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Johnson George, General Manager of
UAQ Free Trade Zone, explains

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MOHAMMAD INAUGURATES FNC SESSION

■ On behalf of President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, yesterday opened the second ordinary session of the 18th legislative chapter of the Federal National Council (FNC).

SEE ALSO P4

One woman killed by partner, relative every 10 minutes: UN

Africa had the most
severe toll with 21,700
women killed in 2023

VIENNA

One woman was killed by a partner or relative every 10 minutes worldwide in 2023, the United Nations warned yesterday, stressing that femicides remained at “alarmingly high levels”.

Almost 85,000 women and girls were murdered by people last year, according to a joint re-

port by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UN Women agency published yesterday. Its release coincides with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

51,000 victims

About 60 per cent — or more than 51,000 women and girls — died at the hands of their partner or relative. This equates to 140 women killed per day or one every 10 minutes by those closest to them. Africa had the most severe

toll with 21,700 women killed by someone close to them in 2023. The lowest femicide rates were in Europe (2,300 murders in absolute numbers) and Asia.

Femicides remain “at alarmingly high levels” due to deep-rooted gender inequality and damaging stereotypes. “We must confront and dismantle the gender biases, power imbalances, and harmful norms that perpetuate violence against women,” UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly said in a statement.

— AFP

SEE ALSO P10

Amnesty helps expat meet son for first time

I am speechless,
Indian says after
ending 9-year wait

DUBAI

BY ASHWANI KUMAR
Chief Reporter

An Indian expat stranded in Abu Dhabi has been reunited with his family in Kerala after a nine-year wait, thanks to the UAE amnesty programme and the support of his friends.

“I am speechless,” Vaisakh Surendran told *Gulf News* over phone from Thiruvananthapuram, where he met his son, Ayush, for the first time and was joined by his wife,

Anusha. “I’m relieved. I thank everyone who helped me.”

Surendran, who arrived in the UAE in 2009, started with small-time jobs and saved enough money to start his own business. He got married and became a father in 2015. However, when his business partner backed out and a close relative cheated him financially, Surendran landed in jail and had to fight multiple court cases. He drew strength from his friends and a well-wisher who helped him settle outstanding dues worth Dh40,000. Amid the ongoing amnesty, Surendran was able to regularise his status, obtain an Emirates ID, and secure a new visa.

SEE ALSO P2

SPORT

**I’m probably
more out
than in at
Liverpool,
Salah says
of future | P11**



MIDDLE EAST

**Fresh strikes,
clashes in
Lebanon
after
ceasefire
calls | P9**

Dubai records Dh625 billion in realty deals

BY NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, PROPERTY
SALES ROSE TO A RECORD DH437B

DUBAI

**BY JUSTIN GEORGE
VARGHESE**

Your Money Editor

Dubai’s real estate market saw 188,000 transactions worth Dh625 billion in the year so far, marking a 38 per cent increase in volume and a 23 per cent rise in value compared to 2023. Meanwhile, property sales reached a record Dh437 billion in the emirate, a 33 per cent growth from last year.

The updated figures were released as Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, noted how the strong growth of the real estate sector reflects Dubai’s rapid development and its increasing appeal to businesses, investments, and talent from around the world.

“As part of our commitment to ensuring the sustained progress of government initiatives that reinforce Dubai’s global leadership, I met with Marwan Bin Ghalita, Director General of the Dubai Land Department,

to review the strategic projects of the Dubai Real Estate Sector Strategy 2033 aimed at raising the market’s value to Dh1 trillion,” Shaikh Hamdan said.

During the meeting held at The Executive Office, Shaikh Hamdan also stressed on the need for more real estate projects to meet the demand. Dubai’s secure and stable investment environment, supported by laws and regulations that safeguard investor rights and capital, is a key driver of the sector’s remarkable growth, he said.

Key initiatives

Bin Ghalita shared key initiatives and their focus on integrating advanced technology, and centralising data for investors, advancing the real estate sector by collaborating with stakeholders, strengthening public-private partnerships, and supporting sustainable competition through the adoption of advanced artificial intelligence.

188,000

transactions took place
in Dubai’s real estate
market this year

Identities of Moldovan’s murderers revealed

DUBAI

BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

The Ministry of Interior announced that the relevant security authorities have initiated preliminary investigations with the three perpetrators arrested for the murder of Moldovan national Zvi Kogan in preparation for referring them to the Public Prosecution for further investigation.

The authorities revealed the identities of the three perpetrators, all of whom are Uzbek nationals, as follows: Olimboy Tohirovich (28), Makhmudjon Abdurakhim (28) and Azizbek Kamilovich (33).

The Ministry emphasised the commitment of the security authorities to swiftly take the necessary actions to uncover the details, circumstances, and motives of the crime.

It praised the effectiveness of the security agencies and their rapid response, which led to the identification and arrest of the perpetrators in a short period.

The Ministry also commended the authorities’ competence in addressing attempts to undermine the security and stability of the UAE society.

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