

# **Weak demand, higher costs hit ArcelorMittal's earnings**

**ARCELORMITTAL SA yesterday reported a huge plunge in headline earnings to R106m for the six months ended June, from R668m for the same period last year. The group said weak domestic steel demand, coupled with higher input costs hit earnings, despite operational reliability having improved following its business improvement programme, which it said was "starting to have a tangible impact". Page 11**