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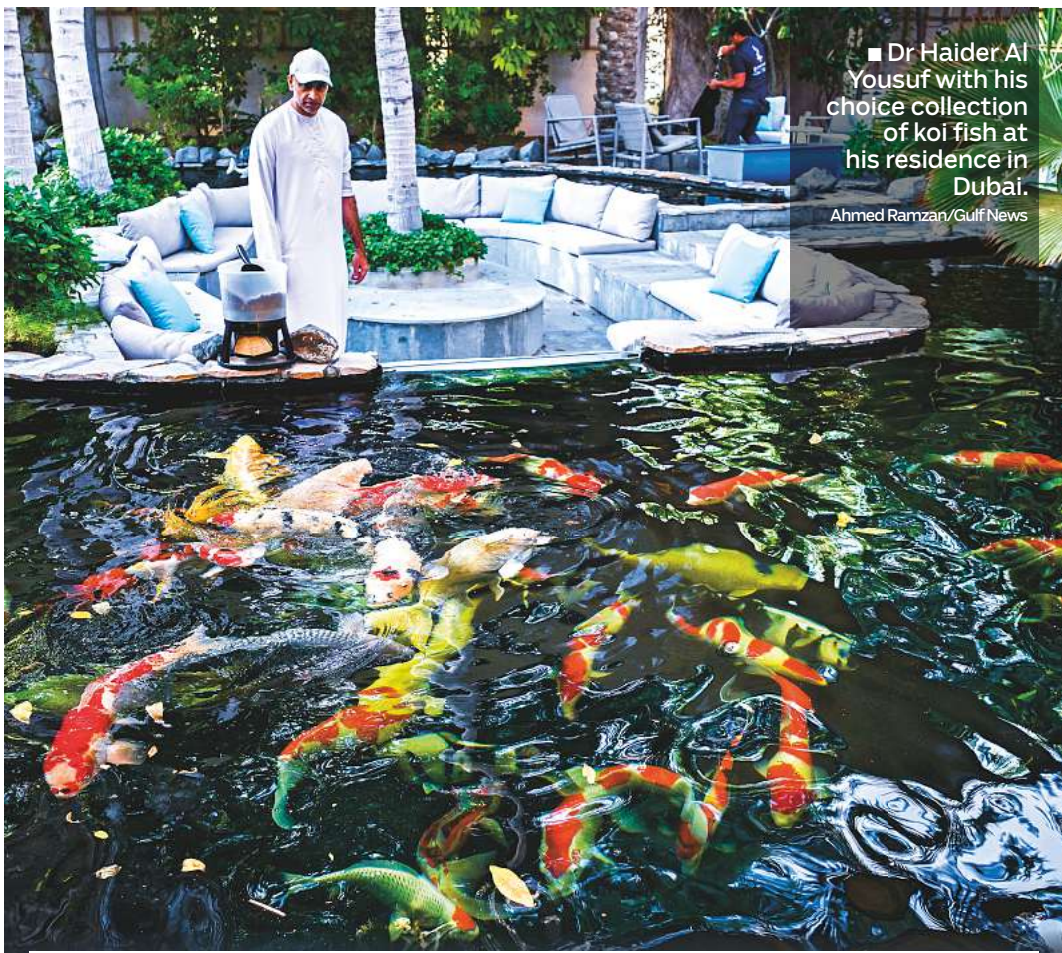
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■ Dr Haider Al Yousuf with his choice collection of koi fish at his residence in Dubai.
Ahmed Ramzan/Gulf News

UAE doctor makes history as judge at koi fish contest

Al Yousuf offers a peek into his Dh2m Japanese fish collection

DUBAI
BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

Dr Haidar Al Yousuf is just back from Tokyo. On January 25, the Dubai-based physician,

former head of funding at Dubai Health Authority and currently CEO of iOHealth, a digital health innovation company, made history. But not in any of these realms. Adding to his distinctions, the 48-year-old became the first Emirati and Middle East representative to judge the world's most elite koi fish competition – the All Japan Koi Show.

The iconic freshwater

Koi fish are highly valued worldwide. Dr Al Yousuf, who happens to be a hobbyist fishkeeper, gave *Gulf News* an exclusive glimpse of his personal collection of koi fish, some 50 of them, worth Dh2 million.

"I developed a passion for fish when I was 10 years old," the father of six recalled, tracing his fascinating journey as a fishkeeper in the UAE.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

Biden under pressure to confront Iran

UAE CONDEMNS TERRORIST STRIKE ON US BASE NEAR JORDAN-SYRIA BORDER

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden faced mounting political pressure yesterday to retaliate against Iran for a deadly drone strike on US troops, posing a major challenge for the Democrat in an election year.

Striking Iran would dramatically escalate the risk of the wider war Biden says he's trying to avoid – not to mention the possibility of more US caskets coming home in the months before polls open.

But with Republicans urging the 81-year-old to "hit Iran", Biden can ill afford to portray weakness against Tehran as he struggles with low approval ratings ahead of a likely rematch with Donald Trump.

"He's under tremendous pressure – the administration's in a kind of a lose-lose situation," Colin Clarke, research director at the Soufan Center in New York, said.

The White House yesterday promised a "very consequential" answer to the attack on a base in Jordan on Sunday that killed three US troops, the first to die in hostile action since the

start of the Israel-Hamas war on October 7.

Biden himself said "we shall respond" during a campaign event at a church in South Carolina, one of a series he's held in recent days as he seeks to kick-start his bid for a second term.

UAE slams attack

The UAE has strongly condemned the terrorist attack. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed its full solidarity with Jordan.

Furthermore, the UAE reaffirmed its strong condemnation of these criminal acts and its permanent rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism aimed at undermining security and stability in contravention of international law. – Agencies

With Republicans urging the 81-year-old to 'hit Iran', Biden can ill afford to portray weakness against Tehran as he struggles with low approval ratings ahead of a likely rematch with Donald Trump.

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Even the dead are not spared by raging Hamas-Israel war in Gaza | P14



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AlUla CEO arrested for money laundering

Al Madani allegedly got deals for firms with personal stake

RIYADH

The head of a tourism and heritage project meant to help establish Saudi Arabia as a global arts hub has been arrested on suspicion of money laundering, authorities announced late Sunday.

Amr Bin Saleh Abdul Rahman Al Madani, chief executive of the Royal Commission for AlUla in the northwestern Medina region, "was arrested for his involvement in crimes of abuse of authority and money laundering", the anti-corruption authority said.



■ Amr Bin Saleh Abdul Rahman Al Madani

Both before and after he assumed his position, Al Madani was allegedly involved in illegally obtaining contracts for a separate company in which he has an ownership stake, a statement said, putting the value of the contracts at around SR207 million (\$55 million).

"Legal procedures are currently being taken against the detainees for prosecution in a court of law, in line with the laws and regulations," the statement said.

The contracts relate to the Kingdom Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy, the statement said.

Showing favours

It said Al Madani also recommended that private company for additional contracts through his work on the commission for AlUla.

After joining the government, Al Madani formally exited the company but maintained his ownership in the company.

– Agencies

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