



Shaikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and Lt Gen J.S. Ahluwalia confer the Golden Peacock Global Award for leadership in public service to Lt Gen Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Dubai Police and Public Security, during Dubai Global Convention 2016. At right, Marwan Jassim Al Sarkal speaks at the event. — Photos by Dhes Handumon



## 1m+ Indians travel from Abu Dhabi airport in Q1

Haseeb Haider

ABU DHABI — Over one million Indians used Abu Dhabi International Airport for their travel in the first quarter of 2016, an increase of 26.9 per cent.

Delhi was one of the top five destinations in terms of passenger traffic at the Abu Dhabi International Airport. Other destinations that saw strong traffic numbers included Bangkok, London Heathrow, Jeddah and Doha.

Abu Dhabi Airports on Tuesday reported a 9.5 per cent year-on-year increase in passenger traffic during the quarter ended March 31, 2016.

Between January and March, over 6.044,025 million passengers travelled through Abu Dhabi when compared with 5.521,110 million during the same period last year.

Italy saw a huge increase in traffic, with figures up 62.3 per cent on the same period last year, making it the 10th busiest country route during the period. The number of passengers travelling through Abu Dhabi in March 2016 jumped to over two million passengers, reaching 2,025,842 million, up 5.6 per cent from 1,917,939 in March 2015. Aircraft movements grew 1.5 per cent to 42,204 year on year.

Engr Ahmad Al Haddabi, chief operations officer at Abu Dhabi Airports, said: "Abu Dhabi is an important global transportation hub and this is reflected by the fact that more than six million passengers travelled through Abu Dhabi International Airport during the first quarter of the year."

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# You either innovate or perish

Dubai Global Convention 2016 spotlights business excellence and innovation

Rohma Sadaqat

DUBAI — Leaders that foster an environment which encourages creativity and innovation will have an edge over their competitors, experts at the 2016 Dubai Global Convention said.

Held under the theme 'Empowering boards to become instruments of innovation and excellence', the event was organised by the Institute of Directors, India, and featured sessions on topics ranging from innovation to visionary leadership.

Shaikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, the UAE Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, who was the chief guest at the event, spoke on the strong ties between India and the UAE.

"We in the UAE have long observed and applauded the success

of Indian business leaders in India, the UAE and abroad. I am delighted that our Indian friends, who live and work here in the UAE, are joined today by their colleagues from around the world. The Indian business community living in the UAE has been instrumental in forging strong links between the two countries, which grow ever stronger as time goes by," he said.

"Businesses today are under an unprecedented pressure to perform and the key to performance lies in responsiveness to change and anticipating the future. Innovation and creativity have long been a principal way for businesses to improve their competitive edge. The top leadership has to generate an environment which fosters and encourages such a climate," said Lt-Gen J.S. Ahluwalia, president of the Institute of Directors, India, at the event.

The key to performance lies in responsiveness to change and anticipating the future

Lt-Gen J.S. Ahluwalia, President of the Institute of Directors, India

"Innovations have moved seamlessly to become a boardroom priority," he added. "In a world where knowledge is growing exponentially and products and services are fast becoming obsolete, the challenge of innovation is irresistible and restless. Managing innovation is rooted more in leadership and organisational capabilities than in technological prowess. A company is innovative when the customer is at the heart of its value creation, when its culture promotes team-

work, and when people don't worry about who ultimately ends up getting the credit."

Kulwant Singh, president of the Indian Business & Professional Council (IBPC), Dubai, noted that retaining good business leaders is a major challenge for companies today. "What creates excellent business leaders today? It is excellent strategy and excellent innovation. Innovation is the outcome of a management that is strategic, and a leadership that is visionary," he said.

Marwan Jassim Al Sarkal, CEO of the Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq), spoke on the importance of teamwork in an organisation. "Knowledge and skills produce a great impact on future possibilities and inspirations. At Shurooq, we believe that organisations are facilitators. We have a

business goal and a vision and we provide all the facilities required to produce innovators and leaders. A key element of operational excellence and innovation is internal integration."

He added: "At Shurooq, we believe in investing in all our members to improve their skills and empower them. This has seen us develop a series of learning models which play a key role in developing their sense of leadership as well as motivating them to reach our shared corporate vision. We don't necessarily believe in individual strength and weaknesses; we believe in capabilities and team members and leaders who complement one and other. We believe that this approach offers team members and stakeholders a mission-driven value which unites all of us at Shurooq."

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## inbrief

DUBAI

### Emaar Malls okays Dh1.3b dividend

The first annual general meeting of Emaar Malls approved the proposal of the board to distribute 10 per cent of the share capital, equivalent to Dh1.301 billion, as cash dividend for shareholders.

The assembly also approved the amendment of the name of the company from Emaar Malls Group to Emaar Malls, and appointed Ernst & Young as auditors for 2016.

DUBAI

### Emirates NBD cuts 300 jobs

Emirates NBD (ENBD) has laid off 300 people in recent weeks at two subsidiaries due to a weaker economy, a spokesman said on Tuesday.

The bank made around 100 people redundant from Emirates Money, Emirates Islamic, the group's Shariah-compliant arm, also shed around 200 people.

DUBAI

### Amanat okays 1.5% cash payout

The shareholders of the largest integrated healthcare and education company Amanat Holdings have approved the distribution of a 1.5 per cent cash dividend, equivalent to 1.5 fils per share, following the conclusion of the company's first annual general meeting since listing on the Dubai Financial Market.

ABU DHABI

### Finance House okays dividend

Finance House shareholders approved the payout of a cash dividend of 10 per cent of its paid-up capital for the year ended December 31, 2015, at its annual general meeting.

Compiled from agencies and staff reports

## Zulekha Hospital in expansion mode

Sandhya D'Mello

DUBAI — Zulekha Hospital is set to expand operations both in Dubai and Sharjah in the second half of 2016, says Taher Shams, managing director.

The hospital will renovate its old facility in Sharjah with ground and an additional four floors. It will add 50 beds to its new facility of ground plus 12 floors. The hospital has also acquired additional space in Dubai, bringing it to 300,000 sq feet, for an investment of Dh250 million.

"The group has strived to offer the best in terms of services to our customers. We are planning to start an excellence centre in our Dubai facility where we will conduct research in oncology, diabetes and cardiology, to name a few. We have moved from primary, secondary to tertiary care," adds Shams.

The group is undertaking clinical research in diabetes and oncology in collaboration with the Dubai

government and international pharmaceutical players. Zulekha Hospital is also in talks with the University of California, San Francisco, to do research in oncology.

The group is working on several initiatives locally and in India. It is actively pursuing medical tourism in the region and working towards providing world-class facilities which were earlier restricted to the developed world, but can be now availed in the UAE.

Recently, the group opened Alexis hospital in the Indian state of Nagpur to serve central India by providing high quality medical care across various disciplines.

"The hospital has a team of renowned specialists and medical personnel supported by cutting-edge technology, offering all-round care and comfort. The advanced technology combined with all-round expertise ensures the best in diagnostic, curative as well as preventive aspects of healthcare," informs Shams.

The group is also working



By allowing Nextcare to access our real time data, we are encouraging more transparency, which is demanded more by patients, doctors and insurance providers

Taher Shams, Managing Director of Zulekha Hospital

closely with insurance firm Nextcare which will have access to the hospital's real time data. This will help reduce the waiting period of receivables — which is now as long as 30 days to six months.

"By allowing Nextcare to access our real time data, we are encouraging more transparency, which is demanded more by patients, doctors and insurance providers. We are taking lead in being more transparent and accountable," adds Shams.

A leading Indian firm Micropro is enabling this integration of systems. Says Sanjay Mokashi, managing director, Micropro Software Solutions: "Micropro has been into the hospital industry IT domain since 2003. Hospicare is a state-of-the-art flagship product apart from other customised software solutions. Recently, we have launched the product on the latest technology architecture of Java and Oracle. The product is very stable, user friendly and well accepted by the UAE clientele. We have bagged orders for new implementations as well as migration [from our old clients] orders of hospitals in the UAE and India."

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## It's not the best time to look for jobs in UAE

Nilanjana Gupta

DUBAI — If you're looking for a job in the UAE, it may not be the best time, according to a new report.

The latest Morgan McKinley UAE Employment Monitor for Q1 2016 shows a challenging start to the year. The number of jobs on offer decreased by nine per cent to 7,212 in Q1 2016 compared with 7,899 in Q4 2015. The year-on-year reduction in new vacancies from Q1 2015 to Q1 2016 is 12 per cent.

Despite the dip in vacancies, candidates who are in the middle of their career are more likely to find opportunities in the UAE.

"The challenge is to find those high-end candidates," says Trefor Murphy, managing director for the Middle East and North Africa at Morgan McKinley. "Those job seekers who can show a solid professional track record are the ones who employers are after."

Hiring hit by low oil prices

"It was a more challenging start to the year than usual," says Murphy. "The general feeling is that it's a tough market out there, but then again, it's a tough market everywhere at the moment."

"We have seen that our banking



The number of jobs on offer in the UAE has decreased by nine per cent to 7,212 in Q1 2016 compared with 7,899 in Q4 2015. — KT file

and financial services clients have decreased hiring levels as a knock-on effect of the protracted weakness in commodity prices. The oil and gas industry is still feeling the pain. Overall redundancies have increased. However, with the bottoming out of the oil price, redundancies in this sector have started to slow down. Many of the oil and gas industry workers who have been laid off have remained in the region with the hope of the market

picking up or of being able to shift careers. With the general weakness in the jobs market, these candidates are having a tough time transitioning into a new career."

"Although the market is not going at full throttle, there is still a general air of optimism, with employers using this period to drive organisational efficiencies. We see this in the increased use of consultants and fixed-term projects," says Murphy. As there are no temporary or in-

Poll results

- > Are you looking for a new job in the UAE?  
Yes — 89%; No — 11%
- > Have you been idle for more than six months?  
Yes — 38%; No — 62%
- > Is your firm cutting jobs?  
Yes — 51%; No — 49%
- > Have you seen a reduction in salaries in your profession?  
Yes — 48%; No — 52%
- > Did you get a salary hike in the last one year?  
Yes — 32%; No — 68%

To participate in the poll, visit <http://ktimes.co/jobseekers>

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## Sharjah airport traffic up 12% in Q1

Staff Report

SHARJAH — Sharjah International Airport saw more than a 12 per cent increase in passenger traffic in the first quarter of 2016, marking its busiest three months ever.

A total of 2.69 million passengers travelled through the airport from January to March 2016 compared to 2.39 million in the same period last year. The aircraft movements registered in the first quarter reached 18,054 thousand movements, an increase by seven per cent compared by 16,865 thousand in the same period last year.

Ali Salim Al Midfa, chairman of Sharjah Airport Authority, said: "The positive performance in passenger traffic this period reflects the attractiveness of the emirate as a business and tourism destination with more passengers choosing Sharjah International Airport as their gateway to the rest of the region and other destinations."

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## Emirates Islamic posts Dh45m Q1 net

Staff Report

DUBAI — Emirates Islamic on Tuesday declared Dh45 million net profit for the first quarter of 2016. The bank said its total income was Dh607 million, up 15 per cent from Dh526 million in the first quarter in 2015. Total assets increased six per cent to Dh56 billion. Customer deposits increased by two per cent to Dh40.2 billion from the end of 2015.

Jamal bin Ghalaita, chief executive officer (CEO) of Emirates Islamic, said: "Emirates Islamic's results in the first quarter of this year reflect our strength and leadership amid a tempered market situation. In 2016, we have continued our journey to provide the best in Islamic banking products and services to our retail and corporate customers. This successful strategy is reflected in our performance with an increase in customer deposits, assets and core income during the first three months of 2016. We have taken a conservative but prudent approach to provisioning amidst prevailing economic conditions."

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