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Victory cry



Russia's Maria Sharapova celebrates her victory over France's Emilie Loit at the French Tennis Open first round at Roland Garros in Paris on Wednesday. Sharapova won 6-3 7-6. — AFP See Sports Times

Dubai will stub out smoking by '09 end

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES TO MARK WORLD NO-TOBACCO DAY TODAY

By a staff reporter
DUBAI — As the World No-Tobacco Day is observed today, Dubai has decided to ban smoking in government buildings, schools and colleges, the first step in a plan to stub out smoking across the emirate by the end of 2009.

The ban comes into effect today, May 31.

"May 31 will be the launch of gradual steps to regulate smoking in public areas," Zohoor Al Sabbagh, head of the Clinic and Community Health Section at Dubai Municipality (DM), said.

"We will start with government offices and educational establishments ... there will be a gradual ban on smoking in public areas," she said. From September 15, smoking will be prohibited in the hallways, food courts, children's play areas and emergency exits of Dubai's sprawling shopping malls, Sabbagh said.

Later on, restaurants and cafes will be required to set aside a special section for smokers, comprising no more than 25 per cent of their seating area.



FROM TODAY

- Immediate ban on smoking in government buildings, schools and colleges.
- Gradual ban on smoking in public areas.
- Smoking will be prohibited in the hallways, food courts, children's play areas and emergency exits of Dubai's shopping malls

Starting next year, the DM will impose fines on people caught smoking in non-smoking areas, hoping to stub out the habit in all public places by the end of 2009, she said.

Cutting down on smoking is one of the aims of the Dubai government's strategic plan and a local order was issued to regulate smoking in 2003, said Sabbagh, but the

campaign is being launched to coincide with World No Tobacco Day.

The rules will mean only those over 20 will be allowed to smoke or enter designated smoking zones, to discourage young people from picking up the habit. "Tomorrow will be the first step," said Sabbagh.

Meanwhile, health professionals, educators and

concerned citizens across the UAE will mark the World No Tobacco Day today with a variety of events designed to draw the attention of people towards the perils of smoking.

A special event will be held at the Al Bustan Rotana Hotel in Dubai today. A number of community activities are being organised on the occasion.

Minister of Health Humaid Mohammed Obaid Al Qutami will attend the event, which is being supported by a number of major companies, including Pfizer.

Pfizer will also unveil the winning designs of a series of posters and letters on the occasion to encourage people to quit smoking. — With inputs from agencies

HIV+ man pardoned

By Joy Sengupta

DUBAI — Kannian Mohandoss, the 37-year-old man who had been lying in Kuwaiti Hospital for a month with multiple fractures and later tested HIV-positive, has been pardoned by the public prosecution on humanitarian grounds.

His friends have bought for him an air ticket and they have also managed to get him the Airlines Fitness Form. If all goes well, Mohandoss would be departing for his homeland today. *Khaleej Times* had featured his story on May 22. Mohandoss had assaulted a policeman at the Dubai International Airport. While on bail, he reportedly tried to end his life by jumping off from a building, but ended up in hospital with multiple fractures. See Page 6

Bahrain ban on US attack against Iran

MANAMA — Bahrain's parliament overwhelmingly approved a ban on US military staging attacks on Iran from bases in Bahrain, the independent daily *Al Wasat* reported yesterday.

In the vote late on Tuesday, the 40-member lower chamber of parliament voted 39-0 in favour of the ban, the paper said.

Only lawmaker Jassim Al Saeedi, an extreme Sunni Salafist, abstained from voting in a gesture that implied he did not object to the United States striking Iran. —AFP

Hamas warns of Mideast explosion

PALESTINIAN SIEGE AFFECTING WHOLE REGION: MESHAL

By Ian Black
DAMASCUS — Khaled Meshal, the influential political leader of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas, insists attacks on Israel will continue despite overwhelming Israeli retaliation that has cost scores of lives in the Gaza

Strip in the past two weeks. Speaking in Damascus yesterday he asserted it was the right of the Palestinians to resist 'Zionist aggression' regardless of whether their actions were effective. The continuing siege of the Palestinians would lead to an explosion that

would affect the entire Middle East, he predicted.

"Under occupation people don't ask whether their means are effective in hurting the enemy," he told the *Guardian* at his heavily guarded offices, plastered with images of Jerusalem and 'martyrs' killed. Turn to Page 45



LAURELS FOR UAE... Dubai bagged the award for the Middle East Leading Business Destination at the World Travel Award ceremony on Wednesday at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi. The award was received by Awadh S. Alkethi, director of the Dubai Convention Bureau of the Government of Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing. The award was presented by reigning Miss World Tatiana Kucharova. The Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority also bagged the Best Promotion Board and the Best New Tourist Destination awards. — Photo by Emanuel Cornelious

BEREAVEMENT ANALYSIS

£312,000, the price of grief

By Daniel Bates

LONDON — They say every life is priceless. But in today's world, it would seem, everything can be quantified.

For the first time, researchers have put a financial value on the loss of a loved one.

A team of academics embarked on the seemingly impossible mission because they believe the court system of negligence compensation is too random.

They used an ongoing study of British

households to analyse more than 2,000 bereavements, observing the shift in mental well-being and comparing it with findings from the same survey measuring how happiness changes when income goes up or down. They concluded that the loss of a spouse warrants a payout of £312,000 during the first year. Loss of a child was measured at £126,000, a mother at £22,000, a father at £21,000, a friend at £8,000 and a sibling at £1,000. Turn to Page 45

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