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Abu Dhabi plans new projects for the 'Garden City of the Gulf'

# Development boom for Al Ain

New Industrial Zones, Dh 500 million shopping center, Zoo facelift and new hotels among new projects

By Ekram Youssef

Al Ain is experiencing a development boom that will lift its image as one of the major tourism destinations for visitors from other emirates and abroad and will attract more local and foreign investments for its already flourishing economy.

A Dh 500 million BOT (built, operate and transfer) joint mega-project is launched as a joint venture between Abu Dhabi Government and the Bin Harmal Investment Company that will include a huge shopping mall and a heritage village.

Engineer Bashar Al Tamimi, the General Manager of Bin Harmal Investment Company told Al Ain Times that the project is the biggest in the city and will open new doors of investment in the local economy.

The project is described as the first of its kind in the Middle East that will develop a new pattern of investment and will be set up in three phases over an area of 220,000 square meters.

The Al Ain Industrial City is launched by the Abu Dhabi government to develop the economic resources of the Emirate and attract more local and international investment.

The area of phase 1 is approximately 5 sq km and another 5 sq km is reserved for future investment. The industrial city has close access to the city center and is expected to attract big investment from inside and outside the country.

Some of Al Ain's major attractions are also going through facelift projects. The facilities at the Al Ain Zoological Park are renovated with a Dh 15 million



The site of Dh 500 million mega project. Photo: Asif Zaidi

'rapid improvement program'. The program will give the Zoo a more natural look.

Mark Craig, the Director of the Al Ain Zoo told The Al Ain Times in a recent press briefing that an African savannah has been created on five hectares to give animals their natural environment.

There are also plans to create a day and night safari and a water park in the foothills of Jebel

Hafeet, our highest peak and an Al Ain landmark.

Al Ain Zoo is the "biggest in the Middle East as it covers 850 hectares with more than 200 species of animals, reptiles and birds," Mr. Craig was quoted as saying.

A five star hotel is also on the drawing board while one of our four five star hotels has already started constructing a new wing.



## Al Ain Industrial City will provide good investment environment: Sheikh Hamed

Al Ain Times Report

Al Ain Industrial City will be divided into eight industrial zones comprising light and medium industries. The industrial zones are expected to attract especially food and canning industries.

"Al Ain Industrial City becomes one of those initiatives

that we aim to achieve through delivering a peaceful and stabilized environment for the investors," says H. E. Sheikh Hamed Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, Chairman of the Department of Planning and Economy of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Higher Corporation of Specialized Economic Zones.

Al Ain Industrial City is

located 20km south-west of Al Ain city center and has close access to important transport corridors. "The site location is chosen especially outside the main urban area but has easy access to the university, hospitals, residential areas, the city center and exiting Sanaiya district," says the AAZI spokesman.

## ROAD ACCIDENT MORTALITY RATE DECLINED IN AL AIN

Study shows 97% male and 20% pedestrians among casualties in 2005

Al Ain Times report

Al Ain: The Al Ain Police has devised a serious campaign against reckless and unlicensed drivers and as a result there is a 13.6% decline in mortalities caused by traffic accidents during the first six month of this year.

Col. Mohammed Al Khalifa Al Khaali, the Chief of the Traffic Department of Al Ain Police, told Al Ain Times the police in its awareness campaign is targeting nationalities that are rated high in traffic accidents.

According to studies Pakistani, Indians, Omanis and Egyptians figured high after the UAE national in incidents of road accidents.

Meanwhile a UAE University study on motor vehicle crashes (MVC) found mornings are the most lethal time for traffic accidents in Al Ain. The research studied all 541 accidents reported to Al Ain Traffic Police during 2005 and found that 50 per cent crashes occurred between early morning and noon while 28% occurred between midnight and 6.00 a.m.

The study was conducted by scientists and experts from the Engineering and Medicine faculties of the UAE University and the Al Ain Department of Traffic Police.

The study implies that women were least effected by road accidents with 97% crash casualties being male. The local (UAE) were among the highest number of casualties (40%) followed by Asians (35%), 11.4% were Arabs of other nationalities and 6% were GCC citizens.

Most crash victims were not wearing seatbelts, the study shows. Seatbelts were not used in 97.8% of total casualties.

(Feature & interview on p 6-7)

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