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Cultural diplomacy, identity stepped up with new project

Our Correspondent
Muscat

H H Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, has issued a decision to form the Omani Cultural Laboratories project team. The project is a joint effort between Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth (MCSY), Cultural Club and Bait al Zubair Foundation. It aims to adopt cultural programmes and encourage partnerships between government bodies, private organisations and academic institutions, both locally and internationally. The project is part of MCSY's broader cultural strategy focused on creativity, renewal and promotion of Omani identity on the global stage. Omani Cultural Laboratories will present the sultanate's cultural heritage through exhibitions, research projects, intellectual forums and international collaborations. These are designed to highlight Oman's civilisational legacy and contribute to global cultural dialogue. "The decision comes within the framework of strengthening the national cultural movement, and enhancing partnerships and



The decision comes within the framework of strengthening the national cultural movement, and enhancing partnerships and integration between various cultural institutions
H E SAYYID SAID BIN SULTAN AL BUSAIDI

integration between various cultural institutions," said H E Sayyid Said bin Sultan al Busaidi, MCSY Undersecretary and General Supervisor of the project. "It underscores the importance of supporting cultural development programmes in the sultanate, consolidating Oman's cultural identity and enhancing its presence in regional and global forums." Dr Mohammed bin Ali al

Balushi, Chairman of Board of Directors of Cultural Club and Vice-Chairman of the executive team, welcomed the project. "The Omani cognitive memory carries cultural content and intellectual achievements that must be communicated abroad," he said. "It is our collective responsibility to engage in projects such as these cultural laboratories to contribute to the knowledge exchange

movement in the world." Dr Mohammed Abdul Karim al Shehhi, Head of the executive team, stressed the importance of preserving and sharing Oman's intellectual heritage. "We appreciate the ministry's continued commitment to providing the means to transform Omani cultural heritage into a source of knowledge for interested parties everywhere," he said. "This coop-

eration between Bait al Zubair and Cultural Club reinforces a tradition where efforts are unified under the umbrella of the state, translating its vision and aspirations." MCSY reaffirmed its commitment to supervising the project directly, aiming to strengthen Oman's identity and enhancing its cultural visibility regionally and globally via cultural diplomacy.

\$564mn deal with Chinese firm to set up solar plant

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman has signed a multi-million dollar agreement with China's JA Solar to establish a large-scale solar cell and panel manufacturing facility in the second phase of Sohar Freezone as part of efforts to boost renewable energy and diversify the economy. The RO217.3mn (US\$564mn) project will cover 32.5 hectares and is expected to begin operations in the first quarter of 2026. The plant will have annual production capacity of up to 6GW of solar cells and 3GW of solar modules, positioning Oman as a key player in the clean energy value chain across the region. JA Solar signed agreements to this effect with Invest Oman, Sohar Port and Freezone, and Majis Industrial Services on Monday during the closing ceremony of Advantage Oman Forum, the sultanate's first international investment forum. Khalid bin Salim al Qassabi, Director General of Industry at Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said the project supports Oman Industrial Strategy 2040. "The renewable energy sector is a priority for us due to its potential to create new industrial opportu-

► ANNUAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY - 6GW OF SOLAR CELLS AND 3GW OF SOLAR MODULES

► PROJECT SITE - 32.5 HECTARES

► OPERATIONS COMMENCEMENT - Q1 2026

nities, increase contribution of industry to GDP, and diversify the energy mix," he said. "This project reflects our vision for developing future industries and promoting value-added investments." Qassabi added that Oman aims to become a regional hub for renewable and green industries, with the new facility expected to attract investments. Fan Jingchao, General Manager at JA Solar Oman, said, "Our facility marks a significant advancement in the solar PV supply chain, integrating all key components from polysilicon to modules. The strategic location within Sohar Freezone offers essential logistics and positions us in a rapidly growing renewable energy hub. Continued on Page 02

Sayyid Shihab chairs Social Protection Committee meet

Muscat - The ministerial committee entrusted with the Social Protection Scheme held a meeting under the chairmanship of H H Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs and Chairman of the committee, on Monday. The meeting reviewed status of implementation of the decisions issued in its first meeting this year. It discussed several items on the agenda and examined proposals submitted by relevant authorities regarding the social protection system, deliberating on all aspects and taking



appropriate decisions. Among the main objectives of the Social Protection Committee is evaluating and monitoring performance of the social protection system to ensure fair, effective and sustainable insurance coverage for all segments of society.

Oman wins first AFC Hockey Cup, qualifies for Asia Cup

Jakarta, Indonesia - Oman won the AFC Hockey Cup for the first time defeating Chinese Taipei 4-3 in a closely fought final in Jakarta, Indonesia on Sunday. The victory secured Oman a place in Asia Cup 2025, scheduled to be held in India in August. Bangladesh finished third in the tournament after beating Kazakhstan 3-0. Chinese Taipei opened the scoreboard early in the final with Wei Cheng-Zhe finding the net in the fourth minute. Oman responded in the 12th minute when Rashed al Fazari scored from a penalty corner to level



the match. Oman dominated the second quarter. Shafi al Shatari gave his side the lead in the 22nd minute, followed by a third goal from Elias al Noufli five minutes later. Chinese Taipei reduced the deficit just before halftime with a goal by Hsieh Tsung-Yu.

The third quarter saw both sides trading attacks. Chinese Taipei equalised in the 43rd minute through Huang Lin-Yu. However, Oman regained the lead two minutes later when Aiman Madit scored what proved to be the winning goal. Oman held firm in the final quarter with defenders and goalkeeper denying Chinese Taipei further chances to equalise. The victory marks a significant milestone for Oman with the team now looking ahead to participate in Asia Cup 2025 later in year.

Oman's urban air transport ambitions take off at two-day forum

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman has moved towards building a smart air transport system by hosting Urban Air Mobility Forum - Oman 2025 organised by Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) in partnership with Phoenix Space Technologies and Global Urban Air Mobility. The two-day forum, which began on Monday, has brought together government and private sector entities, academic institutions and international organisations from the fields of aviation, space and advanced technology.

The event aims to lay the groundwork for an advanced air mobility (AAM) system in the sultanate, supporting broader efforts to create an integrated transport network, stimulate innovation and employment, and improve quality of life in cities. Participants discussed investment priorities, infrastructure needs, regulations and plans for live demonstration programmes. The forum will also explore opportunities in the emerging AAM sector and examine development of mobility products and services. It is in line with Oman's ambition to host the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Global AAM Forum in 2026.



Abdullah Ali al Busaidi, Director General of Oman Logistics Centre at MTCIT, described the forum as "an important national and regional strategic platform that highlights one of the most promising sectors - advanced urban air mobility". He said hosting the forum aligns with Oman Vision 2040 and the Logistics Strategy 2040. Busaidi said discussions would lead to "recommendations and practices to lay the foundations for this promising sector", offering ideas on adapting modern

technology to Oman's urban landscape for societal, economic and environmental benefits. "This forum is a starting point for a future where Oman will be at the forefront of the region's advanced urban air transport, driven by national will, fruitful partnerships and a clear vision." Civil Aviation Authority will lead development of regulations for urban air transport, working closely with MTCIT, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning and other relevant bodies. Plans are underway to establish a national pilot zone (Geozone) to test AAM technologies and applications. The zone will provide a controlled environment

for research institutions and startups to develop solutions within Oman. Five pilot projects have been proposed, covering intercity urban transport, air cargo and logistics, ambulance and emergency medical services, air security and surveillance, and the creation of national innovation incubators. The forum's outcomes and executive recommendations will be announced on Logistics Day on April 30, bringing together government officials, investors and international experts to prepare for the launch of the National Implementation Plan for the Air Mobility Sector.

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Over 1,000 prisoners released under 12th Fak Kurbah initiative

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Khadja al Maamari and Hajer al Harrasi show at Al Mouj Muscat

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Over 1,000 released under 12th Fak Kurbah initiative

Our Correspondent Muscat

The Omani Lawyers Association announced the release of 1,088 individuals imprisoned for non-criminal financial cases across Oman, following the conclusion of the 12th edition of its humanitarian initiative, Fak Kurbah, on Sunday.

North Batinah recorded the highest number of releases with 334 cases, followed by Muscat with 242, Dakhliyah with 102, South Batinah with 95, and South Sharqiyah with 67. A further 65 cases were resolved in Dhahirah, 60 in Buraimi, 57 in Dhofar, 46 in North Sharqiyah, 16 in Al Wusta and four in Musandam.

Dr Hamad bin Hamdan al Rubaie, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Omani Lawyers Association, said the initiative targeted cases that met strict el-



igibility criteria. "We received significant contributions from individuals and both public and private sector institutions, due to the growing awareness of the importance of supporting social and humanitarian causes. This support was instrumental in achieving the goals of the 12th edition, resulting in the release of more than 1,000 individuals," he said.

Dr Mohammed al Zadjali, Chairman of the Omani Lawyers

Association and overseer of the initiative, said Fak Kurbah has helped create an organised framework for humanitarian and social work in Oman. "The initiative has reinforced the values of compassion, solidarity and social responsibility among all segments of society," he said.

Since its launch in 2012, Fak Kurbah has secured the release of more than 8,198 insolvent individuals.

Gulf Accreditation Centre expands presence with new Muscat branch

Our Correspondent Muscat

The Gulf Accreditation Centre (GAC) officially opened a branch in Muscat on Sunday, in a move aimed at strengthening quality infrastructure across GCC and supporting international recognition of Gulf competencies.

The inauguration was attended by Jassem Mohamed al Budaiwi, Secretary General of the GCC, and H E Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, along with senior officials from Oman.

Speaking at the event, Budaiwi said the opening of the GAC branch in Oman reflects the sultanate's commitment to joint Gulf cooperation and its efforts to advance initiatives in various fields.

"This stems from the wise leadership's noble directives in the sultanate, especially as it responds to an ambitious Gulf vision aimed at unifying efforts and



The opening of the branch reflects Oman's commitment to joint Gulf cooperation and its efforts to advance initiatives in various fields

JASEM MOHAMED AL BUDAIWI

developing the accreditation system, which leads to raising the level of quality and reliability in economic, industrial, health, and educational sectors."

Budaiwi added, "This aims to achieve Gulf integration and enhance its regional and global standing. The GAC in Oman seeks to outline avenues for co-

operation and coordination among the GCC's member states, develop the system for applying standards, evaluation, and product control, as well as support and develop the Gulf industry and economy."

The opening took place on the sidelines of the Advantage Oman Forum, which Budaiwi described as a valuable platform for discussing investment opportunities, and other initiatives.

\$564mn deal with Chinese firm to set up solar plant

Continued from Page 01

By utilising cutting-edge technologies, we aim to produce high-quality, affordable solar panels that enhance accessibility and attract global investment, while expanding our presence in key markets."

On the occasion, Mohammed

al Shizawi, Acting CEO of Sohar Freezone, said, "In response to high investor demand and with the first phase nearing full occupancy, the ongoing expansion of the freezone is now underway to advance local solar manufacturing, reduce carbon emissions and raise regional sustainability standards. The project will drive in-

dustrial diversification, strengthen local supply chains and unlock new downstream investment opportunities critical to Oman's economic growth."

The agreement with JA Solar is seen as a milestone in Oman's efforts to attract foreign direct investment and strengthen its clean energy manufacturing sector.

Al Wusta signs RO4.4mn deals for development projects

Our Correspondent Haima

Al Wusta governorate has signed a series of agreements for development projects across its wilayats, with investments exceeding RO4.4mn, aimed at advancing infrastructure and community services.

The agreements were signed on Monday by Sheikh Ahmed bin Muslim al Kathiri, Governor of Al Wusta, in coordination with relevant implementing agencies on Monday.

In Haima, a Knowledge Park will be established at a cost of RO495,000 to serve as a cultural and recreational centre. An exhibition ground will be con-



structed with an investment of RO300,000, while RO248,000 has been allocated for a camel racing track, supporting Oman's traditional sports heritage.

Urban beautification projects include upgrading the façade of Abu Mazabi village for

RO221,000. A solar-powered lighting project for 60 service stations in Haima, Mahout, and Duqm will be implemented at a cost of RO92,400. Additionally, 100 lighting poles will be supplied and installed in Mahout at a cost of RO153,000.

In Duqm, the façade of Dhahr village will be developed with an investment of RO608,000, while Ras Madrakah village will see enhancements costing more than RO537,000. Two public parks were planned - one in Dhahr village (RO208,000) and another in Sarab village, Mahout (RO161,000).

Infrastructure works include the design and construction of the 17km Hitam al Barr Road at an estimated RO909,000 and the phase one development of Wadi Dharif in Duqm for RO148,000. In the sports sector, football stadiums will be developed in Hitam village (RO98,000) and the wilayat of Al Jazir (RO104,000).



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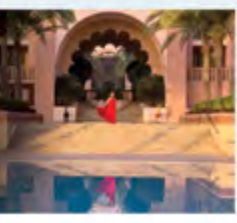
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Pilgrims without valid haj permits to face penalties, warns MERA

Our Correspondent Muscat

The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs (MERA) has urged citizens and residents planning to perform haj this year to secure a valid permit, warning of strict penalties for violations in line with regulations set by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a statement, MERA emphasised the importance of complying with licensing rules issued by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Haj and Umrah. 'A permit is essential for performing the pilgrimage,' the ministry stated, warning that unauthorised travel or promotion of unlicensed haj services could lead to significant fines.

According to the Oman Haj Mission, individuals travelling without a valid permit may face fines ranging from RO1,000 to RO2,000. Those found advertising or organising unauthorised haj transport could be fined between RO500 and RO1,000.

Authorities also called on the public to rely on official communication channels for accurate information and cautioned against misinformation from unofficial sources.

Earlier this year, Oman signed a bilateral agreement with Saudi Arabia concerning arrangements for the 1446 AH haj season. The agreement aims to streamline the pilgrimage process for Omani pilgrims.

Booklet launched to raise child safety awareness

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Children First Association launched an awareness booklet, *I Am Aware*, on Monday during the 29th Muscat International Book Fair as part of its continuing efforts to advocate child safety and rights.

The launch was held under the patronage of H H Sayyida Dr Mona Fahad Mahmood al Said, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of International Cooperation at Sultan

Qaboos University and Chairperson of the association.

Speaking at the event, H H Sayyida Mona said the association is committed to safeguarding children from all forms of abuse and violence. "This booklet reflects our continued efforts to educate children and their caregivers through development projects, activities and informative publications," she said.

Designed with child-friendly illustrations, the booklet seeks to raise awareness about harass-



(Supplied photo)

ment and empower children with accessible knowledge.

Explaining the core message of the publication, Amal Khalifa al Shamakhiya, a certified human rights trainer from United Nations Training and Documentation Centre and the booklet's author, said, "The idea behind *I am Aware* is rooted in the belief that child abuse leaves lasting psychological scars and that silence only deepens the pain."

She added, "This booklet

adopts a simplified, interactive format to teach children about their rights and bodily autonomy, and guides them on what to do if they experience inappropriate behaviour."

Interactive features such as colouring activities and multiple-choice questions have been included to reinforce key concepts. The booklet also offers guidance for parents, educators and caregivers, encouraging open conversations with children about personal safety and boundaries.

Muscat book fair highlights role of arts in national identity

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman's cultural aspirations took centre stage at the 29th Muscat International Book Fair where two panel discussions focused on enhancing Oman's theatrical and cinematic arts.

The Directorate General of Arts hosted a panel discussion titled 'The Role of Theatre in Building Cultural Awareness' on Sunday exploring how Omani youth are working to develop the national theatre movement. Speakers highlighted the status of youth theatre groups, prospects for specialised education, and the role of cultural institutions in promoting wider public participation.

Ahmed bin Dhahi al Shibli, playwright and director, said theatre has played a role in enhancing cultural awareness. He elaborated on its contribution to reinforcing national identity and facilitating creative knowledge-sharing.

Playwright Omran bin Saleh al Rahbi described theatre as an intellectual platform that addresses societal issues "with honesty and objectivity". He emphasised the need for inclusive theatre that welcomes people with disabilities.

Writer and playwright Osama bin Zayed al Shaqsi called for a strong literary foundation for theatre, stating, "Reading and writing are the backbone of theatrical thought." He added that powerful texts enrich life experiences and deepen cultural understanding.

The discussion concluded with a call to tap into regional and international experiences to develop the national theatre scene in alignment with the broader goals of Oman Vision 2040.

On Saturday, Oman Film Society organised a dialogue titled 'Transforming Omani Novels into Films' at Oman Convention and



Anwar bin Khamis al Ruzaqi

Exhibition Centre. The session examined the potential of Omani literature for film, the challenges of adaptation and the need for collaboration among writers, directors and screenwriters.

Anwar bin Khamis al Ruzaqi, Vice-Chairman of Oman Film Society, said the detailed portrayal of environment and characters in Omani novels offer rich material for filmmakers. "Oman's cultural and historical diversity significantly contributes to the success of our film industry," he said. He noted the growing international recognition of Omani short films and the rising profile of feature and documentary productions.

On the narrative structure for cinema, playwright and author Noureddine bin Moosa al Hashimi said, "Omani stories have both cultural and economic value and offer meaningful ways to address social issues."

Oman Film Society continues its efforts to promote Omani culture and heritage through cinema, contributing to narratives that resonate locally and internationally, while supporting the country's cultural tourism initiatives.

Both sessions formed part of the wider efforts of Muscat book fair to promote the arts in line with Oman Vision 2040 objectives of preserving cultural identity and fostering sustainable community engagement.



(MoU)

Oman, Brunei sign media cooperation agreement

Muscat - The Sultanate of Oman and Brunei Darussalam signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Muscat on Monday to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the media sector.

The MoU outlines collaboration in the exchange of radio, television and news materials and programmes, as well as expertise sharing, training and reciprocal visits between media professionals from both countries.

The agreement was signed by H E Dr Abdullah bin Nasser al Harrasi, Minister of Information, and Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence, Brunei Darussalam.

During his visit, Dato Paduka toured the digital studio complex of Oman TV, where he was briefed on the advanced media and news services offered by Ministry of Information. He was introduced to the digital technologies and tools supporting the ministry's efforts to meet evolving media requirements.

Praising Oman's achievements in the media sector, Dato Halbi commended the sultanate's progress in adopting modern technologies and delivering media content aligned with international standards. He expressed hope that the MoU would open new avenues for cooperation in media development, training initiatives and professional exchanges.



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Directors' Report

Dear Shareholders,
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the interim unaudited Financial Statements for the three-month period ended 31 March 2025.

Financial Performance Highlights (RO'000)

	Jan-Mar 2025 (RO '000)	Jan-Mar 2024 (RO '000)	Decrease (RO '000)	Decrease %
Sales	118,531	121,069	(2,538)	(2%)
Other Income	1,572	1,627	(55)	(3%)
Total Income	120,103	122,696	(2,593)	(2%)
Cost of Sales & Operating Expenses	(118,985)	(121,386)	(2,401)	(2%)
Net profit after tax	1,118	1,310	(192)	(15%)

Earnings per share (RO)	0.016	0.019	(0.003)	(15%)
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- The Company recorded revenue of OMR 119 million during the period from January to March 2025, compared to OMR 121 million in the same period of the previous year, reflecting a 2% decline. This decrease was mainly attributable to a 0.5% reduction in sales volume, particularly at border stations due to lower international fuel prices, and in the aviation segment due to reduced flight activity.
- Other income for the period also recorded a slight decrease of 3% compared to the same period last year. This was mainly due to lower revenue from the management of the fuel farm at Muscat International Airport, which was affected by a reduction in flight operations during the quarter.
- Net profit for the reported period amounted to OMR 1.1 million, compared to OMR 1.3 million in the same period of 2024, reflecting a 15% decline. This decrease was primarily due to a lower gross profit margin in the aviation segment, resulting from a decline in international prices.

Despite the challenges posed by global market conditions, the Company continues to maintain a strong financial position and remains committed to operational efficiency and customer service excellence.

Market Segments Performance:

During the first quarter of 2025, the Company remained committed to enhancing operational efficiency and delivering greater value to its customers across all business segments. Several initiatives were undertaken to improve the overall customer experience, elevate service quality, and strengthen engagement within key target markets.

The Company's proactive and agile response to shifting market dynamics, supported by the strategic adoption of digital technologies, has reinforced its resilience and competitive position. These efforts enabled the Company to maintain stable performance, despite challenges arising global price volatility and broader market challenges.

1) Retail Segment Performance

During the period from January to March 2025, the retail segment maintained its position as a key contributor to the Company's revenue, supported by strong performance across the majority of fuel stations. Although overall sales recorded a slight decline due to reduced demand at border stations, the vast majority of fuel stations—particularly those located in urban and strategic areas—achieved notable growth in sales volumes. This growth reflects the Company's success in enhancing customer experience, activating loyalty programs, and offering value-added services. Additionally, well-planned marketing initiatives and the expansion of non-fuel products and services have increased station attractiveness and driven high levels of customer satisfaction. Accordingly, the retail segment continues to play a pivotal role in supporting the Company's growth and reinforcing its leadership position in the market.

2) Commercial Segment Performance

The commercial sales segment continued to deliver a solid performance during the period from January to March 2025, supported by increased activity in key sectors such as energy, construction, and oil and gas, which served as the main catalyst for sales growth.

Despite the highly competitive nature of the market, the Company successfully strengthened its market position by offering flexible, customer-centric solutions, optimizing supply chain efficiency, and maintaining a strong focus on reliable delivery service. Additionally, the Company's proactive alignment with ongoing economic developments has contributed to an expanded customer base and sustained growth in wholesale sales.

Going forward, the segment remains well-positioned to capitalize on emerging opportunities. The Company will continue to drive growth through targeted sales strategies and ongoing efforts to enhance its competitiveness in an evolving market landscape.

3) Aviation Segment Performance

During the first quarter of 2025, the aviation segment experienced a decline in sales volume due to reduced demand from one of its key clients. Nonetheless, the Company remained focused on maintaining performance stability by strengthening its engagements with other companies, which helped mitigate the overall impact. This approach aligns with the Company's ongoing efforts to diversify its customer base and enhance the segment's resilience in the face of operational shifts, while maintaining service readiness and competitiveness in the current market environment.

4) Lubricant Segment Performance

The lubricants segment continued its positive performance during the first quarter of 2025, supported by strong demand from the commercial sector, which accounted for the largest share of total sales—reinforcing the Company's position in this vital market. The government sector also made a significant contribution, with stable demand from government entities reflecting the reliability of the Company's products and the efficiency of its supply operations.

In addition, distribution channels recorded solid performance, presenting opportunities for growth through broader customer outreach. The car wash segment also emerged as a relatively promising channel, given its sales volume and value compared to the retail segment, suggesting potential for tailored solutions to meet the specific needs of this customer group.

The segment's performance reflects the success of the Company's strategic focus on diversifying sales channels, deepening its presence in target markets, and fostering long-term relationships through a commitment to quality and customer satisfaction.

5) Non-Fuel Revenue Segment Performance

The Company continued to execute its strategic direction focused on diversifying income sources and strengthening non-fuel activities to support long-term, sustainable growth. During the first quarter of 2025, significant progress was made in advancing the implementation of the previously announced "Ghubra Front Project" in collaboration with Saud Bahwan Group, and the "Al Maha Walk" project, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.

These initiatives aim to create integrated community and commercial destinations that enhance urban vibrancy and deliver added value to residents and visitors in the Muscat Governorate. In parallel, the Company also worked on evaluating similar projects in other regions of the Sultanate, as part of its plan to expand its footprint in the non-fuel revenue sector.

The expansion of non-fuel activities was reflected in the Company's financial performance, as this segment contributed to the growth of other income—demonstrating the effectiveness of the Company's development-oriented approach in building complementary revenue streams that support financial stability beyond traditional market fluctuations.

Quality, Health, Safety and Environment (QHSE)

The Company remains committed to upholding the highest standards of quality, health, safety, and environmental protection, with a continued focus on sustainable development and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment. The safety and well-being of employees, customers, and the wider community remain among the Company's top priorities.

During the period, regular audits were conducted across offices, operational sites, and ongoing projects. In addition, specialized training programs were organized to enhance employee awareness and competency in QHSE practices, thereby reinforcing a culture of prevention and continuous compliance with established standards and regulations.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The Company placed strong emphasis on corporate social responsibility, focusing on education, health, the environment, and local community development in alignment with its broader sustainability strategy. During the first quarter of 2025, the Company moved forward with the implementation of several impactful initiatives, including direct support to charitable institutions and active non-profit organizations. These initiatives addressed critical needs across various segments of society, reflecting the Company's responsible role and reinforcing its positive and lasting impact on the communities in which it operates. This underscores the Company's commitment to promoting community partnership values and contributing meaningfully to national development efforts.

Future Outlook

The Recent economic indicators and credit ratings reflect a stable and promising outlook for the Omani economy, driven by significant improvements in public financial performance, a decline in public debt levels, the continued achievement of fiscal surpluses, progress in diversifying revenue sources, and enhanced spending efficiency. Standard & Poor's affirmed Oman's investment-grade sovereign credit rating at "BBB-" with a stable outlook, commending the government's efforts in fiscal governance, transparency enhancement, and notable progress in addressing structural challenges that had previously impacted the state budget and balance of payments, alongside measures aimed at strengthening the establishment and growth of companies and projects linked to economic diversification.

These positive macroeconomic trends are reflected in the operational environment in which the Company operates, supporting the stability of its financial and operational performance, especially amid ongoing momentum in non-oil sectors, growth in non-oil GDP, and continued government investment in infrastructure and energy projects. These factors serve as direct catalysts for expanding the Company's business scope, particularly in transport, logistics, and activities related to urban expansion and growing energy consumption.

Furthermore, the government's orientation toward fostering public-private partnerships and broadening the base of sustainable revenues presents strategic opportunities for the Company to expand into commercially and investment-oriented projects, thereby strengthening its competitive position and supporting its medium- and long-term growth plans.

Acknowledgment

On behalf of the Board of Directors and executive management, I take this opportunity to express our most sincere gratitude and loyalty to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq** and his efforts toward a prosperous Oman.

I am also pleased to extend my sincere appreciation to the regulatory authorities, our partners, and the Company's employees for their continuous support and valuable contributions, which form a fundamental pillar in advancing the Company's journey toward achieving its future aspirations.

Dr. Saif Salim Saif Al-Harathi
Chairman
27 April 2025

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	31 March 2025 RO '000 (Unaudited)	31 December 2024 RO '000 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	29,827	29,719
Investment properties	388	400
Right-of-use assets	6,170	6,409
Contract assets	2,767	2,820
Deferred tax assets	2,312	2,312
Total Non-current assets	41,464	41,660
Current assets		
Inventories	4,958	4,260
Trade and other receivables	86,548	76,789
Contract assets	1,318	1,349
Short term deposit	10,000	10,000
Bank balances and cash	7,930	21,970
Total current assets	110,754	114,368
Total assets	152,218	156,028
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	6,900	6,900
Legal reserve	2,300	2,300
Special reserve	2,104	2,104
Retained earnings	31,756	36,503
Total equity	43,060	47,807
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	6,230	6,459
Employee's end-of-service benefits	277	276
Total non-current liabilities	6,507	6,735
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	50,857	52,325
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	43,064	46,444
Dividend payable	5,865	-
Lease liabilities	675	681
Contract liabilities	1,444	1,444
Income tax payables	746	592
Total current liabilities	102,651	101,486
Total equity and liabilities	152,218	156,028
Net assets per share (RO)	0.624	0.693

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE THREE MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	31 March 2025 RO ('000)	31 March 2024 RO ('000)
Revenue	118,531	121,069
Cost of sales	(112,626)	(114,886)
Gross profit	5,905	6,183
Other operating income	1,572	1,627
Operating and administrative expenses	(5,935)	(5,987)
Operating profits	1,542	1,823
Finance costs	(536)	(588)
Finance income	266	306
Profit before income tax	1,272	1,541
Income tax expense	(154)	(231)
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	1,118	1,310
Basic and diluted earnings per share (RO)	0.016	0.019

Note:
The complete report is available in Muscat Stock Exchange website and Company's website. The complete report will be sent to any shareholder who requests them either in Arabic or English as required within 7 days of receipt of the request.
The request should be sent to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the above mentioned address.

MARKET WATCH	
MSX30	4,292.00
Sensex	80,218.37
FOREX RATES (RO1 equals)	
India	220.80
Pakistan	730.05
Bangladesh	315.64
Philippines	146.54
Sri Lanka	778.07
*Rates as on April 28 Source: xe.com	

BRIEFS

Saudi, Qatar to clear Syria's World Bank debt

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have agreed to jointly pay approximately \$15mn to settle Syria's arrears to the World Bank.

A joint Saudi-Qatari statement said, 'The ministries of finance of Saudi Arabia and Qatar jointly announce their commitment to settle Syria's outstanding arrears to the World Bank Group, totaling around \$15mn.'

This commitment will pave the way for the World Bank Group to resume support and operations in Syria after a suspension of more than 14 years. It will also unlock Syria's access to financial support in the near term for the development of critical sectors, as well as technical assistance that will contribute to institutional rebuilding, capacity development, and policy formulation and reform to drive development.

IMF revises down Oman's GDP growth forecast to 2.3% for 2025

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised down its real GDP growth forecasts for the GCC countries, including Oman, as well as for the wider Middle East and North Africa region. The downward revision largely reflects the indirect and modest impact of ongoing global trade tensions and a subdued outlook for oil prices.

In its April World Economic Outlook, the IMF lowered Oman's real GDP growth forecast for 2025 by 80 basis points to 2.3%, down from 3.1% projected in October last year. The sultanate's growth forecast for 2026 was also cut by 80 basis points, to 3.6% from previous forecast of 4.4%.

In its Article IV Consultation Staff Report, published in January, the IMF noted that Oman's economic outlook remains 'favourable' due to robust oil revenues and ongoing structural reforms. The Fund projected that non-oil sectors will drive Oman's overall growth in the medium term, supported by significant private sector investment.

Across the GCC, the IMF downgraded Saudi Arabia's 2025 GDP growth forecast by 160 basis points to 3.0%, and by 70 basis



For GCC countries, strong non-oil growth and diversification efforts have been largely offset by oil production cuts. The regional growth expectations have been revised down due to weaker global growth and the limited but noticeable effects of persistent trade tensions

JIHAD AZOUR, DIRECTOR OF IMF'S MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA DEPARTMENT

points for 2026 to 3.7%. Kuwait's 2025 forecast was reduced by 140 basis points to 1.9%. The UAE is now expected to grow by 4.0% in 2025, a reduction of 110 basis points. Bahrain's projected growth stands at 2.8%, following a 40 basis point downgrade. In contrast, Qatar's GDP forecast for 2025 was revised upwards by 50 basis points to 2.4%.

Looking ahead to 2026, Qatar is expected to be the fastest-growing economy in the GCC, with a growth rate of 5.6%, despite a 20 basis point downward revision. The UAE follows with projected growth of 5.0%, while Saudi Arabia is forecast to expand by 3.7%. Kuwait and Bahrain were the only GCC countries to receive upward revisions for 2026, by 60 and 10 basis points respectively, bringing their forecasts to 3.1% and 3.0%.

For the MENA region as a whole, the IMF revised down its growth projections by 90 basis

sification efforts have been largely offset by oil production cuts."

He said that regional growth expectations have been revised down compared to the IMF's October 2024 Regional Economic Outlook, due to weaker global growth and the limited but noticeable effects of persistent trade tensions.

"Regarding the GCC, the direct impact of the trade shock has been limited. However, the prospect of declining oil prices arises at a time when oil production is increasing only gradually, following the implementation of the December OPEC+ agreement," Azour added.

The IMF now anticipates the average price of crude oil to be \$66.94 per barrel in 2025 and \$62.38 in 2026.

S&P Global attributed the rating to the crucial role GCCIA plays in the region, having ensured the security of electricity supply across GCC countries since commencing operations in 2009. The agency also highlighted that member states take the Authority's contribution to energy security into account when formulating their long-term strategies.

GCCIA CEO Ahmed al-Ebrahim described the 'A' credit rating as a major milestone in strengthening the Authority's position and expanding its regional and international influence. He noted that GCCIA has developed a robust financial model to support future expansion projects, with upcoming funding to be sourced from financial institutions rather than member states. SPA

Foreign investors remain net buyers of GCC stocks in first quarter of 2025

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Foreign investors, including both institutional and retail investors, were net buyers in the GCC stock markets during Q1 2025, with net buying amounting to \$2.8bn, compared to \$3bn in net buying during Q4 2024. The trend started positively at the beginning of the year, with consecutive buying observed in the first two months, followed by net selling in March 2025.

According to a report by Kamco Investment, the largest buying activity was seen in Abu Dhabi, with total net buying of \$2.3bn. This was followed by Boursa Kuwait, which also saw consecutive buying by foreign investors, reaching \$705.6mn in Q1 2025. Dubai ranked third, with net buying of \$343mn by foreign investors, followed by the Saudi Arabian and Bahraini exchanges, with net buying transactions of \$252.3mn and \$23.2mn, respectively.

Data for Qatar and Oman revealed net selling, with figures of



Largest buying activity was seen on Abu Dhabi Exchange, with total net buying of \$2.3bn, followed by Boursa Kuwait, which also saw consecutive buying by foreign investors, reaching \$705.6mn in Q1 2025

\$421mn and \$459.2mn, respectively, for Q1 2025.

Meanwhile, the monthly trend indicated that Boursa Kuwait experienced consistent buying by foreign investors across all three months of the quarter. Conversely, Saudi Arabia and the UAE recorded net buying by foreign investors in the first two months, which was followed by net selling in March 2025. Similarly, Qatar saw net buying in January 2025, but was followed by net selling during the remaining two months. In contrast, the Muscat Stock Exchange experi-

enced net selling by foreign investors during the quarter.

To address this, the Muscat Stock Exchange has announced new investment initiatives involving collaboration with other market exchanges, aimed at improving liquidity across various markets and boosting both local and international investment.

Several factors influenced the flow of foreign capital in the region, including regional market trends, IPOs, geopolitical issues, the economic health of individual countries, and fluctuations in crude oil prices.

The quarterly trend in the equity market was mostly negative, with six out of the seven exchanges reporting declines in Q1 2025. The uncertainty surrounding US trade policies and a forecasted slowdown in the US economy dampened investor sentiment in the region. The US government's repeated announcements regarding the imposition of tariffs on imports and retaliatory measures from its trading partners affected confidence in global economic growth.

Reliance Consumer Products enters Oman with launch of Campa Cola

Muscat - Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL), the FMCG arm of India's Reliance Industries Ltd, has officially launched the Indian legacy brand Campa Cola in Oman. This debut marks RCPL's first entry into Oman and reaffirms its long-term commitment to the country.

Since acquiring Campa Cola in 2022 and reintroducing it to India in 2023, RCPL has successfully revived the heritage brand that held cult status in India in the 1970s and 1980s. Campa Cola's entry into the beverages industry in Oman is being launched with partner Ahmadi Trading Co, a leading food and beverage group in Oman, according to a press release.

Ketan Mody, Chief Operating Officer of Reliance Consumer Products Ltd, said, "We are excited to enter the Oman market with Campa, a heritage Indian brand founded more than 50 years ago. We are investing for the long-term and see great potential for accelerated growth in the region. We have a track record of delivering innovative



and global quality products at affordable prices to customers. We are delighted to come together with our partners today to transform the beverage experience for consumers across Oman."

Commenting on Campa's arrival, Forough Ahmadi, Chief Executive Officer of Ahmadi Trading Company (ATC), said, "We are proud to collaborate with leading global conglomerate Reliance Consumer Products to bring Campa Cola to Oman. This partnership reflects our dedication to offering consumers high-quality, diverse beverage choices that is rooted in heritage. With time, we are confident that Campa Cola will resonate

strongly with both the significant Indian expatriate community in Oman and local consumers who appreciate distinctive beverage options. This strategic alliance not only expands our beverage portfolio but also reinforces our position as a key player in the region's competitive beverage market. We look forward to leveraging our robust distribution network and market expertise to establish Campa Cola as a beloved brand in Oman, just as it has been in India for generations."

The Campa portfolio in Oman will initially include Campa Cola, Campa Lemon and Campa Orange.

وزارة التجارة والصناعة وترويج الاستثمار

دائرة الملكية الفكرية

إعلان

تعلن دائرة الملكية الفكرية عن طلب تسجيل العلامة التجارية المقبولة وفقا لاحكام قانون (نظام) العلامات التجارية لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية الصادر بالمرسوم السلطاني رقم 33 / 2017

رقم العلامة: 1558560

اسم طالب التسجيل: البنك الأهلي

الجنسية : عمانية ، العنوان : 545، 116 سلطنة عمان

تاريخ تقديم الطلب : 10/12/2024

China ‘fully confident’ of achieving 5% growth target

Beijing, China - China is "fully confident" it will achieve its 5% economic growth target for 2025, despite ongoing trade tensions with the US, a senior official said at a news conference Monday.

"We still have ample policy reserves and plenty of policy space," Deputy Head of the National Development and Reform Commission Zhao Chenxin was quoted as saying by the Global Times.

Zhao emphasised that regardless of changes in the international landscape, China remains committed to its domestic development goals, maintaining strategic resolve, and concentrating on managing its own affairs well.

"We are fully confident in achieving this year's economic and social development targets," he said.

Zhao also shared Beijing's plans to boost employment by encouraging stable hiring practices, expanding vocational training programmes, strengthening public employment services, and increasing support through public works projects.

Separately, China's Central Bank Deputy Governor Zou Lan said on Monday that the People's Bank of China will adjust the reserve requirement ratio and interest rates at an appropriate time, based on both domestic and global economic conditions and financial market performance.

Zou added that the central bank is exploring ways to expand its policy tools and will implement incremental policies as needed to support employment, businesses, markets, and economic expectations.

In response to a question about the impact of the US Treasury and US dollar exchange rate volatility on the Chinese market, he said China's foreign exchange reserves are managed according to market-oriented and professional principles in international financial markets.

Fluctuations in any particular market or asset have little overall impact on China's foreign exchange reserves, Zou added.

Anadolu Agency

Global military spending hits \$2.7tn in 2024

Stockholm, Sweden – World military expenditure reached \$2.718tn in 2024, an increase of 9.4% in real terms from 2023 and the steepest year-on-year rise since at least the end of the cold war.

Military spending increased in all world regions, with particularly rapid growth in both Europe and the Middle East. The top five military spenders – the United States, China, Russia, Germany and India – accounted for 60% of the global total, with combined spending of \$1.635tn, according to new data published Monday by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Global military expenditure in 2024 saw the 10th year of consecutive rises. The world's 15 largest spenders in 2024 all increased their military expenditure. The global military burden – the share of global gross domestic product (GDP) devoted to military expenditure – increased to 2.5% in 2024.

European spending surges 17%

Military spending in Europe (including Russia) rose by 17% to \$693bn and was the main contributor to the global increase in 2024. With the war in Ukraine in

its third year, military expenditure kept rising across the continent, pushing European military spending beyond the level recorded at the end of the cold war. All European countries increased their military spending in 2024 except Malta.

Russia's military expenditure reached an estimated \$149bn in 2024, a 38% increase from 2023 and double the level in 2015. This represented 7.1% of Russia's GDP and 19% of all Russian government spending. Ukraine's total military expenditure grew by 2.9% to reach \$64.7bn 0-equivalent to 43% of Russia's spending. At 34% of GDP, Ukraine had the largest military burden of any country in 2024.

“Russia once again significantly increased its military spending, widening the spending gap with Ukraine,” said Diego Lopes da Silva, Senior Researcher with the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. “Ukraine currently allocates all of its tax revenues to its military. In such a tight fiscal space, it will be challenging for Ukraine to keep increasing its military spending.”

Several countries in Central and Western Europe saw un-



Military expenditure in the Middle East reached an estimated \$243bn in 2024, an increase of 15% from 2023 and 19% more than in 2015

precedented rises in their military expenditure in 2024 as they implemented new spending pledges and large-scale procurement plans. Germany's military expenditure increased by 28% to reach \$88.5bn, making it the biggest spender in Central and Western Europe and the fourth biggest in the world. Poland's military spending grew by 31% to

\$38bn in 2024, representing 4.2% of Poland's GDP.

All NATO members increase spending

All NATO members increased their military expenditure in 2024. Total military spending by NATO members amounted to \$1506tn, or 55% of global military expenditure. Of the 32

NATO members, 18 spent at least 2.0% of GDP on their militaries, according to SIPRI methodology, up from 11 in 2023 and the highest number since NATO adopted the spending guideline in 2014.

Military spending by the United States rose by 5.7% to reach \$997bn, which was 66% of total NATO spending and

37% of world military spending in 2024. A significant portion of the US budget for 2024 was dedicated to modernising military capabilities and the US nuclear arsenal in order to maintain a strategic advantage over Russia and China. European NATO members spent \$454bn in total, representing 30% of total spending across the alliance.

Middle East military spending soars

Military expenditure in the Middle East reached an estimated \$243bn in 2024, an increase of 15% from 2023 and 19% more than in 2015.

Saudi Arabia was the largest military spender in the Middle East in 2024 and the seventh largest worldwide. Its military spending saw a modest increase of 1.5%, reaching an estimated \$80.3bn, but still 20% lower than in 2015 when the country's oil revenues peaked.

Israel's military expenditure surged by 65% to \$46.5bn in 2024, the steepest annual increase since the Six-Day War in 1967, as it continued to wage war in Gaza and escalated conflict with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. Its military burden rose to 8.8% of GDP, the second

highest in the world. Lebanon's military spending rose by 58% in 2024 to \$635mn, after several years of lower spending due to economic crisis and political turmoil.

Iran's military spending fell by 10% in real terms to \$7.9bn in 2024 despite its involvement in regional conflicts and its support for regional proxies. The impact of sanctions on Iran severely limited its capacity to increase spending.

In Asia-Pacific region, China, the world's second largest military spender, increased its military expenditure by 7% to an estimated \$314bn, marking three decades of consecutive growth. China accounted for 50% of all military spending in Asia and Oceania, investing in the continued modernisation of its military and expansion of its cyberwarfare capabilities and nuclear arsenal.

Japan's military spending rose by 21% to \$55.3bn in 2024, the largest annual increase since 1952. Its military burden reached 1.4% of GDP, the highest since 1958. India's military expenditure, the fifth largest globally, grew by 1.6% to \$86.1bn. Spending by Taiwan grew by 1.8% in 2024 to reach \$16.5bn.

Gold’s record rally stalls on signs of easing trade tensions

Tina Teng

Gold has retreated steeply since last week as global stock markets experienced a relief rally amid signs of a de-escalation in the global trade war, particularly between the United States and China.

Both spot gold and gold futures fell roughly 6.5% from their all-time highs reached last Tuesday. Investors may have started taking profits from the precious metal due to diminishing haven demand. According to strategists at Barclays, the gold rally is running ahead of fundamentals and appears technically stretched following the recent surge. Meanwhile, Bloomberg reported that hedge funds have cut their net long futures and options positions on gold to a more than one-year low.

“This could suggest more downside being on the cards for the yellow metal, which may well be exacerbated by some weaker longs bailing out of what has become an incredibly crowded trade,” wrote Michael Brown, a senior research strategist at Pepperstone, noting that buying interest has particularly dried up in Asia.

Demand for safe-haven assets surged amid economic uncertainties stemming from US



While the price drop may continue in the near term, analysts expect gold to extend its long-term rally due to ongoing uncertainties

President Donald Trump's tariffs. Gold, a traditional asset used to hedge against financial crises and inflation, has outperformed global markets, rising more than 25% so far this year. Indirectly, the euro's strength, which has significantly pressured the US dollar, has also contributed to the precious metal's rally.

“US exceptionalism” sentiment has sent the greenback sharply lower in 2025, while the euro has strengthened markedly against the dollar as a haven asset. The EUR/USD pair has surged 11% since the beginning

of February.

“Euro strength and thus US dollar weakness was once again a key driver of gold's performance, alongside an increase in geopolitical risk capturing tariff fears,” stated the World Gold Council in a report. The euro rally also made gold less costly for European investors, with gold ETF purchases reaching \$1bn in Europe in March, making it the second largest buyer among regions.

Downside risks faced in near-term

However, gold could face further downside risks in the near-term based on several factors, including fading risk-off sentiment, overbought signals, liquidity risks, and a slowing pace of purchases by global central banks.

The primary reason for gold's retreat has been the recovery in risk sentiment after Trump said he would cut tariffs “substantially” on China, triggering a broad rally in global stock markets. Last week, major stock exchanges mostly pared April losses amid signs of a de-escalation in the US-China trade war. The shift in Trump's stance may lead to portfolio re-positioning among fund managers and retail investors.

(Source: Euronews.com)

China’s Huawei is testing new AI chip

Ayushman Ojha

China's Huawei Technologies is preparing to test its most advanced artificial intelligence processor yet, in a move that could help the Chinese tech giant replace some of Nvidia's higher-end products, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday, citing people familiar with the matter.

The new chip, known as the Ascend 910D, is expected to arrive in sample batches by late May, the report said. Nvidia shares fell nearly 1% in pre-market trade Monday.

Huawei has approached Chinese tech firms to test the chip's feasibility, aiming to cre-



with the Mate 60 smartphone released in 2023. The company's push into AI hardware comes amid tightening U.S. export controls that have limited Nvidia's sales in China.

Earlier this month, Washington placed Nvidia's H20 chip on its restricted export list. Nvidia said the move would lead to a \$5.5bn charge in the first quarter.

Huawei is also ramping up shipments of its earlier AI chips, the 910B and 910C, and has begun building large-scale computing systems to maximize their performance, according to the WSJ report.

(Source: Investing.com)

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS			
For three-month period ended March 31, 2025 (1Q2025), , the Company recorded a profit after tax (PAT) of RO 4.9 million, consistent with the RO 4.9 million reported during the corresponding period in 2024 (1Q2024).			
Financial performance			
Key financial performance indicators are shown below:			
	1Q2025 RO million	1Q2024 RO million	
Revenue	18.98	19.38	
Earning before interest & tax and depreciation allowance	9.30	9.78	
Profit before interest and tax	5.79	5.81	
Profit after tax	4.94	4.93	
1Q2025 Profit after tax			
Profit after tax for 1Q2025 remained broadly in line with the same period of previous year.			
A brief analysis and characteristics of the major components of the profit or loss is presented below:			
Revenue			
Power contributed 46% (excluding fuel charge), water 22% and fuel charge 32% to the total revenue. Fuel charge revenue is a pass through and is calculated based on consumption of natural gas as computed by the plant's contractual Fuel Demand Model. Actual heat rate is better than the contracted Fuel Demand Model. Revenue declined by RO 0.4 million, primarily due to a reduction in the fixed capacity charge, which was impacted by power plant reliability.			
Cost of sales			
The cost of sales mainly comprises depreciation of property, plant and equipment, fuel cost, operations & maintenance (O&M) cost and Long-Term Service Agreement (LTSA) cost. Cost of sales increased by RO 0.07 million compared to the same period in 2024, mainly due to higher operation and maintenance cost.			
Net finance cost			
Net finance cost decreased by RO 0.4 million in 1Q2025 compared to 1Q2024 due to the scheduled repayment of part of the term loan in line with the financing documents.			
Business outlook			
The Company remains committed to maximizing shareholder value through disciplined oversight of its financial and operational performance. The Company is confident in its ability to achieve its financial objectives for the financial year 2025.			
statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for three month period ended 31 March 2025			
	For three month period ended 31 March 2025	For three month period ended 31 March 2024	
Revenue	18,982,780	19,378,767	
Cost of sales	(12,322,892)	(12,249,780)	
Gross profit	6,659,888	7,128,987	
Administrative and general expenses	(195,807)	(220,759)	
Other income	65,382	73,833	
Profit before interest and tax	6,529,463	6,982,061	
Finance income	190,494	255,346	
Finance costs	(934,098)	(1,432,135)	
Profit before income tax	5,785,859	5,805,272	
Income tax expenses	(843,085)	(872,648)	
Profit for the period	4,942,774	4,932,624	
Other comprehensive income			
Item that may be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss:			
Fair value of cash flow hedge adjustments – gross	(9,416)	840,694	
Reclassification to profit or loss - gross	(77,726)	(578,856)	
Related tax impact on change in fair value of cash flow hedge	13,071	(39,272)	
	(74,071)	222,566	
Total comprehensive income for the period	4,868,703	5,155,190	
Earnings per share:			
Basic and diluted earnings per share	0.0052	0.0052	
Statement of financial position as at 31 March 2025			
	as at 31 March 2025 RO	as at 31 March 2024	as at 31 December 2024 RO
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	224,645,982	235,445,240	227,353,889
Right of use assets	569,080	594,982	575,529
Derivative financial instruments	-	51,966	23,883
Total non-current assets	225,215,062	236,092,188	227,953,301
Current assets			
Inventories	5,752,161	5,751,792	5,850,540
Trade and other receivables	9,964,003	10,042,485	9,347,309
Current portion of derivative financial instruments	48,423	525,065	96,339
Bank deposits	11,875,191	10,759,979	11,484,012
Cash and cash equivalents	7,322,340	6,074,623	6,776,226
Total current assets	34,962,118	33,153,944	33,554,426
Total assets	260,177,180	269,246,132	261,507,727
Equity and Liabilities			
Share capital			
Share capital	95,457,195	95,457,195	95,457,195
Legal reserve	19,616,382	17,368,452	19,122,105
Retained earnings	63,115,462	50,520,664	58,666,965
Hedging reserve	21,496	472,410	95,567
Total equity	178,210,535	163,818,721	173,341,832
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Long term loan	12,150,747	38,445,379	25,364,937
Long term lease liability	642,702	603,471	632,424
Asset retirement obligation	878,299	825,005	864,581
Deferred tax liabilities	24,163,126	24,603,051	24,320,577
Deferred revenue	629,596	830,850	680,181
Derivative financial instruments	15,343	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	38,479,813	65,307,756	51,862,700
Current liabilities			
Current portion of long-term loan	26,538,089	23,658,424	25,691,129
Short term borrowings	3,000,000	2,000,000	-
Trade and other payables	8,622,467	9,713,084	6,273,255
Current tax payable	5,326,276	4,748,147	4,338,811
Total current liabilities	43,486,832	40,119,655	36,303,195
Total liabilities	81,966,645	105,427,411	88,165,895
Total equity and liabilities	260,177,180	269,246,132	261,507,727
Net assets per share	0.187	0.172	0.182

Toyota honours Saud Bahwan Automotive with prestigious Gold Distributor Award

In a distinctive achievement, Toyota Motor Corporation recently conferred the prestigious Gold Distributor Award on Saud Bahwan Automotive, for regional excellence in the Middle East and Central Asia.

This honour celebrates SBA's outstanding performance across core areas including Sales & After-Sales excellence, Customer-Centric Initiatives, Carbon Neutrality efforts and engaging community activities that reflect the true spirit of Toyota.

At a special function, the award was formally presented by Nobuyuki Takemura, Chief Representative T-LOSA/Middle East & Central Asia, Toyota Motor Corporation to Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan, CEO, Saud Bahwan Group.

Accepting the honour, Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan shared his heartfelt thoughts, "We are deeply honoured to receive the Gold Distributor Award from Toyota Motor Corporation. This recognition is a tribute to the trust and support of our valued customers, whose continued patronage inspires us every single day. Our teams across Oman share a deep-rooted passion for delivering experiences that go beyond expectations. We remain committed to enriching every stage of the Toyota ownership journey."

Thanking Toyota Motor Corporation for their support and guidance he further added, "We also extend our sincere gratitude to Toyota Motor Corporation for their enduring partnership and support. Their guidance has always been a beacon, helping us navigate forward with confidence and clarity."

Toyota enjoys a special place in the hearts of customers in Oman, an enduring bond built on decades of reliability, innovation and high levels of customer care. Saud Bahwan Automotive has made sustained investments in advanced infrastructure and digital integration, establishing a robust and wide-reaching presence across Oman. No matter where customers are, they are always



Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan receives the award from Nobuyuki Takemura

close to a Toyota facility powered by SBA's customer-first philosophy.

Saud Bahwan Automotive's deep understanding of evolving customer needs and expectations has been instrumental in shaping its operational strategies. From offering quick service processes to integrating advanced customer feedback mechanisms, the brand has gone the extra mile to ensure that customer delight is not just promised, but consistently delivered.



Through dedicated teams trained to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, SBA ensures that each interaction with the Toyota brand is memorable and meaningful.

Over the years, Saud Bahwan Automotive has proactively expanded its footprint with strategically located sales and service facilities across Oman. These expansions are more than just physical locations; they represent a passionate commitment to being present wherever customers need them.

Toyota owners in Oman enjoy convenient access to world-class support backed by expert technicians, cutting-edge tools and a well-stocked inventory of genuine parts.

The spirit of continuous improvement is also evident in SBA's embrace of sustainability and innovation. Inspired by Toyota's global environmental vision, SBA is actively exploring initiatives that align with carbon neutrality goals. Eco-conscious practices are increasingly integrated into operations, from energy-efficient facilities to streamlined logistics and awareness campaigns. This future-oriented mindset ensures SBA remains aligned with the values and priorities of the modern-day customer.

Looking ahead, Saud Bahwan Automotive is focused on further elevating the ownership experience by introducing value-added services, embracing new digital platforms and enhancing its product and service ecosystem.

Sohar International hosts workshops for Global Money Week 2025

Sohar International commemorated Global Money Week 2025 through active participation in the national campaign led by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), in collaboration with the Oman Banking Association (OBA) and the Ministry of Education.

Observed globally from April 20 to 26, this year's initiative, themed 'Think Before You Follow, Wise Money Tomorrow', highlights the importance of financial planning, education, and inclusion. In alignment with this



global movement, Sohar International hosted a series of interactive workshops tailored for school students, which reaffirmed its commitment to advancing financial literacy, fostering inclusion, and engaging with the community.

The sessions, held at the bank's Waterfront office and delivered by the Sohar International Academy, welcomed over 60

students and featured hands-on learning activities aimed at fostering early awareness of personal finance and encouraging responsible financial behaviour.

Through initiatives like these, Sohar International continues to play a proactive role in shaping financially empowered future generations, equipping young minds with the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions.

Mahira Saleh al Raisi, Chief People Officer from Sohar International, said, "Global Money Week 2025 offered a unique opportunity to ignite curiosity and critical thinking around the value of money in everyday life. At Sohar International, we recognise that financial literacy must evolve beyond numbers and charts; it must carry real-life relevance. By nurturing an environment of dialogue and discovery, we aim to inspire young individuals to see finance as a life skill that shapes opportunity, independence, and resilience."

Bank Muscat	
Meethaq Equity Fund	
Unaudited Statement of Comprehensive Income for the period 01 January 2025 till 31st March 2025	
	01-Jan-25 to 31-Mar-25 RO'000
Income	
Dividends	65.49
Realised gain/(losses) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(81.95)
Unrealised gain/(losses) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(42.04)
Foreign exchange gain/(losses)	6.27
Total Income	(52.24)
Expenses:	
Management, Administration and custody fees	(37.98)
Brokerage commission	(8.16)
General and administrative expenses and Management body fees	(9.38)
Total expenses	(55.52)
Net Profit for the period	(107.76)
Earnings per unit (Rial)	(0.011)
Unaudited Statement of Financial Position as at 31st March 2025	
	31-Mar-25 RO'000
Assets	
Financial assets at fair value through profit of loss	8,493.71
Cash and cash equivalents	822.48
Other receivables	91.38
Total Assets	9,407.57
Liabilities:	
Accruals, account and other liabilities	(24.60)
	(24.60)
Net Assets	9,382.97
Net units issued	9,396.19
Composition of net assets:	
Proceeds from issue of units, net of redemptions	331.09
Retained Earnings	(107.76)
Net Assets Value (NAV)	223.32
Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit (Rial)	0.999
*The fund commenced its operations on 25 August 2024	
Note: Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request.	
Managed by Bank Muscat SAOG, Investment Banking & Capital Markets Division PO Box 134, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman Email us on AssetManagement@bankmuscat.com	

Over 1mn visitors set foot in Al Mouj Muscat this season

Al Mouj Muscat, Oman's premier lifestyle destination welcomed over 1mn visitors this season, drawn by a rich calendar of cultural celebrations at Al Mouj Walk.

From international festivals to rich local traditions and engaging community attractions, the events underscored the destination's commitment to creating memorable experiences that connect cultures, celebrate diversity and bring people together.

"At Al Mouj Muscat, we believe in the power of shared experiences," said Nasser al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat. "Starting 2025 on such a high note, we are very proud of what we have been able to deliver."

"Its moments like these that highlight the responsibility we carry, not just to design well, but to create spaces that are inviting, enticing and inspiring for our residents and visitors alike."

As the first quarter unfolded, Al Mouj Muscat embraced the spirit of renewal with a grand Chinese New Year celebration in partnership with the Chinese Embassy, inaugurated by H.E. Lyu Jian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Oman.

Guests enjoyed traditional dragon and lion dances, the soothing strains of guzheng music, and an engaging bazaar featuring authentic delicacies and artisanal crafts.

The festive calendar also featured Russia's Maslenitsa Festival, organised in collaboration with Russian House Oman and under the patronage of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. Interactive workshops, spirited folk performances, and the inviting aroma of freshly made bliny offered visitors a taste of enduring Slavic traditions.

As part of its celebrated Ramadan initiative, Layali al Mouj brought Qarraqasho to life, honouring Omani customs by gathering families over traditional cuisine from local food stalls, nostalgic folk music, and engaging games that revived cherished local traditions.



Lynk & Co 03 designed for those crave thrill

The Lynk & Co 03 delivers an unbeatable combination of dynamic design, powerful performance, and advanced safety all wrapped in a sporty yet luxury sedan starting from just RO8,999. Designed for those who crave the thrill of the road and demand more from their everyday drive, the 03 redefines itself as an affordable luxury car.

Lynk & Co is a global brand born from Volvo and Geely's joint venture, blending luxury, innovation and smart connectivity. In Oman, Lynk & Co is proudly represented by Towell Auto Group's Mobility Auto LLC, the official dealers delivering a world-class ownership experience. Together, they are redefining mobility with premium vehicles built for performance, sustainability and modern design.

Under the hood, the Lynk & Co 03 boasts a 2.0-litre turbocharged engine delivering 218 PS (160kW), accelerating from 0 to 100 kilometre per hour in just 7.2 seconds. It's tuned to give you that dynamic racing sensation with seamless acceleration, while also maintaining impressive fuel efficiency perfect for both highway getaways & everyday drives.

Equipped with 20+ Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), the Lynk & Co 03 ensures peace of mind at every turn. Features like Highway Assistant (HWA) help maintain optimal lane positioning and speed on fast-moving roads, while the Smart Turning Lights adapt to your steering angle, illuminating your direction during curves and turns - a thoughtful detail that adds safety and style.

Its 540° Full View Camera System, combining a 360° panoramic view with a 180° underbody view, lets you monitor your surroundings with clarity and confidence, especially useful in tight city spaces or adventurous terrains.

Engineered with one of the shortest braking distances in its class, the Lynk & Co 03 delivers exceptional control even at high speeds. Whether it's a sudden stop or a sharp corner, feel the confidence of precision handling and cutting-edge safety tech at your fingertips. This model is truly among the best luxury cars to buy when performance and safety are top priorities.

With its aerodynamic design, bold front fascia and performance-inspired details, the Lynk & Co 03 turns heads without turning your budget upside down. It's a perfect fit for modern drivers seeking style and smart value at RO8,999.



Alizz Islamic staff plant trees to mark ‘Earth Day’

Alizz Islamic Bank organised a tree planting event for the bank’s employees at the head office in the wilayat of Baw-shar.

The engagement reflects the bank’s commitment to environmental awareness programmes and fostering a sense of collective responsibility toward the society. It also shows the involvement of the bank in creating a better future for generations to come.

Alizz Islamic Bank underlines the importance of raising awareness amongst the public and professionals on climate issues and inspiring collective action that is instrumental to support Oman in its endeavour to achieve net-zero by 2050 and play its global part in helping realise the UN Sustainable Development Goals related to climate change and sustainability.

The bank believes that all

Alizz Islamic Bank underlines the importance of raising awareness amongst the public and professionals on climate issues and collective action

sectors should join hands and spread awareness of the environment by starting with their employees.

By focusing on the bank staff and fostering this spirit of collaboration, Alizz Islamic Bank is trying to nurture a sense of environmental stewardship in the community. Believing that together, we can significantly help the environment and reduce our carbon footprint.

Lexus unveils LX 700h with advanced hybrid system

Built to tackle rough terrains, Lexus has announced a new addition to the flagship LX SUV series: The all-new LX 700h, featuring an advanced hybrid system. The introduction of this new LX trim highlights Lexus’ commitment to bringing the best-in-class innovative and luxury products for enriching the ownership experience for its customers.

As powerful as ever, the LX features a twin turbocharged 3.5L V6 engine, producing 341 horsepower and 790Nm of torque, paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission. The new hybrid system increases fuel efficiency to 10.6km per litre and reduces carbon emissions to 213 g/km. The hybrid control system intelligently manages the transition between engine-only and motor-only modes, optimising performance based on driving conditions.

The new LX 700h prioritises reliability and durability, ensuring excellent performance both on-road and off-road. In line with Lexus’ brand philosophy and its efforts toward achieving a net-zero carbon future, this was the only model in the Lexus lineup that did not have a hybrid option.

Marking the start of its electrification journey in the Middle East as part of the Lexus Over-trail project, the LX hybrid combines signature comfort with a range of lifestyle-enhancing options. The driver-focused cockpit features a Panoramic View Monitor with Multi-Terrain Mode, four cameras, rain-sensing front



The introduction of this new LX trim highlights Lexus’ commitment to bringing the best-in-class innovative and luxury products for enriching the ownership experience for its customers

and rear intermittent wipers, a smart entry system and a head-up display to provide confidence and control. Immerse into elevated luxury with ambient light-

ing, an illuminated entry system, premium leather seats, and ventilated sporty front seats for all passengers with USB Chargers. Additional features include a

wireless charger for the front row and a 10-speaker premium surround sound system with Apple and Android compatibility for seamless connectivity.

Safety remains a top priority at Lexus, thanks to its advanced safety system, and Lexus Safety Sense 3.0, which consists of a Pre-Collision System, Lane Departure Alert, Lane Tracing Assist, Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, Auto High Beam, and other notable features.

Beloved in over 90 countries worldwide, the LX also offers a variety of exhilarating trim levels, including the 7-seater LX Turbo Sport, 5-seater LX Sports Edition, and the confidence-inspiring 4-seater Lexus Granduer or Kuro, each meticulously crafted to provide a refined driving experience. Lexus’ LX series is known for its compelling blend of luxury, power, and rugged capability - the 2025 LX models continue that legacy.



OAB powers cashless experience at book fair

Oman Arab Bank (OAB) has taken up a role as the official banking sponsor of the Muscat International Book Fair 2025, which began on April 24 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center (OCEC).

One of the most anticipated cultural events in the sultanate, the book fair attracts thousands of visitors annually, celebrating literature, learning, and creativity. This year’s edition, which will continue till May 3, was inaugurated under the auspices of H E Dr Fahad bin al Jalanda al Said, President of the Sultan Qaboos University, with H H Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah and Member of the UAE Supreme Council, attending as the esteemed chief guest.

As part of its sponsorship, OAB is enabling a fully cashless shopping experience at the fair through the deployment of its innovative SoftPOS payment solution. All book stalls were

equipped with OAB’s tap-to-pay technology, offering visitors a seamless and secure way to complete their purchases using cards or smart devices.

“Our involvement with the Muscat International Book Fair reflects our continued commitment to supporting cultural initiatives while showcasing practical, customer-focused innovations,” said Sulaiman al Harthi, CEO of Oman Arab Bank, while commenting on the bank’s role in the fair.

“Through SoftPOS, we’re creating a modern and convenient payment experience that matches the forward-thinking spirit of the event. We’re not only proud to sponsor the fair but to actively enhance how people interact with it.”

In addition to powering payments, OAB will be hosting an interactive booth at the venue, where visitors can explore the bank’s innovative products and services. Key highlights include

Idikhar, the intuitive monthly saving plan. Idikhar is a smart and flexible savings solution offering attractive returns of up to 4.5% p.a., designed to help customers achieve their long-term financial goals.

Additionally, the bank will showcase the Youth Accounts; accounts tailor made for the younger generation to promote financial literacy and independence from an early age. The booth will also feature family-friendly activities, exclusive giveaways, and on-the-spot offers for new customers.

OAB’s sponsorship of the book fair this year is part of its broader strategy to promote digital transformation and community engagement across Oman. By blending culture with convenience, the bank aims to highlight how technology can support and enhance meaningful experiences. Oman Arab Bank invited everyone to visit the fair and go cashless with OAB SoftPOS.

شركة الخدمات المالية ش.م.ع.ع FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY SAOG



CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Dear Shareholders

After compliments,

We present to you the unaudited results achieved by the Company for the first quarter of this year ended March 31, 2025. The Muscat Stock Exchange Index declined by 5.8% compared to its level as of March 31, 2024, while trading volumes increased by 42% compared to the same period of the previous year, 2024.

Revenues:-

Total operating revenues stood at RO. 127,520 (Omani Rials One Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Twenty) compared to RO. 161,858 (Omani Rials One Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Eight) for the same period last year 2024, with decrease of 21%.

Net Profit:-

The total expenses stood at RO. 134,936 (Omani Rials One Hundred and Thirty Four Thousand and Nine Hundred Thirty-Six) compared to RO. 129,018 (Omani Rials One Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand and Eighteen) for the corresponding period last year 2024, an increase of 5%, thereby making the loss realized for the period ended 31st March 2025 at RO. (7,416) (Omani Rials Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen) compared to net Profit realized an amount of RO. RO. (32,840) (Omani Rials Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Forty), for the same period last year 2024, decrease of 122%.

Equity:-

Shareholders' equity amounted to RO. 2,992,291 (Omani Rials Two Million Nine Hundred Thousand Ninety-Two and Two Hundred Ninety-One) compared to RO. 3,100,808 (Omani Rials Three Million One Hundred Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight) for the corresponding period last year, decrease of 3%. According to these results, the book value of the Company's share became RO. 0.150 as at 31.03.2025.

Dear Shareholders,

Finally, we ask Almighty Allah to protect His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, may Almighty Allah protect and preserve him, and to preserve the Omani people and perpetuate the blessing of security and safety.

Best regards,

Omar bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Mahfoodh Al-Sheikh
Chairman

UNAUDITED INTERIM BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 March 2025

	31 March 2025 RO	31 March 2025 RO
ASSETS		
Cash in hand and at bank	1,033,411	1,293,273
Investments	1,902,376	1,798,317
Other receivables	785,185	744,380
Property and equipment	24,984	24,492
Investments Properties	1,760,000	1,770,000
Total assets	5,505,956	5,630,462
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	2,000,0000	2,000,000
Share premium	-	-
Legal reserve	-	-
Fair value reserve	733,703	702,557
Property revaluation reserve	862,859	862,859
Accumulated losses	(604,271)	(464,608)
Total equity	2,992,291	3,100,808
LIABILITIES		
Bank overdraft	1,292,582	1,106,091
Accounts payable	1,197,509	1,402,223
Accruals and other liabilities	11,724	12,459
End of service benefits	11,850	8,881
Total liabilities	2,513,665	2,529,654
Total equity and liabilities	5,505,956	5,630,462
Customer securities held in trust	292,486	264,988
Net asset value per share	0.150	0.155

UNAUDITED INTERIM INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED 31 March 2025

	Three months ended 31 March 2025 RO	Three months ended 31 March 2024 RO
Income		
Net brokerage commission	50,327	75,845
Dividend and other income	115,315	85,883
Net gain (loss) on sale of investments	(17,421)	1000
Un realized profit/loss at fair value through profit or loss	(20,701)	(870)
Total Income	127,520	161,858
Expenses		
Salaries and related costs	(84,495)	(78,181)
Administrative and general expenses	(31,652)	(35,442)
Interest and financial charges	(15,767)	(13,243)
Depreciation	(3,022)	(2,152)
Total Expenses	(134,936)	(129,018)
Profit (Loss) for the period	(7,416)	32,840
Profit (Loss) per share (Baizes)	(0.003)	0.001

Trump says ‘very disappointed’ over Russia’s continued attacks on Ukraine

Washington, D.C./Moscow - US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he is ‘very disappointed’ over Russia’s ongoing missile strikes against Ukraine amid peace negotiations.

“I was very disappointed that missiles were flying by Russia...very disappointed,” Trump told reporters before boarding Air Force One at Morristown Municipal Airport in Morristown, New Jersey, saying he is ‘surprised’ by the continued bombardment during the talks.

Asked what he expects from Russian President Vladimir Putin, he responded: “Well, I want him to stop shooting, sit down and sign a deal. We have the confines of a deal, I believe, and I want him to sign it and be done with it and just go back to life.”

When a reporter asked: “Do you trust President Putin?” Trump responded: “I’ll let you know in about two weeks,” without elaborating.

Trump also discussed his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the Vatican on the sidelines of Pope Francis’s funeral, their first face-to-face encounter since a heated White House meeting in February.

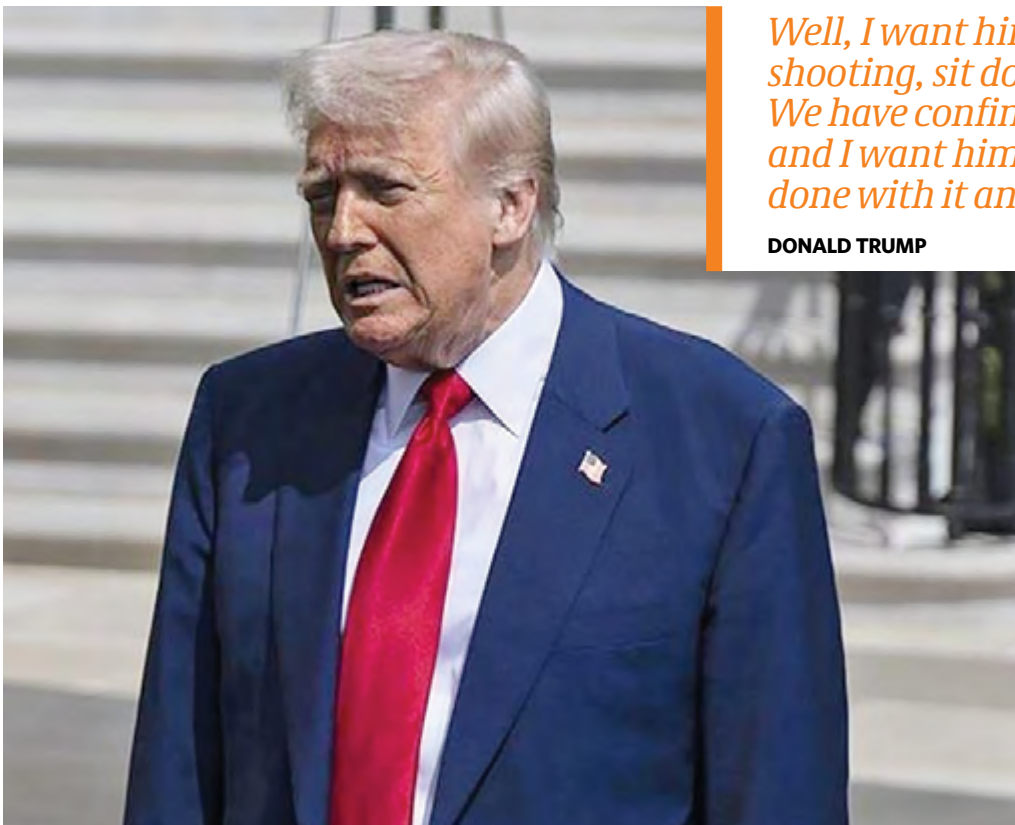
“I think the meeting went well. We’ll see what happens over the next few days,” he said, adding his relationship with the Ukrainian leader ‘was never bad’.

Trump characterised Zelensky as ‘calmer’ during their Vatican discussion.

“I think he understands the icture, and I think he wants to make a deal. I don’t know if he wanted to make a deal (before),” he said.

Russia, US announce progress

Russia and the US have announced progress in settlement of the Ukrainian conflict, highlighting the emergence of condi-



US President Donald Trump has criticised Russia’s ongoing strikes against Ukraine amid peace negotiations

Well, I want him (Putin) to stop shooting, sit down and sign a deal. We have confines of a deal, I believe, and I want him to sign it and be done with it and just go back to life

DONALD TRUMP

tions necessary for initiating negotiations aimed at establishing a reliable path to lasting peace.

According to Russia’s Foreign Ministry, this was stated during a phone call held on Sunday night between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Describing the conversation as a ‘productive exchange of views’, the ministry said the discussions centred primarily on critical elements of Russia-US diplomatic engagement, particularly focusing on the Ukrainian crisis.

Lavrov and Rubio ‘stressed the

importance of consolidating the emerging prerequisites for starting negotiations in order to agree on a reliable path to long-term sustainable peace’ as a follow-up to the April 25 conversation between Putin and the US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, the ministry noted.

Putin orders 3-day ceasefire

Meanwhile, Putin has ordered a three-day ceasefire in his war against Ukraine, coinciding with Moscow’s World War II Victory Day commemorations, the Kremlin has announced.

The ceasefire, ‘based on humanitarian considerations’, will begin at midnight on May 8 and end at midnight on May 11, the Kremlin said.

“Russia believes that the Ukrainian side should follow this example,” the Kremlin added.

Agencies

شركة صناعة مواد البناء (ش.م.ع.)

Construction Materials Industries (S.A.O.G)

P.O. Box: 1791, Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman, Tel: 26752247/26752287, Fax: 26750867

MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Management of Construction Materials Industries SAOG has the honor of submitting the report on the performance of the Company for the three months ended on 31st March 2025.

Key Performance Indicators

Particulars	31 – Mar 2025 RO	31 – Mar 2024 RO	Increase / (Decrease)	% of Increase / (Decrease)
Sales	659,466	731,370	(71,904)	(9.83)%
Gross Profit	95,693	71,428	24,265	33.97%
Finance Cost – Interest on Lease Liability (IFRS16)	7,598	8,602	(1,004)	(11.67)%
Amortization of Lease Liability	20,973	20,973	---	---
Profit/(Loss) before Tax	(22,618)	(46,758)	24,140	(51.63)%
Net Profit / (Net Loss) after Tax	(22,618)	(46,758)	24,140	(51.63)%
Earnings Per Share	(0.0004)	(0.0007)	0.0003	(51.63)%
Particulars	2025 31–Mar RO	2024 31-Dec RO	Increase / (Decrease)	% of Increase / (Decrease)
Total Assets	8,993,149	8,984,720	8,429	0.09%
Total Liabilities	2,523,902	2,492,855	31,047	1.25%
Net Assets	6,469,247	6,491,865	(22,618)	(0.35)%
Total Number of Shares	62,500,000	62,500,000	---	---
Net Assets Per Share	0.104	0.104	(0.000)	(0.35)%

OPERATING PERFORMANCE

Production:

During the reporting period 2025, Quick Lime production has been increased by 1.25% (169 MT) compared to the same period last year (2025 – 13,699MT, 2024 – 13,530MT).

Sales:

Sales has been decreased by 9.83% (RO.71,904/-) during the reporting period 2024, compared to the same period in the previous.

Comparative sales for the first quarter are 2025: RO.659,466/- and 2024: RO.731,370/-

Net Profit/Loss:

The Company’s results during the period ending on 31st March 2025 were affected by several factors, the most important of which are:

- Production from 200MTPD Quick Lime kiln was limited to 160MTper day due to replacement of heat exchanger, which will be done in April 2025.
- Quick Lime Kiln with 100MTPD capacity kiln was stopped production for complete revamping and modernization to raise the efficiency and increase the quality of the materials produced in line with the requirements of the market
- High direct production costs such as raw material – lime stone, factory land rent and increase in custom duties in addition to an increase in water and electricity tariffs.
- The decision of the Ministry of Transport to prevent the entry of (empty) land transport vehicles from neighboring countries that were transporting the company’s products to water desalination plants in the neighboring countries, which greatly affected the Company’s ability to fully fulfill its obligations to supply the required materials, in addition to the highest cost of transportation.

However, the Company’s management is still striving to find possible solutions to reduce the impact of this during the coming period and achieve the best possible results under these difficult circumstances.

On the other hand, the company still faces some obstacles of which the most important are mentioned below:

- * Preventing the entry of (empty) land transportation vehicles to the Sultanate of Oman to transport hydrate lime, which had a negative impact on the company and led to a decline in its sales.
- * Increasing the customs tariff from the customs authority on consignments exported outside Sultanate of Oman.
- * Increase in customs duties imposed by neighboring countries on importing raw materials and exporting our products, the most important of which is the increase and introduction of road tolls, which negatively affect significantly in the cost of the product.
- * The high cost of direct and indirect production, as well as the result of intense competition in neighboring countries, the company is unable to charge this increased cost to selling prices, including the increase in tariffs for electricity, water, natural gas and other components used in operating the lime kilns, which negatively affected the company’s ability to compete in the markets, domestic and foreign. As a result of the fierce competition that we face in the local market from competitors from neighboring countries is very difficult, as we are unable to pass those additional expenses to our customers.

Future Outlook:-

The Company’s management and all employees strive diligently and continuously to find solutions to the problems and challenges facing the company through:

- Developing production methods, reducing expenses and costs, and maintaining the level of product quality through the installation and operation of the new hydrated lime production unit.
- Modernization, development and renovation of the limekiln with a capacity of 100 tons per day in line with the requirements of the markets, which is underway, will have a positive impact in raising the production capacity of the factory, reducing the cost and increasing the company’s ability to compete in the local and foreign markets.
- Opening new markets and new customers for quick lime, dolomite and hydrated lime products to compensate for the negative effects that affected the company’s sales as a result of the reasons mentioned above. And as a result of the effort and continuous endeavor, negotiations are under way with some customers in foreign markets to find new markets for quick lime, dolomite and hydrated lime products which heralds promising results, God willing.
- Continue to follow up with relevant government authorities to obtain the necessary permits to allow the entry of land transportation (empty) in to the Sultanate, which will have a significant on the company’s ability to fulfill its obligations in supplying materials to neighboring countries and reduce the cost of transportation.
- Work is underway to study some projects that will contribute to developing and modernizing production methods, reducing expenses and costs, and maintaining the level of product quality through maintenance and continuous improvement of the performance of production machines and developing the factory’s technical staff.

“UN AUDITED” STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31, 2025

ASSETS	2025 MARCH RO	2024 DECEMBER RO
Current Assets:		
Cash and bank balances	332,331	404,907
Trade and other receivables	784,777	862,683
Inventories	1,781,010	1,747,713
Total Current Assets	2,898,118	3,015,303
Non-current Assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	5,572,302	5,425,715
Right of use of Assets	482,375	503,348
Term Deposit	40,354	40,354
Total Non-current Assets	6,095,031	5,969,417
TOTAL ASSETS	8,993,149	8,984,720
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities:		
Trade and other payables	448,410	417,753
Short Term Bank Borrowings	164,964	206,132
Tax provision	1,320	1,320
Current portion of Bank Term Loan	136,951	181,671
Current Portion of Lease Liability	50,244	66,646
Total Current Liabilities	801,889	873,522
Non-current Liabilities:		
Employees service benefits	193,706	189,857
Non-Current portion of Bank Term Loan	769,935	672,182
Non-Current portion of Lease Liability	482,386	482,386
Provision for decommissioning	145,131	144,053
Deferred Tax Liability	130,855	130,855
Total Non-current Liabilities	1,722,013	1,619,333
Total Liabilities	2,523,902	2,492,855
Shareholders' Equity:		
Share capital	6,250,000	6,250,000
Legal reserve	371,658	371,658
Accumulated profit/(loss)	(152,411)	(129,793)
Total Shareholders' Equity	6,469,247	6,491,865
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	8,993,149	8,984,720
Net Assets per share [face value RO.0.100 each]	0.104	0.104

“UN AUDITED” STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE FIRST QUARTER ENDED ON MARCH 31, 2025

	March 2025 RO	March 2024 RO
Sales	659,466	731,370
Cost of sales	(563,733)	(659,942)
Gross Profit	95,693	71,428
Other income	2,754	2,000
General and administrative expenses	(85,048)	(92,471)
Selling and distribution expenses	(24,629)	(21,460)
Interest – bank facilities (net)	(3,790)	2,347
Interest – on lease liability (IFRS16)	(7,598)	(8,602)
Profit/(Loss) for the period before taxation	(22,618)	(46,758)
Taxation provision	(---)	(---)
Profit/(Loss) for the Period Earnings/(Loss) per share [basic and diluted]	(0.0004)	(0.0007)

Note: The complete accounts either in English or Arabic will be sent to any shareholder by mail within 7 days of receipt of request

Death toll rises to 11 in Vancouver festival tragedy

Vancouver, Canada - A car drove into a crowd at a Filipino heritage street festival on Saturday night, killing 11 people and injuring dozens more, with the death toll rising from an earlier count of nine, according to a report by CNN.

Festival attendees assisted in pursuing and restraining the suspect, who has been identified by police as a 30-year-old man with a documented history of mental health-related encounters with authorities.

According to The New York Times, authorities announced late on Sunday that 30-year-old Kai-Ji Adam Lo had been charged with eight counts of second-degree murder, with additional charges expected to follow.

Vancouver police stated that the victims ranged in age from five to 65. Vancouver police interim chief Steve Rai said in a Sunday press conference that ‘dozens more are injured, some critically, and some have not yet been identified’.

In the aftermath of the deadly incident at Vancouver’s Lapu Lapu festival, Prime Minister Mark Carney expressed his condolences and said he spoke with Mayor of Vancouver Ken Sim following the attack and assured the city and the Filipino-Canadian community that the federal government stands ready to assist. Sharing a post on X, Carney wrote: “I spoke with Mayor Sim this afternoon following the attack at last night’s Lapu Lapu festival. I offered my condolences and the federal government’s full support.”

He added, “We will be there for the people of Vancouver and the Filipino-Canadian community as you heal from this tragedy.”

ANI

France: 22 detained in connection with prison attacks

Paris, France - France on Monday detained more than 20 people across the country in connection with recent attacks on prisons and prison staff, according to judicial sources.

Twenty-two people were taken into custody during operations carried out in the Paris region, Marseille, Lyon, and Bordeaux, France 24 reported, citing a statement issued by the French National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor’s Office (PNAT).

Searches were also underway to apprehend more, it added.

The arrests are linked to a series of attacks that have taken place between April 13 and 21 against correctional facilities and prison officers, PNAT noted.

Authorities are also investigating other incidents against different prisons, though links to the ongoing probe have not yet been confirmed.

French Justice Minister Gerald Darmanin expressed gratitude to magistrates and security forces for the arrests, saying they acted quickly against the suspected perpetrators. Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau also praised the efforts of investigators and judicial authorities and said this is a ‘great determination’ and ‘professionalism’ in achieving swift results.

Anadolu Agency

Russia can provide military support to North Korea if necessary: Kremlin

Moscow, Russia - The Kremlin said on Monday that Russia can provide military assistance to North Korea under the strategic partnership deal signed between the two countries late last year.

“We have our own agreement in effect, and, according to this agreement, the parties, in fact, have undertaken to provide significant assistance to each other if necessary,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

Peskov said the participation of North Korean soldiers in Russia’s efforts to retake control over the border region of Kursk demonstrated the effectiveness of the strategic partnership

Dmitry Peskov

agreement signed between the two countries in November of last year.

The Kremlin spokesman added that Russia expects a signal from Ukraine concerning the resumption of direct talks but has

not seen any action in this regard.

He went on to deny any new talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump, but said they could be quickly agreed upon if necessary.

Besides, Putin on Monday reaffirmed his country’s thanks for North Korea’s support to Moscow in retaking its border region of Kursk.

In a statement released by the Kremlin, Putin said that units of the North Korean army played an active role in pushing Ukrainian troops out of the border region ‘in full compliance with international law’.

Anadolu Agency

India signs Rs 63,000 crore Rafale Marine Aircraft deal with France

New Delhi, India - India and France on Monday signed a Rs 63000 crore defence deal for the acquisition of 26 Rafale Marine combat aircraft.

The deal was inked at the Defence Ministry headquarters at South Block in the national capital, the Indian Navy said.

The Cabinet Committee on Security had cleared the deal earlier this month.

The French Ambassador to India represented his country, while Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh represented the Indian side, among other officials.



The Defence Ministers of both countries also attended the signing remotely.

Earlier, the French Defence Minister was scheduled to attend the signing in person but had to cancel his visit due to personal reasons.

The country's carriers urgently require new combat fighter jets for deployment, as the existing fleet of MiG-29 K fighters has reportedly underperformed due to maintenance-related issues.

The Rafale combat aircraft is expected to be deployed on

board *INS Vikrant*, which is currently in service.

The government-to-government contract includes 22 single-seater and four twin-seater Rafale M jets, customised for Indian requirements and carrier integration.

These carrier-borne fighters are being acquired as a stopgap solution until the development of India's own carrier-borne fighter jet is completed, according to the Indian Navy.

The contract also encompasses a comprehensive package for maintenance, logistics,

training, and indigenous component manufacturing.

The Rafale M jets will operate from *INS Vikrant* and support the existing MiG-29K fleet.

The Indian Air Force already operates a fleet of 36 Rafale aircraft acquired under a separate deal signed in 2016. These aircraft are based at Ambala and Hasimara.

The new deal will raise the total number of Rafale jets in India to 62, significantly boosting the country's fleet of 4.5-generation fighter aircraft.

ANI

Canada's election set to define relationship with Trump's US



26/11 Mumbai attacks accused Tahawwur Rana being taken to Patiala House court from NIA headquarters, in New Delhi on Monday (ANI)

India: 26/11 attack accused produced before NIA court

New Delhi, India - 26/11 terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana, who was recently extradited from the US, was produced before a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Monday.

He is being produced before judge Chander Jit Singh, according to NIA. The legal team of the central investigative agency, led by senior advocate Dayan Krishnan, was present in the courtroom.

This comes after Mumbai Police Crime Branch officials questioned Rana at the NIA office in Delhi, officials said on Saturday.

According to Mumbai Police officials, Rana was questioned for eight hours on Wednesday, during which he gave evasive answers and did not cooperate.

Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a Pakistani-Canadian accused of terrorism, is a former military doctor with an alleged history of involvement in terror-related activities. He was recently extradited from the United States to India.

Earlier, the Patiala House Court of Delhi dismissed a plea filed by Tahawwur Rana, seeking permission to speak with his

family over the phone.

Special NIA Judge Chander Jit Singh on Thursday decided to dismiss his petition.

Rana's legal counsel, Piyush Sachdeva, had argued that as a foreign national, he has the fundamental right to communicate with his family, who are anxious about his treatment while in custody.

However, the NIA opposed the request, citing the ongoing investigation and expressing concerns that Rana might divulge sensitive information.

Rana faces multiple charges under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), including conspiracy, terrorism, forgery, and waging war. The court noted that under extradition laws, he can only be prosecuted for offences explicitly sanctioned in the extradition agreement.

Furthermore, since Sections 16 and 18 of the UAPA apply, extended police custody beyond standard Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) limitations may be permitted due to the terrorism-related nature of the case.

ANI

Ottawa, Canada - Canadians head to the polls on Monday for a consequential election that could define the ongoing relationship against a backdrop of fraught relations with the US government.

The return of US President Donald Trump has shaken Canadian politics, potentially swinging what was looking like a likely return to power for the Conservative Party at the start of the year into a toss-up with the incumbent Liberal Party.

With polls tightening, there remains the possibility that no one party will get the majority required to govern outright, which will mean smaller parties will be courted to provide 'supply and confidence' - a guarantee to support budget measures and back the government in confidence votes.

Whatever Canadians decide, the next government will need to chart a challenging course, amid tensions with the United States as well as a difficult social and economic picture at home.

343 seats up for grabs

Canada is a parliamentary democracy, part of the Commonwealth of Nations, and draws many of its political institutions and conventions from the United Kingdom. Its head of state is the UK monarch Charles III, who is represented by a governor general, currently Mary Simon.

The country has two houses of parliament: An appointed Senate, which is similar to Britain's House of Lords, and a voter-elected House of Commons. This federal election will see 343 members elected to the Commons, which is modelled on the UK's 'Westminster' parliament, and where



The return of Trump has shaken Canadian politics, potentially swinging a likely return to power for the Conservative Party at the start of the year into a toss-up with the incumbent Liberal Party

the new government is formed.

The contenders

The governing Liberal Party is led by Prime Minister Mark Carney, only the second person to hold the prime ministership without having been elected to the Commons. The 60-year-old ascended to the role in March after resoundingly winning 86% of registered party member votes following the resignation of former PM Justin Trudeau.

Carney is an economist and former governor of both the Bank

of Canada and the Bank of England. He will run for election to the Commons in the electoral district of Nepean, in Ottawa.

The other major group is the Conservative Party, led by Pierre Poilievre. Under his leadership, the Conservatives have won several by-elections, including taking two seats from the Liberals. He considers himself a 'true conservative' with a small-government platform. Other groups include the centre-left New Democratic Party, the Quebec-centric Bloc Québécois, and the Green Party.

How voting works

A record 7.3mn people - roughly a quarter of Canada's 28.9mn eligible voters - have cast early ballots. Those who haven't can do so on Monday's official election day.

Canada, like the UK, uses a 'first past the post' voting system to elect members of parliament. So in each electorate, the candidate who receives the most votes wins the seat.

Once the 343 members are elected to the Commons, the parliamentary group that can form a majority will become the nation's government. Canada faces similar challenges to many nations around the world - a sluggish economy, rising unemployment, high prices, and a lack of

access to quality housing.

Like other incumbent governments elsewhere, the Liberal Party had been staring down the barrel of an electoral defeat this year. Then Donald Trump returned to the White House and began to agitate Canadians with his brash political rhetoric.

Two of Trump's actions riled Canadians in particular: Remarks about annexing their country and incorporating it into the US as a '51st state' and starting a tariff war, with 25% duties imposed on most of Canada's exports crossing the border.

It led to 'elbows up' protests across Canada as well as calls to boycott US-made goods.

DW

Bangladesh agrees to UN call for establishing humanitarian corridor for Myanmar citizens

Dhaka, Bangladesh - Bangladesh has agreed to a request by the UN to establish a humanitarian corridor along its border with Myanmar's Rakhine state for citizens of the war-torn country, officials said on Sunday.

"The UN wants to create a humanitarian corridor through Bangladesh to send humanitarian aid to Myanmar's Rakhine state. The transitional government has agreed in principle to this, subject to conditions," Foreign Affairs Adviser Md. Towhid Hossain told reporters in the capital, Dhaka.

"It will be a humanitarian passage. But we have some conditions. I will not go into details. If the conditions are met, we will definitely help," he added.

Hossain said the conflict in



Bangladesh is already hosting more than 1.3mn Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar

Myanmar is linked to Bangladesh's interests 'because a large population of Myanmar has taken refuge in our country and we want to send them back. We have to do whatever we

need to do to send them back."

Bangladesh is already hosting more than 1.3mn Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar who fled military crackdowns in August 2017.

Myanmar's junta government has blocked all supplies to corner the Arakan Army rebel group in Rakhine state, which has worsened the humanitarian crisis further.

China urges for 'impartial' probe into Kashmir attack

Beijing, China - China on Monday extended its support to a proposal by Pakistan which urged India to hold an 'impartial' probe into the April 22 Kashmir attack which left 26 people dead, triggering renewed escalation between New Delhi and Islamabad, state media reported.

"China welcomes all initiatives that are conducive to the de-escalation of the current situation and supports carrying out an impartial investigation as soon as possible," Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told reporters when asked if Beijing plans to participate if such a probe is conducted.

Unidentified gunmen killed

26 victims last week in Pahalgam, the Indian-administered Kashmir.

Since then, tensions have risen between India and Pakistan, which have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, which is split between them but claimed by both in its entirety.

Saying that the attack had cross-border links, India suspended a 1960 water-sharing treaty and closed their only operational land border crossing. It also revoked visas issued to Pakistani nationals. Islamabad, however, distanced itself from the attack, saying it was 'concerned' and extended condolences to the victims' families. It also took retaliatory measures

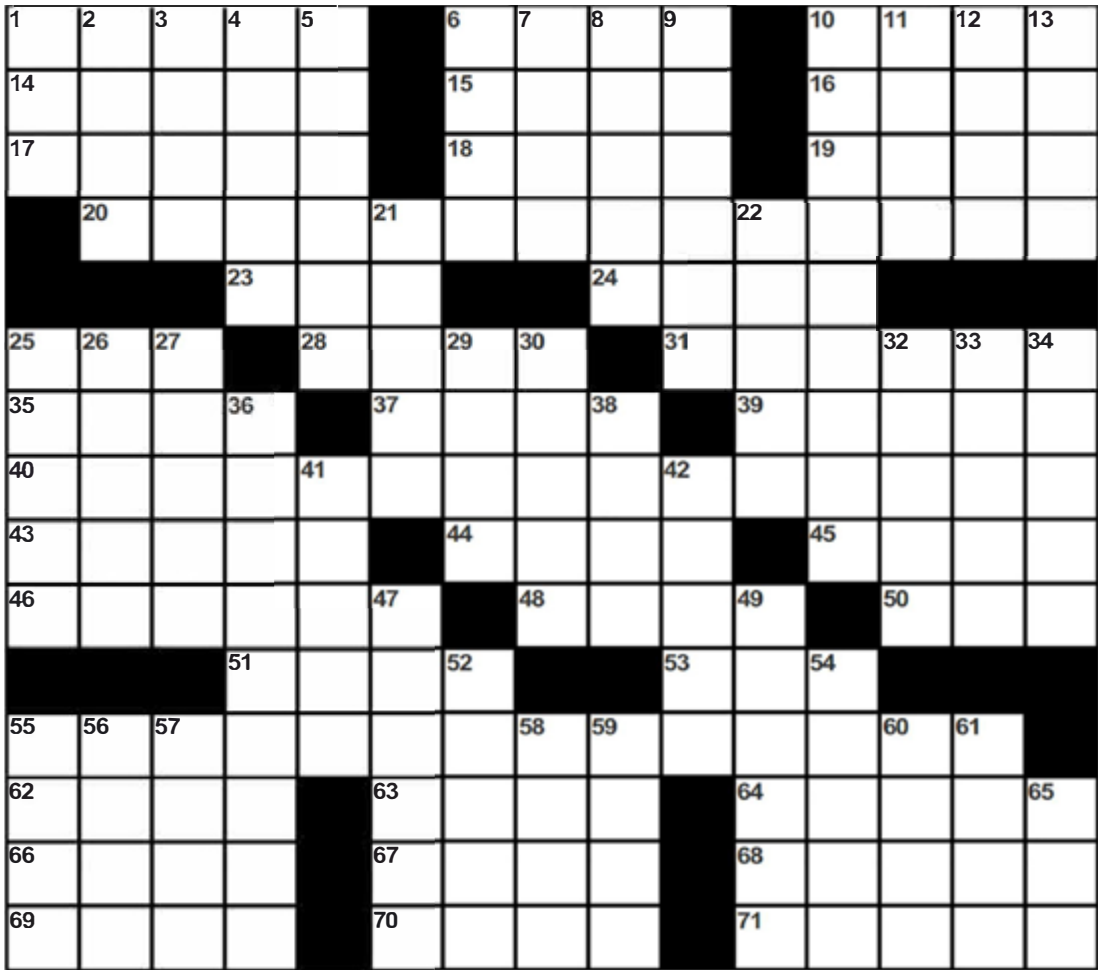
against India.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said Islamabad is open to a 'neutral' investigation into the attack. His Defence Minister Khawaja Asif suggested Russia, China, and other Western nations could join the investigation into the Pahalgam attack to determine 'whether India was telling the truth'.

"As a common neighbour of India and Pakistan, China hopes that both India and Pakistan will exercise restraint, meet each other halfway, properly handle relevant differences through dialogue and consultation," said Guo Jiakun.

Anadolu Agency

DAILY CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1) Easy out
 - 6) Pitt with roles
 - 10) "Ha'i" spot on Broad-way?
 - 14) NBA milieu
 - 15) Part of MYOB
 - 16) "How can I thank you?"
 - 17) Beef-filled
 - 18) Guy behind Michael Jackson, once
 - 19) Lady of Lisbon
 - 20) Three birds
 - 23) Yale student
 - 24) Banana peel mishap
 - 25) S&L convenience
 - 28) State with confidence
 - 31) Emotional tension
 - 35) They support females?
 - 37) Certain sword
 - 39) Like the old "Night Gallery" TV show
 - 40) Three birds
 - 43) Advertiser's promotion
 - 44) Certain
 - 45) Like, likes
 - 46) Awful smell
 - 48) "Sight" or "over" ender
 - 50) Word between a mar-

- ried
- lady's surnames
- 51) Pirate's potation
- 53) "Dear old" guy
- 55) Three birds
- 62) Brightly colored aquarium
- 63) Bar in the fridge
- 64) Court event
- 66) Football great Graham
- 67) "Hold it right there!"
- 68) Bride's pathway
- 69) Sound that gets attention
- 70) Capital of Norway
- 71) In the altogether
- DOWN**
- 1) Legendary actress Grier
 - 2) Popular chocolate cookie
 - 3) Anjou, e.g.
 - 4) Loosen laces
 - 5) Disk-jockey bribe
 - 6) Character in computer-ville
 - 7) Muddy up
 - 8) Jammed idlers?
 - 9) Salivates
 - 10) Sheet cover
 - 11) Claim to be true
 - 12) HBO's Dunham
 - 13) Persia, now

- 21) "Chopped" meat
- 22) TNT ingredient
- 25) Helps out in a criminal act
- 26) Curly hair or color blindness, e.g.
- 27) "Dirty Dingus_" (1970 film)
- 29) Grand-scale poetry
- 30) Picture puzzle
- 32) Senator of Watergate fame
- 33) Relentless attack
- 34) Have a premonition of
- 36) Goliath killer
- 38) Ireland, on coins
- 41) French pen filler
- 42) Requires
- 47) Santa's phrase
- 49) Wicker material
- 52) Splashy parties
- 54) Andrea_ (ill-fated liner)
- 55) Gunk
- 56) Decides on (with "for")
- 57) Stable food
- 58) Groundwater source
- 59) 13-stringed Japanese zither
- 60) Board game
- 61) Cabbage relative
- 65) Took charge

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

No matter how far off your goal seems, try not to fret. Your aim is true. You've been working hard for a long time, and it's vital that you not slacken your efforts now just before the big finish. Take a deep breath, pull back, and just push forward at maximum speed. The outcome is still in question, but don't let that affect your performance. Have a little faith in yourself and you should hit the bull's-eye.

LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

If you get it right the first time, you don't have to bother with covering up mistakes later. Try taking it a little slower than you're used to (or would like to) today, and you can't go wrong. It's worth it to not have to backtrack and overcomplicate your life with work that you should be long past by now. Go at a natural pace and keep an eye out for anything that could potentially trip you up.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

You've got big issues to talk about and not a moment to spare! Of course, your ability to speak plainly and clearly is vital, but even more important is your profound ability to listen. You know better than most that true communication is made up of both in equal measure, so put your eloquence to good use right now, but make sure that your sympathetic ears get just as much of a workout.

TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

If you fight the law now, the law just might win. If you're facing a tough battle, especially with some kind of authority figure, your time is best spent in quiet, temporary withdrawal rather than in head-on confrontation. Your arguments are good, but they might have a stronger impact in a little while when the powers that be feeling slightly more amenable to your case.

VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Your latest complex issue is like a classic film, and you have the director's cut. If there are certain scenes you'd like to delete, go for it. You may want to see if there's a commentary track available that can give you extra insight into the situation. Most importantly, you may be able to add scenes that can completely change the character and feeling of the story as a whole. You have creative control!

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

Your new energy comes with a brand-new attitude, so make sure you treasure it and make the most of it. An old fixed idea or deeply held belief has suddenly turned around completely in your head, and now a whole new set of possibilities has opened up in a way that you would have never thought possible. What lies ahead for you? If this could happen, anything can!

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

Consider the long-term implications of what you're doing today. If you don't, it might be time to hunker down with a couple of trusted friends or an old adviser and get their advice about your next moves. Whether you know it or not, you're probably already on the right track, but at this point it can't hurt to check in with a new perspective. An extra pair of eyes never hurts in a situation like this.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You need a radical shift in point of view, even if it's just contained in your imagination. Try inhabiting the mind space of someone close to you right now. It could give you just the insight you need and eliminate recent misunderstandings. Once you've seen the world through someone else's eyes and really understand where they're coming from, it's so much easier to get along.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

Just like any other polished gem, you need the right setting to show off your best attributes. Fortunately, your energy is pushing you in the right direction, so just about anywhere you go today you should be displayed to your best advantage. Your eloquence, smarts, charm, and uncanny ability to connect with exactly the people you need should all impress all the right people. Dress the part too!

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

You really need to shake things up right now. It may be your work routine or your personal life, but some part of your daily schedule is as stale and flat as a last year's crackers. It doesn't have to be a catastrophic change either, at least not at first! Even if you want a big metamorphosis, you need to start small. Radical change requires a set of subtle changes before it can take place.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Your personal energy is starting to place new demands on you, but it's not like it's something you want to avoid all that much: You need to start laughing more. Things might be a bit complicated, but that doesn't mean they're heavy or gloomy. Your powerful intellect came with a sense of humor, so figure out what you need to do to activate it today!

PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

It might feel like you've got a million things to get done, but you (temporarily) have the attention span of a mayfly. Everyone has days like that, and you do know how to cope, don't you? Use all that ephemeral energy to tie up loose ends or finish old projects, if possible. Try to carry around something to store all those ideas and tasks you want to do later. Don't rely on your memory!



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 01. Where is the Temple of Confucius?**
- A. Angkor Wat
 - B. Machu Picchu
 - C. Qufu
 - D. Giza
- 02. If somewhere or something is noisome it ...?**
- A. Is full of noise
 - B. Smells very unpleasant
 - C. Is sickening
 - D. Can be smelled
- 03. In 1936, whose paper "On Computable Numbers, with an Application to the Entscheidungsproblem" proved that a machine could perform any conceivable mathematical computation if it were able to be represented as an algorithm?**
- A. Albert Einstein
 - B. Alan Turing
 - C. Charles Babbage
 - D. Ada Lovelace

Answers: 1. C 2. B 3. B

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

S	S	E	O
M	E	C	N
S	B	Y	G
K	M	A	E

Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters. The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters - to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The Boggler Classic game uses a 4 x 4 matrix. Words are valued at one point for each letter in excess of two letters. A three letter word is worth one point, a four letter word is worth two points, and so on. Valid words must be at least three letters long.

SOLUTION

20-25 words: Excellent,
15-20 words: Very good,
10-15 words: Good,
5-10 words: Average

DO YOU SUDOKU?

LEVEL EASY: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 and only one instance of each number

4		5	2		8		9	6
2		1		6			4	
						1		
	9		5	7	6			3
6			3	8	2		5	
		9						
	5			9		7		8
7	6		8		5	2		9

WORD BUILDER



You have three minutes to find all the words contained in this word.

Rules: Words should be at least four letters long, proper nouns and duplicates don't count

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

6	1	2	5	8	4	9	7	3
8	7	4	6	1	2	5	3	9
4	3	5	7	2	9	6	1	8
1	5	6	2	8	3	7	4	9
7	8	9	1	4	6	3	2	5
3	2	9	7	5	8	6	1	4
2	7	1	3	5	4	9	8	6
5	8	6	9	7	1	2	3	4
9	6	3	8	1	2	5	7	4

ARNE SLOTS INTO KOP LORE



Liverpool players celebrate with manager Arne Slot after their triumph on Sunday

Dutch manager steps seamlessly into hotspot as Liverpool soar again

Liverpool, England - Twenty four hours after Juergen Klopp's Liverpool farewell, Arne Slot was handed the seemingly impossible mission of trying to fill the void left by the charismatic Kop idol.

Klopp's high-octane football and his passion for the city, not to mention the seven major trophies he delivered in his nine years on Merseyside, including the Champions League and a first English title for 30 years, elevated him alongside the likes of club icons

Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley.

Slot would have been only too aware that succeeding serial trophy winners at England's biggest clubs can be a poisoned chalice, just ask David Moyes who began the post-Alex Ferguson era at Manchester United or Unai Emery, the man who replaced Arsene Wenger at Arsenal. Neither lasted long.

But Slot has made the transition look like a Sunday morning stroll in Stanley Park.

Tasked with turning what had been a two-horse race for the past two seasons between Manchester City and Arsenal into a three-horse race, expectations of the relatively under-the-radar Slot from those outside the club were low.

When BBC Sport's army of pundits were asked before the season which club would win the league, none of the 30 responders opted for Liverpool.

Yet any doubts about Liverpool's decision to recruit Slot from Feyenoord were erased in the season's opening weeks.

With Klopp's squad, barring the signing of Federico Chiesa

Helped by Manchester City's drastic decline in form and Arsenal's levelling off, a clinical Liverpool have been top of the table for all but one week since September 28, losing only two games

Managers who have won the Premier League title in their debut season since its inception in 1992		
MANAGER	SEASON	CLUB
Jose Mourinho	2004-05	Chelsea
Carlo Ancelotti	2009-10	Chelsea
Manuel Pellegrini	2013-14	Manchester City
Antonio Conte	2016-17	Chelsea
Arne Slot	2024-25	Liverpool

who has hardly featured, Slot won eight of his first 10 Premier League games in charge - the best start by a new manager in

Liverpool's history.

Helped by City's drastic decline in form and Arsenal's levelling off, a clinical Liverpool have



Arne Slot

been top of the table for all but one week since Sept. 28, losing only two games.

One criticism that could be levelled at Slot is an FA Cup exit at the hands of second-tier Plymouth Argyle and a disappointing League Cup final loss to Newcastle United.

They also lost to Paris St Germain on penalties in an enthralling Champions League last-16 tie, but delivering a 20th English title to match the record held for so long by arch-rivals Manchester United is what the fans desired most.

Those being churlish may hark back to the Klopp era and sug-

gest that Slot's disciplined side lack the same style, flair and ability to create glorious chaos on the field. Not that Slot would care too much about that and the fact that Liverpool have registered two or more goals in all but five of their 34 league games and top the scoring charts makes a mockery of accusations they have been dull to watch.

Crucially, after inheriting a squad full of world class players, Slot's quiet self-confidence meant he could resist any temptation to re-invent the wheel, instead calmly going about putting his own stamp on Klopp's blueprint.

Kawasaki enter Asian Champions League semis

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia - Yasuto Wakisaka struck seven minutes into extra time to earn Kawasaki Frontale a 3-2 win over Qatar's Al-Sadd in the quarter-finals of the Asian Champions League Elite in Jeddah on Sunday and set up a semi-final clash with Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr.

Brazilian forward Erison had given Kawasaki the lead in the fourth minute and, while Paulo Otavio levelled for Al-Sadd five minutes later, Marcinho's lofted finish in the 21st minute put the Japanese side back in front.

But a 71st-minute strike by Claudinho took the game into extra-time where Wakisaka struck to take his side through to the semi-finals for the first time.

Kawasaki's victory completes the last four line-up, with Saudi duo Al-Hilal and Al-Ahli facing off on Tuesday before the J-League outfit take on Al-Nassr 24 hours later.

Frontale went in front as Akihiro Ienaga drove into the penalty area before cutting the ball back to Erison, and the Brazilian slotted his first-time effort to the right of Meshaal Barsham.

Claudinho went close to levelling when he thrashed his eighth-minute shot wide but, moments later, the Qataris equalised as Louis Yamaguchi's weak attempt to palm away Otavio's shot ended with the ball in the back of the net.

Salah: It's 100 per cent better winning the title with fans

Liverpool, England - Mohamed Salah says winning the Premier League title this season with Liverpool was 100 per cent better than the first time the club became champions in 2020 because it was in front of the club's fans.

The first title was claimed during the COVID-19 pandemic, with supporters unable to attend Anfield for the Liverpool trophy lift nor celebrate around the stadium. On Sunday, with a 5-1 win over Tottenham Hotspur, Liverpool were confirmed as champions and did it at a packed Anfield.

28 *goals and 18 assists so far gives Mohamed Salah a record for goal involvements in a 38-game campaign*

"It is incredible to win this with our fans," Salah told Sky Sports. "This is 100 per cent better than last time, especially with the fans. We have a different group now so to show we can do it again is something special."

Salah ended a four-match scoreless run to make it 4-1 and take his tally to a league-leading 28 goals this season, as well as 18

assists. It also moved him up to fifth in the Premier League's all-time goalscorers' chart.

Salah put these improved attacking returns to a change of role under Slot.

"You can see the numbers," Salah said. "Now I don't have to defend much. The tactics are quite different. I said, 'As long as you rest me defensively I will pro-

vide offensively.' So I am glad that I did. He listened a lot and you can see the numbers."

"When you play in the Premier League you have to defend but I said that I can gamble and somehow I can make a difference. My number of assists shows that, you can create chances as well."

And Salah is eyeing the record for goal involvements in a Premier League campaign after his goal against Spurs took him one from the record of 47 goal involvements held jointly by Andrew Cole in 1993/94 and Alan Shearer the following season.



Mohamed Salah, soaked in glory, celebrates Liverpool's triumph

Man City blank Forest to reach FA Cup final

London, England - Manchester City beat Nottingham Forest 2-0 at Wembley on Sunday to reach their third straight FA Cup final, with goals from Rico Lewis and Josko Gvardiol keeping alive City's hopes of avoiding a rare season without a trophy.

Lewis scored inside two minutes when he was fed by the influential Mateo Kovacic and given time and space to fire into the bottom corner and silence the Forest fans.

Conceding an early goal was certainly not in the gameplan for Forest, who struggled to gain a foothold in the first half, registering just 25% possession and no shots on goal.

"We started really badly, City started really well," Forest boss Nuno Espirito Santo told reporters, adding that conceding

so early "makes everything hard".

The halftime introduction of Anthony Elanga almost turned the tie for Forest, but he scuffed Callum Hudson-Odoi's cross wide with his first touch in the 46th minute.

City punished the miss five minutes later when Gvardiol rose highest to nod home an Omar Marmoush corner for his sixth goal of the campaign.

Forest, seeking to reach their first FA Cup final since 1991, went close to pulling one back with Morgan Gibbs-White cannoning a volley off the bar with City goalkeeper Stefan Ortega beaten.

"I've never hit a ball as sweetly on my weak foot in my life," Gibbs-White told ITV. "As soon as that hit the crossbar I knew it wasn't going to be our day."



Manchester City's Josko Gvardiol scores against Nottingham Forest at Wembley on Sunday

'We truly deserve to be champions'

Liverpool, England - Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk said winning the Premier League title was an achievement the club would never take for granted after the Merseysiders thrashed Tottenham Hotspur 5-1 to secure a 20th top-flight crown in front of a roaring Anfield on Sunday.

Liverpool's victory gave Arne Slot's side an unassailable 15-point lead over second-placed Arsenal with four games left in the season as they clinched the title for only the second time in the Premier League era.

"It's special and it's something that we don't take for granted. It's amazing, what today was," Van Dijk told Sky Sports as the players took a lap of honour around Anfield.

"A lot of emotions before the game, during the whole week. We got the job done and we truly deserve to be champions of England."

"(It's) the most beautiful club in the world. I think we deserve all of this. Let's enjoy the next couple of weeks and let it sink in."



Virgil van Dijk

Liverpool first lifted the Premier League trophy five years ago amid the COVID-19 pandemic when the fans were not allowed inside the stadium to celebrate their first league title in 30 years.

This time, however, the fans turned up at a packed Anfield, serenading the players with the club's anthem 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

"Yeah, I was desperate for them (to be here) of course, for all the fans around the world, for the fans here, but for us as well," Van Dijk said.

"We got two Premier League trophies in five years, so that's still a good achievement."

Liverpool had also thrashed Spurs 6-3 in the reverse fixture in December and as a sea of red welcomed the team bus at Anfield, Slot said they could not let their fans down with the title within grasp.

"It was clear we couldn't lose this game. Everyone on the bus said, 'There's no way we're going to lose this game'," said Slot, who has won the title in his debut season at Liverpool.

Oman’s Al Rawahi resumes MERC challenge at New Rally in Saudi Arabia

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia - Oman’s Abdullah al Rawahi resumes his quest for honours in the 2025 FIA Middle East Rally Championship (MERC) at this weekend’s Rally Saudi Arabia (May 1st-3rd), a new round of the regional series that has attracted 29 entries across the various categories.

The Kingdom returns to the regional championship for the first time in 15 years and the Oman Rally Team star will team up with Great Britain’s Ross Whittock in an Autotek Škoda Fabia RS Rally 2 on the Jeddah-based three-day event.

Al Rawahi said: “Saudi Arabia is the third round of the championship and is a new rally for ev-

eryone. It’s going to be very challenging but I don’t really know what to expect so far. I haven’t seen the stages. We will try to adapt really fast. Ata (Al-Hmoud) is not with me this time. Ross is going to join me. We have worked together in the WRC before so I think we can work around it and give the maximum.

“In terms of the car, we have been working hard to get the best out of it. Recently, we have been happy with it. I am hoping we can perform well with the right set-up. We can’t make any changes until we see the stages. Then we will make up our mind and test a few things on the car in Saudi.



Abdullah al Rawahi

Our plan is to push and try and secure the win. It won’t be easy with the challenge from Nasser (Al-Attiyah) and other good drivers in the line-up. We will do our best and hopefully come out with a good result.”

In addition to running as a round of the regional series for the first time since 2010, the new-look rally will also act as the Kingdom’s official candidate event before it joins the FIA World Rally Championship for the first time at the end of November.

Al Rawahi, the joint 2023 regional champion, will be aiming to close the gap on Nasser Saleh al Attiyah in the points’ standings

after the opening two rounds in Oman and Qatar. Al Attiyah is bidding for a 20th regional title and leads the series with 70 points. Local driver Rakan Al-Rashed and Al-Rawahi are his closest challengers with four rounds remaining.

The Oman Rally Team has received further backing from Al Manar Investments, the Oman Automobile Association, WMS, Zamakan, OQ, Strike, Size, the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture of Oman and National Finance.

The 29-car entry includes nine Rally2 cars, six SSVs and 21 crews registered for points in the MERC. They will tackle six brand

new gravel stages that will be repeated twice over the weekend, parts of which are sure to be used in the inaugural WRC event later in the year.

Additional Rally2 competition comes from the likes of the defending regional champion Abdulaziz al Kuwari (Citroën C3), new FIA Master MERC Driver series leader Nasser Khalifa al Atya (Ford), Jordan’s Sheikh Bader al Fayed (Škoda) and Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT’s Juho Hänninen, who is not chasing points in the MERC.

Rally Saudi Arabia is based at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit with the Rally HQ running out of the Race Tower.

SCOTT IN THE ACT

McTominay scores brace as Napoli beat Torino to surge to top of Serie A

Naples, Italy - Two first-half goals from Scott McTominay helped Napoli to a 2-0 home win against Torino in Serie A on Sunday as the hosts reclaimed the sole lead in the standings with four games left to play.

Napoli top Serie A with 74 points, three points clear of defending champions Inter Milan, who were handed a 1-0 home defeat by AS Roma earlier on Sunday.

The win also secured Napoli a top-four finish, meaning they will make a return to the Champions League following a one-season absence.

“It’s not the first time we’re in the lead, we’ve been in the lead more than anyone else,” Napoli coach Antonio Conte told a press conference.

“However, there are fewer and fewer games and you can pay for any type of mistake in a big way. We are mathematically in the Champions League, a very important economic goal for the club, and you have to enjoy it at least a little.”

Napoli, who won the league title in 2023, were absent from European competitions this season after finishing 10th last term.

“There are four steps to go, I told the lads too,” Conte added.

“We had a strange evening. I didn’t watch Inter, because I already suffer enough for our games. I didn’t intervene with the lads (either), I wanted to leave free will, knowing that we could also lose mental energy.



Napoli’s Scott McTominay celebrates after scoring against Torino in Serie A on Sunday

I didn’t watch Inter, because I suffer enough for our games. I didn’t intervene with the lads, I wanted to leave free will, knowing that we could also lose mental energy

ANTONIO CONTE

“Before the game I told them that nothing had changed and that we had to win, with great motivation. The lads were very good, driven by an extraordinary environment.”

The 2023 champions had moved level with Inter at the

Serie A summit in the previous round when they earned a 1-0 win at bottom side Monza and Simone Inzaghi’s men suffered a last-gasp loss at Bologna the following day.

Napoli raced to a seventh-minute lead through McTominay, who bundled the ball in from close range. Frank Anguissa squared it to the in-form Scotland midfielder, who found the net with a composed first touch.

The 28-year-old doubled the advantage just before halftime, striking from around the penalty spot from a neat lofted cross by Matteo Politano, making it his fifth goal in the last three appearances.

ances.

McTominay, who joined Napoli in August from Manchester United, has now scored 11 goals in his debut Serie A season.

Napoli, however, slowed down significantly ever since taking the lead and their only two attempts on goal were the ones converted by the Scot.

Renaissance Berkane to meet Simba in African Confederation Cup final

Algiers, Argeria - Morocco’s Renaissance Berkane qualified for a fifth appearance in the African Confederation Cup final with a 4-1 aggregate victory despite losing the second leg of their semi-final tie in neighbouring Algeria on Sunday.

Berkane will take on Tanzania’s Simba in the two-legged final next month after the Dares-Salaam club held out for a goalless draw earlier on Sunday in South Africa to pip Stellenbosch 1-0 on aggregate.

Berkane, winners of the competition in 2020 and 2022 and runners-up in 2019 and last season, lost 1-0 away at CS Constantine but had a comfortable 4-0 cushion from the first leg.

Abennour Belhocini scored the only goal of the second leg two minutes into the second half in Constantine.

Atalanta held to draw by Lecce

Bergamo, Italy - Atalanta were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Lecce, as Mateo Retegui’s second-half penalty for the hosts cancelled out Jesper Karlsson’s spot kick for the visitors in Serie A on Sunday.

The result left third-placed Atalanta looking nervously over their shoulders as the battle for a top-four finish heats up.

Atalanta have 65 points with four games left, three points ahead of fourth-placed Juventus after their earlier win over Monza, while Bologna are two points further adrift in fifth but with a game in hand.

The match was originally scheduled for Friday but was rearranged after the death of the visitors’ physiotherapist the day before.

In a protest at having to play the match so soon after their physio’s death, Lecce played in a white jersey without logos and their crest, with the words ‘No values, no colours’ written on the chest along with a black ribbon.

“When faced with a grave injustice, we do not respond by



Atalanta players look disappointed after their 1-1 draw at home by Lecce

blatantly violating the rules, that would be like competing with the league on who would behave worse,” the club wrote in a statement.

“We will play the ‘match of trampled values’, but we do it wearing an anonymous white jersey, that does not represent us. It has no colours, no badges, no logos.”

Lecce stunned the Gewiss Stadium after 29 minutes, as Sweden’s Karlsson tucked away

a penalty following a handball by his compatriot Isak Hien.

Retegui drew Atalanta level in the 69th minute, converting from the spot after Karlsson clumsily fouled Juan Cuadrado.

Minutes later, Serie A’s top scorer Retegui nearly completed the turnaround for Atalanta when he met a cross with a perfectly timed header that crashed against the upright and bounced away to safety.

Neither side seemed to have

the energy for a last-minute push to grab all three points, with Atalanta’s Ademola Lookman making a late run, but he was well marshalled by the Lecce defence.

Juve beat Monza

Earlier on Sunday, Nicolas Gonzalez and Randal Kolo Muani scored first-half goals for Juventus before Kenan Yildiz was sent off for the hosts before halftime.

River edge Boca in Argentine ‘Superclasico’

Buenos Aires, Argentina - River Plate secured a hard-fought 2-1 home win over Boca Juniors in a tense ‘Superclasico’ in Argentina’s Primera Division Apertura competition on Sunday to claim bragging rights over their arch rivals.

A record crowd of over 85,000 fans packed into the recently expanded Mas Monumental stadium, creating a cauldron of noise following a minute’s silence for Pope Francis, who died last week.

Teenage prodigy Franco Mastantuono opened the scoring in the 25th minute with a spectacular effort, the 17-year-old curling a left-footed free kick into the top corner of Agustin Marchesin’s net from nearly 30 metres out.

“A derby is lived with a lot of adrenaline, but I tried to focus, isolate myself and concentrate and I think that helped,” Mastantuono said.

“I had a lot of faith in myself and it’s not easy being so young that the team allows you an opportunity like this. The team gave me that confidence and I value the place I’m in,” he added.

off Marchesin.

River nearly grabbed a third when Mastantuono shot wide after the break, while the visitors went close to an equaliser through Exequiel Zeballos and Miguel Merentiel.

River are third in Group B on 28 points, level on points with second-placed Independiente, who have two games in hand. Marcelo Gallardo’s side next face Velez Sarsfield

I had a lot of faith in myself and it’s not easy being so young that the team allows you an opportunity like this. The team gave me that confidence and I value the place I’m in

FRANCO MASTANTUONO



River Plate’s Franco Mastantuono celebrates after scoring against Boca Juniors on Sunday





Oceans of creativity

YOUNG ARTISTS IN OMAN SHINE IN THIRD EDITION OF 'EMOTIONS OF THE OCEANS' EXHIBITION WHICH OPENED AT BAIT AL ZUBAIR MUSEUM ON APRIL 28



Photos taken at Dutch King's Day at Mandarin Oriental Hotel on April 27

As part of the 400 Years of Maritime Heritage between Oman and the Netherlands and the broader Cultural Week celebrations, Green Life Art Center, in close collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Oman, presented the 3rd edition of 'Emotions of the Oceans Art Exhibition and Competition' - a vibrant celebration of young creativity, emotional storytelling, and environmental awareness.

The event brought together colourful reflections on marine life, showcasing the emotional and imaginative connection young artists aged 6 to 15 years old feel toward the oceans and marine life.

The selected artworks were exhibited during the celebration of Dutch King's Day at Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Muscat, on April 27 and were on display at the inauguration at Bait Al Zubair Museum on April 28, which also marks the opening of the Dutch Cultural Week. The exhibition will continue at Bait Al Zubair Museum until May 8 for public viewing.

In addition to Emotions of the Oceans, Green Life Art Center has slated two interactive eco-art workshops at Bait Al Zubair Museum during the Cultural Week. These sessions will feature activities such as Green Book storytelling, eco-art projects, and educational tours, inspiring students to connect with sustainability, creativity, and cultural exchange.

Alongside the exhibition, Emotions of the Oceans featured a children's art competition, where around 60 artworks were submitted by schools and independent participants. After a careful and fair judging process, 20 paintings and 3 sculptures were selected, celebrating outstanding artistic expression and emotional depth, disclosed Niasa Mobtada, founder of Green Life Art Group who has been championing the cause of promoting art with a message among budding, young artists in Oman.

The participating schools and centres this year included Apple Green Private School, Asas Private School, Downe House International School, Green Life Art Center, Najeya Bint Amer Al Hajri Government School, Pakistan School Salalah, PDO School, and Sultan's School, besides independent participants.

Prior to the event, Creative Mentorship sessions were offered to all participants — providing general creative guidance, exploration of marine themes, and encourage-



CULTIVATING A CREATIVE FUTURE

At Green Life Art Center, our key motive is to inspire young minds to see art not just as a skill, but as a powerful way to express their emotions, connect with their environment, and find their unique voice. As an interdisciplinary centre focusing on art, psychology, and literature, we nurture not only artistic techniques but also emotional intelligence, imagination, critical thinking, and personal growth. We place a strong emphasis on well-being and sustainability, helping children develop a deep connection with themselves, their community, and the world around them. Through initiatives like Emotions of the Oceans, we hope to cultivate a new generation of talented, thoughtful artists who will enrich the cultural and creative landscape of the sultanate in the years to come.

Niasa Mobtada

ment for artistic growth without offering any unfair advantage in the competition process.

The judging panel combined cultural, artistic, and educational expertise, and included H E Stella Kloth, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Oman, Maryam al Alawi, renowned Omani contemporary artist, Green Life Art Center Team, and experts in art, education, psychology, and literature.

The special opening ceremony at Bait Al Zubair Museum featured a live Dutch orchestra performance, speeches by distinguished guests, alongside the celebration of the young artists' creativity — marking a beautiful union of art, education, sustainability, and cultural friendship.

Through Emotions of the Oceans and its broader Cultural Week activities, Green Life Art Center continues to empower young voices, promote environmental stewardship, and strengthen cultural bonds between Oman and the Netherlands through the universal language of art.

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SARAB

Illusion & reality

An interesting joint exhibition by two talented Omani female artists – SARAB – was inaugurated by Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, at The Walk, Al Mouj Muscat, last evening. “The exhibition space itself is part of the narrative, dissolving the boundaries between presence and absence, illusion and reality,” says Rasmia al Zadjali, curator of the exhibition.



SARAB is a reminder that absence is not an emptiness, but a presence shaped by loss, desire, and memory

Rasmia al Zadjali
Curator



Hubert Vaz

When you walk into the intriguingly-styled exhibition space at The Walk, in Al Mouj Muscat, for this new exhibition, the first thing that hits you is the mystical, unconventional aura that abounds within... And as you move ahead, unsuccessfully attempting to let your goosebumps subside, you soon discover that the exhibits on display begin to speak... in distinct terms to each viewer!

“SARAB is a meditation on impermanence, longing, and illusion. It is less a search for resolution and more an invitation into a space of reflection and inquiry,” disclosed Rasmia al Zadjali, the founder of Rasma Art and curator of the exhibition. The exhibition explores the tension between desire and unattainability, and delves into the emotional and psychological impact of longing, questioning whether the chase itself holds meaning or if we are forever bound to an unfulfilled yearning, she explained

The exhibition, featuring the works of Khadija al Maamari and Hajer al Harrasi, “invites the audience to confront the ways in which absence shapes presence, how distance mutates into estrangement, and how our pursuit of the unreachable defines our experience,” Rasmia explained, adding, “The exhibition space itself is part of the narrative, dissolving the boundaries between presence and absence, illusion and reality. Like shifting sands, SARAB reminds us that the harder we try to hold onto desire, the more elusive it becomes.”

She further disclosed that Khadija and Hajer approached them with bodies of work that, while distinct in medium and style, spoke powerfully to the themes that they were beginning to explore - memory, distance, transformation, and the tension between presence and absence.

“From the outset, it was clear that their practices shared a sensitivity - questions about longing, identity, belonging and the chase of the unattainable. It was especially energising to see emerging Omani artists not only finding strong individual voices, but also pushing the conversation forward — opening new possibilities for creative expression and deeper cultural engagement,” Rasmia asserted, adding “SARAB became the natural space for a dialogue to unfold. Not necessarily to merge their works but to allow the nuances they explore to evolve side by side.”

Curating SARAB required a delicate balance, respecting the independent voices of each artist while creating a cohesive experiential narrative. The approach was to heighten the emotional and physical experience where the ground itself becomes unstable, perception softens, and visitors are invited to move through an environment shaped as much by what is absent as by what remains.

“The message is not prescriptive. SARAB offers a space for reflection - a place to confront the unending pursuit of what is elusive, and to question whether meaning lies in arrival or in the longing itself. It is a reminder that absence is not an emptiness, but a presence shaped by loss, desire, and memory,” she said.

The exhibition statement cautions the visitor that, ‘in SARAB, nothing is fixed, not even the ground you walk on. Visitors are invited to step into an ever-shifting landscape, where grains of sand slip and reshape beneath their feet, mirroring the ephemeral nature of longing.

‘This multisensorial experience deepens the connection between the artworks and the audience, creating a profound and immersive journey. Like shifting sands, SARAB reminds us that the harder we try to hold onto desire, the more elusive it becomes.’

Shared concept, diverse expression



Khadija al Maamari

“I will be presenting four artworks, ranging between installation art and conceptual photography. The works revolve around exploring human contradictions and reflecting on themes of life and death, identity and absence, individuality and collectivity. Altogether, the works invite the viewer to contemplate the fragile boundaries between presence and absence, freedom and conformity.

I enjoyed complete freedom in expressing my artistic vision, while aligning with the overall theme of the exhibition, which served as a flexible framework rather than a restriction. This exhibition features my works alongside those of my close friend, both of us interpreting a shared concept through our own distinct approaches.

Although our works are connected by a common intellectual thread, each artist maintained their individual voice, resulting in a rich diversity that added depth and cohesion to the exhibition without compromising artistic individuality.

Hajer al Harrasi

I am presenting four pieces in this exhibition. Each piece delves into the complexities of the body as both a physical and conceptual entity. The overarching message of these works is to reflect on the body as both an anchor and a vessel for memory, emotions, and identity, always in a state of transformation and flux.

This exhibition has allowed me the space to explore my ideas freely and authentically. While there is always an inherent dialogue between artists when exhibiting together, I did not feel restricted in expressing my concepts.

In fact, I believe the collaborative environment can enhance the depth of individual works, as it allows for varied perspectives and interpretations. My focus was on the integrity of my own work, and I trust that the audience will appreciate the unique voices that each artist brings to the exhibition.

