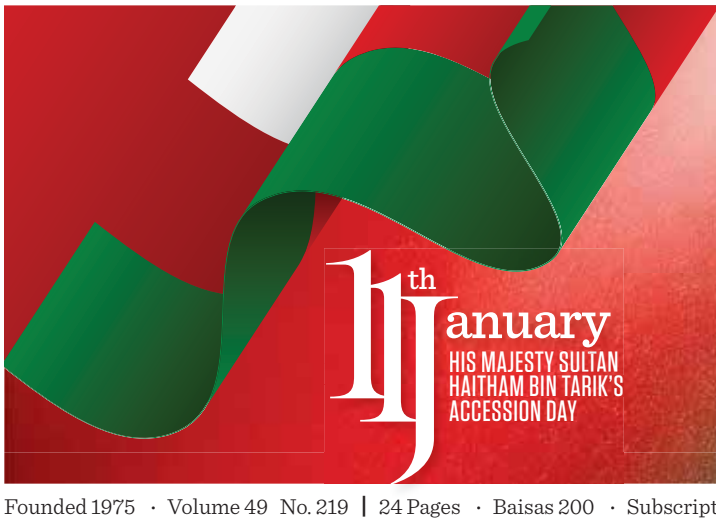




11th

January

HIS MAJESTY SULTAN
HAITHAM BIN TARIK'S
ACCESSION DAY



Times

OF OMAN



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HM PRESIDES OVER STUDENT FESTIVAL



HM was welcomed by 1,800 citizens, folklore troupes who lined up both sides of the road

MUSCAT: Under the Royal patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, a student festival themed “Oman’s Renewed Renaissance” was held at Al Fateh Square in Muscat Governorate today, in the presence of Her Highness the Honourable Lady As-sayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman.

Prior to the arrival of the motorcade of His Majesty the Sultan, as

many as 1,800 citizens and folklore troupes from various governorates lined up both sides of the road, welcoming His Majesty. The Royal Music Band, a group of camel riders and knights also took part as they chanted words of loyalty and gratitude to His Majesty the Sultan. They also expressed pride and joy on this national occasion.

Upon His Majesty’s arrival at Al Fateh Square, he was greeted by Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shibani,

Minister of Education, and Sheikh Saba’a bin Hamdan Al Sa’adi, Secretary General of the National Celebrations.

When His Majesty ascended the Royal dais, the music band played the Royal anthem.

After that, the festival started with a picturesque “Welcoming Tableau” that exhibited Omani people’s overwhelming feelings of joy and happiness over this great occasion.

The second tableau, “Knowledge,” symbolised education, being a fundamental pillar of sustainable development seen in the context of Oman Vision 2040. It also underlined the related tracks of innovation, research and all that pertains to the refinement of the nation’s capabilities.

The third tableau, “A Promise Fulfilled”, incarnated the accomplishments made during the five years of Oman’s Renewed Renaissance, the attention and follow-up accorded to different sectors and the extent to which these influenced the overall march of nation building.

In the fourth tableau, “Oman, the Land of Peace”, the participants expressed pride over the originality of Oman’s civilisation, based on the pillars of Shura (consultation) and peace, being the approach and principle that establish strong bonds among the people of Oman.

In the fifth tableau, “Oman Across Ages”, a group of citizens from different governorates of the Sultanate of Oman joined student

formations, who all showcased Omani heritage and folklore. Through this tableau, the people of Oman expressed their sincere love for the homeland and their loyalty to His Majesty the Sultan. It demonstrated Omani people’s keenness to revive their folk arts and heritage, generation after generation.

The finale portrayed sentiments of allegiance and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and the pledge to move forward under his wise leadership towards wide horizons of progress and prosperity in the realm of Oman’s Renewed Renaissance and sustainable growth.

Alongside His Majesty, the festival was attended by members of the Royal Family, Al Busaid dignitaries, Chairmen of the State Council and Shura Council, ministers, advisers, commanders of the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF) and the Royal Oman Police (ROP), heads of the Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Sultanate of Oman, members of the State Council and Shura Council, under-secretaries, judges, senior officers, editors-in-chief of local and foreign newspapers, heads of associations and clubs, citizens and families of the participating students.

As many as 8,000 participants from the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman took part in the festival, which celebrates the 5th anniversary of His Majesty the Sultan’s Accession Day, flagging off Oman’s Renewed Renaissance. — **ONA**

STATE VISIT



Bahrain King to visit Oman on Tuesday

MUSCAT: King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain will pay a state visit to the Sultanate of Oman with effect from this Tuesday.

The Diwan of Royal Court issued a statement to this effect: “King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain will pay a state visit to the Sultanate of Oman, with effect from Tuesday, 14 January 2025. The visit comes in response to

an invitation from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. The two leaders will explore some aspects of joint interest and various topics that contribute to promoting the joint Gulf action. They will also exchange views on the regional and international developments. May the Almighty Allah grant success to the two leaderships for the good of their peoples, and the Arab and Islamic nations!” — **ONA**

ROYAL SPEECH

HM addresses nation on his Accession Day

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik delivered a Royal speech on the occasion of the 11th of January, the day he assumed power in the Sultanate of Oman.

The speech reads as follows:
In the name of Allah, the Almighty, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Praise Be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds. Prayers and peace be upon His Messenger, Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), the Most Honourable of All Creations, upon his family and his companions and those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment

Dear citizens,
May the peace and blessings of Allah, the Almighty, be upon you.

It gives us pleasure to celebrate with you, on this glorious day, the numerous accomplishments that have been made in our beloved country during the past five years of our Renewed Renaissance, thanks to the support of Allah, the Almighty, and to the efforts made



by you all.

Allah Almighty has bestowed countless blessings upon this country, as stated in the Holy Quran, “And if you count the favours of Allah, you could not enumerate them. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful”, and, to demonstrate gratitude for these bounties, we should preserve and protect them. Security and safety are the greatest of these bounties and blessings.

No nation can function properly without security and safety, and no country can achieve stability and prosperity without them.

Throughout the ages, the people of this dear nation have proven that they are steadfast in unity, like a solid structure, and that they move forward with insight that stems from tolerant faith, rejecting all fanaticism, avoiding all distractions that might divide

the nation or weaken its resolve, holding firm on everything that unites them in true faith, taking the initiative to do good and staying steadfast in building the homeland and nation.

Loyal people of Oman
Our dear country has preserved its identity as an independent sovereign state throughout the ages. Many forms of reign succeeded one another and each played a civilisational role and boasted a historic stance. On this auspicious day, we remember the unique leaders of Oman throughout history, the leaders who hoisted high the banner of this nation, united its people, preserved its land and defended its sovereignty. We hereby assume the same course, pledging to the Almighty that nothing would divert us from our firm determination, nor would any interest supersede the interests of our nation—assisted in this resolve by the blessed grace of the Almighty and the prayers of His Messenger, Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). **>A11**



غرفة تجارة وصناعة عُمان
OMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

11TH January

The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry extends its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to His Majesty

Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

– May Allah protect and preserve him –

On the occasion of the anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne. We pray to Allah Almighty to bless His Majesty with continued good health and well-being, and to guide his efforts towards achieving further progress and prosperity for the Sultanate of Oman. We reaffirm our loyalty and dedication to His Majesty's wise leadership, steadfastly committed to advancing the path of development and growth under his visionary guidance.





HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

to

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

And the People of Oman on the Occasion of the
5th Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession

May Oman continue to prosper under His Majesty's
visionary leadership



OMAN
DATAPARK

**On the occasion of the 5th Accession
Anniversary of His Majesty**

Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

**Abraj Energy Services extends its
warm congratulations to His Majesty
and the people of Oman.**



We extend our sincere congratulations and warmest greetings to

His Majesty Sultan
Haitham bin Tarik

- May the Almighty protect and bless him –
on the auspicious occasion of his Accession Day.
His vision and guidance continue to be a source of
strength and unity for Oman, and we take this
opportunity to pledge our loyalty and honour his
steadfast commitment to the nation's progress.

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أومينفست



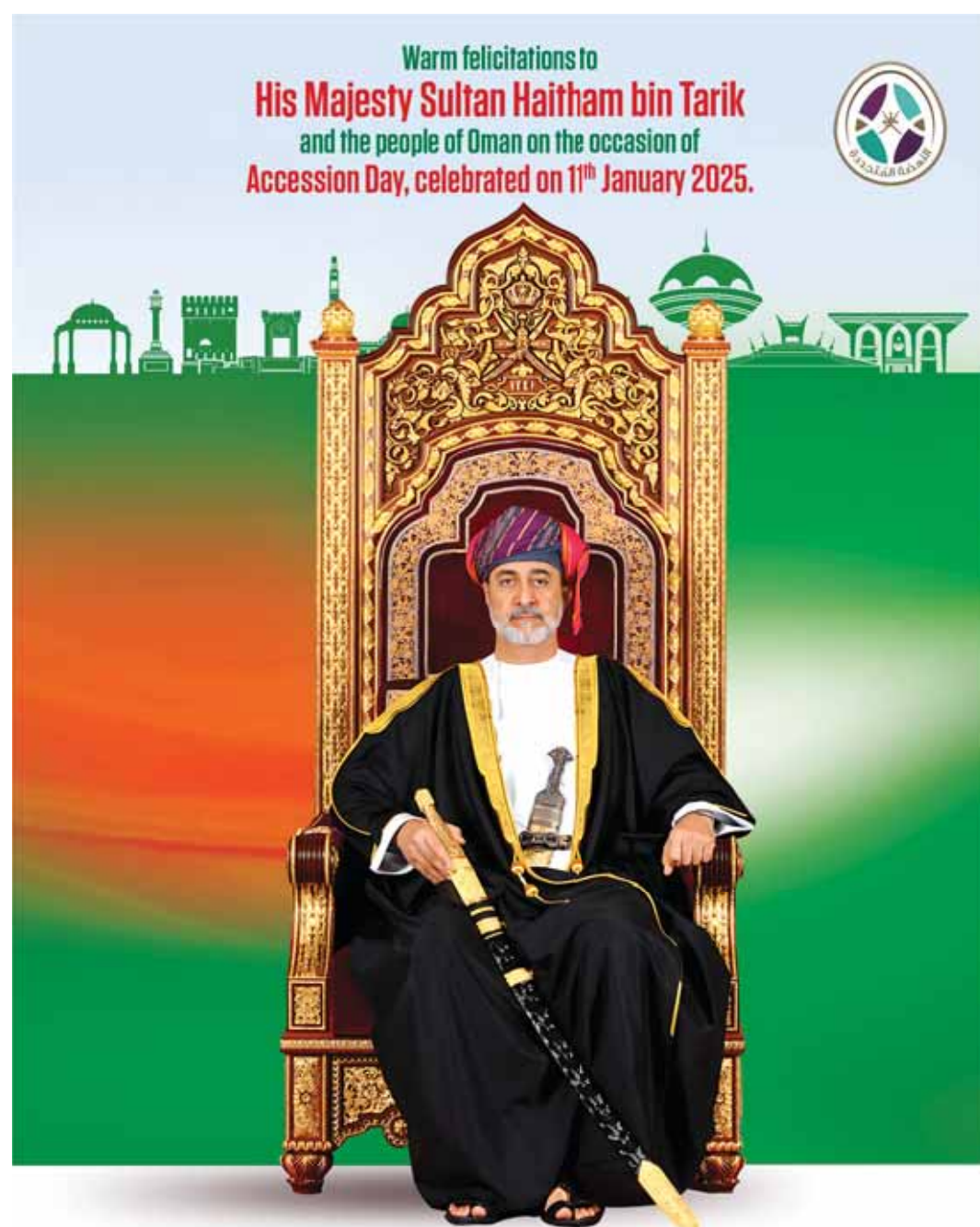
We extend our heartiest congratulations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
on the occasion of the anniversary of
His Majesty's Accession



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COMMENTARY

The Desert Winds of Time



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

With the temperature dropping down, the cold desert winds whip everything around and we can imagine how hard it was decades ago to earn a living in the open.

I was in a marketplace a few days ago when the sun was behind the clouds and grocers were battling with the gusts of winds. I was among shoppers looking for bargain from the fruit and vegetable stalls. A tall and distinguished looking old gentleman was tugging his white beard as I walked to him. His stall was a brief affair of a weather-beaten canvas serving as a roof supported by half a dozen wooden poles.

He smiled at me showing a perfect set of teeth surprisingly still firmly attached inside his

mouth despite his advancing age. He must have been in his eighties and they could not have been false because dentures don't yellow with age.

It was a chilly evening, and he was not wearing anything heavy.

Has not the old man heard of a hyperthermia? I did not mention that to with him so I picked my vegetables and he weighed them. As I was paying him, a huge gust of cold air knocked down one of the supporting poles and one side of his stall collapsed. A few dozens of apples rolled on the muddy ground and a carton of tomatoes came crashing down. For a moment, I did not know where he was until I heard a faint sound coming from the toppled canvas. I lifted it and he straightened up, smiling as ever.

What was there to be happy about? I think he read my mind. He said, "it always happens at this time of the year. I used to lose my temper when I was younger but now I find it funny."

As I helped him pick up the fruits, I asked him, "how long have you been selling fruits and vegetables?"

"About fifty years," he said without looking at me giving me an impression that it was no big deal at all.

I whistled under my breath, surprised that he could stick to a profession that many would

have abandoned years ago.

"This is the only market place in Muscat that has retained its old charm," he explained, "the rest have been replaced by shopping malls or some other developments."

To him, I wondered as I was picking up a squashed tomato, time had stood still. Not only he was doing the same thing but was trading in the same place since he was a young man. He saw each and every block of flats or offices being erected around the old market sitting at his old stool under the stall. The wind whipped it a thousand times and he would not budge. Why?

"I have the best of both worlds," he said, "I live in one life during the day and another in the night."

His father left him a large land just two hundred meters from the market which he has sold to developers. The money has made him comfortable, but he found the old pull of the market too strong. He wakes up every morning and drives his car to his stall and waited for his customers.

"My friends come over and I have a pleasant time with them. It keeps me healthy that way," he said.

No wonder he keeps all of his teeth. The desert winds, though harsh at times, have not kept him away from his favourite trade.



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Ministry of Defense invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in The following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last date for inquiries	Last date to submit the Tender	Tender Document Price
Supply of Dressings and Surgical Items for The Armed Forces Hospitals and Medical Centers for The Period of Three Years.	02/2025	03/02/2025	10/02/2025	1500 OMR

2. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs. on the working days.

3. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or Visa credit Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in Oman.



نرفع أسمى عبارات التهنيت والعرافان للمقام السامي لحضرة صاحب
الجلالة السلطان هيثم بن طارق المعظم، وللشعب الغماني بمناسبة يوم
تولي جلالتهم مقاليد الحكم قائداً لنهضة عُمان المتجددة، متمنين لجلالتهم -
حفظه الله ورعا - دوام الصحة والعافية .

We extend our highest congratulations and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and to the Omani people on the occasion of the day His Majesty assumed power as the leader of Oman's renewed renaissance, wishing His Majesty may God protect and preserve him continued health and wellness.





On the 5th Anniversary of Oman's Renewed Renaissance,
OQ Group extends its sincere congratulations and best wishes to

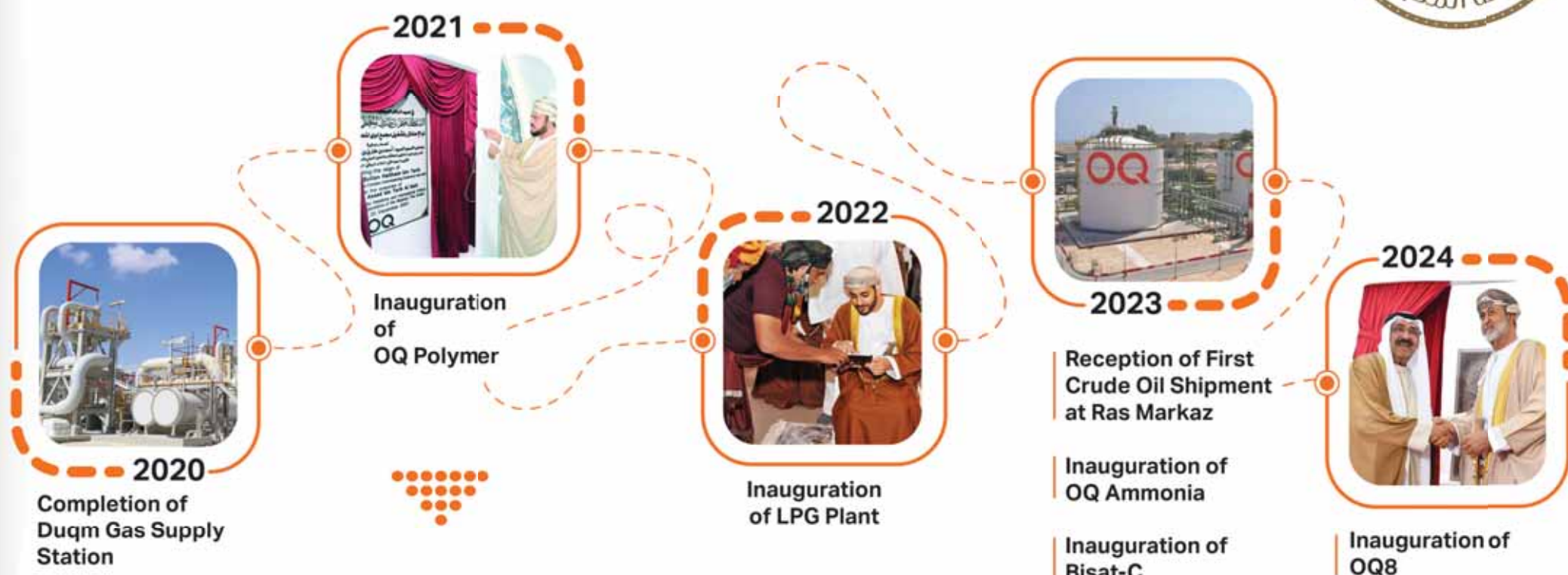
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK

– may Allah protect him –

We reaffirm our loyalty and commitment to advancing Oman's journey of progress and development under Your Majesty's wise leadership. Inspired by Your Majesty's vision, we remain steadfast in our dedication to building a brighter future for our nation. We pray to the Almighty to bless Your Majesty with continued success, enduring health and a long life. May this occasion be celebrated for years to come, as Oman and its people prosper under Your Majesty's esteemed leadership.

5 YEARS

OF EXCELLENCE, SHAPING OMAN'S
RENEWED RENAISSANCE



DRIVING GROWTH, EMPOWERING THE NATION

Over
25 Global Partnerships
with partners from over **20** Countries



246 kboe/d
(Thousand Barrels of Oil Equivalent Per Day)
Daily Production
(2023)



91 mmbbl
(Million Barrels)
Annual Processed Crude (2023)



OMR 1.5 Bn
Net Profit
(2020-2023)



BB+
(POSITIVE OUTLOOK) 2024
bbb- Standalone Credit Profile (2024)

4

SUCCESSFUL
INITIAL PUBLIC
OFFERINGS
(IPOs)

ABRAJ | **OQGN**
OQEP | **OQBi**

BOOSTING LOCAL CONTENT, BUILDING FUTURES

(2020 - Q3 2024)



OMR 2.2+ Bn
Total Procurement Spend



OMR 748+ Mn
ICV Retained Value



OMR 1.6+ Bn
Total Local Spend



OMR 345+ Mn
SME Spend



33%
Average ICV Index



73%
Average Local Spend

85%
Omanisation

720
Graduates Hired
شباب إوكيم

2831
Interns Trained

LEADING THE WAY IN OMAN'S ENERGY TRANSITION

(2024)

Renewable Energy Projects



7+ GW
Projects in the pipeline



300 MW
Projects under construction

Low Carbon Molecules Projects



HYPOR Duqm
Capacity: 1.3GW



SalalaH2
Capacity: 3.8 GW



Green Energy Oman
Capacity 3.8 GW



Oman's industrial sector adds over OMR4bn to GDP at current prices

The manufacturing industries took the largest share, contributing more than OMR2.19 billion, accounting for 10.5% of the GDP

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's industrial sector has achieved significant growth, with its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices reaching OMR4.09 billion by the end of June 2024, representing 19.5% of the total GDP, which stands at OMR20.9 billion.

The manufacturing industries took the largest share, contributing more than OMR2.19 billion, accounting for 10.5% of the GDP. Other industrial activities contributed OMR1.9 billion, equivalent to 9.1%.

Mazin bin Hamid Al Siyabi, Assistant Director-General of Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, stated that the contribution of manufacturing industries increased by 10.5% in the first half of 2024, compared to 9.4% in 2023 and 8% in 2020. This improvement reflects the progress of the industrial sector and the success of government policies in promoting economic growth.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, Al Siyabi highlighted Oman's efforts to build a strong industrial future aligned with its aspirations. Over the past



five years, Oman has achieved numerous accomplishments in the industrial sector, most notably the Royal endorsement of the Industrial Strategy 2040 in May 2024. The ministry organised a series of discussion sessions involving all stakeholders to hand over the initiatives related to the strategy.

He added that indicators show the industrial sector played an increasingly important role in Oman's economy.

The total contribution of industrial activities to the GDP at current prices was about OMR5.88 billion in 2020, rising to OMR6.88 billion in 2021 and OMR7.7 billion in 2023, with a contribution rate of 19.1%. This rate reached 19.5% in the first half of 2024.

Al Siyabi emphasised that this continuous growth reflects the effectiveness of government development plans aimed at enhancing production capacities and stimulating investments.

He noted the significant increase in industrial licence applications, which rose by 62% from 12,100 applications in 2020 to more than 135,000 applications by the end of November 2024.

This increase indicates investors' interest in the industrial sector and the success of policies encouraging the establishment of new projects.

Additionally, customs exemption requests increased by 42%, indicating improved economic conditions and increased commercial activities.

There were 77,300 applications for certificates of origin, reflecting the growth in foreign trade and the desire of Omani companies to expand into international markets. Furthermore, 517 customs exemption requests were submitted, achieving a 42% growth rate, and 590 customs exemption decisions were issued, reflecting improved regulatory procedures.

Al Siyabi, Assistant Director-General of Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, stated that the industrial sector has received significant governmental support through the implementation of innovative strategies and initiatives.

These efforts aim to develop manufacturing industries and enhance local value addition. The ministry is working on reducing the time required for customs exemptions, which helps speed up procedures and alleviate burdens on investors. Additionally, the ministry has simplified industrial licensing procedures and activated electronic issuance of certificates of origin.

In line with improving the regulatory environment, the unified



industrial law and its regulations have been adopted, along with the issuance of the national product identity regulation and the cooking gas regulation. The ministry is also working on preventing the export of waste and raw materials, thereby enhancing resource efficiency and reducing environmental impact.

Al Siyabi emphasised the ministry's commitment to supporting recycling-based industries to achieve environmental sustainability and strengthen the circular economy. The ministry has signed several agreements between industrial sector establishments to enhance industrial networking and facilitate cooperation between companies.

Efforts are ongoing to provide the necessary raw materials through strengthened cooperation with international markets and support for initiatives contributing to the development of local manufacturing industries.

Al Siyabi pointed out that 2024 marked a qualitative leap for Oman's industrial sector, focusing on launching strategic initiatives to enhance local content, improve national workforce efficiency, and support manufacturing industries as a fundamental pillar of economic growth.

The ministry has successfully

created a more developed industrial environment that attracts investments, with a focus on adopting modern technology and automation to enhance productivity and innovation.

Achieving sustainable industrial development requires concerted efforts from all partners in both the public and private sectors. The ministry continues to support the sector to ensure economic objectives are met and to provide opportunities for national cadres in various industries.

The ministry is making significant efforts to enhance the competitiveness of Omani products and protect them from competition with imported products.

These efforts include the launch of the "Tasne" local content plan, which aims to strengthen the role of national products in the market by setting a clear roadmap to increase the percentage of local content. This reduces reliance on imports, increases added value to the national economy, and strengthens the competitiveness of local industries, positively impacting the country's trade balance.

National industries are a major driver for achieving self-sufficiency and economic diversification. The ministry has worked on enhancing local value addition across various industrial sectors, which has strengthened the local supply chain and reduced reliance on imports.

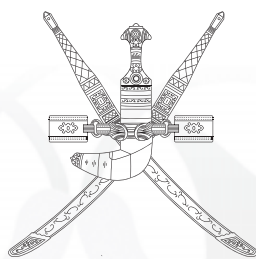
Initiatives to protect national products from unfair competition include enhancing quality control of imported products to ensure they meet standards. The ministry established the Local Content and Local Value Office to improve local content percentages in projects and launched the "Ta'meer" program, which gives preference to national products in public procurement. This creates new jobs and increases investments in the sector.

The ministry formed the National Industries Support Committee, responsible for developing strategies and policies to implement "local added value" in the industrial sector. The committee aims to increase purchases from national industries, provide new investment opportunities to boost exports, and replace imports, with programs and mechanisms to raise the quality of Omani products and increase sales in local and international markets.

Regarding the development of national competencies through specialised training programs, Ali Siyab mentioned the launch of the "Itqan" program in 2024, focusing on enhancing the skills and competencies of national cadres through training and development, improving production quality and productivity.

The number of Omanis working in the manufacturing sector increased by 79.5% between 2020 and 2023, reaching approximately 58,100 Omanis by the end of 2023, compared to 32,400 in 2020. Overall, the number of workers in the sector, including Omanis and expatriates, exceeded 249,700 by the end of 2023.

The ministry seeks to refine the skills of national cadres, support manufacturing industries, and encourage industrial innovation through its initiatives and programs, aligning with Oman Vision 2040 goals. Ten factories have been trained on the "CIRI" industrial excellence index, with four ministry employees certified as trainers. The ministry also launched specialized workshops to improve the skills of workers in national factories, focusing on innovation and the use of modern technology. Additionally, training programs were implemented to support recycling-based industries, contributing to environmental and industrial sustainability.



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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-retundable)	
					small and Medium companies	local companies
16/2025	Providing and maintaining photocopiers in the central management system for both the General Directorate of Social Development at Muscat Governorate, the General Directorate of Family Development, the General Directorate of Persons with Disabilities, and the General Directorate of Social Development at Al Dakhiliyah Governorate	Companies specialized in the field of supplying communications and information technology devices and their accessories and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent or first degree.	Thursday 30-01-2025 02:00 PM	Thursday 20-02-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
17/2025	Providing and maintaining photocopiers in the central management system for both the General Directorate of Social Development at Al Dhahirah Governorate, the Department of Social Development at Musandam, and the Department of Social Development at Al Buraimi.	Companies specialized in the field of supplying communications and information technology devices and their accessories and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent or first degree.	Thursday 30-01-2025 02:00 PM	Thursday 20-02-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
18/2025	Providing and maintaining photocopiers in the central management system for both the General Directorate of Social Development at South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, the General Directorate of Social Development at North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, the Department of Social Development at Mahout, and the Department of Social Development at Al Wusta	Companies specialized in the field of supplying communications and information technology devices and their accessories and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent or first degree.	Thursday 30-01-2025 02:00 PM	Thursday 20-02-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
19/2025	Providing and maintaining photocopiers in the central management system for both the General Directorate of Social Development at South Al Batinah Governorate and the General Directorate of Social Development at North Al Batinah Governorate	Companies specialized in the field of supplying communications and information technology devices and their accessories and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent or first degree.	Thursday 30-01-2025 02:00 PM	Thursday 20-02-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
20/2025	Providing and maintaining photocopiers in the central administration system of the General Directorate of Social Development at Dhofar Governorate	Companies specialized in the field of supplying communications and information technology devices and their accessories and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent or first degree.	Thursday 30-01-2025 02:00 PM	Thursday 20-02-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
21/2025	General maintenance work for the building of the Department of Social Development at Thumrait State	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second or third degree.	Sunday 2-02-2025 02:00 PM	Sunday 2-03-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
22/2025	Establishing a warehouse for the Social Development Department building at Bahla	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the fourth degree	Sunday 2-02-2025 02:00 PM	Sunday 2-03-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

- ❖ 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 Monday 13/1/2025
- ❖ For Inquiry, please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) Tel. (24402200)

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



ROYAL SPEECH

20 November to be a National Day for Oman

<FROM A1 It also gives us pleasure that—in honor of our ancestors the Sultans, and, in remembrance of a glorious day in the brilliant history of Oman—to announce on this occasion that the 20th of November will be a national day for the Sultanate of Oman every year. It is the day on which the Al Busaidi family was honoured to serve this dear country since the year 1744, at the hands of the founding Imam, Sayyid Ahmed bin Said Al Busaidi, who unified the Omani nation and led its struggle and great sacrifices for the sake of realizing complete sovereignty over the land of Oman and safeguarding the freedom and dignity for its honourable people.

Following this Imam, Sayyid Ahmed bin Said Al Busaidi, a number of great Sultans carried the banner of the nation, with full courage and competence, and completed its victorious march with determination and persistence.

Our celebration of this day constitutes an immortalization of the noble deeds of those Sultans. It demonstrates our firm commitment to the principles and values that formed the fabric of our Omani nation. We pledge to preserve its unity and cohesion, remain vigi-

lant about safeguarding the interests and reject any infringement on its fundamental principles or sanctities.

Dear Citizens,

The past years saw the launch of Oman Vision 2040, the vision of all Omanis, and set their clear path towards the future. Thanks to the grace of Allah the Almighty, continuous progress was made towards the goals of this phase of the Renewed Renaissance, including improvement in many national and international indicators. This would not have been achieved without the solidarity and support extended by all the people of this country to the government's efforts and endeavors.

God willing, we will maintain this progress in the coming years in a manner that upgrades the quality and efficiency of services that the citizens aspire for, thus offering them an opportunity to contribute to the development of the public service system that we wish to make a vital domain for government excellence and a pillar of competitiveness.

We have been keen to ensure that this improvement goes hand in hand with the expansion of infrastructure services, health and

educational facilities, as well as the establishment of integrated cities and major investment projects whenever financial resources allow us to do so. We have also laid down the foundations of a local administration system that accelerates the development of the country's governorates, build a promising economic base in them and build comprehensive partnership with the community.

While we commend development projects, economic and social progress made in these governorates, we affirm our determination to continue granting the governorates more powers and support, across various sectors, so that they could become economic centres that would drive economic growth in the country.

We have also established a comprehensive social protection scheme that was undertaken by our government, and we have ordained that its mechanisms and programmes be reviewed from time to time so that all could enjoy a decent life and desired justice.

During the past period, we also kept track of the government's efforts aimed at utilizing the energies of our young people, enabling them to access various spheres of work and excel therein. We have instructed state institutions to revise the system of employment and link it to the potential of economic and social sectors. We have

also instructed the government to work diligently to align the country's economic development tracks and its education and training systems with the aspirations of young people, while at the same time preparing to access appropriate employment that would serve their present and future.

Since furnishing a proper investment and commercial environment constitutes a fundamental pillar in the country's development, we have instructed the government to provide more advantages, extend competitive incentives and establish a supportive environment for investments in order to facilitate business doing, ensure the diversification of our national economy, achieve sustainable growth and provide more job opportunities across various economic and service sectors, so that the country could become an attractive investment destination and be more integrated into the global economic system.

To achieve this integration, our government has sought to build a large network of ports, free zones, special economic zones and integrated industrial zones. It also extended support for innovation and entrepreneurship programmes and investment funds, both national and joint funds shared with Arab and friendly countries.

Dear Citizens

Our awareness of local and glob-

al challenges, our knowledge of the scope of conflicts and interests in the world and our understanding of the nature and impacts of such challenges and conflicts—all serve to enhance our ability to deal with them, considering them as favorable opportunities to adopt effective policies for establishing peace, developing the economy and shaping strategic partnerships based on economic cooperation and integration, based on our steadfast principles and supreme national interests.

From this perspective, we call upon all countries of the world to join ranks in building a world governed by the values of humanity and justice, a world that respects the sanctities of every nation, its identity, religion, beliefs and moral values, a world in which human dignity is preserved and where human rights are guaranteed, a world whose youth grow up in a form of balance and harmony between its spiritual structure and its material requirements. It is only in this way that we could provide complete care and continuous attention to our children and youth.

We always strive to enhance government efforts and programmes to preserve our moral and ethical heritage and to adopt largescale government and community initiatives that would enable these generations to draw inspiration from our national heritage, arm

themselves with its principles and adhere to our moral system.

We also exhort young people to cooperate and unite and develop a solid foundation for success, progress and leadership and to benefit from modern technologies in building their capabilities and utilizing their skills in exchanging knowledge.

Loyal people of Oman

Challenges had never been an obstacle in the way of our ancestors as they strove to establish a state recognized by the world as sovereign and pioneering. Our ancestors' ability to overcome challenges inspires us to proceed with nation-building, gaining insights from our established civilizational fundamentals in order to raise this great country to the highest position that it deserves.

At the end of our speech, we would like to extend thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributes to building this great nation in all sectors, in all fields and in all areas. We would also like to express our pride and thanks to those who operate in the honourable arenas of glory in all units and formations of military and security sectors. May Allah the Almighty keep Oman safe and secure, protect its loyal people, endow them with further bounties and prosperity, and assist us with success and guidance. -OMA

DIWAN OF ROYAL COURT

HM allocates OMR178mn to provide people with dignified life

MUSCAT: The Diwan of Royal Court issued a statement: "Based on the Royal keenness of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to provide the means of a dignified life for the people of Oman and His Majesty's awareness about their needs, and, in celebration of the 5th anniversary of His Majesty's Accession Day, which falls on 11 January, His Majesty the Sultan dedicated a Royal grant worth more than OMR178 million to support the social and economic aspects of some segments of society. The Royal grant, which benefits more than 100,000

citizens, includes the following:

1. Increasing the financial allocations of the Housing Assistance Programme for the year 2025.
2. Boosting the portfolio of the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development.
3. The government shall bear the remaining amounts of some categories of loans, as follows:
 - (A) Housing loans from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Oman Housing Bank and the Ministry of Defence for those who receive monthly salaries or pensions of OMR400 or less.
 - (B) Housing loans from the Min-

istry of Housing and Urban Planning and Oman Housing Bank for those whose services were terminated from the private sector and whose monthly salaries were OMR400 or less.

(C) Loans for stalled/closed projects that were financed by Al Raffd Fund (formerly).

(D) A number of stalled/closed project loans that were financed from the government loan portfolio at the Development Bank.

4. Extending social and insurance protection to citizens during the year 2025 by continuing to pay social security pensions (previously) during the current year.

Accordingly, the relevant government departments will study the cases eligible for the family income support benefit within the social protection system.

5. Disbursing an additional pension to those entitled to a retirement pension from among those whose pensions are less than OMR350.

6. Establishing marriage funds in all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman to help those wishing to get married, besides lending them government support in accordance with a regulation to be announced by the authorities concerned. -OMA

CORRIGENDUM

According to the press release published in our newspaper on 25 November under the subject of Gargash Group Expands into Oman, Launching Exclusive GAC Motor Dealership and AION Brand, we would like to correct that Gargash Motors & General Trading is the authorized distributor and dealership of the GAC Motor brand in Oman (not exclusive).

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Oman, Bahrain to boost ties

The Oman-Bahrain relations represent a role model in the GCC march, since the roots of these ties extend back to decades

MUSCAT: Oman and Bahrain look forward to more partnerships that reflect the advanced ties between the two countries. The Oman-Bahrain meeting on Tuesday, at Al Alam Palace, led by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain is an embodiment of the historical, strategic cooperation and constant coordination.

The Oman-Bahrain relations represent a role model in the GCC march, since the roots of these ties extend back to decades. These ties were established on solid foundations of affinity and mutual understanding, and were built on solid foundations since the prehistoric era of pearl fishing trade and the frankincense trade. This kind of trade was prosperous between the two countries and their peoples as the Omani and Bahraini grandfathers and fathers ventured into the seas while mastering this trade and connection. The civilizations of Magan and Dilmun represented the cornerstone of a firm and strategic relationship, which has grown stronger and more solid year after year. The era of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa outline the features of a bright future between the two countries.

His Majesty's visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2022, which witnessed the signing of a number of cooperation agreements, memoranda of understanding, and executive programmes, confirmed the



determination and sincere will to translate the two countries' long-standing relations into tangible and evident benefits.

Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information showed that the volume of trade exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and Bahrain stood at about RO 247.1 million in 2023. It declined at the end of September 2024 to RO 131.1 million.

Statistics also indicated that the value of Omani exports to the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2023 stood at about RO 41.6 million, to decrease at the end of September 2024 to RO 29 million.

As for the volume of Bahraini investment in the Sultanate of Oman, the number of companies with Bahraini shares increased significantly until the end of October 2024 to about 315 companies, compared to 296 companies in 2023.

The value of the Bahraini contribution amounted to RO 27.7 million (USD 72.1 million), or 80.1 percent of the total invested capital. Omani companies invest in the Kingdom of Bahrain mainly in the commercial and service sectors.

Sayyid Faisal bin Hareb Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate

of Oman to the Kingdom of Bahrain, said in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA) that King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa will be a dear guest of the Sultanate of Oman, its leadership, government and people.

The ambassador added that the historical visit of the King of Bahrain to Oman embodies the depth of the advanced and close bilateral relations, and translates the nature and strength of the relationship between the two wise leaderships and their brotherly peoples in various spheres. The bilateral relations have been witnessing progress and prosperity. He pointed out that the state visit of the King of Bahrain to Oman establishes a promising phase of sincere, fruitful joint cooperation in various fields. This visit, the ambassador affirmed, will constitute a milestone in the nature of the fraternal relationship and bilateral cooperation in accordance with the farsighted vision of the two leaderships.

He explained that this visit is a testament to the historical Oman-Bahrain relations. It represents a great significance and a political value that enhances the strength of relations between the two countries

towards broader horizons that reflect on the two countries and the aspirations of their peoples. This visit, the ambassador asserted, will seek to achieve further cooperation, integration and harmony in all spheres in light of the two countries' common visions namely Oman Vision 2040 and Bahrain Vision 2030.

He pointed out that this visit provides an opportunity to exchange views in light of the perils and threats facing the region. This visit, the ambassador said, embodies the commitment of the two countries to join hands to confront regional and international challenges, and enhance security and stability in the region.

He further said that this visit will bring about welfare and development to the two countries and their peoples. He explained that this visit will seek to advance and support bilateral cooperation in all political, economic, cultural and other fields in a manner that meet the aspirations of the two countries' peoples.

In the economic level, the ambassador added that the trade and economic relationship between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain is an old relationship that

extends back to the port of Samhar-am and Dilmun. He explained that the Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the most important trade partners of the Sultanate of Oman.

The ambassador said that the fraternal meeting between His Majesty the Sultan and the of Bahrain will explore ways to promote the bilateral relations and sustain the partnership between the two countries in various areas of bilateral cooperation in order to realize the common interests and mutual benefits.

He added that in light of the mutual sincere intentions between the two sides, this visit will contribute to boosting cooperation and joint coordination in investment and economic areas. He pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman is one of Bahrain's largest trading partners in the fields of import and export.

The ambassador pointed out that the royal visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Kingdom of Bahrain in October 2022 witnessed broad prospects for joint cooperation in various sectors through a series of agreements that were signed, amounting to 24 agreements, memoranda of understanding and executive programmes between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain. The agreements, MoUs and programmes covered fields of security, maritime transport, freedom of maritime navigation and development of port transport, cooperation between the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies and Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) in the field of studies and research, in addition to the agreement to establish Oman-Bahrain holding company in investment fields, granting the Sultanate of Oman the right to sovereignty over the information of its subscribers in the provided electronic services and cloud computing centres located in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and granting the Sultanate of Oman the status of an accredited partner of the Goods At Consolidator (GAC) for Freight Services.

The Ambassador of the Sul-

tanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Bahrain pointed out that the Oman-Bahrain Joint Committee, through its periodic meetings between Muscat and Manama, has succeeded in fostering the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in all fields. The meetings of the eight sessions of the Committee witnessed the signing of a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding.

The ambassador concluded his statement by saying that the Oman-Bahrain Friendship Association was established to build a new bridge of affinity, reflecting the level of harmony and fraternal relations binding the two countries' peoples. This association plays an active role in various youth, sports, cultural and social programmes through organizing exhibitions, forums and workshops.

For his part, Juma Ahmed Al Kaabi, Ambassador of Bahrain to Oman, said that the "State Visit" of King Hamad bin Issa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, to the Sultanate of Oman constitutes an embodiment of bilateral relations that have been established for decades, the ties that stem from the common bonds of fraternity between the two countries and the two brotherly peoples. Al Kaabi described the Bahraini-Omani relations as deep-rooted in history and that they were established by fathers and forefathers of both nations.

"They are fraternal relations that go deep into history from the sites of civilizations in Dilmun (Bahrain) and Magan (Oman), coupled with the strategic, commercial and cultural relations and based on bonds of amity and kinship. Today, bilateral relations are at their peak, thanks to the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Majesty King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa and their enlightened visions that will continue to invigorate bilateral relations and upgrade them further," he added. -ONA

Full story @ timesofoman.com/online

OPTIMISE PORT OPERATIONS

Sohar Port and Freezone launches Port Management Information System

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port and Freezone launched Port Management Information System, 'Marasi', marking a critical advancement in the port's digital transformation under the patronage of Eng Khamis bin Mohammed Al-Shamakhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology for Transport.

This fully web-based system, already operational in over 50 ports globally, aims to optimise maritime operations, foster stakeholder collaboration, and streamline data exchange.

As a multifunctional port driving innovation and efficiency in Oman's logistics, marine services and trade sectors, Sohar Port and Freezone continues to embrace advanced technologies to enhance its operations. Marasi features an intuitive, user-friendly interface that simplifies interactions between the port and its stakeholders, including marine and port service providers, terminals, and shipping agents. It also introduces a mobile application for marine



pilots, enabling secure access to and recording of vessel data electronically, which reduces manual processes and increases data accuracy. Shipping agents benefit from real-time communication, automated operational notifications, electronic submission of Environmental Ship Index (ESI) data, and direct access to invoices, improving overall efficiency.

Emile Hoogsteden, CEO of Sohar Port, commented: "The launch of Marasi represents a key milestone in advancing Sohar Port and Freezone's digital transformation. This system enhances operational efficiency, resource management,

and collaboration across our maritime community."

Designed to optimise port operations and marine services, Marasi supports informed decision-making through reliable, real-time data. Key features include integration with internal and external systems via APIs, digital signatures for marine certifications, streamlined incident reporting, and a feedback mechanism to drive continuous improvement. Additionally, the system promotes transparency by offering public access to vessel schedules and operational updates through a bulletin board without login requirements.

MADAYN

Key partnership pact inked to boost local aluminium industry

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with Madayn's ongoing efforts to enhance local content and support the industrial sector in the Sultanate, a key partnership was inked between National Aluminium Products Company (NAPCO) and Oman Aluminium Cast Company at the Knowledge Oasis Muscat, in the presence of Eng. Dawood bin Salim Al Hadabi, CEO of Madayn.

Under this agreement, Oman Aluminium Cast will supply NAPCO with a newly developed raw material, which has successfully passed all necessary qualification tests. Oman Aluminium Cast Company relies on Sohar Aluminium for the supply of raw metal, and it then manufactures billets, which serve as the primary raw material for NAPCO. These billets are used to produce aluminium profiles that meet the needs of both local and global markets.

This collaboration underscores the significance of cooperation between Omani companies to contribute to boosting the national economy, developing local in-



dustries, and enhancing the quality of Omani products to meet global standards. The agreement also plays a key role in generating local employment opportunities and reinforces Oman's position as a regional leader in the aluminium industry.

Eng. Abdullah Al Mayasi, Director General of Sohar Industrial City, said the agreement reflects both companies' commitment to integration and supports Oman Vision 2040 by emphasising on the significant role played by local products and content in enhancing the national economy.

The signing of this agreement is part of broader efforts driven

by the integrated Aluminium Economic Cluster team in Sohar Industrial City. The team is overseen by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn", National Programme for Economic Diversification "Tanwee", National Programme for Private Sector and Foreign Trade Development "Nazdaher", and the Industrial Innovation Academy. The cluster aims to strengthen the Sultanate's position as a global hub for aluminium production by attracting new investments and developing advanced manufacturing industries.



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STATISTICS

Oman’s general import index rises 1.1%

MUSCAT: The general index of import prices in the Sultanate of Oman rose by 1.1 percent during the third quarter of 2024 compared to the same quarter of 2023. Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that key contributors to this increase was led by miscellaneous manufactured goods by 11 percent, beverages and tobacco by 6.7 percent, food and live animals by 5.7 percent, machinery and transportation equipment by 5.3 percent, chemicals and related materials by 4.3 percent, raw materials by 4.3 percent, manufactured goods classified primarily by material by 1.6 percent and vegetable and animal oils, fats and waxes by 0.9 percent.

In contrast, however, mineral fuels and related materials decreased by 22.2 percent. Despite the annual uptick, the third quarter of 2024 saw a 4.8% drop as the prices for beverages and tobacco witnessed a big drop at 22.4%, followed by mineral fuels and related materials at 11.6%, chemicals and related materials at 10.8%, and miscellaneous manufactured goods at 10.2%.

Manufactured goods classified primarily by material and machinery and transportation equipment also saw decreases of 7.2% and 3.9%, respectively. In contrast, raw materials experienced a notable 32% surge quarter-on-quarter, with vegetable and animal oils, fats, and waxes climbing by 9.2%, and food and live animals rising by 3.5%. - **ONA**



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Al Manar Racing secures historic win at Michelin 24H Dubai 2025

The quintet of Al Faisal Al Zubair of Oman, Dan Harper, Max Hesse, Ben Tuck and Darren Leung triumphed on their BMW M4 GT3 Evo debut

MUSCAT: Al Manar Racing by Team WRT, powered by the formidable driver lineup of Al Faisal Al Zubair, Dan Harper, Max Hesse, Ben Tuck, and Darren Leung, clinched a dramatic victory at the Michelin 24H Dubai 2025 on Sunday. Starting fourth on the grid, the team delivered flawless performances, completing 589 laps of the grueling Dubai Autodrome circuit. They crossed the finish line a lap ahead of their closest competitors, Pure Rxcing, whose roster included Thomas Preining, Harry King, Alexey Nesov, and Aliaksandr Mal'ychin. Notably, Al-Manar Racing led the race for an impressive 255 laps. The Dinamic GT Porsche 911 secured third place, while SMP Racing's Mercedes-AMG came in fourth. For Oman's Al Zubair, this win was a career milestone and a remarkable debut for Al Manar Racing's new partnership with Team WRT and the BMW M4 GT3 Evo. A delighted Al Zubair said: "What an amazing feeling! I've

been trying to win this race for a couple of years and started thinking it wasn't meant to be. First race with the BMW M4 GT3 Evo, first race with Team WRT - this couldn't have started better. Winning under the Al Manar Racing banner is truly special, and I hope this marks the beginning of a successful journey."* Vincent Vosse, CEO of WRT, praised the team's achievement. "What a way to kick off the 2025 season and our partnership with Al-Manar Racing. Claiming win in the BMW M4 GT3 Evo's debut is extraordinary. This win is a testament to perfect strategy, zero mistakes, and impeccable teamwork. It's even more rewarding as the drivers secured their first overall Dubai 24H victory while adapting to a new car. This makes me very optimistic about the year ahead."

A dynamic race from start to finish

Hesse initiated the race with a strong start, elevating the BMW M4 into third place early on. Within 40 minutes, he advanced into second and eventually seized the lead after 30 laps. As the race progressed, strategic pit stops and stellar individual stints defined the team's success. While Leung faced challenges during his stint, temporarily dropping to third in GT3, Al Zubair's determined drive lifted the car back to the top. Harper and Hesse maintained the momentum, with Hesse taking the wheel for the final stint to secure a decisive victory. The team faced fierce competition throughout, especially from Pure Rxcing and Dinamic GT. However, their strategic mastery during the night and morning stints proved pivotal, culminating



in a triumphant performance. On Friday, Leung, Harper, and Hesse combined efforts to secure fourth place in qualifying amid a 62-car grid. The session faced delays due to a red flag caused by a collision involving the Tresor Attempto Racing Audi R8 and the Hofer Racing Mercedes-AMG. The damaged Audi was ultimately unable to start the race. Al Manar Racing's win marks not only a great start to the 2025 season but also sets a high benchmark for their partnership with Team WRT and the BMW M4 GT3 Evo.



TO BE HELD IN WILAYAT OF SOHAR



Abdullah gears up for MERC first round

MUSCAT: Omani rally driver Abdullah Al Zubair announced his return to competitive rallying, confirming his participation in the 2025 Middle East Rally Championship (MERC). The first round of the MERC, Oman International Rally, is organised by the Oman Automobile Association (OAA), and will be held in the Wilayat of Sohar on January 23-24. Driving a Subaru Impreza N14, the same vehicle he piloted during the 2023 Oman International Rally, Al Zubair is eager to hit the stages once more. Reflecting on his comeback, he said that his main objective this season is to complete all the rounds and secure strong finishes in the N category, adding that it

feels "incredible to be back behind the wheel in a championship as competitive as MERC." Al Zubair's extensive rallying experience includes notable appearances in the Middle East Rally Championship, the Jordan National Rally Championship, the World Desert Rally Championship, and Baja events across Poland, Spain, Greece, and beyond. This year, he will be joined by Taha Al Zadjali as his navigator, a seasoned co-driver who has previously worked with Omani racers such as Khalid Soomar and his brother Khalil. The rallying veteran also highlighted the unique challenges of the Oman International Rally, describing it as "one of the toughest rallies in the Middle East."



sponsor, Ara Petroleum Company, Al Zubair noted the key role of corporate backing in rallying. He said: "I am deeply thankful to Ara Petroleum for their support in this championship. Rallying is an expensive sport, and such sponsorship eases the financial burden, enabling competitors to focus on their performance. I hope more companies step up to support Omani drivers." Sultan bin Obaid Al Ghaithi, CEO of Ara Petroleum, praised Al Zubair's dedication. "We are proud to support Abdullah Al Zubair in his journey. He is a distinguished and hardworking competitor who aspires to represent Omani motorsport honourably, and we are pleased to play a part in his championship campaign."

This year's edition, which will be held in the Wilayat of Sohar, features entirely new stages. "The new routes bring an added layer of unpredictability and competition," he said. "Success will demand effort, patience, caution, and experience, and I wish all participants the very best." Grateful for the support of his

GHALA GOLF CLUB

Al Saidi clinches top honours at Renaissance Day Golf 2025

MUSCAT: Abdulhamid Al Saidi emerged victorious in the men's division at the Renaissance Day Golf 2025 tournament, delivering an impressive performance to secure first place with 41 points on Friday. Held at the picturesque Ghala Golf Club, the event brought together 85 golfers, showcasing a mix of competitive spirit and camaraderie in celebration of Oman's Renaissance Day. Al Saaidi's win capped an exhilarating day that also saw stand-out performances from Hamoud Al Shaqsy and Mike Cuddihy, who finished second and third respectively, both scoring 41 points. In the ladies' division, Venus Mangadiao claimed the top spot with 37 points, while Yusuf Al Rumhy impressed as the junior division winner with 38 points.

A celebration of unity and sportsmanship

The event wasn't just about competition; it was a celebration of Oman's Renaissance Day on January 11, and the unity it symbolises. A special highlight of the day was the cake-cutting ceremony led by Faiz Mohammad Riaz, Vice Chairman of the Oman Golf Association (OGA), who has been instrumental in promoting the sport in the Sultanate. Surrounded by enthusiastic participants, the ceremony embodied camaraderie



and the collective spirit of the occasion. Speaking at the event, Riaz emphasised the significance of Renaissance Day as a testament to Oman's journey of progress and unity. "Renaissance Day is more than a historical milestone; it's a celebration of our achievements as a nation and a reminder of the bright future we continue to build. Events like these reflect the power of sports in fostering community, nurturing talent, and uniting people," he said. Under the leadership of H H Sayyid Azaan bin Kais Al Said, OGA chairman, and with the dynamism of Faiz Mohammad Riaz, the Oman Golf Association has been at the forefront of efforts to grow the sport across the Sultanate.



Riaz highlighted the association's commitment to making golf more accessible and inclusive. "Our mission is to provide opportunities for everyone, from bud-



ding juniors to seasoned players, to engage with golf and represent Oman on a global stage," he added. The association has renewed its focus on junior development

programmes, grassroots initiatives, and hosting high-profile tournaments to elevate Oman's golfing presence regionally and internationally.

"The energy and talent displayed at the Renaissance Day Golf underscore the potential we have to make Oman a significant golfing destination," Riaz remarked. Later, participants and guests gathered for the award ceremony, where the winners were celebrated for their exceptional performances. The day ended with a sense of accomplishment and optimism for the future of golf in the Sultanate. Riaz's closing words captured the essence of the event. He said: "Golf is not just a sport; it's a way to bring people together, celebrate achievements, and inspire the next generation. Today, we honoured both our past and our future, and I couldn't be prouder of what we're building here in Oman."

A silver Hongqi Ousado sedan is shown from a front-three-quarter view, parked on a dark surface. The background is a dark, moody landscape with a large, illuminated 'H' logo in the distance. The car has a prominent chrome grille and multi-spoke wheels. The overall tone is professional and modern.

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OMAN VISION 2040

Al Ahly Sabbour launches its first real estate project in Sultan Haitham City

MUSCAT: In alignment with Oman Vision 2040, Sultan Haitham City was selected as the ideal location for Al Ahly Sabour's first project in Oman, as it represents the country's first fully integrated smart city.

The project spans over 100 acres and is divided into three neighbourhoods, reflecting the company's vision for innovation and sustainable development. Notably, the project's launch coincides with the nation's celebration of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's accession to the throne.

Furthermore, the project is set to revolutionise the Omani real estate industry, serving as a testament to the enduring ties and constructive collaboration between Egypt and Oman.

Engineer Ahmed Sabbour, Chairman and Managing Director of Al Ahly Sabbour Developments, said that the company was established to undertake all activities related to development and real estate investment projects in the region, leveraging more than 30 years of experience in real estate development. During this period, Al Ahly Sabbour has delivered outstanding projects that have left a significant mark on the Egyptian market and contributed to building integrated communities that meet the evolving needs of all generations.

Sabbour explained that the company has set an ambitious vision and strategy as part of its expansion plans, focusing on exploring unique destinations with potential for future growth and expected to witness increased demand from clients. By developing these destinations and transforming them into fully integrated and livable communities, the company aims to create advanced and sustainable urban destinations.

Engineer Ahmed Sabbour highlighted that the company has developed over 65 projects



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across various regions in Egypt, including East and West Cairo, the North Coast, and the Red Sea. These large-scale projects serve more than 40,000 happy living families. The company also owns a vast land portfolio totalling 4,000 acres, encompassing numerous major investment options. This has solidified real estate investment in the company's projects as a safe and profitable opportunity for businessmen and investors. He also shed light on the fact that the company has successfully reshaped the economic landscape in many areas where its projects have been established, contributing to increased value in real estate investment and development.

As a result, Al Ahly Sabbour has become a vital benchmark and a trusted destination for clients of different age groups, lifestyles, and generations, attracting investments and ensuring sustainable and profitable returns.

Sabbour affirmed that Al Ahly Sabbour has become a symbol of trust and full commitment. "Every opportunity we present turns into a success story and an investment legacy passed down through generations," he said.

“One of our key points of differentiation is our consistent success and advanced strategies that

The project spans over 100 acres and is divided into three neighbourhoods, reflecting the company's vision for innovation and sustainable development

align with global market trends and meet the evolving needs of all generations across various age groups. Thanks to a team of experts and competencies in investment and real estate development in all its forms and levels, Al Ahly Sabbour offers diversified investment horizons, innovative ideas, and limitless opportunities for you to choose from."

Al Ahly Sabbour invites investors in Oman and beyond to explore the promising investment opportunities offered by this project, with an unwavering commitment to providing innovative solutions and secure investments. It is worth noting that Al Ahly Sabbour is a leading Egyptian real estate company, established in 1994 through a strategic partnership with the National Bank of Egypt.

Over the past 30 years, the company has successfully transformed the real estate development industry by creating innovative solutions for buildings and diverse real estate projects that meet the evolving needs of clients and communities, while aligning with the aspirations of future generations. The company has expanded to cover various targeted sectors in the Egyptian real estate market and has established 19 subsidiary companies, offering a comprehensive range of products and services under the management of Al Ahly Sabbour Group, in line with its strategic vision for continuous development.

INDIAN SCHOOL AL MABELA

ISAM inaugurates new academic block



MUSCAT: Indian School Al Mabela (ISAM) unveiled its newly constructed academic E-block on 11 January in an inauguration ceremony, further cementing its position as a pioneer in educational excellence in Oman. This state-of-the-art facility symbolizes the school's dedication to creating a nurturing and stimulating environment for its students.

The ceremony was attended by the presence of Dr Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman, as the Chief Guest.

In a heartfelt gesture, ISAM presented Manickam with a handcrafted drawing by a talented student and a bouquet as a token of gratitude. The gesture highlighted the school's values of respect and appreciation for leadership and guidance.

Indian School Al Maabela's new block sets a benchmark in early education by integrating advanced facilities with child-centred learning approaches.

BUSINESS AND CULTURAL EXPLORATION PROGRAMME

Zubair Corporation hosts George Washington University students

MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation successfully hosted students and faculty from George Washington University, under the Business and Cultural Exploration programme designed by the University. The programme was designed to introduce undergraduate and a few graduate students to the intricacies of conducting business in Oman by examining its economy, key industries, start-up ecosystems, and local culture.

Under this initiative, The Zubair Corporation crafted a day-long event with a unique opportunity for participants to experience Oman's rich cultural heritage and gain valuable insights into its dynamic business environment.

The day commenced with an immersive tour of the iconic Bait Al Zubair Museum, guided by Hilal Al Siyabi, Chief Corporate Services Officer of The Zubair Corporation. The tour offered participants a deep understanding of Oman's cultural legacy and its influence on the country's modern practices. Following the museum visit, the attendees were introduced to The Zubair Corporation through a comprehensive induction session, which included corporate videos and a detailed presentation by Ali Shaker, Lead

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of the Zubair Enterprise Development Centre (Zubair EDC) and Sustainability Project in the presence of several officials from the Corporation and the Museum.

A dynamic Q&A session followed, where participants engaged with the speakers to explore The Zubair Corporation's strategies and initiatives. The programme then highlighted the success story of an SME member company that had been established and supported by Zubair EDC, demonstrating the Corporation's dedication to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation in Oman.

Hilal Al Siyabi, Chief Corporate Services Officer, noted, "This visit

exemplifies our commitment to bridging cultures and fostering global partnerships. By sharing Oman's business success stories and cultural heritage with international students, we not only enhance mutual understanding but also demonstrate the vital role The Zubair Corporation plays in driving innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship in the region."

The event concluded with a visit to the Oman Oasis water factory, where students toured the facility for an in-depth look at the operations of one of Oman's leading FMCG companies, showcasing its commitment to quality and operational excellence.

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On this special occasion, we extend our warm congratulations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
on the fifth anniversary of his accession to the throne.

We wish His Majesty continued success and good health as he
leads the nation towards a future of prosperity, unity,
and sustainable growth.





Times of Oman
Special Supplement
Monday, January 13, 2025

RENEWED RENAISSANCE



RENEWED RENAISSANCE

ACCESSION DAY SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Since His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's accession to the throne on 11 January 2020, His Majesty has taken several foreign visits and invited world leaders to visit Oman, strengthening the bilateral relations with them



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik addressed the nation after the 40-day mourning period.

2020

Sunday, 23/February/2020



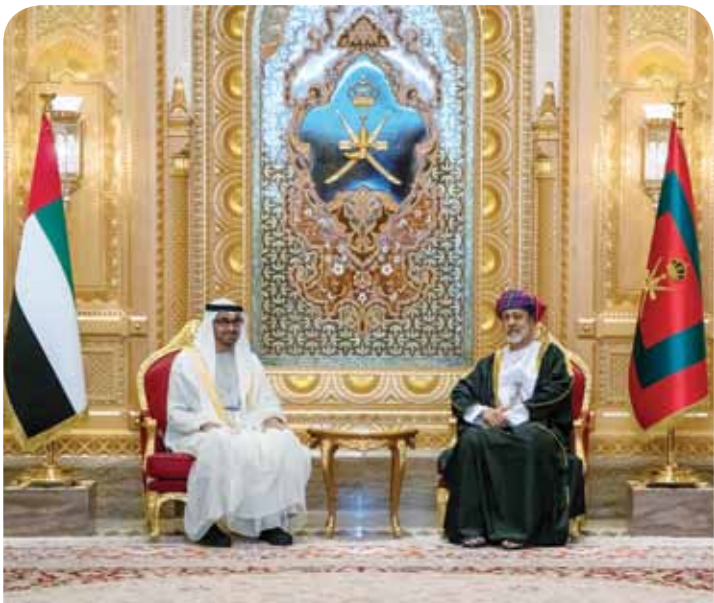
HIS MAJESTY PRAISED EFFORTS TO CONTAIN COVID-19: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik presided over a meeting of the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (Covid-19) at Bait Al Barakah on 2 June 2020. At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan commended the major efforts exerted by the government in containing the pandemic.

Tuesday, 02/June/2020



HIS MAJESTY APPROVED ELECTRONIC CENSUS RESULTS: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on 14 December 2020 endorsed results of Census 2020 of Population, Residences and Establishments, which show that the population of the Sultanate stood at 4,471,148 (four million, four hundred and seventy-one thousand and one hundred and forty-eight) as of 12 December 2020. This happened when His Majesty the Sultan gave an audience to the Chairman and members of the Supreme National Census Committee at Al Barakah Palace. His Majesty the Sultan expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of this major project which was implemented as scheduled.

Monday, 14/December/2020



HM MET UAE PRESIDENT: Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) arrived on a two-day state visit to the Sultanate of Oman on 27 September 2022. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik led the welcoming party for the UAE President. When the jet touched ground at the Royal Airport, His Majesty the Sultan met the guest at the foot of the ramp, and welcomed him. When the guest's jet entered the Omani airspace, it was escorted by a squadron of military aircraft till its arrival at the Royal Airport.

Tuesday, 27/September/2022



HISTORIC HM'S VISIT TO GERMANY His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik made an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany on 16 July 2022, which started a new phase of Omani-German relations.

Saturday, 16/July/2022

HM MET SHEIKHS OF SOUTH AL SHARQIYAH GOVERNORATE: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik held a meeting on 9 January 2022 at His A'Shumookh castle in the Wilayat of Manah with Sheikhs of South Al Sharqiyah Governorate. The Diwan of Royal Court issued a statement: "In pursuance of the renewed Royal tradition of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to confer with citizens in all parts of the dear homeland and, following His Majesty's conviction in the significance of listening in person to views and proposals serving the interests of the country, His Majesty the Sultan held a meeting on Sunday, 9 January 2022, with Sheikhs of the South Al Sharqiyah Governorate at His A'Shumookh castle in Manah."

Sunday, 09/January/2022



HIS MAJESTY MET QUEEN ELIZABETH II AT WINDSOR CASTLE: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik met with Queen Elizabeth II and reviewed the historical relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom as well as aspects of close cooperation in all fields. His Majesty the Sultan and Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and President of the Commonwealth, reviewed historical relations between the two friendly countries and aspects of close cooperation in all fields. The meeting took place at Windsor Castle in the English county of Berkshire. His Majesty was accompanied by The Honourable Lady, Spouse of His Majesty the Sultan, Queen Elizabeth II, the UK's longest-serving monarch, died at Balmoral aged 96, after reigning for 70 years on 8 September, 2022.

Wednesday, 15/December/2021



HIS MAJESTY'S VISIT TO QATAR OPENED NEW OPPORTUNITIES: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik paid a historic state visit to the State of Qatar on November 22 2021, at the kind invitation of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. The historic visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the State of Qatar opened new horizons of consultation, coordination and cooperation between the two countries. His Majesty the Sultan and Qatar Emir held extensive bilateral talks.

Tuesday, 23/November/2021



HIS MAJESTY'S SAUDI ARABIA VISIT STRENGTHENED TIES: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on 10 July 2021 where he met the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The Omani-Saudi relations scaled new heights after the meeting, and ushered in a new era of wider prosperity and expanded cooperation. The two countries are bound by deep-rooted ties, which were consolidated further by His Majesty the Sultan's historic visit, his first official visit abroad since he assumed power in the Sultanate on 11 January, 2020.

Saturday, 10/July/2021

2023



HIS MAJESTY PRESIDED OVER CABINET MEETING: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik presided over the cabinet meeting at Al Barakah Palace on October 11, 2023.

Wednesday, 11/October/2023



HIS MAJESTY VISITED REPUBLIC OF INDIA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik visited New Delhi on 17 December 2023. His Majesty the Sultan met with a number of business leaders in the Republic of India at his residence in the capital, New Delhi. During the meeting, opinions were exchanged on a number of economic and trade issues. His Majesty also urged them to explore the promising investment opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman for various sectors and to benefit from its multiple competitive potentials.

Sunday, 17/December/2023



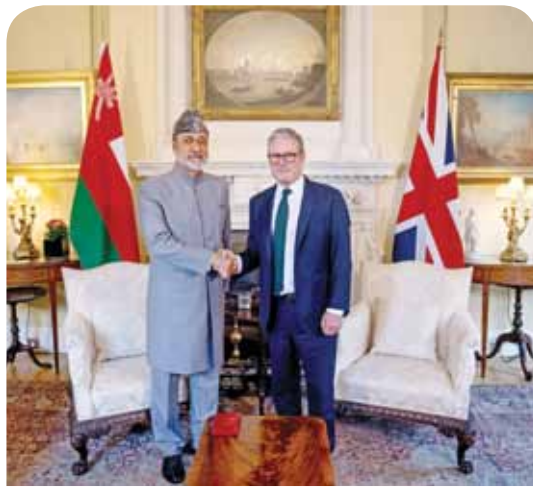
HIS MAJESTY VISITED SINGAPORE: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik was accorded an official reception at the Istana Palace in Singapore on the occasion of his state visit to the Republic of Singapore on 14 December 2023. Upon the arrival of His Majesty's motorcade at the presidential palace, President Tharman Shanmugaratnam received His Majesty the Sultan and his delegation. The President of Singapore then accompanied His Majesty the Sultan to the dais of honour, where the Omani Royal Anthem and the Singaporean Republican Anthem were played. His Majesty the Sultan, accompanied by the Singaporean President, later inspected the guard of honour.

Thursday, 14/December/2023



HIS MAJESTY VISITED SULTAN FAISAL BIN TURKI SCHOOL FOR BOYS IN AL AMERAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik visited Sultan Faisal bin Turki School for boys in Al Amerat on 25 November 2024. During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan took note of the progress in the educational field, including modern programmes that have been implemented to enrich the students' cognitive and perceptual potential. Upon his arrival at the school, His Majesty the Sultan was received by Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, and some of the Ministry's officials. Then, the school's scouts teams chanted slogans in praise and welcome for His Majesty the Sultan, and one of the students delivered a welcoming poem. After that, His Majesty the Sultan listened to a brief overview presented by of the students about the school. His Majesty later toured the school's sections and facilities. He also attended some teaching classes in the school, as well as at learning centres and the laboratory.

Monday, 25/November/2024



HM THE SULTAN MET UK PRIME MINISTER: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik met Keir Starmer, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK) at the Cabinet's headquarters in London on 6 August 2024. During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan reviewed the deep-rooted historical relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom, as well as means of consolidating areas of bilateral cooperation to serve the joint interests of the two countries' friendly peoples. The two leaders also exchanged views about developments on the regional and international arenas and other matters of common concern.

Tuesday, 06/August/2024



HIS MAJESTY PRESIDED OVER COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers at Al Maamourah Palace in Salalah on 19 September 2024. At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty thanked and praised the Almighty Allah for plentiful riches which He has bestowed on Oman. He prayed to Allah to grant bounties of good health and blessings to Oman, its noble people and its residents.

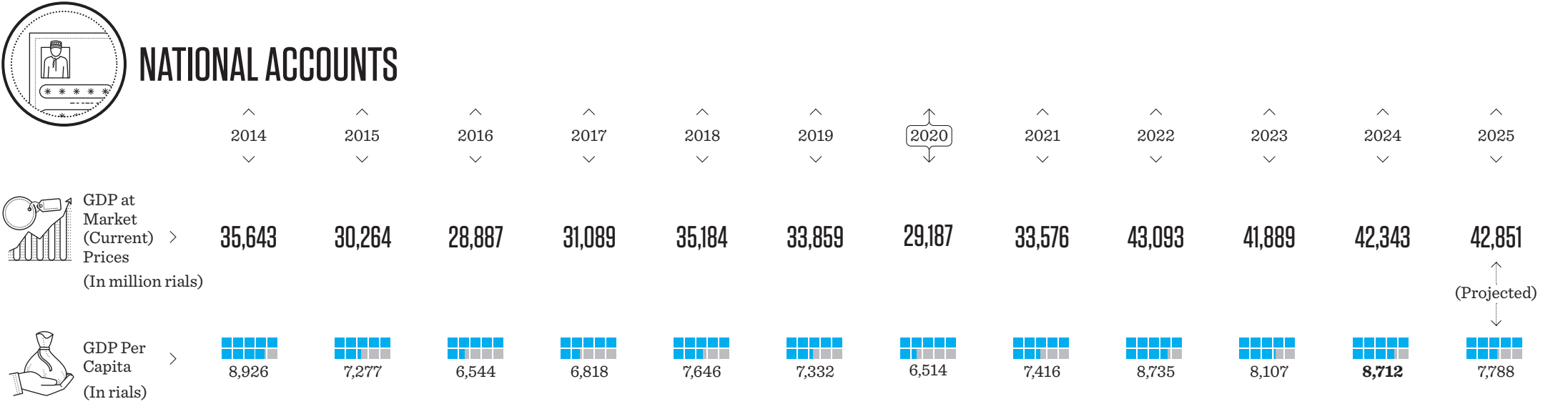
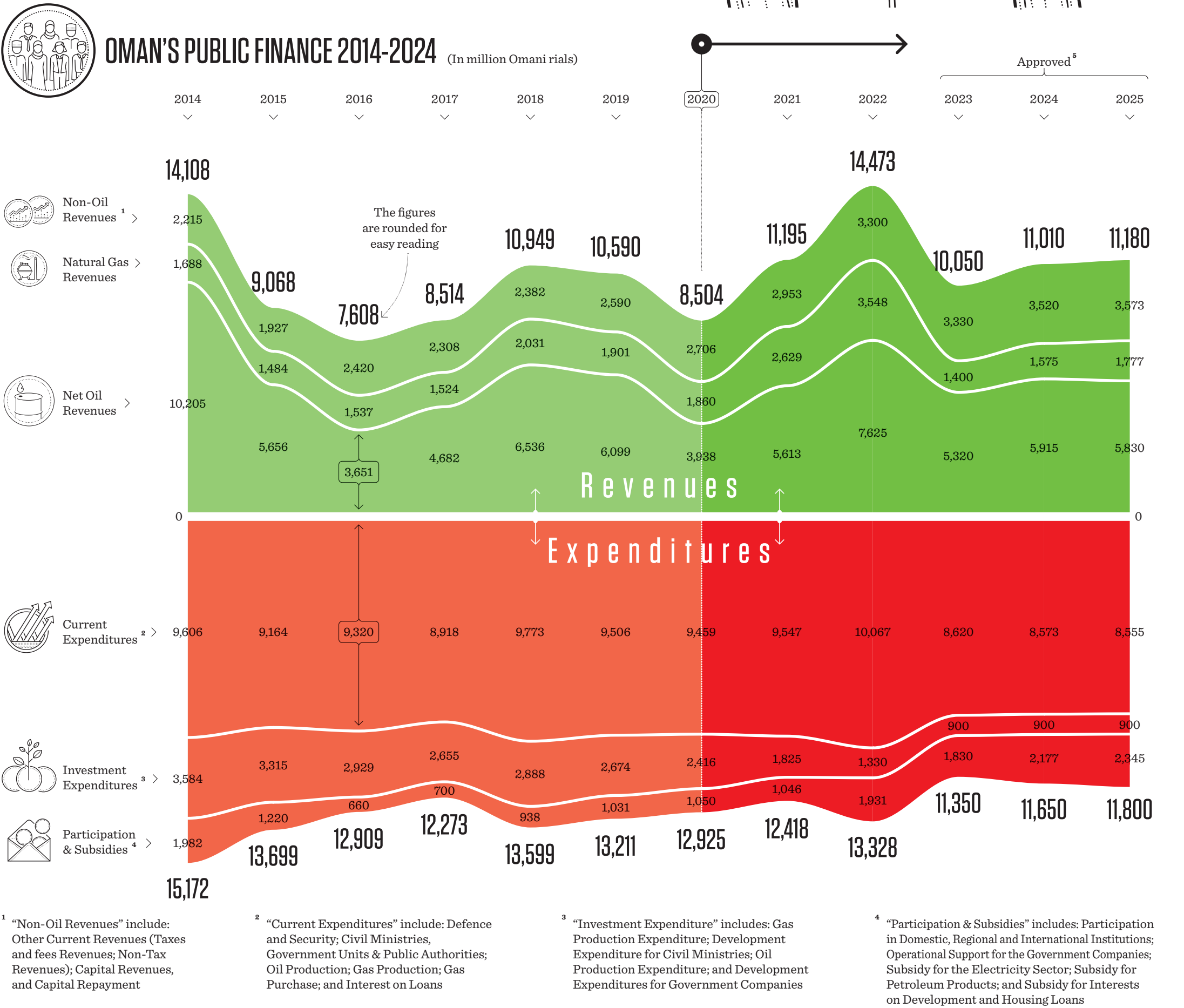
Thursday, 19/September/2024

RENEWED RENAISSANCE

Special supplement

A NEW ERA HAS BEGUN

Since His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik ascended the throne in 2020, the government has closely supervised the nation’s budgets for achieving economic growth and social objectives of Oman Vision 2040. The wise steps have improved the financial performance and helped in achieving fiscal sustainability. This is a graphic representation of how the economy of the Sultanate of Oman is improving due to the implementation of new policies.



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