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# THE GULF TIME

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UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his visit to the Khalifa bin Zayed II Airborne Brigade Command in Dubai on Thursday

## UAE President visits Khalifa bin Zayed II Airborne Brigade Command

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was briefed on the brigade's structure, operational responsibilities, and its vital role in the country's national defence

**DUBAI/WAM**  
 UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited the Khalifa bin Zayed II Airborne Brigade Command, part of the Presidential Guard Command.  
 During the visit, His Highness was briefed on the brigade's structure, operational responsibilities,

and its vital role in the UAE's national defence. As a high-readiness strategic unit, the brigade specialises in airborne operations and rapid deployment, enhancing the country's ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging challenges. Its mission reflects the UAE's forward-looking approach to building a modern

and capable defence force. The brigade is a cornerstone of the UAE Armed Forces' formations. It comprises units trained to the highest levels of professionalism in executing special missions and rapid response operations. It stands as a powerful testament to the Armed Forces' readiness to defend the UAE's sovereignty and safeguard its na-

tional achievements. His Highness expressed his appreciation for the operational role carried out by the brigade's personnel, praising their dedication and the spirit of loyalty and patriotism they demonstrate. He reaffirmed that developing the Armed Forces, enhancing their combat capabilities, and strengthening

their operational readiness remain a strategic priority to defend the nation and maintain its security and stability. At the conclusion of the visit, His Highness joined members of the brigade and airborne operational support units from the Ministry of Defence for a group photo. The personnel expressed their pride in serving within

this strategic military formation and reaffirmed their unwavering loyalty to the nation's leadership, as well as their steadfast readiness to defend the homeland and safeguard its resources and achievements with the highest levels of dedication and commitment.

■ For full story, read [www.gulftime.ae](http://www.gulftime.ae)

## Mansour bin Zayed chairs first meeting of Executive Committee of Tawazun Council's Board of Directors for 2025

**ABU DHABI/WAM**  
 HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Presidential Court, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tawazun Council, has chaired the first meeting of the executive committee of Tawazun Council's board of directors for 2025, held at Tawazun Defence Hall in Abu Dhabi. The meeting was attended by HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and

Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, along with members of Tawazun Council's Executive Committee. During the meeting, the committee approved the council's new Strategy 2025-2028 and its forward-looking implementation roadmap. They also reviewed updates on operational and financial performance, as well as the council's defence industrial ambitions. The committee praised the achievements of Tawazun Council and emphasised the importance of the upcoming phase

in light of the council's new strategy. The new strategy aims to realise the council's vision of enabling a pioneering and future-ready national defence sector. This will be achieved through enhancing procurement efficiency, providing leading capabilities, supporting sustainable industry growth, establishing quality standards, and driving technological innovation and research and development to ensure readiness for future challenges.

■ For full story, read [www.gulftime.ae](http://www.gulftime.ae)



His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Presidential Court, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tawazun Council, with His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, during the first meeting of the executive committee of Tawazun Council's board of directors for 2025, at Tawazun Defence Hall in Abu Dhabi on Thursday

—WAM

## Ramadan travel to UAE up 6%, says Visa's Travel Pulse Q1-2025 report

**DUBAI/WAM**  
 Ramadan 2025 has marked a turning point in how global travellers engage with the UAE, with new data from Visa showing a 6 percent year-on-year increase in visitors and a sharp shift in both traveller profiles and spending behaviour. Released ahead of the Arabian Travel Market, Visa's Travel Pulse Q1-2025 report revealed emerging markets deliv-



Visa's Travel Pulse Q1-2025 report showed that mid-market travellers (non-premium Visa cardholders) were the primary segment of travellers to the UAE during Ramadan, accounting for 45 percent of total international visitor spend, up from 41 percent in non-Ramadan periods

ered unexpected spending, with a 111 percent increase in spending among visitors from Azerbaijan, followed by Tajikistan (81 percent), and Kyrgyzstan (62 percent). The report showed that mid-market travellers (non-premium Visa cardholders) were the primary segment of travellers during Ramadan, accounting for 45 percent of total international visitor spend, up from 41 percent in non-

Ramadan periods. The visitor mix is evolving, with a surge in inbound tourism from Central and Eastern Europe, led by the Czech Republic (86 percent increase compared to the rest of the year), Romania (67 percent), Poland (63 percent), and Germany (44 percent) - markets that are reshaping the UAE's traditional tourist profile.

■ For full story, read [www.gulftime.ae](http://www.gulftime.ae)



UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his visit to the Khalifa bin Zayed II Airborne Brigade Command in Dubai on Thursday

—WAM PHOTOS

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His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan reaffirmed that developing the Armed Forces, enhancing their combat capabilities, and strengthening their operational readiness remain a strategic priority to defend the nation and maintain its security and stability

As a high-readiness strategic unit, the brigade specialises in airborne operations and rapid deployment, enhancing the country's ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging challenges. Its mission reflects the UAE's forward-looking approach to building a modern and capable defence force.

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prises units trained to the highest levels of professionalism in executing special missions and rapid response operations. It stands as a powerful testament to the Armed Forces' readiness to defend the UAE's sovereignty and safeguard its national achievements.

His Highness expressed his appreciation for the operational role carried out by the brigade's personnel, praising their dedication and the spirit of

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At the conclusion of the visit, His Highness joined members of the brigade and airborne operational support units from the Ministry of Defence

for a group photo.

The personnel expressed their pride in serving within this strategic military formation and reaffirmed their unwavering loyalty to the nation's leadership, as well as their steadfast readiness to defend the homeland and safeguard its resources and achievements with the highest levels of dedication and commitment.

Accompanying His Highness during

the visit were HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defence; His Excellency Mohamed bin Mubarak bin Fadhel Al Mazrouei, Minister of State for Defence Affairs; and Lieutenant General Engineer Issa Saif bin Ablan Al Mazrouei, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, along with several senior military officers.



# Sultan of Oman receives Ruler of Sharjah at Al Alam Palace

HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi expressed his sincere gratitude to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for the warm welcome

SHARJAH / WAM

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman welcomed His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, at Al Alam Palace in Muscat.

At the start of the meeting, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq warmly welcomed His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah and his accompanying delegation, highlighting the strong, historic ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE, as well as the close bond between their peoples.

HH the Ruler of Sharjah conveyed the greetings of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, along with his best wishes for continued progress and prosperity for the Sultanate of Oman and its brotherly people.

The Sultan of Oman commended HH the Ruler of Sharjah for his significant contributions to cultural advancement and his initiatives dedicated to preserving Arab heritage and identity.

He also praised His Highness' latest historical work, "The Por-



His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman at Al Alam Palace in Muscat, Oman, on Thursday —WAM

uguese in the Sea of Oman: Events in Annals from 1497 to 1757," describing it as a remarkable achievement and a valuable addition to both Arab and international literary and historical collections.

HH the Ruler of Sharjah ex-

pressed his sincere gratitude to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

He also praised the remarkable renaissance taking place in the sisterly Sultanate of Oman under the Sultan's leadership.

The meeting was attended by members of the delegation accompanying HH the Ruler of Sharjah, including Sheikhha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairperson of the Sharjah Book Authority; Mohammed bin Nakhira Al Dhaheri, UAE

Ambassador to Oman; Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Owais, Chairman of the Department of Culture; Ahmed bin Rakkad Al Ameri, CEO of the Sharjah Book Authority; Mohammed Obaid Al Zaabi, Head of the Department of Protocol and Hospitality; and

HH the Ruler of Sharjah conveyed the greetings of President HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, along with his best wishes for continued progress and prosperity for the Sultanate of Oman and its brotherly people

Mohammed Hassan Khalaf, Director General of the Sharjah Broadcasting Authority.

From the Omani side, the meeting was attended by Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, and His Excellency Dr Hamad bin Saeed Al Afi, Head of the Private Office of the Sultan.

HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi departed the Omani capital, Muscat, where he was bid farewell by Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, and Mohammed bin Nakhira Al Dhaheri, UAE Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.

THE Abu Dhabi Real Estate Centre's mortgage transactions recorded growth, reaching AED9.8 billion

## Adrec records AED25.3bn in real estate deals in Q1, up 34.5% YoY

The Abu Dhabi Real Estate Centre's buy and sell transactions totalled AED15.51b through 3,819 deals, reflecting a 26.7% increase in value

ABU DHABI / AD MEDIA OFFICE

The Abu Dhabi Real Estate Centre (ADREC), an affiliate of the Department of Municipalities and Transport - Abu Dhabi, has reported total transaction value grew by 34.5 per cent to AED25.3 billion across 6,896 deals in the first quarter of 2025 in the emirate, compared to AED 18.82 billion from 5,773 transactions in the same period of 2024.

Buy and sell transactions totalled AED15.51 billion through 3,819 transactions, reflecting a 26.7 per cent increase in value and an 11 per cent rise in volume compared to the first quarter of 2024. Mortgage transactions also recorded strong growth, reaching AED9.8 billion through 3,077 transactions — a 49 per cent year-on-year increase.

Saadiyat Island was the leading area for real estate transactions, recording deals amounting to AED5.6 billion. It was followed by Yas Island, with AED3.6 billion, and Mohammed Bin Zayed City, with AED2.1 billion. Al Reem Island and Al Hudaibiyat Island recorded over AED1 billion in transactions.

The report highlighted continued activity in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with 384 transactions val-



Adrec's report highlighted continued activity in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with 384 transactions valued at AED1.582 billion concluded by investors from 68 nationalities in Q1, 2025 —WAM

The notable growth in transaction value and volume, alongside the rise in foreign investment, underscores the effectiveness of our regulatory frameworks and reinforces investor confidence in the market

**Engineer Rashed Al Omaira,**  
Acting Director-General of ADREC

ued at AED1.582 billion concluded by investors from 68 nationalities — up from 58 nationalities during the same period last year. This demonstrates growing con-

fidence in Abu Dhabi's real estate market, driven by regulatory policies and government initiatives that enhance its local and global appeal.

Saadiyat Island was the leading area for real estate transactions in Abu Dhabi, recording deals amounting to AED5.6b in Q1, 2025

Engineer Rashed Al Omaira, Acting Director-General of ADREC, said: "ADREC continues to advance a more efficient, competitive, and sustainable real estate ecosystem, driven by digital transformation, reliable data, and continuous collaboration with strategic partners. These results highlight the strength of Abu Dhabi's property market and its enduring attractiveness as a regional and international hub for real estate investment. The notable growth in transaction value and volume, alongside the rise in foreign investment, underscores the effectiveness of our regulatory frameworks and reinforces investor confidence in the market."

"We will continue to enhance our legislative and digital tools and promote transparency to establish a more flexible and sustainable real estate environment aligned with Abu Dhabi's long-term vision."

## MoFA receives credentials copy from Ambassador of Republic of Belarus



Omar Obaid Al Hassan Al Shamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with Igor Bely, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the UAE, while receiving a copy of the credentials from him in Abu Dhabi on Thursday —WAM

ABU DHABI / WAM

Omar Obaid Al Hassan Al Shamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received a copy of the credentials of Igor Bely, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the UAE.

He wished the new Ambassador of Belarus success in the performance of his duties and emphasised the

UAE's keenness to enhance the relations between the UAE and Belarus in all fields.

The newly appointed ambassador praised the leading and prestigious position that the UAE enjoys regionally and internationally under the visionary policy of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

## THE GULF TIME

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## Al Ain Zoo earns prestigious accreditation from AZA

The milestone reflects the zoo's steadfast commitment to implementing the international standards in animal care

ABU DHABI / AD MEDIA OFFICE

Al Ain Zoo has received accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), marking a significant milestone that reflects the zoo's steadfast commitment to implementing the highest international standards in animal care, environmental conservation, and wildlife protection.

This prestigious accreditation is considered one of the most rigorous and respected in the global zoo and aquarium industry. The zoo underwent a comprehensive and meticulous evaluation process that covered various operational areas, including animal health, quality of veterinary care, visitor and staff safety, risk management, guest experience, and

environmental sustainability programmes.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is an independent international body that grants accreditation to institutions that demonstrate full compliance with the best global practices and standards in animal care and environmental management.

Eng Ahmed Eisa Al Harasi, Acting Director General of Al Ain Zoo, said: "We take great pride in this exceptional achievement, which reflects our ongoing vision for excellence in animal care, environmental preservation, and biodiversity protection. Being awarded AZA accreditation is a global testament to the quality of our operations and the dedication of our skilled and pas-



Al Ain Zoo is one of the UAE's and the region's leading educational and tourist destinations —AD MEDIA OFFICE

sionate team. We will continue to deliver inspiring educational and recreational experiences that meet world-class standards and contribute to raising awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation

among our visitors."

Dr Amna Mana Alotaiba, Director of Life Sciences at Al Ain Zoo, said: "This accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums reflects the quality of the programmes and pro-

cedures we implement at the zoo and is a testament to our ongoing commitment to achieving the highest standards of animal care. Our team includes a group of distinguished professionals in

the Life Sciences department and other vital departments across the zoo, who work with passion and dedication to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all animals under our care. We are proud to be among the select group of global institutions that have earned this prestigious recognition."

Al Ain Zoo is one of the UAE's and the region's leading educational and tourist destinations. It provides a safe habitat for its animals of various species and remains committed to delivering enriching, educational, and entertaining experiences through the adoption of the latest global practices in animal welfare and conservation, positioning it as one of the region's leading institutions in the field regionally and globally.









## THE GULF TIME REVIEW



Built on a passion for exceptional taste and fine attention to detail, the restaurant serves thoughtfully curated dishes made with the freshest, high-quality produce

ABU DHABI / GULF TIME

**S**eed & Bloom, a proudly homegrown café, has opened its doors at Al Raha Gardens Plaza, offering a space where organic, locally sourced ingredients, artisanal craftsmanship, and community spirit come together.

Built on a passion for exceptional taste and fine attention to detail, Seed & Bloom serves thoughtfully curated

dishes made with the freshest, high-quality produce. From the handcrafted Blooming Focaccia (whipped feta, spiced honey, garden herbs) to the indulgent Bloom Benedict and vibrant Lemon & Passion Fruit Tart, every plate is a feast for both the eyes and the palate. Chef Kevin McNulty (formerly of Jason Atherton and Galvin Brothers) ensures each creation is as visually stunning as it is delicious.

Beyond food, Seed & Bloom is a hub

Seed & Bloom's interiors feature eco-conscious design elements, including mycelium wall panels, recycled paper tabletops, and natural floral accents, ensuring that every detail reflects a commitment to both quality and the environment

for meaningful connections and creativity. The café hosts interactive workshops and community events, fostering a space where guests can

gather, learn, and grow together.

Rooted in sustainability, Seed & Bloom's interiors feature eco-conscious design elements, including

mycelium wall panels, recycled paper tabletops, and natural floral accents, ensuring that every detail reflects a commitment to both quality and the environment.

With a deep dedication to nurturing local culture, supporting artisans, and offering an inspiring culinary experience, Seed & Bloom invites the Abu Dhabi community to experience more than just great food—it's a space to connect, create, and thrive.

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The Aussie cafe in Al Zeina will be bringing the community together with a month of great food, and more

# The Keg Room serves community vibes, top-notch feasts this April

ABU DHABI / GULF TIME

The Keg Room in Al Zeina offers a classic Australian neighborhood gathering spot right in the heart of Abu Dhabi this April.

Stepping inside, you'll discover a vibrant space reminiscent of a classic village local, with its rustic yet inviting architecture featuring raw sandstock brick, high ceilings with industrial touches, and cozy pendant lighting.

More than just a place to eat and socialise, The Keg Room is a distinctly Australian celebration of flavours and hospitality, a welcoming hub where classic plates meet modern tastes are always on offer, and an unbeatable atmosphere fosters genuine connections within the Abu Dhabi community

well as a live streaming of the Last Post Ceremony. Patrons can also look forward to screenings of the AFL and NRL Anzac matches.

**What:** Up to 30% off select food and beverages.

**When:** Friday - April 25, 11am onwards

### CURRY NIGHT

Kick off your week on a spicy note with The Keg Room's Curry Night offer every Monday. From rich, aromatic sauces to perfectly spiced favourites, the bold flavours and hearty portions — along with a beverage, of course — may just make Monday your new favourite night of the week.

**What:** Choice of Paneer Masala, Chicken Butter Masala or Seafood Coconut Curry and a complimentary house beverage,



With a winning lineup of offers and events, there's no better place than The Keg Room this April. Here's to good food, good company, and great memories in the making

age, starting from AED 75 to AED 95

**When:** Every Monday, noon to 10pm

### BURGER NIGHT

Tuesday nights just got so much tastier with The Keg Room. Sink your teeth into a big, juicy burger, grilled to perfection and packed with flavour, every Tuesday when the restaurant hosts its weekly Burger Night.

And because no great burger

should go solo, diners can enjoy a complimentary house beverage with their burger, so grab a seat, grab a bite, and make Tuesday something to look forward to.

**What:** Choice of any burger and one complimentary house beverage, starting from AED 80 to AED 90

**When:** Every Tuesday, noon to 10pm

### BINGO NIGHT

Fun, laughter, and a little

friendly competition, Bingo Night at The Keg Room is where it all comes together. With big prizes, unbeatable vibes, and plenty of thrills, there's no better place to be.

**What:** Bingo Night (free to participate)

**When:** Every Tuesday, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

### PARM AND SCHNITZEL NIGHT

Parmi and Schnitzel Night Wednesday calls for a proper

chicken parmi—golden, crispy, and piled high with all the good stuff—including a complimentary house beverage.

Midweek deserves a little celebration, so grab your mates, grab a fork, and make it a tradition.

**What:** Chicken Parmi or Schnitzel and one complimentary house beverage, starting from AED 80 to AED 90

**When:** Every Wednesday, noon to 10pm

### QUIZ NIGHT

Enjoy a fun trivia night at The Keg Room every Wednesday. A jovial combination of good food and some friendly rivalry, quiz night at The Keg Room is where brains meet banter.

So, gather your crew and battle it out for glory—and some fantastic prizes!

**What:** Quiz Night (free to participate)

**When:** Every Wednesday, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

The Keg Room is located in Shop G03, Precinct A, Al Zeina, Abu Dhabi. Opening hours are Sunday to Thursday, 8am to late, and Friday to Saturday, 8am to 1am.

For bookings and enquiries, please call 056 410 4101, or visit <https://widget.servmeco.com/?oid=1430>.

Follow @thekegroom on Instagram to discover more

■ For full story, read [www.gulftime.ae](http://www.gulftime.ae)

### ANZAC DAY

The Keg Room will commemorate Anzac Day on April 25 with specials on traditional Aussie fare and beverages, as