

Talabat going for IPO, listing on DFM

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

The food delivery services firm Talabat is heading for the Dubai Financial Market.

The timing of the IPO remains subject to regulatory approvals, market conditions and further resolutions of the management board of the Talabat parent company Delivery Hero.

"A listing may be pursued through a secondary sale of shares by Delivery Hero which would retain the majority interest in the local listing entity after an IPO," the German food delivery giant said in a statement yesterday.

It was in 2016 that Delivery Hero bought Talabat as part of a wider deal with Rocket Internet, a haloed name when it comes to investing in web businesses. The latter had acquired Talabat, which was launched in Kuwait, in 2015 for \$170 million, one of the bigger deals for web-based businesses in the Middle East at the time.

Talabat's entry into DFM further opens up the retail and F&B services sector on the index. Spinneys, the grocer, is there, and so are Dubai Refreshments (the Pepsi Cola bottler) and Emirates Reem Investments Co (which owns Jeema bottled water brand, among other F&B brands).

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Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

EMIRATIA CELEBRATES UAE'S WOMEN ACHIEVERS

■ **From left:** Dr Reem Saleh Easa Al Gurg, Director Strategy & Institutional Excellence, Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU); Hind Al Huwaidi, Chief Executive Development Officer, BEEAH; Yusra Baqi, Chief Human Capital Officer, Aafac Islamic Finance and Zahra Al Dahmani, Director of Tax Payer Services at Federal Tax Authority, with Noni Edwards at a panel discussion on *Beyond limits: Redefining leadership* at Emiratia, an event held on the occasion of Emirati Women's Day, organised by Gulf News and Being She at Raffles The Palm Dubai on Wednesday. The event was attended by leading Emirati women from various walks of life. **SEE ALSO P4-5**



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Stop using our songs at campaign rallies, pop group ABBA tells Trump

'Not received any request, so no permission or licence has been given'

STOCKHOLM

The record label for iconic Swedish pop group ABBA said yesterday it demanded that US presidential hopeful Donald Trump stop playing its music at his campaign rallies.

Universal Music in Sweden said videos had surfaced of ABBA's music being played at at least one Trump event. "We have demanded that (the material) be taken down and removed," Universal Music AB told AFP in an email.

"Universal Music Publishing AB and (record company) Polar Music International AB have not received any request (to use the music), so no permission or licence has been given to Trump," it said.

Swedish daily Svenska Dagbladet said its reporter had in July attended a Trump rally in Minnesota — known for its strong Swed-



ish community — where *The Winner Takes it All* was played.

Dancing Queen

The reporter said the song was followed by a 10-minute video clip, projected on a big screen, of ABBA in its heyday play-

ing some of its biggest hits, including *Money, Money, Money* and *Dancing Queen*. The members of the band declined to comment further, a representative told Reuters, adding that they fully supported Universal's statement.

With their catchy melodies and glittering costumes, Agnetha, Bjorn, Benny and Anni-Frid — whose initials make up the name of the group — personified disco around the globe until they stopped performing in 1982.

The Trump campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

—Agencies

Beware of microplastics in your home

THEY ENTER OUR BODY THROUGH FOOD, WATER, AIR AND CAN WRECK OUR HEALTH

DUBAI

BY LAKSHANA N. PALAT
Assistant Features Editor

Is your gut feeling something's off? It might not just be indigestion. Microplastics could be playing a role in your digestive troubles. Without knowing it, we are inhaling, or ingesting millions of microplastic particles per year through our food, water and air.

So what are microplastics and how can it harm us? These tiny plastic particles, generally less than five millimetres in length, come from various sources, including the breakdown of plastic and tiny plastic particles that are intentionally added to products, such as microbeads in cosmetics or microfibers in clothing, or the plastic packaging in our food, which are sources of microplastic exposure.

Microplastics are now a pressing environmental issue due to their prevalence and potential harm to both ecosystems and human health. They're everywhere, from the oceans to our homes. A UK-based study in 2021 conducted by the Hull Medical School surveyed over

20 households in six months and found a rather pervasive presence of microplastics in indoor environments. The study found an average of 1,400 microplastics per square meter per day in the air of the sampled homes. The most common microplastics found were smaller, fibrous particles around (95-250 micrometers), which are typically associated with carpets, clothing and home furnishings. These particles pose a risk of entering the human body. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which is commonly found in food packaging and clothing, was also prevalent in 90 per cent of the samples.

Heating and ventilation systems can also influence indoor microplastic concentration. These little pieces of plastic in our bloodstream pose several risks to our health. Heather Leslie, a scientist who pioneered microplastics and human health research in Europe, says while the extent of the potential damage is still unexplored territory, the evidence for inflammation and metabolic changes where microplastics accumulate is building.

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