggars as part of the 'Fight Begging' campaign. "The first day of Ramadan saw the arrest of 17 individuals, including 13 males and four females," stated Brigadier Ali Salem Al Shamsi, Director of the Suspects and Criminal Phenomena Department at Dubai Police.

The police underscored their commitment to eradicating the menace of panhandling while urging everyone to remain vigilant and report beggars,

“Beggars are professionals adept at exploiting the compassion and generosity of people. They do not deserve our sympathy during Ramadan



BRIGADIER DR SAEED ABDULLAH AL QAMZI

Assistant Director of the General Department of Investigations for Criminal Operations Affairs at Dubai Police

particularly near mosques, markets, and residential areas, as these locations are common hotspots for begging activity.

'PROFESSIONAL' BEGGARS

In separate incidents before the start of Ramadan 2024, Dubai Police arrested two women carrying Dhs60,000 and Dhs30,000 in cash, respectively, earned solely through begging. One of the women exploited her child to elicit sympathy, resulting in the accumulation of thousands of dirhams. They were amongst approximately 1,700 beggars arrested in the emirate over the past four years.

Brigadier Dr Saeed Abdullah Al Qamzi, Assistant Director of the General Department of Investigations for Criminal Operations Affairs at Dubai Police, stated to the media in March 2024, "Beggars

are professionals adept at exploiting the compassion and generosity of people. They do not deserve our sympathy during Ramadan."

Al Qamzi added, "Begging is also a negative behaviour that threatens the security and well-being of our country."

Last year, Abu Dhabi Police arrested a woman who drove a luxury car, parked it at a distance from mosques, and then sought alms amongst mosque-goers. The possession of such vehicle and the substantial sum of money collected showed that the beggar had a higher net worth than the individuals she solicited charity from.

Another instance that showed how panhandlers could amass a huge sum in just a few days was the arrest of a beggar in Dubai with a fake artificial limb, where he had stacked Dhs300,000 cash. This highlights the fact that many beggars employ diverse tactics to elicit sympathy, and the public should not be deceived.

Furthermore, a report from the Dubai Municipality revealed that one beggar could earn up to Dhs270,000 per month or an average of Dhs9,000 per day. This income exceeded what many hard-working, honest, and skilled professionals in the UAE earn.

This dishonesty undermines the trust and goodwill within society while reducing the availability of aid for genuine charitable causes and individuals truly in need.

UNUSUAL SCHEMES

Dubai Police have observed unusual begging methods, such as a European woman who worked as a model in her home country. She visited a Dubai mall wearing an expensive dress and holding a sign that read, "I want money, I want a rich husband." Another woman was spotted with a sign stating, "Need money



Dubai Police

Citizen, residents, and tourists are urged to donate only to authorised charities

In separate incidents before the start of Ramadhan 2024, Dubai Police arrested two women carrying Dhs60,000 and Dhs30,000 in cash, respectively, earned solely through begging



What UAE law says

Beggars can be categorised into two groups: those facing genuine hardship and those who beg as a profession. However, due to extensive evidence of individuals feigning beggary and the security risks associated with this activity, panhandling is strictly prohibited in the UAE. There is no tolerance for begging, both socially and legally. Engaging in begging constitutes an offence punishable by a fine of Dh5,000 and a three-month jail term, as outlined in Article 475 of Federal Decree Law No. 31 of 2021.

I HAVE 2 CHILDREN
PLEASE HELPM
WITH SOME MONEY
FOR FOOD AND RENT
GOD BLESS YOU

“Around 90 per cent of arrested beggars are visitors, coming to the UAE during Ramadan for easy money, knowing it is a prosperous country where people are inclined to help

to open a clinic.” Both individuals faced appropriate action as a result.

Regarding the two female panhandlers arrested in Dubai last month, it was found that they entered the UAE on visit visas. Similarly, the majority of the 1,700 beggars arrested in the emirate during Ramadan over the past four years arrived in the country on visit visas with the intention of making begging their profession.

Brigadier Al Qamzi of Dubai Police stated, “Around 90 per cent of arrested beggars are visitors, coming to the UAE during Ramadan for easy money, knowing it is a prosperous country where people are inclined to help. We have a dedicated team of officers to crack down on beggars.”

EXPLOITING COMPASSION

Al Qamzi highlighted that begging is not a civilised practice and often surges during Ramadan, as beggars seek to

capitalise on the charitable atmosphere of the holy month.

He cautioned people against being deceived by beggars, emphasising that begging can be used for other criminal activities, such as burglary and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals to illicitly raise funds.

“Most beggars are fraudsters, they come during Ramadan on a visit visa and loiter around mosques. Don’t sympathise with them, instead give your help or money to charity organisations in the country,” Al Qamzi said.

Furthermore, he advised the public against engaging in solicitation or fundraising through social media channels. “People should be careful when they receive messages or posts on social networks regarding poor people who need help as most of it is not true or is just another scam,” Al Qamzi warned.

KNOW WHERE YOUR HELP GOES

To an onlooker, begging may seem like an individual’s attempt to cope with personal misfortune. However, the reality is that many begging activities are intertwined with the international underworld, serving as an avenue for various trans-border crimes, from trafficking to terrorism. According to the International Criminal Police Organization, funds collected through begging often find their way into illicit activities such as theft, terrorism, or the smuggling of drugs and other contraband.

Even more reprehensible is the fact that certain individuals exploit innocent children for the purpose of begging.

In August 2023, Dubai Police arrested a group of five men, often accompanied by women and children, who would approach individuals claiming to need financial assistance to return to their home countries.

A spokesperson for Dubai Police disclosed to the media that this tactic was employed to elicit money from sympathetic individuals, with the group repeating the scheme in different locations. “This gang from Asia had number plates from neighbouring

“The Almighty Allah has enjoined people to earn their livelihood through hard work and to ‘walk amongst its slopes and eat of His provision’, as stated in the Qu’ran and Sunnah, which outline legitimate means of earning income



TALIB AL SHEHHI

Executive Director of Islamic Affairs and Endowments

countries. This case exemplifies how begging is associated with the exploitation of children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities to illegally raise funds,” the official stated.

The UAE’s zero-tolerance stance on begging was highlighted in May 2021 when three Arab women received fines of Dhs5,000 each, a six-month jail sentence, and subsequent deportation. The first suspect was discovered to have compelled her son, aged under eight, to beg on the streets of Dubai. The other two women similarly exploited their children for begging.

The group’s operation was dismantled



A male beggar arrested with Dhs40,000 cash during Ramadan 2022

Dubai Police

Those who succumb to the fabricated tales of beggars inadvertently perpetuate the practice within society, influencing their families, children, and companions to follow suit

after a concerned resident alerted Dubai Police to their presence near a shopping centre in the emirate. Police officers traced the child who led them to his mother. She admitted to being part of a group of women who had brought their children to beg in the UAE. The other two women were apprehended at Dubai Airport just before boarding their flight.

ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

The social repercussions of begging are universally negative as it undermines dignity. In a flourishing society, individuals are expected to find contentment and live responsibly.

Begging disrupts this societal framework, hindering the progression where children attend school, study diligently, and ultimately secure employment. The quick cash schemes employed by beggars set a detrimental example for others, with impressionable youngsters learning improper methods to earn money easily.

Those who succumb to the fabricated tales of beggars inadvertently perpetuate the practice within society, influencing their families, children, and companions to follow suit.

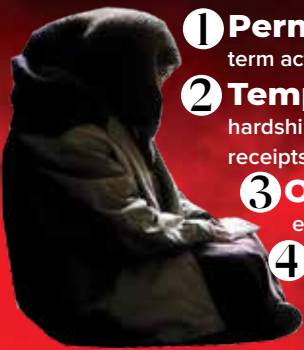
Many individuals hesitate to turn away beggars due to the belief that Islam extols charity as a virtue. While Islamic teachings indeed emphasise generosity, religious leaders in the UAE discourage people from falling prey to beggars outside mosques and other venues.

According to Talib Al Shehhi, Executive Director of Islamic Affairs and Endowments, begging is forbidden in Islam. “The Almighty Allah has enjoined

Types of begging

Begging is not confined to the UAE but is a global phenomenon. According to the United Nations, begging is interconnected with other forms of exploitation such as forced labour, coerced marriages, and criminal activities stemming from the trafficking of adults and children. **Here are the different types of begging:**

- 1 Permanent:** Some individuals engage in begging as a long-term activity, preferring it over traditional employment.
- 2 Temporary:** Others resort to begging due to temporary hardships. They may present fake documents, such as medical bills or receipts, to solicit donations.
- 3 Occasional:** Certain beggars operate during specific events, such as Ramadan.
- 4 Forced:** In some cases, families or criminal organisations compel elderly individuals, children, or disabled individuals to beg.





Under the Information Technology Crime Law of 2012, Article 5, individuals who use information technology to solicit or promote fundraising without a licence may face fines ranging from Dhs250,000 to Dhs500,000

people to earn their livelihood through hard work and to 'walk amongst its slopes and eat of His provision', as stated in the Qu' ran and Sunnah, which outline legitimate means of earning income."

Al Shehhi has cautioned against individuals who seek their livelihood through objectionable methods, stating, "It is forbidden to engage in begging as a profession, exploiting the generosity of benevolent individuals."

ILLEGAL ONLINE FUNDRAISING

During the start of Ramadan 2024 last month, Dubai Police highlighted the increasing trend of people using social media to raise funds, supposedly to assist the needy, which is unlawful.

Under the Information Technology Crime Law of 2012, Article 5, individuals who use information technology to solicit or promote fundraising without a licence may face fines ranging from Dhs250,000 to Dhs500,000.

During Ramadan, police officers maintain a visible presence on the ground to ensure public safety and uphold order, while simultaneously monitoring cyber activity to prevent online crimes, including illegal solicitation.

Cybercrime is on the rise globally, and

simply clicking on a link can result in financial loss and expose email or social media contacts to similar fraudulent campaigns. Phishing, an old cybercrime tactic, involves sending messages with malicious links or attachments that, when clicked, introduce malware into the recipient's computer.

As is customary every year, police forces across the UAE host events and initiatives to raise awareness about cybercrime during Ramadan. They caution against falling prey to fake charity events or fundraisers. The recurring message is clear—don't make it easy for fraudsters by donating to unverified organisations.

EXTEND HELP THE RIGHT WAY

During Ramadan, we reflect on our blessings and feel compelled to share with others. Forwarding links on WhatsApp to solicit money or other forms of donations during the holy month is illegal. To raise funds, individuals must obtain a licence from the government and collaborate with licenced charitable organisations.

Ramadan fosters awareness of our privileges and blessings. However, police advise that responsible giving entails donating to legitimate and approved charities.

How to report beggars

Abu Dhabi

By phone on **999**
or **8002626**,

SMS on **2828** or

email to aman@adpolice.gov.ae

Dubai

By phone on **901** or
800243 or **8004888**

Sharjah

By phone on **901** or
06-5632222 or **06-5631111**

Ras Al Khaimah

By phone on **07-2053372**

Ajman

By phone on **06-7034310**

Umm Al Quwain

By phone on **999**

Fujairah

By phone on **09-2051100**
or **09-2224411**

Verified UAE CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation

is dedicated to pioneering initiatives for welfare, with a focus on health and education at domestic, regional, and global levels. The Foundation's educational strategy includes supporting vocational educational projects in regional countries, addressing health needs related to malnutrition and child protection, and providing safe water on a global scale. Its assistance has reached over 87 countries since its establishment.

Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation

aims to honour and uphold the late Sheikh Zayed's global humanitarian vision by aiding those in need. As a leading humanitarian foundation, it supports developing countries to enhance their quality of life through health and education programmes.

The Emirates Red Crescent (ERC)

has announced that its Ramadan 2024 programmes will benefit 1.8 million people in the UAE and 44 countries. These initiatives include Iftar, Zakat al-Fitr, Eid clothing, Ramadan food parcels, and Iftar meals. With over 320 donation sites across the emirates, donations can be made through ERC centres, the website, and apps.

Dar Al Ber Society

collects donations for Iftar meals. Meals outside the UAE are priced at Dh\$10, while those within the UAE are priced at Dh\$15. Beneficiaries include sustainable charitable projects and pioneering humanitarian, religious, and community-based initiatives.

Dubai Charity Association

has launched the Ramadan Project, providing meals to the hungry during Iftar in mosques and homes in the UAE and globally. Each meal is priced at Dh\$15, and donations can be made on behalf of parents or deceased individuals.



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THE OCEAN OFFERS ADVENTURE FOR SAILORS, DIVERS, AND WATER SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS. HOWEVER, ITS UNPREDICTABLE NATURE CAN POSE SIGNIFICANT RISKS. **999** OUTLINES ESSENTIAL WATER SAFETY GUIDELINES

BY ORLANDO WILSON



Off the coast of the UAE, Emirati sailor Issa Mohammed Al Falasi embarked on a routine fishing trip in January, seeking the tranquillity of the open sea. As he navigated, his keen eyes caught a glimpse of something amiss in the distance.

A lone man was fighting desperately against the waves. Without hesitation, Al Falasi manoeuvred his vessel towards the man and pulled him from the clutches of the unforgiving sea. However, as he secured their safety, he was told by the man that he was not alone. His crewmates were also adrift in the sea.

They scoured the waters near the fishermen's boat for signs of life. Amidst the vast expanse of the ocean, he was able to rescue eight fishermen. Sadly, two had drowned.

After confirming their safety, Al Falasi swiftly headed to the nearest Coast Guard point. They promptly coordinated with the relevant emergency services, including Dubai Police and the ambulance. "The officials were fully prepared upon our arrival, attending to everyone's safety, providing necessary

care, and handling the bodies of the two deceased," Al Falasi stated.

These eight men were incredibly fortunate that Al Falasi was present and capable enough to conduct the search, rescue, and recovery operations. Had he not been there at that precise moment, the sea would have tragically claimed more lives. The incident reminds people of the ocean's unforgiving nature.

Major General Ahmed Mohammed Rafie, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Community Happiness and Logistics Affairs at Dubai Police, honoured the courageous Emirati sailor for his swift response. During the honouring, Al Falasi advised individuals planning fishing trips or outings to prioritise safety by adhering to necessary precautions and safety measures to safeguard their lives.

Sailing has entrenched itself in the UAE's culture, facilitating the development of early maritime trade routes in the region. Traditional wooden dhow boats once sailed as far as East Africa. Even though the turquoise waters can be very inviting, sailors, fishermen, divers, or water sports enthusiasts must remember that the calm and welcoming

seas can also be treacherous. Whether venturing on the water for sightseeing, relaxation, or fishing, it's always a requisite to always heed authorities' guidelines on the basics of safety at sea.

All maritime vessels need to be registered and the captains or drivers of the vessels must hold a current licence. This applies to large oil tankers and all the way down to small recreational boats.

The rules and regulations are in place and rigorously enforced but there are always those who think they are so clever that the rules do not apply to them. We've rounded up the top things that must be considered when planning for a sea adventure.

CHECK WEATHER FORECAST

In February 2024, the UAE Coast Guard rescued six crew members whose boat had capsized amidst adverse weather conditions. Promptly locating the distressed wooden vessel, they safely retrieved all crew members, who subsequently received medical

Sailing has entrenched itself in the UAE's culture, facilitating the development of early maritime trade routes in the region. Traditional wooden dhow boats once sailed as far as East Africa

attention and were found to be in good physical health.

Another maritime incident occurred just last month, as a boat carrying an Emirati and three Asians capsized off the Sharjah coast, approximately 17 nautical miles from Hamriyah Port, due to inclement weather. The UAE Coast Guard swiftly intervened, conducting a search and rescue mission that resulted in the retrieval of the four individuals.

Similar to other hazards at sea, rough weather can typically be avoided by checking a weather forecast before departure. However, even the most cautious sailor can be caught off guard by sudden windstorms. Therefore, it's essential to always prepare for the worst and remain vigilant for signs such as telltale clouds and white-capped waves.

Even light winds can transform usually calm seas into choppy waters, causing discomfort and seasickness, particularly for inexperienced sailors. Rough waters, especially for novices, can be daunting and potentially hazardous, especially if panic ensues. Always check the weather forecast before heading out to sea, and be prepared to seek shelter quickly during unexpected storms.

If you're close enough to shore, seek refuge in a safe harbour or the sheltered side of an island where large waves are less likely. Sudden squalls are usually brief and may precede a change in wind direction, often with stronger speeds.

If returning to the harbour seems risky, consider facing the wind and waves with

General tips when sailing in your boat

- Keep a constant lookout for nearby objects and steer clear of commercial vessels in the vicinity.
- Maintain a safe distance between your boat and sailing vessels, and navigate in open areas where large vessel captains have clear visibility of you. You should be at least one nautical mile away from them.
- Avoid anchoring in navigational waterways or channels.
- Note that aluminium boats are challenging to spot during daylight, especially in foggy, cloudy, or poor visibility conditions.
- Always wear clothing that is visible after sunset and in low visibility conditions.
- Ensure all correct navigational lights are switched on.
- Ensure navigational lights are in good working order to indicate your boat type, length, and direction to others.

Source: Abu Dhabi Maritime



NSRC

A team from the National Search and Rescue Centre, under the National Guard Command, conducting an air rescue to save two individuals after their boat sank in rough weather in February 2024

your bow, maintaining enough speed to steer without going too fast. Without power, a vessel may drift sideways, making it prone to capsizing. Using a sea anchor or tying a strong bucket to the bows can help keep your vessel facing the waves if the engine fails.

KEEP CLEAR OF BIG SHIPS

The waters of the UAE are bustling commercial shipping lanes for large cargo ships, and oil, and gas tankers. Small boats must always steer clear of these large vessels for their own safety. Usually, due to the height of the bridge and the size of the vessels, it can be very difficult for the crew members on watch to see any small boats close by. Additionally, these ships are not very manoeuvrable and can take a great distance to stop or effectively change course.

One such incident involving a large cargo vessel occurred last February 2024. During a late-night operation, Dubai Police rescued eight fishermen after their boat collided with a large cargo ship. The search and rescue operation was carried out by the Ports Police Station and Air Wing Centre. The fishing boat was heavily damaged, and three crew members were injured.

Brigadier Dr Hassan Suhail Al Suwaidi, Director of the Ports Police Station at Dubai Police, stated that the incident happened “late at night” when a large cargo vessel collided with a fishing boat

heading towards Dubai’s fish market. “The impact forced the boat to drift two nautical miles before the cargo ship stopped, causing the fishing vessel to break apart. Three of the eight fishermen onboard sustained various injuries and were promptly transported by the Dubai Police Air Wing to Rashid Hospital, while marine rescue teams rescued the remaining five sailors,” he added. “The cargo ship, due to

its massive size, could not enter the port. Our marine rescue boats swiftly evacuated the sailors from the vessel and transferred them to the station despite challenging weather conditions and high waves caused by strong winds.”

Al Suwaidi encouraged ship and boat captains to register for the ‘Sail Safely’ service available on the Dubai Police app. This feature allows them to input their



Emirati sailor Issa Mohammed Al Falasi (centre) honoured by Dubai Police for rescuing eight fishermen from drowning

Al Suwaidi encouraged ship and boat captains to register for the ‘Sail Safely’ service available on the Dubai Police app. This feature allows them to input their voyage plan and expected destinations

Marine accidents hotlines

Abu Dhabi
Call the Critical Infrastructure
and Coastal Protection
Authority on **996**.

Dubai
Call Dubai Coast Guard on
+971 566 8243 43.

Other emirates
Call **999**.



voyage plan and expected destinations, facilitating emergency assistance and location tracking if needed. The service includes an SOS button for immediate distress signals.

The key safety guidelines for small boats around large ships include maintaining a safe distance, avoiding crossing ahead or close astern of big ships, and always keeping to the starboard side of a channel. It's crucial not to impede the passage of large ships in a channel and to maintain a vigilant lookout at all times. Small boat operators should communicate their intentions clearly to approaching large ships at least one mile in advance and refrain from anchoring in the navigation channel to ensure safe navigation for all vessels involved.

UNDERGO PROPER TRAINING

Sailing involves both science and technical know-how. For instance, to safely sail, one must be very familiar with a system of buoys, poles, and lights assists. Each type of mark has a unique combination of colour, shape, top mark, and light for safe navigation.

For people who intend to captain a vessel, ensure you have the required licences and qualifications for the type and size of the boat. Now if you are chartering a boat with its crew, ensure they are properly licensed and qualified. Always use credible companies, verify their documentation, and check reviews and

The key safety guidelines for small boats around large ships include maintaining a safe distance, avoiding crossing ahead or close astern of big ships

references from their previous clients. If you suspect someone is operating illegally, report them to the authorities. By doing so, you are helping to protect others from being scammed and potentially facing life-threatening situations.

In the UAE, numerous private maritime training schools and centres provide extensive training for acquiring maritime driving licences.

IS YOUR BOAT SEAWORTHY?

It's crucial to ensure that the boat you board is seaworthy. While this may seem like common sense, many boats at sea are not adequately maintained and could pose a safety risk.

In the UAE, all registered vessels must adhere to strict regulations to ensure their safety and seaworthiness. Therefore, it's important to always use credible tour companies, yacht charters, or fishing

boat services. Opting for unofficial or potentially illegal services to save money could endanger your life. Remember, like cars, boats are machines, and even well-maintained ones can experience problems.

While at sea, whether on a tour or a fishing trip, if you notice anything amiss with the boat, report it to the captain or crew immediately. They can assess the situation and take any necessary safety measures or provide you with an explanation.

CHART YOUR COURSE

Always familiarise yourself with the planned route, destinations, and estimated arrival times for your journey. Additionally, inform someone who is not travelling with you about your itinerary and arrange regular check-in calls with them. This is a fundamental safety practice for all types of travel. In the event that you go missing or fail to check in, raising the alarm promptly will ensure that rescuers know where to begin their search.

Many captains now use global positioning systems (GPS) for navigation, with some devices equipped with emergency location reporting features. These features enable the automatic alerting of emergency services if the boat encounters any issues. If you frequently travel by boat, investing in a GPS with such capabilities could be a wise decision.

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Even on leisurely evening cruises, take a moment to locate the fire extinguishers upon boarding. They should be marked alongside other emergency items like first aid kits.

Meanwhile, all vessels are required to carry life jackets and emergency rafts suitable for the number of passengers and crew the vessel is licensed to carry. This is a vital check to make before setting sail.

According to Abu Dhabi Maritime regulations, the PFD Type 1 lifejackets is preferred because they provide high buoyancy to keep wearers safely afloat. They are brightly coloured with reflective patches for visibility. It's advisable to have one lifejacket for each person on board the vessel.

Furthermore, boats are required to carry emergency signalling equipment, often in the form of parachute flares, rockets, or smoke signals. These items are usually stored in a marked container, with simple usage instructions provided. In the event of an emergency, flares and smoke signals can alert nearby vessels to your distress and help rescuers locate your position.

STAY CONNECTED

Boats must be equipped with radios for communication with other vessels, authorities, and emergency services. While mobile phones can pick up signals close to shore, coverage may be unavailable in deeper waters or remote areas. It's advisable to check with your captain regarding the vessel's communication capabilities and potential dead spots for mobile phone coverage.

ABANDONING VESSEL SAFELY

In a dire emergency necessitating abandoning a boat or vessel, wear your life jacket securely and take bottled water if available. Once in the water, swim towards rafts, lifeboats, or floating debris. If the vessel remains afloat after capsizing, stay close as it's more visible to rescuers. If the boat sinks, stick together with other survivors for better visibility. Swimming to shore is an option, but beware of strong sea currents. Instead of fighting them, conserve energy and avoid dehydration. Signal rescuers with coloured materials, whistles, or lights attached to life jackets if they're nearby.

Authorities and emergency services stand ready to assist, but prevention is always preferable. Despite the sea's allure, its dangers are real, so remain prepared at all times.

Pre-departure checklists for sailors and yacht owners

Recreational boating should be fun, safe, and hassle-free. Whether you own, rent, or borrow a pleasure craft, ensure it is in good working order and properly equipped before heading out on the water.



Inspect your boat

- Inspect your pleasure craft's hull and check for cracks or other damage.
- If you are operating a power-driven pleasure craft, check its electrical, fuel, propulsion, and cooling systems.
- Ensure the throttle is operating smoothly and is not sticking or binding.
- Check the steering is working properly.
- Check the oil and fuel levels.
- Check all hoses and lines for leaks or cracks and replace them if necessary. Ensure all clamps and belts are secure and in good condition.
- Inspect, clean, and replace spark plugs if necessary.
- Check and change oil and water filters if necessary.
- Check the battery's charge and its fluid levels.
- Ensure the drainage plug is in place.
- Verify the load on your boat is well distributed.



Ensure your boat has what it needs for a safe trip

- Are there enough flotation devices of appropriate size for everyone on board?
- Is all of the required equipment in good working order?
- Do you have ample reserves of fuel for the trip or will you need to refuel? A good rule of thumb for fuel is one-third for the trip out, one-third for the return, and one-third as reserve.
- Do you have maps and charts?



Take a minute to consider your safety preparedness

- Do you have a first aid kit, basic tools, and spare parts?
- Have you checked the weather forecast?
- Are there any local hazards or boating restrictions?
- Have you informed somebody that you are sailing and when do you expect to return?

Source: Abu Dhabi Maritime



Most common sea emergencies

Unexpected emergencies happen fast. Being ready could save you

Person overboard



A person overboard situation occurs when someone falls from a boat or ship into the water. This can happen due to various reasons such as accidents, rough seas, or unexpected movements of the vessel. When a person goes overboard, it becomes a critical emergency requiring immediate action to ensure the individual's safety and rescue. Time is of the essence in such situations as exposure to cold water and the risk of drowning are significant concerns.

In case of a person overboard situation, clearly shout "Man overboard" to alert everyone on board; throw any available flotation device to aid the person in the water and mark their position; carefully monitor the person in the water, continuously pointing at them and recording their position if possible; and immediately stop the boat to minimize the distance between the person and the vessel. Be mindful that turning the boat could pose a risk, so ensure the stern is turned away from the person to avoid injury from the propeller.

Capsize



Capsizes are common boating accidents often resulting in fatalities, occurring unexpectedly and rapidly. Victims have limited time to access nearby items, with many succumbing before help arrives, especially fishermen. It's crucial to keep lifejackets easily accessible, or better yet, wear them. Understanding how your boat will behave in water is essential, as it affects equipment retrieval. In case of water ingress, ensure everyone wears a lifejacket, locate and stem the leak, make a distress call, and head towards shallower waters while bailing out water. Stay with the boat if it submerges or overturns, increasing the chances of rescue.

Ultraviolet radiation



Ultraviolet radiation peaks between 11 am and 3 pm during Daylight Saving Time. Boaters are at heightened risk due to reflected radiation from the water. Prevention is vital, with clothing offering the best protection. Cover exposed areas with a wide-brimmed hat, and long-sleeved shirt, and apply sunscreen with SPF 30+ or higher, broad spectrum, and water-resistant properties. Apply sunscreen 20 minutes before exposure and reapply every two hours.

Drowning



Confidence in swimming can sometimes be dangerous. It's important to swim only when others are nearby to provide help if needed. Even strong swimmers can face accidents that quickly become life-threatening without assistance. Always ensure a lifeguard is on duty before entering the water. If a swimmer has a medical condition, such as seizures, constant supervision, and appropriate safety gear are crucial. Those at risk of sudden inability to swim should wear a lifejacket in large bodies of water. Children benefit greatly from swimming lessons, reducing their drowning risk, but supervision should never be reduced based on their swimming ability. Always keep a close eye on children, regardless of their skill level.

Police are cautioning people who go out to sea to pay attention to weather alerts, particularly during this season when conditions can quickly become hazardous. Ignoring these alerts raises the risk of accidents and drowning, especially for weak swimmers or those who underestimate the dangers.

Hypothermia



Hypothermia occurs when in water, leading to unconsciousness and potential drowning. Wearing a life jacket can prevent submersion and offer some defence against hypothermia while conserving energy. Despite feeling warmer when treading water, it's a deceptive sensation; energy should be conserved for warmth maintenance rather than movement. Heat loss is faster in water than in air of the same temperature. If in the water with floating objects like an upturned jet ski or boat, raise as much of your torso out of the water as possible and gather in a 'huddle' position with others for body heat conservation and support.



POLICING NOISE

NOISE POLLUTION IS A SERIOUS HEALTH RISK THAT IS OFTEN OVERSHADOWED BY WATER AND AIR POLLUTION. POLICE FORCES ACROSS THE UAE ARE TAKING STRONG ACTION TO PREVENT IT

BY JEREMY BALMS





UAE citizens and residents have a strong affinity for cars, even with the availability of high-end public transport. Within this car culture, some drivers modify their vehicle engines to emit excessive noise, disturbing the peace of schools, mosques, and residential areas through loud engines.

Recently, Abu Dhabi Police released an educational video, issuing a warning against excessive noise through vehicular modifications. They reminded motorists to avoid honking, abrupt accelerations, speeding, and noisy driving behaviours. Such actions, as per the police, not only inconvenience citizens and residents but also negatively affect the well-being of vulnerable groups including children, the sick, and the elderly, leading to heightened anxiety and discomfort.

Interestingly, Abu Dhabi Police developed the world's first traffic noise radar technology in 2016, designed

to target and penalise drivers of loud vehicles. Equipped with a sound level metre and an advanced camera, this system effectively identifies drivers causing noise pollution.

Last month, Sharjah Police announced that noise radars installed on the streets had detected 628 loud vehicles in 2023, most of which had illegally modified engines. Captain Saud Al Shaiba, Director of the Awareness and Information Branch at the Traffic and Patrols Department at Sharjah Police, stated, "Modifications of vehicles cause great disturbance to residents and also pose a safety hazard when motorists drive recklessly."

Car manufacturers generally comply with regulations designed to ensure vehicles do not inherently produce excessive noise. However, aftermarket modifications aimed at enhancing a vehicle's speed or performance can result in increased noise.

In the UAE, hefty fines of Dhs2,000

“ Modifications of vehicles cause great disturbance to residents and also pose a safety hazard when motorists drive recklessly



CAPTAIN SAUD AL SHAIBA

Director of the Awareness and Information Branch at the Traffic and Patrols Department at Sharjah Police

and 12 black traffic points, with a second offence risking license suspension, act as a deterrent against driving loud vehicles. Playing loud music inside vehicles is also classified as a noise pollution offence, attracting a fine of up to Dhs400 and 4 black points.

PROACTIVE POLICING

Brigadier Juma Salem bin Suwaidan, Acting Director of the General Directorate of Traffic at Dubai Police, has affirmed their year-round commitment to rigorous enforcement against noisy vehicles.

“ Last month, Sharjah Police announced that noise radars installed on the streets had detected 628 loud vehicles in 2023, most of which had illegally modified engines

This ongoing vigilance resulted in 230 drivers being penalised for causing noise pollution in the first quarter of 2023 alone. Additionally, 250 vehicles were seized, and fines were levied against 327 drivers for illegal engine modifications.

In 2022, a staggering 4,533 vehicles were booked for illegal modifications in Dubai, including the installation of power boosters to augment speed. Of this figure, 2,300 vehicles were seized for causing noise disturbances, underscoring the direct correlation between unauthorised engine modifications and the prevalence of loud vehicles.

In Abu Dhabi, the police have warned that installation of superchargers and turbochargers without proper safety protocols can lead to engine failures and elevate the risk of fire hazards. Moreover, drivers of vehicles causing excessive noise due to altered power boosters or silencers face penalties of up to Dh\$2,000 and 12 black points on their licence.

In adherence to Law No. (5) of 2020 in Abu Dhabi, owners of vehicles impounded due to illegal modifications are subject to a release fee of Dh\$10,000. Failure to pay this fee within three months places the impounded vehicle at risk of auction.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY:

World's first traffic noise radar



Seven years ago, in April 2016, Abu Dhabi Police introduced the world's first modified speed radar equipped with a sensor to function as a noise radar. This innovation aims to reduce vehicle noises that exceed legal limits, aiming to bring tranquillity to residential areas, hospitals, mosques, and schools. It is particularly designed to deter the disturbance caused by noisy motorbikes racing at night.

The system comprises two integral components: a sound intensity sensor and an advanced camera capable of capturing digital images of offending vehicles. It operates by measuring the noise level of each passing vehicle. Should the noise exceed the predetermined threshold, the radar automatically captures the vehicle's image, scans its licence plate, and issues a fine to the driver for the noise violation.



An SUV seized by Dubai Police for reckless driving and loud engine

Penalty for driving a noisy vehicle

The law: Under Article 20 of the UAE's Federal Traffic Law, noisy vehicles may be impounded for up to 6 months.

Traffic fines: Driving a noisy car incurs a fine of Dh\$2,000 along with 12 black traffic points.

Licence suspension: Accumulating 24 black points can lead to the suspension of a driver's licence, putting drivers at risk of suspension if caught with a noisy vehicle twice.

Vehicle confiscation: Modifying car engines without adhering to UAE's guidelines results in a fine of Dh\$1,000, 12 black points, and vehicle confiscation.

RESIDENTS' PLEA

The incessant noise from cars transcends beyond streets, infiltrating spaces meant for learning and tranquillity.

Schools face interruptions from the loud engines of vehicles, which disrupt lessons and impair students' concentration, according to Salima, a primary school teacher who spoke to 999. "The roar of passing cars interrupts classroom activities, making it challenging for students to engage fully in their

learning. This constant noise undermines the peaceful learning environment," she explained.

Salima appealed to drivers to recognise the harmful effect their noisy vehicles have on students' education and to adopt quieter driving habits near school zones.

Mosques, beyond their role as places of worship, are sacred spaces for individuals seeking spiritual connection and reflection. Sharjah resident Nazim Mustafa noted that noisy vehicles disrupt not only

The relentless honking from errant drivers shatters the serenity of places like the mosque, where I find solace and connection

the inner peace of individuals but also the sanctity of these spaces. "The relentless honking from errant drivers shatters the serenity of places like the mosque, where I find solace and connection. The sound of zooming vehicles disrupts the focus during prayer, and



I hope drivers will become more aware of the impact of their noise and show consideration for those seeking peace in such sacred places,” he said.

Ayaz Ahmad Qadri, employed at a hypermarket in Dubai, recounted his experience: “While I was in a taxi, an important business call was nearly ruined by the excessive noise from cars driven by a group of youngsters. It made communication with my client almost impossible.”

NOISE LIMITS

The continuous buzz of engines and honking horns also compromise the tranquillity of neighbourhoods, posing health risks and diminishing residents’ quality of life. Excessive noise can lead to stress, sleep

Health risks of noise

THE hidden dangers of noise pollution have been increasingly emphasised by recent studies. For example, a study published in the *European Journal of Public Health* in August 2023 delves into the adverse health outcomes associated with environmental noise, highlighting that exposure can lead to severe conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and mental health impacts.

Further insights come from a January 2022 report in *Environmental International*, which underlines the cognitive toll of noise pollution. It demonstrates how such environmental disturbance can impair cognitive abilities in older

adults and detrimentally affect children’s reading and language development. The widespread repercussions of these findings are indeed concerning.

Moreover, research presented by the *American College of Cardiology* in March 2022 establishes a disturbing connection between noise pollution from traffic, trains, and planes and an increased risk of heart attacks. These findings underscore noise pollution as not merely an annoyance but a significant public health hazard. These collective studies reinforce the urgent need for heightened awareness and action against noise pollution, particularly from vehicles, to mitigate its substantial health risks.





disturbances, hearing loss, and other health concerns, impacting both physical and mental health.

The level of sound to which humans are exposed is measured in dB(A), signifying decibels adjusted. Community noise guidelines from the World Health Organization suggest keeping bedrooms below 30 dB(A) during the night for optimal sleep quality and classrooms below 35 dB(A) for effective teaching and learning conditions. Beyond sleeping areas, the World Health Organization recommends night-time noise levels below 40 dB(A); anything louder could negatively impact health.

In the UAE, a Federal Bylaw enacted in 2006 by the Federal Environment Agency establishes noise level limits in residential, commercial, and industrial zones, ranging from 30 to 70 dB(A), with varying thresholds for day and night (see accompanying box). However, the average noise produced by cars travelling at speeds of 80-100 km/h can reach as high as 65-70 dB(A), with modified vehicles exacerbating the issue further. Municipalities have established noise regulations. For example, according to Dubai Municipality guidelines, noise from construction or demolition activities must not surpass 55 dB(A) between 7am and 8pm, and 45 dB(A) between 8pm and 7am.

Three stages of action

1

Decibel limit:

Across the UAE, there's a general decibel limit of 95 for vehicle noise. Exceeding this leads to penalties.

2

Vehicle detection:

Radars installed on roads detect vehicles exceeding the noise limit.

3

Fine enforcement:

Radars record the number plates of noisy vehicles for fine imposition.



AWARENESS DRIVES

Abu Dhabi Police regularly conduct campaigns aimed at addressing the issue of noise pollution and the dangers posed by illegally modified vehicles, with a special focus on areas like sandy areas and family campgrounds. The police encourage the community to play a proactive role by reporting such disturbances through the 999 hotline.

The overarching goal of these campaigns is to strike a balance between ensuring road safety and enhancing the quality of life for residents, illustrating the



Confiscated illegally modified vehicles and bikes

Dubai Police

UAE's holistic strategy in managing traffic and promoting public health.

In Dubai, Brigadier bin Suwaidan underscored the importance of parental responsibility and community involvement in upholding road safety standards. "Parents must supervise their children and prevent irresponsible vehicle use. The public can help by reporting modified vehicles through the 'We Are All Police' app or by calling 901. Modifying cars for increased speed has led to serious accidents," bin Suwaidan told the media.

LATE-NIGHT DISTURBANCE

In the lull of authority, thrill-seekers take flight. This is the mindset embraced by

many stunt drivers, often youngsters, who frequent the tranquil streets to perform perilous stunts with their vehicles' engines thundering. However, this notion isn't applicable in the UAE, as the police are ever-vigilant, especially more so at night. They monitor every nook and cranny of the streets through CCTV cameras round the clock.

Bin Suwaidan remarked, "We target motorcyclists congregating after midnight, exceeding speed and noise limits, with fines and vehicle impoundment."

For most of Dubai, the permitted noise level between 7am to 8pm is 40-50 decibels, while at night, acceptable decibel levels are 30-

“ We target motorcyclists congregating after midnight, exceeding speed and noise limits, with fines and vehicle impoundment



**BRIGADIER JUMA SALEM
BIN SUWAIDAN**

Acting Director of the General Directorate of Traffic at Dubai Police

“ Noise isn't merely a nighttime issue. The police are tackling noisy roads during the day as well. “During the morning rush, drivers honk incessantly, treating the road like a racetrack,” teacher Salima told 999

40, which is the typical level of a suburban area at night.

Noise isn't merely a nighttime issue. The police are tackling noisy roads during the day as well. "During the morning rush, drivers honk incessantly, treating the road like a racetrack," teacher Salima told 999. "It's hazardous because other drivers lose focus."

Permitted limits for noise levels in different areas

All figures are in db(A)

| | Day (7am to 8pm) | Night (8pm to 7am) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Residential areas with light traffic | 40-50 | 30-40 |
| Residential areas in downtown | 45-55 | 35-45 |
| Residential areas that include some workshops and commercial business, or residential areas near highways | 50-60 | 40-50 |
| Commercial areas and downtown | 55-65 | 45-55 |
| Industrial areas (heavy industry) | 60-70 | 50-60 |

Source: UAE Federal Environment Agency

Such vehicle modifications can affect a vehicle's roadworthiness and legality. Common alterations are aftermarket lights, upsized wheels, low-profile tyres, and enhanced sound systems

ADHERE TO RULES

The UAE authorities implore car enthusiasts to adhere to stringent regulations when personalising their vehicles. Prohibited modifications encompass electrical alterations, nitrogen pipe installations, exhaust enhancements, and the addition of powerful speakers.

Adjustments to suspension for enhanced handling or off-road capabilities are prevalent. It's also common to see performance enhancements through upgraded exhaust systems and lightweight rims.

Such vehicle modifications can affect a vehicle's roadworthiness and legality. They might even void the vehicle's

warranty. Common alterations are aftermarket lights, upsized wheels, low-profile tyres, and enhanced sound systems. It's crucial to understand the regulations and ensure modifications comply with road safety standards. While engine upgrades aim to increase power, they could compromise safety if not properly executed.

Effectively addressing vehicle noise pollution necessitates a collaborative approach. Government agencies, communities, and stakeholders must unite to address the issue comprehensively. Such collaboration strives to secure a quieter and more enjoyable living environment for all.



WHO guidelines on noise management

The precautionary principle:

Noise should always be minimised to the lowest feasible level in any given context. Should there be a reasonable likelihood of public health being adversely affected, measures must be undertaken to safeguard public health without waiting for complete scientific verification.

The polluter pays principle:

The entire costs related to noise pollution—including its monitoring, management, reduction, and oversight—ought to be borne by the entities responsible for generating the noise.

The prevention principle:

Efforts should be made to mitigate noise at its source wherever feasible. Land-use planning ought to be informed by an environmental health impact assessment that evaluates the implications of noise alongside other pollutants, ensuring a comprehensive approach to public health and environmental protection.

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Dodgy recruitment, costly mistake

BEWARE OF HIRING UNDOCUMENTED HOUSEHOLD HELP. IN DUBAI, 90 PER CENT OF BURGLARY CASES ARE LINKED TO EMPLOYING ILLEGAL WORKERS.
999 EXPLAINS THE RIGHT PROCEDURES FOR HIRING A MAID

BY RHODORA MAYSON



Undocumented labour operates outside the legal framework, often controlled by criminal organisations that smuggle them into the country, exploit their earnings, and sometimes involve them in illegal activities. Would you risk hiring someone without proper documentation or background checks? Doing so increases the likelihood of becoming a victim of home burglaries, with 90 per cent attributed to hiring illegal workers in Dubai. Think twice before entrusting your property or children to illegally hired individuals.

The UAE has established Tadbeer centres to regulate domestic help recruitment, ensuring the protection of both employers and employees. These centres, overseen by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization

(MoHRE), manage recruitment agencies providing household service workers with visas, orientation, and training. However, illegal recruitment entities bypass these regulations, offering no legal protection or support, undermining the country's efforts to provide services within regulatory frameworks.

Recently, the MoHRE has taken legal action against 55 entities and shut down 5 social media accounts for engaging in illegal recruitment and mediation activities without obtaining the required permits from the Ministry. The violators were facing up to not less than a year's jail time and hefty fines ranging from Dhs40,000 to Dhs200,000.

Khalil Ibrahim Al Khoury, Undersecretary for Human Resources Affairs at MoHRE, stated, "The Ministry is committed to enforcing legal measures

“The Ministry is committed to enforcing legal measures and penalties against any company proven to be involved in such activities without proper licensing



**KHALIL IBRAHIM
AL KHOURY**

Undersecretary for Human Resources Affairs at MoHRE

Runaway maids in Ramadan

Ramadan is a period when police often encounter numerous cases of maids violating labour laws by absconding from their sponsors. They engage in part-time work, using false identities and documents, for other families to earn extra income quickly. Brigadier Ali Salem Al Shamsi, Director of the Suspects and Criminal Phenomena Department at Dubai Police, emphasised, "We intensify our efforts during Ramadan as runaway maids pose a security threat. People are urged not to employ absconding domestic helpers and to report them to the police. This would contribute to safeguarding the community's security."



“ We have found that 90 per cent of all burglaries in homes in Dubai were due to hiring illegal workers. What is shocking is that house owners leave their property in the care of these illegal workers and go away on vacations



**MAJOR GENERAL JAMAL
SALEM AL JALLAF**

Director of the General Department of Criminal Investigations at Dubai Police

and penalties against any company proven to be involved in such activities without proper licensing.”

Al Khoury added, “The Ministry carries out inspection visits to suspected companies to flag unlawful practices and refer cases of violation to the Public Prosecution.”

The Ministry’s inspection systems monitor promotional and advertising campaigns circulated on social media or any other platforms to identify potential violations in the job market. The risk of hiring or being hired as an undocumented worker couldn’t just result in financial loss; it could be something far more serious than that.

EMPLOYERS, FOCUS ON SAFETY

There are two primary reasons why security forces and other government

authorities closely monitor workers – to prevent their exploitation by rogue recruiters and to protect employers from potential criminal elements amongst them.

According to the police, many employers fail to consider whether the individuals they hire, who often have access to children and valuable possessions, have a criminal history. Major General Jamal Salem Al Jallaf, Director of the General Department of Criminal Investigations at Dubai Police, emphasised the severity of the situation in April last year, urging homeowners and business owners to refrain from hiring undocumented workers. Al Jallaf stated, “We have found that 90 per cent of all burglaries in homes in Dubai were due to hiring illegal workers. It is alarming that homeowners entrust their property to these illegal workers while they are away on vacation.”

Meanwhile, Colonel Adel Al Joker, Assistant General Director for Search and Investigation Affairs at the General Department of Criminal Investigations at Dubai Police, stated, “It is quite common for illegal domestic workers to collude with burglars. We have found many cases where an illegal worker has either provided a copy of the villa keys to a burglar or shared details about the entrance and the layout of the house.”

Al Jallaf added that anyone found guilty of employing illegal workers could face a fine of up to Dhs50,000. This penalty is stipulated in the updated law governing the employment of house help.

MOHRE stated that the amended law, Federal Decree Law No. 9 of 2022 Concerning Domestic Workers, aims to “build on the UAE’s achievements in supporting domestic workers... in a way that is aligned with the best international practices”. The Ministry highlighted that the law ensures the fulfilment of both parties’ aspirations, reduces labour disputes.

THEFT CASES

The most common risk in such employment arrangements is theft. If the maid isn’t registered anywhere, it becomes much more difficult to trace her and recover stolen items. However, if she is registered, the police can track her down even years after the crime.

In Dubai, an employer fell victim to theft by her domestic help. His wife informed him about the missing items, which included a laptop, tablet, watches, and



jewellery. The other household workers denied any knowledge of the theft. Since the maid in question was on vacation, her room was searched, revealing three boxes prepared for shipping. It turned out that she had hid the missing valuable items in these boxes. Accordingly, she had asked the other household workers to ship the boxes to her home country before flying home.

Upon her return to the country, the maid was arrested and interrogated. She denied the theft, alleging that the employer's wife and daughter had given her the items as gifts. The Criminal Court found the maid guilty of theft and sentenced her to six months in prison, along with a fine of Dh52,000 and deportation. The Dubai Court of Appeal upheld the decision.

ESCAPING EXPLOITATION

Meanwhile, unregistered maids are also on the losing end because they become vulnerable to unfair employment and mistreatment.


In one such case, a 15-year-old girl was lured to work in the UAE under false pretences but ended up being held captive and forced into illicit activities. Dubai authorities rescued her and prosecuted six individuals involved. The Dubai Court of Appeal increased the sentences for four of them from 7 to 10 years and for the other two from 3 to 7 years.

In another instance, two Asian nationals, Rem and Rachelle (name withheld), had been working in Ajman as household service help for several years. When they were sent outside for chores, they were approached a 38-year-old man and a 36-year-old woman, who promised to hire them instead.

Rem and Rachelle absconded from their original employers, with high hopes that their life would take a turn for the better. What they didn't expect was that they were getting lured into a deeper trap of prostitution.

They found themselves locked up in an apartment in Ajman by the woman who had promised to get them jobs as company cleaners. The deceitful woman told them that they'd have to work as prostitutes because there were no other jobs just then.

By February 2022, the two imprisoned women hatched a plan to escape by tying up bedsheets together and climbing



How to hire household help legally in the UAE

Here are the four packages offered by Tadbeer centres for employers seeking to hire household help:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Direct sponsorship package</h3> </div> <p>Tadbeer centres, in this package, recruit domestic help from outside the UAE and guarantee their performance and loyalty for 180 days, while their visas are sponsored directly by the employing family.</p> | <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Tadbeer sponsorship</h3> </div> <p>The third package includes the option of hiring workers through the Tadbeer centre's sponsorship.</p> |
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Direct sponsorship after 6 months</h3> </div> <p>This package allows families to hire a temporary worker for six months, after which the domestic worker's visa can be transferred under family sponsorship, if both parties agree.</p> | <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Time-based packages</h3> </div> <p>This package offers on-demand services that allow families to hire household help through the sponsorship of Tadbeer centres, in order to provide flexible services based on the needs of the customers.</p> |

Important: MoHRE regularly updates the list of authorised centres for domestic services on its website.

down the building's outer wall. In doing so, Rem broke her pelvis and lost a lot of blood, while Rachelle suffered a fall with minor injuries.

Neighbours rushed the injured women to the hospital, and the two racketeers who had trapped them were arrested by Ajman Police.

According to investigations, the accused enticed victims by offering them jobs and helping them to abscond from their legal sponsors. They made the same promise of a "cleaning job" to all their victims. But just like what happened to Rem and Rachelle, the victims were locked up in an apartment.

AT A GLANCE: UAE's Domestic Workers Law

According to Dr Hassan Elhais, Partner and Legal Consultant at Al Rowaad Advocates & Legal Consultants, "The Domestic Workers Law in the UAE establishes a comprehensive framework to safeguard the rights and responsibilities of both employers and domestic workers. Understanding this law is important for all parties involved in domestic employment relationships in the UAE."

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Article 4 outlines licensing requirements for Domestic Workers Recruitment Offices, emphasising the need for Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE) approval.

The law prohibits recruiting workers under 18 and specifies prohibited acts during recruitment.

Articles 6 and 7 authorise a formal contract, approved by MoHRE, covering worker requirements, rights and obligations, financial obligations, and the recruitment process timeframe.

Recruitment offices must inform workers about job details, refrain from charging commissions, conduct pre-employment medical examinations, and provide suitable accommodation.

RESCISSION OF CONTRACT

Article 20 of the Federal Decree-Law No. 9/2022 allows either party to unilaterally rescind the employment contract for specified breaches.

If the employer terminates the contract without attributing reasons, they must provide a return ticket and settle outstanding entitlements.

“The Domestic Workers Law in the UAE establishes a comprehensive framework to safeguard the rights and responsibilities of both employers and domestic workers



DR HASSAN ELHAIS

Partner and Legal Consultant at Al Rowaad Advocates & Legal Consultants

If the domestic worker ends the contract post-probation period, reasons attributed to them incur varying obligations based on the recruitment method.

INSPECTION AND PENALTIES

Article 24 authorises Ministry employees to monitor and inspect various aspects related to domestic workers.

Article 25 establishes administrative penalties for violations, outlined in the Implementing Regulation.

UAE courts' jurisdiction to examine disputes arising from violations, with a 3-month timeframe for filing lawsuits.

Penalties outlined in Article 27 range from fines of Dhs5,000 to Dhs1,000,000 for various violations, including incorrect information provision, employment of unlicensed workers, and exploitation of electronic systems.

Imprisonment of up to 6 months and fines up to Dhs100,000 are applicable for obstructing authorities and revealing work secrets.

CLAMPDOWN ON ROGUE RECRUITERS

In 2023, MoHRE blocked 153 individuals who were allowing their domestic help to take on additional employment, a violation of UAE law. Strict penalties are imposed on those who flout this rule.

The 153 employers could potentially face fines of up to Dh50,000, with cases referred to the Public Prosecution and their files blocked from obtaining fresh worker permits. These actions align with Federal Decree-Law No. 9 of 2022 and its executive regulations, which prohibit unauthorised employment of domestic workers or allow them to work elsewhere without meeting requirements.

MoHRE stated, "This is an explicit violation of legislations and poses health and social risks to employers and their families." It added, "We call on employers to deal exclusively with licensed domestic worker recruitment agencies, which can be found listed on the MoHRE's official website and social media pages."

BENEFITS OF LEGAL EMPLOYMENT

Hiring through authorised agencies ensures worker rights protection. Before departing their home country, workers are briefed on contract terms, including entitlements like weekly rest and 30 days paid annual leave. Recruitment agencies are legally prohibited from charging commissions or engaging in discrimination.

Legal hiring provides recourse under the law for employers in case of criminal activities, avoiding potential legal issues. Employers often refrain from reporting crimes involving undocumented labour to evade penalties.

By bypassing authorised channels, employers lack means to authenticate worker information, increasing risks. Unauthorised hiring may lead to untrained workers with no guarantees of service quality, risking family health with potential infectious diseases.

SAFETY AND WELFARE

On one hand, having an efficient domestic helper brings peace of mind to employers. Recognised as essential contributors to a household, especially for working parents, most employers acknowledge that the right domestic help offers more than just an extra pair of hands.

On the other hand, for domestic helpers, securing a job in the UAE represents a transformative opportunity

to improve their lives. It enables them to settle old debts, access better healthcare, and aspire to greater ambitions.

This holds particularly true for domestic helpers who view the UAE as a gateway to escape the cycle of poverty and achieve greater educational and professional success for their children or

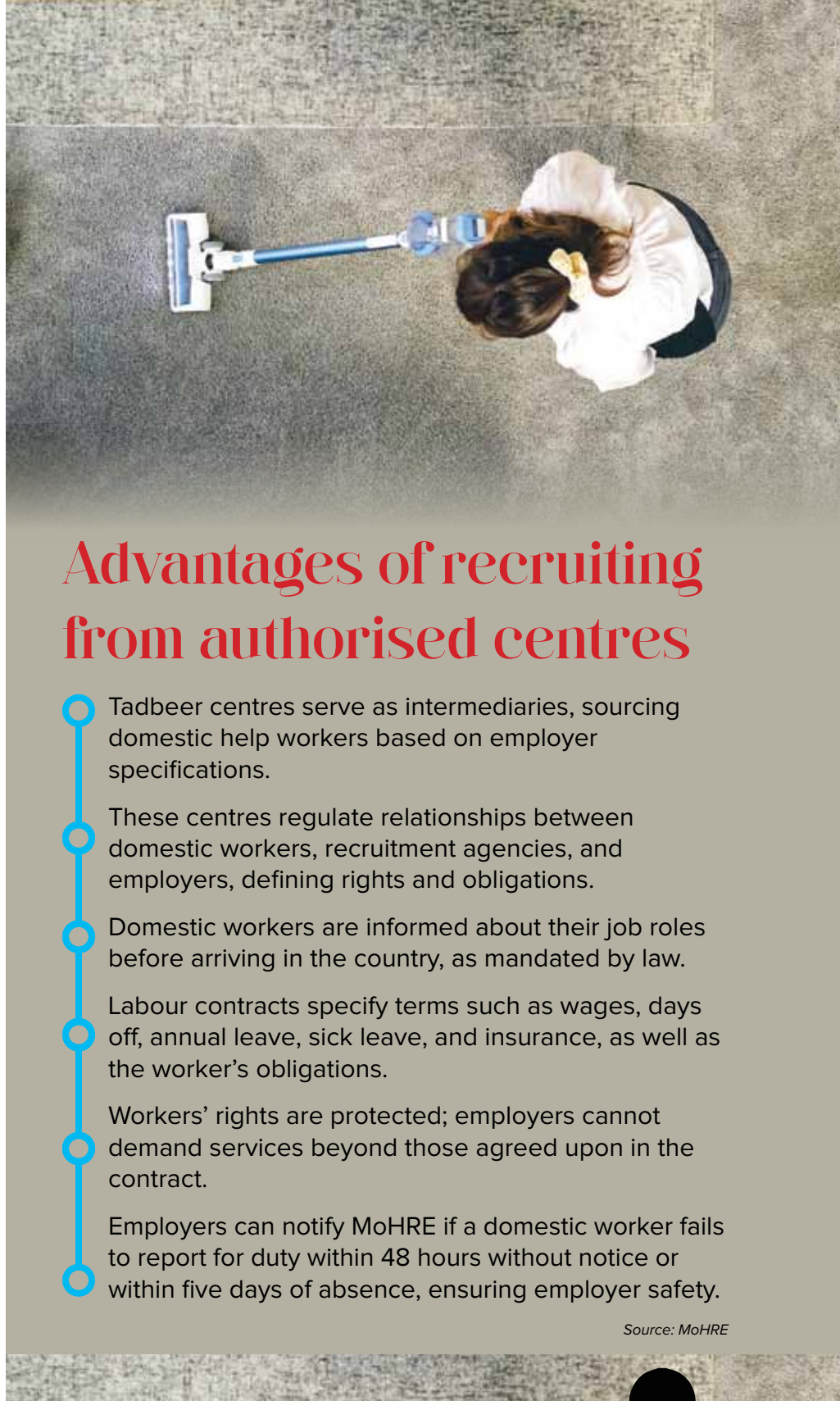
family members.


Hence, both employers and domestic helpers must comply with the law, as it solely aims to safeguard their welfare and safety.

Advantages of recruiting from authorised centres

- Tadbeer centres serve as intermediaries, sourcing domestic help workers based on employer specifications.
- These centres regulate relationships between domestic workers, recruitment agencies, and employers, defining rights and obligations.
- Domestic workers are informed about their job roles before arriving in the country, as mandated by law.
- Labour contracts specify terms such as wages, days off, annual leave, sick leave, and insurance, as well as the worker's obligations.
- Workers' rights are protected; employers cannot demand services beyond those agreed upon in the contract.
- Employers can notify MoHRE if a domestic worker fails to report for duty within 48 hours without notice or within five days of absence, ensuring employer safety.

Source: MoHRE





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EMPOWER MOTHERS WITH HAPPINESS

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

Happiness-driven empowerment of UAE mothers and women cultivates harmonious homes and vibrant communities, laying the foundation for a prosperous, inclusive future

On Mother's Day, the world pays homage to all mothers—the nurturing givers of life, unconditional love, care, and protection. Mothers serve as the comforting cradle of our lives, illuminating our homes and communities while shaping generations. Therefore, they always deserve to be honoured and appreciated not only for their role as mothers but also as remarkable women.

In the UAE, every occasion for women is celebrated with sincere appreciation for their tireless efforts and significant contributions. On this year's Mother's Day, Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, and Mother of the Nation, said in a speech: "To the builders of our nation, the givers of generosity, loyalty, and sacrifices, and the makers of generations, I say to you with pride and honour: you are goodness itself, and with you, we are in goodness."

Her Highness affirmed the UAE's steadfast commitment to empowering women, a journey initiated since the Union's inception, bolstered by the visionary leadership's profound belief in women's crucial role in nation-building. The dedication of women in our society is instrumental in cultivating conscientious future generations, who are entrusted with preserving our national identity and the legacy of excellence and leadership in the UAE.

When we consider the achievements of UAE women,

particularly mothers, and recognise the numerous generations they have nurtured and guided towards the advancement of our nation, a crucial realisation emerges. It is the unwavering support provided to women at all levels that continues to enable mothers to fulfil their obligations to themselves, their children, their families, and society at large.

A mother's maternal instinct is intrinsic, yet her ability to fulfil her role hinges greatly on the support systems available to her. Without access to educational, healthcare, social, and economic support, she may find

it challenging to fulfil her mission and duties effectively. Many mothers worldwide couldn't do so due to circumstances beyond their control, such as widespread illiteracy, health issues, and a lack of empowerment and recognition. Emirati women have notably surpassed and even exceeded many others globally in overcoming such challenges.

Therefore, a woman's happiness, derived from her sense of purpose and empowerment, propels her to succeed in nurturing future generations. This, in turn, elevates the happiness and prosperity of a

nation and its people. On this front, the UAE is setting a global benchmark for prioritising maternal happiness worldwide.

May the grace of God shower upon mothers and extend His mercy to those who have departed, as they have diligently fulfilled their purpose, elevating the standards of happiness and leadership. Indeed, they are "the greatest presence and the hardest to lose, and one of the most beautiful secrets of existence".

To the builders of our nation, the givers of generosity, loyalty, and sacrifices, and the makers of generations, I say to you with pride and honour: you are goodness itself, and with you, we are in goodness

NURTURE YOUNG MINDS

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS MUST EQUIP THEMSELVES WITH THE RIGHT INFORMATION ABOUT VARIOUS NEURODEVELOPMENTAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND MENTAL CONDITIONS AFFECTING CHILDREN. **999** PROVIDES EXPERT ADVICE ON PROPER SUPPORT AND CARE

BY AMANI AL YAFEI



Naya welcomed her daughter, Maryam, into the world. Over time, she noticed Maryam's preference for solitude, which raised concerns about her social interactions. Naya sought medical advice for her daughter when Maryam reached the age of 4.

Following a series of comprehensive tests, Maryam was diagnosed with a neurodevelopmental condition. Naya, a single parent due to marital problems, shouldered the responsibility alone. Despite financial constraints, Naya prioritised early intervention, enrolling Maryam in therapy sessions.

Naya, speaking to **999**, conveyed her determination to support her daughter despite challenges. Juggling work and home, Naya ensures Maryam attends therapy regularly. She fosters Maryam's development by encouraging her to develop new hobbies and interacting with people. Currently, Maryam enjoys swimming and actively participates in a swimming club.

Neurodevelopmental conditions, along with psychological and mental health

issues, amongst children are recognised as one of the most pressing health challenges confronting Arab communities today. These psychological and mental health issues arise amidst various social, cultural, and economic factors impacting children's health and psychological well-being.

Addressing these challenges in Arab children necessitates collective efforts from families, schools, governments, and healthcare institutions. By raising awareness, offering social support, and improving early detection services, we can foster a healthier environment for children and promote their well-rounded growth and development.

TOUGH CHILDHOOD

Dr Khalifa Mohammed Al Maqbali, a consulting psychiatrist at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City in Abu Dhabi, stresses the crucial role parents play in their children's upbringing and relationships.

"The family upbringing process plays a huge factor in shaping personalities. Research consistently highlights how childhood experiences influence adult

“The family upbringing process plays a huge factor in shaping personalities. Research consistently highlights how childhood experiences



influence adult challenges, underscoring the vital role of family dynamics

DR KHALIFA MOHAMMED AL MAQBALI

Consulting psychiatrist at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City in Abu Dhabi

challenges, underscoring the vital role of family dynamics,” says Dr Al Maqbali.

Behavioural patterns, habits, and experiences deeply impact personality and holistic development. Abnormal psychology, which refers to the study of atypical or unusual behaviours and mental illnesses, helps identify the roots of childhood psychological and mental health conditions.

Dr Al Maqbali stresses, “The cornerstone of mental health lies in individuals growing up within nurturing environments where they can fulfil their needs for security, love, appreciation, and self-actualisation, fostering feelings of competence, happiness, and security throughout life.”

“Individuals who experience persistent rejection, cruelty, dominance, and violence are susceptible to mental health conditions. Violence exerts a negative impact on mental health, particularly when experienced repeatedly. Hence, it is imperative to identify and address issues and factors influencing the early stage of development,” adds Dr Al Maqbali.

SOCIAL INTERACTION

Prof Rasha Abdel Hamid Sadek, from Kalbaa University in Sharjah, stresses the importance of families adapting to a member with issues and factors influencing the early stage of development.

“Such conditions affect individuals within families like any other illness,” she states. “Therefore, family members need awareness and guidance on how to interact with them.”





“Some families face social stigma due to negative perceptions about these conditions, leading them to isolate the patient and avoid seeking specialised medical care



**PROF RASHA ABDEL
HAMID SADEK**

Professor at Kalbaa University
in Sharjah

She adds, “Creating unity, support, and assistance during this phase is crucial until the patient recovers. Unfortunately, some families face social stigma due to negative perceptions about these conditions, leading them to isolate the patient and avoid seeking specialised medical care.”

Prof Sadek emphasises that early detection is key to determine tailored therapeutic interventions, be it cognitive, behavioural, or chemical therapies. She highlights how certain customs and traditions influence parental perceptions, contributing to fear of community judgment. Promoting societal awareness and education is essential for fostering acceptance and integration into society effectively.

OVERUSE OF DIGITAL MEDIA

Children and teens today are surrounded by digital media. This includes TV, videos, social media, video games, and more, all available on devices like computers, e-readers, gaming consoles, smartphones, and other screens.

However, the impact of media on the cognitive and emotional development of children and adolescents is profound, shaping their feelings, cognition, and behaviour. Understanding the nuanced interplay between digital media usage and its potential ramifications is important for families.

Overuse of digital media poses risks for children, including delays in learning and social skills due to reduced interaction with people. Exposure to violent content can lead to behaviour problems, as

Overuse of digital media poses risks for children, including delays in learning and social skills due to reduced interaction with people

Common neurodevelopmental, psychological, and mental health conditions amongst children & teens

Anxiety disorders: Children experience outsized fears or worries that disrupt their ability to engage in activities like play, school, or social interactions. This may include social anxiety, generalised anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorders.

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD): Children with ADHD struggle with paying attention, impulsivity, hyperactivity, or a combination of these issues compared to their peers.

Autism: A neurological condition, autism manifests in early childhood, affecting communication and social interaction abilities to varying degrees.

Eating disorders: Characterised by an unhealthy fixation on body image, distorted thoughts about weight, and harmful eating habits, eating disorders like anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder can lead to emotional, social, and life-threatening physical complications.

Depression and other mood disorders: Lasting feelings of sadness, irritability, and loss of interest in activities hinder academic performance and social interaction. Bipolar disorder involves extreme mood swings between depression and manic episodes, potentially leading to risky behaviour.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD): Children may experience long-term emotional distress, nightmares, and behavioural issues following exposure to trauma such as violence or abuse.

Schizophrenia: Onset typically occurs in the late teens or early 20s, causing perceptual distortions, hallucinations, and unusual thoughts and behaviours as individuals lose touch with reality.



“It’s vital to raise awareness amongst school staff about mental health issues and provide support and understanding to students, thus reducing the risk of discrimination



FATIMA ALI AL ZANHANI

Social worker at Al Mazdalifa School in Abu Dhabi

children may be scared or attempt to mimic what they see. Teens may display risky behaviours on social media, such as substance use or self-injury, influenced by what they see online. Cyberbullying is also a concern, with both short- and long-term negative impacts on victims and bullies.

Prof Sadek highlights the importance of responsible use of technology and social media, recognising their potential to benefit or harm children and teenagers. She shares with 999, “During early childhood, children need nurturing, attention, and support to develop linguistic, social, and behavioural skills effectively within the family. Failure to receive attention or interest from parents may lead children or teenagers to seek solace in social media or technology, including electronic games, resulting in complete detachment from their surroundings and hindering the development of essential skills.”

Numerous studies show that excessive social media use increases depression, anxiety, stress, and mental disorders. Therefore, families must monitor their children’s behaviours, guide their interaction with technology, and educate them to invest in positive activities that foster skill development and help fulfil their responsibilities, amongst other aspects.

PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH

Fatima Ali Al Zanhani, a social worker at Al Mazdalifa School in Abu Dhabi, highlights the crucial role of the education system in impacting students’ mental health, especially concerning inclusion.

She encourages schools to offer

Warning signs

- ◆ Persistent sadness lasting two or more weeks
- ◆ Social withdrawal or avoidance of others
- ◆ Self-harm or expressing thoughts of death or suicide
- ◆ Frequent outbursts, mood swings, or irritability
- ◆ Significant changes in mood, behaviour, or personality
- ◆ Altered eating habits leading to weight loss
- ◆ Sleep disturbances
- ◆ Frequent headaches or stomachaches
- ◆ Difficulty concentrating
- ◆ Poor academic performance or absenteeism from school

personalised support to students based on their specific needs and psychological requirements. This involves providing appropriate learning resources, employing special education teachers, and implementing psychological and social support programmes.

“Schools can promote positive social interaction amongst students through cooperative activities and encouraging social communication. Teachers must have continuous training in addressing the needs of students with psychological or mental health conditions, fostering a conducive classroom environment and positive learning experiences,” says Al Zanhani.

“It’s vital to raise awareness amongst school staff about mental health issues and provide support and understanding to students, thus reducing the risk of discrimination, fostering social integration,

and alleviating fear and apprehension,” adds Al Zanhani.

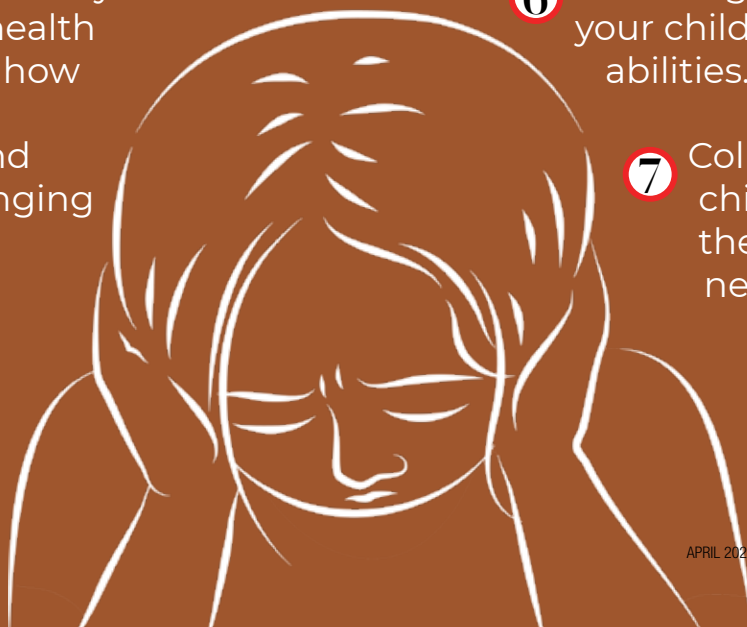
BALANCE ATTENTION

Psychologists and experts agree that creating a flexible learning environment allows students with psychological or mental health conditions to adapt to their educational needs. This includes special arrangements, extra time for tasks, and integrating technology for enhanced learning processes.

Balancing attention to both mental health and education is crucial, as they are interconnected. In general, psychologists affirm that students’ mental well-being affects their ability to learn and participate actively. Poor mental health can hinder educational progress, underscoring the importance of providing psychological and social support alongside educational assistance.

7 Ways to support your child

- 1 Educate yourself to better understand your child’s condition.
- 2 Explore family counselling options where all members are active participants in the treatment process.
- 3 Seek guidance from your child’s mental health professional on how to address your child’s needs and manage challenging behaviours.
- 4 Participate in parent training programmes tailored for families with children experiencing psychological and mental health conditions.
- 5 Find ways to relax and enjoy activities together with your child.
- 6 Encourage and acknowledge your child’s strengths and abilities.
- 7 Collaborate with your child’s school to ensure they receive the necessary support.



EID ESCAPES: The great UAE road trip

MARK THE EID AL FITR HOLIDAY WITH AN UNFORGETTABLE ROAD TRIP ACROSS THE EMIRATES, WHERE TRADITION MEETS ADVENTURE, AND EVERY MILE HOLDS A NEW DISCOVERY.

999 LISTS EXCITING DESTINATIONS BY CAR

BY DRANREB BUSHKAR





As the UAE welcomes Eid Al Fitr this month, anticipation fills the air to mark the culmination of the sacred month of Ramadan.

With the advent of this auspicious occasion, citizens and residents alike eagerly anticipate a blissful respite, with a five to six-day Eid break on the horizon.

As offices and schools, both public and private, observe this occasion, families across the emirates are gearing up for their next adventure.

Traditionally, Eid holidays have beckoned many to travel outside the country, seeking cooler climates as the summer heat begins to blanket the Middle East. However, there's a treasure trove waiting to be discovered within the UAE itself. Abu Dhabi, with its array of parks, beaches, and cultural attractions, offers a wealth of experiences that's just a bus or car ride away. Meanwhile, Dubai, renowned as an international tourism hub, offers a myriad of attractions catering to both domestic and international tourists alike.

While international travel may promise luxury, the true essence of travel lies in the journey itself. So, rather than hastily ticking off destinations from one's bucket list, embarking on a road trip in the UAE may surprise holidayers with lots of hidden gems—both old and new—that promise not only excitement and adventure but also a newfound appreciation for the wonders of the UAE.

SUPPORT LOCAL TRAVEL & LEISURE SECTOR

The launching of the 'National Tourism Charter' in February 2024 by the Emirates Tourism Council marks a significant milestone in cementing the UAE's position as a premier destination on the global

tourism map.

Formulated as a cornerstone of the National Tourism Strategy 2031, the Charter is aimed at driving the sector's contribution to the national GDP to Dhs450 billion. This strategic blueprint also seeks to attract fresh investments totalling Dhs100 billion, fuelling innovation and growth within the national tourism

industry. Furthermore, it sets its sights on welcoming 40 million hotel guests by the end of the next decade.

At its core, the Charter is designed to foster collaboration and synergy amongst the seven emirates, catalysing collective efforts to enhance tourism destinations. Highlighting the significance of this initiative, HE Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Council, underscored, "The launch of the National Tourism Charter marks a significant new milestone in boosting the regional and global leadership and





Set the date:

Collaborate with friends or family to choose a date and destination for your UAE adventure.

With seven emirates to explore, ranging from the modernity of Dubai to the cultural heritage of Abu Dhabi, there's a wealth of experiences awaiting discovery. Planning ahead ensures everyone's preferences are considered, making for a more enjoyable and memorable trip.



Check the weather:

Camping is a popular activity during UAE road

trips. Before pitching your tent at one of the country's campsites, check the weather forecast. This helps anticipate climate conditions such as visibility and dust storms, ensuring a safe and comfortable outdoor experience for all involved.

Secondary driver:



Long stretches of driving can be exhausting. Assign a passenger as a

secondary driver to provide relief and ensure everyone stays fresh and alert throughout the journey, enhancing safety and comfort.

Backpacking essentials:



For adventurers planning to explore the UAE's rugged mountain ranges, pack

wisely. Bring along only essential items such as food, sunblock, and ample water to stay hydrated in the region's warm climate, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable backpacking experience.

Document your trip:



Capture the memories of your UAE road trip by bringing along a camera

or ensuring your mobile phone is fully charged with extra power banks. With the UAE's stunning landscapes and iconic landmarks, there are countless opportunities for unforgettable photos and videos to cherish for years to come.

competitiveness of UAE tourism."

Moreover, the Charter is poised to stimulate sustainable growth within the UAE tourism industry, elevating its competitiveness on both global and regional fronts.

SURPASSING PRE-PANDEMIC PEAKS

According to a report by Skift's State of Travel 2023, the Middle East has stood out as the only region to achieve a complete recovery of international travel in the first quarter of 2023.

In this remarkable resurgence in the region, the UAE has emerged as a shining star, experiencing exponential growth in international arrivals. Notably, the country secured the most visited destination in the region, surpassing 2019 levels with a record-breaking 22.7 million visitor arrivals.

What fuels this phenomenal growth? India dominated as the UAE's top source tourism market with an impressive 806,000 arrivals, marking an 11 per cent growth from 2019. Drawn by the allure of towering skyscrapers, desert safaris, and world-class attractions, Indian tourists seek unforgettable experiences and leisure possibilities in the UAE.

FALL IN LOVE WITH THE EMIRATES

Interestingly, Abu Dhabi secured second place in a recent ranking of the "most luxurious holiday destinations". This was thanks in no small part to its abundance of five-star hotels, which make up a staggering 22 per cent of its accommodation options.

However, while luxury accommodations certainly add to Abu Dhabi's appeal, residents and visitors alike know that there's much more to this vibrant city than fancy hotels.

The UAE is teeming with tourist destinations just waiting to be explored, offering something for every type of traveller. Whether you're seeking relaxation on pristine beaches, cultural immersion in bustling souqs, or adventure amidst rugged landscapes, there's no shortage of options to choose from.

So why not seize the opportunity to create unforgettable memories right here in your second home? With a bit of careful planning, you can embark on a journey of discovery and fall in love with the Emirates. And if you're still searching for the perfect holiday plans, we've got you covered with a selection of fantastic escapes that you can visit during the long holiday. *Here are the steps and destinations that you can enjoy:*

UAE's must-see destinations

Scenic formations



What: Al Wathba Fossil Dunes

Location: Al Wathba, Abu Dhabi

You shouldn't miss: Historic rock formations

When netizens first spotted curious rock formations in Al Wathba, they marvelled at the sight of the dunes that stood out across the barren deserts. The unique shapes of these rock formations were from the interaction between sediment supply and wind force.

Tourists are still free to visit this area. The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi has spearheaded the drive to protect the site through monitoring and regular inspections.

What: Moon and Love Lakes

Location: Al Qudra, Dubai

You shouldn't miss: Bird's-eye view of these lakes

Dubai netizens were quick to spot to man-made lakes that have captured the hearts of many residents in the UAE. The first is the 'Moon Lake', located at Al Qudra in Dubai. Visitors may only see shrubs and sand dunes on their horizontal perspective, but this space has an awe-inspiring aerial view! Netizens who first spotted the unique 'Moon Lake' reported sightings of the Arabian Oryx in the area, a medium-sized antelope that's native to the Arabian deserts. Meanwhile, the 'Love Lake' has trees and shrubs in the middle of the desert that highlight a unique masterpiece of Dubai's landscape.

Majestic lakes



Glimpse of nature



What: Kite Beach Centre

Location: Umm Al Quwain Beach Hotel

You shouldn't miss: Kayak and stand-up paddleboard experience

There's no better way to cool down during the UAE's summer season than to visit the beach! The Kite Beach Centre at Umm Al Quwain is popular not only for its titular kite experiences but also for relaxing kayak experiences and exploring the shallow waters with a stand-up paddleboard.

Umm Al Quwain's magnificent white sandy beach is ready to receive tourists and local visitors to create lasting memories as they swim on its crystal clear waters with the warm beach breeze.

What: Shees Park

Location: Khorfakkan St, Sharjah

You shouldn't miss: Landscape and waterfall views

This is one of Sharjah's newest parks for the public where visitors can marvel at the sights of an artificial waterfall and three terraces that you can climb to get a better view of the entire landscape.

The Shees Park at Khorfakkan is one of Sharjah's must-visit sites, apart from its beautiful beaches and towering mountains. Here, families can let their kids enjoy themselves at a massive play area, and have their barbecue next to the Instagrammable waterfall that plunges 25 metres, ending in a beautiful lake.

Waterfall wonders



Picturesque island



sandybeach.ae

What: Snoopy Island

Location: Sandy Beach Resort, Fujairah

You shouldn't miss: Mother Nature's rock formations

People familiar with the cartoon character Snoopy will love the fact that there's a unique island bringing Snoopy's shape to life!

The Sandy Beach Resort in Fujairah features a unique beach experience where travellers can wade into the waters, with Snoopy Island minutes away from the shores. Whether you're an early riser or prefer the evenings, marvel at Mother Nature's rock formations that resemble the shape of the iconic canine cartoon critter.

What: Bin Majid Hotels and Resorts

Location: Al Jazeera Al Hamra, Ras Al Khaimah

You shouldn't miss: The Beach

Find your adventure at Ras Al Khaimah! Individuals who wish to retreat from their busy lives in the city and enjoy the heat and the seas can head to the Bin Majid Hotels and Resorts.

The Longbeach Campground allows children to interact with farm animals to feed them at the petting zoo. Adults will enjoy the waterpark obstacle course, while others who enjoy more tranquil mornings can take part in the beach yoga session.

These resorts also feature their own private sandy beach with scenic views of the sea as well as Ras Al Khaimah's gulf area.

Beachfront fun



Sailing heritage



Bayut

What: Dhow Yard

Location: North side of Ajman Creek, near Al Boom Marine

You shouldn't miss: Historic views of wooden dhows

Witness master craftsmen use their tools and techniques handed down for generations in creating traditional dhows, used for fishing and pearl diving for the past centuries.

Ajman's Dhow Yard remains one of the world's largest dhow-building centres. It also makes fibreglass dhows, powered by diesel engines, for racing events across the country.

DID YOU KNOW?

Dubai, known for its stellar dining and sunny days, adds another feather to its cap in 2023: it's been crowned as one of the world's most picturesque cities. On the list of the travel website Travelbag, Dubai snagged 6th place thanks to its stunning backdrops, perfect for summer snaps. But who clinched the top spot? London clinched the top spot with 160,000 Instagram posts and 21 million TikTok views.



FRIENDS' MIDNIGHT PLOT

FIVE FRIENDS, ENSNARED BY GREED, CONFRONT ITS DIRE
CONSEQUENCES AND LEARN A TOUGH LESSON

BY WAJIH HASSAN

DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION BY ANANGPAL SINGH





Under the cloak of midnight in one of the emirates, five friends, all from an Asian country, hatched a daring heist against a currency exchange.

Led by Syed, a security guard at the exchange, each had their own pressing need. The group included Amir, wrestling with impending hospital bills for his wife's delivery; Bakar, whose son was awaiting a life-saving heart operation; Aayiz, caught in the matrimonial expenses for his daughter; and Dev, desperate to gather funds for his father's urgent eye surgery.

The group quickly formed a plan. Using his familiarity with the establishment's premises, Syed orchestrated the operation. Their strategy was simple but audacious—enter, seize what they can, and escape into the shadows.

Without hesitation, they sprang into action the following night. Syed and

Amir, armed and masked, infiltrated the exchange. They moved between drawers to seize stacks of dirhams, dollars, and euros. The employees, paralysed by

“Their exit was swift, the loot in tow, but their flight was anything but smooth. Dev took the wheel, but an unexpected twist of events unfolded. A sudden curb in the darkness caused their getaway car to crash into a lamppost

fear, could only watch as the duo carried out the theft.

Meanwhile, two accomplices remained stationed outside, maintaining vigilant watch.

Their exit was swift, the loot in tow, but their

operation was anything but smooth. Dev took the wheel, but an unexpected twist of events unfolded. A sudden curb in the darkness caused their getaway car to crash into a lamppost.

They hijacked a taxi, but the ever-watchful police in the emirate were everywhere. During a routine patrol, they were stopped, and when officers came near them, the group attempted to flee.

Captured and handcuffed, four of them immediately felt the heavy consequences of their actions. At a police station, confessions spill forth—a mix of guilt and desperation. Bakar, the elusive fifth member, was hunted down and his hopes of escape were shattered by surveillance cameras and border controls.

They were all referred to public prosecution. In the cold light of justice, the group was sentenced to prison time, to be followed by deportation.

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

MINIMIZE OPEX MAXIMIZE REVENUE

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

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

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



Time & Materials



Fixed Price



Dedicated Team



Startup Mode



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

THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER

Smart people do not encroach on other people's lives. They do not impose themselves if rejected

They say silence implies consent. Yet, many times we keep silent while we are nowhere near consensual. We might choose silence out of respect for an elder, to avoid engaging in a futile argument, or to transcend trivial chatter through the power of restraint. At times, silence ensues from shyness, bewilderment, or avoidance, rather than from consent. Smart people do not encroach on other people's lives. They do not impose themselves if rejected. Those who want you will go out of their way to win your heart.

The floods of disappointments, the darkness of memories, the badness of results, and the ugliness of ends have all turned us into a ball of fear of others. They have forced us to shut our doors in everybody's face and hide our souls away from the fake and the liars. It is impossible to survive all those defeats and yet open up our hearts again to those who might snatch the little that remains within you. No matter how far and wide we go, we only find shelter within us. No matter how much abuse we suffer, we should not seek revenge, for bad fruits fall on their own.

Life is about experiences and situations of honey and poison, of chivalry and disappointment. There are moments that slap us hard on the face but make us anew. Each of us thinks that we are more afflicted than others. The truth is, we are all afflicted, but the difference lies in how much each of us accepts our fate.

At times, we fall for somebody who reshapes our heart and makes it one of iron. We might feel we are just anybody in this world, while we are the whole world to somebody else. Trees next to a well might wither thirsty but they would never lean to ask for water. Minds shrink when they get preoccupied with others and grow when they get preoccupied with themselves.

If you ever come to realise the truth about life, do not own the fire that burns within you. Rather, smile and say, "It's just a barbecue." At some point, we were a lesson learned from one another. Just say, "You taught me not to trust anyone and I taught you that good feelings once gone, would never come back."

Does abandonment hurt you? Well, what hurts me is an untrue bond, a pale presence, fake feelings, and lame late responses. If abandonment

hurts, what hurts even more is a cold bond borne out of duty rather than compassion and love. Heavy coats are useless if cold dwells in the heart.

We do not smile because our life is perfect. We smile because we learn to look away or to forget. We learn to coexist, transcend, and turn the page. We learn to keep looking for light amidst darkness. We learn that life does not stop at sorrow and that days will not freeze until we recover. We learn to try to be happy

as much as possible. Not everything we lose is a loss. Sometimes letting go of those who do not see our worth gives us a new life. We might forgive them a lot, but one day we will not bear to even listen to their excuses.

As is truly said, a woman is like an umbrella; she will not care for you unless you place her above your head. If you cannot help others, do not hurt them. If you do not make them happy, do not upset them. If you do not take their side, do not defame them. If you are unhappy with their blessings, do not envy them. If you do not compliment them, do not slander them. Do not make others regret thinking well of you and say, "I wish I could go back in time; I would not have clung to those who weren't kind in the first place. How I wish you had remained that mysterious stranger unknown to me."

Not everything we lose is a loss. Sometimes letting go of those who do not see our worth gives us a new life

DECODING CYBERATTACKS

EXPLORE SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS CYBERCRIMES IN HISTORY, THEIR IMPACTS, AND THE CRUCIAL LESSONS THEY OFFER FOR ONLINE SECURITY

BY ABDUL WASEY



THE 'MELISSA VIRUS'

WHEN: MARCH 1999

WHERE: NEW JERSEY, USA

Two decades ago, the concept of computer viruses was still quite new to many. But one event changed that significantly. It all started in late March 1999 when a man named David Lee Smith took over an America Online (AOL) account and began sending a mass-mailing macro virus. Later named the 'Melissa Virus', it was distributed as an email attachment that, when opened, disabled several safeguards in Word 97 and Word 2000.

This virus caused havoc on March 26. The emails had enticing titles, tricking even more people into opening the virus. It wasn't aimed at stealing money or information, but it still paralysed business operations. Over 300 companies and government bodies were affected, with email systems crashing and the web slowing down. The cleanup cost about \$80 million.

Catching Smith didn't take long. With help from AOL and tight cooperation between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and New Jersey law enforcement, they apprehended him in early April 1999. He admitted to his crimes and was sentenced to 20 months in jail with a \$5,000 (Dhs18,350) fine in May 2002.

The Melissa Virus was a major wake-up call about the dangers



David Lee Smith launched a widespread macro virus by taking over an AOL account and spreading it rapidly via email

lurking online. It demonstrated how easily viruses could spread and the extent of damage they could cause.

Following this, the FBI realised the need to enhance its approach to dealing with online threats. Not long after Smith's sentencing, they established a new Cyber Division, focused on combating cybercrime. Twenty years on, with our lives even more intertwined with the internet, this mission is more crucial than ever.

THE 'MORRIS WORM'

WHEN: NOVEMBER 1988

WHERE: MASSACHUSETTS, USA

In November 1988, the online world faced an unprecedented threat. A computer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) became the launchpad for a cyber worm, later called the 'Morris Worm', that quickly began to spread on the Internet and crippled computer networks, which were becoming a vital system for many businesses in the United States and Europe at that time. This worm, a self-replicating program, didn't need a host to spread; it leapt from computer to computer.

It was considered the first computer worm on the Internet. And in just a day after it was unleashed, an estimated 6,000 computers were hit. This was a significant blow, given only about 60,000 computers were online at the time. Prestigious universities and top research centres felt the sting. The worm targeted systems running a specific Unix version, exploiting weaknesses with cunning precision. It didn't delete files, but it slowed vital operations to a crawl and jammed email services for days.

The worm's creator was Robert Tappan Morris, a young genius from Cornell University. Morris had unleashed the worm as an experiment, not anticipating the chaos it would cause. As the digital community scrambled for solutions, Morris's identity quickly surfaced, thanks to a friend's anonymous tip to The New York Times.

Morris became the first person convicted under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986. Avoiding jail, he faced a fine, probation, and community service. This



Robert Tappan Morris and the Morris Worm's code that infected Internet-connected computers running the BSD variant of UNIX in 1988

event marked a turning point, highlighting the Internet's vulnerabilities and the need for robust cybersecurity measures. In response, the first computer emergency response team was formed, setting the stage for future defences against digital threats.

THE NASA CYBERATTACK

WHEN: AUGUST 1999

WHERE: FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

Jonathan Joseph James, a notorious young hacker from Miami, Florida, became the first juvenile in the United States to gain significant media attention for his hacking activities. Between August and October 1999, James illegally accessed systems of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Marshall Space Flight Center and the systems of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) of the Department of Defense (DoD), marking a high-profile series of cybersecurity breaches.

At just 15, he exploited a vulnerability in a government server, intercepting thousands of messages and accessing critical software source code for the International Space Station's life-support modules. This breach led to a significant security overhaul at NASA, incurring a \$40,000 (Dhs146,800) investigation cost.

Arrested in 2000 shortly after turning 16, James was sentenced to house arrest and probation due to his cooperation with authorities and minor status. Later, he faced a juvenile detention period for violating probation. In 2008, amidst investigations into another hacking incident, James denied involvement but tragically



Jonathan Joseph James

ended his life, stating through a suicide note his desire to "regain control" over his situation. He died at the age of 24.

THE MOVEIT CYBERATTACK

WHEN: MAY 2023

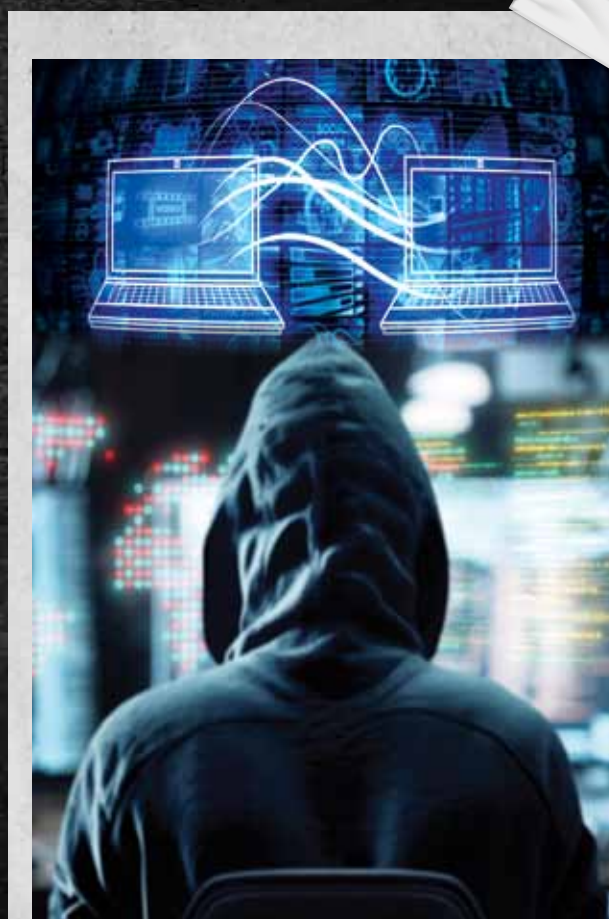
WHERE: WORLDWIDE

The digital world witnessed a surge in cyber threats in May 2023 when a ransomware gang, Cl0p, exploited a vulnerability in the MOVEit Transfer tool. This zero-day exploit allowed Cl0p to infiltrate a range of organisations worldwide, causing widespread data breaches.

The scale of the attack was alarming, with over 2,000 organisations reporting incidents and the data of more than 62 million individuals compromised. The victims included high-profile entities like New York City's public schools, a UK-based HR and payroll company servicing giants like British Airways and BBC, and many more. In a particularly concerning case, BORN Ontario disclosed that sensitive data about newborns and pregnant patients, spanning over a decade, had been stolen, affecting around 3.4 million people.

The company behind the file-transfer app, Progress Software, acted swiftly, issuing patches on 9th June and 15th June to address additional vulnerabilities. The aftermath of these attacks saw a flurry of legal actions. Class action lawsuits were filed against IBM, Prudential Financial, Progress Software, and others. These incidents have led to stricter regulations from the Securities and Exchange Commission of the US, demanding timely disclosures from public companies following cybersecurity breaches.

Amongst the affected, Sony Interactive Entertainment sent out notices to about 6,800 individuals, current and former employees, alerting them of a data breach in May 2023. A subsequent breach in September added to their woes.



For illustration purposes only

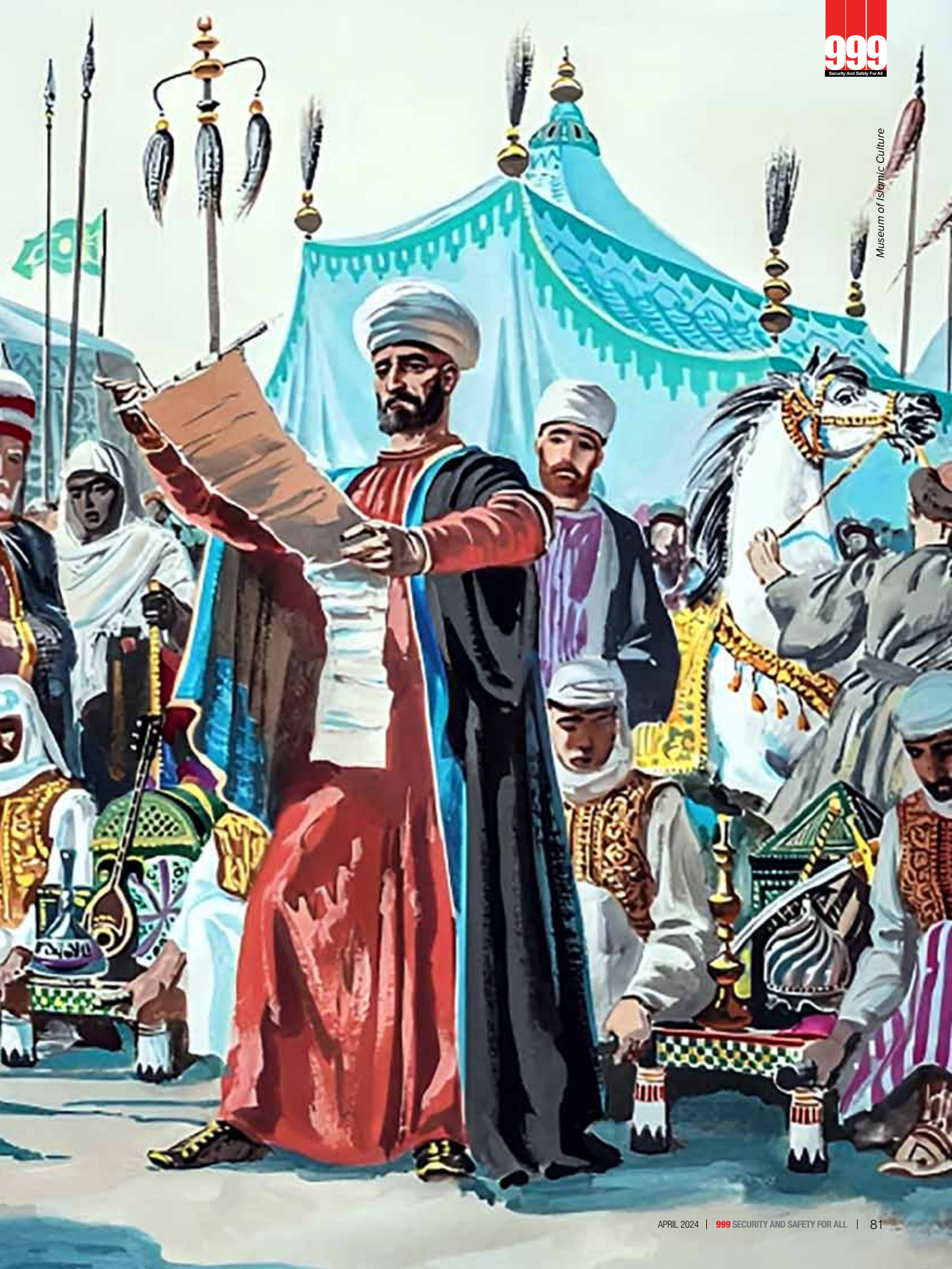


EXPLORING TERRITORIES: IBN FADLAN'S

Journey to the land of the Saqaliba

THE ARAB SCHOLAR AND TRAVELLER AHMAD IBN FADLAN MET THE SALIQABA KING AND RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME. DESPITE FACING AN ISSUE RELATED TO AN UNMET PROMISE BY ABBASID CALIPH AL-MUKTADIR, HE WAS ALLOWED TO EXPLORE THE CUSTOMS OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES AND TAUGHT ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES DURING HIS VISIT

BY DR FALEH HANDHAL





A 1913 painting showing the Rus trading a slave

W

e've left our previous discussion in the previous issue with the group of Ibn Fadlan's journey to

the town of Bolghar, the capital of the Saqaliba, located approximately 600 miles east of Moscow in what was then the central region of Russia. The Saqaliba were Slavic people whose territory eventually became part of the Russian Empire.

The group's travel from Jurjan took 70 days. In the city, they were welcomed by four princes related to the king. The king himself greeted them outside the city, expressing gratitude for their safe arrival, providing them with money, and arranging

their accommodation.

During their stay, they spent the initial days settling in. After a few days, the Saqaliba king convened his officials to receive a message from Abbasid Caliph al-Muktadir. To honour the occasion, black Abbasid flags were displayed, and a black horse, with its head covered in black cloth, was prepared for Ibn Fadlan, who dismounted as a gesture of respect. The king, in turn, stood to greet him, marking the formal reception.

Subsequently, the king hosted a meal for the visitors, during which the king directed them to sit on his left side, with his sons sitting close to him.

In Ibn Fadlan's account of his initial encounter with the king of the Saqaliba,

an unexpected complication arose. The king had been promised a certain sum of money by the Caliph, as detailed in a letter. However, the promised money did not arrive as expected, prompting the king to seek clarification from Ibn Fadlan, whom he had tasked with translating the Caliph's letter.

Ibn Fadlan explained that due to unforeseen circumstances, they had been unable to secure the funds before their departure. They had hoped the money would be forwarded to them en route, but did not become possible.

The king voiced his disappointment, highlighting the significant efforts and resources that had been allocated to support their journey. Additionally, he mentioned the planned construction of a fortress, intended to protect them against Jews who had previously enslaved him. This critical defensive project was now under threat of delay or cancellation, according to the king.

The situation left Ibn Fadlan troubled and disheartened as he exited the king's court. Despite this, the king seemed to disregard the looming issues, instead

The king had been promised a certain sum of money by the Caliph, as detailed in a letter. However, the promised money did not arrive as expected, prompting the king to seek clarification from Ibn Fadlan, whom he had tasked with translating the Caliph's letter

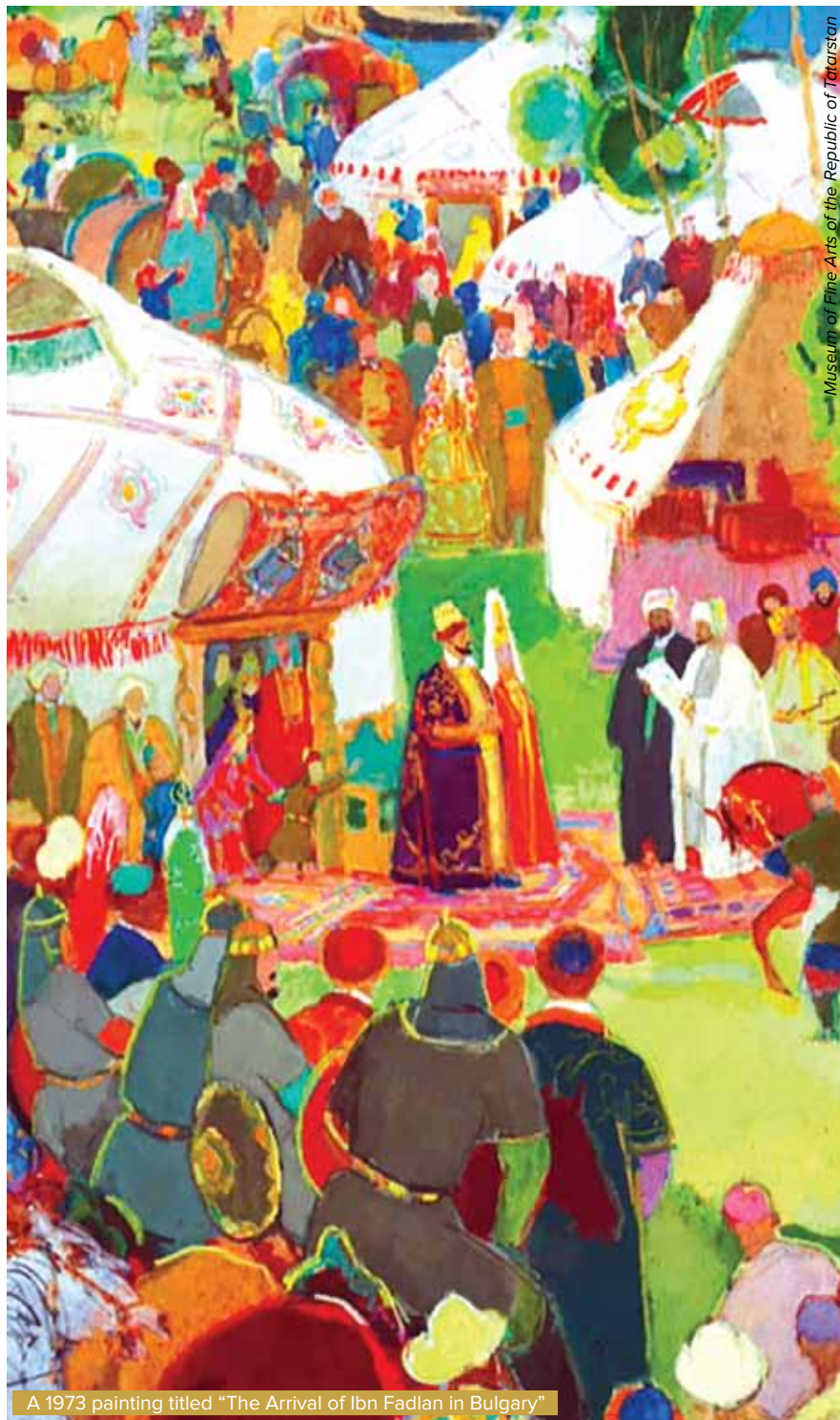
“In the city, I found lodging with a tailor from Baghdad. I remained in his company until the Imam summoned us for the Fajr prayer, yet I noticed the absence of the Maghrib call. Upon inquiry, he explained that they perform the Maghrib prayer in conjunction with the sunset

choosing to foster a closer relationship with Ibn Fadlan while distancing himself from the rest of the group.

Following this tense interaction, Ibn Fadlan offered insights into the social dynamics within the kingdom of the Saqaliba, providing a detailed narrative of the kingdom and its inhabitants. He said, “In that land, I witnessed marvels too numerous to detail. Upon our initial evening, as the sun dipped below the horizon, the sky transformed into a deep red hue, accompanied by formidable sounds. Shortly afterwards, the sky adopted a fiery red appearance once more. Lifting my gaze, I observed what seemed to be a flaming cloud close by, the source of the thunderous noises.

“My companions and I, overtaken by panic, turned to prayer, while the local inhabitants observed our fear with amusement and wonder. Curious about this spectacle, I sought an explanation from the king. He informed me that what we had witnessed was a battle amongst the jinn, a clash between those who were believers and the non-believers amongst them.

“Every day, people’s voices filled the air. In the city, I found lodging with a tailor from Baghdad. I remained in his company until the Imam summoned us for the Fajr prayer, yet I noticed the absence of the Maghrib call. Upon inquiry, he explained that they perform the Maghrib prayer in conjunction with the sunset. I noted the unusual length of their days, which, at certain times of the year, extend significantly. The stars were scarcely visible, appearing to me as if they were the 15 wandering planets. Unlike its



A 1973 painting titled “The Arrival of Ibn Fadlan in Bulgaria”

usual course, the moon did not ascend to the zenith but skirted the horizon briefly before vanishing at dawn. Upon sunrise, the land and mountains were bathed in red, casting all in sight as if enveloped by a vast cloud. This crimson hue lingered until darkness falls. With the arrival of winter, the nights once again extended, and the days shortened.

“During my travels, I observed their

joy at the howling of dogs, which they interpreted as an omen of a prosperous and blessed year. Numerous deer were spotted, with even large groups assembling on single tree branches, yet they were neither harmed nor killed. I encountered an immense tree, exceeding a hundred arms in length, lying fallen. Approaching it, I saw a snake nearly as long as the tree itself, which vanished

shortly after being seen. The king, in the presence of his courtiers, assured me, 'Do not be alarmed, for it poses no threat.'

"The consumption of exceptionally green and sour apples by the servants caught my eye. In their lands, hazelnut trees were abundant, cultivated on farms spanning forty farsakhs. Their meals primarily consisted of meat, wheat, and barley. Agricultural produce remained the sole property of the farmer, with the king laying no claim to it. The only exception was the annual tribute of animal skins presented to the king as gifts.

"The bears are hunted, and whenever the king dispatches a squad to conduct raids in other lands, he receives a portion of it. Additionally, every groom is obliged to either invite the king to their wedding or present him with a portion of the wedding feast. I noticed they lack a conventional method for storing their food; instead, they

“Everyone wears “qalans”, a traditional head covering, such that during the king’s procession through the marketplace, all present stand and lift their qalans in respect. Similarly, upon entering the king’s court, people are required to remove their qalans, tuck them under the arm, and greet the king with a nod

dig pits in the ground where they store their food. This food is left to undergo changes over time, often spoiling without being utilised. They only use fish oil giving a distinct fishy flavour to all their dishes. Their culinary practices include preparing barley soup or cooking barley with meat. Those with influence in their society consume the meat, leaving the barley for their servants. However, if the meat is from a goat’s head, this is specifically allocated to the servants and followers.

"Everyone wears “qalans”, a traditional head covering, such that during the king’s procession through the marketplace, all present stand and lift their qalans in respect. Similarly, upon entering the king’s court, people are required to remove their qalans, tuck them under the arm, and greet the king with a nod. No one sits without the king’s permission; upon sitting, they adopt a cross-legged posture



A painting (undated) showing the arrival of the Caliph's diplomatic mission in Bolghar



An illustration of Gog and Magog besieging the City of Saints, depicted with distinctive facial features of hooked noses

and only put their qalans upon exiting the court. The king's court comprises several domes, with the largest reserved for the king himself, capable of hosting over a thousand guests. These domes are adorned with Armenian rugs, and the king's bed is centrally placed, draped in Roman tapestries.

"It is their custom that when a man has a son, the man's father takes the child and says, 'I have more right to him than his father does until this child becomes a man.'

"If a man passes away amongst them, his brother inherits not only his possessions but also his responsibility towards the widow, marrying her, although he does not assume responsibility for the deceased's children. I conveyed to the king that such a practice conflicts with Islamic laws regarding inheritance and explained the Islamic system of inheritance until he fully understood its principles.

The town of Gog and Magog was also mentioned in the letter of Ibn Fadlan. He recounted a particular ritual stating, "When one of their men willfully kills another, they kill him in retaliation. If he kills him by mistake, they make a box for him out of birch wood, put him inside it, and nail him up in it. Before sealing, three loaves of bread and a water flask are placed inside with him. Once the box is securely closed, three wooden stakes are erected, and

"It is their custom that when a man has a son, the man's father takes the child and says, 'I have more right to him than his father does until this child becomes a man'

the box is suspended between them. This act is performed with the declaration, 'We shall suspend it between earth and sky, entrusting it to the mercy of rain and sun, in hopes that the Lord may bestow mercy upon him.' Thus, the killer remains hanging until death ensues.

"When they encounter an individual deemed wise and industrious, their practice is to claim that 'he should serve our lord'. They then seize him, put a rope around his neck and hang him on a tree until he dies. The king's interpreter shared with me the story of a native who, having gained the king's favour and shown considerable wisdom, attracted the attention of local traders. Despite the king's explicit prohibition, the native insisted on joining these traders. Upon doing so, they declared him fit to "serve our lord", subsequently hanging him from a tall tree, where they left him and moved on.

"An odd custom amongst them is observed during travel: if a member of their group attempts to urinate while armed, they attack him, confiscating his weapon, clothing, and all his possessions, leaving him stripped. Conversely, if

one disarms before urinating, he is left untouched and unharmed.

"Adultery is stringently prohibited amongst them, and the penalty for anyone found guilty, irrespective of their rank, is exceedingly severe. They bind the individual's hands and legs to four and then cut the person with a sword from the neck down to the thighs. This fate is met equally by both the adulterer and the adulteress, with each segment of their bodies subsequently displayed on tree branches. Thieves suffer the same brutal punishment as those caught in adultery.

"They maintain farms dedicated to beekeeping, harvesting honey in considerable quantities, and their traders venture into Turkic territories to procure sheep, bears, and black foxes. During my travels, I encountered a group known as Al Burunjar, who had constructed a wooden mosque for prayer. Lacking knowledge of Arabic, they were unable to comprehend their prayers. I took it upon myself to explain the meanings and imparted to them the fundamentals of our faith. Within this group was a man named Talut, whom I initially named Abdullah. However, he expressed a

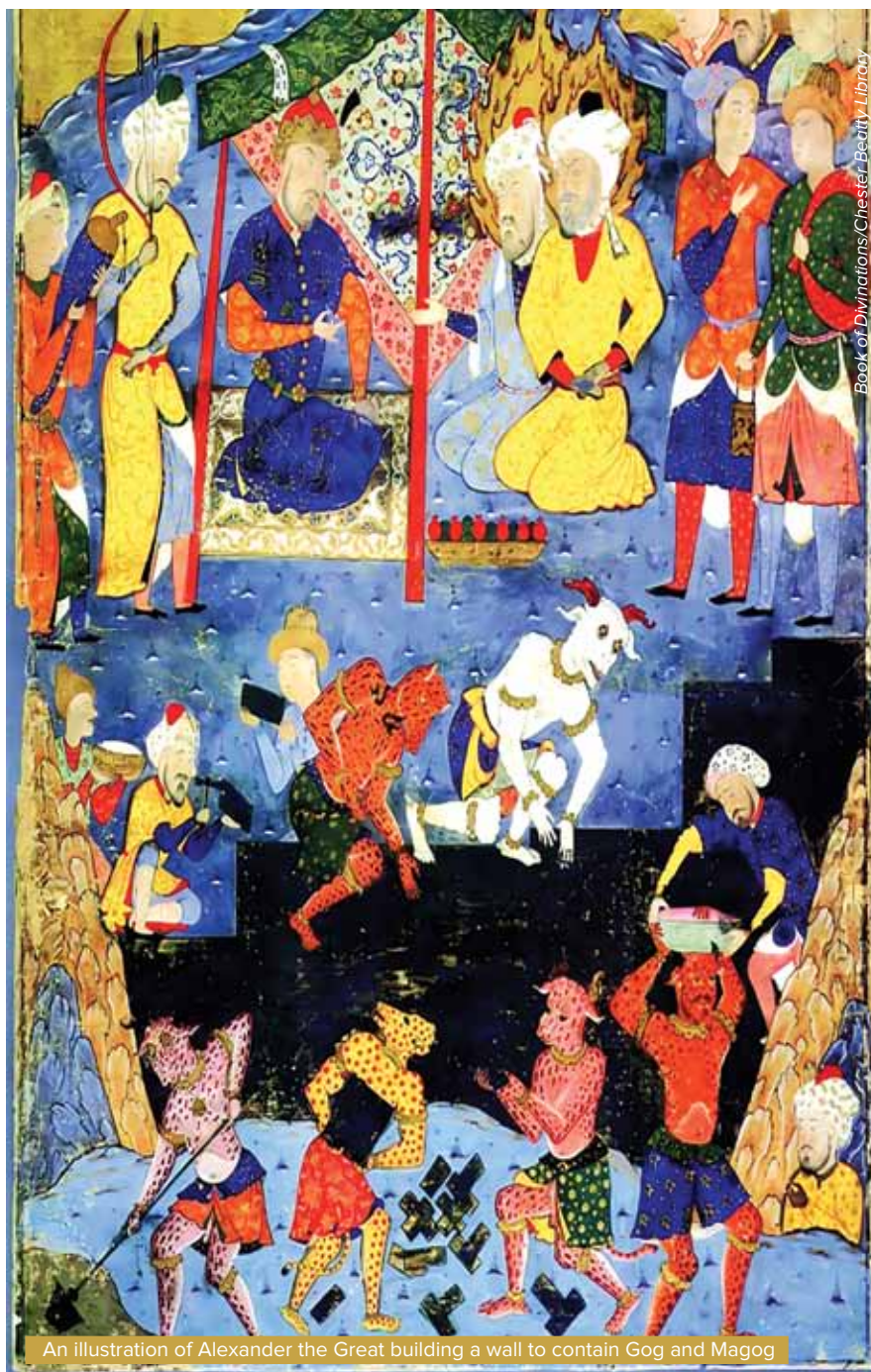
“Within this group was a man named Talut, whom I initially named Abdullah. However, he expressed a desire to be named after me, so I named him Muhammad. Following this, he embraced Islam, along with his wife, mother, and children

desire to be named after me, so I named him Muhammad. Following this, he embraced Islam, along with his wife, mother, and children. I requested that he recite after me, ‘Praise be to Allah,’ and also to say, ‘He is Allah, the One.’ His repetition of these phrases was filled with a joy greater than if he had been anointed a king.

“Then, the king made his way to a region known as Khallajah, which has three lakes. Nestled between these lakes flows a significant river, leading to the land of the Khazars known as Itil. Alongside this river, a market periodically takes place, attracting a variety of valuable commodities for trade. The Turkish interpreter informed me that within the king’s domain resided a man of considerable stature. The king then extended an invitation for us to visit him there, which we accepted. Upon our arrival and after exchanging pleasantries, I inquired about the notably tall man.

“I asked them whether any of the locals had ever slain such an individual. They conveyed to their king, ‘We have encountered a man whose mere presence would compel us to abandon our homes.’ This account piqued my curiosity, prompting me to request they lead me to this tall man. Upon my arrival, I was confronted with a figure of astonishing height, standing twelve cubits tall. His head was so large it surpassed any conceivable quantity of food, his nose spanned a length of a span, his eyes were enormous, and each finger on his hand measured a span in length. His appearance intimidated me, and I was terrified of him as were the people. We started to speak to him, but he did not speak to us and only gazed at us.

“I wrote to the people of Wisu, with the purpose of asking them about him. They



An illustration of Alexander the Great building a wall to contain Gog and Magog

wrote informing me that this man was from Gog and Magog, [a people] who are three months distant from us. They are naked, and the sea forms a barrier between them and us, for they are located on its shore. The men would usually go out with a knife to catch fish, a quantity that is sufficient for him and his family. However, they often have stomach problems because they eat the fish raw, which sometimes causes death in their community, scares people, and can cause pregnant women to lose their babies.

“Then the king decided to move to another place, and I went with him. We

got to a river named Jaushir, stayed there for two months, and then he sent a message to a group called the Suwaz. The letter said, ‘Allah has bestowed upon me the blessings of Islam and the power of the Commander of the Faithful. I am his servant, and this nation has invested me with authority [over its affairs]. Whoever opposes me shall meet my sword.’ This message split the people into two groups: one that supported him called Wirigh and another called Eskel, which didn’t agree at first but later did. After that, we went back to the city.”



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TRIPLE LENS MARVEL

Capturing the perfect moment in its full glory is something we all yearn for. Xiaomi unveils its latest masterpiece – the **Xiaomi 14 Ultra**, which is equipped with the cutting-edge Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 chipset. This smartphone marks a leap forward in processing power and user experience. This handset is outfitted with up to 12GB of LPDDR5X RAM and an impressive 1TB of UFS 4.0 storage, ensuring both speed and ample space for users.

In collaboration with Leica, the device features a versatile triple-camera array, including a 50MP Hunter 900 sensor equipped with OIS, a 50MP telephoto lens, and a 50MP ultra-wide lens. Additionally, it boasts a 32MP front-facing camera for high-quality selfies. A highlight of the Xiaomi 14 Ultra is its advanced quad rear-camera system, anchored by a next-generation 1-inch 50MP main sensor that significantly improves light capture. This is further enriched by a lens offering a 23mm equivalent focal length and a wider variable aperture, which enhances performance in low-light conditions.



PRICE: Dhs3,299

WEBSITE: www.mi.com

SNAPSHOT SIDEKICK



Elevating the stakes in mobile photography, the latest **Vivo V30 Pro** boasts a ZEISS Triple Main Camera and ZEISS Style Portrait, allowing users to capture professional-quality portraits with ease. This smartphone stands out with an array of colours, textures, and a superior OLED display. The V30 Pro also has a vibrant 6.78-inch AMOLED screen, delivering crisp 1260p resolution paired with a fluid 120Hz refresh rate. This screen is not merely a display but a window to breathtaking visuals, thanks to its support for 10-bit colour depth and HDR10+, ensuring images burst with life and colour. Under the hood, the V30 Pro is powered by the formidable Dimensity 8200 chipset, complemented by the fast UFS 3.1 storage, setting a new standard for performance. Photography aficionados will find themselves enchanted by the V30 Pro's camera array, which includes a 50MP OIS main camera, a 50MP OIS telephoto lens for clear, zoomed-in shots, and a 50MP AF ultrawide lens with macro shooting capabilities.

PRICE: Dhs1,765

WEBSITE: www.vivo.com

PHOTOGRAPHY PRODIGY

The **OnePlus Ace 3**, a recent addition to the tech market, delivers great display performance with its Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 SoC, enhanced by a massive 9140mm² vapour chamber. Achieving an impressive AnTuTu benchmark score of 1.74 million, its prowess is further amplified by a UFS 4.0 storage. This device is powered by OLED BOE X1 display, measuring 6.78 inches, and featuring a resolution of 2780 x 1264, alongside a rapid 120 Hz refresh rate. It also offers a brilliantly vivid display in any lighting condition thanks to its high PWM control frequency of 2160 Hz and a peak brightness of 4500 cd/m². Photography enthusiasts will be captivated by its comprehensive camera setup, which includes a 50MP Sony IMX890 main sensor with optical stabilisation, an 8MP ultra-wide lens, and a 2MP depth sensor, catering to a wide range of photographic needs.

PRICE: Dhs1,358

WEBSITE: www.oneplus.com



MIXED REALITY KIT



PRICE: TBA

WEBSITE: torraslife.com

TORRAS, a frontrunner in phone stand cases, has unveiled a novel assortment of accessories tailored for the **Apple Vision Pro**, a mixed-reality headset. The accessories include a carry bag, a screen protector, a protective case, a headband, anti-fog spray, and a wearable power bank, all designed to elevate the comfort and efficiency of Vision Pro users during extended mixed reality sessions. The Vision Pro stands as a pinnacle of mixed reality technology, offering an immersive experience. The protective case shields the device from scratches and smudges, the anti-fog spray enhances visibility by reducing glare, the headband alleviates stress, enhancing user comfort, and the wearable power bank facilitates on-the-go charging, ensuring prolonged usage without interruption. These TORRAS Vision Pro accessories are slated for release in April and will be available through the TORRAS official website, marking a significant enhancement for users aiming to maximise their mixed reality experiences with the Vision Pro.

ALL-WEATHER CAMERA

If you're in search of a camera capable of conquering any outdoor adventure, the **PENTAX WG-90** merits attention. This latest addition to the WG series of all-weather adventure cameras is now proudly marketed under the PENTAX banner, renowned for its robust, waterproof, and weather-resistant products. The PENTAX WG-90 boasts a waterproof rating down to 14 metres, is shockproof from falls up to 1.5 metres, and remains operational even in freezing conditions. Equipped with a 16-megapixel CMOS sensor, a five-times optical zoom lens, and an advanced imaging engine, this digital compact camera is capable of capturing exceptionally high-resolution images with a peak sensitivity of ISO 6400. Setting itself apart with distinctive features, this gizmo includes a built-in ring light to support the Digital Microscope mode, enabling the capture of crisp images from the microscopic world. Additionally, it features an outdoor-friendly monitor designed to enhance image brightness for improved visibility in sunlit environments.



PRICE: Dhs1,200

WEBSITE: <https://pentax.eu>

SNAP, PRINT, SMILE



PRICE: Dhs360

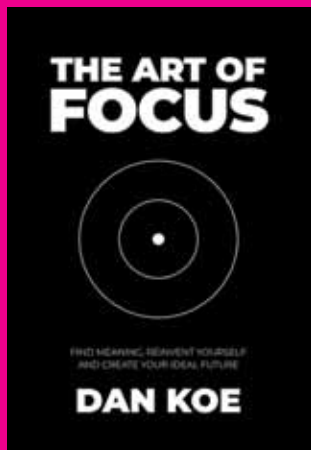
WEBSITE: www.kodak.com

Kodak, the iconic brand synonymous with photography, has unveiled a new product that marries the charm of instant printing with the modernity of digital features. **The Kodak SMILE+ Digital Instant Print Camera** is a vibrant and compact device that enables users to snap and print photos in under a minute. This camera utilises Zink paper, eliminating the need for ink or cartridges, to create 2x3 prints that come with a sticky back for easy display. Additionally, users can experiment with various colour filters directly on the camera by simply rotating the lens to switch between standard, retro, or star filters. Moreover, the camera offers connectivity to smartphones via Bluetooth, allowing for further photo customisation with filters and stickers before printing, all through the Kodak SMILE app. The camera represents the newest member of the Kodak SMILE range of instant print products, which also includes the Kodak SMILE Classic Instant Print Digital Camera and the Kodak SMILE Instant Print Digital Printer.



ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS IN COMMUNICATION, DECISION-MAKING,
AND CRITICAL THINKING—ALL BETWEEN THE COVERS THIS MONTH

BY JASON RAZMUS



PURPOSEFUL REINVENTION

TITLE: The Art of Focus: Find Meaning, Reinvent Yourself and Create Your Ideal Future

AUTHOR: Dan Koe

PUBLISHER: KOE Press

PRICE: Dhs93

From birth, we're moulded to pursue a path leading to an undistinguished existence, fuelling widespread anxiety and futility. The Art of Focus illuminates a solution through a broad focus, distinguishing the meaningful from the meaningless and steering us away from societal constructs for collective gain. Focus is how you conduct your own adventure to stop hurling toward the dead end that was assigned to you by society for their benefit. It embarks us on a quest for significance, self-reinvention, and an ideal future. Although daunting, the prospect of not discovering our potential is decidedly more dire. The book advocates for a commitment to this formidable yet rewarding journey, positing it as the utmost significant endeavour one can pursue.

EMPATHETIC DIALOGUE

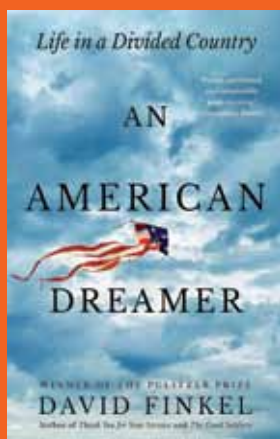
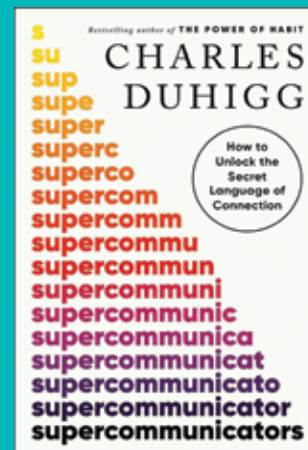
TITLE: Supercommunicators: How to Unlock the Secret Language of Connection

AUTHOR: Charles Duhigg

PUBLISHER: Random House

PRICE: Dhs103

In this book, author Charles Duhigg explores the transformative power of effective communication through compelling narratives. He combines research with engaging storytelling to demonstrate that communication's superpower lies in understanding its practical, emotional, and social dimensions. Misinterpretations often arise from neglecting these aspects. The book delves into how our discussions, from everyday matters to professional engagements, are shaped by our backgrounds, values, and emotions. Through examples ranging from "The Big Bang Theory" to insights from marriage experts, Duhigg offers strategies to recognise and navigate these conversational layers, fostering more profound connections.



POLARISED HOPES

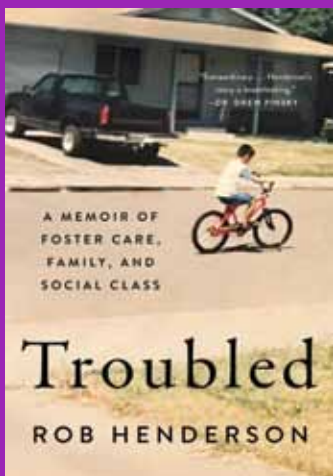
TITLE: An American Dreamer: Life in a Divided Country

AUTHOR: David Finkel

PUBLISHER: Random House

PRICE: Dhs103

Pulitzer Prize-winner David Finkel chronicles the life of Brent Cummings, an Iraq war veteran who, after 28 years of service, returns and unrecognises America. Raised with ideals of fairness and respect, Cummings confronts the nation's escalating discord, clinging to hope amidst rising despair. Through Finkel's renowned immersive reporting, spanning 14 years alongside Cummings, the book delves into the veteran's personal ordeal. An iconic figure from Finkel's *The Good Soldiers*, Cummings's journey in *An American Dreamer* offers an intimate look at the challenges and resilience in contemporary American life. Finkel's narrative captures the struggles and hopes of individuals navigating through America's current socio-political landscape, highlighting the indomitable quest for a brighter future amidst division.



CULTIVATED TENACITY

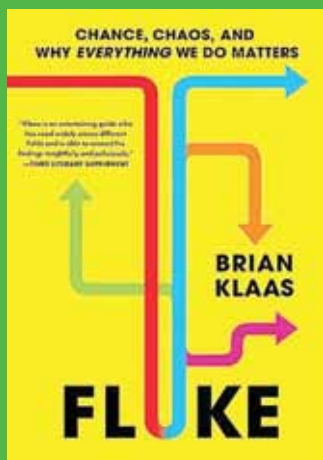
TITLE: Troubled: A Memoir of Foster Care, Family, and Social Class

AUTHOR: Rob Henderson

PUBLISHER: Gallery Books

PRICE: Dhs93

Rob Henderson's memoir traces his formidable journey from foster care to esteemed academic institutions like Yale and Cambridge, alongside his tenure in the US Air Force. Born into adversity with a drug-addicted mother and absent father, Henderson navigated through a turbulent childhood across California's foster homes, finding a semblance of stability with an adoptive family amidst divorce, tragedy, and violence. Opting for the military after high school, his story delves into the depths of family dysfunction and the arduous climb to a better existence. His account reflects not only his personal battles but also those of peers ensnared by incarceration or death. Despite his academic and military accolades, Henderson battles with feelings of alienation, scrutinising the true worth of his achievements against the backdrop of stable, loving environments.



RANDOM REALITIES

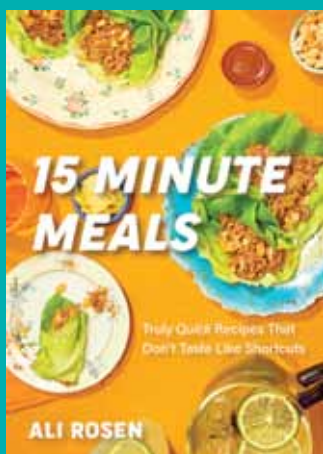
TITLE: Fluke: Chance, Chaos, and Why Everything We Do Matters

AUTHOR: Brian Klaas

PUBLISHER: Scribner

PRICE: Dhs83

Brian Klaas, an Atlantic writer and social scientist, delves into the chaos theory and its profound impact on human events, debunking the myth of predictability in our world's dynamics. Drawing inspiration from Malcolm Gladwell and Nassim Nicholas Taleb, Klaas presents an intriguing exploration into how minor, seemingly random events can significantly alter individual lives and historical trajectories. He poses thought-provoking questions about the role of chance in our existence and the potential for minor actions or inactions, like a missed call or a wrong turn, to not only change personal outcomes but also to reshape history. Through a blend of chaos theory, social science, and historical examples, including a vacation leading to catastrophic consequences and the far-reaching effects of hitting the snooze button, Fluke unveils the inherently unpredictable nature of our lives and the world at large.



EASY RECIPES

TITLE: 15 Minute Meals: Truly Quick Recipes that Don't Taste like Shortcuts

AUTHOR: Ali Rosen

PUBLISHER: Mango

PRICE: Dhs122

This cookbook written by Emmy, James Beard, and IACP-nominated Ali Rosen offers a time-efficient solution for fast, flavourful, and healthy family dining. It is packed with easy-to-follow recipes that promise dinner on the table in just 15 minutes, catering to the busiest of schedules. It highlights no-prep vegetables and quick cooking techniques without compromising on taste or quality. Ideal for busy parents or anyone looking for speedy yet nutritious dinner options, this guide simplifies meal preparation. It showcases a variety of dishes that make the most of frozen vegetables, transforming everyday cooking into an effortless and enjoyable experience. Welcome delicious simplicity with *15 Minute Meals*, your key to quick, satisfying, and healthy eating.

Sharjah rescues 195 endangered animals in 2023

The Sharjah Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) rescued 195 endangered animals and birds and confiscated 2,409 illegal devices designed to imitate the sounds of migratory birds in 2023.

The operation targeted homes, farms, estates, and veterinary clinics across Khudairah, Zubeida, Mahdhab,

Al Jubail, Al Heera, and Al Khazamiya, resulting in nine violations.

Confiscated wildlife included stone-curlews, falcons, seagulls, ducks, a Houbara



bustard, Egyptian geese, baboons, and a pit bull.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, EPAA Chairperson, highlighted the importance of adhering

institutions to house endangered species. The legislation imposes penalties for illegal wildlife trade, including jail terms and fines between Dhs50,000 and Dhs500,000.

to wildlife regulations, with fines for breaches reaching Dhs100,000. She stressed the need for reporting illegal breeding and trade of endangered and predatory animals.

Since 2017, UAE law has prohibited private ownership of wild animals, allowing only zoos, wildlife parks, and research

Groundwater depletion swift but preventable, study shows

Groundwater is rapidly declining in 71 per cent of the aquifers worldwide, and the decline is accelerating in many places, especially in arid and semi-arid regions under cultivation.

Researchers from the University of California, Santa Barbara compiled data from 300 million groundwater level measurements from 1,693 aquifers around the world, spanning the past 100 years. To fully understand the dynamics of this hidden resource, scientists accessed two satellite data on Earth's gravity.

According to their findings, published in the journal *Nature*, approximately 90 per cent of aquifers experiencing accelerated



declines are located in areas where rainfall has also decreased over the past four years. However, the situation is not hopeless, and depletion is "not inevitable".

The study identified some cases where

less disruptive and less dangerous, the study claimed.

However, such interventions can have tradeoffs. The groundwater discharge has caused the mighty river to dwindle above ground.

groundwater levels have stabilised or recovered, due to deliberate interventions such as aquifer recharge or demand reduction.

For instance, in Tucson, Arizona, people intentionally refill the aquifer in the Avra Valley from the water in the Colorado River. Storing vast quantities of water underground is much cheaper,

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Study: Exercise alone can't avert health risks of sedentary work



Modern lifestyle has made sitting jobs the order of the day or the rule, and most of us end up being glued to screens throughout working hours. To counter these problems, many people take on daily exercise programmes which usually

last between 15-30 minutes.

However, a comprehensive study involving a large cohort of individuals in Taiwan showed that exercises alone to offset the negative effects of prolonged sitting is not enough. The cure for the

negative effects of sitting is not exercising more. It is sitting less.

The study, published in the journal *JAMA Network Open*, analysed the data of over 482,000 Taiwanese individuals, with a median age of 39, and whose medical records span an average of 12 years. They found that those who are sitting at work for most of their workday had a 34 per cent higher chance of dying prematurely of heart disease compared to non-sitters. Those who sit at work and have a high-intensity exercise a day can reduce that chance of premature death, but still face the same risk as that of someone who does not sit at work and exercises moderately. The mortality risk for those sitting at work is significantly lowered for those who alternately get up and do physical activities exceeding personal activity intelligence (PAI) 100 a week.

Researchers suggested that companies create a "systemic workplace" that provides standing desks and designated workplace areas for physical activity.

Experts warn of developmental problems amongst preterm babies

Babies who were born moderately preterm at 8 months to late preterm at 8.5 months to 9 months face a higher risk of epilepsy or problems with brain function, motor skills, vision, or hearing compared to those who were born at full term of almost 10 months in the mother's womb.

A study examined the neurodevelopmental outcomes of Swedish children who were born moderately preterm (32 to 33 weeks), late preterm (34-36 weeks), and full-term (39-40 weeks). Around 1.2 million children without defects born at 32-41 weeks between 1998 and 2012 also participated in the study.

Researchers found that children born moderately or late preterm had higher risks of any impairment than children born full term. Risks were highest at 32 weeks (8 months) and gradually declined until 41



weeks (10 months). Children born a bit preterm at 37-38 weeks (9 – 9.5 months) also had higher risks compared to children born full term at 39-40 weeks (9.75 – 10 months). Birth weight for gestational age was inversely associated with impairment amongst preterm children, i.e. the lower the weight, the higher the risk.

Researchers stressed that the risks

should not be underestimated as these children comprise the largest proportion of preterm births – at 80 per cent.

"The findings may help professionals and families achieve better risk assessment and follow-up, and healthcare systems planning for children born moderately or late preterm," the researchers wrote in the peer-reviewed *BMJ* journal.

WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



ARIES (MARCH 21 TO APRIL 20)

You're filled with energy and enthusiasm this month, Aries, ready to tackle new challenges head-on. However, avoid rushing into decisions impulsively; take time to weigh your options carefully. Communication will be key in both personal and professional relationships, so be sure to express yourself clearly. Remember to balance your assertiveness with sensitivity to others' needs.



TAURUS (APRIL 20 – MAY 21)

This period encourages you to focus on your finances and long-term goals. Take the time to reassess your budget and make any necessary adjustments. Be open to new experiences and opportunities for growth, particularly in matters of the heart. Remember to trust your instincts and stay grounded in your values.



GEMINI (MAY 22 – JUNE 20)

Seek balance between work and play during this time. Embrace your creativity and pay attention to your intuition for important insights. Communication will be crucial in both personal and professional relationships, so be sure to express yourself clearly and listen to others' perspectives. Stay adaptable and open-minded as you navigate new opportunities.



CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22)

This period brings a focus on home and family matters for you, Cancer. Nurture your relationships and create a harmonious environment. Trust your instincts when it comes to making decisions, especially those related to your personal life. Take care of yourself amidst your caring nature, and don't hesitate to ask for support when needed.



LEO (JULY 23 – AUGUST 22)

You're feeling confident and ready to shine this month, Leo. Embrace your creativity and express yourself boldly in both your personal and professional life. Your charisma will be particularly potent, so use it wisely to inspire and uplift those around you. Stay humble and considerate of others' feelings as you bask in the spotlight.



VIRGO (AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22)

This period encourages you to focus on your health and well-being, Virgo. Take time to nurture your body, mind, and spirit through self-care practices and healthy habits. Pay attention to your intuition, as it will guide you towards the best decisions for your overall wellness. Be kind to yourself and celebrate your progress, no matter how small.



LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22)

You're seeking balance and harmony in all areas of your life this month, Libra. Focus on creating peace within yourself and fostering harmonious relationships with those around you. Communication will be key in resolving any conflicts or misunderstandings that may arise, so be sure to express yourself honestly and empathetically. Trust in the power of compromise and cooperation to bring about positive outcomes.



SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21)

This period brings opportunities for transformation and personal growth, Scorpio. Welcome change with an open mind and trust in your ability to adapt and thrive in new situations. Pay attention to your intuition, as it will guide you towards the paths that align with your deepest desires. Let go of any attachments or beliefs that no longer serve you, and trust in the process of growth and renewal.



SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21)

You're feeling adventurous and optimistic this month, Sagittarius. There will be opportunities for exploration and expansion, both mentally and physically. Trust in your intuition to lead you towards exciting new experiences and adventures. Remember to stay grounded and focused on your long-term goals, even as you indulge your wanderlust and thirst for adventure.



CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19)

This period encourages you to focus on your career and long-term goals, Capricorn. Stay disciplined and committed to your ambitions, but don't forget to make time for relaxation and self-care. Trust in your abilities and remain patient, knowing that success is within reach with hard work and determination. Stay connected with your loved ones and lean on them for support when needed.



AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18)

You're feeling innovative and forward-thinking this month, Aquarius. Trust your unique perspective and trust in your ability to bring about positive change in the world. Stay true to your values and don't be afraid to speak up for what you believe in. Be receptive to new ideas, as they may lead you towards exciting opportunities for growth and expansion.



PISCES (FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20)

This period brings opportunities for spiritual growth and self-discovery, Pisces. Spend some moments of solitude and reflection to reconnect with your inner wisdom and intuition. Focus on your dreams, as they may hold valuable insights into your path forward. Trust in the universe to guide you towards the experiences and connections that will nourish your soul.

PUZZLES

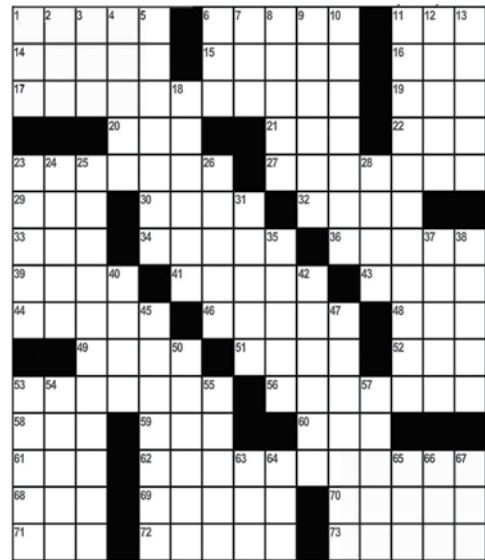
ACROSS

- 1) Hairdos
- 6) Led off
- 11) Gridlock component
- 14) Alternative to bottled
- 15) Arctic dwelling
- 16) Feel regret over
- 17) Sellers of illegal substances
- 19) Hard to explain
- 20) Emulate a bunny
- 21) Snacked
- 22) "Dear" mister
- 23) Living in water
- 27) Grandeur
- 29) It's certainly not a show dog
- 30) "Happy" mollusk
- 32) Kind of food or mate
- 33) Vicksburg combatant, briefly
- 34) Old rail riders, stereotypically
- 36) Animal variety

- 39) It was Persia
- 41) Black-clad teens, often
- 43) Folklore monstrosity
- 44) 100,000 make a newton
- 46) Back-up sounds
- 48) Shoot the breeze
- 49) "Able to _ tall buildings"
- 51) Edible tuber of Polynesia
- 52) Superlative suffix
- 53) Tree sheddings
- 56) False fronts
- 58) Special-interest grp.
- 59) Crater creator, perhaps
- 60) Barely defeat
- 61) Compass reading, sometimes
- 62) In a disgraceful way
- 68) A, in Berlin
- 69) Not just "no!"
- 70) Auto contract, sometimes
- 71) Knight or Nugent
- 72) Garbo of "Ninotchka"
- 73) "_ of Iwo Jima"

DOWN

- 1) Picnic discard, sometimes
- 2) Lady associated with the Beatles
- 3) "Am _ believe?"
- 4) Jazzy Earl Hines' nickname
- 5) Large irregular spot
- 6) Above average in size
- 7) Coop ovoid
- 8) Faint flicker
- 9) Main arteries
- 10) Rhinoplasty
- 11) How Buddha sits
- 12) Attend a class for no credits
- 13) Remove more moisture from
- 18) Concluding speech (var.)
- 23) Bitter-tasting
- 24) Ask
- 25) Bit of modern folklore
- 26) One spelling for a meal on a skewer
- 28) 1 00 cents, somewhere
- 31) Short choral composition
- 35) Bundle of grain
- 37) Delete, as messages
- 38) Mortgages, e.g.
- 40) "No _ to apologise"
- 42) Pounced
- 45) Preserving, as pork
- 47) Tea parties, e.g.
- 50) Author
- 53) Group of nine
- 54) A Muppet
- 55) Martin of comedies
- 57) Breathing problem for heavy sleepers
- 63) Allow
- 64) The-lower-the-better pitching stat
- 65) Thing acquired on a beach
- 66) "Acid" drug
- 67) "All right!"



Easy

| | | | | | | | | |
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| | 5 | | 9 | | | 1 | | |
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| 1 | 7 | | | | 6 | | | 5 |
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| | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | | | | |
| 3 | | | 2 | | | | 8 | 1 |
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Medium

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| | 5 | | | | 9 | | | |
| | 7 | 1 | | | | | 9 | |
| 9 | | 8 | 1 | 2 | | 3 | | |

SOLUTIONS

SOLUTIONS FOR THE MARCH ISSUE



www.alberichcrosswords.com

www.dailysudoku.com

easy

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 8 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
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| 4 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| 9 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 |
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medium

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

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| ER | RED | S | A | L | S | A | H | I | T |
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| HOP | A | F | R | E | I | G | H | T | P |
| IRA | | A | W | E | | P | H | I | |
| SCH | LOCK | | L | A | M | P | O | O | N |
| LEI | S | E | R | B | | S | P | I | C |
| AL | P | T | R | I | E | S | | T | E |
| KE | P | T | | S | L | A | C | K | |
| E | B | O | O | K | | L | U | R | I |
| P | O | N | S | | S | U | M | O | |
| PHO | T | O | N | S | | B | O | U | N |
| LET | | W | O | E | | N | B | A | |
| ALA | | H | O | P | S | C | O | T | C |
| NIM | | O | T | T | E | R | A | T | O |
| KOI | | W | Y | A | T | T | | D | E |

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