

# Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak visits Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2024

**Abu Dhabi, UAE - 1 May 2024** – His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, visited the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2024) today, touring many of the Emirati and international pavilions participating in the event.

During his visit, H.E. also inaugurated the pavilion dedicated to the Eshraqat Festival, organised by the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence as part of the ADIBF, and visited Egypt's pavilion at the Fair, where the country was selected as Guest of Honour for this year's edition, along with the section dedicated to renowned Egyptian author and novelist Naguib Mahfouz, the Focus Personality of the 33rd ADIBF.

"The Abu Dhabi International Book Fair will remain one of the most important regional and international platforms for knowledge and culture," H.E. Al Nahyan said. "The remarkable number of local, Arab, and international publishing houses participating in the event, which total around 1,350 from 90 countries, reflects the UAE's position and advanced role in promoting Arab publishing and culture, and hosting the premier literary and intellectual events in the Arab region and the world."

H.E. the Minister praised the Fair for hosting the Eshraqat Festival, a global knowledge event focusing on the importance of culture, knowledge, and the intellectual



achievements of Arab and international creatives that promote noble human values, most notable of which being tolerance and human brotherhood. H.E. also applauded the cooperation between the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence and the management of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair in that regard.

H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan expressed his happiness at the positive impression the Book Fair has made on creatives and publishers, which underlines its importance to them, while the size of the crowds at the Fair confirms the public's confidence in it as a leading annual cultural and knowledge event.

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Abu Dhabi International Book Fair Showcases History and Tales of 'Kalila wa Dimna'

The renowned book was spotlighted as part of the Fair's Book of the World initiative.

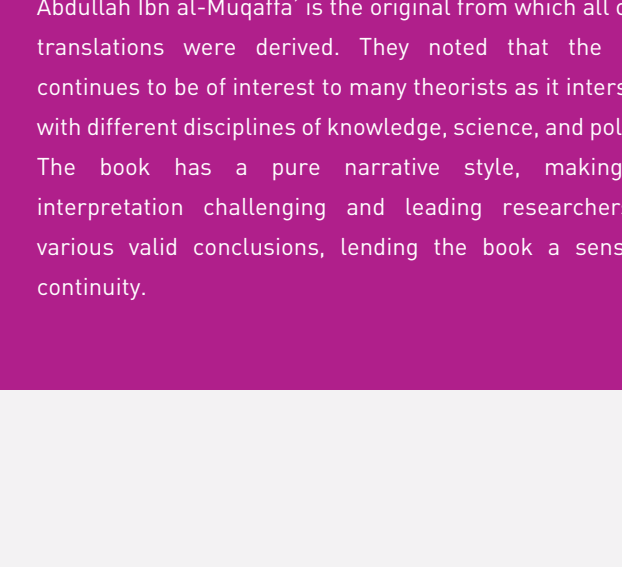
**Abu Dhabi, UAE - 28 April 2024** – The renowned literary work 'Kalila wa Dimna' by Abdullah Ibn Al-Muqaffa' is once again making an appearance at the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2024) under the Book of the World initiative, spotlighting its narrative, which transcends barriers of time and revolves around the realm of mythical tales and moral lessons suitable for every time and place.

The selection of 'Kalila wa Dimna' was not arbitrary; it embodies a noble purpose aimed at social reform. The book belongs to a literary genre called 'Mirrors for Princes', which aims to educate future leaders by providing advice through human and animal characters.

The Book of the World initiative is introduced for the first time in the current edition of the Fair, with an aim to strengthen global cultural heritage with one of the most impactful books on human consciousness, selected based on strict critical criteria every year.

In a session titled 'Kalila wa Dimna: From Manuscripts to Modern Literary Readings', the Fair discussed details regarding specific aspects of the book and how folklore is employed to support and enhance the values of virtue in the face of vice.

The session was moderated by noted media personality Hassan Alshazli, and brought together Dr. Mohamed Soliman, Head of the Cultural Communication



Sector at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Library of Alexandria); Ehab Mallah, writer, critic, journalist, and researcher specialising in heritage and cultural history; and Dr. Chahrazad Alarabi, author and specialised researcher.

The three panellists agreed that the Arabic version by Abdullah Ibn al-Muqaffa is the original from which all other translations were derived. They noted that the book continues to be of interest to many theorists as it intersects with different disciplines of knowledge, science, and politics. The book has a pure narrative style, making its interpretation challenging and leading researchers to various valid conclusions, lending the book a sense of continuity.

## Hattan AIMarzooqi, Youngest Visual Artist at the Art Corner: The Abu Dhabi International Book Fair supports my talent

**Abu Dhabi, UAE - 1 May 2024** – In line with its longstanding role as a strong supporter of emerging talents across various cultural fields, the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) in its 33rd edition is spotlighting its youngest visual artist to date, 12-year-old Hattan AIMarzooqi, who is participating in the fair for the first time.

AIMarzooqi expressed her delight at participating in the Fair, highlighting its significance as it attracts exhibitors and audiences from around the world, which, she noted, makes it a significant step forward for her so early in her career in the visual arts.

The young artist is showcasing 30 of her artworks, which she accomplished over the course of seven years since she began her first experiments at the age of five, with the support of her mother Nadia Al Nuaimi, a professional photographer who has participated in various local and

international exhibitions. This support has helped create a stimulating environment, fostering an interest in visual arts from early age.

Hattan AIMarzooqi is a sixth-grade student at a school in Abu Dhabi. She noted that her involvement in visual arts never interferes with her academic performance; on the contrary, it helps her focus and strive to fulfil her dream of enrolling in university and studying interior design, while continuing to nurture her interest in drawing, as these two fields complement each other and align with her personal interests. The artist said this motivates her to continue on the path of success and excellence, supported by her family and the opportunities provided by the UAE for its talented youth, including the chance to participate in a major global event like the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair.

## Renowned Egyptian Diplomat and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Nabil Fahmi Invites West for Peace Dialogue at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

**Abu Dhabi, UAE - 30 April 2024** – His Excellency Nabil Fahmi, renowned diplomat and former Minister of Foreign Affairs in Egypt, discussed political dynamics around the world and the critical role of the Middle East in it at the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2024).

The session was titled after H.E.'s book 'In the Making: Navigating the Middle East Amidst Global Changes and Regional Dynamics', which came under the spotlight at ADIBF. It brought the former minister together with Dr. Hamad Alkaabi, Chief News Centre Officer at Abu Dhabi Media Network.

During the discussion, H.E. Fahmi shed light on the ongoing conflict between the United States, Russia, and China over reshaping the existing international system following the end of the Cold War. While Russia and China call for a multipolar system, Washington seeks to maintain hegemony.

H.E. went on to explain that the relationship between world powers is strained due to the imbalance in power, noting the military is a key factor in maintaining harmony and peace in any country. The world monetary order was originally based on gold, but by the end of the Nixon administration, the dollar had more power. World powers like China and Russia were not happy with this new way.

Having worked in the public sector for 30 years, Fahmi is considered a specialist in both the public and private sectors. The former minister discussed the political dynamics that are shaping the world order and the Middle East, stressing that it is essential that any ministry listen to thinkers and intellectuals before developing policies.

Furthermore, H.E. discussed his book in the session, which outlines his vision for how resolving problems and tensions. Focusing on the present state of affairs, Fahmi said: "We are diplomatically in a complex geographical state because of the US and Russia. When I was Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, those in positions of authority knew I had to make necessary plans and decisions."

The West is pushing bad common grounds, he cautioned, urging that negotiations must be frank. "You cannot ridicule other countries and deprive them of their rights under international law," he said. "For instance, the Oslo Accords maintained peace in the region initially, but were later considered null and void."

"All Arab nations have to act collectively, especially regarding peace and war," he continued. "We don't have to be superior to each other. Any Western country that wants to have a dialogue, I welcome them to take the initiative to deal with tensions in the region."

The session concluded with a book signing where the veteran diplomat autographed copies of his book for visitors at the Fair.

The Abu Dhabi International Book Fair is organised by the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC), part of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), from 29 April to 5 May at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) under the slogan 'Where the World's Tales Unfold'. This year's edition of the Fair welcomes 1,350 publishers from 90 countries, including 140 publishers participating for the first time.

## Former Emirati Students in Cairo Tell Audience at Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2024 Their Experiences in a Session Titled 'Egypt in My Heart'

**Abu Dhabi, UAE - 30 April 2024** – Former Emirati students in Cairo brought their experiences of living and studying in the Egyptian capital to life at the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2024) in a special panel discussion titled 'Egypt in My Heart'.

The session brought together His Excellency Bilal Al Budour, Emirati academic, researcher, diplomat, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cultural and Scientific Association, and lawyer Hussain Al Jaziri, while Egyptian journalist Sherif Amer moderated the discussion.

The moderator opened the session by displaying the airline ticket that Hussain Al Jaziri had kept since his first trip to Cairo in 1972, adorned with the image of the Pharaonic Queen Nefertiti, and stamped with the name of the United Arab Republic, which was the name given to Egypt and Syria during their three-year unification from 1958 to 1961.

Al Jaziri expressed his gratitude for the choice of the title of the session, which emphasises that Egypt lives in the heart of every Arab. He recited a poem that captured the depth of the Arab world's attachment to Egypt throughout history, adding that among many other Cairo landmarks, such as Merryland Park in the Helipolis area, the shape of the pyramids is the image of Egypt that he will never forget.

The Emirati lawyer explained that he values the social relations with the Egyptian community, noting that the Emirati youth's bonds with each other were strengthened during that first journey outside the UAE.



For his part, H.E. Bilal Al Budour applauded Egypt's selection as a Guest of Honour at the ADIBF 2024, describing it as a 'home within a home' rather than a guest. H.E. recalled his arrival in Egypt in 1971, when the country was still experiencing war, and there were barricades in front of the buildings and the windows that were painted blue. Despite the hard times, he explained, the Egyptian people continued to live simple and happy lives. He was the first Emirati student to study Arabic at Al-Azhar University in Egypt.

H.E. Al Budour said said the time spent living in Egypt was a genuine opportunity to develop his character, and also gain a positive impression of the Egyptian people.

## Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2024: Renowned Intellectuals Analyse Interplay of History and Society in Naguib Mahfouz's Works

**Abu Dhabi, UAE - 1 May 2024** – The first session of the Focus Personality programme at the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2024), titled 'Naguib Mahfouz: A Mirror of History and Society', focused on the renowned Egyptian author, describing him as a universally acclaimed literary giant.

Held at the Memphis Stage at the Fair, the session brought together Dr. Ahmed Zayed, Director of Bibliotheca Alexandrina; Dr. Muhsin Al-Musawi, Professor of Classical and Modern Arabic Literature at Columbia University - New York; Dr. Mohammed Afify, Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at Cairo University; and Dr. Said Bensaïd Al Alaoui, Honorary Professor at Mohamed V University. Author Reem Bassiouney moderated the session.

Dr. Ahmed Zayed discussed Mahfouz's profound impact on society, saying: "Naguib Mahfouz stands as a universally acclaimed literary giant. His works portray beauty and imagination through a philosophical lens, which is exceptional. This is evident in his depiction of societal images, beginning with the neighbourhood. He delves into the conflicts and yearnings for justice and revolves prevalent within it".

For his part, Dr. Mohammed Afify analysed Mahfouz's engagement with history, saying: "The historical dimension in Mahfouz's novels holds significant sway and influence. History was a profound obsession for him and greatly influenced his work. The author continually sought to explore history and its significance, a theme that manifests in his trilogy."



On a similar note, Dr. Said Bensaïd Al Alaoui explained: "When comparing 'novel' and 'history', each stands as a distinct genre with unique characteristics, but I hold reservations regarding the term 'historical novel'. The novel serves as a reflection of both history and society. Through Mahfouz's novels, we gain deeper insights into both.

Dr. Muhsin Al-Musawi, remarked that: "Naguib Mahfouz's novels reflect the transformation experienced by anxious individuals. The author's emergence was pivotal, drawing significant attention to the realm of Arabic literature, succeeding esteemed figures such as Taha Hussein and Tawfiq Al-Hakim, whose works were translated into numerous languages, but Mahfouz remains the sole Nobel laureate from the Arabic literary sphere."

## '101 Creative Women': Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre Spotlights Women's Creativity at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

**Abu Dhabi, UAE - 1 May 2024** – In recognition of the significant role women play in the journey of human creativity and in celebration of their achievements, the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC), part of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), has released a book titled '101 Creative Women', as part of the activities of the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2024), which runs until 5 May.

The Centre hosted a panel discussion titled '101 Creative Women: Literary Works that Influenced the World', featuring Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghathami, academic and critic, and Dr. Khalil Sheikh, critic, translator, and Director of the Education and Arabic Research Department at the ALC. The session was moderated by Tarek Rashed, Head of the ALC's Arabic Language Research and Studies Section.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghathami expressed his delight at the release of the book, as it highlights the essence of women's literary achievements. He described the book as an initial foundation for the future, noting that the Centre has opened the door for documenting female achievements and innovations, and praising the efforts that paved the way for the publishing of the book.



For his part, Dr. Khalil Sheikh explained that '101 Creative Women' is a critical definition of creative women that aims to shed light on women who have made significant literary accomplishments. He clarified that the book is the third in a series that launched three years ago, starting with the first book titled One Hundred and One Books: Arabic Books that Enriched the World, which highlights the most significant books in Arab culture, followed by 'One Hundred and One Novels: Arab Novels that Enriched the 20th Century, completed by a committee of prominent critics in the Arab world, leading up to the current edition.