

OMAN CELEBRATES 52ND NATIONAL DAY ON FRIDAY

CONSTANT QUEST FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Sultanate of Oman will celebrate the 52nd National Day on Friday (November 18). Omani people will mark the Renewed Renaissance and its glorious reign under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, who affirmed his constant quest to advance Oman’s modern cultural and economic status and his keenness to make Omani citizens as true partners in their country’s comprehensive development.

His Majesty the Sultan’s vision for the future of this benign land reflected positively on the integration of government departments with private sector establishments and civil society institutions. This has in turn brought about tangible results in different social, economic and political fields.

The attention that His Majesty the Sultan accords to the study of decision-making mechanisms is aimed at serving the country’s supreme interests. The outcome was a set of decisions, the most prominent of which the restructuring of the Council of Ministers on June 16, 2022. The decision was the second one after His Majesty the Sultan assumed the reins of power. It affirmed His Majesty’s resolve to follow up the efforts exerted to improve government performance towards the realisation of Oman Vision

National Day Holiday

As per the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, it has been decided that November 30 and December 1 will be an official holiday for employees in units of the state’s administrative apparatus (public sector), other legal entities and private sector establishments on the occasion of the 52nd National Day. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Ministry of Labour said that employers may agree with their respective employees to continue working during the above-mentioned two days, if deemed necessary, provided the workers be compensated for that.

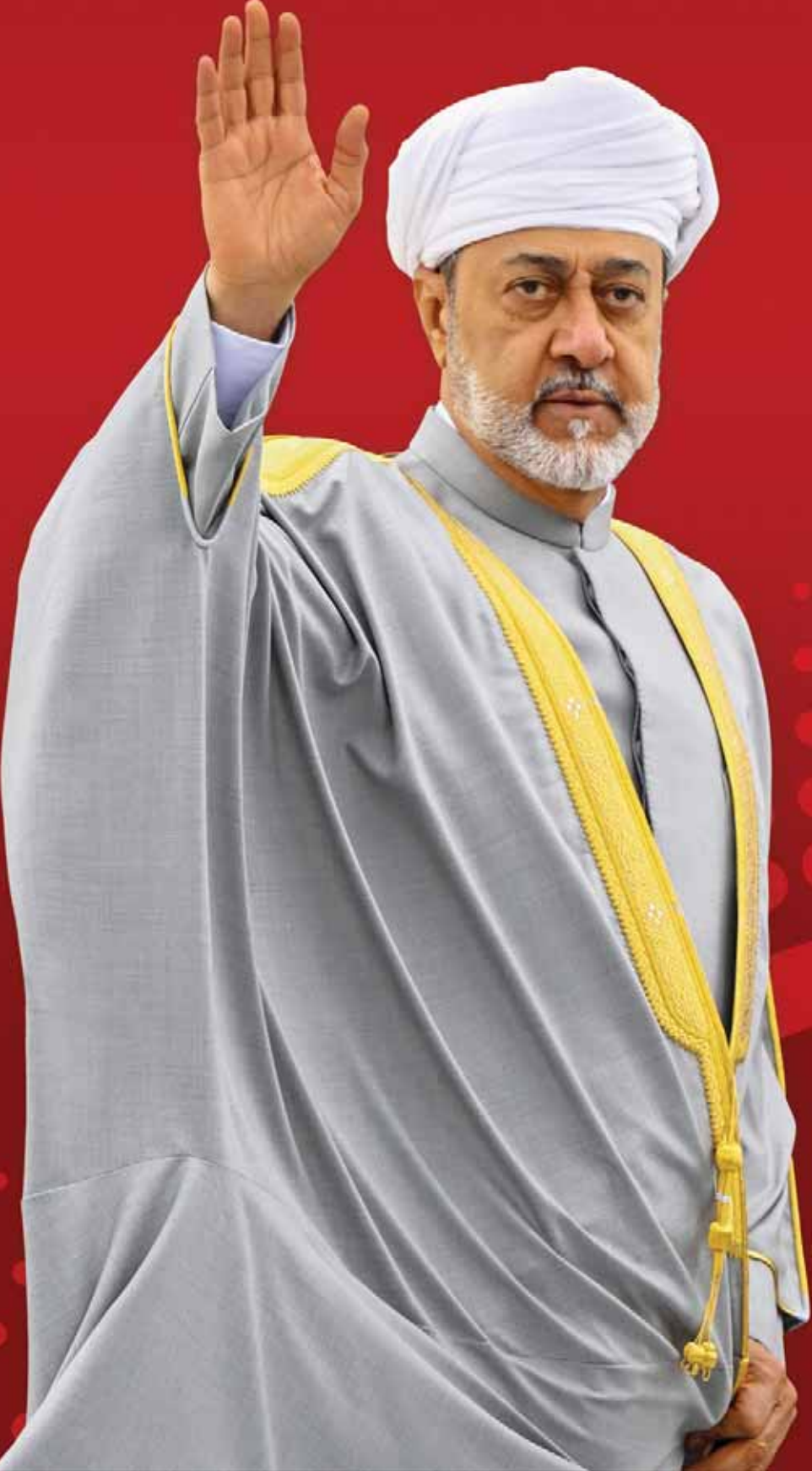
– ONA

2040. The establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council, under His Majesty’s own chairmanship, was yet a step forward in founding a system capable of achieving the loftiest standards of justice, impartiality and transparency in line with pillars of Oman Vision 2040. The step also combines all parties of litigation into a single judicial scheme.

**DECENTRALISATION**

The Royal Decree on enhancing the role of the governorates constituted a major step in achieving the modern approach to decentralise local administration. It empowers Oman’s 11 governorates, defines their roles in development and defines their economic and social priorities to benefit from the comparative advantage among governorates. Decentralisation also streamlines service procedures for citizens, an objective underscored by His Majesty the Sultan upon his chairmanship of the Council of Ministers on October 11, 2022. In the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan stressed the importance of coordination among units of the States’ Administrative Apparatus and the governorates, the acceleration of electronic transformation, interconnection among governorates to streamline procedures, ...







“As We vow to the Almighty Allah that We will dedicate Our life for Oman and its citizens to continue its triumphant march and blessed renaissance.”

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik



## Sustainable vision and continuous aspirations

### 52<sup>nd</sup> Glorious National Day of the Renaissance

We would like to express our heartfelt and warmest greetings to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** on this great national occasion. We wish Oman many happy returns on this glorious day while our beloved nation enjoys further development, progress and prosperity under your wise leadership.

عمانتل  
Omantel

**Congratulations to**  
**HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK**  
 and the generous people of Oman on the occasion of the  
**52<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Renaissance**

**swissboring**  
 a **TREVI** Group company

**Swissboring & Company LLC**  
 Tel: +968 26884195 / 96 - Fax: +968 26884192  
 E-mail: [swissbor@omantel.net.om](mailto:swissbor@omantel.net.om)  
 Web Site: [www.swissboring.com](http://www.swissboring.com) - [www.trevigroup.com](http://www.trevigroup.com)

**CELEBRATING  
THE PATHWAY OF RENEWED  
RENAISSANCE**

Congratulations to  
**His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** and the people of Oman  
 on the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Renaissance.

As the nation celebrates this momentous occasion,  
 Khimji Ramdas and its social development arm, Eshraqa  
 extend their heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty's visionary  
 leadership that has allowed us to evolve and advance on  
 our commitment towards a sustainable nation  
 aligned with Oman's Vision 2040.

We salute our nation's zeal and determination  
 to reach extraordinary heights of success  
 and to leave an everlasting imprint on  
 the world.

**KR**  
 كيمجي رامداس  
 KHIMJI RAMDAS

In celebration of the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day  
of the Sultanate, we wish  
**His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**  
and the people of Oman continued  
success and prosperity  
in the years to come



**Inspiring  
Vision,  
Wise  
Leadership**

الأهلي الإسلامي  
**ahli islamic**

البنك الأهلي  
**ahlibank**



## HM receives National Day greetings from officials

**MUSCAT:** On the advent of November 18, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq received greetings from several officials in the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of the 52nd National Day.

In their greetings, the officials expressed their sincere sentiments to His Majesty on this auspicious occasion, wishing him good health and happiness. They prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect His Majesty and grant him a long life. They also prayed for the return of this occasion on him at a time the Omani people have achieved further aspirations under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

His Majesty received greetings from His Highness Sayyid

Fahd bin Mahmood al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers; HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs; Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal al Busaidy, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court; Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani, Minister of the Royal Office and Head of Office of the Supreme Commander; Shaikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council; Khalid bin Hilal al Ma'awali, Chairman of Majlis AshShura; Lt Gen Hasan bin Mohsin al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs; and Lt Gen Said bin Ali al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service. — **ONA**

### ■ HM SENDS WRITTEN MESSAGE TO SYRIAN PRESIDENT

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq sent a written message to President Dr Bashar al Assad, of the Syrian Arab Republic, regarding fraternal relations binding the two countries and peoples and ways of fostering them. The message was delivered by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy, Foreign Minister, when he was received by President Bashar in the Syrian capital, Damascus. — **ONA**



## Event to mark National Day in Nizwa on Nov 26

**AMAL AL RIYAMI**  
NIZWA, NOV 16

To mark the 52nd National Day, the Ihsaan Association branch of the Al Dakhiliyah Governorate is organising 'Joy of a Nation' in Nizwa on November 26.

Many elderly people will take part in the events, which will be held in various landmarks of the Wilayat themed 'Joy of a Nation.'

The aim is to highlight the ancient Omani heritage and enhance the preservation of traditional crafts.

The role of the Ihsaan Association is to spread the culture of caring for the elderly and to consolidate the concept of community partnership.

Apart from the traditional National Day procession, other events include folk arts and music, cavalry show, bike shows, theatre,

cultural competitions and more.

It will also feature stalls of 52 artisans, Oman Women's Association social security families, and Ihsaan Association.

Hamad bin Salim al Kindi, member of the supervising committee, said: "The elderly are part of this nation.. This day is not just commemorating the glorious National Day, but a day to renew the covenant and loyalty to the

leader of this blessed renaissance." Mohammed bin Salim al Rashidi, another member, said: "This celebration aims to consolidate the concept of a community partnership and to spread the culture of interest in traditional crafts. Ihsaan Association attaches great interest in the health, social and psychological aspects of the elderly. These events will enhance tourism in the governorate."



### Investment Announcement No.2/2022

#### Bidding for the appointment of a specialized partner to develop the marine affairs sector

The internal investment committee at The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology announces the following request for investment proposals for local and global companies specialized in maritime affairs services to submit investment offers for the Development and Management of Maritime Affairs Services in the Sultanate of Oman by the conditions outlined in this announcement and according to the details and attachments mentioned in the bidding document.

| Number  | Document purchasing Date   | Clarification periods      | Closing Date           | Document Fees                       |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 02/2022 | 17/11/ 2022<br>-18/12/2022 | 18/12/2022 -<br>08/01/2023 | 05/02/2023<br>12:00 PM | 500 Omani Rials<br>(non-refundable) |

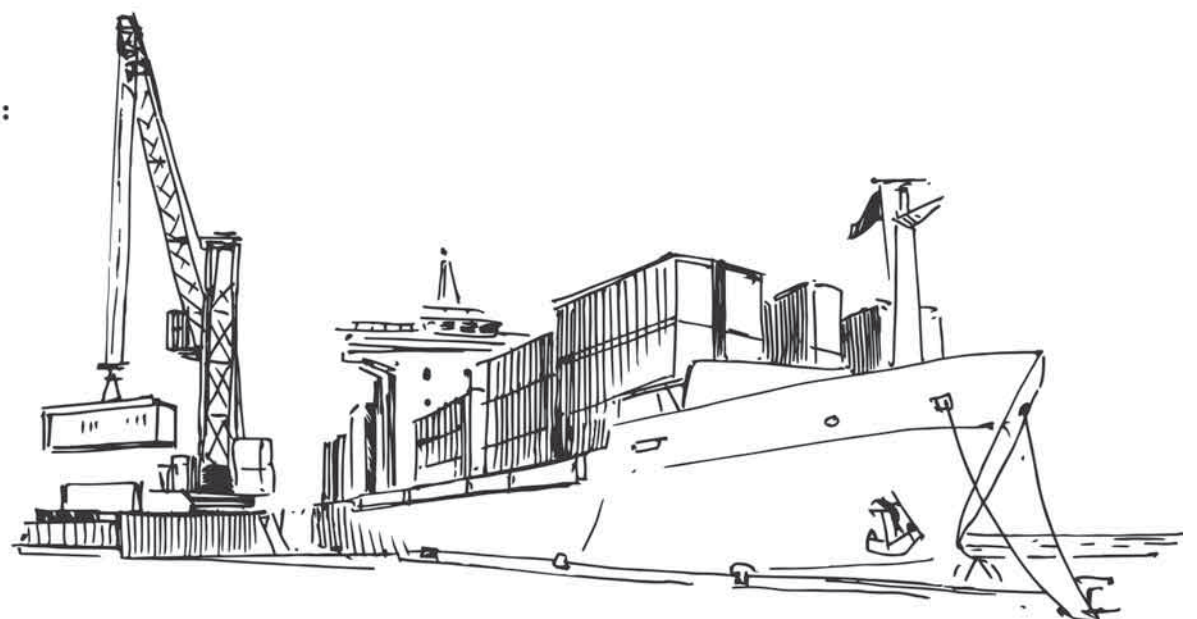
- Document fee should be paid by bank transfer only to the Ministry's account number 0325001361300017 Bank Muscat
- The payment receipt must be sent to [investment@mtcit.gov.om](mailto:investment@mtcit.gov.om)
- The bidding document will be shared via email

- The Investment proposals must include all the requirements mentioned in the Bidding document
- The Investment proposal must be valid for at least 18 months and should be signed and stamped
- All investment proposals should be sent as PDF to [investment@mtcit.gov.om](mailto:investment@mtcit.gov.om)

For any other inquiries, you can reach us via the following contact details:

| Phone number         | E-mail                                                               |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24685341<br>24685094 | <a href="mailto:investment@mtcit.gov.om">investment@mtcit.gov.om</a> |

Internal Investment Committee



# **CONDOLENCE**

---

It is with deep sadness  
and heavy hearts  
we inform you the  
unexpected demise of  
our Chairman and Founder of  
**Al Qurum Jewellery**

**Mr. Ali Awadh Ali Al Ajmi**

on 16th November 2022

We pray for the departed soul  
and may his soul rest in Peace.

---

The Grieving Family & Staff  
**Al-Qurum Jewellery LLC**



## National Day celebrations begin in Dhofar

**SALALAH:** Jubilant crowds of citizens staged rallies to express allegiance and loyalty to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and to celebrate the 52nd National Day, in Dhofar Governorate on Wednesday.

In the Wilayat of Shaleem and Al Halaniyat Islands citizens took to the streets expressing their allegiance and loyalty to His Majesty as celebrations of the 52nd National Day went underway all across Dhofar Governorate. The march, led by Dr Masoud bin Salim al Kathiri, Wali of Wilayat of Shaleem and Al Halaniyat Islands, started near the hospital and headed to the Wali's office.

The march was attended by the wilayat's representative at Majlis Ashshura, government officials, shaikhs and dignitaries.

A large number of joyous citizens and school students carried the national flags and His Majesty's photos expressing their thanks and gratitude for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

Dr Masoud bin Salim al Kathiri, Wali of Wilayat of Shaleem and Al

Halaniyat Islands, said: "The citizens of Dhofar Governorate have come out to express their thanks and gratitude to the government under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for the many achievements and projects that took place in the wilayat. We pray to Allah the Almighty to safeguard His Majesty and perpetuate His bounties for this dear land." Citizens of all age groups organized a march of allegiance and loyalty in the Wilayat of Thamrait.

In the Wilayat of Al Mazyouna, citizens staged a march with the participation of Shaikh Bakhit bin Salim al Maashani, Wali of Al Mazyouna and a number of officials, shaikhs, dignitaries, citizens and residents.

Al Maashani said that the Wilayat of Al Mazyouna, like the other wilayats, got its share of the development and progress which spanned all development and service sectors. A number of projects are currently under implementation in the wilayat including Al Mazyouna Hospital and internal roads beside other projects that will service citizens and residents.



# Oman and its splendid people imprint indelible memories



**KABEER YOUSUF**

[@kabeeryousef](#)

For the expatriates who made Oman their second home, the country is close to their heart and they cherish the progress of the nation.

Most of them have witnessed the evolution of Oman from just a land mass to a modern country.

Oman and its splendid people leave an indelible imprint on every one who visits this scenic country.

Two of the expatriates, a septuagenarian who worked and lived in Oman the whole of his life and retired last year, and a young girl who was born in Oman and studying in Muscat, share their feelings for the country.

Madhusoodanan Nair, an expat who lived in the Wilayat of Sur for nearly four decades collected hundreds of telephone cards as a souvenir of Oman.

Today, he possesses nearly 50,000 telephone cards that portrayed important events that the country witnessed during the past few decades.

These cards comprise different decades of the Sultanate, various five-year plans, major crops, agriculture, dressing styles, people of various wilayats, major events that



Misna Mohamemd Anvar

took place such as the Gulf Cup tourney, first Asian beach ball tourney and the like. Important diplomatic visits, milestones in bilateral history with various nations, sources of GDP and the like. These cards bore the images of various celebrations, landscape of Oman's governorates, life in the wilayats, and many more.

"I started collecting telephone cards as a passion from the day I arrived here some 40 years ago," avers Madhu.

He pursued his childhood passion when he arrived in Oman in early 80s, he found the supplements published from the country were so colourful and began collecting them. Besides the supplements carried by

the Observer, other regional papers which published special stories and pictures on Oman National Day and Renaissance Day have been documented after reading.

Oman witnessed the emergence of public telephone booths in the 90s and telephone cards that were decorated with beautiful images became a part of the lifestyle.

"My more than 50,000 cards' collection is my biography and one can delve through the cards to get a fair idea of how life has been, and how life is today," Madhu summarised his passion for the country.

For Misna Mohamemd Anvar, daughter of a businessman and a social worker, being an expat in Oman has been an overwhelming experience to cherish forever.

She feels that the nation owes the gratitude of millions of people for transforming their enormous dreams into fine realities.

"Various nostalgic sights cross through my mind on the auspicious 52nd National Day of Oman. National Day of Oman used to be an entire celebration for the whole month of November. The whole country shall be draped in red and green colours as a part of National Day celebrations. Living in Oman for 18 years made many people, places, shops, streets, remain special and memorable."



### Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of **Ministry of Social Development** hereby announces the following tender :-

| Tender No. | Tender Subject                                                                                                      | Grade                                                                                                                              | Last date for obtainment of Tender Document | Last date for Tender Submission | Tender Document Price (non-refundable) |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 245/2022   | Establishment of a hydrotherapy unit at Al-Wafa Center for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities at Bahla | Companies specialized in building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the Second Degree | Tuesday 6-12-2022 02:00 PM                  | Monday 26-12-2022 10:00 AM      | R.O. 25/=                              |

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>). On Thursday 17/11/2022.
- ❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- ❖ For Inquiry, please contact through the e-tendering website ([reg@tenderboard.gov.om](mailto:reg@tenderboard.gov.om)) tel. (24402200).

**" The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry "**

[www.mosd.gov.om](http://www.mosd.gov.om)

**Today last day to register to vote**

**MUSCAT:** In the run-up for the forthcoming Municipal Councils Elections, Third Term, it has been decided that the period allowed for the registration of voters in the elections' register ends on Thursday, November 17, which is also the deadline for transfer of voters' electoral files from one wilayat to another. The Ministry of Interior called on citizens who have not previously been registered in the electoral register to quickly submit their requests for registration in the electoral register through the website "elections.om". The application should quote the voters' addresses registered in their ID cards, provided that the cards are equipped with the electronic certification system "Public Key Infrastructure or PKI".  
— ONA



### SULTANATE OF OMAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders: -

| Tender Ref. | Description                                        | Last date for Collection of Tender Document | Closing Time/ Day/Date                 | Eligibility                                                      | Tender Fee (Non-Refundable) |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2022/3015   | Maintenance works at Sinaw Accommodation Buildings | Before 1 pm Thursday 1/December/2022        | Before 10 am Thursday 29/December/2022 | Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board Fourth degree | R.O 25 Per set              |
| 2022/3014   | Expansion of Physiotherapy at Sinaw Hospital       | Before 12 pm Thursday 1/December/2022       | Before 10 pm Thursday 29/December/2022 | Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board Fourth degree | R.O 25 Per set              |

- All Specialized and interested Companies registered with Tender Board on the above mentioned Grade may obtain Tender documents from the E. Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- Tenders should be submitted on line on the given website signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee or a certified Cheque issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee before one day of date submission.
- The Original Bank Guarantee should be submitted to the office of Director of Purchase and Tenders one day before the submission date for all Tenders.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>  
Any Clarification, you may contact via  
Telephone: 24402200  
Email id: [etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om](mailto:etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om)

# Quest for comprehensive development

FROM PAGE 1

... facilitate the execution of transactions, develop the quality of government services and address the existing challenges.

A decision was issued to add two new wilayats to Oman's administrative division — namely by according the status of “wilayat” to both “Al Jabal Al Akhdhar” and “Sinaw”, raising the total number of wilayats in Oman to 63. The decision was aimed at attracting investments, developing resources and upgrading services and activities in the two wilayats.

## MEET THE PEOPLE

His Majesty the Sultan's keenness to hold direct meetings with shaikhs and dignitaries of Oman constitutes a strong manifestation of the leader's keenness to get firsthand knowledge about citizens' needs, despite the existence of public institutions such as the Council of Oman — a legislative monitoring body — and municipal councils, which undertake developmental and service roles in their respective wilayats.

The meet-the-people gatherings affirm His Majesty the Sultan's sincere desire to implement decentralisation and make it the most straightforward administrative application for the future in governorates.

## EJADA

Last January, Oman implemented the “System of Individual Performance and Institutional Proficiency” (Ejada), which aims at quantum leap in government performance and improving the level of government services.

The Government Digital Transformation Programme is an executive arm of a digital economy and a basic enabler in achieving the priorities of Oman Vision 2040. It contributes to the establishment of a flexible and innovative government apparatus based on principles of governance and providing high-quality performance and smart government services.

## ZERO EMISSIONS

The Sultanate of Oman has attached a great importance to protecting the environment and preserving its various natural resources. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik endorsed the year 2050 as a date for achieving zero carbon emissions. A national plan prepared for this objective includes the establishment of Oman Sustainability Centre, based on the outputs of the Carbon Management Laboratory. This serves as a major step that aims at diminishing the impacts of climate change, striking a balance between sustainable development and effects of climate change, establishing a knowledge-based economy, benefiting from clean technology to achieve sustainable development and developing a diversified mix of energy sources.

His Majesty the Sultan issued directives to expedite the development of an early warning system and implement the best urban planning methodologies to limit the impacts of climatic conditions, disasters and related epidemics. This affirms the attention accorded by His Majesty the Sultan to the human being — Omani citizens and expatriates alike.

Royal Decree No 54/ 2022



establishes the National Natural Park Reserve in Musandam Governorate. The park is the first one of its kind in Musandam Governorate and 22nd in Oman.

## WOMEN'S ROLE

The presence of Omani women in all fields and their impressive contribution to Oman's comprehensive development constitutes a direct outcome of the attention and care that women have received. This was confirmed by Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, on the occasion of Omani Women's Day, which falls on October 17. It reflects the achievements the women have made in all fields and in different practical and scholarly sectors.

His Majesty the Sultan also accorded attention to the establishment of Omani women's societies and rehabilitation centres for people with disabilities, both governmental and private, in all governorates of Oman, so that all could play their roles in domestic development. His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to provide appropriate financial support to those institutions and develop them. The result was that the Omani Women's Societies Development Laboratory launched 19 empowering and investment initiatives, with a set of themes in mind to achieve progress. The themes include governance, the application of laws and legislation, a supportive environment, funding and investment.

## ROLE OF YOUTH

His Majesty the Sultan is following up efforts made by the government to care for young people and highlight their contributions. On the occasion of the Omani Youth Day, HH Sayyid Theyazin stressed that “youth are among the most important pillars of Oman Vision 2040, which seeks to achieve sustainability and prosperity for the present generation of Omanis and the future generations.”

Addressing the citizens, His



Majesty the Sultan affirmed the need to adhere to the principles and values of society and to be proud of their identity, “the core component of our personality”. He added that the national identity constitutes one of the pillars of the history of this benign land, given the impacts of technology and information revolution on the world, including the spread of negative thoughts and alien customs.

His Majesty the Sultan stressed that openness to the world must be “in a balanced, clear-cut manner. We have to interact with technology positively, lest we might lose our originality or forget our identity”, His Majesty explained.

He added that “The upbringing of children does not take place through social networks. Raising children is an essential part of the origin of Omani society. The success of the community lies in the fact that our children get imbued with our customs and traditions and adhere to the family and society.” In this context, His Majesty the Sultan commended the effective role of Omani media in preserving and documenting Omani culture.

## BUSINESS INCUBATORS

Oman's efforts have become a model in developing ways to finance nascent companies of all sizes and needs. This is accomplished through various programmes, including direct financing, business accelerators programmes and business

incubator programmes that gave rise to business incubators in various governorates, besides merging a number of institutions to form the Industrial Innovation Academy. The academy will transform knowledge into innovative project.

As a result of these efforts, Oman occupied 10th place globally in the education segment of the Global Innovation Index 2022. The ranking advanced Oman by 34 places over last year. Oman also ranked 19th in the Business Policies Index.

Oman presses ahead with the approach charted by His Majesty the Sultan to implement economic measures and streamline procedures. This was achieved despite the economic impacts brought about worldwide as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and other global crises. On top of these measures was the medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2023), which proved practical through the results it achieved, supported by the 10th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) in line with Oman Vision 2040. This approach was emphasised by His Majesty the Sultan who expressed his satisfaction with the positive change in the course of the state's financial performance and Oman's ability to meet its financial obligations.

During this year and until the end of August 2022, the Sultanate of Oman was able to pay off loans and replace some high-cost bonds with low-cost ones valued at more than RO 4 billion. It also cut down

the size of the public debt by about RO 2.4 billion as at the end of August 2022, to stand at RO 18.4 billion, thanks to government measures taken to support economic recovery.

The ratio of public debt to the GDP decreased to 46.5 per cent. This enabled the government to diminish public debt risks and reduce the cost of public debt interests to be paid in the future by about RO 127 million, besides improving the credit rating and other benefits to consolidate economic growth.

The increase in added value in oil and non-oil activities at the end of the second quarter of 2022 contributed to the growth of the GDP value at current prices by 30.4 per cent, touching RO 20.4 billion, compared to RO 15.6 billion at the end of the corresponding quarter in 2021.

## CLEAN ENERGY

To lend support to low-cost clean energy solutions, Ibri Solar Energy Project opened last January 2022 as the first solar power plant to be connected to the main electricity grid with the aim of diversifying sources of renewable energy, maximising the contribution of clean energy projects, boosting the national economy and attracting investments.

His Majesty the Sultan's directives to add more than RO 650 million to implement additional development projects over projects already endorsed in the 10th Five-Year Plan 2021-2025 and his Royal instructions to increase fiscal liquidity for budget allocations by RO 200 million will contribute to promoting economic growth, completing infrastructure, supporting private sector activities and providing more employment opportunities for citizens.

Fitch agency's raising Oman's credit rating and Moody's amending the country's future outlook from “stable” to “positive”, while at the same time fixing the rating at Ba3 confirm the Omani government's commitment to implementing government measures within the framework of

the Medium-Term Fiscal Plan to control financial conditions and benefit from the rise in oil prices. This enhances the confidence of investors in the stability of Oman's investment climate and the ability of the country to fulfil its obligations. It also affirms the strength of the banking sector.

The foundations upon which Omani foreign policy is based — notably good neighbourliness, respect for the sovereignty of states, non-interference in internal affairs, positive cooperation, mutual interests, justice, dialogue, humanity, and support for international peace and security — have made the Sultanate of Oman a reliable international partner at the local and global levels.

Oman's status among entities that are active in resolving regional crises and the country's presence at international events related to this matter is a direct outcome of the soundness of its foreign policy foundations. At the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Oman reiterated that its solid political approach is based on a deep and stable vision and a vast experience derived from its heritage and human history. Oman also affirmed that the pillars of its foreign policy are standing on solid grounds of truth and justice, boosted by positive cooperation and ties of friendship with all, with the prime aim of contributing to the consolidation of international peace and security.

## FOREIGN POLICY

The vision of His Majesty the Sultan is based on Oman's maintaining positive cooperation with all in various spheres and in a manner that promotes mutual interests. The results of the vision were manifest in His Majesty's visits to a number of countries, including the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Qatar, the United Kingdom and Federal Republic of Germany.

A number of state leaders visited Oman, including Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, King Abdallah II of Jordan, President Abdel Fattah el Sisi of Egypt, President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania, and Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar. The visits culminated in signing of partnerships and memoranda of understanding, as well as executive programmes in investment, trade and other areas.

Oman also promoted the principle of humanity in its foreign policy and played an active role in serving contemporary issues regionally and internationally, most notably realising the truce in Yemen that paved the way for the safe return of detainees to their countries. Oman also stressed the need to establish stability and prosperity for all nations and peoples on the basis of justice and equality.

Oman believes that the realisation of a fair and comprehensive peace in the Middle East requires the establishment of a Palestinian state on all its lands occupied since 1967. Oman stressed its rejection of all forms of systematic violations, expansionist domination and arbitrary arrests of Palestinians.

— ONA

Pride and patriotism...

Praise the nation and the people who contribute to the country's human development. It's that sense of triumph: much has been accomplished, but much remains to be done. The wheel doesn't stop, but it can be adjusted.

It is time for celebrations with parades, camel and horse races, fireworks, music and performances to mark the country's 52nd anniversary. Oman's National Day, on November 18, is to commemorate the unification of the nation and its independence.

There is no single template for how countries choose their national day, but the occasion is an opportunity for patriotic sentiments to be expressed and a narrative of a multifaceted nation-building strategy incorporating economic achievements, cultural richness and political dimensions to be upheld.

The festive mood is palpable as one drives through the streets of the capital and other cities and villages across the country: masterpieces created with lights and the colours of the flag fill hearts with national pride.

Thank you, to those who design how the decorations are displayed; thanks to the workers who put the lights and flags up. Your efforts provide us with splendid gratification. You, the men and women of Oman — and we foreigners — make this country great.

Like plants, we grow, produce, share, enjoy, learn and teach; we do good, and many times we make mistakes. Each sunrise, and every sunset are loaded with decisions. We don't have to be in a rush to be wrong, and we don't have to be sluggish to succeed. And this brings us to the popular saying that "birds do not go to music school but compose timeless masterpieces."

Music plays a big role in the country, and it is an integral part of important events. Typically, for the national day celebrations, each region prepares its festivities by tapping on local cultural traits. Music can be said to be classified as "sea music"



SONIA AMBROSIO  
soniambrosio@gmail.com

The writer is journalist, academic, researcher in media studies

THE FESTIVE MOOD IS PALPABLE AS ONE DRIVES THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CAPITAL AND OTHER CITIES AND VILLAGES ACROSS THE COUNTRY: MASTERPIECES CREATED WITH LIGHTS AND THE COLOURS OF THE FLAG FILL HEARTS WITH NATIONAL PRIDE

and "desert music'. Both styles are captivating, with performers singing and dancing while telling a story based on their daily activities.

Some examples of sea music are shallat al baura for pulling the anchor of a boat, nazag sheraa for pulling the sail, and yarah mashumah for rowing the boat. Then, there are the musical cultures of those from the plains and those from the mountains, with common themes of melancholy and travel.

Following that, is the national anthem, which, like in every other country, is played and sung at the most solemn moments. It fosters the national spirit, instilling feelings of pride and patriotism. Tragedy and triumphs: the love for the homeland and its leadership.

Dancing is another way to mark important cultural festivities. The sword dance is one of the most delightful celebrations. This national dance has its historical roots in sword fights between men to demonstrate dominance. It brings us to the popular adage: "Never give a sword to a man who can't dance". In other words, it takes inner strength to publicly dance in front of judging eyes.

Another fascinating and special tradition happens in the Dhofar called Al Bar'ah, which includes a warlike dance and the chanting of poetry in a local tribal dialect. It is about strength, courage, generosity and hospitality. I love watching all these performances. They are both enlightening and educational.

Within the new Renaissance framework, Oman, at 52, is a young state in this uncertain world scenario, but it is a land that has a glorious history going back thousands of years. The work must continue; we cannot escape our responsibilities; and if we are worth our salt, we shall be grateful for the opportunities presented to us.

With the strong force of a talented young population and the solid foundations of the last few decades, future success is certain. Let's celebrate.

JOY OF A NATION



On the occasion of the glorious National Day, the Ihsaan Association branch in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate is organising a celebration 'Joy of a Nation' in the Wilayat of Nizwa on November 26.

A day of pride and celebrations

The National Day of Oman is a proud and solemn occasion that is close to the heart of every person living in the country or has moved out. The day reminds every one of the extraordinary journey to a rapidly developing modern nation dedicated to empowering all its citizens and residents.

For me, it is all about celebrating the country where I spent a major part of my life. Ever since I landed in Oman, like thousands of expatriates, I too fell in love with the hospitality, the shining landscape, and the optimistic feel of the blessed land.

Every National Day was an additional treasure of knowledge for me. I could learn, disseminate and become part of the country and its journey to growth!

As a journalist, I could interview many senior citizens, ministers, officials and expats from different countries and write about the country's heritage and culture and write about the country's journey over the past decades, and their aspirations



Samuel Kutty  
@samkuttyp

The writer is a senior journalist, author and columnist

OF COURSE, OMAN IN 2022 IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM OMAN IN THE 1970S!

for the future. Of course, I could see how the country evolved and developed!

Although I am away from Oman, I could visualise how the proud flags in red, green and white fly high and coloured led lights adorn the streets reminding everyone of the achievements that were delivered in the last half a century.

November 18 is a day of pride to mark Oman's modern renaissance buoyed by both the legacy of late Sultan Qaboos, and the words and actions of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. The day is a historic milestone in the renaissance march, as it envisions a new era underpinning the commitment to Oman Vision 2040.

Looking back over the past years, what's been achieved in all sectors is just tremendous. Decades of continuous development are more than a reason to celebrate. From a time when school education was imparted under trees to

today's highly-equipped modern buildings in which children enjoy education, a transformation of the country is continuing with vigour and purpose under His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

Of course, Oman in 2022 is completely different from Oman in the 1970s! Continued investments in nationhood and maintaining its culture and values will make Oman remain unique and stand out among other nations.



The day is a historic milestone in the renaissance march, as it envisions a new era underpinning the commitment to Oman Vision 2040.

Definitely, the Sultanate of Oman is a country where a lot of others are looking to replicate the same model... be it education, innovation, business, or infrastructure. The country has taken a quantum leap of development during the last 52 years of its existence to be a world-class country and top of the charts among tourist destinations around the world.

I would like to see more advances in new technology and

learn from the developed world while respecting the country's heritage and social identity as a nation.

Also, I wish the country continues to follow the foundational values of peaceful coexistence and see it continues the friendly and collaborative approach so that it reaches greater heights and is admired by people around the world.

I would like to see Oman go through economic diversification, lessen its reliance on petroleum exports and continue to develop its human resources in order to achieve resilience in its economy.

No doubt, the anniversary of the glorious day of November 18 is dear and close to the heart of each and every Omani living in this blessed land. Oman has always been beautiful, but I am happy that it is becoming more beautiful!

Finally, I wish Oman stupendous success in every aspect of its growth and wellness parameters!



On behalf of the OQ Group - the Board of Directors, Executive Leadership Team and OQ employees would like to extend their heartfelt greetings and sincere wishes to

**HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM  
BIN TARIK – MAY ALLAH PROTECT  
HIM - AND THE CITIZENS OF  
OMAN**

on the prosperous occasion of Oman's  
52nd National Day of the blessed  
Renaissance. May our great nation be under  
the Almighty's grace,  
mercy and protection always.



**Energy  
Beyond  
Limits**



**Apply for a free Credit Card Today!**  
**No annual fee for the first year**

The offer is valid until 31 December 2022.

2477 5777 | [www.maisarah-oman.com](http://www.maisarah-oman.com) | [/MaisarahOman](#) | [@MaisarahIslamic](#) | [@MaisarahIslamic](#)

To know more 

Terms & Conditions Apply

#MAISARAH

MAISARAH  
مصارف إسلامية



# Oman promotes culture of coexistence and harmony

KABEER YOUSUF

[@kabeeryousef](#)

The Sultanate of Oman is committed to maintain world peace and harmony, according to the international conference, “The Humanitarian Coalition and Sustainable Development for All”, which was held as part of the International Day for Tolerance under the auspices of the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Economy in Muscat on Wednesday.

The conference that saw the participation of 120 delegates from 50 different countries aims to promote mutual acceptance and peaceful coexistence between societies.

“Oman seeks to promote a culture of coexistence, integration, harmony, synergy, compassion for others, appreciation of diversity and rejection of all forms of discrimination and intolerance,” Dr Mohammed bin Said al Ma’amari, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, said in his speech.

The opening of the conference,

organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, was held under the auspices of Dr Said bin Mohammed al Saqri, Minister of Economy, in the presence of Dr Abdullah bin Nasser al Harrasi, Minister of Information, and officials.

“Oman’s foreign policy is unique in the sense that it adopts the vision of the principle of dialogue and the value of tolerance,” Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali al Harthy, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Diplomatic Affairs, said in his speech.

He added that the Sultanate of Oman’s goal is to live in harmony with the world, strengthen relations that support the achievement of stability and security, and advance economic growth and sustainable development for a better and brighter future for all.

“The Sultanate of Oman firmly believes in developing and maintaining relations and for us, the concept of good neighbourhood extends far beyond neighbouring countries.” He added that the dialogue comes within the pillars of the foreign policy of the Sultanate of

Oman, benefiting from its ancient history and its openness to civilisations and the world, indicating that this policy spares no effort in searching for any peaceful means that bring points of view closer and reduce tensions and conflicts.

“The Sultanate of Oman takes into account the sustainable development plans for the year 2030, which covers a wide range of humanitarian issues. The formulation of Oman Vision 2040 is based on four main pillars that include people and society, economy and development, sustainable environment and governance, and institutional performance,” said Dr Said bin Mohammed al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

The conference also includes an exhibition titled ‘Message of Peace’, which sought to communicate the cultural and civilisational experience of the Sultanate of Oman to the world by presenting a civilised model of coexistence, understanding and peace-making, in addition to the exhibition ‘Art of Shadows’, which employs light and shadow to create images expressing common human values.

## Agreement to empower rural Omani women

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources signed an agreement of cooperation with Dar Al Atta’a Charity to support rural women by implementing the second phase of the project of breeding and producing honeybees and funding the training programme “Tamkeen” to empower members of the rural women’s product

funding programme codenamed “Reefy”.

The agreement was signed by Dr Saud bin Hamoud al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources; and Maryam bin Issa al Zadjali, Member of the State Council and Chairperson of the charity’s Board of Directors, in Muscat on Wednesday. — ONA



Oman Gulf Enterprises LLC



Subsidiary of Oman Consumer Protection Authority

**RECALL CAMPAIGN**  
For SUBARU Legacy, Outback, WRX, Impreza, XV



**Date of Campaign** : 17 / 11 / 2022  
**Campaign Type** : Recall  
**Recall Segment** : Electronic Parking Brake  
**Product Description** : Subaru Legacy, Outback, WRX, Impreza, XV 2015 to 2019 Model

| Model Year  | Division | Vehicle Model                     | Affected Vehicle VIN Range             | No. of Affected Vehicles in Oman |
|-------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2015 - 2019 | Subaru   | Legacy, Outback, WRX, Impreza, XV | JF1BN22A4F0002013 to JF2GT2VD4JG055591 | 864                              |

**Description:**  
The EPB warning light may illuminate and the EPB may not operate or may not be released due to disconnection of the EPB adapter cord connector by breakage of the lock tab of the connector.

**Procedure:**  
For all the affected vehicles, Subaru dealer replace the EPB adapter cord connector with an improved part.

**For More information:**  
Customers of effected vehicles may please call Oman Gulf enterprises LLC for further details/booking.

**Contact Details:** Toll free No 80050004 on all working days between 8:00 am to 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm with effected from date 17.11.2022

## MAN & Arabian Engineering Services Mark Milestone 40-Year Partnership with Celebrations

UNDER the patronage of His Excellency, Sheikh Yahya bin Nasser Al Harassi, Wali of Baushar, His Excellency Thomas Friedrich Schneider, German Ambassador to Oman, MAN Truck & Bus SE and Arabian Engineering Services (AES) celebrated a historic milestone – 40 years of a remarkable partnership in Oman.

Gracing the occasion were, leading personalities from the public and the private sector and a top management team from MAN, Germany and MAN Middle East FZE.

Mr Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan, Managing Director -- Corporate, Saud Bahwan Group said, “This is a very special year for us at Arabian Engineering Services. Together with our partners MAN Truck & Bus, we are celebrating 40 years of a successful and trusted partnership in Oman. I humbly thank our valued customers for their continued patronage over all these years. Some of you have even been by our side since the start of our journey. And indeed we are grateful for the continued support. Achieving this milestone of four decades wouldn’t have been possible without your trust and support. I also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the team at MAN Truck & Bus for their constant support, guidance & encouragement.”

Speaking about AES’s focus on



Mr Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan receiving the memento from Mr Joerg Mommertz



Mr Joerg Mommertz (left) and Mr Bjoern Loose (right) speaking



Felicitations of first few customers of the all-new TG3 range

achieving high levels of customer care, he said, “At AES, customer satisfaction has always remained our major driving force and a top priority. To achieve high levels of customer care, we have made considerable investments in state-of-the-art facilities across the country and a nationwide network of branches. This has been backed

by innovative marketing strategies, strong after-sales support and extensive customer care activities.”

Sharing his thoughts on the introduction of the MAN New Truck Generation he said, “The MAN vehicles have a prominent presence across various sectors like Oil & gas, Construction, Infrastructure works, Government sectors and

more. The introduction of the New Truck Generation, is set to push the limits with robust, economic and high quality transport solutions. Making a lasting difference to the business operations of our valued customers.”

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Joerg Mommertz, Senior Vice President, Head of Centre Middle

East, Africa and Latin America (MEA&LA), MAN Truck & Bus SE, heaped praises on the milestone partnership between MAN Truck & Bus and Arabian Engineering Services and the collective efforts put in to making the brand a success in Oman. He said, “We’re extremely proud of the fact that this is the longest partnership for MAN with any importer in the Middle East region. We would like to thank Sheikh Mohammed Saud Bahwan & his family, and the entire team at Arabian Engineering Services for their vision, commitment, and hard work that has made this a successful and long-lasting partnership. We would more importantly thank our customers, for the trust and belief that they have placed in our brands, which has kept us going for forty years.” He added, “there is a lot that has changed over the years, but our ‘Customer First’ approach will always remain a constant.”

Introducing the New Truck Generation to the Oman market and sharing insightful thoughts about it was Mr Bjoern Loose, Head of Marketing & Brand, Senior Vice President, MAN Truck & Bus SE. He said, “The core idea of MAN New Truck Generation was to simplify business from the very beginning. It not only eases the way customers and drivers use our products and services, but also makes them more successful in what they do every day.”

Speaking about what makes the New Truck Generation range so special he said, “The New MAN TG delivers on 4 key promises under the umbrella of ‘Simply My Truck’. The New MAN TG stands out for its ‘Excellent Driver Fit’ that focuses on design & workspace, ‘Great Efficiency and Economy’ that delivers on lifecycle cost and payload, ‘Optimised Uptime’ that ensures reliability and minimised downtime, and most importantly serves as ‘Strong Partner’ for the customers satisfying their needs of today as well as the coming years.”

Later in the evening, Mr Joerg Mommertz, presented Mr Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan with a special memento, in appreciation of the milestone 40-year partnership.

During the evening, few customers who were among the first to add the MAN New Truck Generation trucks to their fleets were felicitated by Mr Bjoern Loose, Mr Joerg Mommertz and Mr Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan.

The special event had many guests appreciating the partnership between MAN Truck & Bus and Arabian Engineering Services. One of the guests shared, “It is amazing how the ties between MAN and AES have grown stronger over all these years. AES has always focused on high levels of customer care. We are very happy with the service they offer us.”



Congratulations to  
**His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik**  
And the people of Oman on the Joyous Occasion of  
The 52nd National Day of the Renaissance

**Oman. A Vibrant Nation. With Timeless Values.**

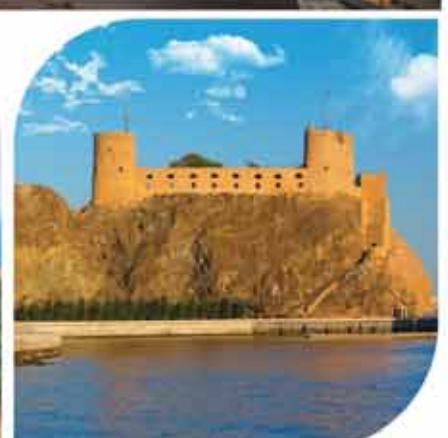
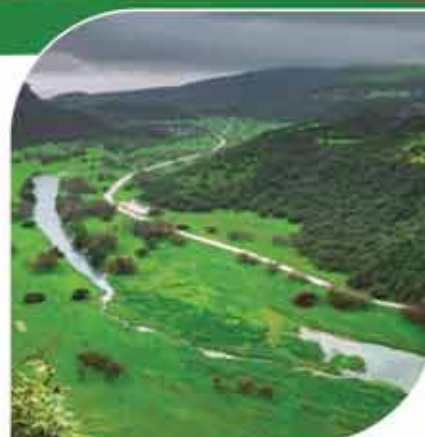
Oman is witnessing impressive growth while making its mark as a nation of peace, progress and stability.

Under the wise and visionary leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Oman remains at the forefront of transformation. Oman Vision 2040, marks an important phase in the development journey of Oman. Increased investments in infrastructure, a firm focus on diversification and development of national talent, significantly contribute towards achieving this vision.

On the momentous occasion of the 52nd National Day, Saud Bahwan Group extends its felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the people of Oman.



**SAUD BAHWAN** Group



Our congratulations  
on 52 years of prosperity

Congratulation to  
**His Majesty Sultan  
Haitham bin Tarik**  
-may the Almighty preserve him-  
and the people of Oman on the  
52<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Renaissance.

We're honored to be part of this journey, and  
we look forward to support Oman and its  
people under his wise leadership.



We salute the visionary leadership of  
**His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik**  
and extend our sincere greetings to the  
people of Oman  
on the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the  
Blessed Renaissance.

Muscat Finance continues its endeavors towards  
His Majesty's Vision 2040 in enabling the progress  
of the nation and the dreams of its people.





شركة مصفاة الدقم والصناعات البتروكيماوية  
DUQM REFINERY AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES COMPANY

# WE STRIDE FORWARD CONFIDENTLY TOWARD PROSPERITY



نصنع رخاءً. نبني إرثاً.  
FUELLING PROSPERITY. BUILDING LEGACIES.

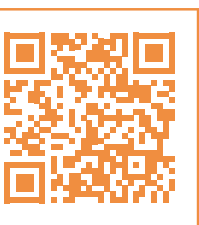


# business

MUSCAT  
STOCK  
EXCHANGE  
4,441.523



CRUDE  
OIL PRICE  
Oman Crude \$88.03  
Brent Crude \$94.51  
Light Crude \$87.27



Follow us on  
omanobserver.com/business

نتقدم بأسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات إلى المقام السامي لحضرة صاحب الجلالة السلطان هيثم بن طارق المعظم - حفظه الله ورعاه - والشعب العماني بمناسبة العيد الوطني الثاني والخمسون.

Warm congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of Oman for the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day

Largest Manufacturer of Power Transformers in the GCC region, up to 500 MVA and 400 kV

@voltamp\_oman   Voltamp Oman   sales@voltampoman.com   +968 24441200 / 239   www.voltampoman.com

## HSBC Oman and Sohar International agree to merger

QASIM AL MAASHANI  
MUSCAT, NOV 16

HSBC Bank Oman and Sohar International said on Wednesday they have entered into a binding merger agreement.

The two banks said in separate regulatory announcements that all of HSBC Oman's assets and liabilities will be transferred to Sohar International Bank.

They added that HSBC Oman will be dissolved as a legal entity upon the completion of the merger and its shares will be cancelled.

In its filing to the Capital Market Authority (CMA), HSBC Oman said: "The shareholders of HSBC Oman will be offered consideration valuing HSBC Oman at 1.0x book value, with such consideration consisting of shares of Sohar International with the option for the shareholders of HSBC Oman to elect to receive the consideration in cash, provided that the maximum cash consideration payable by Sohar International to the shareholders of HSBC Oman that elect to receive cash consideration shall

not exceed 70 per cent of the total consideration payable by Sohar International."

It further added, "The respective book value of each bank shall be calculated at a

later date (which is currently expected at the end of the first quarter of 2023) before the banks invite their shareholders to vote on the merger in an EGM."

Happy National Day

Congratulations and Warm Wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the people of Oman on the Joyous occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Renaissance.

Felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik & the people of Oman on the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Renaissance

Office A-113, Al Assalah Towers, South Ghoubra, 120 Muscat  
+96824117577  
info@gptgroups.com

# Oman affirms commitment to investing \$190 billion in energy transition by 2050

**SHARM EL SHEIKH:** The Sultanate of Oman affirmed at the CO27 UN Climate Change Conference its commitment to support international efforts to reduce carbon emissions and limit the negative effects of climate change, and to implement a plan for energy transition and carbon removal with investments of more than \$190 billion by 2050.

This came in a speech by Abdullah bin Nasser al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its permanent representative to the League of Arab States.

In his speech, he indicated that the Sultanate of Oman announced, last October, setting the year 2050 as a goal to achieve zero neutrality in greenhouse gas emissions in all development sectors, and initiated a series of detailed workshops and meetings between stakeholders



at the national level.

In an effort to prepare a roadmap that includes specific projects to reduce emissions at the level of all sectors, and that the Sultanate of Oman's efforts in the field of mitigation were not limited to this announcement only, but rather it implemented many projects to reduce carbon emissions from various sectors, especially renewable energy projects, energy efficiency

projects, and projects to reduce burning operations gas and reduce methane emissions by using advanced monitoring techniques such as satellites and thermal cameras.

He explained that the Sultanate of Oman is about to finalise the preparation of a national policy for energy transition, which focuses on setting the general framework, policies and controls related

to facilitating and accelerating transformation in the sectors of hydrogen, renewable energy, energy efficiency, carbon capture, transportation, use or storage, and gives special importance to aspects of adapting to the effects of climate change.

Due to the increase in the number and intensity of the effects of these changes on our country, such as the significant rise in temperatures during the summer months and the increase in the severity of hurricanes and weather conditions, causing many material and human losses and damages that exceed billions of dollars every year.

He added that the Sultanate of Oman took the initiative to pump billions of dollars to establish modern early warning systems, build an integrated system of storage and protection dams, improve urban planning and drainage facilities, and

enhance infrastructure such as streets, water, electricity and communications installations, with the aim of enhancing response to the risks of climatic conditions and limiting the damages resulting therefrom.

Stressing in his speech that the Sultanate of Oman — in order to reduce emissions and improve adaptation efforts — has taken the initiative to develop a system of terrestrial, wet and marine natural reserves, to reach about 25 reserves, in which various types of wildlife are spread, in addition to the establishment of many breeding centres for endangered wildlife.

In the same context, the national campaign was launched to plant millions of wild trees, mangroves and coral reefs in various parts of the country, in addition to encouraging different groups of society to plant trees in various environments and urban gatherings. — ONA

## In-Country Value Global Connect forum concludes



**BUSINESS REPORTER**  
MUSCAT, NOV 16

Oman LNG hosted the In-Country Value (ICV) Global Practitioners Connect Event in Muscat, organised in collaboration with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) and Shell Development Oman.

The three-day event concluded on November 16 with a high-level report out session attended by senior officials, featured expert-led panel discussions which shed light on best ICV practices and methods that could ultimately benefit the country and its people.

To achieve its “learning and education” scopes, the event also highlighted the role of ICV in supporting local Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) to foster a robust ecosystem that promotes collaboration within the energy industry.

International industry experts, practitioners, specialists and enthusiasts joined the event to share their experiences and discuss the various trends and challenges associated with ICV, with greater focus placed on sharing challenges and best practices relating to policies and operations.

Panel discussions focused specifically on the role of oil and gas sector in promoting ICV, the energy transition, and disruptive technology such as the transition to renewables, skills transition, climate change, IT, digitalisation, and further exploring potential industry collaborations.

# Oman’s economic recovery is gaining traction: IMF

**QASIM AL MAASHANI**  
MUSCAT, NOV 16

The Sultanate of Oman's overall GDP growth is projected at 4.3 per cent in 2022, supported by increased hydrocarbon production and continued recovery of non-hydrocarbon economic activity, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Washington DC headquartered institution made the observation following the recent conclusion of Article IV consultations with Oman. “Strong vaccination efforts have allowed for the relaxation of all social distancing restrictions, and the economic recovery is gaining traction,” the Fund said in its assessment.

“Rebounding economic activity and elevated global inflationary pressures are expected to push up average inflation to 3 per cent in 2022,” it



further noted.

High oil prices and fiscal consolidation under the government's Medium-Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP), have improved fiscal and external balances considerably, according

to the report.

The government's overall balance improved by 12.8 percentage points of GDP to a deficit of 3.2 per cent in 2021, largely due to higher hydrocarbon revenue, expenditure restraint,

and the introduction of VAT.

Fiscal and external surpluses are expected in 2022 and over the medium term. Central government debt declined to 62.9 per cent of GDP in 2021 and it is expected to decline to about

44 per cent of GDP in 2022, the Fund stated.

“The banking system has weathered the recent shocks relatively well. Financial soundness indicators appear healthy, benefiting from prudent oversight of the Central Bank of Oman and the strong buffers before entering the crisis. However, private sector credit growth has remained subdued,” the report pointed out.

Summing up, the IMF said: “The economic recovery is gaining traction,” the strong measures helped mitigate the health and socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic. Non-hydrocarbon growth is expected to strengthen over the medium term, supported by the oil price outlook, planned investments, and structural reforms. Fiscal and external buffers have increased, supported by increased hydrocarbon revenues and substantial fiscal consolidation.”

# Omani women have a rightful place on OCCI’s board



**HAIDER AL LAWATI**  
haiderdawood@hotmail.com

The author is a Muscat-based economic analyst who previously worked for the CBO and OCCI.

The countdown to the elections for the board of directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) has begun.

Voting will take place on November 22 with the participation of candidates of both genders in elections that take place every four years.

The new list of candidates includes many well-known personalities in the world of commerce, industry and finance.

In the line-up are a number of new young Omani men and women who aspire to win this prestigious competition. They include eight Omani women entrepreneurs who are associated with a number of leading institutions companies.

Some of them will be successful in these elections, as they come from reputable business families, and represent major Omani companies.

Others represents themselves through the projects they established over previous years.

Also competing are men with experience in managing the OCCI with efficiency and competence as members of the board of directors, and who aspire to return again to assume this responsibility with full merit and aptitude and to promote the work and activities of the Chamber.

It's important however that the young people and entrepreneurs are involved in managing this institution, which must adopt the ideas and initiatives of the category, and

allocate a special seat for the owners of “entrepreneurships”, whose number increases annually despite the obstacles they sometimes face in the management of micro and small enterprises.

The incoming chamber should also provide opportunities for entrepreneurs of both sexes to be part of trade delegations taking part in regional and international conferences and trade fairs.

Presently, those travelling abroad as part of delegations are primarily members of the chamber's board of directors and some of their acquaintances.

This policy requires changing to offer the opportunity for owners of small businesses to participate in the activities and events, and allowing Omani

women to be present in such activities.

There are many Omani women who have entered the management of their commercial projects, whether working from homes with a “Riyad card” or through the management of commercial enterprises.

Their presence among the members of the commercial delegations will give them the opportunity to see many new products and goods, and to learn about the quality of machines and devices that can be used in promoting their commercial and industrial businesses in the future, as well as enabling them to open commercial relations with foreign institutions, especially since some of them have already won the previous

elections for the Chamber, in addition to their work in the field of providing services to the Omani society.

Omani women are strongly present in the arena, and they need more attention, care and support in order to reach higher ranks, whether in the work of commercial establishments as employees, or through participation in free business.

It is preferable for the new board to provide financial support to the owners of small enterprises and cover their expenses similar to what the members of the chamber's board of directors receive, since everyone pays the chamber's membership annually and equally according to the classification and commercial grades.

WJ Towell Group Company

**Quality car rentals at competitive prices.**

Muscat 9014 6672, 9679 0684  
Sohar 9731 6218 Salalah 9429 9325  
www.orbit-oman.com

• Fleet of 2,000 vehicles  
• Choose from a wide range of brands & models  
• PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available  
• Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

أوربت ORBIT  
Car Rental & Lease

# Classifieds

شوبين جفت Shoppinggift

**GET FREE SHOPPING VOUCHER** with every purchase of TallyPrime single user

Contact: Guruprasad +968 79248644, 98753781  
Email: guru.prasad@asiasolutions.net  
<https://www.asiasolutions.net>

ASIA SOLUTIONS  
TALLY GOLD PARTNER  
TALLY FOR VAT

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

RABEE AL THANI 22, 1444 AH

## Observer Classified Section

Mohammed al Rashdi: 99841230  
m.alrahdhi86@yahoo.com

Ali al Maashari: 99639264  
ali.almashari@omandaily.om

Saada al Rashdi  
95919344

94501166  
24649593  
24649595

We are a leading Web-Solutions company based in Muscat, Oman.

**APPLY NOW** **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**UI/UX Designer (WEB)**

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Minimum 3 Years of experience.
- Should have experience in creating UI/UX design interfaces for Web Portal and Web Applications.
- Should have good proficiency in latest design tools.
- Good knowledge in front-end development web programming languages such as HTML5, CSS3, JQuery and JavaScript.
- Experience in creating wireframes using Adobe XD and other latest tools.
- Good team work and communication skills.
- Bachelors degree in Design, Computer Science or relevant field.

**TO APPLY**  
Send latest CV at  
career@gulfcybertech.com

GULFCYBERTECH & Solutions

We are a leading Web-Solutions company based in Muscat, Oman.

**APPLY NOW** **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Application Development Projects Lead**

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Minimum of 5 years experience in ASP.NET.
- Strong technical expertise in developing custom made web application in C#, .NET, ADO.NET, MVC, Web Services, HTML5, CSS, WCF, Ajax, JQuery, JavaScript.
- Experience in system analysis, including defining technical requirements and performing high-level design for complex solutions.
- Strong analytical, problem-solving and communication skills.
- Master's degree in computer science, CIS or related fields.

**TO APPLY**  
Send latest CV at  
career@gulfcybertech.com

GULFCYBERTECH & Solutions

مجموعة شركات الشفاري  
SHANFARI GROUP OF COMPANIES  
ESTABLISHED 1960

**National Day OFFER**

**ARE YOU BUILDING HOUSE?  
ARE YOU BUILDING A BUSINESS PROJECT?**

On occasion of National day, Shanfari Aluminium Company LLC would like to offer 10% Special discount on Fabrication of Aluminium & Glass works for Residential Villas and Commercial Buildings.

Interested may please contact **99317836**  
**Email : estimation@shanfari.com**  
© **Shanfari \_ Aluminium**

**SITUATION WANTED**

Well experienced Indian Finance Manager. M.com with 20 years experience in Finance, Accounts, Tax Matters and Reports. Noc and DL available.

**GSM : +968 95392251**

**Driving School**

**Special offers for those wishing to learn driving in (Aziba - Khwair Qurum - Ruwi Al Amirat)**

**Contact No: 99074072**

### SIT. WANTED

12 YEARS Accounting experienced Indian (7 years in Oman) having experience in senior role. Looking for senior Accountant job. 79860638.

INDIAN female (M Tech Civil Structural Engineering) having 7 years experience as Quantity Surveyor cum Quality Control Engineer, looking for suitable position. Contact: 96154505.

GENERAL manager with 16+ years experience in Oman, MBA — BE, seeks suitable placement. Contact: 94008034.

INDIAN male graduate Executive Secretary/ Stenography/ Oman DL and Muscat experience available. Contact: 79256679.

PAKISTANI, SAP certified accounts manager CMA, 13 years diversified experience, accounts up to finalisation, presently in Oman. Looking for better placement. Contact: 97635300.

PLANNING engineer, PMP. Indian male Civil Eng. Around 10 years experience in construction projects. Softwares: Primavera P6, MS Office, ERP, having Oman driving licence. Ready to join, email: engineer4planning@gmail.com, Call: 78002582.

**URGENTLY REQUIRED SALES ENGINEER**

- One of the leading Omani Organisations is seeking to hire multiple sales engineers in their Oil & Division.
- Preference is given to candidates who have at least 3-4 years of experience in Trading of Instrumentation, Electrical & Mechanical Products to all the Oil & Gas industry in Oman. He must possess an Omani / GCC driving license.
- Salary is among the best in the best in the industry with fixed and variable components. Annual bonus and Incentives are provided against good performance.

**Kindly send your CV's at**  
**Recruit.oman4@gmail.com**

### SIT. WANTED

QUANTITY surveyor/ civil engineer, Sri Lankan, bachelor degree in civil, diploma in QS and AutoCAD with 5 years experience. Certificate in design of electrical installation. Contact: 77045881, email: aazam5181@gmail.com

INDIAN Male, 17 years of Oman Marketing experience in Multiple Industry (FMCG Trading, Media, Digital Printing, Events, & Hospital) with own car is looking for suitable placement with/without visa; Call/whatsapp +968 99803006.

GRADUATE Engineer (B.E. Civil, Indian) with over 20 years of experience (13 years in Oman). Previously served as Project Manager, Manager - Operations and Dy. GM. Looking for suitable placement Contact: 92850419 Email: jojkyk@gmail.com

النماني للشحن  
AL NAMANI CARGO  
DOOR TO DOOR AIR AND SEA CARGO WORLD WIDE

**WORLD WIDE DOOR TO DOOR CARGO**

INDIA • BANGLADESH  
NEPAL • SRILANKA • INDONESIA  
PHILIPPINES • AFRICA • EUROPE  
USA • ALL GCC

TOLL FREE NUMBER  
**80066766**  
www.alnamanicargo.com

Branches: Ruwi, Hamrya, Ghala, Seet, Barka, Suwaid, Sohar

**FREE PICK UP 24/7**

**HAVE A PROPERTY FOR RENT?**

**Advertise with us.**

**Contact us on: 99639264**

### SIT. WANTED

URBAN planner and senior architect, 15 years experience in tendering, urban and regional planning and management, mega projects, green buildings, design and supervision. moharch2000@gmail.com, 97164063.

### LOST

JAIRATU Salimu Waziri has lost Tanzanian Passport No TAE379406. Finder please handover to ROP.

**LAMASAT BUSINESS CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

**Accounting Services, VAT and Consultancy Services**

Contact: **24571454** GSM: **95392251**

**URGENT HIRING FOR SALES/ PURCHASING EXECUTIVES AND WATER QUALITY EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS**

- Minimum more than 2 years work experience in Oman/GCC
- Driving License in OMAN

Suitable candidate can send CV to: **recruitment74@gmail.com**

**AUDIT, ACCOUNTING, VAT, TAXATION**

Contact: **97239696 95355638**

Gulf Center Consultancy & Audit  
Muscat, Sohar, Salalah, Sur

سماء الخضراء للتجارة  
SAMA AL KHADRA TRADING SERVICES:

PIPING SYSTEMS VALVES  
DRAINS INTERCEPTORS

Tel: **24501568, 24502479** • Fax: **24503566**  
Email: **sales@samaalkhadra.com**  
Website: **www.samaalkhadratradingco.com**

**PEST CONTROL OMAN CO. L.L.C.**

Supply of Pesticides, Gel (crocroaches), Public Health chemicals, Agriculture chemicals, Snake repellent, Rodent baits and other insect repellent from UK & USA

PROFESSIONALS in Pest Control Service, Bedbug Treatment, Rodent Treatment, Snake Treatment and Termite Treatment [Pre & Post Construction]

Tel: **24787606, 24787503**  
Direct Line: **24786077**  
GSM: **99382355, 99172309**

**pcomctom@omantel.net.om**  
P.O. Box 565, Al Wadi Al Kabir 117, Sultanate of Oman

### SERVICES

AUTOCAD/ REVIT ARCH MEP, part/full- time.  
Contact WhatsApp: 97103168.

BUILDING of 1.500 sqm 3 stories, accommodation, store and office at Misfa. 99432177, 99010964.

### FOR RENT

AL SUMRI AC maintenance. We are ready to repair and install all types of Air-Conditioner within Muscat Governorate. 94301888.

COMMERCIAL space for rent on main road next to Apollo Hospital 250m2 + with complete furnished interior. Contact 24834825.

FLATS 2bhk and 1 bhk in Mumtaz. Contact 99341138 and 90991079.

**DAWOOD**

**JOB VACANCY**

An Excellent grade, ISO 2015 : 9001 - QMS accredited Construction Company wishes to recruit enthusiastic personnel for the following positions:

- Senior Quantity Surveyor:**  
Bachelor degree with min 15 yrs experience and under 40 years.
- Quantity Surveyor:**  
Bachelor degree with min 10 yrs experience.

**Required:** Oman Driving license holder.

Interested candidates pls forward your CV's to **info@dawood.om**

**Please Contact our Team**

**95210257**

OMAN OBSERVER  
www.omanobserver.om

f t i @ y t v @omanobserver

**Now get news on the go**

To receive news updates from OMAN OBSERVER,

**WhatsApp <your name> to 96473232**



DAYS TO GO



NOVEMBER 20 – DECEMBER 18

# MESSI'S ARGENTINA, CHAMPIONS FRANCE ALL SET



Argentina's Lionel Messi (C) and teammates attend a training camp in Abu Dhabi ahead of the Qatar 2022 Fifa World Cup, at the Nahyan Stadium. — AFP

**DOHA:** Argentine superstar Lionel Messi was due to jet into Qatar on Wednesday hoping to crown his glorious career by lifting the World Cup trophy as defending champions France also prepared to join the party.

Messi, 35, has a sackful of trophies but the tournament in Qatar is likely to be his final chance to equal the achievement of fellow Argentine great Diego Maradona, a winner in 1986.

Two-time champions Argentina are playing a friendly against UAE on Wednesday, hoping to extend their unbeaten run to 36 matches.

But Paris Saint-Germain forward Messi is cautious about the team's chances in Qatar, even though they are among the favourites.

"We are very excited," the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner said in an interview with Conmebol, the South American football federation.

"We have a very nice group that is very eager, but we think about going little by little. We know that World Cup groups are not easy."

Argentina launch their campaign against Saudi Arabia on November 22, with Mexico and Poland also in their group.

Coach Lionel Scaloni has tried



Netherland's defender Daley Blind (R) and midfielder Teun Koopmeiners (2nd R) take part in a training session at Qatar University training site 6 in Doha, ahead of the Qatar 2022 World Cup tournament. — AFP

to reduce the pressure on his team, who ended a 28-year trophy drought at last year's Copa America and are ranked third in the world.

"We're conscious what football represents for Argentina but it's sport and that's why we have to step on the pitch and do our own thing," he said.

"We have to come out and play the way we know how to. And then there are a lot of unknowns."

**CHAMPIONS ARRIVE**

France were also due to arrive in Doha on Wednesday, seeking to become the first team to retain the World Cup since Brazil in 1962.

Ten members of the 2018 title-winning squad return, including captain Hugo Lloris, Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann.

But the defending champions, grouped with Australia, Denmark and Tunisia, are without first-choice midfield pair Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kante.

Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, who has missed a series of games for Real Madrid this season because of injury, is set for his first World Cup appearance since 2014. Benzema was frozen out of the France team for more than five years due to his role in a blackmail scandal.

England and the Netherlands became the first European heavyweights to touch down in Qatar on Tuesday.

England supporters from India outnumbered fans from England nearly 10 to one as Gareth Southgate's team rolled into their World Cup base.

As the team bus pulled up at their hotel, drums were beaten and horns blasted by Indian fans proudly wearing England shirts and carrying England flags.

Conversation as the supporters waited was dominated by reports in the British and French media that they were "fake fans".

Sajidh, 29, said Indian football fans in Qatar had been "outraged" by reports suggesting they had been paid to wear the shirts of World Cup nations when thousands took part in a march along the Doha seafrost last week.

"It is purely fake news and I would like to say loud and clear

that none of us have been paid in any way," added Sajidh, who gave only one name.

"We are diehard England fans."

World Cup organisers weighed in on the issue on Wednesday, saying supporters from across the world had contributed to the local atmosphere.

"Numerous journalists and commentators on social media have questioned whether these are 'real' fans," they said in a statement.

"We thoroughly reject these assertions, which are both disappointing and unsurprising."

The build-up to the tournament in Qatar has been dominated by concerns over Qatar's treatment of migrant workers, women and the LGBTQ community.

Pleas from football's world governing body Fifa for a switch in focus to the football have fallen on deaf ears in some countries.

Fifa on Tuesday launched its 'Football Unites the World' campaign with a video featuring star players including Neymar, Benzema and Edouard Mendy.

Fifa President Gianni Infantino said: "Although football is and should be our main focus, the Fifa World Cup is also about values and causes that extend far beyond the pitch." — AFP

# Nadal eliminated from ATP Finals

RUUD BEATS FRITZ, ALCARAZ TO FINISH YEAR AT NO 1



Norway's Casper Ruud celebrates winning a point in the third set's tie-break during his round-robin match against USA's Taylor Fritz at the ATP Finals tournament in Turin. — AFP



Spain's Rafael Nadal waves as he leaves after losing his round-robin match against Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime at the ATP Finals tournament in Turin. — AFP

**TURIN, Italy:** Rafael Nadal was eliminated from the ATP Finals as Casper Ruud beat American Taylor Fritz in their round-robin match in Turin on Tuesday, which also guaranteed that teenager Carlos Alcaraz would end the year as world number one.

Spaniard Nadal needed to win the tournament to take the rankings top spot from compatriot Alcaraz, but straight-set losses to Fritz on Sunday and Felix Auger-Aliassime earlier on Tuesday left him needing Ruud to lose in straight sets to keep his hopes alive.

The Norwegian, however, won the first set 6-3 against Fritz, capitalising on his much improved serve.

Fritz responded to take the second and it was anyone's match in the third-set tie-break when Ruud let a 5-1 lead slip away and an energized Fritz levelled at 6-6 in their first career meeting.

But Ruud kept his composure

and sealed the 6-3 4-6 7-6(6) win on his third match point to reach the semifinals of the tournament for the second consecutive year.

"It was a close one," Ruud said.

"I guess we were both nervous there at the end but luckily I was able to pull through."

The 19-year-old Alcaraz, who is not competing at the tournament due to an abdominal injury, will be confirmed as the youngest year-end number one since the ATP rankings began in 1973.

With his 6-3, 6-4 loss to Canada's Auger-Aliassime, the record 22-time Grand Slam champion Nadal has now lost four successive ATP Tour matches for the first time since 2009.

Auger-Aliassime, now coached by Nadal's uncle and long-time mentor Toni who sat in his box, will face Fritz in his final group match with a chance of making the last four.

"I had one match to get used to the conditions and I felt my game

was better today, I was hitting it with precision and consistency," Auger-Aliassime said.

It was a disappointing display by Nadal who looked rusty having played only one tournament since the US Open.

"There are a couple of positive things. I was able to play two tournaments in the past three weeks. That's a positive, something that I was not able to do for a while," Nadal said.

"I don't think I forgot how to play tennis, how to be strong enough mentally. I just need to recover all these positive feelings and all this confidence and all this strong mentality that I need to be at the level that I want to be.

"I don't know if I going to reach that level again. But what I don't have any doubt is that I (am) going to die for it."

Nadal held the upper hand at times in the first set and twice

threatened to break the serve of his opponent, who was beaten by Ruud on his tournament debut on Sunday.

Serving at 3-4 Nadal led 40-0 but a couple of double faults and baseline errors allowed Auger-Aliassime to break.

Auger-Aliassime, who has won four titles this season, sealed the first set with a solid hold and moved a break ahead early in the second when Nadal stumbled trying to serve and volley.

Nadal showed the odd flash of brilliance but could make no impression as he slumped to a defeat.

Auger-Aliassime and Fritz, who have both won one of their opening two matches and are playing in the tournament for the first time, will face off on Thursday with the winner advancing to the semis.

Although eliminated, Nadal will still play Ruud in the night match on Thursday.

— Reuters

# Indian captain Pandya dismisses Vaughan's criticism



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson (L) and India captain Hardik Pandya (R) pose with the T20 trophy two days out from the first T20 match during a stand-up on the Water Front in Wellington. — AFP

**WELLINGTON:** India's Twenty20 captain Hardik Pandya on Wednesday dismissed Michael Vaughan's criticism of his side, saying they have nothing to prove on their New Zealand tour despite a disappointing World Cup campaign.

Pandya will captain India for the first of three T20s starting in Wellington on Friday with Shikhar Dhawan then taking over the captaincy for the three one-day internationals that follow.

India were dumped out of the T20 World Cup in the semifinals last Thursday by eventual winners England, whose former captain Vaughan accused the Indian team of regularly failing to convert their considerable talent into titles. "India are the most under-performing white-ball team in history," Vaughan wrote in his column for the *Telegraph*.

India last won the ODI World Cup as hosts back in 2011, but Pandya dismissed Vaughan's comments.

"When you don't do well, people will have their opinion, which we respect, but at (the) international level, we don't have anything to prove to anyone," Pandya told reporters in Wellington.

The all-rounder and his vice-captain Rishabh Pant are the new Indian stars tipped to take over from regular skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, both rested for the New Zealand tour. India's head coach Rahul Dravid is also taking a break with VVS Laxman, head of their National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, in charge.

Nevertheless, India have included new batting sensation Suryakumar Yadav, who can hit the ball to all parts of the ground with an array of shots.

Speedster Umran Malik has been added to bolster the bowling, which has recently failed to fire in white-ball matches and the World Cup. "The main boys are not here, but we have a new bunch — new guys with lots of excitement and energy," added Pandya.

He sees the New Zealand tour as a good way to work off any World Cup frustrations. "Obviously, there is the disappointment of the World Cup, but we need to cope with it just like successes: move forward and rectify the mistakes we made so we don't repeat them." — AFP

# Bahrain shock Oman in Desert Cup thriller

**MUSCAT:** Bahrain shocked hosts Oman by six wickets in a thriller to bounce back from their opening match loss to Canada in the Desert Cup T20I Series at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat on Tuesday night.

Sohail Ahmed's unbeaten half-century and Imran Khan's four-for steered Bahrain to victory with just three balls to spare as they chased the target of 134.

After restricting the hosts to 134/8, Sohail Ahmed's 39-ball 55 and Haider Butt's run-a-ball 28 ensured the team to win in the last over.

David Mathias 16-ball 19 was the other notable contributor as Bahrain overcame the early hiccups to pocket two points from the win.

Bahrain lost openers, Ahmed Bin Nisar and skipper Sarfaraz Ali in



Bahrain Man of the Match



Rafiullah – 27 runs and 4 wickets.

seven overs but the team had put on 43 runs by then.

Mathias' wicket seven runs later gave a glimmer of hope for the hosts to fight back but Ahmed and Butt shared a 75-run fourth-wicket partnership to deny the hosts.

Oman's lanky Rafiullah was the only successful bowler with figures of 4/25 as skipper Zeeshan Maqsood tried as many as seven bowlers to break the stand between Ahmed and Butt.

Earlier, put to bat first, Oman suffered setbacks in powerplay as Jatinder Singh, who had scored a half-century in the team's opening match win against Saudi Arabia, was dismissed by Imran Khan for 11.

Shoaib Khan was the second of the four victims of Imran Khan for a duck. Kashyap Prajapati (19) and Maqsood (5) were back in the hut in

a space of three balls. Ayaan Khan and Mohammad Nadeem tried to resurrect the innings with a 23-run stand in four overs.

Following Ayaan's exit, Rafiullah (27) and Nadeem (24) built another partnership of 38 runs before the duo's dismissal in two successive overs stalled the run scoring.

Samay Shrivastava's 11-ball quickfire 22 that included two fours and a six helped Oman reach 134.

Besides Imran's four-for, Mathias bagged two wickets.

In the other match on Tuesday night, Canada trounced Saudi Arabia by 66 runs for their second successive win and lead the standings in the four-nation T20I series with four points.

Oman and Bahrain have two points each with the hosts ahead on better net run-rate.

# 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Renaissance



We extend our heartiest  
congratulations to His Majesty  
**Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**  
and the people of Oman on the  
occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day  
of the Renaissance.





**OCTAL**

an Alpek Polyester Business

ترفع شركة أوكتال  
أسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات إلى المقام السامي لحضرة صاحب الجلالة  
**السلطان هيثم بن طارق المعظم**  
حفظه الله ورعاه  
والشعب العُماني الأبى بمناسبة العيد الوطني ال 52 للنهضة

OCTAL sends its warmest greetings and congratulates  
**His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik**  
and the people of Oman on the momentous occasion  
of the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Renaissance

WWW.OCTAL.COM

# YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND OMAN VISION 2040



AFRAH AL BALUSHI

@afrahalbalushia

**Y**OUTH EMPOWERMENT has emerged as a major element in the Oman Vision 2040 after the accession of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

One of the most important pillars of Vision 2040 is community participation, recommended by late Sultan Qaboos and followed by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

In Oman Vision 2040, youth is an integral part of the society, where the youth work with their ideas and aspirations for the future with the Vision Office and the working teams from different sectors associated with Oman Vision 2040.

All these are to ensure that the Sultanate of Oman stands among the ranks of the developed countries. The goal is to empower youth locally and internationally and support their contributions and initiatives in the development of the country.

With the Sultanate of Oman's 2040 Vision, seven strategic goals have been identified, with the priority being the country's youth.

The focus is on developing their skills and talents, building and empowering young leaders and specialised cadre who contribute to development, compete locally and internationally, create an environment conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship and establish emerging projects that contribute to the national economy.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik confirmed at a meeting of the Council of Ministers held on October 12, the importance of finding mechanisms and channels of communication with the youth to clarify the requirements of the development process in various sectors and to listen to their aspirations and needs.

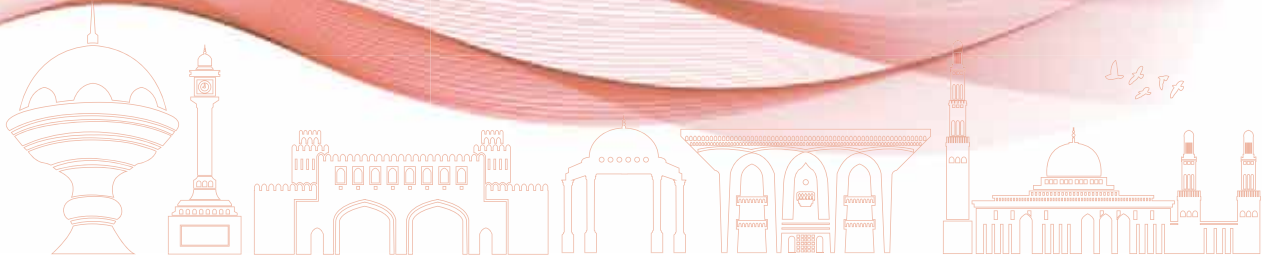
He instructed governors to hold periodic meetings with young people and discuss their issues and to help them perform their desired role in contributing to the building and comprehensive development of this dear country.

52<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL DAYبنك العز الإسلامي  
alizz islamic bank

The Chairman, Board of Directors and all the staff of Alizz Islamic Bank extend their warmest felicitations and best wishes to

**His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** and the people of Oman on the joyous occasion of our 52<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Renaissance.

# 50 NATIONAL DAY OF THE RENAISSANCE



THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 17 | 2022





# PROVIDING SECURITY

**N**OVEMBER 18 is the pride day for the Royal Oman Police (ROP), citizens and residents. This is the day of renewal of resolve and diligence to deliver the message and preserve security and stability. With the anniversary of the glorious National Day, ROP renews its commitment to upgrade its system and personnel in line with the emerging challenges and developments. ROP is committed to contribute to the implementation of Oman Vision 2040.

This is a day of pride, dignity and the continued and extended sense of belonging. The ROP has always received support and enhancement to its systems be it in the aspects of training or practice.

The ROP undertakes the task of providing security at all locations through its police centres that are distributed all over the country. Besides, ROP delivers services in traffic, passports and civil status at its service centres in all wilayats. Also, ROP boasts special task force units that can effectively handle any emergency and provide support to the other formations of the ROP.

## TRAINING PLANS

The ROP general command has laid down training plans that are in consistency with the nature of its missions and in line with the emerging security challenges. The Sultan Qaboos Police Academy and the training departments and divisions at the ROP formations are in charge of the training of the police personnel using the latest training programmes and scientific and academic application.

The ROP managed within a short period of time to convert its services into the digital domain, particularly the services rendered to citizens and residents. The ROP digital services are seamlessly accessible and easy to use.

Since the announcement of the transformation to the digital government and the realisation of the digital society, the ROP planned to go ahead with the implementation of the strategy and began laying the groundwork and replacing the paperwork by digital services to ensure the provision of quality services to the public.

The Directorate-General of Information Technology has upgraded more than 30 e-systems to support the comprehensive and integrated systems and provide the basic digital services to citizens and residents through several channels to enable them to easily accomplish their procedures. The ROP's state-of-the-art application with its progressive designing

and ease of use alongside the ROP website both of which were fitted with the PKI feature, play a key role in providing high-quality round-the-clock fast digital services.

## TRAFFIC SERVICES

As for the traffic services, most of them are available on the ROP application and website. The services of vehicle registration and renewal of vehicle registration can be done in record time and the same goes for the renewal of the driver's licence, payment of traffic fines, issuance and renewal of the learner's driving permit.

The ROP managed to convert more than 40 customs transactions to digital services meaning that all customs services have been digitised and can be processed through Bayan Electronic Single Window. Hence, the services provided by the Directorate-General of Customs kept pace with the technological development and realised the desired goals of streamlining customs clearance and expediting investment procedures. Firms and customs brokers are now able to complete all customs procedures from anywhere in the world before reaching the customs checkpoints of the Sultanate of Oman.

Likewise, the passports and civil status services have seen a big progress following the completion of the e-visa system which allows for online submission of the visa application through a single window. Also, it is now possible for citizens to apply online to renew passports or request a new one.

In addition, the ROP provides security escorts through the Oil and Gas Installations Security that can be obtained online.

The ROP is striving to achieve full integration and digitalisation of its services and is looking forward to adding more achievements during the upcoming period in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The development and construction system and the activation of the modern customs and security procedures have contributed to stimulating economic and tourist activities. The ROP has introduced high accuracy security surveillance systems and advanced search devices to improve the customs clearance process. This is in addition to the many reinforcements that were introduced to customs clearance to ensure smooth entry of individuals and goods thereby supporting the tourism industry.

The unified security system for managing land, air and sea ports has been designed to comply with

the common work environment of the formations specialised in port management. The system is operated by a qualified staff equipped with all the technical implements and are capable of implementing safe control over people and goods flowing through the ports of the Sultanate of Oman.

In order to keep pace with the rapid development and steady growth of the customs sector, and with the aim of facilitating and improving the procedures followed in the security checks and customs inspections, the Royal Oman Police is striving to raise the security performance in the customs field and secure entry into the Sultanate of Oman through its various ports. This is part of the long-term security strategies implemented through the security system for the management of land, air, and sea ports. The security system operates through smart surveillance devices that are capable of identifying passenger and vehicle data before reaching the identity verification point.

The Directorate-General of Traffic focused on the traffic control procedures and securing the road users through deploying traffic patrols and employing modern systems to improve road monitoring. The vehicle technical inspection system has been improved by introducing modern machines with specific standards to ensure that the vehicle is free of any mechanical malfunction that can pose risk to the motorist and road users. Currently there are 50 vehicle technical inspection points distributed across the country all of which are equipped with modern devices and technologies.

## COAST GUARD

The Coast Guard Police Command undertakes the tasks of confronting smuggling, piracy and infiltration as well as maintaining public security and order at the ports and maritime facilities, coordinating with the competent authorities to combat marine pollution and provide assistance to sea-goers through trained well work teams.

The Directorate-General of Police Aviation supports the police formations of the Royal Oman Police and conducts patrols to monitor the coastal strip, monitor suspicious boats inside the territorial waters of the Sultanate of Oman. It also helps in transferring personnel from other police formations to locations with tough terrain, carrying out search and rescue operations and medical evacuation from remote areas and the transfer of food supplies, needs and necessary supplies to the inhabitants of the mountainous areas.

The Department of Media and Public Relations at ROP strives to harness all media programmes to communicate with the public and raise awareness of crimes that affect society, especially those related to social media and cybercrime. The department raises awareness of the perils of drugs and reckless driving.

THIS IS A DAY OF  
PRIDE, DIGNITY  
AND THE  
CONTINUED AND  
EXTENDED SENSE  
OF BELONGING.  
THE ROYAL OMAN  
POLICE HAS  
ALWAYS  
RECEIVED  
SUPPORT AND  
ENHANCEMENT  
TO ITS SYSTEMS  
BE IT IN THE  
ASPECTS OF  
TRAINING OR  
PRACTICE

# A FAST-GROWING TOURIST DESTINATION



## THE SULTANATE OF OMAN HAS BEEN ATTRACTING VISITORS FROM ACROSS THE PLANET WITH ITS STUNNING LANDSCAPE AND DIVERSE NATURAL RESOURCES

**KABEER YOUSUF**  
@kabeeryousef

**T**OURISM is the Sultanate of Oman's major "driving force" in the non-oil sector. It occupies a solid place in Vision 2040 as well as the 10th Five-Year Plan. Oman's tourism sector is on the path to recovery after the setbacks faced due to the pandemic. The plans are in line with the programmes designed by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MoHT) for 2022 and ahead. The biggest challenge in front of the Sultanate of Oman's tourism sector post-Covid-19 is to re-establish itself as the best value-for-money tourism destination and to bring in more FDI through tourism.

The key performance indicators (KPIs) of the Sultanate of Oman's Tourism Development are based on the country's ambitious tourism development plans. The five KPIs are:

- 1) Attracting more tourists from various continents.
- 2) Delivering the best tourism services.
- 3) Inviting more private investors to the tourism sector.
- 4) Strategising advanced plans to get Oman's tourism sector get noticed.
- 5) Creating more job opportunities for the local workforce.

The Sultanate of Oman has been attracting visitors from across the planet with its stunning landscape and diverse natural resources.

According to the tourism indicators for May 2022 released by National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), the Sultanate of Oman

received 794,000 travellers, mainly from the fellow GCC nations, India, Yemen, Germany and United Kingdom, while 1.5 million travellers had used the country's airports as origin point by Q2, 2022, as the world countries started lifting Covid-19 restrictions and as tourism slowly started rebounding.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MoHT) has chalked out several plans to make the Sultanate of Oman the most sought-after destination for international tourists, and some of the projects are to develop tourism destinations, facilities and amenities in the governorates of, besides Muscat, Dhofar, South Al Sharqiyah, Musandam and Al Dakhiliyah followed by many other governorates.

### AMBITIOUS PLANS

These projects, formulated as part of Vision 2040 and the Tenth Five-Year Plan, envisage finding alternative sources of national income and reducing dependence on oil and oil products, aiming to attract RO 3 billion for various projects till the year 2023.

In the first phase of the plans, the ministry is developing tourist sites in the governorates of Muscat, Al Dakhiliyah, South Al Sharqiyah, Dhofar and Musandam, followed by the rest of the governorates.

According to statements issued by Omran (the Oman Tourism Development Company), it has signed a cooperation agreement with the office of the Governor of South Al Sharqiyah Q2 this year to develop the governorate into a major tourism hub divided into several phases. To achieve this, Omran will provide technical support and supervision for the implementation of projects across various parts of the governorate.

A vast park in the Suwayh area on an area of more than 65,000 sqm and another park in Al Ashkharah over a land size of 14,000 sqm will be developed as part of the first phase. This is in addition to the ambitious plans of developing several tourist destinations in Dhofar, thanks to the mutual agreement between the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and Omran.

### INTEGRATED TOURISM COMPLEXES

The Sultanate of Oman has nearly 21 integrated tourism complex projects, of which 11 are on government lands owned by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and five development agreements already signed for these complexes and eight usufruct contracts.

Out of the ten projects on private lands, two are in the process of implementation, and development agreements have been signed for four of them.

### HOSPITALITY SECTOR

One of the major players in attracting and retaining tourists year after year is the hospitality sector, and these hotels are upgrading their services and offers with a mission to improve their positioning in the post-Covid era. The hospitality sector, along with the tourism sector, faced major setbacks in 2020 and 2021. However, hotels are reporting a massive turnout and surging revenues during what is termed as 'revenge travel' by IATA, which brought in nearly RO 13 million in revenues, a commendable figure compared to the RO 4 million reported during the same period last year. Hotel occupancy rates stood at an average of 42.8 per cent in comparison with 24 per cent in 2021, and over 140,000 guests stayed in hotels during Q2 this year compared to 68,000 in the same period last year, an increase of 105 per cent.

### CRUISE TOURISM

One of the major chunks of Oman tourism is cruise tourism which brings in thousands of visitors from across the world to the Sultanate of Oman during its nearly 3 months winter tourist season. This season witnesses nearly 300 visits of vessels sailing along the Sultanate carrying tens of thousands of tourists from different countries of the world.

The MoHT plays a major role in the development of this type of international tourism in coordination with the government and private sectors and international companies owning and operating these cruise ships.

The liners that dock at the Port Sultan Qaboos and the PSQ in 2019 alone had hosted 166 vessel visits, while the Port of Salalah welcomed nearly 71 visits, and Khasab Port 73 visits, according to statistics from the MoHT. These cruise liners also visit Muscat, Dhofar and Musandam, and sometimes more than once.

Reports suggest that the Sultanate of Oman has already attracted RO 1.7 billion in tourism investments out of a planned RO 3 billion between 2021 and 2023, and all these plans of the MoHT to make the country a truly unique tourism location looks up to taking advantage of the characteristics of a premier tourist destination and attracting newer segments of the society and becoming a key player in the GDP of a country that aims at diversifying its national economy.

THE MINISTRY  
OF HERITAGE  
AND TOURISM  
HAS CHALKED  
OUT SEVERAL  
PLANS TO MAKE  
THE SULTANATE  
OF OMAN THE  
MOST  
SOUGHT-AFTER  
DESTINATION  
FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
TOURISTS



# POST-PANDEMIC OUTLOOK BRIGHT FOR ECONOMY

**QASIM AL MAASHANI**

**T**he Sultanate of Oman's economic outlook has continued to brighten on the back of buoyant international energy prices and slumping public debt, garnering praise from a cross-section of global rating agencies and multilateral institutions.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), most notably, wrapped up its most recent Article IV Consultation with Omani authorities with a robust acknowledgement of the efforts made by the Sultanate of Oman in facing the various challenges unleashed by the global economic downturn and accompanying pandemic.

In its concluding statement, the IMF indicated that "overall real GDP growth rebounded from -3.2 per cent in 2020 to 3.0 per cent in 2021, and is projected at 4.3 per cent in 2022, supported by increased hydrocarbon production and continued recovery of non-hydrocarbon economic activities. Moreover, rebounding economic activity and elevated global inflationary pressures are expected to push up average inflation to 3 per cent in 2022 due to increased inflationary pressures from higher global food and energy prices, more persistent disruption in global supply chains, pressures to spend the hydrocarbon windfalls, and climate-related events".

Furthermore, the mission stressed that high oil prices and fiscal consolidation under the Sultanate of Oman's Medium-Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) have considerably improved fiscal and external balances. The overall public finance balance improved by 12.8 percentage points of GDP to a deficit of 3.2 per cent in 2021. Fiscal and external surpluses are expected

in 2022, public debt declined to 62.9 per cent of GDP in 2021, and it is expected to decline to about 44 per cent of GDP in 2022.

The IMF also agreed that the banking system had weathered the recent shocks relatively well. Financial soundness indicators appear healthy, benefiting from the strong buffers before entering the crisis.

It noted that Oman continues to press forward with a broad array of structural reforms under Oman Vision 2040, with the goal of achieving the strong, job-rich, and sustainable private sector-led growth needed to offer opportunities to job-seekers and ensure higher living standards for future generations.

Key priorities include enhancing labour market flexibility, boosting female employment, improving the business environment, advancing SOE reforms and governance, leveraging digitalisation, and continuing the implementation of green initiatives.

Echoing this positive outlook, the World Bank noted in its latest Gulf Economic Update that Oman's post-pandemic economic recovery is anticipated to strengthen over the medium term, buoyed by strong oil and gas prices, growth in hydrocarbon output, and comprehensive fiscal reforms.

"(Oman's) GDP growth is forecast to reach 4.5 per cent in 2022 before moderating to an average of 3.2 per cent in 2023-24," the World Bank report said. "The overall fiscal deficit is expected to turn into a surplus of nearly 6 per cent of GDP in 2022 - the first surplus in almost a decade — reducing gross financing needs.

Similarly, the external balance is swinging back into surplus (6 per cent of GDP in 2022) - the first surplus in 7 years — on the back of higher oil receipts and recovery in non-oil exports."

OMAN'S GDP GROWTH IS FORECAST TO REACH 4.5 PER CENT IN 2022 BEFORE MODERATING TO AN AVERAGE OF 3.2 PER CENT IN 2023-24, THE WORLD BANK REPORT SAID

## BUDGET SURPLUS

More recently, the Ministry of Finance revealed that Oman's budget recorded a surplus of RO 1.123 billion as of September-end 2022 versus a deficit of RO 1.030 million over the same period in 2021.

Oman's public revenue stood at RO 10.567 billion at the end of September 2022, up by 43.4 per cent compared to RO 7.368 billion registered over the same period in 2021.

This is mainly due to an increase in oil prices and production.

By the end of September 2022, hydrocarbon revenue increased to RO 8.102 billion, up by 51.9 per cent compared to RO 5.331 billion registered over the same period in 2021. The increase is supported by a higher average oil price of \$94 per barrel, as well as an increase in crude oil production to 1,056,000 barrels per day.

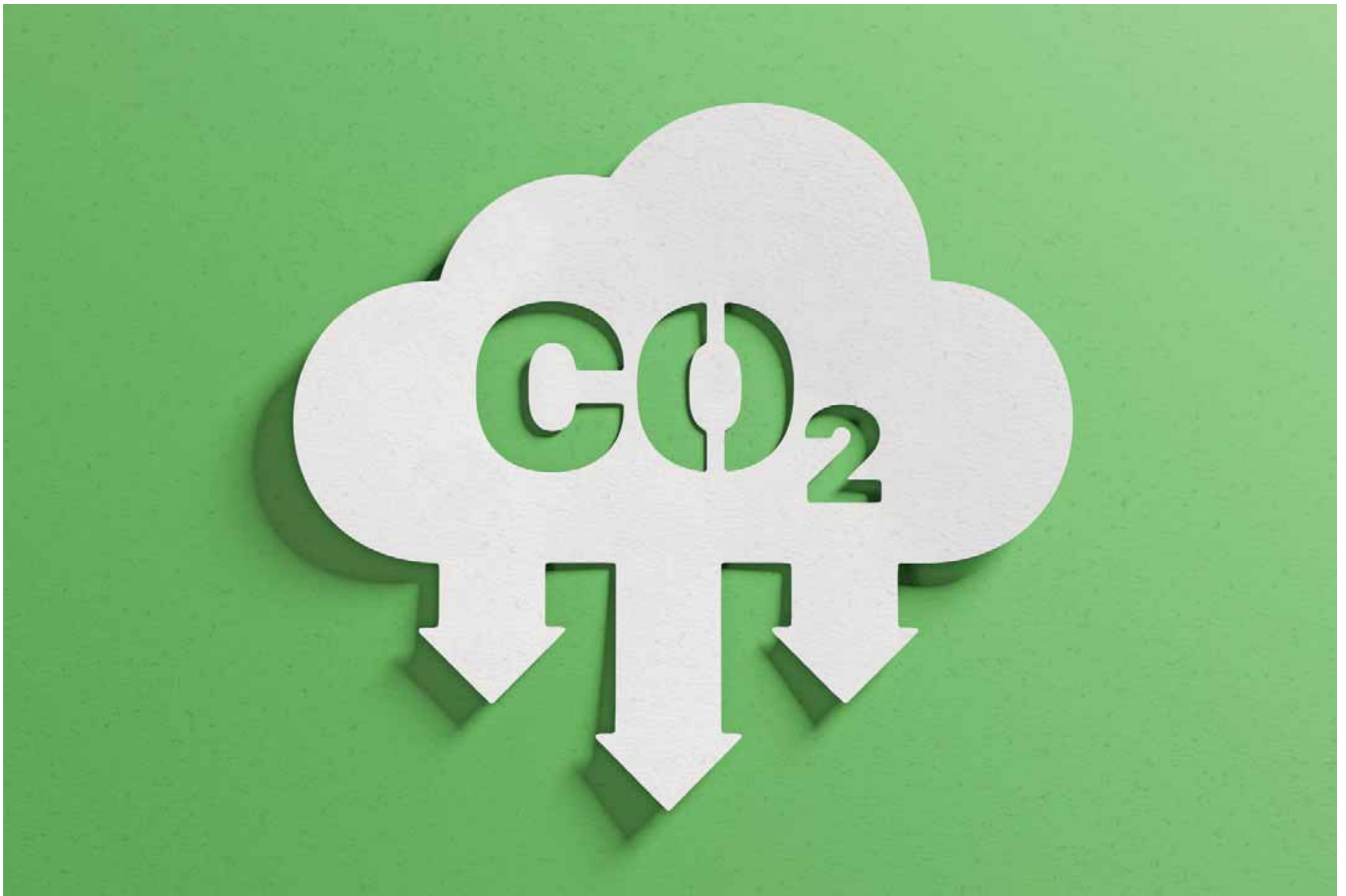
Current revenue increased by 22.3 per cent to stand at RO 2.450 billion by the end of September 2022, compared to RO 2.004 billion over the same period in 2021.

Public spending increased by 12.5 per cent to RO 9.444 billion by the end of September 2022, up by RO 1.046 billion when compared to the same period in 2021.

The development expenditure of ministries and civil units amounted to RO 657 million, representing 60 per cent of total development spending, i.e. RO 1.100 billion, allocated for 2022.

Meanwhile, current expenditure by the end of September 2022 increased by 10.1 per cent to stand at RO 7.070 billion when compared to the figures registered over the same period in 2021.

Total contributions and other expenses increased to RO 1.434 billion compared to RO 578 million registered over the same period in 2021.



# A STEP FORWARD TO CUT CARBON FOOTPRINT

VINOD NAIR  
@vinot\_nair

**T**HE SULTANATE OF OMAN endorsed the concerns of the recently held UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt and supported the measures to fight the issues that affect the environment adversely.

The topic of global warming has been a major concern for years, but there is an extra urgency to address this issue, with countries worldwide battling heatwaves, extreme floods, and even wildfires.

At the recently held UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt, nearly 200 countries struggled to outpace increasingly dire climate impacts in a world upended by war and economic turmoil.

Weather disasters have killed thousands, displaced millions, and caused billions in damages—massive flooding in Pakistan and Nigeria, deepening droughts in Africa and the western US, cyclones in the Caribbean, and unprecedented heat waves across three continents.

The focus of COP27 was to fight global changes by slashing greenhouse emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Sultanate of Oman has endorsed coordinated measures in partnership with the world to reduce global warming to levels below 2 degrees Celsius, namely the endorsement of the Paris Agreement by 196 countries, which became effective November 4, 2016, at a time the world is set to reach the peak of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The Sultanate of Oman has taken major steps forward in cutting down carbon emissions by declaring a commitment to meet carbon neutrality in 2050 and establishing the Oman Sustainability Centre — based on the outputs of the Carbon Management Laboratory — and announcing the launch of the national strategy for an orderly transition to the carbon neutrality plan, besides launching the National Environmental Policy for Energy.

The Sultanate of Oman has announced the start

of the pre-qualification phase for investors wishing to participate in the first round of investment opportunities in green hydrogen production projects through the platform of Hydrogen Oman (Hydrom).

The participating countries at COP27 have pledged to agree on further reduction of rates of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide emissions in a manner that keeps the rise in global heat within less than 2°C.

The effects of global warming are beyond imagination, including the Sultanate of Oman's marine life. According to the National Centre for Research in the US, the physical properties of the water of the Arabian Sea have become warmer and more saline. Average sea temperatures in the summer have risen since 1960 by over two degrees Celsius at the surface and above one degree Celsius at a depth of 300m.

Average salinity at lower depths has been increasing at a rate of 0.1 parts per thousand per decade since 1960.

The climate change consequences have been serious for the Sultanate of Oman, regularly facing one or two tropical storms, sometimes even a cyclone, every year, leading to floods and damage to houses and vehicles.

Summers have been getting hotter, with temperatures consistently touching 45 degrees Celsius and above for days. With a vast coastline bordering the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, the Sultanate of Oman has been facing the wrath of tropical storms regularly since 2007.

Cyclone Gonu, which hit the country in 2007 and inflicted damage, was the first in several decades.

Tropical cyclones are not uncommon over the Arabian Sea. However, many of these storms rarely reach the coastal areas of Oman. Gonu was the first destructive tropical cyclone to affect Muscat after the 1890 cyclone.

The governorates of South Sharqiyah, Al Wusta, and Dhofar have been on the frontline in the battle against the low-pressure systems.

Advancements in weather forecasting have helped save human lives by activating emergency or disaster

THE SULTANATE OF OMAN HAS ENDORSED COORDINATED MEASURES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WORLD TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING TO LEVELS BELOW 2 DEGREES CELSIUS

OMAN IS WORKING ON A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL STRATEGY AND AN OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR ZERO NEUTRALITY, IN LINE WITH DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES IN VARIOUS SECTORS THAT SUPPORT BALANCED AND RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES.

management mechanisms; immovable properties like houses, offices or strategic infrastructure like roads are still vulnerable to nature's fury.

Weather experts have warned that evacuation of people or shifting of human habitation from the coastal areas may make sense under the circumstances due to increased frequencies of floods, but in the long term, it will create a demographic imbalance and pressure on infrastructure due to increased density.

Despite its dependence on revenues from oil, Oman has only gained from the measures to reduce carbon emissions and minimise the consequences of climate change and global warming.

Not limited to the Sultanate of Oman, GCC-EU experts recently addressed the debate around climate change, the challenges of energy efficiency in the building sector, and the required strategies, policies, and regulations to enable energy efficiency.

The experts put forward actionable solutions to tackle issues such as low energy efficiency, chronic dependence on fuel subsidies, and the active role that clean energy can play in targeting more sustainable methods for using energy.

The Central Bank of Oman has warned that risks associated with climate change pose challenges to the financial stability of the country. Climate change risks present severe concerns to the financial system posing micro and macroprudential risks. Hydrocarbon-dependent countries like the Sultanate of Oman are exposed to an additional challenge from the drive to reduce their carbon footprint. A large part of Oman's GDP relies on the production and export of hydrocarbons which are a major source of greenhouse gases. "Therefore, besides the climate risks faced by all other countries, phasing out carbon emissions would entail a need for massive changes in the structure of the economy.

Assessment of climate risks remains a challenge because of the difficult-to-predict shocks and significant long-time horizon spanning over decades for modelling and analysis of transition risks.

According to the *Observer*, Wael Makarem, market strategist at a regional trading platform, said, "Over the longer term and to minimise exposure to future economic shocks, Oman could work on gradually reducing its dependence on oil and natural gas exports to limit risks that could derive from slowing demand and diversify toward other industries and opportunities."

The Sultanate of Oman is working on a comprehensive national strategy and an operational plan for zero neutrality, in line with development objectives in various sectors that support balanced and resilient ecosystems to protect the environment and the sustainability of its natural resources.

Warming beyond that threshold, scientists warn, could push Earth toward an unlivable hothouse state. But current trends would see carbon pollution increase 10 per cent by the end of the decade and Earth's surface heat up 2.8C, according to findings unveiled last week.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK,  
THE SULTANATE OF OMAN HAS COMMITTED TO REACHING NET-ZERO EMISSIONS  
BY 2050, IN LINE WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT'S OBJECTIVES OF LIMITING GLOBAL  
WARMING TO 1.5°C COMPARED TO PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVELS

# A NEAR-GREEN HYDROGEN-BASED

QASIM AL MAASHANI

**Pledging to transition** away from hydrocarbons and into a low-carbon energy future, the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, recently unveiled its ambitious Green Hydrogen Strategy – an initiative that envisions an estimated \$140 billion in new investments. Indeed, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman has committed to reaching Net-Zero Emissions by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement's objectives of limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. To lead its transition towards a green economy, His Majesty has mandated the creation of the Oman Sustainability Centre. The centre will be the leading body undertaking the supervising and follow-up plans and programmes of carbon neutrality.

Announcing the new strategy, Eng Salim bin Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, said, "The Sultanate of Oman is committed to decarbonising and helping the world decarbonise. The pathway to net-zero is an opportunity for the Sultanate of Oman to create economic value, increase industrial competitiveness and attract investments to help diversify and strengthen the country's economy."

He added: "Green hydrogen presents itself as a key factor that enables the Sultanate of Oman to pursue its decarbonisation, economic and energy security objectives. With the abundant renewable energy resources Oman is blessed with and with the appropriate structuring of the sector via the creation of Hydrogen Oman as directed by His Majesty, Oman is positioned as one of the most attractive nations to produce green hydrogen competitively and at a large-scale."

**HYDROGEN STRATEGY**

To lead the country's ambitious green hydrogen strategy, the govern -

ment has established HYDROM, a fully owned autonomous subsidiary of Energy Development Oman SAOC and regulated by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

HYDROM's mandate includes the delineation of government-owned land areas and the structuring of associated large-scale, world-class green hydrogen projects, managing the process for their allocation to developers as well as facilitating the development of common infrastructure and connected ecosystem industries and hubs in close collaboration with the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ). Recently, HYDROM opened a first public bid round aimed at awarding the first land blocks by 2023 to meet the 2030 production target.

**STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY**

Oman aims to become one of the world's leading green hydrogen hubs. The nation has set an ambition to become one of the largest green hydrogen producers and exporters globally, targeting production of one million tonnes by 2030. The development of the green hydrogen economy will provide a strategic opportunity for Omani and international companies to participate and collaborate in driving local and global energy security, economic diversification and much-needed climate change mitigation.

Importantly, green hydrogen-related investments will unlock immense investment opportunities across the value chain. It includes opportunities in the manufacture of solar panels, wind turbines, electrolyzers, hydrogen-derived products, storage and transportation, water desalination and other components. Oman's investments alone will encompass about 3 million solar panels, approximately 10,000 wind turbines, 5,200 electrolysis units and about 180 GW of renewable energy production capacity.

# ENERGY FUTURE

OMAN AIMS TO BECOME ONE OF THE WORLD'S  
LEADING GREEN HYDROGEN HUBS



# EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE IMPACT ON OVERALL WELL-BEING

## THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH PROVIDES FREE BASIC UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE TO ALL ITS CITIZENS

LAKSHMI KOTHANETH  
@lakshmioman

THE YEAR 2022 has been exceptional for the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman. It received the World Health Organization certification for the Elimination of Mother-to-child Transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis. With this rare feat, the country became the first to be validated for EMTCT in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

By receiving this validation, the Sultanate of Oman achieved the global health strategy for the period 2022-2030, which aims to end MTCT of HIV in at least 50 countries by 2025, and in 100 countries by 2030.

Currently, the Sultanate of Oman is preparing to host the 3rd Global High-level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Muscat on November 24-25.

The conference is organised by the government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in cooperation with the Quadripartite Alliance formed by the United Nations to monitor the antibiotic resistance — World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Gulf Health Council for the Cooperation Council States.

The conference is expected to provide an opportunity for simulating the interactive dialogue on the “One Health” action to address the AMR pandemic. Therefore, the theme of the conference this year is “The AMR Pandemic: from Policy to One Health Action”, which aims to accelerate tackling the antimicrobial resistance at the national, regional and global levels, as well as to enhance international cooperation.

Around 50 representatives from different countries are expected to take part in the conference representing Human Health, Animal Health and Environment. The Directors-General and Presidents of WHO, FAO, OIE and UNEP are participating in the conference. Renowned global experts representing health, animal, environment, economic,

and agricultural aspects have also been invited.

The Ministry of Health launched this year, 2022, the National Tuberculosis Manual. The National TB Manual is prepared by the Directorate-General for Disease Surveillance and Control in collaboration with experts in various fields related to prevention, diagnosis, treatment, pharmacy, and primary, secondary and tertiary care provision. The Manual is part of implementing the National Strategy for Elimination of Tuberculosis and is aligned with its pillars, namely Detect, Treat, Prevent and Promote. It represents a scientific reference to the health workers in this field.

According to the specialists at the DGDSC, the event is a culmination of years of continuous joint work with the healthcare workers concerned with TB in public and private sectors to provide better healthcare for various community segments.

The specialist affirmed that TB is preventable and curable. All members in the community must be aware of this fact to end stigmatisation and discrimination of TB, adding that awareness should be also raised on the importance of diagnosing and treating latent TB in high-risk groups such as close contact with TB cases, particularly children, people coming from high-incidence countries, as well immunocompromised patients.

The Sultanate of Oman has launched the National Strategy for Elimination of Tuberculosis, which will be carried out in phases to achieve a reduction in the incidence rate of TB to fewer than 100 cases per million population by 2035 to progress further towards “pre-elimination” of TB.

The Sultanate of Oman provides free healthcare for all its citizens, and this goal is supported by the primary medical care available through health centres, extended health centres and hospitals in the wilayat. While the regional referral hospitals mainly provide secondary medical care, the national referral hospitals are the Royal Hospital, Khoulā Hospital, and Al Nahdha Hospital, providing tertiary medical care. The requests and requirements for treatment are processed by Treatment Abroad Committee.

Oman's Ministry of Health is closely collaborating with the WHO with regard to its 2030 agenda for sustainable Development (SDGOS), Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and implementation of Integrated and people-centred Health Services (IPCHS). The Ministry of Health is also a member of the Gulf Health Council for the Cooperation Council States. The government sector works in partnership with private healthcare.

The public, too, has been showing their dedication through blood donation. MoH runs the Central Blood Bank — storing and distributing blood and related products. The blood bank also conducts regular nationwide campaigns for blood donation.

The Department of Blood Banks Services

successfully raised the voluntary blood donation rate to 96 per cent at the level of Central Blood Bank in addition to increasing the number of collected blood units to 14 per cent in 2021 compared to 2020.

More than 300 blood donation campaigns are conducted every year.

Even though the number of donors has been increasing over the years, the demand for blood units and their components have also been increasing steadily from 10 per cent to 15 per cent annually.

According to the officials at Blood Bank, “Before 2020, the daily requirement for blood units was not more than 100 units per day in the Central Blood Bank, but currently, the need for blood has reached 140 units per day.”

They added that cases which require transfusion of blood or one of its components are injured in road accidents or disasters, bleeding during surgeries, malignant blood diseases, bone marrow failure, some cases of genetic blood diseases, some cancerous tumours and some cases of childbirth.

On the other hand, several cases are prevented from blood donation and are divided into two types; temporary and permanent. The temporary cases include the person who had undergone for transfusion of blood or one of its components for one year, a person who donated blood less than three-month ago, a person whose tooth was removed 72 hours before the donation, a person who has mouth, nose, or under skin bleeding (if it is not a medical condition), a person who had a minor operation in less than six months before the donation, the pregnant woman who had delivered one-year ago.

Individuals who are prevented from blood donation include persons infected with communicable diseases such as AIDS or all types of viral hepatitis or syphilis, the person suffering from chronic diseases like cancer, heart diseases, epilepsy, diabetes, and other diseases that need continuous treatment, persons with blood diseases like anemia and thalassemia, and persons infected with allergic diseases such as asthma or have drug allergies.

The number of blood banks and centres of the MoH is 13 across the Sultanate of Oman. In addition to the Central Blood Bank in Bausher, there are blood banks in hospitals like Rustaq, Sohar, Al Buraimi, Ibri, Nizwa, Ibra, Jaalan Bani Bu Ali, Sur, Salalah, Khasab, Dibba and Masirah.

Last year saw 95.5 per cent voluntary blood donation. The total number of blood donors in MoH institutions is 67,884. However, there are still people who are hesitant to donate, and the total number of people who are reluctant to donate blood in MoH institutions is 81,937.

In 2021, 81 per cent of the blood donors were Omanis. The collected blood units in the Central Blood Bank in 2021 is 32,754 compared to 28,613 blood units in 2020.

CURRENTLY, THE SULTANATE OF OMAN IS PREPARING TO HOST THE 3RD GLOBAL HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) IN MUSCAT ON NOVEMBER 24-25

# IDEAL DESTINATION FOR INVESTMENT

KABEER YOUSUF  
@kabeeryousef



TIES WITH THE WORLD

The vision of **HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK** is based on Oman's maintaining positive cooperation with all in various spheres and in a manner that promotes mutual interests. The results of the vision were manifest in **HIS MAJESTY'S VISITS** to a number of countries, including Bahrain, Qatar, the UK and Germany



**SHAIKH TAMIM BIN HAMAD AL THANI**  
Emir of the State of Qatar



November 22, 2021



**PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN AL SAUD**  
Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



December 6, 2021



**QUEEN ELIZABETH II**  
Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain



December 15, 2021



**PHILLIPPE LEOPOLD LOUIS MARIE**  
King of the Belgians



February 3, 2022



**SERGEY LAVROV**  
Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation



May 11, 2022



**SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN**  
President of the United Republic of Tanzania



June 13, 2022



October 25, 2022



**KING HAMAD BIN ISSA AL KHALIFA**  
King of the Kingdom of Bahrain



October 11, 2022



**DR HUSSEIN ALI MWINYI**  
President of Zanzibar



October 4, 2022



**KING ABDULLAH II IBN AL HUSSEIN**  
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



September 27, 2022



**SHAIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN**  
President of the United Arab Emirates



July 15, 2022



**DR FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER**  
President of the Federal Republic of Germany



June 27, 2022



**ABDUL FATTAH EL SISI**  
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

COUNCIL  
OF OMAN  
CONTRIBUTES TO  
COMPREHENSIVE  
DEVELOPMENTTHE  
SHURA  
MARCHCELEBRATING THE SPIRIT  
OF A TRANSFORMING NATION

Congratulations and warm wishes to  
**His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**  
and the people of Oman on this momentous occasion

Over the years, Oman has been continually charting its course towards progress and peaceful coexistence. Commemorating the 52nd National Day, Lulu Group pays tribute to the understanding that drives this quest.

We pay our tribute to this vibrant and progressive nation ably led by **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** with his modern day vision and inspiring leadership. On this historic day, we reaffirm our pledge to contribute positively to the growth of this nation and its people.



The Council of Oman with its two chambers: the State Council and Majlis Ash'shura, moves ahead in realising the national priorities contained in the Oman Vision 2040 within the parameters of its legislative powers. The Council of Oman provides studies and proposals in line with the development plans and programmes under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

Within the framework of the joint coordination between the Council of Ministers and the Council of Oman, the previous session of the Council of Oman witnessed a lot of joint meetings with the government that reviewed the role undertaken by the State Council in cooperation with the Council of Ministers in implementing the state's general policies and providing the best of services to citizens.

A report issued by the State Council said the council submitted to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik draft amendments of the National Records and Archives Law, the Securities Law and the Notary Public Law and the draft state's general budget for the fiscal year 2022.

During the third annual session, the State Council's standing committees held 50 meetings while the sub-committees held 66 meetings. The Council of Oman gave the nod to study 23 proposals presented by the standing committees including a study on the State Council's internal regulations, a study on the small and medium enterprises and a study on the legislative frameworks of real estate funding, financial leasing and consumer financing.

The Shura march has, over 52 years of the Renaissance, displayed active partnership in decision-making and integrated roles between Majlis Ash'shura and the government in pushing forward the development wheel through exercising its legislative powers and creating a conducive environment for implementing the goals of Oman Vision 2040 and the Tenth Five-Year Development Plan.

In a report, Majlis Ash'shura said the ninth term (2019-2023) witnessed the ratification of 13 draft laws referred by the government including the draft Law on Combating Hidden Trade, the draft amendments of the Income Law, the draft amendments of the Insurance Companies Law and the Personal Data Protection Law.

The members of Majlis Ash'shura raised more than 429 parliamentary questions related to the health, services, educational and social sectors in addition to 299 briefing requests. In addition, the council discussed 60 expressed desires that were directly related to the citizens' interests. — ONA