

WHAT A HIGH!

DH387,988
CLUB BILL
GOES VIRAL

XPRESS REPORT

DUBAI A bill for a generous birthday bash at Dubai's exclusive Cavalli Club this week has kicked up a storm in cyberspace.

A picture of the bill dated January 2 for Dh387,988 (\$105,431) — equivalent to the list price of two Porsche Cayennes — has gone viral on twitter with people reacting with shock and awe. Entries on the bill show a slice of birthday cake for Dh120 and a six-litre Cristal, the world's most expensive champagne, at Dh125,000. Between 12.42 am and 3.19 am, Table 405/1 placed 13 orders of Roederer Cristals for Dh84,240 and two orders of 3-litre Cristals for Dh70,000.

A Twitterati with the hashtag #@THE_47th who has 2,509 followers, spotted the post at 2pm on Wednesday and was one of the many who re-tweeted it. In cyberspace terms, it would mean thousands of people get-



HIC HIC HURRAY: The \$100k-plus bill that has become the talk of the online world

ting the message on their computers or smartphones.

An expat with the tag #David George-Cosh tweeted: "With a \$100k bar tab at the Cavalli Club in Dubai, one can make the logical assumption that Dubai is back!"

"Now that's one sick bill!" said #adham_gonzi. "This is insane," tweeted #Hysharara, to which #shimishah added: "Crazy! Ppl still spend this kind of cash?"

"Part of me wants to believe Cavalli Club receipt is a hoax," tweeted Vineetha Menon.

Aneshree, a club staff confirmed the bill was genuine. "Of course, it's authentic," she said, but declined to give the name of the high-spending guest.

WALK DOWNTOWN



BRIDGE TO THE BURJ:

Here's an artist's impression of a 820-metre-long overhead footbridge planned to link the Dubai Mall/Burj Khalifa Metro station with Dubai Mall and Burj Khalifa Tower. With 10 travellator units of lengths ranging from 70 to 120 metres, the structure will be one of the longest pedestrian walkways linking the Metro to a retail development. With its length almost the same as the height of the world's tallest skyscraper (828 metres), the footbridge is expected to ease vehicular traffic within the vicinity of Downtown Dubai, and improve footfall to the popular mall and the iconic tower. The footbridge is expected to be completed in 2013.

Supplied photo

Surveillance camera

BIG BROTHER TO KEEP
AN EYE ON NANNIES

Working couples increasingly turning to technology to keep watch over domestic help

BY SHARMILA DHAL
SENIOR REPORTER

DUBAI Residents in the UAE are increasingly turning to nanny cameras to keep tabs on their homes, domestic help and children, a surveillance camera company has reported.

"2011 was the year of the Super Nanny Cam. We sold over 1,000 pieces to around 300 families," said Fady Bran, Managing Director of Maxcom Technologies in Dubai.

He said the demand was high among Europeans, followed by Indians. "Working parents in particular want to know what goes on inside their homes when they are out at work or are travelling."

EASY DOES IT

He said unlike analog CCTV surveillance cameras, the Super Nanny Cam is an Internet Protocol, digital video camera and can send and receive data via a computer network and the Internet. It's wireless, easy to install and detects any motion within a range of 10 metres. It's mobile phone-enabled and sends e-mail alerts.

Bran claimed that the Super nanny camera is discreet and



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"It's just a tool to ensure that that our homes and our children are safe at all times"

FADY BRAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MAXCOM TECHNOLOGIES IN DUBAI

not hidden unlike other nanny cameras which are typically hidden in the belly button of a teddy bear.

Asked about the ethics behind installing such cameras, he said it should be done in the full knowledge of those being covered. "There is no question of invading privacy or intimidating anyone. It's just a tool to ensure that our homes and our children are safe at all times. It's about the general observation of our homes."

He said although most families

install the cameras to keep an eye on nannies, there are several other uses as well. They use them to monitor valuables, pets, observe the playing behaviour of kids, make sure they do their homework and stay out of trouble. "Imagine being able to get an alert if your child falls off the bed."

CAPTURING INTRUDERS

Residents also use these cameras when they travel abroad as they can be easily installed and can capture intruders and e-mail their movement.

Although the average demand for cameras is three per home — usually at the main entrance, in the kids' room and the living room, there are residents who install cameras in every room, including the kitchen, he said.

"We also have an outdoor version which villa owners install in garages and outside their homes to keep track of any suspicious movement," Bran added.

He said the cost of installing one camera comes up to Dh2,000, including the device.

YOU SPEAK

■ Are nanny cams a violation of babysitters' rights?

Tell us what you think.

■ news@xpress4me.com

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SHARJAH CONTRACT
ATTESTATION FEES
HUGE
DISCOUNT

BY JAY B. HILOTIN
CHIEF REPORTER

SHARJAH Sharjah Municipality has announced a 50 per cent discount on overdue attestation fees of tenancy contracts. The discount applies to contracts signed last year, but it gave a deadline of February 29 by which all defaulters must settle their dues before a fine amounting to triple the amount is slapped.

Sharjah levies a fee equivalent to two per cent of the tenancy contract. Sharjah law requires tenants to have their contracts attested within 15 days from the date of issuance, but many ignore this when renewing their tenancy contracts. Eng Sultan Abdullah Al Mualla, Director General of Sharjah Municipality, said the discount will ease the burden on landlords and tenants whose attestation fees have accumulated over the years due to failure to register their tenancy contracts.

A civic body notice said: "The municipality calls on violators to get their tenancy contracts attested and take advantage of the discount to avoid any legal procedures. After the end of the period, the utility services to the premises will be cut off and will not be restored unless due amounts are paid in full."