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WAM

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed speaks with Emirati students studying in the United States, during a reception at the UAE Embassy in Washington, DC. The event was also attended by UAE astronauts Hazza Al Mansoori and Noura Al Matroushi.

President to UAE youth: 'You are our real wealth'

Mohammad assures all support to Emirati students in US

DUBAI
BY FAISAL MASUDI
Assistant Editor

The youth of the UAE are the real wealth of the country, President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan said during his inspirational interaction in Washington with

Emirati students studying in universities in the US.

In his talk with the youth, which took place at the UAE Embassy as part of his official visit to the US, Shaikh Mohammad assured them of all support for their academic success.

The President reasserted that today's young citizens are the ones who are poised to assume responsibility of the new phase of development that the UAE is undertaking. This requires them to acquire the

necessary expertise and skills so can benefit themselves and their country when they return home after their academic journey.

Ambassadors for UAE

Shaikh Mohammad encouraged them to focus on fields that will serve as the cornerstone of the UAE's development strategy, especially in technology and artificial intelligence. He noted that the world is advancing rapidly, at a pace never witnessed before.

Knowledge of these sectors will be of paramount value in the future.

The President also emphasised that the Emirati students have a unique opportunity to showcase the UAE's progress and achievements. Shaikh Mohammad explained that the students should consider themselves ambassadors for their country, reflecting its values, principles, and the character of its people in everything.

SEE ALSO P4

Hezbollah missile reaches Tel Aviv for first time

ISRAEL ARMY CHIEF TELLS TROOPS TO BE READY FOR LEBANON ENTRY

BEIRUT

Hezbollah said it had fired a ballistic missile at the Israeli city of Tel Aviv yesterday, with the Israeli military describing the launch as unprecedented.

Sirens sounded in Tel Aviv following the launch, the Israeli military said, adding that it had intercepted a "surface-to-surface missile" over the city.

It is the first time Hezbollah has claimed a ballistic missile strike since its nearly year-long battle with Israel began after its Palestinian ally Hamas carried out its October 7 attack.

An Israeli military spokesman told AFP it was also "the first time ever" a Hezbollah missile had reached the Tel Aviv area.

Civilians on the run

In south Lebanon, a stronghold of Hezbollah, Israeli warplanes bombed villages for a third day yesterday, after air raids earlier this week killed at least 558 people in the deadliest day of violence since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Lebanon's National News

Agency said the overnight raids caused more casualties, with officials saying hundreds of thousands of civilians have fled their homes to escape the sharp escalation in violence between Hezbollah and Israel.

The United Nations Security Council said it will hold an emergency meeting on the crisis in New York on Wednesday, while UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned the situation was critical.

Possible ground offensive

Israel's army chief told troops yesterday to be prepared for possible entry into Lebanon as Israeli fighter jets bombed Hezbollah targets across the border.

"You can hear the planes here; we are attacking all day, both to prepare the ground for the possibility of your entry, but also to continue striking Hezbollah," Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi told a tank brigade, according to a statement issued by the military.

"We are not stopping. We will keep attacking and harming them everywhere," Halevi said.

SEE ALSO P9

NATION

Living in UAE: All you need to know about the new rental law in Sharjah | P2

SPECIAL REPORTS

Catch up on seasonal home décor trends

What's ticking in home security and personal safety



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Expat couple pledge \$1m to alma mater in gratitude

Contribution to help BITS Pilani students

DUBAI
BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

An Indian expat entrepreneurial couple, with a diverse group of businesses in the UAE, has donated \$1 million (Dh3.67 million) to their alma mater - BITS Pilani - with good reason.

The couple, Ravinder Kumar Bhat and Sumita Desarkar, told *Gulf News* that the 'humble contribution' was towards the BITS Pilani Endowment Fund, which has an ambitious goal of raising \$100 million to support infrastructure development, research initiatives

and innovation projects that will benefit students across the BITS Pilani network, including the Dubai campus.

"There are many deserving students out there who cannot afford to study in a premier institution like this, and hopefully the fund will help reduce the fee structure, amongst other things," said Ravinder, who is from the 1978 batch of BITS Pilani, Rajasthan. His wife was two years his junior in the same college.

Now, what inspired the couple's generosity? Well, that's a story of love and gratitude.

SEE ALSO P3



Ravinder Kumar Bhat and Sumita Desarkar first met as students in BITS Pilani, Rajasthan, India, in the 1980s.

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LALS GROUP

Five ways Sharjah's rental law will impact landlords, tenants

CHANGES INCLUDE THREE-YEAR RENT FREEZE, EARLY TERMINATION PENALTIES

DUBAI
 BY HUDA TABREZ
 Living in UAE Editor

Are you renting an apartment in Sharjah? If so, a new rental law has now come into effect, which will regulate your relationship with your landlord.

Not only does the law put in place greater protection for tenants and landlords, but it also provides more details on the processes that need to be followed in case of disputes.

But how exactly will the new law affect you as a tenant? Here are the key takeaways.

1 Lease certification is the landlord's responsibility

Hassan Kashwani, Managing Partner at Dubai-based Kashwani Law Firm, said: "The law mandates that rental agreements must be in writing, or in electronic format, using forms approved by the Executive Council. The regulations specify essential details to be included in these contracts and the procedure for execution. Leases must be attested by the municipality within 15 days, with penalties for non-compliance."

Reda Hegazy, partner at Al Suwaidi and Company Advocates and Legal Consultants, added that Article 4 of the law mandate that the landlords are required to pay the fees for certification of the contract, as well as details on a tenant's rights in case of non-compliance.

"If a landlord fails to certify the lease within this timeframe, the tenant may request a judge to compel certification. Additionally, an administrative fine will be imposed on the landlord, as determined by the executive regulations," he said.

2 No rent increase in first three years

The new law continues to put in place the stay on rent increase during the first three years of a lease, and subsequent increases are regulated by market rates as determined by the Executive Council.

"Landlords cannot increase rent within the first three years of the rental agreement unless mutually agreed upon. If a rent increase occurs before this period ends, further increases cannot happen for another two years. Any subsequent rent increase must reflect fair market value, with specific guidelines provided in the law's executive regulations," Hegazy said.



Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

■ The Buhairah Corniche in Sharjah. The new rental law offers greater protection to tenants and landlords, while provides details on the processes that need to be followed in case of disputes.

WHAT DOES THE NEW LAW COVER?

Hassan Kashwani, Managing Partner at Dubai-based Kashwani Law Firm, said: "Law No 5 of 2024 establishes a comprehensive framework for the leasing of real estate in Sharjah. The law applies to properties leased for residential, commercial, industrial, or professional purposes, with certain exclusions such as agricultural lands and government-provided housing unless owned by the tenant. The legislation also excludes properties in free zones with specialised judicial bodies and those identified by the Executive Council of Sharjah."

Reda Hegazy, partner at Al Suwaidi and Company Advocates and Legal Consultants, also spoke to *Gulf News* and said that the law came into effect from September 19, 2024, adding: "This new legislation aims to enhance clarity and security in rental agreements while protecting both tenants and landlords in Sharjah's real estate market."



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

15 days time a landlord has to get a lease attested by Sharjah Municipality

for early termination is set at a minimum of 30 per cent of the remaining rent unless otherwise agreed," he said.

"The law ensures the protection of tenant rights while balancing the legitimate interests of landlords, and it includes detailed provisions regarding penalties, execution, and enforcement. It serves to regulate the real estate market in Sharjah with clarity, aiming to prevent disputes and promote a stable leasing environment," Kashwani added.

4 Possible eviction for non-payment of rent

"Article 5 establishes that certified lease contracts are considered executory instruments, allowing landlords to demand eviction if tenants failed to pay rent after a 15-day notice period," Hegazy said.

5 Conditions for eviction of tenant outlined

The law also outlines other conditions in which a tenant can be asked to evict a premises.

"Eviction before the lease term ends can only occur for specific reasons, such as non-payment of rent, breach of contractual obligations, or if the property is needed for personal use by the landlord under strict conditions. Compensation is available for tenants if landlords misuse these provisions," Kashwani said.

Hegazy also clarified that if the ownership of a property changes, the rental relationship between the landlord and tenant would not change.

"According to Article 17 of the new rental law, the rental relationship does not terminate due to a change in ownership of the leased property. This applies regardless of how or why the ownership changes, whether through sale, transfer, or gift. The new landlord cannot request the eviction of the tenant or increase the rent except in accordance with the provisions of this law and its executive regulations," he added.

Your chance to name a baby white rhino, twin moon bear cubs

Dubai Safari Park invites visitors to do the honours when it reopens on October 1

DUBAI
 Gulf News Report

Dubai Safari Park has invited visitors to name three rare baby animals when it reopens on October 1.

The park yesterday revealed that it welcomed three newborns — a white rhino and twin moon bears — earlier this year as part of its endangered species breeding programme.

The twin moon bears, also known as Asiatic Black Bears, and male white rhino were born on January 23 and June 21 respectively. Moon bears are classified as vulnerable and white rhinos listed as near threatened in the IUCN Red List.

The white rhino was fathered by Niloy, the first white rhino calf born at Al Ain Zoo in 2012. The mother, Stompie, is a long-time resident of Dubai Safari Park.

Details soon

Ahmad Al Zarouni, Director of Public Parks and Recreational Facilities at Dubai Municipality, said: "The baby animals have intentionally remained nameless as we would like the general public to have a role in naming them when we open on October 1. Dubai Safari Park will reveal details about the naming soon."

Ahmad Eisa Al Harasi, Acting Director-General of Al Ain Zoo and Aquarium, said: "We were delighted to support Dubai Safari Park in biodiversity conservation by acquiring and exchanging several animals in 2022. Among them was the male white rhino, Niloy, who was from our white rhino species."



Courtesy: Dubai Safari Park

■ The twin moon bear cubs, also known as Asiatic Black Bears, were born on January 23.

1,214 animals from 87 species born at Dubai Safari Park in the past four years

Over the past four years alone, Dubai Safari Park has welcomed the birth of 1,214 animals from 87 species.

The white rhino and moon bear births, are particularly special as they are both species at risk of extinction.

Raising awareness about endangered species is an important part of Dubai Safari Park's premier edutainment experience.

Dubai Safari Park houses over 3,000 animals. For more information, including bookings, visiting hours, and tickets, visit the website.



Courtesy: Dubai Safari Park

■ The male white rhino was born on June 21. It was fathered by Niloy, who was the first calf born at Al Ain Zoo in 2012.

Cypriot and Saudi man win \$1m each in Dubai Duty Free draw

2 others to drive away luxury vehicles in the Finest Surprises draw

DUBAI
 Gulf News Report

ACypriot and a Saudi national became dollar millionaires in the Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire raffle yesterday.

Kyriacos Michaelides, a 43-year-old Cypriot based in Johannesburg, became a \$1 million winner, in Millennium Millionaire Series 474 with ticket number 2755, which he bought on September 5 on his way to Paris.

A regular participant in the promotion, Michaelides said: "After more than 10 years of religiously purchasing a ticket, I'm glad to have finally won! Thank you, Dubai Duty Free."

Michaelides is the second Cypriot to have won the promotion since 1999.

Abdullah Alsayed, a 65-year-old Saudi national based in Riyadh, was announced winner of \$1 million in Millennium Millionaire

Series 475 with ticket number 0300, which he bought online on September 13.

Buying tickets for more than 20 years

A regular participant in Dubai Duty Free's promotion for more than 20 years now, Alsayed, who purchased 20 tickets for Series 475, said: "I will invest the money in a business and keep some for my children's education."

Alsayed is the 14th Saudi Arabian national to have won this promotion since 1999.

The draw was conducted by Dubai Duty Free Managing Director Ramesh Cidambi and other officials.

In the Finest Surprise draw, American national Peter Svenning won a luxury car with ticket number 1251 in the Finest Surprise Series 1892, which he purchased online on September 1. Ebin Thankachan, an Indian based in the UK, won a heavy motorbike

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The Tender Documents are available online through DEWA website <http://www.dewa.gov.ae> in the Public Area Folder of corresponding Tender (RFX) in DEWA Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) through the link <https://srm.dewa.gov.ae/irj/portal/anonymous> or under the link <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/supplier/services/list-of-tender-documents>, payable by locally issued credit or debit cards and alternatively with online Bank Transfer from listed Banks or through other agencies like Etisalat, on payment of **Dhs. 630/- (UAE Dirhams Six Hundred Thirty including VAT)**, which is non-refundable in all cases.

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The Tenders must be valid for 120 calendar days following the last date fixed for receipt of Tender.

The closing date for receipt of completed Tender is 11.00 hrs of Tuesday 22nd October, 2024.

For any further queries, the office of the Vice President-Contracts may be contacted at contracts@dewa.gov.ae.

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

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Dubai entrepreneur couple donate \$1m to alma mater

THEY SAY BITS PILANI SHAPED THEIR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL JOURNEYS

DUBAI
BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

A Dubai-based Indian expat couple have donated \$1 million (Dh3,67 million) for the development of their alma mater – BITS Pilani – in a gesture of love and gratitude.

Speaking to *Gulf News*, the successful entrepreneurial couple, Ravinder Kumar Bhat and Sumita Desarkar, who also happened to meet each other on the BITS Pilani Rajasthan campus back in the 1980s, said they had a lot to be thankful for.

Hailing from Kashmir and West Bengal in India, Ravinder and Sumita moved to the UAE over two decades ago. Together, they run a diverse chain of businesses in the fields of construction, commodity trading, infrastructure, oil and gas equipment and event management.

“We can safely say the seeds of our entrepreneurship were sowed in BITS Pilani,” Ravinder said.

“And, of course, the UAE with its clear protocols and transparent regulatory environment enabled us to realise our dreams,” added Sumita.

The couple said their “humble contribution” to their alma mater was towards the BITS Pilani Endowment Fund, which has an ambitious goal of raising \$100 million to support infrastructure enhancements, research initiatives and innovation projects that will benefit students across the BITS Pilani network, including the Dubai campus.

Hope for deserving students

“There are many deserving students out there who cannot afford to study in a premier institution like this and, hopefully, the endowment fund will help reduce the fee structure, among other things,” said Ravinder.

Although Ravinder and Sumita did not want to go public with their pledge, they hoped it would inspire others to give back to their colleges and societies so more people could benefit from their development.

“We were inspired by other alumni, including a couple in the US, who made pledges of a similar amount,” said Sumita.

The couple are also in talks with the Dubai campus to introduce a new course in construction façade engineering.

“We have a big presence in this field [Inventory Group Holding] and are willing to foster professional development by



■ **Top:** Ravinder Kumar Bhat and Sumita Desarkar moved to the UAE over two decades ago and run a diverse chain of businesses. **Above:** Both hostelites, they first met each other at the BITS Pilani Rajasthan campus in the 1980s. Sumita is a chemical engineer, while Ravinder is a civil engineer.

offering job placement and internship opportunities for suitable candidates,” Sumita said.

Good old days

Recalling their good old college days, Sumita, a chemical engineer from the 1981 batch, said her husband was two years her senior and was from the civil engineering stream.

Hostelites both, the two first

met when the first-year girl students were having a meal in the boys’ hostel and were conspicuous by their presence. “The girl/boy ratio at the time was 1:20. The first meeting led to a lifetime partnership,” said Sumita.

Talking of the budding entrepreneur in him, Ravinder said: “At one point, there was a shortage of calculators on the campus. Seizing the opportunity, I tied up

There are many deserving students out there who cannot afford to study in a premier institution like this and, hopefully, the endowment fund will help reduce the fee structure, among other things.”

Ravinder Kumar Bhat

The UAE, with its clear protocols and transparent regulatory environment, enabled us to realise our dreams ... We are willing to offer job placement and internship opportunities for suitable candidates.”

Sumita Desarkar

‘DEEPLY GRATEFUL’

Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor of BITS Pilani, said, “We are deeply grateful for this support. This fund will greatly enhance our efforts toward academic and infrastructural development, pushing the institute toward new horizons.”

Prof. Arya Kumar, Dean of Alumni Relations, added, “This contribution is a testament to the enduring relationship between our alumni and the institute, and their love for the institution. The impact of Sumita and Ravinder’s generosity will resonate for years to come.”

with a retailer to sell calculators. My learning to take ‘calculated’ risks started at that point.”

The couple said BITS Pilani shaped their personal and professional journeys. “With a strong foundation in education, we also developed a good work ethic and risk appetite. We developed a great network which we maintain,” said Ravinder.

Sumita and Ravinder are proud parents to a son and daughter and were recently blessed with a granddaughter. Clearly, they are in a happy space, and are keen to spread the joy as well.

Beware of fake ads on trusted websites

Update your browser, clear cache memory regularly and avoid using public WiFi

ABU DHABI
BY ALI AL HAMMADI
Reporter

The UAE Cybersecurity Council has warned about the dangers of malicious ads infiltrating trusted websites, urging users to stay alert.

The Council explained that many websites rely on digital ad companies to display ads, which can sometimes expose users to risks such as malware, data theft, and fraud.

Protect your phones

In a related warning, the Council addressed mobile phone hacking and data theft, reminding users that “your phone is your personal vault – don’t leave it unprotected.” With phones holding digital identity data and financial records, users should stay vigilant while browsing the internet, the Council said.

It advised regularly updating browsers, using HTTPS protocols, avoiding unsecured public WiFi, and clearing cache memory. It also highlighted the risks of phishing and warned that hacking could expose sensitive data on devices.

The Council also cautioned against unsafe internet browsing, emphasising that a single wrong click could lead to severe consequences.

Recently, Google released emergency security updates for its Chrome browser to address security vulnerabilities.



WHY IT MATTERS

Malicious ads pose several threats, including malware infections that occur when pop-up windows install harmful software without users’ knowledge. This can also lead to data breaches, where security flaws allow the theft of personal information. Some pop-ups may even direct users to fraudulent schemes disguised as technical support services.

What you can do

It is critical to regularly update software to patch security vulnerabilities, use ad-blocking software, and conduct regular malware scans. Remember to:

- Enable pop-up blockers.
- Avoid suspicious ads.
- Never click on unfamiliar pop-ups.

The Cybersecurity Council recommended that users update their Chrome browser and share this information with partners and stakeholders.

The council said data breaches over the past decade affected more than 3 billion accounts.

Smart system to monitor traffic violations in Ajman

From October, using phones, not wearing seatbelt while driving will be detected

AJMAN
BY AGHADDIR ALI
Senior Reporter

Ajman Police yesterday announced that a smart traffic monitoring system will be activated on October 1 to detect violations such as use of phones and not wearing seatbelts while driving.

“For your safety, we ask everyone to adhere to traffic rules and regulations,”



■ Smart gates powered by AI have been installed in Ajman to help police monitor traffic violations.

the police posted on its social media channels.

Smart gates have been installed in Ajman to help police monitor traffic violations. The gates are powered by artificial intelligence to enhance police response to emergencies.

Sami Yusuf to headline Sharjah Tanweer Festival’s opening night

Three days of music, poetry and art in Maliha desert in November

SHARJAH
Gulf News Report

The inaugural three-day Tanweer Festival of music, art, and poetry will be held in Sharjah’s Maliha desert from November 22. The opening day programme is inspired by 13th century Persian poet Jalal Al Deen Al Rumi.

The evening will be headlined by internationally-acclaimed artist Sami Yusuf, known for his ability to blend traditional and contemporary sounds. Also performing will be Senegalese musician and songwriter Senny Camara, who combines the sounds of West African musical traditions with contemporary pop influences.

The first day will also feature Anas Alhalabi, a Syrian composer and the ‘first handpan player in the Middle East’. Anas will lead the



Anas Handpan Orchestra, showcasing his sound alongside instrumentalists.

There will also be performances by Ziyad Sahhab, a Lebanese oud player and composer, who will collaborate with French calligrapher Julien Breton for a live performance of light calligraphy that visually enhances Rumi’s verses.

The festival will feature an indigenous marketplace showcasing local artisans and their crafts, alongside an array of food and beverage offerings.

Art installations will provide a visual attraction as well. For those seeking adventure, there will be opportunities for horse riding, moon gazing, as well as guided tours of the Maliha archaeological site and the Valley of the Caves, allowing guests to explore the history and landscapes of the area.

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Tenders must be valid for acceptance for 90 days from the closing date of the Tender.

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

Tenderers shall arrange Tender Bond for **AED 57,950.00** in case the Tenderer quotes for the complete scope of the Tender or the aggregate of Tender Bond values specified by DEWA in the Tender document for each quoted items and/or Sections, in case the Tenderer quotes for particular item (s) and / or Sections only, strictly in the format specified in the Tender Document and submit the Bond by authenticated SWIFT message to **ENBD Bank, Main Branch, Post Box 2923, Dubai, UAE, not later than 3 (three) banking working days before the closing date for receipt of completed Tender**. A copy of the SWIFT message duly signed and stamped by the issuing Bank, must accompany the offer.

The Tender Bond shall be valid for 120 calendar days following the last date fixed for receipt of Tender.

Alternatively, the online Tender must be accompanied by the original cash receipt obtained from Etisalat Cash Deposit Machine (CDM) or EPPCO/ENOC cashier or cash deposit to DEWA account in ENBD Bank against the payment for an amount not less than a fixed amount **AED 57,950.00** if all items are quoted or total tender bond value applicable for the items quoted.

The closing date for receipt of completed Tender is 11.00 a.m. of Monday, the 21st October 2024.

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

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

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Courtesy: UAE Presidential Court

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed held separate meetings with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella (left) and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang (right) in Washington D.C. as part of his official visit to the US.

President: Knowledge is wealth of the future

MOHAMMAD BIN ZAYED MEETS STUDENTS, ASTRONAUTS

WASHINGTON
Gulf News Report

Those who possess technological expertise today, particularly in AI, hold both influence and wealth, as the wealth of the future lies in knowledge, President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan said at a reception for Emirati students and astronauts at the UAE Embassy in Washington D.C.

As part of his first visit to the US as UAE President, Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed met Emiratis studying at US universities, and astronauts Nora Al Matrooshi and Mohammad Al Mulla, who recently graduated from Nasa's astronaut training programme. Astronaut Hazza Al Mansoori was also present.

The UAE President urged the students to hold on to their identity and values while actively engaging in the pursuit of new skills and expertise.

He also encouraged them to learn about the culture, values and traditions of the society in which they are studying, so they can become a bridge between both cultures.

The UAE, he explained, is embarking on a new phase of development that will require the next generation to be well qualified and capable of assuming responsibility.

Space exploration

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed also noted that the UAE has significant ambitions in space exploration and is working towards building a strong base of experts in this field.

He said that the role of Emirati astronauts, such as Mohammad Al Mulla and Nora Al Matrooshi, as well as their predecessors Hazza Al Mansoori and Dr Sultan Al Neyadi, is crucial in building this foundation by passing on their knowledge and experience to their colleagues in the UAE space programme.



Courtesy: UAE Presidential Court

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed with astronaut Noura Al Matrooshi, who graduated from Nasa's programme, during a reception at the UAE Embassy in Washington D.C.



Courtesy: UAE Presidential Court

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed during a meeting with Senator Mark Warner, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, in Washington D.C.

Mohammad Al Mulla and Nora Al Matrooshi reaffirmed their determination to continue their work in space exploration as a way of showing their gratitude for the nation's support.

Meeting with US senators

In separate meetings in Washington D.C., Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed also met with a number of US senators,

including Mark Warner, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Markwayne Mullin; Joni Ernst; Tom Cotton and John Thune.

He pointed to the importance the UAE places on dialogue with the US regarding Middle Eastern issues. He reaffirmed the UAE's commitment to work with the US on countering extremism and terrorism.



WAM

■ Shaikh Humaid Bin Rashid and Shaikh Ammar Bin Humaid perform funeral prayers for two UAE Armed Forces martyrs at Shaikh Zayed Mosque in Al Jurf area of Ajman yesterday.

Ajman Ruler performs funeral prayers for martyred soldiers

Four servicemen lost lives in accident in line of duty, while 9 others were injured

AJMAN
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

His Highness Shaikh Humaid Bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman, and Shaikh Ammar Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman and Chairman of the Executive Council, yesterday performed funeral prayers for UAE Armed Forces martyrs, soldiers Nasser Mohammad Yousuf Al Balushi and Abdul Aziz Saeed Sabt Al Tunaiji.

The Ministry of Defence earlier announced that four members of the UAE Armed Forces were martyred and nine others injured in an accident that occurred on Tuesday evening, while they were carrying out their duty in the country.

The others two martyrs were Corporal Ahmad Mohammad Rashid Al Shehhi and soldier Nahyan Abdullah Ahmad Al Marzouqi.

Shaikh Humaid and Shaikh Ammar Bin Humaid performed the funeral prayers after the Maghrib prayers at Shaikh Zayed Mosque in Al Jurf area in Ajman. The bodies of the martyrs were buried in Al Jurf Cemetery.

The Ruler of Ajman and the Crown Prince expressed their sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the martyrs, praying to God Almighty to bless the martyrs of the homeland with His mercy and grant patience and solace to their families.

The funeral prayers were performed alongside Shaikh Abdul Aziz Bin Humaid Al

HAMDAN VISITS INJURED PERSONNEL



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, yesterday visited the Zayed Military Hospital in Abu Dhabi and met the nine UAE Armed Forces servicemen, who were injured in the line of duty following an accident in the country on Tuesday.

In a post on his X account, he said: "We offer our deepest condolences to the leadership and people of the UAE on the martyrdom of four brave UAE Armed Forces men who lost their lives in an accident in the country while in the line of duty. Today, I visited the injured men receiving treatment at Zayed Military Hospital. We truly wish them a swift recovery."

He met with doctors and was briefed on the nature of the injuries and the treatment plans. Shaikh Hamdan added: "The sacrifices of our Armed Forces heroes and martyrs will always remain in our hearts and minds. With their devotion to safeguard the UAE's progress and integrity, they continue to set an example for noble service to the nation."

— Gulf News Report

Nuaimi, Chairman of the Department of Tourism Development; Shaikh Rashid Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Municipality and Planning Department, and a number of shaikhs, senior officials, directors of local and federal departments, citizens, and members of the Arab-Islamic communities in the country.

Military funeral

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence held a military funeral at Zayed Military Hospital in

Abu Dhabi to honour the four martyrs. The ceremony was attended by senior commanders, officers from the Ministry of Defence, as well as the martyrs' families. The ministry offered heartfelt condolences to the families, praying for God's mercy on the martyrs and wishing a swift recovery to the injured.

The ministry confirmed that the injured are receiving the necessary medical care and expressed its hope for a speedy recovery for them.

Sultan of Space Al Neyadi conducts moonwalk simulation in US

Al Mansoori marks 5 years of UAE manned space mission

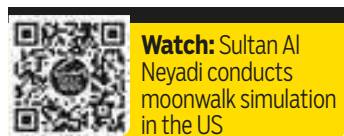
DUBAI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Chief Reporter

A year after conducting the longest Arab space mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS), UAE astronaut-turned-minister Dr Sultan Al Neyadi has embarked on a new training programme in the US in which he is simulating moonwalks to prepare for future Moon missions.

The 'Sultan of Space', who is also the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, shared details of the SEATEST training on

WHAT IS SEATEST?

An acronym for Space Environment Analog for Training, Engineering, Science, and Technology, SEATEST is an immersive mission-analogous operational atmosphere. In this underwater mission, buoyancy effects and supplemental weights can simulate partial gravity similar to what astronauts will experience on the moon.



Watch: Sultan Al Neyadi conducts moonwalk simulation in the US

di, who is also the first Arab to conduct a spacewalk outside the ISS, shared a video in which he displayed the special spacesuit used for the moonwalk simulation and spoke about the 30 feet-deep environment in which the simulation takes place.

Giving a glimpse into his moonwalk simulation training on Santa Catalina Island, Los Angeles, at the University of Southern California's Wrigley Institute, Dr Al Neyadi explained that astronauts use specialised equipment to simu-

late spacewalks designed for the lunar surface.

The new developments come as Hazza Al Mansoori, the first Emirati astronaut, marked five years of the country's manned space mission yesterday.

Al Mansoori made history as the first Emirati astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2019, where he spent eight days.

Sharing a video about his mission, Al Mansoori posted: "Five years ago, the Zayed Ambition mission launched, marking a significant milestone in a journey envisioned by Shaikh Zayed 50 years ago. We will continue in his footsteps, with generations of Emirati astronauts carrying this legacy forward for years to come."



■ Sultan Al Neyadi with astronauts from the US, Canada and Europe during the SEATEST training on moonwalk simulation.

moonwalk simulation along with astronauts from the US, Canada and Europe.

Apart from the photo with his SEATEST team, Dr Al Neyadi



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30% share of consumer electronics sales attributed to buy now pay later schemes

Dh20k maximum short-term credit that can be extended to a BNPL borrower — or three months of his net income, whichever is lower

Why wait? Shoppers ride 'pay later' wave

PAY FOR RENT, REMITTANCE, RENOVATION IN UAE IN TRANCHES

DUBAI
BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

More instalment-based payment options are emerging for cost-conscious UAE consumers, whether it's 12 month rentals or 'pay later' options for remittances. These are also coming to the UAE market at a time when consumer spending trends are showing signs of softening.

This week, property portal Keyper announced that it is tying up with a handful of estate agents to offer tenants the choice of paying their annual rents across 12 months, using credit or debit card option. This is currently available only in Dubai, but the company has plans to expand its scope to some of the other emirates too. The landlords are paid off in full by Keyper upfront.

"Tenants can search for pre-approved units listed by our partner agencies that are already priced for monthly rent," said Walid Shihabi, co-founder of Keyper. "We then support their journey end-to-end, from viewing the property all the way until contract signing."

Remit now, pay later

Recently, the Astra Tech owned multi-purpose app platform added the "send now pay later" feature for users when making remittances. "Users can pay later in manageable instalments, providing much-needed relief during financially demanding periods, such as month-end," said a statement.

In the first five months of 2023, Dh6.74 trillion was processed in remittances from the UAE, according to Astra Tech. For the company, it also provides another point of differentiation compared to the upfront fees charged by legacy currency exchange houses or banks.

"This service gives millions of users the flexibility to manage their financial obligations more effectively," said Abdallah Abu Shaikh, founder of Astra Tech and CEO of Botim.

Subdued spending?

Consumers seem to be exercising caution in their spending. Several retailers have noted subdued back-to-school spending patterns. "You had a situation where new residents in the country were spending on requirements for their children heading to school," said a retailer. "But of our regular shoppers, activity had in fact come down in recent months."



Tenants can search for pre-approved units listed by our partner agencies that are already priced for monthly rent."

Walid Shihabi | Keyper co-founder

[Pay later remittance] service gives millions the flexibility to manage their financial obligations more effectively."

Abdallah Abu Shaikh | Founder of Astra Tech and CEO of Botim



We're proud to be a renovation company that leverages smart tools and fintech to improve accessibility and project outcomes."

Marc Michel | Co-founder and CEO at Reno

Although interest rate cuts are providing some relief for consumers with credit card bills and loan payments, experts predict it will take time for overall spending in the UAE to recover.

Tech retailers are particularly anxious to see if demand for the new iPhone 16 extends beyond the initial rush of dedicated Apple fans. "The 'Apple iPhone' effect is usually a good proxy to judge consumer spending," said a tech consultant. "Last year's iPhone 15 sales took a longer time to pick up, and retailers here don't want that to happen on the 16."

The BNPL phenomenon

The rise of 'buy now, pay later' (BNPL) options has been beneficial for retailers, with zero-interest plans accounting for 20-30 per cent of consumer electronics sales, according to estimates.

This trend is expanding into other consumer sectors, including rents and remittances.

A new platform called Reno allows users to start renovation projects with the option to pay in instalments, promoting a "renovate now, pay later" financing model. "We're proud to be a renovation company that leverages smart tools and fintech to improve accessibility and project outcomes," said co-founder and CEO Marc Michel. "Because for us, technology does not replace the human touch — it elevates it."

The UAE Central Bank has implemented strict rules governing BNPL schemes.

These services can be offered only by agents of licensed banks or finance companies, said Arun Leslie, chief market analyst at Century Financial.

"The capital requirements has been well defined and a restricted licence finance company or a BNPL provider must hold and maintain the higher of aggregate capital funds of Dh20 million or 5 per cent of the outstanding lending volume.

Lending cap

Also, the maximum short-term credit that can be extended to a borrower by a licensed finance company or agent at any given time must not be over Dh20,000 — or the total of three months' verified net income of the borrower, whichever is lower.

"The repayment term of short-term credit offered must not exceed 12 months from the date of the original agreement to lend," said Leslie.

"Additionally, borrowers' assets, including movable and immovable property, must not be used by restricted licence finance companies or agents to secure any short-term credit extended to a borrower."

Clearly, adequate protection is already in place to ensure that pay later users/borrowers do not over extend themselves on their liabilities.

Abu Dhabi to get Microsoft's first engineering centre in GCC

New facility will work on AI, cloud and advanced cybersecurity tech

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

Microsoft Corp. is adding the UAE to its Global Engineering Development Centre network, which will also be the US tech giant's first engineering centre in the Arab world.

The new Microsoft facility will work on new AI innovations, cloud technologies and advanced cybersecurity solutions. This announcement is the latest by Microsoft that "further strengthens the UAE's position as a global hub of tech innovation and talent". The company had earlier struck a partnership with Abu Dhabi headquartered G42.

Major draw for tech talents

"Microsoft's strategic partnership with G42 has been instrumental in establishing a thriving local technological ecosystem, and the new Microsoft Engineering Development Centre will build on these efforts by not only creating cutting-edge technologies in the region but also attracting top tech talent from around the world to develop tailored solutions that tackle pressing challenges in critical industries globally," the company said in a statement.

"Abu Dhabi is well-positioned to lead global efforts in AI, championing transformative solutions that benefit both



Bloomberg

■ A Microsoft office in New York. The tech giant's engineering centre in Abu Dhabi will be a milestone for the region.

people and the planet," said Shaikh Khalid Bin Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council.

"Abu Dhabi's advanced digital and physical infrastructure, combined with the UAE's strategic location at the heart of the world, allows us to drive positive, far-reaching impacts across industries and societies alike."

Innovation-led growth

"Our Engineering Development Centre in Abu Dhabi will bring new talent to the region and help power innovation that will drive economic growth and job creation for both the UAE and the world," said Satya Nadella, chairman and CEO, Microsoft.

The Abu Dhabi based Engineering Development Centre will also play a role in Microsoft's efforts to "upskill the

regional workforce", by empowering those already in the workforce as well as new talent. It will be done through collaborations with local universities, training centres and government initiatives, particularly in cloud computing, AI and cybersecurity.

Robust digital future

Peng Xiao, Group CEO, G42, said, "The establishment of Microsoft's Engineering Development Centre in Abu Dhabi underscores the growing importance of the UAE as a hub for technological innovation. While G42 and Microsoft have worked together in the past to drive advancements in AI and cloud infrastructure, this new centre will complement our collective efforts in building a more robust digital future for the region and beyond." Microsoft creates platforms and tools powered by AI and targets making AI available broadly.

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MAGRABi strikes alliance with Rivoli

A major consolidation has happened in UAE and Gulf's eyewear retail sector with MAGRABi striking an alliance with Dubai headquartered Rivoli Group. It will see the former expand its store network to 290 by year-end, including 89 'Rivoli Vision' outlets in the UAE, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain. After the deal, Rivoli will 'remain an important minority shareholder' in MAGRABi Retail Group.

— Manoj Nair, Business Editor



Magrabi merges eyewear operations with Rivoli Vision

Dubai's Union Properties to launch 3 projects worth Dh6b

FIRST PROJECT, TAKAYA, IS A 3-TOWER COMPLEX OFFERING 744 RESIDENTIAL UNITS

DUBAI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

Dubai developer Union Properties announced yesterday that it plans to launch three new development projects with a total value of Dh6 billion. The first project, Takaya, will be announced in the coming weeks, while *Al Khaleej* has reported that the other two projects will be unveiled within the next 18 months.

Moreover, after strengthening its financial solvency and improving its asset management efficiency, the developer said it had reduced its debts by 50 per cent, from Dh1.5 billion to Dh750 million.

Amer Khansaheb, CEO and board member of Union Properties, said the company hopes to further reduce it to Dh400 million by the end of 2024, achieving a total reduction of 73.3 per cent.

New projects

The first project, Takaya, will consist of three towers of varying heights, adding 744 residential units of different sizes, 39 townhouses, five standalone villas, and 55,000 square feet of retail space. The project has a total area of 440,000 square feet and a construction area of 1.2 million square feet. Its estimated investment value is Dh2 billion.

The second project will fea-



The CEO of Union Properties believes that Dubai's real estate market will continue launching new development projects to meet the persistent demand for various products.

“We have witnessed a strong surge in demand for residential properties in Dubai.”

Amer Khansaheb
| CEO and board member of Union Properties

ture four towers connected by a podium, with about 3 per cent dedicated to retail space, at an investment cost of Dh2 billion.

The third project is still in the study and design phase. Its estimated investment value is also Dh2 billion.

Rapidly growing demand

Khansaheb said, “We have witnessed a strong surge in demand for residential properties in Dubai, which has positively impacted the upward trend in the price curve, both in the

ownership and rental markets. Sale prices per square foot have significantly jumped, surpassing the minimum threshold of Dh1,000, particularly in properties targeting the middle-income group. Rising construction costs, land prices, and inflation rates largely drive this increase.”

Over the past decade, the commercial office sector has been the least fortunate among various real estate products. However, it has also experienced a significant leap due to solid

demand. This demand comes from the establishment of new companies and the need for existing businesses to expand into larger spaces to accommodate their growth. This demand is driven by the strength of the national economy, which is expected to grow by 4-5 per cent by the end of 2024.

The CEO of Union Properties believes that Dubai's real estate market will continue launching new development projects to meet the persistent demand for various products.

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Aldar's investment aims to speed up Abu Dhabi's growth as a premier tourism and leisure destination by transforming hotels owned by the group into luxury resort-style properties.

Aldar to pump Dh1.5 billion to turn its hotels into resorts

Abu Dhabi's rising tourism stature paves way for the transition

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

Abu Dhabi's Aldar is investing Dh1.5 billion to upgrade its Abu Dhabi hospitality portfolio, including rebranding some of its signature assets. The investments will 'elevate' Aldar's hotels into "luxury resort-style properties".

This is what will happen to the Aldar hotel portfolio:

■ **The Eastern Mangroves** hotel will become a Waldorf Astoria luxury resort with a new retail mix and enhancements to the residences.

■ **The Yas Plaza Hotels** concept will be transitioned under the IHG brand, turning the six-hotel complex into the "largest" Vignette Collection resort in the world.

■ **Aldar's hotel in Al Dhafra** region, formerly 'Tilal Liwa', will transform into a luxury desert escape and will also become a Vignette Collection resort.

■ **At Nurai Island**, Aldar is undertaking a major refurbishment and expansion, reinforcing its status as Abu Dhabi's "ultra-luxury island destination".

■ **In Ras Al Khaimah**, the **Rixos Bab Al Bahr** and **DoubleTree by Hilton Resort & Spa Marjan Island** will also go through the transition programme.

"We see a tremendous opportunity to enhance and reposition our hotel portfolio to meet expected demand in the luxury segment, while maximising the revenue potential of each asset," said Talal Al Dhiyebi, Group CEO of Aldar.

It ties in with Abu Dhabi's elevated status in the tourism and MICE space.

e& clears hurdle in major EU telco deal

DUBAI
BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

UAE tech-telco group e& has cleared a major regulatory requirement for its stake purchase in European operator PPF Telecom.

The European Commission has given the green signal for e& to complete taking a controlling stake in PPF Telecom's assets in Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, and Slovakia.

The telco operators agreed little over a year ago that e& would pay €2.15 billion upfront at the closing for the acquisition of 50 per cent stake, besides one share in PPF Telecom.

Earn-out payments

The deal also involved an additional earn-out payments of up to €350 million within three years after the closing if PPF Telecom exceeds certain financial targets, while also subject to a claw back of up to €75 million if such financial targets are not achieved, it was revealed then.

The transaction partners also agreed then that current PPF Telecom's Chief Executive Officer, Balesh Sharma, would be retained, while also ensuring continuity of the operations and drawing on the broad expertise of PPF Telecom's teams in their markets.



Members of the IG Metall metalworkers union demonstrate yesterday in Hanover, northern Germany. AFP

VW starts talks with union amid feud over plant closure decisions

ROW IN GERMANY A TEST FOR CEO AFTER CLASHES FELLED MANY PREDECESSORS

WOLFSBURG

Volkswagen AG and unions start negotiations over wide-ranging cost cuts yesterday, with tensions between both sides higher than they have been in years. The talks centre on VW's plan to potentially shutter factories in Germany for the first time after scrapping decades-old job protections earlier this month. The IG Metall union has vowed to fight those plans, threatening strikes that could paralyse Europe's biggest carmaker for weeks.



There will be no talks about factory closures and mass layoffs with us. [If VW sticks to its cutback plans, then] tens of thousands of colleagues will force the company back on the right track."
— Thorsten Groeger | Union's lead negotiator

Sputtering transition to EV
"There will be no talks about factory closures and mass layoffs with us," said Thorsten Groeger, the union's lead negotiator. If VW sticks to its cutback plans, then "tens of thousands of colleagues will force the company back on the right track."

2-3 facilities Volkswagen plans to close in Germany

15,000 jobs to be cut if VW forces through its plant closure decisions

The dispute is a major test for Chief Executive Officer Oliver Blume after union clashes felled a number of his predecessors. The CEO has warned that costs in Germany are too high as sales wane and Chinese manufacturers push into Europe. VW has also lost momentum in the key Asian market, where

home-grown brands dominate on electric cars. Blume's main target is VW's underperforming namesake passenger car brand, whose profit margins are getting squeezed amid a sputtering transition to EVs and a consumer spending slowdown. VW could force through decisions on plant closures this

year, paving the way for more than 15,000 job cuts, analysts at Jefferies said earlier this month. The carmaker is eyeing closing two or three facilities, with as many as five German sites under consideration, the analysts said. Earlier this month, VW got a taste of the wrath triggered by its cutback plans, with thou-

sands of workers shouting down managers at the Wolfsburg factory, Europe's largest. Executives lamented flagging sales that have left it with about two plants too many.

Hard nut to crack
Job cuts at VW are harder to push through than elsewhere. Half the seats on its supervisory board are held by labour representatives, and the German state of Lower Saxony – which owns a 20 per cent stake – often sides with trade unions. The first round of talks will take place in Hanover, with union members expected to protest outside the venue. — Bloomberg

Starbucks CEO vows to bargain 'in good faith' with union

Workers' right to join a union is at the centre of the negotiations

SEATTLE

Starbucks Corp Chief Executive Officer Brian Niccol said he's committed to bargaining in "good faith" with the union representing workers at about 500 stores.

In a letter addressed to union leaders in response to workers' own missive, Niccol said he wants to ensure the two parties engage "constructively," even if he would prefer a "direct relationship" with employees. "I am pleased that we are making meaningful progress towards our shared goals," he said.

A bargaining delegation representing more than 10,500 workers had written to Niccol on Monday urging him to continue "the spirit of mutual respect" and saying the company should "do more to act boldly, be forward thinking, and be the best-in-class in setting standards" for employees.

Fair process

Earlier this year, Starbucks and its union started talks about how to achieve collective-bargaining agreements and provide a fair process for union organising, seeking to end an impasse. Niccol's appointment as Starbucks CEO had raised concern among some at Starbucks that progress would stall, given the response to unionisation at his prior employer, Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc.

In his letter, Niccol said he was committed to improving baristas' experience, and that he "deeply respected" work-



I am pleased that we are making meaningful progress towards our shared goals."

Brian Niccol | Starbucks Corp Chief Executive Officer

10,500 workers represented by the bargaining delegation

23% jump in Starbucks' shares since Niccol joined as the CEO

ers' right to join a union. Starbucks shares have advanced 23 per cent since Niccol was announced as the company's new CEO on August 13, more than three times the 7.3 per cent advance of the S&P 500 Index over the same period. — Bloomberg



An employee works at a Starbucks store in Mumbai. CEO Niccol has said he was for improving baristas' experience.

US sues Visa for monopoly on debit-card use after three-year probe

Visa's practices result in billions of dollars in additional fees for American consumers

WASHINGTON

The US Department of Justice filed an antitrust lawsuit against Visa on Tuesday, alleging the company illegally maintains a monopoly over the use of debit cards in the United States. According to the lawsuit, filed in a federal court in New York, Visa's practices have resulted in billions of dollars in additional fees for American consumers and businesses while slowing innovation in the debit payments ecosystem.

The lawsuit comes after a wide-ranging three-year probe by the US antitrust enforcers into Visa's business practices.

The case focuses on Visa's debit card business that allows users to only spend money from their checking account, unlike a credit card that enables purchases on borrowed funds that must be repaid later.

'Hidden toll'

"While Visa is the first name many debit card users see when they take out their card to make a purchase, they do not see the role that Visa plays behind the scenes," Attorney General Merrick Garland told reporters.

"There, it controls a complex network of merchants, financial institutions and con-



Justice Department officials, including Merrick Garland (centre), address a news conference in Washington on Tuesday.

sumers" and behaves as a "monopolist" that "is charging a hidden toll on trillions of transactions," he added. Visa, according to the law-

suit, charges roughly \$8 billion in network fees on US debit volume annually. Globally, Visa processes \$12.3 trillion in total payment volume.

The US government alleges that the debit card market involves younger and less affluent users, a key issue as November's presidential election approaches, with the high cost of living a major concern of voters.

Less well-off feel the pinch

"The burden of Visa's anti-competitive conduct falls disproportionately on Americans who are less well off and who feel the impact of high prices most painfully," said Benjamin C. Mizer, the principal deputy associate attorney general.

To maintain its dominance, the Justice Department claims Visa imposes exclusionary agreements on merchants and banks, penalising customers who route transactions

through different networks or alternative payment systems.

It also claims that Visa sought to neutralise potential threats from technology companies and fintech startups by entering into partnership agreements rather than allowing them to compete head-on.

The officials allege Visa also imposes transaction volume commitments that effectively restrict merchants and banks from using competitors, even when those competitors offer lower prices.

Through these tactics, Visa maintains an "enormous moat" around its business, helping it earn big profits. In a statement, Visa's General Counsel Julie Rottenberg called the legal action "meritless". She refuted the monopoly claims. — AFP



HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS MAKING US SICK

Efforts are needed to build climate-resilient health systems to prepare and recover fast



BY ABDULLAH BELHAIF AL NUAIMI
Special to Gulf News



global warming due to climate change will increase the mortality rate.

Climate variation has become one of the most challenging health crises populations face globally.

According to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, it affects human health with problems induced by notable extreme weather conditions such as the intensity and frequency of heatwaves, hurricanes, and landslides.

Warmer temperatures and shifting weather patterns can worsen air quality, causing respiratory infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumothorax, allergies, asthma attacks, hyperthermia, and cardiovascular health effects.

Wildfires and coastal impacts

As the climate changes, wildfires are expected to increase in number and severity, creating smoke and unhealthy air pollutants. The threat of a changing climate can also be demonstrated in the rising sea surface temperatures and runoff effect on coastal water quality and salinity, humidity, and exposure to Lyme disease-causing bacteria.

The multifaceted impacts of climate change on human health are undeniable and present a formidable challenge.

The intricate interplay between environmental changes and public health demands a proactive and multifarious approach to mitigation and adaptation strategies.

It's time to harness scientific insights and comprehensive models to devise robust solutions that safeguard human health and ensure the resilience of communities against the inevitable vicissitudes of the changing climate.

Environmental conservation and sustainability must be at the heart of the world's political agenda. The States must ensure a percentage of the total land coverage is under green cover to set examples of carbon-neutral countries – the results of which will go a long way.

It's not just a responsibility but a moral imperative to act with urgency and collective resolve to protect the sanctity of life and the Earth's environmental integrity.

The choices we make today will determine the well-being of generations to come. As it is said, "Life can only be understood backwards, but it has to be lived forward".

(Next week the author will discuss 'Nitrous Oxide – the laughing gas')

■ Dr Abdullah Belhaif Al Nuaimi is Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Emirate of Sharjah.

RAHUL GANDHI MUST FIGHT THE MODI WITHIN

Examining the leadership overlaps between India's prime minister and his chief opponent

BY SWATI CHATURVEDI | Special to Gulf News

Rahul Gandhi, former Congress president and currently the leader of the opposition in the Indian Parliament, doesn't tire of detailing the leadership deficit of Narendra Modi, India's third-term prime minister. Gandhi has positioned his brand as the antithesis to Modi – the anti-Modi, the very opposite of one of the most charismatic Indian politicians of the past several decades.

But, public posturing aside, Gandhi shares astounding similarities with Modi, and if he truly believes that India has to break with Modi-style leadership to progress, develop, and deepen its democracy, he should guard against the 'Modi within'.

Both Gandhi and Modi share a love for total authority over their colleagues and parties. Gandhi may have finally stepped aside as Congress president after losing two general elections on the trot, but did not remotely cede effective control over India's oldest political party. Rather, he remained as the total power behind the throne while his mother, Sonia Gandhi, the longest-serving Congress president, reigned, and he ruled without being accountable for his actions. Those who did not agree with his vision for the Congress, or balked at the lacklustre leadership he had provided, were effectively shown the exit door.

The roll call of second-generation heirloom politicians who fell out with erstwhile mentor Gandhi is long. From Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasada, R.P.N. Singh, Himanta Biswa Sarma, the list is long, as the BJP has benefited from the talent bleed of young leaders. Only Sachin Pilot is left from the original "RG's guys" in the Congress.

The BJP has gone from being a cadre-based, fiercely democratic party to a party run according to the wishes of Modi, and to some degree Amit Shah, union home minister, with J.P. Nadda, the nominal President, carrying out Modi's wishes, whether it's changing chief ministers in BJP-ruled states or appointing office bearers.

But, it is exactly the same democratic deficit in the Congress party which is repeatedly glossed over.

Gandhi has been prescient on the impact of issues like the Covid pandemic, where he kept issuing public warnings, but like Modi, he has a tendency to believe that his policy prescriptions are completely correct and doesn't like to hear another point of view. Demonetisation was a terrible policy disaster which tanked the economy, but India needs to guard against leaders who don't believe in building consensus.

Gandhi must guard against his unilateral beliefs, whether it is leftist prescriptions attacking business or even the overwhelming current obsession with the caste census. Cronyism is terrible for the country, but in his zeal to attack two Modi billionaire cronies, Gandhi sometimes gets carried away labelling all entrepreneurs.

All leaders learn and grow. Gandhi needs to stop listening to his courtiers and focus on leaders through the ages who have put democracy front and centre and served it. India desperately needs its democracy to deepen.

■ Swati Chaturvedi is an award-winning journalist and author of 'I Am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the BJP's Digital Army'.

Sliding farther and faster

Though the early warning systems and disaster management efforts have decreased deaths due to climate-related calamities, more needs to be done on this front.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) data on climate change exhibits that the number of deaths due to climate-related disasters decreased significantly from 50,000 during the 1970s to 20,000 in the 2010s and the death toll dropped in subsequent years.

Reports indicated that between 2000 and 2019, when the global temperature rose by 0.26°C per decade, the estimated deaths due to heat were approximately 489,000 per year, with a particularly high burden in Asia (45 per cent) and Europe (36 per cent).

The extreme heat during the summer of 2022, had claimed over 60,000 excess deaths in 35 European countries.

The comprehensive study indicates that

Letters to the Editor

Embracing the winter

I'm really looking forward to the upcoming winter season ("Last month of summer in UAE, temperatures to go down starting September 23", *Gulf News*, September 2). I can't wait to enjoy the cooler temperatures, outdoor activities, and the festive atmosphere of this time of the year.

It's a great time to go for long walks, and enjoy the beautiful natural landscapes. Numerous events take place during this time, offering a wonderful opportunity to experience the local culture and traditions. From traditional markets and food festivals to music and dance performances, something exciting always happens during the winter months.

■ FROM DHANEESH S.
UAE

started to play mind games before the Border-Gavaskar Trophy matches in November 2024. Just a couple of days ago, their ace spinner Nathan Lyon also stated that he is wary of bowling to Pant.

No doubt, Pant is the X-factor, but that works only 15 to 20 per cent of the game. At the same time, Australian players could be happy that Pant could give his team a tough time with his keeping, which could negate his heroics with the bat, which usually comes when our team is in a strong position.

Regardless of the taunts and sledging by the Aussies, Indian players should remain as cool as a cucumber and try to make it a hat trick of series victories in Australia. I wish our team the best during their tour Down Under.

■ FROM N. MAHADEVAN
India

Wants vs needs

Being mindful when using credit cards is crucial for maintaining good financial health ("Are you overly reliant on credit cards? Avoid these mistakes when on a tight budget", *Gulf News*, September 24). It's easy to fall into the trap of overspending when using credit cards.

It's crucial to keep track of your spending. Setting a budget for your credit card expenses can also help you stay on track and avoid overspending.

Another important aspect of being mindful with credit cards is to pay your balance in full and on time every month. This not only helps you avoid costly interest charges but also contributes to building a positive credit history. If you're unable to pay the full balance, strive to at least make more than the minimum

payment to reduce the overall interest and pay off the debt sooner. Additionally, it's wise to be selective about your purchases with your credit card.

While using a credit card for everyday expenses is convenient, it's important to distinguish between wants and needs and avoid unnecessary impulse purchases. It's important only to use your credit card on secure and reputable websites and to safeguard your card details to prevent fraud and identity theft.

■ FROM NITHIN SHANKAR
UAE

■ Editor's note: Is there a news report that you feel strongly about? Something that has to be addressed in the community and requires resolution? Email us on readers@gulfnews.com. You can also post a comment on our Facebook page or tweet to us @GNReaders.

Mind games in cricket

Australian cricket captain Pat Cummins recently commented that they are wary of

India's star cricketer Rishabh Pant's ability to take the game on and that they have to keep Pant quiet. It seems the Australian cricketers have already

ON GULFNEWS.COM

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Views online



How Gaza's kids face life without education or safety



Is Kejriwal's resignation a calculated gamble or desperate move?



Smoke billows from the site of an Israeli air strike on the area of Burj Al Shamali in southern Lebanon yesterday. AFP

Israel's army chief hints at ground offensive in Lebanon

HALEVI: ISRAEL STRIKING 'ALL DAY' TO PREPARE GROUND FOR POSSIBLE TROOP ENTRY

BEIRUT

Israel's army chief told soldiers yesterday to prepare for a possible ground offensive to fight Hezbollah in Lebanon as the air force conducted hundreds of deadly strikes around the country.

"We are attacking all day, both to prepare the ground for the possibility of your entry, but also to continue striking Hezbollah," Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi told a tank brigade, according to a statement from the military.

Hezbollah targets Tel Aviv

Lebanon's health minister said yesterday's strikes killed 51 people and injured 223, including in mountainous areas outside Hezbollah's traditional strongholds.

Hezbollah said it had targeted Israel's Mossad spy agency on Tel Aviv's outskirts in the morning — the first time it has fired a ballistic missile in almost a year of cross-border clashes sparked by the Gaza war.

In response, Israel said it hit 60 Hezbollah intelligence sites, among hundreds of the group's targets struck across Lebanon.

It came amid escalating cross-border clashes, after Israeli raids on Monday killed at least 558 people in the deadliest day of violence since Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

'The situation is difficult'

Nour Hamad, a 22-year-old student in the eastern Lebanese city of Baalbek, described living "in a state of terror" all week.

"We spent four or five days without sleep, not knowing if we will wake up in the morning," she said.



Israeli personnel remove remnants of a rocket fired from Lebanon, in the northern Israeli city of Safed, yesterday. AFP

HEZBOLLAH WEAPON

FADI ROCKETS: MORE POWER, LITTLE PRECISION

Fadi, a type of rocket used for the first time by Hezbollah against Israel, has more explosive power and range than rockets deployed previously, but lacks precision, experts say.

"In an initial response" to the explosions of pagers and two-way radios, Hezbollah on Sunday said it had "bombed the Rafail military industry complexes" in northern Israel with "dozens" of Katyusha, Fadi-1 and Fadi-2 rockets.

The Iran-backed group also said it had targeted the "Ramat David base and airport", around 45 kilometres from the border, twice overnight. It said it had used "dozens" of Fadi-1 and Fadi-2 rockets "in response to the repeated Israeli attacks that targeted different Lebanese regions and killed many civilians".

This was the first time Hezbollah had used Fadi rockets since Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel on October 7 last year. The rockets' precision however, is not high, judging from the discrepancy between announced targets and actual impact locations.

Hezbollah has been careful to avoid a full-on war with Israel. Western governments now fear that this could change after last week's Israeli operations in southern Lebanon. — AFP

In Tel Aviv, sirens sounded following Hezbollah's unprecedented missile launch.

Tel Aviv resident Hedva Fadlon, 61, told AFP: "The situation is difficult. We feel the pressure and the tension... I don't think

anyone in the world would like to live like this."

Israel calls reservists

US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Hezbollah's attack on Tel Aviv

was "deeply concerning" but added there was "still time and space for a diplomatic solution here to de-escalate the tensions and to prevent an all-out war".

The Israeli military said "over 280 Hezbollah" targets had been struck across Lebanon yesterday, adding the strikes were ongoing.

"Fighter jets struck 60 terrorist targets belonging to Hezbollah's intelligence directorate," the army said.

It also said two reserve brigades were being called up "for operational missions in the northern arena", adding this would "enable the continuation of combat against the Hezbollah terrorist organisation".

The United Nations Security Council said it was going to hold an emergency meeting on the crisis in New York later yesterday, while UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned the situation was critical.

Rocket commander killed

The UN's International Organisation for Migration yesterday said 90,000 people had been displaced in Lebanon since Monday.

Among them, "many of the more than 111,000 people displaced since October... are likely to have been secondarily displaced", a statement from the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs added.

It came after two days of what the Israeli military called "extensive" strikes on Hezbollah positions in Lebanon.

The Lebanese group on Tuesday confirmed an Israeli claim that it had killed their rocket forces commander Ibrahim Kobeissi in a strike on the Lebanese capital. — AFP

EMPATHY AND FEAR

We feel their pain: Gazans on Israel's Lebanon strikes

GAZA STRIP

As Israeli bombs flattened buildings and sent smoke billowing skywards over Lebanon this week, Gazans looked on with both empathy and fear over how the widening war might affect them.

Chadi Nawfal, a 24-year-old resident of Gaza City who said he lost his home in an Israeli strike, told AFP yesterday that footage from Lebanon was hard to watch.

"The bloody scenes from Lebanon that we see on our television screens are very harsh images," he said.

"We people in the Gaza Strip are the only ones who can currently feel the pain that the Lebanese people are experiencing."

The sustained Israeli aerial assault on Lebanon is the latest in a series of attacks that began last week with coordinated blasts of Hezbollah pagers and walkie-talkies.

The explosions killed 39 people and wounded almost 3,000, and were followed by a strike on Friday on south Beirut, with leading Hezbollah commander Ibrahim Aqil among the dead.

Another strike on the Lebanese capital on Tuesday killed Hezbollah rocket forces commander Ibrahim Kobeissi.

Israeli focus moves north

Taken together, Israel's onslaught confirmed its Defence Minister Yoav Gallant's claim a week ago that the war's "centre of gravity" was moving northward.

Hezbollah fire has displaced tens of thousands of Israelis, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has said it is determined to return them to their homes along the border with Lebanon.

Ayman Al Amreiti, another displaced resident of Gaza City, said he was worried the fighting in Lebanon would mean the ongoing war in Gaza gets less global attention.

"The military weight is now shifting to Lebanon, so even the media attention on the Gaza Strip has become secondary," the 42-year-old said. "This encourages the appetite of the occupation (Israel) to commit more crimes."

Hamas's attack on Israel nearly a year ago resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 41,495 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to figures provided by the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

The United Nations has described the figures as reliable.

'The victims are the people'

There are obvious differences in time frame and scale, but Umm Munzir Naim, 52, told AFP she could not help but see similarities between the fighting in Lebanon and in Gaza.

"The war against Lebanon and Hezbollah is a war like in Gaza. The victims are the people," she said. "The small, the big, the properties, everything is targeted — humans, trees ..."

"They say it's against Hamas and Hezbollah, but on the ground it's people who die."

Amreiti said he hoped the fighting would end in both places, and that their fates could even be linked, given Hezbollah's past pledges to stop fighting once a Gaza ceasefire comes about.

"The outcome, the hope is that any settlement with Hezbollah will also involve Gaza," he said.

"Right now, that is the hope that the children of the Palestinian people are turning to." — AFP



Palestinians inspect the damage at the Al Maghazi refugee camp after an Israeli strike on December 25 last year. AFP

Nearly a year on, the fate of 64 hostages in Gaza remains unknown



Relatives and supporters of Israelis, held hostage by Hamas in Gaza, call for their release in Haifa recently. AFP

For Hamas, hostages are bargaining chips to negotiate a truce

PARIS

When Hamas staged the worst-ever attack on Israel, they took back into the Gaza Strip 251 hostages, some of them already dead.

A year later, 64 people, including two children, are still in captivity and Israel believes they are alive.

For the Palestinian group that rules the Gaza Strip, the hostages are key bargaining chips to negotiate a truce with

Israel and seek the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Here is what we know about the hostages held in Gaza.

52 men, 10 women, 2 kids

Of the 251 hostages, 117 have been freed, most of them women, children and foreign workers. Most were released during a weeklong truce in late November in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Nearly a year later, Israel believes 64 hostages still held in Gaza are alive. The army has confirmed 70 others are dead, 33 of whose bodies are still in Gaza.

The military has repatriated

the bodies of 37 hostages who either died in Gaza or were killed on October 7.

Of the 64 thought to be alive, 57 are Israelis, though some of them have more than one nationality. Another six are Thai nationals and one is Nepalese.

Fifty-two are men and 10 are women. There are two children and 11 military personnel.

Youngest hostages

The youngest hostage, Kfir, was just eight-and-a-half months old when he was kidnapped. The other is his brother Ariel, who was only four years old when he was taken to Gaza. Hamas has said the two chil-

dren are dead, but Israel has not confirmed this.

No proof of life

Since the truce ended on December 1, only seven other hostages have been freed alive, during Israeli military operations. With no proof of life, uncertainty remains over whether the 64 are still alive.

The armed wing of Hamas said on August 12 that its fighters had killed an Israeli hostage and injured two others.

Hamas has announced on several occasions deaths of hostages that have not been confirmed by Israel, leaving families in limbo. — AFP

China fires ballistic missile in rare trial

BEIJING

China said it test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile yesterday, firing it into the Pacific Ocean in a rare trial run.

Beijing has stepped up its nuclear development, with the Pentagon warning last October that China was developing its arsenal more quickly than the United States had anticipated.

China held more than 500 operational nuclear warheads as of May 2023 and is likely to have more than 1,000 by 2030, it said.

Yesterday, the Chinese military's "Rocket Force launched an ICBM ... carrying a dummy warhead to the high seas in the Pacific Ocean at 08:44 on September 25, and the missile fell into expected sea areas", the defence ministry said.

Extremely unusual

"This is extremely unusual and likely the first time in decades that we've seen a test like this," said Ankit Panda, Stanton Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"(The test) likely speaks to China's nuclear modernisation manifesting in new requirements," he added.

China's defence ministry, however, called the firing a "routine arrangement in our annual training plan".

"It is in line with international law and is not directed against any country," it said.

The US and China in November held rare talks on nuclear arms control, to ease mistrust ahead of a summit between leaders Joe Biden and Xi Jinping. But Beijing suspended talks with the US in response to Washington's weapons sales to Taiwan.

In an annual report, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute listed China as having the world's third-largest stockpile of nuclear warheads, after Russia and the US. — AFP

In an annual report, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute listed China as having the world's third-largest stockpile of nuclear warheads, after Russia and the United States.

Moves were already made by Iran that didn't work out, but they will try again. ... I am surrounded by more men, guns, and weapons than I have ever seen before."

Donald Trump | Republican candidate



Big threats on my life by Iran, says Trump

IRAN REJECTS THE ACCUSATIONS, CALLING IT 'MALICIOUS'

WASHINGTON

Donald Trump said yesterday there were "big threats" on his life posed by Iran after the Republican presidential candidate's campaign team said US intelligence warned him of "real and specific" threats from Tehran.

"Big threats on my life by Iran. The entire US Military is watching and waiting," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"Moves were already made by Iran that didn't work out, but they will try again ... I am surrounded by more men, guns, and weapons than I have ever seen before," he said, following increased scrutiny of the US Secret Service since two attempts on Trump's life this year.

New or old threats?

Trump's campaign team said in a statement Tuesday that US intelligence had warned the former president of "real and specific" threats from Iran to assassinate him.

It was not immediately clear if the threats referred to by the campaign and Trump himself were new or threats that have previously been reported.

"President Trump was briefed earlier today by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence regarding real and specific threats from Iran to assassinate him to destabilise and sow chaos in the United States," campaign communications director Steven Cheung said.

"Intelligence officials have identified that these continued and coordinated attacks have heightened in the past few months, and law enforcement officials across all agencies are

HARRIS TOPS TRUMP 64%-32% AMONG YOUTH

Kamala Harris has widened Democrats' advantage with younger voters, topping Donald Trump by 32 percentage points among likely voters between 18 and 29 years old, according to a poll by the Institute of Politics at the Harvard Kennedy School.

The poll showed Harris leading Trump 64 per cent to 32 per cent among young likely voters in a two-way hypothetical match up.

"This poll reveals a significant shift in the overall vibe and preferences of young Americans as the campaign heads into the final stretch," said John Della Volpe, the Institute of Politics polling director.

A Harvard Youth Poll earlier this year showed President Joe Biden topping Trump by just 13 points among likely young voters in a multi-candidate field. By comparison, Harris leads Trump by 32 points in a multi-candidate field in the latest poll.

The Harvard Youth Poll surveyed 2,002 young people aged 18-to-29 from September 4 to 16. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 2.65 pts.

— Bloomberg

working to ensure President Trump is protected and the election is free from interference," he added.

The campaign did not elaborate on the claims, which come as world leaders scramble to avert hostilities between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel.

Iranian plot

Iran has rejected accusations that it is trying to kill Trump, shortly after a gunman opened fire at a rally in Pennsylvania, killing one person and wounding the presidential candidate.

Days after the July 13 assassination attempt, US media reported that authorities had received intelligence on an alleged Iranian plot against the Republican, prompting his protection to be boosted. Iran rejected the "malicious" accusations.

"If they do 'assassinate President Trump,' which is always a possibility, I hope that America obliterates Iran, wipes it off the face of the Earth — If that does

not happen, American Leaders will be considered 'gutless cowards!'" Trump wrote on Truth Social, at the time.

Cyber attacks

US intelligence agencies have also accused Iran of a hack targeting Trump's campaign, alleging Tehran is seeking to influence the 2024 election.

A joint statement from the US Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency this month said Iranian cyberattackers had offered "stolen, non-public" material from Trump's campaign to staff for his then-White House rival, President Joe Biden.

"Foreign actors are increasing their election influence activities" as Election Day in November approaches, the statement said, singling out Russia, Iran and China as "trying by some measure to exacerbate divisions in US society". — AFP

Starmer eyes budget welfare squeeze to tackle 'worklessness'

Measures will include proposals to recover money lost to false claims

LONDON

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer indicated there would be measures to push Britain's long-term sick back into work at the coming budget, raising the prospect of a tighter welfare regime, combined with increased support from business and the National Health Service to support people back into jobs.

"The basic proposition that you should look for work is right. People need to look for work, but they also need support," Starmer said in an interview with the BBC after his speech at the Labour Party's annual conference in Liverpool, which the broadcaster aired early yesterday.

Support from business

Tackling "worklessness" to boost productivity would be a priority for his administration, he said, confirming he was looking at measures "where businesses are supporting people back into work from long-term sickness."

Those measures will include a crackdown on welfare fraud, including new proposals for the department for work and pensions to recover money lost to people falsely claiming benefits, the party said.

Bloomberg previously reported that Labour lawmakers expect welfare cuts in the budget to be delivered by Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves on October 30.

Some 2.8 million people are out of work because of sickness, around half a million more than in 2019, according to the Office for Budget Re-

The basic proposition that you should look for work is right. People need to look for work, but they also need support."

Keir Starmer | British Prime Minister

2.8m

people are out of work due to sickness, some 0.5m more than in 2019

sponsibility (OBR). Reducing those numbers is necessary if the government wants to prevent a soaring benefits bill. The OBR says sickness and disability payments will rise by £30 billion in the next five years on current forecasts.

In a speech at the party convention yesterday, Health Secretary Wes Streeting was to announce how the NHS will be part of the government's mission on boosting economic growth. Special health care teams will be sent into areas with the highest levels of economic inactivity, to introduce ways of treating people who are out of work due to ill health much faster.

Focus on growth

"We will take the best of the NHS to the rest of the NHS, get sick Brits back to health and back to work," Streeting said, according to a statement released by his office. "Our reforms are focused not only on delivering our health mission, but also moving the dial on our growth mission." — Bloomberg



UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer gives an interview on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York yesterday.

Sri Lankan president dissolves parliament

Elections to be held on Nov 14, legislature meet on Nov 21

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's new president Anura Kumara Disanayake dissolved the nation's parliament with effect midnight Tuesday and called for early elections, framing his decision as steps toward combatting corruption and renegotiating a \$3 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

In a special gazette, the president ordered the parliamentary election to be held on November 14 and for the new



Anura Kumara Disanayake

legislature to meet on November 21. Sri Lanka was due to hold the elections by the middle of 2025. The nation's executive system gives the president

power to dissolve parliament and call snap polls, and to hold multiple cabinet portfolios.

Disanayake, 55, a leftist political outsider, won the presidential race on September 21. His victory was a rebuke of Sri Lanka's political elite, which voters blamed for leading the nation into an economic crisis.

Disanayake, popularly known as AKD, won 5.74 million votes across two rounds of counting in the country's first-ever runoff, defeating opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, who came in second, and incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who helped broker the IMF loan programme.

Disanayake leads the Na-

tional People's Power, a coalition of leftist parties and groups backed by protesters who ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2022. NPP had three parliamentarians in the now-dissolved 225-seat legislature.

Bid to bolster numbers

The calling of parliamentary elections is seen as a bid to bolster Disanayake's numbers in the legislature and push through policies.

"They need to have a solid plan to secure a parliamentary majority, to do anything. If not, they will have a problem," said Suhini Fernando, CEO of Reliance Capital (Pvt) Ltd, a capital market advisory. — Bloomberg

ON GULFNEWS.COM

Problematic social media use among teens soars: WHO

The World Health Organisation warned yesterday of a "sharp rise in problematic social media use" among Europe's teens that it said is harming their mental health.



WHO sees rise in 'problematic' social media use among Europe's teens

— AFP



STARS WHO COULD MISS OUT ON DPWTC

Only top 50 players on the Race to Dubai will secure their place in the season finale

DUBAI
BY THOMAS WRAGG
Associate Editor

With under 50 days to go until the season-ending DP World Tour Championship, the race is on for players to secure their spot in the final Rolex Series event of the season at Jumeirah Golf Estates.

The season-ending event on golf's global circuit has a reputation for delivering dramatic finales and providing a stage for the biggest stars to shine with the likes of Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm, Lee Westwood and Collin Morikawa all tasting victory in front of tens of thousands of fans at one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world of golf.

The tournament is also highly exclusive, with only the leading 50 players available on the Race to Dubai Rankings invited to compete at the Greg Norman-designed Earth course for one last shot at glory at winning both the tournament and the Harry Vardon Trophy, which is awarded to highest ranked player on the season-long standings.

With just six events to go before the DP World Tour Championship, a number of star names are in danger of missing out on the DP World Tour's season finale.

Nicolai Højgaard

Last year's champion, Nicolai Højgaard, needs to pick up the pace if he hopes to defend his title next month. The Dane has spent much of this season on the PGA Tour, having earned his card through last year's Race to Dubai Rankings, but he has still managed to squeeze in 11 DP World Tour events.

His best result of the season came courtesy of a seventh-place finish at the Dubai Desert Classic, where he earned 194.60 of his current 567.06 Race to Dubai points, placing him 74th in the standings. If he remains there, he'll also miss out on the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, which is open to the top 70 players. However, Højgaard still has a chance to climb the rankings with strong performances at the upcoming Dunhill Links Championship and French Open.

Viktor Hovland

Norwegian star Viktor Hovland has only made two regular DP World Tour appearances this season, yet he's on the verge of breaking into the top 50, thanks to a strong performance at the US PGA Championship.

The 2022 Dubai Desert Classic champion finished third at Valhalla Golf Club, earning 627 of his 663.80 season points. This leaves the Scandinavian talent in 62nd on the Race to Dubai, but he currently has no events on his schedule before the DP World Tour Championship.

Entry lists remain open for the French Open, Andalusia Masters,



Last year's champion, Nicolai Højgaard, needs to pick up the pace if he hopes to defend his title next month. AFP



Viktor Hovland



Jon Rahm



Matt Fitzpatrick

ON GULFNEWS.COM



Rahm poised for DPWT comeback

The Open de España yesterday morning got a significant lift when Jon Rahm, confirmed his participation in the tournament following reports that his wife, Kelley, had given birth to their third child. — T.W.



The Spaniard is returning to play after the birth of his third child

74

is the current position of Højgaard in the Race to Dubai rankings

and Genesis Championship, giving the 27-year-old a chance to secure his spot in the season finale — if he acts quickly.

Jon Rahm

Three-time DP World Tour Championship winner Jon Rahm currently sits 125th in the Race to Dubai standings and will need to be at his best in the com-

ing weeks to keep his hopes of a fourth title alive.

Aside from the Olympics and Major Championships, Rahm, who has played the majority of his season on the LIV Golf League, is making his first DP World Tour appearance of the year at this week's Spanish Open, where he aims to become the first four-time winner in the event's 52-year history. A victory would earn him 835 points, easily securing his spot in the DP World Tour Championship. If not, Rahm will still have chances to climb the standings at upcoming tournaments in Scotland and Spain.

Matt Fitzpatrick

The Earth course has been a happy hunting ground for Matt Fitzpatrick over the years, with

the Englishman claiming two of his nine DP World Tour titles on the track. But with a current ranking of 119th on the Race to Dubai, he is in danger of ending his nine-year streak of qualifying for the event.

The 30-year-old has struggled this season, failing to crack the top 20 in any of his seven DP World Tour appearances. Having said that, he will have a chance to turn things around next week at the Dunhill Links Championship, where he won superbly last year.

Without a strong result in Scotland, Fitzpatrick could miss his chance to qualify for the DP World Tour Championship with attention shifting to his upcoming wedding to Katherine Gaal next month.

Injured Mbappe out of action for 3 weeks

Real Madrid star was taken off during the win over Alaves due to some discomfort



Kylian Mbappe

MADRID

Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe is set to miss three weeks due to a thigh injury, ruling him out of this weekend's La Liga derby with Atletico.

The French superstar was taken off during the 3-2 win over Alaves on Tuesday and appeared to be suffering some discomfort.

"Following tests carried out today by Real Madrid's medical services on our player Kylian Mbappe, he has been diagnosed with an injury to the biceps femoris in his left leg," said the Spanish champions in a statement. Mbappe scored a superb goal in the thriller at the Santiago Bernabeu with Alaves and has netted five times this season in seven league appearances.

Asked about Mbappe's condition after the game, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said: "He's fine, he's fine, a little overloaded, he asked me for the change to avoid problems."

Madrid, a point behind leaders Barcelona ahead of the Catalans' match yesterday against Getafe, visit the Metropolitano

stadium on Sunday to face rivals Atletico.

Los Blancos have not been beaten in La Liga for 39 games, since a defeat at Atletico a year ago.

The striker is also set to miss the visit to Lille in the Champions League next week and potentially October's Nations League matches against Israel and Belgium with France.

Mbappe joined Real Madrid this summer at the end of his Paris Saint-Germain contract, fulfilling a long-held dream.

The 25-year-old hit his stride in recent matches after taking a few games to find his footing in the Spanish capital.

Mbappe has seven goals in nine appearances for Real Madrid across all competitions, scoring in the Uefa Super Cup victory over Atalanta in August and on his Champions League debut.

— AFP

Coach: Shakib available for second India Test

Reports suggested Shakib played first Test with finger injury

KANPUR

Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has no injury concerns and remains in line to play the second Test against India, coach Chandika Hathurusinghe said yesterday.

Media reports suggested Shakib played the first of two Tests with a finger injury when India handed Bangladesh a 280-run thrashing in Chennai.

Former Sri Lanka all-rounder Hathurusinghe said "there was no doubt" over Shakib's participation in the second Test, which begins tomorrow.

"At the moment I have not

heard anything about any sort of injury — neither from the physio nor from anyone else," Hathurusinghe told reporters in Kanpur, where the Test will be played.

"And he is eligible for selection. If there are any changes (in the team) then it's depending on the surface."

Historic win

The heat has been on Shakib, a 37-year-old former lawmaker who faces a case of alleged murder back home after Bangladesh was plunged into political crisis by student-led protests that led to the ouster of autocratic former leader Sheikh Hasina. The left-hander, who bats in the middle-order and bowls spin, played a key role in his team's historic Test series sweep in Pakistan.

— AFP



Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP UNVEILED

Young cricket fans during the unveiling of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup at Sharjah Cricket Stadium yesterday. The tournament begins on October 3 with 10 teams vying for the top prize.



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M/A. (FEHD BARBERSHOP FZ-LLC), (License No: 303174) located at Shop 2 B Ground floor The Edge Building Dubai Knowledge Park Dubai, UAE, licensed with the Dubai Development Authority wishes to announce its decision taken via board resolution passed at its Board meeting held on 30th July 2024 regarding closing down and dissolution of "M/A. FEHD BARBERSHOP FZ-LLC". Accordingly, any interested party who has a claim against the Company is hereby requested to submit its outstanding claims within 45 days of notice by registered post or contact:

Mr. Yanice Lallali
Company Name (FEHD BARBERSHOP FZ-LLC), Dubai, U.A.E.
Tel No. +971 50 933 5745 | Email: Lallali.yanice@hotmail.com
Claims received after expiry of the notice period of 45 days shall not be considered

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M/s ADAM GLOBAL AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING, being the voluntary liquidator for ICON CAPITAL PARTNERS LIMITED, an International Business Company incorporated on 22 March 2012, at Ras Al Khaimah International Corporate Centre, United Arab Emirates with registration number of company IC20120309 pursuant to Ras Al Khaimah International Corporate Centre Business Companies Regulations 2018, do hereby notify that ICON CAPITAL PARTNERS LIMITED is under the process of Liquidation. Creditors may take the necessary actions to settle / protect their interests immediately hereof within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice by contacting the voluntary liquidator at:

Adam Global Auditing & Accounting Office No. 210, 2nd Floor, Building No. 4, Gold and Diamond Park, Sheikh Zayed Road, P.O. Box 183207, Dubai, UAE. Phone Number: +971-43419701 | Fax Number: +971-43412348

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LADY GAGA PLANTS LIPSTICK SMILE ON 'MONA LISA'

Singer creeps through the Louvre, singing a song composed specially for the video



Photos: AFP, ANI, Instagram/ladygaga

Lady Gaga comes face to face with the *Mona Lisa* in the Louvre and plants a lipstick smile on her face in a new video clip released by the singer and the French museum yesterday.

The American diva who stars in the new *Joker* movie, channelled her Harley Quinn character to do a little bit of lipstick "vandalism" to Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece to promote the Louvre's new exhibition, *Figures of the Fool* which, like the movie, opens next month.

Lady Gaga creeps through the Paris museum at night in a red wig, singing a song composed specially for the video, which was released on her Instagram as well as TikTok accounts.

She ends up nose-to-nose with the *Mona Lisa* before painting a clownish smile in lipstick on the protective glass in front of it. As she stands back, a black mascara tear drops from the star's eye.

Asked about the wisdom of encouraging such gestures at a time when paintings are regularly being attacked in museums by climate activists, the Louvre insisted the video was "purely fictional", and was a homage to Leonardo, who was obsessed by the smile.



A screengrab of Mona Lisa from the video clip.

The museum insisted that an additional screen had been put up for the video in front of the 3.8-centimetre-thick bulletproof one that protects the canvas.

The lipstick smile is an echo of a key scene in *The Joker: Folie a Deux*, when Harley Quinn visits The Joker, her criminal soul mate, in jail.

The Louvre said they worked with Warner Bros Pictures, the Hollywood studio which

made the movie, who shot the video in the museum.

The Joker: Folie a Deux releases in the UAE on October 3.

NOT THE FIRST TIME

Is not the first time the Louvre has been a playground of the stars.

Rapper and producer Will.i.am famously put himself into some of the museum's best known paintings for his 2016 animated video for *Mona Lisa Smile*, including taking the reins of Napoleon's white charger.

Two years later, Beyonce and Jay-Z filmed their clip *Apes**t*, using Gericault's iconic *The Raft of the Medusa*, the *Mona Lisa* and the coronation of Napoleon to make some pithy points about black people's place, and the lack of it, in classical art history.

More recently, the world's most visited museum, created a buzz with its images of a private visit given to singer Celine Dion before she sang at the opening of the Paris Olympics in July.

— AFP

Read our interview with actor Joaquin Phoenix and director Todd Phillips later this week.

Coldplay sets two more dates in UAE

Following the incredible response to their first UAE concert announcement, set to take place on January 11, 2025, Coldplay has now added two more shows at Zayed Sports City Stadium on January 12 and January 14.

Fans who missed out on securing tickets for the first show now have another opportunity to witness the band perform live in Abu Dhabi. With these shows, even more fans across the UAE will be able to experience Coldplay's live show up, close and in person.

Tickets, starting from Dh195 each, are available exclusively via the Live Nation presale today from 12pm and general sale on Friday at 12pm, both on www.livenation.me.

— Gulf News Report



Kartik excited about 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3'

The wait is over. Makers of Kartik Aaryan-starrer *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* treated fans with an intriguing first poster of the film.



Taking to Instagram yesterday, Kartik dropped a poster with a caption that read, "Darwaza Khulega Iss Diwali (The doors will open this Diwali)."

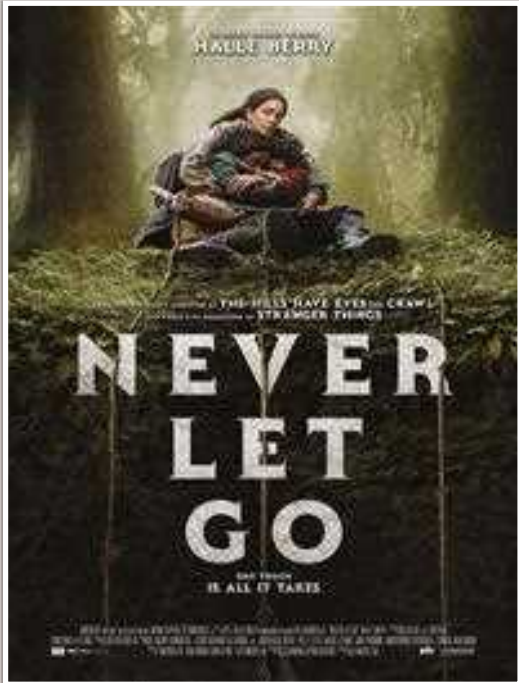
The poster shows a door with blood stains and a lock, hinting at a thrilling and spooky cinematic experience during the festival.

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, helmed by Anees Bazmee, promises to be a thrilling addition to the franchise, starring Triptii Dimri alongside Kartik.

The film also marks Vidya Balan's return to the franchise.

— ANI

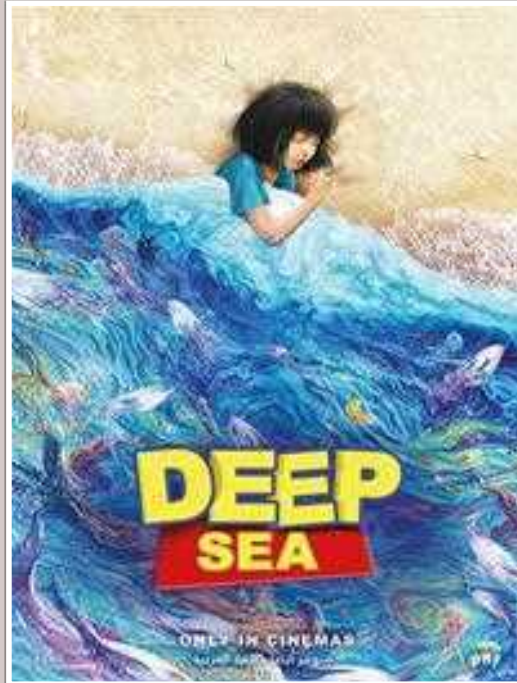
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TRANSFORM WITH SEASONAL FLAIR

Design ideas to prepare your home for the seasonal warmth, both indoors and outdoors



PICTURES: SHUTTERSTOCK

By Chiranti Sengupta
Senior Editor

As summer fades, autumn in the UAE brings pleasant weather, perfect for reconnecting with friends and engaging in outdoor activities. This season is ideal for refreshing your home interior, embracing current design trends to create a cosy and stylish space for gatherings.

It's also the perfect time to prepare your outdoor spaces for year-end celebrations. Top design experts share essential tips to help you

embrace the seasonal spirit and elevate your space for warm, memorable occasions.

"For a quick update, swap out lighter summer fabrics for rich autumnal ones like velvet or knits," says Hanne Langmead, Collection Conceptualiser, THE One.

"Adding a plush rug or seasonal accent pieces as well as incorporating natural elements like branches, dried flowers, and autumn-scented candles can also easily help evoke an autumn atmosphere," she says.

The impact of colour

Changing the colour palette of your home



Hanne Langmead
Collection
Conceptualiser,
THE One

is one of the easiest and most affordable ways to bring in the seasonal charm. Incorporate warm tones and natural elements to create an inviting ambience.

"We love embracing the warmth of autumn with rich taupes and soft browns, creating a cosy, grounded feel," says Langmead.

These colours pair beautifully with natural materials like wood and stone. "For a calming, nature-inspired touch, look for pieces in forest green or moss. Then, to create some more drama, burnt oranges and rusts make

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

A GULF NEWS PUBLICATION

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

for the perfect accents or statement pieces," she explains.

You can also use these colours on an accent wall, and for upholstery, drapes, and accessories to seamlessly integrate autumn's warmth into your home.

Fall fabrics

"Velvet remains a popular choice with its rich texture bringing warmth – perfect for the cooler months," says Langmead.

"Tactile fabrics like waffle weave and chenille are also on trend, providing visual interest while creating a cosy, inviting feel."

The showstopper is here

A standout piece of furniture, like a striking chair, an elegant couch, or a unique coffee table, can effortlessly elevate your space and serve as a focal point. With the right selection, you can transform a room's look, making it feel both stylish and personalised without overwhelming the decor.

"Statement accent chairs are a good option. THE One's latest creations have been designed to be your home's perfect bold and stylish focal point," says Langmead.

"Additionally, we're seeing curved and reimagined modular sofa designs making waves in the interior world and in our stores," she adds.

Style your outdoor spaces

After being cooped up indoors during the scorching summer months, autumn presents plenty of opportunities to embrace the great outdoors. Whether you're enjoying a morning cup of coffee surrounded by nature, having a leisurely meal with friends, or hosting a lively weekend barbecue, this is the ideal time to create unforgettable experiences outside.

"For the outdoors, zoning in on the textures is a must this season," says Kerrie Black, Marketing & Merchandising Director, Sanipex Group.

"Organic materials and quality fabrics continue to be a big hit all throughout autumn, so pair materials like natural teak, which features throughout our outdoor living furniture collection, with beautiful weather and



Kerrie Black
Marketing &
Merchandising Director,
Sanipex Group

sun-fade resistant fabrics to create a natural extension from the indoors," she says.

Sanipex Group's own brand Gymkhana has launched an elegant low dining table from the new Beach House outdoor collection, which can instantly lift the look of any space.

"Its base is crafted from solid teak and comes in a choice of three natural stone-effect porcelain tops or one terrazzo tabletop to suit your look. Following the low-dining trend, we have the Conix Outdoor Ellipse low dining table by Royal Botania. Both tables are ideal for patios, gazebos, or large balconies for relaxed, comfortable dining."

Black also recommends incorporating high-quality lighting into any outdoor or indoor space.

"An enchanting glow engages the senses, relaxes the mind, and brightens up moments shared," she says.

Backyard entertainment zone

Transforming your outdoor space into an entertainment haven, where you can relax and unwind with family and friends, is simpler than you might think.

Set up comfortable seating, add some ambient lighting, and consider incorporating lush greenery to enhance the atmosphere, suggest design experts.

"Soft furnishings like our plush outdoor cushions, throws, and rugs in an array of colours and patterns increase comfort, infuse personality, and inject pops of colour," says Black.

"To create warmth and bring sophistication to evenings on the patio or veranda, a sleek fire pit table works wonders. If you have a smaller balcony area, a flickering table top gas lantern does the trick," Black suggests. ■

**HOW TO CHOOSE A MATTRESS FOR BETTER SLEEP**

Studies show that switching to a new mattress can lead to better sleep, decreased stress, and reduced back pain, as it accommodates the body more effectively than an old or worn-out one.

"Mattresses play a critical role in improving sleep quality by providing proper spinal alignment, pressure relief, and comfort. A well-designed mattress supports the body's natural curves, reducing the chances of pain or discomfort," says

Praveen Bhatnagar, Founder Partner, ZeroG Beds & Mattress (pictured left).

Choosing the right mattress depends on your sleep position, says Bhatnagar.

"Side sleepers benefit from a medium-soft mattress that cushions the shoulders and hips, while back sleepers need medium-firm support to maintain spinal alignment," he explains.

"Meanwhile, stomach sleepers should opt for a firmer mattress to prevent sinking, which can strain the spine. By selecting a mattress suited to your sleeping position, you can enhance your comfort and improve your overall sleep experience."



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Interior inspirations for a seasonal makeover



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Euphoria Smart Control System 310 Duo in GROHE Phantom Black



Eurocosmo Single Lever Basin Mixer 1-2" M-size

For price and availability, visit Grohe-mena.com



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KITCHEN EFFICIENT

Easy tips and tricks to declutter your kitchen and enhance its functionality and organisation



SHUTTERSTOCK

We've all heard the kitchen be referred to as the heart of the home. This makes sense, as it truly is the space in our homes that we tend to spend the most of our time in. This may be for the more mundane or routine tasks or for whipping up new recipes and entertaining our friends and family. Whatever the task is, maintaining an efficient kitchen that is easy to work in is vital to the experience that we have around cooking.

When designing your new kitchen, or even rethinking your current one, consider a few of the following features that can help you get the most use out of your kitchen by making the daily chore of cooking easier and therefore more enjoyable.

Invest in storage solutions

Small appliances really are all the rage these days. From the Instant Pot to the array of air fryers on the market, it seems unavoidable to be constantly adding more kitchen clutter to our counters. With the onset of the new trend of minimalism, many people are left with the dilemma of where to store all of the extra gadgets so that kitchen counters can remain clear and functional.

If you have the means to design a cabinet specifically for small appliance storage, you may thank yourself later when the bread machine you use only occasionally during the winter months

doesn't need to claim vital real estate next to your stove year-round. When working with the kitchen you already have with no extra cabinet space to spare, a hot trend is utilising a storage system such as a baker's rack to store all the small appliances in one place so that it remains easily accessible yet out of the way for occasional access.

Maximise your kitchen space

Open shelving is a design feature that has begun to adorn the kitchens featured in many magazines and other publications. There are a number of benefits to be had by removing cabinet doors and allowing all of the contents to be on display in your kitchen.

Showcasing the contents of your kitchen does force you to take stock of what you want the world to see. Decluttering is a natural consequence of this design choice, which means that your kitchen will retain only what you really need and use, quickly making your kitchen more efficient.

Another design choice that you may not have considered for your kitchen is having rolling shelves. These are a great way to make your kitchen more efficient, as they allow you to access all of the contents of a cabinet without having to dig far back.

Vertical rolling shelves are an especially great remedy for high cabinets that often go overlooked or underutilised because they are too difficult to reach.

— By Teresa Curto, Creators

Embrace quiet luxury this autumn

THE One's latest collection is designed to transform any space into a serene haven



As the seasons change, there's no better time to refresh your home with cosy and sophisticated elements that reflect the beauty of autumn and the quiet luxury it brings.

THE One's latest Autumn/Winter 2024 collection is designed to help you do just that, offering a range of timeless colours and luxurious textures that transform any space into a serene haven.

This season, it's all about embracing rich tones and tactile fabrics. From soft velvets to crisp linens, its new collection brings together materials that not only feel luxurious but also add depth and warmth to your interiors. Deep browns, taupes, and earthy greens set the foundation for a cosy atmosphere, while subtle accents in rust, amber, and gold create visual interest and an inviting glow.

Whether you're looking for a statement piece of furniture or simply seeking the perfect decorative touch, THE One's range of furnishings and home décor ensures there's something for every taste and style.

Visit one of its locations or go to [Theone.com](https://www.theone.com) to elevate your space with quiet sophistication this autumn.



GROHE SPA



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GROHE

Top three bathroom must-haves from GROHE



GROHE's luxurious bathroom solutions offer a stylish way to infuse your home with a seasonal refresh. Whether you're preparing for relaxing evenings at home or hosting gatherings, GROHE's world-class products help create the ultimate

private home spa experience to unwind during the cooler months.

Set up the bathroom of your dreams with the curated collection from the GROHE SPA portfolio that includes faucets, customisable ceiling showers and complementary accessories.

Rain shower

What's better than stepping into the shower to wash away a long day? GROHE's Rainshower Aqua Pure blends stunning design with exceptional functionality. This exquisite range features a sophisticated palette of colours and sleek

glass design, delivering a visually striking shower experience. Rainshower Aqua Pure is now available in sleek Phantom Black, enhanced to be more durable, more resistant against corrosion, fading and scratches than powder coated variants. The matt finish of Phantom Black repels visible fingerprints.

Single level shower mixer

Contemporary bathrooms need the GROHE's Essence Single-lever shower mixer in Cool Sunrise. It blends form with function; with precise and effortless control of water thanks to the concealed body's GROHE SilkMove ceramic cartridge, while the scratch resistant GROHE StarLight coating will last a lifetime. A brilliant blend of form and function, this stylish mixer complements all the other products in the Cool Sunrise range such as the GROHE Essence Single-lever basin mixer to help create a seamless bathroom look.

Basin mixer

Stylish, ergonomic and comfortable to use, the GROHE Eurosmart Cosmopolitan single-lever mixer meets all demands in terms of design, functionality and everyday performance. It comes with GROHE's EcoJoy technology, which means you can reduce your water consumption by up to 50 per cent but still enjoy the feeling of a full jet of water.

This autumn, let your home reflect the changing season by embracing rich tones, thoughtful design, and luxurious functionality with GROHE.

ZEROG BEDS & MATTRESS

Redefining comfort for the perfect night's sleep

ZeroG Beds & Mattress, a home-grown brand under Vanity Kart General Trading LLC, is making waves in the UAE and GCC markets with the launch of its independent retail line. Standing out amidst established brands, ZeroG has carved its own space by addressing common sleep issues that negatively impact daily life, such as back pain, neck stiffness, joint discomfort, and insomnia.

Through extensive research into the regional mattress industry, ZeroG identified critical gaps in product offerings and discovered that many sleep problems can be mitigated with the right mattress. To meet these needs, ZeroG developed four specialised mattress categories: spring, memory foam, hybrid, and latex.

Each type provides tailored support with varying levels of firmness, ensuring comfort for all sleep styles and body types. We also offer our specially designed ZeroG Beds, engineered to help you achieve the optimal zero-gravity

sleeping position. This position alleviates pressure on the back and spine, effectively reducing stress caused by poor sleeping postures, and promoting enhanced comfort and restorative sleep.

One of ZeroG's standout features is its ability to customise mattress sizes to meet customer preferences. To enhance convenience, the brand also offers a 30-day trial period and flexible instalment options through Tabby.

"At ZeroG Beds & Mattress, we aim to revolutionise sleep through innovation and superior craftsmanship," says Praveen Bhatnagar, Founder Partner of ZeroG Beds & Mattress.

"Our goal is to ensure that every customer enjoys the healing benefits of quality sleep, night after night."

ZeroG products are available both at Oasis Mall, Dubai, and Rahmania Mall, Sharjah, as well as online at www.zerogmattress.ae. Experience the transformation that comes with a truly restful sleep—ZeroG Beds & Mattress is here to deliver on that promise.



THE ONE

THEOne.com – your favourite Total Home Experience now reimaged



As one of the Middle East's most beloved home fashion brands, THE One has long been a go-to destination for stylish and affordable home furnishings with its wide array of furniture and home décor.

This September, THE One has taken its renowned Total Home Experience to the digital world with the launch of its all-new website, Theone.com. Already live, the revamped platform offers a seamless extension of the warmth and creativity that customers have come to love in-store, now available at their fingertips.

Designed with the customer in mind, the refreshed platform offers more than just an online shopping experience. It's a digital extension of THE One's mission to inspire and delight, bringing the same warmth, style, and convenience found in their physical stores directly into the comfort of your home.

From the user-friendly interface to enhanced features, Theone.com makes it easier than ever to browse their be-



loved range of furniture and home décor.

With a sleek new look, THE One's website promises to elevate the way customers shop for their homes, continuing the brand's legacy of blending innovation with style.

For those who love the in-store experience, Theone.com delivers that same inspiration and creativity, right at their fingertips.

Welcome home – to your new digital Total Home Experience!

SANIPEX GROUP

New Beach House and Penthouse ranges by Gymkhana bring luxury to the outdoors

Gymkhana, the luxury outdoor living brand by Sanipex Group, brings a comprehensive range of stylish outdoor furniture and accessories for outside lounging, al fresco dining, and relaxation by the pool for those off-duty days and social nights in the garden.

Elevating luxury living to the open air, the collection combines standout aesthetics with the ultimate in comfort, quality and craftsmanship.

From daybeds, sofa sets and poufs to accessories like umbrellas, cushions, baskets and rugs, each product is crafted from durable, easy-clean materials that withstand the rigours of the outdoors so you can lounge for longer.

For those wanting to retreat to a private outdoor escape, the new Gymkhana Beach House collection brings the tranquillity of the



Maldives to outdoor spaces. Indoor and outdoor areas merge with a dialogue of natural materials and a coastal colour palette of sand and blue for a calming

vibe. Crafted from weather-resistant materials like solid teak and crisp-soft, with custom Agora outdoor fabrics you can mix and match. Beach House lets

you create distinct zones for lounging, dining and relaxation with modular sofas, bar stools, dining sets, sunbeds, accessories and much more.

With the option to personalise with a choice of four cushion fabrics – from muted tones to bold cabana stripes – alongside three natural stone-effect porcelain tops or one terrazzo tabletop with complementing bases, you can make Beach House truly your own.

Crafted for those seeking relaxation and entertainment in a sophisticated setting, the Penthouse range turns any outdoor space into a cosmopolitan retreat.

Oh-so-chic and reassuringly comfortable, Penthouse comprises modular sofas with high-depth cushions, generously wide single and double sunbeds and coffee tables, ensuring every moment of restoration is a luxurious one. In calming neutral beige and grey tones, a tactile mix of materials adds appeal, with teak frames imparting a touch of the organic.

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TECH TALK

THURSDAY,
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LOCK IN ON THESE TRENDS

Growing urbanisation and heightened awareness of personal safety are among a host of factors influencing global home security solutions

By Sankar Sri Pillai | Head of Content, Supplements & Contract Publishing

Homeowners today demand solutions that offer not just physical protection but also peace of mind, with enhanced connectivity and convenience. It's reflective of an increasingly interconnected and digitalised world, where home-security tech has evolved

significantly to stay in sync with demand, driven by the convergence of smart technologies, growing urbanisation, and heightened awareness about personal safety. The global market for home security solutions is experiencing rapid growth, and several key trends shape this transformation. We share a selection.

1 SMART HOME INTEGRATION AND AUTOMATION

One of the most prominent trends in home security is the integration of smart home technology. Homeowners now seek solutions that go beyond traditional locks and alarms to seamlessly integrate with their smart home ecosystems. Devices such as smart cameras, doorbell cameras, motion detectors, and smart locks are now designed to be controlled remotely via smartphones or voice commands.

Automation is another significant aspect of this trend. Smart security systems can automate responses to specific scenarios — automatically locking doors, turning on lights, or activating alarms when motion is detected or when a person enters or leaves the house. For instance, if the system detects an unknown individual at the front door, it can automatically trigger the camera to record, notify the homeowner, and even deter intruders through integrated speaker systems.

2 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) has enhanced the capabilities of home-security systems. These technologies enable security cameras to distinguish between harmless activities, like a pet moving across the room for instance and potential threats such as an unknown person entering the property. AI can analyse footage in real time, identifying suspicious behaviours and notifying homeowners or security personnel immediately.

Facial recognition technology, powered by AI, is increasingly being used to improve security. It allows

homeowners to differentiate between family members, regular visitors, and unknown individuals. Some systems even predict security risks based on patterns, helping to prevent incidents before they occur. For example, by analysing movement patterns over time, a system can detect unusual activity, such as someone loitering outside the home, and alert the homeowner.

3 DIY HOME SECURITY SYSTEMS

The growing demand for affordable and user-friendly security solutions has spurred the rise of DIY (Do It Yourself) home security systems. Unlike traditional systems that require professional installation, these solutions can be easily installed and customised by homeowners themselves. DIY systems typically include wireless cameras, motion sensors, door/window sensors, and mobile apps that allow for real-time monitoring.

Companies like Ring have emerged as key players in this segment, offering affordable, easy-to-install systems that cater to renters and homeowners alike. Many DIY systems also offer professional monitoring services as an optional add-on, giving consumers the flexibility to choose the level of security that fits their needs.

4 CLOUD-BASED SURVEILLANCE

Cloud-based security solutions have revolutionised how homeowners store, access and manage surveillance footage. Traditionally, security systems relied on local storage devices such as digital video recorders, which were prone to damage or theft. Cloud storage offers a more secure and flexible option, allowing homeowners

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to access their footage from anywhere, at any time, via a secure online portal. The trend has also opened doors for more affordable security solutions. Many cloud-based services offer subscription models that provide homeowners with scalable options depending on the size of their property and the level of security required. As the cost of cloud storage continues to decrease, this technology is expected to become even more ubiquitous.

5 INCREASED DEMAND FOR CYBERSECURITY

As more home security devices become connected to the internet, the risk of cyberattacks has grown. Hackers can exploit vulnerabilities in smart devices, gaining access to surveillance cameras, door locks, and other security systems. As a result, cybersecurity has become an integral component of modern home security solutions.

Manufacturers are investing in robust security protocols to protect these systems from hackers. This includes end-to-end encryption, multi-factor authentication, and secure cloud storage. Consumers are also becoming more aware of the importance of securing their home networks, with many opting for secure routers and VPNs to protect their data and connected devices.

6 ENHANCED HOME SECURITY WITH 5G

The rollout of 5G networks is poised to transform the home security industry. With its ultra-fast speeds and low latency, 5G will enhance the performance of smart security devices, allowing for real-time, high-definition video streaming and faster response times. This is particularly important for systems that rely on cloud connectivity, as 5G can support a larger number of connected devices and enable more sophisticated features like AI-powered analytics. 5G's potential for faster data transfer also means that security systems can process and transmit large volumes of data more efficiently, leading to more reliable and responsive security solutions.

7 SUSTAINABLE HOME-SECURITY SOLUTIONS

As global concerns about sustainability grow, many homeowners are looking for eco-friendly home security solutions. This trend is driving innovation in energy-efficient products such as solar-powered security cameras and smart lighting systems. Solar-powered cameras, for instance, can operate independently of the electrical grid, making them not only environmentally friendly but also reliable during power outages. Manufacturers are also focusing on creating devices with longer lifespans and reducing the use of harmful materials in production. This aligns with the broader push toward sustainability in the technology sector, where consumers and companies alike are aiming to reduce their carbon footprints.

FANS LINE UP FOR IPHONE 16

Brand saw significant lines and waiting times at stores across the globe



Apple CEO, Tim Cook interacts with customers during the launch of the iPhone 16 in New York

Apple Inc. fans lined up at stores around the world for the new iPhone 16, shrugging off the fact that the device's signature feature — a new suite of AI tools — won't arrive until later.

The company saw significant lines and waiting times at several major Apple retail stores globally, indicating a potentially strong start for the product. The company introduced the iPhone 16 line-up in almost 60 countries on Friday, including the US, China, India, Australia and South Korea.

Apple CEO, Tim Cook greeted crowds at the company's location on Fifth Avenue in New York alongside Apple's head of retail, Deirdre O'Brien. The store was outfitted with lights to mimic the new glowing interface of the Siri digital assistant. Other Apple outlets, including in Los Angeles, Australia and China, had notable lines of people picking up pre-ordered phones or showing up without a reservation.

The device won't come installed with Apple Intelligence — the much-anticipated AI software that the company has been touting since June. That means users will have to download the software features over time as they become available during the coming weeks and months.

That's put Apple in a tricky spot.

It's already marketing the AI features heavily, but some consumers may be wary about buying the new phones if they can't enjoy the benefits right away. Given the strong initial buzz even if it's driven in part by Apple diehards who line up every year — the marketing tactic may be working.

In terms of its look and feel, the new iPhone isn't a major leap from prior models. A touch-sensitive Camera Control button, which makes it easier to take pictures and video, is the most notable change.

Even so, Wall Street remains bullish that Apple can accelerate growth during the all-important holiday season. Analysts estimate that revenue will increase 8 per cent in the December quarter — the best showing for that period since the end of calendar 2021.

OVER-THE-AIR UPDATE

The new line-up includes two standard models the 16 and 16 Plus — as well as the higher-end Pro and Pro Max. Pre-orders of the devices began

APPLE INTRODUCED THE IPHONE 16 LINE-UP IN ALMOST 60 COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE US, INDIA & CHINA

last week, ahead of shipments to stores and customers getting underway Friday.

The initial units going on sale will run the iOS 18 operating system, but Apple Intelligence will require an over-the-air update to the iOS 18.1 software, which is launching in October. Apple has outfitted its retail stores with machines called Presto that will allow the company to load up Apple Intelligence and other iOS updates in the future. That will let Apple skip the usual scenario where iPhones are sold with outdated software.

Apple Intelligence was announced in June at the company's Worldwide Developers Conference and has been available in a limited beta test for developers over the past several weeks.

Last Thursday, Apple released a public beta version of the software, one aimed at a wider audience — though most customers won't access it until the suite of features is released in its final form next month. Additional capabilities won't be ready until later, part of a staggered launch that will stretch into next year.

When the technology titan introduced the iPhone 16 line, it said that the devices were the first to be built from the ground up for Apple Intelligence. But some iPhones from last year — the 15 Pro and Pro Max — will be able to support the features as well.

The look of the new phones is little changed from the iPhone 12 design from 2020. But they feature noticeable battery-life improvements and camera advancements — beyond the new button. Prices start at \$799 for the standard iPhone, ranging up to \$1,199 for the Pro Max. Even with modest hardware updates, the new phones could attract owners of much older models or switchers from Android devices.

WATCH UPGRADE

Consumers ordering phones from Apple's online store have seen major shipping delays before — a sign supply wasn't meeting demand. That's less of an issue this year, either because orders are slower or Apple just has more phones on hand. New orders of the regular iPhone 16 models will be delivered by early October, while the Pro versions will arrive around the middle of the month.

Apple also unveiled lower-end AirPods this month and updated watches. Apple's latest smartwatches don't offer a major reason to upgrade. The new Series 10 has a larger display and thinner design, but otherwise looks similar to the Series 9. The company's only change to the higher-end Ultra model, meanwhile, is a black colour option.

— Bloomberg

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RING LAUNCHES NEW PAN-TILT INDOOR CAMERA

With a Ring Protect subscription, customers can store and access recordings at any time



UAE residents can take their home security up a notch with the new Ring Pan-Tilt Indoor Camera, Amazon's first indoor camera with an in-built mount that can pan 360 degrees and tilt 169 degrees, allowing customers to see every corner of their home. The camera delivers high-quality video footage and reliable functionality, including full and clear HD video and colour night vision with expansive pan and vertical tilt coverage. Customers can also enjoy all the features they love and trust from Ring, including Live View, Two-Way Talk, and real-time motion alerts.

Mohammad Meraj Hoda, VP of business development – MEA, Ring, says: "We are excited to roll out the new Pan-Tilt Indoor Camera to provide our customers with ease of mind when they are away from home. The camera comes with flexible mounting options and is very user-friendly, making it the ideal addition to your home."

EASY SET-UP

The Pan-Tilt Indoor Camera set up is easy – customers can first download the free Ring app on their iOS or Android devices and create an account. The app then guides them through a three-stage set-up process – including 1. Opening the Ring app, selecting

Set Up a Device, tapping Cameras; 2. Finding and scanning the QR Code on the box; and 3. Following the in-app instructions to complete set-up.

KEY FEATURES

Customers can set customisable motion zones to define a specific area that they want their Ring device to cover while ignoring everything outside that area, enabling them to effectively monitor the area they want as well as reduce the number of "false positive" motion alerts. It also comes equipped with a manual Privacy Cover in front of the camera lens, which can turn the camera and microphone on or off.

Customers can add the Ring skill to Alexa via the Alexa app and just say, "Alexa, show me the living room," to see Live View and begin speaking with people in that room, as long as the privacy cover is not in use. Customers may also opt for a Ring Protect subscription, which allows them to store and access recordings in the cloud, share videos, and receive motion notifications with a photo preview directly in the app notification. For extra peace of mind, clips are erased at the end of the selected storage period, which is 180 days.

The Ring Pan-Tilt Indoor Camera is retailing through Amazon.ae and select stores across the UAE. ■

A ONE-STOP SOLUTION FOR PHOTOGRAPHY AND BROADCASTING EQUIPMENT

An exclusive interview with Pooyan Farnam – Head of Marketing at Advanced Media Trading



What are the trends ruling camera and recording equipment in the e-commerce space?

In terms of e-commerce, several trends are influencing the market for cameras and recording equipment. Some of these involve smartphone cameras, with the rise of their quality and ease of use, as well as mirrorless cameras with a growing preference due to sensor size, lightweight design, compact size, and high image quality. In the past 10 years, the use of drones has been increasing for capturing aerial images, enhancing the content creation opportunities for e-commerce brands. Other creative recording equipment are Action cameras, Pocket Gimbal Cameras and 360-Degree and cameras.

E-commerce is extremely competitive in the region. What is AMT.TV's USP?

In an ever-expanding industry it is hard to combine all professional video, photography,

digital cinema and broadcasting equipment under one roof. It has been a significant achievement for Advanced Media to fulfil our valuable customer demand as a one-stop solution.

Our website was primarily designed to be an informational catalogue about our products and services. To compete with the emerging e-commerce market in the region, we decided to upgrade our website with transactional features for our customers to have a smooth shopping experience. To improve our user experience, we have designed our website to be mobile-friendly for easy navigation on a smaller screen. The icing on the cake is our Live Support, which offers a real time solution to those who need assistance with any products or services quickly and effectively.

What are your e-commerce expansion plans?

The future of e-commerce brings both exciting possibilities and challenges in coming days for the UAE market. The e-com-

merce landscape is expected to have a significant growth driven by rapid technological advancements and changing consumer behaviours. We will continue the tendency of rapidly improving our existing infrastructure to meet the convenience and speed of the growth of mobile commerce (M-commerce) and social commerce.

Our new E-commerce platform will increasingly use AI to offer personalised experiences from product recommendations to tailored marketing efforts. The utilisation of AI-driven chatbots and virtual assistants are expected to increase significantly, enhancing the provision of real-time customer service.

Furthermore, with a growing emphasis on sustainability, our aim is to minimise the ecological impact of online retail activities, promote ethical sourcing, and contribute towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly future such as eco-friendly packaging, sustainable sourcing and carbon footprint reduction. ■



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ASUS ZENBOOK S 14 UX5406

The new Zenbook S 14 (UX5406) is the slimmest ASUS 14-inch ultraportable, with a 1.1 cm profile and a feather-light 1.2kg weight. Despite its ultra-slim form factor, the Zenbook S 14 delivers powerful performance with its Intel Core Ultra 9 processor (Series 2), achieving up to 48 NPU TOPS and offering the newest AI experiences.

Price: On request
Availability: At all tech retail outlets

ASUS PROART P16 H7606

A robust 16-inch laptop, the ProArt P16 is powered by an AMD Ryzen AI 9 HX 370 processor. A lightweight powerhouse at 1.85kg and 14.9mm thin, the laptop has undergone rigorous testing to meet military-grade standards, ensuring durability in even the harshest conditions.

Price: On request
Availability: At all tech retail outlets



**MAKE YOUR
TECH
WORK FOR YOU**

Top-of the range accessories and equipment that provide the perfect work-life balance



YALE SMART SAFE

Lock and unlock your safe using PIN code, Yale Home app or physical key; and give guest access – ideal for homes, offices and holiday rentals.

Price: Starting Dh44/month
Availability: All e& stores and online on www.etisalat.ae



YALE LUNA PRO+ FACIAL RECOGNITION SMART LOCK

Lock and unlock your door with your face scan, fingerprint, PIN code, RFID tag, or remotely from anywhere through the Yale Home app*.

Price: Starting Dh119/month
Availability: All e& stores and online on www.etisalat.ae

*Requires Yale Access Module for remote functionality (sold separately)

RING PAN-TILT INDOOR CAMERA

The first indoor camera to rotate 360 degrees and tilt 169 degrees, the new launch from Ring allows customers to see every corner of their home and offers a panoramic view. It also delivers high-quality video footage and reliable functionality, including full and clear HD video and colour night vision.

Price: On request
Availability: Amazon.ae and via select retailers across the UAE



DJI POCKET 3

DJI Pocket 3 features a powerful 1-inch CMOS sensor that puts detail-rich imaging right in the palm of your hand. With a 2-inch rotatable touchscreen and full-pixel fast focusing, go horizontal or vertical for more precise awareness and control. 4K/120fps, three-axis mechanical stabilisation, and a host of intelligent features make Pocket 3 ready for any moving moment.

Price: On request
Availability: AMT

RING BATTERY VIDEO DOORBELL PRO

The all-new home security device retains what customers know and love about the Battery Doorbell Plus such as Live View, Two-Way Talk, Advanced Motion Detection, Customizable Motion Zones, Privacy Zones and Colour Night Vision, and also introduces radar-powered 3D Motion Detection with Bird's Eye View and Bird's Eye Zones, 1536p HD Head-to-Toe video, Low Light Sight, Color Pre-Roll, Quick Replies and Noise Cancelling Audio+.

Price: Dh999
Availability: Amazon.ae, and via select retailers across the UAE



DJI ACTION 5 PRO

DJI Osmo Action 5 Pro is an action camera with revolutionary image quality. Its next-gen 1/1.3-inch sensor and 13.5 stops of dynamic range set a new standard for action camera image quality.

Price: On request
Availability: AMT

RING

LATEST INNOVATIONS IN THE HOME SECURITY SPACE



■ Mohammad Meraj Hoda, Vice President, Emerging Markets, Ring

The GCC smart home market, led by countries like the UAE holds immense growth potential. Revenues in the smart home market in the UAE are expected to show an annual growth rate (CAGR 2024-2028) of 10.49 per cent. In the UAE, homeowners have embraced smart home security systems to keep an eye on their property and pets when they are away from home.

The latest innovation in home security is the new Ring Pan-Tilt Indoor Camera, offering 360-degree coverage thanks to an in-built mount that can also tilt 169 degrees. It delivers high-quality video footage and reliable functionality, including full and clear HD video and colour night vision with expansive pan and vertical tilt coverage.

Customers can also enjoy all the features they love and trust

from Ring, including Live View, Two-Way Talk, and real-time Motion Alerts.

Ring allows customers to see, hear and speak to visitors in real-time, no matter where they are. By integrating affordable and flexible smart devices such as Video Doorbells, indoor and outdoor Security Cameras, and Ring Alarm, customers get instant notifications on the Ring app when motion is detected on their property, or when someone rings the doorbell.

Ring offers robust data protection features including end-to-end video encryption that secures video and audio recordings for compatible devices.

Privacy Zones enable customers to exclude specific zones, like a neighbour's front door, from live video and recordings.

Additionally, motion detection can be customised by us-

ing the Motion Zones feature to reduce excessive notifications from busy areas, and customers can control audio recording with a simple switch. Even after a device is removed or transferred, customers can still access video footage (though deactivation of the device remains permanent).

Ring provides a variety of subscription plans, with features that allow customers to store and access recordings in the cloud, share videos, and receive motion notifications with a photo preview directly in the app notification. For extra peace of mind, clips can be erased at any time - and stored in the Ring account for up to 180 days.

With Ring, UAE homeowners can enjoy peace of mind and advanced security, knowing they are connected to the places, people, and things that matter with cutting-edge technology.

ADVANCED MEDIA TRADING

ENJOYING A PROMINENT PRESENCE IN VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT RETAIL

It has been a very fruitful year for Advanced Media, the leading distributor of professional video and photography equipment in the Middle East. Many interesting products by major leading brands like Sony and DJI have been introduced to the market by Advanced Media. With more than 22 years of experience, Advanced Media has established a prominent presence in the region with branches in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh and Cairo. The company has been an active participant of major events in the region such as CABSAT, Xposure, World Police Summit (WPS), ADIHEX, Gitex and Saudi Film Confex. Additionally, a broad selection of workshops and community activities are held throughout the year to cater to both industry experts and media enthusiasts.

In 2022, Advanced Media embraced an ambitious vision of achieving Net Zero, which has been complimented by many technology-driven initiatives and activations. As a member of the UAE Alliance



for Climate Action, Advanced Media is committed to switching its entire fleet to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) by 2040. Moreover, Advanced Media and DHL Express have part-

nered to reduce carbon emissions using DHL's GoGreen Plus service allowing the company to cut emissions by 10 per cent through Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Lastly,

Advanced Media's Net-Zero Website (www.amt.tv) is powered by Tree-Nation to offset emissions produced from e-commerce traffic by planting trees around the world.

DJI NEO

Rise and Shine



135g

Light & Portable



Palm Takeoff
& Landing



AI Subject
Tracking, QuickShots



Multiple
Control Options



4K Ultra-Stabilized
Video



Full-Coverage
Propeller Guards