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Omantel

51 Dawns of our Renewed Renaissance

Since early history, Omanis have been a generous, enterprising, and welcoming. Omanis have been inspiring examples of integration, solidarity and unity. We all have something in common and that is our love for Oman, its glorious past, cheerful present and a bright future for coming generations.

We express our sincere greetings to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik**, the courageous people of Oman and all residents of this kind land on Oman's 51st National Day.



Celebrating Omani spirit

Together we celebrate the Omani spirit that has connected the people, communities and the nation as one.

We will always take pride in our contribution to support the development process and engage actively in achieving the goals of Oman's Vision 2040.

We will continue to deliver and support Oman's renewed renaissance under the prosperous reign of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.



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Salute for
leading the way
to security,
stability and
prosperity



Oman LNG
is honoured to congratulate

**HIS MAJESTY
SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK**

and

The people of Oman
on the occasion of the
**51st National Day of
the Renaissance**



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غالية يا
عُمان

51st National Day



OMRAN Group extends its most sincere
congratulations to
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK
and the people of Oman on the glorious
occasion of the 51st National Day



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**Our hearts beat with pride and
joy on the 51st National Day
of the Renaissance**



Warmest felicitations to
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK
and the people of Oman on the occasion
of the 51st National Day of the renaissance.

Nation with a Vision

On the 51st National Day of the renaissance, as Oman celebrates Vision 2040, we at Khimji Ramdas herald this new, glorious chapter. The beginning of a new legacy of progress & prosperity.

We firmly believe that this vision will drive us forward, towards a better, vibrant future. We believe that our time is now.

WORKING TOWARDS THE OMAN 2040 VISION

We salute the visionary leadership of
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
and extend our greetings to His
Majesty and the people of Oman on
the occasion of the 51st National Day.



WE SALUTE THE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP OF
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK
AND EXTEND OUR GREETINGS TO HIS MAJESTY AND
THE PEOPLE OF OMAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE
51ST NATIONAL DAY.



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Galloping towards security, stability and prosperity

Shaddad al Musalmey
Muscat

Since His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik assumed the reins of power on January 11, 2020, he has made every effort to elevate further the towering edifice of Oman. He is focused on promoting the living standards and enriching the lives of his people, and engaging citizens in nation building to ensure development, progress and prosperity.

In his historic speech on February 23, 2020, His Majesty Sultan Haitham laid down solid principles that outline the features of the forthcoming important stage in the country's comprehensive march of growth, his focus being the youth of the nation who represent its present force and future aspiration.

Guided by the directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham, the sultanate embarked on realising Oman Vision 2040, which began to be implemented with effect

from 2021. The vision embodies the aspirations of the Omani people for a brighter future.

When His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik came to power, he issued a number of Royal Decrees to improve governance and lay down the foundations for financial sustainability in the sultanate. Apart from the Royal Decrees, His Majesty the Sultan's Royal Directives and Orders will further strengthen rules and regulations, and several new initiatives announced will help in the development of the country and welfare of its people.

The decrees included reconstitution of the Council of Ministers, and establishment, merger and renaming of ministries. The decrees merged ten ministries into five and reconstituted five councils as part of efforts to restructure the state's administrative apparatus, and to move towards the goals set by Oman Vision 2040.

The mergers were instrumental in avoiding duplication of specialisations and organising sectors with clear objectives as well as fixing responsibilities for each sector to work towards the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Despite adverse international conditions posed by challenges of low oil prices and the COVID-19 pandemic, the prudent procedures and measures announced by His Majesty the Sultan will help Oman tide over the current difficulties and continue its triumphant march.

The sultanate takes pride in the development, prosperity, security and stability it has achieved - thanks and praise be to the Almighty Allah. The Basic State of Law has come to its prime, based on principles of freedom, equality of opportunities, and justice and dignity of individuals, whose rights and liberties are guaranteed by the law, including the freedom of expression.

Partnership between citizens and the government in shaping the present and future of the country is considered a basic pillar in the national action over the next stage of development on which the country pins its hopes, a fact clearly stated by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.



18 November

“While We make a covenant with Allah The Almighty to devote our life for Oman and the Omani citizens to keep its glorious renaissance and rally going, We call upon you to make a covenant with Allah The Almighty to do the same.”

His Majesty Haitham bin Tariq Al Said





العيد الوطني
الحادي و الخمسون للنهضة

We stand
behind
your wise
leadership for
our beloved Oman
and its people



Heartiest felicitations to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** and the people of Oman on the glorious 51st National Day of Renaissance. As we celebrate this momentous day, Sohar Aluminium reaffirms its sincere vows of loyalty to His Majesty and asserts its continuous endeavours towards its economic, social and cultural goals, in a manner that embodies a clear-cut vision and expectations towards a more prosperous future for the Sultanate of Oman.



Extraordinary economic progress

Over the past five decades, Oman has made extraordinary progress - thanks to the government’s focus on careful economic planning, reforms and infrastructure development. The sultanate’s business leaders say it is on the right track to achieve a developed, diversified and sustainable economy in the next five decades.



Tariq al Farsi, CEO
National Finance Company

Oman as a country has been working on major long-term initiatives – from developing its infrastructure, healthcare, and educational systems to various income-generating sectors including tourism, fisheries, and agriculture. In an attempt to decrease the country’s dependence on oil, the country has been focusing on income diversification, industrialisation, developing natural gas production, and privatisation. When it comes to securing future economic growth through increasing trade and investment, Oman is equally a competitive destination for doing business and international trade. Creating a strong administrative and regulatory framework that facilitates job creation, along with investment and business growth are central to building a new sustainable infrastructure.

Oman’s future economic outlook continues to improve. It is imperative that the banks and financing companies in Oman have a key role to play in achieving Vision 2040. Strategic financing of national projects, supporting SMEs with hassle-free funding, and a collaborative approach will be a must to make Oman into a thriving business and investment hub. The regulators continue to introduce policies and frameworks which enable the industry to innovate, introduce new products and implement technology. In the next couple of years, Oman is going to witness a paradigm shift in all aspects.

Khalid al Kayed
CEO, Bank Nizwa

As we celebrate the sultanate’s 51st National Day, it is with great pride that we reflect on the country’s multiple achievements - social and economical. Oman has been on a fast trajectory of development, showcasing remarkable growth in national progression, through building a robust social infrastructure and a conducive business environment. The recent reforms have provided thrust to this journey, opening a window of opportunities for local and foreign investments.

As the leading Islamic bank in Oman, Bank Nizwa is contributing to writing a new chapter in the history of the sultanate - one which brings with it long-term benefits and sustainable development - through a well-skilled, young workforce, and a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. I would like to congratulate His Majesty the Sultan and the people of Oman on this landmark occasion.



Omar Mahmood al Mahrizi
CEO of Sohar Freezone

Oman’s progress over the last 51 years has been impressive. As part of its ambitious vision for economic diversification, the country has dedicated itself to recapturing its ancient trade heritage and seize new opportunities that capitalise on its geographical advantage and rich natural resources. Since 2002, Sohar Port and Freezone has been committed to supporting this vision, leading the expansion and modernisation of the sultanate’s logistics and trade sectors, and positioning Oman as a key logistics hub within the region.

Today, we are proud to be one of the world’s fastest-growing ports and a key player in Oman’s standing as a thriving business and trade destination. As the government continues to prioritise the expansion of the logistics sector as part of Oman’s 2040 Vision, our own 2040 Vision sees us reaffirm our contributions to the national economy. While providing new opportunities for employment, SMEs, foreign direct investment and increased trade to boost national industries, Sohar Port and Freezone looks forward to continuing to be part of the country’s ongoing development journey.



Walter Simpson
Managing director, CC Energy Development

The rapid pace of Oman’s development over the last 51 years is something to be admired and celebrated. Harnessing education and seizing opportunities to foster economic competitiveness, it has been the enabler for progress and prosperity. With a renewed resolve, it is moving ever closer to its goal of effective economic management while achieving a developed, diversified and sustainable national economy as laid out by the Oman Vision 2040.

The oil and gas industry has long been a cornerstone of economic progress, supporting the country’s growing energy needs and facilitating the pursuit of diversified development. Yet the industry is in the midst of an energy transition and it is only by recognising and acknowledging the importance of the changes in renewables, digitalisation and shifting consumer behaviour that we can keep up with the rapid pace of change. By being proactive, we are setting ourselves up for long-term success and helping to position Oman’s energy landscape to be ready for a sustainable future.



On the glorious occasion of
**the 51st National Day
of the Renaissance**

we extend our sincere greetings to
His Majesty
Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

and the people of Oman for the
nation's success and prosperity.

With the power of the National
vision, the logistics sector will
continue its efforts to cement
Oman’s position globally.

May Allah protect our Oman.



We extend our heartiest congratulations to
His Majesty
Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
and the people of Oman, on the occasion of the
51st National Day of the Renaissance



الشركة الدولية للتطوير والاستثمار
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Need to sell a ‘hidden gem’

Despite its offering of old world charm and modern comforts to create memorable experiences amid stunning natural beauty, Oman remains a hidden gem. Professionals in the field of tourism foresee aggressive promotions and marketing to capitalise on the sultanate’s unique selling points in the time to come.

Malik al Hinai
Retired director of Bait al Baranda Museum

Focus on tourism has always been at the forefront for the sultanate. Opening up the country is vital but also ensuring all necessary infrastructure is in place. So, massive road networks have been built into remote villages. We now have to teach nationals how to promote tourism, be it by establishing smaller affordable hotels and cafes as well as giving the correct information. Our landscape is impressive, from the sea to the mountainous regions and deserts. What is required now is to promote the country in all tourism fairs across the globe. Artisanship should be the focus as a tourist would like to purchase items made by locals. We also need to look into the entertainment sector and what can be offered to visitors that is not available anywhere else. Oman has so much to offer, it's time we do things properly. Let's learn from Morocco, Italy and France.







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Amira al Lawati
Assistant director general, Institutional Planning & Sustainability, Ministry of Heritage and Tourism

Oman is a country that has been blessed with many assets, among which the most important are its natural beauty and its people. Tourism is a source of opportunities for destinations as it contributes to the welfare of people and the economy. Capitalising on the competitive and comparative advantages that Oman has, and realising the full potential of tourism and its value chain, will enable generation of demand for a spectrum of services and products.

Fifty years is a very long time to forecast, however, Oman Vision 2040 and Oman Tourism Strategy have already set the roadmap for where we want to be and what we want to achieve in the coming years. The idea is to sustainably cluster tourism zones in each governorate, utilising the main theme of a particular location and offering a wide variety of special and innovative services, products, investment opportunities, tourism and recreational projects, opportunities for small and medium enterprises, and interaction with the local communities. This is to be managed by a unique cluster management system under the direct supervision of each governorate.

Oman is our beloved country and is as beautiful as it could be. I would like to see Oman on the bucket list of every responsible traveller and tourist, and definitely among the top ten authentic and sustainable destinations on earth.

Dr Ramin Mohajer
Partner, Aspire Muscat Institute

God Almighty has blessed Oman with all the natural beauty and attractions a land could have. We were blessed under the leadership of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said, and continue to be blessed under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. Now we need to build the basic infrastructure of tourism, especially outside Muscat. We need to have our scenic areas linked to apps, websites and international social media. This is currently supported by individual Omanis and expats. We need the government to take over this task in cooperation with the private sector.

In addition to intensive marketing, we need support to have an artificial intelligence guide for those going on hikes and driving on scenic routes, or climbing mountains.

We also need 3D apps to give us a feel of the hundreds of tourism spots. In brief, we need to leap from the 80s approach to tourism to the 2050 approach. May our beautiful land see decades and centuries of security, peace and prosperity.





Salim al Hajri
Proprietor, Oman Discovery

The tourism sector in all countries of the world was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic causing great losses. Besides losses in revenue, it caused the loss of many jobs due to lockdowns. To contain the setback, many countries have relied on local tourism. Oman, too, needs to consider creating new attractions, adding infrastructure, and diversifying activities provided by hotels and camps in cooperation with the concerned government institutions.

Activating tourism, holding festivals and sporting events in relevant seasons and times of the year - such as the 'autumn of Dhofar' and 'winter of Bidiyah' - have proved to be successful over the past years. There should be festivals in areas based on tourist movement.

As for international tourism, we count on the Civil Aviation Authority to launch new direct flights to increase arrivals and enhance tourism. There should be more international exhibitions held in cities around the world for systematic marketing and promotion of Oman. Tourism in the sultanate in the years ahead needs a lot of publicity and capitalisation of its unique selling points around the world.



Manjunath Pai
Ex-project engineer, University of Oman Project Office

The sultanate is blessed with a stunning terrain, hospitable people and heritage. However, these are not known to the world at large and so Oman is known as the 'Hidden Gem of Arabia'. Having travelled extensively in the sultanate, I look forward to many improvements which will increase the number of international as well as local tourists, besides generating revenue and job opportunities for young Omanis.

Though obtaining an entry visa has become easier over the years, tourist visas/self sponsored visa are available only for nationals of a few select countries. The list needs to be increased. Also, hotel rates need to be reduced and basic facilities need to be provided at locations of tourist interest.

Adventure tourism needs to be promoted as there are many opportunities available for growth in this sector. I look forward to qualified, certified local enthusiasts taking up this opportunity after learning the ropes from professional institutes in other countries. Also, just like conducting desert crossings in a 4WD, we could have desert safaris in camel caravans.

The extensive shoreline also needs to be exploited to attract tourists who seek varied marine sports and such other activities. If Oman is promoted on the world cruise map, we will have many liners touching the various ports and jetties in Oman. At many locations, para sports - paramotoring and paragliding - can be offered.





يتقدم سفير مول صحار بآحر التهاني والتبريكات للمقام السامي
حضرة صاحب الجلالة السلطان هيثم بن طارق و الشعب
العماني الأبي بمناسبة العيد الوطني الـ ٥١.

Safeer Mall Sohar would like to express fervent wishes and
congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and to the people
of Oman on the occasion of the 51st National Day.









Innovation - Key to rapid development

Young Omani innovators, armed with skills and knowhow, are gearing up to march ahead. Progress and development, they believe, depend on creating a knowledge-based society that is well versed in ICT and disruptive technologies.



Ahmed al Jabri
CEO, Qutra

New and disruptive technologies are providing an inspiration to young innovators in Oman. Although the sultanate is witnessing sustained development in the innovation sector, we are looking forward to creating a future that is aided by artificial intelligence and robotics, and exploiting the Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies. In the years ahead, as Oman adopts the most advanced technologies to usher in a new era of development that is on par with the rest of the world, I hope to see innovations in boosting the economy and investments to achieve economic growth in our country.

The 50 years ahead will see a spectrum of innovations around the world and Oman will claim a fair share in it if we provide our innovative youth the right support to make their dreams a reality.



Nibras al Shukailli
Inventor

I hope that Oman will have a strong research infrastructure to incubate projects of young minds in the field of innovation, provide the necessary support for them, and transform their ideas into reality to contribute to the development of the economy. We have so many youngsters with outstanding talent in varied fields and I am sure that the years ahead will see Omani youth creating many new inventions to make life easier for all. What we need is backing for these bright young minds so that they are able to direct their efforts in the right direction and get due acknowledgement for their initiatives.



Muadh Humaid Salim al Subhi
CEO, Raseen Company

We have witnessed the launch of several initiatives to support youth. We hope that support for young people will continue to be reflected in the national economy. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik supports the Omani youth in all his speeches. We, the young people, must always be ready to work, creatively and innovatively, to achieve Oman Vision 2040. It is true that hard work without the right vision can be wasted. Since we have the right vision before us, the youth need to put in painstaking efforts to innovate and introduce a new way of life for the generations ahead.

The seeds of hard work, which we sow now, will definitely make a rich harvest in the years ahead. I am sure that within the next 50 years, Oman will rank among the top countries in the world where the youth play a vital role towards global progress on all fronts.

Saud al Mukhaini
CEO, BRQ Advanced Technology



The sultanate has made great strides in innovation over the past 50 years. Within Oman Vision 2040, the sultanate aims to reach the 20th place in the world in the field of innovation. I hope Oman will establish companies in the field of research and development. We need to make more efforts in the ICT sector and provide incubators for innovation. Rapid prototyping centres will help turn ideas into reality. All innovative ideas need to be examined in practical terms and the best must see the light of day. For this, we need to provide the right support and infrastructure that will benefit the youth as well as the country.

Omar al Maskari
Innovation ambassador, University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Ibra

I wish the country pays attention to the capabilities of youth and provides them the necessary support to realise their aspirations in the field of innovation. I hope we spread the culture of research in society and establish smart cities and scientific festivals to attract creative minds and exchange experiences.

A centre for innovation in each governorate will help achieve the aspirations of the innovators. This is the most progressive era with regard to the use of information technology and artificial intelligence, and the sky is the limit for young minds to do their best in their chosen fields.





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الماضي والخدمة

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51

National Day of the Renaissance



سي سي انرجي ديفالوپمنت
CC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

CC Energy Development is pleased to extend its
warmest congratulations to

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

on the occasion of the 51st National Day of the
Renaissance, marking a new era of renewed
renaissance under His Majesty's wise leadership and
wish the people of Oman a prosperous future

Sporting talent – Catching them young

Close to 20 per cent of Oman’s population is in the 18-29 age group and it is the right time to nurture talent to produce promising sportsmen to compete internationally. The sultanate’s young sportsmen say there is need to identify, train and develop youth to excel in sports in the coming years.



Khalid Said al Anqudi
Adventurer

Omani youth have achieved global recognition in a variety of sports, including football, motor racing, hiking and mountaineering. If we need to make a difference in the next few decades in Oman's participation in global sports, we need to set up an academy that will discover and nurture new talent in all sports. The developed world has many academies to spot talent at a young age and nurture them scientifically to excel in their chosen sports. We need to learn from these, besides bringing experts and coaches to develop our youth and prepare them to win laurels at national, regional and international levels.



Emad al Hosni
Former national football team player

We need to discover young football talents, nurture them and provide them with the necessary support. We also need to introduce modern technologies to the football field to improve performance of players and referees. If the game has to assume greater proportions in Oman in the years ahead, we have to start right now and provide all that is needed to promote it. Elaborate plans have to be supplemented with necessary infrastructure, like grounds for practice, sponsorship to take care of logistics as well as participation in more tournaments nationally and regionally. Football is dear to everyone in Oman, but we are not doing enough to spot new talent and develop it. I hope in 50 years, some of the top footballers internationally will be Omanis.

Anas al Raqadi
Diver

I hope to support Omani youth and urge them to take up water sports - such as diving - and preserve and develop Oman's legendary traditions in the field of sailing. The need of the hour is to organise several initiatives, competitions and festivals to develop and spread the culture of water sports among members of society. Currently, facilities for water sports are very limited in Oman, and so is the interest level. Unless we promote water sports in a big way and provide infrastructure for it, we cannot expect great results. We need to study what is done in other countries and bring home great ideas as well formulate plans to implement them in Oman with greater enthusiasm.



Turki al Junaibi
Photographer

I thank the government for its interest in Omani youth. I would like to see centres to train and develop youth in sports and art. This will help discover new talents and help raise the name of Oman in international forums. As of now, Omani youth have been showing keen interest in a variety of sports but not all are able to go ahead with fulfilling careers in sports because there is a lack of support for promising sportsperson. In the next 50 years, we need to create ample opportunities for all those interested in sports to go ahead with their dreams by providing them support in many diverse ways. Sportsmen in other countries are backed by sponsors as well as provided facilities to train. We need to do the same in a big way, if we want to see Oman shine in different sports.



Salim Juma al Hosni
Founder, Divers of Oman Team and Al Khabourah Diving Team

Oman needs more focus in the field of sports to attract foreign investments and promote tourism and economic development. Sports has become an industry that needs to combine both government and private sector efforts to achieve more at the global level. I wish the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth makes plans to establish sports academies to discover and support Omani talents. I also hope that the government promotes water sports, like diving, and provides information by creating an app on all diving sites in Oman to help popularise this sport. It will also attract tourists from different countries of the world.



THE PROUD LEGACY OF YESTERDAY. THE PROMISE OF A BRIGHT TOMORROW.

Congratulations and warm wishes to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik
and the people of Oman on the occasion of the
51st National Day.

Lulu Group pays tribute to a nation proud of its past and living the promise of a prosperous tomorrow. Steered ably by the dynamic policies of
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik,
Oman moves towards a future that's full of promise.

On the momentous occasion of the 51st National Day, we salute the spirit of the people of Oman who have stood shoulder to shoulder in building a vibrant nation. Lulu Group is inspired by the same zeal and is committed to be a part of this remarkable journey.

HYPERMARKETS.
SUPERMARKETS.





Directors, Management and the Staff of HSBC Bank Oman
extend their sincere wishes to

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

and the people of Oman on the occasion of the glorious
51st National Day of the Renaissance.

We are honoured to pledge our constant support
and commitment towards continued progress and prosperity
of our beloved nation under your leadership.



Opening up a world of opportunity

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**Together with
confidence towards
a brighter tomorrow**

As Oman celebrates its 51st National Day
of the Renaissance, we extend our warmest
felicitations and congratulations to

**His Majesty
Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**

and the people of Oman, wishing them
continued success and peace.



محسن حيدر درويش ش.م.م.
Mohsin Haider Darwish L.L.C.





51st National Day

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51ST NATIONAL DAY.**



متحف مسقط للفن المعاصر
Muscat Contemporary Art Museum



متحف المكان والناس
Place & People Museum

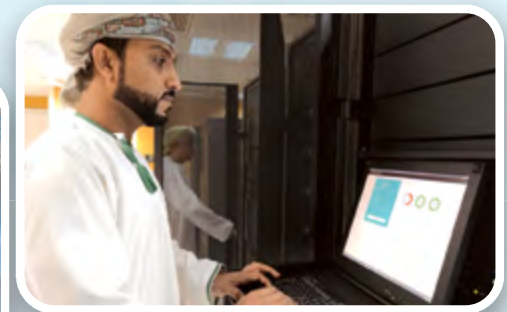
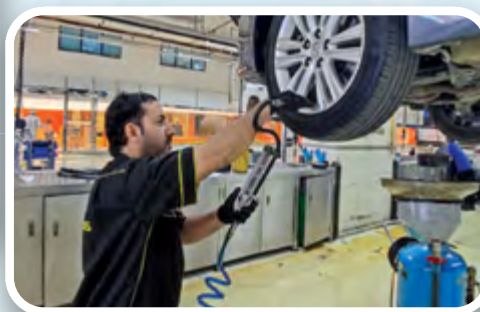




Congratulations to

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik

And the people of Oman on the Joyous Occasion of
The 51st National Day of the Renaissance



Building New Possibilities Together with the Nation's Most Valuable Resource

A firm focus on establishing advanced infrastructure, development of national talent and creation of opportunities is propelling Oman to emerge as a role model of progress and sustainable development.

Saud Bahwan Group is wholly committed to His Majesty's vision. A key mission at the Group, has been to help young Omani professionals contribute meaningfully in every functional area.

On the momentous occasion of the 51st National Day, Saud Bahwan Group extends its felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the people of Oman.



SAUD BAHWAN Group



WE SALUTE THE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP OF
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK
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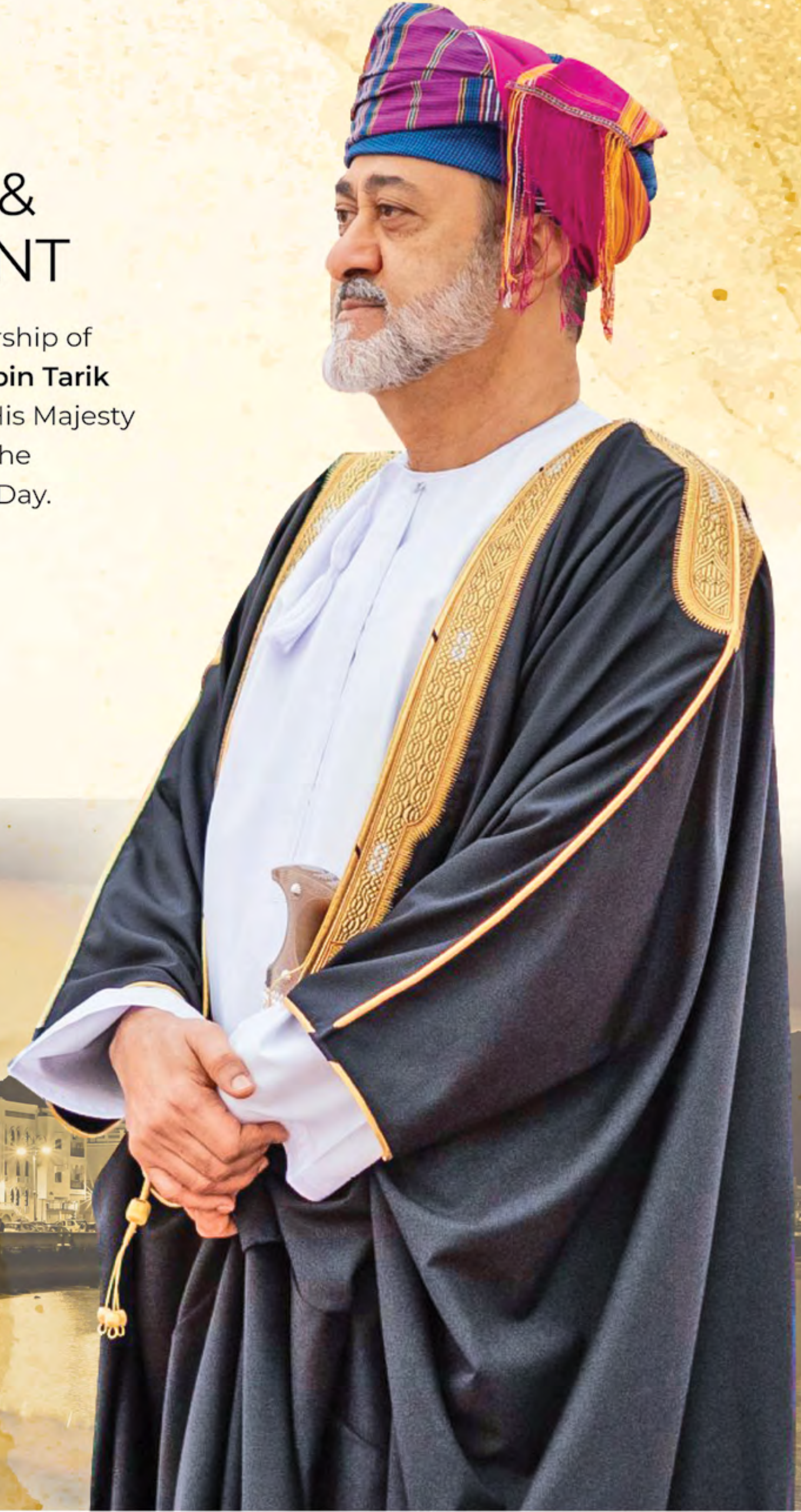
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Omani women in the next five decades

On the occasion of National Day, Omani women talk about the changes, developments and innovations they would like to see in the sultanate in the next 50 years

Dr Matlooba Ayoub al Zadjali
Managing director, Heart & Vascular Center Oman



Women are now getting power worldwide. Occupations were once limited but women have begun to step into the male-dominated world. After experiencing higher learning, aspirations changed and gradually society's expectations had to change as well. Education gave confidence and empowerment. Business laws have changed to allow more women in the workplace, giving them a comfortable environment to work in. Evidence indicates that the central role of women in society has ensured stability, progress and long-term development of nations. But, there are innumerable challenges and issues that women face concerning physical and mental health. Problems like lack of education, improper health facilities, gender discrimination, unequal rights, rape, sexual harassment, dowry-related problems, domestic violence, etc continue.

In order to support women, we should ensure the rights of all women are respected, valued and realised. We should encourage women to raise their voice, volunteer, raise funds, and donate to women's movements and organisations.

Dr Halima Nasser al Maskari
Consultant and general surgeon, Al Hayyat International Hospital

My dream for the coming 50 years is to see Omani women engaged in the digital revolution and the field of biotechnology. Although it is inspiring and at the same time terrifying, but I would love to see them involved in human body shop laboratories where cells can be grown into new liver, heart, skin, bone, ears, eyes, etc to replace damaged ones and overcome diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, HIV and autoimmune disorders.

In the next 50 years, it is possible that one's brain will be digitalised to download and upload emotions, feelings, memories and sensations. With this, one could foretell what kind of partner one prefers for life in order to avoid disappointment and broken marriages. In such a scenario, wouldn't the world be a wonderful place to live?

In the years to come, it will be possible to put a computer chip under the skin. Pinching it will allow you to go online and solve any problem with artificial intelligence. The medical field will be revolutionised with patients consulting robot doctors that will prescribe medicines and even perform surgeries.



Rumaitha al Busaidi
Board director, Environment Society of Oman

In the next 50 years, I believe Omani women will be at the forefront of many industries and the catalyst behind many innovations in the country. As we gear up for a world where the future of work is expected to change, I see more and more women at the helm either at the C-suite level of traditionally male-dominated sectors, as ministers or as founders of unicorn startups. What I hope is for women and girls to be fully represented in advancing climate justice across all levels and sectors, especially as climate interventions fail to adequately account for women's and girls' realities in climate crises, such as healthcare needs, unpaid care and domestic work, and lack of basic survival skills. I am a firm believer that we as Omani women need to break the glass ceiling and expand opportunities for our fellow women and this is achievable in the upcoming five decades.

Muna al Zadjali
Customer relations officer, Abu Dhabi Shipping Office LLC



Women in Oman have reached the status of equal partnership in their contribution to the development of the sultanate.

There is no bar, no hurdle and no boundary strong enough to hold back a woman in achieving what she wants. Today, for a woman, the only limitations are her dreams and aspirations. Omani women can achieve career excellence if they set themselves the required goals.

Sabra al Maskari
Senior medical executive specialist, National Oncology Centre, The Royal Hospital

Reforms have allowed Omani women to receive modern education and they can now be seen working in many sectors, including health, education, engineering, law, science and research both in the government and private sectors. As a personal example, I had the opportunity to go to the most prestigious universities in the United Kingdom to complete further education - MSc and fellowship programme - in my field of health and social care. My sincere gratitude to our beloved country's leaders for their far-sightedness.

In the next 50 years, I would love to see Omani women continue their hard work, maintain their respected position in society and more specifically, move into leadership positions abroad. Women have been successfully managing their home and office affairs and should now show their mettle in leadership in the country's affairs and abroad. I hope to see more women as leaders in ministries, public sector undertakings and as diplomats.



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Health a national priority

Oman’s healthcare sector has developed by leaps and bounds in the last few decades. With Oman Vision 2040 - that makes health a national priority - remarkable advances are in the offing. Health professionals speak of the changes, developments or innovations they would they like to see in the sector



Dr Mazin al Khabouri
Director general, Private Health Establishments, Ministry of Health

Advances in biotechnology and stem cell sciences along with miniaturisation and computer power have opened new vistas in the prospect of healthier lives.

Opening of the genetic code will predict the potential weaknesses in an individual and warn of the diseases which such a person may encounter.

Genetic engineering, as shown in the amazing development of the Covid mRNA vaccine, would directly target areas at the cellular level to prevent or limit damages from diseases. It would also be used to switch off inherited harmful genetic codes in the DNA or switch on beneficial ones.

Stem cells would be used to repair or replace damaged areas in the body and strengthen areas of potential damage. All this would be profiled as soon as or even before a child is born.

In Oman, with the opening of the SQU Cancer Centre, Hematology Centre, Ministry of Health Diabetic Centre, Oncology Centre, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Centre, Cardiac Centre, Genetic Centre at The Royal Hospital, IVF Centre at Khoula Hospital, and similar centres in other governorates would ensure that the above vision of the future finds a fertile ground in Oman. The extensive use of IT for remote patient access in primary and secondary care will ensure better and timely healthcare for all areas in Oman.



Dr Laila Harub
Dentist, Harub Dental Surgery

In the next 50 years, I would like to see more bridging between the private and government sectors. I would like to see a proper referral system in place, something I have been calling for since I came back to Oman in 2009.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, I would hope that together we realise that investing in health is the most crucial thing to focus on. I refuse the excuse that we can't do A, B and C because we don't have funds. If that is the case, then it is high time we threw funds towards the health sector. I thank all the nurses, medical staff and medical practitioners for all the continuous efforts in caring for us.





Marcelo Pereira
CEO, Oman International Hospital

All over the world, technology has been revolutionising all sectors of activity. The health sector is no exception.

This technological revolution has led to more accurate, faster and less risky diagnoses, better prepared health professionals, newer drugs and medications with reduced side effects, and faster recovery.

The sultanate is one of the few countries worldwide that has achieved a dramatic transformation in its health status over a short span of time. From just two hospitals in 1960s, today Oman boasts of nearly 100+ hospitals. Oman's Health Vision 2050 outlines a vision for the future of the sultanate, a remarkable foresight by the government. But there could be a few challenges too. Providing healthcare for all, regardless of their economic status, is a challenge faced by all governments due to allocation of resources. An increase in the supply of health services and stimulus by the state and insurance operators should allow for improvement in standards and the expansion of access to differentiated care.

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Abdul Latheef
Managing director, Badr al Samaa Group of Hospitals

The healthcare sector of Oman is ever evolving and newer technologies and expertise are added regularly to match international standards. One strong pillar of a safe and quality healthcare delivery system is the protocol driven operation laid by the Ministry of Health.

The healthcare system of Oman will witness a paradigm shift in the next 50 years, including full expansion of the virtual ICU system where a critical care specialist can remotely monitor ICU patients and advise treatment plans.

Artificial intelligence will create direct interfaces between humans and technology which will have significant application in patient treatment.

Virtual reality will help see inside the human body and take patients through their treatment plan, including surgeries, virtually. It will help doctors plan precision surgeries.

Extensive use of robotic surgery will help doctors perform complex surgeries with precision and control as compared to conventional surgeries, and advancement in healthcare will help retain outgoing medical tourism patients and generate inbound medical tourism.



Aadil Thomas Alexander
Managing director, AdLife Hospital

With advancements in customised healthcare technology, increasing awareness on personal fitness and wellness, and improving access to high quality medical professional assistance, in the next 50 years the sultanate can aim to be the healthiest nation in the world.

Starting with state-of-the-art care for infants and mothers, we should be able to provide multiple options for the best possible physical and mental health for citizens of all age groups. A half a century is a long time in the technology horizon and the power of IoT, AI, machine learning and Blockchain will no doubt revolutionise the healthcare sector so that everyone will be able to live their lives to the fullest with the safety and confidence provided by the healthcare system.





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Progress in art and cinema

As Oman celebrates its 51st National Day, people in the art and creative fields ponder on what they look forward to in the next 50 years. They envisage a country firmly placed on the world’s arts map



Dr Khalid al Zadjali
Filmmaker

Oman has excellent locations for shooting; it is a paradise for filmmakers. In the next 50 years, I would like to see a film academy in the country - an educational institute with world-class studios, special effects and post-production facilities. It will have teachers from different parts of the world training the next generation of filmmakers and technicians. These plans have been on paper for long; I want these to be implemented soon. We want more studios from Hollywood to come, shoot, produce as well as invest in Oman.

Martin Mbuta
Artist

Having lived in Oman for more than 20 years, I feel Oman’s art culture seems to blow hot and cold, quite difficult to predict its growth pattern for the next few years. Art appreciation in Oman is not yet entrenched in the local society. However, the general trajectory is on an upward trend albeit with slow growth. With the government’s effort to develop the tourism industry, art culture will certainly grow in tandem. Therefore, I would like to see more aggressive efforts channelled into the tourism sector because art in any society is inspired by local attractions, especially traditional culture and heritage on the side of supply, and a vibrant tourism market on the demand side. Bundled with the future of the tourism industry, and the planned development of Oman into a modern state, I foresee a fully developed art culture with world-class art galleries in virtually every wilayat in Oman in the next 50 years.



Thanae Pachiyannaki
Musician

I would love to see Oman promote local artistes and support them through workshops and activities, giving them scope to grow and perform at cultural events. We need to consider music as a career path, not just a hobby. There are many opportunities for artistes and we must open them up for our young generation.

Tattrath Sheffy
Artist

Being an artist in Oman, I am happy about Oman’s art scene, especially the contribution made by the Omani Society for Fine Arts, and Omani youth art studios. To encourage development, setting up government-owned art galleries to showcase young talent is a welcome idea. There is a great need to promote and help traditional Arabic art grow. There are many talented artists in the country who need support to showcase their art. Additionally, contemporary artists/sculptors need encouragement to fuse their talent with traditional ones. Art - traditional and modern - should be taught in schools in a manner that will help create appreciation among the young. Universities should include all forms of art in their curriculum. There must be a coordinated effort to nourish Oman’s own unique traditional designs - whether its architecture, jewellery, textiles, calligraphy or sculpture - all under one roof. I wish that Oman’s arts field shines, dazzling all with its vibrant colours.



Mohammad Ali Darwshi
Filmmaker

Oman is in the process of making good movies and in the last few years, there has been much progress in the arts scene. I want to see more documentary films made. We must understand that finance is a big issue in making films. In the future, we must have funding from private companies and not dependent only on the government. Also, we need more support from the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and Ministry of Information.

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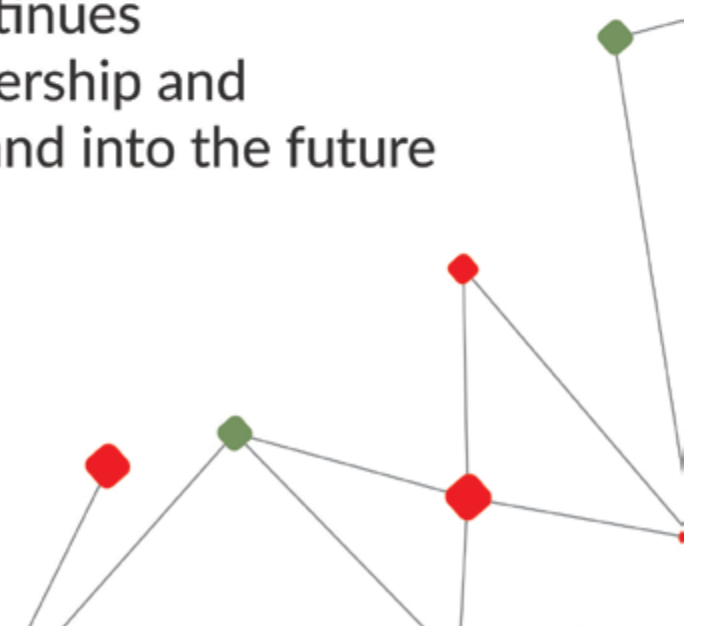
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Lael Brainard

Jerome Powell

Biden says will name Federal Reserve chair in ‘about four days’

North Woodstock, US - President Joe Biden said on Tuesday he will make a hotly awaited announcement on who will head the US Federal Reserve likely by the start of next week.

“You’re gonna hear that in about four days,” Biden told reporters during a trip to New Hampshire.

The White House has been tight lipped about Biden’s intentions for the central bank’s top job, a crucial position for the US and international economies as the globe tries to emerge from COVID pandemic disruption.

Some bets are on Biden reappointing Jerome Powell, a Republican who has won praise from officials in the current Democratic administration.

However, Biden is also under pressure from the influential left wing of his party to pick Lael Brainard, whom backers believe would be tougher on banking regulation.

Regardless of whom he chooses, economists say the central bank is unlikely to shift its policies anytime soon, as a wave of inflation hampers the economy’s recovery from the pandemic downturn and sends Biden’s approval rating slumping.

Under Powell, the Federal Reserve has been at the centre of the country’s response to the pandemic, slashing its benchmark lending rate to zero and pledging to keep it there for longer than normal to help the economy regain maximum employment.

But a price surge that saw the Labour Department’s consumer price index register its biggest year-on-year jump in more than three decades last month has added pressure on the monetary institution.

Biden’s Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who was also Fed chair, has signaled her support for Powell, her former deputy, to serve a second term.

AFP

Gas prices soar as Germany halts Nord Stream 2 approval

Frankfurt, Germany - Germany’s energy regulator suspended the approval process for Russia’s Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline on Tuesday, dealing another setback to the geopolitically sensitive project and causing Europe’s sky-high gas prices to soar further.

The regulator said the Swiss-based ‘Nord Stream 2 AG’ operating company first needed to become compliant with German law before it could be certified, potentially delaying the project’s start date.

Benchmark European gas prices jumped around 10 per cent higher on the announcement, adding to jitters on a continent already facing soaring energy bills - with winter fast approaching.

Critics have in recent weeks accused Moscow of intentionally limiting gas supplies to Europe and driving up prices in an effort to hasten the launch of Nord Stream 2, a claim Russia denies.

US, EU criticism

Russia’s state-owned gas giant Gazprom holds a majority stake in Nord Stream 2. Germany’s Uniper and Wintershall, France’s Engie, the Anglo-Dutch firm Shell and Austria’s OMV are also involved.



A road sign directs traffic towards the Nord Stream 2 gas line landfall facility entrance in Lubmin, Germany (AFP)

The €10bn project has for years been dogged by delays and drawn fierce criticism from Germany’s eastern European Union allies like Poland and from the United States.

The Baltic Sea pipeline is set to double supplies of cheap natural gas from Russia to Germany, which the EU’s top economy says is needed to help it transition away from coal and nuclear energy.

But opponents say the recently completed pipeline will increase Europe’s energy dependence on Russia - which already provides a third of Europe’s gas.

Crucially, the pipeline also bypasses Ukraine’s gas infrastructure, depriving that country of much-needed transit fees.

Washington has called the project a ‘bad deal for Europe’.

Ukraine - in conflict with Russia since Moscow’s 2014 annexation of Crimea - has warned that the pipeline could be used by Moscow as a ‘dangerous geopolitical weapon’.

Nevertheless, the US earlier this year waived sanctions on the project imposed by former president Donald Trump, as the Biden administration looked to shore up transatlantic relations.

The pipeline was finally completed in September but is waiting for the approval process to be completed before it can go online.

Like its Nord Stream 1 predecessor, the 1,200km pipeline will be able to ship around 55bn cubic metres of gas annually from Russia to Europe, with Germany as the main transit hub.

Germany’s energy regulator said the certification procedure ‘will remain suspended until the main assets and human resources’ have been transferred from the Nord Stream 2 parent company to a new German subsidiary that will own and operate the German part of the pipeline.

Germany’s energy regulator has four months to give its green light for Nord Stream 2. Before the suspension, the review was scheduled to last until early January.

After that, the European Commission still needs to give its recommendation.

Tuesday’s suspension will likely slow down the process. Should the operator start using the pipeline without awaiting certification, it risks being fined.

Germany’s Economy Ministry said the suspension was ‘purely regulatory’ and that ‘if the requirements are met, the [regulator] can continue its review within the remaining four-month period’.

Nord Stream 2 AG said it was setting up the German subsidiary ‘to ensure compliance with applicable rules and regulations’. ‘We are not in the position to comment on details of the procedure, its possible duration and impacts on the timing of the start of the pipeline operations,’ it added.

The halt was welcomed by Germany’s Green party, which opposes Nord Stream 2 and is in the final stages of forming a coalition government with the Social Democrats and the liberal FDP party.

AFP

Amazon to end Visa credit card payments in UK

London, UK - Online retail giant Amazon on Wednesday said it plans to stop accepting payments in the UK made with Visa credit cards, blaming the move on high fees.

‘These costs should be going down over time with technological advancements, but instead they continue to stay high or even rise,’ Amazon said in a statement.

Amazon’s UK online site will



no longer accept the cards as of January 19.

Customers can continue to use Visa debit cards, Amazon said.

‘With the rapidly changing payments landscape around the world, we will continue innovating on behalf of customers to add and promote faster, cheaper, and more inclusive payment options to our stores across the globe,’ Amazon added.

Visa hit out at the move, with a spokeswoman saying the card payments giant was ‘very disappointed that Amazon is threatening to restrict consumer choice’.

“When consumer choice is limited, nobody wins. We have a long-standing relationship with Amazon and we continue to work toward a resolution,” she added in a statement.

AFP

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Yellen warns US could again hit debt limit on December 15

Washington, US - The US government may run out of money by December 15, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned on Tuesday in a letter encouraging lawmakers to raise the country’s debt limit to avoid a default.

Democrats and Republicans in Washington have squabbled in recent months over raising the legal limit on how much debt the United States can accumulate.

In October, they came within days of hitting the ceiling before agreeing to a US\$480bn stop-gap hike, which Yellen said would keep the government running until December 3.

In a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the Treasury secretary extended her prediction for when the deadline would be hit by about two weeks. But she warned, “There are scenarios in which Treasury would be left with insufficient remaining resources to continue to finance the operations of the US government beyond this date.”

“To ensure the full faith and credit of the United States, it is critical that Congress raise or suspend the debt limit as soon as possible,” Yellen wrote.

The latest imbroglio comes in the midst of long-running negotiations over Democratic President Joe Biden’s ‘Build Back Better’ plan to invest US\$1.85tn in American social services and



Janet Yellen

education.

The Republican minority in Congress opposes the measure, and has said it will not agree to debt ceiling increases to pay for it, although much of the debt the US government takes on funds outlays approved by prior Democratic and Republican administrations.

In October, they argued that Democrats who lead the House and Senate should raise the limit unilaterally, before eventually dropping their blockade to allow passage of the temporary increase.

The United States has never defaulted on its debt and its Treasury bonds play a major role in the global financial system, but economists warn a failure to raise the ceiling would cause a massive financial crisis.

AFP



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on the occasion
of the **51st National Day**



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Warmest wishes to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of Oman
on the occasion of the 51st National Day

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العيد الوطني
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We salute the visionary
leadership of
**His Majesty Sultan
Haitham bin Tarik**
and extend our greetings to
His Majesty and the
people of Oman on the
occasion of the
51st National Day.



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Heartiest felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq
and the people of Oman on the occasion of the 51st National day



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