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MIGRAINES ARE NOT JUST HEADACHES
Dr Ahmed Shatila, Neurology Consultant, explains to podcast host Maria Botros
 To watch episode 46 of the podcast go to www.gulfnews.com

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Midwifery steers Emirati to head a Dubai hospital

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How the far-right dehumanises immigrants

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Etihad Airways sees 36% surge in summer passengers

Markets rise as rate-cut fever grips investors

NEW YORK

Most stocks rose worldwide amid higher hopes among traders of a bigger interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve today. The broad US market index, the S&P 500, and the 30-stock Dow both hit fresh all-time highs yesterday in early trading. Also, the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index jumped 0.8 per cent. Earlier in the day, both Europe's Stoxx 600 and UK's FTSE advanced on optimism for a big Fed cut, with most Asian markets, i.e. Hong Kong, Sydney, Singapore, Manila, Mumbai, Bangkok and Jakarta, up.

First cut since 2020

The US Fed began a two-day interest rate meeting that is all-but-certain to end with its first cut since March 2020. The rate decision will be stated today. A rate cut of any size, be it a small cut of a quarter of a percentage point, or an aggressive half point reduction, would support consumers, who are feeling the pinch of interest rates at a 23-year high, lowering the cost of borrowing on everything from mortgages to car loans. While a larger cut would do more to push down the cost of borrowing, it also runs the risk of reigniting inflation, according to KPMG chief economist Diane Swonk. —Agencies

SEE ALSO P8, P9

9 dead, 2,800 hurt as Hezbollah pagers explode across Lebanon

IRAN'S AMBASSADOR AMONG WOUNDED IN BLASTS BLAMED ON ISRAEL

BEIRUT

Hundreds of pagers used by Hezbollah members exploded across Lebanon yesterday, killing at least nine people and wounding 2,800, including Tehran's ambassador in Beirut in blasts the Iran-backed militant group blamed on Israel. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military on the blasts, which came just hours after Israel announced it was broadening the aims of the war sparked by Hamas's October 7 attacks to include its fight against Hezbollah along its border with Lebanon.

Children among dead

Among the dead were the son of a Hezbollah lawmaker and the 10-year-old daughter of a member of the group. The girl was killed when her father's pager exploded as she was standing beside him, her family and a source close to Hezbollah said. Hezbollah blamed Israel for the blasts and warned it would be punished. "We hold the Israeli enemy fully responsible for this criminal aggression," the group said in a statement, adding that Israel "will certainly receive its just punishment for this sinful aggression". Health Minister Firass Abiad said 2,800 people had been injured by exploding pagers "more than 200 of them critically". Iranian state television re-



Ambulances are surrounded by people at the entrance of the American University of Beirut Medical Centre yesterday, after explosions hit several Hezbollah strongholds around Lebanon.

200 among those wounded in the explosions are in critical condition

ported that Tehran's ambassador in Beirut Mojtaba Amani suffered "superficial" injuries in one of the explosions. **Several strongholds hit** The afternoon blasts hit several Hezbollah strongholds across

Lebanon, in the first such incident since the group began trading near-daily fire with Israel in support of ally Hamas. "Hundreds of Hezbollah members were injured by the simultaneous explosion of their pagers" in the group's strongholds in Beirut's southern suburbs, in south Lebanon and in the eastern Bekaa Valley, a Hezbollah source said, requesting anonymity. AFP journalists saw dozens of wounded being rushed to hospital in Beirut and in the south, where dozens of ambulances rushed between the cit-

ies of Tyre and Sidon in both directions. Earlier yesterday, Israel announced it was broadening the aims of the war sparked by the Hamas attacks to include its fight against Hezbollah along its border with Lebanon. "The political-security cabinet updated the goals of the war this evening, so that they include the following section: the safe return of the residents of the north to their homes," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement. —AFP

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How midwifery led Emirati to head Dubai's Latifa Hospital

A PIONEER IN HER OWN RIGHT, KHADIJA AL SULAIMI SHARES INSPIRING STORY

DUBAI
BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

Latifa Hospital in Dubai is considered a global benchmark when it comes to medical care for women and children. Every year, it enables thousands of safe deliveries, successfully handles critical cases and boasts one of the largest neonatal and premature neonatal intensive care units in the region.

At the helm of the institution's affairs is Khadija Al Sulaimi, who says it is a "privilege and honour" to serve at the landmark hospital.

She says, "It is a testament to the dedication and hard work I have put into my nursing career. As a nursing professional, it is incredibly fulfilling to have the opportunity to contribute to the leadership and management of a health care institution and make a positive impact on patient and women care."

Her role entails overseeing the operations and management of the hospital. "I work closely with the health care team to ensure the delivery of high-quality patient care, adherence to safety protocols, and efficient resource utilisation. I also collaborate with stakeholders to implement strategic initiatives and promote continuous improvement in health care services," adds the acting director of the hospital.

Making a difference

Born and raised in Abu Dhabi, Khadija hails from a close-knit traditional family. The eldest child of her parents, she says, "My father worked in the Air Force and my mother is a housewife. I am proud to have had a very supportive family."

From a young age, Khadija was drawn to the medical field. She was fascinated with the functioning of the human body. "Science classes were my favourite. I loved going to the hospital, and would go along with my mother on all her antenatal visits to Al Corniche Hospital. I loved toying with syringes and would be quick to browse through medical books, watch documentaries about health care and X files movies. My passion for understanding the intricacies of health and wellness was undeniable," she confesses.



Gulf News Archives

Every year, Latifa Hospital enables thousands of safe deliveries, handles critical cases and boasts one of the largest neonatal and premature neonatal intensive care units in the region.



As a nursing professional, it is incredibly fulfilling to contribute to the leadership and management of a health care institution and make a positive impact on patient and women care."

Khadija Al Sulaimi | Acting director of Latifa Hospital

"But it wasn't just the science that intrigued me; it was the idea of wanting to make a tangible difference in people's lives that truly captivated me," she adds.

Family support

The concept of nursing sat well within this prism. As a profession, it resonated with her values and aspirations. "But choosing nursing was not an easy decision. At the time, there were societal expectations and cultural norms that often steered young women away from careers in health care," she recalls.

"However, I was fortunate to have a supportive family who believed in my dreams and encouraged me to follow my passion. I knew that by pursuing nursing, I could not only fulfil my own aspirations, but also pave the way for future generations of Emiratis to enter the field," she adds.

She says in the early years, the uptake of nursing among Emiratis was slow. "One of the main reasons was the lack of awareness and understanding of the nursing profession. Also, because of cultural perceptions and societal expectations, Emirati youth were drawn to other career paths. But there has been a positive shift in recent years because of supportive initiatives by health care institutions and the government. There is clear road map strategy and a recognition of the valuable role nurses play in health care delivery. The availability of educational opportunities and scholarships specific to nursing and midwifery have also helped," she notes.

True calling

When she enrolled into a nursing programme, she says she did it with unwavering determination. "The rigorous academic and practical training

was challenging, but each step reinforced my commitment to the profession. The more I learnt, the more I realised the critical role nurses play in the health care system. My experiences during clinical rotations, where I interacted with patients from various walks of life solidified my belief that nursing was my true calling."

Specialisation in midwifery

Once Khadija obtained the necessary qualifications and certifications in nursing, she chose to specialise in midwifery. "Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work in various health care settings, gaining valuable experience and knowledge. I have also been fortunate to receive support and guidance from mentors and colleagues, which has contributed to my growth in the field," she feels.

She says when she reflects on her journey, it is filled with memorable experiences, whether it was her role in leading a team to save a patient's life in the emergency room; witnessing the recovery of a critical patient who was under her care; or participating in delivering primi (first pregnancy) women without interventions.

Outside of work, Khadija's varied interests help her to maintain a work-life balance. "I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I also have a passion for photography and love capturing moments and the beauty of nature. I love baking – it helps me destress, just like reading and exploring new places."

Young Indian looking for a job in Dubai dies while playing football

23-year-old Azhar from Kerala suffered cardiac arrest in the wee hours of Sunday

DUBAI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Chief Reporter

Friends and family have paid rich tributes after a young footballer from India died while playing in Dubai on Sunday.

Mohammad Azhar, 23, who hailed from the South Indian state of Kerala, was on a visit to chase his dream of getting a job in Dubai as a videographer and editor. He collapsed and died of a cardiac arrest while playing football with his friends in the wee hours of Sunday, his brother-in-law Mohammad Shameem told Gulf News from Kerala.

"He went to Dubai just a month back," said Shameem, who lives in Qatar with Azhar's father, Naser Tholengal.

Though Azhar's graduation was in BSc Computer Science, Shameem said the former was more passionate about videography. "He also loved playing football since a young age. He was a professional, playing for local clubs in Kerala."

Health conscious

A teetotaler, Azhar was health conscious and advised friends against having soft drinks and on the importance of warming up before playing football, said his roommate in Dubai, Rashid K.

"He was my friend's friend, but became my close friend in this one month. I picked him up from the airport and he lived with me and my brother. He was thrilled to know I have a friends' group playing football every weekend," he said.

Rashid and his group of 15 friends working in Gold Souq in Deira would board a bus to a stadium in Al Ghusais after work on Saturday. "We play from 1.30am to 3am on Sunday as we can rest later."

Final match, 5 goals

Azhar scored five goals and showed no signs of sickness during his last match, said Rashid. "He advised me to give a good massage to my leg when I said it was hurting. Within two minutes, he collapsed and fell on his face," he recalled.



Mohammad Azhar was in Dubai to chase his dream of getting a job as a videographer and editor.

DOCTOR'S VIEW

Dr Srikanth Padmanabhan, specialist in Emergency Medicine, NMS Specialty Hospital, Al Nahda, said the recent surge in tragic sports-related deaths among young individuals is deeply concerning.

He said playing late at night can pose additional risks. "Lack of sleep can impair cognitive function, increase risk of injuries, and contribute to chronic health conditions," he said.

He also said it is crucial to address any underlying health conditions, ensure appropriate training and equipment, and promote a culture of safety in sports.

Realising that it was not a normal fall, his friends administered CPR and called the ambulance. "Within minutes, two ambulances came and the paramedics also tried their best and rushed him to a hospital. But, within half an hour, doctors declared that they could not revive him."

Tragic news on festive day

Shameem's friend, Ajmal Hadi, who helped with the repatriation procedures with a group of friends and social workers, said Azhar's body was flown home on Monday night.

"He was the youngest and only brother of three sisters. His parents and sisters are devastated. Sunday was an auspicious day on account of the Prophet's Birthday (Peace Be Upon Him) and Onam in Kerala. But they received this tragic news that day," he said.

No amnesty for deportees, visa violators outside UAE

ICP clarifies that initiative applies only to illegal residents

ABU DHABI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security (ICP) clarified yesterday that the two-month amnesty for violators of visa and residency rules applies exclusively to applicants who are within the UAE, until the end of the grace period on October 31.

ICP said the amnesty does not cover those who had left the UAE with violations before the deadline was announced on September 1 this year.

ICP Director-General Major General Suhail Saeed Al Khaili urged violators to make the most of the amnesty to rectify

their status, emphasising that the grace period offers another chance for violators to regularise their status, either by obtaining a legal job with a valid visa or exiting the UAE without incurring fines.

He clarified that obtaining an exit permit requires either a valid passport or a valid return document. He advised violators intending to leave the UAE to book their departure tickets only after the exit permit procedures.

What about deportees?

Maj Gen Al Khaili also clarified that the amnesty does not include individuals who have been subject to a criminal deportation decision by a competent court in the UAE. Deportees are not eligible for the benefits and exemptions offered by the amnesty until their criminal files are resolved, he said.

Dh100m campaign to pay overdue school fees

Project will support 6,000 students from low-income families in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI
Gulf News Report

The Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation and Authority of Social Contribution – Ma'an have launched the 'Together for Education' campaign to pay overdue school fees for students from low-income families in Abu Dhabi, aiming to allocate Dh100 million.

Running from September 16 to October 15, the campaign aims to allocate funds from individuals and corporates, to support 6,000 students. The project will also assist in covering the operational costs of eligible schools in the UAE, as well as providing necessary school supplies and assisting with school fees.

Applications to receive sup-



The project will also assist in covering the operational costs of eligible schools and provide necessary school supplies.

port through the campaign should be submitted via Ma'an – Together for Education (maan.gov.ae). Federal and local entities will help to list and determine beneficiaries.

As Abu Dhabi Government's official channel to receive social contributions, Ma'an supports and empowers the community to participate in delivering sustainable, innovative solutions

that address wide-ranging social priorities.

Mohammad Haji Al Khoury, Director-General of the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, said: "The launch of this campaign ... is an outstanding milestone added to the nation's track record of giving and philanthropy. The initiative's main goal is to help overcome economic and social obstacles that

could prevent students from completing their education."

The foundation partners with local entities to help students from low-income families to complete their education.

Abdullah Al Ameri, Director-General of Ma'an, said: "The campaign opens the door for organised contribution efforts, and gives everyone the opportunity to contribute."

Five things to consider when switching jobs

CLARITY ON NOTICE PERIOD, GRATUITY AND LOANS MAKES TRANSITION EASIER

DUBAI
BY HUDA TABREZ
Living in UAE Editor



Living in UAE: All your queries related to living and working in the UAE answered

So, you got a new job offer. Congratulations! But with that new job come a tonne of questions. What are the things you need to do to smoothly transition into the new job? We look at five aspects of switching jobs in the UAE's private sector.

1 HOW LONG SHOULD MY NOTICE PERIOD BE?

Your notice period will be mentioned in your employment contract, and is typically between 30 and 90 days though there are exceptions. Inform your manager personally of your decision, but you also need to submit an official letter of resignation, mentioning your notice period and the last day of work. This can be sent via email.

In case you have to join the new job immediately, you will be required to compensate your employer for the notice period.

2 HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WAIT FOR MY GRATUITY?

If you have completed a year of continuous service, you are eligible for gratuity. An employer is required to pay the worker within 14 days from the date of contract termination.

If the payment gets delayed, you can complain to the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation through their call centre, app or website.

3 WHAT IF I HAVE A LOAN?

One important aspect to consider when switching

jobs is the fact that your gratuity can be frozen by a bank if you have a loan or credit card dues. Loan agreements typically include clauses allowing banks to claim end-of-service benefits to cover outstanding debts, so experts advise speaking to your bank in advance to explore alternatives that can make the transition period easier.

4 HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET THE NEW VISA?

If you are on a self-sponsored visa, like a Golden Visa or Green Visa, then all you need to do is wait for your new work permit to be issued. However, if you were on the company's employment visa, you will first need to get your visa cancelled, and the new company would need to apply for your visa. While the process can be completed within 10 days, at times you may have to wait longer.

5 WILL I HAVE TO REAPPLY FOR ILOE SCHEME?

Once you join the new company, you don't need to re-apply for the Involuntary Loss of Employment (ILOE) scheme, as your policy is linked to you and not your place of employment. You just need to make sure you do not have any breaks in the payment of instalments as any interruptions in the policy tenure would mean that you are not eligible for a job loss insurance payout.



The first thing to check is how long your notice period should be. This would be mentioned in your employment contract.

How high-tech truck equipped with AI systems keeps Dubai's air clean

Municipality presents its mobile air quality monitoring station at ITS World Congress

DUBAI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Chief Reporter

If you've noticed that the air quality in Dubai seems better than in many other cities, you can partly thank the mobile air quality monitoring station, a state-of-the-art truck equipped with artificial intelligence systems and tools.

This innovative unit works alongside the city's permanent monitoring stations, providing real-time data and helping authorities keep a close eye on air pollution levels, ensuring cleaner, healthier air for everyone.

Through a presentation, Dubai Municipality is highlighting its cutting-edge mobile laboratory for air quality monitoring at the 30th Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) World Congress which is being held this week in Dubai.

This advanced system uses state-of-the-art sensors to provide real-time data on pollution levels across the city.

Tracking pollutants

The vehicle is equipped with around 20 advanced monitoring systems that track nearly 100 elements and compounds of air pollutants such as toxic pollutants, volatile organic compounds, ozone catalysts, heavy metals and gases. Additionally, it monitors radioactive pollution levels, noise, and weather data.

The United Nations identifies air pollution as the top environmental health risk globally, with around 6.5 million deaths annually from indoor and outdoor pollution. Alarmingly, 9 out of 10 people breathe outdoor air that exceeds the permissible levels recommended by the World Health Organisation.

First reference station

The municipality said: "The mobile air quality monitoring vehicle serves as the first reference station in terms of design, quality of devices, equipment, and technologies used to track air pollutants at the regional level. The vehicle is resistant to the extreme climatic conditions, including high temperatures and humidity."

Industrial companies and other firms found to pollute air will be issued fines and will be asked to take remedial measures, *Gulf News* had reported



Courtesy: Dubai Municipality

The vehicle is equipped with around 20 advanced monitoring systems that tracks various kinds of air pollutants. It also monitors radioactive pollution levels, noise, and weather data.

FUTURE MOBILITY BANKS ON DATA AND AI

Participants in a session themed 'Data and AI for Future Mobility: What's at Stake' agreed on the necessity of governments playing a decisive role in managing data and AI on the second day of the ITS World Congress being held at Dubai World Trade Centre.

Erik Dietz, President and COO, Michelin Mobility Intelligence, North America, said: "We face major challenges in managing data and AI in mobility. What's at stake is saving many lives by cutting down traffic incidents. The key factor is the optimal management of resources and a clear understanding of where the data originates and how to effectively manage it."

Sanjeev Ghate, CEO, Mobilisights (Stellantis), US, said: "The challenges stem from the complex development of autonomous vehicles, making data crucial, as it will allow AI to operate more efficiently." Mike Rudge, Chair and President, ITS New Zealand, said: "From a strategic management perspective in New Zealand, we recognise that addressing the introduction of new risks in data systems is extremely critical. We cannot ignore the big danger of a complete system paralysis, and we must not dismiss the possibility of it occurring."

— *Gulf News Report*

DISCUSSION

Smart systems key to making transport safer and sustainable

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

The second day of the ITS World Congress saw experts exploring the viability of harnessing intelligent transportation systems and new technologies to make transport safer and sustainable.

Key topics included optimising traffic flow, reducing emissions and leveraging AI to enhance safety.

Brian Cronin, Director of the Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Programme Office at the US Department of Transportation, said: "The integration of intelligent transportation systems represents a fundamental shift towards safer, more efficient, and environmentally responsible transportation networks."

Mina Sartipi, from the University of Tennessee, said: "Harnessing connectivity and data analytics is crucial for transforming transportation systems."

Tracy Larkin-Thomason, from the Nevada Department of Transportation, said: "Adopting ITS and sustainable practices can reshape transportation, making it more resilient and equitable for all."

6.5m deaths due to indoor and outdoor pollution worldwide every year, according to the UN

technology and real-time data analysis, the municipality can detect pollution sources and implement targeted strategies.

Innovative solutions

Dubai Municipality is presenting a range of innovative solutions at the exhibition, aimed at realising its vision of a smart, sustainable city. Highlights include a fully autonomous, AI-powered smart cleaning vehicle that operates without human intervention, further enhancing the efficiency of city services.

The civic body is also showcasing a smart marine scraper that uses AI to clean water bodies efficiently, and smart monitoring systems for sewage networks, which detect issues early and allow for prompt interventions. Additionally, a mobile laboratory for monitoring the quality of sand and land used in infrastructure projects is being introduced.

13 permanent stations

The mobile station was launched to enhance the air pollution monitoring system of the municipality, which had 13 permanent stations across the emirate at that time.

By leveraging smart sensor

Double celestial treat: Partial lunar eclipse, supermoon today

Dubai Astronomy Group makes special viewing arrangements

DUBAI
BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

Today marks one of those rare celestial occasions, as astronomers will tell you. The occurrence of the partial lunar eclipse and the Harvest Supermoon is said to be exceptional as they happen to "coincide" this time.

With the partial lunar eclipse being a tad early in the region (4.41am), Sheeraz Ahmad Awan, General Manager of the Dubai Astronomy Group (DAG), told *Gulf News* the Group had made arrangements to watch it online in full view in other parts of the world.

A penumbral lunar eclipse is very subtle and difficult to observe. A partial lunar eclipse



occurs when a portion of the Moon passes through the Earth's umbral shadow. But the Moon will pass through only part of the umbra while the rest of the Moon will be covered by the Earth's outermost shadow, the penumbra.

Awan said to watch the Harvest Supermoon, residents can join DAG at a special event in the evening.

"The event will be held from 7pm to 9pm at the University of Dubai. We will be holding lectures and organising telescopic viewings."

The Supermoon is a full moon or a new moon that nearly coincides with perigee — the closest the Moon comes to the Earth in its elliptical orbit — resulting in a larger-than-usual size of the lunar disk as viewed from Earth, Awan said.



ASUMA SHAMSUDEEN
1958 - 2024

With profound sadness, we mourn the untimely passing of Asuma Shamsudeen on September 17, 2024. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family. May God bless her soul.



Abdullah, Borrell seek to enhance UAE-EU ties

ABU DHABI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, received Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

During the meeting, which was held in the presence of Luigi Di Maio, EU Special Representative for the Gulf region, Shaikh Abdullah and Borrell discussed ways to further cooperation between the UAE and the EU across various sectors and support shared goals of comprehensive and sustainable development.

EU-GCC summit

The discussions also covered preparations for the EU-Gulf Cooperation Council summit which will take place in Brussels on October 16, highlighting its significance in advancing GCC-EU cooperation, Wam reported.

Shaikh Abdullah welcomed Borrell and Di Maio's visit, emphasising that UAE-EU relations are deep as they are based on mutual understanding and interests, contributing to achieving peace and development, regionally and globally.

The two sides also discussed the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and efforts to secure a sustainable ceasefire.

Bodour unveils reimagined Student Centre at AUS

Space renovated to foster creativity and entrepreneurial spirit

SHARJAH
Gulf News Report

Shaikha Bodour Al Qasimi, President of American University of Sharjah (AUS), inaugurated the university's renovated Student Centre which is now a vibrant space designed to foster the entrepreneurial spirit and creativity of students.

Shaikha Bodour said: "It's a stimulating, mindful environment where students and alumni can gather, eat healthy food together, share their ideas and ambitions and take them forward. I'm grateful to Al Rawabi Dairy and AUS alumna Pallavi Dean, whose generous contributions made the vision of this facility a reality."

Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, Founder and Chairman of

It's a stimulating, mindful environment where students and alumni can gather, eat healthy food together, share ideas and ambitions and take them forward."

Shaikha Bodour Al Qasimi | President of AUS

Al Rawabi Dairy, said: "Our contribution aims to create a comfortable and inspiring space where students can connect, collaborate and innovate, enriching their university experience."

Pallavi Dean, Founder of Design By Roar, said: "We focused on incorporating flexible spaces that can easily adapt to different uses. Being able to draw on my experiences as a former AUS student was a fulfilling challenge."



As a hub for relaxation, social interaction and nutritious dining, the Student Centre aims to foster personal growth.



Shaikh Hamad with UAE's Founding Father Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The Fujairah Ruler has represented the UAE in several regional and international summits from 1991.

Hamad: Five decades of leadership, wisdom

FUJAIRAH RULER HAS BEEN PIVOTAL TO UAE'S PROGRESS

FUJAIRAH

Today marks the 50th anniversary of His Highness Shaikh Hamad Bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Fujairah, assuming the rule of the emirate.

Throughout his five decades in office, Shaikh Hamad played a pivotal role in UAE's progress, conveying the UAE's perspective to world leaders. In 1991, he represented the UAE at the 6th Islamic Summit Conference in Dakar, Senegal, followed by the 9th Islamic Summit in 2000.

Veteran statesman

He participated in several Arab summits, including Tunisia (2004), Algeria (2005), Doha (2009), Kuwait (2014), Egypt (2015) and Nouakchott (2016).

Shaikh Hamad represented the UAE at the first EU-Arab League summit in Egypt in 2019 and the UN Millennium Summit in New York. He also represented the UAE at the Interfaith Dialogue Conference in New York in 2008 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002.

In 2023, Shaikh Hamad participated in the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Qatar.

Port among UAE's largest

Fujairah has witnessed an economic boom under Shaikh Hamad's leadership. The emirate's port is now among the largest in the UAE, supporting major projects like the Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline. The port hosts the second-largest bunkering hub and the third-largest storage hub globally.

The port encompasses nine deep-water berths and a jetty for very large crude carriers.

In 2023, the Port of Fujairah handled 5,000 containers, while oil refineries in Fujairah produced 4,000 metric tonnes of petroleum products.

Economic boom

In 2023, the emirate's direct imports reached nearly Dh2 billion, with around 22,000 business licences issued. The banking sector has also expanded, with 14 banks now operating in Fujairah.

Shaikh Hamad has championed entrepreneurship, particularly among young people, driving investment in small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This led to the issuance and renewal of 21,000 business licences across various sectors.



Under Shaikh Hamad's leadership, Fujairah has seen a trade and investment boom. In 2023, the emirate issued around 22,000 business licences, while 14 banks operate in Fujairah.



Shaikh Hamad Bin Mohammed Al Sharqi

114,305
people visited Fujairah historical sites in 2023. The emirate has 5,000 rooms across 31 hotels

Welfare programmes

Shaikh Hamad has launched the Fujairah 2040 Plan, which focuses on enhancing housing and transportation infrastructure, road improvements, water barriers, ports and residential complexes, and expanding health care facilities.

In 2018, he established the Hamad Bin Mohammed Al Sharqi for Humanitarian Affairs, which helps those in need.

Education and health care

Today, Fujairah is home to several higher education institutions, including the Higher Colleges of Technology, the University of Fujairah, and the Fujairah Aviation Academy. The emirate also boasts 67 public and private schools.

The emirate has three government hospitals and 117 clinics and health centres. There are 1,211 doctors and nurses

'A GUIDING FORCE'

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, congratulated Shaikh Hamad Bin Mohammad Al Sharqi in a post on X yesterday.

"For 50 years, you've been a guiding force for your people, embodying the role of both ruler and a caring father and brother. Under your leadership, Fujairah has flourished into one of the UAE's most beautiful destinations, and Abu Mohammad has become a symbol of our nation's unity," he said. — Gulf News Report

employed in the public sector and 868 in the private sector.

Hub of arts and culture

Shaikh Hamad has received the International Theatre Institute (ITI) Medal for his commitment to culture and humanism.

He has prioritised the preservation of Fujairah's historical landmarks like Fujairah Fort and Al Bidya Mosque, one of the UAE's oldest.

In 2023, Fujairah's historical sites attracted 114,305 visitors.

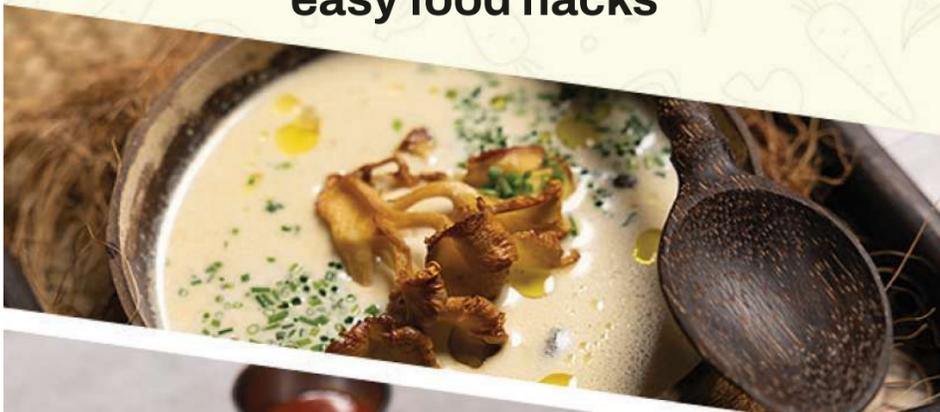
In 2023, Fujairah had 5,000 hotel rooms in 31 hotels, including 13 five-star hotels, contributing Dh573 million in revenue.

Shaikh Hamad also focuses on promoting sports. The Fujairah International Marine Club has hosted several international competitions, while the Fujairah Martial Arts Club consistently achieves success.

— WAM

food
by GULF NEWS

Unleash your inner chef:
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easy food hacks



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With deep sorrow, we announce the sad demise of
Smt. Lajwanti Bhagwandas Lalwani
October 27, 1941 - August 27, 2024

Condolence Meeting
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024
Rashidiya Ballroom A & B,
Mövenpick Grand Al Bustan Hotel, Dubai

Deeply mourned by

Mahesh & Seema
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MOHAMMAD REVIEWS PROJECT BY AZIZI DEVELOPMENTS

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, receives a briefing from Mirwais Azizi, Founder and Chairman of Azizi Developments, on the cultural district project located within the Azizi Venice community in Dubai South. Shaikh Mohammad was accompanied by Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council.

WAM



Etihad Airways caps summer with 36% surge in passengers

YEAR-TO-DATE, THE AIRLINE HAS CARRIED MORE THAN 12 MILLION PASSENGERS

ABU DHABI

BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
Chief Reporter

UAE's national carrier, Etihad Airways, carried 1.7 million passengers in the busy summer month of August, achieving a passenger load of 89 per cent. Year-to-date, the airline has carried 12 million passengers, a 36 per cent increase compared to the previous year, said Antonoaldo Neves, CEO of Etihad Airways.

The numbers reflect a solid performance during the summer holiday season, Neves said.

"Our passenger numbers in August increased significantly compared to the same period last year, demonstrating our continued growth momentum."

Growing preference

The airline carried more than 17 million passengers in the past year, from August 2023 to August 2024, nearly 70 per cent higher than the total number of passengers carried in all of 2022.

"We maintained a healthy passenger load factor of 89 per cent for August 2024, even as we expanded our capacity compared to 2023. This robust performance,



■ Etihad Airways aims to triple the number of passengers carried to 33 million and double its fleet size to 150 planes.

particularly during the holiday period, underscores the growing preference for Etihad among travellers," he added.

Operating fleet

The airline's operating fleet has grown to 95 aircraft, up from 79 for the same period last year. In the past 12 months, Etihad Airways has added 16 new aircraft to its fleet.

"This is a result of the ambition and commitment of the entire company, working together to achieve this in exceptional time, while at the same time consistently delivering a load factor exceeding 86 per cent," he added.

In August, the airline brought the last of the two six A321neos expected into operations in 2024. "In addition, we are now flying to 10 more passenger destinations than at the same point last year, totalling 76 destinations. This expansion enhances our network and supports Abu Dhabi's position as a global aviation hub and a major destination for tourists worldwide," he stated. The airline is charting an ambitious growth plan through to 2030. It aims to triple the number of passengers carried to 33 million and double its fleet size to 150 planes.

In anticipation of a busy summer next year, Etihad Airways

unveiled its summer 2025 schedule last week, with a double-daily debut on many top European destinations. The airline is boosting its services to popular European destinations, offering year-round double-daily flights between Abu Dhabi and major cities such as Paris, Milan, Rome, Manchester, Frankfurt, Munich, Zurich, Barcelona, and Madrid.

Increase in flights

Additionally, seasonal flights to Malaga will increase to five times per week. Flights to Bali will be upgraded daily after massive customer demand and Sydney flights will grow to 10 per week. A potential IPO of the ADQ-owned airline is also in the works, expected to debut no later than 2025, sources told Reuters.

Etihad had considered listing this year, the sources said. However, it wants to present investors with 2024 financial results that will show a strong performance, one of the people said. Geopolitical instability in the region has also weighed on timing, Reuters reported citing the source.

ADQ declined to comment. In response to the Reuters report, the airline told *Gulf News*, "Etihad does not comment on rumour or speculation."

Inaugural Aviation Future Week in Dubai to showcase latest tech

Event will focus on future traffic demand, airfreight and logistics as well

the passenger journey and experience as the industry forges ahead."

Three-day agenda

Aviation Future Week will include keynotes, panels and workshops over three days. The first day includes a packed programme led by speakers and industry experts who will address air travel demand and airport infrastructure and how airports, airlines, aerospace manufacturers and other stakeholders can deliver an enhanced passenger experience using technology.

The second day will be dedicated to developments within airfreight and logistics, while the second half of the day will focus on MRO development within the region. The third and final day will navigate the boundary-breaking potential of Web3, AI and XR infused solutions to drive workflow efficiencies and service delivery. Sessions will also tackle strategies required to rethink existing processes through AI, and the collaboration necessary to upskill the aviation workforce.

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

Emirates and the Museum of the Future will host the first Aviation Future Week, taking place from October 15 to 17 in Dubai.

UAE ministers, senior government officials, and industry leaders from across the aviation, aerospace, airfreight, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), and logistics ecosystems will converge in Dubai for the inaugural event.

The event presents a platform for insights and discussion opportunities around the passenger journey and future traffic demand, airfreight and logistics, as well as the latest developments in artificial intelligence (AI) and extended reality (XR).

Dubai's 'fertile ground'

Shaikh Ahmad Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman and chief executive, Emirates & Group said: "It is fitting that Dubai is setting the stage for visionary global leaders and decision makers in aviation and aerospace to gather for key discussions and powerful collaborations to help redefine what the future could look like for the industry at Aviation Future Week.

"Dubai's strategic commitment to leveraging technology and innovation and embracing the digital revolution is fertile ground to pioneer new approaches and push the boundaries of what is possible for more efficient and sustainable operations, and reshaping

Exhibition

In addition to the main programme track, Aviation Future Week will also feature a rich exhibition platform showcasing the latest in aviation technologies.

Visitors can learn about new products and concepts, and network with industry representatives. A series of interactive workshops will be spearheaded by Emirates and Museum of the Future, supported by Emirates CX teams, dnata, Emirates SkyCargo, Flight Operations, Emirates and dnata environment teams, Boeing and the Emirates Group Youth Council.



■ Emirates and the Museum of the Future will host the first Aviation Future Week in Dubai from October 15 to 17.

Airbus names Semelas to lead Middle East business

He rejoins Airbus from Eurofighter in Germany

DUBAI

BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
Chief Reporter

Airbus has named Gabriel Semelas as president of Airbus in Africa and the Middle East, effective January 1, 2025. Yesterday, the French aircraft manufacturer said that Semelas brings more than 24 years of experience in the aeronautical industry, having held key senior executive roles.

Semelas returns to Airbus from his current position as chief commercial and financial officer at Eurofighter Jagdflugzeug GmbH in Germany. Before that, he led the contracts team for Airbus' Commercial Aircraft business in Africa and the Middle East.

In his new role, Semelas will oversee the Airbus' op-



■ Gabriel Semelas

erations across all the company's African and Middle East divisions.

He succeeds Mikail Houari, who has played a crucial role in expanding Airbus' regional footprint over the past years.

Airbus employs over 3,300 people in this region, actively sourcing supplies and components from local companies. According to Airbus' March 2024 Global Services Forecast, the Middle East's commercial aircraft services market will more than double in value by 2042.

Boeing starts hiring freeze, mulls furloughs

Planemaker prepares for a drawn-out and expensive strike by workers at main hub

VIRGINIA

Boeing Co. said it's instituting a range of cost-cutting measures as the planemaker prepares for a drawn-out and expensive strike by workers at its main hub near Seattle, including a hiring freeze and temporary furloughs "for many employees."

Chief Financial Officer Brian West laid out the steps in a memo to employees shared with Bloomberg News, in which he informed workers of the necessary and "immediate" actions to support the company's recovery.

The sweeping measures also include a halt of non-essential travel, pausing any pay increase associated with promotions, cutting back outlays for air shows and charitable dona-



This strike jeopardises our recovery in a significant way and we must take necessary actions to preserve cash and safeguard our shared future."

Brian West | Chief Financial Officer of Boeing Co.

tions and "significant reductions in supplier expenditures." The planemaker will stop issuing "a majority" of its supplier purchase orders for the 737, 767 and 777 jetliner programs affected by the walkout, according to the memo.

"Our business is in a difficult period," West said in the memo. "This strike jeopardises our recovery in a significant way and we must take necessary actions to preserve cash and safeguard our shared future."

Roughly 33,000 workers represented by the International Association of Machinists And Aerospace Workers, or IAM District 751, brought Boeing's

jetliner factories in the Puget Sound to a standstill last week after they overwhelmingly rejected a proposal that would have boosted wages 25 per cent over four years.

Difficult financial position

IAM District 751 said in a statement that its negotiating committee will enter mediation with Boeing later yesterday in the US. It noted that in mediation, the mediator doesn't have the authority to force either side to agree on specific terms of a contract, but rather serves as a neutral party that works to help both sides reach agreement.

The steps laid out by West

underscore the difficult financial position in which Boeing finds itself, with its credit rating at risk of dropping below investment grade and the company bleeding cash as aircraft output sputters.

RBC Capital Markets analyst Ken Herbert estimates Boeing will burn about \$500 million in cash each week that workers remain on picket lines.

Other actions that Boeing will undertake include the elimination of first and business-class travel, including for senior executives, releasing non-essential contractors and pausing team-event spending, according to the memo.

Boeing's shares fell 1.5 per cent as of 11:47am in New York.

Preserving its credit rating is a key priority for the company, West said at an analyst conference last week. Boeing has been in crisis since a Jan 5 accident with a 737 Max aircraft forced the company to cut back output to get its manufacturing in order.

— Bloomberg



We already have 26 banks and telcos that we serve here in the UAE. And we're ready for all our bank, fintech and telco customers to start issuing Jaywan cards."

Nandan Mer | CEO of Network International

Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

“Prepaid, debit right places to start for Jaywan”

NETWORK INTERNATIONAL CEO NANDAN MER TALKS ABOUT NEW LAUNCH — AND EXPANSION IN SAUDI ARABIA

DUBAI
BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

Nandan Mer doesn't believe in leaving too many pending work in his in-tray, no matter how onerous those to-do tasks might be for the CEO of Network International, the Dubai headquartered payments processing company.

Work to integrate the UAE's new Jaywan payment scheme with banks' ATMs and merchants' point-of-sale terminals? That's more or less done as far as Network International is concerned. Jaywan is the debit card scheme launched by Al Etihad Payments, part of the Central Bank of the UAE.

Building on the company's recent entry into Saudi Arabia, a crucial market for Network International's short-to-medium term prospects? That's progressing as well.

A lot is happening at Network International, especially its acquisition by the Canadian fund manager Brookfield.

■ Is your company's role in the rollout of Jaywan done?

We were first off the block in terms of getting Jaywan certified at our point-of-sale and online services for merchants. And that rollout is now in full earnest and we expect that [it] will be completed before the end of August. So, we're really, really pleased with the progress we're making there.

We are also at least the first if not the only processor to be certified to issue Jaywan cards. [Payment] acceptance only comes to life if issuance comes to life. So we already have 26 banks and telcos that we serve here in the UAE. And we're ready for all our bank, fintech and telco customers to start issuing Jaywan cards whenever they believe is the right time for them to start.

We applaud the creation and advent of Jaywan, UAE's domestic payment scheme. Of course, it's starting with solutions and debit solutions. Every journey has to start somewhere and prepaid and debit are absolutely the right places to start because that gives you the maximum reach from a consumer standpoint in any economy.

Prepaid and debit tend to be the highest volume of digital payment purchases in aggregate.

■ And the pre-launch testing of the new platform is done?

That's done. As you can imagine, it's a very robust process, because it involves money movement from Point A to Point B and the exchange of value. Like in any other exchange of value, you have to get this right every time in nanoseconds, securely, safely, and at speed and at scale.

So all that testing has taken place. And we're live in the market, both from an acquiring or an acceptance perspective as well as from an issuance perspective.

■ Did Network International have to do a major tweak to its existing payment platforms to accommodate Jaywan?

It's a bit of both, so customisation is always a part of every new launch done at scale. There are always protocols — data exchange protocols, information exchange protocols, settlement protocols. All those have to be customised to the local scheme.

Given that we are already in the business of accepting over 50 schemes from around the world — Mastercard, Visa, American Express, Union Pay, WeChat Pay, Alipay — this was a relatively simple task for us.

■ How is your expansion in Saudi Arabia progressing?

For us, everything that we do is digital. We do not handle cash, we only do digital transaction processing. This year, we will process about 3 billion transactions across our markets and we will cross \$100 billion in process volume — 100 per cent of that is digital.

It is our belief that digital payments for consumers now exceeds 50 per cent of total transactions conducted by consumers in terms of volume, both in the UAE and Saudi Arabia. We are in 50 markets and Saudi Arabia is our 50th.

Saudi Arabia is in a pretty good place from a digital payment acceptance standpoint. I don't think there are many markets in the world that can claim to have the penetration of digital acceptance that Saudi

Arabia has. So that's a great starting point.

So the role that we play in Saudi Arabia is to help banks, fintechs and telcos issue digital credentials. We're on the issuance side in Saudi Arabia and have over 10 big customers today in Saudi Arabia. Our customer list includes some of the largest Saudi Arabian banks as well as some of the fastest growing fintechs.

■ Are you applying for the processing licence as well?

Processing does not require a licence — what it requires is for the technology to be operational on Saudi soil, which is what we've done. We implemented our technology architecture called Network One, which operates in the UAE. We have repurposed that for Saudi Arabia based on rules and regulations there.

Data residency and data processing are all done in Saudi Arabia. And we have a full Saudi team that's based in Riyadh. So the infrastructure is there, the office is there, the people are there, our customers are local customers and we process for these local customers.

We issue credentials that could be physical cards, or it could be a virtual card or a tokenised card in an application. It doesn't have to be a physical piece of plastic. Our business has grown nicely in the last two months. We are the first foreign company to receive an acquiring licence in Saudi Arabia and we are on the cusp of launching our acquiring business in Saudi Arabia.

■ With your Saudi expansion plans speeding up, are you more or less covered on the expansion side?

I'll say the runway for growth in Middle East and Africa is so much more. Cash is still by far the dominant exchange-of-value mechanism in Middle East and Africa. We talked about the UAE and Saudi Arabia at one end, with digital payments being more than 50 per cent.

It's not the case in the other markets. There's another 60 or 65 markets in Middle East and Africa and the average of digital payment usage is low single digits. The opportunity for growth for us in Middle East and Africa is still immense.

Etihad Credit Insurance sees 8% annual rise in credit coverage within Abu Dhabi

Financial services industry leads in securing ECI's credit support in emirate

Dh1.4b

ECI's credit coverage within Abu Dhabi in first 8 months of 2024

ABU DHABI

Etihad Credit Insurance (ECI), the UAE Federal export credit company, recorded a remarkable eight per cent annual increase in its credit coverage within Abu Dhabi, reaching a total of Dh1.4 billion in the first eight months of 2024.

The financial services industry continues to lead in securing ECI's credit support in Abu Dhabi, accounting for

50.6 per cent of the total coverage. This was followed by the F&B sector, metals, paper manufacturing, packaging, and electronics and cables industries, accounting for 14 per cent, 10.5 per cent, 10.4 per cent, 6.6 per cent, and 2.6 per cent, respectively.

24% increase

During this period, ECI also witnessed a 24 per cent rise in the issuance of insurance doc-

uments within the emirate. In this year alone, the company has attained total credit coverage worth Dh10.6 billion in the UAE, expanding at a growth rate of 10 per cent annually, with a 16 per cent increase in insurance document issuance.

Additionally, the financial services sector topped the list of industries benefiting from ECI's nationwide coverage, accounting for 21.36 per cent, followed by logistics, reinsurance, information and communications technology (ICT), chemicals, and food and beverages industries, constituting 14.63 per cent, 10.65 per cent, 10.01 per cent, 7.78 per cent, and 7.45 per cent, respectively.

— WAM

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Oil climbs ahead of Fed rate cut decision

NEW YORK

Oil edged higher as a widely expected interest-rate cut by the Federal Reserve this week offset concerns about the demand outlook.

Brent traded near \$73 a barrel after rising by 1.6 per cent on Monday, while West Texas Intermediate was above \$70. Opinion remains divided on the Fed's easing path, but some are wagering it will start with a half-point cut today. Lower rates would likely provide bullish tailwinds for energy demand.

Losing 15% in Q3

Oil has lost around 15 per cent this quarter on China's economic slowdown and signs of plentiful supply. Positioning of trend-following commodity trading advisers are close to their maximum short positions after a recent price slump, according to EA Quant Analytics, which may ease selling pressure.

The market is torn on the size of the interest-rate cut, and investors are probably covering their positions ahead of the decision, helping to keep oil prices elevated, said Warren Patterson, Singapore-based head of commodity strategy for ING Groep NV. There are also lingering concerns about Libyan supply, he added.

— Bloomberg



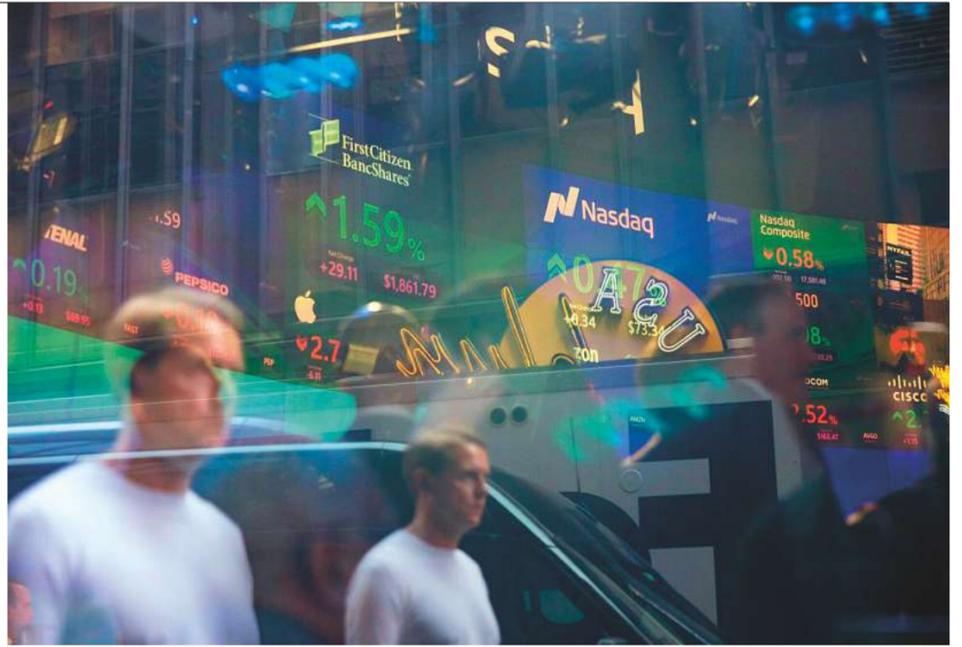
Gold to get cheaper after rate cut today?

If you have monitored the price of gold on a regular basis, you would have noticed how costs of the precious metal are affected by certain economic determinants. Gold prices advanced sharply on increasing confidence that the world's top economy, the US, will this week cut interest rates for the first time since 2020. But will it further affect prices in the coming weeks?

— Justin Varghese, Your Money Editor



Will gold get cheaper after first rate cut since 2020?



Bloomberg

The Nasdaq MarketSite in New York. Wall Street traders gearing up for this week's Fed decision kept driving a rotation out of the tech megacaps that have powered the bull market in stocks.

Global stocks spike on bigger rate cut hopes

OPTIMISM HIGH FOR 0.5% CUT AMID CONCERNS FOR ECONOMY

NEW YORK

Most markets worldwide rose yesterday as bets on the world's largest economy slashing borrowing costs by as much as half a percentage point jumped, with observers suggesting officials want to front-load an expected series of reductions.

Traders have been gearing up for a bumper US interest rate cut after a string of data in the past few months indicated that inflation is easing back to the Federal Reserve's two-per cent target, with slowing unemployment stabilising the jobs market, giving decision-makers room to loosen monetary policy.

Fed boss Jerome Powell has already suggested officials will begin cutting, but debate has focused on whether they will go for 25 basis points or 50, with some warning that the bigger option could signal there is some concern about the economy.

Successive big misses on jobs creation in July and August fanned fears of a recession, though policymakers have looked to temper that talk.

Independent analyst Stephen Innes said: "The labour market and inflation data haven't exactly screamed for a massive cut, but that hasn't stopped the market from placing its bets."

"With a 50-basis-point cut looking like a sure thing, disappointment could be on the horizon if the Fed pulls back with a mere 25 basis points."

First cut an appetiser

"The first cut is just the appetiser, though — the main course comes with Jay Powell's press conference and the Fed's dot plot, which will likely set the pace for the rest of the year," he added, referring to the bank's guidance on rates.

Optimism around the Fed's highly anticipated interest-rate cuts has boosted investor sentiment for the first time since June, according to a global survey by Bank of America Corp.

Still, investors are "nervous bulls," with risk appetite tumbling to an 11-month low, strategist Michael Hartnett wrote in a note, who last week reiterated his own preference for bonds.

The poll also showed a big rotation into bond-sensitive sectors such as utilities, and away from those that typically benefit from a robust economy. Global growth expectations im-



AFP

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange during morning trading on September 4 in New York City.

US stocks have rebounded from a low in August on optimism that the economy can avoid a recession as the Fed prepares to lower interest rates.

extended their rally ahead of what's expected to be the first rate cut from the Federal Reserve in more than four years, with a weaker dollar and lower Treasury yields supporting risk appetite.

The benchmark MSCI equity index advanced for the fourth day in the longest streak of gains in more than a month, adding \$321 billion to the market cap.

The MSCI index tracking developing-nation currencies rose for the fifth day, with the Malaysian ringgit, Indonesian rupiah and the Philippine peso leading yesterday's gains.

Weakening dollar

The US dollar has been weakening further as traders are divided whether the Fed will cut 25 basis points or 50 basis points today.

When the Fed last reduced interest rates in 2020, the EM stock index closed the year with a 16 per cent gain. This time, Pacific Investment Management Co. expects the Fed to cut three times this year by a total of 75 basis points, though some analysts reckon the rally in emerging-market assets may be overdone.

"The acceleration in Fed easing bets over recent days has been supportive of risk conditions, helping to keep EM currencies on the front foot, especially low-yielding Asian FX," said Nick Rees, FX strategist at Monex Europe in London.

"That said, we think the FOMC will steer markets towards a shallower path for US rates than they are currently positioned for with [today's] decision and SEPs, meaning that a partial retracement of the recent EM rally remains our base case." — Agencies

proved slightly from August's survey, but remained pessimistic with a net 42 per cent of participants predicting a weaker economy.

US stocks have rebounded from a low in August on optimism that the economy can avoid a recession as the Fed prepares to lower interest rates.

Most markets upbeat

The broad US market index, the S&P 500, and the 30-stock Dow both hit fresh all-time highs yesterday in early trading. Also, the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index jumped 0.8 per cent.

The optimism for a big Fed cut also boosted Asian markets earlier in the day, with Hong Kong, Sydney, Singapore, Manila, Mumbai, Bangkok and Jakarta all up.

London rose in the morning, yesterday, a day before key British inflation data and ahead of the Bank of England's latest decision on borrowing costs due tomorrow.

Retailers and banking stocks led gains in Europe's Stoxx 600, with moves in other markets muted in the countdown to the Fed's decision. Paris and Frankfurt also advanced. Shanghai, Seoul and Taipei were closed for holidays.

Emerging-market assets

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HOW THE FAR-RIGHT DEMONISES IMMIGRANTS

Harmful rhetoric undermines core liberal values of dignity, leading to a violent world

BY ASHOK SWAIN | Special to Gulf News

The spectacle of election debates often brings out the most sensational claims, and the recent US presidential debate was no exception. Former president Donald Trump made the bizarre assertion that immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, were abducting, killing, and eating the pet cats and dogs of their American neighbours. Even after ABC moderator David Muir pointed out that local officials had denied any such reports, Trump doubled down, claiming he had seen it on television.

Trump's baseless accusation of immigrants eating pets, is a stark illustration of how dehumanisation is a central tactic employed by far-right movements around the world to stoke xenophobic politics. Although outlandish, his statement fits into a broader strategy designed to demonise immigrants, exploit racial anxieties, and frame them as existential threats to "native" populations.

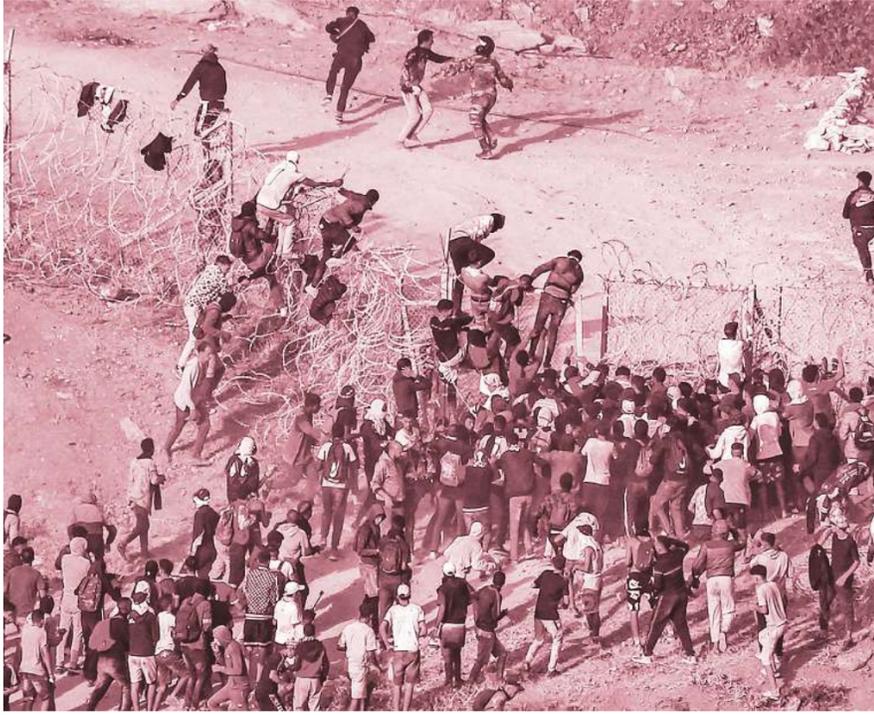
Across continents, from Europe to the Americas, far-right groups rely on similar tropes, portraying immigrants as criminals, cultural threats, and even subhuman. This discourse, often rooted in fear and misinformation, serves not only to justify draconian immigration policies but also to rally ultranationalism. It feeds into a dangerous politics of exclusion, where "otherness" is framed as an existential threat to the nation-state.

Narratives to justify atrocities

The act of dehumanising specific groups is not a new phenomenon. History offers numerous examples of how dehumanisation has been weaponised to serve political ends. From colonial rule to world wartime propaganda, marginalised groups have often been depicted as less than human, whether through racist caricatures or the language of vermin and infestation. These narratives allow for the justification of atrocities, from slavery to genocide.

In the 21st century, far-right movements have revived these tactics, adjusting them to fit modern concerns around immigration and globalisation. Rather than explicit racial slurs, coded language and fearmongering claims — such as statements about migrants consuming pets — are used to dehumanise and vilify. These tactics serve to stoke fear among the electorate, convincing them that their way of life, safety, and even morality are being jeopardised by the mere presence of immigrants.

To say that immigrants are stealing and eating pets is more than just a bizarre accusation. It is an intentional act of "animalisation," a dehumanisation technique that seeks to strip individuals of their humanity by associating them with animals. In this case, immigrants are framed as uncivilised, foreign, and fundamentally different, operating outside the moral bounds of "civilised" society.



Dehumanising immigrants serves a specific political purpose: it creates a clear "us vs. them" narrative. By casting immigrants as a threat to both cultural and physical security, far-right leaders position themselves as protectors of the nation. This tactic allows them to rally support from segments of the population who feel threatened by globalisation, demographic shifts, and economic instability.

Far-right movements across the world have employed similar strategies, using immigrants as a convenient target to distract from broader structural issues such as inequality and government corruption.

Absurd allegation is a strategy

In the Netherlands, Geert Wilders has frequently advocated for the mass deportation of Moroccan immigrants. Wilders has also called for closing mosques, casting Muslim immigrants as fundamentally dangerous and incompatible with Dutch society.

Similar patterns were observed in South Asia as well as Brazil under Jair Bolsonaro's presidency, where indigenous peoples and Afro-Brazilians have been routinely dehumanised and marginalised. Bolsonaro had described indigenous populations as living in a "zoo" and shown little concern for the environmental and cultural devastation they face. His immigration policies reflected this

same dehumanisation, as they aim to restrict the movement of migrants, particularly those from neighbouring South American countries.

Dehumanising immigrants goes beyond rhetoric — it has serious, real-world consequences. When immigrants are portrayed as criminals, animals, or invaders, governments find it easier to justify harsh measures like family separations, detention camps, and mass deportations. This language also emboldens violence against these groups, contributing to a global rise in hate crimes.

Individuals radicalised by far-right ideologies often commit violent acts against immigrants, seeing them as invaders or enemies of the state. High-profile incidents — such as shootings, stabbings, or arson targeting refugee shelters or immigrant communities — are frequently linked to far-right rhetoric.

The harmful rhetoric undermines core liberal values of dignity and equality, leading to a more divided and violent world. To combat the growing wave of far-right xenophobia, we must reject dehumanising language that divides people based on race or immigration status and instead promote inclusive, compassionate societies.

■ Ashok Swain is a professor of peace and conflict research at Uppsala University, Sweden.

BJP IN CHAOS AHEAD OF HARYANA POLLS

With key leaders defecting, BJP in India struggles against dissent while Congress gains ground

BY NIDHI RAZDAN | Special to Gulf News

As Haryana heads to the polls on October 5, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is imploding. The party, which is currently in power in the state, is facing a widespread revolt over ticket distribution with several senior leaders openly rebelling and two ministers stepping down from their posts.

Among those who have raised the banner of revolt include former state minister Savitri Jindal, one of India's richest women and mother of Naveen Jindal, former Congress MP. Mother and son joined the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha polls a few months ago. Savitri Jindal wanted a ticket from Hisar but with that being denied; she has not even ruled out the possibility of going back to the Congress.

Discontent within parties is not unexpected at election time. In the BJP, however, it is very unusual. For more than a decade now, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah have had an iron grip on the party and ensured that no one ever stepped out of line in public. This is clearly changing, as pent up anger within the party spills over.

In Haryana, the BJP is already on the back foot, with Jat anger over the government's handling of the farmer agitation still simmering. As well as the issue of the wrestler protests, where again the government and the BJP's IT cell army tried a smear campaign against the athletes for speaking out against alleged sexual harassment by BJP MP and then Wrestling Federation chief Brij Bhushan Singh. Now two of those wrestlers, Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia, have joined the Congress. And the BJP is treading carefully.

BJP's anti-incumbency in Haryana

For the BJP, anti-incumbency is another huge factor at play in these elections. The party won all 10 Lok Sabha seats from the state in 2019 but only five this year. The saffron party is counting more on non-Jat votes in the state to see them through. But even here they are facing headwinds. In the parliament election, the BJP's other backward class (OBC) vote was hit by the opposition's charge that the party would change the constitution and end reservations if it came to power with a huge majority. In Haryana, the BJP's OBC unit president has also rebelled and quit over being denied a ticket.

While the INDIA bloc's vote share in Haryana in the Lok Sabha polls was higher, the Congress too is facing infighting and turmoil over ticket distribution. They need to ensure everyone is on the same page. Alliance talks with the AAP fell through, even though Rahul Gandhi was keen for a tie up, but state Congress leaders were opposed to it.

Congress party insiders believe going alone will benefit the party in the state pointing out to the AAP's rather lacklustre performance in Haryana in 2019 and in the recent general election. While this may be true, it also exposes the fragility of the INDIA bloc and the churning within. For now though its advantage Congress in Haryana as the BJP deals with unprecedented dissent.

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

A DREAM SHATTERED BY REALITIES OF WAR

The work of Palestinian TikTok star Medo Halimy, who was killed in an Israeli air strike in Gaza, will remain a beacon of hope

BY MARAM SALEH | Special to Gulf News

"Planting for me is sort of resistance. While they take life from it, I bring it back."

In a heart-wrenching turn of events, 19-year-old Palestinian TikTok star Medo Halimy was recently killed in an Israeli air strike in Gaza's southern city of Khan Younis. Known for his vibrant "tent life" vlogs that captured the everyday struggles and small joys of life under siege, Halimy's death underscores a poignant theme: the loss of dreams amid the brutal realities of war.

Halimy, who had amassed a significant following on so-

cial media for his engaging and often humorous content, was documenting his life when the air strike struck. The blast severely injured him and his friend, Talal Murad. Despite being rushed to Nasser Hospital, Halimy succumbed to his injuries.

For many, Halimy represented a symbol of hope. His videos offered a rare glimpse into the resilience of Gaza's residents, contrasting sharply with the often impersonal depictions of war. Halimy's content ranged from the mundane challenges of daily life in a refugee tent to lighthearted cooking experiments and candid reflections on the difficulties of living un-

der constant bombardment. Halimy's journey began as a participant in the State Department's Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) programme, which allowed him to spend a year at Harker Heights High School in Texas in 2021-2022. His time in the US was marked by positive experiences and a broadening of horizons, yet he remained deeply connected to his roots.

His return to Gaza was a stark contrast to the opportunities he had enjoyed abroad. Halimy's vlogs, which showed him waiting in long lines for water, making meals with limited resources, and coping with the endless tedium of refugee life,

resonated with viewers globally.

Halimy's enthusiasm and creativity in the face of adversity showcased his determination to carve out moments of joy and hope. His friend and collaborator, Talal Murad, expressed their shared vision of documenting life in Gaza with a mix of humour and authenticity. "We worked together, laughed, cried, and ran a business," Murad recalled. "But sadly, we didn't die together."

The outpouring of grief from Halimy's followers highlights the profound impact of his work. His social media presence, which included over 182,000 followers on TikTok and 75,000 on Instagram, was

not just a platform for entertainment but a means of conveying the harsh realities and fleeting joys of life in Gaza.

The broader context of the Israeli-Hamas conflict, which escalated following the Hamas attacks on October 7, has claimed over 41,000 lives. Halimy's death is a stark reminder of the personal toll of this ongoing violence. His tragic fate represents not only the loss of a young life filled with potential but also the broader theme of dreams dashed by the relentless cycle of conflict.

■ Maram Saleh, a Bahraini law student, finds inspiration in the realms of research and writing.

ON GULFNEWS.COM

Read more Views online

Why Korean reunification remains an elusive goal

Gaza's unyielding resistance defies Israel's might



■ Firefighters douse flames in a field after a drone launched from southern Lebanon fell near Senir Kibbutz in the Upper Galilee in northern Israel on Monday. AFP

UN chief: Nothing can justify Gazans' collective punishment

Guterres pessimistic about breakthrough during General Assembly meeting

UNITED NATIONS

Nothing justifies Israel's collective punishment of the people of Gaza as they endure "unimaginable" suffering, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told AFP on Monday.

Guterres lashed out at Israel's handling of its war in the devastated Palestinian territory, now almost in its second year, as the UN prepares to host world leaders starting next week.

'Unimaginable'

"It is unimaginable, the level of suffering in Gaza, the level of deaths and destruction have no parallel in everything I've witnessed since (becoming) secretary-general," said Guterres, who has led the embattled international organisation since 2017.

"We all condemn the terror attacks made by Hamas, as well as the taking of the hostages, that is an absolute violation of international humanitarian law," he said.

"But the truth is that nothing justifies the collective punishment of the Palestinian people, and that is what we are witnessing in a dramatic way in Gaza," he added, decrying the widespread carnage and hunger in Gaza.

'Accountability a must'

"Accountability should be a must" for all civilian deaths, Guterres said.

Against that backdrop, the UN leader has repeatedly called for an immediate ceasefire, but talks overseen by the United States, Egypt and Qatar remain deadlocked, with Israel and Hamas accusing each other of resisting a deal.

"They are endless," Guterres said of the talks.

UN TO DEBATE END TO ISRAELI OCCUPATION

UN member states will debate a push by the Palestinians to formally demand an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories within 12 months.

The text, criticised by Israel, is based around an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice, calling Israel's occupation since 1967 "unlawful."

Arab countries have called for a special session of the assembly, days before heads of state descend on the UN headquarters to address the kick off of this year's General Assembly session.

"You want to use the pressure of the international community in the General Assembly and the pressure of the historic ruling by the ICJ to force Israel to change its behaviour," said Palestinian Ambassador to the UN Riyad Mansour, who acknowledged the draft resolution had "shocked many countries." — AFP

Israel widens the focus of its war to include Lebanon front

DEFENCE MINISTER WARNS POSSIBILITY OF DEAL WITH HEZBOLLAH 'RUNNING OUT'

JERUSALEM

Israel announced the expansion of its war aims yesterday, widening its nearly year-long fight against Hamas in Gaza to focus on Hezbollah along its northern border with Lebanon.

The announcement came with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken due back in the region this week to try to revive stalled ceasefire talks for the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Until now, Israel's objectives have been to crush Hamas and to bring home the hostages taken by Palestinian militants during the October 7 attacks that sparked the war.

Fleeing their homes

While the focus of the war has been on Gaza, the unabating exchanges of fire between Israeli troops and Hamas ally Hezbollah in Lebanon have forced tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border to flee their homes.

"The political-security cabinet updated the goals of the war this evening, so that they include the following section: the safe return of the residents of the north to their homes," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

Not formally declared as a war, the exchanges of fire between Israeli troops and Hezbollah have killed hundreds of mostly fighters in Lebanon, and dozens of civilians and soldiers on the Israeli side.



■ An armoured personnel carrier of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon patrols in south Lebanon yesterday. AFP

The Israeli announcement came a day after Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said "military action" was the "only way left to ensure the return of Israel's northern communities".

'Fundamental change'

Hezbollah, which like Hamas is backed by Israel's regional arch-foe Iran, claimed a dozen attacks on Israeli positions on Monday and three more yesterday. Israel's military said it struck "terrorist" targets in Lebanon.

"The possibility for an agreement is running out as Hezbollah continues to tie itself to Hamas," Gallant was quoted as telling visiting US envoy Amos Hochstein in a statement from his office.

Netanyahu later told Hochstein he was seeking a "fundamental change" in the security situation on Israel's northern border.

Hezbollah deputy chief Naim Qassem said at the weekend that his group had "no intention of going to war", but that "there will be large losses on both sides" in the event of all-out conflict.

Hamas ready for 'long war'

Hamas, meanwhile, said it was readying for more war, with assistance from fighters and support from across the region.

In a letter to the group's Yemeni allies, the Iran-backed Houthis, whose maritime attacks have disrupted global shipping, Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar said: "We have prepared ourselves to fight a long war of attrition."

"Our combined efforts with you" and with groups in Lebanon and Iraq "will break this enemy and inflict defeat on it", Sinwar said.

His comments came less than a week after Gallant said Hamas "no longer exists" as a military formation in Gaza.

While months of mediated negotiations and shuttle diplomacy have failed to pin down a ceasefire in Gaza, Washington said it was still pushing all sides to finalise an agreement.

Blinken in Egypt

To bridge the remaining gaps, the United States was working "expeditiously" on a new proposal, said State Department spokesman Matthew Miller.

Miller said Blinken would discuss the ceasefire drive during a visit to Egypt this week.

Blinken would "discuss ongoing efforts to reach a ceasefire in Gaza that secures the release of all hostages, alleviates the suffering of the Palestinian people, and helps establish broader regional security", Miller said.

Netanyahu has publicly rejected US assessments that the deal is nearly complete and has insisted on an Israeli military presence on the Egypt-Gaza border.

Mounting pressure has failed to sway him to agree to a hostage release deal that has wide support from the Israeli public.

The October 7 attack on southern Israel that sparked the war resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

— AFP



■ Palestinian women mourn people killed in Israeli strikes on the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza Strip yesterday. AFP



■ Tanker *Sounion* has smoke billowing from it, as it is towed away to safety, off the coast of Hodeida in the Red Sea. AFP

Greek-flagged Red Sea tanker towed to safety

'Sounion', carrying 150,000 tonnes of oil, was hit by the Houthis

ATHENS

A Greek tanker abandoned after Yemen's Houthi rebels struck it in August, threatening environmental disaster with more than a million barrels of oil on board, has been towed to safety, EU maritime safety body Aspides said Monday.

Aspides said "private actors" had completed the challenging

salvage operation of the Greek-flagged vessel *Sounion*, but added it would continue to monitor the situation.

Massive oil spill averted

Had the vessel broken up or exploded, it could have caused an oil spill four times larger than that caused by the Exxon Valdez in 1989 off Alaska, experts had warned.

The *Sounion*, carrying around 150,000 tonnes of crude, caught fire and lost power after being attacked on August 21 off Hodeida, a rebel-held port city.

The following day, its 25-strong mostly Filipino crew were rescued by a French frigate from the Aspides mission.

Days later, the rebels claimed to have detonated charges on the ship's deck, sparking new fires.

The EU naval force was formed in February to protect merchant vessels in the Red Sea from attacks by the Houthi rebels.

The Houthis have waged a campaign against international shipping that they say is intended to show solidarity with Hamas in its war with Israel in the Gaza Strip.

Since November, Iranian-backed Houthi attacks have caused the sinking of two ships and the deaths of at least four crew members.

The Houthis have been firing drones and missiles at ships in the vital commercial route, saying they are targeting vessels linked to Israel, US and Britain.

With those attacks disrupting commercial shipping in a zone vital for global maritime trade, the US, with the support of allies led by Britain, has carried out repeated air strikes on rebel bases in Yemen. — AFP

I am guilty: Frenchman says of mass rape of wife

AVIGNON

“I am a rapist,” said a Frenchman accused of drugging his wife so he and dozens of strangers could sexually assault her, his first testimony in a trial that has horrified France.

Dominique Pelicot, 71, used a cane yesterday as he entered the courtroom in Avignon, where his now ex-wife was present for the painful testimony.

“I am a rapist, like the others in this room,” Pelicot said, referring to the 50 other defendants in the mass trial – men he allegedly recruited online to rape his then-wife Gisele Pelicot.

“They all knew” that he was inviting them to rape her, he said. But he added: “She did not deserve this.”

Pelicot is accused of administering anti-anxiety drugs to Gisele for almost a decade, from 2011 to 2020.

He has been charged with raping her while she was unconscious, and recruiting dozens of other men he met online to do the same.

‘Not born this way’

Pelicot spoke of his “difficult” childhood, saying his parents “assaulted each other”. He mentioned two “traumatic” episodes, being victim of a rape when he was nine years old and another on a construction site as an apprentice. “I always carried these traumatising events with me,” he said. “You’re not born this way, you become it,” he added.

Gisele, who obtained a divorce from him last month, remained stoic as he spoke. “Not for a single second did I doubt this man,” she said.

Pelicot then asked her and others for forgiveness. “I am guilty of what I have done. I beg my wife, my children, my grandchildren ... to accept my apologies,” he said.

Gisele requested that the trial be open to the public to raise awareness about the use of drugs to commit sexual abuse. — AFP

He briefly mentioned what he described as two ‘traumatic’ episodes, being victim of a rape when he was nine years old and another on a construction site as an apprentice.



STORM BORIS FLOODS CENTRAL EUROPE, LEAVES 19 DEAD

A resident on a float tries to make his way to his property on a path flooded by the waters of the Danube river in Klosterneuburg, Tulln District, Lower Austria, yesterday. The death toll has risen to 19 in the extreme weather and flooding let loose by storm Boris in central Europe, authorities said, after a new victim was reported in Austria. High winds and unusually heavy rainfall have hit swathes of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia since Friday.

Kremlin slams Meta’s ban on Russian state media outlets

US ACCUSES RT OF FUNNELLING \$10M TO FUND INFLUENCE CAMPAIGNS

SAN FRANCISCO

Meta said it is banning Russian state media outlets from its apps around the world, prompting an angry reaction from the Kremlin yesterday.

The ban comes after the United States accused RT and employees of the state-run outlet of funnelling \$10 million through shell entities to covertly fund influence campaigns on social media channels including TikTok, Instagram, X, and YouTube, according to an unsealed indictment.

Unacceptable: Kremlin

“After careful consideration, we expanded our ongoing enforcement against Russian state media outlets,” Meta told AFP on Monday. “Rossiya Segodnya, RT and other related entities are now banned from our apps globally for foreign interference activity,” said Meta, whose apps include Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Threads.

The Kremlin slammed the decision as “unacceptable”. “With this action, Meta discred-



Rossiya Segodnya, RT and other related entities are now banned from Meta’s apps globally, the company said.

its itself,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

RT was forced to cease operations in Britain, Canada, the European Union and the US due to sanctions after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, the indictment unsealed in New York said.

US prosecutors quoted an RT editor-in-chief as saying it created an “empire of covert projects” designed to shape public opinion in “Western audiences.”

Secret content backing

One of the covert projects involved funding and direction of an online content creation company in Tennessee, according to the indictment.

Since launching in late 2023, the US content creation operation supported by Russia has posted nearly 2,000 videos that have logged more than 16 million views on YouTube alone, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors cited a content producer as grousing about being pressed by the company to post a video early this year of a “well-known US political commentator visiting a grocery store in Russia,” complaining it felt like “overt shilling” but agreeing to put the video out.

The company never disclosed to viewers it was funded by RT, US prosecutors said.

Malign campaigns

“RT has pursued malign influence campaigns in countries opposed to its policies, including the United States, in an effort to sow domestic divisions and thereby weaken opposition to Government of Russia objectives,” prosecutors argued.

Russia is the biggest source of covert influence operations disrupted by Meta at its platform since 2017, and such efforts at deceptive online influence ramped up after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, according to threat reports released routinely by the social media giant.

Meta had banned the Federal News Agency in Russia to thwart interference by the Russian Internet Research Agency. — AFP

Superbugs projected to kill 39m by 2050

PARIS

Infections of drug-resistant superbugs are projected to kill nearly 39 million people over the next 25 years, a global analysis predicted on Monday, with the researchers urging action to avoid this grim scenario.

Superbugs – strains of bacteria or pathogens that have become resistant to antibiotics, making them much harder to treat – have been recognised as a rising threat to global health.

The analysis has been billed as the first research to track the global impact of superbugs over time and to estimate what could happen next.

More than a million people died from the superbugs – also called antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – per year across the world between 1990 and 2021, according to the GRAM study in *The Lancet* journal.

Deaths among children under five from superbugs actually fell by more than 50 per cent over the last three decades, the study said, due to improving measures to prevent and control infections for infants. And deaths of over-70s have surged by more than 80 per cent over the same period.

Infections double

Deaths from infections of MRSA, a type of staph bacteria that has become resistant to many antibiotics, doubled to 130,000 in 2021 from three decades earlier, the study said.

The researchers used modelling to estimate that, based on current trends, the number of direct deaths from AMR would rise by 67 per cent to reach nearly two million a year by 2050.

It would also play a role in a further 8.2 million annual deaths, a jump of nearly 75 per cent, according to the modelling.

Under this scenario, AMR will have directly killed 39 million people over the next quarter century and contributed to a total of 169 million deaths, it added.

2 million
Estimated number of direct deaths a year from AMR by 2050

ON GULFNEWS.COM

Kejriwal quits as Delhi chief minister, Atishi to lead state

Arvind Kejriwal resigned as chief minister of Delhi yesterday, days after being released on bail in a corruption case. Education minister Atishi will replace him for now. — AFP



Kejriwal to seek fresh mandate from the public in Delhi polls next year

Workforce dropouts make UK Europe’s ‘sick man’

Country losing £15b a year on lost tax, benefits bills

LONDON

A surge in workforce dropouts due to rising levels of long-term illness has turned the UK into the “literal sick man of Europe” and is costing the state £5 billion (\$6.6 billion) a year in lost tax receipts, according to new research from the Institute for Public Policy Research think tank.

Around 900,000 more working-age Britons are now inactive – neither in work nor

900,000
more working-age Britons are neither in work nor looking for a job than at the start of Covid in 2020

looking for a job – than at the start of Covid in 2020, with many falling onto costly disability benefits. If trends continue inactivity due to sickness will rise to 4.3 million from 2.8 million today, the IPPR’s cross-party Commission on Health and Prosperity found. Addressing the problem

could solve many of Britain’s most pressing economic challenges, including low growth and productivity. Better health would save the National Health Service £18 billion a year by the mid-2030s, improve regional equality and boost pay, the IPPR said. The commission concluded

that solving the health crisis is “the most important medicine our economy needs for the faster growth.”

The findings echo similar analysis by the Office for Budget Responsibility that better health would curtail a debt burden that is projected to reach 270 per cent of GDP by the mid-2070s unless the government takes action.

Soaring levels of long-term sickness have been accompanied by rocketing disability benefit claims. The OBR earlier estimated that the combined impact of lost workers and a bigger benefit bill is costing the state around £15 billion a year. — Bloomberg



No dress rehearsal in cricket, Rohit says

CHENNAI

Captain Rohit Sharma yesterday warned his India team there is “no dress rehearsal” in cricket as they face a Bangladesh side fresh from a historic Test series win over Pakistan.

India lead the World Test Championship (WTC) standings ahead of Australia, where Rohit’s team will tour for a five-match series later in the year.

But first they host Bangladesh in a two-Test series, starting with the opener in the northern Indian city of Chennai from Thursday.

India are clear favourites but the visitors recently celebrated a landmark 2-0 series sweep in Pakistan.

“There is no dress rehearsal kind of stuff happening here,” Rohit told reporters, cautioning against minds turning too quickly to Australia.

“Every game is important because of what is at stake — the WTC table is quite wide open,” Rohit added. “We want to win here, and start the season on a high.”

The skipper added: “In terms of preparation, in terms of readiness, I feel we are quite ready for this game, and what lies ahead of us.”

India’s last Test series was at home earlier this year when they beat England 4-1.

India won the T20 World Cup in June, their first International Cricket Council title in 11 years.

But there was “no way” his players would “relax and sit back” as a result, the 37-year-old Rohit said.

“Us cricketers, we have got limited time to play the game, to make an impact in the sport that we play,” he said.

— AFP



Rohit Sharma

SHARJAH
BY A.K.S. SATISH
Sports Editor

Afghanistan have been the team to watch in white-ball cricket in recent years. The underdogs have managed to put on some impressive performances to scalp some of the heavyweights in the past two World Cups.

Since Jonathan Trott took charge of the team in 2022, Afghanistan have been the giant-killers defeating most of the top Test-playing nations. Now, the latest entrant to Test cricket are ready to start a new rivalry with South Africa during a three-match One-Day International series at the Sharjah Stadium, beginning on September 18.

Coach Jonathan Trott believes that Afghanistan are no longer a giant-killer but one of the elite teams in world cricket. “I think giant-killers is a little bit unfair. I think if you speak to the teams that we’ve beaten, they wouldn’t see us as giant-killers; they see us as equals or a team that’s up and coming,” said Trott.

“So giant-killers perhaps suggest that we’re not going into any games as favourites. I think that’s a bit untrue. We’ve been playing well enough to earn the right to be favourites in some games or level-pegged. So if South Africa underestimates us, that’s OK. I’m quite excited,” the former England batter told *Gulf News*.

Incidentally, the first match between the two teams will also mark a milestone for the world-record-holding Sharjah Cricket Stadium, as it will host its 250th ODI.

The first ODI will also be the teams’ first meeting after South Africa ended Afghanistan’s stunning run in the 50-over World Cup with a five-wicket win in Ahmedabad on November 10 last year.

Afghanistan finished sixth in the 10-team round-robin league, defeating former champions Pakistan and Sri Lanka. They also ended the dreams of defending champions England, and only a brilliant double century from Glenn Maxwell saved Australia from a shocking defeat.

Fine run

Afghanistan continue to excel in the Twenty20 format, which suits their globetrotting stars who play in franchise leagues across the world. In the current edition of the Twenty20 World Cup, co-hosted by the West Indies and the USA, Afghanistan defeated Australia, New Zealand, and Bangladesh to secure their first semi-final berth. However, they were outplayed by South Africa and were dismissed for a paltry 56 runs. This series holds great significance, as Afghanistan are eager to avenge its World Cup losses.

‘WE’VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO BE FAVOURITES’

Afghanistan coach Trott feels Proteas won’t underestimate them during the ODI series in Sharjah



Above: Rashid Khan bowls during a training session at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Left: Skippers of South Africa and Afghanistan during the trophy launch ceremony at the Sharjah Stadium yesterday.

SCHEDULE

September 18: First ODI: Afghanistan vs South Africa, 4pm
September 20: Second ODI: Afghanistan vs South Africa, 4pm
September 22: Third ODI: Afghanistan vs South Africa, 4pm

While Afghanistan have performed impressively in the last two World Cups, they don’t boast of an impressive record in the bilateral series. Afghanistan lost both the ODI series 3-0 and the Twenty20 series 2-1 during their last tour of Sri Lanka in February this year.

“I think the World Cup is always good. It’s on the world stage and everybody’s watching. It gives the players a lot of confidence individually, but

also as a side, to perform under pressure,” Trott added. “But again, this is what these bilateral series are about. Now we are trying to beat South Africa over the three games. When you get that one-off opportunity in a World Cup or a Champions Trophy, you’ve got the confidence of having beaten top sides. The more Afghanistan play better cricket, the more experience the players are going to gain under pressure in big games.”

Saudi club Al Nassr parts ways with coach Castro

Castro is 3rd coach to depart since Ronaldo’s arrival in early 2023

RIYADH

Cristiano Ronaldo’s Saudi club Al Nassr announced the departure of Portuguese coach Luis Castro yesterday, a day after starting their AFC Champions League Elite campaign with a disappointing draw.

Monday’s 1-1 stalemate with Iraq’s Al Shorta in the Asian competition compounded a slow start to the domestic season with the current contract of Ronaldo, 39, due to expire next summer.

“Al Nassr can announce that head coach Luis Castro



has left the club,” said a statement posted on X.

Dedicated work

“Everyone at Al Nassr would like to thank Luis and his staff for their dedicated work during the past 14 months, wishing them the best of luck for the future.”

Castro, 63, is the third coach to depart Al Nassr since Ronaldo’s groundbreaking arrival in early 2023 on a contract that was said to net him €400 million over two-and-a-half years.

Frenchman Rudi Garcia quickly left that April, followed by a brief stint by Croatian coach Dinko Jelcic before Castro was appointed in July last year.

Guardiola ‘surprised’ as Haaland eyes record

Norwegian is on the cusp of setting record for fewest games to 100 goals at one club

DUBAI

BY THOMAS WRAGG
Associate Editor

Pep Guardiola admits he is somewhat surprised by the number of goals Erling Haaland has scored for Manchester City, with the Norwegian forward on the verge of breaking Cristiano Ronaldo’s record for the fewest games required to reach 100 goals for a single club.

Haaland’s double against Brentford on Saturday, which raised his Premier League tally to nine goals in four games this season, brought his total to an astounding 99 goals in just 103 appearances for Manchester City. Cristiano Ronaldo set the

previous record while at Real Madrid, reaching his first 100 goals for the club in 105 games.

This means Haaland has just one more game to claim the outright record, with Manchester City welcoming Inter Milan to the Etihad Arena tonight.

If Manchester City’s No. 9 finds the net in the Citizens’ 2024/25 Champions League opener — a rematch of the 2022/23 final — Haaland will etch another milestone into his already impressive career.

The 24-year-old striker is already the fastest player to reach 50 Premier League goals, needing just 48 matches to achieve the feat. He also holds the record for the most goals in a single Premier League season during his debut campaign with Manchester City, scoring 36 goals in 35 appearances and surpassing the previous record of 34 held by Andy Cole and Alan Shearer, who each set the mark in 42-game seasons.



Erling Haaland

Before joining Manchester City in 2022, Guardiola was well aware of Erling Haaland’s potential.

Extraordinary impact

Despite having seen the Norwegian score 86 goals in 89 games during his time in Germany, Manchester City’s manager still remains surprised by Haaland’s extraordinary impact since his switch to the Premier League champions.



So giant-killers perhaps suggest that we’re not going into any games as favourites. I think that’s a bit untrue. We’ve been playing well enough to earn the right to be favourites?”

Jonathan Trott »
Afghanistan coach

New Zealand due to a medical advice to rest his back. While the leg-spinner gives plenty of teeth to the bowling, another spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman is still recovering from a finger sprain.

Batters Darwish Rasooli and Abdul Malik, who played strongly in domestic one-day competitions, have been included in Zadrán’s absence.

“I am very much looking forward to this series. A landmark series against a country like South Africa, a historic Test-playing nation, is always exciting. It’s good to test ourselves against them here in Sharjah, on a ground we know pretty well,” the 43-year-old coach said.

“There are players who might be unfamiliar to the public, but they’ve played for Afghanistan before. They’re all ready to go.”

Afghanistan’s Test cricket struggles

While Afghanistan have become a force in white-ball cricket, their Test record doesn’t reflect their full potential.

Since gaining Test status in 2017, Afghanistan have played 10 Tests, winning just three — two against fellow newcomers Ireland and one against Bangladesh in 2019. Their most recent Test, at their adopted home in New Delhi, was completely washed out due to rain.

“It’s important for us to play good cricket over an extended period of time. Some players have grown up in franchise cricket and have learnt the game in white-ball formats. The next frontier is red-ball cricket, Test cricket,” Trott concluded.

“A little bit, yes,” said Guardiola when asked if he was surprised at the number of goals Haaland is scoring.

“I played 11 years as a professional, as a football player, I scored 11 goals. This guy, in four games, scored nine. So in one more game he can equal me. So you can imagine that I’m surprised.”

Despite Haaland seemingly in unstoppable form right now, Guardiola was quick to warn that teams will eventually figure out a way to stop him scoring countless goals every game.

“The opponents will find a solution, and we have to find a solution to beat them, to find a way,” he added.

Following their game against Inter Milan, City will face ŠK Slovan Bratislava, Sparta Praha, Sporting CP, Feyenoord, Juventus, Paris Saint Germain and Club Brugge over the coming months in this season’s revamped Champions League.

PROPERTIES & CLASSIFIEDS

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GULF NEWS

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

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PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Name Change Notice

I, Salahudin Badrudin, holder of Indian Passport No. Z2921825, issued at Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 5th February 2015, permanent resident of 35 Madurai Road, Trichy 620008, Tamil Nadu, India and presently residing at Flat 204, Al Shafar Building, Al Barsha 1, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, do hereby change my name from **Salahudin Badrudin** to **Badrudin Salahudin**, with immediate effect.

Notice
No. DUBA/Cons/434/MR/2024-(43)
Dated: 08/08/2024

Mr. Jinny Johnson
S/o: Johnson Mangan Kangu
Resident of: Mangan House, Porkulam Post Thiruthikkad, Thiruvirupur: 680542, Kerala, India.

Present Address: Al Buhaiera Building, Al Nahda 1, Sharjah.
And Miss. Silina Poonghat Sukumaran
Daughter of: Sukumaran Poonghat Achuthan
Resident of: Poonghattu House, Thiruthikkad Porkulam PO, Thiruvirupur: 680542, Kerala, India.

Present Address: Al Buhaiera Building, Al Nahda 1, Sharjah.
Above mentioned Indian nationals are presently residing in the UAE have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriages Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he / she should file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the act / rules within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice on email: cons1.dubai@mea.gov.in, cons3.dubai@mea.gov.in.

(Tadu Mamu)
(Marriage Officer)
Consulate General of India
P.O.Box: 737, Dubai (UAE)
Fax No.: 0097143970453
Email: cons1.dubai@mea.gov.in, cons3.dubai@mea.gov.in

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Required: Experienced Indian Light Duty House Driver. Please call: 056-3600946 (from 8.30am to 6pm).

Education

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONTINUE OUTSIDE THE DUBAI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FREE ZONE

Live Nation Middle East FZ-LLC
(Registration Number 16457)
(the "Company")

This is a notice for the purposes of Regulation 98 of the Private Companies Regulations 2016. The Company intends to continue outside the Development Authority Free Zone as an overseas company in Expo City Dubai Authority as a Free Zone Limited Liability Company and with its registered office at Mobility District, 1 Sky Quarter A on or after 45 days of the first date of publication of this notice.

GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI Land Department

NOTICE

Developer's Name: T F G REAL ESTATE L.L.C
Purchaser's Name: PRINCE KHALED BIN ABDULAZIZ BIN FAHAD AL SAUD
The above mentioned developer claims that you have defaulted in the payment of installment/installments of the price for unit No (SKY CENTRAL / 2206) project (SKY CENTRAL) Dubai.

In accordance with Law No. (13) of 2008 as amended, and its Executive Regulations, Dubai Land Department 'DLD' hereby notify you to rectify the default within (30) days as of the date of publication of this notice.

If you fail to pay the amount due within the specified period, DLD shall take the necessary legal proceeding pursuant to Clause No. (11) of the aforesaid.

GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI Land Department

NOTICE

Developer's Name: T F G REAL ESTATE L.L.C
Purchaser's Name: ARABI MAHMOUD AYED ALI
The above mentioned developer claims that you have defaulted in the payment of installment/installments of the price for unit No (Ciel / 2410 (Q 3)) project (Ciel) Dubai.

In accordance with Law No. (13) of 2008 as amended, and its Executive Regulations, Dubai Land Department 'DLD' hereby notify you to rectify the default within (30) days as of the date of publication of this notice.

If you fail to pay the amount due within the specified period, DLD shall take the necessary legal proceeding pursuant to Clause No. (11) of the aforesaid.

GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI Land Department

NOTICE

Developer's Name: T F G REAL ESTATE L.L.C
Purchaser's Name: TAMER ABDELSATAR WERDANY HASHALA
The above mentioned developer claims that you have defaulted in the payment of installment/installments of the price for unit No (THE ONE / 2307) project (THE ONE) Dubai.

In accordance with Law No. (13) of 2008 as amended, and its Executive Regulations, Dubai Land Department 'DLD' hereby notify you to rectify the default within (30) days as of the date of publication of this notice.

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GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI Land Department

NOTICE

Developer's Name: T F G REAL ESTATE L.L.C
Purchaser's Name: ARISTOTE MUSHITU YAYA
The above mentioned developer claims that you have defaulted in the payment of installment/installments of the price for unit No (Ciel / 2008 (Q 4)) project (Ciel) Dubai.

In accordance with Law No. (13) of 2008 as amended, and its Executive Regulations, Dubai Land Department 'DLD' hereby notify you to rectify the default within (30) days as of the date of publication of this notice.

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GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI Land Department

NOTICE

Developer's Name: T F G REAL ESTATE L.L.C
Purchaser's Name: BASEM KHALIL M MULLA
The above mentioned developer claims that you have defaulted in the payment of installment/installments of the price for unit No (The One Hotel / 628) project (THE ONE HOTEL) Dubai.

In accordance with Law No. (13) of 2008 as amended, and its Executive Regulations, Dubai Land Department 'DLD' hereby notify you to rectify the default within (30) days as of the date of publication of this notice.

If you fail to pay the amount due within the specified period, DLD shall take the necessary legal proceeding pursuant to Clause No. (11) of the aforesaid.

A&A HOLDINGS GROUP LTD. (In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. (1711854)

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (1)(b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 4th September, 2024. The Liquidator is Maurice Janssen of Vistra Corporate Services Centre, Wickhams Cay II, Road Town, Tortola, VG 1110, British Virgin Islands.

Dated 4th September, 2024
(Sgd.) Maurice Janssen
Voluntary Liquidator

GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI Land Department

NOTICE

Developer's Name: T F G REAL ESTATE L.L.C
Purchaser's Name: JAUFAR DAWOOD
The above mentioned developer claims that you have defaulted in the payment of installment/installments of the price for unit No (Ciel / 2411 (H 2)) project (Ciel) Dubai.

In accordance with Law No. (13) of 2008 as amended, and its Executive Regulations, Dubai Land Department 'DLD' hereby notify you to rectify the default within (30) days as of the date of publication of this notice.

If you fail to pay the amount due within the specified period, DLD shall take the necessary legal proceeding pursuant to Clause No. (11) of the aforesaid.

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* Should be able to join immediately
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Light Vehicle Driver, with 14 yrs. exp. in UAE, looking for a job as Company / House Driver. Contact: 055-6172273

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Young Indian Civil Engineer, B.Tech. in Civil Engg., having 3 years exp., seeks job. Please contact: 050-5875431

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Pharmacist Salesman, having UAE experience and own car, good speaking skills in Arabic, English and Russian, seeks job. Contact: 052-8383654

Sales & Purchase Co-ordinator in Fire and Safety company and trading, seeks suitable placement immediately. Contact: 050-4789058

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NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION PARTNERS FZE (License No. L-1102), located at Free Zone Dubai World Trade Center, wishes to announce its decision, taken through a board resolution, at the board meeting held on September 6, 2024, regarding the closure and liquidation of INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION PARTNERS FZE.
Any interested party having a claim against the company is hereby requested to submit their outstanding claims within 15 days from the date of notification by registered mail to the following address:
INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION PARTNERS FZE
located at 373 (9d) TEC, 3rd Floor, The Offices 3,
One Central, Dubai, United Arab Emirates • E-mail: info@integration.ae
Claims received after this deadline will not be considered.

NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern:
Mr. Reghunath Venugopalan Nair, holder of Indian Passport # W5969096 is no longer associated with American Life Insurance Company (MetLife), effective 6th of June 2024. Therefore, from this date onwards, Mr. Reghunath Venugopalan Nair is not authorized to represent American Life Insurance Company (MetLife) in any capacity, and American Life Insurance Company (MetLife) shall hold no liability arising from his acts.
In line with the above, please refrain from paying any premiums to Mr. Reghunath Venugopalan Nair. If you have any queries, please contact our customer service at:
<https://www.metlife.ae/who-we-are/contact-us/>
American Life Insurance Company (MetLife) Gulf
New Century City Tower, Office # 405, Deira Port Saeed,
P.O Box 371916, Dubai, UAE
Tel: 800 - 6385433 (UAE), +971 4 415 4555 (Any other country)

By **Manjusha Radhakrishnan**
Entertainment Editor

There's an adage in Malayalam that goes, "When your home is burning, you don't go around chopping banana leaves in your backyard." This came to mind as we set off to interview Malayalam actor Tovino Thomas in Dubai for his latest Malayalam fantasy epic, *A.R.M.*, now playing in UAE cinemas.

The actor was adamant about avoiding controversial questions related to the #MeToo movement, which is gaining momentum in Malayalam cinema. He chose to focus solely on his film, concerned that his promotional efforts might be overshadowed by headlines about controversy rather than his work. Perhaps he had a point.

In a strictly orchestrated and controlled interview that was benign and vanilla, Tovino, who takes on a triple role for the first time in his career, spoke about his childhood, his relationship with money and fame, and how he wasn't a self-made actor. Here's his take on:

Being called an actor who made it big on his own steam:

Acting in movies was a dream for me. When I came into the industry, I didn't even know if I could act, but I just wanted to be an actor, and right now, I believe I am living my dream. In my first movie, I played a small character, but I felt I achieved my dream back then. From then on, I consider every film of mine as a bonus for doing something right. I am very happy that I am living my dream, but I cannot be called self-made, because human beings are dependent by nature. We get help from many people, and those people aren't necessarily famous or powerful. I am here because of this army of people who helped in my initial days ... people who loved me unconditionally and helped me without expecting anything.

Complex roles like Maathan in *Mayanadhi*:

I wouldn't call myself a per-



From 'Mayanadhi' to his triple role in 'A.R.M', actor talks career, family, and the limelight, in a controlled interview

Scan the QR code to watch Tovino's full interview with Gulf News

fect gentleman in real life. I have my own flaws, and that makes me human. The same applies to characters that I play. If you look at my role in *Mayanadhi*, he's not an ideal guy. But I love Maathan because he's awesome despite his flaws. Just like Maathan, I believe I am also not black or white. While I try to be nice to everyone and don't intend harm, I come with a few flaws.

Handling fame and fans:

If everyone in a crowd of 5,000 fans wants a selfie, I may not be able to give it, but at the same time, I understand where they are coming from. They have been waiting for hours to see me, and they extend this unconditional love because they like me as an actor. I am also reminded that 12 years ago, I was in that crowd waiting for

my favourite actor to give me a selfie. I have learnt to think from two perspectives ... But when I am with my wife and children, I am not a film actor. It doesn't matter to my children; I am protective then.

Playing a triple role in *A.R.M.*:

Acting legends like Kamal Haasan have attempted playing three different characters in a movie, but not someone like me who's not a trained actor. Initially, I was not confident ... When I was offered the three roles, I said I would do just one character and let the rest be played by other actors. But the makers convinced me because there's a connection among these three characters. The story is set across 300 years,

Don't miss it!

A.R.M. is out in UAE cinemas now

Photos: Virendra Saklani/Gulf News, AFP

and they felt that the same person living in three different eras would be perfect ... As an actor, I am always trying to learn something new.

On keeping his children grounded and unspoilt:

I don't want my children to experience privilege and want to keep their upbringing normal. Whatever they have in their life should be earned by them. I don't want to spoil them by giving them limitless privilege because that's the cruelest thing you can do to a child as a parent ... When I came into this industry, I didn't have any privileges, but there was that fire that kept me going. I want that fire to be lit in my children's stomachs too ...

Sean 'Diddy' Combs arrested in New York

Sean "Diddy" Combs — the rap mogul whose star has plunged after a wave of sex trafficking accusations and assault lawsuits — was arrested by federal agents in Manhattan late Monday, a US federal court said.



The attorney for the Southern District of New York, Damian Williams, said the arrest stemmed from a sealed indictment filed by his office. "We expect to move to unseal the indictment in the morning and will have more to say at that time," he said, without providing details.

Diddy's lawyer Marc Agnifilo said that Combs had voluntarily relocated to New York, anticipating the charges.

Combs's lawyer said their team is "disappointed with the decision to pursue what we believe is an unjust prosecution of Mr Combs by the US Attorney's Office." — AFP

Pulsar Suni gets bail in assault case

A day after the Kerala government filed an affidavit, accusing actor Dileep of deliberately delaying the trial, the Supreme Court yesterday granted bail to Sunil N S, also known as Pulsar Suni, the main accused in the 2017 abduction and sexual assault case involving a Malayalam actress.



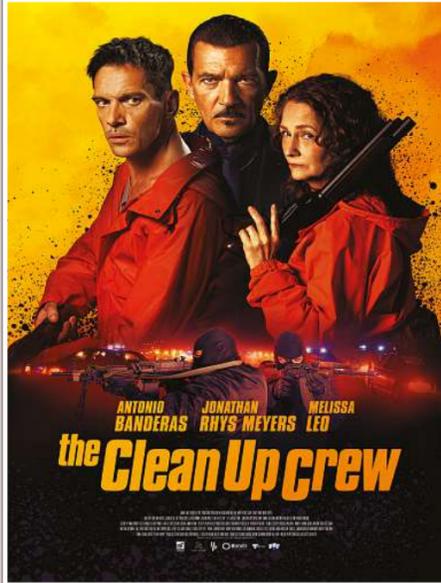
During the trial, Pulsar Suni had claimed that Dileep had masterminded the attack.

The court noted: "The appellant has been in jail for more than seven-and-a-half years. All other co-accused have already been granted bail. Given that 261 witnesses have testified and there are nine accused, even the process of recording statements under Section 313 of the CrPC will take a long time. Considering the extended incarceration ... we find grounds to grant bail," a report published by *The Indian Express* said. — M.R

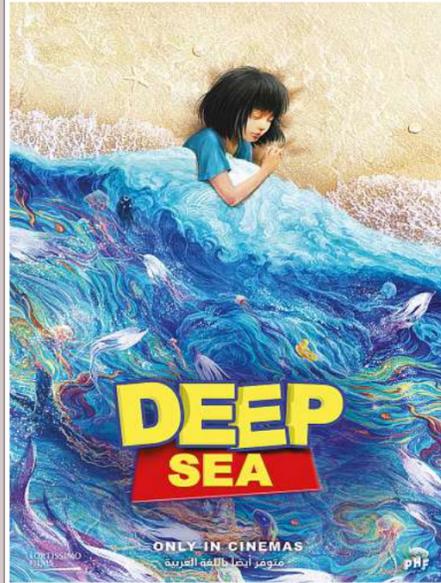
Hollywood & Bollywood at cinemas in UAE & GCC



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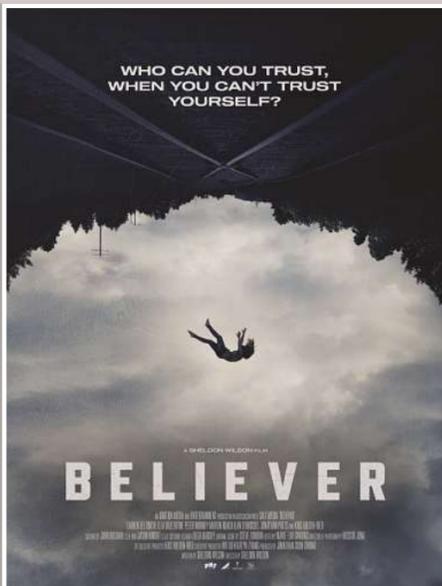
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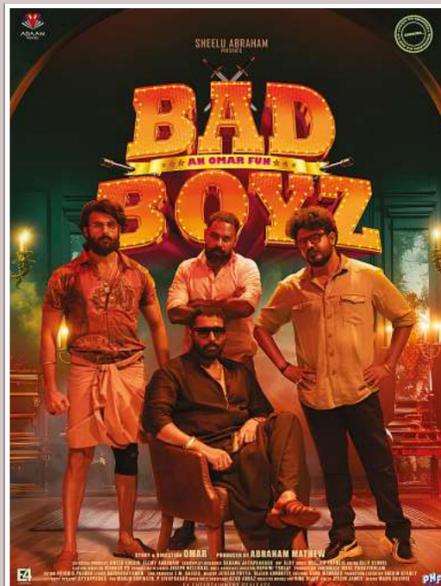
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SEPTEMBER 19



SEPTEMBER 20

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Godolphin Ballroom, Jumeirah Emirates Towers

9-9.30AM | REGISTRATION

9.30-10AM | COFFEE & NETWORKING

10-10.05AM | WELCOME NOTE BY GULF NEWS

10.10-10.20AM | KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Free zones: The heart of innovation & entrepreneurship in the UAE



ISMAIL AL NAQI
Director General,
Free Zones Authority
of Ajman

10.25-10.35AM | KEYNOTE ADDRESS

UAE: The growth capital of the world



ABDULAZIZ AL NUAIMI
Assistant Undersecretary
for the Entrepreneurship
Sector and the Organization
of Economic Affairs,
the UAE Ministry of Economy

10.40-11.15AM | PANEL DISCUSSION

Empowering growth: The impact of free zones on entrepreneurial success



ZUBAIR MAKHDOOMI
Director B2B
(Channel Partner & Alliances),
Free Zones Authority of Ajman



NEELAM SHARMA
Managing Partner,
Neeja Corporate Services



DANISH QAZI
Senior Associate,
BSA Law



JIGAR SAGAR
Founder,
Triliv Holdings

11.20-11.40AM | PRESENTATION

How to tame your tax dragon



ALIA NOOR
Associate Partner,
Ahmad Alagbari Chartered
Accountants

11.45-12.25PM | PANEL DISCUSSION

UAE's competitive advantage with corporate tax



NIRAV SHAH
Director,
Fame Advisory



JAISION MANDAPATHIL
Manager,
Compliance & Assurance,
Hussain Al Shemsi
Chartered Accountants



NANDARAJA SHETTY
Deputy General Manager, UAE,
Tally Solutions



SHEETAL SONI
Partner,
MICS International DMCC

12.30-12.50PM | PRESENTATION

Evolving tax landscape in the UAE: Need for robust compliance



PRATIK SHAH
Founder Partner,
TMSL Management
Consultancies

1.00-1.55PM | LUNCH BREAK

2.00-2.20PM | FIRESIDE CHAT

Secrets to start-up success



LORENZO JOORIS
CEO,
Creative Zone

2.25-3.05PM | PANEL DISCUSSION

Hot sectors for investment:
Key trends and opportunities



HEMANT KATYAL
Co-founder,
Dhanguard Group



CHRISSI ZAMORA
Managing Director,
Hawksford UAE



RINSHANA GAFOOR SHAS
General Manager,
Fast Business Center



PRATIK RAWAL
Head of Corporate Structuring,
Creative Zone

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