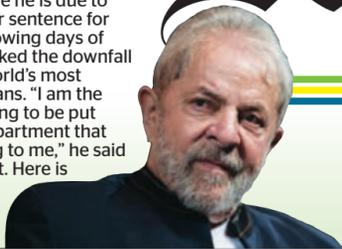


**LULA BEGINS HIS 12-YR JAIL TERM**

Brazil's ex-president and leftist icon Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva flew in on Saturday to the prison in Curitiba where he is due to serve his 12-year sentence for corruption, following days of drama that marked the downfall of one of the world's most popular politicians. "I am the only human being to be put on trial for an apartment that does not belong to me," he said before his arrest. Here is the timeline of events leading to his jailing:



**January 24** Appeals court upholds conviction and extends Lula's sentence to more than 12 years

**April 5** Supreme Court rejects bid to delay sentence. Lula given 24 hours to surrender to police and start 12-year prison sentence

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>March</b> The full extent of the Car Wash money laundering network comes to light	<b>October</b> Dilma Rousseff re-elected president with Lula's support	<b>March 10</b> Lula is accused of concealing assets and placed under investigation in Petrobras case	<b>March 18</b> A court suspends his nomination, suspecting it to be a bid to grant him immunity from prosecution	<b>July 12</b> Convicted of corruption and money laundering, sentenced to nine years and six months
<b>March 16</b> Rousseff names him chief of staff	<b>September</b> Jose Neto, Workers' Party (PT) treasurer receives 15-year jail term for money laundering	<b>August 31</b> Senate impeaches Rousseff	<b>September 15</b> Prosecutors accuse Lula of being the top commander of the Car Wash network	

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NANO EDIT

**Empowering society**

Doling out sops doesn't help, only real reforms can bring about real changes. And the UAE government understands this. Its decision to conduct field surveys, develop long-term plans and seek urgent solutions for social welfare will do a world of good to the nationals. No one will be left behind in the UAE's quest for prosperity and happiness. The top priority of the leadership here is to make every citizen feel safe, secure, settled and happy, and with such policies it is building an empowered society.

**Salary change sans new contract illegal**



NATION PAGE 6

**Having kids in 40s is the trend now**

NATION PAGE 7

**Only one died of thalassaemia in '17**

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**Kashmir ultras kill innocent 'informers'**

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**Permanent ban on JuD proposed**

PAKISTAN PAGE 16

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Reform is born of need, not pity.  
— Rebecca Harding Davis

**TRENDING ON KT DIGITAL**

**VIDEO Priya recreates wink moment for KT**



bit.ly/PriyaWink

**Seeds rain as truck crashes into bridge**

bit.ly/RainSeeds

**WhatsApp tests new voice notes feature**

bit.ly/WhatsAppNote

**DH300k toll to cross a bridge, twice**

bit.ly/TollError

**Boy 'lights up' bulbs by touching them**

bit.ly/BoyBulb

**DON'T MISS**



**Meet JDF, the Power Ranger**

The actor speaks to KT on what it means to participate in Comic Con fest.  
CITY TIMES



**A costly realty deal: DH60m Bulgari home**

A 14,331 sqft apartment on Jumeirah Bay was the most pricey deal in Dubai in Q1.  
BUSINESS

# SNUB IMPACT: DH11B SOCIAL FUND

Ridiculed Emirati hired as social researcher at the Ministry of Community Development

**Team KT**

ABU DHABI — The UAE Cabinet has approved Dh11 billion in social assistance for low-income groups over the next three years. The approval follows an unprecedented Cabinet meeting on Sunday in which an unemployed Emirati — who was ridiculed during a live radio programme just last week following his request for a decent home — sat shoulder to shoulder with the country's Vice-President and ministers. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, took to Twitter to announce the fund, of which Dh3.88 billion has been marked for the elderly; Dh1.55 billion for those with a financial

**The story of Ali Al Mazrouei moved us all. A nation moves when a citizen is hurt. We hosted him today to listen to his story, and to the voice of the people**

Sheikh Mohammed

and health deficits; Dh1.7 billion for people of determination; and Dh183.9 million for families of prisoners, among other categories. The Cabinet reviewed the report of the Ministry of Community Development, which identified six main requirements for citizens with low incomes: housing and basic needs, transportation, financial support, healthcare, education and work.

**I made that call to deliver the voice of low-income groups to the leadership. I always knew that the leadership was working to make the UAE better**

Ali Al Mazrouei

Sheikh Mohammed also appointed the Ras Al Khaimah-based Emirati, Ali Al Mazrouei, as a social researcher at the Ministry of Community Development. "The story of Ali Al Mazrouei moved us all ... A nation moves when a citizen is hurt," he said during the Cabinet meeting. "We hosted him today to listen to his



REACHING OUT: Sheikh Mohammed welcomes Ali Al Mazrouei to the Cabinet meeting in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. — Wam

TURN TO PAGE 3

# Trump warns 'animal Assad'

**70** Number of gas attacks probed in Syria since 2014, out of 370 reported incidents

**1,429** Killed in attacks in Eastern Ghouta and Moadamiyet Al Sham in August 2013

**87** Killed in chemical attack on rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhun in Idlib on April 4, 2017

**21** Killed after a suspected chemical attack in Eastern Ghouta on January 22, 2018

**11** Treated for suffocation after regime air strikes on the northwestern town of Saraqeb

**1** Child dead and 13 suffered breathing difficulties in Eastern Ghouta on February 25

**60** Suffered breathing difficulties in Eastern Ghouta after air strikes on March 7



SAVAGERY: A rescue worker carrying a child following an alleged chemical weapons attack in the rebel-held town of Douma on Saturday. — AP

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Sunday condemned a "mindless CHEMICAL attack" in Syria that killed at least 40 women and children, calling Syrian President Bashar Al Assad an "animal". Although the US government was still working to verify the claim by activists and rescuers that poison gas was used, Trump declared there would be a "big price to pay". And a top White House aide, asked about the possibility of a US missile strike in response, said, "I wouldn't take anything off the table." Saturday's attack took place in a rebel-held town near Damascus amid a resumed offensive by Syrian government forces after the collapse of a truce. Syrian activists, rescuers and medics said a poison gas attack in Douma killed at least 40 people, with families found suffocated in their houses and shelters. The reports could not immediately be independently verified. — AP

SEE EDIT & PAGE 12

# Bid to attack Berlin race foiled; 6 held

BERLIN — Six people were detained in connection with what police and prosecutors allege was a plan to carry out an extremist attack on Berlin's half-marathon on Sunday, German authorities said. "There were isolated indications that those arrested, aged between 18 and 21 years, were participating in the preparation of a crime in connection with this event," prosecutors and police said in a joint statement. The German daily Die Welt first reported that police foiled a plot to attack race spectators and participants with knives. The main suspect allegedly knew Anis Amri, a Tunisian who killed 12 people and injured dozens more when he drove a truck into a Christmas market in Berlin in December 2016, Die Welt reported. — AP

# Sharjah school to shut doors on 1,100 students

Afkar Abdullah

## DH12M

The loss incurred by the school this academic year

SHARJAH — The partial closure of a popular school in Sharjah will leave about 1,100 students and their parents scrambling for admissions. Al Maarifa International School will be shutting down its ministerial curriculum wing due to "losses". Mustafa Al Musa, principal of the school, said the wing incurred losses of Dh12 million during the current academic year. Students of the school's two other wings — which follow American and British curriculums respectively — won't be affected.

SEE PAGE 5

# Humiliating students over fees not allowed

Sarwat Nasir

DUBAI — Non-payment of school tuition fees should never result in students being victimised inside or outside the classroom in the UAE. There has been several cases reported recently where students were told to refrain from partaking in lessons until all payments were settled, but such a move by school administrations is strictly prohibited here. Mother of four, Saba Nouman, told Khaleej Times her children

were not allowed to "sit in class" because of financial issues with the school. "Last year, we paid around Dh18,000, which was some percentage of the fees and to reserve seats." But when she dropped her kids off to school, Nouman received a call two hours later saying her children were not allowed to sit in class because the fees had not been paid. "There were many other kids sitting in the library as their parents hadn't paid the fees."

SEE PAGE 8

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# It's not okay for schools to shame kids over non-payment of fees

Sarwat Nasir

Children shouldn't be humiliated over non-payment of school tuition fees — this is the message from parents, students and teachers who have experienced instances where pupils are suspended or asked to wait outside of class until their parents have paid the remaining fees.

Schools are not allowed to suspend students without the Knowledge and Human Development Authority's (KHDA) approval. In Abu Dhabi, according to the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge, "schools can suspend students after following the proper steps, or withhold transcripts if fees are not paid". But, schools cannot prevent students from taking any end of year exams.

Several Dubai-based parents have spoken out on how their kids were suspended for non-payment of fees.

Saba Nouman, a mother of four children, said her children were not allowed to "sit in class" because of non-payment of tuition fees. "Last year, we paid around Dh18,000, which was some percentage of the fees and to reserve seats. Before school started in September, they started sending us reminders for the remainder of the fees. We were waiting for some payments, so, my husband said we will pay the fees a week later," Nouman said.

"But, when I dropped my kids off at school, I got a call two hours later and they said my kids weren't allowed to sit in class because of non-payment of fees. They asked me to pick them up. There were so many kids sitting in the library as their parents didn't pay the fees. Also, I didn't get my first term results as my second term fees weren't paid."

Another parent, Samika, said her seven-year-old son was also kicked out of a different Dubai-based school for non-payment of fees. Her son was forced to sit in the library the entire day and the staff didn't inform her about the incident, according to Samika.

"After that incident, I complained to the KHDA and removed my son from that school immediately," she said.

A former student in Dubai, Kiran Gayathri, remembers getting "rude behaviour" from teachers due to non-payment of fees.

"I was asked to stay home on several occasions due to non-payment of fees. At some point, some teachers who knew were also very rude and disrespectful. My mum couldn't afford new school uniforms, so, I wore the wrong uniform to school one day. She said in



Several parents have spoken out on how their kids were suspended from schools and not allowed in classes due to non-payment of fees.



"I was asked to stay home on several occasions due to non-payment of fees. At some point, some teachers who knew, were also very rude and disrespectful."

Kiran Gayathri, a former student



"Under no circumstance should a child be made to go through any humiliation of any kind for any reason, let alone for a monetary reason."

Anita Singh, vice-principal, Shining Star International School

front of the entire class 'I don't care what is happening in your home or that your mum can't afford it. It's your problem,' Gayathri said.

Anita Singh, vice-principal at Abu Dhabi's Shining Star International School, said that children "shouldn't be humiliated under any circumstance". She said instances as such can leave an "everlasting impact" on them.

"As an educationist, that should be the last thought in our minds and un-

der no circumstance should a child be made to go through any humiliation of any kind for any reason, let alone a monetary reason," Singh said.

"I do agree fees are a must to run the schools, but a few late payments will surely not hurt anyone. Schools need to think twice before taking such steps. They should realise what the social and psychological impact of such an inhumane act may have on a child's mind. Children are put under undue stress both emotion-

ally and socially when they face the humiliation of being suspended. The suspension can lead to a child developing a low self-esteem which affects their studies.

"In some extreme cases, I have heard about students who develop hatred towards their parents for putting them through this humiliation. Do we really need to promote this as educationist? Such irrational act by schools leads senior students to believe that money is the most

important thing in life. The values taught to them in lower grades become a farce to them as they do not see their school heads showing those values when they need it. The younger ones are like a blob of clay, ready to be molded and engraved with what we teach them. The big question is what do we really want them to learn? The values of caring, empathy or the value of money in today's world?"

sarwat@khaleejtimes.com

## Humiliation in classrooms can scar students' minds

Sarwat Nasir

DUBAI — Students in the UAE believe humiliating them over tuition fees in front of the entire class can leave them "mentally scarred and stressed".

Sinnamari P, a student in Our Own English High School, Fujairah, said students can be left feeling depressed and embarrassed once thrown out of class for non-payment of fees.

He believes the worst part for a student is when he or she has to face his peers after returning to class. "Once they are not allowed into classrooms, a lot of questions pop into their minds, for example: 'How am I going to face my friends? How am I going to cover the topics that were taught on that particular day?'. So, it is necessary for schools



"Once they are not allowed into classrooms, a lot of questions pop into their minds, for example: 'How am I going to face my friends? How am I going to cover the topics that were taught on that particular day?'"

Sinnamari P, student



"Fees should not be a student's responsibility. It is the parents' or the guardian's duty to pay the fees and send the kids to school. If a student is not allowed to attend the classes it will affect their overall performance."

Nada Fathima, student

to allow students into classrooms despite delayed payment of tuition fees," he said. Another student, Devika Sajeesh, said that it is high time people realised that education is a right, not a privilege.

"Education is said to be a student's right then why are students deprived of it? Shaming a student in front of the whole class will, without any doubt, bring their confidence level down and emotionally

scar them," Sajeesh said. "An idea that they are at a lower level than the rest of the class will be implanted into their young minds. Many schools have also adopted the idea of holding the results until the fee due is paid off. When dictating the scores of the test in the whole class, holding back the results of one or two students because they haven't paid their fee is not the best way to motivate a student."

Nada Fathima, a student at the New Indian Model School, Dubai, said that quality education is more important than tuition fees. She said students can miss out on important lessons if they are suspended due to monetary reasons.

"I think the main motive of schools is to provide quality education and not collecting fees," she said. "Fees should not be a student's responsibility. It is the par-

ents' or the guardian's duty to pay the fees and send the kids to school. If a student is not allowed to attend the classes it will affect their overall performance. Tuition fees have changed the way students see education. Providing good education is more important than money. Fees can be paid anytime but the classes missed and the portions taken won't be taught again."

sarwat@khaleejtimes.com

### What is the best way to deal with school fees delay?



Adithya Binoy Mathews  
ASPAM Indian International School

While parents have a responsibility to meet their financial commitment towards a school, stopping a child from attending classes should not be allowed. An effective solution would be to start a fund utilising a small percentage of the overall collected fees for students who deserve assistance. Another option would be a monthly fee structure.



Hiba Moideen  
New Indian Model School, Dubai

Students facing financial difficulties must be rendered help by encouraging student-led initiatives. They must also be provided with psychological aid to help them overcome the difficult situation. Schools must ensure better relationships with parents so as to encourage fee payment and timely cooperation.



Hritika Tripathi  
Delhi Private School, Sharjah

I would feel sad if I am not allowed to attend classes and it would affect my studies. If schools barred pupils for unpaid fees, they are likely to perform poorly in class and the school will lose out on good grades. Further, this will not only affect students confidence and self-esteem but also affect their concentration and performance.



Tarannum Sheikh  
Primary section head, Indian Academy

To overcome these growing concerns, school authorities should have a transparent system of correspondence to ensure fee dues are cleared on time. Parents too must connect with the school to address the grievance rather than showing negligence. A healthy connection between parent and school will eliminate all obstacles.



Sean Sanoop George  
The Millennium School, Dubai

The reason for delayed fees may vary and can be attributed to the financial circumstances of the family. Most schools have a minimum attendance requirement of 75 to 80 per cent to get promoted to the next grade. A brilliant student may lose a whole academic year, if the school takes the stance of denying classroom entry due to delayed fees.

### Next Week's Topic

**KHDA is working on a project that will introduce part-time school for students. In what ways can this help teachers and students?**

To get featured, send us your views on the topic, along with your school name and high-resolution photograph to [education@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:education@khaleejtimes.com)

## Positive parenting can reduce impact of financial family strain

### THE PERSPECTIVE



Dr Amy Bailey  
Clinical Psychologist and Head of Psychology, KidsFIRST Medical Centre

Research by the Children's Society in 2016 found that children and young people are not immune to the stress of financial insecurity. They can feel guilty of not being able to help their parents and may

feel that they are an additional burden on their parents. This can then impact child's confidence and sense of self-worth. They can also feel socially isolated from peers.

When children are within families experiencing financial stress, it is important to be supportive and mindful of the psychological impact this is having on the child and to try not to compound this further by adding additional stress to the child. The results of such incidents as described can result in the young person feeling a sense of shame or embarrass-

ment if their peers become aware of private family matters. In young people, these feelings are often magnified as they are less able to reason through this and thus this problem can feel like the end of their world. They may also feel like they are being punished for a situation that is outside of their control thus creating feelings of helplessness which can lead to low mood and anxiety.

In order to reduce the psychological stress of financial insecurity on children, it is important to ensure their sense of stability in the

"Where young people experience shame due to the family situation, it is important to ensure the young person knows that the situation is not a reflection on them."

world around them. Parents should over emphasise to the child about how much they are loved and cared for and that no matter what happens, they will be there to support

them. Positive parenting practices and good parent-child relationships can substantially reduce the psychological impact of financial family strain on children. It is important that children are reassured that they are not to blame nor are they a burden on resources. Where young people experience shame due to the family situation, it is important to ensure the young person knows that the situation is not a reflection on them. The young person should not develop negative perceptions of themselves.

The young person should be reassured that though this is a crisis situation, it is one that can be worked through but might mean some changes need to be made in terms of costs and budget. As a community, one way to reduce feelings of shame associated with financial stress is to have more mixed communities where people regularly come into contact with others of different financial positions. These reduce negative stereotypes and thus the stigma of low income is removed.