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DECEMBER 15-21, 2013 | Issue 131

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PICKING UP THE PACE

Perfectly suited for Dubai's supersized roads, the new Chevy Silverado is a mighty machine



WONDERS OF LAPLAND



TRENDY TOTS

For fashion fun this winter, these cool kids clothes will let your children sparkle and shine their way through the festive season



SURGERY SUCCESS

Visiting the doctor can often be a difficult experience, so make sure you are prepared for every eventuality



Happy holidays

Making sure you get through the festive season without a hitch

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

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Contents

Metro life 03
Arts 06
Health 08
Travel 10
Motoring 12
Technology 14
You 16
Careers 18
Fashion 20
Film 22
Listings 23
Metro guide 25
Public transport 30
Take a break 32

Letters

Email: letters@readme.ae

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

✉ WORK AND PLAY

Enjoying a meal with colleagues during break time is a good way to nurture camaraderie within a company, specifically in a team. Knowing and understanding each individual outside the office setting is a sort of a breather from the throes of formal relationships, plus it can win you some friends along the way. Sharing some grub and a few hellos are some of the simple steps that one can take to build a good working relationship in the workplace.

Jonas

✉ THE LONG ROAD TO SUCCESS
 Quick money with

less work should be a signal for us all to doubt the company that we would be working for, especially when it's a part-time stint. It's sad to know that most of the people are taking the bait of dubious deals that seem too sweet to believe and becoming hypnotised with the thought of earning more while working less. Although there are exemptions to the rule sometimes, getting rich in a clean way usually does not involve any shady shortcuts.

Lisa Backer



BOND OVER A BITE TO EAT

Read. Poll

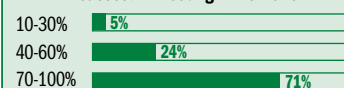
How many days do you work out during the week?

- 1-3
- 4-6
- Daily
- Never

Cast your vote online at www.readme.ae

LAST READ. POLL RESULTS

How confident were you that Dubai would succeed in hosting EXPO 2020?



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ASSAM ALTAF



AAKASH AHUJA



SIRAJUDDIN



NAVIN KHIANEY



SURESH KUMAR

What's happening this week on readme.ae?

Make sure you check out our website 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

As Nelson Mandela is laid to rest today in Qunu, South Africa, the world is expected to be watching. While there are those who oppose the late South African president, there are many more who consider him one of the greatest men of recent times. From presidents to prime ministers, royalty to regular folk, today's service is expected to touch the hearts of millions.



MONDAY

If you listen to the radio, there's almost no way you've not heard the latest smash hit to take over the airwaves. Her song *Royals* may be riding high on charts across the world, but who exactly is Lorde?



TUESDAY

From sneezes to hiccups and tummy rumbles, our bodies are capable of producing a wide—and often rather strange—array of natural noises. What causes some of the most common human harmonies?



WEDNESDAY

As the second part of *The Hobbit* trilogy hits screens, fans are expected to pack into picture houses for another slice of the action. Take a look at some of the most successful trilogies of cinema history.



THURSDAY

With the first and second test of the Ashes out of the way, England and Australia are now looking ahead to the third and final test. How did the Ashes come to be and just what exactly is in the tiny urn used as a trophy?



FRIDAY

The *Read*. Facebook page has been full of your opinions on our daily 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 it's fair for paparazzi to take snaps of celebrities during private moments or when they're out with their kids?

They make lots of money out of it, most of the celebs they like to be followed but sometimes the paparazzi should make boundaries of what and who they are taking pictures.

— **Daniella Oberes**

No, for the very reason that we are all humans at the end of the day and deserve to be treated fairly and have the right to privacy. Also, children should not become a victim just be-

cause their parents are famous stars.

— **Fatima Suhail**

I just wonder, going by the UAE law, if the paparazzi's could be punished? if the answer is yes then I am sure the celebrities would feel much safer in UAE.

— **Khaiser Ahmed**



SPACE INVADERS?

Not good to intrude into people's private life, be it a celebrity or non celebrity.

— **Scachy Chinedu**

Do you believe that people focus too much on giving gifts rather than the real meaning of Christmas these days?

Yes I agree. More concentration has drifted towards the materialistic gifts rather than just enjoying the moment.

— **Pratibha Sharma**

Most of the people look forward on Christmas cause they are expecting that they will receive something from others without knowing that this is only a token. Christmas is about being together with your family. Searching for ways though you are from them just let them feel you are not. Loving and spiritual



MATERIAL WORLD?

celebration is Christmas.

— **Melissa Lao Boo**

Unfortunately YES! Everything is commercialised these days. Even relationships! The intensity & stability of relationships of any kind are based upon give & take and the price tags attached to it which would weigh its importance.

— **Seema Shelat**

Workplace training in focus

A recent workshop indicates that employees perform better when they are supported and trained at work.

TRAINING

The importance of training and certification as an essential tool to remain relevant at the workplace came under the spotlight at a recent workshop in Dubai organised by executive training and management firm, Blue Ocean Academy. Blue Ocean also launched its public course calendar 2014 on the occasion.

The workshop, titled 'Increasing Measurable Effectiveness of Training', featured heads of training from large international corporations who debated ways of measuring the impact of training on employees. The participants agreed that business productivity, profitability and customer loyalty are enhanced when employees are trained and supported.

Dr Samer Parekh, an internationally renowned speaker on the tangible quotient of training, said: "What separates sustainable companies from the rest is the effort of man-



THE BEST MANAGERS TEND TO BE GREAT MOTIVATORS



DR SAMER PAREKH

agement in training its employees. The best managers tend to be great motivators and promoters of success and they clearly see the direct impact of training on productivity, translating into profits."

Highlighting the Pesos model of training, Dr Parekh said: "There is an apparent disconnection between what business asks for as a measure

of effectiveness of training and what can be actually measured. Before training, a student must develop a readiness to learn and, after the training is complete, it should reflect in his or her behaviour."

Increasingly, companies are keen to hire certified professionals to demonstrate to their customers, competitors, suppliers, staff and investors that industry-respected best practices are in use.

Headquartered in the UAE with a strong presence in the UK, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Sri Lanka and India, Blue Ocean has 16 years of training an impressive roster of blue chip clients, a global network of certified trainers and international affiliations. Blue Ocean specialises in designing courses that bridge the gap between infrastructure and knowledge, imparting futuristic skills to a new genre of industry leaders, shaping them into dynamic professionals in an increasingly competitive world.

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Silver screen city

The latest edition of the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF) brought with it plenty of action.

Among the packed schedule of events that take place in Dubai each year, the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF) is always one of the major highlights.

As filmmakers, directors, Hollywood stars and industry insiders descended on the city for this year's 10th anniversary celebration of the festival, Dubai became a hub of activity that, year after year, reinforces the UAE as a serious contender on the worldwide arts platform.

And this year's edition, taking place from December 6 to 14, was another sparkling affair, providing plenty of standout moments for all those in attendance.

Reel recognition

At the opening night of DIFF, 10 Arab cinema talents were recognised for their distinguished contribution towards the top 100 films of Arabic cinema. Festival Chairman Abdulhamid Juma said: "It is a great privilege to honour talented Arab cinema figures this year. We see it as a necessary step to shed light on the major achievements of these filmmakers and their remarkable contributions to Arab cinema and also share glorious moments with these cinematic figures as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of this international festival."

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF CINEMATIC DELIGHT



First class

With a total of 174 feature films, shorts and documentaries taking centre stage at this year's DIFF, there was something for everyone to enjoy. From world premieres to festival firsts, some of the top on-screen treats included *American Hustle*, featuring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, *Omar*, made by Oscar-nominated Palestinian director Hany Abu Assad and funded by DIFF, and the acclaimed *Factory Girl* by Mohammad Khan.

Sparkling stars

Among the many famous faces to make an appearance at this year's DIFF, legendary actor Martin Sheen was in conversation with audience, providing many fascinating insights into his life as a Hollywood stalwart. This year's edition of the festival also provided film fans with maximum celebrity sightings, as stars including actress Cate Blanchett, actors Andy Serkis and Michael B. Jordan, and British singer Rebecca Ferguson walked the red carpet at various events.



MARTIN SHEEN RECEIVES A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM SHEIKH MANSOOR BIN MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

Unsung hero



MAHMOUD KAABOUR

One of the highlights for many this year was the premiere screening of *Champ of the Camp*, the documentary movie that went behind the scenes of an *X Factor*-style singing competition that took place in the labour camps of Dubai. Those in attendance at the premiere enjoyed a candid and heartwarming tale, as shown by Lebanese director Mahmoud Kaabour, with many among the 1,000 person-strong audience claiming they looked forward to viewing the movie again when it hits theatres.



CATE SHINES BRIGHT



PER KG **34.75 Dhs**

ديك حبش مشوي ومحشو، أمريكي

Roasted turkey stuffed, USA

متوفر أيضا

Fresh stuffed **29.75 Dhs** طازج ومحشو



PER KG **47.75 Dhs**

سمك سلمون نرويجي ٣/٢، النرويج

Carrefour Quality Line

Norwegian salmon 2/3, Norway



PER PACK **13.50 Dhs**

بيتيفور، ١٢ × ١٢
Petit fours x12



15.50 Dhs
29.50 Dhs

عسل طبيعي (الشفا)، ٥٠٠ غرام + ١٢٥ غرام
Al Shifa natural honey 500g + 125g



16.75 Dhs

شوكولاتة عيد الميلاد متنوعة
(هيرشيز) ٢٠٤ غرام
Hershey's santas chocolate
assorted 204g



19.75 Dhs
26.50 Dhs

خل بلسميك (مايلي) ٥٠٠ مل
+ خل أبيض (مايلي) ٢٥٠ مل

Maille balsamic vinegar 500ml
+ Maille white vinegar 250ml



9.75 Dhs

عصير فوار متنوع
(دونيلي) ٧٥٠ مل
Donelli sparkling juice
assorted 750ml



PER PC **10.50 Dhs**

خبز توست (كارفور) ٢٨٠ غرام
Carrefour toast assorted 280g



49.75 Dhs

أجبان فرنسية متنوعة على طبق
خشب ٣٢٠ غرام
French cheese in wooden
platter assorted 320g

Dealing with the doctor

How to be properly prepared for a visit to the doctor: from asking all the right questions, to dealing with embarrassing issues or using your medical insurance.



Visiting the doctor is not everyone's cup of tea. For some, it invokes a fear response, either from a difficult medical experience earlier in life, or through anxiety towards an upcoming diagnosis. Others just might not be feeling well and resent that they are not still tucked up in their beds.

When you aren't comfortable with a situation, the key is to find ways to make it as acceptable as possible. These factors can be considered in advance and just thinking them through beforehand might somewhat help with the anticipation and make the visit easier.

Be frank and open

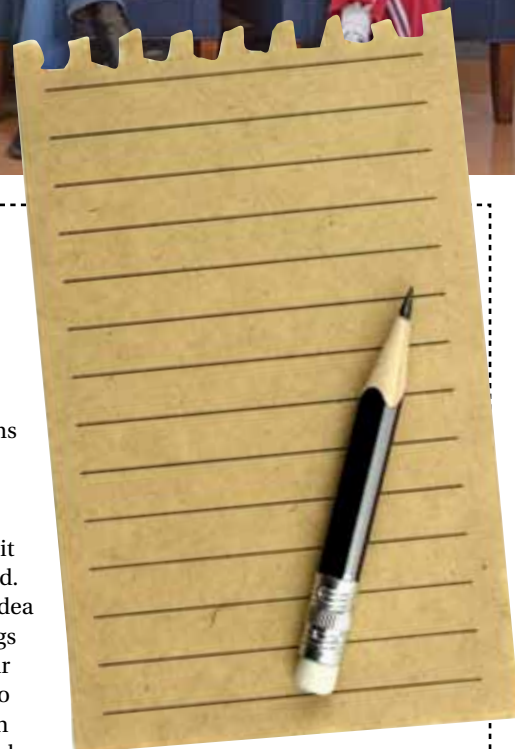
By nature, most people don't really like to share personal information with strangers, but this is essential during a visit to the doctor. If you choose to make a list of points you want to discuss with your doctor, make sure you also note any other important information, such as the names and addresses of other physicians, or of medicines you are taking or have taken recently. Even if your condition is deeply embarrassing, rest assured that the doctor will have heard it all before. He is not there to judge you but to make you feel better.

Mastering insurance

In the UAE, medical insurance is a big deal. If you don't have it, you could end up paying a fortune for appropriate care. It helps to be familiar with your coverage, so it's important to go through your policy document when you receive it and keep it in a safe place so you can refer to it later if needed. Understand your deductibles and be aware of whether your insurer covers laboratory fees and other tests. You might also need to check whether or not you need pre-authorisation from your primary care physician in order to see a specialist.

Make a list

The doctor can only make a correct diagnosis if he or she is given all the symptoms and circumstances that apply. Sometimes, it is very easy to miss out on some crucial fact simply because it has slipped out of your mind. For this reason, it is a wise idea to make a list of all the things you want to mention in your appointment. For those who have researched their health issue online, be sure to attach print-outs to discuss with your physician. Doctors will tell you that while there are some great medical websites, most demand greater context than they are given in order to give a correct diagnosis.



The boring stuff

Make sure you allow enough time for administrative formalities. If you suspect that you will need to fill in additional paperwork, such as a new patient form, let the receptionist know at the time of booking so the surgery can have the forms ready. Most doctors recommend that you renew your prescriptions at the start of the appointment—that way they don't get forgotten during the course of the consultation.

Did you know?

Some studies state that it only takes 23 seconds before the doctor will interrupt the patient for the first time during a consultation (others suggest an even shorter time). If this happens to you, you should politely ask him or her to listen to your entire symptom details before making a comment.

Tell us your thoughts: letters@readme.ae



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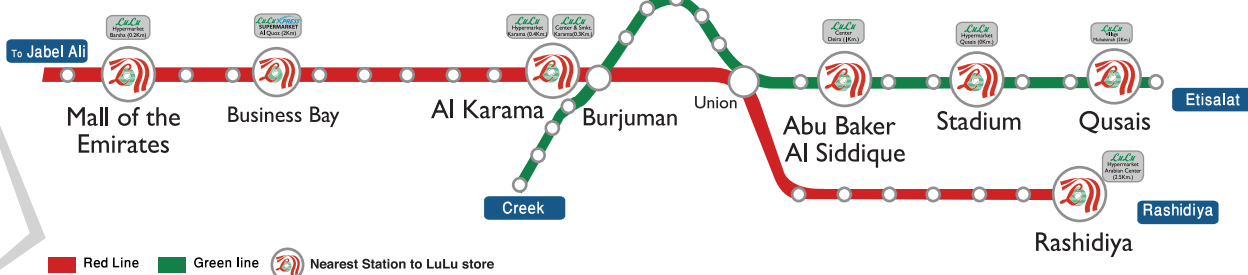


Frozen Rabbit Meat
Per Kg

AED 39.90



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TRAVEL NEWS

Zabeel Saray set for world's largest fireworks display

Jumeirah Zabeel Saray will hold a record-breaking fireworks display on the Palm Jumeirah for the New Year's Eve celebrations later this month. The show will feature an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Fireworks Display', a six-minute display choreographed across the whole of The Palm Jumeirah and the islands of The World.

The world record-breaking attempt will cover a distance of 99.4km of seafront and feature 450,000 colourful fireworks and a series of scenes designed exclusively for the show and set to a musical soundtrack.



As the world record attempt concludes, a 15-minute display covering a one-kilometre stretch of the Jumeirah beach will commence.

While the world record attempt is taking place along the seafront, in Downtown Dubai spectators will be able to enjoy fireworks cascading down Burj Khalifa.

Stephan Schupbach, General Manager of Jumeirah Zabeel Saray, said: "Dubai's record-breaking fireworks display is a magical way to wrap up what has been an extraordinary year for the city. We [Jumeirah Zabeel Saray] are delighted to be located at the heart of this celebration."

Each restaurant in Jumeirah Zabeel Saray will offer an al fresco terrace and unrivalled views of the display on Palm Jumeirah.



Most people think of Lapland as the north of Finland, but

in fact it crosses entire northern region of Scandinavia, from Norway to Russia. But for tourism purposes—and especially at this time of year—tourists flock in numbers to the Finnish Arctic.

Here, it is a true wilderness—a mysterious land with long polar nights that provide the chance to witness the remarkable aurora borealis (northern lights) dancing fluorescently through the night sky. But more than anything, this is the home of the man himself, Santa Claus.



In actuality it's the town of Rovaniemi, the capital of Finland's Lapland region and the only sizeable town within the polar tundra. This is the best access point for flights from Helsinki, which is served by Emirates.

Eight kilometres north of Rovaniemi's city centre is the Santa Clause Village, which lies just inside the Arctic Circle, and is home to *Joulupukki*, as the jolly man is known within these parts.

As well as the chance to meet Santa here, a number of other attractions are available, like small sledding hills for kids. And then, of course, there is the Santa Claus post office, which has its own special stamp. Nearby is the Santa Park underground theme park, which has recently been renovated and offers plenty of fun for the kids.

Away from the town, the only worthwhile way for Santa chasers is to go north, where there are many atmospheric hotels, hostels and lodges. In spite of the climate and the snowy terrain, there are a number of well-maintained roads with their own bus services for travellers.

The local cuisine is based mainly on the most abundant sources of meat. Top of these is the reindeer—or *poro*, as it is known locally—and the traditional way to eat it is as reindeer

Visiting Santa

Wonderful in winter, stunning in summer, **Lapland** offers much more than jolly men and reindeer.

hash, with mashed potatoes and lingonberry jam. Snow grouse, too, is very gamey, and tastes wonderful alongside cloudberry preserve.

People don't just come to this beautiful region for Santa, however. The summertime is when Lapland's natural beauty is most visible—especially with the midnight sun bringing

“The summertime is when Lapland's natural beauty is most visible—especially with the midnight sun bringing continuous daylight.”

FRESH AND CRISP



Pure North

This far north, where there is little industry to pollute the environment, water taken from lakes and creeks is clear and perfectly safe to drink. Indeed, quite remarkably, most purchased mineral water contains more impurities and harmful compounds than are found in the local tap water.

ing continuous daylight through the clear Arctic air. This is the time to witness the seemingly endless pine forests make way for treeless rounded fells in perfect wilderness. While prices can skyrocket during the winter season for families desperate to treat the kids to a meeting with the big man, for those in the know, summer is the season to explore the real Lapland.

The summer is also when the milder weather brings a number of events to the region, including a film festival, celebrations of local *Sami* culture, and the prestigious Luosto open-air classical music festival. It might seem to those on the outside that the region is known as a bit of a one-trick pony, but those who have visited during the summer months know the real secret that lies in this polar gem and it's not a rotund fellow with a big white beard.

Summertime thrill-seekers go quad biking and river boating, while fishing and hiking are both serene ways to pass the 24 hours of light each day. Autumn, meanwhile, is known for its stunning colours and leaf shades. But, wherever you look and whatever season you choose to visit in, Lapland is truly beautiful. ●



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NEWS ON WHEELS

Team wins new Mercedes-Benz GLK in event

Enthusiastic to the core, 100 teams participated in the recent Mercedes-Benz Detour 2013 motorsport event held in Dubai, with one team winning the grand prize of a brand new Mercedes-Benz GLK.

The event, an initiative between Gargash Enterprises and Detour Events Management, began with a detailed briefing on a challenge that tested the participants' navigating skills and mental and physical fitness. The challenge was based on competitions across pit stops that were distributed across known and hidden corners of the UAE, whereby the contestants scored points for finishing off tasks assigned at each pit stop.



Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts from all over the UAE enjoyed 180km of trailing along the detour course. Safety and teamwork were paramount as teams of two worked together in their own or rented Mercedes-Benz cars and were tested on their navigating skills, time calculations and coordination.

The route was filled with surprises and fun activities with teams following route instructions in search of hidden clues on their way to each pit stop. Every pit stop had a different activity ranging from kayaking, puzzles to fitness boot camps. The average speed and additional time given to complete pit stop challenges ensured that proper and safe speed limits were maintained. The enroute activities were a mix of memory, quiz, and image recognition to keep the teams occupied throughout the drive.

The winning team, team number 42 (Czechoslovakian Power) was thrilled to win the grand prize of the Mercedes-Benz GLK from Shehab Gargash, Board Member of Gargash Enterprises.

Big boy's toy

Chevrolet takes the lead in the pick up truck market with the new Silverado.

The pick-up truck game is a funny one, as it's contested by just three main players, namely GM, Ford and Dodge. The three fight over the lion's share of a market that only covers North America, the Middle East and a few other small markets in South America, as they're the only places with roads and infrastructure to support these monsters. Add to that the cost of fuel elsewhere in the world and you can see how niche this part of the car industry really is.

But that isn't to say it's not lucrative; in fact, there were more than one million pick-ups sold between the big three last year.

They've also proved popular in the Middle East, although more as a weekend toy than the commercial vehicles you see plying interstate one. Head out onto Dubai's roads and you'll soon see a single or double cab version bearing down on you, usually with nothing in the back.

The point to all of this is that when one of the big three launches a new model, it's big news. And when GM

released a new version of the now 80-plus year old Chevrolet Silverado pick-up (although the Silverado name has actually only been used since the 1970s), the company made quite a song and dance about it.

The new Silverado looks very much like a face-lifted version of the old one. Buyers in this market don't like to change much and, to be honest, there wasn't a lot wrong looks-wise with the last model. It's certainly more square and aggressive, especially at the front, plus it's been tweaked here and there to make it more aerodynamic, for a large house on wheels.

At the rear, the company has added some brilliantly simple steps in the rear bumper, allowing you easy access to the rear bed. You also

get a soft drop tailgate, under rail bed lights and new folding tie-down eyes.

But most of the changes are under the skin, with a focus on making the Silverado more car-like for the driver. Inside, Chevrolet

have changed the door construction, to lower noise, and dropped the suicide door set up, replacing it with a proper front-hinged pillar to reduce wind noise.

The interior is both functional and luxurious.

There's an 8.0 inch touch-screen interface and enough charging points to keep a small city lit up. It's also comfortable, with large seats giving a perfect view of the road.

Under the hood there's a mighty 355 hp, 5.3 litre V8, bolted to a six-speed automatic gearbox. Chevrolet offers a V6 version, but most buyers will opt for the bigger engine.

For now, in the apparently never-ending pick up truck war, the latest round once again goes to the Chevrolet Silverado. ●

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS



SPECS

(as tested)

Engine: 5.3 litre V8

Power: 355hp@5,600rpm

Torque: 519Nm@4,100rpm

0-100km/h: n/a

Top speed: n/a

Price: Dh172,000



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TECH
NEWSLG G Pad 8.3
tablet unveiled
in UAE market

LG Electronics (LG) has launched the LG G Pad 8.3 tablet, the latest addition to its G Series lineup of premium mobile devices. The all-new G Pad 8.3 features a Full HD display on an 8-inch tablet, a unique user experience and range of connectivity features. The G Pad 8.3 builds on the recent launch of the LG G2 superphone.



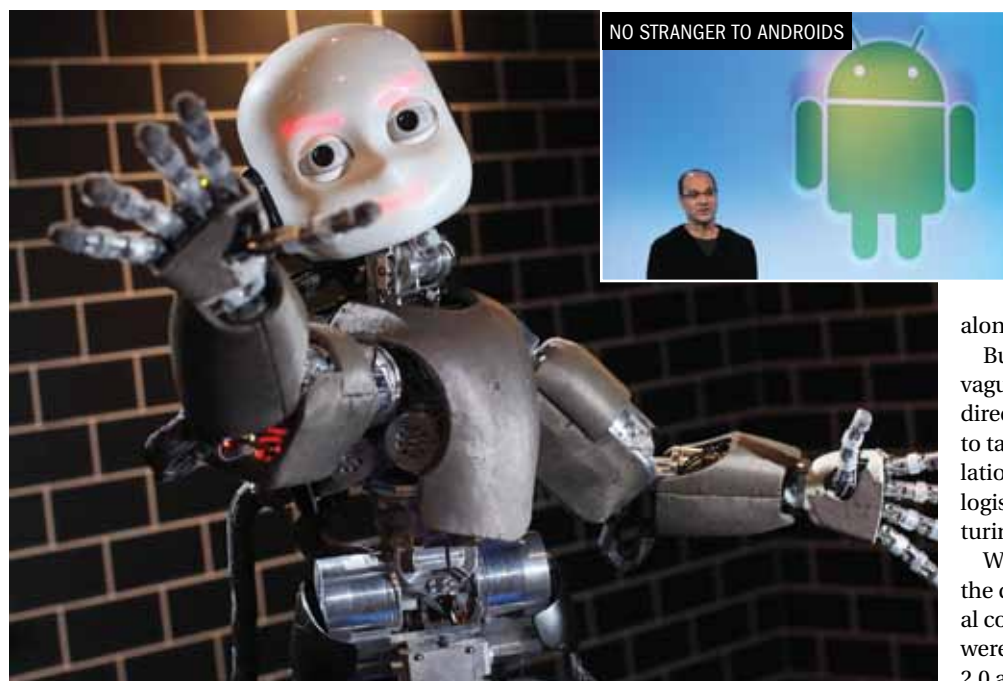
The G Pad 8.3 features a slim and sleek form factor that is comfortable enough to hold in one hand. Such compact portability is based on LG's learning from consumers regarding the optimum size of a tablet. While maintaining its portability, the G Pad 8.3 squeezes in a powerful 4600mAh battery for long-lasting usage but is still as light as a newspaper at just 338g.

The G Pad 8.3 is the first 8-inch tablet to offer a Full HD display. The unit is equipped with a 1920 x 1200 WUXGA (Widescreen Ultra Extended Graphics Array) display capable of delivering picture quality with even higher resolution than a standard Full HD display. In addition, the Qualcomm Snapdragon 600 Processor with 1.7GHz Quad-Core CPU enhances the viewing experience with powerful performance.

With the unique QPair app, every call and message received on a smartphone will appear on the G Pad for a true convergence experience. Users can then send simple replies through the G Pad 8.3. QPair also allows the G Pad to easily connect to other manufacturers' smartphone and tablets.

From
Android
to robots

The creator of Google's best selling mobile platform is now turning his hand to what is likely to be the next big thing in technology: robotics



The concept of a robot is nothing new—even old cliffhanger silent movies would have the odd upturned dustbin with an antenna coming out of the top to suggest that artificial life forms were being thought about even before instant coffee had been invented.

But robots have been in the news quite a lot recently. Even in just the last two weeks, Amazon's chief executive, Jeff Bezos, revealed the possibility of drones delivering customers' orders quickly and efficiently. Not the traditional concept of a robot but a robot nonetheless.

The dictionary definition of the world robot is "a machine capable of carrying out a complex series of actions automatically, especially one programmable by a computer", meaning that such a device could be used for conceivably anything.

Tell us your thoughts: letters@readme.ae

Sci-fi
sceptics

Sci-Fi fans will be wary when they hear about research into robots, with *The Terminator* and its sequels telling a bleak story of the future after the world's robots acquired intelligence and set out to destroy humanity with the machines it had earlier used to make the world better.

Robots work tirelessly in factories; they don't need rest, holidays or lunch breaks. They don't answer back, turn up late or make human mistakes. They just churn

out cars, computers and widgets, and pack items that other robots make.

We couldn't live without them. But with the news last week that Google has quietly acquired seven technology companies over the last year with an eye to create a new generation of robots, the tech giant is going one step further to turn the robots of today into what our early visions of the future believed possible.

No stranger to androids—he was the creator of the Android smartphone operating system—Andy Rubin has since moved on to head up Google's new robotics division, which he hopes will tap into the financial potential of robots, which is expected to grow 10.5 per cent annually to \$20.2 billion in 2016.

Much of this growth should come away from the shop floor robots

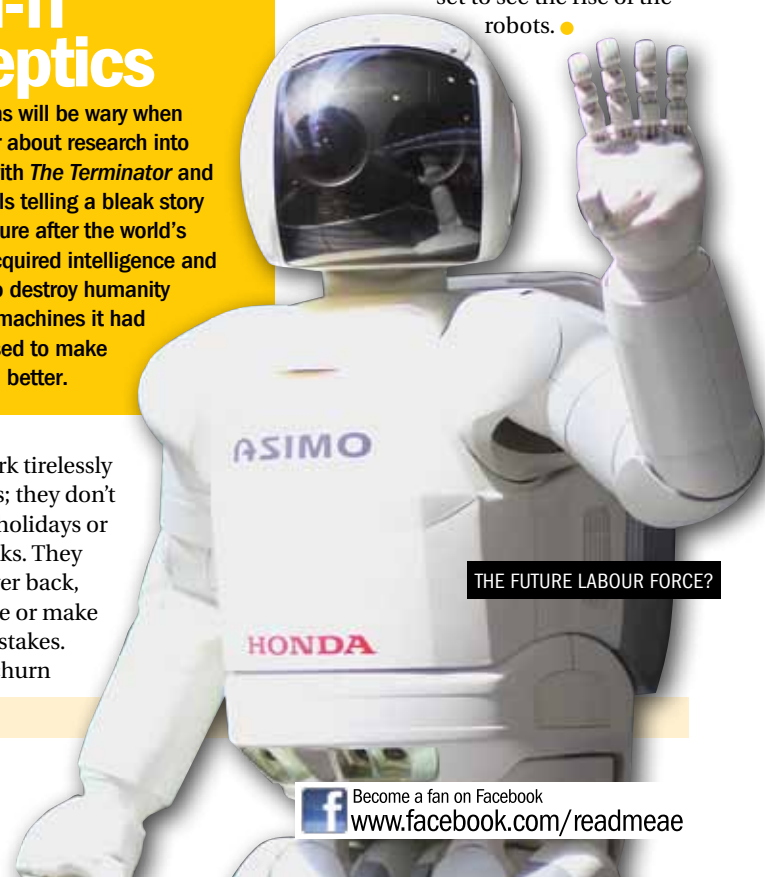
we are used to now, with researchers—and Google—instead focusing their efforts on designing 'service robots' that are mobile, innovative and that can work safely

alongside humans.

But details are still vague about the robotic direction Google intends to take, although speculation is mounting that logistics and manufacturing are front-runners.

While the 1990s was the decade of the personal computer, the 2000s were all about the Web 2.0 and currently, mobile phones are all the rage,

it is looking like the next decade is set to see the rise of the robots. ●



Tech beat



TWITTER SOARING HIGH

Twitter shares have been performing well over the last week following the release of new features aimed at marketers. One of these is the newly launched tailored audiences programme, which helps companies target potential customers after expressing interest in their brands. Another is an advertising tool to target conversations about TV.

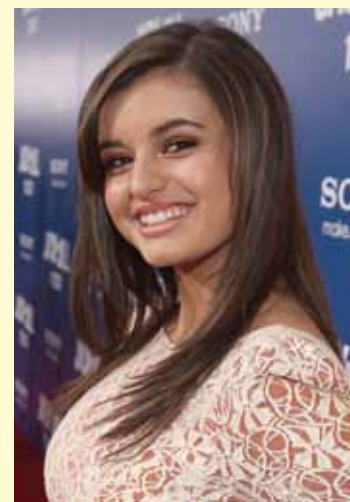
GAMES BUGGED

The American and British governments have allegedly been using so-called gaming spies in its war on terror. Indeed, so many spies were tapping into *World of Warcraft* and *Second Life* to hunt for terrorists that mechanisms were put in place to make sure they weren't spying on each other, The Guardian said.



YAHOO TEMPTED BY IMGUR

According to Business Insider, Yahoo is in talks to acquire picture service Imgur, the darling of news aggregator giant Reddit. The search giant began talks with the startup a couple of months ago, and pundits have been speculating that Yahoo would have to part with between \$100 million and \$500 million for the sale.



BLACK IS BACK

Internet songstress Rebecca Black has released a long-awaited follow-up to the YouTube-exploding hit, *Friday*. The 14-year-old's new tune is titled *Saturday* and in its first three days on the site, had amassed over 11 million views and twice as many likes as dislikes.

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Coping with Christmas

As the holidays draw near, follow our top tips on how to keep your cool this Christmas.

Family-friendly festivities

For many families, Christmas is seen as a happy occasion when relatives come together to eat and be merry. But when you have so many personalities together, it's almost inevitable that a row or two will break out.

According to a survey, the average British family will

have at least five arguments on Christmas Day. The thought of possible arguments and stress can be enough to deter some couples and families from celebrating with their extended family. Rather than pulling your hair out, there are ways to ensure a happy holiday season.

When it comes to children at Christmas, it's usually all about the presents. Many kids will throw a tantrum if they haven't received a gift that they wanted or if it's the wrong one. Rather than letting your kids open all their presents at once in the morning, save some for throughout the day. After children have seen all their presents, they tend to get bored and can become irritable and begin causing mischief. Channel their excitement by handing out the family's gifts at different points of the day. This will help to encourage good behaviour and keep the kids both entertained and excited.



KEEP THE SURPRISES COMING

Stay on budget

With Christmas just around the corner it's easy to overspend or rack up credit card bills if you go off budget. The easiest way to avoid overspending is to write a list and stick to it. Make a note of how much you plan to spend in the run up to the festivities and how much you can really afford, so that you aren't in debt come January. When buying gifts, try and shop around. Online retailers usually have great deals so don't be tempted to buy the first thing you see at the mall.

If you are a little short on cash this year, get creative and try making some gifts yourself. It's always more

thoughtful to receive a handmade gift from a friend or relative as it shows that they have spent time and really considered you in the process. Rather than going to a store and buying a Christmas hamper, you could always make your own. Buy a cheap basket from a bargain home store and fill it with treats such as chocolates, flowers, candles and other festive goodies. You can easily buy some of these items from the supermarket. Cover the basket in plastic and tie with a pretty ribbon from a craft store for a homemade gift hamper at half the price of a store version.



Share the workload

Many families—and mums in particular—tend to take on more than they can handle at this time of year. While you may feel that you can do everything yourself, it's okay to ask for help if you need to step back and relax for a minute. Look at the tasks that you need to do and try and delegate

some of them to other family members. Choose a member of the family that has nice handwriting and ask them to write the Christmas cards; you can always multitask by wrapping gifts close by to help with any queries over addresses or names. On Christmas Day, get your kids to help set the table and, if you are having friends or family over for dinner, why not ask everyone to prepare one part of the meal at home? If everyone cooks one dish, you'll have a feast prepared in no time and with minimal stress.

Home sweet home

If you are entertaining house guests you will need to prepare. If you have limited space, don't apologise for putting guests on a sofa bed; make the most of the space you have. Keep a stack of blankets and pillows nearby in case your guest feels a draught from the AC or wants an extra pillow.

While you may know where everything is in your home, your guests most likely won't. Try and make everything simple so that they don't have to keep asking for things. Put towels in a basket in the bathroom for your guests to find. Those extra toiletries from hotel stays also come in handy at times like this. Make a little basket filled with extra toothbrushes, body wash, lotions and other toiletries for your guests in case they forgot something.

If you do have a guest bedroom, try to provide an empty wardrobe or drawer as often cupboards in the spare room tend to be used for extra storage

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People skills for success

How improving your 'likeability' can not only make others feel good, but can also boost your own career.



BE A TRUE 'PEOPLE PERSON'

COMMUNICATION

Many professionals assume that having extensive experience and advanced technical skills are the only things that matters when it comes to career progression. Well, it turns out that while technical competency is crucial to your professional success, it's highly essential that you also have great people skills or what is called 'likeability'. People skills are described as your ability to monitor your thoughts and speech, empathise with others and build relationships of trust and respect in your daily interactions.

LIKEABILITY BOOSTS SUCCESS

While having a 'likeable' personality depends on the nature of your character, you can work on your people skills to enjoy better relationships at work. Akhtaboot highlights the top people skills that will help you create satisfying and productive interactions in the workplace.

THE ABILITY TO RELATE TO OTHERS

One of the top factors for success in a future job is your ability to relate to others and their personal viewpoints. It simply means that you're willing to agree or to disagree with mutual respect; letting them know you understand their position. If you have this ability, you are likely to have a lot of friends and therefore will also have a wide network of communication.

THE ABILITY TO TRUST OTHERS

You can't speed up your career if you aren't able to depend on and put your trust in other people. Without trust, you can't get projects done or get others to cooperate. Mistrust cultivates doubt, low productivity, lost sales, and high turnover. Keep in mind that it takes time to build and it also requires effort and diligence to maintain.

“Make your greeting stand out, remember peoples' names and listen with interest in order to give them a sense of importance.”

THE ABILITY TO SHOW EMPATHY

Having the ability to place yourself in someone else's shoes is a key people skill. It allows us to build meaningful relationships with others, provides insights into what others may be feeling or thinking and how or why others are reacting to situations. In brief, it sharpens your 'people intelligence' and it backs up our decisions.

EXPRESSING GENUINE INTEREST IN OTHERS

People can sense if you're genuinely interested in them. Showing interest in someone's abilities, background, stories, hobbies, career, family, or anything else makes that person feel connected to you. Make your greeting stand out, remember peoples' names and listen with interest in order to give them a sense of importance, well-being and value.

ACTIVE LISTENING SKILLS

Hearing someone talk and actively listening to them are two different things. During discussions, most people tend to phase out and start to form a response in their mind and interrupt the flow before they finish what they're saying. The key is to actively listen, which takes more time but produces better outcomes. Allow others to vent and then take the time to form a response. It sure needs some practice, but it pays off.

A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR

We all have a tendency to sometimes take ourselves way too seriously at work. However, injecting some well-placed, light humour into a business situation can enhance your career and also your likability. Humour creates a cheerful atmosphere that encourages interaction and brainstorming of new ideas. In general, funny people are usually easy to approach, so the more approachable you are, especially as a leader, the more authentic and open people around you will be. ●

By Akhtaboot—the career network (www.akhtaboot.com).

Metro Classifieds

JOBS AVAILABLE

Leading company in Business Bay urgently requires an experienced candidate in 3D studio max V-Ray, after effects and PhotoShop. Gender/nationality/visa not specific. Should be fluent in English. Part/full-time position. Salary depends on experience. Fax CV to 0400000000/call 0400000000.

Media direct sales executive wanted urgently for door to door sales in Dubai. Must have print media experience of at least 2 years. Must have own car. Indian preferred. Salary Dh 5-7k. Email CV to dxbhunt@gmail.com.

Bus driver required for a full-time job at a company in Dubai. Should have minimum 1 yr experience. Fax CV to 0400000000.

Insurance sales executives required for a company in Dubai. Salary + attractive commissions + employment visa will be provided. Send CV to 123@gmail.com.

Secretary cum accountant urgently required for a reputed software marketing company. Females only. Should be experienced with good communication skills. English/Hindi/Arabic fluency is a must. Email CV to 123@gmail.com.

JOBS WANTED

Indian male, BCom graduate seeks job as a storekeeper. 9 yrs experience in similar and other fields. Email dxbhunt@gmail.com./Call 0500000000.

Keralite male, 32, currently working as office administrator seeks part-time job. 5 yrs UAE experience as project administrator. Holds UAE D/L. Proficient in preparing letters, memos, etc. Call 0500000000.

Professional driver seeks full-time job. 12 yrs Gulf experience. Call 0550000000.

Pakistani male, web designer, seeks full-time job. Key skills are PHP, HTML, CMS, JQuery. Email 123@gmail.com./Call 0560000000.

Indian male seeks full-time job as an elderly caretaker. Experienced. Fluent in Arabic, English, Hindi. Call 0500000000.

Pakistani male, MCS, seeks full-time job. 8 yrs Gulf experience in IT sales & marketing. Call 0520000000/email 123@gmail.com.

AUTOS

Mercedes S320, 1997 model for sale. Driven for 170,000km. In excellent condition. No flaws at all. Very reliable, automatic transmission. Power locks, windows, mirrors. Premium rims/wheels. Premium Bluetooth sound/DVD system. No history of mechanical failure. Price for sale. Call 0500000000.

Toyota Camry, 2006 model for sale. XLI, fully automatic, driven for 150,000km, in excellent condition. Dh28,500, original price. Call 0500000000.

Door locks, power windows, power mirrors, in very good condition. Dh35,000. Call 0500000000.

2006 model for sale. XLI, automatic transmission. Power locks, windows, mirrors. Premium rims/wheels. Premium Bluetooth sound/DVD system. No history of mechanical failure. Price for sale. Call 0500000000.

Dell laptop latitude D430 available for sale. Intel core, 2 duo 1.33ghz processor, 2GB Ram with Windows 7. Still in good condition. Dh600. Email 123@gmail.com.

Magrudy Oxford very first dictionary, compiled by Claire Kirtley, illustrated by Georgie Birkett, paperback, available for sale. Dh45. Call 0550000000.

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THE WEEKLY

EXCLUSIVELY ON THE DUBAI METRO

Exclusive Christmas merchandise now available at Daiso

This Christmas, Daiso shares the festive spirit by offering Christmas themes and bringing exclusive Christmas merchandise to its racks. The Christmas 2013 collection includes everything needed to celebrate the festive season, from winter themed decorations to Santa and his elves.



Available in all Daiso outlets are unique Christmas figurines of Santa Claus, reindeer, snowmen and other holiday figures. Made of ceramic and enamelled with bright colours, these cheerful figurines are an essential part of Christmas traditions.



Also available is a wide range of festive wreaths with artfully arranged buds, blossoms, leaves, pinecones, shells and other natural treasures. The ancient tradition of hanging wreaths symbolises strength and perseverance. Add a warm touch inside or outside your home with the collectible wreaths.



Large varieties of Christmas tree ornaments are also available at Daiso, along with a handsome collection of garlands and festive holiday lights.

Festive and fun

Kit your kids out in the cutest outfits this holiday season.

TRENDS

Styling the little ones in any family doesn't have to be a chore this holiday season. You are sure to find the perfect style to suit his or her big personality. Dress your children in the latest threads from the high street throughout the Christmas season. Winter colours include shades of yellow, red, orange, navy, plum and grey. Statement prints, appliqués and embroidery will add a truly young and cheerful vibe to children's clothing, while stripes and polka dots promise to become the key prints of the season.

Velvet is the fabric of choice for little girl's dresses and skirts for winter, so choose an elegant long sleeved dress in a deep burgundy hue and pair it with thick, black tights and ankle booties for a classic holiday ensemble. Likewise, dainty lace always looks pretty on little girls. Pair a frilled lace top with tights and velvet shorts and boots.

For younger children, playful prints are a cute choice. Opt for a long sleeved dress in orange or red hues and pair with polka dot tights, suede boots and a quirky, cos-

tume headpiece such as reindeer ears or a Santa hat.

The holiday season is the perfect time to dress up and impress, so choose a gorgeous, embellished party dress for your little girl.



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NEXT

Sequins, tulle and bow detailing are all ideal for little

princesses, or opt for a printed, ballerina-style dress.

Cool boys will love jumpers in bold hues and a round shaped neckline, denim jeans and brown boots. Your little boy will look positively dapper in his holiday ensemble complete with checked shirt, waistcoat and tie. Celebrate the holidays with an array of cosy hats if you and your children are travelling to cooler climes. ●

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Ring the changes

Much more to the point and enjoyable than its predecessor, *The Hobbit: Desolation of Smaug* is going to be the hit of the winter.

NEW RELEASE

For some, the idea of no more dwarf bun-fights in Bilbo Baggins' home might be appealing, but there is so much more to this second outing in the Hobbit trilogy to enjoy.

The Desolation of Smaug continues where *An Unexpected Journey* left off, and Tolkien-nuts will immediately notice how the first film's loyal adhesion to the book's storyline now becomes far more elastic as director Peter Jackson focuses more on drama than he did on plot-building.

While the first edition concentrated on putting the characters and species in perspective, drawing out the character traits of dwarves as a whole as much as each individual, *Smaug* assumes its audience now knows all it needs to and rips straight into the action.

Jackson, who is well known for liking to labour a point, manages to keep the storyline moving for the most part at reasonable pace. Almost the entirety of the film is devoted to covering the dangerous mission of 13 dwarves, under the wizard Gandalf (Sir Ian McKellen) and joined by Baggins (Martin Freeman, *The Office*), as they set out to reinstate their leader, Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage, *Spooks*), to his rightful throne as monarch of the underground kingdom of Erebor, which had been lost during the devastating battle that took place in the first film.

As their journey progresses, Jackson injects even more perils along their way than were found



GANDALF RETURNS

in the book, with Smaug (Benedict Cumberbatch, *Star Trek Into Darkness*) being the final and greatest challenge—a huge dragon that lives deep in the Lonely Mountain, and who must be subdued if good is ever to triumph over evil.

It is quite remarkable that Jackson has chosen three films and roughly nine hours of screen time to adapt a book that weighs in at just 300 pages. While no expense was spared in the production of the *Lord Of The Rings* films to which the Hobbit trilogy is a prelude, there

was much more material to work with. As a result, Jackson has extensively trawled through the many appendices in Tolkien's work, which serves to bring a level of richness that leads to a greater understanding of the characters and the worlds they inhabit.

The flip-side, though, is that what you actually get from this is quite a bloated, three-hour movie that is the hallmark of the Peter Jackson experience—just think the final-half of *King Kong*. But for those used to a diet of Tolkien, it will be just the ticket, especially since the other-worldly special effects continue to be as brilliant as in the first outing of *The Hobbit*, as does the humanity inspired by the excellent cast—this time joined by a woman in the form of Tauriel (Evangeline Lilly, *Lost*). Fans will love it, others should at least give it a chance. ●

CHARACTERS SPANNING TWO STORIES

Did you know?

Ageing screen legends Ian Holm and Christopher Lee were forced to film their scenes at Pinewood Studios in London, rather than New Zealand, where the production was taking place. For health reasons, neither was willing to take the long flight down to the Land of the Long, White Cloud.

“As their journey progresses, Jackson injects even more perils along their way.”

Listings

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

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



Grand Cineplex - Wafi

Best Man Holiday - 10:00, 14:40, 19:10, 23:45
Free Birds - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug - 10:00, 11:00, 13:00, 14:00, 16:00, 17:00, 19:00, 20:00, 22:00, 23:00, 01:00
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug (3D) - 09:00, 12:00, 15:00, 18:00, 21:00, 00:00
Homefront - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50, 01:50
Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 10:00, 12:50, 15:40, 18:30, 21:20, 00:10
Jackpot - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Last Vegas - 19:30, 21:30, 23:30
Oldboy - 12:20, 17:00, 21:30
R. Raj Kumar - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00
Tarzan - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30, 18:30, 20:30, 22:30, 00:30
Tarzan (3D) - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:30
Waar - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30

Grand Megaplex - Ibn Battuta

Best Man Holiday - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:25, 23:55
Devil's Pass - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30, 18:30, 20:30, 22:30, 00:30
Free Birds - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:30
Frozen Ground - 11:00, 13:10, 15:20, 17:30, 19:40, 21:50, 00:00
Hatoli Ragel - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
Haunter - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug - 10:00, 13:00, 16:00, 19:00, 22:00, 01:00
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug (3D) - 09:00, 12:00, 15:00, 18:00, 21:00, 00:00

Homefront - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50, 01:50
Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 10:00, 12:50, 15:40, 18:30, 21:20, 00:00
Ivan Vera Mathiri - 11:15, 14:15, 20:15, 23:15
Jackpot - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Last Vegas - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
Monkey Pen - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Oldboy - 11:00, 13:10, 15:20, 17:30, 19:40, 21:50, 00:00
R. Raj Kumar - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00
Tarzan - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30, 18:30, 20:30, 22:30, 00:30
Tarzan (3D) - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:30
Thor 2 - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50
Waar - 11:45, 13:45, 16:45, 18:45, 21:45, 23:45

Grand Cinemas - Festival City

Best Man Holiday - 19:00, 21:25, 23:50
Free Birds - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30
Haunter - 12:00, 16:00, 20:00, 00:00
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug - 10:00, 13:00, 16:00, 19:00, 22:00, 01:00
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug (3D) - 09:00, 12:00, 15:00, 18:00, 21:00, 00:00
Homefront - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50, 01:50
Hatoli Ragel - 10:00, 14:00, 18:00, 22:00
Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 10:00, 12:50, 15:40, 18:30, 21:20, 00:00
Jackpot - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Oldboy - 19:30, 21:30, 23:30
R. Raj Kumar - 10:00, 13:00, 16:00
Tarzan - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30, 18:30, 20:30, 22:30, 00:30
Tarzan (3D) - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:30

Waar - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30

Grand Cinecity - Al Ghurair

The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug (3D) - 09:00, 12:00, 15:00, 18:00, 21:00, 00:00
Homefront - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50, 01:50
Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 10:00, 12:40, 15:20
Ivan Vera Mathiri - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00
Jackpot - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Monkey Pen - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:40, 23:40
R. Raj Kumar - 11:15, 14:15, 17:15, 20:15, 23:15
Tarzan (3D) - 10:30, 14:30, 16:30, 18:30, 20:30, 22:30, 00:30
Waar - 18:00, 20:30, 23:00, 01:30

Reel Cinemas - Marina Mall

Captain Phillips - 13:50, 19:20, 00:50
Delivery Man - 13:25, 17:40, 21:55
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug - 11:10, 14:20, 17:30, 20:40, 23:50
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug (3D) - 11:00, 12:05, 14:20, 15:10, 17:30, 18:20, 20:40, 21:30, 23:50, 00:15, 00:40
Homefront - 11:35, 13:40, 15:50, 18:00, 20:10, 22:20, 00:30
Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 11:00, 16:30, 22:00
Last Vegas - 11:20, 15:35, 19:50, 00:05
Tarzan (3D) - 10:50, 12:45, 14:40, 16:35, 18:30, 20:25, 22:20

Vox Cinemas - Deira City Centre

The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug - 12:00, 17:45
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug (3D) - 10:15, 13:30, 16:45, 20:00, 23:15
Homefront - 10:30, 12:45, 15:00, 17:15, 19:30, 21:45, 00:00
Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 21:00, 00:00
Ivan Vera Mathiri - 10:45, 14:00, 17:15, 20:30, 23:45
Jackpot - 10:30, 12:45, 15:00, 17:15, 19:30, 21:45, 00:00
Monkey Pen - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
R. Raj Kumar - 11:45, 14:45, 17:45, 20:45, 23:45
Tarzan (3D) - 09:30, 11:45, 14:00, 16:15, 18:30, 20:45, 23:00
Thira - 13:15, 15:45, 18:15, 20:45, 23:15
Thor 2 - 09:30, 10:45, 23:00
Waar - 10:00, 12:45, 15:30, 18:15, 21:00, 23:45

Vox Cinemas - Mall of the Emirates

Captain Phillips - 13:30, 18:45, 23:45
Delivery Man - 16:15, 18:30, 20:45, 23:00
Free Birds - 09:30, 11:45, 14:00
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug - 21:45
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug (3D) - 10:30, 13:45, 17:00, 20:15, 23:30
Homefront - 09:30, 10:30, 11:45, 12:45, 14:00, 15:00, 16:15, 17:15, 18:30, 19:30, 20:45, 21:45, 23:00, 00:00
Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00
Last Vegas - 11:00, 16:30, 21:30
Tarzan - 10:00, 12:15, 14:30, 16:45, 19:00, 21:15, 23:30
Tarzan (3D) - 09:30, 10:30, 11:45, 12:45, 14:00, 15:00, 16:15, 17:15, 18:30, 19:30, 20:45, 23:00
Thor 2(3D) - 09:30, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00, 00:30
Waar - 10:00, 12:45, 15:30, 18:15, 21:00, 23:45

Vox Cinemas - Mirdif City Centre

Delivery Man - 12:30, 17:00, 21:30
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug - 11:00, 14:15, 17:30, 20:45, 00:00
The Hobbit: Desolation Of Smaug (3D) - 10:00, 13:15, 16:30, 19:45, 23:00
Homefront - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45, 17:00, 19:15, 21:30, 23:45
Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00
Oldboy - 10:15, 14:45, 19:15, 23:45
R. Raj Kumar - 20:00, 23:00
Tarzan - 10:45, 13:00, 15:15, 17:45
Tarzan (3D) - 09:45, 12:00, 14:15, 16:30, 18:45, 21:00, 23:15
Waar - 10:00, 12:45, 15:30, 18:15, 21:00, 23:45

What's happening this week in the UAE

Al Marmoum Camel Racing Season



Experience the thrill of traditional camel races at the Al Marmoum 2013/2014 racing season.
Date: December 15 - 16
Time: 7am - 9am, 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Venue: Al Marmoum Camel Racetrack
Admission: Free
More info: 055 676 0006

Cabinet of Curiosities

Embark on a visual journey of the UAE through the lens of Chilean-born photographer Jaime Puebla.
Date: Until December 19
Time: 7:30pm onwards
Venue: Gulf Photo Plus, Alserkal Avenue, Al Quoz
Admission: Free
More info: 04 380 8545



Chicago Broadway Musical



This Broadway show promises to be a complete entertainer with a thrilling suspense drama story line and foot tapping music.
Date: December 19 - January 3, 2014
Time: 8pm
Venue: Dubai World Trade Centre
Admission: Royal Dh2,295, Diamond Dh1,295, Platinum Dh995, Gold A Dh545, Gold B Dh445, Silver A and B Dh345, Silver C and D Dh295, Balcony Dh245
More info: 04 457 3212

Indian Property Show

The Indian Property Show will present developers from across India highlighting prime properties.
Date: December 19 - 21
Time: 11am - 8pm
Venue: Hall No 3, Dubai World Trade Centre
Admission: Free
More info: www.indianpropertyshow.com/dubai



A Night with Rahat Fateh Ali Khan

The legendary singer Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali



Khan will be performing his famous Bollywood tunes along with some Sufi and Qawwali numbers. Brace yourself for an unforgettable musical experience.
Date: December 20
Time: 8pm
Venue: Dubai World Trade Centre
Admission: Gallery Dh295, General Dh195
More info: 056 256 3728

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Hollywood news

Spending frenzy



They rose to fame through reality TV, but Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag have fallen back to earth with a bump. The couple recently revealed that they have blown a staggering \$10 million since finding fame in 2006, and are now almost bankrupt. Pratt revealed: "We were immature. We thought we were Jay Z and Beyonce."

Susan's secret

After shooting to stardom on

Britain's Got Talent, singer Susan Boyle revealed last week that she has Asperger's Syndrome. Boyle—who suffered from learning disabilities as a child due to complications during her birth—bravely explained how the condition was only diagnosed last year.



Gearing up for the Grammys



NOT SO 'THRIFT STORE' NOW

While the big-name acts have been as prominent as ever in the music world this year, 2013 has seen a whole host of breakthrough acts emerge from—seemingly—nowhere, and take over charts across the globe.

The good news is, though, that the industry's big players have also been forced to sit up and take note of this new musical generation, as was proved with last week's Grammy nominations revelation. While the list of nominees features all the usual suspects—Taylor Swift and Justin Timberlake anyone?—there are some fresh new faces on the list. English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran is just one of the acts nominated for best new artist, but he's up against stiff competition from US rap act Macklemore featuring Ryan Lewis, who scored an incredible seven nominations.

But it looks as though Ed's not too worried about losing out to Macklemore and Lewis in the showdown, revealing that, in fact, he would be happy if they won. Sheeran said: "They've achieved so much this year in popular culture. They really changed things."

Another newcomer on the hip-hop scene, Kendrick Lamar, is also nominated for seven Grammys at next year's ceremony, while lady-of-the-moment Lorde is also up for several awards thanks to her smash hit *Royals*.

Miley's major year

She's been one of the most talked about celebs of 2013, and it appears that Miley Cyrus isn't prepared to let the end of her biggest year yet go past without a bang. As per usual, all eyes were on miss Miley last week as she took to the stage at the KIIS-FM Jingle Ball in Los Angeles to perform a selection of her hits. And she didn't disappoint, causing all types of on-stage controversy. Never one to shy away from the flashbulbs, Miley was the focus of photographers' lenses yet again the very next day at the KROQ Almost Acoustic Christmas concert. The style-conscious star debuted a new blonde bob hairstyle, replacing the shaved and punky look that she's become known for. While fashion critics are often divided over Miley's—rather questionable—choice of outfits, it seems the style world was united in the decision that her new mane was a winner. Shame, then, that it was only a wig. Looks as though Miley's rather 'unique' forays into fashion are going to carry on for a little while longer.



Bollywood news

Family ties

If the rumours are true, Anil Kapoor and his daughter Rhea Kapoor have apparently teamed up with Walt Disney Studios to co-produce upcoming movie *Khoobsurat*. The film, which will star Anil's other daughter, Sonam, is a remake of the 1980s movie of the same name, and should hit screens in 2014.



Brighter future

Priyanka Chopra has had a turbulent year, including the sad passing of her father, Dr Ashok Chopra. Now, the actress has revealed that 2013 was her worst year ever. In an interview, Priyanka claimed: "It's been the worst year of my life. Personally, I don't think there has been a worse year."



Bouncing baby

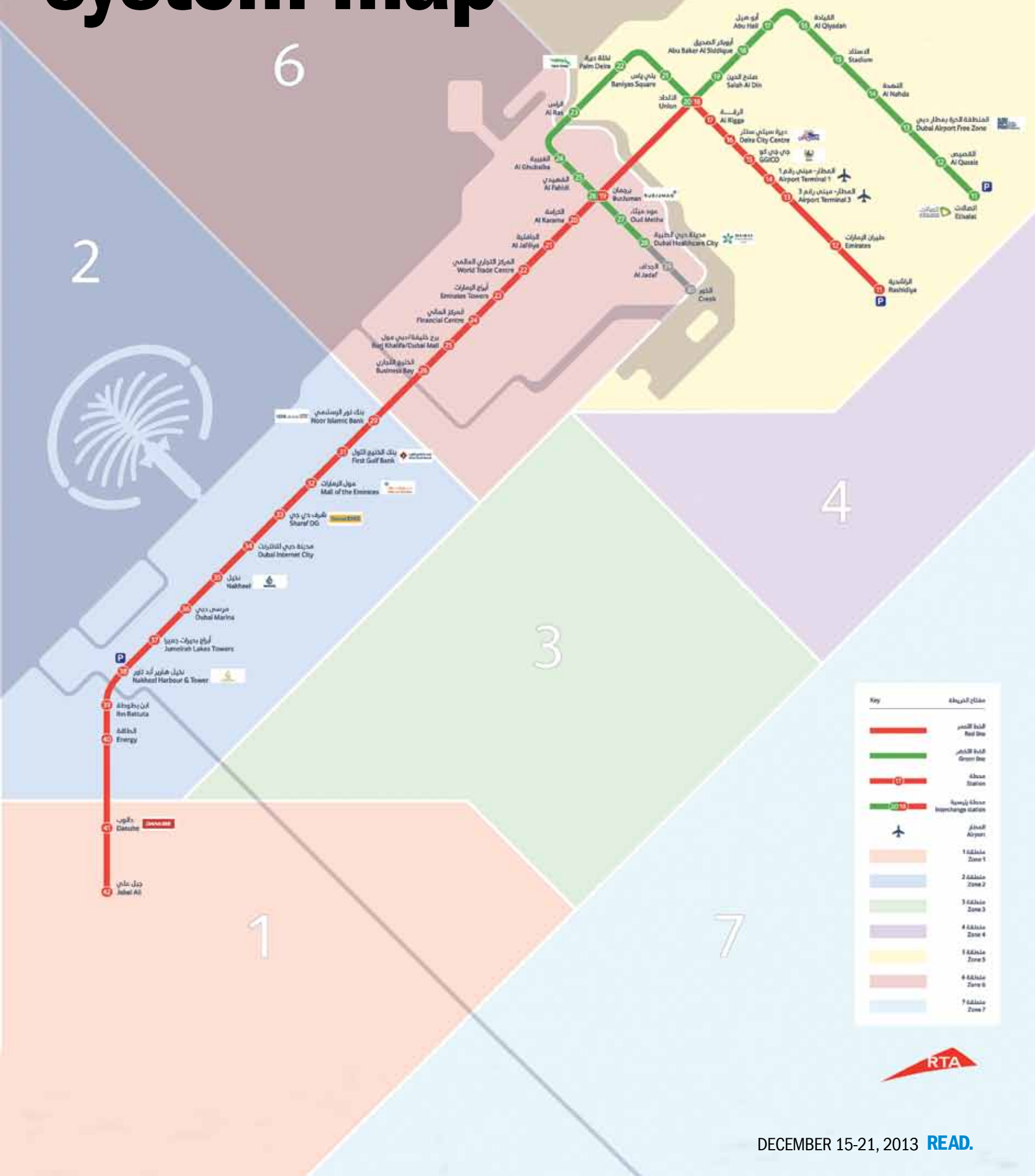
After only recently revealing her pregnancy, Ayesha Takia has given birth to a baby boy, her first child with husband Farhan Azmi. Overjoyed Ayesha took to twitter to confirm the news, posting: "Me and our son Thank u alll sooo much n much love 2 all of u 4 the many blessings n gud wishes we received."



Timing troubles

She is usually a media darling, so Katrina Kaif's recent personal appearances in Dubai were a bit of a shock. The actress, who was in town promoting a jewellery brand, turned up late, refused or rescheduled all publicity events. By the time she showed for her final appointment, all but a handful of guests had left.

Dubai Metro system map



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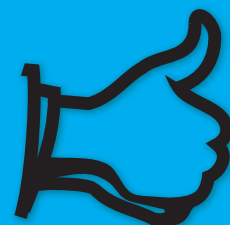
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Experience 1 hour of rejuvenating ayurvedic massage from traditional therapists for only Dh125 at Nava Kairali in Deira. Call 0553020746 or 042298046.

We are giving Dh50 voucher and 50 per cent discount on keratin, hair colour and gelish nail polish. Salon and spa located at DED building near Clock Tower. Call 042595128.

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Attached bedroom available for executive bachelor or couples. Monthly rent is Dh1,800 + DEWA. Located near Abu Hail and Al Qiyadah metro stations. Call 0507092491.

Bed space available for Filipino lady. Located near Al Karama Metro Station behind Union Co-operative Society hypermarket. Rent: Dh650 monthly. DEWA, eLife and internet included. Call 0529724866.

7,154 square metres villa in Hills Abu Dhabi for sale directly from the owner. Located opposite army officers club. Call 0507701599.

Bed space available for executive Filipino female. Located near Sharaf DG Metro Station. Monthly rent is Dh850. DEWA and internet included. Call 0529063968.

Room with separate bathroom available for couple or working ladies. Located behind Al Qiyadah Metro Station. Monthly rent is Dh3,000 + DEWA and internet. Parking slot available. Call 0554482356.

Furnished bed space available for executive bachelors. Located near Bank Street in Bur Dubai. Available from January 1, 2014. Call 0529225574.

Bed space or room with separate bathroom available for rent. Located near a bus stop and in between Al Karama and BurJuman metro stations. For Filipino bachelor/s only. Call 0508475877.

Bed space available for rent. Located opposite Royal Ascot Hotel, near Kvality restaurant in Bur Dubai. For executive south Indian bachelors. Call 0552807962.

Bed space with attached bathroom and kitchen available for Filipino lady. Located at 12B Street, Villa 80, Room 6, near Satwa bus station. Monthly rent is Dh650 including DEWA, Wi-Fi and TFC. Call Estrella at 0529216914.

Keralite family on visit is looking for a furnished sharing or separate accommodation in Bur Dubai or Al Karama area for the entire month of December 2013. Call 0562529428.

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Union Square Project unveiled

Launched in partnership with the private sector, the RTA backed project will support mass transit efforts.



AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE NEW PROJECT DUE TO COME UP ABOVE UNION METRO STATION

DEVELOPMENT

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched the Union Square Project in partnership with the private sector. The project comprises the construction of towers above Union Metro Station at Union Square spanning an area of 19,000 square metres to be dedicated for business outlets, restaurants, offices, residences and other uses.

Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the RTA, said: "The project aims to raise the efficiency and users of mass transit systems through re-planning districts around the Metro stations. The project will contribute to augmenting the ridership of the Dubai Metro and also develop the urban environment near Union Metro Station.

"The public transport oriented development at Union Square is set on the model of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) between the RTA and a private developer to be selected in a public tender as per the contractual principles of the PPP. The private sector will be able to blend developmental and operational expertise

"The Union Square Project will be the first Transit Orientated Development (TOD) destination in the region."

with business acumen to determine the exact concept and development aspects in accordance with the vision and objectives of the RTA for the location," he added.

"The Union Square Project will be first Transit Orientated Development

(TOD) destination in the region and a landmark destination for the residents and visitors of Dubai. The TOD concept has many success stories in Europe, Asia and America, bringing benefits to communities, regenerating areas and creating positive commercial impact for those districts," said Al Tayer.

In developing the project around the Union Square, the RTA will take into consideration international best practices with regards to design of transit-oriented communities and will enhance them in consideration of local and regional context and requirements, besides establishing a multimodal transit centre that will boost the business of Deira area.

"The TOD provides low cost transit networks and services which will enable residents to move around smoothly in various Dubai districts besides raising the return on investment from transit projects undertaken by the government," said Al Tayer.

He added: "The project focuses on providing high-class residential and office environment characterised by pedestrian-friendly roads, greens, vital utilities and retail outlets among others. The high population density in the project will contribute to supporting the RTA's drive to encourage residents to use public transport, besides providing an enjoyable avenue for residents and visitors alike." ●





عندما تهبط في دبي إنطلق بالمترو.

عند وصولك إلى دبي، انطلق على متن المترو الذي يتميز بسرعته وراحته وسعره المناسب للوصول إلى وجهتك. ينطلق المترو يومياً من مبنى المطارين رقم 1 و 3 كل 3 دقائق في ساعات الذروة، ومن 4.5 إلى 8 دقائق خارج ساعات الذروة ويتوقف في 47 محطة تغطي أنحاء دبي. ويمكنك أيضاً حمل حقائبك معك، حيث يمكن أن تحمل حتى حقيبتين على متن المترو، وهو ما يوفر لك راحة البال. ولكن يجب ألا يتجاوز حجم الحقيبتين (81 سم × 58 سم × 30 سم) و (55 سم × 38 سم × 20 سم).

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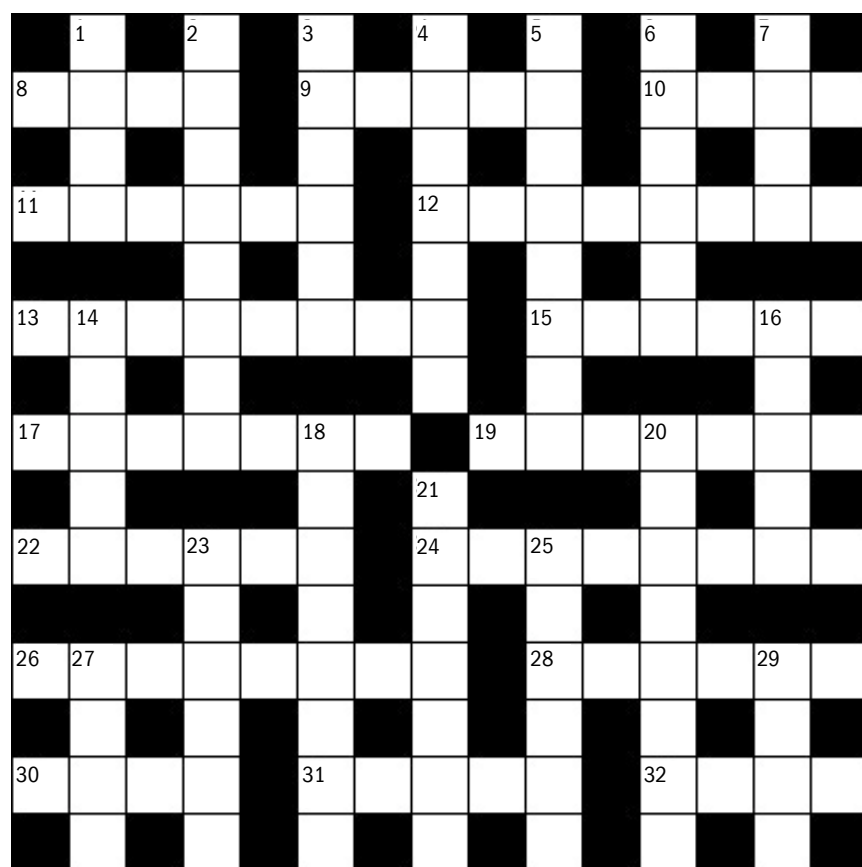
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Taking your time

Ponder over our puzzles, relish a new recipe and catch up with our cartoons.



Crossword

Across

8 Soft white Greek cheese (4) **9** Piles (5) **10** Pocketbook (4) **11** Decorate (6) **12** Withdraws (8) **13** Enticing (8) **15** A type of rubber ply tire (6) **17** From Italy (7) **19** A musical interval of eight tones (7) **22** Polecat (6) **24** Where planes land (8) **26** Syrup made from sugar cane (8) **28** Units of bread (6) **30** Streamlet (4) **31** Small cuts (5) **32** An ancient city in Asia Minor (4)

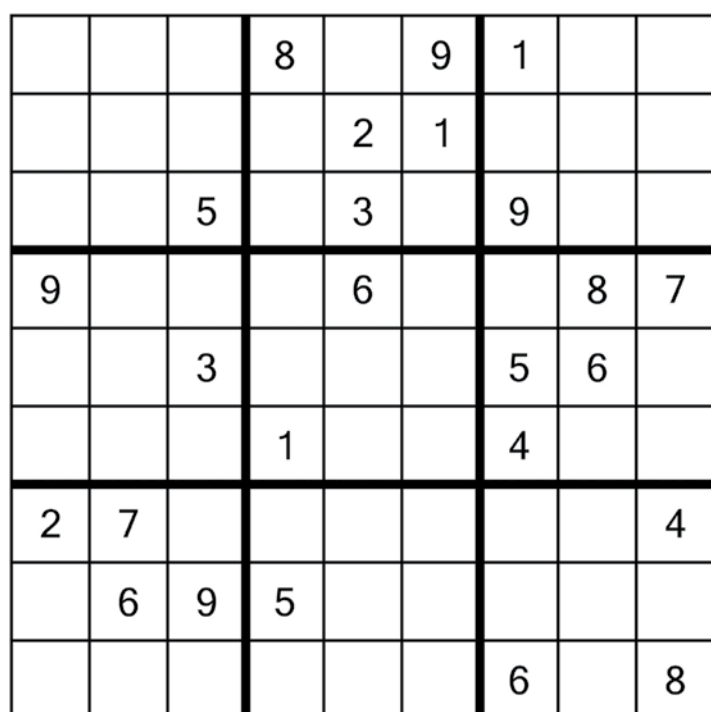
Down

1 Being nothing more than specified (4) **2** Fabric (8) **3** Wife of Siva (6) **4** Melange or hodgepodge (7) **5** Arcane (8) **6** Foreshadow (6) **7** A sudden burst of wind (4) **14** French for "Our" (5) **16** Turn aside (5) **18** Craftsmen (8) **20** Fragrant (8) **21** Motion sickness (7) **23** Truly (6) **25** A condiment (6) **27** Leave out (4) **29** Send forth (4)

ANSWERS



Sudoku



ANSWERS

SUDOKU

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

Recipe

Banana bread

This easy-to-make treat is fresh, fruity and sweet.

Ingredients

285g plain flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
½ tsp salt
110g butter
225g caster sugar
2 eggs
4 ripe bananas, mashed
85ml milk mixed with 1½ tsp lemon juice
1 tsp vanilla extract

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C and grease a 20cm loaf tin.
2. Sift the flour into a large mixing bowl through a sieve to remove any lumps. Add the bicarbonate of soda and salt and mix together.
3. In a separate bowl, stir the butter and sugar together until it becomes light and creamy.
4. Add the eggs, mashed bananas, soured milk and vanilla extract to the butter and sugar mixture. Mix well then fold into the flour mixture.
5. Pour the cake mixture into the



Makes
1

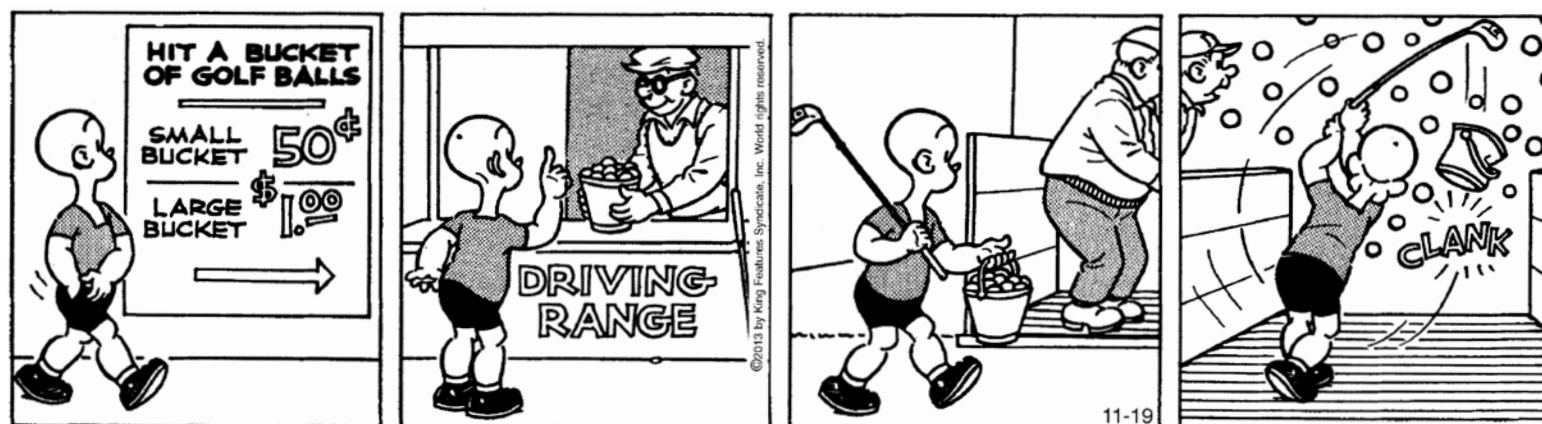
loaf tin and leave to settle for a couple of minutes.

6. Place in the middle of the oven and bake for about an hour, or until the cake has risen well and turned golden brown.

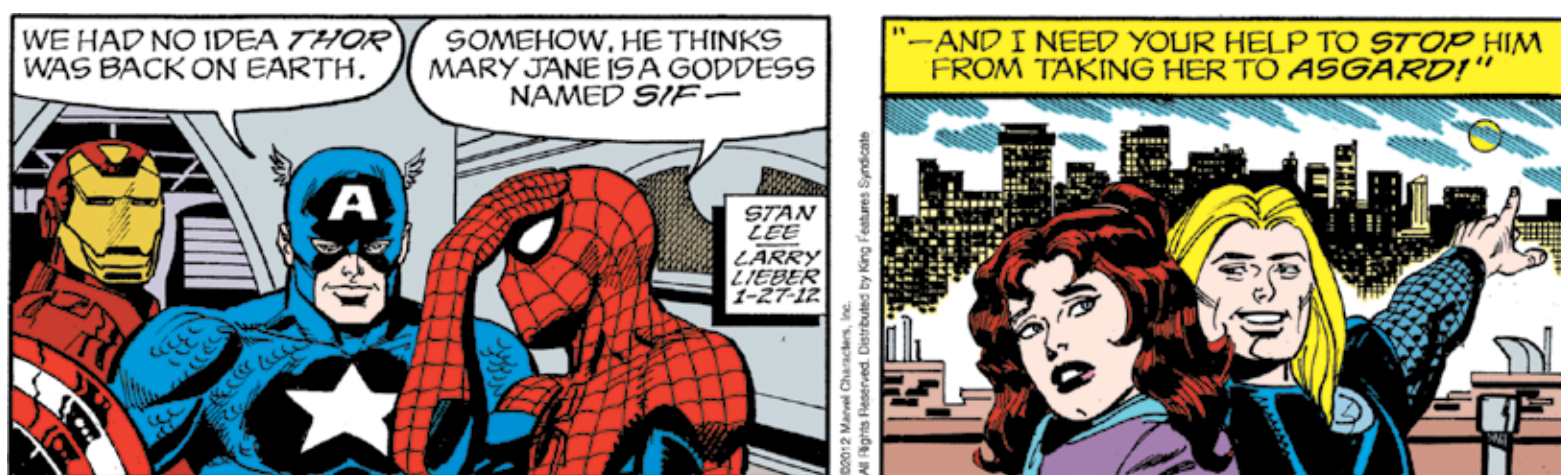
7. Remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack and slice evenly.

8. Serve the banana bread warm on its own or with a little vanilla ice cream for an extra treat.

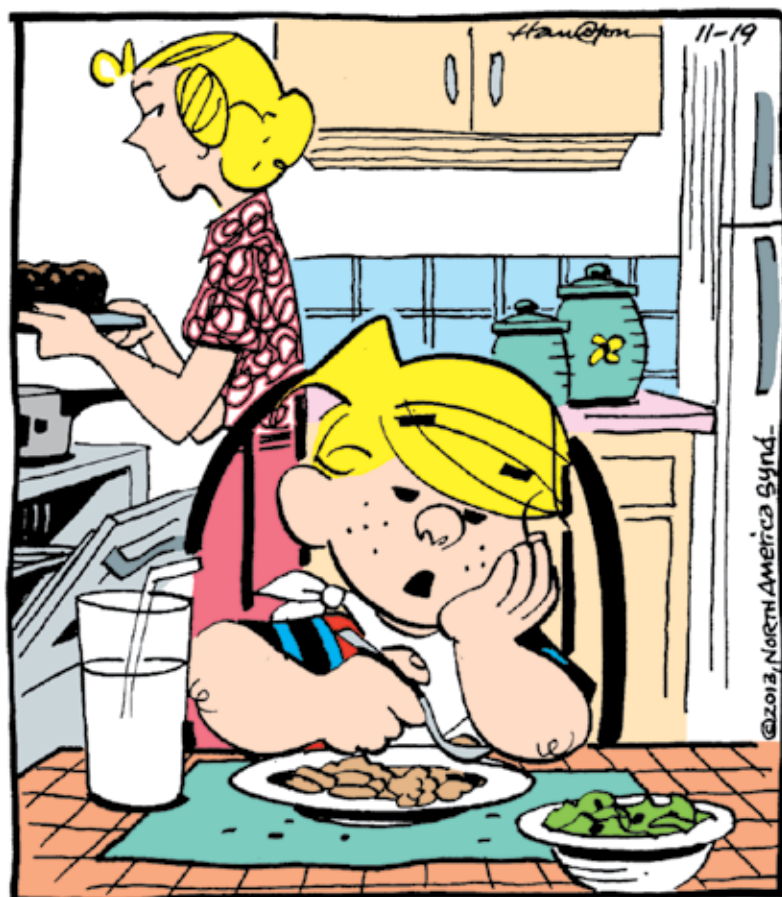
Henry



Spiderman



Dennis the menace



"HOW CAN THIS FOOD BE SO GOOD FOR ME WHEN IT TASTES SO BAD?"

Spot the 10 differences



What's in your stars?

The *Read.* astrologer tells you what you can expect over the next seven days.

ARIES

(MAR 21 - APR 20)

There may be those who are keen to see you fail, so be careful who you share your ideas with. While it might seem like a great idea to you, not everyone will be instantly taken by the prospect and may have some harsh words to say about your plans.



TAURUS

(APR 21 - MAY 21)

When things get a little tricky, there usually seems to be someone else ready to pick up the slack and sort things out. This person may be starting to get fed up with being your unpaid personal assistant so be careful how you behave in the coming week.



GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUN 21)

A job opportunity may seem too good to be true but don't let this put you off. You have just as much chance as anyone else so perhaps you should just bite the bullet and apply. If it really is your dream role, you'd be a fool not to at least give it a go.



CANCER

(JUN 22 - JUL 23)

To put it simply, there's no use crying over spilt milk. You may have made a mistake but dwelling on what you could have done differently will only make the situation seem worse. Try to focus on how to move forward rather than looking back.



LEO

(JUL 24 - AUG 23)

A recent confrontation may have seen tensions become fraught between you and a colleague. Try not to let this affect your views on work in general, however, as it could see you missing an opportunity. A negative attitude won't get you anywhere.



VIRGO

(AUG 24 - SEP 23)

Try not to let a bad mood become all consuming. It may seem as though the world is against you but perhaps it's your own negativity that is driving people away. If there is one person who takes the brunt of your bad mood, ease up on them for a while.



LIBRA

(SEP 24 - OCT 23)

There may be a small setback ahead of you when it comes to getting to where you want to be, but don't let it completely stop you. You may simply need to find a way to step sideways around the obstacle rather than let it block your path.



SCORPIO

(OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Your focus is on friends and family, but being apart from someone special is starting to become too much to bear at times. If it always feels as though you're the one putting all the effort in, maybe it's time to re-evaluate the situation carefully.



SAGITTARIUS

(NOV 23 - DEC 21)

A recent surge in energy may have seen you signing up for a challenge or joining a new class. Why not invite a friend to come with you? While it's always nice to make new friends on your own, being part of a pair may make it easier to begin with.



CAPRICORN

(DEC 22 - JAN 20)

While it's important to keep a close eye on your spending, don't let it start to rule your life. Turning down invitations that you would otherwise accept in a heartbeat will only see your mood start to drop and bring about a feeling that you are missing out.



AQUARIUS

(JAN 21 - FEB 19)

Relations may be a little shaky between you and a long-term friend. While neither of you wants to be the one to bring it up, if you never discuss the issue you'll never resolve it. Take the lead and spark up the necessary conversation in a relaxed environment.



PISCES

(FEB 20 - MAR 20)

Dealing with a sticky situation in the office may require you to step up to the plate and take control. While you are able to resolve things quickly and calmly, make sure those in control know that this was a one-off and not part of your job role.



This week's local weather

SUN

15th

WARM
HIGH 27C
LOW 24C
HUMIDITY 35%

MON

16th

WARM
HIGH 26C
LOW 24C
HUMIDITY 34%

TUE

17th

WARM
HIGH 27C
LOW 25C
HUMIDITY 37%

WED

18th

WARM
HIGH 27C
LOW 24C
HUMIDITY 38%

THU

19th

WARM
HIGH 26C
LOW 24C
HUMIDITY 40%

FRI

20th

WARM
HIGH 26C
LOW 23C
HUMIDITY 37%

SAT

21st

WARM
HIGH 28C
LOW 25C
HUMIDITY 34%

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