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NATION | P3

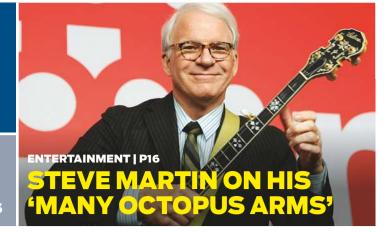
Meet school bus driver who is now a stage star



UN vote stresses urgent need for Gaza ceasefire



BUSINESS | P5 Dubai's 3-day retail sale: Get up to 95% discounts



A B C AB G



Ramadan Special Offer'



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

140,0

jobs dependent on Baltimore port activity

billion

claims faced by insurers following the accident

vehicles handled by the bridge in a year

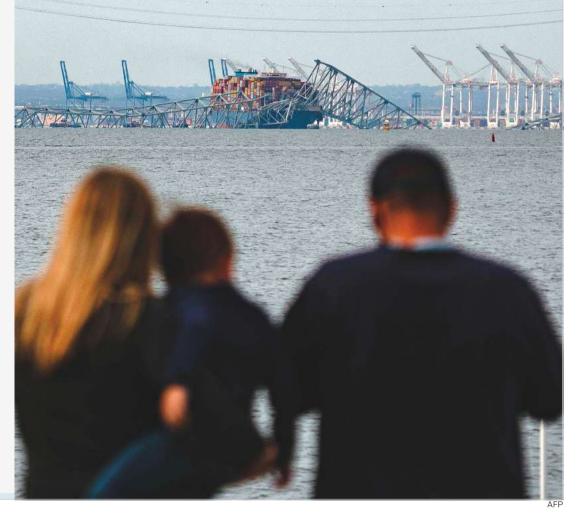
annual value of goods handled by bridge

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 AL AMIR Chief News Editor

The UAE is considering the introduction of long-term business licences, including 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 licences in the country was discussed during the inaugural 2024 meeting of the Economic Integration Committee, 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 development departments. The discussion focused on enhancing economic initiatives and fostering collaboration.

New regulations

The committee mulled the introduction of the new regulations for trade and business 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 bolster government revenues, stimulate business continuity, and help business activities economic growth and prosperity 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 competitive economic policies, guided by the wise leadership, have fostered a conducive environment for businesses and economic ventures. This approach has attracted a diverse array of opportunities and facilitators for entrepreneurs, investors, and capital owners globally. As a result, the country has witnessed a remarkable 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**

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

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

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waste management. In fact, it has the distinction of having achieved a 60 per cent reduction in waste sent to landfills.

ers to ensure highly effective

700,000 half litre plastic bottles collected per month

In what is an unlikely initiative, 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 passengers 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 bottles per month, the majority of which is generated at our security touch points throughout the airport."

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

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

FULL REPORT ON P2



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

