



WAM

Memories of a founding father

■ His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, receives a gift from Saeed Al Tunajji, Acting Secretary-General of the Shaikh Zayed Book Award and MC of Dr Zaki Nussaibah's lecture, during an Iftar reception at Majilis Al Bateen. Also present was Shaikh Sultan Bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Transport and Abu Dhabi Executive Council Member.

A story of reality surpassing imagination

**Ramadan
Kareem**



Visionary leadership created prosperity and laid the foundations of modern UAE, Zayed's aide recalls

ABU DHABI

By **SAMIR SALAMA**
Associate Editor

The founding father Shaikh Zayed's visionary leadership created prosperity and laid the foundations of today's modern society to provide UAE citizens with the finest infra-

structure, telecommunications, hospitals, schools and all the other facilities and services that make for an advanced country.

This work continues under President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, said Zaki Nussaibah, a man who has witnessed that history, last night.

"Today, the world views the UAE as one of the most influential players in economic, financial and knowledge terms. It would have been impossible for anyone who arrived in Abu Dhabi in the 1960s, when Qasr Al Hosn was the only stone building there, to predict or even dream of such a miracle," Nussaibah said.

Having worked for more than 30 years as an interpreter for the late Shaikh Zayed, Nussaibah shared his memories with a

packed house at the majlis of His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

"Shaikh Zayed's message was confident and optimistic, notwithstanding his country's lack of the most rudimentary prerequisites of a modern state," he said.

Nussaibah added in spite of the numerous difficulties Shaikh Zayed faced over the four years of negotiations, he never lost faith.

"Shaikh Zayed was confident that the proposed union would successfully create its own deterrent defence forces to maintain stability and security in the region."