

Iris scan checks entry of illegals into UAE

System stops 235,000 at various ports

- By Rayeesa Absal, Staff Reporter
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Abu Dhabi: Since its installation in 2002, the Iris scan technology has helped prevent over 235,000 people from entering the UAE illegally, police announced yesterday.

The technology has been highly successful in securing UAE's borders and entry points, Major General Ahmad Nasser Al Raisi, the Director General of Abu Dhabi Police Central Operations said in a press statement.

In order to apply the system on the passport counters at various entry points, studies to use new cameras to capture the image of the iris from a distance is currently under way.

"Iris scan system currently used at various ports of the country has achieved amazing results and proved high efficiency in arresting deported people of different nationalities who attempted to enter UAE after forging their passports and obtaining new visit or work visas", he said.

Before the implementation of the iris scan, a foreigner expelled from UAE could go back to his country, change his name, get a new passport and return to the country. The challenging situation led to the use of iris prints which, being unique to each individual, helps identify such cases in real time.

Police stations

As many as 26 new iris scan stations will be set up in police stations in the capital this year. The move will help ensure that criminals who are arrested and deported do not return, Al Raisi said.

Also, it will help to document people who are arrested without identification documents.

"So far, over 1,894,926 iris prints have been collected from 947,463 people. Out of this, 235,000 people were deported and are not allowed to enter UAE", he said.

Authorities are now trying to collect maximum number of iris prints from residents, in order to improve safety and security of the country, he noted.

Using special cameras, the iris of the eye is photographed. This is saved in the form of mathematical codes. When necessary, officials can cross check the prints to identify suspects in a matter of few seconds.

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