

Abu Dhabi crown prince holds separate talks with Egypt, Iraq leaders

Author:

Fri, 2021-11-26 02:12

DUBAI: Abu Dhabi Crown Prince on Thursday held separate talks with leaders from Egypt and Iraq to discuss regional security.

During his calls with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, the crown prince discussed bilateral relations and various aspects of cooperation and joint work, and ways of developing and expanding them.

They also reviewed a number of regional and international development and “affirmed their mutual keenness to continue consultation and coordination on many issues” and enhance security, stability and development in the Arab region, state news agency WAM reported.

The crown prince recently concluded a trip to Turkey, the first in 10 years. During his visit, he met with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and the UAE announced it was setting up a \$10 billion fund to support investments in Turkey.



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[Mustafa Al-Kadhimi](#)

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed to meet with Turkish President
Wednesday Abu Dhabi crown prince and US defense secretary discuss strategic
bilateral relations

[Arab coalition hits military targets in Yemen's Sanaa](#)

Fri, 2021-11-26 00:57

RIYADH: The Arab coalition said it conducted airstrikes on camps and military targets in Sanaa, state TV reported on Thursday.

The coalition said it used preventive measures to spare civilians and civilian objects from collateral damage, adding the "operation in Sanaa was in compliance with international humanitarian law and its customary rules."

The coalition said it had struck the presidential palace camp in the capital in response threats and after precise intelligence.

Earlier on Thursday, the coalition said it carried out eight operations targeting Houthi elements in Marib.

It said more than 60 Houthi fighters were killed and five military vehicles were destroyed.

The Houthis renewed their offensive on energy-rich Marib in September in an effort to take control of the last remaining internationally-recognized government's strongholds.

It has sparked widespread condemnation as the province has been serving as a safe haven for around one million displaced Yemenis that have been fleeing the fighting since the conflict began in 2014.

Coalition forces have been conducting daily strikes on Houthi targets in and around Marib in recent weeks and began striking locations in the capital, Sanaa, following reports that the Iran-backed militia have been using the airport as a military base and air systems launch site.



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HRW urges Houthis to end 'repeated indiscriminate attacks' on civilians
Japan denounces Houthis, demands end to occupation of US compound in Yemen

[Oman's pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai pays a fitting tribute to frankincense](#)

Thu, 2021-11-25 23:34

DUBAI: Frankincense, the aromatic resin harvested from trees that grow in a narrow climate belt from the Horn of Africa to India and parts of southern China, has been used for 6,000 years as both a perfume and panacea for a host of ailments.

Most of the world's supply comes from Somalia, Eritrea and Yemen. But it is Oman that famously produces the world's finest – and most expensive – frankincense, a rich and spicy aroma that ancient Egyptians called the “Sweat of the Gods.”

Trade in frankincense has flourished in this region for centuries, and was one of the most valued commodities of the ancient and medieval world.

Today, the resin, harvested from the Boswellia tree, is still highly prized, as Oman's pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai shows. With sustainability experts warning that the tree variety globally is under threat, the pavilion provides a fitting tribute to frankincense and its rich history.



Lab50, an initiative involved in the pavilion's design, engaged more than young 300 Omanis from sectors including government and SMEs to develop the narrative and content of the pavilion. (Supplied)

The word frankincense comes from the Old French “franc encens” (“noble” or “pure incense”), and is the English version of the Arabic Al-luban.

Today, the value of frankincense resin is still determined by its color, clump size and oil content. The most valuable grade, known as hojari, comes from a narrow, dry belt of the Dhofar Mountains in Oman. Boswellia trees studding this region are a feature of Oman's UNESCO-appointed Land of Frankincense World Heritage site.

The Omani pavilion, located in the Mobility District, pays homage to the precious substance. Even the mandatory hand sanitizer is enhanced with the resin's aroma and natural antiviral properties.

Given frankincense's long history, stretching over millennia, one might expect Oman's pavilion to be built on tradition or to be rooted in the past. In fact, the pavilion is a testament to Oman's future generations, and has been created by Omani youth, the future of the country's economy.

EXPECTED EXPO 2020 DIVIDEND

A long-term investment 'in the future of the UAE'



Expo 2020 and its legacy will boost economic activity by
33.378 billion
2013-2031



Restaurants & hotels:
\$3.1 billion



Construction:
\$7.35 billion



And support
905,200
full-time equivalent (FTE)
job-years
2013-2031



Events organization &
business services:
\$18.757 billion



Economic activity will equal
1.5% of UAE GDP during expo
October 2020 – April 2021



Spending in SME sector
\$1.279 billion
supporting **12,600** job-years
November 2013 – October 2020

Source: EY Report: The economic impact of Expo 2020 Dubai

ARAB NEWS

Lab50, an initiative involved in the pavilion's design, engaged more than young 300 Omanis from sectors including government and SMEs to develop the narrative and content of the pavilion.

The result is a modern story-telling experience, with frankincense at its center. The pavilion's design was led by recent graduates, and its technology designed and built by young Omanis. Multi-sensory and mixed-reality audiovisual content was written, shot and produced by local talent.

The exterior of the pavilion shows how a young eye can interpret tradition. The sweeping, intricately detailed exterior echoes and exploits the features of a frankincense tree.

Visitors entering the pavilion on the ground floor are greeted by a replica of the "Mother Tree," and introduced to the resin extraction process and the uses of frankincense throughout history.

FASTFACTS

* For the past 6,000 years, frankincense has been used to raise spirits and

encourage well-being.

* Pavilion's five zones show how frankincense contributed to Omani progress in different fields.

* Exhibits offer interactive experiences using AR and mixed reality technology.

Displays highlight the role frankincense played in worship and medicine, from the mummification of ancient Egyptian rulers to its role in traditional Chinese medicine. On the first floor, visitors discover the Forest of Sustainability, a modern exhibit in which tree-shaped displays tell the story of Oman's plans for sustainable innovation.

Through digital displays and QR codes, these stories come to life: There is a feature on Oman's collaboration with the UAE to harvest wind power, and another on Oman's "million date palm" project.

Many case studies are linked to Oman's efforts in wildlife conservation, including birds of prey, the Arabian snow leopard and rare plants.



The Omani pavilion highlights the country's commitment to sustainability, not only of its precious natural flora, but also its youth. (Supplied)

Despite its pervasive presence at the Omani pavilion, the Boswellia tree is under threat and may die out within 20 years, according to sustainability experts. Scientists who have studied the issue say many older trees have not produced a new sapling in half a century.

When the UNESCO site at Wadi Dawkah in the Dhofar governorate was established

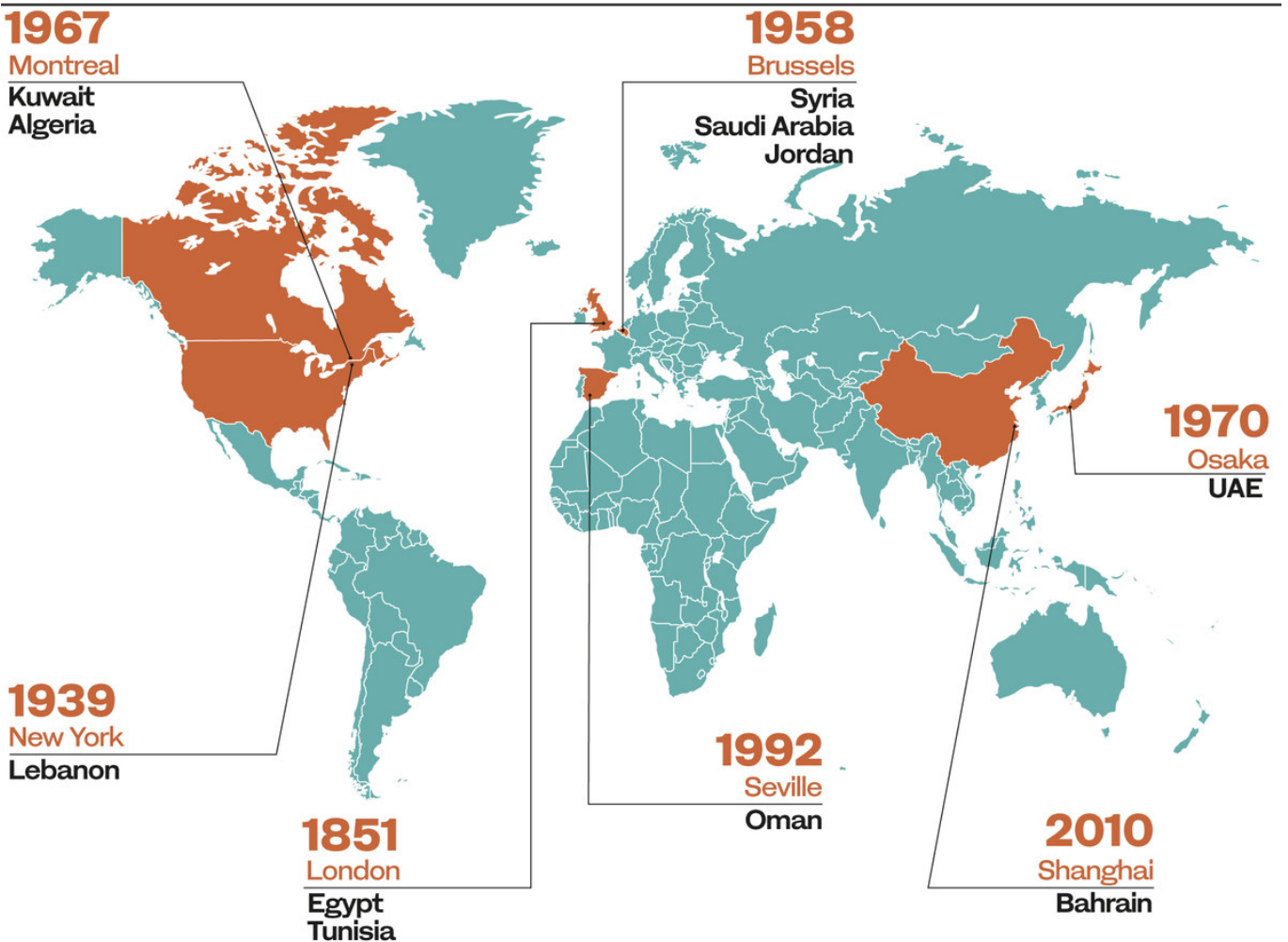
in 2000, only about 1,200 frankincense trees were growing there. Since then, thousands more have been planted, with the goal to reach 10,000 on the site.

An irrigation system has been installed to help nurture saplings, and there are also wild trees flourishing beyond the perimeter fence. Oman's investment in sustainability and the future generations of frankincense trees appears to be paying off.

From the Forest of Sustainability, visitors enter the Frankincense Crystal Hall, where precious frankincense crystals in hanging lights add a modern touch to the journey. Exiting the hall, visitors enter the "trade tunnel and trade shore," which tells the story of Oman's history as a trading hub, with more than 200 sea lanes and 86 global ports within two weeks' journey by sea.

ARAB COUNTRIES IN WORLD EXPOS

Year of first participation in a World Expo



ARAB NEWS

On the third floor, visitors are invited to "step into the future." Ancient traditions are reframed through a modern, scientific lens, with a focus on technology and the future of frankincense.

Modern uses of frankincense extend from personal to religious, spiritual and medical. According to Oman pavilion information, "frankincense is

scientifically proven to fight cancer, depression and asthma” and “is still used as a disinfectant when burnt.”

Visitors to the pavilion also have an opportunity to take the sweet aroma of frankincense home. Gifts on offer range from traditional weaving to Omani silver and products based on frankincense.

The Omani pavilion highlights the country’s commitment to sustainability, not only of its precious natural flora, but also its youth.

Innovation created by and for young Omani talent will provide inspiration and opportunity for future generations of Omanis.






EXPO 2020 DUBAI UAE: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Delayed by a year because of the pandemic, the showpiece event finally begins on Oct. 1 and continues until the end of March

4.38 Total area in square kilometers covered by the exposit.	44,000 Passengers Dubai Metro can carry each hour to and from the site.	30,000 Volunteers will help welcome the world to the expo.	4,000 Age in years of a ring, found in the UAE, that inspired the expologo.	200+ Number of entities, including 192 countries and organizations, taking part.	60 Live events will be hosted by expo each day.	200 Food and beverage outlets will serve visitors.	25 M Visits expected over 182 days of the expo.
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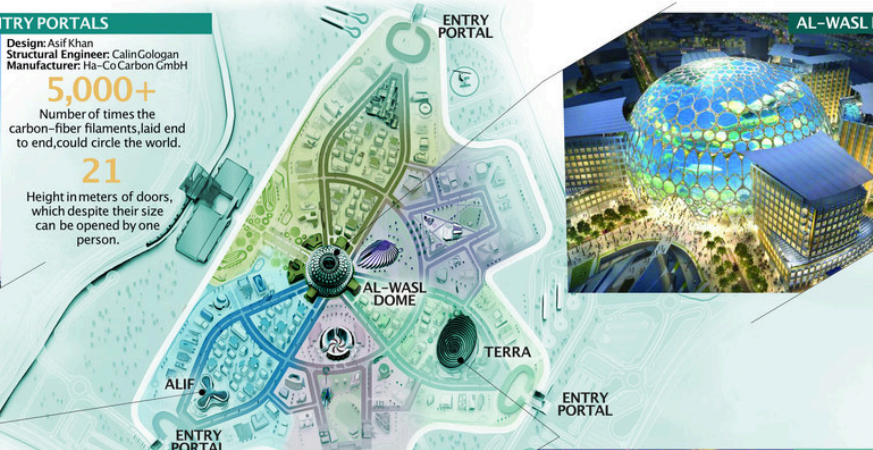


ALIF - THE MOBILITY PAVILION
Architect: Foster + Partners
Timings: 10:00 - 22:00
Location: Mobility District

160
Passengers that can be carried in the world's largest lift.

330
Length in meters of the partly underground track for viewing mobility devices.


9
Height in meters of historical giants of mobility created by Weta Workshop.



EXPO ENTRY PORTALS
Design: Asif Khan
Structural Engineer: Calin Gologan
Manufacturer: Ha-Co Carbon GmbH

5,000+
Number of times the carbon-fiber filaments, laid end to end, could circle the world.

21
Height in meters of doors, which despite their size can be opened by one person.



AL-WASL DOME
The 150-meter diameter Al-Wasl Plaza is being designed as a central hub for the exposition.


675
Height in meters, taller than Leaning Tower of Pisa.

2,544
Weight in tons, equivalent to 25 blue whales.

724,000
Volume in cubic meters of steel crown, equivalent to about 300 Olympic-size swimming pools.

136
Kilometers of steel used, equal to the height of 16 Burj Khalifas.

1,162
Individual sections were joined together to make the dome.




TERRA - THE SUSTAINABILITY PAVILION
Architect: Grimshaw Architects
Timings: 10:00 - 22:00
Location: Sustainability District

4
Gigawatt hours of energy generated by its solar panels in a year, enough for a Nissan Leaf to travel halfway to Mars.

25,000
Area of pavilion and surrounding grounds in square meters.

75
Percentage reduction in water use through new irrigation techniques and local plants.



ENTERTAINMENT FAST FACTS

- Each country's pavilion will stage its own National Day celebration.
- Daily events will include live shows, parades, musicals and roving entertainment.
- There will be a dedicated pavilion for women.
- Event mascots Rashid and Latifa will entertain children with daily stage shows.
- Three robots — Opti, Alif and Terra — will meet and greet visitors.
- Children and adults will be treated to an amazing outdoor movie experience every Monday.
- The expo has its own orchestra, an all-female ensemble called Firdaus, mentored by composer A.R. Rahman.
- Visitors can take in a daily schedule of sports and other activities.

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INTERVIEW: Saudi pavilion at Expo 2020 is a glimpse into KSA's future, says French politician
France's pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai showcases the French art of living in new exhibition
Egypt's Expo 2020 Dubai pavilion heralds a future well-grounded in the past
From traditional to abstract, Arab pavilions at Expo 2020 Dubai seize the imagination

[Morocco halts France flights amid coronavirus spike](#)

Thu, 2021-11-25 23:58

RABAT: Morocco has decided to suspend flights to and from France, where daily coronavirus infections are rising, the foreign ministry said on Thursday.

"This decision will go into effect on November 26 at 23:59 p.m. local time and until further notice," the ministry said in a statement carried by the official MAP news agency.

The number of daily new cases in France has skyrocketed in recent days, hitting a seven-month high of 32,591 on Wednesday.

French Health Minister Olivier Veran said Thursday that COVID-19 booster shots would be made available to all adults from this weekend to counter a fifth wave of infections.

France has the world's largest Moroccan expatriate community, with more than one million Moroccans living in the EU member.

In October, Morocco said it was suspending flights to and from Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and Russia due to concerns about coronavirus trends in those countries.

And earlier this month, the North African country decided to tighten controls at its borders due to a spike in COVID-19 cases in Europe.

Morocco has officially recorded around 950,000 COVID-19 cases and more than 14,500 deaths.



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Scientists raise alarm over COVID-19 variant with 'horrific' number of mutations
France extends COVID-19 booster shots to all adults

[Bahrain's King Hamad invites Pope Francis to visit Manama](#)

Thu, 2021-11-25 23:15

LONDON: Bahrain's King Hamad on Thursday sent a message to Pope Francis that included an official invitation to visit the kingdom. The message was delivered by Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed, the king's adviser for diplomatic affairs, during a meeting with the pope at the Vatican.

Sheikh Khalid expressed King Hamad's appreciation for the pontiff's "pivotal and prominent role in establishing and strengthening interfaith dialogue and understanding between different cultures and civilizations, and spreading the values of human brotherhood and coexistence among all," Bahrain News Agency reported.

He reiterated the king's support for the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, also known as the Abu Dhabi declaration, and the importance of building on it to ensure a more prosperous future for all of humanity.

Pope Francis thanked King Hamad for the invitation to visit Bahrain.

He said the invitation embodies the kingdom's "character as a role model for openness and coexistence among all components of society," praising King Hamad's constant keenness to promote a culture of dialogue and tolerance, and his initiatives to spread the principles of coexistence and brotherhood among all countries and peoples.

The Abu Dhabi agreement was signed by Pope Francis on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church, and the grand imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar in 2019 in the UAE, during the pope's historic visit to the Arabian Peninsula.







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Tags:

[Pope Francis](#)

[Bahrain](#)

[Vatican](#)

[Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed](#)

[Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together](#)

[King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa](#)

Kings of Bahrain, Jordan agree to continue cooperating on Arab causes and regional security