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TOWER OF PRIDE

Burj Dubai will open tonight in a blaze of glory. A blend of breathtaking fireworks, dazzling laser beams, choreographed water displays and sound effects will tell the tale of a journey from

a desert flower to an iconic building. Standing more than 800 metres high and with over 160 storeys, Burj Dubai becomes the world's tallest building and the pride of Dubai.

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SERVICE CHARGE

Restaurants face hefty penalties

BY ANJANA SANKAR
Senior Reporter
AND ZAHER BITAR
Staff Reporter

Dubai Restaurants and coffee shops that are levying a service charge will face heavy penalties ranging from Dh5,000 to Dh100,000 and closure of the outlet in case of repeated offences, a senior Ministry of Economy official told *Gulf News* yesterday.

Some restaurants add a five to 20 per cent service fee on the bill which has been described by the Ministry of Economy as illegal.

Mohammad Ahmad Bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehi, Director General of the Ministry of Economy, said: "Our aim is not to fine these restaurants. We want them to cooperate with us and abide by law to stop this illegal practice."

Many restaurants and cafés, however, continue to defy the law and impose a service charge on food bills.

Gulf News' investigations have revealed that many eateries have not started following the government's instructions while others withdrew it yesterday.

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US, Britain to fund Yemen war on terror

AL QAIDA THREATS SHUT THEIR EMBASSIES IN SANA'A

Sana'a (AP & Reuters) The United States and Britain closed their embassies in Yemen yesterday in the face of Al Qaida threats.

The threats came after both countries announced an increase in aid to the government to fight the terror group linked to the failed attempt to bomb a US airliner on Christmas Day.

White House counter-terrorism chief John Brennan said the US Embassy, which was attacked twice in 2008, was shut because of "indications Al Qaida is planning to carry out an attack against a target inside of Sana'a, possibly our embassy."

"We're not going to take any chances" with the lives of embassy personnel, Brennan said. A statement on the embassy's website announcing the closure did not say how long it would remain closed.

Despite the recent focus on the threat from Al

"I wouldn't say we're opening a second front. This is a continuation of an effort that we had under way, as I said, since the beginning of the [Obama] administration."

John Brennan
Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Adviser

Qaida in Yemen, Brennan said the US is not opening a new front in the global fight against terrorism.

"I wouldn't say we're opening a second front. This is a continuation of an effort that we had under way, as I said, since the beginning of the [Obama] administration," he said on *Fox News Sunday*.

Saleh-Petraeus talks

In London, Britain's Foreign Office said its embassy was closed for security reasons. It said officials

would decide later whether to reopen it today.

The Spanish Embassy in Yemen, meanwhile, restricted access but remains open, the government said.

"Spain's embassy is still open and operating as normal, but has restricted access due to security reasons," a foreign ministry spokesman said. *El Mundo* newspaper said the embassy would be closed today.

The closure of the US Embassy, and that of the UK, came a day after the top US general in the region, David

Petraeus, paid an unannounced visit to Yemen and pledged more assistance in combating terrorism.

Petraeus held talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh during which he reaffirmed the US commitment to support anti-terrorism efforts in Yemen.

Yemen also welcomed a British and US decision to fund its counter-extremism police as the two powers step up the fight against Al Qaida.

"Any assistance provided to Yemen's counter-terrorism force will be welcome," a government official said.

Yemen has already tightened security on its coastline to stop militants infiltrating from Somalia. But Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al Qirbi said his government was not coordinating strikes against Al Qaida with the United States.

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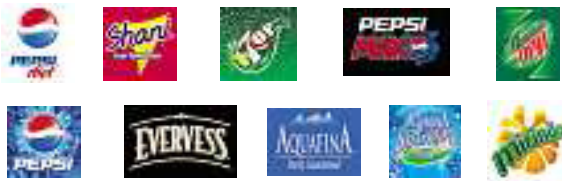


WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE
**H.H. SHEIKH MOHAMMED
BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM,**
UAE VICE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER
AND RULER OF DUBAI,
FOR THE LAUNCH OF BURJ DUBAI,
THE WORLD'S ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE.

WE PRAY FOR HIS SUPREME LEADERSHIP
IN SERVING THE COUNTRY AND
HIS SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE.





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




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