

UAE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS: Sunday, 4 May 2008

DUBAI & N. EMIRATES NEWS

1. Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) awards contracts worth Dh. 1.8 billion for the biggest phase of the Parallel Roads project, the highway which is designed to ease traffic on Sheik Zayed Road will have a capacity of 18,000 vehicles per hour, Dubai Ruler approves the contracts for phase 4, says chairman Matar Al Tayer. Gulf News pg.5
2. New supertowers on Dubai horizon, five iconic landmark will be part of cluster of projects worth Dh. 25 billion, 11 buildings will rise more than 100 habitable floors. Gulf News pg.1
3. Salma Hareb, the chief executive of Economic Zones World and Jabel Ali Free Zone Authority was chosen as the most powerful Arab businesswoman, she says true excitement of creation drives her day in and day out. Gulf News pg.38
4. China and Dubai seek to boost trade, 100-member delegation from city of HangZhou visits Dubai to attend Dubai- HangZhou Economic Cooperation Forum, 888 Chinese companies have presence in Dubai. Gulf News pg.40
5. Umm Al Quwain announces production of wet gas from offshore field, production operation carried out by Field Atlantis (UAQ) (subsidiary of Sinochem Corporation), the field to produce 92 million standard cubic feet per day which will be transported by sea pipeline to Ras Al Khaimah for processing. Khaleej Times pg. 43

UAE FEDERAL NEWS

1. UAE law and agreements guarantee labour rights including salaries, working hours, suitable accommodation, medical treatment and compensation against work injuries, says official. Gulf News pg.6
2. Rents in Abu Dhabi climb 17 % in first quarter of this year, growing demand and construction costs account for spike, according to study by Department of Planning and Economy in Abu Dhabi, the study recommends freezing of rents for three years. Gulf News pg.37

UAE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS: Monday, 5 May 2008

DUBAI & N. EMIRATES NEWS

1. Dubai Deputy Ruler (Maktoum bin Mohammed) receives Prime Minister of Ivory Coast, ways of enhancing cooperation and joint investments between the two countries discussed. Khaleej Times pg.8
2. Dubai tourism to continue to drive the regional tourism boom with spectacular growth projected to be at a rate of more than 40% over the next three years, while the average contribution of travel and tourism on global level at 10% in Dubai it represents 30%, according to statement by Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed. Khaleej Times pg. 46
3. Dubai auto spare parts trade grows 29% to Dh.18.2 billion in 2007, Japanese exports of Dh. 2.7 billion make up the bulk of imported machinery spare parts, according to Dubai World. Gulf News pg.35
4. Ajman unveils master plan for its new airport, consortium of private companies (led by Spanish firm) will build Ajman Airport, which will be no. 8 in the UAE, infrastructure to cost Dh.1.5 billion and will be built near Manama, Ajman inland, initially it will serve one million passengers and 400,000 tons of cargo annually. Gulf News pg.1&36
5. Sharjah: 25 buses to operate on three routes in Sharjah within two weeks, transport system will be from eight terminals with vehicles passing through Al Ittihad Square to Sharjah Airport. Gulf News pg.4

UAE FEDERAL NEWS

1. About 1,248 construction projects worth \$931 billion currently under way in UAE, the UAE is leading the construction boom in the Middle East along with Saudi Arabia, UAE home for 35% of heavy equipment in the world and Dubai have 25% of world tower cranes, according to research by database company. Khaleej Times pg.45
2. Al Dar (Abu Dhabi-based property developer) plans up to 40 hotels by 2015, the company aims to support Abu Dhabi tourism development plan, hotel rooms capacity in Abu Dhabi now at 10,000 and more 12,000 rooms to be added in 7 years. Gulf News pg.33
3. Abu Dhabi to set up the world's largest chemical complex, the multi-billion dollar Chemical Industrial City to be set up in Taweelah and it will be completed in 2013 . Khaleej Times pg.45

UAE Minister of Economy receives delegation representing the Japanese private and public sectors led by Mr. Taniguchi, discussions focused on cooperation in information technology. Al Khaleej pg.5 eco

UAE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS: Tuesday, 6 May 2008

DUBAI & N. EMIRATES NEWS

1. Hotel rooms in UAE could triple to 180,000 rooms by 2015 from current capacity of 60,000 rooms, currently Dubai has an estimated 47,000 rooms and the plan to triple them by 2015, says Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed. Gulf News pg.37
2. Arabian Travel Market (ATM) opens today, 2,208 participants from 70 countries take part in the Middle East premier travel and tourism exhibition. Khaleej Times pg.46
3. China's Hangzhou City seeks foreign investors for Dh. 22 billion projects, 100-member business delegation attends Dubai-Hangzhou Economic Cooperation Forum. Khaleej Times pg.48

UAE FEDERAL NEWS

1. Sultan Qaboos of Oman to visit UAE today, visit is part of regular consultations between UAE and Oman, according to announcement in Abu Dhabi. Gulf Today pg.1
2. President Sheikh Khalifa marks UAE Armed Forces unification anniversary, he praises the Armed Forces as shield for homeland, he stresses principles of UAE policy on rejection of aggression, extending bridges of cooperation with peace-loving nations, non-interference in the affairs of other countries, encouraging of dialogue for solving inter-state problems. Gulf News pg.6
3. UAE boosts its share in global trade to Dh.1 trillion and becomes one of the top 30 global trading nations, says Sheikh Lubna Al Qasimy, Minister of Foreign Trade. Khaleej Times pg.45
4. Ministry of Economy signs agreement with Cement Producers Group aims to stabilise cement prices, under the agreement the producers to increase production capacity and maintain the prices without increase, Minister says foreign factors account 40% of inflation. Gulf News pg.40
5. Du reports 18% increase in revenue to Dh. 756 million, the second UAE telecom operator says its subscribers base stands at 1.75 million by the end of first quarter of 2008. Gulf News pg.42
6. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince receives Mr. Taniguchi, talks on ways of widening scopes of cooperation between UAE and Japan in areas including gas, petrochemicals and communications projects implemented by Japan in UAE. Gulf News pg.6
7. Director General of Ministry of Finance receives Mr. Taniguchi, cooperation in exchange of expertise and implementation of financial policies discussed. Al Khaleej pg.4 eco
8. Chairman of Etisalat receives Mr. Taniguchi, cooperation in the field of technology research, digital TV broadcasting and WIMAX services discussed. Al Khaleej pg.4 eco

UAE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS: Wednesday, 7 May 2008

DUBAI & N. EMIRATES NEWS

1. Food prices continue to rise in Dubai despite call to freeze prices of basic commodities, price monitoring by Dubai Chamber showed that the 1st quarter of 2008 compared to 1st quarter of 2007 soared past the inflation rate of 9.3% for the UAE in 2006, rises in the said period for rice 43%, powder milk 33%; bread 33.8%; eggs 48%; flour 57%; oil 29.8%; sugar 9.7%). Gulf News pg.40
2. UAE could start value-added tax (VAT) early next year, infrastructure for introduction of indirect tax on goods and services to be ready this year, VAT to replace the existing customs duties which will be phased out as part of free trade agreements to be signed between GCC states and their key trade partners, says senior official from Dubai Customs. Gulf News pg.37
3. Dubai leads the Gulf states in speeding up and streamlining of import and export trade, the process proves to be slow in other Middle Eastern countries. Gulf News pg.39
4. Arabian Travel Market (ATM) show opened by Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed, the 15th version of tourism and travel show witnesses 8% increase in exhibitors compared to last year event, Dubai to receive 10 million tourists by 2010 and 15 million tourists before 2015. Khaleej Times pg.45
5. Dubai Holding consolidates its Islamic investments by establishing new company, Dubai Banking Group created by merging Dubai Islamic Investment Group and Dubai Bank, the assets of the new group about \$10 billion, says chairman Al Gergawi. Gulf News pg.44
6. Airbus warns Emirates airline of further delays in delivery of A 380 in 2009, Emirates' President says profit growth would be hurt. Khaleej Times pg.48
7. Legoland will be the last major theme park in Dubailand, the \$250 park will be the first to be built outside North America and Europe, now total projects in Dubailand 26 including 11 theme parks. Gulf News pg.58

UAE FEDERAL NEWS

1. UAE President Sheikh Khalifa receives Sultan Qaboos of Oman, talks to strengthen bilateral relations, visit in the framework of continued consultations between the two countries. Gulf Today pg.1
2. Federal National Council (FNC) urges the government to introduce radical changes in the citizenship and labour laws, the Council calls for applying of six-year residency limit to all workers, worker can only come back after obtaining new residency visa, by applying this the Government will be free of any obligations which might be imposed by international conventions regarding foreign workforce. Gulf News pg.8

UAE human rights committee discusses report to be presented to UN Human Rights Council, official says UAE fully committed and respects international agreements on human rights. Gulf News pg.1

UAE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS: Thursday, 8 May 2008

DUBAI & N. EMIRATES NEWS

1. Vice-President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler receives Malaysian Prime Minister, talks on bilateral relations and means of enhancing cooperation. Gulf News pg.38
2. Vice-President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler visits Qatar, talks with Emir of Qatar on bilateral relations and cooperation in science technology and higher education, he also attends graduation of first batch of Qatar Educational City. Gulf News pg.7
3. Dubai Metro's demonstration run creates a stir in the city, the metro train stationed near Jebel Ali, the fast run will be carried out on stretch of track between Ibn Battuta Mall station and Jebel Ali Industrial Area station in May 15, says Roads & Transport Authority. Khaleej Times pg.1
4. Sharjah eyes tourism for growth, the emirate plans to increase sector's contribution to the economy from 9% to 15%, sector contribution to GDP at Dh.3.8 billion, hotel guests in 2007 at 1.5 million, total number of hotels is 96. Gulf News pg.52
5. Ajman considers its own power and water desalination projects, the move aims to help reduce delay faced by new building projects, at present time authorities in Ajman can not issue licences for new projects without permission from the utilities supplier Federal Electricity & Water Authority (Fewa). Khaleej Times pg.11

UAE FEDERAL NEWS

1. President Sheikh Khalifa and Sultan Qaboos of Oman hold talks on bilateral cooperation, issues concerning GCC countries and ways to promote common goals of supporting joint Gulf work. Khaleej Times pg.1
2. Emirates Aluminium Company (Emal) delays sale of its \$ 2 billion bonds after the slump in credit markets increased borrowing costs, Emal is planning to issue the bonds to raise money for its mega smelter which will be built in Abu Dhabi. Gulf Today pg.21

JAPAN IN THE NEWS

1. Leaders of Japan and China call for new era in relations at their summit, Fukuda and Hu pledge to hold annual meetings, resolve angry dispute over maritime gas deposits and not allow their bitter history to divide them. Gulf News pg.26
2. Two female Japanese tourists kidnapped by unknown assailants in Marib province of Yemen, according to Yemeni official and tribal leaders. Gulf Today pg.7

UAE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS WEEKEND

Friday: 9 May 2008

Dubai & Northern Emirates:

1. Dubai Ruler gives go-ahead to Dubai Judicial City project, he orders creation of specialized courts in Dubai. Khaleej Times pg.1
2. Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) 2009 to be from January 16 to February 15, 2009, Dubai Summer Surprises (DSS) to be held from June 11 to August 14, say the organizers. Khaleej Times pg.1
3. Meydan reports Dh. 10 billion sales in one year, Meydan project says its mix-use real estate development Meydan City and Meydan Business Park (near Meydan racecourse) attracted phenomenal investment response. Gulf News pg.39
4. Emaar Misr unveils New Cairo City project, the \$ 1 billion residential and mix-use development project will be constructed over 885 acres of land in the Egyptian capital. Gulf News pg.38

UAE Federal Issues:

1. Sultan Qaboos of Oman ends three-day visit to UAE, he says the visit fastens the brotherly relations between the two countries. Gulf Today pg.1
2. UAE secures top ranking in tourism and business, an international rating agency give top rankings to UAE in six different categories recognizing the nation's global standings in tourism, hospitality, shopping and business sectors. Khaleej Times pg.25
3. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) (the second biggest bank in Abu Dhabi) buys 25 % stake in the Malaysian bank RHB Capital Berhad for \$ 1.2 billion. Khaleej Times pg.27

UAE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS WEEKEND

Saturday: 10 May 2008

Dubai & Northern Emirates:

1. Dubai Cares team leaves for Myanmar, move to benefit around 200 schools in cyclone ravaged areas. Gull Today pg. 3
2. Nakheel has launched a new waterfront project “Worlds of Discovery” in Jebel Ali, Palm islands to make Dubai a global boating destination. Gulf News pg.38
3. Emaar says Yacht Club Marina will open on time this summer, it will help meet the growing demand for berthing in Dubai. Gulf News pg.39

UAE Federal Issues:

Meals of low income workers registers between 10% to 25 % rise in menu prices since last year, dh. 150 a minimum cost of one daily meal for a month in Abu Dhabi. Gulf News pg.4