

BCS sets up Mideast shop

By Silvia Radan

ABU DHABI — The British Computer Society (BCS) has launched its Middle East section on Saturday at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi.

The launch, which coincided with BCS's golden jubilee, was held in the presence and under the patronage of Shaikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

"The past 50 years have seen years of impressive growth and success for your society. Its work has been not only about

technology, but also about leadership — the leadership that is required to assure the wise, effective and humane use and application of computer technologies," Shaikh Nahyan said during the opening ceremony.

He underlined the essential part played by computer technology in everyday life and said it has also become vital for education. "As you know, my public responsibility is in education. We welcome you to work with us in order to help prepare graduates for the demands of the technology-based economy," added Shaikh Nahyan.

Worldwide recognition to ADTA welcomed

By M. A. Qudoos

ABU DHABI — Mubarak Hamad Al Muhairy, Director- General of the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA), has welcomed the worldwide recognition of the ADTA, which has been awarded the 'Best Promotion Board' and the 'Best New Tourism Destination' awards by the World Travel Award (WTA).

He said the winning of such a prestigious award which is being granted annually for the best achievements realised in the world's tourism industry, came to crown the unstinting efforts of the ADTA, which was founded in 2004 to promote and market Abu Dhabi's tourism industry worldwide.

"The two awards which have been received on Wednesday by ADTA's officials in the award

presentation ceremony held at the Emirates Palace came at a time when Abu Dhabi's Tourism industry has made a tremendous achievement, reflected in the over 1.3 million tourists that visited the emirate in 2006, spending 2.5 million nights, which represent a rise of 40 per cent compared to the figure recorded in the previous year," Al Muhairy elaborated.

"Our winning of the 'Best Promotion Board' and the 'Best New Tourism Destination' awards is another recognition by international tourism institutions of the great efforts being made by the ADTA to boost Abu Dhabi's position among the world's leading tourism destinations," he added.

He pointed out that the two awards reflected Abu Dhabi's great potential as an international

tourism destination for business and recreation tourism. "It also reaffirms the increasing recognition of Abu Dhabi by international travel and tourism bodies," he said, adding that the achievement was the result of ADTA's proactive presence in international tourism events and the fruit of its exerted promotional campaigns in its targeted tourism markets.

He said Abu Dhabi's tourism sector, in the past few years, had witnessed a major surge reflected in the high rates of hotel occupancy with the average rate standing at 84.4 per cent in 2006, up from the 78.4 per cent recorded in the previous year. The growth rate, he said, stood at 7.6 per cent, adding that there was also a high increase of visitors to

Abu Dhabi in 2006, putting the figure at 1.345 million tourists.

The figure represents a rise of 12 per cent compared to 2005. He said ADTA also intensified its activities at the local, regional and international levels. A host of activities and events held included the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship early this year, sponsorship of classical music, opera and the showing of the 'Chicago Fever' drama recently, as well as the Gulf Incentive Tourism Exhibition and Conference, which is the first of its kind in the region.

"It is still a major objective of ADTA to market and promote Abu Dhabi as one of the world's best tourism destination and to put the emirate at an enviable position on the world tourism map," he added.

India Club swimming pool renovated

By a staff reporter

DUBAI — Indian expatriates in Dubai and students from Indian High School now have more reasons to visit the India Club as the 25-year-old swimming pool has gone through a complete facelift and now boasts swanky and colourful

designs.

The pool has been refurbished to incorporate modern features and will be open to members and students in the next 10 days.

Chairman of India Club, Sunil Singh, said, "The entire project has taken us 15 months to complete

and we have added new features to the pool including two new diving boards. We also have a special kiddies pool for toddlers and children."

The pool, which is 24.8 metres by 12.4 metres, is 3.20 meters deep, while the pool for kids is 0.50 meters deep.

Perfume, textile and herbal products to be tested in DM lab

By Joy Sengupta

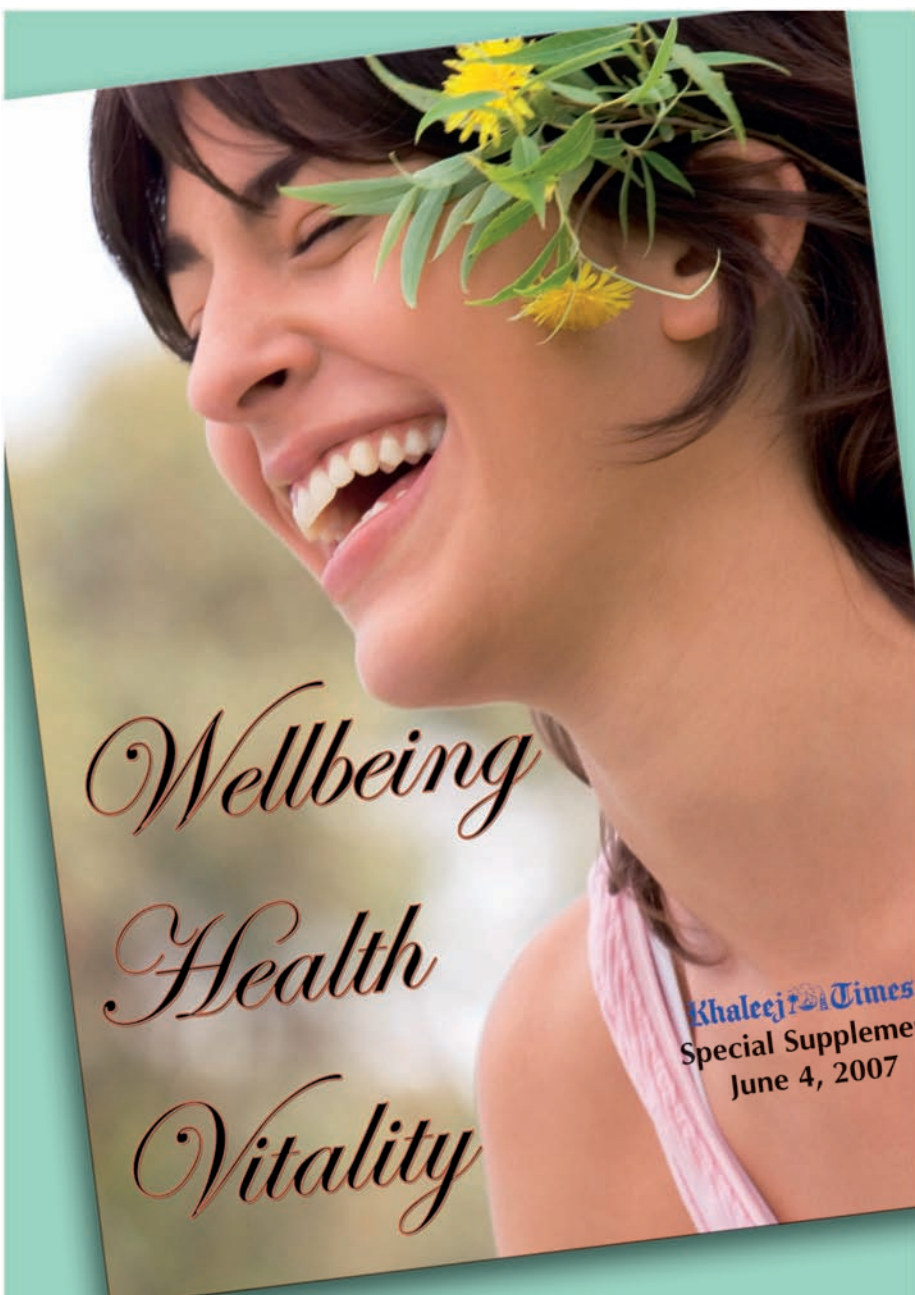
DUBAI - The Dubai Central Laboratory under the Dubai Municipality (DM) will soon introduce the testing of perfumes, textiles and herbal products, Eng. Salah Amiri, the director of the laboratory, has said.

Eng. Amiri said this step was aimed at providing the best quality materials to the people.

"We are presently undertaking tests of different products to ensure that they are free from any kind of health hazards. The Consumer Products Laboratory Section now plans to introduce the testing of some new products such as textile materials, perfumes etc. Also, the Home Appliances Laboratory under the Section, which was opened recently, had received 1,695 samples in December last year, including electrical irons, hair driers, storage water heaters and other cooking appliances," he said.

Eng. Amiri added: "The Local Order No. 10 of 2003 stipulates that all home appliances should be registered with the laboratory and subjected to tests before being sold in the market. So each supplier is bound to bring all models of all items to us and get them tested. If any of the item fails in the test, it cannot be sold in the market. Our website provides information about the registered items. In addition to this, we also have our own inspectors who go to the markets and take random samples for testing. We test the home appliances as per the specifications of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)."

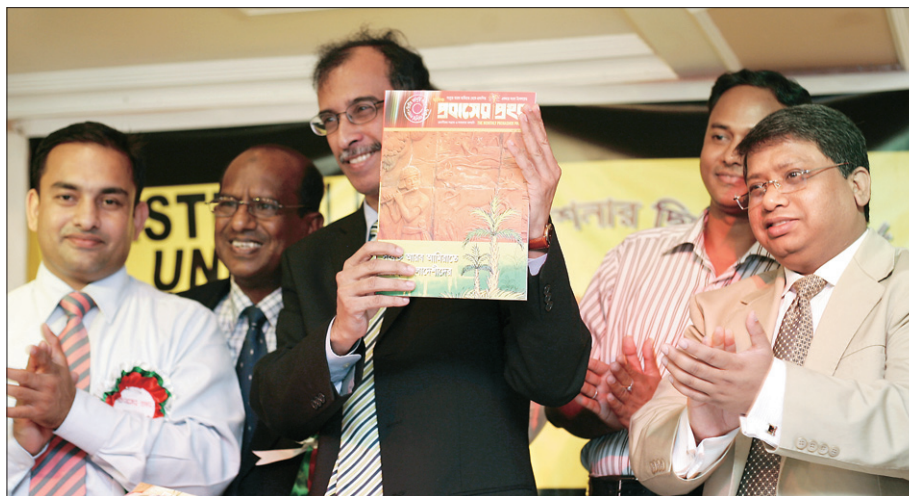
Eng. Amiri further informed that the laboratory also planned to introduce the certification of bottled water factories this year. "The registration of all food materials will be made mandatory in the future," he pointed out



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BANGLADESHI COMMUNITY MAGAZINE ANNIVERSARY: Bangladesh Consul-General Kamarul Ahsan, Commercial Counsellor M.D Mohammadur Rahman and Saiful Islam Talukdar at a ceremony held to celebrate the second anniversary of a Bangladeshi community magazine *Prohor* at Landmark Hotel in Dubai. — Photo by Shihab



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