

He'd like a word with you ...

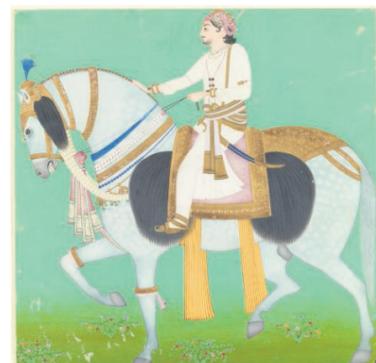
As Prince of Poets returns to TV screens, meet the man whose life's work is studying Emirati dialects

Disaster makes me stronger

Martin Kaymer puts his Abu Dhabi nightmare behind him and looks forward to the Dubai Desert Classic

It started with a Canaletto

Collector and filmmaker James Ivory explains how he discovered the world of Indian miniatures



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No cash to repair homes in Gaza

Hardly any of Dh20bn pledged aid has been paid

GAZA // There is no money to rebuild homes in Gaza devastated by Israel's 50-day war.

Virtually none of the US\$5.4 billion, nearly Dh20bn, pledged at an aid conference in Cairo last October has been paid, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said yesterday. "This is distressing and unacceptable," the United Nations Relief and Works Agency said. "It is unclear why this funding has not been forthcoming."

Nearly 2,200 Palestinians died and more than 100,000 homes were destroyed or damaged during the conflict last summer.

The ceasefire that halted the fighting would be in jeopardy if rebuilding work were to stall, and more lives put at risk in freezing winter temperatures, the agency said yesterday.

"Halting reconstruction will have dangerous consequences. By delaying payment of money for reconstruction the donors are putting the ceasefire in danger," spokesman Adnan Abu Hasna said.

Hamas, the militant group that controls Gaza, said a delay would "aggravate the plight of thousands of families" and urged the agency to put pressure on donors to honour their pledges.

Gaza, continued on 15 →

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FRUITS OF SUCCESS

Demand for home-grown produce is surging and farmers are fighting to keep up, **a8**

OBAMA IN RIYADH

US president meets new king Salman and offers condolences on death of his predecessor, **a10**

18TH TIME LUCKY ...

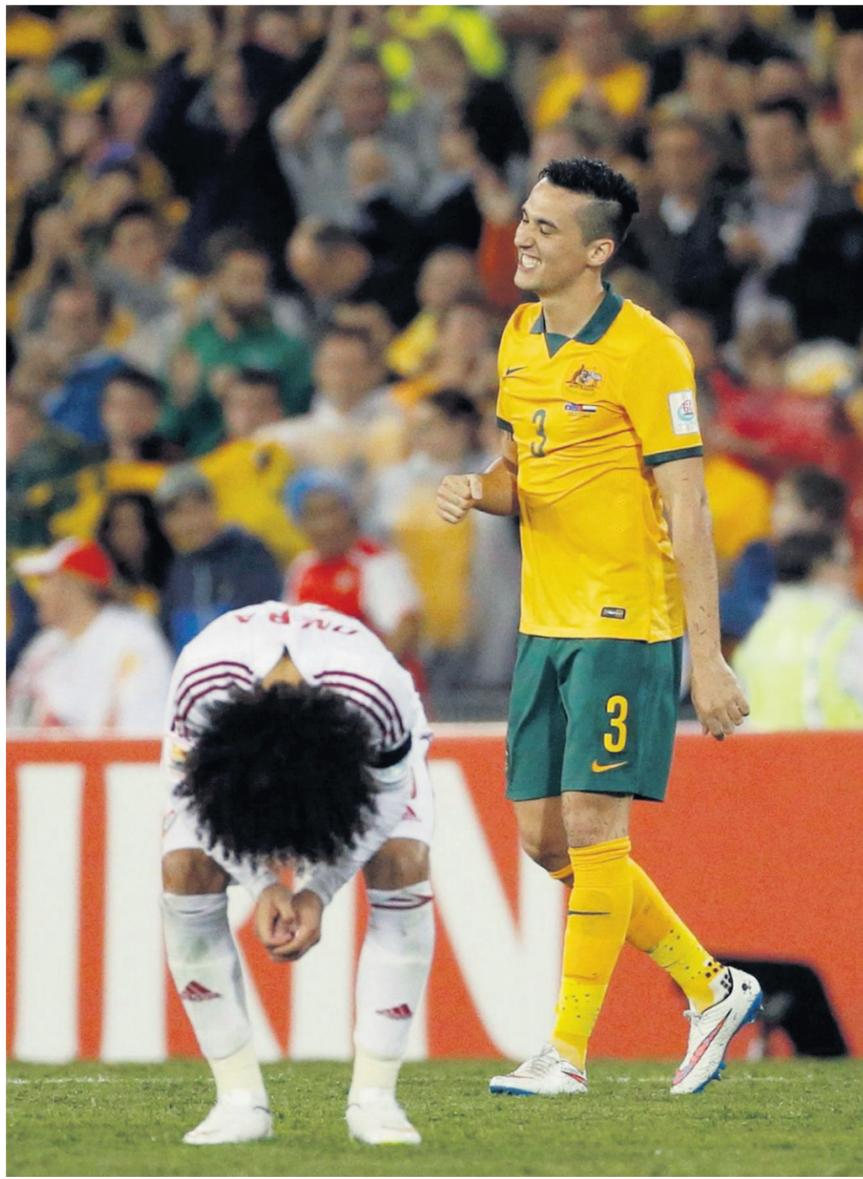
After 17 attempts, Berdych beats Nadal to set up Australian Open semi-final against Murray, **s7**

FLYING HIGHER

Dubai Airport aims for 79 million passengers this year after topping Heathrow as world's busiest, **b1**

ONLINE VIDEO

UAE football fans in full voice Down Under



Triumph and disaster: Australian goalscorer Jason Davidson is jubilant but Omar Abdulrahman is desolate at the end of yesterday's match in Newcastle, New South Wales. Edgar Su / Reuters

Hold your head up high, Omar, you did us proud

UAE show how to lose a football match with dignity

Ali Khaled

NEWCASTLE // When the final whistle blew, he bowed down and held his head in his hands.

Star midfielder Omar Abdulrahman, like his UAE teammates, was devastated at losing 2-0 to Australia yesterday in the semi-final of the Asian Cup.

He need not have been. When the pain passes, as it will, this team will realise they have done themselves proud, they

have done their country proud – and in Abdulrahman they had probably the player of the tournament.

After knocking out Japan, the holders and Cup favourites, the UAE took to the field in Newcastle with their spirits high.

But you don't hand a two-goal start to Australia – the tournament hosts, who also competed in last year's World Cup finals in Brazil – and expect to get away with it.

Two down after only 14 minutes, the UAE competed to the point of exhaustion, but it was never going to be enough.

"It was very difficult to get back into the game. This affected us a lot. We tried our

best but it was not easy," said coach Mahdi Ali. "Our big dream was to get the title, since the beginning of this competition that has never happened for the UAE.

"But this is football and you have to come back, and work hard in the future."

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Sport The UAE are out but not down, **s1, s3**

Editorial Defeat, but they enhanced reputation, **a20**

FNC given conflicting views on abuse

Calls for a new law but social ministry urges caution

Ola Salem

DUBAI // FNC members heard conflicting views yesterday on the thorny issue of domestic violence and how to tackle it.

Staff at the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children told

them a new law was needed to define people's rights, train the police and give judges the power to deal with offenders.

Afra Al Basti, an FNC member for Dubai and head of the foundation, said a new law was critical. "Violence can end in death. Wadeema was killed as a result of violence that reached that point. We have a problem, we don't want to wait for other countries to tell us this."

Wadeema, an Emirati girl who died of abuse at the hands

of her father and his girlfriend, spurred the FNC to pass the Child Rights Law.

Ghaneema Al Bahari, the foundation's care and rehabilitation director, said a law would give the foundation teeth and ensure security officials were trained to deal with such cases.

But officials at the Ministry of Social Affairs said legislation was difficult without a legal definition of domestic abuse.

FNC, continued on 5 →

Ban on airlines flying to Baghdad

- Shots fired at FlyDubai jet as it landed
- Iraq envoy told of UAE's 'grave concern'
- ISIL may be to blame, expert says

Nadeem Hanif

DUBAI // Civil aviation chiefs yesterday ordered UAE airlines to halt all flights to Baghdad after a passenger jet came under small-arms fire as it landed in the Iraqi capital.

The Iraqi ambassador was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be told of the UAE's grave concern, amid fears that the FlyDubai plane may have been attacked by ISIL militants.

The undersecretary at the ministry, Mohammed Al Raisi, demanded that the Iraqi authorities launch a full investigation. Iraq must take measures to enforce international agreements on civil aviation safety and provide the required guarantees and protection, Mr Al Raisi told the ambassador, Muwaffaq Abboud.

The incident happened on Monday as FlyDubai flight FZ 215, with 154 passengers on board, made its approach to Baghdad airport, which is about 16 kilometres west of the city centre.

After the plane landed investigators found "damage to the aircraft fuselage consistent with small-arms fire", the

airline said yesterday. No one was injured, passengers disembarked as usual and a replacement aircraft made the return flight to Dubai.

"An investigation is under way to establish what happened," FlyDubai said.

In response to the attack the General Civil Aviation Authority banned all flights to Baghdad and FlyDubai, Emirates and Etihad Airways immediately complied. Emirates' other services to Iraq, to Erbil and Basra, would continue as normal, a spokesman said.

Theodore Karasik, a defence expert at Risk Insurance Management in Dubai, said it could be weeks before Baghdad International Airport was secure enough for flights to resume.

"We don't know for sure but the attack may be linked to Daesh or their sympathisers in some way," he said.

"In Iraq there is continuing fighting between Daesh and Iraqi forces, and there have been reports that the militants have been driven out of Kobani. This attack may be a response to that."

Flights, continued on 2 →

ISIL militants in new threat to hostages

Pilot and journalist 'have less than 24 hours to live'

AMMAN // A Jordanian pilot and a Japanese journalist held captive by ISIL in Syria have less than 24 hours left to live, the militant group warned yesterday.

A video message posted online again demanded the release of Sajida Al Rishawi, an Iraqi woman sentenced to death in Jordan for her involvement in a 2005 hotel bomb attack in Amman that killed 60 people.

The Jordanian pilot, Maaz Al Kassarbeh, was captured on December 24 after his jet crashed on a bombing run in northern Syria.

The journalist, Kenji Goto, has been held by ISIL since last October. They are thought to have

already killed another Japanese hostage, Haruna Yukawa.

Yesterday's message said that unless the Jordanian government freed Al Rishawi within 24 hours, Goto and the pilot would be killed, and this would be ISIL's last message.

Goto has "24 hours left to live and the pilot has even less", the message said.

Lt Kassarbeh, 26, is the first military pilot to fall into the extremists' hands since an international coalition began its aerial campaign against ISIL in September.

Jordan is in indirect talks with ISIL to secure the release of both men, Bassam Al Manaseer, chairman of the foreign affairs committee in Jordan's parliament, said yesterday.

The negotiations are taking place through religious and tribal leaders in Iraq, he said.

★ Associated Press and Bloomberg News

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