

Business community hails excise tax

BY INAYAT-UR-RAHMAN

SHARJAH: Consumers in the UAE will pay more for buying cigarettes, energy and soft drinks as excise tax goes into effect from today across the emirates.

The government has levied excise tax at a rate of 100 per cent on tobacco and energy drinks that include stimulants or substances that induce mental or physical stimulation. The tax will also be implemented on soft drinks, at a rate of 50 per cent.

The health-conscious business community members in the UAE are upbeat about this great initiative. Shan Saeed, Chief Economist at IQI Holdings, told The Gulf Today that implementing excise taxes on luxury goods is a step in the right direction by the UAE government as global economy remains in the struggling mode. With Expo 2020 coming in the next 3 years, government has sent a strong signal to local and international players of rolling down the tax regime which will remain in place and effectively boost the fiscal side of the government. He noted that a disciplined government is one of the significant variables for global investors when making the CAPEX decision for any country.

Investors like governments with strong balance sheets and continuous cash flows that keep the growth momentum going. This will help the government in the long run have strategic control over structural and economic issues.

Bilal Amanullah Moti MRICS, Managing Director, Windmills Real Estate Valuation Services, also told this reporter that the excise duty levied on cigarettes and carbonated drinks will help their consumers review, reduce or potentially stop consuming them. "I see that the initiative from the Government is meant for the ultimate benefit of society, and do welcome it. Let's hope that the



Shan Saeed



Bilal Moti MRICS



Salamat Inam



Yassir Gadit



Arslan Mushtaq



Usman Alam

initiative results in a wake-up call for the heavy consumers of tobacco and carbonated drinks as targeted," he concluded.

Salamat Inam Janjua, Director at ATH, Business Consultants and Chartered Accountants, stated that "excise tax is a highly effective tobacco control strategy and leads to significant improvements in public health. The Excise Tax on tobacco and carbonated drinks is a proven strategy to reduce smoking and use of carbonated drinks, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Given the high health costs of tobacco use, reducing smoking rates would lead to substantial health gains. Cigarette smoking and excessive use of carbonated and

soft drinks is the leading cause of preventable disease. The said taxes reduce smoking, use of carbonated drinks and extend lives.

Some opponents note that this taxation is a mechanism to reduce tobacco use. Low-income people have higher smoking rates: 29 per cent of poor adults smoke, compared to 18 per cent of non-poor adults. Also, expenditures for cigarettes account for a greater share of lower-income household budgets.

Tobacco has not only harmed smokers, but the environment too and if people are fully aware of its health costs, the rationale for tobacco taxes would be powerful.

Yassir Gadit, Managing Director at Gadlang Management Consultants,

tax advisers, appreciated the efforts the Federal Tax Authority has put in place to roll out the Excise Duty Law which will enable the Government to control the consumption of less healthy products.

Arslan Mushtaq, Partner at ATH and a leading financial analyst, mentioned that ATH tax experts hail the new Excise Duty Law and stress that the Government's initiative of looking after the wellbeing of the residents of the UAE is commendable.

Usman Alam, a leading business analyst based in Dubai, appreciated the new Excise Duty Law which is effective from today. He noted that the new law would reduce the consumption of less healthy products.

EVENTS

CITY	EVENT	LOCATION	DATE/TIME
ABU DHABI	Parental Relationship – Children	All family Development Foundation centers	till oct.18, 2017
	Abu Dhabi International Conference in Dermatology and Aesthetics	Jumeirah At Etihad Towers yas island, abu dhabi	5 - 7 Oct, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 6:45 PM
	Nitro Circus Live	Yas Marina Circuit , Abu Dhabi	6 Oct, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 11:45 PM
DUBAI	PREMIUM EUROPEAN KIWI	Radisson Blu, Dubai Deira Creek	Wednesday, 25th October 2017, at 11:00
	The Fifth Clinical Congress & AAACE Annual Gulf Chapter Meeting	Grand Hyatt Hotel , Dubai	5 - 7 Oct, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
	MENA Mining Congress 2017	Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre	2 - 3 Oct, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
SHARJAH	Vantage Point Sharjah 5: Architecture and Urban Landscape	Gallery 1 & Gallery 2 Al Mureijah Square	until Oct.5, 6:00 pm
	43rd MidEast WATCH & JEWELLERY SHOW	Expo Centre Sharjah	03 – 07 oct 2017, 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Compiled by: Abdul Hanif Mir

For inclusion of any event contact Tel. 06-5777999 or fax. 06-5777737

Sotheby's announces first-ever auction in Dubai

BY A STAFF REPORTER

DUBAI: Sotheby's Dubai is delighted to announce that it will stage its inaugural auction in the city on 13 November this year.

The auction, entitled Boundless: Dubai, will present new perspectives on art from and inspired by the Middle East, and explore the influence of the Middle East as a region – its beauty, complexity and artistic heritage – on artistic innovation around the globe.

Curated by Ashkan Baghestani and a worldwide team of specialists at Sotheby's, Boundless: Dubai will bring together works sourced internationally to create a forward-looking dialogue for both new and seasoned collectors, and the auction's offering spans the collecting categories of 20th century and Contemporary Middle Eastern Art, Design, Photography,

Prints, Books & Manuscripts, Arts of the Islamic World, Orientalist Art and Jewellery.

Patron for Sotheby's inaugural auction in Dubai is Sheikha Manal Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the UAE Gender Balance Council, President of the Dubai Women Establishment, President of The Cultural Office and wife of Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, with whom Sotheby's has collaborated on a series of educational initiatives following the signing of an MOU with The Office of Culture in April 2017.

The works for sale will be exhibited at Sotheby's Dubai in the DIFC from 6-12 November 2017 (and the exhibition will be open to everyone), followed by the auction itself on 13 November.

UAE pledges \$100,000 to UN Fund for fighting trafficking of women, children

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Human Trafficking Crimes consisting of representatives from concerned government agencies and civil society organisations to coordinate efforts to combat human trafficking crimes, strengthen strategic plans at various levels, and enabling the authorities to enforce laws and implement preventive and deterrent measures.

The National Committee's efforts have led to the adoption of the national strategy to counter trafficking focused on: prevention and prohibition, prosecution and punishment, protection and support of victims of human trafficking, and the promotion of international cooperation, all in line with the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The UAE shared its successes in domestic preventive and legal measures, as well as social support mechanisms addressing this crime through transpar-

ency and enhancing society's awareness.

Domestic efforts highlighted in the statement included a diploma programme on anti-trafficking to address the crime of human trafficking using a scientific approach, the role of national law enforcement agencies, as well as rehabilitation resources for victims of trafficking and facilitation of their residency or resettlement while ensuring their safety and security.

"The UAE seeks to be a leader in supporting the Global UN Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and several global initiatives to combat trafficking in persons. The UAE will endeavor to strengthen its bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Member States and inter-governmental organisations in dealing with human rights issues, employment, migration, crime, and drugs," the statement read.

WAM

Catalan leader urges 'mediation' in referendum crisis

GIRONA: Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont called on Saturday for "mediation" to resolve the "serious" conflict pitting his executive against the central government, on the eve of an independence referendum banned by Madrid.

"If the yes wins, if the no wins - in any scenario there must be mediation, because things aren't working," he told AFP.

Vowing that he and his supporters would vote on Sunday, and that the regional government had everything in place so that the referendum "takes place normally," he called on Catalans to maintain a "peaceful attitude."

The standoff between the central government and Catalan leaders over their plans to hold an independence referendum has morphed into one of the biggest crises to hit Spain in decades.

Madrid argues the vote is illegal as the courts have ruled it unconstitutional. But Puigdemont and his team insist Catalonia has a democratic right to decide on its future.

Opinion polls show the wealthy, northeastern region is deeply divided over independence, but a large majority of Catalans want to be able to settle the matter in a legal and binding vote.

Puigdemont did not call on any specific person, organisation or country to mediate, but he hinted that the EU may be well placed to do so.

Agence France-Presse

Paris robbery suspect writes apology letter to Kardashian

PARIS: The alleged mastermind behind the Paris robbery of Kim Kardashian West has written the reality TV star an apology letter from his prison cell.

A person familiar with the case told The Associated Press that suspect Aomar Ait Khedache sent the letter to the investigating judge and that Kardashian West's lawyers had access to it.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because French law prohibits disclosing elements of an ongoing investigation.

TMZ website first reported on the letter. It quoted Khedache as writing he regrets his actions and realises the psychological damage he caused.

Kardashian West was tied up and held at gunpoint during the October 2016 jewellery heist.

The person familiar with the case says the translated quotes TMZ published in English seem consistent with what Khedache wrote in French.

Associated Press



Kim Kardashian

Germany arrests suspected baby food poisoner

FRANKFURT: German police announced on Saturday the arrest of a 53-year-old man "strongly suspected" of poisoning baby food and threatening to contaminate other products in stores nationwide and across Europe. The man was detained by officers near Tubingen, south of Stuttgart, following information received from the public, police and prosecutors said in a joint statement.

At a press conference, they said that the man had refused to shed light on his motives but that evidence implicating him was discovered at his home. It also appears that he acted alone.

Local deputy chief of police Uwe Stuermer described the man as "eccentric" and mentally disturbed.

On Thursday police alerted the public to the risk of food being poisoned, saying a blackmailer was demanding millions of

euros in cash.

Authorities released surveillance footage of the suspect, whom they earlier described as aged 55, wearing glasses and a white cap, which ultimately led to the arrest.

To press the demand, the blackmailer had poisoned five baby food products and last week alerted police to the store they were placed in, in the southern city of Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance.

Agence France-Presse

Don't bathe more than once a week, says renowned designer

PARIS: Flamboyant fashion designer Vivienne Westwood revealed the secret of her eternal youth Saturday – only taking a bath once a week.

The 76-year-old queen of punk fashion let it slip after watching her husband Andreas Kronthaler's spectacularly idiosyncratic show at Paris Fashion Week.

Asked by reporters how she managed to look so young, Westwood smiled and said, "Don't wash too much."

"She only takes a bath every week. That's why she looks so radiant," said Kronthaler, who Westwood has described as "the world's greatest designer."

"I only wash once a month," joked the Austrian-born creator, who is 25 years Westwood's junior.

Westwood, an environmentalist and vegetarian who has campaigned against the meat trade depleting water supplies, has previously said that "I just wash my bits and rush out in the morning and more often than not get in the bath after Andreas."

Kronthaler – who is said to have inspired comedian Sacha Baron Cohen's 2009 fashion satire *Bruno* – lived up to his reputation for decadent excess in his Paris show which featuring no less than 68 looks and a dozen more human sculptures wrapped in duvets.

"There is nothing better than giving people choice," he told media of a collection he said was filled with "lust, desire, sex and sadness."

"We travelled quite a bit this summer and I tried to put it all into it."

He said he spent some of his time on holiday in a Tyrolean cowshed and named the dresses in his collection after the cows.

One outfit is called Vivienne after a calf his wife helped deliver. Two others are called Naomi and Donatella, two names more redolent of the runway than alpine pastures.

"Now I am ready for something different... I cannot wait to get my hands on the next mess," Kronthaler added.

The designers said his Austrian country childhood with its corsets and traditional dirndl dresses was the springboard for his at times wildly experimental collection that included two models wearing a set

of curtains complete with rails.

A painted satin dress fit for a Chinese empress, however, drew spontaneous applause from the front row.

"Folklore gets a bad name but we should use tradition," Kronthaler said. "I had a completely secluded safe and happy life growing up, and when that is embedded in you, you go through life in that way. If you can give someone the chance to live in the countryside I would always tell them to do so," he added.

But Kronthaler, whose Andreas Kronthaler for Vivienne Westwood range alternates with his wife's collections, said he did not always appreciate his rural idyll.

Agence France-Presse

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
Sharjah Federal Court of First Instance
Case Management Office

Sharjah Federal Court of First Instance
Re-summon by publication
In Case No. 5052/2017, The Second Plenary Commercial Circuit

To the defendant: John Douglas Stead – British National,
We inform you that the plaintiff; Union National Bank – in case No. 5052/2017, the second plenary commercial circuit has filed the above mentioned case claiming:
To oblige you to pay to the bank the amount of (Dhs. 682,375) Six Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Five Dirhams, and the legal interest at the rate of 9% from date of filing the case till full payment expenses and attorney fees.
Therefore you are assigned to appear before the second plenary commercial circuit, at Eight Thirty at Sharjah Federal Court of First Instance so as to reply to the case and submit your evidences on 17/10/2017 to look into the case, number of which is mentioned in your capacity as a defendant, and in case of your failure to appear or non-sending of attorney on your behalf, legal procedures will be completed in your absence.
Remark: provided that the summons shall be executed in Arabic and English language.

Case Management Office
Sharjah Federal Court of First Instance
(Signed and Stamped)

Umm Al Quwain Free Trade Zone Authority
سلطة منطقة التجارة الحرة بأم القيوين
Deregistration/ Liquidation
Notice No. (261-2017)

Umm Al Quwain Free Trade Zone Authority hereby notifies that M/S Progate International FZE (License No 1081), is under the process of Liquidation/Deregistration. Creditors may take the necessary actions to settle / protect their interests immediately hereof.

Any objection to be informed to UAQ Free Trade Zone Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this announcement in the below contact
Ph: 067647272, Fax: 067649782, Email: info@uaqftz.com

The Gulf Today

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