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BRIEF

QATAR, US SIGN RAFT OF DEALS
Doha, Qatar - US President Donald Trump arrived in Qatar on Wednesday, his second stop in his Gulf tour following his visit to Saudi Arabia. Trump and Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad al Thani, Emir of Qatar, signed a raft of deals following their meeting in Doha. He said Qatar Airways has placed a "record" order for 160 planes with Boeing worth more than \$200bn. A letter of offer and acceptance for MQ-9B drones was also among the deals signed. They agreed on a statement of intent on defence cooperation between the US and Qatar. Trump said he discussed the world, the war in Ukraine and Iran - which he described as an "interesting situation". "I have a feeling it's going to work out," he said.



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Oman wins T20I women's series against Bahrain 3-0



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Khalid al Khalifani turns palm waste into durable doors



GCC leaders call for ending Gaza war

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - Gulf leaders called for ending the Israeli war on Gaza and supporting Syria during the GCC-US Summit on Wednesday with US President Donald Trump in the Saudi capital.

Addressing the summit, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman called relations with Washington "strategic".

"We are cooperating with the US to de-escalate the situation in Gaza, end the war and find a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue," he said.

Prince Salman welcomed Trump's decision to lift sanctions imposed on Syria.

"We affirm our respect for Syria's sovereignty and support for the government's efforts to achieve security. We commend President Trump's decision to lift sanctions on Syria, which will alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people," he said.

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Meshal al Ahmad al Sabah called for strengthening efforts by the international community to ensure Syria's security and stability, preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity, end the suffering of its people, and halt foreign interference in its affairs.

On Tuesday, Trump said during the Saudi-US Investment Forum in Riyadh that he would order removal of "brutal and crippling" US sanctions on Syria to give the country "a chance at greatness".

Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa praised Trump's effective diplomatic efforts to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East and the world. "We appreciate Trump's decision to lift economic sanctions on Syria, and we look forward to further cooperation to achieve a safe, stable and prosperous region that includes all its countries," he said.

"This wise policy represents a unique opportunity to move together towards achieving a just and lasting peace that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people through a two-state solution, preserves regional security and stability, and contributes to making the region free of weapons of mass destruction, thus preventing an arms race."

Following the summit, Trump travelled to Qatar on the second leg of his current Gulf tour. He is also scheduled to visit the United Arab Emirates.

Trump's 'strategic diplomacy highly welcome'

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - H H Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, led Oman's delegation to the GCC-US Summit in Riyadh on Wednesday.

Representing His Majesty the Sultan, H H Sayyid Asaad conveyed his greetings and best wishes for the success of the summit, thanking Saudi Arabia for its hospitality and the United States for its partnership.

"We meet here today at a historical moment, one that we hope will help shape a better future for the Middle East and chart a path of stability, prosperity and goodness for all," H H Sayyid Asaad said.

He highlighted the deep, long-term strategic ties between the Gulf states



and the US, noting their shared commitment to political, economic, technological and defence cooperation.

Addressing regional challenges, he expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, describing it as a consequence of decades of illegal Israeli occupation. He called for the es-

tablishment of an independent Palestinian state, emphasising that true peace and stability can only be achieved through a just resolution of the Palestinian issue.

H H Sayyid Asaad also praised the "constructive role" of US President Donald Trump in resolving the conflict in Yemen and maintaining security in the Red Sea, while welcoming ongoing US-Iran talks on nuclear non-proliferation as a step towards lasting regional stability. "The Trump administration's pursuit of a policy of strategic diplomacy - which favours dialogue and deal-making over escalation and confrontation - represents an exemplary approach that is highly welcomed by us. By engaging all parties and by challenging outdated theories, the United States has opened a practical path for real positive change."

New AI committee to guide digital future of Oman

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) has formed a national committee of artificial intelligence specialists from both the public and private sectors to advance the sultanate's AI agenda in line with Oman Vision 2040 and the country's digital transformation strategy.

The committee has been tasked with guiding national efforts to integrate AI into key sectors such as education, healthcare, logistics, finance and public services. Acting as a national think tank, it will provide expert insights on emerging AI technologies and their practical applications in addressing real-world challenges.

A ministry official said the committee's responsibilities include advising the government on AI policies, developing education and training programmes, and reviewing existing legislation related to AI. The committee will



also recommend measures to enhance Omani expertise in AI, propose updates to regulatory frameworks, and monitor global AI developments to assess their impact on the sultanate.

A significant part of its mandate involves addressing the ethical aspects of AI, including guidelines for transparency, accountability and data protection. These guidelines will reflect Omani cultural values while aligning with international

algorithmic bias and misuse of personal data, to promote responsible innovation and safeguard society.

Chaired by Dr Ahmed Saeed al Ma'ashari, Assistant Professor at College of Engineering in Sultan Qaboos University, committee members include Ibrahim Abdullah al Hosni from Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ghada Nasser al Kharousi from Central Bank of Oman, Mahmoud Nasser al Nafei from InvoSpark, Dr Riyadh Abdul Aziz al Balushi from Decree Company, Dr Younis Saeed al Anquodi from Transom Handling, and Tawwa Abdullah al Dawood from MTCIT.

Formation of the committee comes as Oman seeks to position AI as a cornerstone of its National Digital Economy Programme. MTCIT aims to improve and unify the country's AI efforts under a coordinated national strategy, ensuring Oman is well-prepared to leverage future technologies while managing related risks responsibly.

Oman launches MENA region's first Circularity Gap Report

Our Correspondent
Muscat



A circular economy ensures the optimal use of resources throughout all stages of the economic cycle

DR AISHA AL SARIHIYYA

Oman has launched the Circularity Gap Report (CGR) Oman Project, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the region aimed at advancing sustainable resource use and building a roadmap for a circular economy in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The project, spearheaded by Ministry of Economy and supported by be'ah, was formally unveiled during a stakeholder roundtable on Wednesday that brought together government officials, industry leaders, academics and representatives from Circle Economy - an organisation based the Netherlands behind the global CGR initiative.

The effort marks a key milestone in the sultanate's commitment to sustainability, with the project set to assess current resource consumption and identify areas where circularity can be improved. This includes reducing waste and ensuring resources are reused efficiently across all stages of the economic cycle.

"The concept of a circular

supply chains and, in turn, generates economic and social benefits alongside environmental gains."

The project positions Oman as a regional leader in circular economy planning. Ivonne Bojoh, CEO of Circle Economy, said, "Today marks the first roundtable for the Circularity Gap Report Oman - the first of its kind in the MENA region. The collaboration among Omani stakeholders is a strong signal of the country's readiness to lead systemic change for future generations."

Tamara Fieldboer, Director at Circle Economy, added, "We saw Oman's circular vision come to life through critical dialogue and practical solutions. The diverse perspectives and shared leadership demonstrated today will drive the nation's circular transition forward."

The baseline report currently under development will offer detailed insights and recommendations to guide Oman's national strategy on circularity. It is expected to play a key role in achieving the sustainability and economic resilience targets set out in Vision 2040.



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Director’s Report

For the quarter Ended 31 March 2025



Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Liva Group (the “Group” or “Company”), I am pleased to present the strong consolidated results for the quarter ended 31 March 2025.

The Group continued to deliver profitable growth as it began the year, with Insurance Revenue up 21% year-on-year, supported by accelerated new business momentum, enhanced pricing discipline, and the rollout of innovative products. The United Arab Emirates contributed 62% of the Insurance Revenue, reporting OMR 4.3 million in Profit After Tax. The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continued to post solid top-line growth, benefiting from improved investment income and operational efficiency in line with the Groups strategic direction.

Looking ahead, the Group is confident in enhancing this profitable growth alongside disciplined execution and the continued expansion across core and emerging segments.

Financial Performance

Building on the strong momentum established in the second half of 2024, the Group’s financial results for the quarter demonstrate sustained progress in scale, profitability, and operational discipline. Performance highlights are outlined below.

Insurance Revenue

Liva Group reported Insurance Service Revenue of OMR 94.1 million for the quarter, marking a significant 21% increase compared to Q1 2024. This growth reflects the strong, independent performance of each of Liva’s operating entities, driven by effective customer acquisition, successful product launches, and strengthened distribution partnerships across the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — together contributing to a strong Group-wide result.

Underwriting Result

The Group’s Insurance Service Result reached OMR 4.8 million, reflecting an impressive 559% increase from OMR (1) million in Q1 2024. This strong performance underscores ongoing improvements in technical underwriting, claims management, and pricing adequacy, with profitability achieved across all lines of business. The Group’s net financial result also demonstrated an accelerated 44% increase, driven by disciplined capital allocation and effective risk management practices.

Investment Income

Investment income rose by 6% year-on-year to OMR 3.5 million, reflecting a continued positive trend driven by proactive portfolio rebalancing and improved yield optimization. The Group’s diversified investment portfolio, comprising high-quality debt and equity instruments, continues to deliver rising returns, aligned with prudent risk-return objectives.

Profit After Tax

The Group reported a Profit After Tax of OMR 4.2 million, reflecting a OMR 5 million improvement compared to the prior year. This return to profitability was driven by the collective success of all Liva’s operating entities, with effective underwriting and a balanced product mix. This ongoing positive trend reinforces confidence in the Group’s momentum and its promising outlook for 2025.

Recent Events

Liva Group’s achievements in the first quarter of 2025 have been recognised across the region, reinforcing our position as a trusted and innovative leader in the industry.

Most Trusted Brand – AIWA Awards: Recognised by Alam Al Iqtisad Wal Aamal (AIWA) for delivering consistent performance, transparency, and trusted customer engagement.

Best Insurance – Oman: Global Business and Finance Magazine: Honoured for continued excellence in the Omani insurance market, driven by our innovation, service quality, and customer-first approach.

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) & CSR Initiatives

Liva is committed to embedding ESG principles into every layer of its business operations. The Group continues to integrate sustainability and governance practices into our strategic and operational frameworks. During the quarter, the company made progress in enhancing board-level ESG oversight, integrating ESG metrics into performance dashboards, and aligning corporate initiatives with global best practices.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Liva’s contribution to drive positive social impact across the region continued in the first quarter of 2025. The Beat Diabetes Walk engaged over 16,500 participants and delivered vital health services. Ramadan food drivers supported underserved communities in the UAE and KSA. Reinforcing commitment for youth empowerment, Liva renewed its partnership with Injaz Oman and Cardiff University Student Society. In collaboration with the Royal Oman Police and Air Force promoted road safety whilst support to children in need in Bahrain were provided Diabetes Kit. These efforts reflect Liva’s strong commitment to the well-being of the communities it serves.

Outlook

The Group has entered 2025 with strong momentum and continued growth across all lines of business. Looking ahead, the focus is on disciplined expansion in profitable market segments, investing in digital capabilities, and further strengthening Organisational capacity to meet the evolving needs of customers and regulators. A key part of this strategy includes building and deepening partnerships that extend the Group’s reach and enhance impact across the region.

Strategic priorities remain firmly anchored in diversification — both geographically and by product line — as well as expanding presence in high-potential markets. Through a collaborative, forward-looking approach and a clear commitment to digital innovation and operational excellence, the Group is confident in its ability to deliver long-term value for all stakeholders.

As part of the strategy, the Group continues to pursue both organic and inorganic growth opportunities to accelerate regional expansion. The company sees strong potential in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where market fundamentals remain compelling. The previously announced Memorandum of Understanding with Malath Cooperative Insurance Company remains under advanced discussion, reflecting Liva’s commitment to strategic partnerships that support its long-term vision and create shared value.

The Group is also closely monitoring global macroeconomic developments, including the United States’ recently announced tariffs. While the initial assessment indicates a limited direct impact on the Group’s core operations, proactive observations of potential implications are in place. Liva Group remains committed to transparency and will continue to keep shareholders informed as further clarity emerges.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to our inspirational leader His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for his vision and initiatives as he continues to lead the country on the path of development, peace, and enduring prosperity.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Financial Services Authority of Oman, Muscat Stock Exchange, Central Banks of UAE, and Bahrain, Insurance Authority of Saudi Arabia, Insurance regulatory unit of Kuwait and the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority for their continued support and guidance. I would also like to thank our dedicated teams at Liva Group and across our Group companies for their commitment and hard work.

Khalid Muhammad AlZubair
Chairman

Unaudited interim condensed separate and consolidated statement of financial position				
as at 31 March 2025				
	Group		Parent Company	
	31 Mar 2025	31 Dec 2024	31 Mar 2025	31 Dec 2024
	RO (Unaudited)	RO (Audited)	RO (Unaudited)	RO (Audited)
Cash and bank balances	22,226,429	25,552,288	6,966,235	5,798,003
Bank deposits	148,757,897	139,067,233	24,902,184	25,015,066
Investment in securities	136,310,095	136,671,295	29,312,545	29,452,405
Investment in subsidiaries	-	-	148,163,352	144,198,987
Insurance contract assets	1,516,464	204,150	-	-
Reinsurance contract assets	67,186,793	75,450,225	995,442	1,037,683
Other receivables and prepayment	20,125,136	20,792,100	5,878,090	3,390,183
Loans to policyholders	25,114	28,374	-	-
Property and equipment	7,561,312	8,042,711	3,637,922	3,800,735
Deferred tax asset	1,843,715	2,236,808	935,430	1,111,539
Intangible assets (including goodwill)	27,459,903	27,577,228	225,874	231,773
Total assets	433,012,858	435,622,412	221,017,074	214,036,374
Equity And Liabilities				
Equity				
Share capital	69,013,902	69,013,902	69,013,902	69,013,902
Legal reserve	9,775,095	9,775,095	9,775,095	9,775,095
Contingency reserve	17,576,121	17,576,121	17,576,121	17,576,121
Revaluation reserve	352,345	352,345	352,345	352,345
Mandatory convertible bonds	4,700,000	4,700,000	4,700,000	4,700,000
Fair value reserve	5,021,637	4,714,625	5,021,637	4,714,625
Foreign exchange reserve	(48,732)	(59,528)	(48,732)	(59,528)
Retained earnings	(36,955)	(4,437,581)	2,738,320	(1,662,306)
Total equity attributable to shareholders of the Parent	106,353,413	101,634,979	109,128,688	104,410,254
Non-controlling interests	20,337,038	20,071,327	-	-
Total equity	126,690,451	121,706,306	109,128,688	104,410,254
Liabilities				
Insurance contract liabilities	193,526,033	198,582,116	37,252,867	36,163,245
Reinsurance contract liabilities	16,055,190	20,156,045	1,997,093	1,860,306
Other liabilities	22,191,173	18,773,923	27,949,458	26,930,541
Bank borrowings	68,460,906	69,235,997	44,660,937	44,643,997
Corporate tax payable	6,089,105	7,168,025	28,031	28,031
Total liabilities	306,322,407	313,916,106	111,888,386	109,626,120
Total equity and liabilities	433,012,858	435,622,412	221,017,074	214,036,374

Unaudited interim condensed separate and consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive Income				
for the three months ended 31 March 2025				
	Group		Parent Company	
	31 Mar 2025	31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2025	31 Mar 2024
	RO (Unaudited)	RO (Unaudited)	RO (Unaudited)	RO (Unaudited)
Insurance revenue	94,104,083	77,963,398	34,132,307	27,100,769
Insurance service expense	(76,916,390)	(76,222,867)	(31,854,370)	(29,590,690)
Insurance service result before reinsurance contracts held	17,187,693	1,740,531	2,277,937	(2,489,921)
Allocation of reinsurance premiums	(19,706,927)	(14,533,694)	(7,844,771)	(6,189,201)
Amounts recoverable from reinsurers for incurred claims	7,338,303	11,744,232	6,816,194	6,182,732
Net income/expense from reinsurance contracts held	(12,368,624)	(2,789,462)	(1,028,577)	(6,469)
Insurance service result	4,819,069	(1,048,931)	1,249,360	(2,496,390)
Investment income - net	3,498,913	3,346,299	787,329	735,795
Share of profit from subsidiaries	-	-	3,489,260	17,990
Expected credit losses on financial assets	(6,535)	(46,258)	(1,266)	(11,333)
Total investment income	3,492,378	3,300,041	4,275,323	742,452
Insurance finance expenses for insurance contracts issued	(1,582,390)	(1,311,279)	(255,449)	(191,535)
Reinsurance finance income for reinsurance contracts held	1,204,058	634,323	381,431	316,314
Net financial result	(378,332)	(676,956)	125,982	124,779
Other operating income	420,725	2,708,300	14,122	2,517,562
Finance cost	(1,089,891)	(1,047,243)	(698,309)	(1,037,424)
Non attributable Expenses	(2,316,222)	(3,650,270)	(682,737)	(842,935)
Profit / (loss) before tax	4,947,727	(415,059)	4,283,741	(991,956)
Corporate tax	(726,032)	(246,200)	(199,142)	111,837
Profit / (loss) for the year	4,221,695	(661,259)	4,084,599	(880,119)
Profit / (loss) for the period attributable to:				
Equity holders of the Parent Company	4,084,599	(880,119)	4,084,599	(880,119)
Non-controlling interests	137,096	218,860	-	-
	4,221,695	(661,259)	4,084,599	(880,119)
Other comprehensive income				
(Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss):				
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	10,796	11,901	10,796	11,901
Changes in fair value of debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income – net	603,604	(363,223)	204,142	(370,023)
(Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss):				
Share of FVOCI from subsidiaries	-	-	476,206	(207,372)
Change in value of investments carried at fair value through other comprehensive income (unrealized gain – Equity investments	148,108	133,985	(57,251)	154,289
Movement in other reseves	(58)	-	(58)	-
Other comprehensive income	762,450	(217,337)	633,835	(411,205)
Total comprehensive income / (loss) for the year	4,984,145	(878,596)	4,718,434	(1,291,324)
Total comprehensive Loss for the period attributable to:				
Equity holders of the Parent Company	4,718,434	(1,291,324)	4,718,434	(1,291,324)
Non-controlling interests	265,711	412,728	-	-
	4,984,145	(878,596)	4,718,434	(1,291,324)

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2.4mn tonnes recycling boosts circular economy

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman recycled 2.4mn tonnes of construction and demolition waste in 2024, marking a significant step in its push for environmental sustainability and circular economy growth.

The achievement was highlighted during a two-day workshop titled 'Environmental Sustainability of Construction and Demolition Waste Management: Challenges and Opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman', organised by the Environment Authority (EA) in cooperation with be'ah.

Dr Mohammed bin Saif al Kalbani, Director General of Environmental Affairs at EA, said



the workshop addressed the state of construction and demolition waste management in Oman, outlining key challenges and opportunities.

"The initiative reflects Oman's commitment to environmental protection, pollution control, and the circular economy – all of

which are integral to achieving balanced economic growth and sustainability in line with Oman Vision 2040," he said.

Kalbani noted that EA is working with public and private stakeholders to strengthen waste management regulations. Recent efforts include the launch of the National Waste Management Policy, the drafting of a Waste Sector Law, and the issuance of integrated waste management regulations.

As part of these efforts, EA has licensed 32 sites across various governorates for the reception and storage of construction and demolition waste through the first quarter of 2025. Ten of these sites alone accounted for the recycling of 2.4mn tonnes of waste in 2024.

However, Kalbani warned that large volumes of waste remain unrecycled, with some entities opting for unsustainable practices like dredging wadis, dumping in public areas, and unregulated soil transport. He emphasised the need for stricter regulations and incentives to curb these practices.

To further support recycling, the EA is proposing that government and private infrastructure projects be required to source a portion of raw materials from recycled waste.

The workshop also reviewed regional and international best practices and explored strategies to enhance public-private partnerships, promote green investments, and strengthen national recycling capabilities.

Sessions covered the development of a clear regulatory framework for waste management, including binding legislation, technical standards, private-sector incentives, and effective monitoring systems to ensure compliance.



Muscat, Tender Board to host first Governorates' Ambassadors Forum

Muscat - The Governorate of Muscat, in cooperation with the Secretariat General of the Tender Board, will host the first Governorates' Ambassadors Forum from May 20-22.

The event aims to strengthen institutional integration and exchange expertise among various government entities.

The forum will bring together specialists and professionals in project management and administrative governance from the offices of the governors across Oman.

The forum seeks to establish effective communication channels between stakeholders, share best practices in contracts, tenders, and project management, and support balanced development. It also aims to enhance governmental coordination at the governorate level while showcasing key projects implemented in Muscat.

The agenda includes an official opening ceremony, followed by specialised sessions and



workshops.

On the second day, participants will conduct a field visit to observe vital projects in Muscat, bridging theoretical knowledge with practical application.

The forum will conclude on its third day with the presentation of working papers by experts from Muscat Governorate and the Secretariat General of the Tender Board.

This event serves as an opportunity to enhance the local capacities and refine operational tools within the governors' offices, aligning with Oman's decentralisation strategy to empower governorates with broader mandates. It also contributes to balanced and sustainable development across all regions.

It is worth mentioning that this is the first forum of its kind organised by the Tender Board in partnership with the governorates. It is set to be held periodically, rotating among different governorates, to standardise practices and improve institutional frameworks in contracts and tenders.

Compensation for property owners affected by rail project

Muscat - Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has called on citizens whose properties are affected by the North Batinah railway project to complete formalities for cash and in-kind compensation.

In an official announcement, the ministry urged affected residents to visit the Directorate General of Housing and Urban Planning in Suhar between May 18 and May 30, during regular working hours.

The compensation process applies to all land uses im-



pacted by the rail project - residential, commercial and industrial. Applicants are required to present original identification

documents. In cases where the property owner is unable to attend in person, a valid power of attorney is needed. The original title deed of the affected property must also be submitted.

The Oman-UAE Railway Project, which involves investments amounting to RO1.15bn and spans 238km, is part of Oman's wider push to expand its transport and logistics infrastructure and is expected to play a significant role in connecting key economic zones and reducing travel time.

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Dhofar youth contest offers RO11,000 in cash prizes

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth has launched the second edition of the Qeemah competition under the theme 'Innovation in Local Industries' in cooperation with Dhofar Governor's Office.

The competition aims to encourage young people in Dhofar to develop creative, non-traditional solutions to modern challenges in alignment with Oman's economic diversification goals under Vision 2040.

Mohammed Abdullah Batmira, Director of Qeemah, said this year's competition is divided into two main categories – one for entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and the second for high school students.

"The competition includes



several stages, such as training workshops and an 'ideas race', culminating in an awards cere-

mony on May 22 with cash prizes of up to RO11,000 for the top three entries. Winning pro-

jects will be mentored till August 2025."

According to Batmira, the

competition aims to generate local added value by tapping into Dhofar's natural resources, traditional crafts and economic potential. "The goal is to help participants turn their ideas into



viable projects - whether technical, entrepreneurial or industrial – and reach regional and international markets."

The competition's objectives include supporting economic diversification, creating employment opportunities, guiding youth to invest in local resources, and raising Dhofar's innovation index. It also aims to

foster the development of competitive national products and promote awareness of the economic benefits of locally added value.

In addition to its direct goals,

creative expression and investment.

Batmira informed that teams of up to five members can participate, and entries must be original, practical and clearly

The goal of the Qeemah competition is to help participants turn their ideas into viable projects - whether technical, entrepreneurial or industrial – and reach regional and international markets

MOHAMMED ABDULLAH BATMIRA

the competition seeks to enhance the SME ecosystem, build youth capacity in volunteerism and event management, and establish Dhofar as a hub for local innovation. It also aims to highlight economic opportunities across the governorate's wilayats, encourage a culture of healthy competition among youth, and provide platforms for

presented in a concise concept note. Ideas must not have been previously registered as intellectual property.

The Qeemah competition is part of Oman's broader push to support innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly among its younger population, as the sultanate diversifies its economy beyond oil.



ظفار للأغذية والاستثمار (ش م ع)
DHO FAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT (SAOG)



P.O. Box 1220 – PC 211 – Phone 23225381 – Fax 23225258

Chairman's Report

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the unaudited results regarding the company's performance for the three-month period ended on 31st March 2025.

Financial Performance

Parent Company

The revenue for the period stood at RO 10.06 million, reflecting a notable increase of 3% compared to RO 9.74 million compared to the corresponding period of last year 2024. Our gross profit margin remained flat, 23.30% compared to 23.34% in 2024. The substantial increase in revenue can be attributed to an increase in volume. The company's net profit after tax reported RO 0.40 million compared to RO 0.24 million for the same period last year.

Group Company

The revenue for the period stood at RO 26.58 million, reflecting a notable increase of 18% compared to RO 23.44 million compared to the corresponding period of last year 2024. Our gross profit margin reduced, reaching 15.84% compared to 17.37% in 2024. This reduction is majorly contributed by Dhofar Poultry Co. The group's net profit is reported to be RO 0.49 million compared to a loss of RO 6,236 for the same period last year.

Corporate Governance & Internal Control

The Company and its Board of Directors believe that to succeed on a sustainable basis, it must maintain high standards of corporate governance towards its shareholders, employees, consumers, and community. To this end, the Board has constituted the Audit Committee and the Executive, Nomination and Remuneration Committee. The Company has always and will remain focused on good corporate governance.

Your company has adhered to all the regulations covering corporate governance in Oman and your Board is fully committed to ensure compliance of all the applicable rules and regulations. The Board has taken all possible measures to ensure full compliance with the rules and regulations. To improve the internal audit process, the board has outsourced the internal audit functions to an external audit firm.

Human Resources

Your company supports the national recruitment policy of the government. In line with this, local nationals are currently working at various levels of management and constitute 42% of the workforce. Graduate trainees' programs are in place to train the qualified young candidates. We continue to develop our staff to lay a solid foundation for our future growth with great emphasis being initiated to develop national talent.

Future Outlook

"Oman vision 2040" strategy emphasis on diversification into non-oil segment, logistics and services and increase importance on food security initiatives. Your company is well placed in this segment and will be able to grow in line with government initiatives. The domestic market is highly price sensitive and controlled by government price control authorities.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my fellow board members and our shareholders, customers, lenders, suppliers and employees for their continued support and commitment. I would also like to thank the CMA & MSX for their support and cooperation.

We wish further development, stability, progress, and prosperity for our beloved country under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq, and we wish him good health and longevity.

Said Ahmed Safrar
Chairman

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income For the period ended 31 March 2025

	Consolidated FS			DFI		
	31 Mar 2025 RO'000	31 Mar 2024 RO'000	31 Dec 2024 RO'000	31 Mar 2025 RO'000	31 Mar 2024 RO'000	31 Dec 2024 RO'000
Non-Current Assets:						
Property, plant and equipment	32,851,468	35,899,208	33,493,000	19,718,134	18,285,411	20,198,000
Right of use assets	1,405,077	1,541,036	1,496,000	789,088	834,165	845,000
Intangible Asset	35,671	62,819	39,000	2,323	10,412	3,000
Investment in subsidiary	-	-	-	17,581,709	17,581,709	17,582,000
Investment in associates	860,931	921,532	884,000	812,212	812,212	812,000
Investments available for sale	11,521,885	10,188,208	11,846,000	11,521,885	10,188,208	11,846,000
Investment property	2,090,000	2,090,000	2,090,000	7,205,830	2,090,000	7,206,000
Biological assets	4,550,417	4,244,883	4,458,000	4,550,417	4,244,883	4,458,000
Other Non-current assets	70,875	77,991	70,000	-	-	-
Deferred tax asset	-	101,891	-	-	96,891	-
Total Non- Current Assets	53,386,324	55,127,569	54,376,000	62,181,598	54,143,891	62,950,000
Current Assets:						
Inventories & biological assets	12,763,121	18,013,559	16,960,000	7,547,601	9,186,806	10,053,000
Trade receivables, prepayments and others	16,558,633	13,505,337	16,752,000	7,753,196	9,473,028	5,784,000
Bank balances and cash	1,971,158	4,453,774	2,088,000	706,838	517,461	403,000
Total Current Assets	31,292,912	35,972,670	35,800,000	16,007,635	19,177,295	16,240,000
Total Assets	84,679,235	91,100,239	90,176,000	78,189,232	73,321,186	79,190,000
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND LIABILITIES						
Shareholders' Equity						
Share capital	17,431,000	17,431,000	17,431,000	17,431,000	17,431,154	17,431,000
Legal reserve	2,875,000	2,875,000	2,875,000	2,875,000	2,875,000	2,875,000
Voluntary reserve	3,712,000	3,712,000	3,712,000	3,712,000	3,712,000	3,712,000
Revaluation reserve	11,573,396	14,171,572	12,014,000	8,004,396	10,170,936	8,445,000
Fair value reserve	3,547,181	2,151,031	3,871,000	3,547,181	2,151,031	3,871,000
Retained earnings	50,695	635,075	(968,000)	6,462,527	3,867,776	5,543,000
Shareholders' interest attributable to shareholders of Parent Company	39,189,272	40,975,673	38,935,000	42,032,104	40,207,896	41,877,000
Minority interest	(173,239)	(86,000)	(159,000)	-	-	-
Total equity	39,016,033	40,889,673	38,776,000	42,032,104	40,207,896	41,877,000
LIABILITIES						
Non-current Liabilities						
Non-current portion of term loans	12,923,038	13,575,676	10,913,000	10,044,206	11,000,000	10,250,000
Employees' end of service benefits	1,471,696	1,316,726	1,429,000	831,096	662,378	812,000
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	1,222,727	1,266,372	922,000	566,516	486,902	571,000
Deferred tax liability	1,628,805	2,811,688	2,324,000	1,201,363	1,794,979	1,281,000
	17,246,266	18,970,462	15,588,000	12,643,181	13,944,259	12,914,000
Current liabilities						
Short term bank borrowings	20,653,563	20,830,164	22,648,000	9,978,846	8,031,085	9,715,000
Current portion of term loans	1,975,750	1,395,082	2,356,000	2,180,000	2,287,582	2,180,000
Accounts and other payables	5,377,924	8,416,975	10,085,000	11,065,723	8,462,798	12,189,000
Current portion of lease liabilities	344,995	411,821	710,000	289,379	387,566	315,000
Income tax payable	64,704	186,063	13,000	-	-	-
	28,416,937	31,240,104	35,812,000	23,513,947	19,169,031	24,399,000
Total liabilities	45,663,202	50,210,566	51,400,000	36,157,128	33,113,290	37,313,000
Total equity, liabilities and minority interest	84,679,235	91,100,239	90,176,000	78,189,232	73,321,186	79,190,000

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income For the period ended 31 March 2025

	Consolidated		DFI_YTD	
	31 Mar 2025 RO'000	31 Mar 2024 RO'000	31 Mar 2025 RO'000	31 Mar 2024 RO'000
Net Sales	26,505,276	22,339,210	9,983,869	9,637,810
Service Income	75,735	97,579	75,735	97,579
Less:- Cost of Sales	22,370,839	18,539,618	7,715,725	7,463,507
Gross Profit	4,210,173	3,897,170	2,343,879	2,271,881
GP Ratio %	15.9%	17.4%	23.5%	23.6%
Administrative Expense	1,099,134	1,311,762	682,452	520,918
Selling & Marketing Expenses	2,081,947	2,113,011	1,262,987	1,234,268
Director's remuneration	60,500	101,875	16,500	28,000
Total operating expenses	3,241,582	3,526,648	1,961,939	1,783,186
Profit / (loss) from operations	968,591	370,522	381,940	488,695
Rental Income	20,460	20,460	185,960	23,460
Dividend Income	195,698	106,737	195,698	106,737
Other Operating Income / (loss)	21,472	80,417	1,694	2,321
Share of results of the associate - DBFC	(11,950)	48,700	-	-
Finance cost	642,255	633,072	364,122	382,705
Net Profit before taxation (PBT)	552,017	(6,236)	401,170	238,508
Taxation	64,704	-	-	-
Net profit / (loss) for the year	487,313	(6,236)	401,170	238,508
Movement in Fair value reserve	(323,819)	(699,969)	(323,819)	(699,969)
Total comprehensive loss for the year	163,494	(706,205)	77,351	(461,461)
Shareholders of parent company	501,552	3,018	-	-
Non - controlling interest	(14,239)	(9,254)	-	-
Net profit or loss attributable to :	487,313	(6,236)	401,170	238,508
Shareholders of parent company	177,733	(696,951)	-	-
Non - controlling interest	(14,239)	(9,254)	-	-
Total comprehensive income attributable to:	163,494	(706,205)	77,351	(461,461)

Experts discuss AI integration in judicial work



Our Correspondent
Muscat

An international symposium titled 'Anticipating Artificial Intelligence in Judicial Work' opened on Wednesday in Muscat under the auspices of Shaikh Ghosn bin Hilal al Alawi, Chairman of State Audit Institution.

The two-day event seeks to explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) within judicial systems, focusing on innovation, sustainability and future applications. Key topics of discussion include the legal, technical and ethical challenges associated with integrating AI in the judiciary.

In his opening remarks, Issa bin Hamad al Azri, Secretary-General of Supreme Judicial Council, highlighted the opportunities AI presents for judicial development. "AI represents a significant opportunity to advance judicial work, provided it is used thoughtfully and under responsible human supervision guided by the core principles of justice and the rule of law," he said.

The symposium brings together government ministers, dignitaries, legal professionals, AI experts, academics and private

sector representatives to foster dialogue and collaboration.

Dr Salem bin Zuwaid al Hashmi, Assistant Secretary-General for Planning and Digital Transformation in the council, emphasised the symposium's goal of creating a professional platform for exchange between legal scholars and AI specialists.

"The objective is to anticipate the role of AI in judicial systems amid rapid digital transformation, address emerging legal and ethical challenges, while promoting innovation and efficiency in the judiciary," he noted.

Hashmi added that the initiative aligns with the Supreme Judicial Council's strategic vision of adopting international best practices and advancing the use of technology in Oman's judicial processes.

"This symposium marks a key step in positioning Oman as a regional leader in applying the rule of law through advanced technologies such as AI," he said.

The event is structured around three core themes: legal, ethical and security concerns; practical applications of AI in judicial procedures; and future directions for international cooperation in AI and justice.

Court slaps RO3,000 fine on car dealer for breach of contract

Muscat - The Primary Court in Nakhal has fined a commercial establishment RO3,000 and terminated a vehicle purchase contract following a consumer complaint over a delayed and defective car delivery.

In a complaint filed by a woman with the Consumer Protection Department in Barka, she stated that she purchased a 2022 model year used vehicle from a dealer for RO14,450 with delivery scheduled for January 25, 2025. However, the dealer not only failed to deliver the vehicle on time but supplied a different model with multiple defects despite the delay.

Following the complaint, the matter was referred to the Public Prosecution and then to the court, which found three defen-

dants guilty of two misdemeanours - failing to provide the agreed service and failing to disclose the vehicle's condition in the contract or invoice.

Each defendant was fined RO500 for each offence, resulting in a total fine of RO3,000. The court also ordered the dealer to refund the full amount paid by the consumer (RO14,450), compensate the customer an additional RO500 and cover all legal expenses.

Consumer Protection Authority reaffirmed its commitment to protecting consumer rights and warned that it would continue to take strict legal action against violators. It also urged all commercial establishments to adhere to applicable laws and regulations to avoid similar legal action.

Oman opens trade office in Washington

Washington, US – The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) inaugurated the Omani Commercial Office in the United States during a ceremony held at the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Washington, DC. The event was held under the patronage of H E Talal bin Sulaiman al Rahbi, the sultanate’s ambassador to the US.

The Omani Commercial Office in the US aims to support Omani exports to the American market, promote the import of high-quality US goods, attract American investments into Oman, and enable Omani companies to expand into US markets and strengthen bilateral trade partnerships.

The office will also play a pivotal role in coordinating trade delegations, organising business meetings, and providing advice and consultations on how to leverage the Free Trade Agreement between Oman and the US. Additionally, it will issue economic reports to support decision-making in export development and mutual investment.

H E Faisal bin Abdullah al Rawas, Chairman of OCCI, said that the opening of the trade office in the United States is a significant strategic step towards



empowering the Omani private sector and enhancing its presence in global markets. He noted that it aligns with OCCI’s broader efforts to expand trade and investment opportunities and to establish direct communication channels with major global economies.

“We hope that the trade office will contribute to supporting Omani exports, attracting quality investments, and providing an effective platform for enhancing trade exchange between the

Omani Commercial Office in the US aims to support Omani exports to the US market, promote the import of high-quality American goods, attract US investments into Oman, and enable Omani companies to expand into US market and strengthen bilateral trade partnerships

business communities of both countries. It will also facilitate the exchange of information on regulatory procedures for Omani products entering the US market, which will positively im-

pact the growth of the Omani private sector and its contribution to achieving sustainable economic development,” said H E Rawas.

For her part, Ibtisam bint

Ahmed al Farooji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion, explained that the launch of the Omani Commer-

cial Office in the United States falls within Oman’s strategic objective to increase the flow of foreign direct investment and its contribution to the national economy.

She indicated that this move aims to offer broader opportunities for American companies to enter the Omani market and benefit from the competitive business environment the sultanate offers. She emphasised that the establishment of the office is part of a wider plan to ex-

pand Oman’s foreign representative offices in key international markets, in order to bolster its global presence and intensify investment and trade promotion efforts.

“The US market is one of the most important commercial partners for Oman, particularly in light of the Free Trade Agreement between the two countries, which paves the way for greater trade facilitation and qualitative investment opportunities. This office will enhance access to commercial data and opportunities,” Farooji added.

H E Talal bin Sulaiman al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United States, described the office as a new milestone in the commercial relations between the two nations.

“This office is not merely a commercial representation designed to support Omani companies in the US market, but also an effective platform for direct engagement between the business communities of both countries. It serves as a gateway to broader cooperation and trade exchange, particularly in key sectors such as industry, technology, and clean energy,” he said.

Abraj Energy Services signs deal with BP for drilling rig in Block 61

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Abraj Energy Services has signed a contract with BP Oman to provide a drilling rig for operations in Block 61, with the rig expected to become operational in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The agreement was formalised on the sidelines of the Oman Petroleum & Energy Show (OPES) and Oman Sustainability Week (OSW) 2025. This partnership is set to reinforce Abraj’s position as a reliable and leading partner in Oman’s oil and energy sector.

The contract also reflects Abraj’s continued commitment to operational excellence, occupational safety, and the delivery of innovative services and solutions that support and advance the energy sector in Oman.

In a statement to Oman News Agency, Eng Saif bin Said al Hamhami, CEO of Abraj Energy Services, said, “We are proud of this strategic partnership with BP Oman to provide a drilling rig in Block 61, building on a collabora-



The new partnership with BP Oman is set to reinforce Abraj’s position as a reliable and leading partner in the sultanate’s oil and energy sector

tion that has spanned more than a decade in the drilling services sector. This marks a new milestone in our efforts to expand our operational reach and strengthen

our presence in the local market through high-quality, impactful projects.”

Hamhami added that the agreement demonstrates the strategic partners’ confidence in Abraj’s efficiency and capability to deliver safe, effective operational solutions that adhere to the highest international standards. He emphasised the company’s steadfast commitment to maximising in-country value, investing in the development of national talent, and enhancing operational sustainability.

Saudi’s AviLease places order for 30 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – AviLease, the global aircraft lessor headquartered in Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday announced that it has signed an agreement with Boeing for an order of 30 Boeing 737-8 aircraft.

Marking AviLease’s first direct OEM order, this strategic investment will enable the company to provide its global customer base with new-technology, fuel-efficient fleet solutions, while simultaneously fostering the growth of the Saudi Arabian aviation ecosystem. Deliveries are scheduled through 2032.

Chairman of AviLease Fahad AISaif said, “This strategic order reflects AviLease’s long-term ambition of becoming a top 10 global leader in aircraft leasing,



while strengthening AviLease’s position as a national champion. This aligns with the mandate of PIF (Public Investment Fund) to contribute to the goals of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 and the National Aviation Strategy.”

Chief Executive Officer of AviLease Edward O’Byrne commented, “We are pleased to conclude our first direct OEM order,

complementing our growth strategy towards the top of the industry. Building on our recently achieved investment grade ratings, this transaction proves our ability to transact across all market channels, including sale and lease-back, secondary trading, M&A, and now direct OEM purchasing. SPA



AL FAJAR AL ALAMIA CO. SAOG

PO BOX 78, QURUM CITY CENTRE, PC 102, SULTANATE OF OMAN

Group’s Unaudited Financial Results for the nine months ended 31 March 2025

Chairman’s Report

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present to you the report on the activities and unaudited financial results of the company for the 3rd quarter ended 31 March 2025.

1. Operating Results
For the nine-month period ending March 31, 2025, the Group reported a 5% year-on-year increase in total revenue, reaching RO 7.456 million compared to RO 7.088 million in the same period of the previous year. This growth was primarily driven by the strong performance of the drilling and blasting operations in the Sultanate of Oman, despite ongoing technical challenges in the UAE operations during the first half of the fiscal year. Looking ahead, the Group expects further improvement in overall turnover, supported by alternative arrangements already implemented for the UAE blasting operations. These measures are anticipated to restore normalcy and stabilize performance in the near term. The parent company’s financial performance mirrored this positive momentum, recording an operating profit of RO 0.762 million—more than double the RO 0.365 million achieved in the same period last year.

At the consolidated level, the Group reported an operating loss of RO 0.711 million for the nine-month period. However, this represents a significant improvement compared to the operating loss of RO 1.464 million reported in the corresponding period last year. While the consolidated figures still reflect a loss, the sustained progress in Oman offers a promising outlook for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Group’s consolidated net loss stood at RO 2.100 million for the nine months ended March 31, 2025, largely attributable to underperformance in the UAE. This marks an improvement from the net loss of RO 2.839 million recorded in the prior-year period. The reduction in losses highlights the Group’s ongoing efforts to strengthen its operational base in Oman and address structural challenges in the UAE.

2. Operations
In Oman, the Group’s drilling and blasting division, Technical Services and Rock Blasting Co., is experiencing strong growth, driven by the commencement of multiple infrastructure projects in the first half of the fiscal year. With additional projects anticipated in the second half, demand for these services is expected to rise further. In response, the Group is actively enhancing its operational capabilities to capitalize on this upward trend.

The Group’s gypsum operations, managed by Awam Minerals Co., have significantly increased production, currently reaching between 80,000 and 100,000 tons per month. Plans are underway to further scale output to 125,000–150,000 tons per month by year-end. This expansion will play a critical role in driving revenue growth and improving the Group’s cash flow position.

In the UAE, the drilling and blasting operations under Technical Drilling & Blasting Co. encountered administrative and structural challenges in the first half of the fiscal year, resulting in a temporary dip in revenue. However, management has implemented corrective measures and expects operations to normalize by the end of the fiscal year. A return to stable performance is anticipated to help the Group regain momentum in the UAE market.

Meanwhile, construction of the new explosives manufacturing facility in Siji, Fujairah—operated by Geodynamics Mideast Co.—is nearing completion. Production is scheduled to commence shortly, pending final regulatory approvals. This milestone will further strengthen the Group’s footprint in the UAE’s drilling, blasting, and explosives sectors, providing a substantial boost to overall business performance.

3. Health, Safety and the Environment
Your Company is operated in a safe and efficient manner in strict compliance with the highest safety standards and in accordance with the prevailing Royal Oman Police and UAE authorities Explosives Rules and Regulations.

No accidents or environmental incidents were reported during the period ended 31 March 2025.

Your Company was in compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance and other applicable rules and regulations during the 9 months ending 31st March 2025.

4. Future Outlook
The Group continues to maintain a robust order book and is strategically positioned to secure additional infrastructure projects in Oman. These upcoming projects are expected to significantly drive revenue growth across both its drilling and blasting operations, as well as the explosives division. Additionally, the Group anticipates a moderate increase in revenue from its mining segment, supported by strong market demand for gypsum and limestone.

In the UAE, drilling and blasting activities are gradually returning to normal levels, which is expected to further bolster the Group’s revenue performance. Meanwhile, the Group is nearing completion of its state-of-the-art Geodynamic facility and is in the final stages of securing the necessary regulatory approvals to commence production shortly.

Looking ahead, a new explosive handling regulation set to take effect in 2025-2026 presents fresh opportunities. The Group has already implemented proactive measures to comply with this upcoming legislation, placing it in a favorable position to strengthen its market leadership in the UAE and across the Drilling and Blasting sectors.

Moreover, the Awam Gypsum Quarry is progressing well and is projected to ramp up production to approximately 125,000–150,000 tons per month by the end of the fiscal year. This increased output is expected to make a meaningful contribution to the Group’s overall revenue growth and enhance its cash flow in the near term.

5. Acknowledgements
The Members of the Board wish to record their gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haithem bin Tariq bin Taimur and the Government of Oman for the successful efforts made to improve development and prosperity within the Country.

The Directors also wish to thank the Royal Oman Police, other Government bodies, our valued customers and Banker for their cooperation and support.

Haythem Mahmood Abd Al-Nabi Macki
Chairman

OMAN SHINES IN CBSE

Indian School Muscat bursts into celebration after success

Indian School Muscat sparkles in pride as Class X CBSE Board Examination Results for the academic year 2024-25 usher in victory. A total of 555 students appeared for the examination and have marked a stunning performance.

With an unprecedented record of 20 students scoring A1 in all subjects adding to the momentous performance of the school. High score of 98.6% was achieved by Goutham Radhakrishnan, Shaurya Saraswat and Shlok Joshi to share the first position in the school. Aswathi Raj was just marginally below with 98.4 to take the second position. By scoring 98.2 Diya Mehnaz Jasmine occupied the third place.

The school's average score is 81.31%.

It is a matter of brimming pride to witness 48 students scoring 100 out of 100, 27.74% students scoring above 90%, 62.70% students above 80% and 73.87% students scoring above distinction.

Remarkably 3.6% students secured A1 in all five subjects, 18.08% A1's in subjects' ap-

FIRST POSITION			SECOND POSITION	THIRD POSITION
				
Goutham Radhakrishnan 98.6%	Shaurya Saraswat 98.6%	Shlok Joshi 98.6%	Aswathi Raj 98.4%	Diya Mehnaz Jasmine 98.2%

peared and 42.34% A1 and A2 grade together. Subject-wise school average is 94.00% in Painting, 83.95% in Sanskrit, 82.98% in English Language and Literature, 81.93% in French, 83.16% in Malayalam and Arabic, 79.80% in Social Science, 79.76% in Science and Home Science, 72.30% in Hindi Course B, 71.60% in Elements of Business and Computer Applications, 71.6%, 75.60% respectively, 74.49% in Mathematics Standard and 57.94% in Mathematics Basics, Physical Activity

Trainer with 90.00% and Artificial Intelligence with 90.69%.

Adding to the golden feathers 48 students scored a perfect score of 100. The following are the vibrant centum holders: in Mathematics Standard - Subramani Manoharan, Diya Mehnaz Jasmine, Diya Anilkumar Nair, Akshat Dang in Sanskrit, in Science by Shaurya Saraswat, Syeda Mehreen Nurati, Shikha Sanish, 100% Score in French by Sarvvesh Senthilkumar, Subramani Manoharan, Vishnu Dheeraj Reddy, Abhigna Sandha,

Kavyapreet Kaur, Shreya Sood, Vaishnavi Poovalur Murugavel, Riya Jeprison, Winola Pacheco, Nivedita Sreegith Nair, Shaurya Saraswat.

Another Perfect Score of 100% in Artificial Intelligence by Ameen bin Ishtiaq Wani, Daniya Tarannum, Mysha Karim, Ananya Parayadil Sreejesh, Mukeshkumar Vijayakuma, Vishnu Dheeraj Reddy Mareddy, Sampurna Sinha, Trishaa Madhukar, Akshat Dang, Amal Ajith Kunmathully, Nishitha Kintali, Ramana Senthil Mohan, Hazem

Rakuman Ali, Karthigai Chelvi Anand Kumar, Ruthvika Kurupati, Shreya Sood, Anirudh Kumar Sundar, Anna Rose Joseph Pulikkathara, Atharv Bansal, Gurjap Singh Dhanoa, Riya Jeprison, Sona Santosh, Shaurya Saraswat, Shikha Sanish in Artificial Intelligence, 100% in Malayalam scored by Aswathi Raj, Sona Santosh, Jeswin Thundil John.

Centum scorers in Arabic are Quraish Murtaza Rashid, Yusra Ayman Punnaqi and Balsam Mohamed Elradi Ali.

Adding to the toppers' list

Goutham Radhakrishnan got school's highest in Social Science with 99%; Balsam Mohamed Elradi Ali in Mathematics Basic (98%); Aswathi Raj in English Communicative (98%). Gleaming with pride, Manan Varsheney and Pritika Kishore Kumar got school's highest 97% in Hindi Course B, Mohammed Aqib bin Faisal in Painting (94%). Devadathan Kattoor Vadakkummuri Biju topped English Language and Literature with 93% and Ajmal Ansary topped Physical Activity Trainer with 92%. Aabha Girish

Deshpande got school's highest of 87% in Home Science, while Computer Applications by Aayush Sandesh Kadam with 82%, yet another topper for Elements of Business is Aabha Girish Deshpande with 76%.

ISM management committee president Dr Kiran G R lauded the students for their meticulous and sterling performance. He further extended heartfelt appreciation to the teachers and parents for their commitment and alliance that has always brought glory to the institution.

Principal Rakesh Joshi credited the epoch-making victory to the immense hard work and determination of ISM scholars. He stated that the teachers and parents have been great bolsters in guiding and boosting their confidence at all times and reaffirmed that the beautiful blend and collaboration of the trio has taken the school to the summit of success. He extended hearty congratulations to the toppers and all the students as they cross a milestone of their lives and dedicated this triumph to the united community at large.

Indian School Muscat Class XII students set new benchmark

Indian School Muscat reaffirmed its stature as a distinguished leader in academic excellence even in Class XII results.

The CBSE Class XII results 2025 have illuminated the unwavering grit and scholarly prowess of ISM's graduating batch. Demonstrating resilience and an undeterred determination, the students have triumphed across all three streams - Science, Commerce, and Humanities, carving an indelible mark in the academic landscape.

Out of the 409 students who appeared for the CBSE Class XII

examinations, 32.6% secured an A1 grade overall, contributing to a highly commendable school average of 82.4%.

The Commerce stream recorded the highest average of 83.2% followed by Science stream with 82.6% and Humanities at 80.0%. Impressively, 54.9% of subject grades fell within the A1 and A2 categories. 22 students achieved perfect scores of 100 in various subjects, exemplifying the school's academic distinction.

In the Science stream, Suneet Latish Rohra emerged as the top

scorer with 97.2%, followed closely by Ram Madhav Sreekumar, Stuti Jitendrakumar Prajapati with 97.0%. The 3rd position is shared by Aradhana Singh, Asaph Samuel and Sreenidhi Chandrabose with 96.2%. The Commerce stream witnessed a first place with Sanghvi Anand securing an exceptional 97.8%, while Adithya Raja stood second with 96%, and Aarav Clarence Fernandes secured third place with 95.6%.

In the Humanities, Keyuri Prashant Buranpur led with 97.8%, followed by Arya Girish

Nair at 96.4% and Dharshini Sathishkumar Jayashree at 93.6%.

The remarkable centum achievers include students who attained a perfect 100 in diverse subjects - 1 in Chemistry, 1 in Mathematics, 3 in Artificial Intelligence and 2 in Engineering Drawing, 4 in Sculpture, 8 in Painting and 3 in Marketing. These achievements not only represent the academic brilliance of the students but also the tireless efforts of the faculty.

Stuti Jitendrakumar Prajapati topped Mathematics with

100%. Nuha Shanawaz also scored a perfect centum in Chemistry.

In Artificial Intelligence, Suneet Latish Rohra, Pranav R Kurup and Maheeka Mahanta topped the subject with a perfect centum. Alan Joseph Nibu and Japnoor Singh stood out in Engineering Drawing with whopping centums. In Painting the subject toppers were Sejal Ketan Lad, Keyuri Prashant Buranpur, Kriti Yalangi, Nasima Khatun Nasimuddin Seikh, Gungun Gurnani, Shivananda Aklayi, Akshara Venu and Pranavi

Sridharan achieved perfect scores. Sculpture witnessed amazing centums with the brilliant performances of Divya Jignesh Kumar Gohil, Gouri Asokan Menon, Kanishka and Aakamsha Bindu. Zohya Sultana, Keyuri Prashant Buranpur and Arya Girish Nair topped in Marketing with exemplary centums.

The academic brilliance of this cohort is further reflected in the distribution of marks. A notable -22.7% of students scored above 90%, while 62.3% achieved more than 80%. Fur-

thermore, 80.7% surpassed 75%, and an impressive 90.2% of students scored above 70%. 31 distinguished themselves by securing A1 grades in all five subjects

President of the School Management Committee, Dr Kiran G R, extended his heartfelt congratulations to all achievers on behalf of the management. He expressed immense gratitude to the dedicated faculty, the school leadership, and the ever-supportive parents whose collective efforts were instrumental in achieving this towering success.

Indian School Ghubra students bring home top honours

The students of Class X and Class XII from Indian School Ghubra were overjoyed to receive their results announced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday.

The announcement of the results generated a tremendous amount of excitement among the students, parents, and teachers, as the students' hard work and dedication had finally paid off. ISG has created a niche for itself with its constant illustrious performance in the last few years.

A total of 237 students appeared for the Class X examination, from which 131 students scored 90% and above which is

55% of the total number of students who appeared. A whopping 87% of students have scored above 80%, which is indeed a remarkable achievement.

Angela Mariam Jacob became the school topper with an aggregate score of 99%. Gouri Reghu came second with 98.8% and Dhanya Krishnaji became third with 98.6%.

The students who secured a perfect score of 100 are: Aditya Anoop, Anchal Poozhikunnam Rahim, Angela Mariam Jacob, Anithra Anbukumar, Arif Rihan Bin Shihab, Daksh Gulecha, Dhanya Krishnaji, Ezra Merin Jophy, Gouri Reghu, Jeon Jojo,

FIRST POSITION	SECOND POSITION	THIRD POSITION
		
Angela Mariam Jacob 99%	Gouri Reghu 98.8%	Dhanya Krishnaji 98.6%

Luiza Maria Fernandes, Malavika Sreekumar, Manali Suraj Naik Gaunkar, Neo Shaun Allwyn,

Nikhil Vishwakarma, Prithvin Shimna Prasad, Sayuj Santhosh, Siya Tejas Patel, Srishti Chan-

dramouli, Suhaani Kanthraj, Sumedha Saha and Ziyana Fathima (Artificial Intelligence),

Arif Rihan Bin Shihab, Gouri Reghu, Jessica Benty Jose and Satvik Kumar (Mathematics), Anchal Poozhikunnam Rahim, Angela Mariam Jacob and Gouri Reghu (Malayalam), Abhinav Parasher, Akshara Manoj and Nikhil Vishwakarma (Sanskrit), Farzana Parakkal Mujeeb and Neo Shaun Allwyn (French), Dhanya Krishnaji (Science).

The Subject Toppers in the other subjects are: Abdulahad Khan, Asifulla, Jessica Benty Jose, Mohammad Abdurrah Khan and Zohair Ahmed Shaikh (99% in Arabic), Angela Mariam Jacob and Srishti Chandramouli (99% in Social Science), Raihan Rafeek

(98% in Painting, 95% in Physical Activity Trainer and 86% in Home Science), Adarsh Sankar and Ziyana Fathima (97% in English) and Darshana Nair Sunil (95% in Hindi.).

Principal Papri Ghosh congratulated all the students on their exemplary performance and motivated them to keep up the great work, and continue to strive for excellence in all their ventures. She lauded the dedication and perseverance of the students and teachers who left no stone unturned to help the students soar high and also thanked the parents for their constant support.

Indian School Ghubra students make waves in Class XII

At Indian School Ghubra, the belief is 'Success is the sum of small efforts - repeated day in and day out'. Keeping up with the stellar record of academic achievements at the highest level, the ISG students has once again proven with astounding results of Class XII Board Examination results announced by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday.

A total of 163 students appeared for the Examinations. Sixty-six students secured 90% and above. 80% of the students have scored above 80% which

is indeed a remarkable achievement. All the students who appeared for the exam this year have scored above 65%. As always, there are no failures or compartments.

The school average in the Science Stream is 86.31%, in the Commerce Stream is 85.81% and in the Humanities Stream is 87.70%

In the Science stream, out of 97 students who appeared, 36 students scored an aggregate of 90% and above and 78 students scored an aggregate of 80% and above.

In the Commerce stream out of 51 students who appeared, 20 students scored an aggregate of 90% and above and 39 students scored an aggregate of 80% and above.

In the Humanities out of 15 students, 10 students scored 90% and above and 12 students scored above 80 %.

Overall toppers in the Science Stream are Sabyasachi Choudhury (1st with an aggregate of 98.4%), Pranamya (2nd with 97%) and Tanay Samir Adbe (3rd with 96.8%).

In the Commerce Stream,

Sanjana Kuzhivayalil Praveen became 1st with an aggregate score of 97.4%, Nidha Villarvatom Reji 2nd with 97.2% and Unnatha Vythianathan 3rd with 96% in aggregate.

Israa Mohammed Sadique Shaikh came 1st in the Humanities with an aggregate score of 98.4%, Keerthana Aravind and Sakhedkar Shruti Nagraj second with 96.8% and A Benita 3rd with 95.2%.

The students who have scored a Perfect Score of 100 are: Abhinav Ganesh Kumar, Divya Vinayaka Jothi, Madhav

Manish Saki and Syed Aslam in Computer Science, Ashvanth Sivakumar and Mrinali Parasher in Engineering Graphics, Atmika Sudhan and Keerthana Aravind in Psychology, Unnatha Vythianathan, Vrinda Ketan Vasa and Yumna Hameed in Informatics Practices, Israa Mohammed Sadique Shaikh and Sakhedkar Shruti Nagraj in Painting and Keerthana Aravind in Entrepreneurship.

The Subject Toppers in the other subjects are: Farhan Hashim, Hanisha Manish Chawla, Israa Mohammed

Sadique Shaikh, Madhav Manish Saki and Sabyasachi Choudhury (99% in English), Sabyasachi Choudhury (99% in Physics), Pranamya and Bhavi Shreeharsha Kanagala (99% in Chemistry), Bhavi Shreeharsha Kanagala (99% in Biology), Sanjana Kuzhivayalil Praveen (99% in Economics), Aryan Srivastava and Sudeepthi Jagadeesan (99% in Accountancy), Geetika Manoj Nambiar, Sabyasachi Choudhury and Tanay Samir Adbe (98% in Mathematics), Atmika Sudhan and Sudeepthi Jagadeesan (98% in Business

Studies), Israa Mohammed Sadique Shaikh (97% in Sociology), Evangaline John Parackal and Farhan Hashim (96% in Marketing) and Darwsih Duja (93% in Physical Education).

The members of the School Management Committee and Principal Papri Ghosh commended the hard work and the efforts of both students and teachers, supported well by a strong parent community. The Principal congratulated all the stakeholders whose untiring efforts have made this extraordinary result possible.

FTS showcases innovation in power solutions at OPES 2025

Federal Transformers and Switchgears LLC (FTS), a leading Omani manufacturer of power and distribution transformers, proudly announces its participation in the Oman Petroleum & Energy Show (OPES) 2025, taking place at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

As a subsidiary of the Federal Electric Group under The Zubair Corporation, FTS stands at the forefront of precision engineering and sustainable electrification. With a firm commitment to innovation and quality, the company will showcase its advanced portfolio of transformer solutions designed for energy efficiency, safety, and durability across diverse industrial applications.

At OPES 2025, FTS will spotlight its state-of-the-art products



and services, including conservator and hermetically sealed transformers up to 20 MVA, engineered for performance and longevity; compact, packaged substations tailored for modern grid infrastructure; specialised transformers for solar, oil & gas, and converter duty applications; dry-type cast resin transformers,

known for high efficiency and superior fire safety; and end-to-end service solutions, including on-site maintenance, rewinding, oil filtration, and transformer re-engineering.

“Our participation at OPES 2025 reflects our continued drive to support Oman’s energy transition with safe, sustainable, and

technologically advanced solutions,” said Mickey Patel, General Manager at FTS. He also added that “we look forward to engaging with industry leaders, partners, and clients to demonstrate how our local manufacturing capabilities contribute to regional growth and energy resilience”.

FTS invites visitors to explore its innovations at OPES 2025 to discover how the company powers a brighter, greener future.

Federal Transformers and Switchgears LLC (FTS), part of The Zubair Corporation’s Federal Electric group, is a premier Omani manufacturer of power and distribution transformers. Based in Muscat’s Rusayl Industrial Area, FTS is ISO-certified (9001, 14001, 45001) and serves clients across Oman.

Oman Sail chosen as hosts for inaugural World Sailing Inclusion Championships

Oman Sail is incredibly proud to have been selected to host the first edition of the World Sailing Inclusion Championships.

Due to be held from November 30 to December 8 this year at the Mussanah Sailing School, with the official opening ceremony slated for the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The event will champion the diverse community of sailors with disabilities and provide a unique platform for Para classified athletes to compete alongside other athletes with disabilities who do not classify under the IPC Classification code. Competition is due to be held in RS Venture Connect, RS21, Wingfoil and ILCA (Special Olympic) categories.

Over 200 sailors from around the world are expected for the week-long regatta, as well as

coaches and support staff who will be present in Mussanah for the World Sailing Inclusive Development Programme (IDP) to be held over three days prior to the championship. The IDP will connect sailors with coaches and instructors from World Sailing to help develop national Para Inclusive sailing programmes and provide guidance for sailing coaches and the sailors themselves.

The event will also include a tourism day to share Oman’s rich cultural heritage with visitors from around the world.

Dr Khamis al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, said, “It is a great honour to host the first edition of such an important regatta. We are incredibly proud of our achievements in breaking down barriers in sailing, showcasing diversity within the sport, and supporting people with disabilities to

live an active and fulfilling life on the water through our SailFree programme.

“Mussanah has proven to be an excellent venue for sailing championships of all sizes, with world class facilities, accommodation and accessibility on-site, and we look forward to welcoming the world to Oman later this year and helping Para Inclusive Sailing to grow.”

Jim Morris, World Sailing Director of Events, said, “We are delighted to award the inaugural edition of the World Sailing Inclusion Championships to the Sultanate of Oman and Oman Sail. The bid encapsulates the spirit of inclusive sailing with particular attention to the diversity of the sailing community and accessibility, as well as sustainability and long-term benefits for sailors within the region and across Asia.”



شركة عمان والإمارات للاستثمار العقارية (ش.م.ع.)
OMAN & EMIRATES INVESTMENT HOLDING CO. SAOG

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Board of Directors’ Report – 31st March 2025

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board, I take this opportunity to present the financial performance of Oman & Emirates Investment Holding Co SAOG for the three months period ended 31st March 2025.

Financial Results:

The Company (Group & Parent) recorded Net Profits of RO 116,349 and RO 227,112 respectively during the period, compared to (Group & Parent) Net Profits of RO 905,202 and RO 925,796 respectively during same period in 2024.

Stock Market Indices:

During the period MSX, ADX and DFM decreased by 4.58%, 0.53% and 1.21% respectively, compared to MSX and DFM increased by 2.68% and 4.59% respectively, while ADX decreased by 3.65% during the same period in 2024.

Net Equity, Investments and Borrowing:

The Net Equity of the Group and the Parent Company increased by 0.51% and 0.93% respectively. The Net Equity of the Group increased from RO 22.784 million at 31/12/2024 to RO 22.900 million at 31/3/2025 (RO 23.326 million at 31/03/2024). The Net Equity of the Parent increased from RO 24.351 at 31/12/2024 to RO 24.578 million at 31/03/2025 (RO 24.576 million at 31/3/2024).

The Total Investment Values of the Group and the Parent Company were RO 31.033 million and RO 29,002 Million respectively as at 31.3.2025 (Group RO 31.516 Million and RO 29.533 Million at 31/3/2024).

The total borrowing of the Group and the Parent Company reduced to RO 10.901 Million and RO 7.180 Million respectively as at 31.03.2025 (Group RO 11.385 Million and RO 7.664 Million at 31/03/2024).

Performance of Group Companies:

Fincorp:

The subsidiary recorded a loss of RO 216.67K during the three-month period ended 31st March 2025 and O&E’s share of loss was RO 111K. The report prepared by the independent forensic auditor appointed to review and assess discrepancies in the brokerage accounts identified a provision for claims amounting to RO 700K. The board and Management of FINCORP are working diligently to resolve the issue, and the verification of these balances is expected to be completed during 2025.

Omani Euro Food Industries Company SAOG:

The subsidiary recorded a loss of RO 137K during the period ended 31st March 2025 resulting in RO 111K share of loss on consolidation in the Parent Company books where the investment has been fully impaired. Efforts continue to implement the turnaround plan with strategic initiatives, including process efficiencies, product innovation, and targeted marketing efforts to reposition the company for sustainable profitability.

Oman Hotels and Tourism Company SAOC

The Associate recorded a profit of RO 227K during the period ended 31st March 2025 resulting in RO 72K share of profit for O&E. With global hotel industry continuing to navigate challenges, the company’s core business has not yet picked up momentum, particularly with the Ruwi hotel renovation completion pending financial injections. Its Associate Company, United Finance Company SAOG, is engaged in leasing and financial services and performs steadily contributing to the profit.

Oman Fiber Optics Company SAOC

This Associate Company consistently generates profits and has been one of the highest dividend payers in O&E’s investment portfolio for several years. Based on the first quarter results, the profit recorded during the period was RO 507K resulting in RO 106K share of profit for O&E.

Acknowledgement:

On behalf of the Board, I take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt gratitude to the Governments of the Sultanate of Oman and United Arab Emirates for their support to our Company, the stock market authorities, banks, shareholders and employees for their guidance, cooperation and efforts.

Dr. Abdullah Al Harthy
Vice Chairman
12th May 2025

Consolidated and separate condensed interim statement of financial position as at 31 March 2025

	Group			Parent Company		
	31 March 2025 (Un-audited)	31 March 2024 (Un-audited)	31 December2024 (Audited)	31 March 2025 (Un-audited)	31 March 2024 (Un-audited)	31 December2024 (Audited)
ASSETS						
Cash and bank balances	1,810,523	1,531,488	2,155,379	240,643	148,541	412,139
Trade and other receivables	1,580,512	1,799,940	1,338,029	603,251	382,620	175,021
Inventories	279,733	368,228	292,582	-	-	-
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	13,922,372	14,895,425	13,852,346	10,063,224	10,765,389	10,012,944
Investment in associates	17,110,277	16,620,413	17,049,614	15,419,519	14,843,069	15,241,212
Investment in subsidiaries	-	-	-	3,519,432	3,924,592	3,630,363
Investment property	2,671,200	2,795,400	2,702,250	2,401,200	2,525,400	2,432,250
Property, plant and equipment	1,712,797	1,927,416	1,758,187	269,141	305,989	272,836
Right-of-use assets	358,975	372,269	358,975	-	-	-
Deferred tax assets	46,507	61,071	46,507	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	39,492,896	40,371,650	39,553,869	32,516,410	32,895,600	32,176,765
EQUITY AND RESERVES						
Share capital	12,187,500	12,187,500	12,187,500	12,187,500	12,187,500	12,187,500
Legal reserve	5,062,733	5,076,866	5,062,733	4,062,500	4,062,500	4,062,500
Retained earnings	5,649,925	6,061,558	5,533,574	8,328,165	8,325,838	8,101,053
Total capital and reserves of the Parent Company	22,900,158	23,325,924	22,783,807	24,578,165	24,575,838	24,351,053
Non-controlling interest	2,956,920	3,444,582	3,088,911	-	-	-
TOTAL EQUITY AND RESERVES	25,857,078	26,770,506	25,872,718	24,578,165	24,575,838	24,351,053
LIABILITIES						
Lease liabilities	401,564	400,616	401,564	-	-	-
Bank borrowings	170,470	183,683	68,608	102,424	115,976	-
Term loan	2,077,140	2,547,970	2,127,371	2,077,140	2,547,970	2,127,371
Trade and other payables	2,333,644	1,815,875	2,430,608	758,681	655,816	698,341
Loan from Government	8,653,000	8,653,000	8,653,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	13,635,818	13,601,144	13,681,151	7,938,245	8,319,762	7,825,712
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	39,492,896	40,371,650	39,553,869	32,516,410	32,895,600	32,176,765
Net assets per share	0.188	0.191	0.184	0.202	0.202	0.194

Consolidated and separate condensed interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the three-month period ended 31 March 2025

	Group		Parent	
	Period from 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025 (Un-audited)	Period from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024 (Un-audited)	Period from 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025 (Un-audited)	Period from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024 (Un-audited)
Net investment income	472,725	935,488	425,874	781,865
Share of profit from investment in associates	154,055	303,222	178,307	231,697
Share of (loss) / profit from investment in subsidiaries	-	-	(110,931)	72,360
Gross (loss) / profit on sale of food products	(50,518)	76,152	-	-
Other income	4,025	100,842	-	68,000
Total income	580,287	1,415,704	493,250	1,153,922
Expenses				
Staff costs	(210,452)	(191,748)	(80,646)	(84,726)
Administrative expenses	(158,997)	(179,295)	(86,254)	(95,900)
Provision for claims	(100,000)	-	-	-
Total expenses	(469,449)	(371,043)	(166,900)	(180,626)
Finance costs	(126,478)	(75,367)	-	(47,499)
Net (loss) / profit before tax for the period	(15,640)	969,294	227,112	925,797
Income tax	-	-	-	-
Net (loss) / profit after tax and total comprehensive (loss) / income for the period	(15,640)	969,294	227,112	925,797
Net (loss) / profit after tax attributable to:				
Parent Company	116,351	905,202	227,112	925,797
Non-controlling interest	(131,991)	64,092	-	-
	(15,640)	969,294	227,112	925,797
Earnings per share - basic and diluted	(0.000)	0.008	0.002	0.008

Macron open to potential deployment of French nuke weapons in Europe



Paris, France - French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday that he was open to discussing the potential deployment of his country's nuclear weapons elsewhere in Europe.

The comments came in an interview with French broadcaster TF1 on Tuesday evening.

Macron noted that the United States already stations nuclear-armed aircraft in Europe. "The Americans have the bombs on planes in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Turkey," Macron said. "We are ready to open this discussion. I will define the framework in a very specific way in the weeks and months to come," he said.

Macron lists conditions

In the interview, Macron made clear that any expansion of France's nuclear deterrence to other European countries would be subject to conditions.

France, the European Union's only nuclear power, wouldn't pay for the security of others, and its own defence capabilities must remain fully intact, he stressed.

French President Emmanuel Macron stressed that any shared nuclear deterrence would not come at the expense of France's own defense capabilities. France is the only nuclear power in the EU

Ultimate control over the use of the weapons would also remain solely with the French president, Macron said.

France held around 280 nuclear warheads in 2024, according to figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Its military has the power to launch these independently from its own submarines or use jets to drop them from the sky.

Britain also has nuclear weapons, some 225 of which are stockpiled. But the country's Trident nuclear submarine programme is closely linked to the US system and relies on the US for maintenance. This raises 'concerns about (Trident's) independence', according to UK think tank Chatham House.

Germany, others open to proposal

Marcon proposed back in

March holding talks with European allies about how French nuclear weapons could help protect Europe.

These comments come as many European leaders feel they can no longer rely on the US' nuclear commitment to Europe amid concerns of the Russian threat to the continent.

Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz has also expressed interest in his country hosting French nuclear weapons.

He stressed, however, at a joint press conference with Macron in Paris last week, that this would be 'expressly not a substitute for the nuclear guarantee currently being given to Europe by the United States of America'.

Merz has also stressed in the past that Germany 'cannot and must not have its own nuclear

weapons'.

Up to 20 US nuclear weapons are already stationed at a German military airbase.

Poland, Denmark and Lithuania have said in the past months that they were open to such a possibility.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said in March that Poland was 'talking seriously' with France about being protected by French nuclear weapons.

Interest in Eastern Europe is closely linked to fears of further Russian aggression following its invasion of Ukraine, but Macron was careful not to drive up tensions with Moscow.

In his Tuesday interview, he also said that France didn't want to unleash 'World War III' over Russia's war in Ukraine.

"We must help Ukraine defend itself but we do not want to unleash a Third World War," Macron said.

"The war must cease and Ukraine must be in the best possible situation to go into negotiations," he added.

DW

Armed clashes resume in Libyan capital

Tripoli, Libya - Armed clashes resumed in the Libyan capital Tripoli on Wednesday, witnesses said.

The violence erupted between armed groups in Ain Zara, Ras Hassan, and Bin Ashur neighbourhoods in the capital, they said.

No information was yet available about injuries.

Judicial Police said several prisoners escaped from Al-Jadida Prison in eastern Tripoli as a result of the clashes near the facility.

Police said most of the escapees were sentenced for serious crimes, warning that the ongoing violence could have serious consequences on security in the capital.

Libyan media said flights were suspended at Mitiga airport due to the clashes, while the Education Ministry suspended classes at schools in the capital.

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) expressed concern over the ongoing clashes in Tripoli.

"UNSMIL is deeply alarmed by escalating violence in densely populated neighbourhoods of Tripoli for the second night in a row, placing countless civilians at grave risk," it said on X, calling for an 'immediate, unconditional' ceasefire in all populated areas.

The clashes first erupted on Monday following the death of Abdel Ghani al-Kikil, who heads the Stability Support Apparatus affiliated with the Presidential Council.

Libya has remained in turmoil since 2011, when longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi was ousted after four decades in power.

Anadolu Agency



Hundreds came out to protest the plans to ban political parties

Mali's military government dissolves all political parties

Bamako, Mali - Mali's military government announced on Tuesday that it has dissolved all political parties in the West African country.

Mamani Nassire, the minister of political reforms, read out the decree signed by military government president Assimi Goita on television.

"Political parties and organisations of a political nature are dissolved throughout the national territory," Nassire said.

"It is forbidden for members of dissolved political parties and political organisations to hold any meetings," he added, reading from the decree.

The announcement follows an increasing number of pro-democracy activists being kidnapped from the streets of the capital Bamako. It also comes days after a pro-democracy protest was held.

Why the ban?

Mali has been under military rule since a pair of coups in 2020 and 2021 led by Goita. While the leader has assured the people that elections will be held, the

promised ballot of February 2022 was delayed for 'technical reasons'. No revised timeline for elections has been provided.

In April, ministers of the transitional government recommended extending Goita's presidency until 2030.

On Monday, Mali's National Transition Council, the transitional legislative body, voted in favour of the dissolution of political parties.

"This decision deals a severe blow to the reconciliation process that began last year," wrote Mali's former prime minister, Moussa Mara, on his X account.

Bamako has seen a wave of protests in recent weeks. Several hundred people took to the streets on May 3 and May 4, carrying placards and demanding a multi-party election.

A protest planned for May 9 led to the military government suspending all political activities in the country.

Several pro-democracy activists have since gone missing, sparking fears of a wider repression of dissent.

DW

Trump administration cuts additional \$450mn in grants to Harvard University

Washington, D.C., US - The Trump administration is revoking another US\$450mn in federal grants to Harvard University, claiming the Ivy League school has a 'long-standing policy and practice of discriminating on the basis of race' and has failed to curb anti-semitism on campus.

The decision comes as part of a broader campaign by the Trump administration to dismantle diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programmes and



The university has not immediately responded to the latest funding cuts

crackdown on pro-Palestinian voices on US campuses, including by seeking to deport foreign students who have only expressed their views on the issue peacefully. Harvard was among the first universities to openly resist federal demands to roll back DEI initiatives and restrict student demonstrations.

The decision to cut more funds, announced on Tuesday by the Joint Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism, brings the total amount of federal funding

withheld from Harvard in recent weeks to nearly US\$2.7bn.

The task force accused Harvard of fostering a hostile environment for Jewish students, referencing recent findings by the university's own Presidential Task Force on Combating Anti-Semitism and Anti-Israeli Bias.

The statement described a pattern of 'pervasive insults, physical assault, and intimidation' directed at Jewish students, with little intervention from university leadership.

However, some advocates for Palestine say some of the allegations are meant to paint all criticism of Israel as 'anti-semitic', even though many Jews in both Israel and the US publicly challenge Israel's oppressive and genocidal policies against Palestinians.

The university has not immediately responded to the latest funding cuts.

The conflict began after Harvard publicly released an April 11 letter from the administration's

antisemitism task force, which called for federal oversight of the university's admissions, faculty hiring and campus policies.

Harvard refused to comply and later sued the administration, arguing the government was using the threat of withholding federal funding to take control of its academic decisions.

Several US universities have followed Harvard's lead in challenging the Trump administration's threats to cut funding.

Anadolu Agency

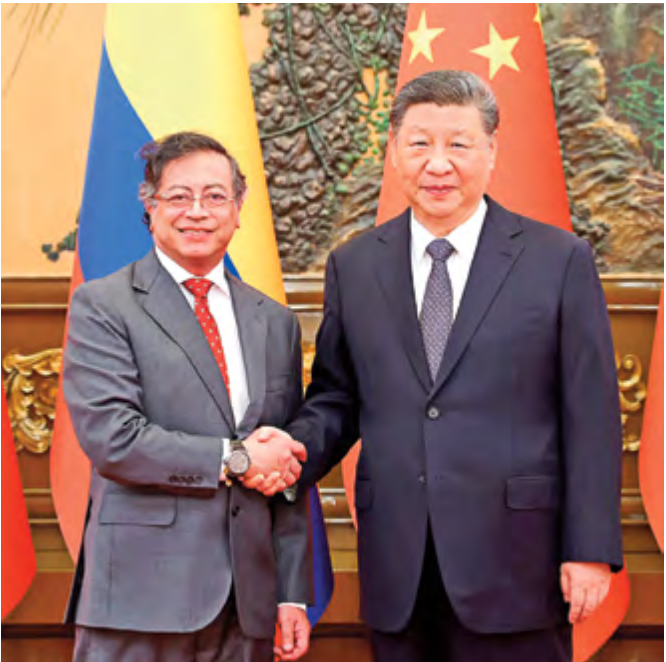
Colombia signs up to China's Belt and Road Initiative

Beijing, China - Colombia has signed a deal bringing it into Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Beijing's state media said on Wednesday.

The agreement came after a bilateral meeting between Xi and Colombian President Gustavo Petro that followed a Chinese-hosted summit of Latin American and Caribbean leaders in Beijing.

Two-thirds of Latin American countries have already signed up to the infrastructure initiative, which aims to give Beijing global political and economic clout in exchange for Chinese investment in infrastructure and other large-scale projects.

Latin America has become a



Gustavo Petro met with Xi Jinping on the sidelines of China-CELAC Forum

From now on, Colombia will interact with the entire world on a footing of equality and freedom

GUSTAVO PETRO

key arena as Washington and Beijing vie for global influence.

What did Xi and Petro say?

Xi urged the countries to 'take the opportunity of Colombia's formal joining the high-quality Belt and Road Initiative family to promote the quality upgrading of cooperation', the state-run news

agency Xinhua said.

Chinese state media also quoted Xi as saying at the meeting of the two that China was 'ready to import more Colombian products of high quality'.

Petro wrote on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter, that 'the history of our foreign relations is changing'.

"From now on, Colombia will interact with the entire world on a footing of equality and freedom," wrote Petro.

China urges 'unity and cooperation'

Xi used the China-CELAC Forum on Tuesday to cast China as a bastion of the multilateral order as US President Donald Trump continues to throw world mar-

kets into turmoil with trade policies that critics say are based more on whimsy than sound judgment.

The meeting came a day after Washington and Beijing both reduced huge tit-for-tat tariffs amid a trade war provoked by initial levies imposed by Trump shortly after he took office.

In a seeming swipe at the US under Trump, Xi told the forum that 'bullying and hegemony will only lead to self-isolation'.

"There are no winners in tariff wars or trade wars," he said.

"Only through unity and cooperation can countries safeguard global peace and stability and promote worldwide development and prosperity," he said.

Beijing offers development loans

Xi pledged US\$9.2bn in 'development' credits, while also offering Beijing's cooperation in fighting terrorism and transnational organised crime.

He said Beijing would also put in place scholarships and training programmes.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi also seemed to target the US when he spoke of a 'major power' that was 'obsessed with the idea that might makes right'.

He urged Latin American nations to 'join hands' with China to defend their rights against a country that is 'using tariffs as a weapon to bully other countries'.

DW

Israeli army kills at least 70 Palestinians in strikes across Gaza

Gaza City/Istanbul - The Israeli army killed at least 70 Palestinians in pre-dawn airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

A ministry statement said that scores of people were also injured in the attacks that targeted various areas across the Palestinian enclave.

Medics said Israeli strikes killed around 50 people in the northern town of Jabalia and its refugee camp.

The official news agency Wafa said civil defence rescuers are struggling with limited capabilities to remove victims from under the rubble

of the struck buildings in the area.

A medical source told Anadolu that five more people were killed in separate airstrikes targeting a civilian gathering in Gaza City and a home in the southern city of Khan Younis.

In southern Gaza, a man, his wife, and their two daughters were killed in an Israeli strike on their tent in the Al-Mawasi area of Khan Younis.

Also in southeastern Khan Younis, an Israeli airstrike hit a home in the Al-Fukhari area, killing 10 people, according to the local Al-Aqsa radio.



Body of a child being brought to Indonesian Hospital before burial in Jabalia, Gaza on Wednesday

At least 52,928 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip since October 2023, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

The Israeli army resumed its assaults on the Gaza Strip on March 18 and has since killed nearly 2,800 people and injured over 7,800 others, shattering a ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement that took hold in January.

Meanwhile, Denmark has joined growing international calls urging Israel to abandon its planned large-scale offensive in Gaza, describing the situation as 'alarming and unsustainable, and called for a UN Security Council meeting on the issue', the Danish state broadcaster DR reported on Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said Denmark, along with France, the United Kingdom, and others, requested an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to address the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"We strongly distance ourselves from an Israeli offensive, and Israel must ensure unhindered access for emergency aid," Rasmussen said on X.

Anadolu Agency



India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh holds a meeting with the heads of the armed forces, in New Delhi on Tuesday (ANI)

Defence exports from India witness '34-fold jump over the past decade'

New Delhi, India - Defence exports from India are at all-time highs, having risen a whopping 34-fold over the past decade.

"India exported defence goods worth Rs 23,622 crore in 2024-25 - a 34-fold rise as against just Rs 686 crore in 2013-14," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's office said in a post on X.

The defence minister's office asserted that India's defence sector is growing stronger than ever, driven by the spirit of a self-reliant or 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

As part of its 'Atmanirbhar' and Make in India plans, the government launched various schemes, including the production-linked incentive (PLI), in various sectors to make Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attract investments, enhance exports, integrate India into the global supply chain, and reduce dependency on imports.

With the government's thrust on the Make in India ini-

tiative, defence production has surged to historic highs. This rise in defence manufacturing has also led to substantial returns for investors in major defence manufacturing PSUs over the past years, according to an official statement.

The government is investing heavily in defence and aerospace manufacturing, with several defence hubs being set up. Many global companies have either shared or shown intent to share critical defence and aerospace knowledge with India, the statement said.

A wide range of items, including ammunition, arms, sub-systems/systems, and parts and components, were exported to around 80 countries in the just-concluded financial year, according to the Ministry of Defence data.

The government is now aiming for annual exports worth Rs 50,000 crore by 2029, thus strengthening its global footprint, the statement said.

ANI

Trump lifts US sanctions on Syria during Gulf visit

Riyadh, KSA - The US is lifting sanctions on Syria to promote a 'fresh start' for the country, US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a Gulf-US summit in the Saudi capital Riyadh, Trump said the decision came after talking with the leaders of Türkiye and Saudi Arabia.

"After discussing the situation with Crown Prince Mohammed (bin Salman) and President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan of Turkey, I'm also ordering the cessation of sanctions against Syria to give them a fresh start. It gives (Syria) a chance for greatness," he said adding: .

The US president added: "The sanctions were really crippling, very powerful."

"And I spoke to Mohammed (bin Salman), and I spoke to our friend from Turkey (Erdogan), who we just spoke to also by phone now, but felt very strongly that this would give (Syria) a chance. It's not going to be easy anyway, (but it) gives them a good, strong chance, and it was my honour to do so," he said.

"So we will be dropping all of the sanctions on Syria, which I think really is going to be a good thing."

Turning to Gaza, Trump expressed hope for the Palestinian people, saying: "My administration shares the hope of so many in this region for the future of safety and dignity of the Palestinian people."

Trump has been silent on the many credible accusations of Israeli atrocities, including killing tens of thousands of innocents, in both the Gaza Strip and West Bank,

The US president also called



US President Donald Trump meets with Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa along with the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh on Wednesday

Speaking at a Gulf-US summit in the Saudi capital Riyadh, Trump said the decision came after talking with the leaders of Türkiye and Saudi Arabia. Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa and Trump held their first-ever meeting on Wednesday

for the release of all prisoners in Gaza, describing it as 'a stepping stone to peace' adding: "I think it's going to be happening."

Trump accused former President Joe Biden of having policies that empowered Iran, claiming this contributed to instability in the region.

He urged all nations to enforce unilateral US sanctions on Iran's nuclear programme.

"I want to make a deal with Iran, I want to do something, if it's possible. But for that to happen, it must stop sponsoring terror, halt its bloody proxy wars, and permanently and verifiably

cease its pursuit of nuclear weapons."

Trump also touched on the appointment of his close friend Michel Issa as US ambassador to Lebanon, saying: "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to forge a Lebanon that is prosperous and at peace with its neighbours. And I think things can really happen there."

Trump further expressed his desire to expand the Abraham Accords, controversial pacts signed during his first term to normalise diplomatic relations between Israel and Arab nations in the region.

posed on Syria and supporting the recovery and reconstruction efforts. "The meeting addressed ways of partnership between Syria and the US in the field of combating terrorism and cooperation in eliminating the influence of non-state actors and non-Syrian armed groups that hinder stability, including ISIS (Daesh) and other threats."

According to the ministry, Trump affirmed his country's commitment to standing by Syria during this critical phase.

The Saudi Crown Prince, for his part, stressed the necessity of lifting sanctions on Syria to achieve stability in the region, the statement said.

The ministry added Sharaa expressed his gratitude for regional and international support, emphasising Syria's confident path toward the future.

Anadolu Agency

Russia confirms participation in peace talks with Ukraine in Istanbul

Moscow, Russia - Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed on Wednesday that the Russian delegation will wait for their Ukrainian counterparts in Istanbul on Thursday to resume peace talks interrupted in March 2022.

Speaking at a press briefing in Moscow, Peskov noted that all said by Russian President Vladimir Putin regarding the resumption of negotiations in Istanbul remain relevant, without naming who will represent Russia. "We will do that (name the members of the Russian delegation) once we receive corresponding instructions from the president. So far, no such instructions have been given.



"However, I can confirm that everything stated by the president in his declaration on May 11 remains valid. The Russian delegation will wait for the Ukrainian

delegation in Istanbul on May 15, Thursday," he said.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Russian President

Vladimir Putin would 'like' him to attend the upcoming peace talks with Ukraine in Istanbul, holding the door open to his participation.

"I don't know if he's showing up. I know he would like me to be there. And that's a possibility," the US president told reporters aboard Air Force One.

"I've been thinking about that. Now tomorrow, we're all booked out, you understand that. We're going to UAE tomorrow. So we have a very full situation. Now that doesn't mean I wouldn't do it to save a lot of lives and come back. But yeah, I've been thinking about it. I don't know that he would be there if I'm not there. We're going to find out," Trump added.

B R GAVAI IS NEW CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA



Indian President Droupadi Murmu administers the oath of office to Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai as the 52nd Chief Justice of India, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday (ANI)

TOTAL DOMINATION

All-round excellence powers Oman to emphatic series win against Bahrain

Muscat - In a solid display of all-round dominance, Oman recently completed a clean sweep of the three-match T20I women's series against Bahrain at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat.

The victories, by five wickets in the first match, 57 runs in the second, and five wickets again in the third, highlighted the team's growing confidence, discipline, and unity as they continue to build momentum for future challenges.

Oman started the series with a composed run chase in the opening T20I, overcoming Bahrain's modest total of 87 with five wickets in hand. In the second encounter, Oman asserted full control with both bat and ball, securing a dominant 57-run victory built on a solid team batting performance (162/5) and sharp bowling spells to restrict the visitors to 105/5.

The third and final match saw a repeat of the team's consistency, as Oman again chased down the target of 93 with poise to seal the 3-0 result as they reached 95/5 in 14.5 overs.

The series was shaped by outstanding all-round contributions from several Omani players. Opening batter Jayadhanyha Gunasekar, was a standout performer with the bat, scoring 84 runs across the three matches and providing Oman

with much-needed stability at the top of the order. Her partnerships with fellow opener Trupti Pawde ensured that Oman had a solid foundation in every match.

Team captain Priyanka Mendonca anchored the middle order with composed innings that added 68 runs to her tally. Her leadership with both bat and ball proved pivotal, particularly with her performance as a spinner, where she claimed six wickets, the highest across the

I am absolutely thrilled by the team's brilliant performance and hard work that led to the recent 3-0 victory against the Bahrain Women's National Team

DESMOND BERHARDT

series. Sameera Khan also made a strong impact with the ball, taking five wickets, including crucial breakthroughs with the new ball and during the death overs.

Jayadhanyha added to her contributions with the bat as well, taking four wickets, showcasing her value as a reliable all-rounder.

Coach Desmond Berhardt, who has overseen the team's rapid development despite limited international exposure in re-



Oman players celebrate winning a match against Bahrain during the recent T20I series

cent months, expressed deep pride in the players' resilience and performance.

He said: "I am absolutely thrilled by the team's brilliant performance and hard work that led to the recent 3-0 victory against the Bahrain Women's National Team."

"It's remarkable how much the team and support staff achieved with such a short preparation period."

While acknowledging the signs of rust due to a lack of competitive international cricket, Berhardt praised the team's ability to adapt under pressure.

"The team's ability to leverage their experience and skills to navigate challenging situations speaks volumes about their resilience and talent," he added.

He reserved special praise for the batters who laid the groundwork for Oman's wins.

"I wanted to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of our batters, Jayadhanyha and Trupti, for consistently providing us with solid starts in all three games. The responsible innings played by our captain, Priyanka, in the middle order, along with the impactful cameos from Fiza Javed, Hina Javed, and Sameera, were also crucial."

On the bowling front, the team's spinners were instrumental in applying pressure on the Bahrain batters. "Our spinners - Priyanka, Amanda, and Jayadhanyha - were exceptional, taking 13 wickets. Sameera's contribution of five wickets with the new ball and in the death overs was also noteworthy," Berhardt said.



Taiwo Awoniyi suffered the injury when he collided with the goalpost while attempting to connect a cross from Anthony Elanga

Forest striker Awoniyi placed in induced coma after surgery

London, England - Nottingham Forest striker Taiwo Awoniyi is in an induced coma after undergoing surgery on a serious abdominal injury, according to British media reports.

The Nigeria international, 27, collided with the goalpost in the 88th minute of Sunday's 2-2 Premier League draw with Leicester City at the City Ground, attempting to connect with a cross from Anthony Elanga.

Awoniyi, who joined Forest from Union Berlin in June 2022, came on as a late substitute for Ibrahim Sangare and spent only five minutes on the pitch before the incident.

He received immediate treatment on the field and then rejoined the game but was limping for the last 10 minutes of the match.

The BBC was among British media outlets that reported late on Tuesday that Awoniyi had been placed in an induced coma after having the first phase of surgery.

In a statement earlier on Tuesday, Forest said Awoniyi had undergone surgery and was "recovering well".

"Nottingham Forest can confirm that Taiwo Awoniyi is recovering well so far following urgent surgery on a serious abdominal injury sustained during Sunday's match against Leicester City," the club said.

Forest owner Evangelos Marinakis came onto the pitch after the Leicester game and appeared to remonstrate with manager Nuno Espirito Santo.

Espirito Santo said that the incident was due to Marinakis's frustration over Awoniyi not being substituted.

The Forest manager added that the Nigeria international was left on due to a misunderstanding between the coaching and medical departments.

Forest on Tuesday dismissed reports as "fake news" that Marinakis was involved in a confrontation with the manager.

CAS upholds Uruguay players' ban after Copa America brawl

The Court of Arbitration for Sport rejected an appeal on Tuesday by several Uruguay players and the country's football association (AUF) against disciplinary sanctions imposed by CONMEBOL following a brawl during last year's Copa America semi-final against Colombia.

The South American football governing body fined the AUF and the players for their involvement in a fight between Colombia fans and Uruguay supporters.

After Colombia sealed a 1-0 victory, Uruguay players climbed into the stands and exchanged blows with opposition fans.

CAS dismissed the appeal to cancel or reduce the suspensions, ruling that the players' self-defence argument did not constitute legitimate defence.

"The panel found that, in this case, the principle of self-defence does not apply, and that the players' conduct constituted voluntary, violent, and unjustified action," CAS said in a statement.



Sunderland's Daniel Ballard scores against Coventry City

Ballard goal sends Sunderland into Championship playoff final

Sunderland, England - Sunderland will face Sheffield United in the Championship playoff final after Daniel Ballard's header in the final seconds of extra time snatched a 1-1 home draw against Coventry City on Tuesday to secure a 3-2 aggregate victory.

The hosts were closing in on a place in the May 24 final at Wembley after Friday's 2-1 first-leg win, but Coventry's Ephron Mason-Clark levelled the tie 15 minutes from time.

While Frank Lampard's Coventry looked the better team throughout, Sunderland came alive in extra time and Ballard sent the Stadium of Light into raptures in the 123rd minute, rising to crash home a header from a corner.

Sunderland knew the dangers of getting ahead of themselves, having held a 2-1 advantage after the first leg of their 2022-23 playoff semi-final against Luton Town only to lose the return fixture 2-0.



Sampdoria players look heartbroken after their match against Juve Stabia

Former Serie A champions Sampdoria relegated to Serie C

Genoa, Italy - Former Serie A champions and European Cup finalists Sampdoria have been relegated to the third tier of Italian football for the first time in their 78-year history after being held to a goalless draw at Juve Stabia on Tuesday.

Sampdoria won their sole top-flight title in 1991 during a golden period for the club when 'The Goal Twins' Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Mancini terrorized Italian defences.

But they have failed to win a trophy since the Italian Cup in 1994 and after being relegated from the top flight in 2023 they will play in Serie C next season after missing out on the relegation playoffs.

Sampdoria started the season with 2006 World Cup winner Andrea Pirlo in charge but a succession of coaching changes saw former AC Milan midfielder Alberico Evani appointed in April in a last-gasp effort to avoid the drop but he was unable to steer them to safety.



Pierre Kalulu

Juve's Kalulu banned for two matches for hitting Lazio's Castellanos

Rome, Italy - Juventus defender Pierre Kalulu will miss the last two league games of the season after he was suspended following a red card during Saturday's 1-1 draw at Lazio for hitting Taty Castellanos, Serie A said on Tuesday.

Kalulu, who has made 29 league appearances this season, will miss the matches against Udinese and Venezia as fourth-placed Juventus, who are equal on points with fifth-placed Lazio, fight for a top-four finish and a place in next season's Champions League. Reports from various outlets including La Gazzetta dello Sport claim that Juventus will also give Kalulu a fine of around 50,000- 60,000 for his actions during the 1-1 draw against Lazio.

Juventus coach Igor Tudor was disappointed with the red card. "I don't know how much contact he actually made, but it was a naive thing to do. Kalulu is a good guy, we accept this red card."

'UNFORGETTABLE YEARS'

Ancelotti reflects on his success and legacy at Real ahead of Brazil switch

Madrid, Spain - Carlo Ancelotti said on Tuesday he was proud of the legacy he had built in four mostly successful years in his second tenure at Real Madrid and will only have good memories as he heads to Brazil to take over the five-time world champions.

Wednesday's LaLiga match at home to Mallorca was on the back burner during the pre-match press conference one day after the Brazilian FA (CBF) announced that the Italian would become Brazil coach after leaving Real at the end of the season.

All but the opening question from Real's in-house TV channel were related to Ancelotti's imminent move, but he said his focus will be in Spain until he travels to Brazil on May 25.

"There have been some unforgettable years that I'll carry dearly close to my heart," Ancelotti told reporters.

"Football, like life itself, is full of adventures that begin but eventually have to end. I always knew that one day it would come to an end my time here at Real.

"It has been a wonderful period which is coming to an end. A great time. But if even life comes to an end, imagine what it's like when a period with a football team comes to an end. I've enjoyed it, and I want to finish it well. And then, on the 26th, I'll talk about another challenge."

The fact Real have yet to officially announce Ancelotti's departure was raised by reporters but he played it down and said everything was done in accor-



Real Madrid players throw Carlo Ancelotti in the air after their Champions League triumph in 2024

Football, like life itself, is full of adventures that begin but eventually have to end. I always knew that one day it would come to an end my time here at Real Madrid

CARLO ANCELOTTI

dance with all the parts involved.

"Real will issue a statement when they think adequate, but there is no problem or issue between all parts whatsoever," Ancelotti said.

"I never had problems with Real and never will have problems with Real. It's a club that lives dearly in my heart, but everything in life has a date to end."

The 65-year-old Ancelotti, one of the most decorated managers in world football, has steered Real to even more trophies in his second spell with the Spanish giants but they are set to finish this season without any silverware.

Second-placed Real are seven points adrift of Barcelona, who

Vinicius, Vazquez add to Real Madrid's injury woes

Madrid, Spain - Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr and defender Lucas Vazquez could miss some time in the title run-in after picking up injuries following Sunday's 4-3 loss to Barcelona, the club said.

Vinicius, who has scored 11 goals and provided seven assists in the league this season, has a left ankle sprain while Vazquez has a thigh muscle injury, Real said on Monday.

The news comes after the defeat by Barcelona at the weekend left Real seven points behind the leaders in the LaLiga title race with just three matches left.

The club did not provide a timeline for the players' return. Real are already without a number of first-team players due to injury including Daniel Carvajal, Eder Militao, Eduardo Camavinga, Antonio Rudiger, Ferland Mendy and David Alaba.



Vinicius Junior

could secure the league title on Wednesday without kicking a ball if Real fail to beat Mallorca.

Regardless of Real's result, a Barca victory in the city derby at Espanyol on Thursday would clinch the title.

An official announcement on Ancelotti is expected before Madrid's last game of the season at home to Real Sociedad on May 25, with the club's former midfielder Xabi Alonso, 43, set to be his replacement.

Missing paperwork dashes Dutch club's European dreams

Sittard-Geleen, Netherlands - Dutch top-flight club Fortuna Sittard's push for a place in next season's Europa Conference League has hit an obstacle no tactical masterclass could overcome -- missing paperwork.

With two rounds left in the Eredivisie, Fortuna Sittard are ninth in the standings, a position that would earn them a berth in a play-off for a spot in the Conference League.

However, the Sittard-Geleen-based outfit do not have a UEFA license after failing to apply before the April 8 deadline and are ineligible to participate in European competition next season.

"At that time, the club did not meet all the requirements, including the submission of an external auditor's report in accordance with UEFA rules," the club said in a statement.

"This ruled out participation in the play-offs for European football in advance."

General manager Martijn Merks expressed his disappointment at the situation, but stressed that it was important for the club to be transparent.

"We are currently busy preparing for the new league season and in the meantime continuing the future-proofing of the club," Merks added. "We expect to meet the licence requirements in the new season without any problems."

Atletico always thinking about improving, says Simeone

Madrid, Spain - Atletico Madrid will continue their efforts to close the gap on their rivals next season, manager Diego Simeone said on Wednesday as his side look to end the current campaign on a high after falling out of the LaLiga title race.

Atletico's close-season transfer window last year was headlined by forward Julian Alvarez, with the club also signing midfielder Conor Gallagher, centre back Robin Le Normand and striker Alexander Sorloth.

Atletico, who last won LaLiga in 2021, were in the running for the title this campaign and even topped the standings at the halfway mark, but Simeone's side faded and now sit third with 70 points from 35 matches.

Barcelona are top with 82 points, seven ahead of bitter rivals Real Madrid in second place. Barca could secure the title on Wednesday without kicking a ball if Real fail to beat Mallorca.

"In every season we take steps, last year with the arrival of players and next year we are going to do it the same way, always thinking about improving,"



Diego Simeone

The money at stake is for those who are thinking about Club World Cup. For us the Club World Cup is a very nice tournament, it's exciting to represent Atletico

DIEGO SIMEONE

Simeone told reporters ahead of Thursday's trip to 11th-placed Osasuna.

Atletico will also have one eye on the upcoming Club World Cup.

The expanded 32-team tournament runs from June 14 to July 13 in the United States with \$1 billion in prize money at stake.

"The money at stake is for those who are thinking about that competition. For us it's a very nice tournament, it's exciting to represent Atletico and we hope to get there in the best way," Simeone said.

The Argentine was also asked about Carlo Ancelotti, who will leave Real at the end of the season to become the new coach of the Brazil national team.

Ancelotti has enjoyed four hugely successful years in his second tenure with the Spanish giants but they are set to finish this season without a trophy.

The Italian is set to be replaced at the Bernabeu by former Real midfielder Xabi Alonso.

"As a coach, we all have admiration for his work, not only for everything he managed at Real Madrid, but for his entire sporting career. I'm an admirer of his, I love him very much, he knows that and I wish him all the best," Simeone said.



Gjert Ingebrigtsen is accused of abusing his twice Olympic gold medallist son Jakob and daughter Ingrid

Prosecutors seek jail term for Ingebrigtsen's dad

Oslo, Norway - Norwegian prosecutors are seeking a two-and-a-half-year prison sentence for Gjert Ingebrigtsen, who is accused of abusing his twice Olympic gold medallist son Jakob and daughter Ingrid, Norwegian media reported on Tuesday.

The back-to-back 5,000 metres world champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen took the stand in March, where he described a childhood marked by fear and manipulation and told the court about several incidents of violence.

Gjert Ingebrigtsen has

pleaded not guilty and repeatedly denied the charges. He faces up to six years in prison if convicted. His attorney did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Prosecutor Ellen Gimre said that "the clear starting point in such cases is unconditional imprisonment."

"In addition to the violence itself, it is also a breach of the trust between close relations. It's the constant fear of when the next episode of violence, the next threat, or the next violation will occur," said Gimre.

FIFA targets \$1bn revenue from Women's World Cup, says Infantino

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - FIFA is targeting \$1 billion in revenue from the Women's World Cup, global football governing body's president Gianni Infantino said on Tuesday at the Saudi Arabia-US Investment Forum 2025 in Riyadh.

The 2023 Women's World Cup, hosted by Australia and New Zealand, broke even after generating more than \$570 million in revenue.

"Women's football and women in football are crucially important..." said Infantino.

"It's growing as well, and exponentially, and we are targeting that as well to have \$1 billion revenue just with the Women's World Cup to reinvest in the women's game."

The next women's World Cup in 2027 will be hosted by Brazil, making it the first edition to be held in South America.



FIFA President Gianni Infantino speaks at the Saudi-US Investment Forum 2025 on Tuesday

The United States is poised to be named host of the 2031 edition, which will be expanded to 48 teams from 32.

Infantino also said there was massive potential for football to generate more revenue outside Europe.

"If the rest of the world, in particular Saudi Arabia or the United States of America, would do just 20% of what Europe does in soccer, we (could

reach an amount of over) half a trillion (dollars) or more of GDP impact (with our sport)," he said.

"Saudi Arabia, by the way, is doing exceptionally good, as well, by creating a women's league, a women's national team. Women's football is really the only team sport for women that has such a huge audience and impact as well," he added.

NATIONAL DUTY TOP PRIORITY

WTC final-bound South Africa players likely to leave before IPL playoffs

Mumbai, India - The eight South African players involved in both IPL 2025 and the World Test Championship (WTC) final are expected to leave India by May 25, as per the initial NOCs issued to them.

Kagiso Rabada (GT), Lungi Ngidi (RCB), Tristan Stubbs (DC), Aiden Markram (LSG), Ryan Rickelton, Corbin Bosch (both MI), Marco Jansen (PBKS) and Wiaan Mulder (SRH) will return home to South Africa before leaving for the United Kingdom on May 30 with the rest of the squad. That will rule them out of the rescheduled IPL playoffs which is an issue currently under discussion between CSA and the BCCI.

ESPNcricinfo understands that given the importance of the WTC final, CSA is hopeful the BCCI will understand their decision to not extend NOCs for those players to June 3 but concerned that it will create tension in the relationship between the two boards.

National coach Shukri Conrad and director of national teams and high performance Enoch Nkwe both said they understood that the May 25 deadline was still in place.

"The initial agreement with

IPL-BCCI was, with the final being on the 25th, our players would return on the 26th, so that it allows them ample time before we fly out on the 30th," Conrad said in Johannesburg after South Africa announced their WTC final squad.

"That is the ongoing conversations that are being had between people in a higher pay grade than I am - the director of cricket [Nkwe] and Pholetsi [Moselki, the CSA chief executive]. They're dealing with that.

We want our players back on the 26th and hopefully that comes to fruition."

Nkwe, at the same engagement, indicated talks were ongoing and CSA was hopeful the players would prioritise the WTC.

"It is an individual decision, obviously, to return or to play or continue," Nkwe said.

"But one thing we've made it

clear, and we are finalising that with IPL and BCCI, is sticking to our original plan when it comes to the WTC preparations, obviously with May 26 being the latest for the Test guys to come back."

South Africa will arrive in England on May 31 and then play Zimbabwe in a four-day warm-up match in Arundel from June 3, the day of the final of the IPL. The WTC final runs from June 11 to 15.

GT, RCB, PBKS and MI are

The initial agreement with IPL-BCCI was, with the final being on the 25th, our players would return on the 26th, so that it allows them time before we fly out on the 30th

SHUKRI CONRAD, SOUTH AFRICA COACH

well-placed to finish in the top four in the IPL 2025 points table with DC also having a chance to make the playoffs. SRH are already knocked out of the race to the playoffs while LSG are on the brink of elimination.

GT might miss Rabada for the playoffs while PBKS might be without Jansen, if CSA sticks to its initial agreement with the IPL.



Marco Jansen has been a key player for Punjab Kings, and they will miss him if they reach the play-offs

IPL to allow temporary replacements for last leg of the season

New Delhi, India - The IPL will allow franchises to sign temporary replacement players for the final stages of the rearranged 2025 season - but those players will not be eligible for retention ahead of the next auction.

The league will resume on Saturday after its suspension due to cross-border India-Pakistan tensions, with the new dates prompting calendar clashes for a handful of players. The majority of overseas players will return to India for the rest of the season but some have withdrawn, including Jake Fraser-McGurk (Delhi Capitals) and Jamie Overton (Chennai Super Kings).

The IPL's regulations permit teams to sign replacements in the event of illness or injury provided it occurs during or before their 12th match of the season. But the league has taken the call to change those rules, enabling temporary replacements to be signed for the remainder of the rearranged season.

However, the replacements signed after the league's suspension will not be eligible for retention ahead of next season. The move is designed to avoid a situation where franchises are effectively incentivised to sign replacements as a way of circumventing the auction process, rather than for legitimate reasons.

Boult expected to return for remainder of IPL

Mumbai, India - Trent Boult is likely to return for the remainder of IPL 2025. It is a shot in the arm for Mumbai Indians (MI), considering Boult has been a key part of their success in a season where they have bounced back from a weak start to emerge as a strong contender for the playoffs.

Boult, 36, was MI's most expensive signing at the last mega auction at INR 12.5 crore (USD 1.49 million approx.). The left-arm quick has shown why he ranks among the best: currently he is MI's leading wicket-taker this season and joint-fourth-highest overall with 18 wickets at an economy rate of 8.49.

He also won the Player-of-the-Match award for his 4 for 26 in the away match against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).

MI are one of the franchises that could be severely impacted by the rescheduling of the IPL after it was suspended for a week on May 10. The five-time champions are still waiting on the availability of three of their first-choice overseas players: the South African pair of Ryan Rickelton and Corbin Bosch and England batting all-rounder Will Jacks.

On Tuesday, Cricket South Africa said that the NOCs given to South African players participating in IPL would only run until May 25, the original end date of the tournament, and dis-

cussions were on with the BCCI to figure out the way forward. Both Rickelton and Bosch are part of South Africa's squad for the World Test Championship (WTC) final and CSA has said the selected players would need to assemble by the end of May to prepare for the marquee Test event.

As for Jacks, ESPNcricinfo has learned that the ECB has told England players bound for the IPL to return in time for the home ODI series against West Indies starting on May 29.



Trent Boult

DC sign Mustafizur after Fraser-McGurk leaves

New Delhi, India - Australia batter Jake Fraser-McGurk has become the second overseas name after Jamie Overton, Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) English recruit, to confirm his pull-out from IPL 2025, which will resume on May 17. Fraser-McGurk, who was signed by Delhi Capitals (DC) at the mega auction for INR 9 crore (USD 1.07 million approx.) is understood to have informed the franchise that he will not rejoin the squad.

Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman has replaced him at DC for INR 6 crore. Mustafizur has previously played for DC in IPL 2022 and IPL 2023, picking up nine wickets across those seasons. However, he will not be eligible for retention by DC for IPL 2026 as per the tweaked replacement rules.

The IPL's original regulations permit teams to sign replacements in the event of illness or injury provided it occurs during or before their 12th match of the season. But the league has taken



Jake Fraser-McGurk

the call to change those rules, enabling temporary replacements to be signed for the remainder of the rearranged season.

From being indispensable towards the end of IPL 2024,

Fraser-McGurk became dispensable for DC by the halfway mark this season after poor returns with the bat. Fraser-McGurk, 23, opened in DC's first six matches, but returned single-digit scores in

five of them with a highest score of 38 in an overall tally of 55 runs before he was benched.

Despite that, the development won't help DC, who remain in contention for the playoffs, as it is

Mustafizur has previously played for DC in IPL 2022 and IPL 2023, picking up nine wickets across those seasons. However, he will not be eligible for retention by DC

understood they are still waiting for confirmations from several of their first-choice overseas players.

That list includes Australia left-arm quick Mitchell Starc and the South African pair of Faf du Plessis and Tristan Stubbs.

Stubbs is part of South Africa's squad for the World Test Championship final, which begins on June 11 at Lord's, and CSA has said that the WTC-bound players will have to abide by the initial NOCs, which run up to May 25 - the original date for the IPL final.

Jasmine Paolini reaches Italian Open semifinals

Rome, Italy - Jasmine Paolini became the first Italian woman to reach the Italian Open semi-finals since 2014 when she beat Russian world number 11 Diana Shnaider 6-7(1) 6-4 6-2 on Tuesday.

In a stunning first-set collapse, Paolini was 4-0 up but lost the next five games before Shnaider then forced a tiebreak, which the 21-year-old Russian dominated.

Backed into a corner, world number five Paolini mounted a comeback of her own in the second set, winning six successive games after trailing 4-0.

Down a break in the decider, French Open runner-up Paolini continued to show resilience with the crowd behind her to become the first Italian woman to reach the last four of the WTA 1000 event since doubles partner Sara Errani just over a decade ago.

Paolini, who reached the last four in Rome for the first time, will face Peyton Stearns for a spot in the final after the American knocked out Elina Svitolina 6-2 4-6 7-6(4).

In the men's draw, world number one Jannik Sinner overcame Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo 7-6(2) 6-3 to extend his winning streak to 24 matches, which



Jasmine Paolini

started in October last year.

The 23-year-old continued his run of reaching the quarter-finals at every event played since the start of 2024.

Fellow Italian Lorenzo Musetti, seeded eighth, powered to a 7-5 6-4 win against Daniil Medvedev to set up a quarter-final clash with defending champion Alexander Zverev, after the German second seed beat Frenchman Arthur Fils 7-6(3) 6-1.

Earlier on Tuesday, four-times Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz recovered from a second set blip to beat world number 24 Karen Khachanov 6-3 2-6 7-5 and reach the quarter-finals for the first time.



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INTOWN
Oman British Society holds a symposium on 'Unlocking Oman's Future...'



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SUMMER COOLERS
Make a refreshing drink to take on the heat and unleash a cool clime



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ENTERTAINMENT
A peek into tinsel town, in Hollywood and Bollywood

OMANI STARTUP

DOOR
TO
SUCCESS

Omani entrepreneur **Khalid al Khalifan** turns palm waste into a successful global venture of manufacturing durable doors



Mohammed Taha

In a rare industrial breakthrough from the Arab world, an Omani entrepreneur has turned agricultural waste into a commercially viable business, earning global recognition for his efforts to recycle discarded palm fronds into high-quality building materials.

Khalid Mohammed Ahmed al Khalifan, a native of the Wilayat of Ibra in North Sharqiyah, is the founder of Oman PVC, the only factory in the region producing doors, flooring, and decorative panels from palm tree waste. His innovation was awarded a national patent in 2021 by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

In an exclusive interview with Muscat Daily, Khalid said he began his professional journey as a technician in the private sector before launching an aluminium unit focused on doors, windows and kitchen fittings. In 2019, he ventured into entrepreneurship, motivated by a desire to use locally available resources more effectively.

"Starting to think about establishing any industrial or commercial project is the first step towards independence and self-reliance," he said. "Each of us has personal and social dreams and ambitions. Establishing, expanding, and managing a private project is one of the practical ways to achieve them."

Recognising the economic and environmental potential of the palm industry's byproducts, he developed a process to convert palm fronds into durable, weather-resistant building materials. The products are now exported to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt.

"One of our most important industries is the use of palm tree waste in the manufacture of doors, wooden panels, frames, parquet flooring, and some decorations," Khalid said. "We coordinate with farmers not to burn this waste, so we can collect it for a fee that benefits the farmer himself, rather than polluting the environment."

In 2022, Khalid and his team constructed a 21m-high, 6m-wide door using palm fronds and plastic waste collected from various parts of Oman. The project earned recognition from Guinness World Records as the largest door made from recycled materials.

"Through this door project, we hope to spread a culture of recycling among young people, encourage people to dispose of waste in designated places, use reusable shopping bags, and raise awareness of the dangers of plastic waste and the need to recycle palm waste to increase national income," he said.

Explaining the production process, Khalid said, "It wasn't easy. We began by collecting around 50 tonnes of palm fronds, which we ground, treated with chemicals, and pressed using high-temperature machines. After several iterations, we finally succeeded in producing our first door from palm frond waste."

He said international exposure, particularly visits to Asia and Europe to study manufacturing techniques, helped overcome early technical challenges.

The company's products are engineered to endure high temperatures, ultraviolet radiation and coastal humidity. They are also fire-resistant, due to the chlorine content in



the materials, and contain antioxidants and iodine salts that improve resilience.

"According to a recent study, 37 per cent of the energy used in homes is lost through doors and windows," Khalid said. "Choosing our wood-plastic doors would be the ideal choice to reduce the amount of heat lost."

Despite growing interest in his products, he acknowledged several challenges, including fluctuating global market conditions, difficulties in accessing financing, and increasing electricity costs.

Khalid urged young entrepreneurs to base their ideas on solid research, remain patient, and think originally. He also encouraged them to seek institutional support to further their goals.

"We advise young people to seize opportunities, avoid imitations, and support local innovation by attending conferences and seminars," he added.



Each of us has personal and social dreams and ambitions. Establishing, expanding, and managing a private project is one of the practical ways to achieve them

KHALID MOHAMMED AHMED AL KHALIFAN

take a break



Chill but don't spill in a rage

The heat is on... We are all reeling under it. And as the days go ahead, we will get from the frying pan to the fire. Just imagine, room temperatures shooting up halfway to boiling point in a few weeks' time!

We need to take care that our homes are well insulated and cooled such that they are comfortable and our power bills do not hit the roof. On the other hand, whenever outdoors, we need to take care to be well hydrated and avoid direct exposure to the Sun.

But in doing so, we also need to care for our environment. Using cars more frequently for minor errands should be avoided to ease our carbon footprint, air-conditioner use, especially



those which don't use green gases, should be minimised, and cooking must be restricted to just once a day.

We do not have any control on the environment, but we do have control on the way we use gadgets and devices, appliances and electronics, such that they contribute towards reducing the heat generated within our homes. Also,

keeping tempers from flaring, is another way of maintaining an individual cool quotient during summer.

Last week, I witnessed a heated argument between two cabbies at Ruwi. And obviously, the bone of contention was about grabbing each other's passengers. While tempers flared, voices raised, and BP levels escalated, the tea they'd ordered from a nearby coffee shop had cooled off. And as a sign of contempt, one of them angrily discarded his cup of tea at a nearby foot-path shrub, drenching its roots with warm 'karak'.

Then, engaging gear in a rage, he released a few puffs of black smoke from the exhaust of his cab before driving off in a frenzy that left pedestrians taken aback, quite literally. Laughter prevailed after the cabbie left and his counterpart happily slurped his cold tea, muttering a few mischievous expletives, and signalling to his waiting passengers to get into their seats as the show was over.

I glanced at the poor shrub...that wasn't its first cup of tea!

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

Everyone needs to do a serious cleansing every now and then. It's your turn now, so you probably want to get serious. If you have the urge to throw things out, even if you're emotionally attached to them, don't stop yourself. Think of it as a new start and move on. After all, if you don't get rid of the old, you can't welcome the new.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

You're as self-sufficient as anyone can possibly be, so when someone close approaches you with advice, you're torn between listening to them and listening to your instincts. Usually, a little of both is best, especially if you need to be polite. In this particular case, though, your antennae aren't wrong. Pay attention to the common denominator in the advice and your own gut.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

You're quite a cerebral, intellectual creature, but that doesn't mean you don't have any feelings, just that you're better at keeping them contained than most are under similar circumstances. That talent is vital right now, as well as your ability to remain objective under fire. You should do just fine, and you might even amaze the masses in the process!



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Something special is headed your way today. It might not arrive in the most attractive package, or any package at all, but it's something you've been wanting for a long time. It has something to do with love, acceptance, and contentment, and it's something you may have thought you had once before. Its entrance isn't dramatic, but you should understand something you never did before.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

You're quite proud of everyone you love and everything you own, and that goes double for those you've worked hard to keep close. Whether they're newly acquired or they've been with you since childhood, you've worked equally hard to keep them nearby. Spend some time with your most beloved people and possessions.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Even if everything seems to be going quite well, you just can't help but worry that things might take a turn for the worse. It's time for you to let go of your pessimism, if possible. You tend to expect perfection, sometimes even when it's not possible. At the moment, what you want is entirely possible, even if you don't push yourself into staying up for two days straight to pull it off!



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You've had troubled sleep for a couple of days now, mostly because someone you care about is under fire and you can't quite figure out how to help them handle it. Force yourself to relax, at least until you can make contact with the one person you're sure can provide the advice you need.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

You are somewhat famous for your willingness to do whatever it takes when someone you love needs you. That's happening right now, and the hints are sure to keep coming your way until you find a happy medium between keeping their secret and enlisting others to come to your mutual aid. You can pull it off, of course, but you may need to tell everyone a bit more than you'd like.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

You're a born authority figure in the sense that you trust your own judgment over anyone else's. That's usually a good plan, because your instincts are ordinarily right on, but it might not work out as you'd like it to at the moment. You need to confide in someone else (and trust their judgment) if you want your plans to succeed.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

You've been kind of bored and restless lately, and you might be thinking that a change of scenery would suit you. Stop telling yourself that you're just trying to duck out from responsibilities. Instead, you're trying to find a way to rejuvenate yourself. Take a loved one along for the ride - someone you're sure can be more than just company.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

Your objectivity is legendary among your people. You may even have been accused of being too coldly rational. That may be the case sometimes, but right now, you're dealing with an emotional situation and looking for some sign of light in the darkness. You know you can only find the answer by recruiting someone you trust. I



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

You tend to respect authority figures, though you have your limits. You admire how much time and energy your elders have invested into expanding their wisdom and experience, and you're plenty willing to give them the esteem they deserve. When someone offers you their advice in a somewhat disrespectful manner, you still know enough to listen up.

IN TOWN

Unlocking Oman's Future



Oman-British Omani Society symposium was held last Thursday



Photos: V K Shafer

BOGGLER

I	C	E	I
S	D	C	T
O	T	N	E
I	M	I	A

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 Boggles 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

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

TRIVIA QUIZ - FOR TEENS

- Which is the largest fruit in the world?
A. Watermelon
B. Jackfruit
C. Sugarcane
D. Papaya
- Who is the author of the novel Pride and Prejudice?
A. Enid Blyton
B. Agatha Christie
C. Jane Austen
D. Mary Higgins Clark
- Omani Kahwa is often mixed with this ingredient



- A. Lemon grass
B. Ground cloves
C. Cardamom powder
D. Dates pulp

Answers
1. B
2. C
3. C

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

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

During summer, enjoy chill drinks at any time of the day, to let yourself take on the heat with ease

Ingredients

Juice of 8-10 sour limes or
200ml fresh lemon concentrate
1 cup sugar (10tbsp)
½ tsp rock salt
2 glasses water

2 cans chilled soda water
(250ml each)
Ice-cubes, as required
Mint leaves (optional) - for garnish

Mix the lemon juice, sugar, salt and water and let the sugar dis-

Then add chilled soda till the brim and garnish with mint leaves or slices of lemon. If you do not like soda, you can replace it with chilled water.



Ingredients

1 litre chilled full-fat milk

6tbsp Roof Afza syrup

8-10 ice-cubes

Chopped slivers of almond or pistachios – for garnish

Blend 3-4tbsp of Rooh Afza with chilled milk to create a smooth, pink milk shake. Add the ice-cubes and mix well till they dissolve. Now, pour ½tbsp of the syrup along the inside of each glass. Then, pour the milk shake in the glasses till the brim.



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entertainment



Prateik Smita Patil didn't invite father Raj Babbar for his wedding

Prateik Smita Patil's family dynamics came under public scrutiny when his father Raj Babbar and family were not invited to his wedding with Priya Banerjee on February 14 this year. Prateik hosted an intimate and private ceremony at his late mother Smita Patil's house.

In a recent interview with Zoom, Prateik revealed the real reason why he didn't invite his father, veteran actor Raj Babbar and his family to the wedding. The venue where Prateik got married - his late mother's house - played a crucial role behind his decision.

Prateik shared that his mother Smita Patil and step-mother Nadira Babbar had issues in the past. To protect the sanctity of the house and his wedding, he didn't want to invite Raj Babbar and his family to the wedding.



Janet Jackson is set to receive the Icon Award at the 2025 American Music Awards, where she will also perform for the first time on TV since 2018.

Jackson, who has won 11 American Music Awards over the course of her 50 years in the music industry, is also a 'Rock and Roll Hall of Fame' inductee, five-time Grammy winner and two-time Emmy winner who has sold more than 180 million albums worldwide. The chart-topper is one of only four artists to have a No 1 album on the Billboard 200 in the 1980s, '90s, '00s and '10s, alongside Bruce Springsteen, Barbra Streisand and U2.

Janet Jackson
SET TO RECEIVE ICON AWARD

Kelly Clarkson over the moon with stunning weight loss

Kelly Clarkson is celebrating where she's at in life. The Grammy winner, 43, performed at Hard Rock Live at Etess Arena in Atlantic City, New Jersey on Saturday, May 10, and filled the venue with her powerhouse vocals and relatable, charming personality as she sang hits from 'Since U Been Gone' to the brand-new 'Where Have You Been'. At one point in the show, Clarkson chatted with an audience member who excitedly praised her 'sexy' appearance. She appreciated the compliment, especially in the wake of her recent weight loss — but joked about struggling to admire others' looks aloud on the set of her NBC talk show.



Lee Do Hyun is back...Yaay!



Lee Do Hyun — yes, The Lee Do Hyun — is officially out of the military and back in civilian life, and honestly, the world

just feels right again.

He had enlisted in the Korean Air Force band on August 14, 2023, and after what felt like forever (21 months, but who's counting? Me. I was counting.), he was discharged this week. He's back. He's free. And he's looking as dreamy as ever.

Even though he was in the military, it's like he never really left us. His movie *Exhuma* was a total mega hit — like, 11.9 million people went to see it. No big deal, just Korea's biggest movie star returning with a bang. He even won Best New Actor at the Baeksang Awards (I cried watching his acceptance speech, btw).

But wait, there's more — he was also in *Death's Game* (so good) and *Sweet Home 3* on Netflix. The man literally served his country and served face, talent, and emotions at the same time. Like, how?

Since his debut in *Prison Playbook*, he's just kept getting better. Don't even get me started on *The Glory* and *The Good Bad Mother*... I could write essays. I already have.

His agency says he's getting tonnes of offers now — dramas, films, ads, photoshoots...like duh, he's a walking heart attack.

Oh, and yes, he's still dating Lim Ji Yeon. Am I jealous? Just a little (okay a lot), but it's fine. I just hope he's happy... Welcome back, Lee Do Hyun. The world missed you. I missed you.

Muscat Private Hospital performs first-ever TEVAR surgery in Oman's private sector

LIFE-SAVING VASCULAR SURGERY SETS A NEW STANDARD FOR EMERGENCY CARE IN THE SULTANATE

Muscat Private Hospital (MPH) has made a historic breakthrough in Oman's private healthcare sector by successfully performing a Thoracic Endovascular Aortic Repair (TEVAR)—a highly complex and life-saving vascular procedure—on a critically injured road accident victim. The surgery, conducted on May 3, 2025, marks the first TEVAR performed in a private hospital in Oman. 8TH May, 2025 patient went home.

The patient, Mumtaz Ahmed, 38, suffered a severe aortic tear along with multiple injuries including rib fractures, spinal damage, and liver trauma following a road accident on April 25 in Kalba, Musandam. After initial stabilization at a government hospital, he was transferred to Muscat Private Hospital, Baushar, for advanced surgical intervention due to capacity limitations at the public facility.

"A Milestone for Private Healthcare in Oman"

- Dr. Ahmed Al Aufer

Dr. Ahmed Salim Mohammed Al Aufer, Consultant Vascular and Trauma Surgeon and the lead surgeon for the case, commented: "This TEVAR procedure is a major achievement—not only for Muscat Private Hospital but for Oman's entire private healthcare system. The successful outcome is a testament to rapid response, seamless teamwork,



Dr. Ahmed Al Aufer



Hassan Al Lawati, CEO

and access to the latest technology in patient care."

Dr. Ahmed Aufer led a skilled mul-

tidisciplinary team that included Dr. Zahra Ghanim Ahmed (Consultant Anesthetist), Cathlab specialists, ICU

& OT nurses, and support from Dr. Amr Hassan (HOD, Heart Center). The minimally invasive procedure involved inserting a vascular stent via a catheter to repair the torn aorta - an injury that is typically fatal without immediate intervention.

"We Don't Compete - We Complete Each Other"

- Hassan Al Lawati, CEO

Hassan Al Lawati, CEO of Muscat Private Hospital, emphasized the impor-

ance of public-private synergy in life-saving healthcare delivery: "This achievement is a perfect example of a successful Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in action. It reflects our alignment with Oman Vision 2040, showcasing how private hospitals like MPH are equipped to handle critical, high-end medical procedures."

He also praised the team's efforts - including emergency responders, radiology, laboratory, pharmacy, and biomedical departments - and acknowledged the role of support teams in delivering high-quality care. "MPH is committed to providing the highest quality healthcare ser-

vices in Oman, in alignment with our Vision and Mission. We strive to ensure that every patient receives exceptional care and attention, reflecting our dedication to health and wellness in the community."

Advanced Capabilities Backed by Technology and Expertise

Dr. Raymond Elias, Medical Director at MPH, stated: "The TEVAR surgery is a breakthrough in private trauma care. MPH stands ready with expert personnel and advanced infrastructure to respond effectively to medical emergencies."

Doctor's Road Safety Message: "Seatbelts Save Lives"

Dr. Ahmed Aufer used the opportunity to stress a critical public health message: "In this case, the most severe injury occurred to a passenger in the back seat without a seatbelt. Let this be a reminder - seatbelts must be mandatory for all vehicle occupants, not just those in the front seats."

Hassan al Lawati - CEO, Dr Raymond Elias - Medical Director, HOD & General Laparoscopic Surgery, Dr Zahra Ghanim Ahmed - HOD, Consultant Anesthesia & Intensivist, Dr Ahmed Salim Mohammed al Aufer, Consultant Vascular and Trauma Surgery, Dr Amr Abdullah Mohammed Hassan, HOD, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, Admin & Marketing Team Madhu Ramaiah, Vijayakumar and Prema Thimmiah along with the patient Mumtaz was present at the announcement.