

COMPANY NEWSLETTER

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MoHRE Cracks Down on Violating Domestic Worker Agencies

Date: 16 June 2025

Source: Gulf News

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) has sanctioned several domestic worker recruitment agencies for failing to comply with regulations. Key violations included not refunding recruitment fees to employers within the mandated 14-day period after a worker's return or absence. MoHRE reaffirmed its zero-tolerance stance, warning that repeat offenders risk license revocation.

Dubai: DFSA Engages Firms in Tokenisation Regulatory Sandbox

Date: 16 June 2025

Source: Khaleej Times

The Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) has commenced engagement with firms selected for its Tokenisation Regulatory Sandbox. These firms, operating under the Innovation Testing Licence, will co-develop testing plans and trial financial products in a controlled environment. Insights from this initiative will shape future regulatory policies for digital assets and tokenised financial instruments.



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GCC Tourist Visa Approved

Date: 16 June 2025

Source: Khaleej Times

A unified GCC tourist visa has been approved and will be launched soon. The visa will enable seamless travel across all GCC countries, boosting both tourism and business-leisure (bleisure) travel. Industry experts expect significant growth in regional tourism once implemented.

Abu Dhabi Overhauls Real Estate Regulations

Date: 12 June 2025

Source: Gulf News

Abu Dhabi has introduced comprehensive regulatory updates to its real estate sector, covering all aspects of development, sale, purchase, registration, and management. The rules also extend to job roles within the sector. Non-compliance will attract penalties, with a schedule of fines to be issued by the Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT).

UAE Central Bank Cancels Sundus Exchange Licence

Date: 17 June 2025

Source: Khaleej Times

The UAE Central Bank has imposed a Dh10 million fine on Sundus Exchange and cancelled its licence following breaches of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorist Financing laws. The regulator emphasized its strict oversight and reiterated its commitment to safeguarding the financial integrity of the UAE.

Jobseekers Exploited on Visit Visas

Date: 17 June 2025

Source: Khaleej Times

An increasing number of expatriates arriving on visit visas are being misled by false job promises. Many are lured by offer letters, begin working informally, and are later left in legal and financial limbo when no formal contracts or residency visas are provided. Authorities have warned jobseekers not to start employment until all formalities are complete.



UAE Central Bank Fines Foreign Bank Branches Dh18m

Date: 28 May 2025

Source: Khaleej Times

Two foreign bank branches operating in the UAE were fined a combined Dh18 million for violating AML regulations. The Central Bank confirmed that the sanctions were issued under federal law and align with ongoing efforts to strengthen compliance in the financial system.

World's First Machine Economy Freezone in UAE

Date: 11 June 2025

Source: Arabian Business

The UAE will host the world's first Machine Economy Freezone (MEFZ), jointly launched by Pulsar Group and peaq. The zone will accelerate the adoption of AI, robotics, Web3, and decentralised infrastructure. Its four pillars include regulation, deployment, investment, and community-driven innovation, supporting the vision of AI-powered smart cities.

UAE Central Bank Issues Dh100m AML Fine

Date: 29 May 2025

Source: Gulf News

The UAE Central Bank has fined another exchange house Dh100 million for severe AML failures, just a week after issuing a Dh200m penalty on a different exchange. The branch manager was also fined and banned from working in UAE's financial sector. These fines highlight the regulator's tough stance on financial crime.

Ministerial Decision on E-Invoicing Service Providers

Date: 2025 (Decision No. 64 of 2025)

Source: UAE Ministry of Finance

The UAE Ministry of Finance has issued a decision outlining eligibility and accreditation criteria for e-invoicing service providers. The framework requires alignment with Peppol standards, ensuring structured issuance, transmission, and processing of e-invoices and credit notes. Service providers must obtain official accreditation before operating in the UAE.



Dubai Convicts 21 in Massive Visa Fraud – Dh25.21m Fine

Source: Gulf News

In one of Dubai's largest visa fraud cases, 21 individuals were convicted and fined a total of Dh25.21 million. The scheme involved 33 shell companies and the misuse of 385 residency visas.

HDFC Bank Under Review in UAE Over Risky Bonds

Source: Khaleej Times

India's HDFC Bank is under regulatory scrutiny in the UAE for allegedly selling risky bonds to some clients. While the bank denies wrongdoing, it emphasized its robust communication process to ensure clients understand the risks of financial products.

UAE Central Bank Fines Bank Dh3.5m and Imposes 6-Month Customer Ban

Source: Khaleej Times

The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) imposed a Dh3.5 million fine and a six-month ban on new customers against a local bank for violating Sharia governance requirements.

Emiratization: Dh20,000 Fines Loom for Non-Compliance

Source: Gulf News

The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) imposed a Dh3.5 million fine and a six-month ban on new customers against a local bank for violating Sharia governance requirements.

Money Exchange Fined Dh2m for AML Breaches

Source: Khaleej Times

A UAE-based money exchange house was fined Dh2 million by the Central Bank for anti-money laundering (AML) violations. Investigations revealed deficiencies in AML procedures.

Oman to Introduce First-Ever Personal Income Tax in 2028

Source: Gulf News

Oman will implement a 5% personal income tax on high earners from January 1, 2028, under its Vision 2040 fiscal reforms. It will affect only the top 1% of earners.

Sheikh Mohammed Forms New Ministry, Renames Economy Ministry

Source: Gulf News

A new Ministry of Foreign Trade will be headed by Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, while the Ministry of Economy has been renamed the Ministry of Economy and Tourism. From 2026, the National AI System will also advise federal councils.

UAE Gold VAT & Trading Rules – What You Need to Know

Source: Gulf News

The UAE exported \$47 billion worth of gold in 2023. VAT clarifications: investment-grade gold may qualify for zero-rating, while jewelry & retail sales remain subject to 5% VAT.

UAE Firms Shift Towards 4-Day Workweek

Source: Khaleej Times

Some UAE companies are moving towards a 4-day workweek, citing higher productivity and improved job satisfaction. A Sharjah study reported 88% higher productivity and 90% job satisfaction.

UAE Introduces Finfluencer Licence

Source: Gulf News

The UAE launched a Finfluencer Licence requiring social media creators discussing financial products to register with the SCA. Fees are waived for the first three years.

GPSSA Waives Penalties for SMEs

Source: Arabian Business

The UAE General Pension and Social Security Authority (GPSSA) waived pension penalties for 1,906 small private employers, easing financial burdens on SMEs and encouraging timely compliance with pension laws.

Foreign Bank Fined for Consumer Protection Breach

Source: Khaleej Times

The UAE Central Bank fined a foreign bank branch Dh600,000 for violating consumer protection rules. The action highlights the regulator's ongoing enforcement of compliance standards to safeguard customers' rights.

UAE Media Law Enforced

Source: Khaleej Times

A new UAE media law took effect, imposing fines of up to Dh1 million for violations, including spreading misinformation, publishing offensive content, or promoting unlicensed activities. The law seeks to strengthen accountability in digital and traditional media.

Central Bank Fines Exchange Houses

Source: Khaleej Times

The UAE Central Bank fined three exchange houses Dh4.1 million for breaches of anti-money laundering and compliance laws. The regulator reaffirmed its zero-tolerance policy against financial crime.

Hotelier Arrested in Crypto Scam

Source: Khaleej Times

An Indian hotelier linked to a Dh950 million cryptocurrency scam in Dubai was arrested in India. Authorities are coordinating cross-border investigations to recover investor funds and prosecute offenders.

US Visa Applicants in UAE Face New Rule

Source: Khaleej Times

UAE-based students applying for US visas must now make their social media accounts public as part of enhanced background checks, in line with US government policies on transparency and security.

Golden Visa Nominations

Source: Khaleej Times

The UAE introduced updates on its Golden Visa nomination system, streamlining applications for investors, entrepreneurs, and outstanding professionals, further boosting its attractiveness to global talent.

Oman to Impose Income Tax

Source: Khaleej Times

Oman announced plans to introduce personal income tax on high earners starting January 2028. Analysts suggest this may influence future tax reforms across the GCC, including in the UAE.

Foreign Bank Fined Dh5.9 Million

Source: Khaleej Times

The UAE Central Bank fined another foreign bank Dh5.9 million for anti-money laundering failures, after an investigation revealed compliance breaches.

SCA Warns Against Illegal Firms

Source: Khaleej Times

The UAE Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA) issued a public warning against unlicensed firms misusing the name of Gulf Islamic Investments LLC, urging investors to verify licenses before investing.

New Tax Rule: Sweetened Drinks to Be Priced by Sugar Content

Source: Khaleej Times

The UAE has revised its excise tax system on sweetened beverages. Instead of taxing drinks by category, the levy will now be based on actual sugar content. This aims to encourage manufacturers to reduce sugar levels and promote healthier consumption patterns.

SCA Warning Against Fraudulent Trading Firms

Source: Khaleej Times

The Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA) issued a public warning after a Khaleej Times investigation revealed unlicensed trading companies operating in the UAE. The regulator highlighted cases of forged documents and cautioned investors to verify firms' licenses before investing.

Sharjah Introduces 'Instant License' for Businesses

Source: Khaleej Times

The Emirate of Sharjah launched an 'Instant License' system to simplify business setup for entrepreneurs, significantly reducing paperwork and processing times.

Dubai Court Ruling on Islamic Banks

Source: Khaleej Times

A landmark Dubai court ruling prohibited Islamic banks from charging late payment interest, stating it violates Shariah principles.

Media Law: Penalties Up to Dh1 Million

Source: Khaleej Times

The UAE has rolled out its updated media law with fines up to Dh1 million for violations such as spreading misinformation or unlicensed publishing.

AML & Consumer Protection Fines

Source: Khaleej Times

Foreign banks and exchange houses faced heavy penalties for compliance breaches: Dh5.9m for AML violations, Dh600k for consumer protection breaches, and Dh4.1m for exchange house violations.

No More OTPs: UAE Banks Move to App Verification

Source: Khaleej Times

Banks across the UAE are phasing out SMS OTPs, moving to app-based authentication for greater security.

UAE Non-Oil Trade Hits Dh1.7 Trillion in H1 2025

Source: Khaleej Times

Sheikh Mohammed announced that UAE's non-oil foreign trade exceeded Dh1.7 trillion in H1 2025, reflecting diversification progress.

Corporate Tax Break: Property Depreciation Deductions Allowed

Source: Khaleej Times

Companies can now deduct depreciation on owned properties when calculating taxable income, reducing tax liabilities.

GPSSA Waives Pension Penalties for SMEs

Source: Arabian Business

The UAE pension authority waived penalties for 1,906 small employers, easing compliance costs for SMEs.

4-Day Workweek Adoption

Source: Khaleej Times

Some UAE companies are experimenting with a 4-day workweek to boost productivity and attract talent.

Golden Visa Nominations Expanded

Source: Khaleej Times

Authorities have streamlined the process for employers and institutions to nominate individuals for the UAE Golden Visa.

Crypto Scam Arrest

Source: Khaleej Times

A Dubai hotelier accused in a Dh950m cryptocurrency scam was arrested in India after UAE-led investigations.

Investor Protection – Warnings Issued

Source: Khaleej Times

Authorities cautioned against unlicensed firms offering fraudulent investment services.

Oman to Tax Top Earners – GCC Implications

Source: Khaleej Times

Oman's move to tax high-income earners has sparked debate on whether other GCC states, including the UAE, might follow suit.