



QUICK VIEW

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

After the 70 per cent salary increase for all Federal Government employees, many of us cannot apply for the [marriage] grant. But prices have gone up and it is still very expensive to get married."

Ahmad Obaid Emirati speaking about how people are taking loans to get married as the salary increase makes them ineligible for the marriage grant.

AUCTIONS

F 98 licence plate sells for Dh2.4m

Staff Report

Dubai After feverish bidding for number plate F 98, the winner walked away with the plate for Dh2.4 million. The plate was sold at an auction conducted by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA).

Two other numbers which excited the bidders were 74, which sold for Dh2.14 million and number 81, which fetched Dh2.12 million.

The auction netted Dh25.5 million. There were 300 bidders for 106 special two, three, four and five-digit numbers of D, E, and F categories.

Bidders also eyed three-digit numbers 800, 900 and 110 of category F, sold for a total of Dh2.7 million.

This was the first of the series of auctions to be organised by the RTA this year.

Green buildings offer clean life

ARCHITECT EXTOLS BENEFITS OF SKYSCRAPERS THAT CREATE LOW CARBON FOOTPRINT

LEGENDARY TUNES



Santana rocks Dubai fans

Rock music legend Carlos Santana played to a sell-out crowd of 15,000 fans at Festival City in Dubai last night. Santana displayed his unique guitar style and blended with his ensemble while conducting his large band which included two drummers, a keyboard player and a pair on the horns. Santana showed that he wasn't holding him back, which went down well with a crowd that was mostly older generation.

More pictures on www.gulfnews.com/nation

By EMMANUELLE LANDAIS
Staff Reporter

Dubai Maintaining clean air and lower pollution levels could benefit developers of skyscrapers to attract visitors, investors and residents, a tall buildings design expert has said.

"The tallest building in the world would probably not be able to qualify for the highest rank in sustainable developments, but technology exists now to give skyscrapers as low carbon footprint as possible," said David Scott, chairman of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat and a principal at Arup, an international engineering design firm.

Environmentally friendly standards in designing tall buildings will contribute to keeping panoramic views visible at staggering heights clear, as a smoggy day can quickly make them worthless, said Scott, who was recently in Dubai ahead of the eighth Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat Congress, *Tall and Green: Typology for a Sustainable Urban Future* which will be held in early March.

Whilst calling Dubai's skyline 'very exciting', Scott emphasised the value of clean air. "In a city it is very fortunate to have clean air. I've been here several times and I've never seen it so clear," he said last Wednesday.

"A 300-metre tall building could achieve platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) but it needs a lot of hard work. These buildings occupy a lot of valuable real estate space and they

WHEN

Conference to be held in March

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat Congress will be held from March 3 to 5 in Dubai. For more information visit www.ctbuh.org

- E.L.

need to integrate a transport system," said Scott.

"When developers realise it is in their best interest to create clean air and an environment that promotes it, changes will happen in tall buildings. Large financial institutions will force developers to think about energy use," he said.

"Eventually they will need to know how green a building is and what its energy consumption is and get it audited to see if buildings are using less energy. We need to create that competition. Tenants will create a demand for sustainable buildings that uses less energy," Scott told *Gulf News*.

"Cities like London and New York have a wide urban fabric with buildings made by architects and materials that went in and out of fashion. In today's environment we have different architects and types of materials that can be used efficiently and in an interesting way," he said.

"Looking at Dubai: there are a lot of cool things going on with shaded spaces. The Dubai Municipality building is a good example of a sustainable development with windows protected from the sun," Scott said.

Post box charge hike upsets small businesses

Annual fee shoots up from Dh250 to Dh500 and renewal rates increase 100% to Dh200

By RAYEESA ABSAL
Staff Reporter

Abu Dhabi Small businesses are being hit hard after a 100 per cent increase in charges for post boxes by Emirates Post, owners said.

The charges have shot up from Dh250 to Dh500 this year and have angered

many customers. These charges are paid annually and apply to businesses.

"This is frustrating because we run a small business with only four people and can hardly keep up with our monthly phone bills. Now we have this," said Abdul Rasheed, a Sharjah-based businessman.

"This is unacceptable. How can they increase the charges 100 per cent in one go? The costs of most products and services are increasing steadily.

"This is yet another blow to our budget," M.L, a manager of an Abu Dhabi travel agency said. The renewal charge for boxes has also

gone up from Dh100 to Dh200.

"We had to increase charges to cover our costs for the services we provide," said a spokesperson for Emirates Post.

"We also plan to introduce new services. He said the last time the charges were increased was in 1985.

BRIEFS

SCHOLARSHIP

UAE mission sets up e-gate for students

Canberra The Cultural section in the UAE Consulate in Australia launched an electronic gate for UAE scholarship students, sent by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to universities in Australia and New Zealand. This is carried out in line with the UAE government's strategy in developing quality services for students abroad and offering swift information via the internet.

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CHARITY

Campaign held to support Gazans

Sharjah Students with the Palestinian Cultural Club at the American University of Sharjah recently held a charity campaign to support the people of Gaza. Donations were delivered to the Red Crescent Authority. "We are really happy with the amount of money we managed to raise during the campaign. We also collected more than 20 boxes of clothes. There is actually no room left in the club's office," said Jafra Allan, chemical engineering major and vice-president of the club.

- Compiled from WAM & staff report