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TUESDAY

APRIL 21, 2026
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UNSTOPPABLE UAE SHOWS THE WAY

Schools across the country welcome students back to classrooms

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said students across the UAE have resumed in-person learning in all universities and schools, after the country's education system demonstrated exceptional resilience and full continuity amid recent regional challenges.

Writing on his X account, Sheikh Mohammed said: "Our sons and daughters, the students, resume in-person classes today across all our universities and schools, after our education system proved its exceptional ability to maintain full continuity under the circumstances the region has experienced," he said.

Addressing students, he added: "We are a nation that does not stop at challenges. We are a nation that never stops learning and teaching. We are a nation whose progress does not pause and whose development does not stall."

"We are a nation that believes in you, and builds its future through you, with you, and for you."

Yesterday, schools across the UAE welcomed students back to classrooms as in-person learning resumed following the completion of comprehensive readiness and safety plans.

High safety standards

The Ministry of Education concluded specialised training for all teaching and administrative staff in recent days to ensure a safe and organised transition. Operational arrangements, including school transport services, were implemented under high safety standards to support a smooth return to the daily school routine.

Prior to the reopening, school buildings underwent rigorous safety evaluations to ensure operational readiness.

The ministry also issued detailed security and safety guidelines to raise awareness among students and staff, while focusing on professional and psychological prepared-

Young learners trickled in under a staggered schedule, including siblings starting the day together, at Jumeirah International Nurseries.



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Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

ness to handle various scenarios efficiently. "The first school week has been designed with flexibility to support a smooth and gradual return for students, ensuring they feel stable and reassured," several school administrations noted.

School officials emphasised that families remain "essential partners" in the success of the educational process, maintaining continuous communication with parents during this phase.

SEE ALSO P4, 5

GLOBAL VILLAGE REOPENS TO JOY, FANFARE AND BURSTS OF GOLD CONFETTI

After a month-long closure due to the US-Iran-Israel conflict, Global Village reopened to much joy, fanfare and bursts of gold confetti. The excitement in the air was palpable, with eager visitors queuing from as early as 3:30pm for the 5pm opening.

Even before the gates opened, crowds had gathered and were treated to theatrical performances at the main entrance, the Gate of the World, as residents waited in anticipation. As the clock edged closer to opening time, Dubai Police on white horses greeted visitors as they entered. Many in the crowd waved UAE flags, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. The mascots welcomed tourists and visitors back to Global Village, and also played with children, which was a heartening sight to see.

There are several new features to enjoy this season. Among them is an installation inspired by the Terracotta Warriors, the famous archaeological discovery from Xi'an, China, featuring lifelike clay soldiers with distinct facial features and clothing. Not just this, there is also a floral installation called Garden of The Worlds, which is new for the season, complete with multiple photo opportunities featuring greenery and red roses.

For many vendors, the reopening marks a long-awaited return to business. Rabiya Bilal, who runs a shawl stall (No. 17), did not hold back her



Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

Visitors at season 30 of Global Village which reopened after a month-long pause.

excitement. "I sell Indian shawls, Pakistani shawls and hijabs. I have so many designs, and I'm just so excited to share them," she said. Tourists David Baldwin and his wife, Sharda Dullabh, made sure to visit before their flight the next day. "Well, we came here two years ago, and we will be back next year," said the couple from New Zealand.

— **Lakshana N Palat, Assistant Features Editor and Areeba Hashmi, Reporter**

UAE dismantles Iran-linked terror cell, arrests members



Investigations found that members of the group had adopted extremist ideologies that pose a threat to internal security.

Group had planned to carry out organised terrorist and sabotage operations

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

UAE State Security authorities announced they have dismantled a terrorist cell and arrested its members over alleged involvement in covert activities aimed at undermining national unity and destabilising the country.

According to the statement

carried by Emirates News Agency (WAM), investigations revealed that the group had planned to carry out organised terrorist and sabotage operations on state territory. Authorities said the network was linked to Iran's "Wilayat Al Faqih".

Coordinated plan

Investigations also found that members of the group had adopted extremist ideologies that pose a threat to internal security. They were said to have conducted recruitment and mobilisation activities through secret meetings, as part of a coordinated plan with external entities to gain access to

sensitive sites. Further monitoring and inquiries indicated that members held clandestine meetings both inside and outside the country with suspected terrorist elements and organisations, seeking to spread misleading ideas among Emirati youth and recruit them in support of external loyalties.

The activities also included attempts to incite against the state's foreign policy and internal measures, as well as efforts to portray the country negatively. Authorities added that the group had collected funds through unofficial means and transferred them to suspicious entities abroad.

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US-IRAN TALKS

US President Donald Trump told the *The New York Post* that Vice-President JD Vance and an American delegation were en route to Pakistan and expected to land later in the evening for peace talks with Iran. Tehran had earlier said it would not attend, after the US forcibly seized an Iranian-flagged cargo ship attempting to bypass a naval blockade near the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday. After initial talks in Islamabad ended without a deal, both sides have accused each other of breaching the truce.

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