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A quarterly Magazine issued by the Department of Seaports and Customs-Sharjah

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## Sultan Al Qasimi opens 35th Edition of Sharjah International Book Fair

## DSPC Participates in GITEX 2016

## Director of DSPC Receives Head of Masarat Centre for Development and Empowerment

## Shurooq Launches Al Badayer Desert Camp Project







Issue 89 Desember 2016 - February 2017





# Editorial

Within two days a Customs delegation from the GCC States visited the Department of Seaports and Customs in order to be acquainted with how the mechanism of direct transfer of the customs duties is implemented in Sharjah Customs.

The importance of the visit was not because it was the first of a GCC Customs delegation to Sharjah Customs, for it has been preceded by other visits, but it has accomplished its objectives successfully. The delegation has resolved that Sharjah Customs is the best in implementing this system on the level of the UAE and across the GCC States.

This is another plus point accounted for the Department of Seaports and Customs by the testimony of the Arabian Gulf brothers. A matter that can't be concluded without many factors that figured out the success. The most prominent are the good handling of the system, the cooperation with other enforcement partners and the exemplary available infrastructure for transportation and communication with excellent logistic services that benefit traders, exporters and customs administrations and enhance the inter-commerce of the GCC States.

Editor



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## **Sultan Al Qasimi** **opens 35th Edition of Sharjah** **International Book Fair**



Under the Theme "Raed More", His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, inaugurated the 35th edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair, SIBF, on the second of November 2016 and lasted until the 21th of November.





**I**t hosted 1,681 publishing houses from 60 countries, which amply justifies this year's theme Read More. More than 1.5 million titles were displayed from participating publishers during the event.

Gassan Salame, who served as Lebanon's minister of culture from (2000 to 2003), was honoured as this year's SIBF Cultural Personality of the Year.

Salame said Shaikh Sultan was "the lighthouse of culture between east and west", who transformed Sharjah into "a capital of culture and Arab identity" while dispelling stereotypes of Arabs.

Dr. Salameh went on to address, "the current painful situation where many of our brothers and sisters throughout the Arab world suffer from painful events which cause pain physically and mentally."

He said: "we should reflect what each of us can do to raise the voice of peace and moderation, and call with all our voices for peace and prosperity for them."

Sheikh Sultan signed the Arabic copy of his book 'Power Struggles and Trade in the Gulf (1620-1820)'. The book discusses trade in the Gulf region over a period of 200 years and chronicles the struggles between Persian powers and other key players in the region over commerce. The proceeds of the book will go to the Big Heart Foundation, which has been launched by H.H. Sheikh Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, wife of H.H. the Ruler of Sharjah.

He then awarded the winners of various literary categories of SIBF. The Etisalat Award for Arab Children's Literature, 'Excuse Me, Give Me Away' by Nabiha Mheidli, won the AED 300,000 Children's Book of the Year, while 'Screams Behind Doors' by Rania Hussien Amin scooped the Young Adult Book of the Year award worth AED200,000. The Best Text Award went to 'I Want to Be a Turtle' by writer Amal Farah while 'Boulqash', authored and illustrated by Yara Bamiya, won the Best Production award valued at AED 100,000. The Best Illustration award went to 'The Blue Lake of Questions', written by Maya Abu Al Hayyat.

In his keynote address, Ahmed bin Rakkad Al Ameri, Chairman of Sharjah Book Authority, SBA, referred to the impact of the book fair on the UAE, the Arab region and the wider world.

"There is no better word to describe Sharjah International Book Fair than 'Passion'. This is because the Ruler of Sharjah has inspired and guided us to love books. Today, we are celebrating the opening of SIBF's 35th edition, putting our imprint on the history of Arab and world cultures. Through this

regionally and international acclaimed fair, we are telling the story of our deeply rooted and rich civilisation," Al Ameri said. He also announced the launch of the AED2 million Sharjah translation award called Turjuman, an international award for translation and authorship.

"The launch of the Turjuman Award is in line with the directives of Sheikh Sultan to promote the translation of innovative global literary works that reflect unique human intellectual and cultural outputs. The award aims to promote a flourishing translation movement, moving human intellectual work freely across linguistic and cultural boundaries," Al Ameri said.

SIBF has allocated a special stand for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO, which has been selected this year's SIBF Guest of Honour for its efforts in promoting education and culture in countries affected by war, conflict and natural disasters. UNESCO will present a rich cultural programme at the book fair highlighting its shared interests with Sharjah, the capital of Arab and Islamic culture.

Following the official opening of SIBF 2016, the Ruler of Sharjah honoured Etisalat, the official sponsor of SIBF, and its CEO Saleh Al Abdooli.

An array of cultural personalities and distinguished luminaries are taking part in SIBF 2016, including renowned Egyptian actor Ezzat Al Alaili, Algerian poet and novelist Ahlam Mosteghanemi, Egyptian television presenter Mofeed Fawzy, Saudi poet Dr. Mohammed Al Muqrin, Palestinian poet Ibrahim Nasrallah, Iraqi researcher and writer Rasheed Al Khyoun, Lebanese writer Charbel Dagher, Algerian novelist Wasini Al Araj, Emirati poet, novelist and conceptual artist Sheikhha Maysoun Al Qasimi, Kuwaiti TV presenter Amal Abdullah and Moroccan poet and writer Abdennour Mezzine.

Sheikh Khaled bin Abdullah bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of Department of Seaports & Customs was among many other dignitaries who attended the opening ceremony of the Book Fair. ▼

## Chairman of DSPC Receives a Customs Officer



**S**heikh Khaled bin Abdullah bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Seaports and Customs recently received at his office the Senior Customs Inspector Mohammed Ali Yahya Al Naqbi- Khorfakkan Customs Centre.

Present were HE Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarrah, Director of the department and several Directors of Customs Centres in the Emirate of Sharjah.

Sheikh Khaled praised the customs officer. The Chairman praised the efforts of customs officers, for their exceptional accomplishments, dedicated efforts and loyalty especially the honoured inspector as good example to be followed by all staffs of the Department. ▼

## Director of DSPC Receives Head of Masarat Centre for Development and Empowerment







His Excellency Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarrah, Director of Department of Seaports and Customs (DSPC) recently received Mr. Saeed Butti Hadeed, Head of Masarat Centre for Development and Empowerment (Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services - HCHS) and the accompanying delegation. The visit came in the course of the outstanding cooperation between DSPC and HCHS and to achieve the vision of HCHS in preparing and enabling persons of special needs to integrate in the community and to further enhance social partnership. The Director of DSPC also presented certificates of apperception to the trainees who participated in special training programmes at Sharjah Customs. ▼



## Sharjah Seaports and Customs celebrates The 45th National Day

Within the celebrations of the nation commemorating the foundation of the Union, the Department of Seaports and Customs (DSPC) celebrated the 45th anniversary of the National Day of the United Arab Emirates. Prior to the celebrations, the staff of the Department and its administrations, Ports and Customs Centres marked the Flag Day Ceremonies at their premises.

The Headquarters of the Department at Al Layyah, Customs Centres premises and facilities observed the national day by decorating the buildings and hanging the flags of the United Arab Emirates. The staff of the Department expressed their joy and extended their sincerest congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai and His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the

Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah and the Rulers of the Emirates and people of the UAE.

They proudly reviewed the unprecedented great achievements in Political, Economical, Commercial, Humanitarian, Cultural and Educational fields, all of which is attributed to the visionary leadership of the country. Several members of staff expressed their pleasure at the 45th National Day wishing more progress and prosperity to the people of the United Arab Emirates.

The DSPC also distributed gifts on the prestigious celebration to each and every employee of the department. ▼



## DSPC Staff Pay Tribute to Martyrs of the Nation



The staff of the Department of Seaports and Customs (DSPC) observed the second anniversary of the UAE Martyr's Day on November 30th 2016.

They gathered at the entrance of the Department's building to mark the event and paid tribute with great sense of gratitude and respect to those who sacrificed their lives for a noble cause and dignity of the nation.

At 11:00 a.m., HE Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarrah, Director of DSPC along with the staff, observed a one minute silence during which the UAE Flag was half-masted to commemorate the event. Al Sarrah raised the Flag high as the staff lifted their hands in supplication asking Allah to provide mercy on the souls of the martyrs and keep away our beloved Emirates free from all evils.

In attendance were Mr. Rashid Khamis Al Suwaidi, Director of HR Section and Mr. Ahmed Salem Al Suwaidi, Manager of Ports Traffic Section, Mr. Hamdan Al Hudaidi, Director of Purchasing & Foreign Contracts and staff of the department. ▼

## Department of Seaports & Customs Observes the Flag Day

Under the Slogan "Raise it High, Raise it Proud" and at **11:00** on the **3rd** November **2016**, the United Arab Emirates Flag was hoisted high at the Department of Seaports and Customs synonymously with celebrations of the Flag Day across the country.







The UAE Flag-Day marks the day His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan was elected President of the UAE. The occasion is held in response to the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai who called to raise the Flag of the UAE in various entities concurrently at on 3rd of November.

The staff of Sharjah Ports and Customs gathered at the entrance of the Department's building to mark the event. HE Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman, Director of the Department, together with Mr. Rashid Khamis Al Suwaidi, Director of HR Section, Mr. Ahmed Salem Al Suwaidi, Manager of Ports Traffic Section, Mr. Abdullah Houkal, Head of Customs Clearance section and the staff of the department and several Customs officers hoisted high the Flag of our beloved country.

Marking the national event, several customs officers of Creek Customs Centre distributed Flags of the United Arab Emirate on vessels and Dhows at the creek of Sharjah. Similarly, other group of customs officers distributed flags of the UAE to the drivers on vehicles near the headquarters of the Department who expressed their happiness on the occasion.

All Customs Centres observed hoisting of the United Arab Flag on the in their premises. ▼



## A GCC Delegation Visits Sharjah Customs



In the course of ongoing constructive cooperation among the GCC States, a GCC Customs delegation visited the Department of Seaports and Customs on November 9th.



The visit which has lasted for two days came to better know how the direct transfer of customs duty system works.

The Delegation included members of GCC Customs Information Center, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Customs, Sultanate of Oman Customs, State of Qatar Customs, State of Kuwait Customs and Kingdom of Bahrain Customs in addition to representatives from the UAE Federal Customs Authority. In the first day of the visit, Mr. Yaqoub





Ghabish, Director of Hamriyah Customs Centre received and welcomed the GCC delegation and a session was held in which Sharjah Customs also participated. Later on, the delegation visited the customs clearance department of the centre and was acquainted with the clearance procedures of goods imported or exported to and from GCC states as well as the system adopted therein by Sharjah Customs.

In the second session held, Mrs Dr. Nadia Idreess/ in-charge of internal Editing section/ Sharjah Customs, replied to the questions of the delegation and presented an overview of the procedures followed by Sharjah Customs in collecting and clearing customs dues for the behalf GCC States or Sharjah Customs which is considered the best in applying the system in the UAE. On the second day of the visit, Sharjah Customs held the final session with the visitors at Al Barajeel Hall, Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Raissee, Director of Khatm Melaha Customs Centre welcomed the delegation and praised their efforts in improving customs business for the behalf of public interest of the GCC countries. They conducted a final session in which they discussed the result of the previous day visit of the Hamriyah Customs Centre and the direct transfer of customs duty mechanism.

At the end of the meeting the delegates expressed their satisfaction on the way Sharjah Customs are handling the duty transfer system. They praised the efforts of Sharjah Customs in particular and the UAE Federal Customs Authority in general.

The mechanism was implemented upon a UAE initiative to facilitate the GCC States' inter- trade.

The final session was attended by Mrs.

Safa Sultan, Director of Governmental Communication (DSPC), Jasim Humaid, Director of SAIF Zone Customs Centre, Hassan Dimas, Director of Passenger Customs Centre-Sharjah International Airport, Sultan Tarish, Director of Sharjah Customs Centre, Jarsh Mohammed bin Jarsh, Director of Creek Customs Centre, Khalid bin Samnoh, Director of Container Customs Centre Abdulla Mahmoud Al Hammadi Assistant -Director of Khorfakkan Customs Centre and several customs officers and staff of Sharjah Customs. The Gulf Cooperation Council for Arab Countries of the Arabian Gulf was established in Riyadh (KSA) in 1981 between Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain and the KSA due to strong relations, common destiny and common goals that bring them together. The Common Customs Law of the GCC States is one of the most vital products of the GCC which is aiming at unification of customs laws and procedures of all customs authorities in state members and to strengthen customs relations among them.▼

# DSPC Participates in GITEX 2016

For the third year in a row, the Department of Seaports and Customs (DSPC) has participated in the 36th session of GITEX 2016 which was held at Dubai Trade Centre for the period 16- 20 October 2016.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, opened the exhibition on October 16 2016.





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he pavilion of the Department of Seaports and Customs was within the wing of the government of Sharjah which included 27 government departments set on leveraging state-of-the-art technological tools and standards to position the Emirate of Sharjah as a leader in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) innovation. Sharjah Government departments have introduced 100 electronic services and smart applications which demonstrated the latest services renders to the public, customers and establishments. By these services the departments are seeking solutions and applications that facilitates procedures and reduces time consumption for their customers.

The participation of DSPC came in line with the directions of His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah to employ all resources to provide reliable and accessible governmental e-service. The participation was also supported by Sheikh Khaled bin Abdullah bin Sultan Al Qasimi , Chairman of the Department and Seaports and Customs and the outstanding encouragement of Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarrah, Director of DSPC to the staff of IT section to upgrade applications and electronic solutions.

Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Chairman of Sharjah Media Centre visited the pavilion of the department and was acquainted with the e-services of the department.



Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Director General of E-Government Department, Brigadier Saif Al Zari Al Shamsi, General Commander of Sharjah Police also visited the pavilion and acquainted with customs clearance, cargo inspection and other ports e-services.

HE Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarrah, Director of the Department of Seaports & Customs also visited the stand.

DSPC's participation was represented by Abdul Wahid Al Ajmani, web technician, Majed Yaqoub Al Ramsi, system analyst, Abudllah Al Mazimi, Senior Customs Officer and Thomas John, programmer who acquainted the visitors with the e-services of the department. ▼



# Shurooq Launches Al Badayer Desert Camp Project

**T**he Sharjah Investment and development Authority (Shurooq) has commenced the implementation of Al Badayer Desert Camp project, valued at Dh45 million, which it aims to build into one of its premium leisure and adventure destinations in Sharjah.

The Al Badayer Desert Camp project includes an array of amenities and facilities, including its urban resort, desert lodge, restaurant and cafés. A main feature is its amphitheatre which will host live activities and multiple entertainment events. Additional facilities also include a mosque, recreational tents, shops, kiosks, turrets and shaded parking areas for cars and buses. The project is a 40-minute-drive away from the city of Sharjah and once completed will give visitors the opportunity to explore the wilderness.

"Al Badayer Desert Camp is one of Shurooq's foremost desert and leisure tourism projects in the UAE, said Marwan Bin Jassem Al Sarkal, CEO of the Sharjah Investment and Development Authority. "Its importance stems from the fact that it is located within one of Sharjah's and UAE's most popular locations, where Al Badayer is renowned for being a premium destination for desert adventurers, 4x4 enthusiasts and multiple safari tour providers. By providing such an array of amenities and state-of-the-art

facilities adjacent to this unique location, we aim to promote tourism in the middle region of Sharjah and across the emirate in general."

Shurooq is developing several leisure and tourist ventures in Sharjah, the most recent of which is the Maleeha Archaeological and Eco-tourism project which was launched at the beginning of this year. ▼









## **Air Arabia** confirms options for five **Airbus A320s**

Air Arabia, the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier, recently announced that it has confirmed options for five additional Airbus A320 aircraft. The delivery of original contract covering 44 firm orders and 5 options will be completed in 2017.





**T**he five new Airbus A320 aircraft will be put into service starting second quarter 2017 backlog and have a book value of USD485 million. These new aircraft will join Air Arabia's expanding fleet of Airbus A320 aircraft currently serving over 120 routes from five operational hubs. "We are pleased to confirm the options for five additional Airbus A320s. Air Arabia's fleet innovation sits at the heart of the airline operational efficiency" said Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia. "Today, we operate one of the youngest fleets in the world and this approach will continue to drive our fleet growth strategy for the future. Our customers can expect the same cabin comfort and spacious seat configuration with the new five aircraft joining the fleet".

Air Arabia currently operates a fleet of 46 Airbus A320 aircraft offering flights to over 120 destinations in 33 countries from five hubs across the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Air Arabia has been constantly rewarded over the past years with the A320 Family Operational Excellence Award by Airbus for achieving the highest level of A320 family aircraft utilization in the world with 99.8 per cent operational reliability. In 2010, the carrier set a new world record achieving 30,000 flight hours in just six years with one of its CFM565-B-powered A320 aircraft.

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The A320 Family, which includes the A318, A319, A320 and A321, is recognized as the benchmark single-aisle aircraft family in the world. ▼







