



**Indian to helm UAE boat in world's 'most dangerous solo race'**

Nation + Page 4



**Dubai SME members win Dh921.6M GPP contracts**

Business + Page 14



Egypt on Tuesday hosted UAE and Israeli leaders for unprecedented three-way talks. The summit was held in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El Sheikh between His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces; Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi; and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. The meeting discussed regional and international developments and ways of bolstering global energy security and market stability. — WAM

# Digital economy on a roll

**Its share of UAE's total GDP doubles to 9.7% in 2021**

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The contribution of the digital economy as a share of the UAE's total GDP of over \$400 billion doubled from 4.3 per cent in 2019 to 9.7 per cent in 2021. Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, said on Tuesday the government's pioneering investment in advanced technologies has made the country a regional base for international tech giants and multi-million startups, as well as an active contributor to the global digital ecosystem.

Turn to Page 3

“These new coding initiatives are set to create an environment that will not only incubate local talent but will act as a major platform for expertise around the world, cementing the UAE's position as a global leader in adopting innovative and emerging technologies.”  
Alain Bejjani, CEO, Majid Al Futtaim

## KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

**9.7%**  
Digital economy's share of UAE's GDP in 2021, up from 4.3% in 2019



**12%**  
Growth of coders over the past few months

**63,000**  
No. of digital skilled professionals in UAE

## CODERS HQ'S 10 NEW INITIATIVES

**15,000**  
Coders in six months



**100,000**  
Coders by end of 2022

**25**  
Coding ambassadors

## CODERS HQ'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Over **2,500** coders trained

**27** coders empowered every day

**30** workshops in coding languages, blockchain and AI

**4** major tech leaders hosted

## Fastest growing occupations

- » Cloud engineer
- » Back-end developer
- » Security engineer
- » Engineering manager
- » Data analyst

## Top disruptive skills

- » FinTech
- » Artificial Intelligence
- » Robotics
- » Data Science

## DXB's north runway to shut for servicing

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Dubai International's (DXB) northern runway will be closed for 45 days next month to carry out "complete refurbishment". As a result, some flights will be redirected to Dubai World Central (DWC) — the emirate's second airport — from May 9 to June 22.

Operator Dubai Airports said the hub will continue to welcome passengers throughout this period since DXB is a dual runway operation. The operator has provided "advance notice" to all airlines to plan for flight reductions and schedule planning accordingly.

Budget carrier flydubai said it will operate flights to 34 destinations, including some Indian and Pakistani cities, from DWC.

The airline said that passengers travelling from DWC will enjoy free parking at the airport.

Turn to Page 6

## Dh2M fine for e-mails, sites faking UAE entity

Impersonating a UAE entity can attract a fine of Dh2 million according to a video put out by the UAE Public Prosecution. In a video released by Public Prosecution, the authority states that any person who creates a fake website, online account or e-mail, impersonating a natural or legal person can be jailed or fined a maximum of Dh200,000.

A penalty of imprisonment of not more than five years, and a fine of not less than Dh200,000 and not more than Dh2,000,000, shall be applicable if such a fake website, online account or e-mail impersonates any UAE entity. The UAE Public Prosecution had released a short film across its social media accounts explaining the penalties of creating fake e-mails, websites and online accounts.

According to the video, Article (11) of the Federal Decree-Law No. 34 of 2021 on combatting rumours and cybercrimes, stipulates that any person who creates fake website, online account or e-mail,

Turn to Page 6



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The countdown is almost over, it's time for the action to begin.

Tuesday's decisive Post Position draw for the 26th running of the Dubai World Cup (G1), and its glittering support races, have added to the drama that the sport has been associated with.

**The horses are ready, are you?**

While nine-time winner Saeed bin Suroor came away a big winner when Real World drew the perfect gate (6), two other local trainers, Salem bin Ghadayer and Bhupat Seemar, drew the short straws.

Life Is Good, the overwhelming favourite to give America another victory in the \$12 million dirt race, earned a perfect draw on the inside as the dice rolled in favour of Hot Rod

Charlie, who races out of lucky stall number seven.

Plans will be made, changed or scrapped in the lead-up to Saturday as connections return to the drawing board for the last time in a bid to give their horses the best chance of victory, when the gates open up at 8.30pm under the bright Meydan lights.

May the best horse win!

See Pages 16, 17

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## UAE Covid Update

AS ON MAR 22, 2022 **316** NEW CASES

TOTAL CASES	888,383
NEW RECOVERIES	958
TOTAL RECOVERIES	860,074
NEW DEATHS	0
TOTAL DEATHS	2,302
ACTIVE CASES	27,345
NEW TESTS	319,488
TOTAL TESTS	145.41M
DAILY DOSES	10,021
DOSES/100 PEOPLE	247.04
TOTAL DOSES	24,432,724

# MAKING OF THE MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE



## HERALDING A QUANTUM LEAP

Museum of the Future promises to redefine the realm of possibilities for the construction industry

◆ Suneeti Ahuja-Kohli

A museum technically is a building that houses and exhibits objects of historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural interests, providing a window to the past. Future concepts have traditionally been the realms of research and development units. The Museum of the Future, however, has redefined this concept. While the conceptualisation and creation of this structure pushed the boundaries and stretched the imagination of its creators, its engineering marvel and promises of endless possibilities are now inspiring its visitors every day.

“It is among the most complex construction projects ever attempted in the UAE and required the use of sophisticated and futuristic technology. Notus Composites provided 100 per cent of the fire retardant (FR) composite materials for the entire facade of the museum and Nova Composites Manufacturing, a firm that we launched in April 2020 in the midst of the global lockdown and movement restrictions locally, took over the manufacturing of the panels themselves to complete the remaining panels for the museum’s 1,024 piece facade. It is one of the most beautiful buildings in the world and we are proud to have been a part of it, delivering the project on time despite a multitude of challenges,” says Mihir Shah, Managing Director, Notus Composites and Nova Composites Manufacturing. Notus provided both carbon fibre and glass fibre composite materials (FR epoxy prepregs) for the facade of the museum, a high-tech material that has mostly been used in the aerospace, defence, marine, and automobile industry, and is now making inroads in the construction industry too.

“We started as the suppliers of the composite material for the entire facade and later were awarded the contract for completing the facade panels too. It was a nod to our engineering strength, quick turnaround time, and ability to get a facility in place rapidly that could meet the project deadlines. The construction of the unconventional torus shape and column-free edifice could herald a new chapter in the construction industry, giving more confidence to architects and developers to experiment with unconventional designs and structures,” adds Shah. “The museum from the outside looks like a steel structure but it is not. The embossed stainless-steel cladding is just 0.8mm in thickness, providing a stunning visual finish for the lightweight advanced composite panel. We developed a special technique to securely bond the stainless-steel sections to the composite. Using advanced composites, a massive range of surface finishes are possible. We can give any look, shape, and feel to a building with—marble, mosaic, wood, stainless-steel, and aluminium finishes. That is the beauty of this product. Advanced composite materials such as our prepregs can redefine how we make our structures, whilst also creating a more sustainable building and taking care



**Mihir Shah**  
Managing Director  
Notus Composites and  
Nova Composites Manufacturing

of the environment. This museum will inspire a lot of people to focus on making lighter and more efficient structures, and not just use concrete and steel.”

Notus materials have the added advantage of being fire retardant and being more sustainable alternatives to traditional materials. “Our composite products have passed the most stringent fire tests such as NFPA285 and ASTM E 84 and are approved by Dubai Civil Defence. The fire retardant epoxy resin system provides equivalent or better performance compared to less sustainable polyester products and is much safer for the workers building the panels as they don’t give off harmful fumes.”



Our foremost strength is having our own raw material company as well as a manufacturing and finishing facility. We save on shipping costs, offer a reduced carbon footprint, and played a key role in the LEED platinum certification achieved by the museum.”

Nova Composites provides design, engineering, fabrication, and installation services. It has a fully integrated manufacturing facility in Dubai with its fire retardant raw materials coming from Notus Composites, which is a sister company.

“Our foremost strength is having our own raw material company as well as a manufacturing and finishing facility. We save on shipping costs, offer a reduced carbon footprint, and played a key role in the LEED platinum certification achieved by the museum.”

Nova is also providing composite structures for the new Atlantis Residences at The Palm and has been working on several big construction projects in Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The company is also very active in the marine sector, building lighter, faster, and more durable boats in its factory in Dubai. “This year, we are looking to create more manufacturing capacity by separating our marine and construction factories and also relocating Notus, our raw material division, to Dubai from Ras Al Khaimah. We are expecting to achieve more than 3 digit growth this year,” said Shah.

Nova’s marine division has several innovative new projects underway, including fast 30-foot sailing yachts, a high-powered 44 speed boat and smaller all-electric new motorboat design. “Our new electric boat project is the first artificially intelligent electric boat and will be launched by the end of this year,” he added.

Nova Composites is focusing strongly on offering more sustainable alternatives to the marine and construction industry through its prepreg materials that make structures lighter and more efficient. It is looking at developing solar-powered catamarans and special blades for large ships that can supplement the ships’ engines and reduce their overall carbon footprint. The team at Nova Composite comprises industry veterans, who are passionate about pushing the limits of engineering possibility and providing a wide range of different industries with more environmentally friendly solutions. Their work at the Museum of the Future is just the start of this journey.

