

"The system provides information about business landmarks in proximity to Metro stations."

— ABDUL MAJEED AL KHAJIA

NATION

GCC Official Praises Khalifa's Leadership

RIYADH — GCC Secretary General Abdul Rahman Al Attiyah praised the President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his leadership qualities earning him great respect by all.

Al Attiyah made the remarks to *Al Ittihad* newspaper as he congratulated the people of the UAE on the selection of Shaikh Khalifa by *Newsweek* magazine among its traditional list of 50 most powerful people in the world.

"His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan is a respected leader who is endowed with a sense of commitment, responsibility and vision that contributed to the progress of the UAE," Al Attiyah said.

"On many occasions," he went on, "I had the opportunity to get a first hand acquaintance with his leadership qualities and his efforts, along with the other GCC leaders, to boost joint action and to bring about security, progress and prosperity to their people." — *Wam*

Oxygen Pumps Installed to Fight Dead Fish Problem

Lana Mahdi

AL AIN — Al Ain Municipality on Tuesday installed 16 more oxygen pumps in Al Mubazarah Lake to solve the problem of the dead fish that have floated to the surface of the lake due to the lack of oxygen and the hot weather.

Visitors of the Green Mubazarah Tourist Area in Al Ain have complained that a stink has spread across the area as hundreds of small dead fish have floated to the surface of the lake.

Mohammed Al Niady, Deputy Director of Al Ain Municipality said on Tuesday, "The municipality on Tuesday has put an additional 16 oxygen pumps that have been distributed in four units in the lake to solve the problem," he added.

He said that the lake contained 80 million gallons of water and the Al Ain Municipality had supplied the lake with one oxygen pump last week to solve the problem, but the single pump could not prevent the death of fish.

Al Niady said the municipality workers are cleaning the lake and removing the leaves, paper and nylon bags from the lake. He added that the civic body used the most modern devices and machines, in addition to natural substances for the cleaning procedures of the lake.

"The municipality workers have done the cleaning project of the water canal that supplies the lake with the water," said Al Niady.

It is worth mentioning that Green Mubazarah area was developed by the late Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. It has hot spas, green areas, space for children and chalets.

lanamahdi@khaleejtimes.com

Rich Fare in Store for Classical Music

Staff Reporter

ABU DHABI — The New York Philharmonic will open the second season of Abu Dhabi Classics, on October 23.

The first 2008-2009 eight months of a long season of classical music was already considered a success by its organiser, the Abu Dhabi authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH), with 35,000 people attending the concerts.

For the 2009/10 season, executive director Till Janczukowicz has announced an expansion of the educational programme, done with the help of three world leading orchestras — the New York Philharmonic, the Philharmonia of London and the Vienna.

Visiting stars in the next season will include violinists Anne-Sophie Mutter and Frank Peter Zimmermann, pianist Emanuel Ax and conductors Seiji Ozawa, Myung-Whun Chung and Lorin Maazel. The Bavarian State Opera from Munich will present a Wagner Gala, and Venice's Teatro La Fenice returns with two full acts of opera from Verdi's *Rigoletto* and *La Traviata*.

Programming highlights will also include the continuation of the cycle of Mahler symphonies, the beginning of a Beethoven symphonies cycle, family events, children's concerts as well as a Valentine's Day gala concert.

Now incorporated in Abu Dhabi Classics, the Al Ain Classics Festival will take place during the first half of March 2010 and will feature some of the same musicians performing in the capital — the New York Philharmonic and the Teatro La Fenice.

silvia@khaleejtimes.com

Supreme Court Orders Compensation for Worker

Adel Arafah

ABU DHABI — The Supreme Court ordered a contracting company to pay a worker his salary arrears of 11 months and a pay of three months as compensation for terminating the worker while he was sick.

Court records showed that the worker filed a complaint at the labour disputes department, Ministry of Labour, demanding to be reinstated but the employer turned down an amicable settlement through the ministry's mediation. The company argued that the worker was absent from work for four months, a period that was enough for it to end his service.

The Ministry referred the case to the Abu Dhabi Court of First Instance which, in turn, delegated an expert to assess the situation.

The expert said the worker was out of work for undergoing a critical kidney transplant surgery in his home country. He noted that the worker was on his annual leave.

Guided by the expert report, the primary court obliged the company to reinstate the worker, disburse all his salaries during his sickness in addition to salaries for three months as compensation for the moral and psychological damage he suffered due to the action taken.

The company challenged the verdict at the Federal Court of Appeal which

upheld the primary court ruling.

However, the company moved the Federal Supreme Court which turned down its petition, arguing that "The UAE labour law provides blanket protection to the worker and stipulates that disease is not a reason for ending service of the worker unless it is found that such illness poses a threat to him and other workers."

"As the medical report confirms the safety of the worker and that he is fit and healthy to assume his job as administrator, the company has no right to sack him," the apex court affirmed after it confirmed the primary verdict. It ordered the company to pay Dh2,000 as advocacy fees to the worker.

adel@khaleejtimes.com

Dubai Metro GIS Portal Launched



The Metro on a trial run from Rashidiya to Jebel Ali passes the station at the Dubai Airport Terminal 3. — *KT photo by Shakil Qaiser*

Joy Sengupta

DUBAI — The Roads and Transport Authority launched a website on Tuesday that will enable the public to use the Geographical Information System (GIS) of Dubai Metro.

The website (<http://metrogis.rta.ae>) provides information about metro lines, stations, runtime and multi-modal interchange points, using features and functions of the GIS technology, said Abdul Majeed Al Khajia, CEO of RTA's Rail Agency.

The GIS portal will span rail projects undertaken by the RTA including Dubai Metro and Safouh Tram as well as any future projects. It provides information about the distance and time

expected to be taken in travelling between stations, parking and ride facilities for metro commuters, integration points with other transport modes such as buses and abras, in addition to detailed images of the metro stations, the official said.

"The system also provides information about business landmarks in proximity of metro stations such as restaurants, malls and places of cultural and heritage significance. The user can search these landmarks and select a specific area and scope to refine the search," the official said.

Uploading this portal comes under the context of preparations made by the RTA for the launch of Dubai Metro on September 9 in order to enable Dubai Metro users plan their journeys prop-

erly in the emirate, he said. "Launching this website, which is based on GIS technology, is a key initial step towards introducing the public and visitors to the Dubai Metro."

The portal will be functioning properly and is bound to catch the attention and gain satisfaction of all community sectors as it provides them with all information related to Dubai Metro.

The user can easily access the portal, surf across various options and check the information in which he or she is interested," Al Khajia said. The Dubai Metro is one of the biggest projects undertaken in the Middle East by the Dubai based RTA.

The project aims at eliminating traffic congestion in the emirate of Dubai through providing mobility options.



Passers-by stop to watch a fire in a villa in Satwa on Tuesday. — *KT photo by Amit Kakkar*

Trucker in Narrow Escape

Salah Al Deberky

FUJAIRAH — A trucker has survived after the truck he was driving caught fire at 4pm on Tuesday on Al Dhaid road.

Passers-by were shocked when they saw flames licking up and engulfing the truck, loaded with construction materials, as it passed through Thawban neighbourhood.

Lt. Colonel Ali Al Teneiji, Director of the Civil Defense Department of Fujairah, said the fire occurred because of an electric failure in the vehicle which was overloaded and overheating.

The driver was also not carrying a fire extinguisher in the vehicle which aggravated the incident.

Lt. Col. Al Teneiji called upon motorists to keep an extinguisher in their cars to avoid such accidents.

It is the second suspected electrical fire in a truck in Fujairah in

as many days.

A Pakistani driver of a truck that caught fire on Monday near Mazda roundabout in Fujairah managed to escape with only light injuries to his hand, according to Ali Jassim, a firefighter at the Civil Defence Directorate.

Jassim said the brigade put out the fire, which happened as the truck headed to Mina. He said the likely cause of the blaze was electrical fault due to high temperature.

Lt. Colonel Ali Al Tunaiji, Director of Fujairah Civil Defence, said the scorching heat of the summer is partly responsible for fire erupting in 27 cars in the past three months. Poorly maintained cars were also more likely to catch fire.

He said the recent fires had claimed the lives of five people, including a family of four. In Dubai, a fire broke out in Satwa area about mid-afternoon but was put out in a short space of time.

salah@khaleejtimes.com

National Space Body Proposed

FROM PAGE 1

Previous media reports have indicated that 4C GEOC — a tie-up between US-based 4C Controls and Hydra Trading — will itself establish a training programme in the capital.

Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research, already offers a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering.

Salem Al Marri, project manager for the EIAST's satellite project, said that

17 UAE engineers will take part in the research and development of DubaiSat-2.

"We want to increase the number of UAE engineers and also the amount of work they are contributing to the project," he said.

Thirty per cent of the work for DubaiSat-1 was done by UAE professionals, he said, but there are hopes to raise that proportion to 50 per cent for the next satellite.

martin@khaleejtimes.com

Abu Dhabi Food Control Comes Out With Strict Rules for Ramadan

Anwar Ahmad

ABU DHABI — The Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) will inspect cafes, restaurants and supermarkets during peak hours with more frequent inspections during the Holy month of Ramadan to ensure they are abiding by food safety guidelines, an official of the ADFCA said on Tuesday.

Preparations for Ramadan are expected to begin from August 20, Mohammed Jalal Al Reyaysa, spokesperson of the ADFCA said, "We are putting things in place and chalking out different plans to efficiently deal with offenders."

"We are also going to begin soon a campaign among residents, children and other food outlets to impart them lessons on food safety and its preservations."

ADFCA will also carry out inspections during night as most of shops remain closed during the day in Ramadan and open only in the evening hours. Leaflets and brochures will be distributed among adults and children.

"The number of inspectors will be increased if required," Al Reyaysa said.

The fines will depend on the kind of violation committed by the shopkeeper or cafes.

If inspectors find grave faults, shops may face closure or the matter might be referred to the court, he stated. "The ADFCA has standard procedures that are used on consistent basis."

History of premises owners and food handlers is always referred to, but development and good practice are always noticed and monitored.

Violators are subject to the lawful procedures whether it is Ramadan or otherwise."

Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

(ADFCA) ordered the closure of five food outlets in the last two months, which include two major meat stalls — one at the Lulu hypermarket in Al Wahda Mall and Carrefour in Marina Mall for selling expired meat products, a statement from ADFCA said on Monday. ADFCA temporarily closed three food outlets for unhygienic practices namely Golden Sun on Mina Street, the Healthy Food restaurant in the industrial city in Musaffah and Al Yazia Refreshments on Mina Street.

Al Reyaysa said, "The meat shop at Lulu Hypermarket in Al Wahda Mall and Carrefour in Marina Mall were closed down for three days then reopened for allegedly selling expired meat and other violations."

The cases were referred to court where the penalties for the outlets will be decided, Al Reyaysa said. He added that these stalls were found duping consumers by tampering with the expiry dates and mixing unfit meat with other meat products.

According to the ADFCA statement, around 35 inspections were carried out at the meat stall of Lulu Hypermarket in Al Wahda Mall since January 2009 till July 4 and inspectors found several violations.

At Lulu hypermarket, the inspectors seized and destroyed 20kg of mixed meat and 40kg of ground meat without production and expiry dates and also found 5.6kg chicken unhealthy for human consumption, the statement said.

The inspectors destroyed 58kg of meat at Carrefour in Marina Mall on June 16 during an inspection in the evening after finding violations in food preservation, mixing meat with unfit meat and tampering with expiry dates, the statement said.

anwar@khaleejtimes.com

Four Food Stores Shut Down

Sebugwaawo Ismail

RAS AL KHAIMAH — The Ras Al Khaimah Municipality on Tuesday shut down four stores for four days and fined them Dh4,000 each for violating the municipal food hygiene rules.

Adil Ali Al Deek, Head of the Environmental and Health Department at Ras Al Khaimah Municipality said the municipal inspectors had found huge quantities of expired food products, destroyed juices and contaminated bottled water in these stores that were being sold to customers. He stressed that the food stores lacked proper storage facilities and had poor hygiene standards with insects and rodents all over

the place. The stores have been ordered shut for four days and the premises cleaned up. The owners of the stores were also issued with warning letters.

Meanwhile, the municipality has intensified its campaigns on shops selling sweets, chewing gums and nuts in the emirate to curb the sale of fake sweets that are harmful to children.

The sale of fake sweets and other products increase during the Holy month of Ramadan, said Al Deek.

He said that several parents had recently reported that their children had bought sweets from certain shops which caused them stomach pains. "Such sweets are either fake or expired and are harmful to health," he added.

ismail@khaleejtimes.com

Early Detection and Prevention Vital for Cancer Awareness

Staff Reporter

DUBAI — An awareness of diseases and their treatment can help patients better make a decision about their health, said a visiting oncologist.

Dr Nehal Masood, Consultant Haematologist and Oncologist at Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi, speaking in Dubai recently said common misconceptions existed about cancer including the ineffectiveness of pain medication in relieving cancer-related pain.

Contrary to beliefs, surgery is also an effective treatment for cancer.

news@khaleejtimes.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO TODAY'S AED 10,000 WINNERS!

Mr. Moosa Essa Mohd AlBalooshi

Mr. Mohammad Juma Abdulla Alfalasi

Mr. Mohamed Hussain AlJassmi

Don't have a KUNOOZ Account?
 Call 800 5555 or SMS «CR <space> KV» to 4866
 to get a call back.
 This promotion runs until 30th September, 2009.
 Terms & conditions apply

VALUE PLUS ACCOUNT

www.dubaibank.ae

SHARIA COMPLIANT