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Meet school bus
driver who is
now a stage star



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UN vote stresses
urgent need for
Gaza ceasefire



BUSINESS | P5

Dubai's 3-day
retail sale: Get up
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ENTERTAINMENT | P16

STEVE MARTIN ON HIS
'MANY OCTOPUS ARMS'



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15,000

jobs affected by
Tuesday's collapse of
Francis Scott Key Bridge
in Baltimore

140,000

jobs dependent on
Baltimore port activity

\$3 billion

claims faced by insurers
following the accident

11.3m

vehicles handled by the
bridge in a year

\$28 billion

annual value of goods
handled by bridge

It's difficult to say
how long it will
take before any port
operations resume
as officials need to
remove bridge debris
and the 984-foot Dali
from the river.

COST OF THE COLLAPSE

THE 2.5KM BRIDGE
IN BALTIMORE
COLLAPSED
IN A MATTER
OF SECONDS. THE
CATASTROPHIC
CONSEQUENCES
ARE SET TO
STRETCH OUT
FOR WEEKS

FULL REPORT P11



UAE mulls golden business licences

Valid for 10 years,
move aims to spur
business activities,
boost revenues

ABU DHABI

BY KHITAM ALAMIR
Chief News Editor

The UAE is considering the
introduction of long-term
business licences, includ-
ing 10-year golden licences
and five-year silver licences,
aiming to boost government
revenues, stimulate business
activities and foster sustainable
growth and prosperity in the
country.

The proposal to introduce
new regulations for trade li-
cences in the country was
discussed during the inaugu-
ral 2024 meeting of the Eco-
nomic Integration Commit-
tee, which was held yesterday.

Chaired by Abdulla Bin
Touq Al Marri, Minister of
Economy, the meeting was
attended by Dr. Thani Bin
Ahmad Al Zeyoudi, Minister
of State for Foreign Trade, as
well as representatives from
all emirates' economic de-
velopment departments. The
discussion focused on en-
hancing economic initiatives
and fostering collaboration.

New regulations

The committee mulled the
introduction of the new reg-
ulations for trade and busi-
ness activities in the country,
including the issuance of a

five-year silver licence and a
10 -year golden license, both
priced competitively.

These measures aim to bol-
ster government revenues,
stimulate business continuity,
and help business activities
economic growth and pros-
perity in alignment with the
"We are the UAE 2031" vision.

Additionally, the committee
reviewed the progress made in
implementing the outcomes
of its inaugural 2024 meeting
held in February.

Bin Touq emphasised that
the UAE's flexible and com-
petitive economic policies,
guided by the wise leadership,
have fostered a conducive en-
vironment for businesses and
economic ventures. This ap-
proach has attracted a diverse
array of opportunities and fa-
cilitators for entrepreneurs,
investors, and capital owners
globally. As a result, the coun-
try has witnessed a remark-
able increase in the number
of companies, surpassing
788,000 by the end of 2023,
along with a growth in foreign
direct investment inflows.

Bin Touq emphasised
that the UAE's flexible
and competitive
economic policies,
guided by the wise
leadership, have
fostered a conducive
environment for
businesses and
economic ventures.

Every water bottle you discard at DXB gets a brand new lease of life

They are recycled
into T-shirts as part
of the airport's waste
management drive

DUBAI

BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

Dubai International Airport
(DXB) has long estab-
lished itself as the world's
busiest airport. The day is not
far when it could well be the
most sustainable too.

It has installed a
15,000-panel solar energy
system, the largest at any Mid-
dle Eastern airport, and its
waste diversion strategies in-
clude separation of recyclables
at source, on-site composting
of organic materials, and close
collaboration with stakehold-

ers to ensure highly effective
waste management. In fact, it
has the distinction of having
achieved a 60 per cent reduc-
tion in waste sent to landfills.

700,000 half litre plastic
bottles collected per month

In what is an unlikely ini-
tiative, it also recycles plastic

The transition to
reusable drinking
bottles will take time,
said a Dubai Airports
spokesperson,
adding that the
airport receives
many passengers
from countries where
reusable bottles are
still not prevalent.

bottles discarded by passen-
gers at security check points
into highly usable T-shirts. And the number is not small.

As a spokesperson from
Dubai Airports told *Gulf News*,
"We collect on average of
700,000 half litre plastic bot-
tles per month, the majority of
which is generated at our se-
curity touch points through-
out the airport."

Despite the best efforts to
discourage use of plastic bot-
tles, the transition to reus-
able drinking bottles will take
time, said the spokesperson,
adding that the airport re-
ceives many passengers from
countries where reusable bot-
tles are still not prevalent.

Now, how the discarded
plastic bottles are collected and
converted into yarn for T-shirts
makes for a sustainable story.

FULL REPORT ON P2



SPORT

Klaasen fires
unbeaten 80
as Hyderabad
beat Mumbai
in IPL | P12

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