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More UAE retailers offer rupee payments

DUBAI
BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

With visitors from India being allowed to use rupee to shop in the UAE with the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) from last month, more UAE retailers are now making this option available to shoppers.

Hypermarket operator LuLu was the latest among several others to roll out UPI payments at all its UAE stores. Indian tourists can scan a QR code at point-of-sale machines in LuLu outlets using their UPI-enabled apps – with the mobile number they have in India – or the RuPay card to make payments on purchases in the UAE.

The payment, which is made using the funds tied to their bank accounts in India, can be done in Indian rupees, as opposed to being made in UAE dirhams, US dollars or any other currency – in cash or credit card – up until now.

Additionally, as the UPI is directly connected to the visitors' bank accounts in India, payment for a transaction here gets done instantly. Much like what those shoppers would experience if they bought anything in India.

Blinken in Israel to bridge gaps in Gaza ceasefire talks

TOP US DIPLOMAT ON 9TH TRIP TO REGION AIMS TO AVERT WIDER WAR

DUBAI
BY STEPHEN N. R.
Senior Associate Editor

Israel and Hamas were at odds over the progress of ceasefire talks in Gaza, as top US diplomat Antony Blinken arrived in Israel yesterday.

Blinken's visit aims to secure a deal that could help avert a wider regional conflict. Despite two days of talks in Doha and reports of progress from US, Qatari, and Egyptian mediators, Hamas has dismissed the optimism of a near deal as "an illusion."

Israel voiced cautious optimism about prospects for a ceasefire after high-level talks with mediators over a new US proposal, placing the onus on Hamas to drop objections.

'American diktats'

But Hamas political bureau member Sami Abu Zuhri told AFP: "We are not facing a deal or real negotiations, but rather the imposing of American diktats."

Making his ninth trip to the region since the Gaza war began, Blinken was due to meet Israeli leaders before truce talks resume in Cairo. A framework proposal, laid out by President Joe Biden in late May and later endorsed by the UN Security Council, aims to freeze fighting for an initial



■ Palestinians flee a makeshift camp for displaced people in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip after Israeli tanks took position on a hill overlooking the area yesterday.

six weeks. This plan includes exchanging Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and allowing humanitarian aid into Gaza.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Hamas of obstructing progress and

called for increased pressure on the Palestinian militants ahead of the upcoming talks. "Hamas remains obstinate and did not even send a representative to the talks in Doha. Therefore, the pressure should be directed at Hamas and Yahya Sinwar, not at

the Israeli government," Netanyahu said at a cabinet meeting. In contrast, Jordan, hostage supporters in Israel, and Hamas have urged pressure on Netanyahu to facilitate reaching an agreement.

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Thai king appoints Paetongtarn Shinawatra as new PM | P10

NATION

Guidelines for students aiming to work in UAE private companies | P2

MIDDLE EAST

Nature's wrath: Wildfire guts picturesque village in Turkey | P9



WORLD

India's Supreme Court takes up Kolkata doctor's rape, murder case | P10

Macron calls legendary French actor Alain Delon a 'monument'

Star, who passed away yesterday, leaves 'void no one can fill', Brigitte Bardot says

PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron paid tribute yesterday to the film star Alain Delon, who died aged 88, calling him not just a legendary actor but a "monument".

"Alain Delon played legendary roles and made the world dream. Lending his unforgettable face to turn our lives upside down," Macron wrote on X. "Melancholy, popular, secretive, he was more than a star: he was a French monument."

Delon's death leaves "a



■ Alain Delon died yesterday after a battle with ill health.

huge void that nothing and no one will be able to fill", fellow silver screen icon Brigitte Bardot said yesterday.

Delon "represented the best of France's 'prestige cinema'. An ambassador of elegance, talent, beauty. I lose a friend, an alter ego, a partner," Bardot said in a written message.

Delon starred in some of the greatest European films of the 1960s and '70s. "With a filmography boasting such titles as Luchino Visconti's *Rocco and His Brothers* (1960) and *The Leopard* (1963), Rene Clement's *Purple Noon* (1960), Michelangelo Antonioni's *The Eclipse* (1962), Joseph Losey's *Mr. Klein* (1976) and Jean-Pierre Melville's *Le Samourai* (1967) and *The Red Circle* (1970), Delon graced several art house movies now considered classics," according to The Hollywood Reporter.

His tense and stoic performances, frequently as alluring men, were characterised by abrupt outbursts of violence and emotion. He was often dubbed "the male Brigitte Bardot."

—Agencies
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SPORT

Man City beat Chelsea to start Premier League title defence | P11



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No Golden Visa rule change for managers

EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE KEY TO SPEEDY PROCESSING

DUBAI
 BY HUDA TABREZ
 Living in UAE Editor

If you are an executive working in the UAE and want to apply for the Golden Visa, there are certain requirements that you need to keep in mind before you begin the application process.

Not only do you need to meet the category requirements for the Golden Visa in terms of your salary, but you also need to be able to prove your academic qualifications by getting your degree attested.

"When applying for a Golden Visa under the 'Chief Executive' Designation, their bachelor's degree or master's degree must be attested by the UAE embassy in their home country and the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also, the equivalency certificate issued by the Ministry of Education [MoE] must be submitted," Sirajudeen Ummar, public relations manager at Galaxy Digital Business Services Dubai, told *Gulf News*.

This is also a popular category for Golden Visa applications, according to Abdulhusen Munpurwala, the business development manager at PRO Deskk Document Clearing Services LLC.

Executive Golden Visa

"The demand for the Executive Golden Visa in Dubai has been consistently high and individuals need to get the MoE equivalency certificate to ensure their application meets the necessary criteria," he said.

This is also a step in the application process that you will need to plan out in advance, as the entire equivalency process can take between two to three months, depending on the applicant's university requirements and MoE standards, according to Munpurwala.

Once you have the certificate, the Golden Visa application process is a lot quicker.

"If you have the MoE equalised university degree and satisfy other requirements for the Golden Visa, it will take five to seven working days to complete the process," he said.

Equivalency certificate

The UAE's Ministry of Education (MOE) provides an online service for the recognition of university certificates issued from outside the UAE.

This certificate issued by the Ministry confirms that your higher education degree earned at an accredited university out-



When applying for a Golden Visa under the 'Chief Executive' designation, degrees must be attested by the UAE embassy in their home country and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SPECIALISED TALENTS CATEGORY

Business and management specialists can apply for the Golden Visa under the 'specialised talents' category, if they are able to provide the following documents:

- A copy of the passport.
- Valid employment contract.
- Salary certificate with a monthly salary of no less than Dh30,000.
- Licence to practise the profession (for professions that require the same).
- Certificate of academic achievement, not less than a bachelor's degree (the applicant should provide a report on the recognition of the academic qualifications from the Ministry of Education).
- Bank statement showing bank salary transfers for the last six months.



No Dh30,000 basic salary requirement stated for Golden Visa for managers

side the UAE complies with MOE's guidelines and international academic standards.

The equivalency certificate process comprises of two main stages: Degree verification from a trusted partner. There are two main verification and equivalency service providers that you can use — QuadraBay and DataFlow.

Once your verification document is issued from one of these trusted partners, you will also receive a reference number to

If you have the MoE equalised university degree and satisfy other requirements for the Golden Visa, it will take five to seven working days to complete the process."

Abdulhusen Munpurwala
 Business development manager at PRO Deskk Document Clearing Services

apply for the Certificate of Recognition service on the MOE.

The second step is to apply for the equivalency certificate from the MoE.

To get the Certificate of Recognition follow these steps:

- Visit the web page <https://www.moe.gov.ae/En/EServices/ServiceCard/pages/universiycertificateequilization.aspx#> and click on 'complete application'.
- Log in using your UAE Pass.
- Enter the reference number you received from QuadraBay or DataFlow in the previous step and your date of birth.
- Your personal and education information will be automatically populated.
- Confirm your details.
- Pay for your application.
- You will receive the Certificate with a Recognition decision (Recognised/Not Recognised) via email. You will also be able to download your result directly from your account on the MoE website.

How much does it cost?

A bachelor's degree equivalency costs Dh100, a master's degree equivalency costs Dh150, while a PhD degree equivalency costs Dh200.



An establishment is not allowed to assign a juvenile additional working hours, or keep him or her in the workplace after official hours. Juveniles are not allowed to work on public holidays.

How students in 15-18 age group can work in private companies

Emirati and expats can also join projects for a renewable period of six months

ABU DHABI
 BY ABDULLA RASHEED
 Abu Dhabi Editor

Students can work in private companies in the UAE under certain conditions, according to the Federal Decree Law on the Regulation of Labour Relations.

In a recent update, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) explained the framework under which juveniles can be hired under temporary work permits.

The Ministry notes that it is prohibited to employ children under 15. However, juveniles — Emiratis and expats aged 15 to 18 — can work in the UAE with the written approval of the person who has guardianship or custody, as explained under Article 5 of the Labour Law.

Daily limit

Among the conditions is that the working hours must not exceed six hours a day, and must include one or more rest periods that are not less than one hour in total. This period or periods are determined so that the juvenile does not work more than four hours continuously.

Also, the employer must not

STRICT RULES ON EMPLOYING STUDENTS

- Juveniles may not be employed at night, in industrial projects, or in work that is dangerous or harmful to health.
- The work for which the juvenile is hired must be in line with the activities of the establishment.
- The establishment's licence must be valid and there must be no violations leading to suspension of the activity.

Checklist for applicants

- Colour photo with white background, copy of passport and copy of a valid residence permit.
- Written consent from the juvenile's guardian or custodian.
- Fitness certificate to work, issued by a medical authority.
- Employment contract approved by the ministry and containing the signature of the employer and the employee.
- The application for a permit must be submitted by the legally authorised signatory on behalf of the establishment.

6 hours
 maximum working hours for students daily

assign the juvenile additional working hours, or keep him or her in the workplace after the work timings. Moreover, it is not allowed to make juveniles work on their rest days or official holidays.

The executive regulations of the Decree Law specifies the system for employing juveniles, the procedures that the employer must adhere to, the

work that juveniles are prohibited from, and the controls for entities that aim to train and qualify juveniles professionally, including charitable, educational and training institutions, for some provisions of Article 5 of this Law.

Longer terms

Emirati students and resident expatriates can join projects for a renewable period of six months.

There are also work permits for students who wish to work part-time through the year. The permit can be obtained from customer service centres and through the MoHRE's smart applications.

Tourists can use five channels to reach out to Dubai Police

Website, app, email, call centre and smart police stations offer convenient access

DUBAI
 Gulf News Report

Tourists visiting Dubai can reach Dubai Police for any enquiries, suggestions or complaints with considerable ease.

Dubai Police, represented by the Tourist Police Department of the General Department of Criminal Investigation, said it has five innovative channels through which tourists can contact the force.

These include the Dubai Police smart app, allowing tourists worldwide to submit inquiries and reports.

Tourists can also access the Dubai Police website at www.dubaipolice.gov.ae.



3,509
 queries, suggestions from tourists received by Dubai Police so far this year

Another option for tourists is to visit Smart Police Stations (SPS) throughout Dubai, which operate round the clock without human intervention. The stations allow tourists to submit suggestions and reports.

The fourth channel is the 901 call centre, dedicated to

non-emergency calls from tourists, while the fifth channel is the Dubai Police Tourist Police email at touristpolice@dubaipolice.gov.ae.

Brigadier Khalfan Obaid Al Jallaf, Director of the Tourist Police Department, said the initiative aligns with the Dubai Government's vision to make Dubai the best city in the world for living, working, visiting and investing. He emphasised the department's commitment to enhancing tourists' experiences in Dubai.

Brig Al Jallaf noted that these communication channels received 3,509 queries and suggestions since the start of the year. "The feedback has significantly improved the guides' ability to provide police and security services, recover lost items and help tourists return to their accommodations or home countries, enhancing their overall experience in Dubai," Al Jallaf said.

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 Dubai Electricity & Water Authority

Invites Tender for
TENDER RFX NO. 2052400072
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The Tender Documents are available online through DEWA website <https://www.dewa.gov.ae> in the Public Area Folder of corresponding Tender (RFX) in DEWA Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) through the link <https://srm.dewa.gov.ae/irj/portal/anonymous> or under the link <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/supplier/services/list-of-tender-documents>, payable by credit or debit cards and alternatively with online Bank Transfer from listed Banks or through other agencies like Etisalat, on payment of **Dhs. 1,050/- (Dirhams One Thousand Fifty Only, including VAT)**, which is non-refundable in all cases.

Tenders must be valid for acceptance for 120 days from the closing date of the Tender.

Tenderers are required to submit their offer online through DEWA SRM System.

Tenderers shall arrange Tender Bond for **AED 60,000/- (Dirhams Sixty Thousand only)** strictly in the format specified in the Tender Document and submit the Bond by authenticated SWIFT message to **EMIRATES NBD Bank, Main Branch, Post Box 2923, Dubai, UAE, not later than 3 (three) banking working days before the closing date for receipt of completed Tender.** A copy of the SWIFT message duly signed and stamped by the issuing Bank, must accompany the online offer.

The Tender Bond shall be valid for 150 calendar days following the last date fixed for receipt of Tender.

The closing date for receipt of completed Tender online is 11:00 Hours of Monday, 16th September 2024.

For any further queries, the office of the Vice President - Contracts may be contacted.

Participants in the Tender should submit the names of their Local Partners/Sponsors, having a valid Dubai Trade License along with a photocopy of their current license.

This advertisement is a complementary part of the Tender Documents

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Delivery bike riders urged to focus on safety

NEW VIDEO RELEASED TO OUTLINE ROAD SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

ABU DHABI
BY ABDULLA RASHEED
Abu Dhabi Editor

Police in Abu Dhabi have emphasised the importance of ensuring road safety for delivery bike riders.

In a new video released on social media channels, the police outlined the following rules for delivery bike riders:

- Ensure the safety of the bike and its engine, front and rear lights and tyres.
- Wear a helmet and arm and leg protectors.
- Ride in designated lanes.
- Do not overtake incorrectly and change lanes suddenly.
- Use warning and alert signals when changing lanes.
- Park in designated places for bikes.

The Joint Traffic Safety Committee in Abu Dhabi, headed by the Department of Municipalities and Transport, the General Command of Abu Dhabi Police and the Department of Health, had earlier launched a plan to improve traffic safety for delivery bike riders.

It followed studies by the committee on the most common causes of bike accidents, to reduce dangerous behaviours.



Gulf News Archives

Abu Dhabi Police urged delivery bike riders to use warning and alert signals when changing lanes.

Some of the prominent laws for delivery bike riders in Abu Dhabi that were enacted by the committee include the use of dedicated lanes.

Delivery bikes are allowed to use only right-hand lanes on roads with a speed of 100 km/h and above.

The safety plan includes providing special parking spaces for delivery motorcycles, with more than 2,800 parking spaces to be provided in Abu Dhabi and 200 in Al Ain city.

Also provided are permanent rest areas for riders, starting in Abu Dhabi as an initial phase. It follows the allotment of six bus stops that were allocated as temporary rest areas for delivery motorcycle riders.

RAK police drone can transport 40kg payload

Automatic winch of Flycatcher 30 can deliver equipment in emergencies

RAS AL KHAIMAH
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

Police in Ras Al Khaimah have expanded their drone fleet with the addition of the advanced Flycatcher 30 to enhance the emirate's security and emergency response capabilities.

Major General Ali Abdullah Bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, inspected the new drone yesterday, praising its innovative features and operational benefits.

The Flycatcher 30 is engineered to carry a 40kg payload, equipped with an automated winch system and a specialised box. This allows for swift transportation of essential equipment and humanitarian aid to emergency zones, disaster areas, and large-scale events.

Visual documentation

Its capabilities ensure rapid support during crises, major accidents, rescue missions, and operations in both mountainous and marine environments.

The Flycatcher 30 offers advanced media coverage, including live photography and direct event transmission. Its multiple professional cameras provide comprehensive visual documentation and real-time updates, enhancing situational awareness and response efficiency.

Most disputes end amicably in Dubai courts

First half of 2024 sees 1,239 cases worth over Dh20.2b settled

DUBAI
BY AGHADDIR ALI
Senior Reporter

More than 80 per cent of commercial disputes in Dubai were resolved amicably this year, with cases taking an average of 13 days to settle.

According to Dubai Courts' Amicable Dispute Resolution Centre, 1,239 disputes were resolved through mutual agreements in the first six months of the year, with settlements reaching Dh20.2 billion.

Besides, electronic requests at the centre were processed within an average of two hours. "This accomplishment dem-

13 days

time taken to settle a dispute on average with electronic requests processed within an average of two hours

onstrates the emirate's remarkable progress in adopting alternative litigation methods as an effective means of resolving commercial disputes," said Judge Khalid Al Hosani, head of the Courts of First Instance in Dubai Courts.

He said the success in dispute redressal reinforces Dubai's commitment to providing high-level legal services that meeting the needs of the business community, contributing to an attractive investment climate.



Courtesy: RTA

Each rest area features an air-conditioned space for delivery riders to rest. It is equipped with snack-vending machines, a water dispenser and a mobile phone charging station.

20 air-conditioned rest areas for delivery riders in Dubai

Up to 10 people can be accommodated, with parking spaces provided for bikes

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has built 20 air-conditioned rest areas for delivery riders, out of a planned 40 throughout the emirate.

Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, said, "The locations for the rest areas were selected through an analysis of operational data and by studying areas with the highest demand for delivery services, in coordination with delivery companies.

"The external design of the rest areas was carefully planned to minimise the impact of sunlight inside while ensuring adequate insulation without obstructing the view."

Amenities for riders

Each rest area features an air-conditioned space for drivers to rest. It is equipped with snack-vending machines, a water dispenser and a mobile phone charging station.

Each rest area can accommodate up to 10 people, depending on the specific location. A sufficient number of motorcycle parking spaces were provided next to each rest area.

As of June end, 2,535 were providing delivery services by motorcycles in Dubai, with a total of 40,088 delivery bikes in operation.



Courtesy: RTA

The external design of the rest areas minimise the impact of sunlight inside while ensuring adequate insulation.

WHERE THEY ARE

Hessa Street, Al Barsha Heights, Al Barsha, Al Karama, Riggat Al Buteen, Umm Suqeim (Jumeirah 3), Jumeirah (Al Wasl Road), The Greens, Dubai World Trade Centre, Al Rashdiya, Al Satwa, Nad Al Hamar, Al Nahda, Oud Metha, Arabian Ranches, International City, Business Bay, Dubai Marina, Al Jaddaf, Mirdif, Last Exit Al Khawaneej, Dubai Motor City and Al Garhoud.

In 2022, RTA launched the Delivery Service Excellence Award to foster competition among companies and delivery drivers.

The Award consists of two categories. The first honours the Top 3 companies in delivery services as well as the Top 3 companies in delivery services via smart platforms

2,535

companies provide delivery services by motorcycles in Dubai, with **40,088 delivery bikes in operation**

and applications. The second category honours the Top 100 professional riders.

Rigorous criteria have been set to select the best delivery companies highlighted by the adherence to safety, quality, health and environment standards, adopting the best international practices, applying modern technologies, ensuring continuous training and qualification, and contributing to customer satisfaction.

The criteria for the best rider include the rider's file being free of complaints, violations and incidents, in addition to an assessment of the employee's performance.

UAE airlifts Emirati from Oman accident site

ABU DHABI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs executed its third medical evacuation operation for an Emirati family involved in a severe traffic accident in Oman.

The ministry stressed that the operation, carried out in coordination with the National Guard – National Search and Rescue Centre, reflects the UAE's commitment to safeguarding its citizens abroad, especially during emergencies.

The mission involved airlifting an injured woman from Oman to the UAE, using the National Guard's search and rescue aircraft.

The ministry praised the support provided by the Omani authorities and their collaboration with the UAE Embassy in Muscat, which played a key role in the successful evacuation.

The ministry also emphasised the importance of road safety, urging travellers to adhere to traffic laws and regulations to ensure their safety and that of others.

The MoF praised the Omani authorities and their collaboration with the UAE Embassy.

Body found floating off UAE coast

SHARJAH
BY AGHADDIR ALI
Senior Reporter

A fisherman in Khor Fakkan found the dead body of a male floating at sea last week, Sharjah Police confirmed yesterday.

The fisherman reported the incident to the Coast Guard, who retrieved the body and transferred it to the forensics laboratory for an autopsy.

Police have launched an investigation to find out whether the victim had drowned or was murdered.

Officials also urged the public to heed the warnings on sign boards with regard to dangerous beach areas.

حكومة دبي
GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI

هيئة كهرباء ومياه دبي
Dubai Electricity & Water Authority

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Tenders must be valid for 120 days from the closing date of the Tender.

Tenderers are required to submit their offer online through our SRM System.

Tenders are also required to submit a Tender Bond of not less than a fixed value of **Dhs. 400,000.00 (Dirhams Four hundred thousand only)**, to DEWA nominated Bank M/s. Emirates NBD Bank, Main Branch, PO Box 2923, Dubai, in the form of an **authenticated Swift message from their Bank in Dubai, in prescribed format, three Bank working days prior to the Tender Submission date and time.** The Tender Bond in the form of a swift message shall be verbatim in the format provided in the Tender document and shall be valid for 150 calendar days following the last date fixed for receipt of Tender.

In addition to Online Submission of price in DEWA system and online submission of Tender Bond to ENBD Bank, scanned copy of the Tender Bond Swift Message duly signed and stamped by the issuing Bank and that of the completed tender document with signed and stamped Form of Tender along with other relevant documents have to be uploaded in the Vendors' code earmarked private Folder in DEWA SRM system.

The closing date for receipt of completed Tender online is 11.00 Hrs. of Thursday, 19th September 2024.

For any further queries, the office of the Vice President-Contracts may be contacted.

Participants in the Tender should submit the names of their Local Partners/Sponsors, having a valid Dubai Trade License along with a photocopy of their current license.

This advertisement is a complementary part of the Tender Documents

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Mohammad shares World Humanitarian Day message

DUBAI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

Head of World Humanitarian Day today, His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, yesterday reaffirmed that the UAE will continue to pursue the humanitarian path laid down by Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his brothers since the founding of the nation.

"In a rapidly moving, scrambling and unstable world, one has two choices: To make noise without leaving a lasting mark, or to create impact without the noise. The UAE has chosen to have an impact," Shaikh Mohammad said in a post on his official X account.

"Our humanitarian journey reflects who we are—our identity, our values, and our faith. We continue to pursue the path laid out by the late Shaikh Zayed and his brothers since the founding of the nation."



Watch: UAE's humanitarian initiatives around the world

Dh4.62m financial aid for inmates

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

Dubai Police's Humanitarian Care Section, in collaboration with partners, provided Dh4.62 million in financial and in-kind assistance to male and female inmates at the General Department of Punitive and Correctional Establishments in the first half of 2024.

Brig Salah Juma Nasser Bu Osaiba, acting director of the department, said the support helped inmates face imprisoned in civil or financial cases.

Capt Habib Hussain Mohammad Al Zarouni, head of the Humanitarian Care Section, said field visits were conducted to charitable institutions to explore ways to coordinate efforts to resolve inmates' issues.

Emirati researcher makes global impact

DR AL ALI'S PUSH FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT YIELDS RESULTS

ABU DHABI
BY ALI AL HAMMADI
Reporter

Strategic research capabilities of the UAE are a global talking point today, with the country considered a leader in academic and policy-oriented research internationally.

As CEO of TRENDS Research & Advisory, an independent research centre in Abu Dhabi, Dr Mohammad Abdullah Al Ali is a key figure in this strategic research landscape of the UAE.

With a solid academic background in media, criminology and diplomacy, he has significantly influenced policy and research, making crucial contributions to understanding regional and international issues.

Dr Al Ali, who has held several research positions in research and academic institutions, has played a pivotal role in fostering a deeper analysis of key global challenges.

Academic journey

He embarked on his academic journey at the UAE University, where he pursued a Bachelor's degree in Media Studies, specialising in Radio and Television. His academic career continued with a Master's degree in Diplomacy from the American University in UAE, followed by a PhD in Criminology from Muthah University in Jordan. His doctoral studies allowed him to delve into the intricate relationship between criminology, media and public administration.

Having served in the UAE armed forces, Dr Al Ali contributed to military's publications even as he got an opportunity to deepen understanding of security and strategic issues.

He spent 26 years as a researcher at The Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR). His military experience provided a unique perspective that he later brought to civilian research.

790 research papers

Since assuming leadership at TRENDS Research & Advisory in 2019, Dr Al Ali enhanced its research output and global impact. Under his guidance, the advisory has produced over 790 research papers and has fostered numerous international collaborations. TRENDS received the Emirates Award for Market Leadership in 2023.

Dr Al Ali has striven to give the youth an emphatic push.



Ahmad Alotbi/Gulf News

■ Dr Al Ali aims to integrate modern technologies like AI into TRENDS' operations, ensuring it remains a global leader.

We have ambitious training plans and programmes for youth, including the TRENDS Youth Council ... We hope that these programmes and councils will attract and encourage youth to utilise their capabilities and skills to produce scientific studies and research that benefit society and humanity."

Dr Mohammad Abdullah Al Ali | CEO of TRENDS Research & Advisory, an independent research centre in Abu Dhabi

53%

of advisory staff at TRENDS Research & Advisory are Emiratis



Watch: Dr Al Ali talks about how TRENDS Research & Advisory operates

"We have ambitious training plans and programmes for youth, including the TRENDS Youth Council, which aims to enhance the capabilities of future generations in the field of scientific research," he said.

Youth engagement

"We hope that these programmes and councils will attract and encourage youth to utilise their capabilities and skills in the field of scientific research to produce scientific studies and research that benefit society and humanity.

"Discussion groups are a

unique opportunity to communicate with youth from different parts of the world and from different scientific disciplines."

Challenges

Among the many challenges that Dr Al Ali has faced is foraying into a field that had limited representation among Emiratis.

Addressing this issue, he developed strategic initiatives to encourage local engagement. Significantly, 53 per cent of his advisory staff are Emiratis who have ensured TRENDS is a renowned global research centre with expanding international offices and collaborations.

Dr Al Ali aims to integrate modern technologies like AI into TRENDS' operations, ensuring it remains at the forefront of global knowledge exchange.

Beyond his professional endeavours, Dr Al Ali is a devoted father of seven, balancing his demanding career with a fulfilling family life.

His passion for education extends to his role as an assistant professor at Zayed University, where he teaches media studies and contributes to cultural and academic activities.

How UAE schools can gain from integrating AI into curricula

Fears of tech akin to concerns about calculator in the last century, experts say

DUBAI
BY ALI AL HAMMADI
Reporter

As artificial intelligence (AI) disrupts how things are done traditionally across the world, experts in the UAE see it as a teachable moment.

They propose integrating this technology into school curricula, asserting that teaching AI will better equip students for the future. Numerous countries have already incorporated AI into their educational programmes at both the school and university levels.

Experts argue AI is most beneficial when introduced to students early.

'Investment in the future'

In an interview with *Gulf News*, Dr Mohammad Al Kuwaiti, chairman of the UAE Government Cyber Security Council, said given the increasing demand for AI specialists, early education in this field provides students with a competitive advantage in the job market.

"Teaching AI in schools is not just an addition to the curriculum, but rather an investment in the future of students, providing them with skills that will define their career path and contribute to the advancement of society."

Broadening scope

He emphasised that AI is no longer limited to manufacturing and services but is being used in many different areas, including education — both as a tool and a method.



■ Experts in the UAE argue that artificial intelligence is the most beneficial when introduced to students early.

Teaching AI in schools is not just an addition to the curriculum, but rather an investment in the future of students, providing them with skills that will define their career path and contribute to the advancement of society."

Dr Mohammad Al Kuwaiti | Chairman of the UAE Government Cyber Security Council

He said schools are becoming "smart" by using AI technology to help students and teachers learn and teach more effectively. He anticipated the trend will likely continue in the future.

Professor Ghanem Kashwani, a consultant at the Society of Engineers, said introducing AI into curricula encourages students to explore how this technology can improve the world around them.

Concerns misplaced

He emphasised that AI education should align with state policies, labour market needs, and ethical considerations. He further clarified that AI is a tool for accomplishing tasks and is not expected to diminish human intelligence or encourage laziness among students. He drew parallels to past concerns about the calculator in the last century and automatic drawing programmes in engineering, which were initially feared to negatively affect students' thinking and creativity but ultimately did not.

UAE's first SAR satellite launched

It can capture images regardless of weather conditions or solar illumination

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

UAE's first Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite has been launched for Earth observation.

Bayanat and Al Yah Satellite Communications Company (Yahsat) launched their first low Earth orbit SAR satellite on Friday, in partnership with ICEYE via integrator Exolaunch.

It lifted off aboard SpaceX's Transporter 11 rideshare from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. The satellite has established communication.

Launching the UAE's first SAR satellite is a significant milestone for the companies and the region to bolster Earth observation capabilities.

As part of the Earth Observation Space Programme, this satellite debuts the comprehensive SAR constellation that will deliver high-resolution, persistent monitoring solutions.

How it works

The satellite will use SAR technology, an active sensing system that illuminates the Earth's surface and measures the reflected signal to generate high-resolution images.

Unlike traditional optical imaging satellites, SAR can capture images day and night, regardless of weather conditions or solar illumination.

Compared to other new Space SAR satellite services, ICEYE's radar antenna covers much larger geographical areas and provides higher-resolution images of smaller areas, providing more value to customers.

Latest achievement

The satellite launch is the latest achievement from the ongoing partnership among Bayanat, Yahsat, and ICEYE. In 2023, the Earth Observation Space Programme was created to build national satellite remote sensing and Earth Observation capabilities within the UAE by building a SAR satellite constellation.

The constellation of LEO satellites will provide a consistent data stream for end-to-end solutions for SAR applications.

حكومة دبي
GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI

هيئة كهرباء ومياه دبي
Dubai Electricity & Water Authority

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The Tender Documents are available online through DEWA website <http://www.dewa.gov.ae> in the Public Area Folder of corresponding Tender (RFX) in DEWA Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) through the link <https://srm.dewa.gov.ae/irj/portal/anonymous> or under the link <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/supplier/services/list-of-tender-documents>, payable by locally issued credit or debit cards and alternatively with online Bank Transfer from listed Banks or through other agencies like Etisalat, on payment of **Dhs. 2,100/- (Dirhams Two thousand One hundred only, including VAT)**, which is nonrefundable in all cases. Tenders must be valid for acceptance for 120 days from the closing date of the Tender.

Tenderers are required to submit their offer online through our SRM System.

Tenderers shall arrange Tender Bond for **AED 675,000/- (Dirhams Six hundred Seventy-Five thousand only)** strictly in the format specified in the Tender Document and submit the Bond by authenticated SWIFT message to **ENBD Bank, Main Branch, Post Box 2923, Dubai, UAE, not later than 03 (three) banking working days before the closing date for receipt of completed Tender**. A copy of the SWIFT message duly signed and stamped by the issuing Bank, must accompany the online offer. The Tender Bond shall be valid for 150 calendar days following the last date fixed for receipt of Tender.

The closing date for receipt of completed Tender is 11.00am (Dubai Time) of Wednesday, 18th September, 2024.

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More UAE retailers warming up to tourists' rupee spends

LULU LATEST TO ROLL OUT UPI PAYMENTS SERVICE; 10M INDIAN VISITORS TO BENEFIT

DUBAI
BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

High-value purchases, such as gold, or top-tier smartphones and electronics, are expected to benefit initially as visitors from India use the rupee to shop in the UAE, thanks to the adoption of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Hypermarket chain LuLu is the latest to roll out UPI at its UAE stores. Indian visitors can simply scan a QR code at point-of-sale terminals in LuLu outlets and pay for their purchases in rupees, directly from their bank accounts, rather than in dirhams or dollars. They can use their mobile number they have in India — or the RuPay card — to facilitate the transaction.

"The UPI payment facility made available in UAE will greatly benefit over 10 million Indians who travel to the UAE every year, upgrading their convenience and boosting the local trade and economy," said V. Nandakumar, director of marketing at LuLu Group.

Is UPI cost effective for Indian visitors?

According to retailer sources, processing fees for rupee transactions in the UAE may be lower compared to typical Visa or Mastercard charges.

"For the UAE retailer, the funds from a payment done using UPI will come at the same



Indian visitors can simply scan a QR code at point-of-sale terminals in LuLu outlets and pay for their purchases in rupees, directly from their bank accounts, rather than in dirhams or dollars.

time," said Ashish Panjabi, chief operating officer of Jacky's Group. "The final rates for the processing charges are being negotiated."

Big-ticket purchases

Gold and jewellery retailers are likely to see the initial benefits from rupee transactions.

Industry sources say possibly lower transactions costs will benefit both shoppers from India and retailers in the UAE.

"With rupee payments, there will be savings for UAE jewel-

lery merchants, which can be shared with customers from India using UPI," said Abdul Salam K.P., vice-chairman of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, which will soon put in place rupee payment options at its UAE stores.

A retailer provided a scenario on tax implications, or the lack of it, for purchases in the UAE: "Suppose a visitor is planning on purchasing 500,000-rupee worth of jewellery for his daughter's wedding.

"Once he decides on what to

buy and if that amount is available in his bank account in India, making jewellery purchases here is straightforward.

"Since that amount already is there in his account, he shouldn't bother about any taxes as taxes are on the money going into the account."

Size doesn't matter

Retail sources say that direct price comparisons will always favour buying in the UAE, even after factoring in for currency exchange and processing fees.

The UAE merchant engaged in a UPI transaction will receive the funds instantly. It's a smooth process right through."

Ashish Panjabi | Chief operating officer of Jacky's Group

There will be savings for UAE jewellery merchants from UPI payments and which can be shared with the customers from India using it."

Abdul Salam K.P. | Vice-chairman of Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Shoppers from India have already started asking us whether we are taking UPI. It is a matter of time before UPI acceptance becomes widespread in UAE retail."

Anil Dhanak | MD of Kanz Jewels



Rupee shopping possible for Indian visitors as LuLu allows UPI payment in stores



There are those retailers who say that UPI has its uses even for less expensive purchases. "It is equally beneficial and sensible for everyday transactions of any size, contributing to a smoother and more efficient payment experience overall," said Anil Dhanak, managing director of Kanz Jewels.

"Shoppers from India have already started asking us whether we are taking UPI.

"UPI transactions use the two-factor authentication and encryption, which is crucial regardless of transaction size. Most important, UPI transactions often have minimal or no transaction fees, which benefits both consumers and businesses, irrespective of the purchase amount."

Tristar posts strong H1 earnings, plans eco-friendly innovations

Dubai-based firm due to launch region's first-ever hybrid bunker barge in 2025

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

Dubai-based Tristar Group, a storage and logistics service provider for energy industry, recorded Dh470 million as EBITDA for the first-half 2024, a gain of 27 per cent. This came from group revenues of Dh2 billion.

During the first-half, multiple projects were commissioned, including a retail fuel business in Sri Lanka.

"The company is currently engaged in serious negotiations for several blue-chip projects with oil majors that will ensure long-term financial and environmental sustainability for the group beyond the immediate future," said Eugene Mayne, Group CEO, in a statement.

The company "continues to explore entry into new markets with new products", including but not limited to electric vehicles, biofuel and renewable energy. Tristar is due to launch the region's first-ever hybrid bunker barge in early 2025, which the "company is confident will set the tone for a change in coastal bunkering operations in the UAE".

Another target is to convert at least 10 per cent of its coastal fleet to hybrid, which will cut emissions in its coastal operations in Fujairah by at least 50 per cent.

"Our road fleet decarbonisation is being developed in



Tristar Group is eyeing entry into new markets with new products including electric vehicles, biofuel and renewable energy.



For the long-term, the team continues to explore options like hydrogen fuel cell, EV, and biofuel vehicles that can lower current levels of emissions."

Eugene Mayne
| Tristar group CEO

phases as we explore modern technologies and fuels that are both environment friendly and cost-effective, to ensure that we remain competitive in the marketplace," said Mayne.

"For the long-term, the team continues to explore options like hydrogen fuel cell, EV, and biofuel vehicles that can lower

current levels of emissions." Tristar, which annually discloses its carbon footprint through the CDP, is a member of the First Movers Coalition launched by the US government and World Economic Forum with a pledge to purchase products and services that are low or near zero as possible.



MOHAMMAD AL MUTAWA
CEO, Ducab Group

Rewiring the future for a sustainable and circular cable and metals industry

The cable and metals sectors are at a critical juncture, tasked with not only meeting surging demand but also embracing environmental responsibility. The International Energy Agency projects a staggering 400 per cent increase in demand for critical metals like lithium, cobalt, nickel and copper by 2040, driven by the expansion of electric vehicles, battery storage, and electricity networks. Meeting

this demand sustainably is a complex challenge requiring bold action and innovative solutions.

Companies must reshape supply chains to be more resilient and less carbon-intensive. A circular economy approach is now a strategic imperative, reimagining the entire value chain to minimise waste and maximise efficiency. In the Middle East, the \$10.9-billion (Dh38.9-billion) cable market is

poised for significant growth, driven by infrastructure projects and demand for energy-efficient technologies.

Innovation is key. Advances like nanotechnology enhance cable efficiency, while AI and automation optimise production and reduce waste. Recent studies suggest that improved recycling technologies could potentially meet between 5.2 per cent and 7.2 per cent of the EU's demand for critical metals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and copper in new batteries by 2030.

The UAE is pioneering green hydrogen in metal production, aiming to produce 1.4 million tons per year by 2031 and scaling up to 15 million tons by 2050. This strategic move bolsters the country's position in the global hydrogen market and supports low-carbon local industries.

Industry leaders must now drive change by harnessing innovation, investing in sustainable technologies, and collaborating across sectors. Forging alliances with governments, policymakers, investors, and consumers will create a supportive ecosystem that can accelerate the shift to a circular economy.

The path ahead is clear, and the urgency to act has never been greater. Our industry has a unique opportunity to lead the global energy transition, but it will require bold action and a willingness to embrace change for a sustainable future.



PHOTO WATCH



■ Agrokoncernas Group, a leading agricultural conglomerate in the Baltic region with 54 companies, is seeking partners for its new projects in Lithuania, including a grain processing plant, Europe's largest dairy cow complex and three wind farms.



■ Joy Alukkas, chairman, Joyalukkas Group, handing over a display key to Master Ethan C. Bibin, the winner of a brand-new Audi Q3 through the group's "Golden Drive" promotion, which also awarded several participants with gold bars.



■ Aster volunteers collected old phones, computers, and other electronic waste from shops and homes in the UAE. The collected items were then recycled by E-Scrappy.

Aster drive gets rid of 434 kilos of e-waste

Volunteer effort in UAE recycles more than 1,200kg in total over three editions

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

More than 430 kilograms of electronic waste has been recycled in the third E-Waste Collection Drive of Aster Volunteers UAE, the global CSR arm of Aster DM Healthcare. The drive, held under the Aster Green Choices initiative and in partnership with E-Scrappy, brings the total recycled electronic waste to 1,248 kilograms over three editions.

Supported by various Aster and Medcare hospitals, the drive not only promoted proper e-waste disposal but also educated the public on the environmental impact of electronic waste, encouraging sustainable practices across the UAE.

Volunteers step up

Aster volunteers from various units played a crucial role by collecting e-waste from nearby shops and bringing electronic waste from their homes to designated collection boxes.

The collected e-waste was recycled by E-Scrappy, which issued a "Green Certificate" to Aster Volunteers UAE.

"The E-Waste Collection Drive is a testament to our ongoing efforts to promote proper e-waste disposal and recycling," said Dr Azad

At Aster, our dedication to environmental sustainability is deeply embedded in our corporate culture and driven by our ESG framework."

Dr Azad Moopen
Founder chairman,
Aster DM Healthcare

Moopen, founder chairman, Aster DM Healthcare.

"By educating the community and encouraging sustainable practices, we are taking significant steps towards reducing the environmental impact of electronic waste. This initiative, along with other green choices such as indoor plant distribution, seed distribution, tree plantations, and clean-up drives, highlights our commitment to creating a greener, healthier future."

Aster Volunteers, a global movement with over 76,900 volunteers, said it has impacted over 5 million lives. In financial year 2023, Aster DM Healthcare reduced 6,824 tonnes in net greenhouse gas emissions. The company also excelled in waste management, recycling 423,806kg of waste. Recognised for its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investment efforts, Aster holds the highest ESG ranking among listed health care companies in India and earned a 'Strong' rating from CRISIL.

HONOR-led global hashtag challenge boosts ALS support

SOCIAL MEDIA TASK LAYS EMPHASIS ON AI-DRIVEN ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGIES

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

A trending social media challenge, #HONORtheChallenger, is raising significant awareness about those affected by ALS, a progressive nerve disease that makes muscles weak and stop working, and advancing accessible technology.

The challenge tasks participants with holding an athletic pose, posting it with the hashtag, and nominating others to join. Over 4,000 people, including British gymnast Nile Wilson, have participated, with the hashtag garnering 85 million views and 11 million global engagements.

"I was inspired by the challenger spirit behind this project, and how it highlights the resilience and fortitude of the ALS community," expressed Nile Wilson. "I hope it encourages more companies to create accessible AI technologies that aid injured or disabled athletes."

HONOR's AI eye tracking

HONOR is the first smartphone brand to develop intent-based eye-tracking technology through its MagicOS 8.0 operating system, enabling users to



■ Over 4,000 people have participated in the #HONORtheChallenger, which tasks participants with holding an athletic pose, posting it on social media with the hashtag, and nominating others to join. Inset: HONOR is the first smartphone brand to develop intent-based eye-tracking technology.

interact with their phones using just their eyes. This feature, rolling out globally on August 27, 2024, addresses the needs of people with disabilities, particularly ALS patients, who often retain only eye movement in the later stages of the disease.

HONOR is also developing non-invasive brain-computer interface (BCI) technologies.

The technology allows people to communicate with external devices using brain electrical signals. Wei Zhang, a 34-year-old Chinese ALS challenger who has lived with the disease for 26 years, recently experienced this groundbreaking technology, which allows him to interact with a computer through brain signals.

BBC StoryWorks Commercial Productions has produced a short film featuring artist and ALS challenger Bernard Muller. The film demonstrates how Bernard Muller uses eye-tracking technology to express himself through artwork, demonstrating the power of AI in making life more enjoyable for people living with disabilities.

SABIS School set for launch in Abu Dhabi next month

Campus boasts excellent facilities; registration is open

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

Set to open in September 2024, SABIS International School-Abu Dhabi City is the newest addition to the global SABIS network, which includes the International Schools of Choueifat and SABIS International Schools. The network has an active presence in 21 countries, including the US, Germany, Kenya, Egypt, China, and Brazil.

In its first academic year, SIS-Abu Dhabi will welcome students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8. The following year, the school will expand to include Grades 9 to 12.

The school campus will feature state-of-the-art facilities, including labs, music and art rooms, a theatre, a



■ In its first academic year, SIS-Abu Dhabi will welcome students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8.

cafeteria, a library, and extensive sports facilities – a semi-Olympic swimming pool, indoor basketball and football courts, and a full-size football field surrounded by a running track.

Registration is now open. Visit the school's website at sabisdhabi.sabis.net, or contact directly at +971-524-141-494 or +971-524-141-484.

'Summer Surprise' continues at Natuzzi Italia

A selection of sofas are on offer at a discount at Natuzzi's Dubai showroom until Sept 1

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

Furniture brand Natuzzi Italia is participating in the Dubai Summer Surprises (DSS) Sale, which is running until September 1, 2024. During the DSS Sale, visitors to the Natuzzi Italia showroom on Shaikh Zayed Road will have a unique opportunity to own some of the brand's most exquisite furniture pieces at discounted prices. The selection includes several iconic designs:

■ **Borghese Sofa:** A testament to timeless elegance, this sofa offers soft shapes and adjustable headrests on every seat. Whether you're relaxing, reading, or chatting with guests, Borghese delivers superb comfort without compromising style.



■ During the DSS Sale, visitors to the Natuzzi Italia showroom on Shaikh Zayed Road will have an opportunity to own some of the brand's most exquisite furniture pieces at discounted prices.



■ **Oblò Sofa:** Designed by the esteemed Maurizio Manzoni, this sofa's sleek silhouette is accentuated by a metal structure that not only adds elegance but also provides an airy, stream-

lined look. Oblò's modular system allows for various configurations, making it a versatile choice for any living space. Each unit can be used as a standalone piece.

■ **Buddie Sofa:** Designed by Mauro Lipparini, the Buddie sofa's design is both functional and aesthetically pleasing, with seat cushions and backrests that slot smoothly into each other. The special BYBORRE covering, created by a Dutch textile innovation studio, adds a light-hearted spirit, combining high-quality wool and recycled materials.

■ **Diamante Bed:** Named after the Italian word for diamond, this is a luxurious addition to any bedroom. Designed by Manzoni and Tapinassi, it features a curvaceous headboard, artisanal topstitching, and premium materials. The tall lacquered metal legs provide an attractive airiness while making it easier to clean the floor, and the fully padded and upholstered design allows for flexible placement in any room.

Natuzzi Italia's DSS Sale is an opportunity to acquire premium Italian furniture at exceptional prices. Visit the showroom to explore the offers and experience the brand's craftsmanship.



Starbucks' shares surged 25 per cent and added more than \$20 billion in market value after the change in leadership.

Why abrupt CEO change gifted Starbucks best-ever stock boost

JUMP MARKS THE LATEST WIN FOR PAUL SINGER'S ACTIVIST FUND ELLIOTT

SEATTLE

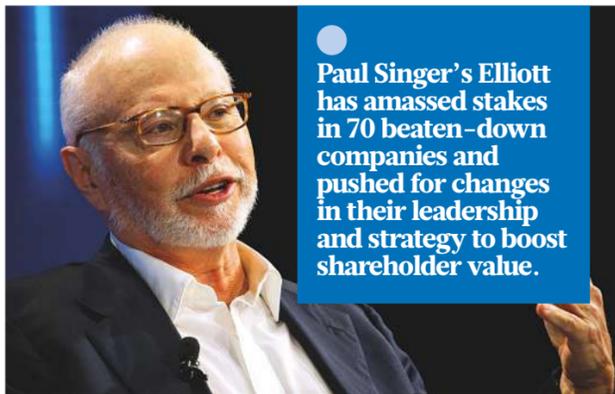
Starbucks Corp's shares surged 25 per cent and added more than \$20 billion in market value after the company ousted its chief executive and poached Brian Niccol from Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc.

The jump marks the latest win for Paul Singer's multi-strategy investment firm, Elliott Investment Management, which is known for amassing stakes in beaten-down companies and pushing for changes in leadership and strategy to boost shareholder value.

Elliott's track record now includes more than 70 targets since 2020. Some 95 per cent of them saw shares gain the day it became known the activist built a stake, with the average return at about 6 per cent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Starbucks rallied almost 7 per cent the day reports first surfaced that Elliott was a big holder.

While Elliott hasn't publicly outlined tasks of Starbucks, many of its targets have changed their management after the firm's involvement.

Elliott also stepped up its effort to force a turnaround at Southwest Airlines Co., pushing ahead with a proposed overhaul of the carrier's board. South-



Paul Singer's Elliott has amassed stakes in 70 beaten-down companies and pushed for changes in their leadership and strategy to boost shareholder value.

west shares were little changed on that news, but when Elliott publicly disclosed a large stake in June, the stock jumped 7 per cent. Here's where other major investments from the firm stand:

- **Goodyear:** Shares of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. surged 21 per cent in May 2023, the biggest jump since at least 1980 at the time, when Elliott said that it had amassed a 10 per cent stake in the tyre maker. Since, the company changed its chief executive officer and other leadership following a pressure campaign by Elliott. The stock was about 11 per cent higher one year after the activist's stake became known.
- **SoftBank:** SoftBank jumped when news broke in February

2022 that Elliott had built a stake in the company. The company planned a \$4.8 billion buy-back on Elliott's urging, and even discussed going private with the investor. Reports in August 2022 that Elliott reduced almost all of its SoftBank stake sent shares lower.

- **Twitter:** In early 2020, Bloomberg reported that Elliott took a sizeable stake in then-Twitter and planned to push for changes at the social media company, now called X.

Filings show that Elliott had exited its stake in Twitter by the end of June 2022. Elon Musk bought the company in April 2022.

- **Western Digital:** Elliott called for Western Digital Corp. to separate its flash business and

undergo a full strategic review in May 2022 and offered \$1 billion in incremental equity capital to help facilitate the separation. In January 2023, Elliott along with Apollo Global Management led the purchase of \$900 million of convertible preferred stock of Western Digital. The stock is up about 17 per cent year to date after gaining 66 per cent in 2023, its best year since 2019.

- **Catalent:** Catalent, Inc. shares rose when it said in August 2023 that as a part of a settlement with Elliott it will add four new members to its board and undertake a strategic review.

- **Etsy:** Shares of Etsy Inc. jumped 9.1 per cent in February, it's best day in about six months, when Elliott said it had built a 13 per cent stake in the online marketplace.

- **Cubic:** Cubic Corp. shares jumped more than 30 per cent when it said that Elliott Management — which had taken a stake — and a private equity partner were interested in purchasing the company in September 2020.

- **Public Storage:** Elliott had built a stake in Public Storage and nominated six directors to its board in December 2020. Elliott exited most of its stake in the company, per a February 2022 filing.

— Bloomberg

EV maker BYD plans to build Karachi plant

Company to reveal 3 models for Pakistan, including an SUV and a sedan

SHENZHEN



Chinese electric carmaker BYD Co. plans to build a factory in Karachi with a local partner to capture a share of Pakistan's growing EV market, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The company will reveal three models it plans to sell in Pakistan, including an SUV and a sedan, at its brand launch on Saturday, said the person, who asked not to be identified due to rules on speaking to media. BYD aims to introduce additional models, including both battery-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, to the market at a later date.

A BYD spokesperson confirmed it planned to enter the market with battery-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles but declined to comment on its plans to invest in a factory in Pakistan and other details.

EV sales still marginal

Pakistan is the world's fifth-largest nation by population that has seen Chinese companies including Great Wall Motor Co., SAIC Motor Corp. and

■ The Chinese electric carmaker seeks to capture a share of Pakistan's growing EV market.

Chongqing Changan Automobile Co. enter the market in recent years and compete with Japanese companies including Toyota Motor Corp and Honda Motor Corp.'s local units. EV sales are still marginal in Pakistan relative to total auto sales.

BYD has teamed up with one of Pakistan's largest business groups, Mega Conglomerate Pvt., in a partnership deal that goes beyond the usual dealership model they have in most markets, the person said. The Chinese company will be working in a joint venture with Mega Motors, a subsidiary of Hub Power Co., Pakistan's largest independent electricity producer.

The factory will be set up near Karachi's Port Qasim area. BYD will set up showrooms in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad to start selling in the fourth quarter this year, said the person. — Bloomberg

Byju's faces new bankruptcy risk along with CCD in India

Cafe chain owner faces Insolvency proceedings

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

Rs 2.28b worth of loan payments defaulted by Coffee Day Enterprises

Byju's is back facing a potential insolvency after India's top court ordered a stay on a ruling that allowed it to avert bankruptcy. But the troubled education-technology start-up is not alone in facing new bankruptcy risks in India.

Coffee Day Enterprises (CDE), the parent company of the Coffee Day Group that runs the Cafe Coffee Day (CCD) chain of coffee houses, came under renewed pressure with its share price tumbling 28.6 per cent in two days after the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admitted the company for insolvency proceedings.

In an exchange filing, the company confirmed the

initiation of insolvency proceedings after it defaulted on loan payments worth around Rs2.28 billion, which were payable on four occasions between 2019 and 2020.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court stayed a lower court's ruling which allowed Byju's to exit insolvency by paying its debt to the country's cricket governing body. The nation's highest court is scheduled to next address the Byju's case on August 23.

The halt means that the high-profile start-up's insolvency proceedings can restart, at least until the Supreme Court further decides on the case.

PwC slapped with 'record' UK fine

Suspected fraud at London Capital & Finance not reported

DUBAI

BY MANOJ NAIR Business Editor

Global audit firm PwC was served with a 'record' fine of £15 million by a UK financial regulator for failure to report potential fraud at a London firm, which then went to costing clients around £240 million.

It relates to work PwC did for London Capital & Finance. This is a milestone of sorts, being the first time the FCA has fined an audit firm.

In the statement, FCA notes that "There were a number of

red flags that led PwC to suspect fraud. They should have acted on them immediately. Their failure to do so deprived the FCA of potentially vital information."

PwC was earlier fined £4.9 million by the UK Financial Reporting Authority for its work with London Capital & Finance.

The latest issue involves a 2016 audit work done on behalf of London Capital & Finance.

Where did PwC get it wrong

According to the UK regulator, 'A senior individual at LCF acted aggressively towards auditors, and the firm provided PwC with inaccurate and misleading information.'

"PwC found the audit very complex, and it took considerably longer to complete than anticipated. LCF's actions, and

PwC's own work on the audit, led PwC to suspect that LCF might be involved in fraudulent activity.

PwC was duty bound to report those suspicions to the FCA as soon as possible, but they failed to do so."

Then, in 2019, London Capital & Finance went into administration, which meant 11,000 investors or so lost out on funds they had parked through the company's mini-bonds.

In recent weeks, UAE investment company Shuaa issued a statement that it was not absolving PwC from any liability related to their work in 2023. Another DFM-listed entity, Drake & Scull International, in May, filed a lawsuit in a Dubai court against the firm for the handling of its audit.

حكومة دبي
GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI

هيئة كهرباء ومياه دبي
Dubai Electricity & Water Authority

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NAVIGATING THE FALLOUT OF GAZA WAR

As Israel's war on Gaza drags on, Jordan faces mounting challenges in a region on edge

BY OSAMA AL SHARIF | Special to Gulf News

Since Israel launched its horrific war against Gaza in retaliation for the October 7 surprise attack, Jordan found itself moving in an ever-closing diplomatic space in its effort to end the war and spare the people of Gaza additional suffering.

Western sympathy for a wounded Israel in the first few weeks of its retaliatory operation, under the guise of self-defence, restricted Jordan's ability to push for a ceasefire. King Abdullah was among the first to warn of an impending humanitarian catastrophe in the enclave while pointing to the indiscriminate targeting of civilians there.

Unfortunately, his pleas met with indifference by Western leaders, who competed to show solidarity with Israel and provided it with weapons and munitions to impose a new political reality in Gaza.

Ten months later, none of these Israeli objectives were achieved. Instead, the carnage continues against international denunciations, while the crisis threatens to ignite a regional war pitting Iran and its regional proxies against Israel, the US, and other Western countries.

Jordan's qualms over the Gaza war are multifaceted, ranging from the troubling scenarios of the day after to the prospects of salvaging the unlikely prospect of a two-state solution as the only conclusion to the Israel/Palestine conflict.

Covert objective of Israel

In the early days of the Gaza war, King Abdullah and Egypt's Abdul Fattah Al Sisi warned of an Israeli covert objective of pushing the more than 2 million Palestinians in Gaza out of the enclave and into Sinai. Displacement represented a red line for both. For Jordan, if transferring Palestinians into Sinai was allowed to happen, the far-right Israeli government would then move to enforce similar scenarios in the West Bank. That represents an existential threat to Jordan.

Netanyahu has irked the Biden administration on numerous occasions by putting obstacles to derail a possible ceasefire deal in Gaza. While declaring that he had accepted the Biden three-phase ceasefire proposal, he kept adding new conditions that made it impossible for the US, Qatar, and Egypt, as mediators, to close the gap between Hamas and Israel.

An already febrile atmosphere in the kingdom was getting worse. The peace treaty between the Amman and Tel Aviv, signed in 1994, was never popular. Jordan's dependency on Israel with regard to natural gas and water had restricted the kingdom's ability to confront the Netanyahu government, especially over the Jewish settlers' daily incursions of the Al-Aqsa compound in East Jerusalem,



which is under the Hashemite custodianship.

Following the assassination of Hamas' political chief, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran late last July, Iran and Hezbollah vowed a painful and unprecedented retaliation against Israel. Jordan's Foreign Minister, Ayman Safadi, made a historic visit to Tehran to convince his counterpart to spare the kingdom any involvement in the expected strike. It is unclear if the Iranians were in the mood to hear what he said.

But this time, Jordan and Egypt made it clear that they would not be part of any US-led coalition to defend Israel. Jordanians have openly expressed support for Palestinian armed resistance, and widespread protests were back in Amman in support of Gaza after a long pause.

Regional war will make peace a fantasy

The fallout from the Gaza war has weakened an already burdened Jordanian economy. The kingdom will hold critical legislative elections in September.

The Israeli far-right government is tightening the noose around Palestinians' necks in the West Bank by carrying out daily raids on refugee camps while unleashing large-scale colonisation of Palestinian lands in prepara-

tion for de facto annexation. The two-state solution is dead in the view of Israeli politicians. The Palestinian Authority (PA) is on the verge of total collapse.

The view from Amman is a pessimistic one. A regional war, limited or not, will make peace between Israel and the Palestinians a fantasy. The outcome of such wars will bring uncertainties. Diplomacy seems to have reached the end of the tether for Jordan. Netanyahu wants to extend the war until the US presidential elections, even if that means more Palestinian deaths, possible transfer, and a regional war.

Meanwhile, annexation of the West Bank will be condemned but will not be reversible. What that means for millions of Palestinians and Jordan is unclear and equally daunting.

The war on Gaza has tested the rules-based order and was found wanting. Jordan is used to walking a tightrope when it comes to its acerbic relationship with Israel. But now it finds itself being pushed into a corner, which puts Amman between a rock and a hard place with unpredictable outcomes.

■ Osama Al Sharif is a journalist and political commentator based in Amman.

DELHI ELECTIONS LOOM AS AAP REBOUNDS

With Kejriwal behind bars, can Sisodia steer the party to another victory in India's capital?

BY NIDHI RAZDAN | Special to Gulf News

Finally, the Aam Aadmi Party or the AAP has got some relief in India. With the Supreme Court releasing AAP leader and former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on bail in an alleged money laundering case, the AAP has suddenly been reenergised. Sisodia spent 17 months in jail and with no sign of a trial anywhere in the near future, the top court said his custody was no longer tenable.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is also in jail in the same case but he has got bail under the tougher money laundering law. He remains behind bars only because another investigating agency, the CBI, arrested him in the same case. Bail is only a matter of time for him too.

Sisodia has hit the ground running, starting with a padyatra or a march on foot this week, to connect with voters. This actually marks a change for Sisodia who was more of an organisational man for the AAP, not really its foot soldier on the ground. But with Kejriwal out of action for now, he has taken the reins.

Delhi elections are due early next year and for the AAP, it will be a major test of its popularity in Delhi despite the alleged corruption scandals and arrests of its leaders. The recent Lok Sabha polls did not throw up any sympathy for the jailed chief minister with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) winning all the seats but the assembly may still be a different story. While the BJP has consistently dominated the general election seats in Delhi, the last two assembly polls have proven the dominance of AAP.

But could the AAP face some strong headwinds this time? The party, which was borne out of an anticorruption movement against the Congress-led government, today finds itself facing a series of corruption allegations.

Then there are serious governance issues that the national capital is grappling with. The collapse of civic infrastructure in particular has been a glaring failure for which the AAP cannot escape blame.

It is also true that the Delhi's complicated governing structure has essentially allowed the centre (run by the BJP) to constantly undermine the AAP government in Delhi and create hurdles in governance.

The Delhi government has no control over officials, their postings or transfers. A Supreme Court judgement which gave them those powers was nullified by an ordinance brought by the central government which gave the powers to the LG.

An appeal is still pending in court. As a result, officers don't attend meetings called by AAP ministers and a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, allowing the LG to make certain appointments to the municipal bodies without the approval of the Delhi government, has further eroded the authority of elected representatives.

It is true that the AAP has emerged as a major political thorn in the BJP's side over the last decade with emphatic wins in Delhi and Punjab. Whether the AAP can hold on to its majority despite the challenges of the last few years will now be tested at the ballot box.

■ Nidhi Razdan is an award-winning journalist. She has extensively reported on politics and diplomacy.

Letters to the Editor

Community recycling

The UAE has implemented an extensive and effective recycling programme ("Recycle plastic bottles and get a free bus ride in Abu Dhabi, here's how", *Gulf News*, July 21). The goal is to make recycling a natural and integrated aspect of our city's waste management infrastructure.

With easily accessible recycling facilities and educational initiatives, we can empower and inspire every resident to embrace environmentally conscious decision-making. It is time for us to promote environmental sustainability proactively through effective waste management practices. Let's commit to a sustainable future for our cities.

■ FROM MS ANCY JOSEPH
UAE

been linked to an increase in seismic activity. The melting of glaciers and polar ice caps due to rising temperatures can lead to changes in the distribution of mass on the earth's surface. Mass redistribution can cause the crust to shift, triggering earthquakes in some regions.

We must implement strict building codes and construction practices and take proactive steps to mitigate climate change. By addressing these factors, we can work towards reducing the occurrence of earthquakes and minimising their impact on communities worldwide.

■ NITHIN NAIR
India

Weather prediction

While science has made significant strides, particularly in space exploration, the need for more contemporary,

location-specific, and accurate weather prediction models is urgent. These models are crucial for disaster mitigation measures, as they can predict early stages and save human lives.

Early detection systems should be installed in environmentally vulnerable areas to predict and prevent landslides. New guidelines should also be developed to safeguard both nature and human communities. The time to act is now.

■ EAPPEN ELIAS
UAE

India at the Olympics

What a fantastic finale to one of the greatest sporting events in the world, the 2024 Olympics in Paris. Congrats to the US, China, and Japan for securing the first three positions. However, as an Indian, I was very disappointed.

India finished in 71st place. I Countries with smaller populations outperformed India.

In India, cricket receives the most attention. If other sports were given similar importance, we will do better in the Olympics. It's a sad state of affairs for the country. I believe this Olympics should serve as an eye-opener, and I hope the authorities start paying attention to other sports as well. I want to see India improve its medal position in the next Olympics.

■ AJEET KUMAR S PILLAI
UAE

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Role of infrastructure in climate adaptation

Why common sense is a good weapon against mpox

3 of UN patrol unit injured in Lebanon explosion

BEIRUT

Three United Nations peacekeepers suffered light injuries yesterday, the UN said, after a blast near their vehicle close to Lebanon's southern border, where Hezbollah and Israel have traded near-daily fire.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah group has exchanged cross-border fire with the Israeli army in support of ally Hamas since the Palestinian group's October 7 attack on Israel sparked the Gaza war.

"Earlier today, three peacekeepers on patrol were lightly injured when an explosion occurred near their clearly marked UN vehicle in the vicinity of Yarine, in south Lebanon," the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) said in a statement.

Peacekeepers safe

"All peacekeepers in the patrol returned safely to their base. We are looking into the incident," it added.

Earlier yesterday, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency had reported that "Israeli enemy warplanes" struck the village of Dhayra, about one kilometre from Yarine, "resulting in injuries".

A Unifil source told AFP the explosion that injured the peacekeepers was probably a nearby air strike, but "not a direct hit".

Earlier in August, Under Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix told AFP that Unifil was today "more important than ever" amid the ongoing cross-border clashes, because it was "the only liaison channel between the Israeli side and the Lebanese side in all its components, such as Hezbollah".

Unifil mandate to renew

Unifil's mandate, which expires at the end of the month, is set to be renewed by the UN Security Council for another year.

The cross-border violence has killed 582 people in Lebanon, mostly Hezbollah fighters but including at least 128 civilians, according to an AFP tally.

On the Israeli side, including in the Golan Heights, 22 soldiers and 26 civilians have been killed, according to army figures. — AFP



Amal Al Robayaa washes clothes amid the ruins of the family home destroyed in an Israeli strike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. AFP

Besieged Gazans share shoes, wear same clothes for months

THIS IS NOT JUST UNPLEASANT, IT IS A HEALTH HAZARD AS LICE AROUND

GAZA STRIP

For months, Safaa Yassin has dressed her child in the same white bodysuit, an all-too-familiar tale in the Gaza Strip, which has been devastated by 10 months of war.

"When I was pregnant, I dreamed of dressing my daughter in beautiful clothes. Today, I have nothing to put on her," says Yassin, one of thousands of Palestinians displaced from Gaza City, now living in Al Masawi, designated as a humanitarian zone by Israeli forces.

"But the few clothes I found before evacuating to the south were either the wrong size or not suitable for the season," says the 38-year-old, as Gaza bakes in summertime temperatures of 30-plus degrees Celsius.

Textiles are a trickle now

Finding clothing — any clothing — has become increasingly difficult for the 2.4 million people living in the territory besieged by Israel.

Gaza once had a thriving textiles industry, but since the war began on October 7 with Palestinian group Hamas's unprecedented attack on Israel, it has received just a trickle of goods.



Palestinians wait for a cobbler to repair their shoes in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip amid the ongoing conflict. AFP

Faten Juda also struggles to dress her 15-month-old son, Adam, who is squeezed into ill-fitting pyjamas. "He's growing and his clothes don't fit him anymore, but I can't find any others," says the 30-year-old.

Children are not the only ones suffering from the lack of clothing in the Gaza Strip, which counted 900 textile factories in the industry's heyday in the early 1990s.

The sector employed 35,000 and sent four million items to Israel every month. But those numbers have plummeted since

2007, when Hamas took power and Israel blockaded Gaza.

Gaza's workshops then dwindled to about 100, employing about 4,000 people and shipping about 30,000-40,000 items a month to Israel and the West Bank.

By January, the World Bank estimated that 79 per cent of Gaza's private sector establishments had been partially or totally destroyed.

10 months, same headscarf

In these conditions, finding new clothes is a rare event.

"Some women have been wearing the same headscarf for the past 10 months," Philippe Lazzarini, head of UNRWA, the UN agency in charge of Palestinian refugees, posted on X.

Wearing the same clothes all the time is not just unpleasant, it is a health hazard. With limited water to wash them, disease-spreading lice abound.

Washing without soap

Ahmed Al Masri, 29, left his home in the north of Gaza at the start of the war.

Today in Khan Younis, in the south, he says he does not have any spare shoes or clothes.

Similarly, Abu Hashem left his home in such a rush that he was unable to take anything with him. He has been wearing the same shoes for five months, but only every other day. "I share my pair of shoes with my brother-in-law," he explains.

Ahmed Al Masri, meanwhile, just wants some soap to wash his only T-shirt and pair of trousers.

"I have been wearing the same clothes for nine months. I have nothing else. I quickly wash my T-shirt and then I wait for it to dry," he says.

"And all this, without soap or detergent." — AFP

UN: 600,000 children in Yemen hit by malnutrition

DUBAI

United Nations task force warned yesterday of soaring child malnutrition in Yemen's government-controlled areas, reporting "extremely critical" levels of malnutrition in parts of the country's south for the first time.

"The number of children under the age of five suffering acute malnutrition, or wasting, rose by 34 per cent compared to the previous year ... affecting over 600,000 children, including 120,000 children who are severely malnourished," Unicef said of the latest report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) initiative, of which it is a part.

Conflict since 2014

Yemen has been engulfed in a devastating conflict since 2014 between the internationally recognised government, supported by a Saudi-led military coalition, and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

The turmoil has plunged the country, already the poorest in the Arabian Peninsula before the war, into one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

"The sharp rise is driven by the compounded effect of disease outbreaks (cholera and measles), high food insecurity, limited access to safe drinking water, and economic decline," the UN children's agency added.

The IPC data covers 117 government-controlled areas, all of which are expected to experience high levels of malnutrition between July and October.

Wake-up call

Some areas have been categorised as having "extremely critical" levels of acute malnutrition, the most severe rating with a prevalence above 30 per cent, for the first time.

"The report confirms an alarming trend," said Unicef representative in Yemen, Peter Hawkins, as several organisations have scaled back their operations due to a lack of funding.

These findings should be a wake-up call that lives are at stake," said Pierre Honorat, the agency's Yemen director. — AFP

Paradise to a nightmare: Aegean villagers devastated after Turkish fire

200-strong farming community at mercy of state for survival

SANCAKLI, TURKEY

A picturesque village perched high on the slopes of hills offered a stunning sea panorama on Turkey's western coast — until the engulfing flames turned the scene from paradise to a nightmare.

Fires have ripped through forests and steep valleys around Turkey's third most-populous city Izmir in recent days.

Abdullah Ozata was desperate to see the scale of the damage when he returned to his nearby village of Sancakli, one of the areas where residents were evacuated to avoid the rushing flames.

"Twelve of my sheep and 50 chickens have perished in the blaze" that roared across the landscape, he told AFP, while showing the remains of burnt animals, turned into ash.

"I lost all my livestock," the 43-year-old lamented as he walked among the debris. "I neither have another job nor another source of income."

43 buildings damaged

Two officials from the finance ministry photographed the damage and recorded Ozata's loss for the compensation claim.

"The gendarmerie evacuated us against the human loss but I lost my animals," he said.

"Our village was pretty, it was like a paradise, but it has turned into a hell".

After four days of raging flames spread by strong winds,



Abdullah Ozata walks among debris on the site of his burnt barn where his animals perished, in Sancakli village, yesterday. AFP

the fire has largely been brought under control, authorities said yesterday. But the fire — the biggest Turkey has seen yet this summer — has left huge areas

of charred and blackened land, destroying olive trees, gardens and beehives.

At least 43 buildings were damaged in Izmir, while 26

people were hospitalised with injuries related to the blaze.

Agriculture and Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli said that efforts to douse hotspots were continuing but that the flames were now largely controlled in one place.

'Hide-and-peek'

Gokhan Cekmez was evacuated during the fire, but defied official orders to slip back into the village through a river in an effort to battle the flames.

"I played hide-and-peek with the gendarmerie, and without me and other villagers, the scale of the damage would have been much more serious," the 35-year-old said. "The outside help was not enough. We tried hard to put out the fire with pots and plates."

In Sancakli the water was just beginning to run again yes-

terday, after pipes were burned by the blaze, and authorities were still repairing the electricity cables damaged by the fire.

Local administrator Ilhan Kaya said agriculture and animal breeding were the only source of income for the 200-strong village.

"The villagers have to survive with the help of the state for at least six months, we will wait for the burned areas to turn green," Kaya said.

Gulhan Arasa and her family, who rely on animal husbandry for their income, managed to keep around 100 sheep and goats in their shelter during the fire. "Thank God, they're all alive. We didn't let them out because we were circled by the flames," she said.

But other than that, she said, "everything has turned to ashes." — AFP

DUBAI
BY STEPHEN N. R.
Senior Associate Editor

India's top court takes up rape, murder case as nation protests

FANS OF RIVAL FOOTBALL CLUBS — EAST BENGAL & MOHUN BAGAN — JOIN IN

India's Supreme Court has taken up the high-profile rape and murder case of a Kolkata doctor that has shocked the nation and unsettled the medical community.

A three-judge bench, led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud will hear the case tomorrow, according to media reports. The Calcutta High Court had previously intervened, ordering the investigation to be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after the woman's parents and others, dissatisfied with the state police's handling, filed an appeal. The court has expressed frustration with the police and administrative response, citing delays in allowing the family to view the body, issues with the postmortem report, and a hurried arrest of a civic volunteer, which some viewed as an attempt to prematurely close the case, NDTV has said.

Hasty cremation

Doctors suggest that the extent of the woman's injuries indicates the involvement of more than one attacker. Claims have also emerged that the police cremated the body hastily, though the Kolkata Police deny these allegations.

The state's Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accuses the police of covering up the crime, particularly after an attack on the hospital on August 15 during a statewide women's "Reclaim the Night" protest.

The BJP alleges that this attack was intended to destroy evidence, with Leader of the Opposition, Suwendu Adhikari, claiming the police tampered with the doctor's viscera and other evidence.

The 31-year-old doctor was murdered early on August 9. After a 36-hour shift, she had gone to rest in an empty seminar room at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital. Her partially clothed body, with multiple injuries, was discovered the next morning. Sanjoy Roy, a civic volunteer with the Kolkata Police stationed at the hospital, is the prime suspect.

Roy was arrested, based on CCTV footage showing him entering the building where the doctor was found murdered, and a Bluetooth headset near the victim was identified as being paired with his phone.

Rare display of unity

In a rare display of unity, supporters of Kolkata's arch-rivals — East Bengal and Mohun Bagan football clubs — gathered near Salt Lake Stadium yesterday evening to protest the doctor's rape and murder.

The Telegraph Online reported that the Durand Cup match between the two teams was cancelled due to law and order concerns. Fans from both clubs and Mohammedan Sporting Club came to-



Supporters of arch-rivals East Bengal and Mohun Bagan shout slogans as police baton-charge to disperse them during a protest march in Kolkata yesterday. AFP



Above: Doctors take out candle march demanding justice for the deceased doctor of the Kolkata RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, at Connaught Place, in New Delhi, yesterday. **Right:** Medical professionals light candles as they pay tribute to the young medic from Kolkata, in Amritsar, yesterday.



The Supreme Court has expressed frustration with the police and administrative response, citing delays in allowing the family to view the body, issues with the postmortem report, and a hurried arrest of a civic volunteer.

gether, holding each other's flags and chanting for justice. Notable figures, including actor Usashi Chakraborty and theatre personality Sourav Palodhi, joined the protest in their club jerseys. The demonstration spilled onto the busy EM Bypass, causing traffic disruptions.

"We want justice for the sister who was gang-raped and murdered. Fans of Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, and Mohammedan SC have come

together peacefully. Why are there so many policemen? Why was the match cancelled? Don't we have the right to demand justice?" said Bittu Senapati, a Mohun Bagan supporter.

The police responded by detaining some protesters who defied prohibitory orders imposed under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), effective from August 18 to August 24, with restrictions from 4pm to midnight.

Additionally, a CBI team examined and conducted 3D laser mapping in the emergency ward of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital and conducted psychological testing of the main accused.

Harbhajan demands justice

Former Indian cricketer and Aam Aadmi Party parliament member Harbhajan Singh expressed his "deep anguish" in an open letter to West Bengal

Governor C.V. Ananda Bose and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, calling for justice.

Addressed also to the citizens of India, Singh's letter is a call for "justice and introspection." In the two-page letter, shared on his official X (formerly Twitter) account, Singh condemns the violence as a grave assault on the dignity and safety of women, urging for systemic change and decisive action by the authorities.

Air India airhostess attacked in London

NEW DELHI
Gulf News Report

An airhostess working with Air India has been brutally attacked by an assailant at a hotel in London.

Air India confirmed the incident and said that a complaint has been filed with the local police, who are now investigating the matter.

The airline also assured that the airhostess was receiving psychological support and emphasised that they were fully behind her during this difficult time.

'Providing all support'

"We are providing all support to our colleague and their broader team, including professional counselling. We are deeply anguished by an unlawful incident of intrusion at a hotel, operated by a major international chain, that affected one of our crew members. Air India is also working with the local police to pursue the matter to the fullest extent of the law and with the hotel management to ensure such incidents are not repeated. We request that the privacy of those involved be respected," an Air India spokesperson said.

The airline further said that it is taking the incident that happened earlier this week very seriously and is committed to seeking justice for the air hostess.

The airline has also emphasised the importance of respecting her safety, privacy, and well-being during this time.

"Air India accords foremost priority to the safety, security, and well-being of our crew and staff members," the statement read.

She was later admitted to a hospital in London due to the severity of her injuries.

Midnight attack

According to sources, the attack on the Air India airhostess occurred after midnight while all the crew members were asleep.

The intruder, whose identity remains unknown, allegedly entered one of the air hostess's rooms and attacked her with a hangar.

Her screams alerted the hotel staff, and their timely intervention brought the situation under control.

The officials said that an investigation into the matter is underway.

Meanwhile, the air hostess has since been brought back to India.

ON GULFNEWS.COM

Rare diseases point to metabolism-immunity link

Inherited diseases of metabolism and immunity have more in common than previously recognised, as per a study in the journal, Science Immunology.



Rare diseases point to link between metabolism and immunity

—Gulf News Report

Thailand gets a new PM with an old name

Paetongtarn Shinawatra is the nation's youngest PM

BANGKOK

Thailand's new Prime Minister, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, scion of the kingdom's most prominent political dynasty, comes to office freighted with a long family history of power, protests and coups.

The 37-year-old accepted King Maha Vajiralongkorn's command to form a government yesterday, barely two years after she entered politics.

She is the country's youngest premier and the third Shi-

nawatra to assume the title. But she will hope to avoid the fate of her father and aunt, whose terms as PM both ended with the army seizing power in a tussle between the family and Thailand's pro-royalist, pro-military elite fought over more than 20 years.

Earlier premier sacked

Paetongtarn's Pheu Thai party chose her to replace Srettha Thavisin, sacked as premier on Wednesday by the Constitutional Court for appointing a cabinet minister with a criminal conviction.

She helped run the hotel arm of the family's empire before entering politics in 2022.



Paetongtarn Shinawatra

Despite being pregnant, she was a near-constant presence on the campaign trail for last year's election, leading rallies in the stifling tropical heat.

She gave birth to a son just two weeks before polling day, hailing the baby as her "secret power" and swiftly getting back to canvassing.

But Pheu Thai finished second to the new progressive Move Forward Party.

It was the first time a Shinawatra party had been beaten in a national vote, but Pheu Thai triumphed eventually as Srettha took power in alliance with pro-military parties previously staunchly opposed to Thaksin and his followers.

Pheu Thai members voted overwhelmingly in October 2023 for Paetongtarn to become party leader and vowed to rejuvenate its image. — AFP

LONDON

Manchester City got their Premier League title defence off to a winning start as goals from Erling Haaland and Mateo Kovacic inflicted a 2-0 defeat on Enzo Maresca in his first match in charge of Chelsea.

Haaland marked his 100th appearance for the club with his 91st goal before Kovacic struck on his return to Stamford Bridge to give Pep Guardiola's men the perfect start to their attempt to win a record fifth consecutive English top-flight title.

City were shorn of all four of their Euro 2024 finalists – Rodri, Kyle Waker, John Stones and Phil Foden – from the start as Guardiola opted to give them extra time off to recover from their summer exertions.

Yet, the champions were still able to lay down a marker against one of the few sides they failed to beat in the league last season.

Maresca has the tough task of moulding a functioning team unit from a bloated Chelsea squad that has 43 players and over 50 on the books including those on loan.

The consequences of those difficult decisions played out even before kick-off as Raheem Sterling's camp released a statement expressing his dismay at being left out of the matchday squad.

Ben Chilwell was another to face the cull, while Conor Gallagher and Romelu Lukaku are among those not to have been handed squad numbers.

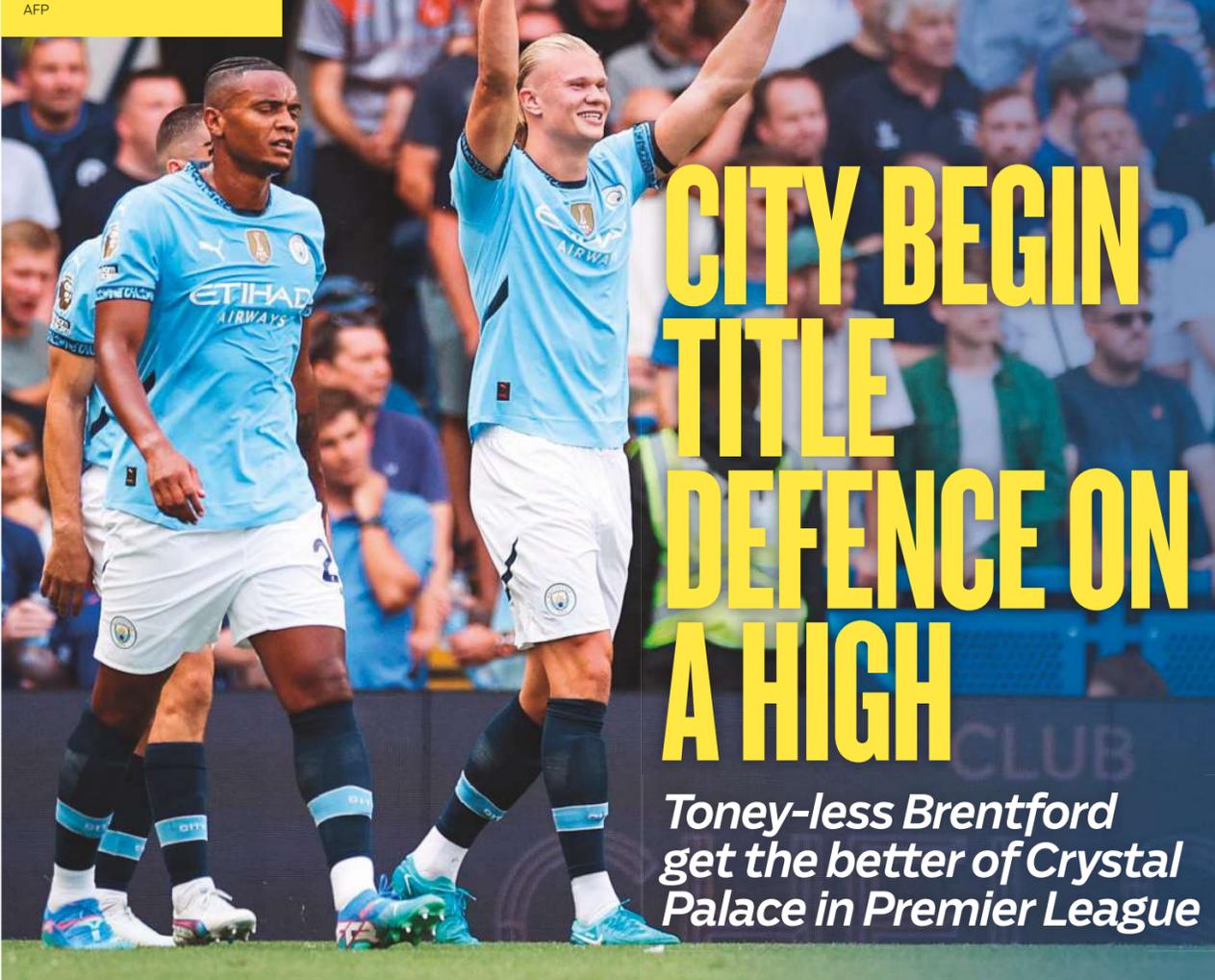
None of Chelsea's nine summer signings to date were included in Maresca's starting line-up. Even more surprisingly, Enzo Fernandez was named captain despite being embroiled in a race row for a post on social media after Argentina's Copa America victory last month.

City, by contrast, are a model of continuity and consistent excellence. Haaland was one of City's few stars to have had a summer off from international tournaments and took just 18 minutes to make his mark.

Jeremy Doku's low cross was deflected by Bernardo Silva into the Norwegian's path and he coolly dinked over Robert Sanchez. Kevin De Bruyne curled inches wide and Sanchez leapt high to turn over Doku's deflected shot. But Chelsea ended the first half in the ascendancy and should have been level before the break. Ederson spilled Cole Palmer's tame shot but was bailed out by Nicolas Jackson's straying needlessly offside before he turned in the rebound.

Foden was forced into action earlier than Guardiola would have hoped at half-time as the lively Savinho was forced off injured on his Premier League

Manchester City striker Erling Haaland (right) celebrates scoring his team's first goal against Chelsea yesterday.



CITY BEGIN TITLE DEFENCE ON A HIGH

Toney-less Brentford get the better of Crystal Palace in Premier League



Brentford's goalscorers, strikers Bryan Mbeumo (left) and Yoane Wissa, celebrate on the pitch after their win.

debut. The lack of pre-season minutes for many on show was apparent in the more pedestrian pace than normal for a major Premier League clash.

Chelsea did most of the pressing for an equaliser but offered City chances to extend their lead in doing so.

Sanchez made a fine save to deny Haaland a second before

De Bruyne again fired inches off target when unmarked at the edge of the area.

However, the Chelsea goalkeeper was at fault for the goal that sealed their fate.

Kovacic was allowed to burst through the midfield unchallenged and took aim for the top corner, which he found thanks to a weak hand from Sanchez.

RESULTS

Brentford	2	Crystal Palace	1
Chelsea	0	Man City	2

Today's match

Leicester v Tottenham (1900GMT)

Brentford win

Brentford shrugged off the absence of Ivan Toney to get their Premier League season off to a flying start with a 2-1 win over Crystal Palace yesterday.

Bryan Mbeumo and Yoane Wissa got the goals for the Bees, who had left out England international Toney over speculation surrounding his future.

Toney has less than a year left to run on his contract with the London club and is attracting interest from Saudi clubs after his role in helping England to the Euro 2024 final.

Brentford boss Thomas Frank said pre-match his side had shown last season they can cope without Toney – who missed much of last term due to a betting ban.

Marc Guehi did captain Crystal Palace despite the interest in him shown by Newcastle. The England defender had an outstanding Euros but a moment to forget for Brentford's opening goal. Mbeumo raced onto Wissa's pass and cut inside Guehi before firing into the far corner.

Palace ended last season in sensational form under Oliver Glasner and will feel hard done by not to have earned at least a point. Eberechi Eze had a brilliantly executed near post free-kick harshly ruled out for a foul by Will Hughes when the score was still level at 0-0.

A bright Palace start to the second half was rewarded when Ethan Pinnock turned Daniel Munoz's header into his own goal. Dean Henderson could only parry Nathan Collins' shot straight into the path of Wissa, who bundled home.

Eze was twice denied by Mark Flekken in the closing stages but Brentford held out for an impressive three points.

— AFP

Katarzyna wins Tour de France by 4 secs

L'ALPE D'HUEZ

Poland's Katarzyna Niewiadoma won her first women's Tour de France title by just four seconds yesterday as she dug in during the race's gruelling final Alpine ascent.

The 29-year-old Canyon SRAM rider summited the daunting Alpe d'Huez mountain one minute one second behind stage winner Demi Vollering to maintain her grip on the yellow jersey.

Going into the final stage, Niewiadoma held a lead of one minute 15 seconds ahead of main rival and reigning Tour champion Vollering.

The Dutchwomen produced a barnstorming performance in yesterday's 150-kilometre slog from Le Grand-Bornand to Alpe d'Huez, outspringing compatriot Pauliena Rooijackers to the line to claim the stage win.

Niewiadoma completed the eight-stage tour in 24 hours 36min 07sec, a mere four seconds in front of second-placed Vollering with Rooijackers completing the podium just a further six seconds behind.

Vingegaard wins

Jonas Vingegaard avoided any final day mishaps to complete victory in the Tour of Poland yesterday less than a month after his runner-up spot in the Tour de France.

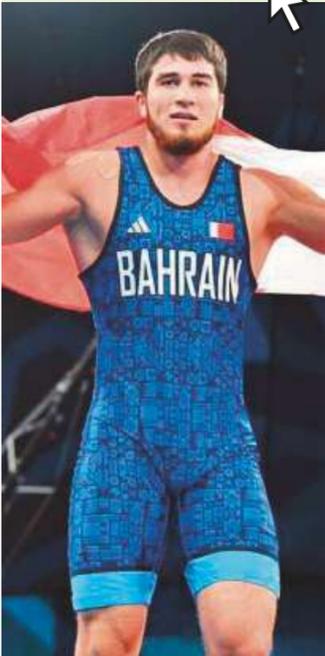
The Dane, who took command of the race on Tuesday, finished safely in the peloton behind stage seven winner Olav Kooij, his Visma-Lease a Bike teammate, who claimed the final day honours in a sprint finish.

— AFP



Katarzyna Niewiadoma celebrates her win.

ON GULFNEWS.COM



How Tajzhudinov achieved his dreams

Wrestler Akhmed Tajzhudinov capped a memorable Paris 2024 Olympics for Bahrain by winning gold in the 97kg category. The 21-year-old was unstoppable, demolishing illustrious names in the wrestling world to give Bahrain its first wrestling gold in Olympic history, bringing the country's total to four medals.

— A.K.S. Satish, Sports Editor



The victory is a testament to grit and determination, says 21-year-old giant-killer

Sabalenka: It was such a tough battle

She squanders nine match points before defeating Swiatek

CINCINNATI

Aryna Sabalenka squandered nine match points but defeated world No 1 Iga Swiatek 6-3, 6-3 yesterday, breaking through to her first final at the WTA and ATP Cincinnati Open.

Four-time Cincinnati semi-finalist Sabalenka will rise to second in the WTA rankings with a week to go before the start of the US Open.

Sabalenka will play today's final against the winner of a later match between Spain's Paula Badosa and US sixth seed Jessica Pegula.

Sabalenka had a battle on her hands to close out the win, with Swiatek putting up a huge battle in the closing stages.



Aryna Sabalenka

Third-ranked Sabalenka led 5-1 in the second set but Swiatek showed why she is ranked atop the WTA table as she repeatedly saved match-winners from her opponent.

Sabalenka was broken for 5-3 but finally claimed the

hard-fought victory a game later with a concluding break of Swiatek on a return winner on her 10th match point after nearly two hours.

'Broke the barrier'

"I finally broke the barrier," Sabalenka said of her place in the title match.

"It was such a tough battle with Iga, and we also had to be patient with the weather."

Raindrops required the court lines to be dried by towels during several short interruptions.

"On the match points I just had to tell myself that this is why she's world No 1 and will fight to the last point," Sabalenka said.

"I just had to keep doing the job and hopefully win."

The victory served as revenge for Sabalenka, who lost Masters-level clay finals to Swiatek in Madrid and Rome last spring.

— AFP

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M/s. ALNAEEM HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRADING FZE, License No: L-0466 located at Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE, licensed with the Dubai World Trade Centre Authority, wishes to announce its decision, taken via board resolution passed at its board meeting on 15th Aug 2024 regarding the closing down and dissolution of "M/s. ALNAEEM HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRADING FZE". Accordingly, any interested party who has a claim against the company is hereby requested to submit its outstanding claims within 21 days of notice by registered post or contact:

Mr. HUSSEIN NAJI SALEH AL HABELI
Company name: ALNAEEM HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRADING FZE
P.O.Box 118962, Dubai, U.A.E. / Phone: + 971 55 6698 143
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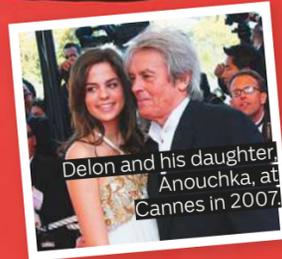
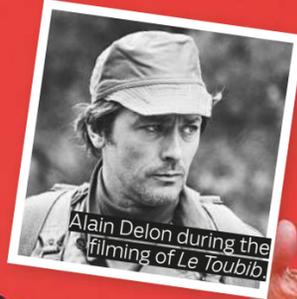
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OBITUARY

ALAIN DELON: FRENCH STAR WHO WAS AN 'INSTINCTIVE GENIUS'

The actor, whose looks were cinematic gold in the 1960s, relied on his charisma rather than working on his technique



French film legend Alain Delon, a divisive star known to some as a sex symbol and to others an egotistical chauvinist, died at 88, his children announced yesterday in a statement to AFP.

"Alain Fabien, Anouchka, Anthony, as well as (his dog) Loubo, are deeply saddened to announce the passing of their father. He passed away peacefully in his home in Douchy, surrounded by his three children and his family," said the statement.

The actor, known for his roles in classics *Purple Noon* (1960) and *Le Samurai* (1967), died at around 3am.

A rarity on the screen since the 1990s, Delon made headlines in 2023 when his three children filed a complaint against his live-in assistant, Hiromi Rollin, accusing her of harassment and threatening behaviour.

The siblings went on to wage a public battle in the media and

the courts, arguing over the star's state of health, which included a stroke in 2019.

PALME D'OR AWARD

Ahead of his stroke, Delon made his last major public appearance on the red carpet to receive an honorary Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2019. "It's a bit of a posthumous tribute, but from my lifetime," he had said on receiving the award.

"I am going to leave, but I won't

leave without thanking you," added the man who had lived out his final years at his home in a village in northeast France, surrounded by high walls, where he planned to be buried not far from his dogs.

"The best and the worst, both inaccessible and so close, cold and hot," fellow 1960s star Brigitte Bardot had described him on his 80th birthday.

Far from a cerebral actor, Delon was considered an instinctive genius. He prided himself on

never having worked on his technique, rather relying on charisma.

His looks were cinematic gold for filmmakers in the 1960s, playing roles of pretty boy killers and mysterious schemers like in *Purple Noon* — remade as *The Talented Mr Ripley* — and *Le Samurai* (1967).

Directors from Martin Scorsese to Quentin Tarantino acknowledge a debt to the inner life Delon gave his stylish killer — although he never made it big in Hollywood. —AFP

Photos: AFP, Instagram/parishilton

Heartbreaking: Paris Hilton on fire

American media personality Paris Hilton shared that she is doing fine after an accident on the set of her music video, reported *People*.



Taking to her Instagram, she shared, "Assessing the damages after yesterday's fire ... It's heartbreaking to see so many of my favourite things destroyed ..." she wrote.

She posted a video, sharing a glimpse of the set and the damages. "All of the gorgeous custom outfits that we had made for the music video, designer couture outfits, all my favourite sunglasses, shoes, handbags, jewellery, computers, cameras, phones, and so much more."

Earlier, she had said: "As heartbreaking as it is, I'm so thankful everyone is safe."

Hilton's album titled, *Infinite Icon*, will be out on September 6. —ANI

Nick on world-class scene partner

Nick Jonas recently confessed that he receives strong support at home as he prepares for his acting role in the upcoming film *The Good Half*, with his wife, actor Priyanka Chopra, helping him with his work.

In an interview with E! News, Jonas praised Priyanka, calling her a "world-class" scene partner.

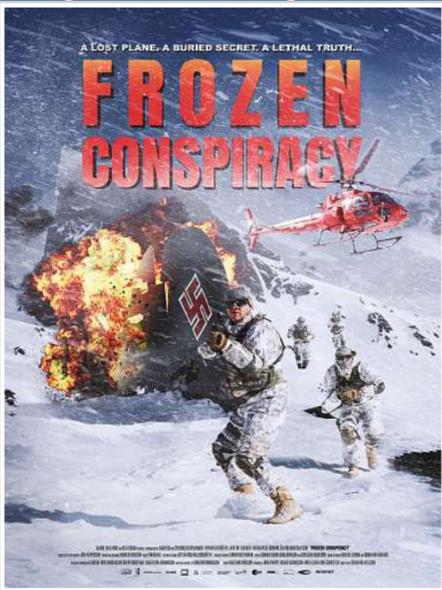
"I've got a pretty good scene partner at home. By pretty good, I mean like, world-class, so that's always nice," Nick said.

The couple often helps with audition tapes and has even filmed each other performing scenes. Nick admitted it can be "kind of weird," but also "wonderful."

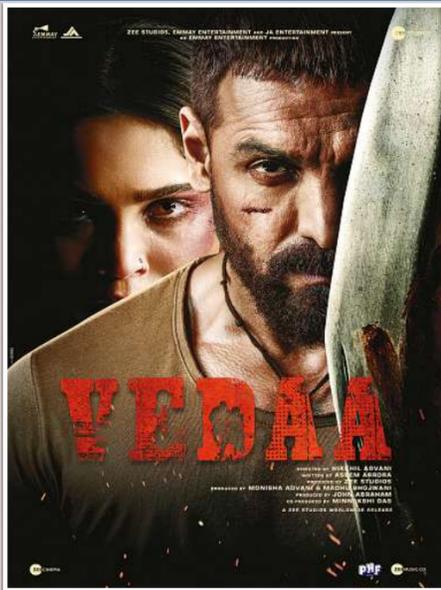
While they do not always rehearse lines together, they discuss their characters and stay creative at home, he said. —ANI



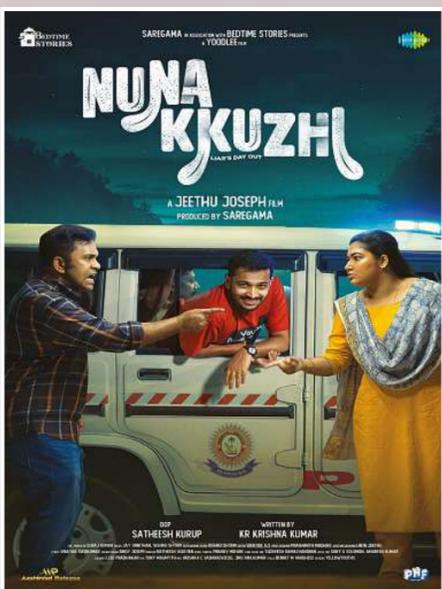
Hollywood & Bollywood at cinemas in UAE & GCC



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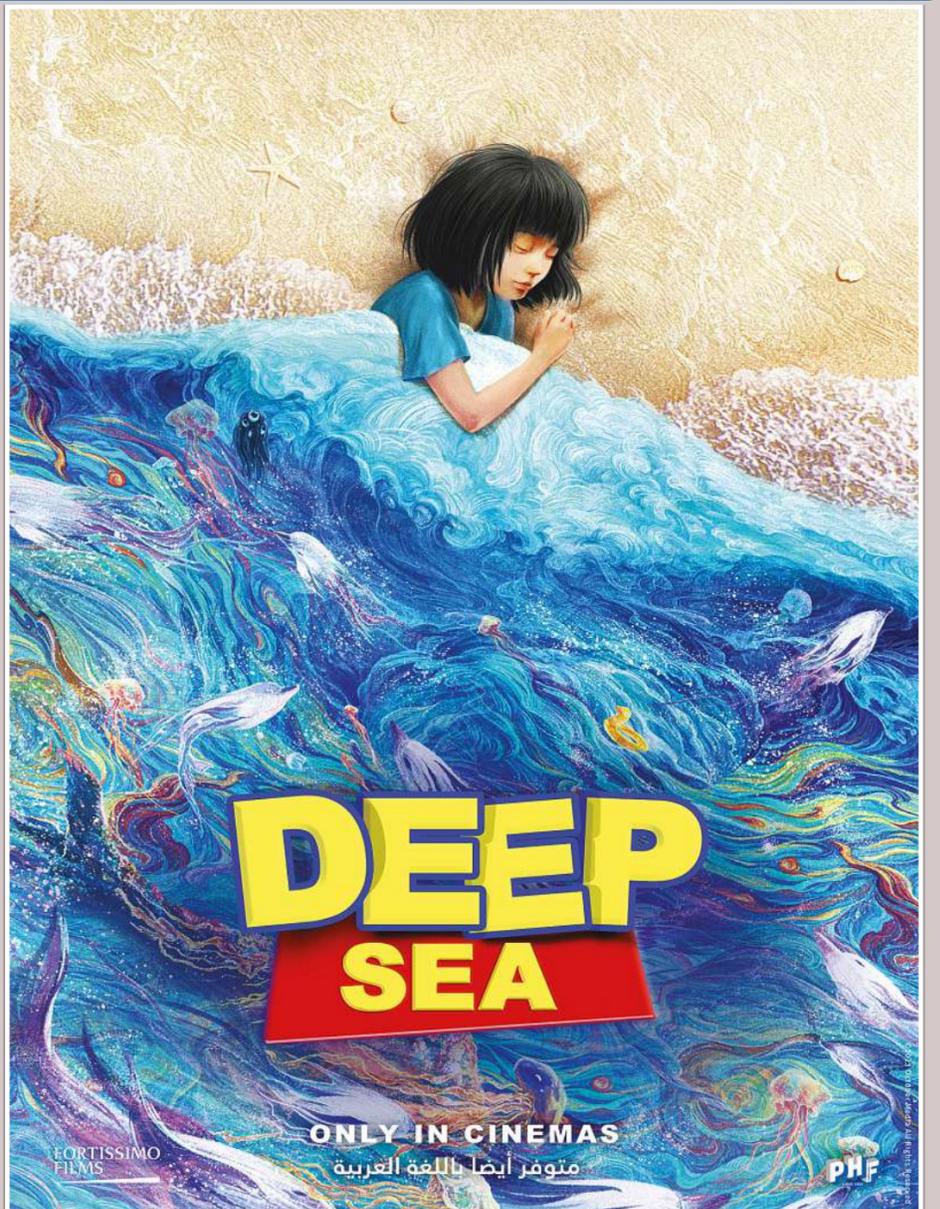
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AUGUST 23



AUGUST 22

Forever in our hearts



Parminder (Peter) Gill

October 04, 1947 – August 17, 2024

A very dear friend & visionary business leader

*A life well lived; a friendship deeply cherished.
A guiding light whose legacy of love, laughter and generosity
will forever enrich our lives. His timeless values will inspire
generations, ensuring his spirit lives on in our hearts.*

Rest in peace, forever in our prayers.

Our deepest condolences to the members of the family.

Friends in grief:

- Adarsh Sachar • Avtar Singh Bajaj • Davinder (Toni) Walia
- Gurjit Singh Grewal • Gurmeet Singh • Gangu Valrani
- Harwant Singh Sahani • Jag Dhanoa • Jaimin Vyas • Jaswant Singh Kumar
- Lal Ganwani • Mohan Valrani • Mukesh Kochhar • Mushtaq Vakil
- Narinder Singh Chada • Prem Anand • Rahgbir Singh Kohli
- Raju Singh • Ravi Bhasin • Ravinderjit Singh Sokhi • Surinder Singh
- SP Singh Oberoi • Surender Singh Kandhari • Veena Malhotra
- Vijay Malhotra • Vivek Burman • Paras Shahdadpuri
- Darshan Valrani