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JANUARY 15-21, 2012 | Issue 31

Read

DUBAI SHOPPING FESTIVAL
مهرجانات دبي للتسوق
Jan 05 - Feb 05 2012 ٥ يناير - ٥ فبراير

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The Lexus GX 460 is an SUV that mixes heavy duty power with a touch of class



PORTUGUESE PERFECTION



SUGAR AND SPICE

The catwalk collections and high street shops are awash with candy colours and pastel hues this spring/summer



CREATIVE RETAIL

As part of Art Dubai 2012, the DXB store will soon be open to the art community again



Food facts

What a quick glance at the labels on food products can reveal



Health | Fitness | Film reviews | Entertainment | Cars & gadgets | Community | Listings

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Letters

Email: letters@readme.ae

A selection of the letters we've received this week. Write in to have your say.

✉ Hi *Read.*, I've been in the UAE staying and working, for more than three years. Now that I am married I transferred to Discovery Gardens which is too far from the place where I work. But, with the help of Dubai Metro, I don't find it miserable to travel from Discovery Gardens to Sharjah. Thanks to Dubai Metro.

Shiela Ann Marie Reyes

ED: We agree with you Sheila. The cornerstone for a great city is great transportation, and Dubai Metro is really setting the pace. Anything that makes life easier is always a welcome addition to Dubai.

✉ Dear *Read.*, I am a 28-year-old guy. I came here to Dubai eight months back with lots of hopes. But so far I am not able to find a job which suits my qualifications. Nowadays, it seems quite hopeless. And also I fell in love with a girl, but she doesn't like me. I can't forget her. All these things are making

me depressed. I don't know what to do. Sometimes it feels this life is a burden. Do you have any suggestions for me?

PK

ED: Luckily, there are plenty of fish in the sea, and Dubai has a full ocean! Maybe focus your attention on the job search before searching for love. Set up a LinkedIn account and sign up to Akhtaboot.com to broaden your job hunt.

✉ Dear *Read.*, We're a couple of weeks into 2012, and I hate to say it, but I'm already struggling with my New Year's resolutions. I've aimed to lose a few of those dreaded extra pounds. Finding the energy after work is almost as draining as exercise itself. How is everyone in the *Read.* office holding to their resolutions? Maybe I can get some inspiration from you.

Dena Herrera

ED: We'd be lying if we said it wasn't a struggle for us too, but it's really down to discipline. The support of friends and colleagues adds a touch of guilt if we skip a gym session or swim, but you always feel better after a workout though, so keep it up!

Read. Poll

Why do you use Facebook?

- To connect with friends
- To relax
- Because it's cool to do so
- For no real reason

Cast your vote online at www.readme.ae

LAST READ. POLL RESULTS

What is your dream monthly salary?

Dh5,000	12%
Dh5,001-10,000	31%
Dh10,001-20,000	31%
Dh20,001-30,000+	26%

QR codes



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Metro pics



Post your pictures (any subject) on the Facebook page of *Read.* The pictures with the most number of 'Likes' will be selected for publication and the most creative one will also be awarded a Digitally voucher worth Dh250. The pictures must be your own and not copied from any source. Post your pictures to www.facebook.com/readmeae



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Station by station guide

Looking for something to do? You could always hop off the train and visit one of these...

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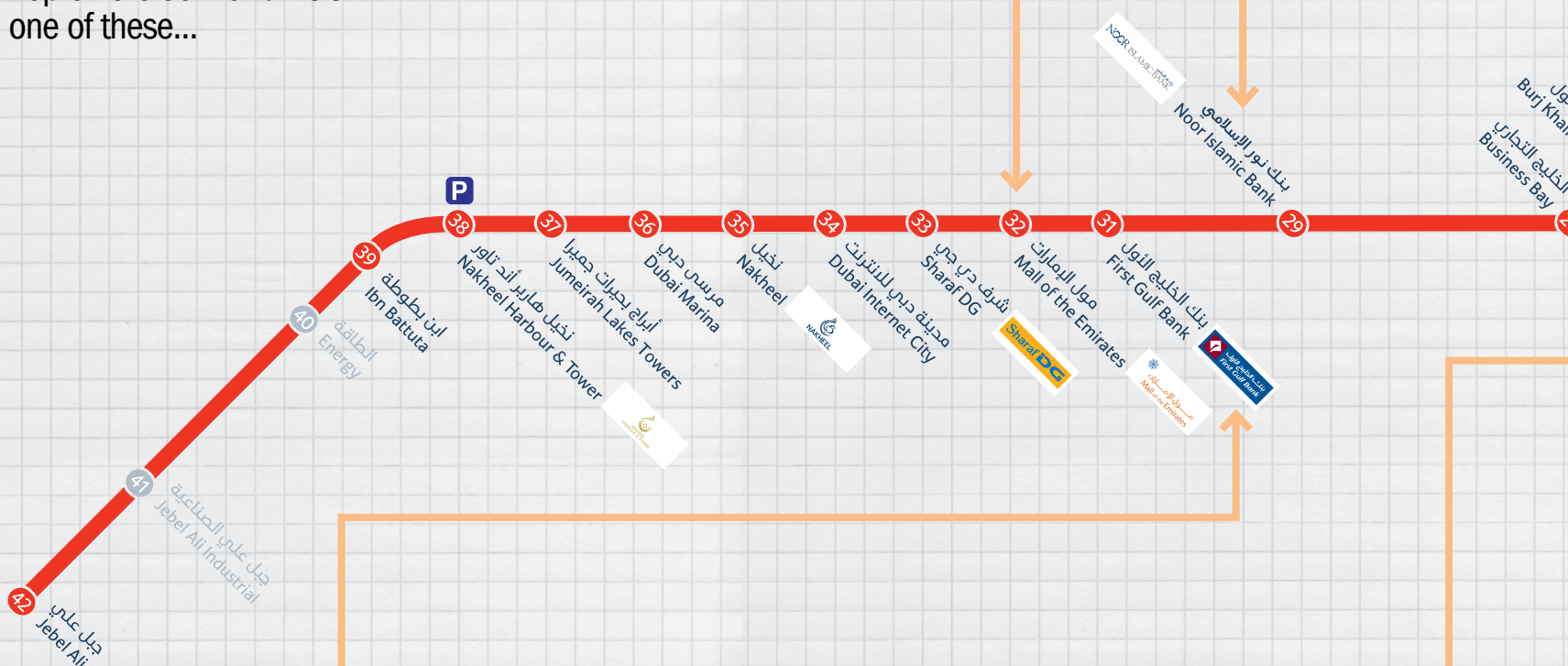
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Aerial Silk Dance classes

TIMINGS VARY THE FRIDGE

Just a short bus or taxi ride from the metro station, why not try a class with a difference this week? Aerial Silk Dance is an acrobatic discipline mainly performed in the circus, which provides an off-the-ground experience that will challenge and stimulate your physical awareness, enhance your self-esteem and grace while building strength and stamina. Classes run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 12pm (intermediate), Saturdays from 11am to 1pm (intermediate) and Saturdays from 1pm to 3pm (beginners). Prices start from Dh180 per class, or Dh100 for a trial class.

The Dreamer and the Poet



UNTIL JANUARY 20 PRO ART GALLERY

This group exhibition, featuring Arab and Iranian artists, portrays various themes of innocence, purity and tradition, which are propagated via poetry and dream infused works. The exhibition runs daily (except Fridays) until January 20 from 10am-9pm, at the Pro Art Gallery, Sunset Mall, Jumeirah Beach Road.

TO FEATURE YOUR EVENT,
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Jazz and Blues

SUNDAYS FROM 8PM
KROSSROADS, KHALID BIN WALEED STREET

Sunday nights are Jazz and Blues nights for the house band at this venue in Bur Dubai. Why not take a trip on the Metro to catch some live music for free in a relaxed environment after a hard first day back at work this week?

South African art



JANUARY 18 UNTIL FEBRUARY 4
GALLERY OF LIGHT, DUCTAC

The UAE's first contemporary South African Art Exhibition opens this January. *Mine*, an exhibition of films by South African artists, will showcase video productions by 17 South African artists including internationally renowned artists William Kentridge and Robin Rhode. The exhibition is curated by South African artist, photographer and curator Abrie Fourie.



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Art Week Seminar No. 5



JANUARY 15, 5-7PM
THE PAVILION

Art Dubai's next educational seminar is taking place at The Pavilion, Downtown. The theme for this seminar is "gallery management" and the topics include the

practical side of running a gallery including the daily working life of a contemporary art gallery; working with artists; how galleries support the local arts scene; and the relationship a gallery has with critics, collectors, and audiences in general. The speakers from well-known Dubai galleries are Asmaa Al-Shabibi (Lawrie Shabibi) Hetal Pawani (Jam Jar) and Sunny Rahbar (Third Line).

The Burning Question

Q If the world were to end in 2012, how would you spend your remaining time?



Indira Kasaera

STUDENT, SHARJAH

I would get married spontaneously to a stranger and perhaps I would go and live in a monastery for a month, just to explore different faiths and religions. I would do a lot of crazy stuff, like skydiving.

Roshna Ghimire

HOSPITALITY, AL QUOZ

I would live my life like I normally do. Since we are born, we all know that we are going to die some day, so I wouldn't do anything crazy or different than I do in my daily life.



Jose Torzar

SAFETY INSPECTOR, SATWA

I work away from home so I would go back to my home in the Philippines and spend every day with my family.



Michelle Cua

SECRETARY, DEIRA

I would go back home to the Philippines and spend the rest of my time with my mother and the rest of my family.



Anna Bavaskina

STUDENT, DUBAI MARINA

I would go to Italy and get married. I would just wander around and explore Rome. It wouldn't be an expensive holiday but just so I could see all the sights.



Ahmad Hamdan

BUSINESSMAN, DUBAI MARINA

I would probably spend my money between me and my son and just enjoy the rest of our life together.



Michael Millar

AVIATION, JBR

I would probably quit my job and use my money to travel the world and explore different countries.



What's happening this week on **readme.ae?**

Make sure you check out our web site for these daily specials, which appear online every afternoon. 'Like' us on Facebook so that we can keep you up to date with our latest online features and fun.

Coming up this week



TODAY

The iconic desert island archipelago development the World is due to have its first tenants within weeks, with World Island Beach Club on Lebanon island set to open for exclusive membership. The island, part of a Dh51.4 billion 300 island development, lies just kilometres from Dubai's coastline. But how was this amazing man-made feat of engineering made possible? Find out today.



MONDAY

The nine-month round-the-world Volvo Ocean Race left our shores at the weekend and headed off on leg three to China. But this is no relaxing boat holiday. Learn more at readme.ae



TUESDAY

Superstars Beyoncé and Jay-Z became first time parents last week, calling their daughter Blue Ivy, much to the bemusement of the world. Check out some other outrageous celebrity baby names.



WEDNESDAY

Awards season kicked off last weekend with the Golden Globes - often a good indicator of who'll win big at the Oscars. We take a look at some of the films that are considered the best of all time.



THURSDAY

As promised, we sent the *Read.* team along to Ski Dubai to find out if snowboarding really is as easy as the pros make it look. Check out the hilarious video on readme.ae today.



FRIDAY

Once again our Facebook page has been full of your opinions on our daily Burning Question. We find the best responses from our Facebook fans and bring you the answers that matter most to the people of Dubai.

Facebook chatter

Here's what you have been saying on the *Read.* Facebook page.

(Responses only edited for length)

Do you think celebrities would make good leaders of countries?

I don't think that celebrities can make good politicians although many of them might have political awareness. But the idea is, only few of them really know people's needs which is the most important thing in a politician.

—Sara Ameer

Any person can get into politics and be a good leader as long as he / she is capable of doing good deeds to his/her fellowmen. He/she must be a LAW Maker but not a LAW BREAKER, willing to improve the

country with dignity and honesty.

—Josephine Cake Dela Cruz

In what ways is Dubai an emirate to be proud of?

Dubai is an emirate that has been a cradle for many nationalities helping them out through their career



SCHWARZENEGGER WAS A US GOVERNER

and in return, serving the emirate for the world to see his grandeur and beauty shining in the middle east.

—Christian Salazar

Dubai managed to preserve its culture and identity as an Arab and Muslim emirate despite numerous nationalities and influences gathered in it. They managed to put in something in everything around us that identifies Dubai and its culture even though it is rapidly changing into a very modern city

—Luc Khern

No doubt Dubai is a wonder in itself, the skyline, the people, the attractions, everything makes it the most unique destination in the world. What more does anyone want to be proud of? :)

—Omer Chauhan



MAGNIFICENT CREATURES

Do you think that whaling should be sanctioned further?

Whales are magnificent creatures. Now that they are somehow rare, whale poaching should not be. Salmon or hamour is different, because they can be farmed, unlike whales which needs a huge space for them to breed. They should atleast be given the chance to reproduce for a while yknow.. :/

—Kyle Dolor

Store back for Art Dubai 2012

After its successful debut last year, the **DXB store** is once again open for all UAE artists and designers.



LOCAL ART

The latest edition of Art Dubai is heading to the city in March and the buzz around the event is already picking up, especially among new and aspiring talent on the local art scene.

As always, the festival will not only feature the works of established names but, aims to further discover new and aspiring talent on the local scene, particularly with the return of

the DXB store, a not-for-profit retail concept, featuring limited edition art and design objects that are created in the UAE.

The DXB store was launched at Art Dubai 2011 as a pop-up initiative, aimed at showcasing the innovative work of UAE-based creatives. The collection included newly commissioned objects as well as existing ranges, which were the brainchild of Emirati nationals and residents of the UAE. Now, for the second year run-

“Over the past decade, there has been an explosion of creativity in the UAE”

ning, the store has put out an open call to artists and designers in the region to submit their works or ideas for this year's store.

With such a huge programme already being unveiled, the DXB store is by no means the only way for up-an-coming artists and designers to get involved, but based on last year's success it appears to be one of the more popular concepts.

Art Dubai's fair director, Antonia Carver says, “Over the past decade, there has been an explosion of creativity in the UAE, with young designers and artists, working predominantly in home studios, experimenting with locally-produced materials to produce new objects, clothes and other design products. The introduction of the store at Art Dubai 2011 was a great success, both in terms of raising profile for the concept and participating artists as well as in terms of delivering revenue back to the designers.”

The 2012 edition of the DXB store at Art Dubai, March 21-24 at the Madinat Jumeirah, will feature a variety of distinctive designs from each artist in all shapes and sizes, with everything from artists' multiples and jewellery to stationery and design collectibles. Possible candidates are now being invited to submit their proposals and ideas for products for the DXB Store by January 19, 2012, for review by the jury, which this year includes s*uce co-founder Zayan Ghandour, designer Manabu Ozawa, and furniture and objects designer Khalid Shafar

Shafar says, “I'm delighted to be joining the jury for DXB Store 2012 and act as an ‘ambassador’ for this great initiative, which helps put my hometown on the global design/art map. Every year, more designer-makers and artists emerge from the UAE and it's this homegrown talent that we're looking to celebrate through the DXB Store. I'm encouraging members of the creative community in the UAE to think innovatively about what they might produce, and look forward to presenting a unique museum-style store at Art Dubai in March 2012.” For details on how to submit your work for consideration, visit www.artdubai.ae/dxbstore ●



ART LOVERS BROWSE AT 2011'S STORE



SHOPPING AT ITS BEST

While Dubai Shopping Festival includes diverse experiences beyond shopping, it's still proven to be the best time to shop in Dubai. From unmatched selections and discounts on international brands to cultural offerings in the spice and gold souks and traditional markets, discover shopping in its best season during the year.

NIGHT SOUK Date: Jan 5 – Feb 5 Venue: Al Rigga Street Time: Sat – Wed 6:00pm – 2:00am / Thu – Fri 6:00pm – 3:00am	CARPET & ARTS OASIS Date: Jan 5 – Feb 5 Venue: Airport Expo Dubai – West Hall Time: Sat – Thu 10:00am – 10:00pm / Fri 4:00pm – 11:00pm
HERITAGE & DIVING VILLAGE Date: Jan 5 – Feb 5 Time: Sat – Wed 4:00pm – 10:00pm / Thu – Fri 4:00pm – Midnight	SHOPPING MALLS Date: Jan 5 – Feb 5 Venue: Across 70 Shopping Malls in Dubai

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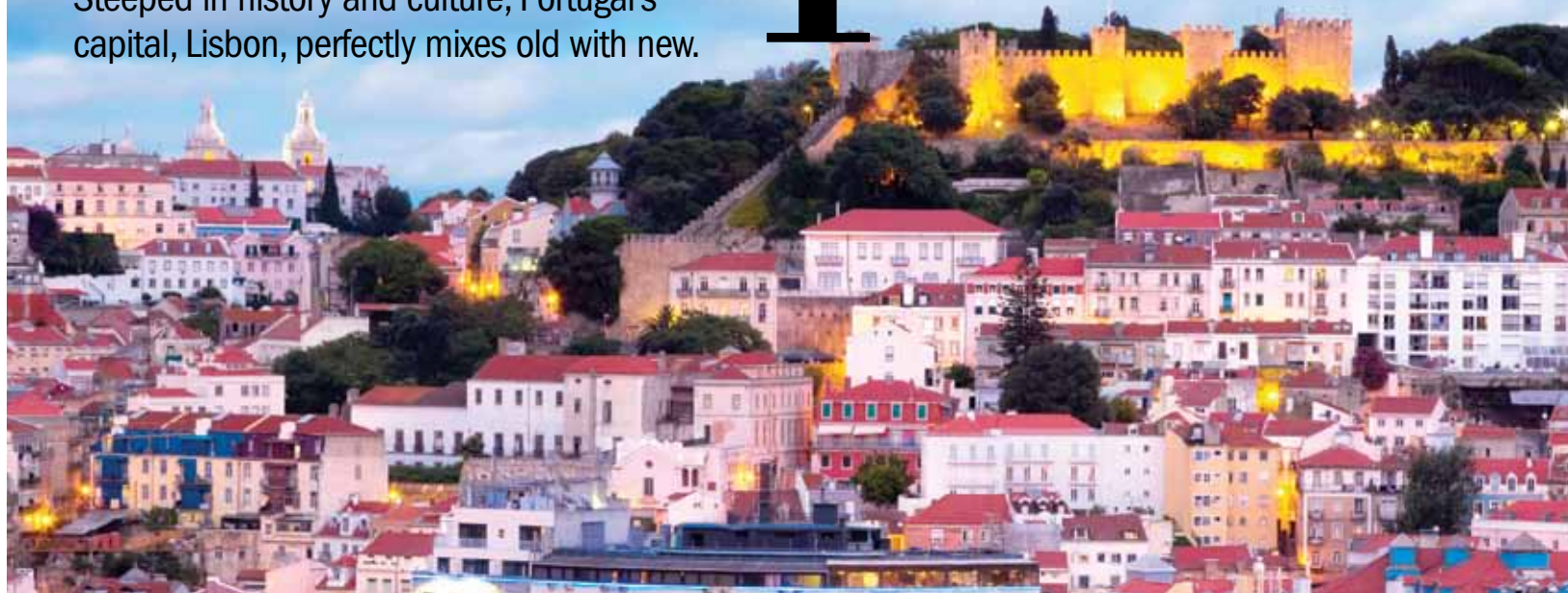
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A modern antique

Steeped in history and culture, Portugal's capital, Lisbon, perfectly mixes old with new.



Looking down from the turrets at the Castle of Sao Jorge, the whole of Lisbon spreads before you. The medieval fortress stands atop the highest hill in the historic centre of the city and affords a panoramic vista of the tiled, terracotta roofs that dominate a birds eye view of the Portuguese capital. From here you can also see the mountains of Monsanto rising in the distance and the Tagus river snaking inland from the sea.

This is one of the many vantage points in Lisbon, where the residents are rightly proud of what they call its miradouros (scenic outlooks). From above, you get an overpowering sense of the history behind this beautiful city, which overflows with museums, monuments and medieval castles. Down at street level, however, the atmosphere is altogether different.

Despite its age, the Portuguese capital has a youthful spirit, yielded partly by the vibrant restaurant, bar and café scene and partly by the lively enthusiasm of native Lisboetas. This is not a quiet, lazy capital. Despite its warm climate and the tranquil appearance of people lunching in terraced restaurants and strolling sedately through the wide squares, the pace of life in Lisbon is fast and the city hums with life.

In the hilltop district of Barrio Alto,



THE BELEM TOWER

bustling bars and restaurants line the narrow streets, and come evening time the sounds of music and voices mingle with the tantalising smells of food in the air. Around midnight, the crowd on the street thins as revellers head off to nightclubs, tucked away in eighteenth century mansions or blaring lights from the riverside docks.

Wherever you go in Lisbon, this seamless blend between old and new exists, providing the fascinating mix of cutting-edge modernity and time-honoured tradition that gives the city so much character. Another key asset is the cuisine. As a seaside city, it's no surprise to find an abundance of fresh fish, with the ever-popular grilled sardines appearing in some shape or form on almost every menu.

Restaurants and tascas (small taverns) offer an astounding variety of nibbles and appetisers, although it's worth saving some room for the many delicious Portuguese desserts, particularly the traditional Pastels de Belem (hearty custard tarts).

Make sure you try Portugal's national

dish – dried, salted codfish known as bacalhau, generally eaten with olive oil, potatoes, cabbage and sometimes, chic peas.

Food is a major part of the culture, as is the drinking of coffee, which is traditionally served in small cups, known as Bica. For a real taste of life here, wander through the pretty backstreets of old Alfama, where locals gossip over fresh bread and coffee at tiny patio restaurants, while fado singers perform in the background.

One of the best times to visit the city is the summer, particularly throughout June when the streets are alive with festival-goers, celebrating the annual Festas dos Santos Populares, the most popular of which is the Festa de Santo Antonio. In addition to joining cheerful street parades, which are accompanied by festive music and the waving of colourful ribbons, you can try your hand at the traditional festival

Places to visit in Lisbon

- The Calouste Gulbenkian museum
- The Belem Tower
- The Jeronimos Monastery
- The Design Museum
- The Roman Theatre Ruins
- 25 de Abril Bridge
- Santa Justa Elevator

game, which, locals believe, reveals the name of your future spouse.

These quaint traditions are abound in Lisbon, where many areas retain the sense of a small village set within a big city. It may be avant-garde and modern in some quarters, but much of the Portuguese capital retains the sleepy town vibe, where everybody knows each other and a warm, local welcome is extended to all visitors. ●



PASTELS DE BELEM

the POWERPUFF GIRLS CONCERT

AT BURJUMAN

12th to 21st Jan, 2012

Meet Bubbles, Blossom,
Buttercup and Mojo Jojo



SHOW TIMINGS

12th to 21st Jan (No show on 17th Jan)
5 pm, 6:30 pm and 8 pm

Special Matinée Show

14th Jan: 12.45 pm,
followed by Meet & Greet.

Meet & Greet

12th to 21st Jan
(No Meet & Greet on 17th Jan)
5:30 pm - 5.45 pm, 7 pm - 7.15 pm
and 8:30 pm - 8.45 pm



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Townsville's cutest superheroes are here to get you rocking and rolling! Don't miss the chance to see the amazing Powerpuff Girls trio - Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup perform their coolest hits live! Villian Mojo Jojo will try and steal the limelight. Fans can also meet and click pictures with their favourites after each show!

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BACK TO FRONT: Understanding food labels

Making sense of the facts and figures on the back of what we choose to eat.

Food packaging can be extremely deceptive and what appears healthy can often be the opposite says Dubai-based nutritional therapist, Laura Holland. "Words like healthy and organic are bandied around on labels but this doesn't automatically mean the food is good for you. It's best to ignore the front of the packet and turn instead to the back," she says.

Even here, we have to be careful what we focus on. "Generally speaking, people fall into categories when it comes to purchasing food. Some people have no concept at all of looking at what's in the food they buy, while others are meticulous, but this tends to be about the calorie and

How do the numbers add up?

Daily food intakes based on FDA recommendations and the average 2000 calories-a-day diet (advised for a relatively sedentary man and a moderately active woman).

Total fat **65g**
Saturated fat **20g**
Cholesterol **300mg**
Sodium **2300mg**
Potassium **4700mg**
Carbohydrate **300g**
Fibre **25g**
Protein **50g**
Vitamin C **60-90mg**
Calcium **1000-1300mg**
Iron **18mg**



fat content, with little regard to all the other information," she says.

What we should really be focusing on, Holland explains, is the ingredients list. This is where we can learn the quality of the foods we are buying and whether they are actually going to harm or benefit our bodies, irrespective of the claims made on the front of the packet. "It may say the product is organic, but it can still, for example, be full of sugar and therefore detrimental to your health," says Holland.

Products to avoid in the ingredients list

- Added sugar and sodium/salt.
- Trans fats and partially or fully hydrogenated oils (fat that has been treated at a very high temperature, which makes it unstable and very toxic for the body).
- E-numbers and preservatives (e-numbers will appear as the letter 'E' followed by a number, while preservatives will generally be identified as such in the list).
- Corn syrup and corn fructose, Aspartame and other chemical sugars (often in low fat foods).
- BHA or BHD (generally found in processed meats).
- Anything you can't pronounce, that looks as though it belongs in the science class rather than on a plate.

"The product may sound healthier, but when you look closely at the contents it is often worse overall"

Another label that provides manufacturers with an easy marketing tool and can deceive us into believing certain foods are good for us is 'low fat' or 'fat free'. "When foods are labelled low fat or fat free, it is very important to check the sodium and sugar levels as they are likely to be a lot higher," says Rashi Chowdhary, nutrition and inch loss expert.

"When manufacturers make any product fat free, they remove a lot of the natural ingredients and add a whole load of emulsifiers, sodium, sugar and other potentially harmful products to make up for the loss of fat. The product may sound healthier, but when you look closely at the contents, it is often worse overall than its full fat counterpart" she says.

Some of the main ingredients to watch out for in low fat or fat free foods include olestra, corn syrup and hydrogenated oils. The presence of any of these ingredients should be enough to prevent us buying a product as they can all be extremely harmful to the body, much more so than ordinary fats, Chowdhary explains.

When it comes to checking the fat content, the type of fats we need to watch out for are trans fats and

sat fats. "Don't buy any foods that contain trans fats; they are added to some food products to increase the shelf life but the body cannot process them and, among other things, they are a leading cause of heart disease. Saturated or sat fat levels meanwhile should ideally make up less than 5 per cent of the ingredients, as should sodium levels," says Chowdhary.

However, the fat level is irrelevant from a health perspective if we don't cast a beady eye over the ingredients list first. "Most people look at the calorie level and purchase the item if they consider this to be low enough, regardless of what other chemicals it contains, which is a mistake. If you are eating foods that are unnatural

then your body cannot digest it and what your body can't digest it will accumulate," explains Holland.

Ingredients lists can appear off-putting at first, especially as many contain products we don't even understand, but this alone can be a signal that the food is unnatural and therefore unhealthy. According to Holland, "Ingredients lists come in descending order, with the main content listed first, so it's easy to identify what the majority of a product is made up of. If sugar, starch, vegetable oil, hydrogenated oil, preservatives or words you don't even understand appear in the first five, then chances are it's a food you shouldn't be eating." ●



LOOK CLOSELY AT THE LABELS



CHOOSE CAREFULLY WHEN SHOPPING FOR FOOD

FITNESS FOR REAL

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The importance of stretching

One of the greatest benefits of stretching is that you're able to increase your range of motion, which means your limbs and joints can move further before an injury occurs. Post-exercise stretching can also aid in workout recovery, decrease muscle soreness and ensure that your muscles and tendons are in good working order.

The more conditioned your muscles and tendons are, the better they can handle the rigours of sport and exercise and the less likely that they'll become injured.

"Stretching should be part of your daily routine, whether you exercise or not"

Stretching comes naturally to all of us. You might notice that if you have been sitting in a particular position for a long time you stretch subconsciously. It feels good! In addition to that feeling, a consistent stretching programme will produce large gains in flexibility and joint movement. Everyone can learn to stretch regardless of age or flexibility. Stretching should be part of your daily routine, whether you exercise or not. There are simple stretches you can do while watching TV, on the computer or getting ready for bed. It does not have to involve a huge amount of time or commitment but can end up giving you huge results.

Just a few benefits from a regular stretching programme are: reduced muscle tension, increased range of movement in the joints, enhanced muscular coordination, increased circulation of blood and increased energy levels resulting from increased circulation. So start stretching today; be kind to your muscles and they will, in turn, be kind to you!



Ab fab

The quest for a flat stomach is one which many of us spend a lifetime pursuing.

Try and try as you will, but finding the ideal lazy way to score yourself a flat toned tummy is like playing a computer game to try and make friends. It can't be done. Lazy, and six-pack are two things that, unfortunately, just don't go together.

If you, like a thousand others in Dubai, are gunning to get your abs ripped following a season of excessive eating, there are a number of strict rules that will need following. If you think you can continue eating the regular fat and sugar laden snacks that normally get you through your day, you're sorely mistaken.

Failure to account for the foods you eat on a daily basis will quickly short circuit your results and leave you continually wondering when progress is going to take place. If you really want to get results quickly, you need to take control of your diet and only feed your body the foods that will prime it for fat burning.

"Without question, the single most important meal that you must eat during the day is the post-workout meal", states personal trainer Donna Belazi. "Many people make the mistake of skipping this meal, thinking that it will allow them to continue to burn off body fat after the workout."

The period after a workout is

"If you really want to get results quickly, you need to take control of your diet"

when that food will be used to increase the metabolic rate and when it's going to get sucked right up into the muscle tissues.

If you want to really boost your ability to get lean, load up a higher percentage of your daily calorie intake right after the workout and keep the other meals during the day lower in overall calories.

"Another good rule to follow is to make sure you get some protein with each and every meal or snack you eat," Belazi added. "When on a strict fat-loss diet, protein is the single macronutrient that will spare your lean muscle mass. If it's a rock-solid physique you're after, this will be essential. Focus on proteins that are naturally leaner, such as chicken, fish, egg whites and extra-lean cuts of red meat."

Finally, don't forgo carbs altogether. Many people who are attempting to get a ripped stomach are quick to remove virtually all carbs from their diet except fibrous vegetables.

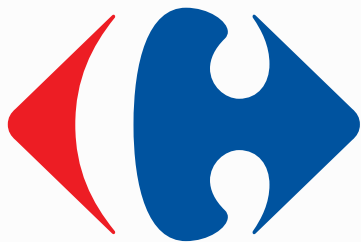
When all carbohydrates are removed like this, your metabolism is going to plummet, making fat loss extremely difficult— if not completely impossible.

"Having at least one high-carb day in the diet is going to prevent this and keep that metabolism running faster. If you can have two or three high-carb days on your hardest workout days, it will be all the better," concluded Belazi.

So, once you take those rules into consideration, you're on your way to a rippling six pack Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino would be jealous of. All you're missing is the hard work and motivation it takes to do hundreds of sit-ups each morning. ●



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NEW RELEASE

Apocalyptic fantasy goes to Russia in Chris Gorak's, *The Darkest Hour*, an alien invasion flick that evidently expects dramatic shots of a depopulated Red Square to make up for a flat lining screenplay and the absence of even a single compelling character. Glossing over all the attention-grabbing elements of the movie, you are left with dull characters and zero drama; the Russia-set science fiction film is little more than a terrible mix of incompetence and missed opportunity.

The story follows two entrepreneurs, Sean (Emile Hirsch) and Ben (Max Minghella), who journey from the US to Moscow to promote their new website, only to find that Skyler, a Swiss wheeler-dealer has stolen their idea and investors. Admitting defeat, the pair decide to drown their sorrows at the trendy Zvezda Nightclub, where they connect with two pretty tourists, Natalie (Olivia Thirlby) and Anne (Rachael Taylor). The four travellers are in the wrong place at the right time as thousands of extra-terrestrial invaders descend from the night sky and proceed to vaporise all humans in their paths.

The four leads and Skyler take shelter in a secure basement; emerging days later to discover almost all living creatures have been blasted into dust and all power sources consumed by the unfriendly visitors. Without electricity, phone service or even functioning automobiles, the survivors make their way across Moscow to ascertain just what is happening and how they can escape the besieged city. *The Darkest Hour*'s biggest problem isn't undeveloped characters, however the lack of personality makes it impossible for the audience to have any sort of connection with the characters and they fail to even form authentic relationships between themselves because they are so bland and boring.

The group do run into other survivors, but they are all just as one-dimensional as each other and they are barely able to keep the plot moving. The only reason to cheer for these people is because they have managed to survive, but in the land of movie making, that doesn't cut it. *The Darkest Hour* is most effective in its first half, as the survivors only gradually suss out the nature and scope of the invasion force while manoeuvring through a deserted Moscow.

Time and again, Gorak ably generates alternating currents of suspense and excitement whenever the normally invisible aliens betray their presence by inadvertently powering up light bulbs, mobile phones and other

Almost all living creatures

have been blasted into

dust by unfriendly, extra-

terrestrial invaders



The Dullest Hour

Aliens, sci-fi and suspense do little to help **The Darkest Hour** fulfil its potential.



Did you know?

- Emile Hirsh is a hardcore fan of *The Matrix*. He saw the first instalment when he was 13.
- While filming *The Girl Next Door*, Hirsh turned 18. Until then, he used a body double.
- He played legendary skateboarder Jay Adams in *Lords of Dogtown*, thanks to the fact he has been skating since he was seven years old.

THE SURVIVORS MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH DESERTED MOSCOW



THIRLBY AND TAYLOR IN PERIL

dormant devices. However, when one of the central characters is killed, the plot moves on so quickly that they might as well have never existed in the first place. The film is constantly in a rush to get somewhere, even though it's clear that it has no idea where it's going. The second half relies more heavily on traditional action-adventure scenes, with the introduction of a teen scavenger (Veronika Vernadskaya), an eccentric engineer-turned-inventor (Dato Bakhtadze), and Matvei (Gosha Kutsenko), a crafty technician who rides a heavily armoured horse while leading a small army against the invaders.

The wasted potential in the film is sad and truly disappointing for sci-fi fans. The final product is a movie that moves quickly in pace, yet is utterly predictable, filled with flat characters, zero tension and a lack of suspense. Ironically, the film is suitably titled, as, unfortunately, it really is one of the longest, most boring and darkest hours in cinema time. ●

SILVER SCREEN

100 years young



Films buffs across the world have received the latest news from Universal with open arms, after the studio revealed that, to celebrate its 100th anniversary, some of the company's most celebrated films will be restored and re-released this year.

April 30, 2012, marks the studio's special date, so in honour of this landmark the company has delved into the archives of some of its most classic films and come up with an impressive list of titles which will be lovingly restored in time for a re-release.

The list includes well-known movie classics such as *Schindler's List*, *Jaws*, *Dracula* and *All Quiet on the Western Front*. The first movie to undergo the centennial sparkle however will be the film that featured Gregor Peck's Oscar-winning turn, *To Kill a Mockingbird*; which will be released on Blu-ray later this month.

Universal COO Ron Meyer says, "Our centennial is designed to bring special memories back to longtime movie lovers and fans, and to engage new audiences with our extraordinary library of films for the first time. Our goal, 100 years later, is to preserve, restore and continue the iconic legacy of this studio for generations to come."

Universal is also celebrating with a series of special events and a brand new logo, designed specifically to reflect the centenary celebrations. As of March, all Universal releases will sport the new, updated logo, ready for another 100 years of movie magic

Bollywood news



Madhuri Dixit now in wax

Bollywood diva Madhuri Dixit is the latest Indian film star to join the A-list lineup at London's Madame Tussauds. The 44-year-old has already posed in Mumbai for sculptors from the museum and is expected to unveil her likeness in March. It will cost £150,000 to create and will take a team of sculptors, hair, makeup and wardrobe experts four months to create.

Bachchan reaches 1m mark

Actor Abhishek Bachchan is overjoyed after crossing the 1 million followers mark on Twitter. "1 million! Wow! Thank you to the coolest crew in the world. Thank you for the love and support." the 35-year-old posted.

Abhishek has 1,000,029 followers to date, but is still far behind his father, Amitabh, who holds the top position with 1,896,417 followers so far.



Munnabhai 3 commences

The third edition of the hit comedy series *Munnabhai* is all set to go in September this year. The film will be directed by Raju Hirani, who also helmed *Munnabhai MBBS* and *Lage Raho Munnabhai*. Sanjay, Arshad Warsi and Boman Irani have been finalised for the third edition, while the rest of the cast is yet to be decided.

Reviews in brief

A quick look at the week's biggest films.



Our Idiot Brother ★★☆☆☆

(2011) Paul Rudd, Elizabeth Banks, Zoëy Deschanel

Thanks to Rudd's everyman persona and the genial obliviousness he brings to Ned, you can't help but feel empathy. His comic timing and the made-to-order script make sure you get the most laughs from his predicament. Luckily, there's more to him than just bad luck. He's an endearing white angel on the shoulders of his sisters, helping them along as he becomes an unwitting catalyst for change.

Underworld: Awakening ★★★★★

(2012) Kate Beckinsale, Michael Ealy, India Eisley



The fourth installment of the *Underworld* franchise seems to rectify to plot holes left in its prequels. When human forces discover the existence of the Vampire and Lycan

clans, a war to eradicate both species commences. For fans of the *Twilight Saga*, *Underworld: Awakening* will not appeal. But those who prefer the darker side to the vampire world will note that this franchise could go even further yet.



5 Days of War ★★☆☆☆

(2011) Rupert Friend, Emmanuelle Chriqui, Andy Garcia

This is a disturbing film on many levels; it takes us into the bowels of an active war zone, sharing the ravenous hunger of war and the effects on the citizens of the invaded country. It is raw in its depiction of what happens to non-combatant journalists who are embedded to document the truth, and highlights how little the outside world knew of this brief but devastating war between Russia and Georgia in 2008.

Listings



TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY

MOVIE GUIDE

GRAND CINEPLEX - WAFI

Bunraku - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00
Chalet Girl - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50
The Darkest Hour (3D) - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15, 18:15, 20:15, 22:15, 00:15
Don 2 - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00
Elephant White - 11:00, 13:10, 15:20, 17:30, 19:40, 21:50, 00:00
Ghost - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Hugo - 19:00, 21:25, 23:50
J. Edgar - 12:00, 14:50, 17:40, 20:30, 23:30
Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:15, 13:00, 15:45, 18:25, 21:10, 23:50
Mohtaram Ela Arba - 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
Our Idiot Brother - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00
Players - 10:30, 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, 22:30
Sherlock Holmes 2 - 10:30, 13:10, 15:50, 18:30, 21:20, 23:55
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:15, 23:45

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Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
Bunraku - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00
Cat in Boots - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00, 23:00
Chalet Girl - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50
The Darkest Hour (3D) - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15, 18:15, 20:15, 22:15, 00:15
Don 2 - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30
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Ghost - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Hugo - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00
J. Edgar - 12:00, 14:50, 17:40, 20:30, 23:30
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Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:15, 13:00, 15:45, 18:25, 21:10, 23:50
Mohtaram Ela Arba - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
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New Year's Eve - 11:45, 14:00, 16:15, 18:30, 20:40, 23:00
Our Idiot Brother - 11:15, 13:15, 15:15, 17:15, 19:15, 21:15, 23:15
Players - 10:30, 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, 22:30
Sherlock Holmes 2 - 10:30, 13:10, 15:50, 18:30, 21:20, 23:55
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:15, 23:45
Trespass - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15, 18:15, 20:15, 22:15
Twilight: Breaking Dawn - 20:00, 22:30
Warrior - 20:30, 23:00

GRAND CINEMAS - FESTIVAL CITY

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 10:40, 12:30, 14:20, 16:10, 18:00
Bunraku - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00
Chalet Girl - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50
The Darkest Hour (3D) - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15, 18:15, 20:15, 22:15, 00:15
Elephant White - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45, 17:00, 19:15, 21:30, 23:45
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J. Edgar - 12:00, 14:50, 17:40, 20:30, 23:30
Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:15, 13:00, 15:45, 18:25, 21:10, 23:50

Mohtaram Ela Arba - 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
Our Idiot Brother - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30
Sherlock Holmes 2 - 10:30, 13:10, 15:50, 18:30, 21:20, 23:55
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:15, 23:45

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Hugo - 19:00, 21:25, 23:50
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Nanban - 11:30, 14:20, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Players - 10:30, 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, 22:30
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Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:15, 13:00, 15:45, 18:25, 21:10, 23:50
Nanban - 11:30, 14:20, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Our Idiot Brother - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30
Players - 10:30, 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, 22:30
Salvation Boulevard - 10:50, 13:00, 15:00, 17:10, 19:20, 21:40, 23:50
GRAND MERCATO
Chalet Girl - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50

THE READ. WEEKLY GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AT THE MOVIES.

SCHEDULE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS; HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE THAT THEATRES CAN CHANGE SCHEDULES WITHOUT NOTICE

The Darkest Hour (3D) - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15, 18:15, 20:15, 22:15, 00:15
Hugo - 21:20, 23:40
J. Edgar - 12:00, 14:50, 17:40, 20:30, 23:30
Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:15, 13:00, 15:45, 18:25, 21:10, 23:50
Players - 12:30, 15:20, 18:10
Sherlock Holmes 2 - 10:30, 13:10, 15:50, 18:30, 21:20, 23:55
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:15, 23:45

VOX CINEMAS - DEIRA CITY CENTRE

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 09:45, 11:45, 13:45, 15:45, 17:45, 19:45, 22:30
Bunraku - 13:00, 18:30, 23:45
Chalet Girl - 10:45, 13:00, 17:30, 22:00
The Darkest Hour (3D) - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:30
Don 2 (3D) - 16:30, 19:30, 22:30
Hugo (3D) - 11:30, 14:00
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Nanban - 11:45, 15:30, 19:15, 23:00
Players - 10:30, 13:45, 17:00, 20:15, 23:30
Sherlock Holmes 2 - 10:00, 12:45, 15:30, 18:15, 21:00, 23:45
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy - 10:15, 15:45, 21:00
The Wiggles Big Birthday - 10:00
X Large - 10:00, 12:45, 15:45, 18:30, 21:15, 00:00

VOX CINEMAS - MOE

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 11:15, 13:15, 15:15, 17:15, 19:15
Bunraku - 10:00, 14:30, 19:00, 23:45



Chalet Girl - 12:30, 17:00, 21:45
The Darkest Hour (3D) - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
Hugo (3D) - 10:30, 13:00, 15:30, 18:00, 20:30
J. Edgar - 11:15, 14:15, 17:15, 20:15, 23:15
Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:00, 11:15, 12:45, 14:00, 15:30, 16:45, 18:15, 19:30, 21:00, 22:15, 23:45
Mohtaram Ela Arba - 21:15, 23:30
The Muppets - 11:15, 13:30
New Year's Eve - 10:45, 13:15, 15:45, 18:15, 20:45, 23:15
Sherlock Holmes 2 - 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45, 22:30
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy - 09:45, 12:30, 15:15, 18:00, 20:45, 23:30
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Bunraku - 13:00, 18:30, 23:45
The Darkest Hour (3D) - 09:45, 11:45, 13:45, 15:45, 17:45, 19:45, 21:45, 23:45
Elephant White - 20:15, 22:15, 00:15
Hugo (3D) - 11:00, 13:30, 18:20
J. Edgar - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:15, 13:00, 15:45, 18:30, 21:15, 00:00
Nanban - 11:45, 15:30, 19:15, 23:00
Sherlock Holmes 2 - 09:45, 12:30, 15:15, 18:00, 20:45, 23:30
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy - 10:15, 15:45, 21:00
X Large - 18:45, 21:30, 00:15

REEL CINEMAS - DUBAI MALL

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 11:00, 14:10, 16:20
Bunraku - 11:40, 14:25, 17:10, 19:55, 22:30, 01:00
Chalet Girl - 16:25, 20:45, 22:55, 00:50
The Darkest Hour - 11:20, 13:30, 14:30, 15:40, 16:40, 19:00, 21:10,

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The Darkest Hour (3D) - 12:10, 14:20, 16:30, 18:40, 20:50, 22:00, 00:10
Elephant White - 11:30, 13:40, 15:50, 18:00, 20:10, 22:20, 00:30
J. Edgar - 12:30, 15:30, 18:30, 21:30, 00:30
Mission: Impossible 4 - 11:45, 14:45, 17:45, 18:30, 20:45, 21:30, 23:45, 00:30
Mohtaram Ela Arba - 18:30, 21:00, 23:40
New Year's Eve - 11:40, 14:10, 16:40, 19:20, 22:00, 00:40
Our Idiot Brother - 14:00, 16:00, 18:00
Players - 13:10, 16:30, 19:50, 23:10
Salvation Boulevard - 14:15, 18:35
Sherlock Holmes 2 - 12:00, 14:40, 17:20, 18:00, 20:00, 21:00, 22:40, 00:00, 01:20
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy - 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00
Trespass - 14:25, 16:25, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
The Way - 14:20, 16:50, 19:20, 21:50, 00:20
X Large - 11:00, 13:50, 16:30, 19:10, 21:50, 00:30

REEL CINEMAS - MARINA MALL

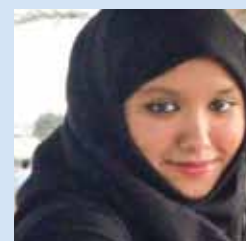
The Darkest Hour - 22:10, 00:10
The Darkest Hour (3D) - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:40
J. Edgar - 11:00, 13:40, 16:10, 17:40, 19:10, 20:40, 23:40
Mission: Impossible 4 - 11:40, 14:45, 17:45, 19:20, 20:45, 22:20, 00:05, 00:50
New Year's Eve - 11:45, 14:15, 16:45
Sherlock Holmes 2 - 11:20, 12:30, 14:00, 14:50, 16:40, 19:20, 22:00, 00:40

TO FEATURE YOUR EVENT,
 EMAIL EDITORIAL@README.AE

YOU REVIEW

Your chance to share your views on the latest cinema releases

Sana Ali
 Student
 Hor Al Hanz



I have just seen the Bollywood movie *Don 2*. I would say it was much better than the first one. I actually didn't think Shah-rukh Khan was a good actor, but after seeing this movie I have become a fan. It was a complete action movie with a bit of comedy. It really did show that if a person wants to change then everyone must support them rather than think they are a criminal.

9/10

I must say Farhan Akhtar has directed the film very well so hats off to him for an entertaining movie. I bet those people who don't even understand Hindi would see this movie too because some may already be SRK fans and, if not, this fantastic movie encourages them to become fans if they aren't already. The action was thrilling, like SRK's 300 foot high jump from the building in Berlin and the police car chases. I would say it's a must watch.

Want to be in Read.?

If you've been to see a recent movie, we want to hear your views. Email us your 150-word film review, along with your job title, location and a high-resolution photograph and you could be featured in our *You Review* section.



Ladylike chic

When it comes to perfect pastel frocks, we love Dorothy Perkins pretty, blue tea dress. This little ensemble is perfect for a more conservative silhouette, paired with either wedges or pumps. Add an edgier look to the pastel theme with a lantern skirt from Monsoon for the ultimate girl's night out. A simple silk camisole top or blouse looks perfect for a romantic, feminine look.

Get Louis Vuitton's look for less with this Monsoon, lemon-lace version for catwalk charm at high street price.

MARKS & SPENCER

DOROTHY PERKINS

MONSOON

Final touches

If you're feeling brave you can opt to wear this trend from head to toe, however if you're not feeling quite so adventurous, there are plenty of pastel accessories for you to finish off with a cool flash of colour. This trend is a celebration of spring/summer so it should be fun, light, colourful and girly.

Pretty

Sugar was back on the fashion menu with Chanel and Enrico Coveri leading the charge. The delicate collection of sweet pastels, lace and feathers crowned the lantern skirt as this season's new piece, in shades of mint, lilac and pale pink. Monsoon and Marks & Spencer add extra frosting to the innocent mood of spring 2012.

Her

Pastel trend

Daytime is the best time to wear paler shades. Think back to your favourite sorbet colours when you head shopping this season. We love these shorts by M&S, especially paired with a white vest for a lazy brunch. Just because it's work wear doesn't mean you have to stick to a staid palette of black and grey. Add a feminine touch to your look and still be taken seriously with a lemon blouse. If you are still finding that this trend is not working for you then stick to the accessories, you can easily add a pair of heels or clutch and remain bang on trend without going overboard.

MARKS & SPENCER

Mix and match

Light, airy shades appeared in Enrico Coveri's spring line. These spring hues against colour blocking and prints add instant glamour with this sweeter-than-candy trend. For maximum effect, add chunky jewellery and Bridget Bardot bouffant hair for that 'Sixties, girlie look. Colour blocking can help elongate the figure, so an all over pastel look will look great on everyone, just add a pair of killer heels.

ENRICO COVERI

Candy floss

The spring collections are awash with soft, pastel hues, from blue to pink, lilac, spearmint or yellow. Add a splash of colour to your wardrobe this season with a colour palette that's sweet as candy. Soft pastel colours look great on bronzed skin, so crack open the fake tan!



NEXT

CHRISTIAN DIOR

NEW LOOK

Him



NEXT



NEXT

Sweet



CHANEL



ENRICO COVERI



NEW LOOK



Colour me beautiful

This spring pastels aren't just for the ladies, designers such as Enrico Coveri are expressing lighter hues in men's tailoring. When choosing a suit, you should look for toned-down colours in pale greens, blues and pinks. Your image will be complemented by these powder colours instead of being overpowered.

How to wear pastels

Your shirt colours should be soft shades in powder blue, dusty pink, mauve, pale yellow, lavender and soft white. Choosing the correct colours will give you a harmonious, attractive pulled-together look, bringing you into the forefront. For a cool, casual pair of chino shorts in candy shades try New Look and Next for an affordable, stylish option.

FASHION OPINION



JIM PAOLO JOQUICO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
WWW.LAMODADUBAI.COM

2012: A style revolution

The new year means new resolutions, and new disappointments when you slip back into old habits. Instead of the usual list of impossible things to change, why not make a feasible roster to improve your fashion groove? Here are some easy tips to revolutionise your style this year. Recycle your clothes. Don't be apologetic about wearing your two-season-old blazer. Out of

"It's always enlightening to look back and see how you can make the best of what's lying ahead"

season doesn't always mean out of style. Keep trying new trends - you never know what works unless you try. There are so many new trends

every season and, while not all of them will work for everyone, at least one is bound to suit you.

Document your style - not for the prospect of Internet stardom, but to see how your tastes have evolved and to connect your sartorial phases to emotional experiences. It's always enlightening to look back and see how you can make the best of what's lying ahead.

A lot of people pretend to know about fashion, but very few have the credentials. With international institutions now offering short courses in Dubai on a regular basis, it's never been easier to learn more about the subject.

Pay attention to non-fashion essentials. Look at other things you own and assess whether they exude class or crass. Buy a trend-proof agenda to organise your thoughts and schedule, or a fancy Mont Blanc to make a statement that you care not just for fashion, but for the finer things in life.

Channelling a good buffet

For a hearty and delicious alternative to brunch, an evening buffet at **Channels, Media Rotana** hits the spot.

RESTAURANTS

Brunch may be a Dubai institution, but not everyone likes the idea of rolling out of bed at the weekend and heading straight to a huge feast with little more than a cup of coffee in the system. For those, all you can eat buffet in the evening after a long week of work is far more appealing. And that's when evening brunch at Channels becomes the one stop shop for complete hunger destruction.

The cheap – only in price – and cheerful restaurant offers a range of different cuisines throughout the week, but when the *Read*. food guru showed up on Thursday night, there was a distinctive Asian flavour tantalising the senses, with Japanese, Thai, Chinese and Malaysian classics and delicacies laid out to tempt even the most grumbling stomach.

Much less excessive than the typical Dubai brunch, Channels informal

yet stylish restaurant offers a more modest selection of food, with two rows of cuisine affording all the nourishment you need from your starter, right through to your dessert.

What may initially feel like limited choices, soon becomes a feeling of clever selectiveness. Cold, fresh sushi with sinus-clearing wasabi, sumptuous mussels, or Thai beef with glass noodles would all be a perfect start to easing the appetite, or better yet, when all mixed together.

The mains followed in much the same manner. Not exactly a wide selection, but what was available all looked delicious, with the carving station slicing up the succulent roasted duck, which was the ideal accompaniment to whatever Asian style side that takes your fancy.

Perhaps where Channels deserves praise, or at least will garner it the following morning once the guilt of over-indulgence generally hits after



a huge brunch, is the fairly limited amount of desserts available. Surely a dab hand at selective picking by this stage in the evening, you return

to your table one last time with just enough sweets to complete a very enjoyable meal, rather than plate after plate of tummy-fattening excess.

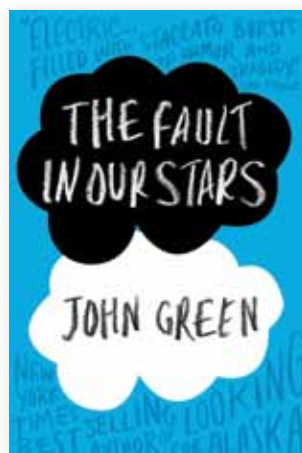
The Fault in Our Stars

by John Green

BOOKS

The latest novel from award-winning author John Green stays true to the style his legions of fans have come to expect. Heartbreaking yet full of humour, *The Fault in Our Stars* tells the story of sixteen-year-old Hazel Lancaster, who uses her cutting sarcasm to make it through the mind-numbing support groups she must attend as a terminal cancer patient.

Despite a miraculous drug which has bought her a few more years of her young life, Hazel has accepted that her final chapter is more or less written. Her life is a series of sympathetic looks and whispers, until handsome Augustus Waters joins the cancer support group, that is.



Having lost his right leg to cancer, Augustus soon discovers a confidante and companion in Hazel, and the pair soon discover they have much more in common than their disease. The story of young love and friendship that follows is touching, heartbreaking and poignant, although as with anything written by Green, with his unique dark and real humour, it produces some genuinely funny moments.

If you like this then you could try...

• *The Future of Us* by Jay Asher & Carolyn Mackler

In 1996, Josh and Emma receive a CD, which Emma installs on her new computer. They're instantly logged into Facebook, but Facebook hasn't been invented yet; they're looking at themselves 15 years in the future. By refreshing their pages, they learn how decisions will affect their lives later.

Nevermind 20th Anniversary Edition

Artist Nirvana Label UMC ★★★★★

ALBUMS

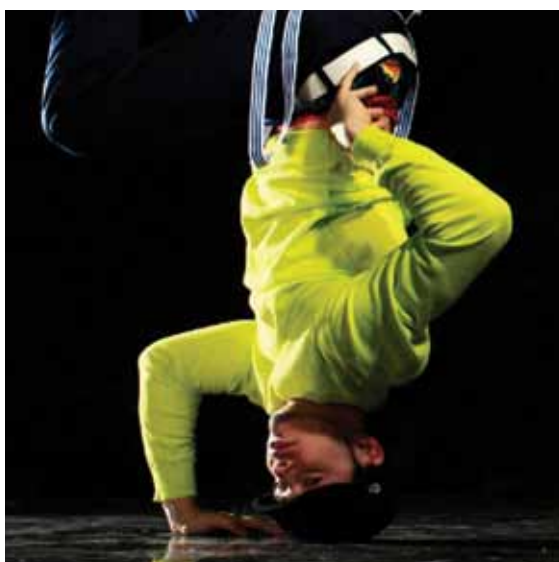
Nirvana's *Nevermind* is one of the most iconic rock albums to have ever been made. It has sold well in excess of 15 million copies, and it went on to change the face of popular rock from 'eighties hairspray power rock to something a little darker, with more substance. It's a shame, really, that the commercial success that the album brought seemed to encapsulate everything that former frontman Kurt Cobain hated. But without such rage, would he have produced such great music?

Either way, the 20th anniversary re-release makes for a good excuse to revisit the highly lauded band. It's been remastered, but not much has changed; the brutal rawness is still plain to hear on every track, and, thankfully, nothing has been overproduced to appeal to the lowest common denominator.

The real value in this edition comes with the extra goodies. There are a number of

unreleased tracks and B-sides that have never been heard by the public before. Sure, the songs aren't quite up to the standard of those on the album, which is presumably why they never made the cut in the first place. But more Nirvana tracks can never be a bad thing. You also get a DVD of a 1991 live show from the Paramount Theatre in Seattle, which brilliantly captures a band at the top of its game, and frontman Kurt Cobain in all of his twisted, tortured glory.





YOU'LL LOVE OUR DSF ACTIVITIES

LOVE ART ON CENTRE STAGE (JANUARY 5 – 20, 2012)

Daily arts and crafts workshops from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Kids photo studio with dress-up area. Download their pictures from our Facebook page and **win AED 500** daily with our lucky number draw.

LOVE DANCE ON CENTRE STAGE (JANUARY 5 – 20, 2012)

Daily international dance performances from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with 3 shows nightly featuring Bollywood, European and Urban dance.

LOVE PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE METRO LINK (JANUARY 5 – FEBRUARY 5, 2012)

Exhibition of outstanding Gulf News photography.



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Tech beat

Avoiding crime



Microsoft has been granted a patent that will make its GPS systems more user-friendly for pedestrians, as it will take data from highly up-to-date sources, according to reports. One of the main features is that the system will tap into crime statistics, allowing pedestrians to avoid high-crime areas.

Kodak moment



Ailing photography firm Eastman Kodak's stocks rose by 46 per cent last week, following an announcement that the 132-year-old company will take a number of new measures to cut costs and push itself into the digital age. One initiative is the creation of a unit to focus on digital products.

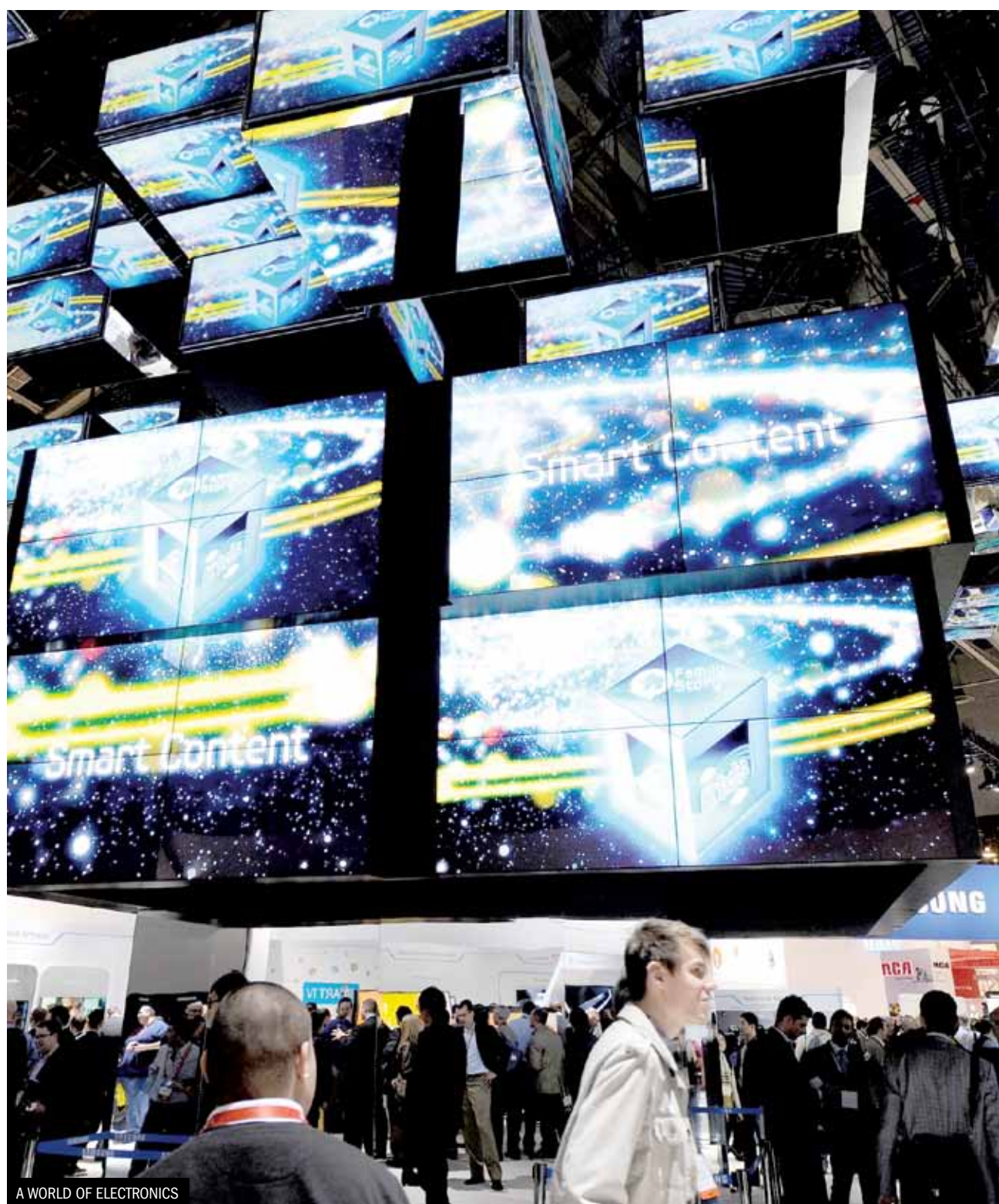
Dubious profits



Google has admitted to profiting from illegal adverts following an investigation by the BBC that found Google had made money from illegal Olympic ticket touts and fake ID card sellers. The ads have since been removed at the request of the police, but Google has said that, despite the money coming from illegal places, it has the right to keep it.

All show and all go

Top gadgets and gizmos for 2012 unveiled at the Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show.



A WORLD OF ELECTRONICS

Last week saw the technological year begin in earnest at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2012 in Las Vegas, where around 2,700 companies vied for the attention of thousands of visitors, journalists and analysts to show off their new creations. And despite some commentators despairing that the level of technological innovation will slow this decade, CES 2012 surely proved that we still have plenty to look forward to.

Of course, all of the standard innovations were there – there were new televisions, smartphones, cameras, tablet PCs and laptops all

over, from all of the big electronics brands. The general theme seemed to be that more is more, so the TVs were bigger, with higher contrast ratios, the laptops were more powerful for their sizes and the cameras supported more megapixels. So far, so standard.

But this is Vegas, baby, and so there was plenty more on offer. Samsung, for example, aside from its new range of TVs unveiled what it calls a “future-proof”, voice-controlled TV set. It’s one of a new breed of the brand’s internet-enabled smart TVs, which has the ability to have its hardware updated every year, meaning it will never go out of date. It’s also a relatively simple affair upgrading it, given there’s simply an expansion slot which can house new kit whenever it’s released.

The model, the ES8000 also features voice, gesture and facial recognition technology, making use of a built-in camera that allows users to browse the internet simply with a wave of a hand or change channels simply by talking. According to Samsung, the TV can “understand” more than 20 languages, and that number is sure to go up as time goes on. The facial recognition technology means that the TV can identify users, bringing up their favourite apps or selections as soon as they sit in front of it.

This wasn’t the only impressive TV at the show, where internet-enabled sets were touted as being big business in 2012. Samsung rival LG announced a TV with built-in Google features –



though these will only be available in the USA at first – plus voice control via a TV remote. Meanwhile, Sony and Panasonic also showed off their own internet-enabled devices.

Of course, smartphones made big headlines at this year’s CES, with Intel causing a big stir thanks to its announcement that it will team up with Motorola and Lenovo to produce smartphone processors. Up until now,

the smartphone processor market has been dominated by chipmaker ARM, but the new Lenovo K800 will make use of Intel’s chips, as will a number of new Motorola phones and tablets.

Other smartphones worthy of mention were the Samsung Galaxy Note, a tablet-like device with voice capabilities, the Sony Xperia S, a phone developed with high-quality mobile gaming in mind, and the Motorola Droid 4, which simply promises to be very quick, have an astonishing screen and camera and sport a physical keyboard.

For those looking for unusual applications of technology, there was plenty to go around. For example, a firm called Bodymedia was at CES showing off its latest health monitoring system, which uses an armband to collect 5,000 parts of data about the user’s body every minute. These can then be monitored through a smartphone app. Meanwhile, another firm, Sculpteo, unveiled what it claims to be the first app capable of turning the human face into a 3D object, making it perfect for printing pictures onto mugs or vases.

Thousands more words could be written about what CES 2012 had to show. But the gist of it was that, despite a global recession, and despite critics worrying about ever-invasive new technologies, 2012 is sure to be a year of real innovation, and it will take us closer to a science fiction-like future. If the show’s purpose was to excite technology fans at this prospect, then surely it has succeeded. ●

20

Number of languages the Samsung ES8000 TV can understand

SMARTPHONES CONTINUE TO DOMINATE



ONE MILLION REASONS TO LOVE SHOPPING

This DSF at Deira City Centre, get a chance to win up to **AED 1,000,000*** in shopping sprees when you spend AED 300. Also shop at Mirdif City Centre and Mall of the Emirates to enter. Be part of the excitement with tons of fun activities for the whole family on Centre Stage from January 5-20. With so much to WIN, it’s no wonder this is where you love to shop.



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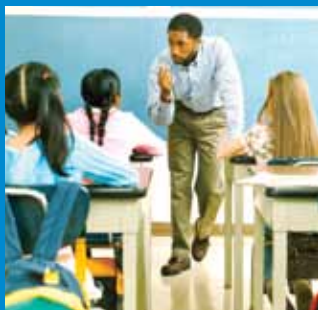
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Follow at [@DeiraCityCtr](https://twitter.com/DeiraCityCtr)

Pass on knowledge

Experience the rewards of helping to form young minds by embarking on a teacher training course. Gulf Montessori holds courses, workshops and seminars in early education for aspiring teachers.

Participants can work towards gaining certificate and diploma qualifications in the courses, which comply with international standards, to teach children from two and a half to six years of age. Visit www.gulfmontessori.com for more information.



Learn the local tongue

It's embarrassing to admit to friends back home that despite living in Dubai for X amount of years, many of us still don't speak more than a few words of Arabic. Why not set this right by enrolling at the Arabic Language Centre, which offers courses from beginners to advanced in group or private sessions. Get ahead with the intensive courses or choose one of the specialist courses, which are designed to meet the requirements of the banking, hospital, hotel, hospitality, motor and electronic industries. 04 3086 036.



Returning to learning

Get rhythm

Whether it's Latino, hip hop or jazz music that makes your toes tap, you can learn how to dance in time to the beat, and look good while doing it at the Nora Dance Studio in Dubai Marina. Dance classes range from energetic Bollywood and belly dance styles to sultry flamenco, tango and salsa. The school also runs classes in battle, street jazz and fusion dance.

School isn't just for kids. An increasing number of adults are returning to the classroom to learn something new, develop their skill base and take on fresh challenges. Whether you want to equip yourself for a new career or just explore different hobbies to pursue on the weekends, be it sport, music, cookery or anything else, there is something out there to suit you.

Master chef

Become a whiz in the kitchen and master foreign cuisines at one of Dubai's cookery schools. Cooking Sense offers classes in Arabic cooking, basic baking and cuisines of the world, among other varieties. They also run a *Cooking with Friends* programme, which is conducted in your own kitchen under the guidance of an instructor. Choose the cuisine you wish to cook and invite your friends to join in the fun. 04 882 1295.



Hit the ground running

Exercise isn't all about plodding away in the gym. Why not learn a new sport and improve your fitness levels while you're at it? E-Sports runs sports training academies for adults and children of all standards in a variety of athletic pursuits, including tennis, basketball, football, swimming, cricket, rugby, climbing and martial arts. 04 283 3444.



Tread the boards

Explore your acting talent at RAW Stage Dubai's adult drama classes. The Performing Arts Group breaks acting down into its raw form and encourages participants to discover their creative potential on stage. Classes range from pure acting to combinations of musical theatre and singing, run by professional coaches. There will also be the chance to audition for parts in public plays. Email raw.stage@gmail.com for more information on how to get involved.

Picture perfect

Get to grips with all those complicated camera settings and take snaps to be proud of with the help of the team at Gulf Photo Plus. Classes, workshops and seminars here target all levels, whether you're a professional who wants to improve the quality of their images on a digital SLR or simply a photography enthusiast who wants to take better holiday snaps on a simple point-and-shoot camera. 04 380 8545.



مطعم بيت الشاورما SHAWERMA HOUSE RESTAURANT



Tel: 04 2807333

Dubai - Al Nahda 2, Behind NMC Hospital

The eyes have it

Why are so many people who are lucky enough to have the gift of sight, also often guilty of neglecting it?

It is an unfortunate fact that many people these days still don't quite understand the importance of having regular eye examinations. In our busy lives, we find time to visit the doctor for a health check-up, the dental hygienist for a scale and polish, even the cosmetic clinic for a touch of botox or a session under the laser. But how many of us can honestly say that we attend an eye exam at least once every two years as recommended by experts?

Vision care and eye health is often,

sadly, neglected. In reality, without the precious gift of sight our lives would be completely different. Not only can an eye examination reveal any problems with vision, such as near or far sightedness, but the eyes, quite literally, are a window into our bodies, and can often signal underlying issues such as diabetes, glaucoma, high blood pressure, or macular degeneration (age-related vision loss).

It is recommended that adults have their eyes tested every two years, unless their optician has advised

them to have a sight test more often than that. During a comprehensive eye exam, an eye doctor will actually be doing much more than simply determining your prescription for glasses or contact lenses. He or she will also be examining for common eye diseases, assessing how your eyes work together as a team, and evaluating the condition of your eyes as an indicator of your overall health.

Many people are reluctant to attend an eye exam due to the cost or the fear that they may have to undergo painful examinations. The truth however is that, these days, eye tests usually cost no more than around Dh100, and the equipment used to test your vision is non-invasive and completely painless. A simple pair of prescription glasses (if needed) can alleviate all sorts of vision problems, including associated issues such as headaches or tiredness. In fact, many adults are actually amazed at how bad their vision was before getting tested, and can't believe they managed without glasses for so long.

It is also important to remember that it is not only adults who suffer with bad eyesight. Often, children who seem to be struggling at school are recommended for an eye exam, as their apparent lack of concentra-



GLASSES CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

tion can be due to having difficulty seeing the blackboard, differentiating colours on paper, or dyslexia (which can often be aided with coloured lenses).

So, whether or not you have reason to think your vision is impaired, it is important to stay on top of eye tests as much as any other appointments. A simple look into the windows of our body could reveal a lot to an expert that we may not be aware of. Perhaps it's time we all started looking out for the two little miracles that do the looking for us everyday. ●

What happens in a sight test?

The following are all standard tests carried out during an eye examination:

- Reading letters on a chart to gauge how far you can see.
- Measuring the pressure inside the eyes by puffing air into each eye (not usually done on children).
- Looking at different sized letters, red and green coloured circles and spots, or reading alphabet charts through a small unit with interchangeable lenses.
- The eye doctor will also look inside your eyes through a torch held very close to your eye.



PROBLEMS WITH VISION ARE EASILY ASSESSED



START THE YEAR WITH DAZZLING SHOWS AND FUN-FILLED ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.



The Return of the Shaolin Monks

January 9 to January 18
6:30pm, 8:30pm &
9:30pm
Central Galleria

They came, they saw, they conquered new fans. And now they're back, with more death-defying feats and a set of stunning performances that reflect the loud and colourful celebrations of the Chinese New Year.



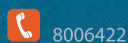
Lazy Town

January 26 to February 4
6:30pm, 8:30pm &
9:30pm
Central Galleria
Except January 30th

One of the most popular children's programmes on TV, Lazy Town brings catchy tunes and kid-friendly comedy for all to enjoy. Let the kids join the fun as the show teaches them how to make the world a brighter, healthier place.



VISIT US FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
UP TO AED 1 MILLION!



Useful luxury

★★★★★ Whilst many luxury SUVs lose sight of their purpose, the Lexus GX 460 retains its practicality.



There has been a dramatic shift away from the utilitarian nature of 4x4s to large and luxurious. Anyone who remembers the original Range Rover will also remember that it had vinyl seats and an interior you could clean out with a hose. It was intended to be a comfortable workhorse for farmers and architects – that it became so popular with upmarket and wealthy city dwellers was a complete surprise.

It was into this luxury end of

the market that Lexus leapt, providing large and extremely comfortable off-roaders based on the best selling Land Cruisers, but with extra refinement and technology. And that's the important thing here, because that fundamental off-road ability is the key. Many of today's luxury 4x4s would be completely out of their depth in anything more testing than a supermarket car park.

7.6

The amount of seconds the GX 460 takes to accelerate from 0-100kph

Not so with the Lexus GX 460. This is one of the few large luxury SUVs still built in the traditional 'body on frame' design, which means that it has an immensely strong and capable chassis, onto which is mounted a separate body. This means it is both strong and practical, being both supremely capable in the most testing off-road conditions, and able to tow significant weights. Most 4x4s will safely pull a jet-ski or a quad, but if you want to move a boat or a car, then the GX 460's near-3,000 kilo rating will definitely appeal.

There's a lot of technology underneath keeping that robust chassis in order. Adaptable Variable Suspension works to keep the suspension at the preferred firmness, no matter what the driving conditions. Down-hill Assist Control helps with braking and Hill Assist Control helps keep the GX from slipping backward when you take your foot from the brake to apply it to the gas pedal. Optionally, Crawl Control can be added for maneuvering over





SEATING OPTIONS ARE VAST

SPECS

(as tested)
 Engine: 4.6 litre V8
 Power: 292bhp, 329Nm torque
 Transmission: 6-speed automatic
 Performance: 0-100kph 7.6 seconds
 Price: From Dh249,000

very difficult terrain at low speeds, and there are four settings for the Multi-Terrain Select system – ‘mud and sand’, ‘loose rock’, ‘mogul’ and ‘rock’ to cope with any conditions.

The interior is as luxurious as you would expect, with perforated leather seats and real wood trim. Front seats are 10-way adjustable with heat and ventilation, and the Lexus Memory System for the driver's seat. The GX 460 is a full seven seater, with a 40/20/40 split second-row seat that can slide, and a power third-row seat that folds flat.

For entertainment, the standard audio system is good value, but being a true Lexus, the GX 460 offers the option of a full Mark Levinson system. This adds DVD functionality to the existing CD/MP3 player, and plays through no less than 17 individual speakers to give a concert-quality experience. Naturally, you'll find Bluetooth, USB and iPod connections.

With all this luxury, kit and technology, you might think the GX 460 is weighed down. Not a bit of it. Under the bonnet is a 4.6 litre V8 developing 292 bhp, driving all four wheels through a six speed automatic gearbox. This is no slouch, though it is very much a traditional SUV. Unlike many of the other, more road-focused SUVs, the Lexus GX 460 lets you travel in luxury wherever you may wish to go. ●



THE INTERIOR OFFERS LUXURY

All aboard for the Volvo Ocean Race

ONBOARD ONE OF THE VESSELS

**SAILING**

Leg three of the nine-month long Volvo Ocean Race set sail for Sanya on Saturday following race leaders Team Telefónica thrilling finish to the race from Cape Town to Abu Dhabi.

The final 24 hours of leg two came down to a race between the leaders and second placed Camper Team New Zealand needing to win in order to leapfrog double Olympic medalist skipper Iker Matinez and his Telefónica crew in the overall standings.

But while Camper skipper Chris Nicholson led for the two preceding days, Telefónica grabbed the definitive advantage with only eight nautical miles to go, and held on to win by just one minute and 57 seconds after a grueling 15-day race from Cape Town.

The Abu Dhabi stopover marked the first visit to the United Arab

Emirates in the Volvo Ocean Race's 38-year history and a key attraction in the village was the presence of the Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing crew, led by British double Olympic medalist Ian Walker and including the first ever UAE national to compete, Adil Khalid.

The end of the stopover saw the Volvo Ocean Race fleet return to competitive action with three days of racing featuring Pro-Am races on January 12, an in-port race on January 13, and the culmination with which we witnessed the start of the 4,600 nautical mile third leg to Sanya, China.

Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing currently sits in fifth place in the overall standings but will continue with all guns blazing in an effort to reclaim the success they achieved in the Rolex Fastnet Race, setting a new monohull course record just weeks after launching their Volvo Open 70, Azzam.

So you got fired, but now what?

Being dismissed from a job doesn't have to mean the end of your career.

CAREERS

People lose their jobs for many different reasons; while some of these reasons are within your control such as poor attendance, lack of productivity or being unable to get along with your coworkers, others have nothing to do with your performance. Whatever might be the case, getting fired is never an ideal situation for any career oriented professional like yourself, but it is certainly something that you can survive if handled properly. Akhtaboot brings you a number of helpful tips that will help you dust yourself off and get back on your feet.

THANK YOUR BOSS

Weird as this may sound, you need to thank your boss for hiring you in the first place. You need to say this in the most sincere way possible. Sit down with your boss and go over the things that led to you being fired. Doing so will definitely help you avoid doing the same mistakes all over again. Remember that there might come a time in the future when this person will be in a position to recommend you for another job. Try to know in advance what your former boss will say about your termination. Doing so will help you address the issue in interviews as a "teachable moment".

reflect your competencies and what you did well throughout your career, and since there are no rules that require you to write the reasons for leaving your last employment; it is usually understood that you left for a better opportunity.

THE INTERVIEW

It is best to be frank and honest in explaining the reasons for your dismissal during the interview, so you need to be prepared beforehand. Lying about your past job history or badmouthing your previous employer will only make you sound like a bitter ex-employee who is still unable to move on. Taking accountability demonstrates the maturity and professionalism that the interviewer is looking for in a potential employee. As much as you try to hide the fact that you've been dismissed, it is likely that it will be discovered in a reference check. When faced with the direct question, don't lie, just tell the truth.

GET BACK INTO THE JOB MARKET

Whatever the reason that led to you being fired, you must adopt a positive attitude towards your job search. If you loved your last position and the industry you worked in, then move on within the same field. But if you weren't happy, now is the right time to consider a career change.

You must know someone in the company you work for who thinks that they are doing a fantastic job, when in fact they actually aren't. That someone might actually be YOU. Being fired might seem like a catastrophe at first, but it can open up new doors. If your former company didn't appreciate your qualifications then other companies most likely will. Simply change your status to "Looking for Job" and become an active job seeker on www.akhtaboot.com. ●

“Badmouthing your previous employer will only make you sound like a bitter ex-employee.”



**You Are
Fired**

THE CV DILEMMA

You are not required to include a reason for quitting your job in your CV, but in this case, there might be a time gap you have to explain. All you have to mention is the period of employment, a brief job description, and the name of the company that employed you. Leave the discussion of why you got fired for the interview and take time in advance to prepare what you will say if asked. Remember that your CV should only

Post-it

To place your ad please email
advertising@readme.ae

JOBS AVAILABLE

Sales executive with 3 yrs experience, required for a full-time job. Should be knowledgeable in market branding, inner/under garments in the local market. Send CV to desertcastle.trdg@gmail.com.

Babysitter required for a full-time job. 7 days/month. Starting from 7am till 6pm. call 0502100388.

Property leasing administrator required for full-time job. Immediate placement. Should have 1+ year UAE real-estate experience. Should be familiar with Oracle ERP. Fax CV 043241212.

Accounts Assistant – B.com qualification required for full-time job. Should have fresher with Tally knowledge. Email CV mswetha.eim.ae@gmail.com.

Warehouse supervisor in-charge – B.com qualified required for full-time job. Should have 2-3 yrs experience in warehouse maintenance + Tally knowledge. Email CV mswetha.eim.ae@gmail.com.

Hotel Staff of any nationality required for a full-time job in a 4-star hotel in Dubai. Accommodation + food + visa provided. Call 0506392619.

JOBS WANTED

Indian male seeks job as a roomboy in any type of hotel. Call 0551178327.

Indian male seeks jobs in the admin field. 7 yrs experience/US-based multinational company as an assistant manager. Call 0509310860/email antho.gonsalves@yahoo.com.

Male, B.Com seeks job as an accountant. 5 yrs experience in UAE. Ambitious. Knowledgeable in Tally 9 & other ERP accounting software. Email shahrulkhaif@hotmail.com/call 0557099517.

Female, seeks job as an English teacher. 23 yrs experience in teaching English in universities and institutes in Dubai and Texas. Email instructor4u2012@gmail.com.

Accountant seeks job. 5 yrs experience as an accountant. Knowledgeable in finalising accounts, proficient in Peachtree, Tally. Owns DL. Email sham-seerks@gmail.com/call 0554116432.

Indian male seeks part-time job as an accountant near Deira or Baniyas Square. 3 yrs experience. Call 0558594083.

Male, MBA seeks job. 5 yrs experience in software sales in the Middle East. Holds UAE driving licence. Call 0561793456.

Filipino, male seeks job as a biker/ auto mechanic/storekeeper/office boy/plumber/carpenter. Call 0504964136/hareve1722@yahoo.com.

Female, professional trainer, lecturer/consultant seeks job. 10 yrs experience in London/ Paris. Fluent in French, knowledgeable in sales/marketing and business services. Email talents.train-ing@yahoo.com/0508815201.

Female Pharmacist with MOH / DOH licence seeks job in pharmaceutical hospitals. 1+ yrs of UAE experience. Email moideen.abubacker@epdco.com.

Filipino, male seeks job as customer service officer/admin assistant or document controller. 7 yrs experience in customer service. Call 0509968948/Emailcougar00015@yahoo.com.

Male 28 seeks job in customer care/admin. 3+ yrs experience. Call 0509277547/ansariptc@gmail.com.

Indian male accountant seeks job. 4 yrs of experience. Knowledgeable in all types of accounts, bank reconciliation, petty cash and day to day transactions in professional companies. Please call 0552188426/email satheesh2014@gmail.com.

Indian, male MA seeks job as HR Administrator. 8 yrs experience. Practical trainee as a generalist, recruitment & payroll. Call 552816716/email hm.asif@yahoo.co.in.

HR professional seeks job. 5 yrs experience in MNCs. E-mail jevithar@gmail.com/Call 0551229324.

Indian male, professional driver seeks job. 12 yrs experience as a driver. Can join immediately. Professional and efficient behaviour guaranteed. Call 0556812156. Email razak2013@gmail.com.

Ukrainian female 24 seeks job. Computer skills. Fluent in English and Russian. With a high diploma in travel business. Email mariana_nechypurenko@ua.fm, call 0508780359.

AUTO

Honda Civic, 2005 model for sale. White colour. 25,000km. For 25,000AED. Call 0503441252.

Toyota Fortuner 2.7L, 2008 model for sale. Silver colour. 66,500km. Service agency maintained. In excellent condition. For 63,000AED. Call 0506559207.

SERVICES

Yearly/ monthly contracting services available. Each visit for 250AED. Computers repairing IT networking support solutions. Email: mohammadahli@live.com. Call 0501681573.

Baby sitting services available near Etisalat metro station. Call 0503172574.

Daycare/Babysitting services available for school children in Karama near Lulu Supermarket. Timings from 01:30am till 07:30pm. Call 0559039701.

Personal loan services available. At a salary of 4500 + Co. accommodation company listings not required. Also auto loans at 3000 cash salary. Driving Licence not required. Call 0555341608/0502341802.

Art tutoring lessons available. Art teacher, talented and experienced in painting, music and graphic design. Call 0551609935/email smusic77@gmail.com.

Cleaning services available. Catering homes, villas and apartments. Vacant on Fridays and after 06.00 hours all other days. Call 0551304660. Email gallagep88@gmail.com.

Home tutor available. Experienced teacher English, math, science, economic, business studies and accounting. At any required location. Call 0509412332.

French tutoring lessons available. 9 yrs experience in home schooling students and adults. Call 0555103676/email khalduna@gmail.com.

Mathematics tutoring lessons available. With experienced teacher. From class 2 to 7. In Hor Al Anz. Limited admission only. Call 0509583340.

Tutoring lessons required for a 4-year-old boy in Qusais near Al Tower 1 area. Call 0507647429.

Bulk SMS services available to all types of businesses and requirements. We provide various tools and plug-ins that integrates with applications like Excel and Outlook. Call 0567665491. Email pradeep.bairi@smscountry.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lost work permit no. 43333491 issued in the name of Abdullah Atiq Ahmed Chisti, name of company – Yousuf Fairouz Bldg Mat. Call 0505982639.

Personalised training in Indian classical dance – Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi / Mohiniaatam available anywhere in Dubai. Experienced danseuse. Call 0505355606/ Email artsvismaya@gmail.com.

ITEMS

AC (Window) Carrier, 170 Ltr Dae-woo Fridge (2 D), 1 Mixer Grinder, Double Bed (Metal) and wall clock all available for sale. All in good condition used only for 8 months. Call 0508561400/0554260560.

Used laptops available for sale. All in good condition. Starting from 550AED. Call 0509815607.

Household items available for sale. Fridge, Washing Machine, A/c, Microwave Oven and much more. All in good condition. In Al Shab Colony near Al Safia Market. Call 0506115332/0505845914.

ACCOMMODATION

Shared accommodation available for rent. Lebanese Engineers only. In JLT near Dubai Marina metro station. Call 0501686480.

Room available for rent. Executive bachelors only. Near Bur Dubai metro station. Call 0505253121/ 0551197459.

Single bed space available for rent. Indian Keralites executives only. Near Salah Al Din metro station behind Reef mall. Internet/ kitchen accessibility. Rent 550/AED + DEWA. Call 0503690114/0554539656.

Shared studio flat for three people available for rent. Nepali executives only. Near Al Rigga metro station. Call 0557644248.

Bed space available for rent. Indian bachelors only. Near Dubai Grand hotel, Al Qusais. Neat building. Central AC. Wi-Fi high speed/unlimited. Near Airport free zone metro station. Call 0551385164.

Bed space available. Near Abu Baker Al Siddique metro station/green line. At 600AED/ + DEWA. Call 0502834604.

Single room available for rent. Filipinos only. In Al Khail Gate, Phase 2, Al Quoz. Call 0505097432/0554070226.

Room available for rent. Filipinos only. Attached bathroom. For 2000AED/. Also bed space for ladies. Rent 400AED/. In Deira, Al Murraqqabat St, near Carrefour. Call 0508791227/0505286270.

Shared accommodation available for rent. In O.P.C. area, Bur Dubai. For 2 to 3 Indian bachelors only. Call 0507356988.

Bed space available for rent. Keralite bachelors only. In Deira, Karama, Bur Dubai beginning of March 2012. Call 0508561400/0554260560.

Shared accommodation available for rent. Sri Lankan/Filipino bachelor ladies only. Near First Gulf Bank metro station. Call 0551304660.

Furnished bed space available for rent. Bachelors only. In Bur Dubai, near Oasis court hotel apartments, and Khalid Bin Walid metro station. Internet accessible. Rent AED 750. Call 0502867570.

Partition available for rent. Filipinos only. Near Day to Day Karama. Free internet. Rent for 1000AED/. Flat can hold 6 people. Call 0504619340/0566948150.

Bed Space available for rent. Keralite working ladies only. Near Khalid Bin Al Waleed metro station. Call 0509774807.

New villa available for rent in Al Yahar - Al Ain. 5 rooms with attached bathroom, 2 living rooms, dining room with toilet. 2 kitchens. Call 0509770071.

Single room available for rent. Filipinos only. With attached bath and balcony. Free internet. 2000AED. Call 0508791227.

Shared accommodation available. Executive Indian Muslim bachelors only. Behind Crowne Plaza, SZR. Rent 600AED/ + DEWA. Call 0507082328/0508787695.



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Dubai Taxi Corporation signs MoU with Sharjah Transport



(R TO L) AHMED HASHIM BAHROZYAN AND ABDULLAH MOHAMMED AL ZARRI SIGN THE MOU

Memorandum of Understanding aims to share expertise and improve taxi transport services.

INITIATIVES

The Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) calling for integrating efforts and exchanging expertise to uplift the calibre of taxi transport services to bring them up to par with world-class standards, and realise the pioneering plans envisioned for passenger transport services.

The MoU was signed by the CEO of the Licensing Agency and Chairperson of DTC Supervisory Committee Ahmed Hashim Bahrozian, and the Director General of Sharjah Transport Abdullah Mohammed Al Zarri, in the presence of top DTC officials including the Acting CEO Yousef Al Ali, Director of Resources and Support Mansour Al Falasi, Acting Director of Fleet Operations Mohammed Yousef, and Acting Director of Fleet Drivers Affairs Salim Abdul Rahim. Also present from Sharjah Transport were the Director of Sharjah Taxi Khalifa Al Suwaidi, and Director of Corporate Communication Saeed Abdullah Al Buraimi.

Bahrozian thanked Sharjah Transport for responding to the invitation and seeking to establish a viable partnership and close relationship between the DTC and Sharjah Transport. "The signing of this MoU

marks the renewed efforts to realise our common objectives and serve the mutual interests of both parties, and pave the way for enhancing the advancement potentials as well as drawing maximum benefits from the existing resources in a way that contributes to improving the taxi transport sector as it has crucial implications on the economic, social and service fields," he stated.

For his part the Acting CEO of Dubai Taxi Corporation Yousef Al Ali said: "Through this MoU, the DTC is aspiring to realise objectives shared with Sharjah Transport in order to maintain communication, interaction and coordination between the two parties to serve their mutual interests and exchange know-how and corporate expertise in all administrative and technical levels. This includes sharing all relevant information and studies, exchanging

“The signing of this MoU marks the renewed efforts to realise our common objectives and serve the mutual interests of both parties”

visits, holding joint meetings, and making joint efforts to upgrade systems, legislations and regulations pertinent to the taxi sector, as well as offering and adopting initiatives related to this field.

"The MoU also calls for taking part in holding conferences, seminars and training courses of common concern with a view to improving the knowledge and skills of the staff of both parties, besides educating all beneficiaries of taxi services and cooperating in carrying out relevant studies, benefiting from all facilities including service and training centres of both parties in line with the terms and conditions to be agreed upon later on by both parties. It also encompasses exploring the possibility of implementing the projects developed by either party as regards the taxi transport service, and offering reciprocal opportunities for taking part in each other's projects while safeguarding their common interests.

"The MoU also calls for benefiting from the knowledge and data, as well as the operational, financial, administrative and technical reports in order to make the most of their findings to improve the business conduct, and take appropriate decisions. It also calls for benefiting from information as regards buying and selling contracts of vehicles

along with the applicable financial systems, enhancing the coordination between the two parties in sharing standard studies as well as operational and financial performance indicators, and benefiting from information related to the electronic systems and technological programmes applied in tracking and monitoring the fleet and cabdrivers," said Al Ali.

The Director General of Sharjah Transport Abdullah Mohammed Al Zarri commended the efforts made by the DTC to uplift its performance and expand the scope of its services in keeping with the ongoing development drive seen by the UAE in general, and Dubai in particular, driven by the need to deliver best-in-class services to the highest global standards.

Al Zarri praised the MoU signed by Sharjah Taxi at Sharjah Transport with DTC; which he said: "would contribute to exchanging a considerable amount of expertise, open up training prospects for both parties, and enhance the teamwork spirit to uplift the procedures of serving spectrums of the community." He stressed the need for concerted efforts to upgrade the level of services in the transport sector in order to enhance the integration and cooperation between several agencies of a single sector.

Committee reviews DAST nominations

New mechanism ensures objectivity, impartiality, transparency and accuracy in selecting the winners.

AWARDS

The Higher Organising Committee of the Dubai Award for Sustained Transport (DAST), together with the Award's Judges Committee recently discussed the initiation of a new effective mechanism for assessing applications submitted by agencies, companies and organisations for the fourth edition of the Award 2012, before announcing the final results. This step stems from the keen attention of both committees to ensure objectivity, impartiality, transparency and accuracy in selecting the winners throughout the Award categories; which will ultimately contribute to improving the Award's performance level and work mechanism and enable the Award to live up to its noble objectives and lofty goals.

An announcement to this effect was made during a recent meeting chaired by Dr Khalid Al Zahid, Chairperson of DAST Higher Organising Committee, and attended by members of the Award's Judges Committee, headed by Dr Salem Al Shafei, Adviser of Transport at the Depart-



DR KHALID AL ZAHID

ment of Transport in Abu Dhabi, in addition to members of the Award's Organising Committee and Judges Committee.

Commenting on the above, Al

“It also reviewed suggestions on improving the Award's next edition by organising year-round workshops”

Zahid said, “The meeting discussed a number of issues of common concern, including extending the deadline for submitting the assessment of results in order to give way for carrying out field visits to the workplaces of the best applicants. It also reviewed suggestions on improving the Award's next edition and inviting the winners to present and discuss their experiences of participating in the Award.

“DAST's Higher Organising Committee and Judges Committee are two neutral bodies. The former con-



جائزة دبي للنقل المستدام
DUBAI AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

sists of experts and specialists from the RTA, while the latter comprises experts and specialists beyond the RTA, and is authorised to assess the submitted applications and select the winners based on precise technical criteria which include the initiative's title or name, as a clear and concise title should be chosen matching to the nature and objectives of the nominated initiative,” said Al Zahid.

Dr Salem Al Shafei, Chairperson of the Award's Judges Committee, called for broadening the scope of participation in the field of academic researches as well as seeking better and more effective propagation for the next edition of the Award.

RTA offers quad bike plates online

LICENSING

The Vehicles Licensing Department at the Licensing Agency of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has kicked off a new initiative, whereby number plates of quad bikes are being issued online in a further boost to the galaxy of e-services the Agency is keen to launch frequently as part of its endeavours to offer best-in-class services to customers and enhance the process of delivering them to their entire satisfaction.

Commenting on the new service, the Director of RTA Vehicles Licensing Abdullah Abdul Rahman said: “The launch of this new service stems from the Orders of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, aimed at streamlining the



ABDULLAH ABDUL RAHMAN

process of registering quad bikes in a bid to enhance the joint efforts of boosting the security and safety elements in this sector.

“About 15,000 of four and five-digit distinguished number plates of quad bikes have been issued online with unit prices ranging

from Dh500 to Dh1,110. This initiative will encourage quad bike owners to buy these plates, exercise the full rights of owning these numbers and accordingly, protect their quad bikes from theft.

“Currently, we are experiencing a high season for the use of quad bikes; the numbers of which are sharply on the rise, particularly in various desert terrains; which is another reason prompting owners to buy these numbers, register their quad bikes and mount the plates thereon; which will promote safety among users.”

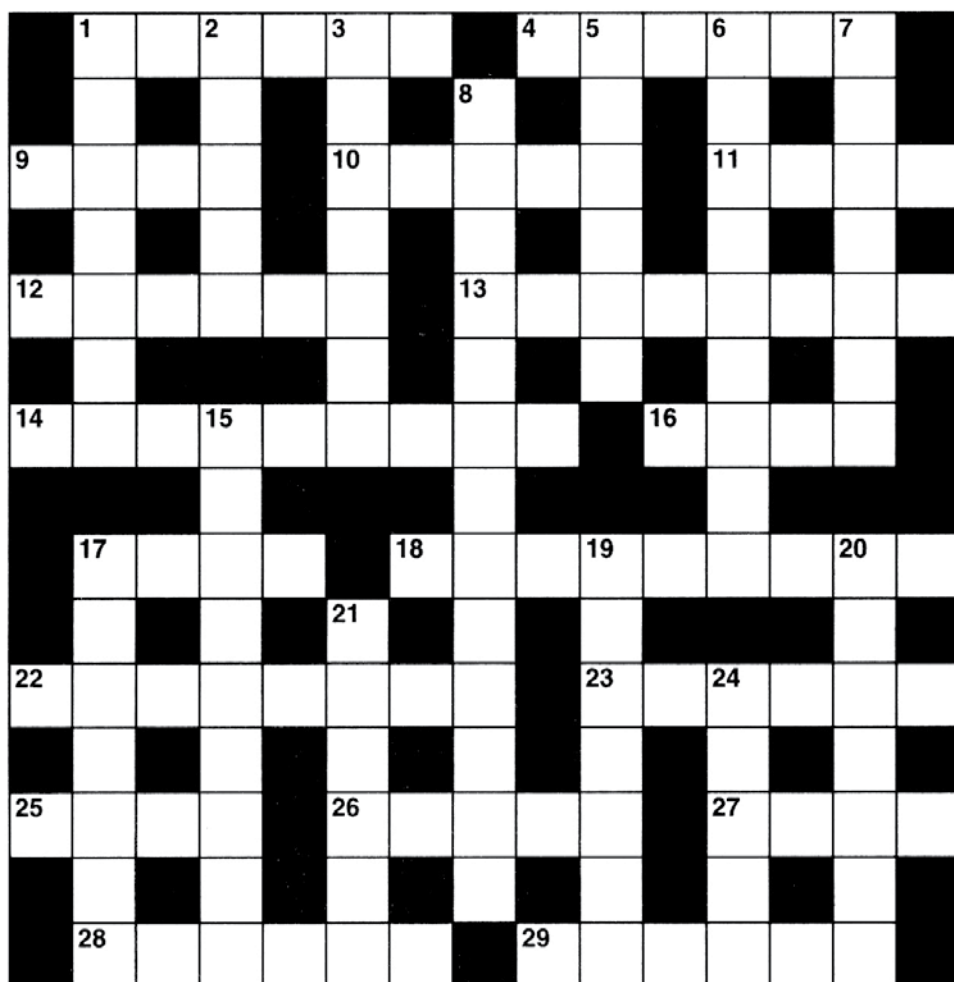
“These plates are accessible online through registering on the RTA web site (www.rta.ae) where potential buyers will be treated to a handy process and have the full liberty to buy their fancied plates in a stress-free environment and time-saving process.”

RTA CUSTOMER CONTACT CHANNELS

RTA Call Center: 800 90 90 RTA website: www.rta.ae RTA email: ask@rta.ae

Taking your time

Test your skills with our puzzles, try something new with a recipe and turn to us for advice. It's free!



Crossword

Across

1 Ill-will, spite (6) 4 Directed (6) 9 Discharge (fumes) (4) 10 Instances (5) 11 Mourn audibly (4) 12 Shade of brown (6) 13 Form the basis for (8) 14 Create, set up (9) 16 Open-mouthed (4) 17 Change position (4) 18 Calling forth (9) 22 Curator (8) 23 Become adept at (6) 25 Eye ailment (4) 26 On the waves (2,3) 27 Drench (4) 28 Timber disease (3,3) 29 Commonly worn top (1-5)

Down

2 Speaks unclearly (7) 2 Release (3,2) 3 Fortress (7) 5 Advantageous aspect (6) 6 Frank, blunt (9) 7 Intense (rain) (7) 8 Spontaneity (13) 15 In a harmful way (9) 17 Ascended (7) 19 Direction-showing device (7) 20 Melodramatic (7) 21 Publisher of women's books (6) 24 Popular Japanese food (5)

ANSWERS



Recipe

Roasted Vegetable Salad

Serves
6

This simple dish is filling, healthy and easy to make.

Ingredients

6 plum tomatoes, halved
4 long red peppers
2 yellow peppers
2 large red onions, unpeeled, quartered
6 garlic cloves, unpeeled
1 tbsp capers
1 tsp paprika
4 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra for drizzling
Juice of ½ lemon

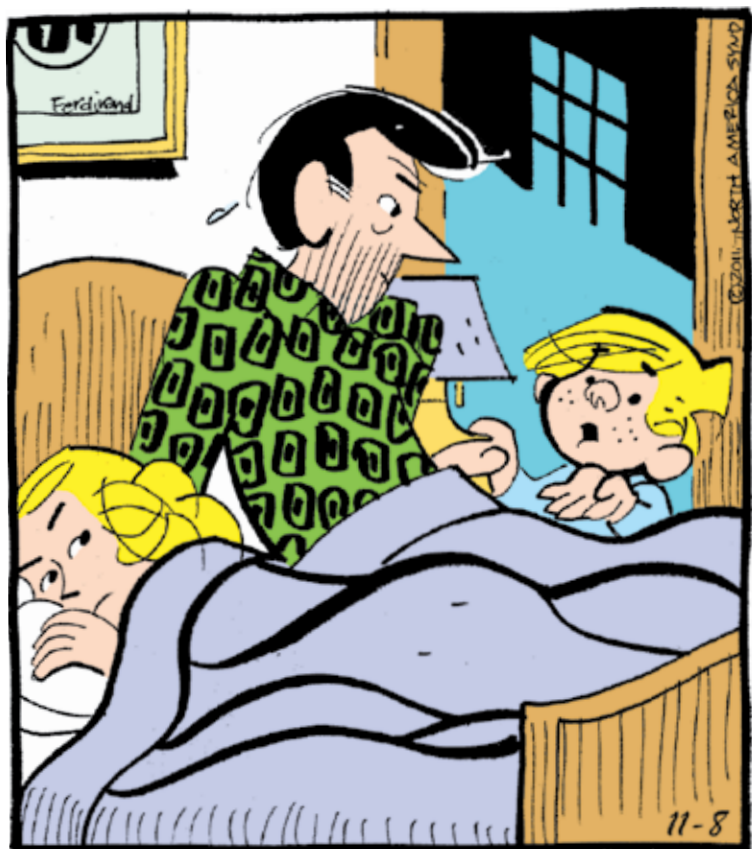
Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220C/gas mark 7.
2. Place the tomatoes, peppers, onion and garlic in a large roasting tin. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with sea salt, then roast for 45 minutes or until the vegetables

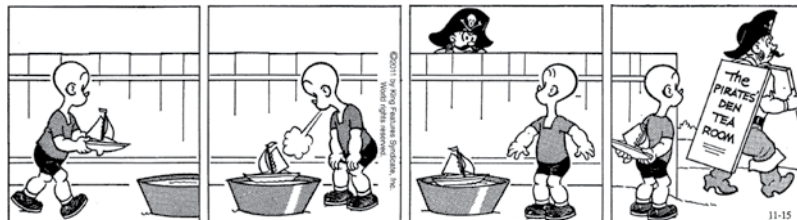
are tender and roasted all over.
3. Remove from the oven and transfer the peppers from the roasting tin to a wooden chopping board. Peel off the skins immediately and discard, then de-seed the peppers and cut the flesh into strips before placing in a large bowl.
4. Add the tomatoes, onion, garlic and any remaining juices from the roasting pan to the bowl with the peppers. Add the capers, paprika, olive oil and lemon juice, and then season generously with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper.
5. Combine all the ingredients well with your hands and transfer to a serving bowl. Serve warm or cold, drizzled with a little extra olive oil.



Dennis the menace



Henry



Ollie and Quentin



Spiderman



Here to help

At Read, we are happy to help with any advice you might need to live your life to the full. If you have a problem we can help with, email us at letters@readme.ae

Q I have recently rented out a room in my apartment to another girl. Since she has moved in, I haven't had a moment to myself. When I get home from work she is there and constantly bombards me with questions, and when I bring friends over she pounces on them. It's embarrassing. I am trying to save but I find myself going out all the time to try and avoid her.

Read: You want to feel comfortable in your own home and if you rented out this room to try and gain financial stability then perhaps you should ask her to leave. You shouldn't have to go out and spend money to avoid her. Finding a suitable flatmate can be difficult, so try meeting people and interviewing them beforehand.

Q I really want to go on a holiday this year but I find it hard to save my

money, what can I do?

Read: It can be difficult to set money aside for savings. You could start by putting away a small amount of your salary each week or month. That way, you will have gathered a substantial amount of cash over a period of a few months. If you want to go to a hotel in the UAE try websites that offer cheap deals or discounts throughout the year and you are sure to get something reasonable.

Q It's my 30th birthday next month and I can't decide what to do, my friends want me to go out to a club but my husband and family want me to go for dinner with them. What should I do? I don't want to upset anyone but it is my birthday!

Read: You don't have to choose between your friends and family, why not combine the two? You could have a nice dinner or brunch with your family first, then meet your friends in the evening and go dancing or to a club. This way, it's a win-win situation.

Who's this?

ANSWER ON PAGE 38



Puzzles

Arrowword

Legendary lover Couple		Inventors, makers		Fried beaten eggs dish		Washington's country (inits)		Put a match to		Salad dressing, informally		Small landmass	
▶				Cats and 42nd Street, eg	▶		▶						
Garden boundary ditch (2-2)		Hooks and __, fasteners	▶					Windscreen's cleaner		Woolly South American animal		View, landscape	
▶				Rule or statute	▶				Opposite of 'win'	▶			
Toy on a string (2-2)		Part of the foot	▶			Unwell	▶				Large		Went in front
▶				Fixture on a bath	▶				Cain's biblical brother	▶			
Armed conflicts		Furrow made by wheels	▶			Robe-trimming fur	▶						
▶				Sensory organ	▶				Grew older	▶			

Sudoku 1

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

Sudoku 2

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

ANSWERS
ARROWWORD

W	A	R	S	E	A	R	A	G	E
V	A	R	I	T	A	P	A	B	E
L	O	A	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
C	A	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
H	A	H	A	L	L	L	L	L	L
L	O	S	E	S	T	I	C	A	L
P	A	I	R	M	U	S	I	C	A
C	M	A	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

SUDOKU 1

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

SUDOKU 2

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

WHO'S THIS? ANSWER - HUGH GRANT


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What's in your stars?

The Read. astrologer tells you exactly what to expect over the next seven days.

ARIES

(MAR 21 - APR 20)

The emphasis since the turn of the year for you has been very much on ambitions, but in achieving these, the chances are you've been actively networking, to help you to reveal opportunities. Now you can concentrate on how you can act out your goals.



TAURUS

(APR 21 - MAY 21)

Don't charge into situations without careful planning and forethought. This would be especially so if you do have an impulsive or "speak now, sort out later" side to your nature. At work, someone may promise the earth, but be wary of what they really have to offer.



GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUN 21)

The time is perfect for exploring your holiday options for this year, and the more off the beaten track or exotic, the happier you'll be. However, if you are buying anything online, proceed cautiously. Your financial situation could also go through further changes.



CANCER

(JUN 22 - JUL 23)

Mercury moves into your opposite sign this week, but that can be an entirely positive thing, because it helps you to be more detached and logical around your interactions with others. One situation or person in particular may seem even more mysterious.



LEO

(JUL 24 - AUG 23)

If you need to be clear headed about practical issues, the planets will help you to penetrate into what is really worthwhile and meaningful. Just don't be too hard edged around relationship matters. A touch of magic is possible, but you may have to make some allowances.



VIRGO

(AUG 24 - SEP 23)

This year is going to provide a unique opportunity for you to demonstrate how talented you are. If you seem to be hitting the usual obstacles of disinterested banks, a busy boss, or just the framework of modern life, your ruler Mercury arrives to supercharge your efforts.



LIBRA

(SEP 24 - OCT 23)

A very romantic week is possible, but even if there is no obvious potential partner in your situation, this won't stop you from visualising the type of partner that you'd like. In a settled tie, try to recreate the friendship and trust that was within the relationship at its outset.



SCORPIO

(OCT 24 - NOV 22)

You can be a mixture of hypersensitive and outspoken this week. The trick will be to know exactly where and when to put the two together, otherwise you could speak out about something you are unsure about, which later turns out to be completely incorrect.



SAGITTARIUS

(NOV 23 - DEC 21)

Your words can have a big impact on someone you talk to. In any kind of financial discussion however, it is vital to base your conversation on hard facts and figures. If you try to bluff, it will create a poor impression and could land you in a sticky situation.



CAPRICORN

(DEC 22 - JAN 20)

You can become more driven to succeed and more single minded. However, when it comes to your diet, you could find it rather difficult to resist desserts and confectionary. If you do have some mealtime splurges, try to balance this with some sensible meals.



AQUARIUS

(JAN 21 - FEB 19)

If you need to look deeply into a situation, this week may help. There may be some elements which are more difficult to comprehend - especially around your personal life. If you feel unsure of what to do, it may be best to wait a while before deciding.



PISCES

(FEB 20 - MAR 20)

A friend could surprise you with their attitude about something. Suddenly you may feel you have less in common than you first thought. However, another partnership can go from strength to strength, especially if you have common goals to aim towards together.



This week's local weather

SUN

15th

SUNNY
HIGH 21C
LOW 18C
HUMIDITY 51%

MON

16th

SUNNY
HIGH 21C
LOW 18C
HUMIDITY 52%

TUE

17th

MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH 21C
LOW 17C
HUMIDITY 47%

WED

18th

MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH 22C
LOW 18C
HUMIDITY 46%

THU

19th

SUNNY
HIGH 22C
LOW 18C
HUMIDITY 55%

FRI

20th

SUNNY
HIGH 22C
LOW 18C
HUMIDITY 54%

SAT

21st

SUNNY
HIGH 24C
LOW 18C
HUMIDITY 50%

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Nokia N9

Nokia 700

Nokia 603

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