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# The National

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## UAE SETS UP Dh100bn STIMULUS TO COUNTER EFFECTS OF COVID-19

► New package comes as the world takes ever tougher steps in attempt to curb the outbreak

MASSOUD A DERHALLY and JAMES HAINES-YOUNG

The Central Bank of the UAE rolled out a comprehensive Dh100 billion economic stimulus package yesterday to offset the effect of the coronavirus pandemic as authorities announced a halt to the issue of visas and a ban on flights to and from several countries.

"Given that the World Health Organisation has declared Covid-19 virus as a global pandemic, the Central Bank of the UAE has adopted a number of measures in an effort to support the economy and protect consumers," the central bank said.

The Targeted Economic Support Scheme includes Dh50bn from central bank funds through collateralised loans at zero cost to all banks operating in the UAE and Dh50bn in funds freed up from banks' capital buffers.

"The UAE banking system is adequately capitalised and banks maintain significant voluntary capital buffers in addition to the minimum prudential requirements," the bank said. "The draw-down of those voluntary buffers is not considered for the purposes of calculating the overall size of the economic support scheme."



Pilgrims at the Kaaba in Makkah, where numbers fell sharply as a result of the pandemic  
AFP

Also yesterday, the UAE announced that three more people had recovered from the virus, bringing total recoveries to 23. Two Emiratis and an Indian were "symptom-free" after treatment, state news agency Wam reported. Saudi Arabia, however,

announced 17 new cases.

Meanwhile, the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship said it would temporarily suspend the issue of visas for all travellers with the exception of diplomats, while the General Civil Aviation Authority said

flights to and from Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Turkey would be banned. The GCAA on Friday banned flights between the UAE and all destinations in Italy apart from Rome.

### MORE

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## Christchurch terror attack memorial is cancelled

THE NATIONAL

A national remembrance day in New Zealand to mark the first anniversary of the Christchurch mosque attacks was cancelled because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Several thousand people, many from overseas, had been expecting to attend the service to mark the shootings, in which 51 people were killed and hundreds wounded during Friday prayers.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said that the country had "fundamentally changed" in the wake of the attacks.

She said, however, that the nation needs to continue to call out racism and challenge the growing threat from far-right extremism.

Announcing the decision yesterday, Ms Ardern said: "We're very saddened to cancel but remembering such a terrible tragedy, we shouldn't create a risk of further harm being done."

Ms Ardern said that engagement with the Muslim community had grown since the massacre at Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre.

Full report, page 10

## TOP 10

Your essential guide to what's on in the Emirates

### DUBAI SARTORIAL SKETCHES

See Art: The Vogue Lesson, an exhibition by Flavio Lucchini. A heavyweight from the dual worlds of art and fashion, Lucchini's latest work is on display at Oblong Gallery on Bluewaters Island in Dubai. Rendered as totemic statues almost devoid of human features, or as quasi-cartoon figures in pastel tones or gold leaf, Lucchini's work focuses intently on the space where art and fashion overlap.

► **Daily, 11am-8pm; until Tuesday; free; Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery, Bluewaters Island, Dubai; www.oblongcontemporary.com**

### DUBAI SINDHI FOOD

Purani Dill is hosting a Sindhi Food Festival. Spicy and aromatic, the cuisine reflects the culinary culture of the eponymous Indian community, and will be prepared by Sindhi chef Jyoti Vishnani who is visiting from Mumbai, and specialises in the



cuisine. Dishes on the menu include Sindhi curry, chutney prawns, brain fry, bhugal mutton and saiyal fish. Diners can enjoy the limited-edition a la carte menu from 7.30pm.

► **Daily, 12:30pm-3pm, 7pm-2am; until Saturday, March 21; Purani Dilli, Four Points by Sheraton, Bur Dubai, www.puranidillidubai.com**

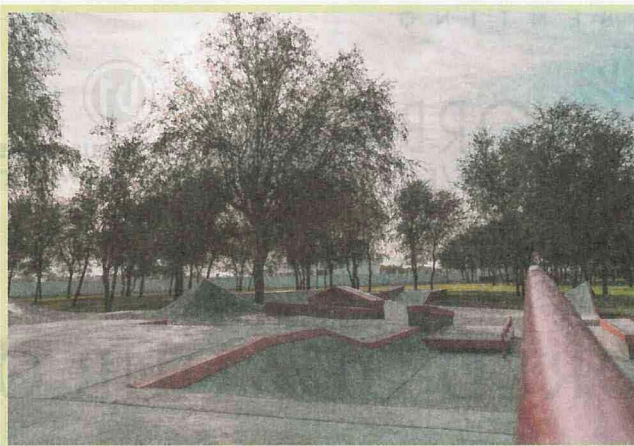
### ABU DHABI NATURE WALK

Qurum Walkway at Jubail Mangrove Park can be accessed daily from 8am to 6.30pm and is currently free to visit. The boardwalk has three routes giving visitors close-up encounters with nature, the longest of which is two kilometres, while the shortest is 1km.

► **Daily, 8am-6.30pm; free; Qurum Walkway, Jubail Mangrove Park, Al Jubail Island; park.jubailisland.ae**

### DUBAI POP CLASSICS

*The Billy Joel Songbook* is coming to Dubai Opera. British singer-songwriter Elio Pace plays the popular American singer and performs some of his



### RAS AL KHAIMAH HOT WHEELS

A new skatepark has opened at Saqr Park in Ras Al Khaimah. It offers 620 square metres of dedicated space for the skating community to practise and train on, with a series of obstacles, including a bowl, pyramids, ledges, banks and round rails. The park has been built within a ghaaf tree reserve, offering plenty of natural shade.

► **Daily, 10am-midnight; free; Saqr Park, off the E18, Ras Al Khaimah; www.visitrasalkhaimah.com**

biggest hits in the three-hour show including *Uptown Girl*, *Piano Man* and *Just The Way You Are*.

► **Wednesday, March 25, 7.30pm; Dh95; Dubai Opera, Downtown Dubai; www.dubaiopera.com**

### AL AIN SCALE HEIGHTS

Start training to tackle the UAE's second-highest peak, with the Jebel Hafeet Challenge. Rising 1,240 metres into the

sky, the Al Ain mountain is a favourite of plucky runners who aren't afraid of a bit of gradient training. This race will begin from Green Mubazzarah Park, and take in 12.5 km of steadily inclining road to the top. Water will be provided along the way and transport will be on hand to get you back down the mountain after the race.

► **Friday, October 30, 6am; from Dh250; Green Mubazzarah Park, Al Ain; 056 8190 043; www.premieronline.com**

### ABU DHABI EARTHY TONES

A solo exhibition by Jongneung Lee, known by his artist name Jisan, is on at The Korean Cultural Centre. The Dream From the East features 50 of his ceramic works inspired by Asia and the rest of the world. He created his own style called Tohheun, which is characterised by asymmetrical beauty,

rich natural textures and earthy pigments. Glazed yet unfiltered, Tohheun is Jisan's signature style of traditional, contemporary pottery.

► **Sunday to Thursday, 9am-6pm; Arirang Hall, Korean Cultural Centre, Twofour54, Khalifa Park, Abu Dhabi; uae.korean-culture.org**

### DUBAI HAVE A LAUGH

DXB Comedy Fest returns with a line-up of comedians from Africa, the Middle East and South-East Asia. Leading the bill is Kenyan funnyman Eric Omondi. With more than 2.5 million Instagram followers, he is one of the continent's biggest comic talents, as well as president of Comedy Africa. Joining him on the Dubai programme is South African comic Loyiso Gola, who won the Best Breakthrough Comedy Act in 2007. They will be supported by the UAE's Abz Ali and Saudi Arabia's Mishaal, among others.

► **Thursday, April 17, 5.30pm; Dh100; Dusit Thani Dubai, Sheikh Zayed Road; dubai.platinumlist.net**

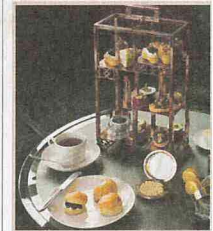
### ABU DHABI STRETCH IT OUT

Bodytree Yoga Studio is hosting two Stretch and Snooze sessions with resident teacher Angela. She will help ease participants into relaxation with soothing restorative

yin poses. Bolsters, blankets and props will also be on hand. The session is also accompanied by a carefully curated playlist. Both sessions include a warm drink from Nectar cafe.

► **Monday, 8pm-9.30pm, and Friday, 5.30pm-7pm; Dh100; Bodytree Studio, Abu Dhabi; 02 443 4448, info@bodytreestudio.com**

### DUBAI TILBURY TEA



Penrose Lounge in the Four Seasons Hotel DIFC has launched a Charlotte Tilbury afternoon tea. Set beneath mirrored ceilings and ornate gold light frames, the venue also features plush velvet couches and jewel-coloured pillows for guests to enjoy while visiting the Tilbury-inspired afternoon tea. Expect zaatar cucumber and tomato sandwiches, warm scones and sweets inspired by her Pillow Talk make-up collection.

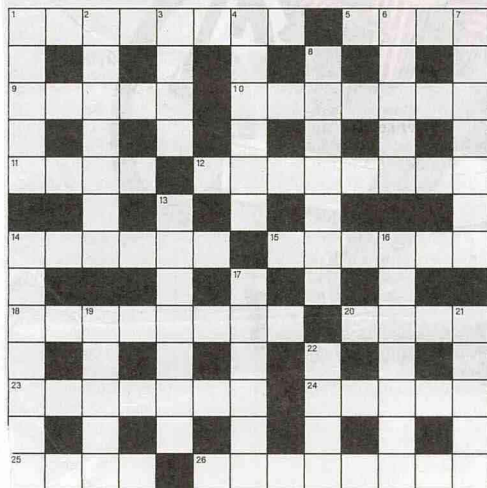
► **Daily, 2pm-11pm; from Dh185; Penrose Lounge, Four Seasons Hotel DIFC, Dubai; 04 506 0000, www.fourseasons.com**

► Send your event details to [listings@thenational.ae](mailto:listings@thenational.ae) | Compiled by Evelyn Lau | Events are subject to change

For more things to do across the UAE, visit the lifestyle section of [thenational.ae](http://thenational.ae)

## PUZZLES

### GENERAL CROSSWORD



#### ► Across

1. Calendula flower (8)
5. Footway (4)
9. Evil spirit (5)
10. 'Baddie' (7)
11. Intend (4)
12. Given sudden fright (8)
14. Water-boiler (6)
15. In view of (6)
18. With time not working (8)
20. Tiny particle of matter (4)
23. Linking up (7)
24. Illumination (5)
25. Hindu philosophy, exercises (4)
26. Brought back to original condition (8)

#### ► Down

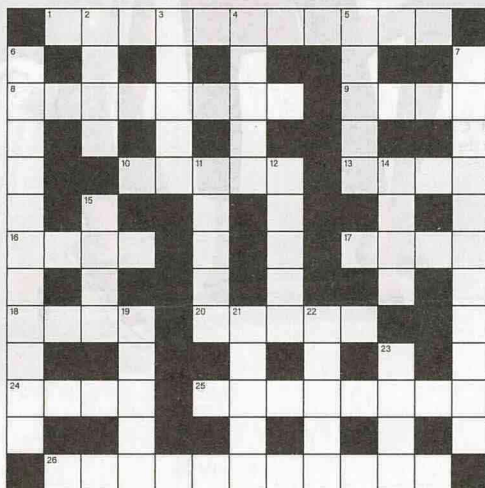
1. Data transmitting/receiving device (5)
2. Fragment surviving (7)
3. 'Medal' (4)
4. Disposition to trifle (6)
6. Be of value to (5)
7. With sneaking, cowed look (7)
8. Frightened (7)
13. Enthusiastic approval (7)
14. Spoil-sport (7)
16. Whole number (7)
17. Small hound (6)
19. Concreted sugar topping (5)
21. Softened musically (5)
22. Mark on graph (4)

#### ► Friday's solution

Across 1. Pious 4. Drench 7. Ave 8. Postal 9. Torrid 10. Thermonuclear 14. Irate 15. Bleed 18. Floating voter 23. Astute 24. Noises 25. Sac 26. Moment 27. Yield

Down 1. Pouch 2. Otter 3. Salmon 4. Delour 5. Enrol 6. China 10. Thief 11. Erato 12. Elect 13. Rider 16. Divest 17. Agency 19. Lasso 20. Amuse 21. Olive 22. Emerald

### CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



#### ► Across

1. Is it any wonder death can make one depressed? (4-7)
8. Draws out the bits that were printed in books (8)
9. 'The death of each day's life, sore labour's \_\_\_' (Macbeth) (4)
10. There's something of David's in the ship's almanac (5)
13. Raced about one wet fall (4)
16. Tie up craft in the open country (4)
17. One left the corn as it was hard to get through (4)
18. With no water added for the ox or bull (4)
20. Find me in conclusion a way to correct it (5)
23. Tea for team evidently finishes host (4)
25. Try it out when carpet, being shaken, is held (8)
26. Those attending clinic put on a set, it may be (3-8)

#### ► Down

2. Take it to be a bit of bad language (4)
3. Is approaching the answer perhaps abandoned by the West (5)
4. Sing praises of former partner who had much to give up (5)
5. Tribe milling about the flower of Rome (5)
6. Tried man let out for causing damage (11)
7. Bell-ringing finished, so one effects the switch (7-4)
11. Still breathing and perhaps kicking too! (5)
12. Its bite made me dig it out (5)
14. A sorrowful exclamation a girl didn't finish (4)
15. It suddenly flares as river turns to it (4)
19. Sample on way to meeting (5)
21. Richly deserve it after Summer is half gone (5)
22. Recess may provide a suitable place

### SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Rating: ★★☆☆☆

### SUPER SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Rating: ★★★★★

### FRIDAY'S SOLUTION

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