

may be performed, depending on its navigational status

was successfully launched by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on December 11, 2022, completed its first orbit control manoeuvre on December 15, 2022, followed by a second orbital control manoeuvre on January 8, 2023.

Continued, "The completion of these operations as part of the mission plan, including multiple orbital control manoeuvres, over a period of one month is considered highly significant because it increases confidence in future Mission 1 flight operations and provides crucial data that will be incorporated into plans for Mission 2 and Mission 3".

As of January 11, 2023, the Rashid Rover has traveled approximately 134 million kilometres from the Earth and is scheduled to be at its farthest point of approximately 1.4 million km from the Earth by January 20, 2023. Once it reaches its farthest point

control manoeuvres, currently projected for late March, will signify the achievement of Mission Milestone 6, at which point an announcement is expected to be made. Subsequently, Success 7 of the Mission Milestones, the lunar orbit injection, is scheduled to take place soon thereafter, it added.

Recently, the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) confirmed the successful completion of the initial health check of the Rashid Rover that lifted off on 11 December from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.

In collaboration with the space ground station, the Emirates Lunar Mission (ELM) team established a telemetry link with the rover today, followed by

achieved by this mission. The establishment of communication with the Rashid Rover and the steady progress of the mission convey a strong statement about the nation's capabilities and its commitment to ensuring the success of the upcoming phases of lunar exploration. The vast scope of our technologies and the ambitious nature of the mission may present challenges, but when they are weighed against the potential discoveries that can benefit the world, our efforts are infinitely worthwhile."

"We have accomplished the second milestone of the mission, which takes us a step closer to achieving the mission's goals. With its exceptional objectives, the mission will enhance the UAE's contribution to humanity's scientific progress. The mission embodies the UAE's spirit of innovation

operation. The telemetry data has confirmed that each subsystem is powered on. A thermal reading revealed that the subsystems are in good internal health.

Commenting on the latest milestone of the mission, Dr. Hamad Al Marzooqi, Emirates Lunar Project Manager, said: "We are delighted at all of the mission's achievements to date, and congratulate my team members. Everything is going according to plan. We have completed a full health assessment and the team will continue to monitor the health status of the rover during the journey to the moon on a daily basis. An interplanetary launch is fast-paced and dynamic, and regular communication checks are critical to ensure a stable mission."

Yamama Bedwan, Staff Reporter

# Al Safa Metro Station christened ONPASSIVE

**DUBAI:** Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) granted the Naming Rights of Al Safa Metro Station to ONPASSIVE, one of the leading AI Technology Companies globally. Al Safa Metro Station will be fully rebranded as ONPASSIVE Metro Station for 10 years. The station, which is on the Red Line of the Dubai Metro, is strategically located on Sheikh Zayed Road.

Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Kalbat, CEO of Rail Agency, RTA, said, "Through partnering with ONPASSIVE, RTA is keen to showcase the high profile of Dubai as a city that appeals to international investments and matches the aspirations of entrepreneurs seeking to enhance their presence and competitiveness in the emirate. We are thrilled to see one of the global companies taking the naming rights of Al Safa Metro Station in a perfect move poised to raise its brand visibility and presence in the economic map of Dubai and the UAE in general."

"Dubai is shaping into a benchmark in the quality of infrastructure, where RTA is an integral part thereof. Dubai Metro stations are among the key mass transit means that boost strategic locations in the emirate and serve hundreds of thousands of riders every day. These facts are key contributors to attracting foreign capitals, which always seek feasible and sustainable revenues over the long run, which is exactly provided by RTA," added Kalbat.

Ashraf Mufareh, founder and CEO of ONPASSIVE, commented: "Our partnership with Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority is one of many future steps aimed at speeding the use of artificial intelligence in the service of humanitarian causes, as Dubai is one of the most attractive destinations for multi-nationals from around the globe, with more than 8 mil-



lion tourists arriving last year. Therefore, we strive to provide our best-in-class services, and we strive for excellence and innovation by providing the best smart services to Dubai Metro passengers and the broad public in the country and the world."

Mohammad Nazzari, Chief Marketing Officer of the company, said, "This fruitful and constructive cooperation will help ONPASSIVE to provide many of its smart digital services to the UAE community and will serve as a good opportunity to support artificial intelligence services in the country because the Metro is

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) granted the Naming Rights of Al Safa Metro Station to ONPASSIVE.**

one of the most widely used means of mass transportation in the UAE and that the number of its users is constantly increasing and reached more than 12 million users in the first months of last year, which means that this partnership reflects ONPASSIVE's marketing vision to serve all customers."

From January 2023 to March 2023, RTA will rename the station on the external as well as the indoor and outdoor directional signage. The new name will also be updated on the smart systems and RTA's public transport apps along with the onboard audio announcements before and at the time of arriving at the station. RTA calls upon the metro riders to note this change of name of the station. In the meantime, clients can request assistance from RTA's teams at the stations to give further explanations.

Gulf Today, Staff Reporter

# Nearly 80,000 Golden Visas issued in 2022, says GDRFA

**DUBAI:** Lieutenant General Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs, Dubai (GDRFA) revealed that the experimental launch of the video calling service to complete all customer procedures 24 hours a day.

The service includes all the services provided by the GDRFA. It is provided at the current stage during the official working hours and will soon be available throughout 24 hours, Al Marri added.

He pointed to the GDRFA's achievements during 2022, declaring that 62,244,253 transactions have been completed, including 46,965,775 entry and exit transactions through air, land and sea ports, 9,852,816 entry permits transactions, 4,699,712 residency permits, 40,642 electronic passports, and 37,367 transactions of legal affairs and advice, besides other various transactions.

"The number of golden residence visas issued by the GDRFA for all categories by the end of 2022 amounted to 79,617 visas, compared to 47,150 during 2021," he added.

According to Al Marri, the customer happiness index increased to 96 per cent, while the partners' happiness index reached 100 per cent, and the implementation of operational plans reached a percentage of 99 per cent.

Al Marri affirmed that during 2022, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs won many awards, classification certificates, and local and international accreditations, as it obtained 18 institutional and individual memberships, for its efforts and initiatives.

Regarding the improving of the main operations in 2022, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs pointed out that it recorded an achievement of 100 per cent in the digital transformation of entry and residence permits, and 82.2 per cent in the innovation readiness rate, while the rates of employee happiness and institutional flexibility ranged between 93 and 100 per cent.

In 2022, another transformation took place in the services after merging five services into one, and the work environment has been provided with 184 experts and specialists from the national competencies.

Gulf Today, Staff Reporter

# Cloudy weather to prevail in some areas of country

**ABU DHABI:** The National Centre of Meteorology (NCM) expected Thursday's weather to be generally partly cloudy and cloudy at times in some northern areas, with the possibility of light rains during the day.

Winds, according to the NCM, are northeasterly to northwesterly, light to moderate, active at times and stirring dust, especially in the east, at a speed of 15 to 25, amounting to 40 kilometres/hour, and the sea will be moderate to turbulent at times, especially in the north in the Arabian

Gulf and in the Sea of Oman.

Friday's weather will be generally partly cloudy and cloudy at times over some western areas and islands in the afternoon with the possibility of light rains. Winds will be northeasterly to easterly, light to moderate, active at times, the NCM indicated.

The sea is expected to be turbulent to moderate in the Arabian Gulf and turbulent in the morning, becoming moderate to light in the Sea of Oman.

Saturday's weather is expected to be generally partly cloudy and cloudy at times in some western areas and islands, with the possibility of light rains.

Sunday's winds will be northeasterly to easterly, light to moderate, active at times, and the sea is expected to be moderate, sometimes turbulent in the north in the Arabian Gulf, and light in the Sea of Oman.

Sunday's weather is expected to be generally partly cloudy and cloudy at times over some

coastal, northern and eastern areas and islands, with the possibility of light rains. Winds will be northeasterly to easterly, light to moderate and brisk at times, at a speed of 15 to 25, amounting to 35 kilometres/hour.

The sea on Sunday, according to the NCM, will be turbulent in the morning, becoming moderate to light in the Arabian Gulf, and light in the Sea of Oman.

Gulf Today, Staff Reporter