

999

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

ISSUE 150 JULY 2024

THE HIGH
PRICE OF CHEAP
RIDES

REPORT
CRIME WITHOUT
FEAR

SPOTLIGHT:
SILENT
STRUGGLES



**STOP,
RED LIGHT
RUNNERS!**

IN THIS ISSUE: TEEN VAPING ON THE RISE GLOBALLY, CALLS FOR PREVENTIVE MEASURES INTENSIFY

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*When we embrace
and care for
ourselves, it shines
outward, thereby
fostering a safer
and more secure
community*

Stop hazardous habits

Illegal taxis prey on the economic vulnerabilities of those who want to save a few dirhams on transport. These unregulated services skip essential safety regulations, insurance mandates, and thorough driver vetting processes, presenting a significant transport risk. This danger was illustrated by a tragic incident last May in Sharjah, where a 7-year-old boy died after being left unattended in a locked vehicle for hours. The boy was picked up from his home by an unlicensed driver. Our feature story underscores the intensified crackdown of the UAE's police against illegal taxi operators.

The UAE has recently clinched the No. 1 spot in the MENA region and fifth globally for road quality, according to the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024. This achievement stems from rigorous safety measures and advanced technology, such as sophisticated traffic light systems. Despite these advancements, the issue of drivers flouting traffic laws persists. Our cover story highlights the blatant disregard of some drivers for basic traffic rules, particularly the fundamental rule of stopping at red traffic lights.

With digitalisation becoming part of our daily lives, the digital landscape is increasingly under the watchful eye of law enforcement. The surge in digital payment methods brings both convenience and vulnerability, exposing financial systems to advanced fraud schemes. **999** examines the hefty cost of financial fraud, where businesses lose nearly four times the face value of each dirham lost to fraud—as found by a recent survey of 1,845 decision-makers across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. In this story, we discuss how cybercriminals exploit the anonymity of digital, cross-border transactions to execute fast and untraceable fraud.

Public health is another vital area of community security. Vaping, particularly amongst youth, is a growing global concern. Initially seen as an aid for quitting smoking, vaping has morphed into a hazardous trend, with increasing reports of teenagers suffering from severe respiratory issues. Our feature story on this explores the UAE's proactive steps to weed out vaping amongst minors.

Dementia also poses a significant public health challenge. The Middle East and North Africa region is projected to see the highest surge in dementia prevalence. The UAE is of particular concern because it is expected to experience the second-highest percentage increase, at 1,795 per cent, in dementia cases by 2050, following Qatar's projected 1,926 per cent increase. Our in-depth feature on dementia discusses how the UAE is leveraging technology to prevent this. For instance, a pioneering robot named "Bu Saif" is designed by a UAEU research team. This robot, resembling an elderly Emirati man, can autonomously assess the cognitive abilities of the elderly, aiding in the promotion of healthy ageing.

Remember, when we embrace and care for ourselves, it shines outward, thereby fostering a safer and more secure community—a theme that resonates throughout this **999** issue.



**Ministry of Interior
United Arab Emirates**

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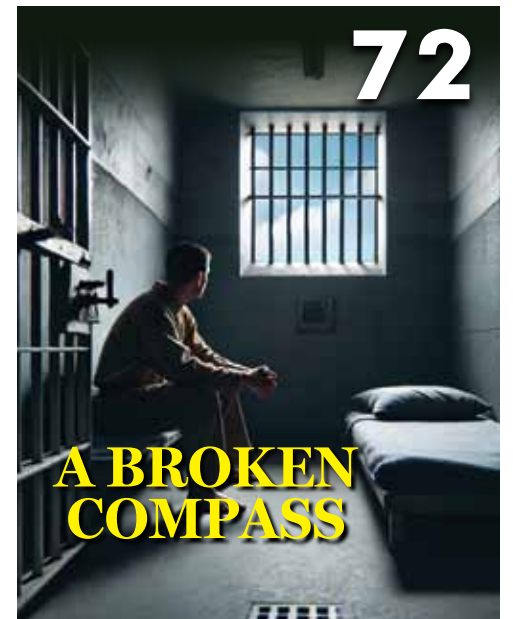
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RED LIGHT RUNNERS

TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE CRUCIAL FOR ROAD SAFETY, MANAGING TRAFFIC FLOW, AND MINIMISING COLLISION RISKS. **999** HIGHLIGHTS THE DANGERS OF JUMPING THE RED LIGHT AND THE UAE'S PROACTIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT ALL ROAD USERS



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Mohamed bin Zayed leads UAE's Eid Al Adha celebrations

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan led the Eid Al-Adha celebrations across the UAE.

Ahead of Eid Al Adha, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed ordered the release of 1,138 inmates from correctional institutions. His Highness also pledged to cover all fines imposed on the inmates, who had been sentenced for various offences. This move was aimed at providing the released inmates with an opportunity to start a new life and contribute once again to their families and communities.

Meanwhile, during a detailed phone



conversation with Dr Omar Habtoor Al Darei, Chairman of the General Authority of

Islamic Affairs, Endowments and Zakat and Head of the UAE Pilgrims' Affairs Office, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed inquired about the conditions and well-being of pilgrims from the UAE who were participating in Hajj.

The President also exchanged greetings and best wishes with various leaders on the occasion of Eid Al Adha, including HM Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman, HM Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of Kuwait, and HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, amongst other heads of state of the Arab World and Muslim nations across the globe.

President attends G7 Summit session on AI, energy

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan participated in the G7 Summit session held in Italy, themed "Energy and Artificial Intelligence / Africa and the Mediterranean Region".

During his address, His Highness thanked HE Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic, for hosting this year's summit and for personally inviting the UAE to the expanded gathering of the annual assembly of the heads of the world's largest developed economies.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed highlighted the significant challenges facing the Middle East and Africa, particularly in the energy sector, and stressed the importance of collective action and cooperation.

The address affirmed the UAE's commitment to establishing an integrated AI system through programmes, legislation, initiatives, and partnerships, in a bid to enhance energy sustainability, ensure energy



HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed during the G7 Summit session in Italy

security, and support sustainable economic and social development.

At the conclusion of his address, a video

showcasing the UAE's groundbreaking investments in AI to advance sustainable energy and prosperity was played.

Federal decrees form UAE Council for Fatwa, appoints Chairman

PRESIDENT His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued two federal decrees forming the UAE Council for Fatwa and appointing Abdullah bin Bayyah as Chairman of the Council with the grade of Minister.

The Council's members include Dr Omar Habtoor Al Darei as Vice Chairman, Dr Khalifa Mubarak Al Dhaheri, Dr Ahmed Abdel Aziz Al Haddad, Jamal Salem Al Turaifi, Dr Ibrahim Obaid Ali Al Ali, Abdul Rahman Ali Humaid Al



Abdullah bin Bayyah

Shamsi, Dr Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tunaiji and Dr Fatma Al-Dahmani.

The UAE Council for Fatwa serves as the official authority for issuing fatwas in the UAE. It aims to unify efforts, visions, and objectives to develop approaches, policies, and legislation related to fatwas in the UAE.

The Council is responsible for issuing general, urgent, and new fatwas on various matters, conducting studies and research in various fields of fatwas, and training and developing the skills of muftis.

UAE Cabinet approves AI charter, reviews Genome Programme



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum leads the UAE Cabinet session for the AI Charter approval

CHAIRED by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the UAE Cabinet has approved the Ethical Charter of Development

and Use of AI and reviewed the Emirati Genome Programme.

The UAE Cabinet's nod to the AI Charter aims to solidify the UAE's position in the digital sector. It came alongside the adoption

of the General Framework for Sustainable Digital Transformation.

The AI charter includes 12 principles aimed at preserving the respect of human values and ensuring fair and safe treatment for all members of society.

The UAE Cabinet has also approved a federal traffic law, which includes amendments to vehicle classification and takes into account the use of modern transport technologies, self-driving cars, and electric vehicles.

Moreover, the achievements of the Emirates Genome Council have been assessed. The Council has collected more than 600,000 samples as part of the Emirati Genome Programme to create a map of genetic and hereditary diseases in the country.

"The contribution of more than 600,000 citizens ensures the development of a clear map of genetic and hereditary diseases in the country, and helps in developing medicines specific to these diseases," HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid stated.

New judges sworn into Dubai Judicial Inspection Authority

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has sworn in three new members of the Dubai Judicial Inspection Authority.

Members of the Dubai Judicial Inspection Authority who were sworn in included Dr Mostafa Ali Khalaf Mohamed Amin, Dr Hussein Ali Saleh Al-Amri, and Dr Nassar Mohamed Sabeitan Al-Halama.

HH Sheikh Mohammed highlighted the crucial role that judges play in preserving the social fabric and protecting the community. His Highness underscored the importance of upholding fairness, protecting society, and maintaining the rule of law which are key to enhancing Dubai's judicial efficiency.



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid leads the oath-taking of new Dubai Judicial Inspection Authority judges

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Finance of the UAE, and Chairman of the Dubai Judicial Council, also attended the ceremony that took place at the Union House in Dubai.

Mohammed bin Rashid congratulates Hajj pilgrims from UAE

HIS Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, congratulated Hajj pilgrims from the UAE. Upon their successful completion of the Hajj pilgrimage, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid wished them a safe return to the country and conveyed gratitude to the Official Hajj Delegation of the UAE for their

dedicated service.

"Congratulations to the Emirati pilgrims on successfully completing their pilgrimage. Wishing them a safe return to the UAE, and extending our gratitude to the Official Hajj Delegation of the UAE," His Highness wrote on his official X (previously Twitter) account.

"Serving the public is an honour; how much more so when serving the pilgrims of

the house of God, who seek to please Him. We pray that God accepts the good deeds of the pilgrims and those who served them," His Highness added.

Authorities in Saudi Arabia reported that over 1.8 million people participated in this year's pilgrimage. Official statistics indicated that approximately 22 per cent of the pilgrims were from Arab countries.

Mansour bin Zayed highlights UAE's robust financial system



HIS Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Presidential Court, and Chairman of the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE), highlighted the UAE's robust financial system.

In his foreword to the CBUAE's Annual Report 2023, HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed said: "In 2023, we marked the CBUAE's Golden Jubilee, reaffirming our commitment to fostering sustainability and innovation and keeping pace with the latest global financial, economic, and environmental developments. The CBUAE's 2023 Annual Report highlights the progress delivered in our journey towards excellence and the realisation of our vision to be amongst the top central banks globally."

HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed added that the UAE's GDP growth was 3.6 per cent in 2023, with the country's strong projected economic performance for 2024 confirming continued resilience. The CBUAE forecast that the UAE's real GDP will increase to 3.9 per cent in 2024, driven by robust growth of 5.4 per cent in the non-oil sector.

CBUAE approves new system for licensing stablecoins

HIS Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Presidential Court and Chairman of the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE), has led a recent meeting of the CBUAE Board of Directors at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, the CBUAE Board approved a comprehensive system for licensing and overseeing stable cryptocurrencies. The Board also reviewed the progress of projects currently being developed under the Financial Infrastructure Transformation Programme (FIT programme), which aims to promote innovation and digital transactions and drive the UAE's digital economy. Amongst them are the Central Bank Digital Currency (Digital Dirham), the Jaywan Domestic Card Scheme and the Instant Payments Platform (Aani).



HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed leads a CBUAE Board session to review the progress of CBUAE projects

The Board also reviewed the latest updates on the implementation of agreements signed between CBUAE and other central banks.

Important developments on the Central

Bank's plans to enhance Emiratisation and support UAE nationals, as well as the new Emiratisation policies of institutions operating in the banking, financial, and insurance sectors have been assessed.

ECSSR showcases encyclopaedia of UAE leaders' legacies

HIS Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, received a delegation from the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR).

During the meeting, HH Sheikh Mansour was briefed on the Encyclopaedia of UAE Leaders 'Al-Ithidhad', which aims to introduce the national, intellectual, and social legacy of the wise leadership.



HH Sheikh Mansour with the ECSSR delegation

The Encyclopaedia includes more than 16,000 articles and comprises a wide

range of famous anecdotes, audio clips, and narrations, amongst others, on an electronic platform that works according to innovative interactive methods.

His Highness was briefed by Dr Sultan Mohammed Al-Nuaimi, Director General of the ECSSR, and the work team about the Encyclopaedia and the social, economic, political and national topics it contains.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince green-lights Dhs3.3bn housing support



HIS Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, approved more than Dhs3.3 billion in housing aid to boost the living standards of Emiratis in Abu Dhabi.

The second housing package this year includes housing loans valued at more than Dhs3 billion for 1,766 Emiratis, including 782 loans to purchase residential units in the Balghaiylam residential project.

The housing benefits were delivered under the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, coinciding with the occasion of Eid Al Adha.

As part of the package senior citizens, retirees with limited income and deceased heirs were exempt from paying outstanding housing loans, which totalled Dh262.8 million from 249 people.

Abu Dhabi launches AgriFood Growth and Water Abundance

HIS Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, has approved the launch of the AgriFood Growth and Water Abundance (AGWA) cluster.

AGWA will be led by the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development in partnership with the Abu Dhabi Investment Office.

It aims to provide a key platform to support local suppliers and exporters to maximise commercial opportunities and ease pressure on agriculture systems.

HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed emphasised the role of AGWA cluster in strengthening the national food and water security ecosystem.

The cluster will cultivate sustainable homegrown production in line with the National Food Security Strategy 2051



HH Sheikh Khaled receives a briefing on the role of AGWA in strengthening food and water security

and the UAE Water Security Strategy 2036 and is poised to play a leading

role in global efforts to tackle food shortages and water scarcity.

Board of Directors of Abu Dhabi entity gets revamp

HIS Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, has issued a resolution to restructure Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council's Board of Directors, appointing His Excellency Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi as Chairman.

The Board will be comprised of the

Undersecretary of the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, Undersecretary of the Department of Energy – Abu Dhabi, Undersecretary of the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, Undersecretary of the Department of Municipalities and Transport, Secretary General of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, Director General of Abu Dhabi

Agriculture and Food Safety Authority, Director General of General Administration of Abu Dhabi Customs, Director General of Abu Dhabi Hazardous Materials Management Centre, and Assistant Undersecretary for the Standards and Regulations Sector at the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology.

Saif bin Zayed spearheads Happiness & Positivity Council meeting



HIS Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, spearheaded a recent meeting of the Happiness and Positivity Council at the Ministry of Interior (MoI).

The Council reviewed the coordination efforts between the MoI and the National Guard to enhance security and promote an integrated work system amongst government agencies.

The Prime Minister's Office presented an evaluation study of government services for 2023, which showed that the MoI has met national goals through sustained business practices, development, modernisation, and community service.

His Highness was also briefed about the Communities Criminal Risk Committee's impact on enhancing community protection.

Money Laundering Investigations Subcommittee honoured

HIS Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, honoured the Subcommittee for Investigations into Money Laundering Crimes in the UAE.

Chaired by the Ministry of the Interior, the Subcommittee forms part of the National Committee to Combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Illegal Organisations.

His Highness conveyed appreciation for the entity's dedicated efforts in strengthening the UAE's fight against financial crimes and praised its significant contributions to the National Committee's work, as well as its effective cooperation and coordination with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The honouring ceremony was attended by Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan



HH Sheikh Saif with the officials and members of the Subcommittee

Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai; Lieutenant General Abdullah Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police; Major General

Staff Pilot Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Commander-in-Chief of Abu Dhabi Police; and several Ministry of Interior officers.

Saif bin Zayed, Azerbaijani counterpart bolster bilateral ties

HIS Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, met with Azerbaijani counterpart, Colonel-General Vilayat Eyvazov, and his accompanying delegation at the Ministry's headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

During their meeting, the two sides discussed the bilateral relations between their respective countries, focusing on the security and police sectors. They explored ways to enhance and develop these relations to achieve mutual interests and benefit the peoples of both nations.

The meeting was attended by Major General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, along with several officers and members of the delegation accompanying the Azerbaijani Minister of Interior.



HH Sheikh Saif during his meeting with the Azerbaijani Interior Minister



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Al Khaili visits Dubai Police, praises advanced police tech



Al Khaili presented with a commemorative shield by Al Marri

MAJOR General Staff Khalifa Hareb Al Khaili, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior (MoI), met with Lieutenant General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, at the headquarters of Dubai Police General Command.

The meeting was held in the presence of deputy commanders-in-

chief and senior officers from the MoI and Dubai Police. Al Marri briefed Al Khaili on the smart services system and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies utilised by various departments and police stations of Dubai Police. This AI adoption aims to achieve leadership in police work, enhance response to emergency

calls, strengthen security and safety, and improve the quality of life in the emirate.

Al Khaili also received explanations about the Command and Control Centre at the General Directorate of Operations, the "Daily Brief" rooms at Dubai police stations, the internal work environment at Dubai Police, the "Efaad" smart programme, the mechanism of government initiative councils, and the UAE SWAT Challenge Championship, which is organised annually by Dubai Police. He was also briefed on the achievements of the General Directorate of Criminal Evidence and Crime Science and the General Directorate of Criminal Investigations.

The briefing also included the "E-crime" platform work system and the Muraqqabat Police Station's Smart Police Station, along with the Ghiath police patrol. Al Khaili praised Dubai Police for their efforts in enhancing security, providing excellent community services, and implementing innovative technical initiatives. He noted that the UAE's pioneering journey boosts its global reputation and competitive position with efficient police practices. He also commended the leadership's commitment to adopting advanced technologies and AI for an exceptional work environment.

Badran lauds Dubai Islamic Bank's donation to Faraj Fund

DUBAI Islamic Bank has made a charitable contribution by donating Dhs5 million to the Faraj Fund under the Ministry of Interior's "Farajat" initiative, coinciding with the observance of Eid Al Adha.

The donation facilitated the release of 108 financially distressed inmates across state penal and reform institutions.

HE Khalil Dawood Badran, Chairman of the Faraj Fund Board, under the Ministry of Interior, emphasised that charitable efforts and initiatives continue in the country known for its generosity

and giving. He highlighted that Dubai Islamic Bank's continuous contributions to support the Faraj Fund enhance community solidarity in the UAE and directly support efforts to facilitate the release of financially distressed inmates, easing the burden on their families.

Nawaf Al Raisi, Head of Community Support Services at Dubai Islamic Bank, stated, "We are committed to supporting humanitarian solidarity efforts in the nation of giving and sacrifice. Our strategic partnership with the Faraj Fund, under the Ministry of



Badran

Interior, strengthens efforts aimed at achieving the fund's humanitarian goals, assisting financially distressed inmates, and contributing to their reintegration as productive members of society."

Abu Dhabi Police reaffirm participation in Mol's summer safety drive



Al Balushi

THE Traffic and Security Patrols Directorate at Abu Dhabi Police has reaffirmed its participation in the Ministry of Interior's "Summer Without Accidents" campaign,

running until 1 September 2024, and being implemented by the general commands of police forces across the country.

The safety drive coincides with the fifth edition of Abu Dhabi Police's "Summer Safety" campaign, aimed at enhancing community happiness and road safety.

Brigadier Mahmoud Yousef Al Balushi, Director of the Traffic and Security Patrols Directorate at Abu Dhabi Police, emphasised that the "Summer Without Accidents" campaign embodies the Ministry's strategy to make roads safer.

He stated that its goals align with Abu Dhabi Police's "Summer Safely" campaign, which runs until 31 August. It aims to educate all segments of society about the damages caused by traffic accidents, including fatalities, injuries, and material and moral damages. He urged drivers to follow traffic regulations, ensure

vehicle safety, and avoid overloading to preserve lives and property and uphold the value of life.

Al Balushi reminded drivers to adhere to speed limits, avoid distractions, maintain safe distances between vehicles, and take preventive measures by regularly checking tyres. He advised that expired or damaged tyres must be replaced to prevent any accidents.

He stressed the importance of being aware of vehicle tyre safety and knowing how to respond to tyre bursts. He highlighted the necessity of having safety tools in vehicles and advised against leaving lighters, perfumes, batteries, power storage devices, hand sanitisers, and gas cylinders in cars. He emphasised the need for fire extinguishers in vehicles for immediate intervention, especially during the summer's high temperatures.

Abu Dhabi Police's campaign warns of summer risks for children, vehicles

NOW in its fifth edition, Abu Dhabi Police's "Summer Safely" campaign aims to raise public awareness about the risks children face during the summer, particularly water and vehicle safety.

Running until 31 August 2024, this campaign is part of the police force's broader strategy to enhance security, safety, community happiness, and road safety.

The safety drive aims to educate parents on the necessity of supervising children to prevent drowning incidents in pools and ensuring children are not left unattended in vehicles, as this can lead to suffocation accidents.

Families are also urged to protect children from violent electronic games, which can incite aggression and crime amongst children and teenagers and have severe psychological effects, including addiction, isolation, and detachment from reality.

Abu Dhabi Police emphasised the importance of enhancing prevention and safety by complying with police and security guidelines to protect homes, properties, and lives. The public is advised to take preventive measures at home when travelling to avoid theft and fires. This includes keeping money and valuables in secure places like banks or well-secured safes and using smart technologies connected to alarm devices.



The Summer Safely campaign of Abu Dhabi Police runs until 31 August

The "Summer Safely" campaign employs various awareness dissemination methods, including visual, auditory, and written media, community councils, direct engagement with the public, and providing advice and guidance for accident-free driving.

The campaign is supported by the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority, Criminal Investigations Directorate, Community Police Department, Traffic and Security Patrols Directorate, Criminal Evidence Management, Security Media Department, Security Information Management, and SAAED Traffic Systems Company.

Dhahi Khalfan reviews Dubai Police's anti-narcotics achievements



Dhahi Khalfan and Dubai Police officials during a meeting on anti-drug trafficking efforts

LIEUTENANT General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and Public Security in Dubai, praised the significant efforts of the General Directorate of Anti-Narcotics at Dubai Police in combating drug trafficking and apprehending traffickers and users, both

locally and internationally.

This came during a meeting held in his office to review updates and operational mechanisms of the General Directorate.

The meeting was attended by Major General Expert Khalil Ibrahim Al Mansouri, Assistant Commander-in-Chief

for Criminal Investigation Affairs at Dubai Police, and Major General Eid Mohammed Thani Harib, Director of the General Directorate of Anti-Narcotics at Dubai Police, along with directors and heads of departments within the General Directorate.

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

During the meeting, Dhahi Khalfan was briefed on detailed presentations regarding the local and international achievements of Dubai Police's General Directorate of Anti-Narcotics over the past five years. These achievements showcased advanced leadership in combating drug traffickers, distributors, and criminal gangs, and highlighted significant creative efforts in raising community awareness about the dangers of drugs and their psychological effects.

Al Shamsi highlights media's role in combating online fraud

MAJOR General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-Chief of Sharjah Police, emphasised the crucial role of media in warning the public against online scammers' fraudulent activities.

His remarks came during a press conference at the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, where he detailed the success of the police operation codenamed "173".

In attendance were Brigadier Omar Ahmed Abu Al Zawd, Director of the Criminal Investigation Department at Sharjah Police, and specialised officers.

Al Shamsi revealed that Operation 173 led to the arrest of five suspects linked to a cyber fraud scheme operating outside the



Sharjah Police officials speaking with members of the media about 'Operation 173'

UAE. The suspects were found to have phished Dh3,011,854 from accounts

connected to 11 anonymous reports received by police departments across the UAE.

Ras Al Khaimah Police unveil new 'vehicle tracking system'

MAJOR General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, has unveiled a 'vehicle tracking system', which aims to contribute to the fight against crime and provide electronic security protection for selected vehicles.

The vehicle tracker will be deployed on specific vehicles requiring enhanced security measures, providing an electronic surveillance solution.

Powered by the latest technologies, this project will be a distinctive addition to the

security initiatives of Ras Al Khaimah Police.

This project is undertaken by the Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Department at Ras Al Khaimah Police, in collaboration with the Public Resources Authority.

Al Marri attends graduation of officers at Dubai Police Academy



Al Marri during a photo op with the 415 graduates at the Dubai Police Academy

LIEUTENANT General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, attended the graduation ceremony of 415 male and female officers from Dubai Police, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai, and the Dubai Transport Security Department. The ceremony took place at the

graduation square of the Dubai Police Academy.

The event was also attended by several dignitaries, directors of government and security departments, assistants to the Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, directors of general departments and police stations, as well as parents of the graduates.

Al Marri congratulated the graduates, highlighting the importance of equipping them with the necessary skills to excel in their duties. He emphasised Dubai Police's keenness to achieve the highest levels of security, safety, and law enforcement for all citizens, residents, and visitors.

He encouraged the graduates to pursue excellence, diligence, continuous education, and knowledge, becoming valuable additions to any entity they join. He urged them to set a good example for the public by upholding the high ethical values they learned at the Dubai Police Academy.

Al Marri stressed the importance of conveying the police's message by providing dedicated and sincere services to establish security and safety in the country. Finally, he wished them success and fulfilment in their future endeavours.

Ajman Police discuss security cooperation with National Guard

BRIGADIER Khaled Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Ajman Police, met with a delegation from the National Guard Command led by Brigadier Ahmed Hassan Al Zaabi and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier Staff Abdullah Saif Al Matroushi, Director General of Police Operations at Ajman Police, and Brigadier Ali Obaid Al Shamsi, Director General of Incoming and Support Services at Ajman Police.

Brigadier Al Nuaimi welcomed the delegation, commending the National Guard for their commitment to implementing their national and security vision with high efficiency in safeguarding the nation's security and



stability.

The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation in implementing initiatives and plans aimed at strengthening security and safety in the Emirate of

Ajman. It also explored collaboration in the training and development of human resources and police personnel to improve the quality and effectiveness of police work.

Fujairah Police launch 'Summer Without Accidents' campaign

FUJAIRAH Police, represented by the Traffic and Patrols Department, have launched the third seasonal campaign for 2024 under the slogan "Summer Without Accidents".

This initiative is part of the traffic awareness campaign plan approved by the Federal Traffic Council at the Ministry of Interior (Mol). The safety drive embodies the strategic goal of the Mol to enable safe mobility and

raise awareness amongst drivers and road users about the importance of adhering to

standards and requirements necessary to prevent road accidents.

This includes compliance with vehicle safety instructions, regular maintenance procedures, ensuring tyre safety, and avoiding overloading to protect lives and property and reduce accidents and injuries.

Brigadier Saleh Mohammed Abdullah Al Dhanhani, Director of Traffic and Patrols Department at Fujairah Police, said drivers' adherence to traffic laws enhances the safety

of their vehicles and others. He advised motorists that leaving enough safety distance between vehicles and adhering to speed limits demonstrate good driving behaviour and ensure safe travel.

He also warned that overloading can affect vehicle balance and control. Drivers must regularly check tyre conditions to prevent tyre bursts, which can lead to serious accidents. Driving with unfit tyres incurs a fine of Dhs500 and 4 black traffic points on the driver's record.

1st

UAE's global ranking as the world's leading wealth magnet for the third year in a row, according to the Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2024. The UAE anticipates a record inflow of 6,700 millionaires by year-end, surpassing the United States, which expects 3,800 millionaires.

1st

UAE's global ranking in the Quality of Air Transport Infrastructure, per the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024. The country also ranked 3rd globally in Efficiency of Air Transport Services and Available Airline Seat Kilometres, highlighting the competitiveness of its civil aviation sector.

1st

UAE's regional ranking and 7th globally in the annual IMD World Competitiveness Report, which provides data analysis on the economic competencies of 67 countries. The UAE achieved the top regional position due to its business-friendly environment, dynamic economy, reliable infrastructure, and competitive tax regime.

1st

UAE's global ranking in two labour market indices of the recently published IMD World Competitiveness Report. The country secured the top position worldwide in both employment and resolving industrial disputes, solidifying its reputation as a leading global hub in these fields.

1st

UAE's regional ranking and fifth globally in road quality, as per the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024. The country also led Arab nations and ranked 9th globally in port services efficiency, and 2nd regionally and 10th globally in public transport efficiency. These rankings position the UAE as a benchmark for road quality, public transport, and port services. .

BE IN THE LOOP

MOI ROLLS OUT 'FOR A SAFE SUMMER TOGETHER' SAFETY CAMPAIGN



The Ministry of Interior's (MoI) Child Protection Centre has launched the "For a Safe Summer Together" awareness campaign, highlighting essential safety and protection measures for children. Coinciding with the summer vacation and travel season, the campaign emphasises precautions to ensure children's well-being. Running until the end of August, it covers swimming safety, sun exposure, and vehicle safety.

MOI PARTICIPATES IN GLOBAL DRUG COALITION MEETING



The Ministry of Interior (MoI) participated in a virtual security meeting hosted by the Global Drug Coalition. Over 150 experts, representing more than 80 nations, convened to exchange insights. Brigadier Saeed Abdullah bin Tuer Al Suwaidi, Director General of the General Department of Narcotics Control at the MoI, highlighted the UAE's robust initiatives against synthetic drug crimes and ongoing global cooperation. These efforts include adopting innovative policies and best practices within an integrated international framework.

MOI'S 50-MEMBER DELEGATION COMPLETES HAJJ, RETURNS TO UAE



The Ministry of Interior's (MoI) Hajj delegation, comprising 50 pilgrims, returned to the UAE via Zayed International Airport after completing their pilgrimage. The delegation included members, employees, and retirees of various police general headquarters and MoI sectors. The delegation conveyed gratitude for the MoI leadership's dedication to their well-being, highlighting how such initiatives enhance quality of life and boost employee satisfaction.



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UAE NEWS BULLETIN

POLICE NEWS, PEOPLE, NUMBERS AND EVENTS

ABU DHABI



DHS120,000

Abu Dhabi Court for Family, Civil, and Administrative Cases ordered a woman to pay Dhs120,000 to her lawyer after she refused to settle fees despite a prior agreement. The lawyer had fulfilled all contractual obligations to represent her and her brothers in a lawsuit. The court also imposed an annual delay interest of 12 per cent.

AJMAN



DHS7 MILLION

Ajman Police have reunited 192 inmates with their families under the initiative "Relieve My Worries and Bring Happiness to My Family". The programme, supported by charitable organisations, helped pay off inmates' debts exceeding Dhs7 million, fostering familial bonds and providing financial relief to the inmates and their respective families.

DUBAI



98 GRAMMES

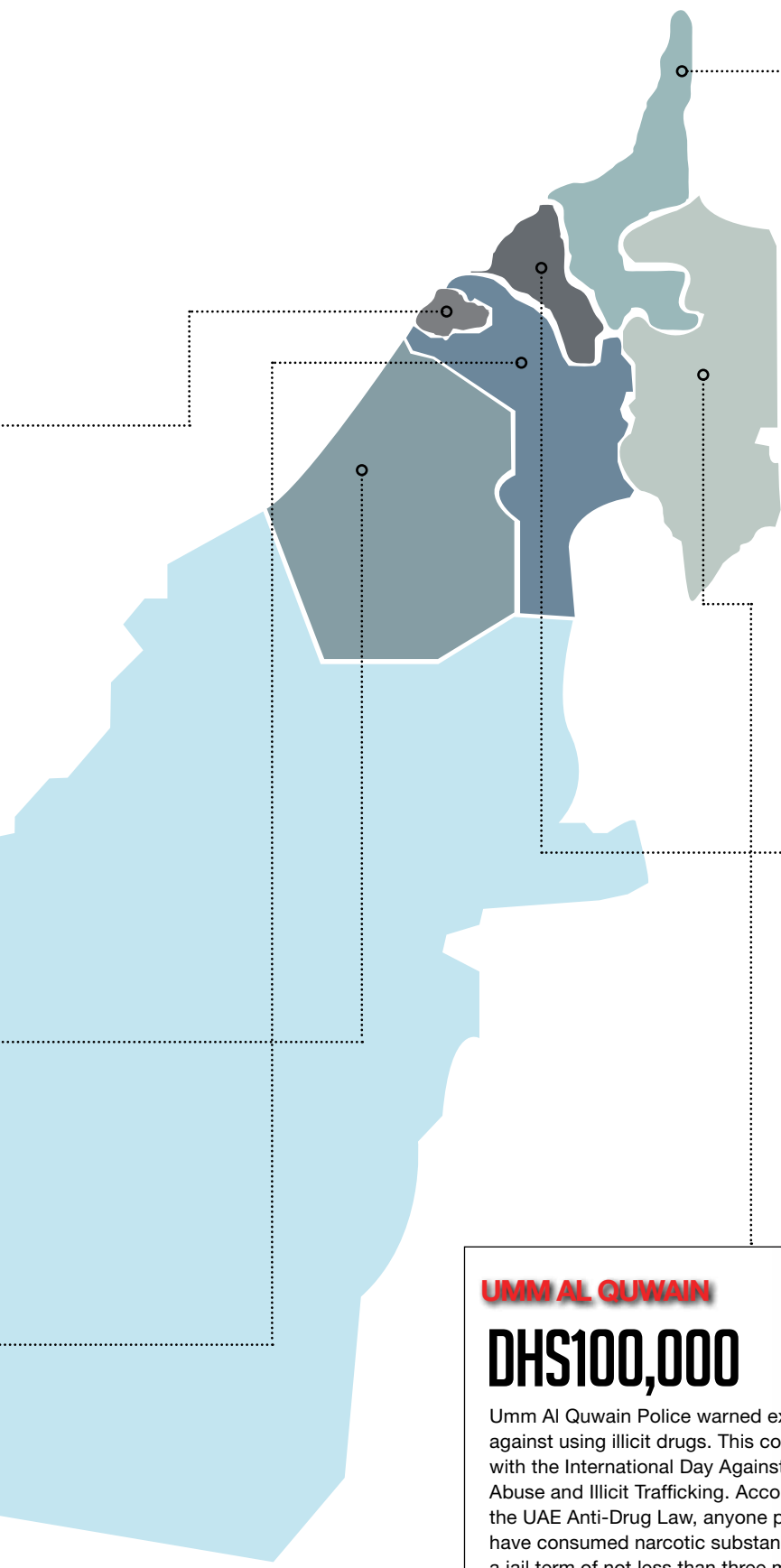
The Dubai Criminal Court sentenced an Asian man to three months' imprisonment for drug abuse and possession of 98g of heroin. The court also ordered his deportation after serving his jail term. The arrest happened in January 2023 following a tip-off from an informant.

RAS AL KHAIMAH



DHS200

Ras Al Khaimah Police have rolled out the traffic safety campaign "Beware! Your Life is More Important" to caution drivers against sudden lane changes and swerving. The campaign was aimed at reminding drivers about the dangers of abrupt lane switching and swerving, which both carry a Dhs200 fine. It may increase if the violation causes an accident, other offence, or damage.



FUJAIRAH

United Arab Emirates - الإمارات العربية المتحدة
Driving Licence - رخصة قيادة

1 DAY

Fujairah Police

Fujairah Police have launched a 'One-Day Test' for obtaining a driving licence to enhance service speed and efficiency. This initiative, spearheaded by the Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Department, aims to help high school graduate national service recruits quickly acquire a driving licence.

SHARJAH

DHS3 MILLION

Sharjah Police

Sharjah Police dismantled a gang involved in electronic financial crimes, recovering 173 counterfeit bank cards used for over Dhs3 million in ATM withdrawals. Moreover, 132 chequebooks, 21 smartphones, 18 expatriates' Emirates ID cards, and six forged company stamps were seized in the operation.

UMM AL QUWAIN

DHS100,000

Umm Al Quwain Police warned expats against using illicit drugs. This coincides with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. According to the UAE Anti-Drug Law, anyone proven to have consumed narcotic substances faces a jail term of not less than three months and/or a fine of up to Dhs100,000.

RED LIGHT RUNNERS

TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE CRUCIAL FOR ROAD SAFETY,
MANAGING TRAFFIC FLOW, AND MINIMISING COLLISION RISKS.
999 HIGHLIGHTS THE DANGERS OF JUMPING THE RED LIGHT AND
THE UAE'S PROACTIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT ALL ROAD USERS

BY ANURIMA RUHEL





Almost every intersection in the UAE is equipped with traffic light signals, contributing to the nation's No. 1 ranking in the MENA region and fifth globally for road quality, according to the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024.

However, just like anywhere else in the world, there exists drivers who have a blatant disregard for traffic rules—even just the simple rule of stopping at a red light signal. A recent video posted by Abu Dhabi Police in May 2024 highlighted how such utterly inconsiderate and irresponsible

behaviour could endanger the life and limb of other road users.

The video posted on Abu Dhabi Police's social media accounts informed users about the dangers of the jumping red light. The 49-second clip shared in May 2024 showed a sedan speeding through an intersection despite the red signal. As vehicles on the other side moved to turn left, the sedan crashed into a pickup truck. The impact was so strong that the pickup driver lost control, causing the vehicle to smash into a road barrier. In another instance, an SUV turned left with the red light on and got hit by a closed van at the intersection.

The caution being raised by Abu Dhabi Police through this video extends



Screenshot from Abu Dhabi Police footage in May 2024, showing an SUV getting hit by a closed van after jumping the red light

beyond drivers to include pedestrians, highlighting the broader implications of red-light violations. A tragic incident in Sharjah saw a 12-year-old boy lose his life in February 2024 when he was struck by a vehicle while crossing the street against a red pedestrian signal.

Major General Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, Commander-in-chief of Sharjah Police, stated, "The tragedy happened while the traffic light was green for vehicles and red for pedestrians." He added, "As the driver moved through the signal, the boy suddenly emerged from the left side, resulting in the fatal accident."

Jumping the red light is one of the worst offences one can commit on the roads, as it can take other motorists or pedestrians completely by surprise and kill them in a collision. Traffic police campaigns consistently stress the fatal consequences of this violation; nevertheless, hundreds of such incidents occur daily.

In Dubai, road accidents, mostly involving traffic signal violations, claimed the lives of 8 people and injured 339 in run-over accidents in 2023. In the first seven months of 2023, Dubai Police reported two fatalities due to red light violations, with 51 accidents and 73 injuries.

In Dubai, road accidents, mostly involving traffic signal violations, claimed the lives of 8 people and injured 339 in run-over accidents in 2023

Be careful at RED LIGHT

Dos ✓	Don'ts ✗
Anticipate signal changes. Be aware of potential light changes when approaching traffic signals.	Do not speed up at amber signals. Avoid accelerating to beat the red light.
Safe stopping at amber lights. Stop safely before the signal turns red when you see an amber or yellow signal.	Drive with anticipation. Plan for potential signal changes as you approach intersections.
Watch for sudden braking. Be mindful of vehicles in front of you that might brake suddenly to avoid running a red light.	Monitor traffic and signals. In dense traffic, keep an eye on both the traffic and the signals.
Full attention is required. Signal areas are 'hot spots' requiring full concentration. Avoid distractions while driving.	Pedestrians, beware. Pedestrians must also avoid crossing during red signals at pedestrian crossings.

“This represents the human cost of reckless driving behaviour. Some drivers speed up as the traffic signal turns red, which results in serious accidents



MAJOR GENERAL SAIF MUHAIR AL MAZROUEI

Director of the General Directorate of Traffic at Dubai Police

Major General Saif Muhair Al Mazrouei, Director of the General Directorate of Traffic at Dubai Police, said, “This represents the human cost of reckless driving behaviour. Some drivers speed up as the traffic signal turns red, which results in serious accidents.”

Earlier figures suggest that there were 23 deaths, 348 traffic accidents and 211 injuries caused by jumping red lights in the emirate between 2019 and 2022. An average of 90 drivers a day were caught jumping red lights in 2022, according to Dubai Police.

REASONS FOR VIOLATIONS

The reasons behind traffic signal violations in the UAE are varied but often linked to distracted driving. A significant factor is the use of mobile phones, which leads to inattentiveness at traffic signals.

The latest data from the Ministry of Interior, released in May 2024, highlighted that distracted driving is the most common cause of traffic violations in the UAE, followed by sudden deviation, tailgating, negligence, and lack of lane discipline. These violations accounted for 71 per cent of fatalities and 61 per cent of injuries in accidents on UAE roads in 2023.

“Majority of red-light jumping violations is linked to distracted behaviour of motorists. The attention of motorists must be centred on what’s happening around them. A red light simply cannot



“The latest data from the Ministry of Interior, released in May 2024, highlighted that distracted driving is the most common cause of traffic violations in the UAE, followed by sudden deviation, tailgating, negligence, and lack of lane discipline

be overlooked as a result of distraction,” Thomas Edelmann, Founder and Managing Director of RoadSafetyUAE, said in a media interview.

A recent survey conducted by RoadSafetyUAE and Al Wathba Insurance highlighted mobile phone use as a major cause of distraction. The survey emphasised

the importance of turning off or silencing mobile phones behind the wheel to increase concentration. Despite awareness of the dangers, many drivers admit to driving while distracted.

The survey, which included 1,001 participants in January 2024, revealed that while 9 out of 10 drivers recognise





STIFF PENALTIES

Penalties for jumping the red light in the UAE vary by emirate but are generally severe to deter this dangerous behaviour. In Abu Dhabi, for example, violators can be fined up to Dh50,000. According to Law No 5 of 2020 regarding vehicle impoundment, offenders will initially be fined Dh1,000 and receive 12 black traffic points. But that's not all. Their driving licence will also be suspended for six months, and their vehicles will be impounded for 30 days. Impounded vehicles must be claimed with a release fee of Dh50,000 within three months. Otherwise, they will be auctioned off.

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) also imposes stiff penalties. Offenders face the same penalties as in Abu Dhabi, but they will receive 23 black traffic points on their licence. The same penalties apply to motorbike riders.

Jumping the red light in Sharjah results in a fine of Dh1,000 and 12 black traffic points on the driver's licence. The vehicle will be confiscated for 15 days. In Ras Al Khaimah, this violation carries a fine of Dh1,000, 12 black traffic points, and a 30-day vehicle impoundment. Motorists must pay a fine of Dh3,000 to release the impounded vehicle from the transport authority. In Ajman, a red light violation can also lead to licence suspension or revocation if 24 black points are accumulated within a year due to its severity.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

To reduce red light running, the UAE's police forces regularly carry out awareness campaigns aimed at educating drivers about the dangers and penalties associated with traffic signal violations. Various media platforms, including social media, billboards, and partnerships with local organisations, are utilised to educate drivers about the new regulations and the importance of adhering to traffic signal norms.

During one such campaign, Brigadier Ahmed Alsam Al Naqbi, Director of the Central Operations Department at Ras Al Khaimah Police and Head of the Traffic Awareness Team at the Federal Traffic Council at MoI, told the media that jumping the red light is an "irresponsible act" and reckless drivers who commit this violation are endangering not only their lives but also those of others. Al Naqbi said, "With this traffic violation, the chances of colliding with vehicles coming

In Abu Dhabi, violators can be fined up to Dh50,000. According to Law No 5 of 2020 regarding vehicle impoundment, offenders will initially be fined Dh1,000 and receive 12 black traffic points

the dangers of distracted driving, only 81 per cent claimed to always concentrate fully on the road.

Drivers often speed to beat the red light, believing they can save time. This risky behaviour frequently results in severe accidents at intersections. Some motorists exhibit negligent behaviour, too, such as not paying attention to

changing traffic lights or misjudging the time they have to cross before the light turns red.

Impatience and aggressive driving habits, including sudden lane changes and overtaking, also contribute to running red lights. Such behaviours not only endanger the violating driver but also other road users.



“ Vehicles coming from other directions are not expecting any obstruction and may not have sufficient time to react or adjust their speed



**BRIGADIER AHMED
ALSAM AL NAQBI**

Director of the Central Operations Department at Ras Al Khaimah Police and Head of the Traffic Awareness Team at the Federal Traffic Council at MoI

from other directions are almost certain. Vehicles coming from other directions are not expecting any obstruction and may not have sufficient time to react or adjust their speed.”

The UAE’s police forces regularly post footage of car crashes at traffic signals on their social media channels. They also distribute printed material to raise awareness. During a campaign to educate motorists last year, Dubai Police warned motorists not to enter yellow box junctions unless the road on the other side is clear. A motorist must ensure they can cross the junction after the traffic signal turns green. If they think they can’t make it, they must wait until the other side is clear. Those who violate the rule or are caught by the police patrol face a hefty fine.

Motivating motorists to follow traffic rules is another effective way to reduce accidents and traffic violations on the road. In June 2024, some 22 drivers from Dubai Police departments who had caused no accidents or traffic offences in the past three years were honoured as ‘Safe Driving Stars’ at a ceremony in Dubai.



Motorists and pedestrians alike must remember that every second saved by running a red light is not worth the potential cost of a life

RED MEANS STOP

Avoiding red light violations is not just a matter of following the law; it is about preserving human life and maintaining public safety. When drivers adhere to traffic signals, they reduce the likelihood of collisions, thereby protecting themselves, other motorists, and pedestrians.

Each instance of compliance contributes to a safer road environment, where the chances of sudden, fatal accidents are significantly diminished.

Motorists and pedestrians alike must remember that every second saved by running a red light is not worth the potential cost of a life.



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TEENS INHALE DANGER

A GLOBAL INCREASE IN E-CIGARETTE USE AMONGST
ADOLESCENTS PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE UAE'S PROACTIVE
MEASURES TO CURB VAPING AMONGST MINORS

BY KHRISNA KAPUR



Vaping, being branded as a safer smoking alternative, is now a popular but perilous trend amongst the youth. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that 37 million children aged 13-15 use tobacco globally, with adolescent e-cigarette use surpassing that of adults in many regions.

What began as a promising tool to aid smoking cessation has morphed into a dangerous fashion, turning teens into vaping addicts worldwide.

The UAE is not immune to this trend. Experts report that children as young as 14 are presenting in emergency rooms with chronic cough, chest pain, and breathlessness due to e-cigarette use. Many teenagers start vaping to cope with family problems, peer pressure, or simply because it seems fashionable or grown-up.

A study by Dubai's Maudsley Health, Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital, and Liverpool John Moores University, published in June 2022 in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, found that one in four UAE students has used e-cigarettes. This poses a significant challenge as the UAE strives for healthcare excellence while raising awareness of vaping's health risks.

E-cigarette companies, according to WHO, aggressively market to young people with flavours like candy and fruit. Research in the United States indicates that over 70 per cent of youth e-cigarette users would quit if only tobacco-flavoured products were available.

"History is repeating, as the tobacco industry tries to sell the same nicotine to our children in different packaging," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "These industries are actively targeting schools, children, and young people with new products that are essentially a candy-flavoured trap. How can they talk about harm reduction when they are marketing these dangerous, highly addictive products to children?"

Dr Ruediger Krech, WHO Director of Health Promotion, added, "These industries are intentionally designing products and using marketing strategies that appeal directly to children. Child-friendly flavours like cotton candy and bubblegum, along with sleek designs resembling toys, are blatant attempts to addict young people."

“ These industries are actively targeting schools, children, and young people with new products that are essentially a candy-flavoured trap. How can they talk about harm reduction when they are marketing these dangerous, highly addictive products to children? ”



DR TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS

WHO Director-General

“ These industries are intentionally designing products and using marketing strategies that appeal directly to children. Child-friendly flavours like cotton candy and bubblegum are blatant attempts to addict young people ”



DR RUEDIGER KRECH

WHO Director of Health Promotion



PARENTS BEHIND A SMOKESCREEN

Government authorities, parents, and educationists have been teaching children and teenagers to stay away from smoking and illegal substances. Yet, when it comes to vaping, even the most vigilant parents can be caught off guard. Then comes the day when a mother stumbles upon vapes in her daughter's room; or a parent, rifling through a school bag, unearths an e-cigarette; or a student, handed a vape in a school toilet by a senior, realises her younger brother has already fallen prey to the habit.

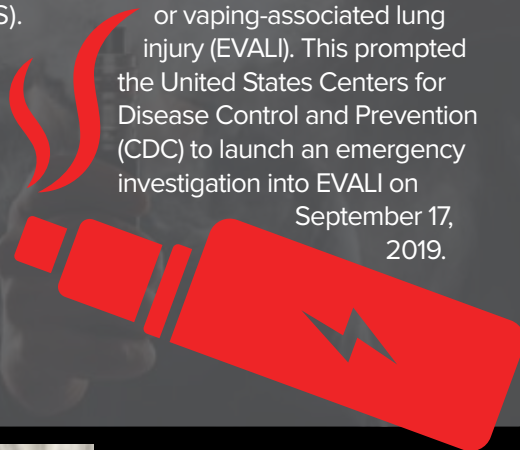
Dr Emadeldin Ibrahim, consultant pulmonologist at Medcare Hospital Sharjah, recounted to *Khaleej Times* how a boy he treated began smoking at 14 to manage school stress. When the boy arrived at the hospital, he was wheezing incessantly, "exhibiting many of the classic signs and symptoms of recurrent bronchitis and asthma".

What is vaping?

The World Health Organization (WHO) explains vaping involves various electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENNDS). "These so-called e-liquids may or may not contain nicotine (but not tobacco) but also typically contain additives, flavours and chemicals that can be toxic to people's health," said WHO.

WHO notes increasing

evidence linking ENDS to lung injuries. Recently, vaping has been associated with an outbreak of lung injury in the United States, termed e-cigarette or vaping-associated lung injury (EVALI). This prompted the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to launch an emergency investigation into EVALI on September 17, 2019.



"I asked him about e-cigarettes because there was no family history of asthma and the lab and radiography findings were normal. He admitted to smoking them," Dr Emadeldin said. According to the report, the doctor helped the boy quit smoking, though his asthma would require at least three months of medication.

In a similar incident reported in February, a 17-year-old high school student in Dubai experienced breathlessness and chest discomfort during physical activities at school. Concerned, Nada's (name withheld) expatriate parents in the UAE took her to a doctor. During the consultation, she revealed she had been a regular vaper for two years, initially deeming it harmless and a way to fit in with her peers.

A GROWING CONCERN

Medical counselling experts warn that vaping is gaining prominence amongst students in the UAE, posing significant health risks. Teachers report students huddling in bathroom stalls to sneak a puff, highlighting a disturbing new trend.

This surge is fuelled by easy accessibility, enticing flavours, and misconceptions about vaping being less harmful than conventional cigarettes.

A study by researchers in the UAE, published in the *National Library of Medicine*, highlights that nicotine vaping has become widespread amongst

Most of the participants (80.9%) believed that e-cigarettes are less harmful than tobacco cigarettes while 71.9% of participants reported that they use e-cigarettes to help them quit smoking tobacco cigarettes. Moreover, other reasons for using e-cigarettes were to try new types of smoking and flavours out of curiosity (47.2%), or as a modern trend/for socialising (38.3%)

—UAE-based study conducted in 2020



students, with many citing the enjoyment of flavours and the vapourising experience. Others mistakenly view it as a smoking cessation tool.

The study, titled “The Era of E-Cigarettes: A Cross-Sectional Study of Vaping Preferences, Reasons for Use, and Withdrawal Symptoms Amongst

Current E-Cigarette Users in the United Arab Emirates”, reveals that most current users began vaping in their teens, between 16 and 20 years old, and reported daily use.

The findings state: “Most of the participants (80.9%) believed that e-cigarettes are less harmful than

tobacco cigarettes while 71.9% of participants reported that they use e-cigarettes to help them quit smoking tobacco cigarettes. Moreover, other reasons for using e-cigarettes were to try new types of smoking and flavours out of curiosity (47.2%), or as a modern trend/for socialising (38.3%).”

Clues your child might be vaping

Subtle smell

Vaping doesn’t produce a strong odour, but there’s a discreet smell from the flavoured “juices” (vape liquids) around a user.

Vape pen

The presence of a vape pen is the clearest indication. A vape pen might resemble a cigarette or pipe but can also look like a USB drive or small pod.

Behavioural changes

Look out for increased thirst levels, nosebleeds, loss of taste, and distraction.

Vaper’s tongue

This condition involves a loss of taste and is something almost every user experiences at some point. Has your son or daughter started adding more salt, pepper, and spices to their food?

Vaping lingo

When a young person talks to friends, do they use terms you haven’t heard before, such as “dab pen” or “ghost”? These are part of vaping jargon.





“All forms of nicotine use have health risks, from vaping liquid nicotine and chewing tobacco to smoking cigarettes and shisha – even occasionally or without inhaling



DR HUMBERTO K. CHOI

Pulmonologist at Cleveland Clinic, Ohio

HEALTH RISKS

This trend is especially worrying because the developing bodies and brains of young people are particularly vulnerable to nicotine addiction and other harmful effects of vaping. An expert from

Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, United States recently emphasised that there is no safe form of tobacco use. “All forms of nicotine use have health risks, from vaping liquid nicotine and chewing tobacco to smoking cigarettes and shisha – even occasionally or without inhaling,” pulmonologist Dr Humberto K Choi said.

Vaping can cause respiratory problems such as coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath. Some studies have linked vaping to more severe respiratory conditions like bronchitis and asthma exacerbation. Additionally, nicotine increases heart rate and blood pressure, putting undue stress on the cardiovascular system, even in young, otherwise healthy individuals.

The long-term health effects of vaping are still being studied, but early research and anecdotal evidence suggest several potential risks. Inhaling various chemicals in e-cigarette vapour can cause long-term lung damage, with conditions such as “popcorn lung,” a type of bronchiolitis, being associated with vaping.

Long-term nicotine use can lead to

Break the vaping habit

Quitline Services

The UAE also offers telephone-based support through the Quitline. Individuals can call the Quitline at toll-free number **800-123-QUIT (7848)** to receive information, advice, and counselling tailored to their needs. This service is available across the UAE and provides confidential support for quitting vaping and smoking.

National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC)

Located in Abu Dhabi, the NRC provides extensive support for addiction treatment, including services for vaping cessation. They offer medical detoxification, residential treatment, and outpatient programmes. For more information, visit <https://nrc.gov.ae>.

Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre

The centre operates several smoking cessation clinics across the emirate, offering free services to help individuals quit smoking and vaping. Clinics provide assessments, personalised treatment plans, and follow-up visits. Key locations include Al Dhafra Family Medicine Centre and Al Jahli Healthcare Centre in Al Ain. For appointments, call Al Dhafra Family Medicine Centre at **02 807 0000**.

Dubai Health Authority (DHA) Smoking Cessation Clinics

DHA runs smoking cessation clinics that also address vaping addiction. These clinics offer counselling by family physicians and specialised nurses, treatment plans, and follow-up visits. Key locations include Al Ittihad Health Centre and Al Muhaisnah Health Centre. For more information, visit <https://dha.gov.ae>.





cardiovascular diseases, including heart attacks and strokes, as the stimulant effect of nicotine causes lasting harm to the heart and blood vessels. Nicotine addiction can also have long-term mental health effects, including anxiety, depression, and cognitive impairments. Adolescents are particularly at risk as their brains are still developing.

“Vaping is particularly challenging as we do not yet know the full implications for health, even though it has already been linked to acute lung inflammation, strong levels of addiction, and dental problems, amongst others. We know that many of the same mechanisms that cause lung issues in smoking are involved,” Dr Choi added.

MODERN INFLUENCES

The normalisation of vaping amongst young people can be attributed to several modern influences, including social media, peer pressure, and targeted marketing by the vaping industry.

Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat are flooded with images and videos of young people vaping. These posts often glamourise the act, presenting it as a trendy and socially acceptable behaviour. The viral nature of social media means that such content can reach

“ The UAE’s Federal Law No. 15 of 2009 lays down the law when it comes to tobacco and vaping, aiming to protect the population, especially minors

millions of young users almost instantly, further normalising the habit.

As more young people begin to vape, peer pressure plays a significant role in encouraging others to start. The desire to fit in and be seen as “cool” can lead to experimentation with vaping amongst teenagers.

The design and marketing of e-cigarettes also play a significant role in their appeal to young people. Many vaping products are designed to look like everyday items such as pens, lipsticks, and even watches, making them easy to conceal from parents and teachers.

The sleek, high-tech designs and

flavours resembling candy or desserts make these products particularly attractive to young users. Some vaping liquids contain very high levels of nicotine, making them highly addictive.

“Vapes are often more tolerated in public spaces, with more opportunities for a quick puff. The result is that individual consumption may be higher than is the case with cigarettes,” Dr Choi of Cleveland Clinic told the media.

PROACTIVE POLICIES

The UAE’s Federal Law No. 15 of 2009 lays down the law when it comes to tobacco and vaping, aiming to protect the population, especially minors, from their harmful effects.

Key provisions include the prohibition of selling cigarettes and vaping products to individuals under the age of 18. This law is rigorously enforced to keep these hazardous items out of young hands.

Smoking is banned in enclosed public spaces and near children under 12 or in private vehicles. The government has drawn a hard line on smoking in places of worship, schools, universities, healthcare facilities, and sports venues.

Since 2019, the sale of e-cigarettes has been legal in the UAE, but as explained

by MoHAP, vaping is still strongly discouraged and banned in most spaces. The Emirates Authority for Standardisation and Metrology (Esma) made the sale of e-cigarettes legal that year to control the spread of unregulated devices and safeguard the youth.

When it comes to sales, e-cigarettes face the same restrictions as cigarettes — they can't be sold to buyers under 18 years of age. Anyone selling vaping products to under-18s gets a fine between Dhs500 and Dhs10,000. A seller has the right to ask the buyer to show proof that they're 18 or older.

Health authorities in the UAE have been regularly warning against the promotion of electronic smoking products as safer alternatives to traditional cigarettes. "There is no scientific evidence to support these claims," said the UAE's Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) in its latest circular.

However, there have been concerns about vapes being widely available and being sold to underage students by unscrupulous individuals. In a statement issued to mark World No-Tobacco Day on May 31, the UAE's MoHAP urged smokers to quit, warning against serious health risks like cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and mental health issues.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The UAE is ramping up preventive measures, building on existing regulations to snuff out vaping amongst minors. However, it's not just up to the government; individuals and organisations must step up too.

Schools and public health organisations should join forces to launch comprehensive campaigns that speak directly to young people. These campaigns need to use relatable language and engaging formats to capture their attention and effectively communicate the dangers of vaping.

Dr Syed Khurram Mushtaq Gardezi, a consultant cardiologist at Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City, emphasised the need for awareness: "We have to raise awareness regarding the harmful effects of smoking... This can be achieved by arranging smoking cessation awareness sessions in the secondary schools, colleges and universities across the emirates as well as by making full use of social media and electronic media, running active smoking cessation campaigns —

“ We have to raise awareness regarding the harmful effects of smoking. This can be achieved by arranging smoking cessation awareness sessions in the secondary schools, colleges and universities across the emirates



**DR SYED KHURRAM
MUSHTAQ GARDEZI**

Consultant cardiologist at
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City

such as biking/hiking/marathon events with the active involvement of the youth.”

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IS KEY

Parents and guardians alike need to recognise the signs of vaping and have open, non-judgmental conversations with their children about its risks. By providing parents with resources and support, they can better guide their children away from this harmful habit. Informed and involved parents play a crucial role in prevention.

Support services are vital for young people already addicted to nicotine. Counselling and quitlines should be easily accessible and designed to appeal to younger users, ensuring they receive the support needed to quit vaping.

The UAE's proactive stance against vaping reflects a global effort to tackle this issue. Health authorities, including MoHAP, have been vocal about the dangers of vaping, emphasising that there is no scientific evidence supporting the claim that e-cigarettes are safer than traditional cigarettes. They continue to highlight the health risks associated with vaping, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and mental health issues.

“ When it comes to sales, e-cigarettes face the same restrictions as cigarettes—they can't be sold to buyers under 18 years of age. Anyone selling vaping products to under-18s gets a fine between Dhs500 and Dhs10,000





The perils of vaping



Addiction: Many vape pens deliver nicotine-laced smoke into the users' lungs. Nicotine, even in small doses, can be as addictive as cocaine or heroin. Vaping can pave

the way for users to try other substances, such as cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs. Experts warn that even casual vaping can lead to addiction. In the UAE, doctors have repeatedly told the media that e-cigarettes could result in a new generation of smokers.



Depression: A 2019 study published in *JAMA Network*, titled 'Association Between e-Cigarette Use and Depression in the

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016-2017,' found that e-cigarette users had higher odds of reporting a history of clinical depression compared to those who never used e-cigarettes. Increased frequency of e-cigarette use was linked to higher odds of reporting depression.



Other mental health issues:

Nicotine can cause mood swings and anxiety disorders. Adolescents are especially at risk as nicotine affects memory and concentration. Some teens reported improved focus after their first vaping experiences but gradually found they could barely sit still in class or think clearly.



Risks to the heart: Preliminary studies indicate that chemicals in vapes increase the risk of heart disease. Vaping can destroy cells and tissues, raise heart rate and blood pressure, stiffen arteries, and make users more vulnerable to heart attack and stroke.



Damage to the lungs: The risks of sending nicotine to the lungs are well-documented. Vaping can worsen existing lung conditions, such as asthma and lung cancer. Teenagers who were active before becoming addicted to vaping have reported shortness of breath, chest pain, and nausea.

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THE HIGH PRICE OF CHEAP RIDES

ILLEGAL TAXIS OFFER CHEAPER FARES BUT LACK SAFETY REGULATIONS AND OVERSIGHT, POSING SEVERE RISKS THAT CAN LEAD TO TRAGIC OUTCOMES, AS DEMONSTRATED BY A RECENT FATAL INCIDENT IN SHARJAH

BY RICO MERCED

The shadowy operations of illegal taxis capitalise on the economic vulnerabilities of those who can't afford licensed fares.

Operating without regulatory oversight, these unlicensed taxis offer rides at significantly lower prices, enticing a broad swath of the community, from cash-strapped commuters to budget-conscious parents.

While the initial cost savings are appealing, the hidden risks are steep. These illicit operators often bypass safety regulations, insurance requirements, and driver vetting processes.

The lure of saving a few dirhams can quickly become hazardous, or even deadly, as illustrated by a headline-making incident in Sharjah last May. In that tragic incident, a seven-year-old boy lost his life after being left unattended in a locked vehicle for several hours. The boy was under the supervision of a female driver hired by his parents for transportation to and from school.

The driver, who lacked the necessary licence for transporting school children, failed to notice that the boy was still in the vehicle when she left with her husband. Several hours later, she returned to find the lifeless body of the boy inside her vehicle.

INTENSIFIED CLAMPDOWN

Following the incident in Sharjah, authorities have intensified warnings about the dangers of using unlicensed drivers for children's school commutes. Sharjah Police emphasised that such drivers often lack knowledge of essential safety procedures. The police force stated, "This practice poses serious risks



Dubai's intensified crackdown on illegal taxis led to the impoundment of 225 cars and the issuance of hundreds of fines



Penalty for illegal car lifts

Under the UAE traffic law, the offence of illegally transporting passengers carries a penalty of **Dhs3,000** and **24 black points** on the driver's traffic file, as well as confiscation of the vehicle for **30 days**.



“ RTA, in collaboration with Dubai Police, launched an operation against unlicensed passenger transport operators across the emirate to curb ‘passenger smuggling’



SAEED AL BALOOSHI

Director of Passenger Transport Activities Monitoring at Dubai RTA's Public Transport Agency

PASSENGER SMUGGLING

Saeed Al Balooshi, Director of Passenger Transport Activities Monitoring at the RTA's Public Transport Agency, highlighted the concerted efforts to enhance passenger safety in Dubai.

He stated, “RTA, in collaboration with Dubai Police, launched an operation against unlicensed passenger transport operators across the emirate to curb ‘passenger smuggling’. The campaign is part of our plan to ensure passenger safety and discourage illegal transport operators.”

Al Balooshi also urged the public to steer clear of such illegal services, citing safety concerns. He added that RTA teams conduct regular inspections across Dubai to curb these activities and ensure the safety of both residents and tourists alike. This initiative reflects a robust commitment to safeguarding the community from the risks associated with unauthorised transport services.

HOTSPOTS OF VIOLATION

According to Al Balooshi, illegal transport activities are particularly observed at airports. “The most common areas for illegal transport are airports, where unlicensed operators target incoming passengers with much lower fares,” he explained.

During recent inspections, authorities impounded 90 vehicles at Dubai Airports’ terminals 1, 2, and 3, and another 49 around the Jebel Ali area, a hotspot for unauthorised taxi operators who offer



to children’s safety, as these drivers may not be aware of the safety procedures mandated by authorities.”

Meanwhile, in Dubai, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in cooperation with Dubai Police, Airport Security, and Emirate’s Parking, has ramped up its crackdown on illegal passenger transport. Recently, this campaign led to the impounding of 225 private cars and the issuance of hundreds of fines.

Unauthorised transport activities in Dubai, including carrying passengers or goods, can attract fines of up to Dhs50,000 for corporate violators and Dhs30,000 for individuals.

cheaper rides to low-income workers.

“Jebel Ali was selected as a residential and commercial area where transportation is active due to workers’ movement between homes and workplaces. Coordinating with Dubai Police made the law enforcement easier and strengthened the governance over the outlawed passenger transport services,” noted Al Balooshi.

Illegal cabbies are also known to frequent areas near bus stations, where they approach passengers alighting from buses, targeting especially those who appear to be in a hurry. This practice extends to urban rush hours, where commuters often face delays.

SHARED RIDES, SHARED RISKS

Carpool scammers are exploiting crowdsourced information platforms, where commuters seek or offer rides. These deceitful individuals pose as service providers, accept payment from their targets, and then fail to deliver the promised rides.

One user recounted their experience in a Facebook group, saying, “The driver will take the initial payment and never show up again. Be extra careful.”

Illegal cabbies are also known to frequent areas near bus stations, where they approach passengers alighting from buses, targeting especially those who appear to be in a hurry

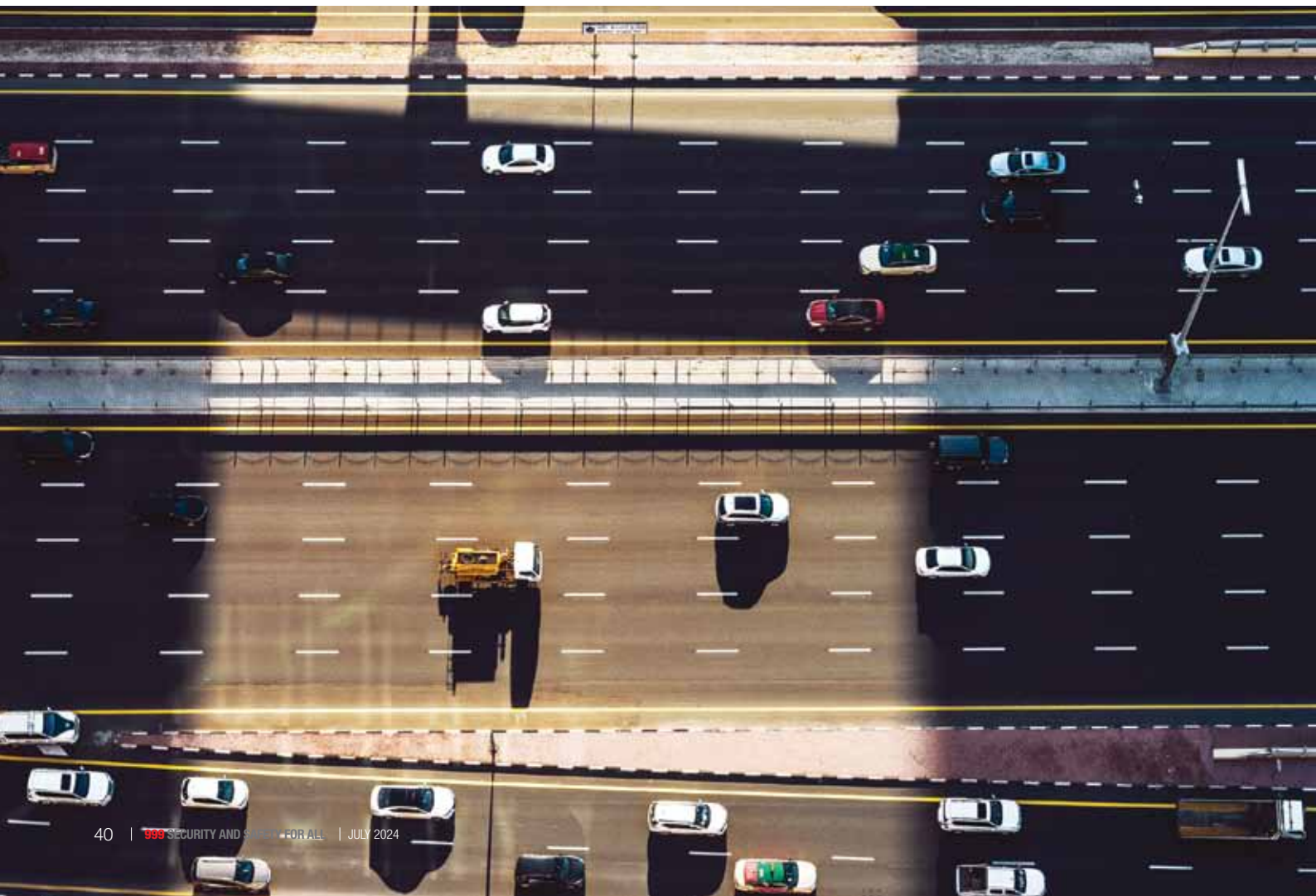
While carpooling is seen in some countries as a budget-friendly solution to traffic congestion, UAE authorities enforce strict regulations against paid carpooling. Informal carpooling amongst friends or colleagues who share the cost of fuel or take turns driving is permitted, but any profit-making is prohibited. Ride-sharing apps like Uber and Careem operate under regulations requiring proper licensing from the authorities.

In Abu Dhabi, the penalties for engaging in paid carpooling carry a fine of Dhs3,000, 24 black traffic points, and vehicle confiscation for up to 30 days. These measures aim to deter individuals from offering unauthorised carpooling services and ensure that all transportation services are safe and regulated.

VULNERABILITY WITHOUT RECOURSE

Al Balooshi has strongly advised the public against using illegal transport services due to their lack of safety, proper insurance, and accountability. He highlighted that these unlicensed transportation modes leave passengers vulnerable and without recourse in the event of accidents or misconduct. By choosing licensed transportation, passengers ensure that drivers are qualified, vehicles meet safety standards, and they are adequately protected.

The proliferation of illegal taxis not only undermines the legal taxi industry, causing economic losses and job insecurity for licensed drivers but also fosters a culture of disregarding laws and regulations. This behaviour can have detrimental long-term





“Parents must realise that safety is above money. Parents must do the needed due diligence before they entrust their children to a transport provider



THOMAS EDELMANN
Founder of RoadSafetyUAE

effects on the community, perpetuating a cycle of unregulated and unsafe transportation options that compromise public safety.

Opting for RTA-regulated services offers benefits such as using the Nol card for cashless payments, and enhancing convenience and security. Moreover, licensed services provide structured procedures for retrieving lost items, ensuring passengers can recover misplaced belongings—a service typically absent in illegal operations.

Furthermore, licensed transportation guarantees travel with skilled, professionally trained drivers who meet RTA standards, ensuring a safer travel experience. In contrast, passengers using unauthorised services often face drawbacks like cash-only payments, potential unprofessionalism from drivers, and a lack of formal channels to address complaints or issues, further highlighting the risks involved.

PARENTS, BEWARE

Sharjah Police are actively encouraging parents to opt for designated school buses for their children's commute or to personally drive them to school. The police force said, “The General Command urges parents to use designated school buses equipped with all safety and security measures, which are subject to ongoing monitoring by relevant authorities, or to personally transport their children to school, as they would be more attentive to ensuring their children's safety.”

Educators and road safety experts also stress the importance of prioritising children's safety above cost considerations. Authorised school buses not only employ well-trained drivers who perform thorough checks of the bus

before locking and leaving it, but these checks also include walking through the bus to ensure all students have alighted and looking for any items or students who may have fallen asleep or are hiding.

Additionally, these buses are equipped with CCTV cameras, offering an extra layer of security for the students on board. The training protocols set by the RTA are meticulously followed, and all records are subject to thorough scrutiny, ensuring a high standard of safety for student transport.

SAFETY ABOVE MONEY

Thomas Edelmann, Founder of RoadSafetyUAE, has cautioned parents regarding the safety of their children during school commutes.

“Parents must realise that safety is above money. They know whom they contract to transport their children to and from school. The well-being of their

loved ones must be the number one priority. Parents must do the needed due diligence before they entrust their children to a transport provider,” Edelmann stated.

He also urged schools to ensure communication with parents about the necessity of using only licensed transport operators and suggested that schools monitor for illegal taxi services.

“For schools, it might be difficult to spot unlicensed operators, but certainly, spot checks should be conducted,” Edelmann advised.

Unlike licensed taxi operators, illegal services usually do not meet the required standards of public transport in terms of ensuring passengers' health and safety. These unregulated services are not monitored and are difficult to trace should any incidents occur while a passenger is in the vehicle.

Licensed transportation guarantees travel with skilled, professionally trained drivers who meet RTA standards, ensuring a safer travel experience





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

FROM 'MAN BITES DOG' ERA TO NAIL-BITING TRENDS

In a world flooded with information, the unusual and the unexpected draw the public's eye and spark public discourse in ways that everyday events cannot

Those who studied journalism in traditional media schools are familiar with the famous adage: "A dog biting a man is not news, but a man biting a dog is." This highlights that news is about what is odd or different; what is normal is not newsworthy.

I do not intend to diminish this rule or its adherents, nor do I disagree with it, as I learned and applied it during my days in the academe and professional practice. Journalists have relied on this principle for many years, and many still do, despite the evolution of media and the rise of digital communication channels. This rule remains relevant in many news scenarios because it reinforces the idea that people seek the extraordinary and are intrigued by unusual events. Ordinary occurrences do not typically stimulate curiosity or capture attention.

For journalists, the greatest concern remains applying the rules learned during their studies in media colleges, the lessons acquired throughout their media careers, and the insights gained from predecessors. Many news stories we encounter daily—whether in newspapers, on television screens, on the radio, or through social media—prompt us to apply the journalistic principles we were taught. Often, these principles hold true, but sometimes they do not, leading us to question: Is the fault in the theory, or in its application and those who apply it?

Many believe that the nature of events is not always governed by logic alone, and that other factors, such as prevailing social moods or individual perspectives, play a significant role. These factors can influence the way events are perceived and how attention is directed. For example, despite the increasing fatalities from wars, natural disasters, and recurring accidents worldwide, these events often do not receive the same level of interest as the murder of a "blogger" in one of the Arab countries.

This news has become the talk of the town for days, with media and communication channels covering it extensively, following up on it, and seeking updates. They even reference predictors who claimed the incident would occur months before it happened. Meanwhile, thousands of people are killed every day in various parts of the world, and such news often passes unnoticed.

This is not to belittle the life of the murdered "blogger" or to

diminish its significance. As our Islamic religion teaches us, and as agreed upon by all divine religions, "Whoever kills a soul is as if he has slain all of humanity."

The attention given to certain stories over others underscores the intricate relationship between media coverage and public interest and how factors beyond pure logic can shape what becomes newsworthy. Moreover, the way we react to news stories reveals much about societal values and priorities. The disproportionate attention given to certain incidents over others demonstrates the media's power in shaping public perception and discourse.

A picture such as the iconic image of the Vietnamese girl Kim Phuc, captured by Associated Press photographer Nick Ut in 1972, showing her running naked and burned on a street, fleeing the horrors of a napalm bombing in Vietnam, is considered worth more than a thousand articles. This single photograph managed to shake the world and stir human conscience, becoming a powerful symbol of opposition against the Vietnam War, which lasted for 20 years.

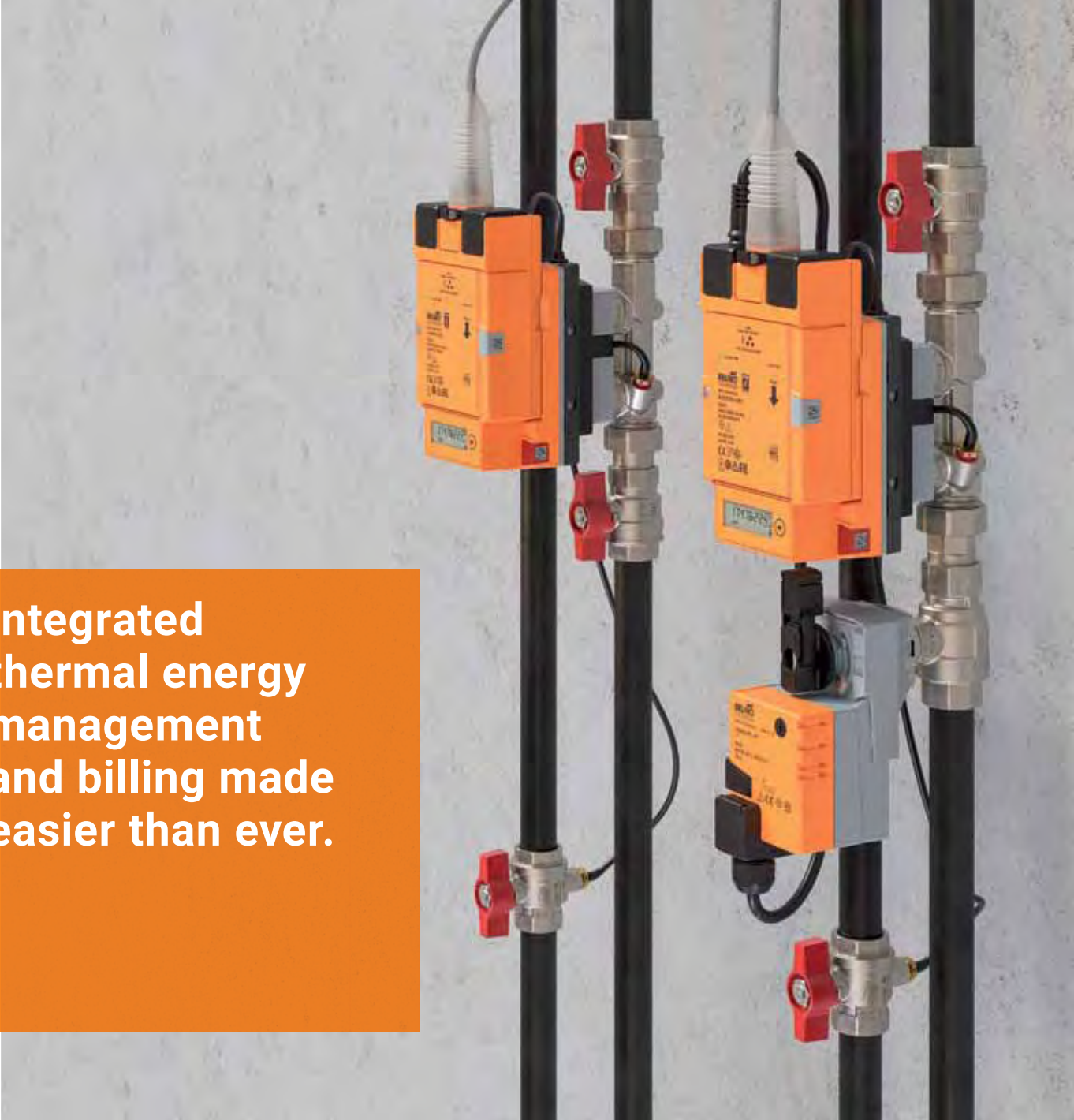
Within the United States, the war faced strong opposition, manifesting in street protests and efforts to influence

American political opinion. Estimates suggest that nearly a third of the American population opposed the war. This opposition grew with the spread of such moving images, ultimately contributing to the war's end with the fall of Saigon in April 1975 and the evacuation of American troops from Vietnamese soil.

In today's era, capturing public attention does not necessarily require a man to bite a dog. Although methods and media have evolved and interests have diversified, the principle that the unusual and unexpected attract notice remains true. Societal moods may have shifted since the "man and dog" theory was first taught in media colleges, but the world is still full of extraordinary events that command attention.

Rabid dogs, figuratively speaking, now roam the globe, causing harm, and death, and infringing upon money, rights, and properties. What remains before us now is the biting of fingers in frustration, as all that is left is the sensation of pain.

The way we react to news stories reveals much about societal values and priorities. The disproportionate attention given to certain incidents over others demonstrates the media's power in shaping public perception and discourse



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SILENT STRUGGLES

HIGH PREVALENCE OF DEMENTIA IN MENA LOOMS LARGE, NECESSITATING URGENT INVESTMENT IN DIAGNOSTICS, TREATMENTS AND CRITICAL CARE. THE UAE IS LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO BRIDGE THE GAP AND PROMOTE HEALTHY AGEING AGENDA

BY AMANI AL YAFEI





Every morning, Aisha gently reminds her mother, Fatima, of the names and faces of her six children and 10 grandchildren. Fatima, 64, struggles to remember even Aisha's name, leading to daily bouts of confusion, frustration, and heartbreaking tantrums. What began as episodic forgetfulness five years ago has escalated until everyone became unfamiliar. Dementia has stolen Fatima's precious memories.

With patience and sorrow, Aisha guides her mother through each day, cherishing the fleeting moments when Fatima seems to recognise her. The burden is heavy, but Aisha bears it with compassion and unconditional love.

Fatima is one of more than 55 million people aged 40 and above currently suffering from dementia around the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines dementia as "a syndrome that can be caused by a number of diseases which over time destroy nerve cells and damage the brain, typically leading to deterioration in cognitive function (i.e. the ability to process

thought) beyond what might be expected from the usual consequences of biological ageing."

Dementia is not a single disease. There are different diseases that can cause dementia, with Alzheimer's being the most common form—a general term for memory loss and cognitive decline. Many of these diseases are associated with an abnormal build-up of proteins in the brain. This build-up causes nerve cells to function less well and ultimately die. As the nerve cells die, different areas of the brain shrink.

The annual surge in the number of people with dementia calls for global attention, as the number is expected to triple to 153 million by 2050 due primarily to population growth and ageing, according to a comprehensive, first-of-its-kind study titled 'The Global Burden of Disease', which covered 204 countries worldwide.

This study, published in *The Lancet*, warned that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) could see the highest surge in dementia prevalence. There are currently almost 3 million people

living with dementia in the region. The UAE is of particular concern because it is expected to experience the second-highest percentage increase, at 1,795 per cent, in dementia cases by 2050, following Qatar's projected 1,926 per cent increase.

Currently, dementia is the seventh leading cause of death and one of the major causes of disability and dependency amongst older people



“The UAE is of particular concern because it is expected to experience the second-highest percentage increase, at 1,795 per cent, in dementia cases by 2050

globally. Though it does not affect consciousness, it impairs cognitive function and often brings changes in mood, behaviour, and motivation. It has wide-ranging impacts—physical, psychological, social, and economic—on individuals with dementia, their careers, families, and society.

Lack of awareness and understanding leads to stigma and barriers to diagnosis and care.

GLOBAL SHORTFALL

The MENA region's expected surge in dementia prevalence necessitates urgent investment in diagnostics, treatments, and critical care. The WHO Global Action Plan on Dementia 2017-2025 aims for a 50 per cent diagnosis rate. However, a report by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) revealed that 80 per cent of WHO member states are failing to meet this goal.

Research by ADI showed that 75 per cent of dementia cases remain undiagnosed, and 85 per cent lack access to support. With the deadline approaching next year, ADI has called for a 10-year extension for compliance.

Paola Barbarino, Chief Executive Officer at ADI, stated, "Even with a low target of diagnosing half of people currently living with dementia, member states are not on track to reach this target." She added, "Practically, this means more than half of people living with dementia won't have access to new treatments when they

“There are only 38 WHO member state governments that currently have plans in place globally, a few have also expired, and many still do not have a budget attached to them



PAOLA BARBARINO

Chief Executive Officer at
Alzheimer's Disease International

become available and won't be accessing vital care and support.”

Barbarino also noted, “There are only 38 WHO member state governments that currently have plans in place globally, a few have also expired, and many still do not have a budget attached to them.”

COMPLEXITIES OF DEMENTIA

According to WHO, there are several types of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, Frontotemporal dementia, Lewy Body dementia, and Vascular dementia. Amongst them, Alzheimer's disease

is the most known and also the most common, making up 60-70 per cent of the global dementia cases.

The most common symptoms amongst the various types of dementia include memory loss, language regression, communication difficulties, inability to recognise people, and challenges in completing complex tasks or solving problems. Significant changes in dementia patients can also include agitation, anxiety, hallucinations, personality changes, and depression.

Dementia patients may struggle to wake up and understand their routine, feeling lost or confused due to memory loss. Simple tasks like having breakfast and bathing become difficult, causing frustration for both patients and caregivers. Interaction with family members and friends is often strained, as patients may not recognise people they have known for years, leading to sadness and frustration.

Due to decreased social interaction and a lack of understanding of social situations, dementia patients may become isolated and withdraw from activities they once enjoyed.

TREATMENT AND CARE IN UAE

There is no cure for dementia, but a lot can be done to support both people living with the illness and those who care for them. Patients require continuous support and guidance to navigate their surroundings, as managing daily activities such as mobility and personal needs can be challenging.

In the UAE, the Ministry of Health and Prevention has launched several initiatives to address the growing need for elderly social support and mental health care. Emirates Health Services has expanded its reach with more mobile clinical services into remote areas of Fujairah and Ras Al Khaimah.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Community Development provides primary healthcare and social, psychological, and physical therapy to UAE citizens over the age of 60. Home care services are offered to all Emiratis in Abu Dhabi, with specialist care provided by the Abu Dhabi Rehabilitation Centre.

The private healthcare sector also plays a significant role in supporting the country's healthy ageing agenda. In October 2023, the first-of-its-kind 'Healthy Ageing' programme in the UAE's private healthcare sector was



“Being prepared for future challenges is one of the UAE’s strategies. It’s crucial to invest in research and technology to help people age healthily now while the country is still young



DR FADY AL NAJJAR

Head of the AI and Robotics Laboratory at UAEU



Bu Saif, a robot resembling an older Emirati man, can detect emotions and movements, autonomously assessing the cognitive capacity of elderly people

launched by Mediclinic Middle East. This programme aims to improve services for the over-50 patient population in the UAE by providing clear and coordinated pathways for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of age-related illnesses, including dedicated services from specialised geriatric consultants.

A key component of the programme is brain health screening using a tool called CognICA by Cognitivity. This digital health solution integrates the latest research in brain sciences with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to provide a holistic brain health score in just five minutes. This assessment helps identify individuals with cognitive impairment or those at risk of neurodegenerative conditions.

Early intervention is crucial when it comes to cognitive decline, general

health, and well-being. By leveraging artificial intelligence to enhance early intervention methods, the rate of dementia development can be slowed, and overall health outcomes can be improved.

ELDERLY COGNITIVE ROBOT

As the world ages, even forward-thinking nations like the UAE face the inevitability of an older population. However, researchers are pioneering ways to detect and combat mental decline and diseases like dementia. One such innovation stems from a collaboration between the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) and several Japanese research institutions, harnessing technology for healthy ageing.

A UAEU team introduced Bu Saif,

a robot resembling an older Emirati man who speaks Arabic in a UAE dialect. Equipped with sensors and cameras, Bu Saif can detect emotions and movements, autonomously assessing cognitive capacity. He also aids older adults in playing cognitive games, resulting in higher engagement compared to traditional tablet games.

The project was led by Dr Fady Al Najjar, Associate Professor at the College of Information Technology and Head of the AI and Robotics Laboratory at UAEU. Alnajjar emphasised that robotics and AI can rehabilitate those with cognitive conditions. These technologies not only detect early signs of mental decline but also offer affordable and accessible ways to enhance cognitive function.

Bu Saif addresses the limitations of computer-based cognitive training (CCT), where elderly patients engage in brain training at home. Often, unsupervised CCT can lead to disengagement, reducing its effectiveness. Bu Saif ensures continuous engagement, maximising cognitive benefits.

“Being prepared for future challenges is one of the UAE’s strategies. It’s crucial to invest in research and technology to help people age healthily now, while the country is still young, so that breakthroughs can have an impact later,” Al Najjar stated.

SUPPORT SYSTEM IS KEY

In the battle against dementia, the role of comprehensive support systems and informed care strategies is key. Dr Zakaria Ammache, neurology consultant



“ Families must know how to handle elderly dementia patients gently, understand their health condition, and refrain from reacting to their behaviours emotionally



DR ZAKARIA AMMACHE
Neurology consultant at
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City

at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, told **999**, “Currently, there are medications to delay the progression of the disease, such as prescribe sedatives in cases where the disease progresses and the patient experiences hallucinations, agitation, or anxiety.”

Emphasising the importance of medical support, Ammache advised families to educate themselves about dementia and adopt effective management strategies.

“It is important for relatives to discuss with a neurologist to understand the disease and how to manage it, as well as to educate themselves more about the disease to deal consciously with the patient, and not hesitate to seek necessary help or psychological support,” Ammache advised.

“Families must know how to handle elderly dementia patients gently, understand their health condition, refrain from reacting to their behaviours emotionally, ensure daily communication with them, engage them in various mental and physical activities, provide a safe surrounding environment, and seek support from all family members and friends to assist the dementia patient and rotate in their care,” Ammache added.

Moreover, the neurologist stressed

the need for a safe and compassionate environment. “The person responsible for caring for the dementia patient or their family members must provide a safe environment in a compassionate and caring manner, and be patient with unexpected reactions resulting from the patient’s resistance to these precautionary changes,” he said.

RAISING AWARENESS

Ammache also highlighted the critical need for raising awareness and educating families. “In our neurology

clinic, we make sure to meet with the families of dementia patients to educate them about the disease, how to deal with it, care for the patient, expected complications, and how to deal with them, as well as providing them with necessary psychological support,” he explained.

“We strive to raise public awareness about dementia through media channels, publishing articles in newspapers and magazines, as well as utilising social media platforms,” he added.

For Dr Hussain Salim Al Sarhan, CEO of the Rehan Platform for Sustainable Social Development, the rising prevalence of dementia highlights the urgent need for comprehensive strategies and support systems. Al Sarhan stressed that through effective communication, routine consistency, emotional support, access to healthcare, and community resources, families and communities can improve the quality of life for those affected by dementia.

“By working together, families, caregivers, and communities can provide the necessary support to help dementia patients navigate the challenges of daily life with dignity and compassion,” Al Sarhan concluded.



CARE STRATEGIES FOR DEMENTIA PATIENTS

Dr Hussain Salim Al Sarhan, CEO of the Rehan Platform for Sustainable Social Development, outlined the following strategies to enhance interactions and support for people living with dementia:

Effective communication



When interacting with individuals with dementia, it's crucial to use a calm, reassuring tone. Simple, clear language helps maintain a connection, while a non-confrontational approach preserves the individual's dignity. This method helps reduce anxiety and confusion, making communication a positive experience for both parties.

Consistency in routine



Establishing a regular schedule and maintaining familiar surroundings provide stability for those with dementia. This consistency is comforting and reduces anxiety and confusion by creating a predictable environment that aligns with their retained memories and abilities, thus fostering a sense of security.

Providing emotional support



For those navigating the challenges of dementia, emotional support is essential. By being physically present, offering companionship, and showing empathy, carers can alleviate the emotional distress experienced by dementia sufferers. This support provides comfort and helps mitigate feelings of isolation and depression.

Access to healthcare



Regular access to healthcare facilities and continuous medical evaluations are crucial for effectively managing the progression of dementia. Timely medical support can help manage symptoms and slow deterioration, ensuring better quality of life and health outcomes for those affected.

Financial planning



Managing dementia care is financially demanding. Effective financial planning and seeking available assistance are vital to mitigate these costs. Planning can help families prepare for long-term care needs, reducing financial stress and ensuring sustainable care provision.

Utilising community resources



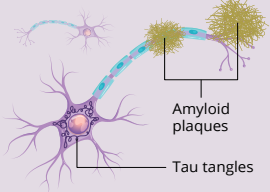
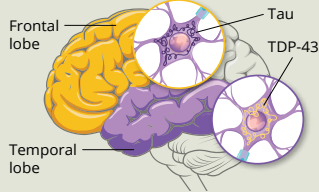
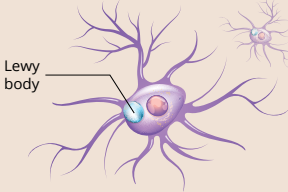
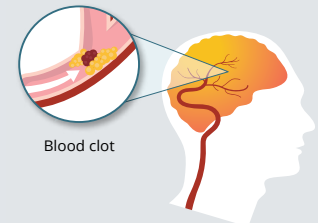
Community resources such as charities, healthcare centres, and social services play a significant role in supporting individuals with dementia and their carers. These resources provide additional support, from practical assistance to emotional and social support, helping to lighten the load for families and enhance the care provided.

Understanding different types of dementia

As we age, it's normal to lose some neurons in the brain. People living with dementia, however, experience far greater loss. Many neurons stop working, lose connections with other brain cells, and eventually die. At first, symptoms can be mild, but they get worse over time. Read on to learn more about four different types of dementia.



TYPES OF DEMENTIA

Alzheimer's Disease	Frontotemporal Dementia	Lewy Body Dementia	Vascular Dementia
What Is Happening in the Brain?*			
<p>Abnormal deposits of proteins form amyloid plaques and tau tangles throughout the brain.</p>  <p>Amyloid plaques Tau tangles</p>	<p>Abnormal amounts or forms of tau and TDP-43 proteins accumulate inside neurons in the frontal and temporal lobes.</p>  <p>Frontal lobe Temporal lobe Tau TDP-43</p>	<p>Abnormal deposits of the alpha-synuclein protein, called "Lewy bodies," affect the brain's chemical messengers.</p>  <p>Lewy body</p>	<p>Conditions, such as blood clots, disrupt blood flow in the brain.</p>  <p>Blood clot</p>

*These changes are just one piece of a complex puzzle that scientists are studying to understand the underlying causes of these forms of dementia and others.

Symptoms

<p>Mild</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wandering and getting lost Repeating questions <p>Moderate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problems recognising friends and family Impulsive behaviour <p>Severe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot communicate 	<p>Behavioural and Emotional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty planning and organising Impulsive behaviours Emotional flatness or excessive emotions <p>Movement Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaky hands Problems with balance and walking <p>Language Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty making or understanding speech <p><i>There are several types of frontotemporal disorders, and symptoms can vary by type.</i></p>	<p>Cognitive Decline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to concentrate, pay attention, or stay alert Disorganised or illogical ideas <p>Movement Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muscle rigidity Loss of coordination Reduced facial expression <p>Sleep Disorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insomnia Excessive daytime sleepiness <p>Visual Hallucinations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forgetting current or past events Misplacing items Trouble following instructions or learning new information Hallucinations or delusions Poor judgment
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Typical Age of Diagnosis

Mid 60s and above, with some cases in mid-30s to 60s	Between 45 and 64	50 or older	Over 65
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Diagnosis

Symptoms can be similar amongst different types of dementia, and some people have more than one form of dementia, which can make an accurate diagnosis difficult. Symptoms can also vary from person to person. Doctors may ask for a medical history, complete a physical exam, and order neurological and laboratory tests to help diagnose dementia.

Treatment

There is currently no cure for these types of dementia, but some treatments are available. Speak with your doctor to find out what might work best for you.



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

OUR GREATEST AMBASSADOR

Preserving our cultural heritage as a people enables the integration of historical legacy into modern diplomacy

During the 17th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Rabat, Morocco, the Emirati embroidery heritage known as Al Telli, which utilises twisted, coloured threads, was recognised as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. This session also highlighted other archaeological sites in the UAE, such as the island of Akab in Umm Al Quwain, dating back to 5000 BCE, and the recently restored Al Bidya Mosque in Fujairah from the 15th century. These sites are also listed for UNESCO World Heritage nomination.

The inclusion of these sites and practices underscores the UAE's commitment to heritage preservation, which has received commendation from UNESCO, highlighting the UAE's significant role in preserving and transmitting historical and cultural legacies. This commitment was further recognised last month when the UAE was elected for the second time as a member of UNESCO's International Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage for the 2024–2028 term.

Emphasising culture and history as essential components of its identity, the UAE fosters a strong sense of belonging amongst its people. This emphasis not only guides societal development and values but also enhances how the nation evolves and interacts globally. Indeed, the UAE's rich cultural heritage stands as our greatest ambassador to the world, showcasing our own timeless narrative and identity across the global stage.

The strategic emphasis on intangible cultural heritage not only preserves unique cultural expressions but also provides a platform for the UAE to assert its cultural sovereignty and narrative in the global arena. This approach underlines the importance of cultural heritage as a tool in diplomacy and international relations.

Launched in 2017, the UAE Soft Power Strategy is deeply rooted in the nation's history, heritage, and culture of tolerance. This strategic initiative, a staple of the annual government meetings, aims to enhance the country's role as a central gateway to the Arab region. By leveraging its cultural wealth, the UAE positions itself as a pivotal hub for culture, arts, media, tourism, and science in the Arab World.

The Strategy aims to bolster the country's cultural influence—its soft power—to shape global perceptions and forge international relationships. This approach is aligned with broader strategic goals, recognising that global influence transcends traditional military and economic power to encompass cultural diplomacy as well.

Since the early 1990s, many countries have explored cultural diplomacy as a new dimension of international relations, where heritage plays a crucial role. The UAE's significant diplomatic weight in this area is evidenced by its 10th ranking in the 2024 Global Soft Power Index,

which assessed 193 countries. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has attributed the UAE's strong international reputation to its consistent achievements and developmental model, which continues to gain global admiration.

The UAE's ranking in the Global Soft Power Index underscores the effectiveness of its cultural diplomacy in shaping international perceptions and in fostering mutual respect, tolerance, and understanding.

These developments highlight the importance of actively preserving the Arab and Islamic heritage as a whole, in order to enhance cultural understanding and exchange. This not only strengthens the UAE's stature on a global scale but also embodies our collective commitment and aspiration as a nation.

Indeed, the UAE's rich cultural heritage stands as our greatest ambassador to the world, showcasing our own timeless narrative and identity across the global stage

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AI COMBATS FINANCE FRAUD

A RECENT SURVEY REVEALS THAT BUSINESSES IN THE EMEA REGION, INCLUDING THE UAE, FACE FRAUD COSTS NEARLY 4 TIMES THE AMOUNT LOST IN FRAUDULENT TRANSACTIONS. **999** EXAMINES HOW AI IS REVOLUTIONISING THE COUNTRY'S APPROACH TO FINANCIAL FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

BY ABDUL WASEY

The rapid adoption of digital payments enhances payment experiences but also exposes numerous systems and channels to sophisticated fraud attacks. With physical banknotes no longer being the primary target, law enforcement now extends to policing the expansive digital landscape.

Cybercriminals exploit the anonymity of digital, cross-border transactions to execute fast and untraceable fraud. The rise of scams and the use of technology expand cybercriminals' ability to exploit both consumers and businesses.

In this murky web of fraud, only a tight network of digital policing and monitoring can mitigate these threats. This is where Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) come into play. The UAE is ramping up its efforts to use these tools to combat economic and financial crimes, alongside critical steps to strengthen the legislative and legal framework and protect the national economy.

In its first annual report released in June 2024, the UAE's Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism

According to the survey conducted by data analytics company LexisNexis, 42% of companies in the UAE reported an increase in financial fraud in the past 12 months, with organisations incurring an average cost of Dhs4.19 for every dirham lost to fraud

Financing (EO AML/CTF) emphasised the role of innovation and technology in putting robust guardrails against online financial fraud crimes. The report highlighted that modern solutions are being integrated into the national strategy, ensuring the agility of smart systems in anticipating and effectively responding to financial crime risks.

HIGH ECONOMIC COST

There is a compelling reason to tighten the reins on financial fraud. The cost is steep, with businesses losing nearly four times their face value for every dirham lost to fraud.

In April 2024, a survey of 1,845 fraud management decision-makers at financial institutions and retail companies in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) found that businesses in this region now bear a cost of fraud that is 3.90 times the face value lost in fraudulent transactions.

According to the survey conducted by data analytics company LexisNexis, 42 per cent of companies in the UAE reported an increase in financial fraud in the past 12 months, with organisations incurring an average cost of Dhs4.19 (Dhs3.62 for retailers and Dhs4.99 for financial institutions) for every dirham lost to fraud.

These costs encompass financial losses



“The financial sector’s increasingly digital nature provides cybercriminals with numerous opportunities to exploit weaknesses and gain access



WALEED AL AWADHI
COO at Dubai Financial
Services Authority

due to fraud, as well as internal labour expenses, external costs, interest and fees, and the expenses associated with replacing or redistributing lost or stolen merchandise.

GLOBAL SNAPSHOT

What’s happening in the EMEA reveals

a broader global impact of financial fraud. A recent survey revealed that nearly 60 per cent of financial institutions and banks worldwide experienced losses of at least \$500,000 (Dhs1.835 million) due to financial fraud in 2023. This survey, conducted by global end-to-end identity risk solution Alloy, indicated that more than one-quarter of respondents lost over \$1 million (Dhs3.67 million) in direct fraud losses last year.

Direct fraud losses only account for the actual amount of money successfully stolen due to fraudulent activity. There are also indirect fraud costs that financial services companies pay, such as money spent on investigating and recovering fraud funds, loss of customers, and reputational damage.

Traditional fraud investigation methods, which depend on manual verification and analysis, are no longer sufficient to keep pace with the complexity of modern fraud schemes.

LOOMING THREATS

According to experts, the UAE’s booming digital economy and extensive

use of data, coupled with its Internet penetration, which is the highest in the world at 99 per cent, and nearly 10 million social media users, make the country an attractive target for cybercriminals.

Waleed Al Awadhi, Chief Operating Officer at Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA), warned about the looming threat. “The financial sector, including financial hubs like Dubai, is particularly attractive to cyberattacks for several reasons. The sector’s increasingly digital nature provides cybercriminals with numerous opportunities to exploit weaknesses and gain access,” Al Awadhi told the media.

“The sector’s high volume of sensitive information and its interconnectedness, along with geopolitical and economic significance, also contribute to its appeal. Disruptions in financial hubs can have far-reaching consequences,” he added.

A recent study by global professional services firm Kroll sheds light on this looming threat, revealing that 70 per cent of senior bankers in the UAE expect financial crime risks to increase over the next 12 months.

What the law says

UAE’s Federal Decree-Law No. 34/2021

Hacking penalties

Unauthorised access:

Fines from Dhs100,000 to Dhs300,000 and detention.

System damage:

Minimum 6 months imprisonment or fines from Dhs150,000 to Dhs500,000.

Illicit purposes:

At least 1 year imprisonment or fines from Dhs200,000 to Dhs500,000.

Cyber fraud and data protection

Unauthorised data manipulation:

Minimum 5 years imprisonment and fines between Dhs500,000 and Dhs3,000,000.

Unauthorised symbols/codes acquisition:

Imprisonment and fines from Dhs50,000 to Dhs500,000.

Broader measures

Cyber fraud:

At least one-year imprisonment or fines from Dhs250,000 to Dhs1,000,000.

Electronic extortion:

Up to 2 years imprisonment and fines from Dhs250,000 to Dhs500,000, with increased penalties for coercion.



“ Financial institutions in the UAE are now leveraging data-driven AI capabilities to identify credit fraud and improve fraud prevention, including money laundering



GONÇALO TRAQUINA

Partner, Management Consulting -
Financial Services Leader, Head of the
Customer Advisory at KPMG Lower Gulf

THE ROLES OF AI AND ML

Amidst looming cyber fraud threats, the Kroll study indicated that while 64 per cent of top banking executives in the UAE are planning to invest in technology to combat the anticipated rise in financial crimes, about 54 per cent believe that evolving technology will pose the biggest challenge for governments in their efforts to fight financial crime.

AI and ML enable real-time monitoring of financial transactions, swiftly identifying suspicious activities. Traditional systems often struggle with the pace of modern transactions, but AI can quickly process and analyse large volumes of data, identifying patterns that indicate fraud. AI also improves anti-money laundering (AML) processes by analysing unstructured data to provide enhanced due diligence. This capability allows financial institutions to gain a comprehensive understanding of their customers and identify potential risks.

Gonçalo Traquina, Partner, Management Consulting - Financial Services Leader, Head of the Customer Advisory at KPMG Lower Gulf, stated, “Financial institutions in the UAE are now leveraging data-driven AI capabilities to identify credit fraud and improve fraud prevention, including money laundering. This not only protects customers but also enhances trust in digital banking platforms.”

A significant advantage of AI in fraud detection is its ability to reduce false positives. Traditional systems often flag legitimate transactions as suspicious, but AI can refine risk assessments,

allowing compliance teams to focus on genuine threats.

Meanwhile, ML analyses user behaviour at a granular level, building profiles that help distinguish between legitimate and fraudulent activities. This approach enhances the decision-making process for approving or declining transactions.

MOI IN ACTION

Through robust international collaborations and sharp enforcement measures, the UAE Ministry of Interior (Moi) continues to thwart crooks, helping the country fortify its financial fortress.

For instance, in August 2023, the Moi released data on money laundering





“ In August 2023, the Mol released data on money laundering over the past two years, showcasing the nation’s ironclad stance against financial crimes. The figures are nothing short of impressive: 387 international suspects were arrested and more than Dhs4 billion in illicit money was confiscated

over the past two years, showcasing the nation’s ironclad stance against financial crimes. The figures are nothing short of impressive: 387 international suspects were arrested and more than Dhs4 billion in illicit money was confiscated. This achievement followed action taken on 521 reports of money laundering crimes

received by the Mol in 2021 and 2022, a feat accomplished with significant collaboration from international agencies.

Following the data release, His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, reaffirmed the UAE’s unwavering commitment

to enhancing the safety of its living environment, making it a prime destination for work and investment. The Interior Minister said that by bolstering both local and international efforts to combat financial crimes, the UAE aims to protect the integrity of the global financial system.

Such initiatives align seamlessly with the ‘We the UAE 2031’ Vision, particularly the ‘Forward Economy’ pillar, which aims to establish the UAE as the world’s leading hub for the new economy. Moreover, the ‘Forward Ecosystem’ pillar seeks to position the UAE as the safest and most secure country globally, preserving human rights through an advanced legislative and judicial system.

The Interior Minister had high praise for the Higher Committee Overseeing the National Strategy to Combat Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, led by His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

GREATER AI ADOPTION

A greater adoption of these innovations is being demonstrated by UAE’s banks and financial institutions with leading tech companies.

Recently, the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE), which plays a significant role in monitoring and combating financial crimes, partnered with global professional services company Accenture to roll out a range of transformative services for the CBUAE’s Supervisory Technology (SupTech) initiative and the Enterprise Data Management (EDM) programme. This alliance aims to adopt best-in-class digital solutions, including AI-driven decision-making, through a single unified supervision portal.

Meanwhile, to develop its own AI-powered banking capabilities, First Abu Dhabi Bank partnered with Microsoft to enhance fraud detection using AI, enabling real-time identification of fraudulent transactions. This collaboration aims to prevent financial losses and ensure customer asset security through advanced AI technologies.

In May 2024, Sharjah Islamic Bank (SIB) joined the Haifin platform alliance as its 14th member to strengthen fraud prevention using AI and blockchain technology.

ROBUST LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The UAE is at the vanguard of developing and embracing modern

“ The UAE’s Federal Decree-Law No. 34/2021 defines hacking as unauthorised access or breaches of licensing provisions, with penalties ranging from detention and fines of Dhs100,000 to Dhs300,000. Harsher penalties, including imprisonment and fines up to Dhs500,000, apply if hacking results in system damage

technology and promoting regulated institutions to use emerging technologies in the Middle East. These technological advancements are complemented by robust legal frameworks, which address cyber-attacks and hacking comprehensively.

The UAE’s Federal Decree-Law No. 34/2021 defines hacking as unauthorised access or breaches of licensing provisions, with penalties ranging from detention and fines of Dhs100,000 to Dhs300,000. Harsher penalties, including imprisonment and fines up to Dhs500,000, apply if hacking results in system damage. Hacking for illicit purposes can result in imprisonment for at least a year or fines from Dhs200,000 to Dhs500,000.

Article 6 of the law penalises unauthorised acquisition, modification, or disclosure of electronic personal or financial data with provisional imprisonment for a minimum of five years and fines between Dhs500,000 and Dhs3,000,000. Article 9 addresses unauthorised obtaining of third-party symbols and codes, imposing imprisonment and fines up to Dhs500,000.

Further, the manipulation of information networks, fabrication of electronic accounts, illegitimate interception and disclosure of information, and breaches of personal data laws carry penalties including detention and fines up to



Banking on AI tools and tech



AI-powered chatbots: Examples of these solutions are the Emirates NBD’s Eva platform, which offers services such as checking account balances and tracking expenses, and the Mashreq Bank’s AI-enabled chatbot, which streamlines customer service experience while focusing on identifying fraudulent transactions.



Anomaly detection models: These AI models continuously learn and adapt to identify deviations from normal transaction patterns, effectively detecting credit card and insurance fraud, as well as cyber threats.



AI-driven decision-making systems: The Central Bank of the UAE’s Supervisory Technology (SupTech) Initiative, implemented in partnership with Accenture, uses AI to enhance decision-making through a unified supervision portal.



AI voice cloning detection: These tools help in detecting AI-generated voice clones that are used to impersonate individuals for fraudulent activities.



Anti-money laundering AI tools: They help in analysing unstructured data, such as news articles and social media feeds, to provide enhanced due diligence and identify potential risks.

Dhs2,000,000. Articles 10 and 15 outline penalties for forgery of electronic documents and breaches of electronic payment methods, with fines ranging from Dhs150,000 to Dhs2,000,000 and provisional imprisonment.

Article 40 defines cyber fraud as penalising fraudulent obtaining of property

or documents via technology with imprisonment for at least one year or fines between Dhs250,000 and Dhs1,000,000. Article 42 addresses electronic extortion and threats, imposing imprisonment of up to two years and fines of up to Dhs500,000, with increased penalties for threats compelling specific actions.

Traditional vs AI-powered fraud guardrails

ASPECT	TRADITIONAL FRAUD INVESTIGATION METHODS	AI AND MACHINE LEARNING IN MODERN FRAUD SCHEMES
PROCESS	Manual verification and analysis	Real-time monitoring with automated processes
SPEED AND EFFICIENCY	Time-consuming and slow, often detecting fraud after the fact	Swift detection of suspicious activities as they occur
SCALABILITY	Limited by human capacity, can handle only finite data volumes	Can handle large volumes of transactions simultaneously
ADAPTABILITY	Relies on static rules and predefined patterns, less adaptable to new fraud techniques	Continuously learns and adapts to new data, improving accuracy over time
ERROR RATE	High error rate due to human involvement, prone to missed fraud instances and false positives	Reduces false positives, improving risk assessments and customer experience
PATTERN RECOGNITION	Limited to predefined patterns, may miss complex fraud schemes	Analyses vast amounts of data, identifying complex patterns and anomalies
DATA PROCESSING	Manual processing, time-intensive	Quickly processes and analyses large volumes of data

REPORT CRIME WITHOUT FEAR

THE UAE'S POLICE BOLSTER ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEMS, LEADING TO QUICKER RESPONSES TO ACCIDENTS AND CRIMES AND ACCELERATING THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

BY HALEY REED





Over Dhs3 million was recovered from various bank accounts as a result of 11 different anonymous reports received by the police. A tip-off from an Arab employee became the crucial lead

There are pockets of information that bolster the country's resolve to be the safest country in the world. These are anonymous tip-offs from ordinary people—sent to police through various digital platforms—which have been instrumental in the successive arrests of criminals.

One such instance illustrating this was the arrest of five scammers in a police raid codenamed 'Operation 173' by Sharjah Police. Over Dhs3 million was recovered from various bank accounts as a result of 11 different anonymous reports received by the police. A tip-off from an Arab employee became the crucial lead.

Brigadier Omar Ahmed Abu Al Zoud, Director of the Criminal Investigation Department at Sharjah Police, explained that the employee reported receiving a fraudulent email from a supposed supplier requesting bank data updates. After transferring Dhs85,713,052 to the provided account, the employee realised the email was fake. A team of cybercrime experts confirmed the fraud. They were able to trace the money trail from the UAE to another country.

An African suspect, who had withdrawn Dhs20,000, was arrested along with others involved in this extensive cyber fraud network. Police seized 173 bank cards, which inspired the operation's codename. They also confiscated 132 chequebooks belonging to victims whose bank details were used to commit fraud. Moreover, they recovered 21 smartphones, 18 Emirates ID cards belonging to victims who had left the country, six stamps of fake companies, and Dhs95,320 obtained through electronic fraud.

The UAE's anonymous crime reporting schemes significantly boost the police-community relationship and enhance overall public safety. The crime reporting

platforms across the emirates preserve the full identity of informants, encouraging more people to come forward without fear of exposure.

HUNDREDS OF ARRESTS

The success of Operation 173 in Sharjah followed the massive arrests carried out by Dubai Police, in collaboration with the Economic Security Centre of Dubai, targeting drug traffickers from June to December last year.

This series of operations, driven by numerous anonymous crime reports, led to the seizure of more than 118kg of illegal substances and the arrest of 280 suspects involved in a scheme distributing drugs like hashish and crystal meth, hidden in remote locations. Many of these traffickers targeted the public by sending unsolicited WhatsApp messages

for their drug delivery schemes.

Major General Eid Mohammed Thani Harib, Director of the General Department of Anti-Narcotics at Dubai Police, addressed the media in March 2024, stating, "The 'unknown messages' style was spreading and lured more people into drug addiction. It doesn't require physical contact between the buyer and seller. It was a challenge for us."

SHARP-EYED AI IN POLICING

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming a valuable ally for the police in anonymous crime reporting. Acting as the sharp eyes of law enforcement, AI enhances the ability to gather and analyse information without compromising the reporter's identity. This technology streamlines reporting, boosts public participation, and aids in

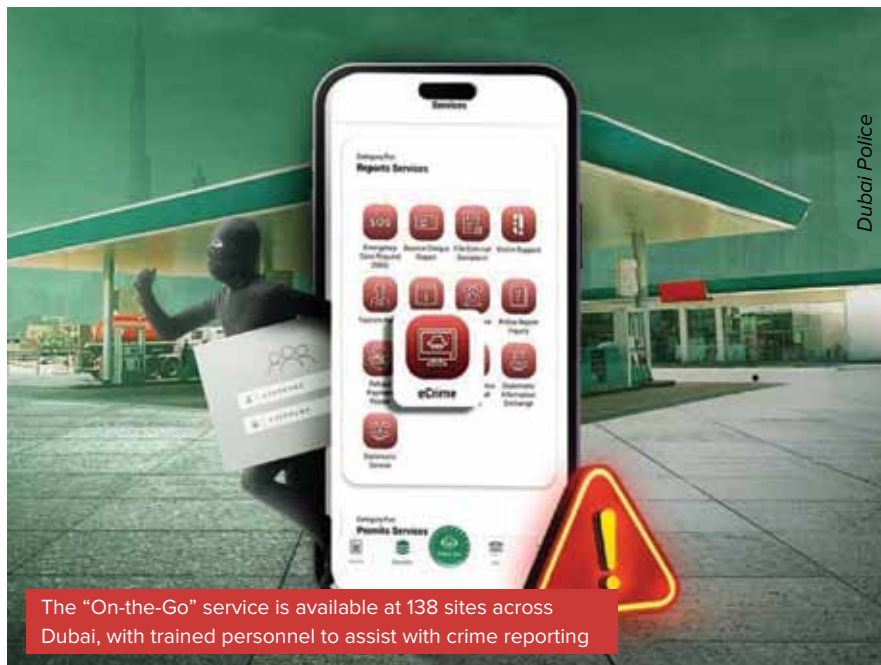


“A Deloitte study, titled ‘Emerging tech that can make smart cities safer’, found that AI and smart technologies could reduce crime by 30 to 40 per cent and cut emergency response times by 20 to 35 per cent

efficient crime-solving efforts.

A Deloitte study, titled ‘Emerging tech that can make smart cities safer’, found that AI and smart technologies could reduce crime by 30 to 40 per cent and cut emergency response times by 20 to 35 per cent. The study revealed cities are investing in real-time crime mapping, crowd management, and gunshot detection.

Moreover, facial recognition and biometrics (84 per cent), in-car and body cameras (55 per cent), drones and aerial surveillance (46 per cent), and crowdsourcing crime reporting apps (39 per cent) are being utilised to ensure public safety.



The “On-the-Go” service is available at 138 sites across Dubai, with trained personnel to assist with crime reporting

REVOLUTIONISING TIP-OFFS

The UAE’s police are pioneering the use of AI in anonymous crime reporting, making it easier for citizens to report crimes at any time and from anywhere in the emirates.

A notable example is the recently launched “On-the-Go” service at petrol stations. This innovative platform of Dubai Police, developed in collaboration with major oil companies like Emirates

National Oil Company (ENOC), Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and Emarat, allows the public to report incidents swiftly without visiting a police station. Located at 138 sites across Dubai, trained personnel are on hand to assist with crime reporting.

First Lieutenant Majid bin Saed Al Kaabi, Head of the “On-the-Go” initiative, stated, “The “On-the-Go” initiative is the first of its kind in the world to provide police services



“The “On-the-Go” initiative is the first of its kind in the world to provide police services at fuel stations



FIRST LIEUTENANT MAJID BIN SAED AL KAABI

Head of the “On-the-Go” initiative

at fuel stations.” He added, “The services are provided at 138 petrol stations across Dubai with a total of 4,867 staff from 11 entities trained to assist customers.”

The “On-the-Go” service complements existing crime reporting platforms such as the “Police Eye” app, Smart Police Stations (SPS), and the 901 hotline. Over the past five years, the “Police Eye” app has received over 108,100 reports, addressing issues from traffic incidents to human trafficking. In 2023, Dubai’s SPS, unmanned facilities offering a variety of police services in multiple languages, saw a 13 per cent increase in transactions.

In Abu Dhabi, the Aman service, introduced in 2009, enhances community safety by allowing anonymous reporting of security issues, community concerns, or traffic problems. This 24/7 service plays a pivotal role in crime prevention and detection, ensuring strict confidentiality for informants. The Aman service can be accessed by dialling 800 2626, or via SMS to 2828. Additionally, reports can be submitted through the Abu Dhabi Police website or email.

Sharjah Police’s Najeed service enables individuals to anonymously report crimes related to fraud, harassment, financial blackmail, and other concerns. Ensuring the confidentiality of reporters, Najeed promotes safe communication with law enforcement. The service is available around the clock, accessible via call centre at 800 151 or SMS to 7999.

AI UNLEASHES EFFICIENCY

The proliferation of AI-driven crime reporting systems reduces manual workload and improves crime reporting efficiency and effectiveness by facilitating immediate responses.

For example, Abu Dhabi’s Aman service



Report crimes anonymously

Location	Service Name	Contact Details
Abu Dhabi	Aman Service	Hotline: 800 2626 SMS: 2828 App: ADPolice (available for Apple and Android)
Dubai	Al Ameen Service	Hotline: 800 4444 SMS: 800 4444 App: Al Ameen (available for Apple and Android)
Sharjah	Najeed Service	Hotline: 800 151 SMS: 7999
Ajman	Ajman Police	Hotline: 800 70
Umm Al-Quwain	Umm Al-Quwain Police	Hotline: 06 765 5888
Ras Al Khaimah	Ras Al Khaimah Police	Hotline: 07 235 6666
Fujairah	Fujairah Police	Hotline: 09 205 1100

processes over 130,000 calls and reports annually using AI-powered systems linked to police patrols for quick response. The system can automatically categorise and prioritise reports based on the crime’s severity, ensuring urgent cases receive immediate attention.

AI integration in crime reporting significantly reduces the manual workload of police officers by automating data collection and analysis. This allows officers to focus on critical duties, leading to faster and more accurate processing

of crime reports and improving law enforcement effectiveness. Services like Dubai Police’s “On-the-Go” and Smart Police Stations enable quick incident reporting, reducing the need for physical police presence and manual data entry.

Individuals can easily report crimes, upload photos or videos, and provide detailed information without visiting a police station. The convenience and security offered by these platforms make them an attractive option for the public to report crimes without fear.

Cool hydration tips for Summer

THIS SUMMER, KEEP YOUR WATER BOTTLE
HANDY AND DRINK UP. YOUR BODY WILL
THANK YOU

BY RODERICK SHANNON



The peak summer months, from mid-July to the end of August, in the UAE bring not only scorching temperatures but also humidity levels reaching up to 90 per cent.

Prolonged exposure to such conditions can lead to various ailments, with dehydration being the most common. This condition affects individuals of all ages when water loss exceeds water intake, caused by factors like excessive sweating, inadequate fluid consumption, or illnesses that lead to vomiting and diarrhoea.

With the human body composed of roughly 60 to 75 per cent water, everyone must maintain proper hydration. Symptoms of dehydration can range from mild to severe, beginning with dry mouth and throat, sluggishness, dizziness, and constipation.

As dehydration progresses, moderate cases may present with headaches, decreased urine output, and darker urine—clear signals that the body isn't receiving enough fluids to function optimally.

Should these symptoms occur, seek medical help as soon as possible, because dehydration can lead to hypovolemia. This severe condition, marked by a drastic decrease in blood volume, can impair organ and tissue perfusion, escalating the

Emerging evidence indicates that adding consistent good hydration to these healthy lifestyle choices may slow down the ageing process even more

risk of kidney damage and cardiovascular problems.

UNWANTED AGEING ACCELERATOR

Prolonged poor hydration doesn't just make one feel weak; it can also accelerate ageing and contribute to chronic disease.

A study involving over 11,000 participants in the United States revealed that those who aren't sufficiently hydrated are more prone to chronic conditions like heart and lung disease and tend to have shorter lifespans than their well-hydrated counterparts.

"Risk to develop these diseases increases as we age and accumulate damages in various tissues in the body,"

explained Natalia Dmitrieva, co-author of the study and a researcher at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the US National Institutes of Health. She added, "Emerging evidence from our and other studies indicate that adding consistent good hydration to these healthy lifestyle choices may slow down the ageing process even more."

WATCH OUT FOR ABNORMAL BP

When dehydrated, the body struggles to regulate blood pressure properly, which can cause it to drop. In response, the body produces vasopressin, a hormone that aids in water retention and reduces water loss through urination.

However, vasopressin also causes blood vessels to constrict, raising blood pressure (BP). This poses a particular concern for individuals who are hypertensive or at risk of high blood pressure.

THE HYDRATION SOLUTION

This summer, drinking plenty of water will not only help beat the heat but also keep the body functioning optimally, staving off serious health complications and contributing to a longer, healthier life. Here are 7 tips to keep you hydrated during UAE's summer months:

1

Drink 2-4 litres of water daily

During the UAE's summer months, people are encouraged to drink about 2 to 4 litres of water. Dr Ahmed Abdelhameed, specialist internal medicine at Medcare Women & Children Hospital, explained, "The estimated daily need for fluid intake is about 3 to 4 litres for men and 2 to 3 litres for women. But there are many other factors which may increase or decrease the fluid daily requirements, for instance, exercise, weather, altitude, pregnancy and the presence of certain conditions, such as kidney disease." Moreover, drinking water at regular intervals can help prevent dehydration and maintain your body's fluid balance, crucial for overall health and proper functioning.



2

Bring insulated steel water bottles

Carrying an insulated water bottle ensures you always have access to refreshing, cold water wherever you go, encouraging you to drink more and stay hydrated throughout the day. With a variety of colours and sizes, these bottles are both stylish and practical. Plus, they're eco-friendly! Using them reduces the need to constantly buy bottled water and saves electricity from frequent use of the water dispenser. With one at your desk, you won't need to run the faucet every you wash your glass after drinking.



3

Limit intake of caffeinated and sugary beverages

Who can resist the cheap karak chai, sold for just Dhs1 to Dhs5? But this summer, it's best to limit your intake of caffeinated or sugary beverages, as they can increase water loss and contribute to dehydration. Instead, opt for water or natural juices, which hydrate the body without the diuretic effects of caffeine or the excess sugar that can lead to energy crashes.



4

Eat hydrating food

Incorporating water-rich foods into your diet is a delicious way to stay hydrated. Foods like cucumbers, watermelon, oranges, and strawberries have high water content and can help maintain hydration levels. These fruits and vegetables not only provide essential vitamins and minerals but also contribute significantly to your daily fluid intake. Including them in your meals and snacks can enhance your overall hydration and health.



5

Avoid direct sun exposure

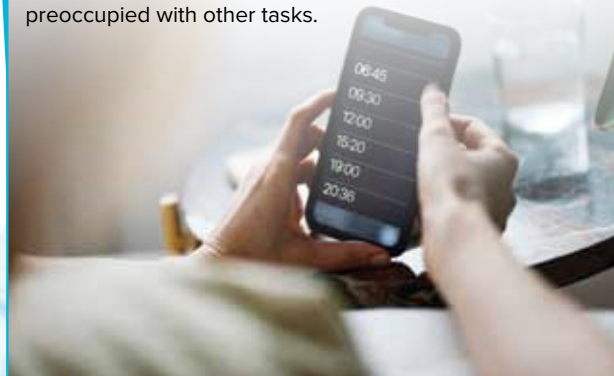
Direct sun exposure during the hottest parts of the day, typically between 10 am and 4 pm, can significantly increase the risk of dehydration. During these peak hours, stay indoors or in shaded areas to minimise fluid loss from sweating. If going out is necessary, always bring an umbrella. These practices not only help maintain your hydration levels but also protect you from heat-related illnesses like heat exhaustion and heat stroke, ensuring you stay safe and healthy.



6

Set reminders to drink water

Using alarms or apps to remind yourself to drink water regularly can be a lifesaver, especially during busy days. Consistent hydration throughout the day can prevent dehydration and ensure your body functions optimally. Setting these reminders helps you develop a habit of drinking water at regular intervals, making it easier to meet your daily hydration needs even when you're preoccupied with other tasks.



7

Wear light, breathable clothing

Wearing light, breathable fabrics like cotton and linen helps you stay cool and reduce sweating. These materials allow air to circulate, helping your body maintain its fluid balance and keeping you comfortable throughout the day. Choosing appropriate clothing significantly aids in temperature regulation and prevents excessive fluid loss through perspiration. That said, always ensure your attire is appropriate for UAE laws and culture.



DID YOU KNOW?

Dehydration is a major risk factor for kidney stones, with medical facilities in the UAE reporting a 30% to 40% increase in cases during the summer months. "During summer, we see almost 40 per cent more cases of kidney stones," said Dr Humam Qaraschouli, consultant urologist at Burjeel Royal Hospital in Asharej, in a Khaleej Times report in May 2024. Middle-aged individuals, especially those working outdoors, are particularly affected. Dehydration reduces the volume of urine and increases the concentration of stone-forming substances, experts explain.





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.

THREADS OF HOPE

We squander our delights in sorrow, casting them like dew upon a barren rock, fully aware that no flower will bloom there

Life, in its ephemeral passage, does not wait for those who lag behind in the pursuit of delicate happiness, nor for those whose hearts have been darkened by the encroaching grey of age. It strides forward, unwavering, into the unknown, heeding only those who grasp its reins and cling to its footsteps.

Life is laden with joys yet to be revealed. Though we may grow weary of everything, we yearn merely for sleep to release our souls. Our strength wanes, forcing us to hastily catch our breath, as if ascending into the heavens. Tears flirt with our eyelids, determined to leave our cheeks, defying our desire to conceal them. We are the weavers of its verses, heralding hope, even if it is delayed.

If only we could master the art of unrestrained joy and tempered sorrow. If only we could gather our scattered spirits with patience. If only we could mend our bleeding wounds with hope that embraces the gates of heaven. We squander our delights in sorrow, casting them like dew upon a barren rock, fully aware that no flower will bloom there. We sit enthroned in self-flagellation, for fate would not afflict humanity with such woes were it not for the grace it knows deprivation holds, a grace unseen in the gifts of abundance.

The epitome of the universe is our own frail selves, misinterpreting fate according to our whims. We see only evil in what destiny decides for us, even though it might be testing us with a wisdom we cannot understand. We journey on, guided by a glimmer of light that rekindles dormant

hope within us. We silently thank it and mock the tears that vainly caress our cheeks, only to return to our bouts of anger at the first pang of sorrow, as if we had never known joy, or as if we thrive in grief and are mere wayfarers in happiness. For if fate were placed in our hands, we would choose what has already been destined for us.

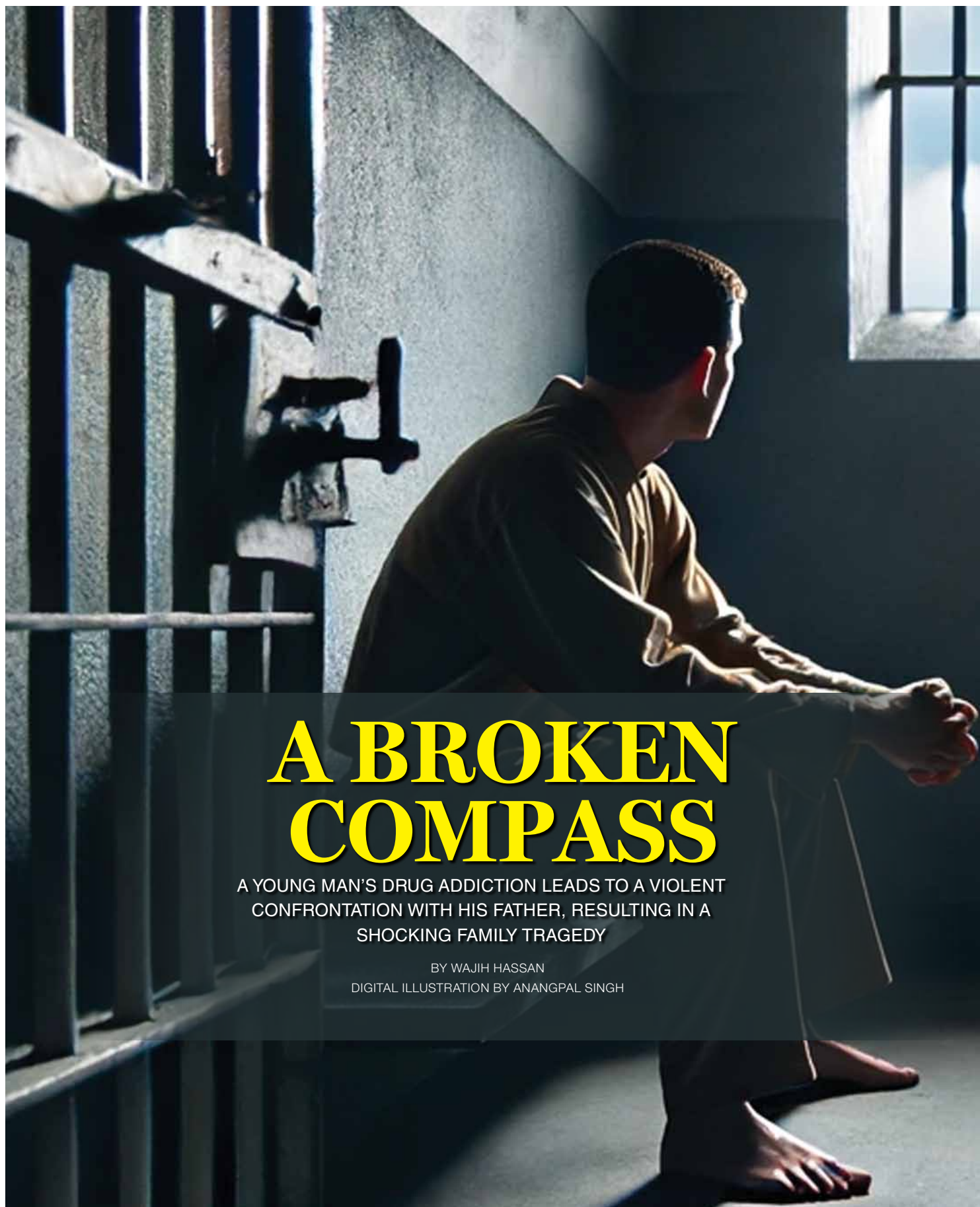
Life brims with delights, yet its path is fraught with challenges. It is beautiful for those whose hearts are content with their destinies and

confident in their journey. It is sweet for those who stand at the threshold of fate's arrows, surrendering to its will, like one who responded to the call and cast her infant into the river, trusting in her Lord to return him to her, for he was amongst the chosen. Or like one who, upon the death of her husband, raised her hands in sorrow, praying and hopeful that fate would bestow upon her one better

than him.

They say life is a woman. If she gives, she takes. I say she is like a mother, for when she takes, she bestows with boundless generosity. She strides forward, unwavering, into the unknown, nurturing only those who greet her mornings with a smile and caring for those who mend their sighs with patience, awaiting the break of dawn after a night of impenetrable darkness. She embraces those who confront their despair and emerge victorious in the battle of hope—a bewildering battle that stretches on, yet they never surrender, clinging steadfastly to the threads of hope.

They say life is a woman. If she gives, she takes. I say she is like a mother, for when she takes, she bestows with boundless generosity

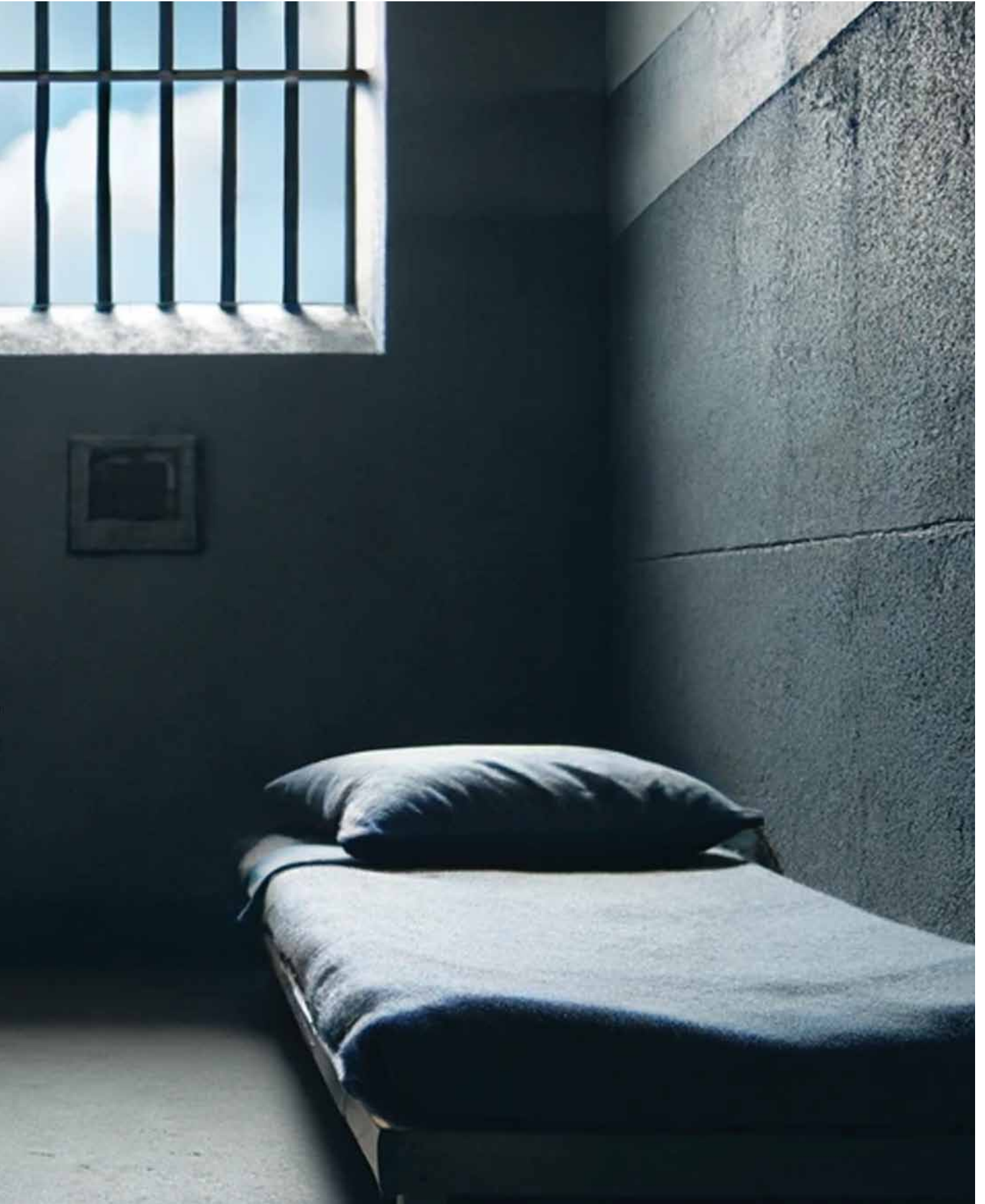


A BROKEN COMPASS

A YOUNG MAN'S DRUG ADDICTION LEADS TO A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH HIS FATHER, RESULTING IN A SHOCKING FAMILY TRAGEDY

BY WAJIH HASSAN

DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION BY ANANGPAL SINGH



Abdullah's life had always been a series of wrong turns. At 24, he had neither completed high school nor ventured into the halls of any university. His compass perpetually pointed in the wrong direction, leading him down the dark path of drug addiction. His old father, a man worn thin by years of worry, often gave him money when he begged, but more often refused, fearing that it would only feed his son's destructive habit.

One afternoon, Abdullah's desperation reached a boiling point. He had asked his father for money, and as expected, the old man refused. This refusal ignited a fierce argument, their voices echoing through the villa. After about 15 minutes of heated exchange, the father, convinced that Abdullah's request was only for drugs, stepped out into the garden to cool off. Abdullah, seething with frustration, followed him with a dagger in his hand.

As the father turned to face his son, Abdullah stabbed him multiple times. His father's frail body crumpled to the ground. The cries of anguish from inside the villa grew louder as the family rushed out and witnessed the horrifying scene.

Muhsin and Salim, Abdullah's brothers, were the first to reach their father. They quickly carried him to Muhsin's car, desperate to get him to a hospital. But Abdullah rammed his car into his brother's vehicle, trying to prevent them from leaving. Amidst the chaos, Salim discreetly called the police.

The patrol from the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) arrived swiftly, but it was too late. The father had immediately died from his injuries before the ambulance could arrive. Abdullah, oblivious to Salim's call to the police, was taken into custody. During his interrogation, he confessed that he was under the influence of illicit drugs at that time.

In the courtroom, the family sat together.

Salim and Muhsin recounted the events of that fateful day, their voices cracking with emotion. The images of their father bleeding out in the car, the desperate rush to save him, and Abdullah's attack on their vehicle played out like a nightmare.

Meanwhile, Abdullah sat with his head bowed. The weight of his actions bore down on him, with each testimony hitting him like a dagger.

The prosecution demanded the maximum punishment for Abdullah. But the defence lawyer argued that Abdullah had committed the crime

under a temporary state of insanity induced by drugs, claiming "he does not remember anything about the crime, its consequences, or its details".

However, this claim was firmly refuted by the medical committee, which confirmed that "the accused was fully responsible for his actions and words at the time of the crime." The court was also presented with Abdullah's history of rehab stints, each one ending in relapse.

The defence's plea to negate intent was rejected. The court affirmed its conviction that the crime was committed intentionally, with premeditation and determination.

Abdullah's insistence on summoning his father to the garden, only to attack him, was seen as evidence of his dark plan. Additionally, Abdullah's action of ramming his brother's car to prevent them from helping their father further highlighted his intent.

The court sentenced Abdullah to years in a correctional facility, highlighting the irreparable consequences of his drug abuse. The verdict underscored that illicit drugs threaten to disintegrate family relationships and society at large.

The compass of Abdullah's life, perpetually pointed in the wrong direction, is a reminder that every choice we make can lead us down a path of light or darkness, and it is up to us to choose wisely.

The compass of Abdullah's life, perpetually pointed in the wrong direction, is a reminder that every choice we make can lead us down a path of light or darkness, and it is up to us to choose wisely

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



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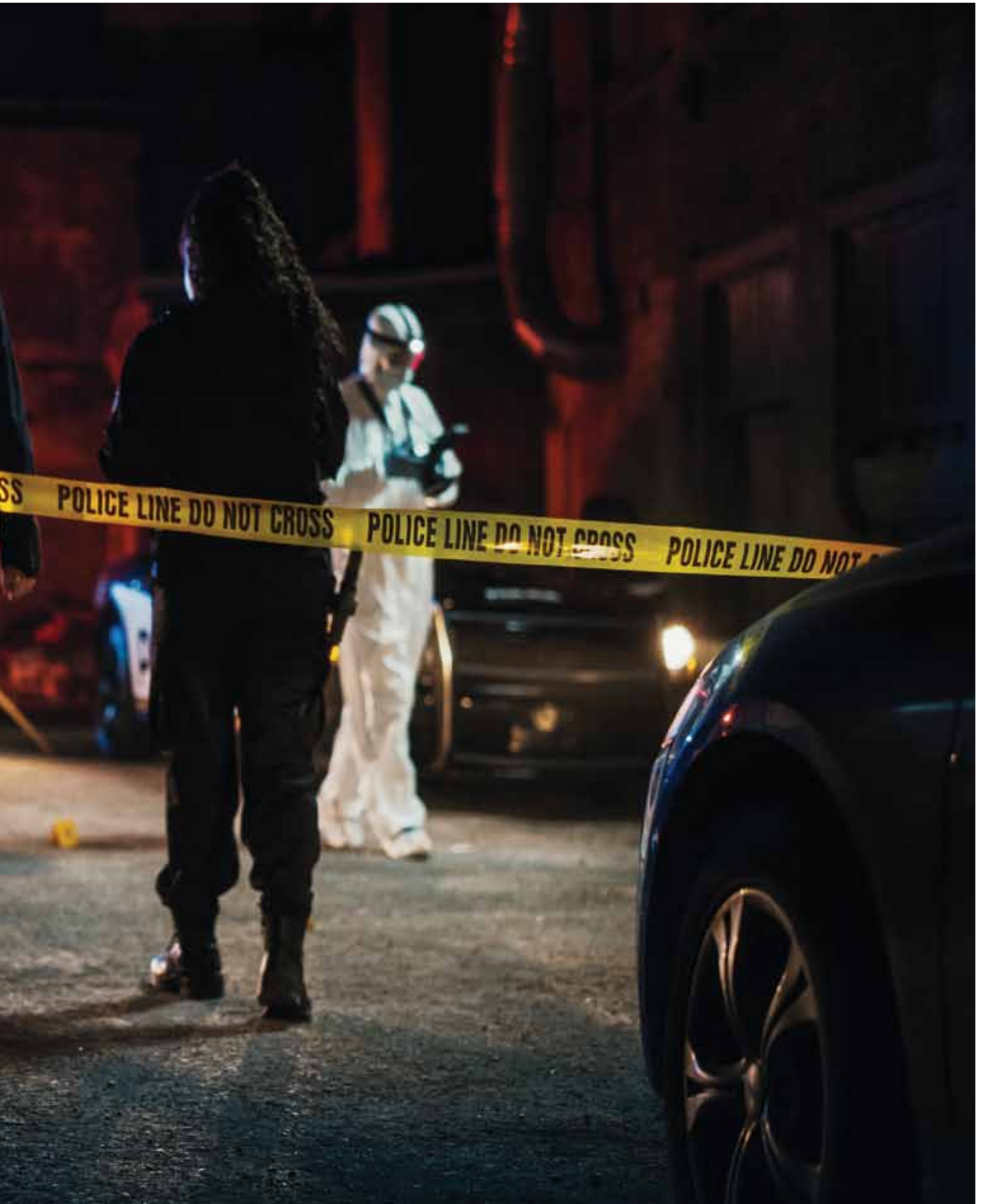
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BREAKING POINT

WORKPLACE GRIEVANCES THAT LED TO THE CATASTROPHIC TIPPING
POINTS OF COLD-BLOODED MASS SHOOTINGS

BY THEO MATIAS



DISGRUNTLED WORKER

WHEN: AUGUST 1986

WHERE: OKLAHOMA, USA

On what seemed a normal day at the United States Postal Service (USPS) in downtown Edmond, Oklahoma, on 20 August 1986, the day turned into the deadliest workplace shooting in US history when letter carrier Patrick H. Sherrill initiated on a shooting rampage.

Sherrill, 43, was a skilled marksman, honing his expertise in small arms through service in the US Marines and active participation in the Oklahoma Air National Guard, where he was a member of a pistol team. The day before the shooting, Sherrill had been reprimanded and threatened with dismissal by his postal supervisors, Richard Esser Jr and Bill Bland, for poor performance.

Dressed in his postal uniform, Sherrill arrived at work the next day armed with three semi-automatic pistols concealed in his mailbag. He entered the east entrance of the post office just before 7 am. The disgruntled worker pulled multiple pistols from his mail pouch and fatally shot one of his supervisors, Esser. He then targeted fellow workers sorting mail inside the post office, attempting to lock the back doors to trap his victims before commencing his shooting spree.

The massacre resulted in 14 fatalities and six injuries. It ended when Sherrill took his own life with a gunshot to his head as police stormed the building. Investigations revealed Sherrill had practised his shooting at a local range and had borrowed two



Patrick H. Sherrill

.45-caliber pistols used in the massacre from the guard unit.

Described as a socially inept loner struggling with his job, Sherrill had faced several disciplinary actions from his supervisors. He had previously threatened retaliation and expressed his frustration with his situation in Edmond to the local American Postal Workers Union, claiming he was "sick of this expletive".

LIVE MURDER

WHEN: AUGUST 2015

WHERE: VIRGINIA, USA

During a live television interview, Alison Parker, 24, a news reporter, and Adam Ward, 27, a cameraman from Virginia station WDBJ-TV, were tragically gunned down by a lone gunman.

Parker was interviewing Vicki Gardner, executive director of the local chamber of commerce, at a shopping centre near Smith Mountain Lake in Moneta when the gunman opened fire. Parker and Ward died at the scene, while Gardner survived.

The footage of the attack was inadvertently broadcast live, capturing eight gunshots followed by screams. Parker's cries of "Oh my God," were heard as she fell, and Ward's camera dropped to the floor, continuing to record the harrowing sounds until the broadcast cut to a visibly shaken anchor, Kimberly McBroom.

Virginia State Police later located the shooter's car heading eastbound on Interstate 66. The car eventually crashed on an embankment, and the shooter was found with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

WDBJ staff reviewed the footage and identified the gunman as Vester Lee Flanagan II, 41, a former reporter at the station known on-air as Bryce Williams, who had been dismissed for disruptive behaviour.

Flanagan had conflicts with both victims and had filed



News reporter Alison Parker, 24, and cameraman Adam Ward, 27

a complaint against Parker with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, while Ward had reported him to human resources.

ABC News received a fax from someone claiming to be Flanagan, confessing to the shootings. The fax also included a 23-page document, turned over to police, which stated Flanagan had purchased firearms legally and sought revenge for alleged racial discrimination and bullying.

FORT MASSACRE

WHEN: NOVEMBER 2009

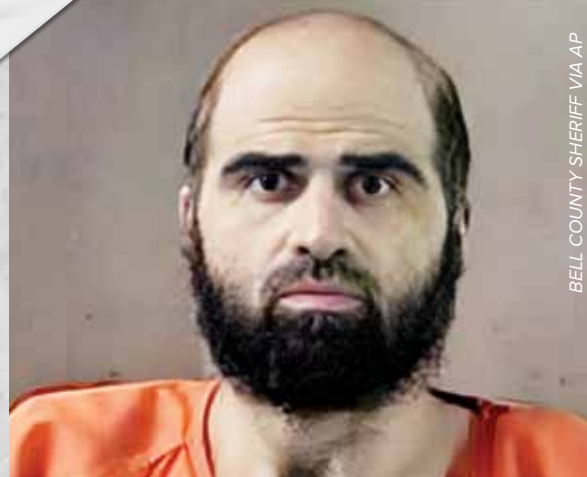
WHERE: TEXAS, USA

On 5 November 2009, the deadliest mass shooting on an American military base occurred at Fort Hood, Texas, when US Army Major Nidal Malik Hasan opened fire, resulting in 13 fatalities and 32 injuries. Hasan, a 39-year-old army psychiatrist, was responsible for the attack.

Born in Virginia to an immigrant family who owned a Roanoke restaurant and convenience store, Hasan graduated from Virginia Tech University in 2003. He completed his psychiatry training at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, and later worked at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC, treating military personnel with post-traumatic stress disorder. Promoted to major in May 2009, he was transferred to Fort Hood in July of the same year.

Pre-trial testimony revealed that Hasan purchased an FN Five-seven semi-automatic pistol from the Guns Galore store in Killeen on 31 July 2009, specifically requesting the most technologically advanced weapon with the largest magazine capacity. In the weeks leading up to the massacre, he was seen practising at an outdoor shooting range in Florence, targeting silhouettes at distances up to 100 yards.

The attack unfolded in Building 42003 of Fort Hood's Soldier Readiness Processing Center, where Hasan fired indiscriminately at soldiers undergoing medical screenings before targeting individuals.



Nidal Malik Hasan

BELL COUNTY SHERIFF VIA AP

The spree lasted about 10 minutes and claimed the lives of 12 service members and one Department of Defence employee.

Hasan was incapacitated by civilian police gunfire at the scene, resulting in paralysis from the waist down. He was charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted murder. Representing himself in military court, Hasan admitted to the shootings during his opening statement. He was found guilty on all counts and was sentenced to death on 28 August 2013.

BLOODY REVENGE

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 1989

WHERE: KENTUCKY, USA

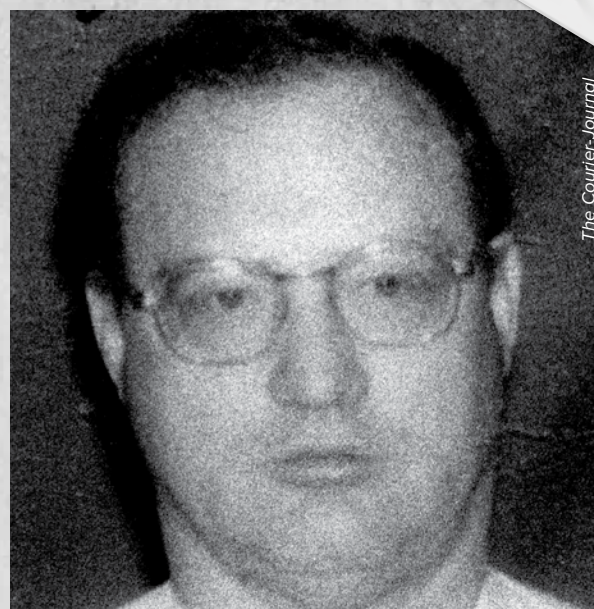
On the morning of 14 September 1989, Joseph Thomas Wesbecker entered the Standard Gravure printing plant in Louisville, where he was employed, armed with a Chinese-made semi-automatic AK-47 derivative, a 9mm pistol, two MAC-11s, a .38 calibre revolver, a bayonet, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

Wesbecker roamed the plant, shooting at employees as he moved through the floors. The mass shooting lasted 30 minutes, resulting in twelve wounded and eight fatalities before Wesbecker ended his life with a gunshot to his head.

Two years prior to the tragedy, Wesbecker had filed a complaint with Louisville's Human Relations Commission, alleging discrimination due to his mental disability. He ceased working in November 1988 and was placed on long-term disability leave in February 1989, with provisions for his return upon recovery.

During a search of Wesbecker's residence, police discovered a shotgun, a 9mm revolver, a .32 revolver, and a starter pistol. They also found Wesbecker's will and a copy of *Time Magazine* featuring an article on Patrick Purdy, who earlier that year had used a Type 56 assault rifle—the same model as Wesbecker's—to commit a deadly school shooting in Stockton, California.

Authorities noted Wesbecker had suffered significant personal and professional stress, having been twice divorced and diagnosed with depression. He had a history of multiple suicide attempts and was known amongst colleagues for his argumentative and confrontational demeanour.



Joseph Thomas Wesbecker

The Courier-Journal

Further complaints of workplace discrimination due to his manic depression were validated by the Human Relations Commission, though no formal charges were brought against his employer; instead, a settlement was mediated. The impact of this settlement on Wesbecker remains unclear, but his aunt, Mildred Higgs, suggested he harboured resentments towards the company.



IBN JUBAYR'S JOURNEY TO MEDINA, BAGHDAD AND ALEPPO

AFTER CAIRO, IBN JUBAYR JOURNEYED TO MECCA, THEN VISITED MEDINA,
BAGHDAD, MOSUL, AND ALEPPO. HIS DETAILED ACCOUNTS OFFER A VALUABLE
HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD

BY DR FALEH HANDHAL





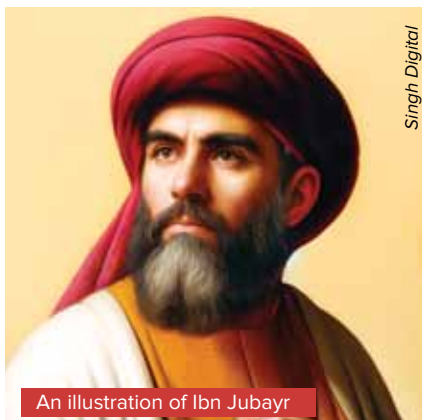
Masjid al-Nabawi, also known as the Mosque of the Prophet in Medina, Saudi Arabia

Born in Granada, now part of modern-day Andalusia in Spain, Muslim geographer, traveller, and poet Ibn Jubayr set forth on a journey that would take him across the Mediterranean and into the Far East. His meticulous documentation of his travels gave rise to a new genre of writing known as the *rihla*, or creative travelogue.

At the age of 38, Ibn Jubayr commenced his journey, travelling first to Alexandria via the Mediterranean Sea. From there, he journeyed overland to Cairo, before sailing across the Red Sea to Jeddah.

From Mecca, he ventured to Medina and subsequently visited several significant cities including Baghdad, Mosul, and Aleppo. Through his detailed accounts, Ibn Jubayr has provided a valuable historical record of the Islamic world during his time.

In Mecca, he described the washing of the Kaaba with Zamzam water, saying: “A large number of women come here with their young children, even infants because when the water flows, both men and women rush to wash their faces and hands in it. As for the night of Sha’ban, a blessed night, they witnessed a grand celebration after the evening prayer.



Singh Digital

An illustration of Ibn Jubayr

The curtains were spread, and the lamps were lit, creating a spectacle beyond imagination.”

He described the celebrations and days of Ramadan, mentioning the renewal of the covering in the Sacred Mosque and the increase in candles and torches. The imams varied according to the Islamic schools of thought such as Shafi’i, Hanbali, Hanafi, Maliki, and Zaydism.

Based on the events he witnessed, Ibn Jubayr recounted, “In this month, Prince Sayf al-Islam Tughtakin, the nephew of Saladin, visited Mecca, and people rejoiced at his arrival. When he completed his Tawaf, he prayed behind

“ As for the night of Sha’ban, they witnessed a grand celebration after the evening prayer. The curtains were spread, and the lamps were lit, creating a spectacle beyond imagination

the Maqam, drank Zamzam water, and then went out from the Safa gate to perform Sa’i. The act of Sa’i refers to the ritual of walking or running between the two hills of Safa and Marwa.

“As for the Taraweeh prayers in the holy month, the Qu’ran is completed every odd night in the last ten nights. On the day of Eid Al Fitr, people wear their Eid clothes and go out to perform the Eid prayer at the Sacred Mosque, where Prince Mukathir, the ruler of the land, prays with them. People greet each other, exchange greetings, ask for forgiveness, and supplicate to Allah.”

Then, Ibn Jubayr detailed the rituals of Hajj and spoke about the rites at Mount Arafat, Mina, and Mount Hira, covering all aspects of the pilgrimage.

From Mecca, Ibn Jubayr travelled to Medina, where he provided detailed descriptions of the mosque containing the sacred graves of the Prophet Muhammad, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq, and Umar ibn al-Khattab. He noted that in the blessed Rawdah, there was a noble pulpit adorned with ebony, and the seat of the Prophet, where people came to touch and seek blessings. Next to it, a large velvet cloth covered a significant Qu'ran, one of the four copies sent by Uthman ibn Affan to various regions. The blessed mosque had nineteen doors and three minarets.

He then described Al Baqi' Cemetery, where the graves of the companions and successors are located, including the grave of Hamzah, the Prophet Muhammad's uncle, the graves of the Prophet's wives, and the grave of Hasan ibn Ali ibn Abi Talib. There was also a house there called the House of Grief, believed to be where Fatima al-Zahra sought solace after the passing of her father. He stayed in Medina for five days before departing for Iraq.

Before his arrival in Medina, he left us with a description of the route he took from Medina to Baghdad, a journey that passed through Najd and took several days. The caravan he travelled with stopped at various locations along the way, all of which were characterised by wells and sources of freshwater. Some of these sites were adorned with palm

trees and other vegetation. According to his description, this route was the same one taken by Zubaidah bint Ja'far, the wife of Harun al-Rashid, until the journey concluded in the city of Al Kufah.

AL KUFAH

Ibn Jubayr described Al Kufah as a large, ancient city in Iraq with most buildings in ruins, constructed with bricks and lacking walls. Within the city, there was a large mosque featuring a mihrab, the niche indicating the direction of Mecca. It was in this mihrab that Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib was assassinated. Worshippers there wept and supplicated. At the end of the mosque was the house of Ali ibn Abi Talib, where he was washed.

From Al Kufah, Ibn Jubayr travelled via the Euphrates River to the town of Hillah, and from there, he proceeded to Baghdad.

From Mecca, Ibn Jubayr travelled to Medina, where he provided detailed descriptions of the mosque containing the sacred graves of the Prophet Muhammad, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq, and Umar ibn al-Khattab

BAGHDAD

When Ibn Jubayr arrived in Baghdad, the Abbasid caliph was Al Mustadhi. He provided a sombre description of Baghdad, praising only its scholarly gatherings. He said: "This ancient city, though still the seat of the Abbasid caliphate and the epitome of the Qurayshi, has lost most of its grandeur. All that remains is its famous name, overshadowed by calamities and disasters, rendering it like an abandoned ruin or a fading statue. There is nothing beautiful that catches the eye or invites contemplation of its past."

The first decline of the Abbasid caliphate's glory occurred in 950 CE when the Buyids captured Baghdad. They ruled over central and southern Persia and Iraq from 934 to 1062, humiliating and killing the Abbasid caliphs. About a century later, the Seljuks ruled Baghdad. Although they came to rescue the city from the Buyids, the authority of the Abbasid caliph remained weak under their foreign rule, similar to the Buyids. Around 1094 CE, their influence began to decline. During Al Muqtafi ibn Al Mustazhir's time, a conflict arose between the caliph's authority and the Seljuks, leading to a three-month siege and a subsequent battle that expelled the Seljuks from Baghdad. In 1180 CE, Al Mustadhi ascended the throne, and it was during his reign that Ibn Jubayr arrived in Baghdad.

Moreover, Ibn Jubayr's rihla provided a good description of its religious and scholarly gatherings in Baghdad. He described the Shafi'i gatherings at the



The Great Mosque of Kufah, 1915



The ziggurat at Aqar Quf served as a signal for camel caravans, indicating their near approach to the city of Baghdad

“ This ancient city, though still the seat of the Abbasid caliphate and the epitome of the Qurayshi, has lost most of its grandeur. All that remains is its famous name, overshadowed by calamities and disasters

Nizamiyya School as sessions of learning and preaching. He also attended the Hanbali gatherings, where he met the jurisconsult Ibn Al Jawzi, whom he described as specialised in advanced sciences. Additionally, he detailed other gatherings of preachers in Baghdad.

Ibn Jubayr noted that Baghdad was divided by the river into two parts. The western part was in ruins, though once inhabited, while the eastern area contained the caliph's palace and offered magnificent views. There, he met Caliph Al Mustadhi, who was enjoying a boat trip on the Tigris River. He described the caliph as fair-haired, handsome, about twenty-five years old, dressed in a white robe with a golden cap.

He concluded his description of Baghdad by stating: “The condition of this city is greater than can be described, and it is not what it used to be.” He quoted Abu Tammam: “Neither are you what you once were, nor are the places as they once were.”

Ibn Jubayr then left Baghdad for Mosul, passing through Samarra. Built by Caliph Al Mu'tasim around 830 CE, Samarra served as the Abbasid capital for half a century. The city fell into decline after the Turks caused corruption, killing Caliph Al Mutawakkil and manipulating the caliphate.

Describing Samarra, Ibn Jubayr wrote: “It is a city that has been ruined, and there is no trace left of its beauty. Allah

is the Inheritor of the earth and all that is upon it.” He described the region of Al as a place with black soil bubbling with boiling water, some of which splashed like boiling oil onto the ground, appearing black, smooth, solid, and wet. From a distance, they saw fire erupting from the ground.

It is worth mentioning that Ibn Jubayr's description of this land led early 20th-century oil scientists to deduce the presence of oil in Iraq.

MOSUL

When Ibn Jubayr arrived in Mosul, the city was under the rule of Imad ed-Din Zengi, who also controlled Aleppo. Zengi, the founder of the Zengid dynasty, maintained good relations with both the Abbasid Caliph in Baghdad and Saladin in Egypt.

Ibn Jubayr described Mosul as an ancient, massive, fortified, and luxurious city that had endured through time, preparing itself for turmoil. He noted that Allah had blessed the city with the tomb of the Prophet Jirjis, around which a mosque was built. Additionally, the city featured a



Present-day cityscape of Mosul, Iraq

It is worth mentioning that Ibn Jubayr's description of this land led early 20th century oil scientists to deduce the presence of oil in Iraq

tall hill where the Prophet Jonah stood and called his people to worship Allah. Near this spot was a blessed spring attributed to Jonah, and nearby were ruins believed to be remnants of Nineveh, Jonah's city.

After leaving Mosul, Ibn Jubayr headed towards the Syrian border, passing through several cities. The first was Nusaybin, which he described as famous for its antiquity and history, with a youthful exterior and ancient interior, beautiful amidst its grandeur and small size.

Next, he passed through various towns until he reached Harran. He described Harran as a town whose name derived from its atmosphere, as its waters never froze and it remained warm, with blazing squares and corners. He noted that it was an honour from Allah that it was the ancient town attributed to Abraham, with a flowing spring and the dwelling of Abraham and Sarah.

Continuing his journey, Ibn Jubayr entered the city of Manbij, describing it



The Citadel of Aleppo is considered one of the oldest and largest castles in the world, dating back at least to the middle of the 3rd millennium BCE

as vast with healthy air, surrounded by an ancient extended wall. He mentioned that the town had been subject to various events and was ruined, once an ancient Roman city with a fortified castle. From Manbij, Ibn Jubayr reached Aleppo.

ALEPPO

Ibn Jubayr described Aleppo as a city of significant importance, resonating through every era with a

revered reputation. He emphasised the prominence of its renowned citadel, which stood tall and impregnable, unmatched by any other fortress. The citadel's distinguished honour was founded on the belief that it was once a hill where the Prophet Abraham sought refuge, tended his sheep, and generously donated their milk. Hence, the city was named Halab (Aleppo), derived from the Arabic word for milk.

SLEEK SUPERIORITY

Introducing the **Samsung Galaxy F55 5G**, Samsung's most luxurious offering in the Galaxy F series. It boasts a sleek design with a premium vegan leather back, enhancing its stylish appeal. The device features a powerful Snapdragon 7 Gen1 processor and supports 45W super-fast charging. It promises longevity with four generations of Android upgrades and five years of security updates, ensuring sustained access to the latest features and optimal security. The 6.7-inch Full HD+ Super AMOLED+ display delivers vivid visuals, bolstered by 1000 nits brightness and Vision Booster technology at a 120Hz refresh rate. The Galaxy F55 5G excels in photography with a 50 MP (OIS) No Shake Camera for high-resolution, stable images and videos, an 8MP ultra-wide sensor, and Nightography for exceptional low-light captures. It also features a 50MP front camera for detailed selfies.

PRICE: Starts at Dhs844

WEBSITE: www.samsung.com



ECO-POWERHOUSE



The **Vivo X100 Ultra** exemplifies eco-friendly innovation by blending high performance with environmental sustainability. Powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 chipset, it delivers fast, energy-efficient performance across tasks. Its octa-core CPU and Adreno 750 GPU ensure seamless multitasking, gaming, and streaming. The smartphone boasts an LTPO AMOLED display, displaying 1 billion colours and a peak brightness of 3000 nits for outstanding clarity. Camera-wise, it features a Zeiss 200MP APO super telephoto lens and a 50MP ultrawide lens, along with the industry's largest "1/1.4" Samsung S5KHP9 CMOS telephoto lens. The Vivo X100 Ultra introduces the Blueprint imaging chip V3+, which is 30 per cent more energy-efficient than its predecessor, ensuring that superior technology supports sustainable practices.

PRICE: Starts at Dhs3,315

WEBSITE: www.vivo.com

INNOVATION EDGE

Samsung has launched the **Galaxy Book4 Edge**, a laptop integrating advanced hardware and AI-driven software. Equipped with the Qualcomm Snapdragon X Elite processor, designed specifically for Galaxy AI, this device offers a revolutionary computing experience. It includes features like a Phone Plug-in to manage mobile phones directly from the laptop and a dedicated AI key for accessing Microsoft's productivity-enhancing tools. The Galaxy Book4 Edge also introduces the Recall chatbot, which logs user activities for enhanced interaction. Available in both 14-inch and 16-inch models, the laptop boasts a 3K Dynamic AMOLED 2X touchscreen display. It features a durable battery lasting up to 22 hours and supports super-fast charging.

PRICE: Dhs4,955

WEBSITE: www.samsung.com



VISION GUARD

Meet the **Poco Pad**, your new go-to for high-intensity gaming and multimedia tasks. With its robust performance and energy-efficient design, this tablet not only dazzles with its crisp 12.1-inch high-refresh display but also cares for your eyes while keeping you fully engaged. The Poco Pad has 8GB RAM and 256GB storage—expandable to 1.5TB via microSD—the Poco Pad ensures ample space and seamless usability. Enhancing users' experience are accessories like a Smart Pen, folio, and keyboard case, all designed to maximise productivity. Its 10,000mAh battery offers up to 16 hours of video playback or 18 hours of reading, letting users enjoy prolonged use without the need for frequent recharges.

PRICE: Dhs1,099

WEBSITE: www.po.co/global



SMART ACCESS

The **Realme Narzo N65** epitomises affordable technology without sacrificing performance or durability, granting universal access to the digital world. This sleek smartphone measures 165.6 x 76.1 x 7.9 mm, weighs 190 g and features a 6.67-inch IPS LCD with a 120Hz refresh rate and brightness up to 625 nits for immersive visuals. Its main camera, with an f/1.8 aperture and PDAF, captures sharp, high-quality images in varied lighting conditions, while the 8 MP front camera offers clear 1080p video calls and selfies. Enhanced with 15W Quick Charge technology, its 5000 mAh battery is designed to sustain a full day's use, making it ideal for busy professionals and active social media users alike.

PRICE: Dhs299

WEBSITE: www.realme.com



KIDS SMARTWATCH



The **Fitbit Ace LTE**, designed by Google, motivates children to be active while keeping parents informed via LTE-enabled calls, chat, and location notifications. This smartwatch facilitates communication with up to 20 contacts through calls, texts, and messages, managed through the Fitbit Ace app. Equipped with advanced real-time location technology, it features a durable 41.04 x 44.89 mm OLED display with a resolution of 333 PPI, protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 3 for resistance to bumps, scratches, and water. The device is powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon W5 processor and runs on Wear OS. It also includes Fitbit Arcade, a collection of interactive 3D games that utilise the watch's sensors, like the accelerometer, to incorporate physical activity into the gameplay.

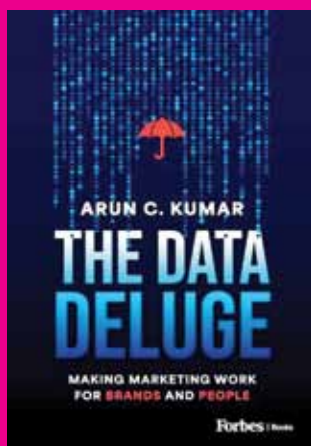
PRICE: Starts at Dhs844

WEBSITE: www.fitbit.com



ESSENTIAL READS FOR TIMELY BUSINESS INSIGHTS, LIFE BEYOND SOCIETAL DIVIDES, AND TRADITIONAL CULINARY EXPERIENCES—ALL BETWEEN THE COVERS THIS MONTH

BY ROD MARTIN



DATA AVALANCE

TITLE: The Data Deluge: Making Marketing Work for Brands and People

AUTHOR: Arun C. Kumar

PUBLISHER: Forbes Books

PRICE: Dhs110

With over 25 years of illustrious career in advertising and marketing, Arun C. Kumar examines the transformative impact of digital development and data management in the industry. This book explores the complexities of data explosion and targeted marketing, propelled by advancements in analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI). It aims to fortify brands' relationships with consumers through trust and transparency. Kumar contends that the digital age, particularly marked by the rise of Generative AI, has radically altered advertising tactics and consumer behaviours. He argues that effective digital marketing now demands content that is not only informative but also highly engaging. This shift signifies a departure from traditional repetitive strategies.



BOARDROOM WISDOM

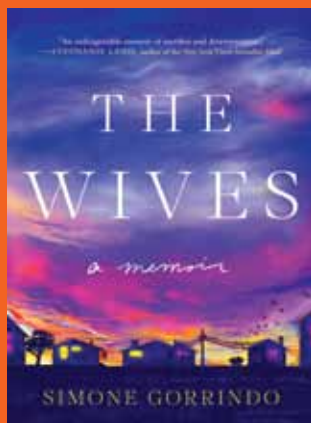
TITLE: Competitive Success: Building Winning Strategies with Corporate War Games

AUTHOR: Arjan Singh

PUBLISHER: Forbes Books

PRICE: Dhs88

Arjan Singh, a leading competitive intelligence expert, investigates the strategic potency of war gaming for top corporations. Drawing on his experience of conducting over 200 war games for Fortune 500 companies, Singh provides a compelling narrative on crafting victorious strategies through collaborative, scenario-based planning. He tackles how these simulated battles not only safeguard corporate competitiveness but also prepare leaders to handle unforeseen challenges effectively. Singh's guide is replete with engaging anecdotes demonstrating the practical applications and benefits of war gaming in a risk-free workshop setting. This method empowers business leaders with robust, actionable plans, fostering confidence and unity within their teams. This book is essential reading for anyone seeking to enhance their strategic insight and ensure their organisation's long-term viability.



ARMY SPOUSES

TITLE: The Wives: A Memoir

AUTHOR: Simone Gorrindo

PUBLISHERS: Gallery/Scout Press

PRICE: Dhs77

In her evocative memoir, Simone Gorrindo masterfully recounts her transition from a bustling New York City life to the close-knit community of army spouses in Columbus, Georgia. Uprooted by her husband's enlistment in an elite army unit, Gorrindo navigates the challenges of frequent deployments and the solitude of military spouse life. In this memoir, she offers a tender portrait of the women she meets, revealing the resilience and unity amongst spouses who, just like her, face similar adversities. Her narrative extends beyond personal experiences, providing a glimpse of the broader societal divides impacting America. This book shows how the power of human connections can bridge deep-rooted divides.



NATURE'S NURTURE

TITLE: Amphibious Soul
AUTHOR: Craig Foster
PUBLISHER: HarperOne
PRICE: Dhs82

In this compelling memoir, Craig Foster narrates a decade of daily adventures in the Great African Seaforest, offering a narrative that is as enriching as it is enlightening. Foster's return to his roots at the Cape of Good Hope serves as a sanctuary from the draining demands of city life and a professional career that left him feeling depleted. His journey rekindles a profound connection with nature, which becomes crucial when he faces personal tragedies. Foster's account is vividly brought to life with original photos and QR codes linked to mini-videos, showing his underwater experiences. His interactions with the wilderness, underpinned by insights from Indigenous teachers and scientific research, aim to foster a deeper appreciation for our environment.

The Third Perspective

Brave
Expression
in the
Age of
Intolerance



Africa
Brooke

DIALOGUE DYNAMICS

TITLE: The Third Perspective: Brave Expression in the Age of Intolerance
AUTHOR: Africa Brooke
PUBLISHER: Hachette Go
PRICE: Dhs86

International thought leader Africa Brooke advocates for the revival of critical thinking to bridge societal divides. This book provides a structured approach to participating in potentially contentious discussions across various topics such as politics, race, and religion. Brooke's method emphasises maintaining integrity and authenticity while openly sharing one's views and attentively listening to opposing opinions. This guide equips readers with strategies to avoid rigid thinking and promotes a communicative path that fosters understanding and connection without self-censorship. With her extensive experience coaching high-profile clients, Brooke's techniques are designed to enhance personal and professional interactions. This guidebook not only encourages better communication skills but also promises to be transformative, vital for building trust and fruitful relationships.

BITE BY BITE



Nourishment & Jamborees
AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF WONDER OF WONDERS

CULINARY IDENTITY

TITLE: Bite by Bite: Nourishments and Jamborees
AUTHOR: Aimee Nezhukumatathil
PUBLISHER: HarperOne
PRICE: Dhs76

In her latest book, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, a celebrated poet and essayist, presents a vivid collection of memories centred around the sensory experiences of food and drink. Each chapter weaves together the tastes that define personal and collective histories—joy, shame, desire, and nostalgia—while also examining the boundaries between heritage and memory. Nezhukumatathil invites readers to reconsider their relationship with food, highlighting its role in shaping our identities and experiences. Her narrative tackles diverse food traditions, from shaved ice and mangoes to pecans and vanilla, considering the ethical and environmental implications of how these foods are gathered and consumed. Accompanied by Fumi Nakamura's exquisite illustrations, the book offers a delightful and introspective journey that restores our sense of wonder and astonishment about the culinary world.

UAE, Indonesia launch Mangrove Research Centre in Bali

Construction has begun on the Mohamed bin Zayed-Joko Widodo International Mangrove Research Centre in Bali, Indonesia, marking a significant advancement in global environmental research efforts. Funded by a \$10 million (Dhs36.7 million) commitment from the UAE, the facility is set on 2.5 hectares within Bali's Ngurah Rai Forest Park, which encompasses over 1,158 hectares of mangroves.

The Centre aims to enhance the cultivation of mangroves, crucial for improving coastal habitats and promoting biodiversity.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, HE Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure and Special



UAE and Indonesian government officials during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Mohamed bin Zayed-Joko Widodo International Mangrove Research Centre

Envoy for His Highness the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Indonesia, highlighted the Centre as an important step in global cooperation for environmental preservation. "The project reflects the UAE's commitment to protect critical ecosystems, such as mangroves, and is in line with [the country's] climate-mitigation

will support global efforts to expand mangrove forests, including the UAE's plan to plant 100 million mangroves by 2030 and contribute to the preservation of Indonesia's extensive mangrove ecosystems. The Centre will also promote international knowledge exchange on mangrove development.

efforts," said Al Mazrouei.

HE Dr Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, reaffirmed the UAE's commitment under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to playing a key role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

The Centre

Dubai implements comprehensive ban on single-use bags

Starting this month, Dubai will enforce a ban on all single-use bags made from any material and thinner than 57 micrometres, to bolster its environmental sustainability efforts.

The ban, announced by Dubai Municipality, includes bags made from paper, plastic, and recyclable materials, although certain exceptions apply. Exempted items include bread bags, rubbish bin liners, and packaging for fresh food items such

as vegetables, meats, fish, and chicken, as well as bags for laundry, electronic devices, and grains.

The enforcement of this ban forms a crucial element of Dubai's broader



environmental strategy, following successful reductions in single-use plastics observed in other emirates like Abu Dhabi, where usage plummeted by 95 per cent a year following the implementation of a

include a wider range of plastic products like stirrers, tableware, and food containers.

Residents are encouraged to report non-compliant retailers to the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism.

similar ban in June 2022.

Violations of this ban in Dubai will result in a fine of Dhs200, which doubles for repeat offences within a year, up to a maximum of Dhs2,000.

This initiative is part of Dubai's push to foster an eco-friendly lifestyle and increase the use of reusable and recycled products within the private sector.

Future expansions of this ban, set for January 2025 and 2026, will

Researchers develop plastic-eating bacteria to reduce pollution

Researchers at the University of California San Diego have developed a method to incorporate spores of plastic-eating bacteria into polyurethane, creating a self-destructive type of plastic.

Unlike other plastics, this innovative polyurethane variation is designed to break down after use, addressing significant waste management challenges.

Polyurethane, a common polymer used for items such as mobile phone cases and trainers, typically ends up in landfills because it cannot be recycled through traditional melting processes.

Jon Pokorski, a co-researcher in the study, explained, "Our process not only makes



the materials more durable, thus extending their useful life, but also ensures they can be completely broken down in the environment after they are no longer needed, irrespective of disposal methods."

The self-destructing feature of the plastic

is enabled by the incorporation of *Bacillus subtilis* spores, a bacterium commonly used as a food additive and probiotic. These spores are genetically engineered to withstand high temperatures during the plastic production process, ensuring they remain intact when the plastic is moulded.

This breakthrough, detailed in the journal *Nature*, represents a significant step forward in developing sustainable materials

that can significantly reduce the ecological footprint of plastic products.

The plastic is currently in the developmental stage at laboratory scale but is expected to hit the market within a few years, pending partnership with manufacturers.

UN study highlights seaweed's "superpower" to tackle climate change

Seaweed could play a significant role in combating climate change and enhancing livelihood, according to a recent study by the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The report titled "An ocean of opportunities: The potential of seaweed to advance environmental and gender dimensions of SDGs" highlights seaweed's potential contributions to climate action, food security, and gender equality, which are often overlooked due to the dominance of fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Chantal Line Carpentier, Head of the Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch at UNCTAD, emphasised seaweed's multifaceted benefits. "Seaweed has superpowers. It can advance several



sustainable development goals at a time – economic empowerment of women and food security while helping to tackle the triple environmental crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution," she stated.

The UNCTAD report noted that seaweed production is resource-efficient with a

minimal ecological footprint, requiring no land, fresh water, or fertilisers and absorbing more carbon than tropical forests or mangroves.

Despite its benefits, the lack of global regulations, standards, and guidance for seaweed production and consumption impedes its ability to address global challenges such as hunger, plastic pollution, wastewater management, and environmental pollutants.

UNCTAD data shows the global seaweed

market has expanded significantly, from \$5 billion (Dhs18 bn) in 2000 to \$17 billion (Dhs62 bn) in 2021, with exports valued at about \$1 billion (Dhs3.67 bn). Compared to the global fisheries and marine resources market valued at \$400 billion (Dhs1.46 trn) in 2020, seaweed remains a small, yet rapidly growing market segment.

Study shows omega-3 fatty acids can calm aggression, anger



Food and mood have always shared a close connection—think of comfort food for a quick emotional boost. But what if the key to managing anger lies in your diet?

Recent research suggests that omega-3 fatty acids might be the ideal 'comfort

food' for those who frequently feel on edge, reducing aggression and irritability by up to 30 per cent, regardless of age and gender, diagnosis, treatment duration, and dosage.

The anti-inflammatory effect on the

brain of these healthy fats enhances the production of dopamine and serotonin, researchers from the University of Pennsylvania found.

The researchers conducted a meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials that evaluated hostility amongst individuals taking omega-3 supplements over a period of 16 weeks. It showed that omega-3 reduced reactive aggression, behaviour in response to a provocation, and proactive aggression, planned or directed hostility.

However, the researchers suggest that omega-3 supplements should be taken along with therapy or medication to help treat aggression.

Stefanie Daniels, a nutritional therapist not involved in the study, explained, "Chronic inflammation in the brain is linked to mood disorders and aggressive behaviour, and omega-3s (particularly EPA and DHA) help reduce this inflammation." She added, "By decreasing inflammation, these fatty acids can support a more stable and balanced mood."

Ultra-processed foods increase stroke risk, study says

People often worry about how junk food might affect their weight, but its impact extends far beyond the scale. A groundbreaking study of over 30,000 individuals has linked a diet high in ultra-processed foods not only to a swollen waistline but also to a significantly higher risk of cognitive decline and stroke.

The research, published in the journal *Neurology*, showed that a mere 10 per cent increase in consumption of these foods could escalate the risk of brain health issues by 16 per cent. Furthermore, the study found that eating more processed foods was linked with a 12 per cent higher risk of cognitive impairment and an increased risk of having a stroke by 9 per cent.

The study author, Dr W. Taylor Kimberly, a critical care neurologist with Massachusetts General Hospital, stated, "Our findings show that the degree of food processing plays an important role in overall brain health. We found that increased consumption of



ultra-processed foods was associated with a higher risk of both stroke and cognitive impairment, and the association between ultra-processed foods and stroke was greater amongst Black participants."

The researchers looked at 30,239 participants in the United States aged 45 and above who self-identified as Black or White. They analysed the consumption of

ultra-processed foods and unprocessed or minimally processed foods like vegetables, fruits, and simple cuts of meat.

"While a healthy diet is important in maintaining brain health amongst older adults, the most important dietary choices for your brain remain unclear," Kimberly said, underscoring that more research is needed to confirm these results.

Prolonged heat waves linked to rise in premature births

The rising mercury doesn't just signal beach days but may also be ringing in unexpected changes to human birth patterns. A new study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* suggests that rates of premature and early-term births increase following heat waves.

Researchers from the University of Nevada analysed 25 years of birth data, encompassing 53 million births, and discovered an association between the daily rates of preterm and early-term births with intense and prolonged heat waves. The study revealed that preterm births increased by 2 per cent, while early-term births increased by 1 per cent, after four consecutive days during which each day's average temperature ranked amongst the hottest 2.5 per cent for that region.

The researchers highlighted that extreme heat events have significant implications for perinatal health. "There's enough evidence at this point to suggest that these exposures can have effects on pregnancy, and that is a good cautionary



approach for clinicians and their pregnant patients during these heat wave events," stated Lyndsey Darrow, an epidemiologist at the University of Nevada Reno, who also co-authored the study.

The risk was found to be slightly higher amongst younger mothers, those with less

education, lower socioeconomic levels, and Black and Hispanic mothers. "Increases in preterm and early-term birth rates were more pronounced during heatwaves of longer duration and higher temperatures, and amongst population subgroups associated with lower socioeconomic status," the study stated.

Life expectancy expected to rise nearly five years by 2050



The average global life expectancy is set to increase by nearly five years worldwide by 2050, according to new research published in *The Lancet*.

The study indicates that the average lifespan is expected to rise from 73.6 years

in 2022 to 78.1 years in 2050. It projects a global life expectancy increase of 4.9 years in males and 4.2 years in females.

Liane Ong, lead research scientist at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington

and co-author of the study, stated, "Future trends may be quite different from past trends because of factors such as climate change, and increasing obesity and addiction rates."

The researchers explained that the trend is largely driven by public health measures that have prevented and improved survival rates from diseases like heart disease, COVID-19, and a range of communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases.

Meanwhile, the report forecasts that the five leading causes of disease in 2050 will be ischemic heart disease, stroke, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and neonatal disorders.

The study also predicted that the total number of years lost due to metabolic risk factors such as high blood pressure, high blood sugar, and high body mass index has increased by almost 49.4 per cent since 2000.

The data indicate that air pollution, smoking, and low birth weight are amongst the largest contributors to the number of years of health loss due to poor health and early death.

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WHAT THE MONTH HAS IN STORE



ARIES (MARCH 21 TO APRIL 20)

This month brings professional growth and fresh opportunities. Focus on setting realistic goals and working collaboratively. Pay attention to health by adopting balanced routines. Exercise caution with financial investments. Patience and resilience will lead to successful outcomes.



LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22)

Teamwork is essential for career success. Foster harmony in professional relationships. Prioritise mental health through relaxation. Careful financial planning ensures stability. Self-improvement and skill enhancement opportunities abound. Be open to constructive feedback.



TAURUS (APRIL 20 – MAY 21)

Career advancements are likely. Remain grounded and organised to make the most of new projects. Prioritise relaxation to manage stress and maintain health. Financial stability improves through strategic planning. Engage in creative activities to rejuvenate your mind.



SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21)

Set clear goals for career advancement. Manage stress to maintain health. Smart investments lead to financial gains. View challenges as opportunities for growth. Determination and persistence are vital. Acknowledge and build on your achievements.



GEMINI (MAY 22 – JUNE 20)

Networking is crucial for career development. Attend industry events to expand professional connections. Balance work with rest to maintain health. Unexpected financial gains are possible. Adaptability will help navigate changing circumstances effectively.



SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21)

Professional opportunities arise through networking. Be proactive and receptive to new ideas. Regular physical activity benefits health. Monitor expenses and save for the future. Curiosity in your career can lead to rewarding experiences.



CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22)

Hone your skills and seek professional development opportunities. Health improves with consistent self-care routines. Prudent budgeting stabilises financial matters. Personal growth and introspection are key. Persistence and patience will help achieve long-term goals.



CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19)

Career growth is highlighted. Stay committed to your objectives. Balanced routines improve health. Financial discipline ensures stability. Resilience and determination help overcome challenges. Regularly assess and celebrate your progress.



LEO (JULY 23 – AUGUST 22)

Leadership roles may present themselves. Show initiative and highlight your abilities. Maintain a healthy diet and exercise regime. Avoid impulsive financial decisions. Teamwork and collaboration yield successful outcomes. Reflect on your accomplishments and plan ahead.



AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18)

Innovation and creativity drive your career forward. Be adaptable and embrace new ideas. A balanced lifestyle supports health. Unexpected financial opportunities may arise. Collaboration with others proves beneficial. Pursue personal and professional growth.



VIRGO (AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22)

Recognition in your profession is within reach. Stay diligent and focused. Mindfulness and adequate rest benefit health. Financially, concentrate on saving and strategic investments. Be flexible at work and pursue continuous learning opportunities.



PISCES (FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20)

Dedication to your career brings advancements. Regular exercise and self-care improve health. Financial planning and saving ensure stability. Personal growth comes from introspection. Patience and resilience are key to achieving long-term objectives.

PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 1) Getting on
- 6) Say "Li'l," e.g.
- 11) Branch
- 14) Low point
- 15) Arc lamp gas
- 16) Babe in the woods
- 17) Teen years
- 19) Type of wrestling
- 20) Decorative jugs
- 21) France's major river
- 23) Of the flesh
- 26) Country on Lake Victoria
- 27) Curiosity
- 28) Ancient manuscripts
- 30) Comanche clan
- 31) Actor's goal
- 32) Bygone despot
- 35) Actor Arnold
- 36) Compatibility device
- 39) Cry's partner
- 40) Future indicator

- 42) Unpleasant burden

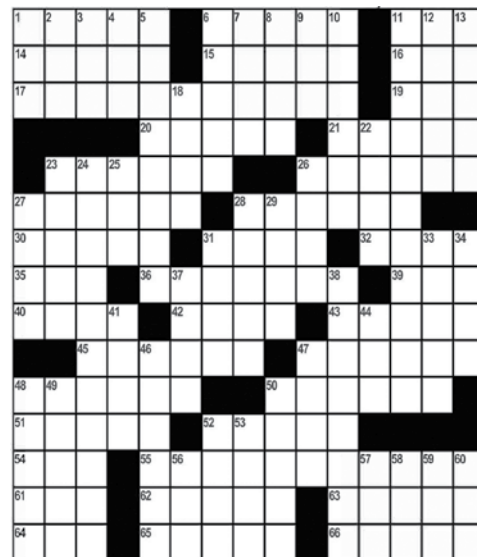
- 43) All excited
- 45) Charioteer constellation
- 47) Kind of column
- 48) Soaked to the gills
- 50) Pang
- 51) Double-reed instruments
- 52) In front of
- 54) Casbah headgear
- 55) Arm of the Mediterranean
- 61) British beverage
- 62) Meat cuts
- 63) Rose protection
- 64) Confession component
- 65) Related maternally
- 66) Deviated from a course, as a ship

DOWN

- 1) Santa __, Calif.
- 2) Wander (with "about")
- 3) Words said at an altar

- 4) Not even one
- 5) Chinese restaurant offering
- 6) Go great guns
- 7) Goatish glance
- 8) Not-final resting places
- 9) One of the Seven Dwarfs
- 10) Pep
- 11) Reprimanding
- 12) Three minutes, in boxing
- 13) Euripides drama
- 18) Go to and from
- 22) Male red deer
- 23) Kind of drive
- 24) Cheap
- 25) Barbecue offering
- 26) "What've you been _?"
- 27) "Laura" director
- 28) _New Guinea

- 29) Crafts' counterparts
- 31) Sudden sharp pain
- 33) Surrounding glows
- 34) Casting need
- 37) Bump off
- 38) Quickness
- 41) In one's birthday suit
- 44) Bad thing to see after hearing "Shark!"
- 46) Flea market deal
- 47) Belt out of the park
- 48) Chesterfields, e.g.
- 49) Old manuscript marks
- 50) Annoy persistently
- 52) Opera solo
- 53) Clue
- 56) "The Godfather" title
- 57) When doubled, a dance
- 58) Mate
- 59) " ... _ he drove out of sight"
- 60) "Go on ... "



Easy

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

Medium

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

SOLUTIONS

SOLUTIONS FOR THE JUNE ISSUE



www.alberichcrosswords.com

www.dailysudoku.com

easy

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

medium

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

P	U	F	F	S		E	S	S	A	F	A	R
S	P	I	E	L	S	G	O	E	S	D	O	W
A	R	E	T	O	O	O	U	T	L	O	O	K
L	O	S	E	O	N	E	S	S	H	I	R	T
M	O	T		P	G	A		T	E	R	S	E
S	T	A	Y		T	R	I	M		S	A	I
			A	I	R	O	P	U	S		C	R
			G	O	O	D	Y	T	W	O	S	H
			C	A	V		S	A	K	E		S
			A	L	E	S		N	O	L	O	
			P	A	R	T	S		A	S	P	E
			S	E	C	R	E	T		S	E	R
			A	P	P	R	A	I	S	E		
			P	A	I	N	T	C	A	N		
			T	Y	N	E		H	U	T		

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The rendered services contain feasibility studies, schedule assessments at an early stage under a pre-construction agreement, Design and Build or tailor-made solutions as well as verification and assessment on operability and maintenance of projects, supplemented by the application and initiation of alternative financing models.

ZÜBLIN | STRABAG's range of services include general and specialized civil engineering, roads, bridges, legacy buildings, railways, dams, ports, water treatment plants and tunnels utilizing the best locally available resources complemented by our international team's know-how and expertise through the project inauguration, realization, and project operation.

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Because success comes from working together, vision, passion, and expertise, clients are seeing **ZÜBLIN | STRABAG** as their primary and trusted partner. Our professional team utilize the latest innovative technology to complete projects to the highest standards. **ZÜBLIN | STRABAG's** expertise enables us to offer a complete and integrated project solution, with our international team committed to ensure the successful delivery of your project, on time and within budget. This makes the difference for **ZÜBLIN | STRABAG's** Clients when it comes to making amazing things possible.

ZÜBLIN | STRABAG recognizes that success is generated by knowing our individual strength and working together as a team.



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