

Boy, 6, dies after falling from 11th floor flat

SHARJAH
BY AGHADDIR ALI
Senior Reporter

A six-year-old Arab boy fell to his death from an 11th floor window of a building in Sharjah on Sunday afternoon, Sharjah Police told Gulf News yesterday.

The Somalian boy had climbed on to a chair near a window when he slipped and fell. By the time a family member came to the room, the boy had fallen and lay motionless on the ground below.

The boy, identified as Y.D.H., died on the spot. His body was taken to hospital around 3.55pm and then moved to the forensic laboratory for autopsy.

Police have said negligence was to blame for the incident. Al Ghurb Police Station is investigating the case and will summon the parents for questioning.

Falling from balconies and windows is one of the main causes of death and injury among children in the UAE.

Police urged the public to lock windows and place aluminium barriers to prevent children from falling in high-rises.

The warnings are issued time and again, with parents being reminded not to leave their children unattended at home and keep hazardous items away from their reach.

Dubai Police make first arrest in Dh15m rice scam

RICE SHIPPED TO DUBAI IN 250 CONTAINERS VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE

DUBAI
BY MAZHAR FAROOQUI
Features Editor - Special Reports

Dubai Police has made its first arrest in the Dh15.38 million rice export scam uncovered by Gulf News in July 2019.

The 52-year-old Indian suspect who was an employee of Al Rawnaq Al Thahabi General Trading company was taken into custody last week, police sources confirmed.

Scores of mill-owners from India were left baffled and devastated after 6,000 tonnes of rice shipped by them to Dubai in 250 containers vanished without a trace between March and April last year.

One of the victims, Vipin Goel, who came to Dubai on Monday to give a statement to the police, told Gulf News he's happy with the development. "I have immense faith in the judicial system of the UAE and am hopeful that the long arms of the law will eventually catch up with all those behind this crime," said the owner of Haryana-based Kamla Rice Mills which lost Dh1.1 million.

Money exchange's role

In August 2019, Dubai's Public Prosecutor ordered a probe into the audacious theft shortly after Gulf News broke the story.

The Public Prosecutor directed Jebel Ali Police to investigate accusations of fraud against six men and two companies, including a money ex-

NATION

Dh15m rice scam leaves 20 Indian exporters in the lurch

250 SHIPPING CONTAINERS OF GRAIN GO MISSING FROM AL QUOZ WAREHOUSE

BY MAZHAR FAROOQUI
Features Editor - Special Reports

FOR 20 Indian rice exporters camping in Dubai, trying to collect 6,000 tonnes of rice worth Dh15.38 million, was a "big day" but it turned bad and disastrous. They had small pockets, but nearly 250 containers containing millions of tonnes of rice with no end in sight and they had Vipin Goel, managing director of Kamla Rice Mills in Haryana, India, in the middle of it. "No money shipped to us since March," he says. "We have been here just like the rest of the customers, but we are still waiting for our money." Al Rawnaq Al Thahabi General Trading company sent 250 shipping containers of rice to Dubai between March and April. The rice was handled by a third-party trading house based in Jebel Ali. The rice was shipped to Dubai by various rice mill owners from India to Al Quoz where the rice containers were delivered via cargo ship.

AL QUOZ
Shahid Tarig Awanis
General Manager

MISSING GRAINS

Gulf News uncovered the scam in July 2019 when scores of rice mill owners from India were left in the lurch by Dubai-based Al Rawnaq Al Thahabi General Trading company which imported 250 containers of rice by issuing telegraphic transfer receipts against bounces. The company resold the rice at throwaway prices.

6,000 tonnes

of rice was shipped by various rice mill owners from India to Al Rawnaq Al Thahabi General Trading

change house for their role and alleged complicity in the scam.

Farag Deifalla, legal consultant at Yousif Alhammadi Advocates and Legal Consultancy, earlier said suspects claiming to represent Dubai-based Al Rawnaq company duped his clients out of millions of dirhams with the help of staff at a money exchange house. The law firm said their clients were handed tel-

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graphic transfer [TT] receipts by a money exchange house as 'proof' that their payments were being electronically remitted to their banks in India, but the money never arrived.

Investigations by Gulf News show as many as 23 TTs worth Dh15.38 million got cancelled after cheques issued against them bounced because of insufficient funds.

By the time, panicked traders rushed to Dubai, it was too late. Al Rawnaq's rented warehouse in Al Quoz where the rice containers were delivered was empty as was the company's office at XL Tower in Business Bay. The exporters hold the money exchange house responsible for their losses. Many said if the exchange house had immediately submitted Al Rawnaq's cheques to banks, they would have bounced and their corresponding TTs got automatically cancelled.

"The exchange house held our cheques for days. This gave the scammers enough time to receive shipments on the basis of TT receipts, move the rice containers to their warehouse and then sell the ill-gotten goods to third parties at throwaway prices," Goel told Gulf News.

Another complainant, Sumit Jindal of India's KG Industries which lost rice worth Dh4.3 million alleged that the exchange house staff deliberately delayed the process for two weeks allowing the suspects to receive the containers and sell off the rice before the cheques could be banked.

Brothers get life term for killing nephew

DUBAI
BY ALI AL SHOUK
Senior Reporter

Two brothers were sentenced to life in jail by the Dubai Court of First Instance for murdering their nephew upon discovering that he had a sexual affair with one of their wives.

The two Pakistani defendants, aged 42 and 49, were charged with pre-meditated murder of their nephew, in his 30s, by striking his head with a hammer and burying him in the desert in Jebel Ali.

According to official records, the murder took place in February 2018, but the body was found in June 2019.

"The defendants discovered that the victim was having an illegal affair with the wife of the first defendant in their home country. They planned to bring the victim to the UAE to kill him," a 30-year-old Emirati police officer said in records.

The defendants found a job for the victim in the UAE. They invited the nephew for dinner to their residence before taking him to a deserted area in Jebel Ali.

They tied him up and the first defendant struck the victim with a hammer twice on the head and then strangled him with a rope before burying him in the desert. The verdict is subject to appeal within 15 days.

Expat wins 100,000 Etihad Guest Miles from Gulf News

First call lucky subscriber got on Monday morning broke the good news

DUBAI
BY FAISAL MASUDI
Senior Reporter

The first call Meiyappan Palaniappan, an Indian expat in Dubai, got on Monday morning was special – he had won '100,000 Etihad Guest Miles' as a Gulf News subscriber.

This was the first time he had won any raffle and wanted the good news to sink in before sharing it with his family.

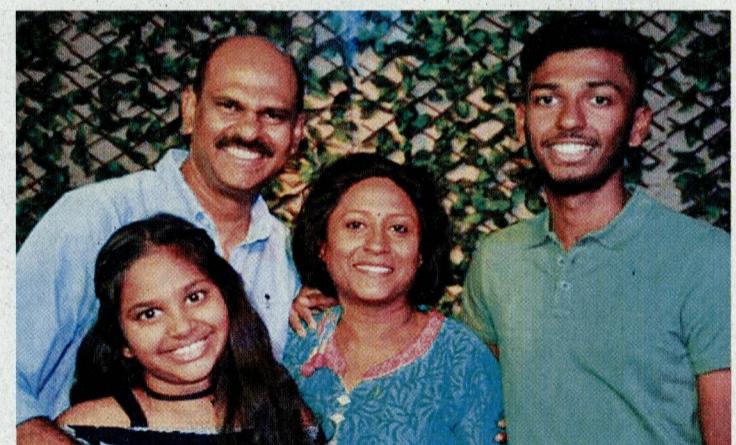
Palaniappan, 49, from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, is the fourth weekly winner of the guest miles as part of the Gulf News subscription promotion 'Reading Just Got More Rewarding' launched on February 14.

Weekly winners

Every Monday for 11 weeks, one winner will receive 100,000 Etihad Guest Miles, aside from the grand prizes that will see one lucky subscriber win 500,000 miles and two others win 250,000 miles each.

The guest miles can be used for travel and other benefits, including lounge access, excess baggage allowance and much more. They are one of the major promotional offers that come along with the annual subscription of the newspaper for just Dh500.

On Monday, Palaniappan, who works for Expo 2020 Dubai, had just finished his regular morning office meetings when the call came in.



Gulf News subscriber Palaniappan, with his wife Selvi, son Karthik and daughter Lobha.

10 years
Palaniappan has been a subscriber of Gulf News

"I still can't believe I won; I'm very happy, obviously," he said at noon time.

Off to America?

Palaniappan, who has been subscribing to Gulf News for over 10 years, said he will use the complementary miles to fly to Florida if his son Karthik is selected to play a match there in April as part of the UAE cricket team.

"So this win has come really handy for me. I'm so excited and feel like I want to validate the great news again."

Palaniappan had been aware of the subscription offer but had already decided to sub-

scribe (around 10 days ago) and gave no thought to the prospect of winning.

"Gulf News gets delivered to my doorstep between 3am and 3.30am every morning, which is amazing, and the first thing I do when I wake up is get the paper and skim the headlines. I then read the paper at leisure with my cup of coffee later," said Palaniappan, who has been living in the UAE for around 14 years now.

"I'm happy to be a subscriber of Gulf News and really excited to get my prize. I love the Business section of the paper, primarily, as well as Sports, but also in general I like Gulf News over any other newspaper. The size is handy and it gives me the recent happenings in the UAE and the region. The articles from [Chief Cricket Writer] K.R. Nayar are something I always look out for."

Palaniappan lives in Dubai with his wife Selvi, son Karthik and daughter Lobha.

Vacancy Announcement

The Insurance Authority announces its need to fill the following job vacancies:

Job Title	Nationality	Work Location
Insurance Inspector	UAE National/ Non-UAE National	Abu Dhabi / Dubai
Customer Happiness Officer	UAE National	Abu Dhabi / Dubai

Requirement for Insurance Inspector:

- Holder of a bachelor degree in Finance or equivalent in a similar discipline.
- For UAE Nationals: at least two years of experience in financial auditing.
- For Non-UAE Nationals: at least four years of experience in financial auditing.

Requirement for Customer Happiness Officer:

- Holder of a bachelor degree in Public Relations or equivalent in a similar discipline.
- At least two years of experience in customer happiness and dealing with the public.

Please send your CV along with academic qualifications and experience certificates within a week as from the publication date of this announcement to CV@ia.gov.ae.

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