

Oman joins ICMM

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism first Middle Eastern entity and only second in Asia to get International Congress of Maritime Museums membership

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman has officially joined the International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM), represented by Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, creating history in the process as the first Middle Eastern government entity to be accepted into the prestigious organisation.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism was recently granted membership alongside the Maritime Museum of Crete in Greece and Naval Museum of Peru. It is one of only two affiliate members from Asia along with the Indonesian Hidden Heritage Creative Hub in Jakarta.

The landmark membership underscores Oman's commitment to advancing international collaboration in maritime heritage and positioning the sultanate as a global leader in preserving and showcasing its rich maritime history, a statement said.

ICMM is a renowned international body dedicated to promoting the preservation and enhancement of maritime heritage worldwide. Through this membership, Oman will strengthen its role in the global exchange of



knowledge and expertise in maritime museums, elevating the standards of maritime collections and research.

In an effort to preserve Oman's maritime history, the ministry announced significant investments in October 2024, with agreements worth RO12mn to fund the initial phase of the Maritime History Museum project in Sur, South Sharqiyah.

The museum is poised to become a key asset in the region's heritage and tourism sector, contributing to the local economy and infrastructure development, while preserving Oman's maritime legacy.

The sultanate's seafaring history dates back millennia with its traders navigating routes from China to East Africa as early as the 3rd millennium BC. By the Islamic Period, they were part of a vast trading network spanning the region, and over the last four centuries, Oman established maritime links between the Sea of Oman, the Makran Coast and East Africa.

This maritime tradition has influenced Omani boatbuilding and navigational history, with traditional vessels and techniques now being preserved and documented.

SEZAD unveils 2030 strategy

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) has unveiled its 2025-2030 strategy, outlining plans to enhance investment opportunities, attract global businesses, and position itself as a hub for renewable energy and sustainable industries.

The strategy was unveiled on Wednesday as part of efforts of Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) to enhance SEZAD's economic role and improve the quality of life in Duqm, making it a key destination for investors, residents and visitors.

At the unveiling, attended by Dr Ali bin Masoud al Sunaidy, Chairman of OPAZ, SEZAD also introduced its Institutional Transformation Programme and a new brand identity.

On the occasion, Ahmed bin Ali Akaak, CEO of SEZAD, said the strategy builds on past successes driven by Duqm's strategic location, infrastructure and



Ahmed bin Ali Akaak

investor-friendly policies. "Our focus is on creating a sustainable business ecosystem, offering real solutions and guidance for local and international investors to grow their enterprises based on responsibility, transparency, co-operation and innovation."

He added that the key objective is to localise investments across various sectors, accelerating development and marketing of priority economic sub-zones.

Huda bint Abdullah al Habsi, Head of Transformation Team at OPAZ, outlined the strategy's development process, which involved extensive consultations

and workshops with OPAZ and SEZAD teams. "The newly set vision provides SEZAD a clear purpose and direction, while the mission unifies employees towards long-term goals," she said.

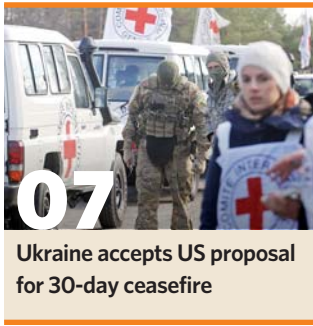
The strategy focuses on five key goals: attracting investments, ensuring efficient operations, promoting a balanced lifestyle, boosting tourism and achieving institutional excellence. It aims to enhance Duqm's competitiveness by offering high-quality infrastructure, services and facilities, while positioning it as a lifestyle destination through urban and social development plans.

SEZAD also seeks to attract tourists and strategic partners by promoting Duqm as a unique destination with diverse experiences. Institutional excellence will be pursued through targeted initiatives to enhance skills, planning and operational efficiency.

The event also featured presentation of SEZAD's new brand identity, designed to align with its strategic ambitions and transformation programme.



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SUSTENANCE FOR THE SOUL

Principles of Zakat al Fitr and rewards of charity

Muscat - Ramadan is a time for reflection, prayer and forgiveness. It is a month that helps us strengthen our faith, practise self-discipline and grow spiritually. Islamic scholar Hatim Abdul Salem explains some key concepts in simple terms -

WEEK 2

Zakat al Fitr is a unique form of charity associated with Ramadan. The word zakat means purification, while fitr refers to breaking fast.

Since humans are not perfect and may make mistakes in their fasting, Zakat al Fitr serves as a way to purify oneself following any shortcomings during Ramadan.

Zakat al Fitr is paid on the last day of Ramadan, specifically after sunset, as Islamic days begin at sunset rather than in the morning. It is a compulsory charity that must be given by the head of the household on behalf of every family member, including children.

The primary wisdom behind Zakat al Fitr is to ensure that all members of society can celebrate Eid al Fitr, the festival

marking the end of Ramadan, with joy and dignity.

Since Eid is a day of celebration, Islam encourages that even the poor and needy should have sufficient food to enjoy this special occasion.

Zakat al Fitr is given in the form of food commonly consumed in the region. In many Middle Eastern countries, rice is the staple food, so it is distributed accordingly. The prescribed weight is a specific portion, equivalent to approximately RO1.5 per person.

Charity holds immense rewards in Islam, and its value is multiplied during Ramadan. The Prophet (PBUH) emphasised the fact that giving charity, especially during this sacred month, brings immense blessings and forgiveness.

Acts of kindness, including feeding the poor, helping those in need and giving Zakat al Fitr, result in spiritual purification and take a person closer to Allah. Thus, Zakat al Fitr is both an obligation and an opportunity for Muslims to reflect on generosity, compassion and social responsibility.



Hatim Abdul Salem

Breaking fast atop Jabal al Hawra



(Supplied photo)

Our Correspondent
Muscat

What is it like to break fast a thousand metres above sea level atop a mountain with breathtaking views of Oman's three most scenic wilayats - Nizwa, Al Hamra and Bahla? To immerse in the experience, the Endurance March Team of Bahla Sports Club organised a special trekking event on Jabal al Hawra (968m) in Bahla, Dakhliyah last Friday.

The event aimed to promote walking as a regular activity while fasting, concluding with an iftar on the mountain peak.

Sharing details of the event, Abdullah bin Sulaiman al Mufarji, head of the Endurance March Team, told *Muscat Daily*, "The trek began on March 7 at 4:45pm from the gate of the Al Hawra Mountain walkway. Participants completed the 9km trek in about an hour and 15 minutes, experiencing both the physical challenge and tranquility of the landscape during fasting hours."

Mufarji informed that the primary goal of the trek was to promote fitness, while embracing the unique challenge of walking during Ramadan, culminating in iftar atop the mountain. "This effort not only encouraged physical activity during Ramadan but also highlighted the scenic beauty of Oman."

Upon reaching the summit, participants replaced the old flag of the sultanate with a new one in a symbolic gesture, and as the call for Maghrib prayers echoed, the group gathered to break their fast taking in the sunset and panoramic views of Bahla, Nizwa and Al Hamra.

Mufarji highlighted the team's ongoing efforts to promote health and wellness. Established in 2015, the team has organised numerous trekking events across Oman, including a march on November 18, 2024 which drew over 8,000 participants.

The team is also credited with establishing a 10km trekking path in Jabal al Hawra, now a popular route for fitness enthusiasts and nature lovers. Emphasising the importance of safe exercise during fasting, Mufarji advised participants to avoid overexertion and encouraged group activities for added safety.

"Last Friday's event successfully combined exercise, adventure and community engagement, highlighting the importance of maintaining health during Ramadan while embracing the beauty of Oman's natural landscapes," Mufarji added.

The trek not only encouraged physical activity during Ramadan but also highlighted Oman's scenic beauty

ABDULLAH AL MUFARJI



Dhofar International Development And Investment Holding Company (SAOG) AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

P.O.Box 2163, Salalah, Postal Code 211, Sultanate of Oman, Tel: 23295400, Fax: 23291500, Email: didico@omantel.net.om, Website: www.didic.com

Board of Directors' Report 2024

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Dhofar International Development & Investment Holding Company (SAOG), I am pleased to welcome you to the Annual Ordinary General Meeting to review the annual closing financial reports along with the auditors' report for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.

Muscat Stock Exchange Indicators:

The MSX's general index "Muscat 30" ended the year 2024 with a 1.39% increase to 4577 points, achieving a growth of 63 points, compared to its closing level at the end of 2023, which was 4514. The rise in the index during the year was supported by the positive performance of the financial and services sector indices, as the former rose by 4.51%, the services index rose by 11.34%, and the industry sector index declined by 3.74%.

Trading in 2024 took place on the shares of 139 companies listed on the MSX, the prices of 61 of which rose, while the prices of 59 others declined, and the prices of 19 shares remained stable during the year. Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) has rebounded by attracting local and foreign investment during 2024, benefiting from some listings in the vital energy sector, especially OQ Exploration and Production in September and OQ Basic Industries - Salalah Free Zone in December, after the two companies offered part of their shares for public subscription and transformed into public joint-stock Omani companies listed on the stock exchange. The market value of the stock exchange increased by 15.93% at the end of the year, reaching R.O 27.595 billion, compared to R.O 23.802 billion at the end of last year, with market gains of R.O 3.793 billion. Changes in the MSX are considered one of the company's most important challenges. The volatility of stock exchange prices is one of the main factors affecting the company's investments and the size of borrowing coverage.

The Financial Indicators:

Below is a summary of the audited final financial results for the fiscal year ending on 31 December 2024: -

- The total assets of the parent company on 31 December 2024 amounted to OMR 216.528 million compared to OMR 214.065 million for the same period last year, while the total assets of the group on 31 December 2024 amounted to OMR 226.037 million compared to OMR 223.813 million in 2023.
- An increase in shareholders' equity in the

parent company from OMR 132.535 million at the end of 2023 to OMR 137.153 million on December 31, 2024, in the parent company, due to the increase in the volume of investments in associate companies, which led to the net assets per share at the end of 2024 being around OMR 0.335, while it was OMR 0.324 on December 31, 2023.

The Profits during the period:

The parent company achieved a net profit of OMR 8.287 million for the year 2024 compared to a net profit of OMR 7.758 million in 2023. The main reason for the increase in the volume of profits is due to the increase in unrealized gain on financial assets at fair value through profit & losses of OMR 0.950 million at the end of 2024 compared to unrealized losses of OMR 2.095 million in 2023. In addition, the finance cost increased from OMR 5.109 million at the end of 2023 to OMR 5.946 million at the end of 2024, in addition to the improvement in the profits of associate companies from OMR 14.325 million at the end of 2023 to OMR 14.657 million at the end of 2024 with a decrease in the volume of deferred finance costs from OMR 1.430 million in 2023 to OMR 0.095 million by the end of 2024.

The Company's Activities:

The company aims to find new investment opportunities inside and outside the Sultanate to increase the volume of investments and maintain a balanced structure. The company has tried to maintain and develop its investment structure over the past few years by investing in different sectors, to diversify the investment structure and take advantage of available opportunities. The company has been able to develop a plan for its future investments that depends on the availability of sufficient liquidity to start with. In addition, the company has been able to restructure all loans with a group of local banks according to better terms and the possibility of providing appropriate opportunities to finance expansions that will be part of the company's future business plan and has achieved remarkable progress in reducing the company's debt from R.O 81.529 million to R.O 79.375 million by the end of 2024, while striving to reduce the debt and benefit from the banking facilities granted to the company to enhance the volume of investments. The company is also closely following the stages of the merger case between the company and Oman Investment and Finance Company SAOG after

obtaining positive results at the beginning of 2025, and following up on the stages of completing the merger.

The Board of Directors confirms its orientation to contribute to all economically feasible businesses that benefit investors serve the national economy in general and support projects of public benefit.

Future Vision:

The company operates in a dynamic and changing environment with fluctuations in the local market, regional, and global markets that have clear impacts on the performance and results of its investments to better manage risks. The company continuously seeks to develop strategic cooperation with its subsidiaries and partners by building strong strategic alliances that can achieve common goals for all. The company is looking forward to completing the merger process with one of the leading companies in the Sultanate, "Oman Investment and Finance Company SAOG", to establish a large entity capable of facing future challenges and able to face competition in the local environment.

The company also looks forward to regional expansion by finding future Gulf partnerships to improve the company's profitability, growth, and development to serve its valued shareholders by reaching a leading holding company to diversify investments, reduce risks, and diversify sources of cash flow, which in turn contributes to sustainable growth to meet shareholders' requirements. The Board of Directors is committed to achieving the goals it sets and strives to follow up on their implementation in a manner that leads to a noticeable development in performance for the better.

Dear Shareholders,

Your confidence in assigning us this responsibility is one of the motives that we highly value and drives us to fulfill your aspirations. Also, we would like to thank the Board members, executive management, and employees for their constant perseverance and tireless efforts, which we hope will continue. Finally, we wish our country continued safety and stability under the wise leadership and guidance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq, may God protect him and prolong his life.

Khalid Bin Mustahail Al Mashani
Chairman
6 March 2025

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

Consolidated and separate statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024
(Expressed in Omani Rial)

	Group 2024	Parent Company 2024	Group 2023	Parent Company 2023
ASSETS				
Cash and bank balances	112,925	44,503	1,155,672	403,071
Receivables and prepayments	799,334	7,340,657	837,851	6,574,665
Inventories	-	-	9,777	-
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	-	-
- Investment in equities	38,513,405	23,804,639	39,285,647	23,978,723
- Investment in term deposits	-	-	730,000	730,000
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	1,499,023	-	907,823	-
Investment in subsidiaries	-	1,077,819	-	1,104,534
Investment in associates	179,940,978	179,940,978	175,557,790	175,557,790
Loan to subsidiary	-	3,600,000	-	4,950,000
Investment properties	4,699,123	247,212	247,212	247,212
Property and equipment	472,278	472,278	5,081,351	518,558
Total assets	226,037,066	216,528,086	223,813,123	214,064,553
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	54,472,000	54,472,000	54,472,000	54,472,000
Legal reserve	11,545,216	11,545,216	1,716,519	10,716,519
General reserve	7,070,404	7,070,404	7,070,404	7,070,404
Investment revaluation reserve	(2,434,670)	(2,434,670)	(3,087,847)	(3,087,847)
Retained earnings	66,908,373	66,499,786	63,772,686	63,364,099
Total equity due to shareholders of the Parent Company	137,561,323	137,152,736	132,943,762	132,535,175
LIABILITIES				
Loans and borrowings	86,370,019	77,408,285	89,965,103	81,003,368
Other liabilities	2,074,479	1,948,954	848,922	526,010
Income tax payable	31,245	18,111	55,336	-
Total liabilities	88,475,743	79,375,350	90,899,361	81,529,378
Total equity and liabilities	226,037,066	216,528,086	223,813,123	214,064,553
Net assets per share	0.336	0.335	0.325	0.324

Consolidated and separate statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2024 (Expressed in Omani Rial)

	Group 2024	Parent Company 2024	Group 2023	Parent Company 2023
INCOME				
Dividend income	1,139,356	1,078,131	1,206,176	1,079,843
Income of a subsidiary	150,000	-	333,205	-
Realised (loss)/gain on sale of financial assets	(81,935)	(43,025)	26,530	50,728
Unrealised gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	863,514	949,859	(2,147,163)	(2,094,690)
Interest income	286,160	695,815	365,919	640,529
Other income	283,292	103,315	671,255	105,630
Total income	2,640,387	2,784,095	455,922	(217,960)
EXPENSES				
Administrative and general expenses	(2,090,638)	(1,779,445)	(2,488,326)	(1,754,510)
Depreciation on property and equipment and investment property	(143,960)	(51,099)	(162,715)	(63,124)
Total expenses	(2,234,598)	(1,830,544)	(2,651,041)	(1,817,634)
Operating profit/(loss)	405,789	953,551	(2,195,119)	(2,035,594)
Finance costs	(6,539,791)	(5,945,905)	(6,082,593)	(5,109,307)
Deferred finance costs	(94,917)	(94,917)	(1,430,325)	(1,430,325)
Share of loss from subsidiaries	-	(1,157,300)	-	(1,172,090)
Share of profit from associates	14,656,555	14,656,555	14,324,561	14,324,561
Bargain gain on acquisition of associate	-	-	3,181,006	3,181,006
Profit before tax for the year	8,427,636	8,411,984	7,797,530	7,758,251
Income tax	(140,664)	(125,012)	(39,279)	-
Profit after tax for the year	8,286,972	8,286,972	7,758,251	7,758,251
Other comprehensive income				
Changes in Financial asset at fair value through other comprehensive income	590,585	-	(280,022)	-
Share of other comprehensive income of subsidiaries	-	590,585	-	(280,022)
Share of other comprehensive income of associates	62,592	62,592	696,982	696,982
Other comprehensive income for the year	653,177	653,177	416,960	416,960
Total comprehensive income for the year	8,940,149	8,940,149	8,175,211	8,175,211
Basic earnings per share	0.020	0.020	0.019	0.019

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Small oil spills pose threat to marine life

Our Correspondent
Muscat

A new study by the Environment Authority (EA) has raised concerns over the rising number of small-scale, unattributed oil spills that continue to pose a significant risk to marine environments.

The research, titled 'Problem of Small-Scale Marine Oil Spills Discharged by Unattributable Vessels', was led by Dr Omran bin Mohammed al Kamzari, Senior Specialist in Environmental Policy, Law, and Oil Pollution at EA, and published in the *Pollution Study Journal*.

In an interview with *Muscat Daily*, Kamzari stressed that while large-scale oil spills have received substantial attention, the impacts of smaller, unreported spills are equally, if not more, damaging to marine ecosystems.

"Oil pollution is one of the most serious threats to marine

ecosystems. While large spills are often the focus of research and media attention, small spills, frequently of unknown origin, continue to harm coastal areas and marine life," Kamzari explained.

The study calls for better methods to identify fugitive polluters, improve oil spill cleanup strategies, and establish stronger compensation mechanisms for the damage caused by such spills. Kamzari underlined the urgency of addressing this issue, as the health of marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of coastal communities are at stake.

One of the primary challenges in dealing with small, unattributed oil spills is the lack of international attention, according to Kamzari. Factors such as deep-water spills, routine ship operations, and unreported incidents make it difficult to trace the origin of the pollution.

"When oil spills occur in deep



While large spills are often the focus of research and media attention, small spills - frequently of unknown origin - continue to harm coastal areas and marine life. We need better methods to identify fugitive polluters

DR OMRAN BIN MOHAMMED AL KAMZARI

waters or during routine ship operations, they are hard to detect. By the time they reach coastal areas, the source is often untraceable, complicating efforts to hold polluters accountable or claim compensation for cleanup costs," he said.

The study highlights that oil pollution from unknown sources is one of the most severe environmental threats to marine life, with only about 8% of oil spills being reported. The majority go undetected, continuing to pose a substantial risk to marine ecosystems.

Kamzari also pointed out that small oil spills are often overlooked in media and economic discussions. "These spills do not receive the attention that larger incidents attract, and as a result, they are underreported. This lack of focus has led to continued environmental harm," he said.

However, he acknowledged that social media has played a

significant role in improving public awareness and reporting of such events.

Oman, situated along the heavily trafficked Strait of Hormuz, is particularly vulnerable to oil pollution. The strait sees daily oil tanker shipments, contributing to environmental risks, especially for Oman's northern coasts.

Sources of oil pollution include accidental tanker spills, illegal discharge of ballast water, and leaks from offshore oil facilities, all of which threaten marine life, including coral reefs, mangroves, and fish stocks.

Kamzari explained that most small spills result from deliberate oil waste discharge by ships, especially during periods of minimal regulatory oversight.

"Many vessels dispose of oil-contaminated ballast water or clean their fuel tanks at sea to avoid the costs of proper disposal," he said.

Oman, Pakistan focus on key sectors for cooperation



Our Correspondent
Muscat

H E Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, met on Wednesday with Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, who is currently visiting Oman.

The meeting focused on enhancing economic relations and exploring opportunities for cooperation and partnership across key sectors, particularly food security, mining, and medical and pharmaceutical supplies. Discussions also addressed ways to

leverage promising sectors, attract investments, facilitate trade procedures, and increase bilateral trade exchange.

H E Yousef spoke of the robust economic ties between Oman and Pakistan, underscoring the importance of expanding trade and investment cooperation and strengthening partnerships between private sector institutions and companies in both nations.

According to the National Center for Statistics and Information, Oman's trade balance with Pakistan until December 2024 favoured Pakistan. Omani exports to Pakistan were valued at approximately RO89mn, while

imports from Pakistan reached RO97.6mn. Key imports from Pakistan include rice, corn, and barium sulfate, while Oman's primary exports to Pakistan consist of polypropylene, polyethylene, aluminium, and lead.

H E Habsi meets

H E Dr Saud bin Hamoud al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, also hosted Minister Khan. The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation in the agricultural sector and exploring joint investment opportunities aimed at advancing agriculture in both nations.

CPA cracks down on sale of used tyres

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) in North Sharqiyah has seized 1,104 used vehicle tyres from commercial establishments involved in their storage, repair, and resale.

The action was taken in line with the Consumer Protection Law, which prohibits the sale of

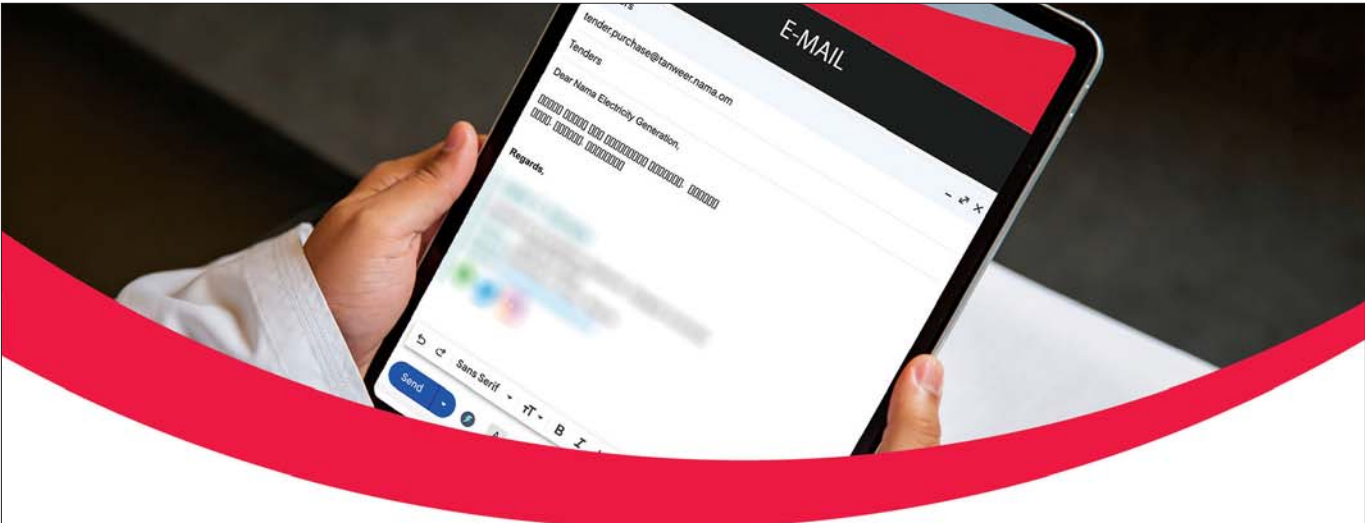
used tyres due to the risks they pose to consumers.

The seized tyres were impounded, and legal measures have been initiated against the violators. The CPA stated that the ban on used tyres is aimed at ensuring public safety.

As part of the recent amendments to the Consumer Protection Law, penalties for violating tyre sale regulations have been

increased. The fine, previously set at RO500, has been doubled to RO1,000. For repeat offenders, the penalty will be doubled again, with an additional fine of RO50 per day for continued violations, up to a maximum of RO2,000.

The amended regulations, which took effect on August 19, 2024, reinforce an existing ruling (No 257/2015) that bans the sale of used tyres in Oman.



TENDERS

Nama Electricity Generation Company (S.A.O.C) invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their best offer for the following tenders:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Fee (OMR)	Grade	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Last Date for Proposal Submission
NEGC/03/2025	PROVIDING PROTECTION ENGINEER SERVICES AT THE NEGC OFFICE FOR 2025 & 2026	52,500 (including VAT)	Specialist Companies (Approved by DCRP)	19 March 2025	27 March 2025
NEGC/05/2025	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF SPARE PARTS FOR (WARTSILA) GENERATORS TO NAMA ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY POWER STATIONS	1,575 (including VAT)	Specialist Companies	19 March 2025	27 March 2025
NEGC/06/2025	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SAHIH AL KHIRAT POWER STATION AT WILAYAT THUMRAIT -DHOFAH GOVERNORATE	1,575 (including VAT)	Specialist Companies	19 March 2025	27 March 2025

- Collection of Tender:** Interested and specialized companies and establishments registered with Nama Electricity Generation Company (Rural Areas Electricity Company) , Tender Board and the DCRP may obtain the Tender documents from Nama Electricity Generation Company, Procurement & IVC Section, at Wilayat Al Seeb, Airport Heights, via email: (tender.purchase@ngce.nama.om) during the working hours between 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The interested party shall deposit the tender fees (non-refundable) to the company account (0423010783090017 - Bank Muscat).
- Bank Guarantee:**
 - Each bid should enclose a temporary insurance in the form of a bank guarantee (Bid Bond) from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman, covering (1%) of the total bid value and valid for a period of (90) days from the last date of submission and addressed to Rural Areas Electricity Company (S.A.O.C)- excluding Riyadh card holders from this Bid Bond. Bids that do not include the required temporary insurance will not be considered.
 - The awarded bidder shall enclose a performance bond guarantee issued by any bank operating in the Sultanate of Oman. This bank guarantee should be for 5% of the total quotation value and to be addressed to the Chairperson of the Nama Electricity Generation Company, within 10 Days of receiving the Letter of Award (LOA).
- Offers Submission:** Bids should be submitted in three separate envelopes (Pre-Qualification, Technical & Financial) with red wax addressed to the Chairman of Minor Tender Committee, Nama Electricity Generation Company (S.A.O.C) marked with tender number and name. No indication or any reference to bidders' identity is permitted on the envelope.
- Submission Location:** Bids should be dropped in the tender box at the main office of Nama Electricity Generation Company (S.A.O.C), at Wilayat Al Seeb, Airport Heights, no later than 12:00 PM on the last date of submission.
- Nama Electricity Generation Company is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.
- Site Visit:** To be scheduled for bidders after the procurement period ends.



Nama Electricity Generation
Business Tower, Muscat Hills, Airport Heights
P.O Box 1166, Post Code 113, Sultanate of Oman
Phone Number: +968 91766576



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FOREX RATES

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India	226.29
Pakistan	728.09
Bangladesh	315.70
Philippines	148.92
Sri Lanka	767.41

*Rates as on March 12
Source: xe.com

BRIEFS

US to charge port fees for China ships

US President Donald Trump's plan to apply port fees on Chinese-built or Chinese-flagged vessels docking at American ports risks pushing costs upwards in maritime trade.

Maritime transportation has become a new target in Trump's efforts to boost US competitiveness in the shipbuilding and maritime sectors against China, according to a draft executive order. The US Trade Representative, a government agency responsible for foreign trade policies, will impose tonnage-based fees on Chinese-built or flagged vessels that dock in US ports.

These fees will also apply to port cargo-handling equipment made in or assembled using components from China or produced by companies affiliated with China in any way.

The draft order specifies that a company owned or managed by a Chinese individual also falls under the category, even if the equipment in question were to be produced in a country other than China.

Asyad Shipping shares steady on market debut after RO128mn IPO

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Asyad Shipping Company, one of the world's largest diversified maritime providers and a global leader in deep-sea transportation, successfully listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) on Wednesday following the completion of its initial public offering (IPO).

Shares of Asyad Shipping closed unchanged on their debut on the MSX on Wednesday, following the company's RO128.1mn IPO. Shares opened at 123bz per share on the first day of trading, matching the IPO offer price. The shares closed at the same level – 123bz – at the top of the IPO price range.

More than 19mn Asyad Shipping shares were traded on the first day of trading, with total turnover reaching RO2.356mn, according to MSX data.

The bell-ringing ceremony took place at 10:00 am on Wednesday morning at the MSX, with trading of Asyad Shipping's shares commencing under the ticker symbol ASCO.

Through the IPO, a total of 1,041,748,856 ordinary shares were offered to investors, representing 20% of the company's total issued share capital. The offer price was set at 123bz per share, with Asyad Shipping's market capitalisation at approximately RO641mn.

Asyad Shipping has established a robust dividend policy,



The bell-ringing ceremony took place at 10:00 am on Wednesday at the MSX

demonstrating its commitment to shareholder returns. The company intends to declare a dividend of approximately RO22.3mn, payable in March 2025, and a further dividend of approximately RO29mn, payable in September 2025.

Looking ahead, based on projected performance for the year ending December 31, 2025, the company expects to declare a dividend of approximately RO29mn, payable in March 2026.

Commenting on the company's listing on the MSX, Dr Ibrahim bin Bakhit al Nadhairi, CEO of Asyad Shipping, said, "I am incredibly proud to see Asyad Shipping list on the Muscat Stock Exchange. Since our es-

Asyad Shipping intends to declare a dividend of approximately RO22.3mn, payable in March 2025, and a further dividend of approximately RO29mn, payable in September 2025

tablishment in 2003, our journey has been marked by sustainable growth and global expansion, and we have successfully built one of the world's largest diversified shipping companies, leveraging Asyad Group's advanced infrastructure. As we look towards the future as a public company, we remain committed to supporting Oman's economic development, expanding our global operations, and creating value for our investors and partners by continuously seeking out

new growth opportunities."

Asyad Shipping's public listing on the MSX allows domestic and international investors to invest in one of the world's largest diversified maritime shipping companies and a key player in the Omani economy.

Haitham Salim al Salmi, CEO of the Muscat Stock Exchange, said, "The listing of Asyad Shipping is an important step towards reinforcing the exchange's position and opens new investment opportunities in the diver-

sified maritime transport and shipping industry. Asyad Shipping is the first company to list on the MSX this year, a valuable addition to the logistics sector on the exchange. This listing elevates the market capitalisation of the MSX to approximately RO27.831bn, and the company will be one of the ten largest listed companies on the exchange."

"Asyad Shipping's listing is aligned with the Oman Investment Authority's strategy to di-

vest from some government assets, to support economic diversification efforts and achieve the objectives of Oman Vision 2040," he added.

Asyad Shipping is one of the world's largest diversified maritime providers and a global leader in deep-sea transportation, with a full suite of operational capabilities, including liner services, ship management, and chartering activities. The company operates 89 vessels, reaching over 60 countries.

Asyad Shipping offers a comprehensive range of maritime shipping solutions across five key business segments: container ships, product tankers, dry bulk carriers, crude tankers, and gas carriers.

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العمانية للألياف البصرية
Oman Fiber Optic
P.O.Box 5, P.C 124 Rusayl - Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS FOR ATTENDING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Oman Fiber Optic Co. SAOC has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday 26/03/2025 at 02:00 PM, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om). If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second General Meeting shall be held on Thursday 27/03/2025 at 02:00 PM, via the electronic platform mentioned above to discuss the following agenda:

1. Consider and approve the Board of Directors' Report for the Financial year ended 31 December, 2024.
2. Consider the Auditors' Report and the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December, 2024.
3. Consider and approve meeting attendance fees for the Board of Directors and its committees for the year 2024 and approve the meeting attendance fee for the year 2025.
4. Consider and approve the proposal of distributing the total sum of RO 180,400 as remuneration to the Board of Directors of the company for the year ended 31 December 2024.
5. Consider and approve the Boards' recommendation to distribute cash dividends to the shareholders, in April 2025 (Cutoff date 9th of April 2025), at the rate of 55% of the issued share capital (at the rate of 0.550 Baisa per share) for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
6. Approve the transactions and contracts that the company has entered into during the year 2024 with related parties.
7. Approve the proposed transactions that the company may enter into during the year 2025 with related parties.
8. To notify annual General Meeting with donation paid during the financial year ended 31 December, 2024. (OMR 35,000/-)
9. To approve the proposal of allocating an amount of OMR 35,000/- for supporting local community services during the year ending 31 December, 2025.
10. To appoint Statutory Auditors for the financial year 2025 and specify their fees.

According to the Company's Articles of Association and the controls for holding General Meetings using modern technology issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

1. Legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.
2. Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information please contact Mr Anwar Al Zadjali on 90909890 or email: anwar.zadjali@omanfiber.com

Chairman Auditor Legal Consultant

SEND YOUR REQUEST FOR

Birthday/Anniversary wishes to wish@apexmedia.co.om
with your resident card copy (It's free of cost)

Nik Martin

When Donald Trump was re-elected in November, many investors declared the so-called Trump Trade would spur US stocks to new highs. But markets are now spooked by fears the world's largest economy is close to recession.

Many investors believed Donald Trump's return to the White House as the United States' president would be a bonanza for the US stock market, which had already hit all-time highs in recent months thanks to the artificial intelligence (AI) boom.

They argued that the deal-making, "America First" president would be sensitive to any uncertainty in financial markets caused by his tariff policy and would likely intervene, if necessary, to help stabilise prices.

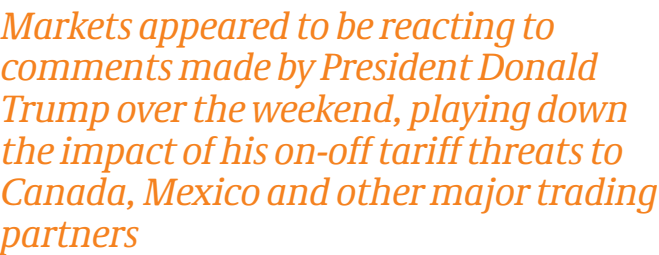
But after weeks of uncertainty

about Trump's protectionist measures, on Monday US stocks fell sharply, against the backdrop of fears that the world's largest economy could tip into recession later this year.

The Dow dropped almost 900 points, the S&P 500 fell 2.7%, while the Nasdaq toppled 4% — its steepest fall in two-and-a-half years. The markets continued to decline on Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

Tesla plummeted by 15%, while the Magnificent 7 stocks — Apple, Microsoft, Google parent Alphabet, Amazon, Nvidia, Meta and Tesla — collectively entered bear market territory. Deutsche Bank noted how these stocks have shed more than 20% of their value since December.

Bloomberg reported that the



combined wealth of the five billionaires who attended Trump's inauguration has been slashed by \$209bn since January 20. Tesla CEO Elon Musk alone has lost \$144bn.

Markets appeared to be reacting to comments made by the president over the weekend,

closed, warning that the investment bank now thinks US growth momentum will "undershoot" the rest of the world.

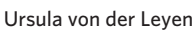
British banking giant HSBC also cut US equities to neutral for the next three to six months, saying the lender sees "better opportunities elsewhere for now."

US policymakers have spent the past year trying to avoid plunging the economy into recession. Interest rates have fallen from their recent peak of 5.33% which helped reduce inflation from its recent multi-decade highs.

But Trump's various tariff policies threaten to disrupt efforts to achieve a soft landing. New 25% levies on all steel and aluminum imports into the US are due to take effect Wednesday, while new tariffs on Chinese goods have doubled to 20%.

DW

Brussels, Belgium - Early Wednesday morning, the European Union (EU) launched a set of proportionate countermeasures on US imports into the EU, targeting a variety of American products, ranging from boats to bourbon to Harley-Davidson motorbikes.



One month ago, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing a 25% tariff on imports of steel, aluminium, and related derivative products, affecting approximately 26bn euro worth of EU exports.

At the time, the EU condemned the move, stating that it would not hesitate to retaliate if the US proceeded with the new tariffs. The EU, particularly Germany, is a major steel exporter to

the US. During Trump's first term, the EU responded to similar tariffs with 2.8bn euro in duties on US goods.

The EU's countermeasures will be implemented in two steps.

On April 1 the EU will allow the suspension of existing 2018 and 2020 countermeasures against the US to lapse.

These measures targeted a variety of American products, ranging from boats to bourbon to Harley-Davidson motorbikes, covering economic damage estimated at 8bn euro.

By mid-April, the EU will impose a fresh round of counter-measures in response to the US tariffs. These will affect US exports valued at up to 18bn euro, bringing the total EU response to 26bn euro, matching the scale of the American tariffs.

(Source: Euronews.com)

 شركة زجاج مجان ش.م.ع.ع. MAJAN GLASS COMPANY S.A.O.G. P.O Box 17, Postal Code 327, C.R.No: 3/19456/6, Sohar Industrial Estate, Sultanate of Oman. Tel: +968 26751654/5/6, Fax: +968 26751658, E-mail: info@majanglass.com																																																																																												
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Dear Shareholders, On behalf of the Board of Directors, I welcome you to the 29th Annual General Meeting of your Company to present and discuss the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended on 31st December 2024. Financial Results and Company Performance: During the year 2024, the company recorded sales of RO 9.83 million, which is 19.85% lower when compared to the previous year's sales of RO 12.26 million. The increase in loss is majorly driven by a 20% reduction in sales arising out of • Boycott of international carbonated beverages in the GCC and Middle East, leading to a shift in preference to local carbonated soft drink brands which were packaged in aluminum cans and PET packaging. • Decline in sales to Western markets due to disruptions in the Suez Canal, which affected competitiveness and delivery timelines. • Low demand and price pressure in Western markets, where high inflation and inventory reductions plans led major manufacturers to cut production. Despite these challenges, the company remains committed to efficiency and sustainability. To mitigate these impacts, Majan Glass will be focusing on: • Expanding sales in regional markets, benefiting from the closure of production capacity in the UAE. • Developing the food packaging segment as part of its diversification strategy. Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Wusta Mining LLC (a registered subsidiary of MDO, Oman, for local silica sand supply after validating its technical suitability for glass production. The Gross profit amounted to 805 thousand Omani riyals for the period ended on December 31, 2024, compared to a Gross profit of 1,270 thousand Omani riyals for the same period of the previous year, 2023. Net Loss after Tax for the current period amounts to RO 1,294 K as against Net Loss after Tax of RO 748K for the same period in the previous year, 2023. (Loss increased by 73.00%)																																																																																												
Performance Highlights: <table> <tr> <th>Particulars</th><th>TOTAL YE 2024</th><th>TOTAL YE 2023</th><th>% Change</th></tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">OPERATING PERFORMANCE (RO Millions)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sales</td><td>9.826</td><td>12.260</td><td>-19.85%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cost of Goods Sold</td><td>9.021</td><td>10.991</td><td>17.92%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gross Profit</td><td>0.805</td><td>1.270</td><td>-36.56%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Net Profit / (Loss) Before Tax</td><td>-1.294</td><td>-0.479</td><td>-170.15%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Income tax</td><td>0</td><td>-0.269</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Net Profit / (Loss) after Tax</td><td>-1.294</td><td>-0.748</td><td>-73.00%</td></tr> </table> Dividend After considering the financial performance and taking account of the company's cash flow requirements for various capital expenditures envisaged in 2025, the Board of Directors does not recommend any dividend for the financial year ending 31 December 2024. Future Outlook:- The company has sufficient visibility for its 2025 sales volume by way of customer contracts/off take indications. The shutdown of capacities in a neighboring country has helped us to consolidate regional volumes, helping us to recalibrate our sales portfolio for FY 25, focusing on regional demand while monitoring geopolitical developments to be well-prepared for any significant potential market recoveries. The company is exploring multiple options to provide the funds for the capital expenditure required for the improvement of the plant's efficiency and productivity, which will enable the projected market demand for glass bottles to be serviced in a profitable manner. Corporate Social Responsibility:- The company believes that giving back to society is extremely important. We provide monetary and intangible support and guidance to the organizations that are dedicated to improving the quality of life for the concerned people in the society and will continue to do so. Internal Control:- Under the supervision of the Board Audit Committee, the company reviews the effectiveness of internal controls in which are also reviewed by the Statutory Auditors, and appointed Internal Auditor. The company presently has an External Internal Audit agency, which keeps on reviewing internal controls in various areas of operations under the Audit Committee's guidance. The Audit committee has taken all steps to ensure adequate and effective internal control systems are in place. Omanisation : The company is committed to recruiting and providing training to Omani employees to enable them to undertake responsibilities in various Operations and Administration areas. The Company had an Omanisation percentage of around 45.78% at the end of 31 December 2024. Acknowledgments:- On behalf of the Board of Directors and Management of the Company, we thank His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq bin Taimur for his leadership and vision- God protect him, to work for Oman and its dear people for a brighter and more prosperous future. The company also acknowledges the continuous support and commitment from its Shareholders, Customers, Suppliers, Bankers, and Management & Employees' constant efforts.			Particulars	TOTAL YE 2024	TOTAL YE 2023	% Change	OPERATING PERFORMANCE (RO Millions)				Sales	9.826	12.260	-19.85%	Cost of Goods Sold	9.021	10.991	17.92%	Gross Profit	0.805	1.270	-36.56%	Net Profit / (Loss) Before Tax	-1.294	-0.479	-170.15%	Income tax	0	-0.269		Net Profit / (Loss) after Tax	-1.294	-0.748	-73.00%																																																										
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Bank Muscat extends support to Fak Kurba to resolve 346 cases

In line with its ongoing commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and community service, Bank Muscat, the leading financial service provider in Oman, has extended the impact of the 'Fak Kurba' initiative organised by the Omani Lawyers Association in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development and the Supreme Judicial Council. The initiative aims to raise financial donations to release individuals who are incarcerated due to failing to clear financial obligations.

The bank has actively contributed to the initiative by supporting 346 cases of individuals involved in civil, commercial, religious, and labor-related cases. Until now, the bank has contributed to the resolve of 1903 cases, excluding cases related to banking or financial institutions.

The 'Fak Kurba' initiative is an important volunteer-driven venture supported by the efforts of the Omani Lawyers Association and it aims to raise community awareness of the significance of social solidarity and bonds. Since it was launched in 2012, it has contributed to resolving many cases across the sultanate and has been running as a year-round sustainable project.

On this occasion, Hamad Hamdan al Rubaia, Chairman of the Omani Lawyers Association (OLA), said, "The success of this year's version of the Fak Kurba initiative reflects the continued positive and profound impact of this humanitarian project since its inception. Throughout the past years, the initiative has contributed to the resolve of over 7300 individuals. We take pride in the growing support the initiative receives annually from both individuals and institutions, reflecting the solidarity of the Omani community in promoting values of cooperation and compassion."

The OLA chairman extended 'sincere gratitude' to all contributors for their partnership



with the association in launching the initiative.

"Special thanks to Bank Muscat for its ongoing and valuable support, which has contributed to the success and expansion of the initiative," he said.

Speaking about significance of the initiative, Zuwaina Abdullah al Sharji, assistant general manager, Central Operations & Change Management, Bank Muscat, expressed her satisfaction for the bank's

Involvement in community-centric initiatives is one of the key pillars Bank Muscat has set to demonstrate its commitment to corporate social responsibility

continuous participation in this crucial and community-driven initiative. The bank's partnership with the Omani Lawyers Association has been strategic and fruitful, driven towards widening the impact of the initiative on the community, she noted.

"Bank Muscat places great importance on corporate social responsibility programmes, which contribute to achieving positive social benefits in various fields. This initiative serves

as a tangible example of social solidarity, and the Bank is grateful to the Omani Lawyers Association for its significant role in bringing hope and joy to the families of the individuals. The resolve of cases serves more than just a legal practice; it provides individuals with an opportunity to start afresh and lead normal lives. We encourage everyone to take part in such initiatives that reflect noble human values."

Involvement in community-centric initiatives is one of the key pillars Bank Muscat has set to demonstrate its commitment to corporate social responsibility and community service. The bank had launched various CSR programmes that focus on different fields including economy, education, social development, environment and sports. Bank Muscat constantly seeks to enhance cooperation with various associations and institutions to support the community.

In recognition of its efforts in CSR, Bank Muscat has recently been recognised with coveted awards, including the Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility Award at Euromoney Excellence Awards, the Oman Sustainability Week Award (OSW) for the Sustainability and Environmental Social Governance (ESG) category, and the North Batinah for Social Investment Award by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

All-new Chery Arizzo 5 now with more benefits

Chery's latest introduction the all-new Arizzo 5 is now available in Oman with exclusive benefits. The benefits include up to five year or 60,000km service, one-year comprehensive insurance, one-year registration and assured fuel card gifts.

This exclusive campaign - valid until April 17 - comes under certain conditions, the New World Autos confirmed, requesting customers to visit any Chery showroom for exact details. 'Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year,' the distributor added.

The all-new Chery Arizzo 5 - starting from RO4,275 - is equipped with a host of advanced features that enhance convenience and driving pleasure. At the heart of this sedan is a state-of-the-art infotainment system with a high-resolution touchscreen, ensuring seamless connectivity through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. This allows drivers to stay connected, navigate with ease and enjoy their favourite music effortlessly.

Passenger comfort is taken to the next level with its spacious and ergonomic cabin, featuring high-quality materials, a leather-wrapped steering wheel and customisable ambient lighting. The automatic climate control system ensures a comfortable environment regardless of external conditions, making every drive a pleasurable experience.

Under the hood, the Arizzo 5 is powered by an efficient and responsive 1.5 litre engine, delivering



The all-new Arizzo 5 is a game-changer in its segment, offering customers a perfect blend of style, technology and performance at an exceptional value... this sedan is built to impress

an optimal balance of power and fuel economy. The intelligent continuously variable transmission (CVT) ensures smooth acceleration and superior handling, making both city commutes and long drives effortless. Additionally, the advanced suspension system enhances stability and ride comfort, contributing to a superior driving experience.

Chery prioritises safety with a range of cutting-edge features in the Arizzo 5. The vehicle comes

equipped with an advanced Electronic Stability Program (ESP), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) and a comprehensive suite of airbags, ensuring maximum protection for occupants. The 360-degree camera and parking sensors make manoeuvring in tight spaces easy, while the intelligent driver-assist systems provide an added layer of security on every drive.

Speaking about the all-new Arizzo 5 a representative from

New World Autos said, "The all-new Arizzo 5 is a game-changer in its segment, offering customers a perfect blend of style, technology and performance at an exceptional value. Whether it is for daily commuting or weekend getaways, this sedan is built to impress.

"With its outstanding safety features, advanced infotainment system and fuel-efficient performance, the Arizzo 5 is a vehicle that truly makes a difference in every journey."

Recently, Kantar and Google jointly released the 2023 Chinese Global Brand Builders Top 50. Chery is ranked as the best Chinese global brand builder in cars and 14th in the overall list and its brand power has achieved strong growth.

Muscat governorate outlines 2025 vision

Muscat governorate held a meeting on Monday attended by the walis and several governorate officials to review the governorate's performance during 2024 and discuss the strategic vision and plan for the current year 2025.

During the meeting, feedback on the Governorate's performance in 2024 was discussed, focusing on identifying the strengths of the indicators that recorded excellent performance, and working to strengthen them.

It highlighted observations to improve aspects that require improvement, especially those based on accurate numerical statistics, enabling the governorate to create clearer and more efficient objectives next year.



The results of the key indicators of the governorate's performance over the past year were reviewed, including the institutional commitment, supervision, and beneficiary satisfaction indicators.

As well as, the indicators of digital transformation, communication, interaction and others measured the success of the development projects implemented in the governorate and the relevance of the policies and programmes offered to the citizens' needs.

During the meeting, an explanation of the 2025 performance evaluation was presented, highlighting the changes in the evaluation methodology and the weights of the relative indicators compared to previous years.

Furthermore, identifying the main priorities of work during this year, stressing the roles and responsibilities between the various departments in the governorate.

This meeting came within Muscat governorate's efforts to promote transparency, ensure the optimal use of public resources, and raise confidence with citizens.

Hikvision Oman hosts channel partner meet

Hikvision Oman, the World's leading digital Security Solutions Providers of CCTV Cameras and others security solutions, Ezviz and GPT groups jointly hosted their highly anticipated Channel Partner Meet on February 20, at Movenpick hotel, Ghala.

Prominent dealers, distributors and partners from across the region gathered at the event to discuss the latest technological advancements, growth opportunities, and new product offerings in the security industry.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Tate Wu, GM-Hikvision, Pradeep Tripathi, Chairman-GPT Group and Glen Jin, Business Head- Ezviz.

The speakers shared valuable insights into the growing importance of security in an increasingly digital world. Their participation added immense



value to the proceedings and highlighted the significance of collaboration between leading tech companies and security professionals.

Attendees were introduced to a variety of groundbreaking solutions and products that will shape the future of surveillance technology.

Hikvision technical team threw light on several new products, including smart security cameras, new age Networking products and integrated software solutions, aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of security systems in various sectors.

Hikvision & Ezviz reaffirmed its commitment to its dealer network and outlined plans for future collaboration. The companies pledged to continue investing in dealer training, technical support, and marketing initiatives to ensure that its partners have the tools they need to thrive.



FINCORP AL AMAL FUND

Invitation for attending The Ordinary General Meeting

The Management of Fincorp Al Amal Fund has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Ordinary general meeting of the Fund, which is scheduled to be held at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, through the electronic platform of the General meetings, which can be accessed through Muscat Clearing and Depository website (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum not satisfied, a second annual general assembly will be held at 5:00 pm on Monday, March 27, 2025, to discuss the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the fund's management body report for the financial year ended December 31, 2024.
- To consider the Auditors' Report and to approve the Financial Statements, Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account, for the financial year ended on December 31, 2024
- To consider and approve the proposal to distribute cash dividends of 55 baizas for each unit to unitholders on the date of the general meeting.
- To approve the sitting fees of the fund's management body meetings paid to them for previous financial year, and to determine the sitting fees for the next fiscal year.
- To consider and approve the proposal for the annual remuneration for the Fund Management amounting to RO 10,000 for the fiscal year ended on 31 December 2024
- To consider and approve the transactions entered into by the fund with related parties during the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
- To consider and approve the transactions that will be entered into by the fund with related parties during the financial year ended 31 December 2025.
- To appoint the fund's auditors for the financial year ending on 31 December 2025 and to approve their fees.

In accordance with the fund's statute and the regulations for holding general meetings using modern technology means issued by the authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

(A) Only a legal person has the right to authorize a natural person to attend the general assembly meeting and vote on his behalf through technology, provided that this natural person has an investor number in the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company.

(B) Voting on any of the items on the agenda begins no more than three days before the date of the assembly and until the end of the voting process on the day of the meeting. On the day of the assembly meeting.

In case of any inquiries, please contact Mr. Redha al Lawati on the phone number: 24822353.

Chairman	Auditor	Legal Advisor
Investment Manager & Administrator		
 مستشارون FINCORP Brokerage Asset Management Corporate Finance and Advisory Research		
P.O. Box 782, P.C 131, Sultanate of Oman, Tel: (968) 24822327, Fax: (968) 24822390, E-mail: fincorp@fincorp.org, Website: www.fincorp.org		

Ukraine accepts US proposal for 30-day Moscow-Kyiv ceasefire

US said it will immediately resume the military aid and intelligence sharing to Ukraine it had halted

Jeddah, KSA - Ukraine backed a US proposal for a 30-day ceasefire and agreed to 'immediate' negotiations with Russia after talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday, more than three years since Moscow invaded its neighbour.

After more than eight hours of negotiations with Ukrainian officials in Jeddah, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington would now take the offer to Russia.

In addition, Washington also agreed to resume military aid and intelligence sharing with Ukraine.

Rubio says 'ball is now in Russia's court'

"Our hope is that the Russians will answer 'yes' as quickly as possible, so we can get to the second phase of this, which is real negotiations," Rubio told reporters.

With Trump putting fierce pressure on Kyiv and reaching out to Moscow, Ukrainian offi-



After more than 8 hours of negotiations with Ukrainian officials in Jeddah, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said US would now take the offer to Russia

cials came to the talks keen to reconcile with Washington, proposing a partial truce on air and sea attacks.

Trump's advisors pressed for more, and said Ukraine agreed to their proposal for a broader month-long ceasefire.

"Today we made an offer that the Ukrainians have accepted, which is to enter into a

ceasefire and into immediate negotiations," Rubio told reporters after the talks in Jeddah.

"We'll take this offer now to the Russians and we hope they'll say yes to peace. The ball is now in their court."

"If they say no then we'll unfortunately know what the impediment is to peace here," Rubio said of Russia, which

launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

US to resume aid, intelligence sharing

Rubio said the United States would immediately resume military aid and intelligence sharing it had halted after a fractious meeting between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky last month.

Tuesday's developments led Trump to saying he was ready to welcome Zelensky back to the White House and may speak to Russian President Vladimir Putin later this week.

Asked about the prospects of

a comprehensive ceasefire in Ukraine, Trump said: "Well, I hope it will be over the next few days, I'd like to see."

"I know we have a big meeting with Russia tomorrow and some great conversations hopefully will ensue."

Ukraine, US to sign minerals deal

In a joint statement, Ukraine and the US said they would conclude 'as soon as possible' a deal securing Washington access to Ukraine's mineral wealth.

Zelensky was to sign the deal at the White House before the dramatic showdown on February

28, in which Trump and Vice President J D Vance confronted the Ukrainian president, accusing him of lacking gratitude.

On Tuesday, Zelensky thanked Trump for the 'positive' ceasefire proposal made in Jeddah and said the US must now put pressure on Russia to accept.

"The American side understands our arguments, perceives our proposals, and I want to thank President Trump for the constructive conversation between our teams," Zelensky said in his evening address.

Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed the progress made in talks.

"The ball is now clearly in Russia's court," Macron posted on X, echoing comments from Rubio.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen also used that expression.

Macron noted that France and its partners don't just want any peace arrangement but one that is 'supported by robust security guarantees for Ukraine'.

Meanwhile, Russia's Foreign Ministry seemingly downplayed the importance of the Jeddah meeting.

"The shaping of the position of the Russian Federation does not take place abroad due to some agreements or efforts of some parties. The formation of the position of the Russian Federation takes place inside the Russian Federation," ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova was cited by Russian state news agency TASS as saying.

DW

Georgia: Ex-president jailed for 9 more years

Tbilisi, Georgia - Former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili was sentenced to nine years in prison on Wednesday on charges of embezzlement.

The Tbilisi City Court ruled that Saakashvili was guilty of embezzling budgetary funds.

The former head of the SSPS government security agency, Teimuraz Janashia, was fined 300,000 Georgian lari (€99,936) as part of the same embezzlement case.

Saakashvili has faced multiple charges of abuse of power. He is already serving a six-year sentence after being convicted in 2018 for ordering riot police to beat then-lawmaker Valery Gelashvili in 2005 and for pardoning interior ministry officials convicted of involvement in the 2006 murder of bank employee Sandro Girgvliani.

A controversial figure in Georgia, Saakashvili served as president from 2004 to 2013 before going into self-imposed exile in Ukraine for seven years. He was arrested in 2021 upon his return to Georgia.

Saakashvili rose to prominence in 2003 in Georgia after leading the Rose Revolution, a peaceful movement that ousted then-President Eduard Shevardnadze, a former Soviet official.

DW



EU finalises strategic defence roadmap

Ankara, Turkey - The European Union has finalised its strategic defence roadmap which aims to bolster Europe's preparedness against potential military threats.

Andrius Kubilius, the EU commissioner for Defence and Space, announced the completion of the 'White Paper', highlighting its importance in securing the continent's defence and deterrence capabilities.

Speaking during a session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, Kubilius emphasised the urgency of strengthening Europe's defence as global security dynamics shift.

With Russia's military industry operating at full capacity and a potential conflict with NATO looming within five years, he warned that Europe must take a more proactive role in its defence.

"Europe must be more prepared than ever for the worst-case scenario, which is preventing the possibility of military aggression against us," he said. "Such preparation is the only way to deter wars."

Kubilius stressed that the US's strategic pivot toward Asia serves as a wake-up call for Europe to assume greater responsibility for its own security.

He also reaffirmed the EU's commitment to supporting Ukraine as part of a broader effort to maintain peace and stability in the region.

"Strong peace agreements will make Europe stronger, helping us deter aggression and prevent war," he added.

The EU's defence capabilities are currently insufficient, according to Kubilius, who pointed out significant gaps in military resources such as tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery.

He called for a robust investment plan, estimating that at least US\$545.6bn is needed to close the defence shortfall.

Kubilius reiterated that defence spending would remain a priority for the European Commission, with the White Paper forming the foundation of an 'industrial victory programme' aimed at reinforcing Europe's defence industry.

"We are all countries on the frontline," he declared, underscoring the importance of a collective effort in securing peace and democracy across Europe.

Poland's Minister for European Affairs, Adam Szlappa described the current geopolitical environment as a 'turning point'.

US Education Department to cut nearly half of workforce after Trump's proposal

Washington, D.C., US - The US Department of Education announced on Tuesday that it will cut nearly half of its workforce after President Donald Trump proposed to eliminate the agency entirely.

"As part of the Department of Education's final mission, the Department today initiated a reduction in force (RIF) impacting nearly 50% of the Department's workforce," the agency said in a statement.

It added that impacted staff will be placed on administrative leave beginning on Friday, March 21.

"When President Trump was inaugurated (on January 20), the Department's workforce stood at 4,133 workers. After today's ac-



tions, the Department's workforce will total roughly 2,183 workers. Included in the reduction in force are nearly 600 em-

ployees who accepted voluntary resignation opportunities and retirement over the last seven weeks," with 259 opting for the

In accordance with federal regulations, those impacted will receive full pay and benefits until June 9, in addition to severance pay or retirement benefits based upon their length of service

Deferred Resignation Program and 313 accepting Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment, according to the statement.

Affected employees will begin teleworking on Wednesday be-

fore transitioning to paid administrative leave on March 21, CNN reported, citing officials.

In accordance with federal regulations, those impacted will receive full pay and benefits until June 9, in addition to severance pay or retirement benefits based upon their length of service, said the agency. Education Secretary Linda McMahon framed the cuts as part of a broader efficiency initiative.

"Today's reduction in force reflects the Department of Education's commitment to efficiency, accountability, and ensuring that resources are directed where they matter most: to students, parents, and teachers," she said in a statement.

Anadolu Agency

Portuguese government collapses after no-trust vote

Madrid, Portugal - A minority right-wing government established in Portugal around 11 months ago collapsed on Tuesday, following failure to gain enough votes in a confidence motion in Parliament due to corruption allegations against Prime Minister Luis Montenegro.

This marks the second time since the end of the dictatorship and the return of democracy in 1974 that a government has fallen in a confidence vote, the first being in 1977, 48 years ago.

The reason for the collapse of the right-wing minority government, which had not even completed its first year, was the corruption allegations against Prime Minister Montenegro related to his family business 'Spinumviva', which he founded



and later transferred its shares to his wife and two children after becoming politically active.

Montenegro, after two motions of no-confidence - one on February 21 by the far-right

Chega party and the other on March 4 by the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) - sought a confidence vote in an attempt to overcome the political crisis his minority government faced.

In today's vote in Parliament, which has a total of 230 members, the government received 142 'no' votes and 88 'yes' votes.

Apart from the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and Christian

Democrats in the minority government, only the opposition Liberal Initiative (IL) supported the confidence vote, while the main opposition Socialist Party (PS), along with other opposition parties such as the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP), Left Bloc (BE), Livre (L), People-Animal-Nature (PAN), and the far-right Chega parties that had supported the formation of the minority government, voted against it.

The government's attempt to withdraw the confidence vote after a one-on-one meeting between Prime Minister Montenegro and the main opposition leader, Pedro Nuno Santos, and proposals for a 15-day Parliamentary Investigation Commission regarding the allegations against Montenegro were rejected.

INDIA

MoUs inked with Mauritius to boost ties

The MoUs centred upon currency settlement system, water and sharing of shipping information

Port Blair, Mauritius - Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mauritius saw the inking of various Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs).

The MoUs centred upon currency settlement system, water and sharing of shipping information, among others.

MoU between the Central Bank of Mauritius and the Reserve Bank of India on Local Currency Settlement System, Credit Facility Agreement between the Government of Mauritius and the State Bank of India to finance projects being implemented by the Central Water Authority, under the Pipe Replacement Programme, were signed to enhance the strategic partnership between the countries.

MoU between the Institute of Foreign Service of India, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius on Training Programme for Diplomats, Technical Agreement on the Sharing of White Shipping Information between the Indian Navy and the Mauritius Police Force was signed between the leaders.

MoU between Financial Crimes Commission of Mauritius and ED of India was signed, with MoU between the Ministry of Industry SMEs and Coopera-



PM Narendra Modi exchanges a handshake with Mauritius PM Navin Ramgoolam during a banquet dinner hosted by the latter, in Port Louis on Tuesday (ANI)

tives of Mauritius, and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of India, on Cooperation in the Field of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. MoU between the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms of Mauritius, and the National

Centre for Good Governance, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of India, on Training of Public Officers, MoU between the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Ministry of Earth Sciences of India, and the Department for Continental

shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration, Prime Minister's Office of Mauritius was signed for enhancing administrative efficiency.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently emphasised India's role as a strong development partner to various

countries, supporting infrastructure, healthcare, education, and connectivity projects worldwide.

In Mauritius this will mark another milestone, as he will inaugurate the Civil Service College and an Area Health Centre, both built with India's grant as-

sistance. These projects reflect India's efforts to strengthen Mauritius' administrative and healthcare capabilities, fostering long-term growth and capacity building.

India had financed and developed the Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck Mother and Child Hospital in Bhutan, with the first phase completed in 2019 and the second in 2024.

gar-Kurtha railway in 2022, marking the first broad-gauge passenger railway link between India and Nepal, built with Indian grant assistance.

In 2021, Modi and Seychelles President Ramkalawan inaugurated the Magistrates' Court building in Victoria, Seychelles, via video conferencing. This was the first Indian-assisted infrastructure project in the country,

An agreement between Mauritius government and the State Bank of India was signed to finance projects being implemented by the Central Water Authority, under the Pipe Replacement Programme

The hospital provides specialised maternal and child healthcare services and was inaugurated by Modi and Bhutanese PM in 2024.

In 2023, PM Modi with the then Prime Minister of Bangladesh jointly inaugurated three projects including Akhaura - Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link; Khulna - Mongla Port Rail Line; and Unit - II of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant developed under India's assistance.

Strengthening cross-border ties, Modi and the Nepali Prime Minister flagged off the Jayana-

built with a US\$3.5mn Indian grant.

In 2020, Modi and Mauritius Prime Minister Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the new Supreme Court building in Mauritius through video conference. Also in 2019, both the leaders jointly inaugurated the Metro Express project and the New ENT Hospital in Mauritius via video conferencing. In 2016, Prime Minister Modi and the then Afghan President inaugurated Afghan-India Friendship Dam also known as Salma Dam in western Afghanistan.

ANI

Repatriation secured for 549 from Myanmar and Thailand

Bangkok, Thailand - The Indian Embassy in Thailand, in close coordination with Indian Embassy in Myanmar, secured the repatriation of 549 Indians who were lured by fake job offers.

The Indian Embassy in Thailand advised Indians to thoroughly check the background of employers overseas and recruiting agents before accepting the job roles.

"The Indian Embassy in Thailand, in close coordination with Indian Embassy in Myanmar and local authorities, secured repatriation of 549 Indians through Mae Sot in Thailand to India on 10 and 11 March 2025 by two special flights. They were rescued from scam centres operating

in Myanmar in areas near the Myanmar-Thailand border," Indian Embassy in Thailand said in a post on X.

The embassy further said that these people were forced to work in scam-centres in the neighbouring countries of Thailand.

"This is part of Government of India's sustained efforts to secure release and repatriation of Indian nationals who were lured with fake job offers and were made to work in scam-centres in the neighbouring countries of Thailand. Indian nationals are once again advised to verify credentials of foreign employers and check the antecedents of recruiting agents and companies, before taking up job offers."

Earlier on Tuesday, the Indian embassies in Myanmar and Thailand, in coordination with local authorities, secured the repatriation of 283 Indian nationals by an Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft from Mae Sot in Thailand. These nationals were made to indulge in cybercrime and engage in other fraudulent activities in scam centres operating in regions along the Myanmar-Thailand border, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

"Indian embassies in Myanmar and Thailand have coordinated with local authorities to secure the repatriation of 283 Indian nationals today by an IAF aircraft from Mae Sot in Thailand," the statement read. ANI

US VP to visit later this month

Washington, D.C., US - US Vice President J D Vance will travel to India later this month alongside Second Lady Usha Vance, Politico reported, citing sources familiar with the plans.

This visit will be Vance's second foreign trip as VP. Last month Vance had made a visit to France and Germany, reported Politico. The second lady Usha Vance has Indian roots with her parents having emigrated from India to the United States.

The visit will come at a time when the two sides are involved in tough negotiations over tariffs. Earlier on Tuesday (local time) White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, while lamenting the tariffs imposed by various nations on the United States, referred to the tariffs imposed by India on American alcohol and agricultural products. She added that



This visit will be J D Vance's second foreign trip as the US vice president

today the US has a President who 'actually looks out' for the interests of American businesses and workers.

"In fact, I have a handy dandy chart here that shows not just Canada but the rate of tariffs across the board. If you look at Canada since you brought it up

American cheese and butter nearly 300 per cent tariff. You look at India, 150 per cent tariff on American alcohol. Do you think that's helping Kentucky bourbon be exported into India? I don't think so. 100 per cent tariff on agricultural products from India," Leavitt said. Last

week, US President Donald Trump attacked India's tariffs, saying it is 'next to impossible to sell anything to India' because of the 'high tariffs'.

The second lady Usha Vance has Indian roots with her parents having emigrated from India to the US

Earlier in February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had meet with Vance and his family on the sidelines of the AI summit in Paris. They celebrated a special occasion - the birthday of Vance's son, Vivek.

Modi expressed his joy in joining the celebration and described having a 'great conversation' with the Vance family. ANI

Pakistan train hijack: 155 hostages rescued, 27 attackers killed

Balochistan, Pakistan: Pakistan security forces on Wednesday successfully rescued 155 hostages held by terrorists after an attack on the Jaffar Express at Balochistan's Bolan Pass, killing 27 attackers, ARY News reported citing security sources.

A group of terrorists launched the attack on the Peshawar-Quetta Jaffar Express, leaving the driver severely injured in the Bolan Pass area of Balochistan, while targeting civilians, as per ARY News.

The militants detonated a bomb on the railway track, bringing the train to a halt, and then took over around 400 passengers hostage, including women and children.

Security forces rescued 155 hostages from terrorist captivity, including men, women, and children. The freed passengers of the Jaffar Express were escorted to Quetta under stringent security measures, where anxious family



The relatives of passengers, gather outside Quetta Railway Station after Jaffar Express train attack in the Bolan area of Balochistan, on Tuesday in Quetta, Pakistan

members awaited their arrival at the station, ARY News reported.

According to security officials, the terrorists have suffered heavy losses in this operation and split into small groups.

The area is considered highly inaccessible, but security forces have launched a clearance operation to rescue the hostages. Forces surrounded the terrorists and an exchange of fire is under-

way, per ARY News.

Following the incident, an emergency was declared in all hospitals in Sibbi.

As per Radio Pakistan, the terrorists who organised the attack

are in contact with their facilitators in Afghanistan. They were wearing explosive vests.

The 37 injured people are currently under medical attention, as per Radio Pakistan.

EU plans to deport more migrants

Strasbourg, France - The European Union announced a plan on Tuesday to deport more migrants and create so-called 'return hubs' in third countries.

The new plan would create common regulations across the 27-member bloc so that immigration authorities in one EU country can enforce a deportation order issued by another EU country. "Today only around 20% of those who have a return decision leave Europe. This number is by far too low," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said.

The plan would also allow EU countries to send rejected asylum seekers to third countries.

My team showed great personality and character, says Luis Enrique

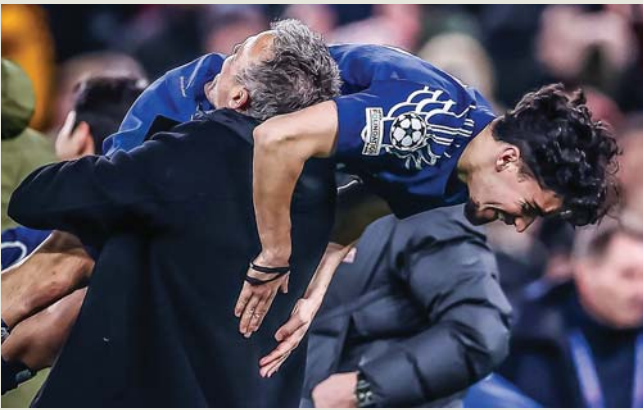
Liverpool, England - Paris St Germain boss Luis Enrique said both his team and Liverpool deserved a berth in the Champions League quarter-finals, such was the terrific, nail-biting battle between the two sides in the competition's last-16.

The Spaniard beamed with pride about how his squad rallied from being a goal down after last week's first leg to dispatch Premier League-leading Liverpool 4-1 in a penalty

shootout at Anfield on Tuesday.

"Both of the teams deserved to go to the next phase, they play better than us here, but I think my team at Anfield, in a special stadium, showed great personality and character," he said.

"We tried to play our best, but it was difficult as they're so intense. Both teams deserved to qualify. The character and personality, even when we shoot at



Luis Enrique celebrates with Vitorinha after the match

the penalty shootout they showed great character. I think it shows clearly the team we are."

Ligue 1 leaders PSG have never won the Champions League, losing to Bayern Munich in the 2020 final, while 2019 winners Liverpool were considered the favourites to advance after topping the table through the eight-game league phase.

"When the draw told us

about the match against Liverpool and PSG, both managers thought the same - one of the best matches you can watch in Europe," Luis Enrique said. "I think both teams were great.

"We are happy and confident to go to the next phase."

PSG earned huge praise from pundits for their hard-fought victory.

"You've seen four perfect penalties under extreme pressure, you've got to give PSG big

credit," former England striker Alan Shearer said on the Amazon Prime broadcast.

"The disappointment of losing that first game and playing really, really well and coming back to Anfield and soaking up pressure and then taking it to extra time and penalties and seeing those four perfect penalties, they've really put in a magnificent effort over the two games and they'll say they deserve to go through."

'We can be proud of what we did'

Liverpool, England - While Liverpool boss Arne Slot called the team's exit from the Champions League a shock, he took solace in losing to an excellent Paris St Germain team in a wildly entertaining two-legged tie that needed a penalty shootout to decide the outcome.

In what Slot labelled "the best game of football I've ever been involved in" PSG beat Liverpool 4-1 in the shootout to advance to the quarter-finals, winning Tuesday's second-leg match at Anfield 1-0 thanks to a goal from Ousmane Dembele.



Arne Slot

"Yeah, of course it's a shock," Slot said. "But if you have to go out, and go out in a way like we did against one of the best teams in Europe and make such a fight out of it, I hope and think that every fan around the world was hoping that this game just kept on going, that it wouldn't stop because it was incredible.

"And they, in the end, won."

PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved spot kicks from Darwin Nunez and Curtis Jones.

Tuesday's loss was a rare low in Liverpool's season of highs. They hold a huge advantage in the Premier League title race and can hoist the League Cup trophy on Sunday with a victory over Newcastle United.

DANCE OF DONNARUMMA

Goalkeeper's shootout heroics help PSG knock Liverpool out of Champions League

Liverpool, England - Paris St Germain beat Liverpool 4-1 in a penalty shootout to advance to the Champions League quarter-finals after winning a rip-roaring last-16 second-leg match at Anfield 1-0 on Tuesday thanks to a goal from livewire Ousmane Dembele.

After the tie had finished 1-1 on aggregate, PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved spot kicks from Darwin Nunez and Curtis Jones, while the visitors, who have never won the Champions League, converted all of their efforts.

Ligue 1 leaders PSG will meet either Aston Villa or Club Brugge in the quarters, with Villa taking a 3-1 lead into Wednesday's second leg.

Dembele stunned the Anfield crowd with his 12th-minute goal against the run of play. Ibrahima Konate slid in to block Bradley Barcola's effort but pushed the ball away from goalkeeper Alisson in the process, and Dembele needed only to knock it into an empty net.

The goal was the earliest Premier League-leading Liverpool had conceded at Anfield in the Champions League since September 2017 against Sevilla.

Arne Slot's team played considerably better than a week earlier - when they needed a last-gasp goal from substitute Harvey Elliott after the Parisians had dominated - and Reds talisman Mohamed Salah had a shot blocked on the goal line by Nuno Mendes in the game's first few minutes.

Donnarumma was forced into making an early diving save to keep out a shot from Konate, but both sides spurned chances in a nervy game that had fans on the

edge of their seats.

Six-times European champions Liverpool parked themselves in PSG's territory for much of the second half of normal time and had a goal from Dominik Szoboszlai chalked off for offside in the build-up early in the second period.

They kept Donnarumma busy in the dying minutes, with the keeper parrying away ball after ball fired into the box, but it was Dembele who unleashed what looked like the winner in extra time before Alisson made a dramatic diving save to push the ball wide with his fingertips.

PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved spot kicks from Darwin Nunez and Curtis Jones, while the visitors converted all of their efforts

PSG were rock solid under pressure in the shootout, with Vitorinha, Goncalo Ramos, Dembele and Desire Doue all finding the net. Liverpool got off to a good start with Salah slamming his effort home, but Nunez and Jones both had tame efforts comfortably stopped by Donnarumma, with Slot wrapping a disconsolate Nunez in a hug afterwards.

The Liverpool boss was magnanimous in defeat and even had words of praise for his beaten side.

"I think it was the best game of football I've ever been involved in," he said.

History was not on the Parisians' side on Tuesday, as they became just the fourth of 28 teams to progress after losing the first leg at home in a Champions League knockout tie.



Paris St Germain goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma produced two stunning saves in the shootout against Liverpool on Tuesday

Inter stroll past Feyenoord into last eight

Milan, Italy - Marcus Thuram and Hakan Calhanoglu were on target as Inter Milan beat Feyenoord 2-1 in the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie at the San Siro on Tuesday to advance comfortably into the quarter-finals with a 4-1 aggregate win.

Serie A leaders Inter will face Bundesliga table toppers Bayern Munich, who defeated Bayer Leverkusen 5-0 on aggregate, in the quarter-finals next month.

Three-time winners Inter last lifted the trophy in 2010, beating Bayern in the final in a treble-winning season, and Inzaghi's side are still on course to repeat that feat, with a Coppa Italia semi-final also to come in April.



Inter Milan's Marcus Thuram celebrates his goal against Feyenoord

Feyenoord keeper Timon Wellenreuther was in action early on, failing to hold a Henrik Mkhitaryan shot but he did gather Carlos Augusto's headed effort from the resulting corner.

Aymen Sliti, making his senior debut for the Dutch club, tried his luck from outside the area but Inter keeper Yann Sommer easily smothered the 18-year-old winger's shot as Feyenoord looked to grab an early goal.

Feyenoord came into the game with an uphill task after losing 2-0 at home last week, and by the eighth minute they were left with a mountain to climb following Thuram's superb solo goal.

Inter's Inzaghi looking forward to 'complicated match' against Bayern

Milan, Italy - Inter Milan earned a Champions League quarter-final tie against Bayern Munich after their victory over Feyenoord on Tuesday and manager Simone Inzaghi is looking forward to facing the German side again while hoping to earn his first victory over them.

Inzaghi has already faced Bayern in the competition on four occasions, twice with Inter and twice in charge of Lazio, but has lost all four previous meetings.

A booking for Inter midfielder Kristjan Asllani in the 2-1 second-leg win over visitors Feyenoord did bring a suspension, however, and they are already struggling



Simone Inzaghi

with injuries to Matteo Darmian, Federico Dimarco, Piotr Zielinski and Nicola Zalewski.

"It will be a complicated match. I met Bayern with Inter and Lazio," Inzaghi told Sky Sports ahead of next month's

clash. "We will go for it, as we have done so far. We hope to have everyone available, I'm sorry for Asllani's yellow card.

"Two from the youth team came on, they will also help us because at the moment we are short on players."

Inter's comfortable overall lead against Feyenoord, having also won the first leg 2-0, allowed Inzaghi to send on 18-year-old defender Matteo Cocchi and midfielder Thomas Berenbruch, 19, late on for their senior debuts.

The pair are part of the Inter team which defeated Bayern to reach the quarter-finals of the UEFA Youth League.



Barcelona's Lamine Yamal scores against Benfica in their Champions League last-16 second leg match on Tuesday

Yamal's brilliance and Raphinha's brace propel Barcelona into Champions League quarterfinals

Barcelona, Spain - Raphinha scored twice and Lamine Yamal netted with a stunning strike in a rampant first half as Barcelona dismantled Benfica 3-1 in their Champions League last-16 second leg on Tuesday, advancing to the quarter-finals with a 4-1 aggregate victory.

Barca will meet the winners of the tie between Lille and Borussia Dortmund, who play on Wednesday after the first leg in Germany ended in a 1-1 draw.

It was an inspired evening for

teenager Yamal, who was virtually unplayable running up and down the right channel, creating most of Barca's scoring chances.

The 17-year-old Spain winger worked his magic with a spectacular solo run to gift Raphinha the opener in the 11th minute, leaving two opponents on the ground before crossing for the Brazil forward to poke the ball into the net with a close-range volley.

Benfica hit back through a

'Ridiculous assist' was a shot at goal

Barcelona, Spain - Commentators raved about Lamine Yamal's "ridiculous assist" for Barcelona's opener in their Champions League win over Benfica on Tuesday but the Spanish teenager confessed he had been going for goal rather than trying to set up teammate Raphinha.

The 17-year-old weaved his way through the Benfica defence in the 11th minute before Raphinha finished off the move with a close-range volley as the Spaniards won 3-1 on the night and 4-1 on aggregate in the round of 16 tie.

Pundits were left in awe of Yamal's control and balance to set up his teammate, but after the game he said it had been an accidental assist.

"I have to thank Raphinha because I tried to shoot and the pass came out to him," Yamal told Movistar Plus.

The Spain international did get on the score-sheet before the half-hour mark, running in from the right wing before firing a spectacular left-footed shot from just outside the box that curled into the top corner.

Yamal said the goal was as good as his first for Spain, when he swerved a left-footer over a crowd of defenders to find the net in a 2-1 win over France in the semi-finals of Euro 2024.

"I always try that shot and today it came out," Yamal added.

Nicolas Otamendi header from a corner two minutes later, but Barca kept piling on the pressure with Yamal proving a nightmare for Benfica left back Samuel Dahl, who was powerless to stop the Spanish teenager.

Yamal teed up chances for Robert Lewandowski and Dani Olmo and missed with a low strike from the edge of the box,

Yamal's goal is spectacular. It shows he is a player with tremendous quality. We have everything to win with him at our side

RAPHINHA



before he finally put the home side back in front in the 28th minute.

He cut inside and beat a disorientated Dahl before unleashing a swerving left-footed shot into keeper Anatoliy Trubin's top-right corner.

At 17 years and 241 days, Yamal became the youngest player to both score and assist in

the same Champions League game, surpassing Breel Embolo's previous record with Basel against Ludogorets in 2014 by 22 days.

Raphinha extended Barca's lead from a quick counter-attack in the 42nd minute to go top of the Champions League scoring chart this season with 11 goals.

The 28-year-old forward became the highest scoring Brazilian in a single Champions League season, surpassing Jardel, Rivaldo, Kaka, Neymar and Firmino who held the record with 10 goals.

Barca managed the game after the break against a Benfica side that lacked both the will and firepower to pose a real threat to the Catalan giants in a second half that looked like a glorified training session.

Barca are on a 17-game unbeaten run across all competitions and are in contention for three major titles. They lead LaLiga and have reached the Copa del Rey semi-finals, where they drew 4-4 with Atletico Madrid in the first leg before the return on April 2.

"We are real candidates on all fronts," Raphinha told Movistar Plus.

"We knew Benfica would come here quite strong and we knew what we had to do to win the game. We were focused on this. We had the result in our favour and we played a good first half.

"Yamal's goal is spectacular. It shows what he is. A player with tremendous quality. We have everything to win with him at our side."

Kane shines as Bayern Munich outplay Leverkusen

Leverkusen, Germany - Bayern Munich's Harry Kane scored one goal and set up another as his side beat hosts Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 in the Champions League last-16 second leg on Tuesday to advance with a 5-0 aggregate win to the last eight where they face Inter Milan next month.

Kane, who netted twice in last week's 3-0 first leg win, tapped home from close range in the 52nd minute for a 10th Champions League goal that made him the first English player to score 10 times in a single European Cup season.

The England striker then delivered a one-touch pinpoint assist for Alphonso Davies to score the second goal in the 71st.

"A really good performance,"

Kane said. "From the first minute, we didn't want to be a team who dropped off and defended the lead. We wanted to be on the front foot, put pressure on, and create chances to win the game.

"We did that in the first half and had the better chances. Then, second half, we knew they had to come out and try something and we punished them," said the forward.

In the fifth clash of the two teams this season, Bayern got off to a stronger start and had two early chances through Kane.

With a 3-0 first leg deficit to overcome, it was Leverkusen who had to go forward but they were badly missing the creativity and tempo of injured midfielder Florian Wirtz.

They did come close



Bayern Munich's Alphonso Davies (R) celebrates with Harry Kane after scoring against Bayer Leverkusen

through Patrik Schick's header late in the first half though.

Bayern, eliminated in the German Cup by Leverkusen this season, kept the hosts on the backfoot and Michael Olise's deflected shot narrowly missed the target three minutes after the restart.

Kane did it better, tapping in a Joshua Kimmich cross after sloppy defending from Schick, to put the visitors in front and the tie to bed.

Leverkusen, who have now lost their last three matches across all competitions, were toothless for most of the game and only got their first shot on target in the 62nd minute.

It came as no surprise when Bayern struck again, this time with Davies drilling in from a Kane assist nine minutes later.

Still a long way to go, says Flick

Barcelona, Spain - Barcelona are in contention for three major titles but manager Hansi Flick said it was still too early to evaluate their trophy chances after they beat Benfica 3-1 on Tuesday to reach the Champions League quarter-finals.

Barca maintained their imperious form with a commanding win over Benfica to extend their unbeaten run to 17 games across all competitions.

While Barca lead LaLiga and have also reached the Copa del Rey semi-finals, Flick played down talk of title pressure and said it was still too early to be thinking about silverware.

"First things first, we need to focus on the quarter-finals and be well prepared for the opponents we face next," Flick told reporters on Tuesday.

"The Champions League is the most difficult trophy that exists and sure, we hope we can keep advancing and be good enough to win it all but that is still a long way to go."

Barca will meet in the quarters the winner of the tie between Lille and Borussia Dortmund, who play on Wednesday after the first leg in Germany ended in a 1-1 draw.

Only one point separates Spain's three biggest clubs in one of the closest LaLiga title races in recent years with Barca leading the pack on 57 points, ahead of second-placed Real Madrid on



First things first, we need to focus on the quarter-finals and be well prepared for the opponents we face next

HANSI FLICK



goal difference with Atletico Madrid in third on 56 points. Barca have a game in hand over both.

In the Copa del Rey, Barca will travel to Madrid to face Atletico in their semi-final second leg on April 2 after a 4-4 draw in the first.

On Tuesday, a superb Barca dismantled Benfica thanks to a double by Raphinha and a superb individual goal by Lamine Yamal in a rampant first half, as they advanced with a 4-1 aggregate victory.

"I'm happy, we respected Benfica, they did a great job, they made it difficult for us, but we did very well, I'm proud," Flick said.



Vincent Kompany celebrates Harry Kane's goal

'Kane has become better with age'

Leverkusen, Germany - Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane earned praise from coach Vincent Kompany on Tuesday after scoring one goal and setting up another in a 2-0 victory at Bayer Leverkusen that saw them book their Champions League quarter-final spot.

Kane, who leads the Bundesliga scorers' list with 21 goals, netted his 10th Champions League goal of the season in the 52nd minute to put Bayern in front and then set up Alphonso

Davies for a second goal in the 71st.

The 31-year-old England captain is the first English player to score 10 times in a single European Cup season.

"It helps when you have a top player who wants to run and fight for the team like a youth player," Kompany said of Kane.

"I played against him as an opponent and he has become better with age. He has a way to work towards his performances.

"I trust his consistency and how he works towards his game and with that quality you always get your moments."

Kane, who also scored twice in the first leg against Leverkusen, helped Bayern to a 5-0 aggregate win and quarter-final tie against Serie A leaders Inter Milan.

"A big compliment to the lads who delivered this performance," Kompany said. "These two wins over Leverkusen are important for us."



Al Hilal's Hamad al Yami (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor on Tuesday

AL HILAL SHOW TRUE COLOURS

Saudi Arabian side thump Pakhtakor to reach Asian Champions League quarterfinals

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - Al Hilal thumped Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor 4-0 on Tuesday to overturn a first-leg deficit and qualify for the quarter-finals of the Asian Champions League Elite with the Saudi side joined by compatriots Al-Ahli in the next phase of the competition.

Riyad Mahrez scored twice late in the game to complete Al Ahli's victory over Qatar's Al Rayyan, the former Manchester City winger netting in the 77th and 83rd minutes to earn a 2-0 win in Jeddah and a 5-1 victory overall.

Al Hilal bounced back from a 1-0 loss in the first leg in Tashkent last week to secure a 4-1 aggregate success over Pedro Moreira's Pakhtakor side with a commanding performance at the Kingdome Arena in Riyadh.

The hosts pulled level on aggregate in the 31st minute through Hamad al Yami's diving header after Salem al Dawsari's backheel released Mohamed Kanno behind the defence and his cross to the far post was directed home.

Eleven minutes later the Saudis doubled their tally as Kanno charged through Pakhtakor's midfield from deep inside his own half to deliver a defence-splitting pass from which Malcom slid

his shot beyond goalkeeper Jhonatan.

Yassine Bounou denied Pakhtakor striker Flamarion with a reflex save early in the second half and that was to prove decisive as Al Dawsari struck from the penalty spot in the 51st minute, scoring after being upended by Khodiyakbar Alijonov.

We knew that the first game was difficult in difficult conditions but today we showed our talent, our team on the pitch

KALIDOU KOULIBALY

Nasser al Dawsari rolled the ball in from close range in the 92nd minute to complete the rout.

Victory takes Al Hilal into Monday's draw for the final stages of the competition, which will be played in a centralised format in Jeddah from April 25 until May 3.

"We just wanted to win so bad, for the supporters, for everybody, for us,"

said Al Hilal defender Kalidou Koulibaly.

"We knew that the first game was difficult in difficult conditions but today we showed our talent, our team on the pitch. We wanted to win so bad and we showed it."

Al Ahli went into their second leg against Al Rayyan with a two-goal cushion and, despite dominating throughout the first half, it was not until 13 minutes from time that Matthias Jaissle's side added to their lead.

Mahrez showed his balance and poise to control Galeno's lofted ball over the Al Rayyan defence before turning and lifting his shot past goalkeeper Paulo Victor.

The Algerian doubled his side's lead six minutes later with an emphatic finish, stroking home following a lay-off in the penalty area by Gabri Veiga.

The results mean all three Saudi Arabian clubs involved in the competition have qualified for the quarter-finals after Al Nassr booked their place on Monday alongside Qatar's Al Sadd.

Japan's Yokohama F Marinos and Buriram United from Thailand have also qualified following respective wins over Shanghai Port and Johor Darul Ta'zim on Tuesday.

Gwangju knock Kobe out of Asian Champions League

Kawasaki, Japan - Vissel Kobe crashed out of the Asian Champions League Elite on Wednesday when Jasir Asani's extra-time winner saw Gwangju FC overturn a two-goal deficit to progress to the last eight with a 3-0 win in South Korea as Kawasaki Frontale also advanced.

Asani scored two minutes from the end of the additional period to take the South Korean debutants into the quarter-finals 3-2 on aggregate. Park Jeong-in and Asani netted in normal time to level the tie against the J-League champions.

Park Jeong-in gave the home side the lead in the 18th minute, beating Kobe keeper Daiya Maekawa with a looping header from Park Tae-jun's free kick.

But it was not until the 85th minute that the Koreans drew level on aggregate, Asani netting from the penalty spot after referee Abdulrahman Al-Jassim punished a handball by Takuya Iwanami.

Asani smashed in the winner in the 118th

minute, cutting inside to strike from distance with a left-foot shot.

"It was a very hard game but I'm so happy because it's emotional to win 3-0 at home," said Asani, who joined Anderson Lopes as the tournament's top scorer with nine goals.

"I didn't sleep for two days because I was thinking about this

I didn't sleep for two days because I was thinking about this game because it's hard for us

JASIR ASANI



game because it's hard for us."

Kawasaki overturned a 1-0 first-leg loss to down Shanghai Shenhua at Todoroki Stadium as Shigetoshi Hasebe's side handed the Chinese Super League team a 4-0 defeat to seal a 4-1 aggregate victory.

Kawasaki claimed a deserved opener in the 24th minute when Asahi Sasaki smashed an unstoppable shot beyond Bao Yaxiong, beating the goalkeeper at his near post from 18 yards.

The home side pulled clear with a dominant second-half performance, Erison claiming the second in the 64th minute with a first-time finish from Sasaki's ball. Tatsuya Ito threaded a finish four minutes later to score the third and Marcinho completed the rout from close range in the first minute of added time.

Kawasaki and Gwangju joined Yokohama F Marinos, Al Hilal, Al Ahli, Al Nassr, Al Sadd and Buriram United in the quarter-finals.

Gwangju FC's Jasir Asani celebrates his goal against Vissel Kobe on Wednesday



Angel Correa

Atletico's Correa banned after insulting referee

Madrid, Spain - Atletico Madrid forward Angel Correa has been suspended for five games following his insults towards a referee last weekend, Spain's soccer federation (RFEF) said.

The Argentina international saw a straight red card in the 88th minute of their 2-1 loss at Getafe in LaLiga on Sunday for a studs-up tackle on opposition defender Djene, after the incident was reviewed by VAR.

Correa then repeatedly insulted referee Cuadra Fernandez, who included the forward's re-

marks in the match report.

The sanction includes a one-match ban for the red card and four for the subsequent insults, the RFEF said.

The 30-year-old will miss Atletico's next five games of the domestic calendar, including LaLiga matches against Barcelona, Espanyol, Sevilla, and Valladolid, as well as the second leg of their Copa del Rey semi-final tie against Barca.

Correa has scored seven goals in 38 appearances in all competitions this season.

Svitolina enters Indian Wells last eight

Indian Wells, US - Elina Svitolina stunned fourth seed Jessica Pegula 5-7 6-1 6-2 in a match that was stalled for three hours while twice champion Iga Swiatek thrashed Czech Karolina Muchova 6-1 6-1 to reach the Indian Wells quarter-finals on Tuesday, while men's fifth seed Daniil Medvedev moved into the last eight with a 6-4, 6-0 win over American Tommy Paul.

Svitolina, the 23rd seed, will make her first quarter-final appearance in six years when she takes on Mirra Andreeva, who thumped 2023 champion Elena Rybakina 6-1 6-2 in a little over an hour. Ninth seed Andreeva is on track for back-to-back Masters trophies after her run to the Dubai title.

For Swiatek, victory continued her march through the Californian desert tournament, where she has dropped only six games in her three matches.



Elina Svitolina

Hamilton all set to roar with Ferrari in Melbourne

Melbourne, Australia - Lewis Hamilton will launch his bid to win the drivers' championship at a third Formula One team when he makes his much-anticipated debut for Ferrari in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Sunday.

Formula One's most successful team have not won a championship since the 2008 constructors' title and Hamilton, moving from Mercedes to Maranello, arrives chasing a record eighth.

Hamilton's switch has already sent fans into a frenzy in Italy and Melbourne's big Italian community will be out in force at Albert Park as the lakeside circuit hosts the opener for the first

time since 2019.

Ferrari, runners-up to McLaren in the 2024 constructors' championship, celebrated a 1-2 in Melbourne last year when Carlos Sainz, who has since moved to Williams, won the race ahead of teammate Charles Leclerc.

McLaren, however, may be set to steal Hamilton's thunder after encouraging performances in winter testing with F1 data showing they were quickest on low fuel in Bahrain and had an advantage over Ferrari on race pace. That would have been music to the ears of Australian fans cheering for McLaren's Oscar Piastri as he looks to become the first home driver to



Lewis Hamilton

win the race since it was added to the F1 world championship calendar in 1985.

The Melbourne native finished fourth last year at Albert Park behind third-placed teammate Lando Norris. Briton Norris, the bookmakers' pre-season favourite for the championship, may well be Piastri's biggest obstacle to a drought-breaking win for Australia.

Though Hamilton's Ferrari debut and McLaren's pre-season form have dominated the buildup, Red Bull's defending champion Max Verstappen will launch his bid to become the second man to win five drivers' titles in a row following Michael Schumacher. Red Bull finished

only third in the constructors' championship last season and after doing the least amount of laps at winter testing the pace of the car remains to be seen.

"We learnt a lot from testing but there is still a lot more work to be done," Verstappen said in a race preview issued by Red Bull on Tuesday.

"We have ideas about what we can do and how we can take on what we learnt at testing, so we will see how we go when we start driving on the track."

Verstappen has a new teammate in New Zealander Liam Lawson, who Red Bull hope will offer better support for the Dutch driver than the discarded Sergio Perez.



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IFTAR SNACKS
The humble potato can be the main ingredient for delicious iftar snacks



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IN TOWN
The faithful gather at various venues near mosques in town for the iftar meal



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ENTERTAINMENT
A peek into tinsel town, in Hollywood and Bollywood



QARANQASHO

Mohammed Taha

Qaranqasho is a beloved tradition that shines brightly during the 14th night of Ramadan in Oman, bringing communities together in a vibrant celebration of joy, unity, and cultural warmth. It will be celebrated all over Oman tomorrow.

This festive occasion is particularly special for children, who enthusiastically take part in the festivities, whether in homes, schools, parks, charities, or shopping malls. With its rich cultural significance, Qaranqasho has become a key event that reflects the warmth and spirit of the holy month, uniting Omani families and neighbours in celebration.

At the heart of the celebration is the exchange of gifts and sweets, which fosters a deep sense of community and belonging. Khalid al Balushi, a resident of Muttrah, shared his excitement with Muscat Daily, saying, "We celebrate Qaranqasho on the 14th night of Ramadan. This year, we are organising a large gathering and inviting all the children in our family. We have decorated our house and bought gifts to distribute to the children. It's such a special occasion."

Cultural researcher Dr Maha al Harthy reflected on the deeper meaning behind the tradition, noting that Qaranqasho is a dynamic celebration that has adapted over time while staying true to its roots. "The tradition of giving gifts has expanded beyond dates and money, but the essence remains - it's about fostering a sense of community, gratitude, and the joy of giving. This celebration bridges generations, reinforcing values of generosity and hospitality that are central to Omani culture."

Dr Harthy also explained the significance of the name - Qaranqasho is derived from the Omani colloquial term Qarqash, meaning 'give me,' which captures the festive spirit of the occasion. It takes place on the 14th night of Ramadan, marking a moment of joy in the middle of the holy month.

For many, Qaranqasho is more than just a time to exchange gifts. Naser al Hosni, a resident of Shinas, emphasised its role in preserving Oman's cultural heritage. "Qaranqasho plays a vital role in promoting Oman's cultural identity. Events like this give younger generations a chance to connect with tra-

Joy,
unity,
cultural
warmth

Halfway through Ramadan, the celebration of Qaranqasho, to acknowledge the efforts of young children who joined in the observations of the holy season in their own little way, brings forth a heartwarming display of family traditions

ditional customs and ensure their continuity," he said.

Fatima al Badi, a mother from Salalah, shared the importance of teaching younger generations about social bonds and charity. "It's about bringing families, neighbours, and friends together. We use this time to teach our children the value of charity, especially during Ramadan. The joy on the children's faces as they visit different homes is priceless, and it strengthens a sense of community."

In recent years, the spirit of giving has extended beyond just exchanging sweets and gifts. Many families now use Qaranqasho as an opportunity to donate food, clothing, and money to those in need. Aisha al Shamsi from Nizwa highlighted this charitable aspect saying, "Qaranqasho is not just a celebration for us - it's a chance to give back to those who may be less fortunate. In rural areas, families take this time to visit neighbours and share the festive spirit."

For Salim al Kindi, a resident of Sur, the celebration signifies the unity that defines Omani culture. "While gifts and sweets are central to the occasion, the house visits, songs, and shared laughter symbolise the unity and respect that bind us together. It's not just about the material exchange, but about reinforcing the bonds of community."

Historian Ahmed al Farsi offered insights into how Qaranqasho is celebrated differently across Oman. "In Muscat and other urban areas, Qaranqasho has become a larger public celebration with organised get-togethers in neighbourhoods. In contrast, rural areas still maintain a more intimate, family-centred celebration, where children walk from house to house, often covering great distances to visit each home in their community. Regardless of the setting, the core values of the event remain unchanged - togetherness, generosity, and family."



cook-up



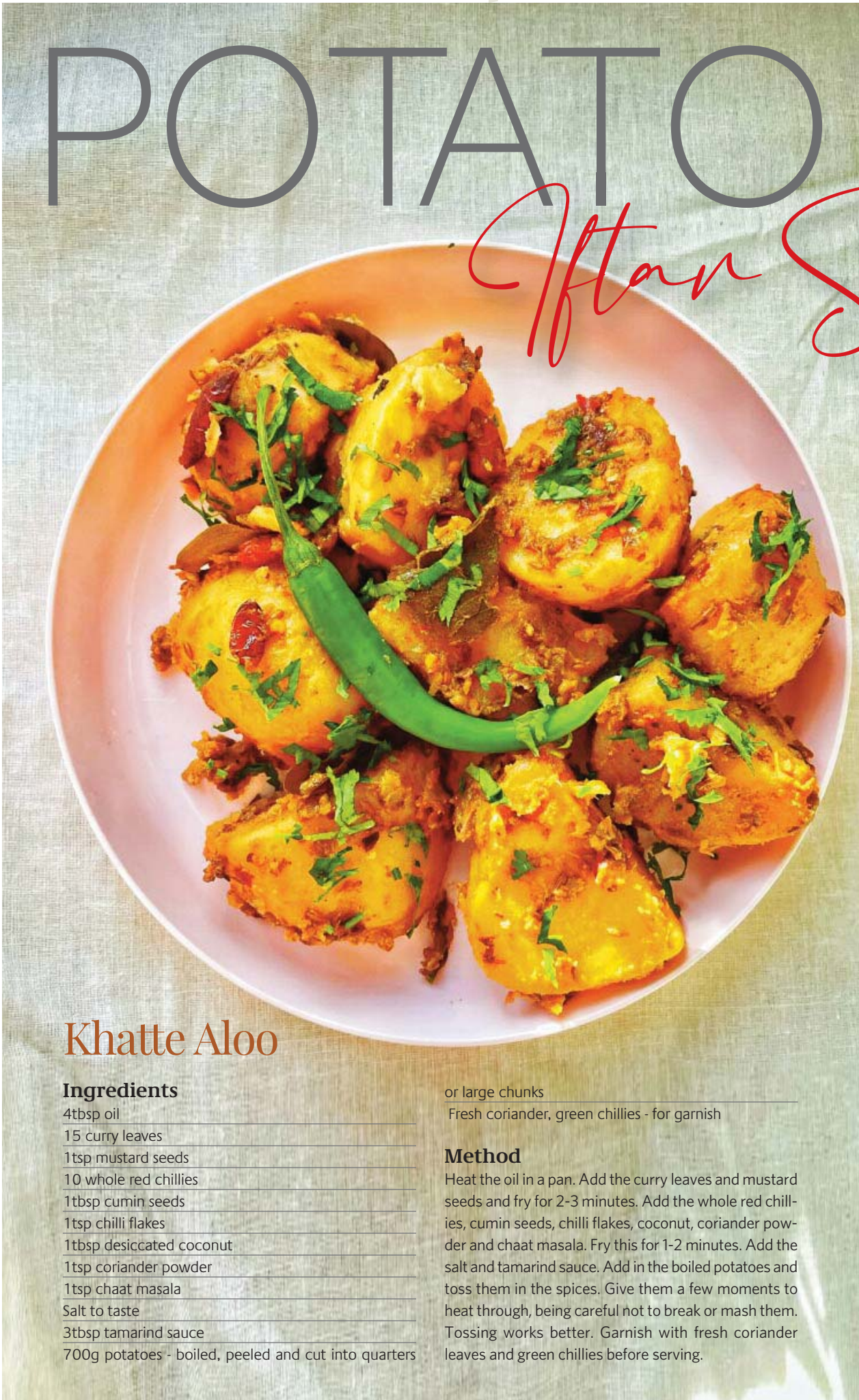
Chilli Tornado Potatoes

- Ingredients**
- 6 yellow potatoes – washed well with skin
 - 45g Parmesan cheese - grated
 - 15g breadcrumbs
 - 10g paprika
 - Black pepper - freshly ground
 - Extra virgin olive oil
 - Pink Himalayan salt
 - Parsley - freshly chopped
 - 6 skewers

Method

In a medium size bowl combine Parmesan cheese, bread-crumbs, paprika and black pepper. Set aside. Insert a skewer into one potato and push the skewer all the way through it. Place the potato on a chopping board and, using a sharp knife, start cutting angled the potato - cut in the opposite direction you are turning the skewered potato

and cut all the potato into thin spiral slices. Gently separate the potato slices which form the spiral. Brush all over the potato with extra virgin olive oil. Place the skewered oiled potato over the parmesan mix bowl and spread the mixture with a spoon all over the potato until it's entirely coated. Gently shake off the mixture excess. Place the potato on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and repeat for the rest of the potatoes. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 200° C for 25 minutes. Remove the potatoes from the oven, turn them and bake for another 15-25 minutes or until they are evenly browned and tender. Serve immediately seasoned with salt and some freshly chopped parsley.



Khatte Aloo

- Ingredients**
- 4tbsp oil
 - 15 curry leaves
 - 1tsp mustard seeds
 - 10 whole red chillies
 - 1tbsp cumin seeds
 - 1tsp chilli flakes
 - 1tbsp desiccated coconut
 - 1tsp coriander powder
 - 1tsp chaat masala
 - Salt to taste
 - 3tbsp tamarind sauce
 - 700g potatoes - boiled, peeled and cut into quarters

or large chunks
Fresh coriander, green chillies - for garnish

Method

Heat the oil in a pan. Add the curry leaves and mustard seeds and fry for 2-3 minutes. Add the whole red chillies, cumin seeds, chilli flakes, coconut, coriander powder and chaat masala. Fry this for 1-2 minutes. Add the salt and tamarind sauce. Add in the boiled potatoes and toss them in the spices. Give them a few moments to heat through, being careful not to break or mash them. Tossing works better. Garnish with fresh coriander leaves and green chillies before serving.

THE HUMBLE POTATO, ONE OF THE CHEAPEST INGREDIENTS ON THE MARKET, CAN BE USED TO FASHION SOME OF THE MOST DELICIOUS IFTAR SNACKS

Potato balls

- Ingredients**
- ½ cups leftover mashed potatoes
 - ½ cup sharp cheddar cheese
 - ¼tsp garlic powder
 - 1tbsp chopped chives or scallions
 - ⅙tsp salt and pepper
 - ¼-½ cup flour
 - 1 large egg
 - ¾ cup breadcrumbs
 - Oil for deep frying
 - Sour cream – to serve

Method

In a medium bowl, combine cold leftover mashed potatoes (straight from the fridge is best) with cheddar, chives, and garlic powder. Season with a pinch of salt and pepper and mix well with a large spoon. Use a small cookie scoop with a 2tsp capacity to easily scoop mixture into small balls. For best results, the mashed potato balls should be no larger than 2.5cm in diameter. Roll each scooped por-

tion into balls. Place in the fridge for 10-20 minutes to set so they will hold their shape when fried. Place flour, egg, and bread-crumbs each in their own shallow bowl. Whisk the egg until the white and yolk are well combined. Dredge each mashed potato ball

in flour, then in beaten egg, then in breadcrumbs. In a small pot, heat about 2-3 inches of oil to 180° C. Use a slotted metal spoon to carefully add in the balls to the hot oil, frying just 3-4 at a time till golden brown, and remove on paper towels. Enjoy with a sour cream dip.



CLASSIFIEDS

SITUATION WANTED

Indian, MBA, 20yrs of experience in Sales (FMCG/Retail). Previously held Supervisory/Managerial positions. Having D/L, seeks suitable placement.
Contact- Sultan: 95548480

Indian male, MBA, having experience in Oman and GCC in Project and Dealer Market Sales, Business Development in building materials, including Cables & Accessories in construction industry, with valid D/L, looking for a suitable job. Ready to join immediately
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Contact:
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Room for rent in Darsait with bathroom and kitchen, electricity and water is free. The room comes with a sea view. Rent RO95
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BIRTHDAY WISHES



JEETHU

Wishing you joyful, colourful, happiest birthday. God bless you with health, wealth, and peace.
From Kirankayu

MARRIAGE NOTICE

I, **GURPREET SINGH** (holder of Indian Passport No **B9021916**) D/o / S/O **JAGDISH SINGH** having permanent residence in **VPO-SANAURA, DIST-JALANDHAR, INDIA, PUNJAB, PIN CODE 144201** (complete permanent address in India) and presently residing at **Muscat, OMAN** Post Box No. 1897 Postal Code 121 Sultanate of Oman (Complete postal address in Sultanate of Oman), intend to marry Mr./Ms. **RITCHE STARON LLENAS** (holder of Philippines Passport No. **P7429182B**) S/o / D/o **DIEGO OLIVARES LLENAS** having permanent residence in **LIBON, ALBAY, PHILIPPINES**. (complete Permanent address) at embassy of India, Muscat. I swear that I am marrying him/her at my own free will and not under any duress and intimidation. Any objection towards this marriage may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, PO Box No. 1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman within 30 (thirty) days of publication of this newspaper advertisement.

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take a break

IN TOWN

Spirit of Ramadan



The spirit of Ramadan was evident in different parts of the city where the faithful came together to join in the iftar meal



Photos: V.K. Shaleer

BOGGLER

A	E	S	E
R	D	A	D
M	R	R	I
A	D	M	E

Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters. The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters - to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The 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

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

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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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

TRIVIA QUIZ - FOR TEENS

1. Which was the first cola invented by American pharmacist John Stith Pemberton in 1886?
- A. Campa Cola
B. Coca Cola
C. Pemberton Cola
D. Cola Dukes



2. What is the key ingredient in corned beef?
- A. Rock salt
B. Sweet corn
C. Corn flour
D. Garlic flakes
3. What is Bahla town, in Oman, famous for?
- A. Leather goods
B. Silverware
C. Dates
D. Clay pottery

Answers
1. B
2. A
3. C

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

You're just going to love today's astrological blend of energies. Permanence and stability are in the air, and promises made will undoubtedly be promises kept. So just this once, instead of automatically expecting people to go back on their word, you can expect that they won't. In fact, you and a dear one can even establish a deeper trust if you have the conversation you've been putting off.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

A work-related matter that's been on hold and making you absolutely crazy for the past several weeks is about to come to a happy close. Not quite yet, however, and not nearly soon enough. If you can manage to pull together just a bit more of that legendary ability to wait things out, you'll be golden.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

You're in quite an unusual mood. Not at all up for your typical pursuits of partying, laughing with friends, and chatting up new people. No, today you're after intensity. That doesn't mean you won't be spending time with dear ones, but you will be asking for more from them than just lighthearted banter. The good news is they won't mind.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

You may need to do some impromptu counseling this afternoon, so prepare yourself. The heavens have arranged for a good dose of jealousy to circulate around you, so if you're not directly involved in the fray, consider helping whoever is, especially if it's obvious they need it. Not everyone has an advanced degree in relationships like you clearly do, and now is the time to put your studies to work.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

A mixed bag of energies is circulating in the heavens above you. On tap, for example, are a nice, grounded dose of stability, a heady potion tailor-made for romance, and a collaboration between two particular planets determined to get you worrying about whether your sweetie is being faithful. Sure, it sounds a bit confusing, but it's going to make for an unpredictable day.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

With the possible exception of some fireworks on the job, you'll have a fine time today. So if jealousy or resentment comes up, don't feed any of your valuable energy into it, and it will go away. It's a waste of time, because right now you're particularly set up for romance, passion, and a renewed closeness to the ones you love.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Today could get a little tricky, but only if you let it. The most important thing you can do is to separate yourself from negative energy, gloomy people, and harmful or depressing circumstances. That means no falling prey to anyone who's jealous, resentful, or even plain old whiny. Offer advice, but if someone keeps coming up with reasons why they can't take it, keep safe distance.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

You'll be in the unique position of yielding to your elders today, and it may feel weird at first. So if you find yourself in the position of backing down from a dispute with an authority figure, don't feel bad about it. Be proud of your wisdom and your ability to design to the sagacity of others.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Despite someone's efforts to dissuade you, what you're still after, first and foremost, is quiet time. You don't want any noise, confusion, or ruckus from the maddening crowd. Right now, silence is the only thing you want to hear. That, and maybe the sound of running water, bubbling into your tub, or flowing down a mountain.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

There's definitely something to be said for keeping quiet when you have a wonderful secret, you know, the kind that keeps you grinning and staring out the window when you're supposed to be working. Still, no one's saying it's going to be easy to bite your tongue. So if you absolutely must say something to someone.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

You're putting out some pretty high-octane vibes at the moment, attracting the attention of just about everyone who happens to amble by. Do them and yourself a favour. If you're already attached or just not interested, don't even think about flirting. And if anyone has a hungry, vaguely disoriented look about them and a silly, sappy grin, run, don't walk, in the other direction.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

If someone strikes you as not quite on the up-and-up, don't try to talk yourself out of it. Your antennae are consistently pretty keen, but at the moment they'll be especially accurate. That means no matter what anyone else says, trust your gut first and foremost. And if a certain story doesn't seem quite right, go ahead and do some digging. The real facts won't be hard to find.

entertainment



Moon Lovers: Scarlet Heart Ryeo coming to Viki Rakuten



Okay, K-drama fans, this is not a drill. Moon Lovers: Scarlet Heart Ryeo is finally coming to Viki Rakuten in our very own Oman, and I'm literally screaming. If you haven't watched this masterpiece yet, now's your chance!

This drama came out in 2016 and is still one of the best historical K-dramas ever. It stars IU (yes, The IU), Lee Joon-gi, Kang Ha-neul, Nam Joo-hyuk, Ji Soo, Hong Jong-hyun, and EXO's Baekhyun. Like, talk about an all-star cast. The story is about a girl (played by IU) who time-travels to the Goryeo dynasty and gets caught up in a crazy love story with a bunch of gorgeous princes. Sounds like a perfect fan fiction trope, right?

Even though it didn't get the best ratings when it first aired, repeat viewings by the fans has made it a cult classic. The love, the heart-break, the drama - it's just too good. And the biggest heartbreak? We never got a Season 2 - fans have been begging for it for years, but the producers keep saying 'no'. Why?

But hey, at least we can rewatch it again on Viki! Whether you're watching for the first time or rewatching for the 100th time (I plead guilty), get ready for all the emotions. Also, it has my favourite OST song 'For You' by Chen, Baekyun, and Xiumin. Who else is excited!



Margot Robbie

is reportedly 'mad' with George Clooney

Hollywood icon George Clooney is reportedly at odds with actress Margot Robbie over competing plans to revive the Ocean's franchise with new films. Clooney recently said that Ocean's 14 has already been written by a script which would see him return to the role of Danny Ocean, made famous by the early 2000s trilogy. The veteran *Batman* star claimed the film's storyline would centre on the theme of ageing, exploring how he and his crew struggle with the realisation that they are "too old to do the jobs we used to be able to do." Hollywood insiders claim that Robbie is furious over this development, which complicates her plans for a separate prequel film within the same universe.

JOHN GOODMAN TAKES ON INJURY AND ILL-LUCK



John Goodman has been a part of the film industry for decades. The esteemed actor, whose most well-known credits include *The Big Lebowski*, *Argo* and *Monsters Inc.*, knows a thing or two about working on sets and the occasional setbacks that an actor can face, such as injuries. And in early 2025, John reportedly experienced a hip injury that took him out of production for a short time. Fans were naturally concerned and wondered how John's health was. In addition to John's injury and reported hospitalisation, the Missouri native ran into bad luck at the beginning of the year amid the Los Angeles. According to numerous reports, John's Pacific Palisades home burned down the Palisades fire.



BIANCA CENSORI REP DENIES CRY FOR HELP

Bianca Censori's rep is denying the Australian model's cry for help following her husband Kanye West's recent hate-filled rants on social media.

A rep for Censori told *The Hollywood Reporter* late Sunday that a post uploaded Saturday night to a verified X (formerly Twitter) account, featuring the blue checkmark and claiming to be Censori, is fake and "does not belong to Ye's wife. We have reached out to X to get the account unverified and/or banned," her rep added.

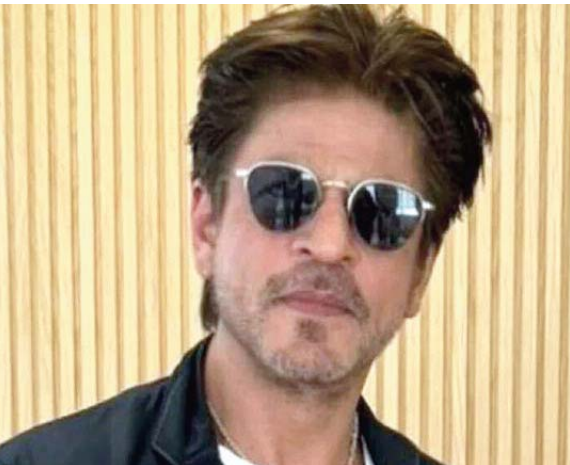
Saudi to become Hollywood's next filming destination

At NEOM's state-of-the-art film facilities, Saudi Arabia's mega-project is positioning itself as a major hub for international filmmakers, with dozens of productions already completed and more in the pipeline.

Nestled just one kilometer from the Red Sea, NEOM's sprawling media facilities represent Saudi Arabia's ambitious push into the global entertainment industry.

"We've got two sets of film studios - one at NC1, and then we've got the studios at Bajdah, about an hour away in the desert," explains Michael Lynch, head of Media, Entertainment and Culture at NEOM.

SRK HAS A ROYAL STAY IN JAIPUR



Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan was in Jaipur this week for the IIFA Awards 2025, and his stay was nothing short of royal. The actor was given a luxurious suite, specially designed for him by Jaipur-based interior designer and architect Shantanu Garg, in collaboration with IIFA.

On Monday, celebrity photographer Viral Bhayani shared a video offering a glimpse inside SRK's opulent suite, which seamlessly blends retro charm, cinematic nostalgia, and aesthetics. The space

has been customised to provide both, comfort and grandeur, ensuring King Khan feels at home while being surrounded by things that reflect his personality.

The lavish suite features a plush bed with white and black linens and pillows embroidered with SRK's name, a dedicated dressing table, and a stylish sofa and chair set to accommodate his guests. Thoughtful details, such as his favourite books, treasured keepsakes, and artistic portraits, have been added into the décor.



BOLLYWOOD MOVIE REVIEW:

CHHAAVA

Genre: Period, action drama
Starring: Vicky Kaushal, Rashmika Mandanna, Akshaye Khanna, Diana Penty

Based on Shivaji Sawant's celebrated novel *Chhava*, the film *Chhaava* brings to life the extraordinary journey of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the valiant Maratha warrior who succeeded his legendary father, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

A fearless ruler and a master of guerrilla warfare, Sambhaji carried forward the dream of a united kingdom leaving an indelible mark on history, furthering the unfinished task of Swaraj left behind by his illustrious father.

Sambhaji Maharaj's unmatched bravery earned him the title *Chhaava*, meaning 'lion cub' in Marathi. His legendary battle with a lion, which he fought barehanded, has also been depicted in the film - though with creative liberty.

Directed by Laxman Utekar, *Chhaava* features Vicky Kaushal in the lead role, bringing Sambhaji Maharaj's courage and resilience to the screen. Rashmika Mandanna portrays Maharani Yesubai, Sambhaji's devoted wife, while Akshaye Khanna delivers a compelling performance as the formidable Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. Diana Penty plays Zinat-un-Nissa Begum, Aurangzeb's daughter, in a role that did have potential for more depth.

The film does justice to the guerrilla warfare tactics employed by the Marathas - an aspect often read about but rarely seen in cinematic grandeur. The high-octane battle sequences are among the film's biggest highlights, making it a must-watch on the big screen for audiences of all



ages. The film opens with the demise of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, an event that shakes the Maratha Empire to its core.

As his successor, Sambhaji wastes no time asserting his strength, leading a bold assault on Burhanpur, one of the Mughals' strongest forts. En-

raged by this challenge, Aurangzeb sees it as an opportunity to annihilate the Marathas once and for all. However, Sambhaji's unparalleled battle strategies

keep the mighty Mughal empire on edge.

Just when victory seems within reach, betrayal from within changes the course of history. Captured by his enemies, Sambhaji Maharaj faces inhumane torture, refusing to surrender his pride and principles. His final moments are heart-wrenching, showcasing his unwavering spirit in the face of unimaginable brutality.

Lead actor Vicky Kaushal delivers one of his career's most intense performances, fully embodying the character of Sambhaji Maharaj. His powerful screen presence, fierce dialogue delivery, and emotionally charged moments, especially in the climax, make for a gripping watch.

Akshaye Khanna as Aurangzeb, too, portrays a calm yet menacing emperor, blending cruelty with a composed demeanour. His character, however, could have been given more screen time and depth, though he delivers an impactful performance.

Rashmika Mandanna, in a limited role as Maharani Yesubai, brings sincerity and grace to her performance. Meanwhile, Ashutosh Rana, Divya Dutta, and Vineet Kumar Singh shine in their supporting roles, adding depth to the narrative.

The film's production quality is high end, capturing the grandeur of the Maratha empire with impressive set design and war sequences. The last 45 minutes of the movie, particularly the brutal torture scenes, are deeply moving, reminiscent of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* (2004) in intensity and emotional weight.

The cinematography does justice to the historical setting, while the battle sequences are visually stunning. However, a more dynamic visual style and fast cuts in the edit somehow confused the narrative at times. The first half feels stretched, and a sharper screenplay would have heightened the tension.

A good watch.

Rating ★★★★★