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Times OF OMAN

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CURRENT ISSUES DISCUSSED

HM receives phone call from UN Secretary General

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Sunday received a telephone call from António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN). The call dealt with a set of regional developments.

The UN Secretary-General expressed profound appreciation for the pivotal role played by His Majesty the Sultan and his government in advancing peace efforts, de-escalating tensions, and fostering stability in the region.

The Secretary-General commended Oman's dedicated diplomacy, which contributed to restoring maritime navigation in the Red Sea and brokering a cessation of hostilities between the United States and Yemen's authorities in Sana'a.

He also lauded the mediation efforts undertaken by Oman regarding the nuclear talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States, expressing his strong support for these endeavors in pursuit of international security and peace.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan emphasized to the UN Secretary-General that Oman's role in this matter stems from its commitment to the welfare and peace of all nations, expressing his gratitude for the Secretary-General's efforts and the UN ongoing initiatives to foster global peace and harmony. -ONA

13 STARTUPS LAUNCHED TO DRIVE INNOVATION IN OMAN'S ENERGY SECTOR

The programme aims to position Oman as a regional innovation hub

MUSCAT: Thirteen emerging startups focused on energy innovation have been launched under a national accelerator programme at the OQ X Synergy Centre, the research, development and innovation platform of OQ Group.

The first batch of startups is developing advanced solutions that span renewable energy efficiency, water sustainability, industrial process optimisation and applications rooted in the principles of the circular economy. The programme aims to position Oman as a regional innovation hub by enabling local entrepreneurs to tackle pressing energy-sector challenges through technology-driven approaches.

Designed to offer a fully integrated support environment, the accelerator provides participants with technical mentoring, access to funding networks, and strategic partnership opportunities.

OQ's experts play a central role in supporting these early-stage ventures, while the Group has also indicated plans to invest in selected startups that demonstrate scalable impact and long-term potential.

The initiative contributes to national efforts under Oman Vision 2040, which prioritises economic diversification and the development of a knowledge-based society.

By bringing together innovators, academia and industry stakeholders, the programme promotes sustainable development and fosters local talent capable of building solutions for a low-carbon future.

The launch is seen as a significant step in strengthening Oman's capacity to produce and export homegrown technological solutions in the energy space.

The OQ X Synergy Centre continues to play a strategic role in nurturing innovation that aligns with the country's long-term energy and sustainability ambitions. -ONA

OMAN SOCIETY FOR ASTRONOMY AND SPACE

Largest sunspot of 2025 observed from Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Members of the Oman Society for Astronomy and Space (OSAS) observed one of the largest sunspots to appear on the sun's surface during the 25th solar cycle, known as Sunspot 4079. The sunspot's size exceeded 11 times the size of planet Earth. Observers were able to clearly photograph this spot from the skies over Muscat Governorate using specialised astronomical equipment, in a rare scene that reflects the peak of solar activity currently being experienced by the sun.

Wesal bint Salem Al Hinai, Vice Chair of the Community Engagement Committee at the OSAS, said: "Sunspot 4079 is one of the largest phenomena we have observed during the current solar cycle. Photographing it from the Sultanate of Oman is a scientific and astronomical achievement that highlights the OSAS's efforts to monitor cosmic phenomena that directly impact Earth. This requires community awareness of the risks of space weather and its potential impact on communications, navigation, and energy systems."

She added: "Sunspots are one of the most prominent phenomena associated with the Sun's magnetic activity. They represent a crucial indicator in understanding the behaviour of our solar system's star and its multiple effects on Earth. The Sun undergoes regular cycles of magnetic activity known as "solar cycles," each lasting an average of about 11 years. During these cycles, the Sun's surface undergoes significant changes in the number of sunspots, the intensity of flares, and coronal mass ejections, which directly impact space weather and the geomagnetic environment surrounding Earth."

Sunspots are the most visible manifestation of this cycle, increasing in frequency as solar activity increases and decreasing toward the end of the cycle. Currently, the Sun is experiencing the peak of the 25th solar cycle, which began in December 2019. This is a phase of intense magnetic disturbance during which the number of sunspots is markedly increased. >A2

FOREIGN MINISTER

US and Iran talks reflect shared wish to reach agreement

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman hosted the 4th round of talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America in Muscat on Sunday.

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister said that another round of talks concluded yesterday between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America.

Original ideas

The discussions, the minister noted, included useful and original ideas reflecting a shared wish to reach an honourable agreement.

The 5th round of talks, he affirmed, will take place once both parties consult their leaderships. – ONA

WRITTEN MESSAGE

HM invited to GCC-US Summit in Saudi Arabia

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), inviting His Majesty to attend the upcoming GCC-US Summit in Saudi Arabia. The message was handed over to Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, when he received yesterday Saad bin Ibrahim Bishan, KSA Ambassador to Oman. – ONA

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OMAN

Oman, Hong Kong explore areas of cooperation for joint growth

The visit, which underscored the depth of Oman–Hong Kong economic ties, included high-level meetings with senior Omani government officials

MUSCAT: Invest Oman lounge welcomed a high-level investment delegation from Invest Hong Kong, aiming to explore areas of economic collaboration and unlock new opportunities for joint growth.

The visit, which underscored the depth of Oman–Hong Kong economic ties, included high-level meetings with key Omani government officials.

The delegation brought together a diverse group of representatives from promising sectors including advisory, venture capital, digital asset management, and fintech. This breadth of expertise signals Hong Kong's expanding interest in Oman's dynamic market and the keenness to engage across multiple high-growth sectors.

Discussions during the visit centered on potential areas of cooperation, from funding startups and advancing digital asset management to accelerating knowledge exchange and creating new pathways for cross-border investments that align with the development goals of both parties.

Speaking on this occasion, Ibtisam Al Farooji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion underscored that such high-level engagements represent a strategic platform for knowledge sharing and expanding cooperation in priority sectors.

She emphasised that Oman places strong importance on strengthening its international partnerships in high-potential, mutually beneficial areas, in line with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040. These efforts, she noted, contribute to driving economic diversification and attracting high-value investments that deliver long-term national impact.

King Leung, Global Head of Financial Services, Fintech and Sustainability at Invest Hong Kong emphasised that the Oman–Hong Kong relationship rests on a solid foundation of friendship and mutual understanding.

He noted that the timing of the visit reflects Oman's rising stature as a regional and global investment hub, backed by a stable economic environment and a strategic geographic position.

Investors from Hong Kong, he highlighted, are increasingly drawn to Oman's emerging sectors, particularly in digital and technological domains that are experiencing rapid growth.

Hong Kong, as one of the world's foremost financial centers and an important international gateway for the People's Republic of China. It also undertakes a pivotal role in facilitating capital flows, linking Asian and global markets, and advancing cross-border investment. Its cooperation with Oman thus holds significant strategic importance for both economies. — ONA

MUSCAT GOVERNORATE

'Professional Project Management' training programme concludes

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Wali of Bausher, sponsored the conclusion of the weeklong "Professional Project Management" training programme conducted by Muscat Governorate, during which he honoured the participants, praising their commitment and interaction during the training period and confirming the significance of these programmes to support the administrative progress and achieve developmental purposes.

This programme targeted the project managers and employees of the planning and wilayat development departments. Besides, members of planning teams and those required to work on projects in other administrative sections, as part of the Governorate's efforts to enhance its cadres' efficiency in implementing and managing projects according to professional principles.

Engineer Saleh Al Khalidi, an expert in project management and digital transformation, delivered this programme. It involved various specialised topics, including strategic planning, resource management, quality control, and performance monitoring, and developing personal skills such as leadership, communication, and issues resolution.

This programme was implemented within Muscat Governorate's professional development programmes to develop its employees' skills. Thus, it contributes to achieving the projects' performance according to the Governorate's development strategy and supporting the national initiatives to achieve the purposes of Oman 2040 Vision.

SUNSPOT 4079

Sun showed surge of activity in May

< FROM A1

A daily average of about 215.5 sunspots was recorded in August 2024, the highest in more than two decades, indicating that the 25th solar cycle may have peaked earlier than expected.

In late February of 2025, the sun erupted a powerful solar flare, detected by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory. These flares are classified as Class X flares, the most intense. This event was followed by a coronal mass ejection, which triggered a geomagnetic storm that reached Earth in April 2025, causing auroras across large areas of mid-latitudes and partially impacting high-frequency radio communications systems.

In May 2025, the sun showed another unprecedented surge of activity, with the number of sunspots exceeding previous predictions, indicating a peak that may be the strongest in decades.

Powerful solar flares

This activity is accompanied by powerful solar flares and coronal mass ejections, potentially leading to geomagnetic storms that could impact Earth.

This cycle is expected to continue until 2030, with solar activity gradually declining after the peak.

One of the most prominent historical phenomena associated with extreme solar activity is the Carrington Effect, the most powerful solar storm documented in modern times.

COMMENTARY

Do we have to ruin our heritage for modern trappings?

Saleh Al-Shaibany

Earlier this month, I walked into the backstreets of Muscat to enjoy the simple life there and this month I thought I should venture further and drive beyond the city to take a look, just out of curiosity.

From a short distance to the Batnah towns, I ventured deeper, beyond the urban areas. I parked my car from the nearest shopping area and braved the heat of the summer to see more. In the two hours I was there, I visited forts, aflaaj systems, narrow village roads and even farms. Not many of them are left.

Modern villas, new dual carriageways, bridges and shopping malls are competing with centuries old heritage. Let me correct myself, these modern trappings are actually threatening the existence of the Omani heritage. Old houses have been demolished for new ones and farms have been erased to make way for the sites of shopping centers. The old souks are not there anymore. As a matter of fact, I was looking for an auction site that I visited ten years ago and it vanished. A block of flats has been built on its site.

I turned a few corners to look for the silver shops. Again, they were all gone. The silversmiths, who used to craft jewellery, such as rings, bracelets, armlets and earrings, are now ghosts from the past. Instead, I found a line of butchers, supermarkets, shoe shops, boutiques and coffee shops replacing the now gone silver shops.

I also was on the lookout for the Khanjar maker, that I visited years ago. His shop, right at the end, is now a building material shop. I looked back at the street and thought that if I had taken a photo of it at that time, then I would have evidence of what it was then.

Can we say what has replaced the vanishing heritage has no character? Yes, we can. It may be about progress, but at least some of these streets should have been preserved to reflect the old characters of typical Omani heritage.

Yes, we understand that, as the country's population is increasing, we need to modernize for greater mobility, new housing units and expansion of businesses to boost our economy. We also understand that employment is important and we must expand the economy to create jobs.

But we should have preserved some areas in the hearts of towns and cities to reflect the past and the rich culture and heritage that made this country great. Without it, the future generations will find nothing in their surrounding to reflect their heritage. As it stands now, our heritage would soon be just records in the history books.

One of the economic pillars of Oman is the development of tourism. When tourists come here, they look for the old settlements, artifacts, villages, buildings, traditions and relics. If we keep demolishing them then there will be none left. When that happens, fewer tourists would come here and that would drop our national revenues. Also, our hotels that have costs billions of rials, would be mostly vacant.

So the question I still would like to ask is that... is it worth ruining our heritage to make way for the modern trappings? Or should there be a plan to make compromises between heritage preservation and new developments?

TEJARAH TALKS

Digging into the future

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Industry experts will gather at the Civil Aviation Authority Training Centre Tuesday 11:00am 27 May to explore innovation and sustainability in the mining sector. The session will examine strategies for positioning Oman as a regional centre for mineral production.

The 70-minute forum, Digging into the Future: Innovation & Sustainability in Mining, will unite specialists to review Oman's geological resources and emerging industry trends as development continues in alignment with Vision 2040 objectives.

The event will showcase Oman's rich mineral heritage – known in ancient times as Majan for its copper smelting – and how these resources are being utilized today. Substantial deposits of dolomite, limestone, gypsum, gabbro, copper and gold remain partially untapped, offering significant commercial potential.

"Most people don't realize that minerals extracted in Oman are in their smartphones, cars, homes and even the food they eat," said Badriya Al Amri, Oman Business Forum Office, Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion and Tejarah Talks Administrator. "This month's session will reveal how mining touches nearly every aspect of our daily lives while showcasing how innovative approaches are making the industry more sustainable." Topics will include renewable energy adoption, efficiency improvements and low-carbon technology integration in extraction operations. Speakers will address ESG integration, digital transformation and technological advancements including drone usage and IoT applications for the sector.

The discussion will emphasize the practical importance of locally-sourced minerals in everyday life. Gypsum, which reached export volumes of 12 million tonnes in 2024 - up 7.1% from 2023 - is essential for manufacturing drywall, conditioning soil in agriculture and producing cement. Without it global construction would grind to a halt. Limestone is vital for cement manufacturing, glass production and as a purifier in power station emissions systems while also serving as a calcium supplement in food and medicines. Dolomite is used in manufacturing glass bottles, ceramics and as a soil enhancer for agricultural production.

The event will also cover mining's role in the global green energy transition. The worldwide push toward electrification has created unprecedented demand for copper with its exceptional conductivity properties making it essential for renewable energy systems and electric vehicles (EV). It is estimated the average EV contains approximately 83kg of copper - nearly four times the 23kg found in conventional cars - primarily in batteries, motors and charging infrastructure. Similarly, renewable energy installations are copper-intensive with a single wind turbine containing up to 4 tonnes of copper in its generators, transformers and cabling systems. With sizeable copper reserves, Oman is well-positioned to benefit as countries worldwide commit to carbon reduction targets.

Projects across Oman are adding value to raw minerals through processing facilities, including titanium dioxide production and aluminum manufacturing. Panelists will discuss how these capabilities contribute to economic diversification while creating high-skilled jobs in fields ranging from environmental science to robotics and data analytics.

Organised by Oman Business Forum in association with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion and supported by Nortal, MHD, Invest Oman and Oman FM, May's Tejarah Talks will provide practical insights for investors, policymakers, industry stakeholders and anyone interested in understanding how mining shapes our modern world.

SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY

SQU launches first edition of Graduation Projects Exhibition

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) has launched the first edition of its Graduation Projects Exhibition at the Conference and Exhibition Hall. The event, which will run for three days, was inaugurated under the patronage of Dr. Nasser bin Musabbah Al-Zeidi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Administrative and Financial Affairs at SQU.

The exhibition is organised by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Community Service.

It brings together 122 outstanding projects that reflect unique visions, where knowledge meets creativity and theories are transformed into practical solutions addressing both local and global challenges.

The event also features student competitions aimed at fostering innovation and creativity among participants.

Outstanding projects will be honoured in five categories: best overall project, most innovative project, project with the best impact, best interdisciplinary collaborative project, and people's choice award (based solely on public voting).

Prof. Salim bin Hamoud Al-Harthi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Community Service, praised the graduation projects, noting that they go beyond being mere academic requirements.

They also contribute to developing students' research, analytical, and digital skills, preparing them for scientific publishing, postgraduate studies, career opportunities, and even entrepreneurship. More importantly, these projects offer practical ideas and tangible outcomes that can serve the needs of the community and various industrial sectors.

He emphasised that each project in this exhibition represents a unique journey where knowledge merges with creativity, and theoretical concepts are translated into real-world solutions for local and global challenges.

These projects stand as a testament to our students' commitment to building a better future, in line with the goals and aspirations of the Oman Vision 2040.

The exhibition also aims to promote a culture of research and innovation among undergraduate students at SQU, to inspire future generations, and to encourage the presentation and dissemination of graduation projects within and beyond the SQU community.

It provides valuable opportunities for students to engage with academics and industry representatives, while also reinforcing the University's standing as a leading institution in research excellence, innovation, and practical application.

Furthermore, the exhibition contributes to strengthening collaboration with partners in the public and industrial sectors.

OCCI highlights opportunities in real estate sector

Titled 'First Real Estate Tour', the meeting was aimed to showcase real estate projects and promising investment opportunities in the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Sunday organised a familiarisation meeting in Muscat for investors and real estate developers.

Titled "First Real Estate Tour", the meeting was aimed to showcase real estate projects and promising investment opportunities in the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

Ali Mohammed Al Lawati, Chairman of the OCCI Real Estate Development Committee, said that the tour offers interested parties access to governorates in the Sultanate of Oman to enable them to get first-hand knowledge about the opportunities available in each governorate.

The tour also aims to enhance communication between investors, real estate developers and officials in government departments and service establishments, said Al Lawati.

He added that the tour will open direct channels of dialogue with the local community and entrepreneurs in the real estate sector, besides identifying real estate regulations and legislation.

Al Lawati pointed out that the tour gains significance from the fact that it offers an opportunity to directly listen to the investors and developers, understand their aspirations and address their concerns.

— ONA

OMAN

OMR23mn Wadi Anaar Dam to reduce risks of flooding in Salalah

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Mahad Said Ba'owain, Minister of Labour and was attended by government officials and representatives of private sector establishments

SALALAH: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources on Sunday celebrated the opening of Wadi Anaar Dam in Salalah, Governorate of Dhofar. The project, which cost about OMR23 million, is in pursuit of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance protection against flood risks.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Mahad Said Ba'owain, Minister of Labour. It was attended by government officials and representatives of private sector establishments.

The project also seeks to promote water security, notably by capturing the great volume of water that results from heavy rains in adjoining mountains and precipitates downwards towards Salalah Port, Raysut Industrial City and Salalah Free Zone.

To ensure the dam's safety during emergencies, the ministry implemented advanced technologies, including the use of smart monitoring systems that assess water levels in the lake. In addition, the project will be supplied with seismic sensors to track any sudden geological activity. In addition, surveillance cameras will be in place to provide comprehensive coverage of all the sections of the dam.

The dam is also equipped with automatic control gates that regulate water flow as needed.

The gates can be operated remotely through a secure central system and other apparatus integrated with a central control room, from which data is received and analysed in real-time.

— ONA

QUANUM PROGRAMME

Royal Hospital achieves highest quality standards in nuclear medicine endorsed by IAEA

MUSCAT: The Royal Hospital, represented by the Department of Nuclear Medicine, has completed the QUANUM programme (Quality Assurance Audit in Nuclear Medicine Practices) that was conducted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The programme, held from 4 to 8 May 2025, set grounds for the first nuclear medicine centre in the Sultanate of Oman that undergoes this type of international assessment.

Outstanding score

The field assessment of the centre showed an outstanding score of 92.5 percent, exceeding the global average of 73.9 percent and going beyond the usual range of 56.6% to 87.9%. — ONA

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BILATERAL RELATIONS

Royal Office Minister receives Japan and Sudan ambassadors

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received on Sunday Kiyoshi Serizawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the march of bilateral relations and means of developing them in a bid to achieve common interests.

Meanwhile, Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office also received Essam Awad Ahmed Metwally, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to the Sultanate of Oman.

In this meeting, the two sides touched on the bilateral relations between Oman and Sudan. They also discussed several topics and developments on the regional and international arenas. — ONA

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY

Sayyid Shihab to inaugurate National Olympic Shooting Complex today

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a significant step forward for sports shooting in Oman, the Sultanate's first-ever National Olympic Shooting Complex (NOSC) will be officially inaugurated on Monday.

The state-of-the-art facility will be opened under the patronage of HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs.

The NOSC is poised to elevate Oman's presence on the regional, continental, and global shooting sports stage. The complex reflects

Oman's ongoing efforts to modernise and develop its sports facilities in line with the highest international standards.

Designed to host Olympic-level and internationally-sanctioned competitions, the NOSC embodies Oman's vision to become a key player in the global sporting arena.

OMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

OHRC highlights its mandate and operations with UN delegation

MUSCAT: The Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) on Sunday highlighted its operational mechanisms, structure and mandate to a visiting delegation from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

This took place during the meeting between Dr. Rashid Hamad Al Balushi, Chairman of the Oman Human Rights Committee, with Johnny Baryougar White, Human Rights Officer at the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section of the OHCHR and Cynthia Radert, Secretary of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the OHCHR.

Discussions focused on strengthening human rights protection mechanisms and fostering partnerships between the OHRC and various national institutions in the field of human rights. — ONA

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COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2025.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 31st March 2025 is 6.518 million OMR compared with 4.679 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. an increase of 39%.

The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 31st March 2025 is 6.169 million OMR compared with 4.492 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. an increase of 37%.

At the group level, net profit after tax for the period ended 31st March 2025 is OMR 16,557 compared with net loss of 11,791 OMR for the same period of the last year.

The parent Company's net profit after tax for the period ended 31st March 2025 is 12,764 OMR compared with net profit of 32,127 OMR for the same period of the last year.

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	31 March 2025		31 March 2024	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
Revenue	6,168,992	6,518,591	4,492,101	4,679,250
Cost of sales	(5,905,638)	(6,165,141)	(4,247,018)	(4,405,009)
Gross Profit	**263,354**	**353,450**	**245,083**	**274,242**
General and administration expenses	(258,272)	(343,449)	(223,407)	(294,203)
Investment and Other Income	9,935	9,935	16,120	16,120
Profit for the period before tax	**15,016**	**19,936**	**37,797**	**(3,840)**
Provision for Income tax	(2,252)	(3,379)	(5,670)	(7,950)
Net Profit for the period after tax	**12,764**	**16,557**	**32,127**	**(11,791)**
Other comprehensive income	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total comprehensive income	**12,764**	**16,557**	**32,127**	**(11,791)**
Earnings per share	**0.000**	**0.001**	**0.001**	**(0.000)**

Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31, 2025

	31 March 2025		31 March 2024	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	2,579,504	2,905,010	2,815,533	3,086,618
Right of use assets	200,294	200,294	214,694	214,694
Investment	2,004,118	-	2,004,118	-
Goodwill	-	996,800		996,800
Trade Receivable	-	-	-	-
Total Non-current Assets	**4,783,916**	**4,102,104**	**5,034,345**	**4,298,112**
Current Assets:				
Inventories	2,580,093	2,772,114	746,002	870,118
Trade and other receivables	5,140,976	5,030,281	5,840,200	5,153,347
Cash and cash equivalents	640,838	832,548	1,182,083	1,251,635
Total Current Assets	**8,361,907**	**8,634,943**	**7,768,285**	**7,275,100**
TOTAL ASSETS	**13,145,823**	**12,737,047**	**12,802,630**	**11,573,212**
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,013,094	1,000,000	1,013,094
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	807,666	807,666	807,666	807,666
Retained earnings	(379,473)	(532,163)	(209,115)	(286,844)
Total Equity	**5,885,260**	**5,745,664**	**6,055,618**	**5,990,983**
Non-current Liabilties:				
End of service benefits	126,682	154,999	126,138	134,948
Non current portion of Term Loan	-	-	-	-
Non current portion of lease liabilities	243,732	243,732	234,920	234,920
Deferred tax	106,778	112,164	133,189	139,690
Total Non-current Liabilities	**477,192**	**510,895**	**494,247**	**509,558**
Current Liabilties:				
Trade and other payables	6,434,365	6,125,577	5,704,474	4,521,110
Bank overdraft	312,760	312,760	361,401	361,401
Current portion of Term Loan	-	-	123,838	123,838
Current portion of lease liabilities	13,776	13,776	24,574	24,574
Income Tax	22,470	28,375	38,478	41,748
Total Current Liabilities	**6,783,371**	**6,480,488**	**6,252,765**	**5,072,672**
Total Liabilities	**7,260,563**	**6,991,383**	**6,747,012**	**5,582,229**
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	**13,145,823**	**12,737,047**	**12,802,630**	**11,573,212**
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	**0.196**	**0.192**	**0.202**	**0.200**

WORLD

RESUME AID

EU demands Israel end Gaza aid blockade

BRUSSELS: The leaders of several political groups in the European Parliament called out to Israel to immediately resume aid deliveries into the Gaza Strip.

"We call for immediate action by the Israeli authorities, in cooperation with the United Nations and humanitarian organisations, to secure unrestricted access to essential humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian population in Gaza," read the statement.

It was issued by Manfred Weber of the conservative European People's Party (EPP), Iratxe García of the Socialists and Democrats (S&D), Valérie Hayer of Renew Europe, Terry Reintke and Bas Eickhout of the Greens/European Free Alliance, and Martin Schirdewan of the Left.

"We call for immediate and effective international action to ease the intolerable humanitarian crisis in Gaza against the backdrop of the blockade enacted by the Israeli government that prevents humanitarian aid from reaching the civilian population living in inhumane conditions," the statement continued.

The signatories also condemned "any act of politicization or militarisation of humanitarian aid."

At the same time, they called for proactive diplomatic efforts by the EU to achieve a lasting ceasefire and reaffirm the European Parliament's commitment to a two-state solution.

For more than two months, the Israeli military has barred aid supplies from entering the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian situation has reached catastrophic proportions. -ONA

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President Putin says Russia ready for 'direct talks' with Ukraine

Putin emphasised the talks should be held 'without any preconditions'

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that Russia is ready for 'direct talks' with Ukraine, according to a report by CNN. The development comes as the US and European leaders press for a ceasefire.

As per CNN, President Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed holding "direct talks" with Ukraine on Thursday in Istanbul.

"We would like to start immediately, already next Thursday, May 15, in Istanbul, where they were held before and where they were interrupted," Putin said in a late-night televised address. He emphasised the talks should be held "without any preconditions", as reported by CNN.

"We are set on serious negotiations with Ukraine," Putin said, adding they are intended to "eliminate the root causes of the conflict" and "reach the establishment of a long-term, durable peace."

According to CNN, the proposal came just hours after the leaders of Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Poland stood alongside Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv and urged Putin to agree to a 30-day ceasefire starting on Monday or face possible "massive sanctions," according to French President Emmanuel Macron.

CNN reported that Ukraine and Russia have not held direct talks since the conflict began in 2022. Putin said Sunday he would speak with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan about holding talks with Kyiv.

CNN reported that Putin called the proposed talks "a first step to a long-lasting stable peace but not a prologue to the continuation of an armed conflict after re-armament and re-equipping of Ukrainian armed forces and feverish digging of trenches in new strongholds."

Earlier on Thursday, in a post on Truth Social, US President Donald Trump said, "if the ceasefire is not respected, the US and its partners will impose further sanctions".

As per CNN, the US President has made ending the war in Ukraine one of his priorities. His special envoy, Steve Witkoff went to Russia several times to hold meetings between several other high-level meetings between US and Russian officials since Trump returned to the White House in January.

Zelenskyy welcomes Russian indication to end war

President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday welcomed the indication that Russia may be considering ending the war, calling it a positive sign.

He emphasised the importance of a full, lasting, and reliable ceasefire as the first step towards peace.

"It is a positive sign that the Russians have finally begun to consider ending the war. The entire world has been waiting for this for a very long time. And the very first step in truly ending any war is a ceasefire," Zelenskyy posted on X.

This comes after European leaders from United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Poland travelled to Kyiv and called for a full and unconditional ceasefire starting May 12. Zelenskyy emphasised that the ceasefire must cover all areas, land, sea, and air, and last at least 30 days.

Zelenskyy emphasised that the ceasefire must cover all areas, land, sea, and air, and last at least 30 days. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk emphasised the importance of peace, sovereignty, and Ukraine's future as a free and European nation.

"There is no point in continuing the killing even for a single day. We expect Russia to confirm a ceasefire - full, lasting, and reliable - starting May 12, and Ukraine is ready to meet," said Zelenskyy. -ANI

EASING TRADE TENSIONS

US-China trade talks continue, Trump seeks 'reset'

GENEVA: Talks between top U.S. and Chinese officials yesterday resumed for a second day, after U.S. President Donald Trump voiced optimism over the negotiations aimed at easing trade tensions sparked by his aggressive tariff rollout in recent months.

In a Truth Social post following the first day of talks in Geneva, Trump praised the "very good" discussions and deemed them "a total reset negotiated in a friendly, but constructive, manner."

Earlier, Chinese state news agency Xinhua also described the talks in Switzerland as "an important step in promoting the resolution of the issue."

The second day of closed-door meetings between U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng resumed shortly after 8 a.m. on Sunday.

"These talks reflect that the current state of the trade relations with these extremely high tariffs is ultimately in the interests of neither the United States nor China," Citigroup global chief economist Nathan Sheets told Agence France-Presse (AFP), calling the tariffs a "lose-lose proposition."

The discussions are the first time senior officials from the world's two largest economies have met face-to-face to tackle the thorny topic of trade since Trump slapped steep new levies on China last month, sparking a robust retaliation from Beijing.

The tariffs imposed by Trump on the Asian manufacturing giant since the start of the year currently total 145%, with cumulative U.S. duties on some Chinese goods reaching a staggering 245%.

In retaliation, China put 125% tariffs on U.S. goods.

Ahead of the meeting, Trump signalled he might lower the tariffs, suggesting on social media that an "80% Tariff on China seems right!"

However, his press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, later clarified that the United States would not lower tariffs unilaterally, and that China would also need to make concessions.

Going into the meeting, both sides played down expectations of a major change in trade relations, with Bessent underlining a focus on "de-escalation" and not a "big trade deal," and Beijing insisting the United States must ease tariffs first.

The fact the talks are even happening "is good news for business, and for the financial markets," said Gary Hufbauer, a senior non-resident fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE).

But Hufbauer cautioned he was "very sceptical that there will be any return to something like normal U.S.-China trade relations," with even a tariff rate of 70% to 80% still potentially halving bilateral trade.

China's vice premier went into the discussions buoyed by news that China's exports rose last month despite the trade war.

The unexpected development was attributed by experts to a re-routing of trade to Southeast Asia to mitigate U.S. tariffs.

Among some of the more moderate Trump officials like Bessent and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, "there's a realisation that China is better equipped to deal with this trade war than the U.S.," said Hufbauer.

The Geneva meeting comes after Trump unveiled a trade agreement with Britain, the first deal with any country since he unleashed his blitz of global tariffs.

The five-page, non-binding deal confirmed to nervous investors that the United States is willing to negotiate sector-specific relief from recent duties. -ONA

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

India gifts 15 EVs to Nepal

KATHMANDU: As a significant gesture of friendship and goodwill, Ambassador of India to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, handed over 15 electric vehicles (EVs) to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal, Arzu Rana Deuba.

For logistical support

As per the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, it is "a gift of India for logistical support to the Government of Nepal for facilitating the effective organisation of the first edition of the 'Sagarmatha Sambaad' in Kathmandu on 16-18 May 2025 on the theme of 'Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity'."

These vehicles are being handed over at the request of the Government of Nepal and would prove to be useful in further augmenting the logistical arrangements for conducting the Sambaad. — ANI

OLDEST POLITICAL PARTY

Bangladesh interim government bans Awami League

DHAKA: Bangladesh interim government on Saturday has taken a decision to ban Awami League, the oldest political party in the country.

The press release further clarified that the decision was made to safeguard national security and sovereignty.

"The Advisory Council meeting discussed the need to protect the country's security and sovereignty, the security of the leaders and activists of the July Movement, and the protection of the plaintiffs and witnesses of the International Crimes Tribunal until the trial of the Bangladesh Awami League and its leaders is completed A decision has been taken to ban all activities of the Awami League, including in cyberspace, under the Anti-Terrorism Act," the statement said.

Several political parties and groups in Bangladesh, including the National Citizens Party (NCP), Jamaat-e-Islami and others, are protesting by surrounding the residence of Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser to the interim government, demanding a ban on the Awami League.

Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted from power in a mass uprising on August 5 last year. She is currently in exile. After Sheikh Hasina's fall, an interim government was formed under the leadership of Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus.

Almost all Awami League leaders and workers are currently in hiding. Although the party's veteran leader, former President of Bangladesh, Abdul Hamid, is under the radar, he flew to Bangkok with his wife and brother-in-law early Thursday morning.

The protest, which began at 10 pm on Thursday in front of the Jamuna, the residence of the interim government's Chief Adviser, demanding a ban on the Awami League, is still ongoing.

NCP's convener, Nahid Islam, said, "The first responsibility of the interim government was to ban the Awami League. We have made that demand both inside and outside the government. But today, nine months later, we have had to take to the streets again to ban the Awami League."

Awami League rejects interim government's decision to ban activities of the party

Bangladesh Awami League, headed by ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, rejected the interim government's decision to ban the activities of the party. Awami League will conduct its activities, the party said in a statement late on Saturday.

"The people of Bangladesh are shocked and outraged by the illegal and unconstitutional occupying fascist Yunus government's announcement to ban the activities of the Awami League", the statement said.

"We reject this decision of the fascist dictator Yunus government with hatred and strongly condemn and protest against it", the statement said.

"At the same time, we express firm commitment that the Bangladesh Awami League will continue to conduct its activities properly, ignoring this decision of the fascist Yunus government", the statement said.

"Today will be marked as a black day in the history of Bangladesh. The activities of the Awami League, the party under whose leadership Bangladesh was established as an independent and sovereign state, have been banned in the independent country by the undemocratic fascist Yunus government, which has no mandate from the people", said the statement posted on Awami League's Facebook page.

"This proves that the fascist Yunus government wants to turn the soil of Bangladesh into a fertile ground for anti-independence evil forces and extremist groups", it added.

"Banning the activities of the Awami League on Bengali soil means banishing the spirit, ideals, and fundamentals of the Liberation War and giving vent to the naked aggression of the anti-liberationists".

"Bangladesh Awami League is the oldest and most traditional political organization in this territory, with 75 years of history, and an institution trusted by the masses. Bangladesh Awami League has played a leading role in all the great achievements of the Bengali nation, including the establishment of the demand for language and independence", the statement said.

Almost all Awami League leaders and workers are currently in hiding. Although the party's veteran leader, former President of Bangladesh, Abdul Hamid, is under the radar, he flew to Bangkok with his wife and brother-in-law early Thursday morning. -ANI

Millions could have died, says Trump on India-Pakistan truce

US President Trump has praised both countries and said trade would be ramped up with the neighbouring countries

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump said that millions of people could have died if the peace had not been worked out. The US President was making a reference to a potential nuclear fallout between the two nations.

In a post on Truth Social, the US President said, "I am very proud of the strong and unwaveringly powerful leadership of India and Pakistan for having the strength, wisdom, and fortitude to fully know and understand that it was time to stop the current aggression that could have led to the death and destruction of so many, and so much. Millions of good and innocent people could have died! Your legacy is greatly enhanced by your brave actions."

Trump continued to hold on to the claim that the US had helped broker peace and offered to mediate for a solution on Kashmir.

"I am proud that the USA was able to help you arrive at this historic and heroic decision. While not even discussed, I am going to increase trade, substantially, with both of these great Nations. Additionally, I will work with you both to see if, after a "thousand years," a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir. God Bless the leadership of India and Pakistan on a job well done!!!"

India has time and again rejected any third-party intervention on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and has unequivocally expressed that the region is an integral part of India.

On Saturday, India also played down the role of the US in achieving an agreement on cessation of hostilities saying that the understanding had been reached between DGMOs of the two countries.

Indian media reported that Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired talks with top government officials a day after a ceasefire came into effect with Pakistan.

Talks were reported to have involved Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, including senior members of the military.

On Saturday, both sides traded allegations of ceasefire violations, although the hostilities have not reached the level witnessed in the period building up to US President Donald Trump's surprise announcement of a truce.

US to increase trade with India and Pakistan 'substantially'

US President Donald Trump praised the leadership of India and Pakistan as a ceasefire called on Saturday appeared to be holding.

"I am very proud of the strong and unwaveringly powerful leadership of India and Pakistan for having the strength, wisdom, and fortitude to fully know and understand that it was time to stop the current aggression that could have lead to to the death and destruction of so many, and so much," Trump posted on his Truth Social network.

Trump said he would increase trade with both countries , "substantially" and added that "a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir."

Trump on Saturday announced that the two South Asian nuclear powers had reached an immediate ceasefire agreement that followed days of increasing hostilities.

Pakistan's foreign office welcomes support for ceasefire

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said it welcomed US President Donald Trump's statement regarding Pakistan-India relations.

"We acknowledge with appreciation the constructive role played by the United States, alongside other friendly states, in supporting the recent ceasefire understanding between Pakistan and India; a step towards de-escalation and regional stability," the ministry said in a post on social media platform X.

Longstanding issue

"We also appreciate President Trump's expressed willingness to support efforts aimed at the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute — a longstanding issue that has serious implications for peace and security in South Asia and beyond," the ministry added.

The Foreign Ministry said it remained committed to engaging with the US and the international community and said it looked forward to partnership with the US on matters of trade and investment.

Pope Leo XIV welcomes India-Pakistan ceasefire

Pope Leo XIV welcomed news of the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in his first Sunday message to crowds flocking to St. Peters Square since becoming leader of the Catholic Church.

"I was happy to hear ... that there was a ceasefire between India and Pakistan and I hope that through the coming negotiations we might soon come to a lasting accord," Leo said to applause from those who had gathered to hear him speak.

Leo also made an appeal to the world's major powers for "no more war."

Kashmir crisis sparks press crackdown in India

India's government has ordered the blocking of 8,000 accounts on X and the removal of Pakistan-linked content across digital platforms.

Some Indian news portals like Maktoob Media, The Kashmiriyat, and The Wire have also been impacted amid heightened tensions over the Kashmir region. -Agencies

SCULPTURE

Trump installs statue depicting 2024 assassination attempt at Oval Office

WASHINGTON DC : US President Donald Trump added a new art piece to the Oval Office- a statue depicting the aftermath of the July 2024 assassination attempt against him in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The sculpture was spotted sitting on a side table next to Trump's Resolute Desk on Friday as he signed several executive orders in front of reporters.

In a post on X, the White House said, "FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! Spotted in the Oval Office."

The statue depicts Trump defiantly raising his fist in the air moments after being hit in the ear by one of would-be assassin Thomas Matthew Crooks' bullets on July 13.

"Fight Fight! Fight!" Trump shouted at rallygoers at the Butler Farm Show Grounds, in the iconic moment captured by the artist.

Three Secret Service agents, including the current director of the agency Sean Curran, can also be seen in the art piece trying to usher Trump offstage.

The Oval Office statue isn't the only piece of art related to the Butler assassination attempt on display at the White House.

Campaign rally

The painting depicts Trump moments after a bullet grazed his ear during a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, last July. Trump is shown defiantly raising his fist in the air with blood splattered across his face and the American flag in the background.

Special Assistant to the President and White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary Harrison Fields clarified in a post on X that "Obama remains in the Entrance Hall of the White House State Floor."

The portrait is displayed in the Grand Foyer of the East Wing, while former President Barack Obama's portrait has been relocated to the Entrance Hall of the White House State Floor.

Fields' post shows that the Obama painting is still hanging in a prime spot, overlooking former President Franklin D Roosevelt's Steinway grand piano, as reported by the New York Post. -ANI

BETWEEN INDIA, PAKISTAN

Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Yunus hails ceasefire

DHAKA: Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has welcomed the agreement between India and Pakistan to cease hostilities, praising the leadership of both nations and the mediation efforts of the US. Yunus' statement reflects Bangladesh's commitment to supporting diplomatic solutions in the region. He emphasised that Bangladesh would continue to encourage India and Pakistan to resolve their differences through dialogue. -ANI

ELECTIONS

South Korea's People Power Party reinstate presidential candidate

SEOUL: South Korea's ruling People Power Party chose its official presidential candidate, former labor minister Kim Moonsoo, on Sunday after attempting to cancel his candidacy.

Kim won the party's primary last week to run as the candidate in the elections set for June 3.

However, the party attempted to cancel his candidacy and replace him with former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo.

The party leadership believed Han had a better chance than Kim to win the elections.

In an unprecedented move, they tried to reinstate Han as the candidate. Kim denounced this as an "overnight political coup."

PPP members voted against a motion to switch the presidential candidate from Kim to Han, thus reinstating Kim as the candidate.

A party spokesperson said the vote passed by a narrow margin.

Kim thanks supporters

"This presidential election is particularly crucial as it will determine who can overcome the current crisis facing our nation and work toward the happiness of our people. I pledge to do my utmost to secure victory and lead South Korea toward becoming an even greater nation," Kim, 73, told the media after registering his candidacy at the National Election Commission.

He thanked his supporters and members of the party.

Han said he accepted the outcome of the vote and congratulated Kim. "Now, I am stepping back from everything and returning to the life of an ordinary citizen," Han said.

Kim was a labor activist before joining the conservative party in the 1990s.

The PPP has been in a state of turmoil since the impeachment of former President Yoon Suk Yeol last December, after he attempted to impose martial law.

Han served as the acting president since then and resigned on May 2 to pursue his presidential candidacy. — DW

AL JAZEIRA SERVICES CO. SAOG

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Jazeira Services Co. SAOG, I am pleased to present the unaudited financial statements for the three months ended on 31 March 2025.

Profits and assets

The revenue from catering and allied services business for the three months ended on 31 March 2025 was RO 2,611,109 down by 4% compared to revenue of RO 2,728,842 for the same period in 2024. The operating profit of the Company at RO 127,529 was down by 29% compared to RO 179,732 for the corresponding three months in 2024.

The net loss from investments for the period was 92,149 against gain of RO 20,990 for the same period in 2024.

The share of profit from associate company, Al Anwar Ceramics Tiles Co. SAOG for the three months ended on 31 March 2025 was RO 133,653 down by 28% compared to profit of RO 185,755 for the corresponding three months in 2024.

The net profit after tax for the three months ended on 31 March 2025 was RO 156,179 down by 55% compared to profit of RO 350,150 for the three months ended on 31 March 2024.

The shareholders' equity as on 31 March 2025 was RO 14,402,210 against RO 18,071,394 as on 31 March 2024. The net assets per share as on 31 March 2025 was 184 baisa as against 162 baisa as on 31 March 2024.

Future outlook

We remain focused on our core business of catering and allied services and our outlook for the future remains stable.

I am pleased to report that your company has adhered to all the applicable regulations covering corporate governance in Sultanate of Oman.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I express our sincere gratitude to **His Majesty Sultan Haitam Bin Tarik** for his great vision and initiatives as he continues to lead the Sultanate on the path of development, peace and enduring prosperity. We also extend our sincere thanks to our Customers, Shareholders, Muscat Stock Exchange and Financial Services Authority for their continued support. I would also like to thank the management and staff for their commitment and hard work.

Abdulredha Mustafa Sultan

Deputy Chairman

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED) AS OF 31 MARCH 2025

ASSETS	Group 31/03/25 RO	Parent Company 31/03/25 RO	Group 31/03/24 RO	Parent Company 31/03/24 RO
Non-current assets				
Furniture and equipment	63,019	4,641	67,322	6,727
Goodwill	90,000	--	90,000	--
Investments in subsidiaries	--	320,444	--	320,444
Investments in associates	10,810,264	10,810,264	11,041,598	11,041,598
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	9,898	9,898	9,898	9,898
Deferred tax asset	197,486	178,553	228,774	226,043
Total non-current assets	**11,170,667**	**11,323,800**	**11,437,592**	**11,604,710**
Current assets				
Financial assets at fair valuethrough profit or loss	2,026,767	2,026,767	782,451	782,451
Inventories	397,287	--	403,022	--
Trade receivable and other financial assets	3,714,450	11,569	4,122,640	12,483
Dividend receivable from an associate	325,518	325,518	1,627,589	1,627,589
Due from related parties	--	1,245,038	--	1,920,599
Cash and bank balances	888,402	550,381	2,773,138	2,039,538
Total current assets	**7,352,423**	**4,159,273**	**9,708,840**	**6,382,660**
Total assets	**18,523,091**	**15,483,073**	**21,146,432**	**17,987,370**
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Shareholders' capital and reserves				
Share capital	7,820,202	7,820,202	11,171,717	11,171,717
Legal reserve	2,635,348	2,606,734	3,763,884	3,735,270
Other reserves	49,387	49,387	49,387	49,387
Retained earnings	4,124,081	3,967,467	3,395,733	3,245,621
Investment fair value reserve	(226,808)	(226,808)	(309,327)	(309,327)
Total shareholders' capital and reserve	**14,402,210**	**14,216,982**	**18,071,394**	**17,892,668**
Non-current liabilities				
Employees' terminal benefits	520,540	54,271	566,237	53,024
Total non-current liabilities	**520,540**	**54,271**	**566,237**	**53,024**
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	1,764,069	17,902	1,954,455	20,791
Due to related parties	454,033	--	346,806	--
Dividend payable	1,173,031	1,173,031	--	--
Provision for Taxation	209,207	20,887	207,540	20,887
Total current liabilities	**3,600,340**	**1,211,820**	**2,508,801**	**41,678**
Total liabilities	**4,120,881**	**1,266,091**	**3,075,038**	**94,702**
Total Shareholders' capital and reserves and liabilities	**18,523,091**	**15,483,073**	**21,146,432**	**17,987,370**
Net assets per share	**0.184**	**0.182**	**0.162**	**0.160**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ASSETS	Group 31/03/25 RO	Parent Company 31/03/25 RO	Group 31/03/24 RO	Parent Company 31/03/24 RO
Revenue from contract with customers	2,611,109	--	2,728,842	--
Cost of providing services	(2,187,845)	--	(2,250,198)	--
Gross profit	**423,264**	**--**	**478,644**	**--**
Other income	2,606	--	9,683	--
	425,870	**--**	**488,327**	**--**
Expenses				
Employees salaries and other costs	(148,140)	(50,921)	(144,965)	(52,233)
General and administrative expenses	(137,100)	(13,882)	(153,207)	(22,183)
Depreciation	(13,101)	(601)	(10,423)	(579)
	(298,341)	**(64,404)**	**(308,595)**	**(74,995)**
Profit /(loss) from operations	127,529	(65,404)	179,732	(74,995)
Net Gain/ (loss) from Investments	(92,149)	(92,149)	20,990	20,990
Share of profit from investment in an associates	133,653	133,653	185,755	185,755
Dividend from a subsidiary	--	161,984	--	214,080
Finance costs	(1,324)	(715)	(3,169)	(2,812)
Profit before tax	**167,709**	**137,368**	**383,308**	**343,018**
Income tax expenses	(11,530)	17,241	(33,158)	5,002
Net profit after tax	**156,179**	**154,609**	**350,150**	**348,020**
Other comprehensive income				
Share of fair value reserve in an associate	(21,678)	(21,678)	(35,704)	(35,704)
Total comprehensive income for the period attributable to the parent co.	**134,501**	**132,931**	**314,446**	**312,316**
Basic earnings per share	**0.002**	**0.002**	**0.003**	**0.003**

SPORTS

FIA WEC

Gritty ninth for Al Harthy and Team WRT at Spa

MUSCAT: Ahmad Al Harthy and his Team WRT teammates Valentino Rossi and Kelvin van der Linde delivered a hard-fought ninth-place finish in Round 3 of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) at the iconic Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Belgium on Saturday — overcoming a costly pit-lane glitch that denied them a potential top-five result.

The Omani racer impressed once again in the fiercely competitive LMGT3 class, putting in a stellar performance during the opening stints of the TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa to move the No. 46 BMW M4 into podium contention early in the race. After qualifying seventh and securing a slot in the Hyperpole session, Al Harthy's rapid start from ninth on the grid saw him climb through the field with confidence and pace.

"We had a really mega start and a very good first two stints, the car felt really good and we managed to get quite a few places," said Al Harthy. "After the first pit-stops we managed to go up to P2 and then P1 with amazing strategy, and some fuel saving as well."

By the end of the opening hour, Al Harthy had surged into the class lead as pit strategies began to unfold. Holding third after his first stop and then rising again during a Virtual Safety Car period, he continued to run near the front until an unfortunate system glitch during his second pit-stop triggered a speed limiter issue leading to a penalty. A frustrating drive-through penalty cost the team valuable track position.

"Unfortunately there was a glitch in the system at the next stop which resulted in us having to serve a drive-through for the speed limit," he said after the race.

"We managed to compose ourselves and come back, started hunting the places back, and really got the car in a respectable position before Vale took over – he and Kelvin did a great job."

Following the penalty, Al Harthy handed over to Rossi, who worked to regain lost ground as the race entered its second half. The Italian brought the BMW back up to third during another cycle of pit-stops under Safety Car conditions, but the position proved hard to hold as the race wore on. Van der Linde took the wheel with 90 minutes remaining and clawed his way back into the top five, only for a final pit-stop to drop them to 12th. The South African eventually secured ninth at the flag.

"P9 in the end was the actual maximum we could have got out of the car," Al Harthy admitted.

"Spa being Spa, it was a very entertaining race and a very tough race. Realistically it was nearly a perfect race for us in terms of our driving performances and the strategy. Even without the glitch in the system it wouldn't have made us finish any higher than we were this weekend."

Despite missing out on a top result, the team banked more championship points in what has been an encouraging campaign so far. Team WRT now sits ninth in the LMGT3 standings with 21 points, and Al Harthy, Rossi, and van der Linde hold the same position in the drivers' rankings.

Looking ahead, all eyes are now on the biggest challenge of the season — the legendary 24 Hours of Le Mans in June.

"We've understood a lot from the car and that will make us stronger for the most important race of the season," Al Harthy said. "I'm delighted and excited to be going back to Le Mans again and representing Oman in such an amazing motorsport event."

Barca stun Real in seven-goal thriller

Mbappe's hat-trick goes in vain as hosts triumph 4-3 in El Clasico to edge closer to La Liga title

BARCELONA: Barcelona moved to the brink of reclaiming the La Liga title after producing a breathtaking comeback to beat Real Madrid 4-3 in a thrilling El Clasico on Sunday, despite a hat-trick from Kylian Mbappe for the visitors.

Barcelona took a giant stride towards domestic glory with a pulsating victory at the Lluis Companys Olympic Stadium, overturning a two-goal deficit in a rollercoaster first half that saw four unanswered goals from the hosts.

Mbappe struck twice within the opening 14 minutes — the first from the penalty spot after being brought down by Wojciech Szczesny, and the second following a slick through ball from Vinicius Junior — to give Madrid a commanding start.

But Barcelona's response was as fierce as it was fast. Eric Garcia halved the deficit with a powerful header from a corner, before 17-year-old Lamine Yamal curled in a stunning equaliser to ignite the home crowd.

Just two minutes later, Raphinha capitalised on a defensive mix-up between Mbappe and Lucas Vazquez to put Barça ahead. The Brazilian then added his second and Barcelona's fourth before the break, latching onto a Ferran Torres cut-back after forcing another Madrid error.

The second half began with Barcelona nearly extending their lead, only for a Yamal tap-in to be ruled offside.

Mbappe gave Real hope with his third of the night — taking his tally to 39 goals in all competitions, the most ever by a Madrid player in their debut season — before Fermin Lopez saw a superb goal ruled out by VAR for handball in the build-up.

Barça missed a golden opportunity to add a fifth when Raphinha fired over from close range, while substitute Victor Muñoz and Mbappe both came close for Madrid in a frantic finish.

The result sees Barcelona move seven points clear of second-placed Real with just three matches remaining. They can clinch the league title with a win over city rivals Espanyol on Thursday or if Madrid drop points against Mallorca on Wednesday.

It was Barcelona's fourth Clasico win of the season — a feat they last achieved in 1982-83 — and further evidence of their resurgence under Hansi Flick.

While their Champions League campaign ended in disappointment last week, their domestic dominance remains undeniable.

For Real Madrid, the result compounds a troubling trend: 16 goals conceded across four Clasicos this season and a growing sense that their defensive vulnerabilities have cost them dearly.

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MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

ALFARDAN LIVING PRIVILEGE

Alfardan Properties has officially launched "Alfardan Living Privilege Programme" and "Alfardan Oyster Privilege Club" which was attended by Alfardan Properties' distinguished tenants and members of Oman's press at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort.

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,355.25 points, up by 0.08% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.21% at 404.52 points. OQEP, up 4.91%, was the top gainer while, Oman Chlorine, down 9.91%, was the top loser.

OMAN PETROLEUM & ENERGY SHOW

OPES, OSW reflect Oman's commitment to sustainable energy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The activities of Oman Petroleum & Energy Show (OPES) and Oman Sustainability Week (OSW) are scheduled to commence today, at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, under the supervision and oversight of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. The events are slated to continue until May 14.

These events are organised as a direct result of Oman's unwavering dedication to promoting sustainable energy and to achieving harmony between innovation, economic expansion, and environmental stewardship. This approach is integral to Oman's initiatives to ensure the sustainability of its natural resources and to advance the energy sector in accordance with global progress. The Ministry of Energy and Minerals remains committed to its long-term strategy, centred on the development of national assets and the optimization of their benefits to realize the country's economic and developmental ambitions.

Dr. Saleh Al Anboori, Director General of Exploration and Production of Oil & Gas, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, stated that Oman Petroleum & Energy Show and Oman Sustainability Week 2025 together represent a prominent showcase of the Sultanate of Oman's achievements, thus solidifying its position as a key leader in the energy sector and sustainable progress.

Al-Anboori also emphasised that the ministry is actively pursuing significant development projects in gas fields, in full compliance with international standards of sustainability and financing. This endeavour is underpinned by a solid financial base and carefully considered investment strategies that support the ambitions of the next phase, thus precluding any requirement to sell off natural gas producing assets.

Moreover, he firmly denied the circulating rumours concerning the disposal of interests in natural gas fields. The ministry's priority is to enhance operational effectiveness and to draw in global technical and investment proficiency through prudent collaborations centred on the transfer of knowledge and the maximization of value creation within Oman, without compromising the ownership or sovereign rights over strategic national resources.

The ministry reiterates its complete commitment to the principles of transparency and accountability, and continues to engage in coordination with all local and international stakeholders to advance the interests of Oman and reinforce its standing as a reputable regional hub within the energy sector.

Real estate transactions exceed OMR572 million

According to the preliminary statistics issued by the NCSI, fees collected of all legal transactions amounted to OMR18.3 million till the end of March 2025

MUSCAT: The traded value of real estate transactions in Oman fell by 2.5% to OMR572.7 million till the end of March 2025, compared to OMR 587.5 million in the same period of 2024, according to the latest data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

According to preliminary statistics issued by the NCSI, fees collected of all legal transactions amounted to OMR18.3 million till the end of March 2025, constituting an increase of 10.6% compared to OMR 16.5 million by the end of March 2024.

The traded value of sale contracts reached OMR 252.4 million till the end of March 2025, and the number of sale contracts fell by 6.3% to 15,815, compared to 16,877 in the same period of 2024.

The value of mortgage contracts rose by 5.8% till the end of March 2025 to OMR 317.1 million compared to RO 299.8 million during the same period of 2024. Meanwhile, the number of mortgage contracts rose by 10% to 5,344 contracts from 4,858 contracts in the same period of 2024.

The value of traded barter contracts rose by 12.2% to OMR 3.2 million till the end of March 2025 compared to OMR 2.8 million in the same period of 2024. The number of barter contracts fell by 7.6% to reach 354 contracts till the end of March 2025 compared to 383 contracts in March 2024.

The number of properties issued by the end of March 2025 fell by 3.1% to 55,378 by the end of March 2025, compared to 57,167 properties during the same period in 2024, and the number of properties issued to citizens of GCC countries also decreased by 13.3% reaching 280 compared to 323 till the end of March 2024. - ONA

ADEEB AHAMED

FICCI appoints MD of Lulu Financial to steer India–Middle East economic engagement

DUBAI: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has appointed Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of Lulu Financial Holdings, as the chair of FICCI Arab Council for 2025-26.

Initially appointed in 2023, his continued stewardship ensures a seamless progression of FICCI's efforts to advance India's economic collaboration with the Middle East—building on two years of sectoral engagement, policy dialogue, and partnership facilitation.

In his role as Chair, Ahamed will also serve on FICCI's National Executive Committee, contributing to the organisation's broader policy and advocacy agenda at the national and international levels.

The FICCI Arab Council plays a pivotal role in deepening India–Middle East ties. Among its recent milestones is the facilitation of a landmark MoU between Expo City Dubai and FICCI, paving the way for long-term collaboration on major events, including the Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS) 2025. The Council also played a key role in enabling investment-focused delegations from states such as Rajasthan and Assam to engage with leading UAE-based business groups. The recent opening of FICCI's Dubai office stands as another achievement, providing a permanent regional base to strengthen partnerships and advance India's economic diplomacy in the Gulf.

In the coming year, the Council will prioritise deeper engagement with young entrepreneurs and start-ups, while also focusing on facilitating access for Indian SMEs to key markets across the GCC. At the same time, it aims to create pathways for investors in the Middle East to explore emerging opportunities within India's dynamic SME ecosystem.

"Our vision is to expand participation by engaging more young entrepreneurs from across the region and giving them a meaningful stake in the dialogue. It is vital that they are not only heard, but empowered with the right platforms, networks, and resources to lead—because the future of India–Middle East cooperation will be defined by innovation, agility, and inclusive leadership," said Ahamed.

Adeeb Ahamed is the Managing Director of Lulu Financial Holdings, a leading financial services company operating across the GCC, India, and APAC regions. He also leads Twenty14 Holdings, an investment firm with a diverse portfolio in luxury hospitality. A prominent voice on digital innovation and financial inclusion, Ahamed is an active contributor to global economic discourse through platforms like the World Economic Forum.

OMAN ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY

OETC participates in Oman Sustainability Week events

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) participated in the Oman Sustainability Week Awards Ceremony, held under the patronage of Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals yesterday.

This event is part of Oman Sustainability Week 2025. The event witnesses broad international participation, with representatives from over 10 countries, more than 120 exhibiting organizations, over 30,000 visitors, and more than 200 speakers including experts and specialists .OETC's participation includes involvement in a panel discussion as part of the Oman Sustainability Week Talks, as well as attendance at the International Sustainability, Resources, and Technology Conference.

OETC's participation focuses on competing for the Oman Sustainability Week Awards for the second consecutive year, under the ESG category, highlighting its ongoing efforts, achievements, and initiatives in sustainability, and reaffirming its role in shaping a sustainable future for Oman. Notably, OETC was awarded the Gold Category Award in the same category last year, marking a significant achievement in its first participation in this major national event.

Samira Salim Al Mughairi, Manager of Communication and Sustainability at OETC, reaffirmed the company's commitment to all global sustainability standards, particularly in the areas of environment, social responsibility, governance, and economic impact. This commitment is evident through OETC's continuous development and improvement in performance, initiatives, and achievements in the sustainability domain, while ensuring its strategies and goals remain aligned with national and global directions.

Al Mughairi also highlighted the strong focus and priority placed by OETC on achieving sustainability, by embedding it within the company's corporate objectives, exploring areas for improvement, and fostering collaboration with leading institutions locally and internationally. These efforts aim to enable continuous knowledge exchange, share successful experiences, and implement best practices that enhance the sustainability and operational efficiency of the company, as well as contributing meaningfully to the realization of broader sustainability goals.

PORT COMMUNITY SYSTEMS

Sohar Port launches PCS training to boost digital efficiency

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port and Freezone, in collaboration with the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA), announced the launch of a specialised training programme on Port Community Systems (PCS). This initiative supports the National Port Community System Project led by the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, which aims to enhance digital efficiency across Oman's ports.

The four-day masterclass will bring together terminal operators and government stakeholders for comprehensive training on the implementation and governance of integrated PCS solutions. The programme is designed to accelerate Sohar's digital transformation, enhance the skills of stakeholders, and support the Ministry's efforts in driving digital innovation across the sector.

As the first IPCSA-led masterclass of its kind in the region, this initiative reflects Sohar Port and Freezone's commitment to adopting global best practices, promoting digital excellence, and supporting Oman's Vision 2040. It positions Sohar as a regional leader in trade facilitation, ensuring secure, efficient, and integrated logistics services.

The Masterclass will cover essential aspects of PCS development and operation, beginning with an introduction to PCS concepts, stakeholder engagement, and foundational principles of building a robust port community. It will then explore governance frameworks, business models, and implementation strategies, followed by an in-depth examination of modern PCS IT architectures, resilience measures, and emerging challenges for digital port ecosystems. The programme will conclude with a detailed review of PCS operational processes, international standards, and the range of services enabled by PCS platforms.

Eng. Khamis bin Mohammed Al-Shamakhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology for Transport, emphasized that the Port Community System (PCS) is one of the key systems supporting the implementation of the Oman Logistics Strategy 2040. It enhances the Sultanate's competitiveness, facilitates trade, improves operational efficiency, accelerates transaction processing, and provides easy access to shipment and vessel information by digitizing the supply chain in the Sultanate. His Excellency further explained that the project will cover major ports, airports, and border crossings nationwide. It will integrate automated cargo handling systems (including cranes, conveyors, and robots) with the digital Port Community System (PCS) to ensure seamless coordination among stakeholders, enable real-time shipment tracking using Internet of Things (IoT), and implement predictive maintenance powered by artificial intelligence.

"The Masterclass will equip our people with the expertise to drive digital transformation, strengthen collaboration across our stakeholder ecosystem, and ensure Sohar remains a benchmark for smart, secure, and sustainable trade," said Jasim Al Yamani, VP of Technology at Sohar Port and Freezone. "Our partnership with IPCSA reflects our commitment to global best practices and to delivering lasting value for our customers, the logistics industry, and Oman's future as a regional gateway."

By enabling industry stakeholders with the latest knowledge and tools, Sohar Port and Freezone and IPCSA are paving the way for a more resilient and connected trade ecosystem. This initiative not only supports Oman's ambitions for economic diversification and global competitiveness but also serves as an invitation for partners and stakeholders to collaborate with the National Port Community System initiative led by the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, in building an advanced, technology-driven logistics system ready for the future.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

OQEP, up 4.91%, was the top gainer while, Oman Chlorine, down 9.91%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,355.25 points, up by 0.08% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.21% at 404.52 points. OQEP, up 4.91%, was the top gainer while, Oman Chlorine, down 9.91%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while OQEP were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1145 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 3.87 million, with more than 23.04 million shares changing hands. Out of 54 traded securities, 18 advanced, 16 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 33K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 22K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 12K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,701.00 points, up 0.03%. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Global Financial Investments, Bank Nizwa, OMINVEST, Bank Muscat were up by 1.22%, 1.21%, 1.01%, 0.46%, 0.38% respectively. Prices of National Bank Oman, National Finance, Bank Dhofar were down by 1.70%, 1.64%, 0.68% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,958.79 points, down 0.02%. Prices of Raysut Cement, Oman Flour Mills, Oman Cement, Oman Cables Industry were up by 4.08%, 2.18%, 0.50%, 0.39% respectively. Prices of Oman Chlorine, Al Anwar Ceramics, Galfar Engineering were down by 9.91%, 1.71%, 1.67% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.09% before closing at 1,553.57 points. Prices of Musandam Power, OQ Gas Networks, Muscat Desalination, Ooredoo, Oman Telecom were up by 3.20%, 1.52%, 1.41%, 0.59%, 0.37% respectively. Prices of Muscat Gases, SMN Power Holding, National Gas, Shell Oman Marketing, Oman Oil Marketing were down by 5.88%, 1.87%, 1.41%, 0.88%, 0.44% respectively.— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,355.89	4,344.02	4,355.25	4,351.79	3.45	0.08
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,704.48	7,687.71	7,701.00	7,698.88	2.11	0.03
Industry Index	5,976.63	5,957.89	5,958.79	5,960.13	-1.34	-0.02
Services Index	1,554.66	1,551.13	1,553.57	1,552.14	1.44	0.09
MSX Shariah Index	405.38	402.94	404.52	403.69	0.84	0.21
MSX TR INDEX	6,438.65	6,421.10	6,437.71	6,432.60	5.11	0.08
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,130.77	9,110.90	9,126.64	9,124.14	2.50	0.03
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	7,344.38	7,321.35	7,322.45	7,324.10	-1.64	-0.02
SERVICES TR IDX	1,976.80	1,972.31	1,975.42	1,973.60	1.83	0.09
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
23,043,990	3,870,258	1,145	27,448,524,300	18	16	20	54

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, MAY 11

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	4,576,778	610,373	166	0.131	0.134	0.131	0.134	0.132	0.002	1.515	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.100	580,303,605
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	100,500	8,438	8	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.205	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	195,584	19,548	9	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.100	0.102	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	154,365	26,395	20	0.171	0.171	0.170	0.171	0.170	0.001	0.588	0.171	0.170	0.173	0.100	111,311,463
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	312,661	69,099	40	0.220	0.223	0.220	0.221	0.220	0.001	0.455	0.221	0.221	0.228	0.100	206,792,263
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	500	1,029	2	2.058	2.058	2.058	2.058	2.050	0.008	0.390	2.058	2.050	2.058	0.100	184,602,600
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,107,377	293,763	38	0.263	0.266	0.263	0.266	0.265	0.001	0.377	0.266	0.266	0.266	0.100	1,996,701,618
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	4,031	3,291	10	0.815	0.817	0.815	0.817	0.814	0.003	0.369	0.817	0.816	0.817	0.100	612,750,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	2,200	770	1	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.100	43,714,286
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	157,009	26,259	9	0.168	0.168	0.167	0.168	0.168	0.000	0.000	0.168	0.167	0.184	0.100	7,197,622
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	50,000	2,850	2	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.056	0.059	0.100	20,299,256
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	250	100	1	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.373	0.400	0.100	48,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,189,030	288,952	54	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.100	873,476,508
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	20,160	12,600	5	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.000	0.000	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.100	58,508,226
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	37,150	2,861	7	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.100	13,475,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	74,900	5,408	9	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.100	49,266,782
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	221,400	15,739	13	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	50,722,850
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	32,822	9,429	8	0.287	0.288	0.287	0.287	0.288	-0.001	-0.347	0.287	0.285	0.287	0.100	67,849,670
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	352,126	82,562	38	0.235	0.235	0.234	0.234	0.235	-0.001	-0.426	0.234	0.234	0.237	0.100	180,226,800
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	7,667	2,223	1	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.295	-0.005	-1.695	0.290	0.285	0.295	0.100	471,524,443
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	121,244	20,881	20	0.174	0.175	0.171	0.172	0.175	-0.003	-1.714	0.172	0.172	0.172	0.100	37,840,000
Total	21	9,717,754	1,502,569	461												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	5,379,452	1,494,442	324	0.266	0.282	0.266	0.278	0.265	0.013	4.906	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.0102	224,000,000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	6,300	1,625	1	0.258	0.258	0.258	0.258	0.250	0.008	3.200	0.258	0.230	0.275	0.100	18,160,620
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	200	94	1	0.469	0.469	0.469	0.469	0.459	0.010	2.179	0.469	0.415	0.458	0.100	77,560,875
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	200	14	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.001	1.408	0.072	0.069	0.072	0.100	11,199,629
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	9,065	720	5	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.001	1.266	0.080	0.077	0.080	0.100	40,690,504
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	91,018	7,554	7	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.001	1.220	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.100	23,826,820
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	367	148	2	0.404	0.404	0.404	0.404	0.402	0.002	0.498	0.404	0.377	0.404	0.100	133,672,575
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	30,000	1,410	1	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.051	0.100	14,435,877
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	59,278	3,898	4	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.065	0.066	0.100	7,921,875
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	1,227	270	2	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.217	0.220	0.100	10,068,476
OM0000003000	Al MAHA PETROLEUM PROD MARKTNG	11,250	11,281	5	1.005	1.005	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.005	1.020	0.100	69,000,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	3,800	399	2	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.095	0.110	0.100	100,230,055
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	56,819	3,466	4	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.061	0.061	0.067	0.100	89,218,689
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	23,000	1,265	4	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.053	0.055	0.100	12,223,200
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	19,370	2,271	7	0.119	0.119	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100	69,198,115
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	5,614,221	583,929	185	0.105	0.105	0.103	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.040	359,787,048
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INVNTS	100	120	1	1.196	1.196	1.196	1.196	1.200	-0.004	-0.333	1.196	1.120	1.200	0.100	83,720,000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	2,000	1,368	1	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.684	0.687	-0.003	-0.437	0.684	0.682	0.684	0.100	41,912,100
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	772,750	114,067	6	0.148	0.148	0.147	0.147	0.148	-0.001	-0.676	0.147	0.147	0.148	0.100	446,850,384
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	600	339	2	0.565	0.565	0.565	0.565	0.570	-0.005	-0.877	0.565	0.550	0.565	0.100	53,675,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	86,400	6,074	12	0.071	0.071	0.069	0.070	0.071	-0.001	-1.408	0.070	0.070	0.078	0.100	5,950,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	41,766	5,055	6	0.122	0.122	0.120	0.120	0.122	-0.002	-1.639	0.120	0.119	0.122	0.100	72,975,185
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	503,913	56,127	33	0.112	0.112	0.110	0.111	0.113	-0.002	-1.770	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.000	578,170,615
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	80,949	17,040	16	0.215	0.215	0.210	0.210	0.214	-0.004	-1.869	0.210	0.209	0.210	0.100	41,923,476
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	51,500	4,125	5	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.085	-0.005	-5.882	0.080	0.080	0.084	0.100	2,400,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	430	129	3	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.333	-0.033	-9.910	0.300	0.300	0.330	0.100	21,452,652
Total	26	12,845,975	2,317,231	640												

FROM 6% IN 2024 TO 12%

India to double UK readymade garments market share

NEW DELHI: India is expected to double its market share from 6 per cent in 2024 to 12 per cent in the UK's readymade garments (RMG) imports, translating into an incremental annual export opportunity of around USD 1.1-1.2 billion in the near to medium term, according to CareEdge Ratings.

On May 6, India and the UK successfully concluded an ambitious and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that will open up massive export opportunities for many labour-intensive sectors in India. The Commerce Ministry said that 99 per cent of Indian exports will benefit from zero duty.

The RMG sector accounted for around USD 525 billion in the global textile and RMG trade in 2024. Major markets include the European Union (EU), the United States of America (USA), the UK, Japan, Canada, and South Korea, which accounted for nearly 44 per cent of global imports.

The UK is among the top five RMG markets, with imports of around USD 20 billion in 2024.

Careedge said India currently exports nearly USD 1.2 billion of RMG to the UK out of its total exports of USD 15-16 billion.

The rating agency said countries such as Bangladesh, Türkiye, Cambodia, and Italy enjoy duty-free access to the UK market, while Vietnam and Pakistan benefit from lower to zero tariffs. -ANI

ALFARDAN PROPERTIES

Alfardan Living Privilege Programme and Alfardan Oyster Privilege Club launched in Oman

MUSCAT: Alfardan Properties has officially launched "Alfardan Living Privilege Programme" and "Alfardan Oyster Privilege Club" which was attended by Alfardan Properties' distinguished tenants and members of Oman's press at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort. Having been successfully launched previously in Qatar, these programs have now been introduced to enhance the lifestyle of distinguished residential and commercial tenants based in premier mixed-use developments in Oman:Alfardan Heights and Finaa Alfardan.

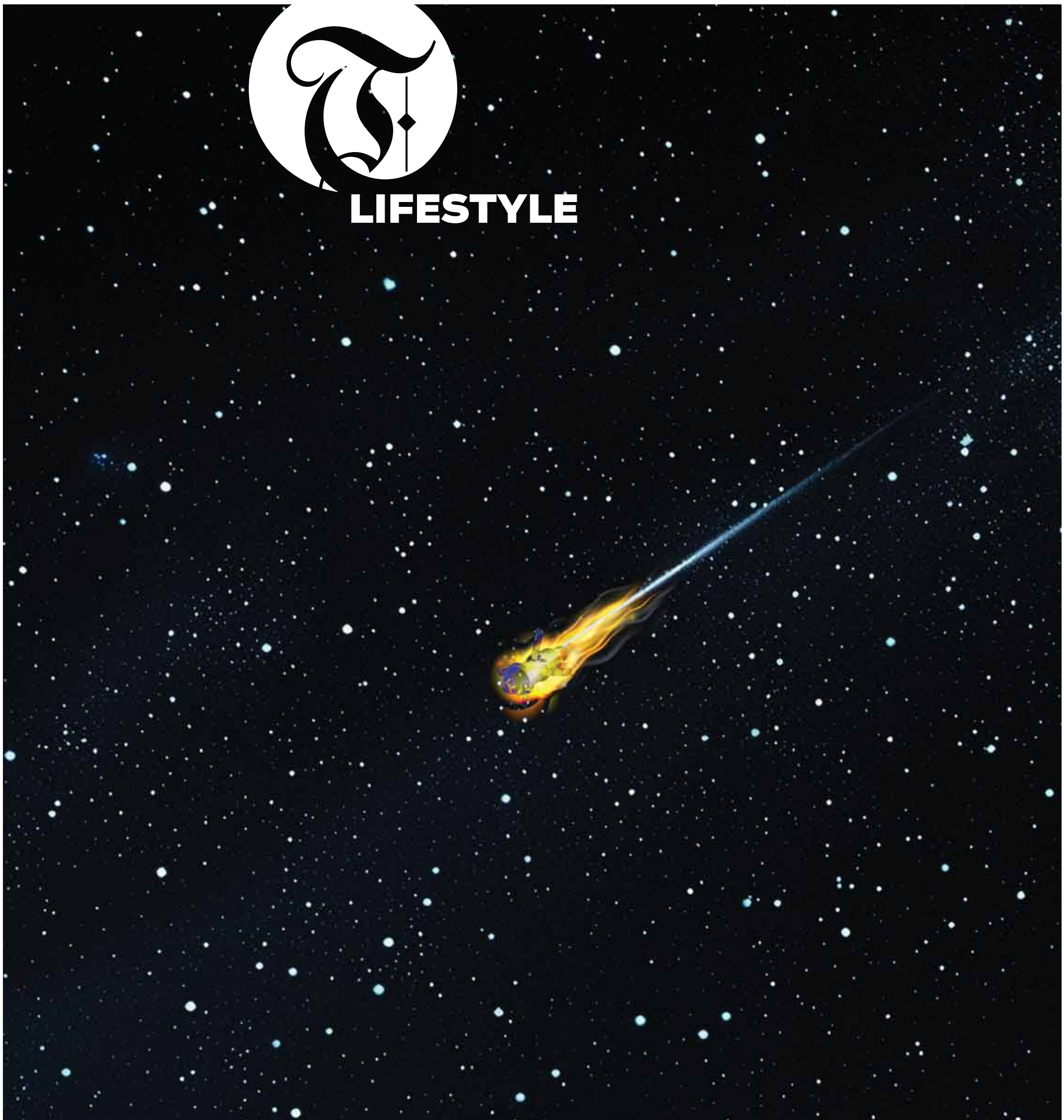
Alfardan Living Privilege Programme is designed exclusively for elite residential tenants at Alfardan Properties while Alfardan Oyster Privilege Club is a program tailored to their commercial tenants and their employees, both offering access to a world of carefully curated benefits and unparalleled experiences. In Oman, Alfardan Properties' tenants will enjoy bespoke preferential rates at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, including preferred rates across hotel rooms, award-winning Guerlain Spa and renowned dining outlets such as EmSherif, Coya, Novikov Café,Roberto's, Hakkasan, and Zorba, among others. International privileges extend across Qatar and Türkiye, offering preferential rates at 5-star hotels, over 50 award-winning dining outlets, and exclusive spas at premier destinations such as The St. Regis Doha, The St. Regis Marsa Arabia Island, Marsa-Malaz Kempinski in Qatar, and Six Senses Kocataş Mansions in Istanbul. Additionally, members enjoy preferred rates across Alfardan Jewellery brands.

The remarkable success of the "Alfardan Living Privilege Programme" and the "Alfardan Oyster Privilege Club" in Qatar has played a pivotal role in driving their expansion to Oman. These initiatives have become cornerstones of Alfardan Properties' commitment to distinctive living, elevating residential and corporate experiences through exclusive access to a curated suite of premium lifestyle benefits. Their success and strong impact on tenant satisfaction have underscored the programs' ability to create meaningful connections and deliver exceptional value – making their introduction to the Omani market a strategic next step.

Commenting on this expansion, Mohamed Sleiman, Chief Executive Officer of Alfardan Properties and Alfardan Hospitality, states: "Introducing these two programs in Oman marks a key milestone for us. By extending tailored privileges across three countries, we are enhancing the living and business experiences of our partners and residents, while setting a new industry benchmark. More than just benefits, these programs build a connected community defined by luxury, service, and the distinctive living Alfardan Properties offers."

The Alfardan Oyster Privilege Club is complemented by a user-friendly mobile app, allowing members to easily access and manage their privileges at any time.

LIFESTYLE



Soviet-era spacecraft plunges to Earth after 53 years stuck in orbit

The European Space Agency's space debris office also tracked the spacecraft's doom after it failed to appear over a German radar station

A Soviet-era spacecraft plunged to Earth, more than a half-century after its failed launch to Venus.

Its uncontrolled entry was confirmed by both the Russian Space Agency and European Union Space Surveillance and Tracking.

The Russians indicated it came down over the Indian Ocean, but some experts were not so sure of the precise location.

The European Space Agency's space debris office also tracked the spacecraft's doom after it failed to appear over a German radar station.

It was not immediately known how much, if any, of the half-ton spacecraft survived the fiery descent from orbit. Experts said ahead of time that some if not all of it might come crashing down, given it was built to withstand a landing on Venus, the solar system's hottest planet.

The chances of anyone getting clobbered by spacecraft debris were exceedingly low, scientists said.

Launched in 1972 by the Soviet Union, the spacecraft known as Kosmos 482 was part of a series of missions bound for Venus. But this one never made it out of orbit around Earth, stranded there by a rocket malfunction.

Much of the spacecraft came tumbling back to Earth within a decade of the failed launch. No longer able to resist gravity's tug as its orbit dwindled, the spherical lander — an estimated 3 feet (1 metre) across — was the last part of the spacecraft to come down. The lander was encased in titanium, according to experts, and weighed more than 1,000 pounds (495 kilograms).

Any surviving wreckage will belong to Russia under a United Nations treaty.

After following the spacecraft's downward spiral, scientists, military experts and others could not pinpoint in advance precisely when or where the spacecraft might come down. Solar activity added to the uncertainty as well as the spacecraft's deteriorating condition after so long in space.

After so much anticipation, some observers were disappointed by the lingering uncertainty over the exact whereabouts of the spacecraft's grave. - ONA

SPORTS

Newcastle win to close in on Champions League spot

The Magpies recorded a 2-0 victory over Chelsea at St James' Park on Sunday

LONDON: Newcastle United moved within touching distance of a spot in the Champions League next season with a crucial 2-0 victory against 10-man Chelsea in their Premier League match at St James' Park on Sunday.

The Magpies and Chelsea started the day locked on the same 63-point tally before Newcastle got the perfect start when Sandro Tonali's close-range finish gave them the lead after just 112 seconds.

The visitors' task was made even harder when striker Nicolas Jackson was rightly sent off for a needless forearm smash on Newcastle defender Sven Botman 10 minutes before the break.

Manager Enzo Maresca adjusted by using Cole Palmer as a false nine, inspiring a Chelsea revival after the break, with keeper Nick Pope twice saving well from Marc Cucurella and Enzo Fernandez.

Reece James missed another big opportunity for Chelsea, but Newcastle survived to wrap up a priceless three points in stoppage time when Bruno Guimaraes' strike took a deflection off Malo Gusto and looped over keeper Robert Sanchez. The celebrations when the final whistle sounded illustrated the importance of this win as Newcastle and manager Eddie Howe stand on the brink of closing out a magnificent campaign.

They secured their first major domestic trophy since 1955 - their first success of any kind since the 1969 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup - when they beat Liverpool in the Carabao Cup final at Wembley in March.

And now, after a hard-fought win against a Chelsea side rivalling them for a place in the Champions League, Newcastle are in prime position to return to Europe's elite competition next season.

Man City held

Earlier on Saturday, relegated Southampton shut out lifeless Manchester City to move past the Premier League record low mark of 11 points with a goalless draw at St Mary's. This season's Saints are now up to 12 points to ensure Derby County's record low from the 2007-08 season remains intact for at least another year.

City could have moved level on points with second-placed Arsenal with a win but served up a dismal attacking display a week before their FA Cup final against Crystal Palace.

They stay in third place but the dropped points on the south coast could prove costly in a tight race for a top-five finish and a place in the Champions League next season.

Erling Haaland returned from injury but offered little as Pep Guardiola's side were content to play at walking pace against an admittedly packed Southampton defence, and looked devoid of ideas for most of the game.

Defender Manuel Akanji headed wide from a corner and Bernardo Silva saw a shot hacked off the line by Saints captain Jack Stephens.

Saints goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale was only called into serious action inside the last few minutes, clawing away a header from Ruben Dias before Omar Marmoush rattled the crossbar from long range.

But there were cheers from the stoic home crowd at the whistle as the hosts held on for just a third clean sheet all season.

At the Vitality Stadium, Ollie Watkins became Aston Villa's record Premier League goalscorer as his winner at Bournemouth helped Unai Emery's side boost their Champions League qualification hopes.

Villa can no longer finish lower than seventh, meaning they are guaranteed European football in at least the UEFA Conference League next season. The visitors were reduced to 10 men in the 80th minute when Jacob Ramsey was shown a second yellow card, but they held on in sun-kissed Bournemouth to stay sixth in the Premier League table and maintain the pressure on the teams above.

In the final minute of first-half stoppage time Watkins guided Morgan Rogers' low cross into the bottom corner with a delicate, deft touch.

It was the England striker's 75th league goal for Villa and moved him one clear of Gabby Agbonlahor's previous record haul.

Villa endured a nervy finish when Ramsey received a second yellow for tripping David Brooks on the halfway line.

Other results: Saturday: Fulham 1 Everton 3, Ipswich Town 0 Brentford 1, Wolverhampton Wanderers 0 Brighton & Hove Albion 2

CEASEFIRE

BCCI aims to resume IPL 2025 this month

MUMBAI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has begun taking steps towards resuming IPL 2025 in May following the announcement of a ceasefire between India and Pakistan that came into effect at 1130 GMT (1700 IST and 1630 PKT) on Saturday.

"The war has stopped. In the new situation BCCI office bearers, officials and IPL governing council, will discuss the matter tomorrow (Sunday) and take a call," BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla told PTI Videos. "We will see which can be the best schedule to complete the tournament."

ESPNcricinfo has learned that all ten franchises are trying to recall overseas players and coaching staff back to India as plans are afoot to restart the tournament as soon as possible. It is understood the IPL could start as soon as the following weekend - around May 15 - subject to Indian government permission.

The BCCI had to suspend the tournament for a week on Friday following the escalation of cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan that led to the abandonment of the match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals midway through the first innings in Dharamsala on May 8.

The immediate challenge for the franchises is to try and bring back their overseas contingent, most of whom left India between Friday and Saturday. Several franchises have reached out to players and staff asking them to be ready to fly back to India.

Some players and support staff who are in transit have been asked to halt further travel for the time being. One of the franchises even asked its coaching staff to postpone travel out of India as they were getting ready to depart on Sunday.

A total of 57 matches had been completed in IPL 2025, and the 58th was going on May 8 when it was called off after 10.1 overs of play. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Alonso one of the best in the world: Ancelotti

MADRID: Carlo Ancelotti has called Xabi Alonso "one of the best in the world" amid rumours the Spaniard will replace him as Real Madrid manager.

On Friday, Bayer Leverkusen head coach Alonso said he would be leaving the German club at the end of this season.

Alonso is set to be announced as the new Real Madrid boss once Ancelotti's departure is officially confirmed.

Speaking before Madrid's El Clasico La Liga fixture against rivals Barcelona on Sunday, Ancelotti said Alonso "has done an incredible job and he has the doors open to him because he has shown he is one of the best in the world".

But the 65-year-old, who is rumoured to be the next Brazil manager, refused to directly answer any questions about own his managerial future.

"With this club, the honeymoon doesn't end," said Ancelotti. "The honeymoon with Madrid will last until the last day of my life."

Carlo Ancelotti has won 15 trophies across two spells as Real Madrid manager and last season led Los Blancos to a Champions League-La Liga double.

Last year, Alonso led Leverkusen to the Bundesliga title, without losing a game, and the German Cup in his first full season as a senior club manager.

The Spaniard, 43, won the Champions League as a player at Real in 2014. - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Kane lifts first career trophy as Bayern crowned champs

MUNICH: Harry Kane scored and then lifted his first ever trophy as newly crowned Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich beat Borussia Monchengladbach 2-0 in Thomas Muller's last home game for the club on Saturday.

With 31 minutes played, Michael Olise cut inside before aiming a shot towards the top corner that was headed in by Kane for his 25th Bundesliga goal of the season.

Kane was restored to the starting line-up after serving a one-match suspension and proved his worth as he has done consistently throughout the campaign that saw Bayern reclaim the title.

Kane was soaked with drinks in the post-match celebrations and trophy lift, celebrating on the pitch with his wife, children and parents. "It's been a long time coming," Kane said. "It means more than any of the goalscoring awards, for sure.

"There's no secret that there has been this one thing that has been missing from my resume.

"It was a weight on my shoulders and now it's been lifted. I've had plenty of individual accolades and been close on so many occasions to trophies, but for one reason or another, it hasn't quite worked."

Kane added: "When you go through a season, the ups and downs, the work, the training, all together with the team, with the staff, you have this release and have this kind of celebration at the end. "I've never been able to have that before. It was just so nice to have that moment."

Muller started on his 750th appearance for Bayern before his summer departure and was honoured pre-match.

The German forward, 35, was unable to mark the milestone with a goal, despite three promising attempts and left the field to huge applause from fans in the Allianz Arena - as well as a guard of honour from his team-mates - in the 84th minute. - Agencies

ITALIAN OPEN

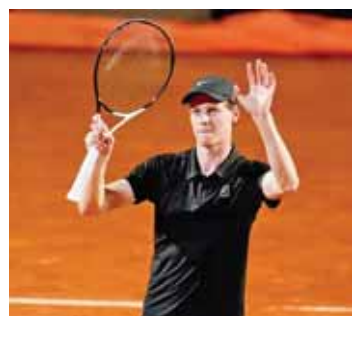
Sinner enjoys 'amazing feeling' in comeback win

ROME: Jannik Sinner said it was an "amazing feeling" to be back on court after beating Argentina's Mariano Navone at the Italian Open in the first match since his doping ban on Saturday.

The 6-3 6-4 victory was the world No.1's 22nd in a row - a streak interrupted by the three-month suspension he agreed with the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA).

Sinner wrote 'Che bello' (How beautiful) on the camera lens at the end of the match, as chants of 'Ole' rang around the stadium.

The Italian said the reaction from the home crowd was the best he had ever experienced.



"It has been amazing to go again on court after such a long time, having a great support also in the last days," Sinner said.

His parents were among 10,500 people who offered him a full throated welcome onto the Campo Centrale, but Sinner showed little emotion as he walked on hand in hand with a child mascot.

"From the first day I came here, it has been amazing. I was waiting for this moment quite a long time," he added.

The match was Sinner's first since he successfully defended his Australian Open title in Melbourne in January.

Elsewhere, in the men's tournament, Britain's Jacob Fearnley was beaten 6-4, 7-6 (7-0) by Italian 29th seed Matteo Berrettini.

Collins stuns Swiatek

American Danielle Collins completed a comprehensive straight-set victory over defending champion Iga Swiatek in the third round of the Italian Open on Saturday.

Collins capitalised on a poor serving display from world No.2 Swiatek to cruise to a 6-1, 7-5 victory. Collins, 31, will face Ukrainian Elina Svitolina in the fourth round. The 16th seed Svitolina, beat 23-year-old American Hailey Baptiste, beating the world No.90 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Elsewhere, Italian No.1 Jasmine Paolini - the sixth seed - got past an out-of-sorts Ons Jabeur 6-4, 6-3 to seal a place in the last 16, where she will meet 17th seed Jelena Ostapenko, of Latvia.

Fifth seed Madison Keys lost to fellow American Peyton Stearns in another shock. Stearns will play Japan's Naomi Osaka, who battled back from a set down to beat Czech player Marie Bouzkova. Russian Diana Shnaider beat Jaqueline Cristian and awaits Belgium's Elise Mertens, who beat American third seed Jessica Pegula 7-5, 6-1. - Agencies

IN PICTURES

Bollywood actor Anupam Kher with veteran photojournalist Pradeep Chandra
Bollywood actor Anupam Kher with veteran photojournalist Pradeep Chandra, poses for a picture during the unveiling of the latter's special photo exhibition titled 'Bombay Through the Eyes of Pradeep Chandra', at Juhu Floor One in Mumbai. ANI Photo

Corn sowing enters peak period in China's Inner Mongolia
An aerial picture shows farmers operating tractors equipped with Beidou navigation system for plowing in Horqin Left Wing Rear Banner of Tongliao City, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Xinhua

Mother's Day observed in Australia's Canberra
Children and their teachers perform during Mother's Day celebrations in Canberra, Australia. Children from various countries and regions gathered in Canberra to participate in the celebrations. Through singing, dancing, and recitation, they expressed their appreciation and best wishes to their mothers. Xinhua

Chinatown attracts people to feel charm of Eastern culture in Buenos Aires
People walk near the Chinatown in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 2009, the archway of the Chinatown in Buenos Aires was officially completed. Nowadays, the Chinatown has become an important tourist attraction in the local area, attracting many people to experience the charm of Eastern culture. Xinhua

Students practice Shaolin Kung Fu in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Students practice Shaolin Kung Fu at the Shaolin Temple of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Shaolin Kung Fu is one of China's most treasured cultural heritage items, and has been practiced by Shaolin disciples as well as Kung Fu lovers around the world. Xinhua

California governor warns of "code red" economic emergency due to high tariffs
This picture shows cargo ships loaded with containers at the Port of Los Angeles in California, United States. In a recent advertisement, California Governor Gavin Newsom warned the American public of the "real" and "serious" consequences of recent high tariffs, describing the situation as a "code red" economic emergency.
Xinhua

ROUND-UP

Renaissance expands fleet to strengthen its Oman operations

The new trucks have already been deployed to support the safe and efficient movement of goods, equipment and essential supplies across various Renaissance sites

MUSCAT: Renaissance Services, Oman's leading facilities management and services solutions provider, has strengthened its logistics and supply chain capabilities with 16 new trucks, including a mix of prime movers with trailers as well as 10-tonne and 4-tonne trucks.

This fleet expansion is aligned with Renaissance's strategy to ensure reliable, efficient and scalable logistics support to its Integrated Facilities Management (IFM) sites and accommodation solutions across Oman. The new trucks have already been deployed to support the safe and efficient movement of goods, equipment and essential supplies across various Renaissance sites in Oman, with a strong focus on reliability.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohana Prabhakar, Chief Communications & Corporate Affairs Officer, Renaissance Services said, "Expanding and consolidating our fleet is a key milestone in our ongoing efforts to strengthen logistics performance and operational resilience. The addition of next-generation vehicles equipped with modern safety features will help us improve service delivery across our operations in the Sultanate of Oman."

Renaissance Services is Oman's leading provider of IFM and accommodation services serving critical sectors including oil &gas, defence, healthcare and utilities.

It is one of the largest private sector employers of Omani nationals, contributing to local growth and capacity building. The company is publicly listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange and is well known for its commitment to safety, sustainability and innovation.

SPECIALISED TRAINING PROGRAM

Alizz Islamic Bank partners with Al Tawasul Institute to empower people with impaired hearing

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank recently partnered with Al Tawasul Institute for a specialised training program to empower jobseekers with hearing impairments. The programme is tailored to focus on developing their social and professional skills, providing them with the right tools that will help them communicate at the workforce. This programme aims to provide the candidates with skills, resources and confidence needed to succeed in today's dynamic job market.

As part of the ongoing commitment to inclusivity and social responsibility, Alizz Islamic Bank is proud to announce a new initiative dedicated to empowering people with imparied hearing. This partnership comes as part of the bank's 'Alizz Cares' strategic pillars and underscores its commitment to fostering inclusivity, empowering communities and enhancing the quality of life. Guided by the overarching framework of 'We Care,' the Bank is on a mission to enhance the quality of life for future generations.

The agreement was signed during the Celebration of the 50th Arab Week for the deaf by Asaad Al Kharusi, Chief Operating Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank on behalf of the bank and by Said Al Badai, GM of Al Tawasul Training Institute on behalf of the Institute in the presence of Dr. Laila bint Ahmed Al Najar, Minister of Social Development

Alizz Islamic Bank aims to play a key role in achieving the objectives of the Ministry of Social Development and Oman Vision 2040 to help advance social equity and foster economic participation in this particular segment. The Bank continues to extend its strategic partnerships to help associations accelerate progress towards impactful goals and objectives.

Touching upon the partnership, Asaad Al Kharusi, Chief Operating Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank said "At Alizz Islamic Bank we believe that financial institutions have a responsibility towards building an inclusive environment for all people and we are honoured to have partnered with Al Tawasul Institute to empower jobseekers with hearing impairments. We look forward to seeing the impact and success of this programme across the community and we hope it showcases how all organisations can promote inclusivity in society."

FINE JEWELLERY

Mouawad opens new boutique at ROHM

MUSCAT: Mouawad, the renowned name in the world of fine jewellery, has inaugurated its latest boutique in Oman, located within the Royal Opera House Muscat's (ROHM) Opera Galleria.

Celebrated for crafting rare and unique pieces with exceptional artistry, Mouawad's new boutique marks a significant milestone in the brand's ongoing regional expansion. This achievement has been made possible through a strategic partnership with Majan Jewellery, a name that shares Mouawad's dedication to luxury and excellence.

The boutique's design embodies Mouawad's global philosophy of offering refined experiences in showcasing its unique jewellery collections. It seamlessly blends contemporary architecture with the elegance of traditional craftsmanship. The interior features a harmonious interplay of light and shadow, evoking the warmth of the Levant. Soft olive green tones and rich terracotta accents lend an elegant and authentic character to the space, creating an immersive experience that reflects Mouawad's signature blend of uniqueness and sophistication.

In a joint statement, the fourth-generation co-guardians of the brand, Fred, Alain, and Pascal Mouawad, expressed: "We are proud to inaugurate our latest boutique in Oman, a land rich in heritage and natural beauty that deeply values timeless craftsmanship. This opening represents a significant chapter in our journey, allowing us to connect more profoundly with the Omani community and share Mouawad's unique legacy in an environment that mirrors the region's values and elegance."

PARTICIPATION

BankDhofar sponsors 3rd International Banking, Finance and Business Conference

MUSCAT: BankDhofar, the Sultanate of Oman's second-largest bank by branch network size, sponsored the 3rd International Banking, Finance, and Business Conference 2025, organized by the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS).

The event was inaugurated by Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology.

The conference focused on the transformative opportunities presented by advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications in the banking and financial sectors. Discussions highlighted how AI can enhance operational efficiency, improve customer experiences, and drive sector-wide innovation. Participants also explored the key challenges that institutions face in adopting these technologies.

Throughout the sessions, the concerned team responsible for the Digital Banking sphere from BankDhofar engaged with thought-provoking research papers and case studies, covering the latest innovations in digital banking, smart analytics, machine learning algorithms, and global success stories in AI adoption.

The team's participation reinforced their strategic vision for leveraging AI technologies to enhance services and drive operational excellence within the bank, drawing inspiration from leading international practices presented during the event.

BankDhofar's support for the conference reflects its long-standing commitment to driving innovation and excellence within Oman's banking sector. With over 35 years of successful operations, BankDhofar offers a diverse portfolio of financial solutions, a modern branch network, and cutting-edge digital platforms—underscoring its focus on growth, innovation, and customer-centric service.

Today, BankDhofar operates 131 branches across all governorates of the Sultanate,Its wide range of tailored products and services serve diverse customer segments, including women, youth, children, minors, and high-income and high-net-worth individuals.

The bank's focus on innovation and customer satisfaction has been reflected in its strong 2024 financial results, with net profits rising by 12.5% to OMR 43.6 million, compared to OMR 38.7 million at the end of 2023.

BankDhofar continues to invest heavily in technology and digital enablement.

It was among the first banks in Oman to introduce Apple Pay and Samsung Pay, alongside innovations like wholesale cash deposit machines and Easy Biz, a digital collections and settlement platform for businesses.

FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Zubair Corporation hosts lecture on 'Sustainability in Entrepreneurial Ecosystem' at Majan College

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to fostering a culture of sustainability and innovation, The Zubair Corporation delivered a lecture titled "Sustainability in the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem" for undergraduate students at Majan University College. The event, held upon the college's invitation, brought together students from various academic disciplines interested in entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

The lecture was led by Ali Shaker, Head of Sustainability at The Zubair Corporation, who discussed key topics including the evolution of modern entrepreneurship, the challenges faced by startups, and sustainable financing mechanisms. A particular focus was placed on crowdfunding as a dynamic funding model, especially in light of recent regulatory advancements by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in Oman.

As part of the session, the Wadea crowdfunding platform—supported by the Zubair Centre for Enterprise Development—was presented as a case study. Hamza Al Lawati, Wadea's Co-founder, shared insights into the platform's establishment and its innovative approach to empowering entrepreneurs.

The session sparked vibrant engagement from students, who actively participated in discussions and posed thoughtful questions on entrepreneurship, finance, and sustainability.

Ali Shaker stated, "We are grateful to Majan University College for this opportunity to engage with the next generation of entrepreneurs. At The Zubair Corporation, we view sustainability as a cornerstone of innovation and long-term growth. This lecture aligns with our broader strategy to integrate sustainability and triple-bottom-line governance across all levels, in support of Oman Vision 2040."

Ammar Al Balushi, Head of the Business Administration Department at Majan University College, added, "We value our collaboration with esteemed institutions like The Zubair Corporation. Such initiatives play a vital role in equipping our students with the knowledge and competencies required in today's dynamic market—particularly in areas of entrepreneurship and sustainable development."

OFFICE-BEARERS

Student Council inducted at Indian School Muladha

MUSCAT: The solemn felicitation of the office-bearers of the Student Council of Indian School Muladha for the academic year 2025-26 was held on 8 May.

The event was attended by the benign presence of the Chief Guest Professor Saeed Al-Muharrami, Member of the Board of Directors, Central Bank of Oman and the Guest of Honour, Ambalavanan A P, Finance Director of the Board and Director in Charge – ISML. The President of School Management Committee Musthafa M T, Convener Ashifa Asif, Treasurer Dr Ajeeb P, the members of the School Management Committee, Principal Dr Leena Francis, parents, grandparents, staff and students attended the ceremony.

The march by the student council members was a spectacular event which set the mood for the event. The programme commenced with the Royal Anthem of Oman and the National Anthem of India followed by the soulful rendition of prayer song by the school choir. The Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour were given a floral welcome by the President and the Convener of the School Management Committee respectively. The student council members were introduced by Nijo Jose, the Council Coordinator. The Principal Dr Leena Francis administered the oath to the office bearers to discharge their duties assiduously and earnestly.

Addressing the gathering, Musthafa exhorted the students to be the best leaders and inspire others. The council members were ceremoniously adorned with sashes and badges by the dignitaries and entrusted with the responsibility of leading their school with dedication, confidence and competence. The motivational song that followed uplifted the spirits of everyone present, inspiring a sense of pride and purpose.

In his address, Professor Saeed Al-Muharrami, invigorated the spirit of leadership among the students with his inspiring words of wisdom. He urged them to work diligently, uphold the proud legacy of the school, and shared valuable insights on becoming responsible and effective leaders.

The Chief Guest ceremoniously unveiled the official logo, heralding the commencement of the school's glorious 35th year of excellence in education and dedicated service to society, thereby formally inaugurating a year-long celebration of its remarkable journey.

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