



HM THE SULTAN RECEIVES CREDENTIALS OF AMBASSADORS

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received, separately, at Al Barakah Palace on Thursday credentials of a number of ambassadors of Arab and friendly countries accredited to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A6**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

MARKET MESTEC 2024 slated for November 26-27

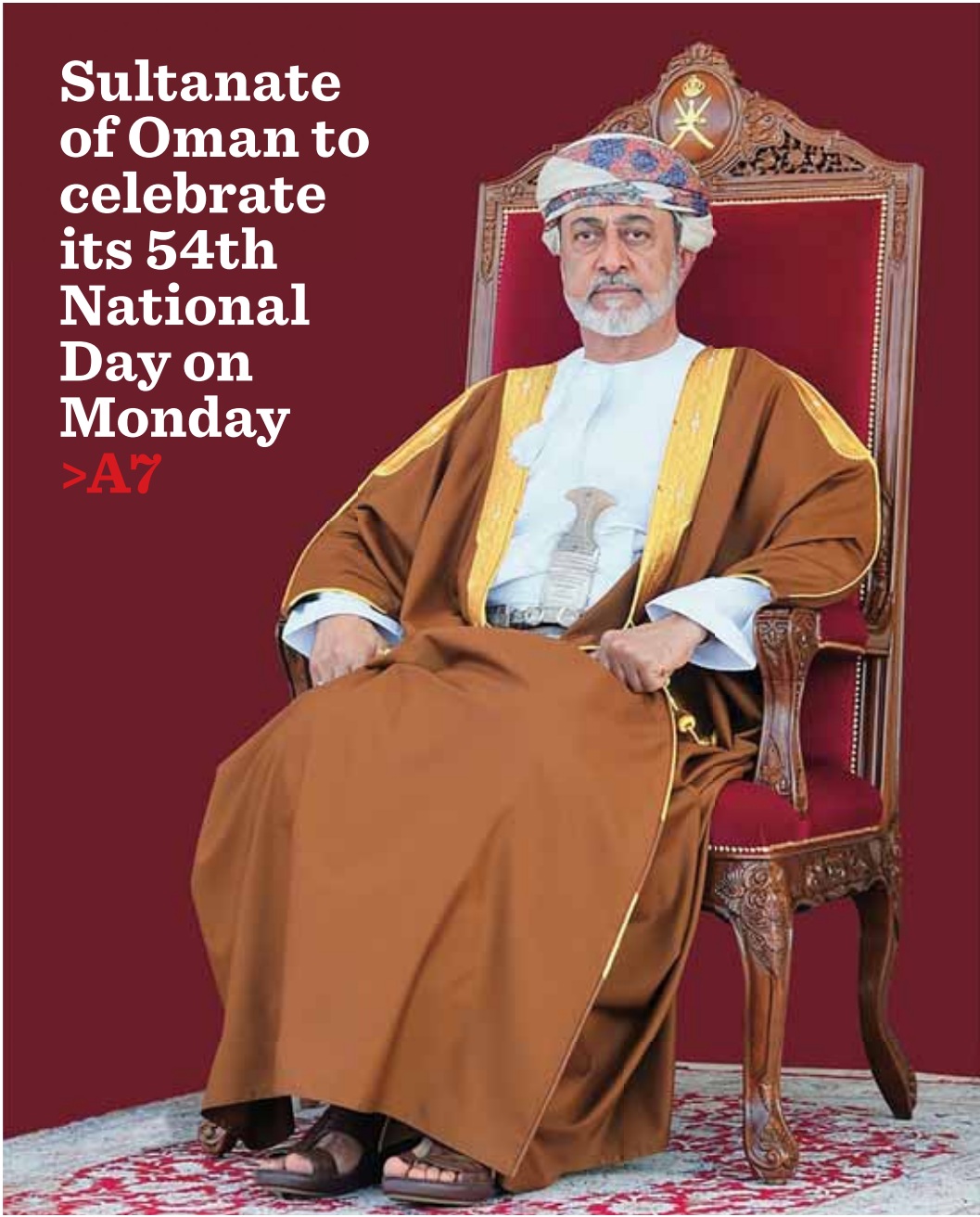
1 Middle East Strategic Communications Conference (MESTEC 2024) is slated for November 26-27, 2024. It will bring leading experts to explore how communications strategies can thrive in an era of change. **>B1**

SPORTS OFAL kicks off with record participation

2 The Oman Football Academies League (OFAL) was launched on Friday at the Cheltenham School grounds in Seeb. The inaugural tournament will feature 160 teams and more than 4,000 players from various academies. **>B2**

OMAN Illuminating Muttrah with contemporary art

3 The Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth of Oman will unveil RANEEN, a pioneering contemporary art experience, in the heart of historic Muttrah from November 21 to 30, 2024. **>B5**



HM TO PRESIDE OVER OMAN'S NATIONAL DAY MILITARY PARADE

The parade will be held at Al Sumoud Ground of the Sultan's Special Force

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, will preside over the military parade on Monday (18 November 2024). It will be staged at Al Sumoud Ground of the Sultan's Special Force on the occasion of the 54th Glorious National Day. Symbolic units representing the Royal Army of Oman (RAO), the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO), the Sultan's Special Force (SSF),

the Royal Oman Police (ROP), the Royal Court Affairs (RCA), and the joint military musical band will take part in the military parade. The parade will be attended alongside His Majesty by members of the Royal Family, ministers, chairmen of the State Council and Shura Council, advisers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces, military and security services, heads of the Diplomatic Corps of Arab and foreign countries accredited to Oman, undersecretaries, retired military commanders, judges, members of the Public Prosecution Dept, ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry, walis, sheikhs and dignitaries. It will be also attended by the military attaches of the Arab and foreign embassies in the Sultanate of Oman, senior military officers, senior state officials, senior retired officers, commissioned and non-commissioned officers at SAF, RGO, military and security services. — ONA



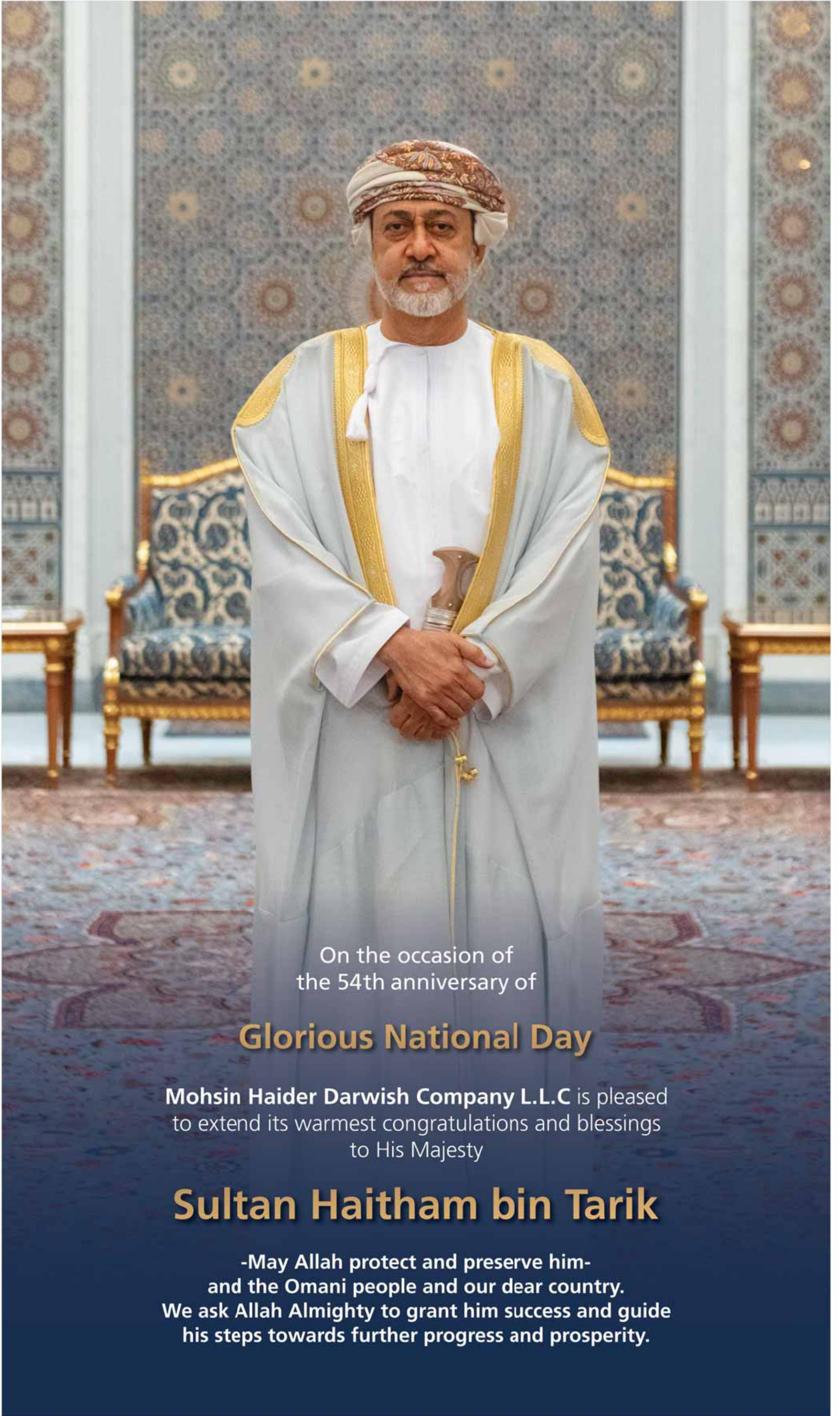
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His Majesty's vision guides our nation to new horizons of growth and prosperity.

Congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of Oman on the occasion of the 54th National Day.

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On the occasion of
the 54th anniversary of

Glorious National Day

Mohsin Haider Darwish Company L.L.C is pleased
to extend its warmest congratulations and blessings
to His Majesty

Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

-May Allah protect and preserve him-
and the Omani people and our dear country.
We ask Allah Almighty to grant him success and guide
his steps towards further progress and prosperity.



محسن حيدر درويش ش.م.م.
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We extend our most heartfelt congratulations and warmest wishes to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** on the occasion of the 54th glorious National Day. The Sultanate of Oman, under his distinguished and visionary leadership, continues to reach new heights of excellence and progress.

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COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Passengers travelling through Oman airports surge by 5.1%

Major tender awarded for ‘Al Dakhiliyah Boulevard’

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The number of passengers through the airports of the Sultanate of Oman increased by 5.1 percent by the end of September 2024, recording 11,102,451 million passengers on board 82,521 flights, compared to 10,565,754 million passengers on board 80,065 flights by the end of September 2023.

Preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the number of passengers through Muscat International

Airport reached about 9.76 million passengers by the end of last September, an increase of 4.7 percent, who travelled on board 73,137 flights, an increase in the number of flights by 3.4 percent.

Among the flights through Muscat International Airport were 66,207 international flights, with 8,846,484 million passengers travelling, and 6,930 domestic flights, with 918,046 passengers travelling. Statistics indicated that the number of passengers travelling through Salalah Airport reached 1,230,326 passengers by the end

of last September, an increase of 6.8 percent compared to the end of September 2023. They travelled on 8,374 flights, with a decrease of 0.6 percent.

Salalah Airport

The number of international flights through Salalah Airport reached 4,110 flights, with 542,327 passengers travelling, while the number of domestic flights reached 4,264 flights, with 687,999 passengers travelling.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Tender Board recently awarded the tender for the “Al Dakhiliyah Boulevard”, which is a comprehensive development project aimed at enhancing services and infrastructure.

It will be established in the Wilayat of Nizwa in the Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, and includes investment, tourism, entertainment, cultural, health and environmental aspects.

The project extends over an area of 145,000 square meters, and the works are expected to be completed over two years. It includes 10 diverse investment sites and 50 usufruct contracts in various sectors, reflecting the trend towards diversifying the local economy and enhancing commercial activities.

Al Dakhiliyah Boulevard is expected to have a significant impact on the tourism movement in the region, as it is estimated



to attract about 944,000 tourists and visitors annually, in addition to providing 340 permanent and temporary job opportunities, and the participation of about 60 productive families in various activities within the square.

Sheikh Hilal bin Saeed Al Hajar, Governor of Al Dakhiliyah, said: “The Al Dakhiliyah Square project is an embodiment of the ambitious vision of the governorate in sustainable development and providing an environment that meets the needs of the community.”

He explained that the project is an open entertainment centre that aims to promote tourism and

economic development in the Wilayat of Nizwa and includes various facilities such as: exhibitions and open theatres, which will be used to host festivals, cultural events and laser shows, which will boost tourism.

He added that the main walkway of the square extends for a length of 3,985 metres, surrounded by trees and green spaces, and provides a comfortable natural environment for visitors. Special bicycle paths have been designed for a length of 1,650 metres, in addition to fountain basins and an open area of about 80,000 square metres, which allows visitors to enjoy an integrated entertainment experience in addition to a children’s play area, a group of restaurants and kiosks, a variety of stores, a market to support productive families, and other facilities and services that meet the needs of visitors.

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International Companies specialized in the field and registered with Tender Board, may obtain tender documents for the website through the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) against non- refundable fees as mentioned below starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender Number	Tender Description	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
PRE-24-097 (Re-Call)	Construction of Balance Works of Road Improvements of Dama Street in Al Seeb - (Re-Tender)	12/12/2024	29/12/2024
PRE-24-261	Correcting the street levels with protection works of channel in Falaj Al Sham	12/12/2024	29/12/2024
PRE-24-322	Supply of Road Bollards for Muscat Municipality	12/12/2024	29/12/2024
PRE-24-319	Purchasing Golf car	27/11/2024	02/12/2024

1. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

2. Clarification and Support:

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GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE TENDER BOARD

Oman awards road projects worth OMR278.45 million

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology is making efforts to make the transport sector one of the major contributors to economic and tourism development.

The General Secretariat of the Tender Board has awarded the dualisation of the Adam-Thumrait Road for parts (third, fourth and fifth) and the Jabal Shams Road at a total value of OMR278.45 million.

Eng. Yousef bin Abdullah Al-Mujaini, Director General of Roads and Land Transport at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, said that the implementation of the dualisation parts of the Adam-Thumrait Road will begin in the beginning of 2025 after the completion of the contractual procedures, and the project implementation period is 36 months in addition to 90 days for preparations.

He stressed that the dualisation of Adam-Thumrait Road after its completion is one of the longest projects implemented by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, noting that this project



will open promising avenues in logistics, economic, and tourism sectors.

He explained that the third part of the dualisation of Adam-Thumrait Road starts from the Wilayat of Haima and ends in the Wilayat of Maqshin with a length of 132.5 km and includes the construction of safe entrances and exits to and from the areas, in addition to 16 lanes for turning and the construction of one bridge and service roads, two truck weigh stations, 4 rest areas, 21 waiting areas, 8 emergency central openings, 22 parking lots, 115 reinforced concrete box culverts for water drainage, and 88 pipe drainage channels to drain water in the middle, in addition to the construction of central dams and its protection works.

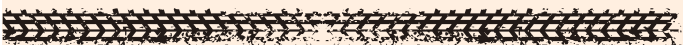
He added that the third part of the road also includes rebuild-

ing the current road in the valley sites, removing part of the current road, protection works and channels, and providing new multi-cell square drainage channels in the current flood path sites.

He pointed out that the fourth part of the Adam-Thumrait road dualisation starts from the Wilayat of Maqshin, passing through Qatabit and up to Duka, with a length of 135 kilometres. It includes the construction of safe entrances and exits from the areas and 14 lanes for turning, in addition to the construction of 25 parking lots, 3 rest areas, 8 central emergency openings and about 241 reinforced concrete box culverts for water, 95 water drainage channels from pipes to drain water in the middle, central dams and dam protection.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

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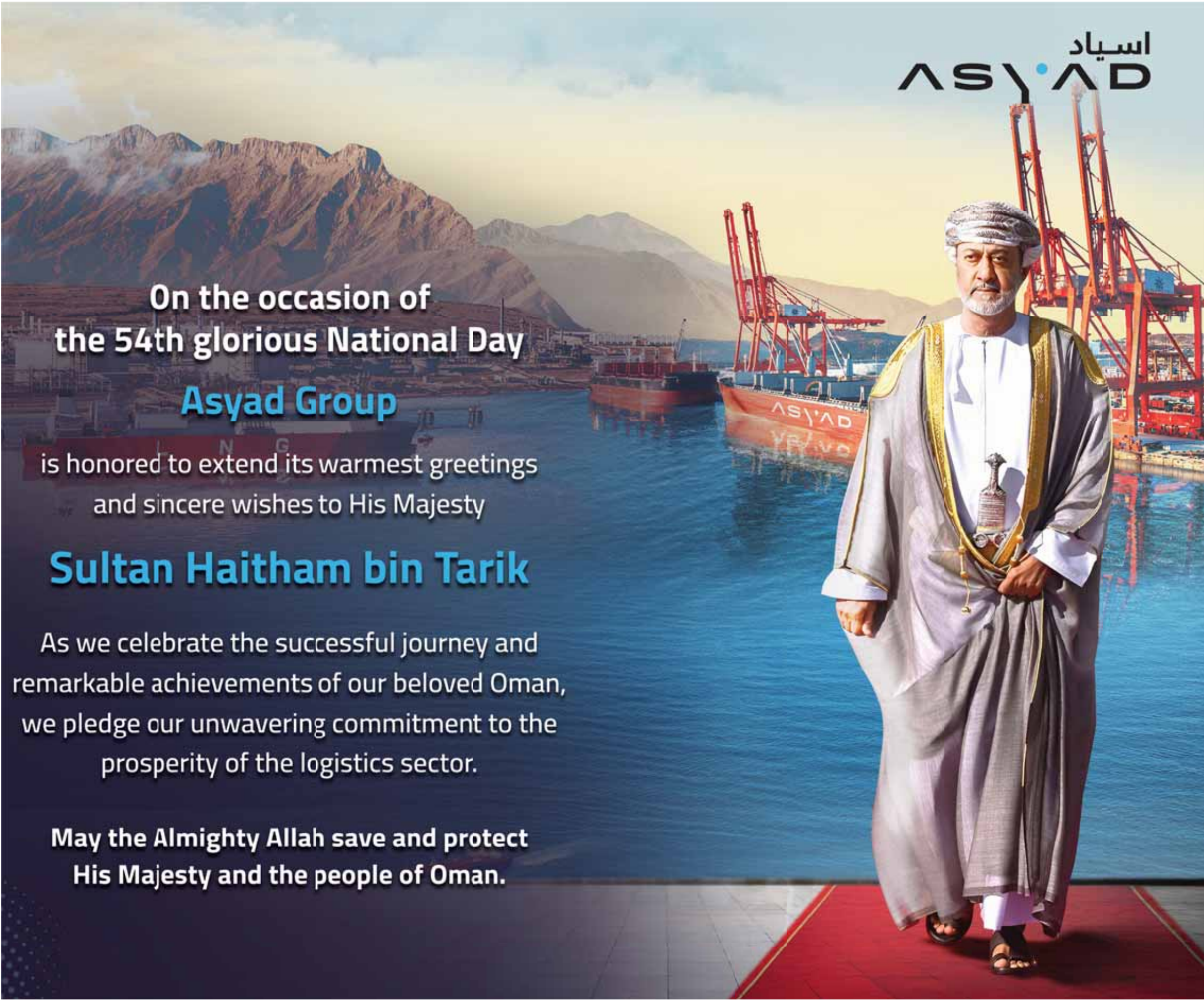
ANNOUNCEMENT

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 54TH NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION
THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL FOR NATIONAL CELEBRATION AT
PLACES MENTIONED BELOW

MUSCAT – AL KHUD DAM	18/11/2024
SALALAH – ATIN	18/11/2024
KHASAB – DBDABA	21/11/2024



On the occasion of
the 54th glorious National Day
Asyad Group
is honored to extend its warmest greetings
and sincere wishes to His Majesty
Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
As we celebrate the successful journey and
remarkable achievements of our beloved Oman,
we pledge our unwavering commitment to the
prosperity of the logistics sector.
May the Almighty Allah save and protect
His Majesty and the people of Oman.



HM receives credentials of ambassadors

The envoys conveyed greetings of their countries' leaders to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received, separately, at Al Barakah Palace on Thursday credentials of a number of ambassadors of Arab and friendly countries accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

His Majesty the Sultan received credentials of the following ambassadors:

- Aidarbek Toumatov, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Kassym Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Francisco Javier de Isturiz, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of king Philip VI of the Kingdom of Spain, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Bashir Hassan Haji, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of the Federal Republic of Somalia, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Rashad Ismayilov, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Dr. Ilham Heydar Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Nabil Hajlaoui, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Emmanuel Macron of

the French Republic, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Agis Loizou, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Nikos Christodoulides of the Republic of Cyprus, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Abdi Aden Korio, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Dr. William Ruto of the Republic of Kenya, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Tharwah Neimat, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Ibrahim Saad Ibrahim Bishan, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

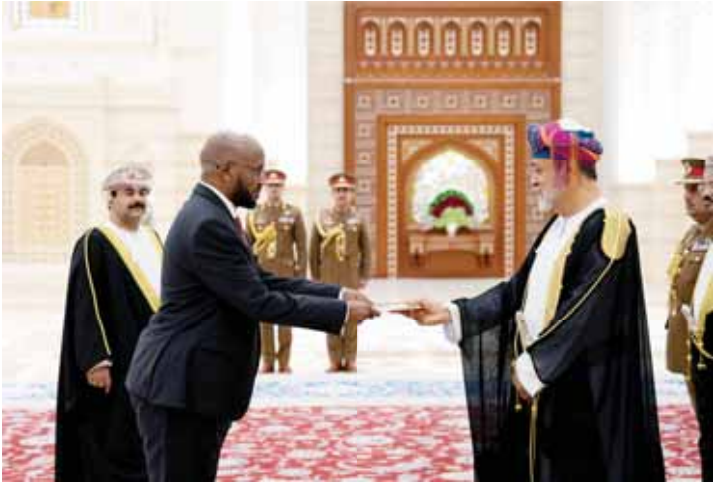
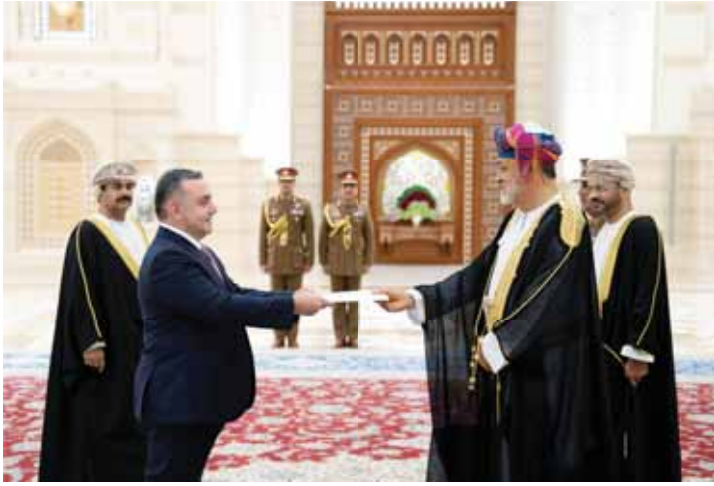
The ambassadors conveyed greetings of their countries' leaders to His Majesty the Sultan. They also underscored their keenness to enhance relations of cooperation, investments and partnerships in all fields.

His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors, expressing his appreciation for their leaders' best wishes and heartfelt sentiments, wishing the ambassadors success in carrying out their duties.

His Majesty also affirmed that they will receive support from the government in order for them to carry out their duties in a bid to achieve desired joint objectives and goals.

The credentials presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman, the Head of the Royal Protocols, and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan.

- ONA



Oman to celebrate 54th National Day marking milestone accomplishments

The government of His Majesty the Sultan has managed to improve the state's economic and financial performance, reduction of debt and increase in the gross domestic product

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will celebrate the 54th glorious National Day on Monday, marking milestone accomplishments in different areas.

The citizens of Oman and various state institutions have rendered an indispensable contribution to the continuous achievements in the path of the comprehensive development during the renewed renaissance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, who has outlined a wise and sound vision that leads to progress and prosperity in all fields.

His Majesty's directives to all state institutions to continue improving the missions entrusted to them and to develop appropriate conditions to upgrade performance at all levels have contributed positively over the past five years to achieving success in various targets of Oman Vision 2040.

The government of His Majesty the Sultan has managed to improve the state's economic and financial performance and reduce debt and increase the gross domestic product; as the state's public revenue at the end of August 2024 amounted to OMR8.106 billion, up by OMR183 million compared to OMR7.923 billion registered over the same period in 2023.

The state's general budget until August 2024 achieved a surplus of about OMR447 million, while the public debt portfolio declined by the end of June 2024 to OMR14.4 billion, compared to OMR20.8 billion in 2021.

The Sultanate of Oman also launched in 2024 the social protection system by unifying and merging pension funds, and restructuring the schemes.

Oman succeeded in reducing the ratio of public debt to GDP from 62.3 percent in 2021 to 35 percent in mid-2024 and achieving a budget surplus for consecutive years, recording 2.7 percent and 2.2 percent in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

This has led to a remarkable improvement in the credit rating of the Sultanate of Oman by credit rating agencies, as Standard & Poor's raised its second credit rating for the Sultanate of Oman to "BBB-" from "BB+" with a stable outlook. Further, Moody's revised its outlook for the Sultanate of Oman from a stable to a positive, confirming the credit rating at "Ba1".

These ratings affirm that the Sultanate of Oman is a safe investment environment, as it returned to this rating category after a decline of nearly 7 years (since 2017) due to the repercussions of the crises resulting from the slump in global oil prices and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, the Sultanate of Oman has also advanced in many international indicators, as it rose 39 ranks in the 2024 Index of Economic Freedom issued by the Heritage Foundation to obtain the 56th place globally after being ranked 95th globally in 2023. In the Entrepreneurship Index, it came in the 11th place globally, advancing 27 places from its ranking in 2022/2023. It also came in the 50th place globally in the Environmental Performance Index after being ranked 149th in the 2022 ranking.

In the education sector, Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) achieved a remarkable progress in the 2025 World University Rankings to obtain the 362nd place, advancing 92 places from its previous classification.

Meanwhile, the volume of foreign direct investments (FDI) in the Sultanate of Oman until the end of the fourth quarter of 2023



amounted to OMR25.05 billion, an increase of 21.6 percent compared to the same period in 2022, which amounted to OMR20.59 billion.

Regarding the government investments, Oman Investment Authority (OIA) is exerting sincere efforts to make the Sultanate of Oman an attractive investment destination and achieve sustainable economic development. The Authority's assets increased to OMR19.2 billion compared to about OMR17.9 billion at the end of 2022. It contributed to achieving profits exceeding OMR1.7 billion, and supporting the state's general budget with an amount of OMR800 million, and repaid OMR300 million of loans from its subsidiaries before their due date in 2023. The OIA invests in 13 global funds, such as the Platinum Investment Fund and the Global Infrastructure Fund, in addition to direct investments in global companies, such as the American "Our Next Energy" Company and the Australian "Hysata".

One of the most important strategic projects that were inaugurated at the beginning of this year (2024) is the Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Project in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD).

The refinery is the largest joint investment project between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait, integrated between the Omani OQ Group and Kuwait Petroleum International Company, with a capital exceeding OMR3.5 billion.

The Sultanate of Oman has witnessed the implementation of many projects in the field of renewable energy, most notably Manah Solar Power Project with a production capacity of 1,000 megawatts located in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate, Ibri Solar Power Project with a production capacity of 500 megawatts located in A'Dhahirah Governorate, Barka Solar Power Project with a production capacity of 500 megawatts located in South Al Batinah Governorate, the Amin Solar Power Plant Project with a production capacity of 100 megawatts located in Dhofar Governorate, Sohar Solar Power Project with a production capacity of 100 megawatts in North Al Batinah Governorate and Dhofar Wind Farm with a production capacity of 50 megawatts located in Dhofar Governorate.

The Sultanate of Oman is pressing ahead with boosting public and private sectors partnership, as the private sector is the key driver of the economic development and GDP growth in various sectors. The private sector also contributes remarkably to the economic diversification efforts, as it is a peer to the public sector in social development through the contribution of its institutions to education, health and social investment.

Oman Vision 2040 has placed the private sector in a position to lead a competitive national economy linked to the global economy. The private sector has embarked on enhancing efforts to elevate the national economy through exploring the opportunities offered by incentive initiatives, such as the National Program for Private Sector Development and Foreign Trade "Nazdaher" and financial incentive and sustainability initiatives,

along with enhancing partnership with the government sector.

The private sector is also the incubator environment for national capital investment, as it relies primarily on individual initiatives, whether in the form of personal companies or joint-stock companies, in addition to hosting innovative ideas and transforming them into projects that benefit society through entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The sector is also the main component for attracting foreign investment, whether by providing effective partnerships in qualitative projects or by providing the requirements for these projects through local content of products and services.

The total volume of added investment in all industrial cities affiliated to the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) during the first half of 2024 exceeded OMR177 million, bringing the total volume of investment in all these cities, including Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM) and Al Mazunah Free Zone, to more than OMR7.6 billion.

Meanwhile, the number of localized investment contracts reached 2,310. As many as 55,242 employees work in investment projects in all industrial cities, of whom Omanis constitute 38 percent, while the total area of existing and new industrial cities reached 163,176,459 square metres.

The volume of cumulative investment in Sohar Free Zone, Salalah Free Zone and Khazaen Economic City amounted to OMR1.33 billion, covering several sectors, most notably the pharmaceuticals, food, petrochemicals, plastics, logistics, renewable energy sectors and others.

As far as the ports sector is concerned, the ports of Sohar, Salalah and Duqm, which enjoy a globally integrated infrastructure, continue to boost their operational efficiencies to become major berthing stations on various global shipping lines. During the first half of 2024, these ports maintained their operational volumes, handling about 1.8 million containers with a general cargo volume of up to 13 million tonnes. This figure reflects the ports' effective contribution to supporting the national economy and enabling Omani exports to reach international markets with a high competitive capacity.

The dry dock in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZAD), which is classified as the second largest dry dock for ship repair and maintenance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA Region), was able to implement 106 projects from about 70 countries around the world during the first half of 2024, thanks to its strategic location close to global shipping lines.

In the tourism sector, the Sultanate of Oman has achieved remarkable results in recent years, as the number of tourists increased by 36.7 percent to nearly 4 million tourists in 2023 compared to 2022. The number of visitors coming to the Sultanate of Oman by the end of the first half of 2024 amounted to about 2 million, an increase of 3.2 percent. Meanwhile, the number of hotel establishments stands at 895, including 34,378 hotel rooms.

The Sultanate of Oman continues its focus on the comprehensive and balanced development of all governorates through the construction of sustainable cities within the priorities of Oman Vision 2040. This approach is done by channelling investments towards constructing smart cities and developing governorates while applying the principle of administrative and economic decentralization.

Sultan Haitham City project represents the first smart and sustainable project as an integrated city with an area of 14,800,000 square metres. It includes about 20,000 housing units distributed over 19 integrated neighborhoods with various facilities and services.

The progress made by the Sultanate of Oman in many global indicators reflects the determination of the country, as a government and people, to achieve its future aspirations to be among the advanced countries.

Among these indicators is the progress made by Oman in the media index for the second year in a row, ranking 40th globally after advancing 6 ranks in the Global Soft Power Index issued by the British Brand Finance Agency for 2024, compared to the 46th place in 2023.

It also advanced in other sub-indices, such as advancing 10 ranks in the Sustainable Future Index and 5 ranks in the Positive Impact Index. The Sultanate of Oman also achieved qualitative progress in the Global Environmental Performance Index for 2024, advancing 99 places from the previous ranking (where it was ranked 149th globally), to occupy the 50th place globally in 2024 ranking, which was announced by the Yale Center for Environmental Policy and Law at Yale University in the United States.

The Royal vision of His Majesty seeks to uplift the human thought by furnishing the appropriate environment for establishing qualitative cultural and intellectual institutions. Laying the foundation stone of Oman Cultural Complex at the Airport Heights in Muscat Governorate represents a vivid example of this approach. Oman



Cultural Complex seeks to promote cultural, literary, theatrical and research activities through the enhancement of relevant programmes. The move aims to expand the scope of engagement in highlighting Oman's cultural heritage and exploring the country's accomplishments. The complex includes three main buildings, namely the National Theatre, the National Library and the National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA).

On the domestic front, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik continues his Royal meet-the-people tours to engage with citizens all over the Sultanate of Oman and listen to their visions and proposals about measures to promote the development of their respective governorates and upgrade economic and service projects.

In continuation of this Royal approach, His Majesty the Sultan held a meeting at the Royal Camp in Saih Al Mahasin in the Wilayat of Khasab, Musandam Governorate, with sheikhs and dignitaries of Musandam, some members of the Council of Oman and members of the Municipal Council and the businessmen community in the Governorate.

Meanwhile, the Council of Oman, represented by the State Council and the Shura Council, is a key partner in this important phase. In exercising its national roles and responsibilities, the Council of Oman relies on the Basic Law of the State and the Law of the Council of Oman, which have defined the paths of work according to clear powers.

During the first convening of the eighth term, the State Council discussed a number of topics, includ-

ing draft laws referred by the government, in addition to the draft state general budget for the fiscal year 2024. It also held 5 public sessions.

A joint session was also held with the Shura Council to discuss the disputed articles in a number of draft laws, in implementation of the provisions of Article (49) of the Council of Oman's Law.

On its turn, the Shura Council held, during the same period, 12 regular sessions and dealt with 4 ministerial statements, approved 20 draft laws and agreements referred by the government, and 4 urgent statements.

The municipal councils in various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman work on the basis of decentralisation. The government has paid attention to activating the role of these councils and developing their legislations, in translation of the far-sighted vision of His Majesty the Sultan towards enabling them to carry out their developmental and societal roles in accordance with their prerogatives. This approach comes within the priorities of Oman Vision 2040 regarding the development of sustainable governorates and cities.

The Sultanate of Oman also attaches a great importance to the education sector as it is a tool for development and progress.

In this context, the Council of Ministers approved, during a meeting held last September under the chair of His Majesty the Sultan, the allocation of OMR40 million to be added to the current 5-year plan to help accelerate the construction of new schools, in light of a steady rise in number of students in some governorates.

The number of students in public and private schools during the current academic year has exceeded one million male and female students. This year (2024) witnessed the opening of 16 new schools in a number of governorates. Construction of 15 school buildings has also begun and tenders have been floated for 20 new schools.

The teachers represent the cornerstone of the development and progress of Oman's renewed renaissance. In this context, the Honourable Lady, Spouse of His

Majesty the Sultan has stressed that teachers play a vital role in the educational system.

As for the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman, it is witnessing a remarkable development that meets the aspirations of the government and Oman Vision 2040. This progress is reflected on the health infrastructure and the improvement in the quality of services provided to citizens and residents.

Among the projects that the health strategy focuses on is providing secondary and tertiary healthcare through constructing, replacing, upgrading and expanding hospitals in most governorates. Currently, 9 hospitals are being built with more than 1,660 beds, and 5 other referral hospitals are being expanded. To keep pace with the requirements of primary healthcare to provide basic health services, 15 primary healthcare institutions are currently being constructed, replaced and expanded, in addition to establishing 9 kidney dialysis units.

Meanwhile, the University Medical City, which was established last February, contributes to backing the government's efforts to upgrade the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman, and providing health services to citizens and residents according to national and international standards. The city includes Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Oman National Center for Hematology and Marrow Transplantation and Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Center.

The Medical City Hospital for Military and Security Services - Muscat which was inaugurated by

His Majesty the Sultan this month, represents an addition to the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman to provide medical services and healthcare.

The government of the Sultanate of Oman attaches a great importance to the youth due to their vital role in the march of building Oman's renewed renaissance. This was underscored by HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, when he addressed the Omani youth on their annual day. HH Sayyid Theyazin lauded the thinking, dedication and endeavours of the Omani youth, affirming that Oman relies on them to press ahead with the march of national development.

The Sultanate of Oman has always emphasized upholding the principles of transparency and integrity and applying the approach of accountability in all sectors by boosting the oversight system to achieve national goals. In this context, His Majesty has underscored the importance of simplifying procedures and governing performance, integrity and accountability to ensure full alignment and harmony with the requirements of his vision.

The Sultanate of Oman also continues to extend bridges of cooperation, consolidate the principle of friendship, and strengthen relations with countries of the world.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's visits to a number of Arab and foreign countries embody this approach that lays emphasis on cooperation and close diplomatic relations with these countries.

The visits also aim at discussing the existing paths of cooperation with those countries in various fields and exploring opportunities for their development and growth in a way that serves common interests and aspirations.

His Majesty recently made visits to the Republic of India, Republic of Singapore, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Arab Emirates, the State of Kuwait and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

A number of world leaders also made visits to Oman, including President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier of the Federal Republic of Germany, Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, President Dr. Alain Berset of the Swiss Confederation and President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

During these visits, a number of agreements, memoranda of understanding and executive programmes were signed, covering various areas.

On the political level, the Sultanate of Oman always underlines the pillars of its foreign policy, which is based on the principles of good neighborliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, establishing a fair system for the exchange of benefits and interests, establishing the foundations of stability and peace and contributing positively to them.

Oman also believes in dialogue and tolerance as an approach to addressing all issues and challenges to achieve peace. It also believes in relations based on mutual respect, positive cooperation and harmony between countries.

In its speech before the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Sultanate of Oman affirmed that its leadership, government and people believe in using legitimate and peaceful means to resolve issues and conflicts. From this standpoint, it called for an immediate cessation of fighting and ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and the Red Sea region, and addressing the causes of the conflict by ending the illegal Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, achieving justice for the Palestinian people on the basis of the two-state solution and establishing an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital on the 1967 borders.

The Sultanate of Oman, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the architect of its Renewed Renaissance, continues its march towards a promising and bright future to achieve further progress and growth, as well as fulfilling aspirations of everyone in this dear homeland. - **OMA**



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His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
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INDIA'S PIVOTAL ROLE

India stands to play a pivotal role in supporting the US renewable energy sector with its large-scale manufacturing capabilities, competitive production costs, and a strong STEM talent pool, highlighted a report by ValueQuest Investment. -ANI

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CREDIT BALANCE RISES

Oman's banking sector experienced a 5 percent growth in total credit balance by the end of September, reaching OMR32 billion, according to official data from the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).



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OIA completes five national projects worth OMR322.7mn

These projects embody the Authority's strategy and objectives that are in line with the Oman 2040 vision



MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority (OIA) has announced the completion of five national projects with an investment value of OMR322.7 million that will be opened across four governorates. These projects include Manah Solar Power Plant (Phases I and II), the

Central Market for Vegetables and Fruits (Salal) Project, the Barka Desalination Plant (Phase V), the Fish Canning and Value Added Complex Project in Duqm, in addition to the implementation, operation and delivery of the sewage network in the Sahalnout area (Phase I).

Hisham bin Ahmed Al Shaidi, Head of Economic Diversification Investments at the Oman Investment Authority, said: "These five projects embody the Authority's strategy and objectives that are in line with the Oman 2040 vision and the advancement of the tar-

geted economic sectors through the implementation of major projects in various governorates in partnership between its affiliated companies and the private sector." He said that the Manah Solar Power Plant (Phases I and II), which is being implemented by Nama Power and Water Procurement Company in partnership with Ashraq Sembcorp Jinko, represents an important step towards achieving renewable energy goals in the Sultanate of Oman, with a total cost of OMR150 million. He explained that the plant seeks to diversify energy sources and contribute significantly to achieving 10 percent of electricity production using renewable energy by 2025. He further pointed out that the cost of the Central Market for Vegetables and Fruits (Salal) project amounted to OMR50 million, representing a qualitative leap

for the agricultural sector in the Sultanate of Oman. It constitutes a unified umbrella that enables private sector companies operating in the field of wholesale vegetable and fruit trade to expand import and export activities, indicating that the project aims to provide advanced infrastructure and integrated logistical solutions to facilitate trade operations in vegetables and fruits, which contributes to enhancing food security and infrastructure and supporting local products and the national economy, and will provide 375 direct and indirect job opportunities. He said that the Barka Desalination Plant (Phase 5), which is being implemented by Nama Water Services Company in partnership with GS NAMA Barka 5 Desalination Company, will be opened at a total cost of OMR50 million. The

project will contribute to purchasing services and materials worth OMR 21 million of the project value for Omani local content during the construction period, which will enhance the contributions of small and medium enterprises. He pointed out that after the project is operational, it will enhance the storage capacity, the water transportation and distribution system, and provide job opportunities for citizens. Al Shidi further explained that the Oman Fisheries Development Group and the International Marine Products Company have partnered to establish the fish canning and value-added complex in Duqm, which has a total cost of OMR27.7 million. It seeks to maximise added value of Omani fish by providing high-quality products and providing 640 direct job opportunities. -ONA

WEEKLY TRADING

MSX extends losses for third consecutive week despite strong macro fundamentals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) recorded its third consecutive week of losses, declining by 1.32 percent, according to an industry expert. "The downward trend was primarily influenced by falling oil prices affecting regional markets, coupled with disappointing earnings announcements from two major market constituents - Oman Telecom and OQ Exploration and Production," said Joseph Dahrieh, Managing Principal at Tickmill. "The market is currently testing support levels established in early August, and further decline seems possible if these levels are breached, though a potential recovery could materialise if oil prices rebound," he further added.

In the sectoral breakdown, the Industrial sector led the decline, with Galfar Engineering and Contracting weighing heavily on the sector by losing 9.17 percent. Al Anwar Ceramic also contributed to the sector's weakness, declining by 4.17 percent. The Financial sector similarly faced pressure, dropping by 1.10 percent. The decline was broad-based across major financial institutions, with Bank Muscat falling 1.17 percent, Omnivest declining 4.20 percent, Sohar International Bank dropping 0.74 percent, and Global Financial Investment Holding decreasing by 2.38 percent. In the Services sector, which declined by 0.59 percent, OQ Exploration and Production continued its negative trend for the third week since its listing, impacted by a 16 percent decline in nine-month profits. The stock's performance has significant implications for the broader market, given that it accounts for more than half of the market's trading activity in both volume and value terms. Additionally, Oman Telecom declined by 0.31 percent, following a 23 percent



JOSEPH DAHRIEH
Managing Principal at Tickmill

decrease in its profits for the first nine months of the year. The current market weakness stands in contrast to Oman's solid macroeconomic performance, as evidenced by the latest fiscal data showing total state revenue reaching OMR8.886 billion, with robust growth in both oil and non-oil revenues at 12 percent and 13 percent respectively. The oil sector's performance has been particularly strong, with average oil production reaching 1,001,000 barrels per day at an average price of \$83 per barrel. "Despite moderate gross domestic product (GDP) growth, the government's continued commitment to development projects and well-controlled inflation levels demonstrate the economy's underlying strength," said Joseph Dahrieh. "These stable macroeconomic indicators, supported by prudent fiscal management and steady revenue growth, could potentially provide support for market sentiment in the medium term, as investors reassess valuations against these fundamentals amid the ongoing pipeline of new IPOs," he further added.

IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

MESTEC to explore the future of strategic communications

MUSCAT: The 12th edition of the prestigious Middle East Strategic Communications Conference (MESTEC 2024), slated for November 26-27, 2024, at the Inter City Hotel in Muscat, will spotlight on navigating the evolving landscape of strategic communications, addressing key challenges, emerging trends, and new opportunities within the field. Leading communications experts and senior industry professionals will explore how communications strategies can adapt to and thrive in an era of rapid change, ensuring their continued relevance in a dynamic industry. The conference, organised by Muscat Media Group, an influential leader in Oman's media sector, offers a platform for organizations to discuss challenges and opportunities in emerging forms of communication, as well as evolving strategies to keep their audiences better informed. Strategic communication is crucial for organisations to communicate with their external audiences, as it is the link between the organisation's mission and goals, and their realisation.

Conference structure and key highlights
MESTEC 2024 will encompass two main segments. The event will kick off with the opening ceremony, during which the prestigious Annual Gulf and Arab Journalism and Media Awards will be presented. These awards recognise individuals and organisations that have made significant contributions to promoting Arab identity and unity, as well as those who have pioneered innovative approaches in media, public relations, and communication. Following the ceremony, the conference will feature six sessions spread over two days, with three sessions on each day. The topics have been carefully selected to address the evolving needs of the media industry. Celebrated speakers from across the region and outside shall shed light on new communications strategies as they will bring very rich and diverse experience with them. Organised by Muscat Media Group SAOC (MMG), one of the



12TH MIDDLE EAST STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE 2024

مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group
PRESENTS

26 - 27 November, 2024 | Inter City Hotel, Muscat

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Why should you attend?

- Connect with industry leaders, decision-makers, and innovators to uncover actionable insights and engage your audience meaningfully

Who Should Attend?

- Corporate Leaders shaping organizational strategy
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Middle East's most renowned media organisations, the conference brings together industry leaders to explore innovative solutions and shape the future of the media sector. Founded in 1975 by the late Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali, MMG has grown to serve a diverse and expanding audience through its strong portfolio of print, digital, video, and FM radio brands. The event is managed by Nexus Novel, a leading advertising and branding agency renowned for its innovative growth strategies and comprehensive suite of services. With its expertise, the event is set to elevate strategic communication to a whole new level.

Unite the media industry
The conference will feature a series of engaging sessions designed to unite the media industry, foster the exchange of groundbreaking ideas, and address the sector's most pressing challenges. Organised under the aegis of

Muscat Media Group SAOC and supported by Gulf Center for Strategic Communication (GSC), and the Council of Arab International Relations, CARINTER, this event is ideal for corporate professionals who are interested in keeping up-to-date with the latest communication trends and strategies, as well as those who wish to learn more about strategic communication in the Middle East. They can also benefit from the networking opportunities available at the event to make valuable business connections. Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali, CEO of MMG SAOC, stated: "The agenda for the Middle East Conferences for Strategic Communication is designed to offer critical insights into the latest innovations and the most pressing challenges facing the communication industry today." MMG promises the event to serve as a key platform for knowledge exchange and business partnerships, offering stakeholders across the region

a unique opportunity to connect and explore new avenues for growth." Dr. Tariq Al-Shammari, chairman of the Gulf Centre for Strategic Communication (GSC), emphasised, "The success of the previous eleven editions highlights the GSC's capability to host an event of this scale." He noted that the sessions will address key opportunities and challenges faced by media institutions and companies. "Feedback from past editions has been overwhelmingly positive," he added, "and we hope this conference will further enrich participants' knowledge with the latest innovations and tools in the communications domain." As media continues to play a pivotal role in shaping public perception, government organisations will find significant value in attending the event. It will provide insights into effective communication strategies and offer guidance on how to build strong, positive relationships with the media.

SPORTS

OFAL kicks off with 160 teams

OMAN FOOTBALL ACADEMY LEAGUE

RESULTS — FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2024



Group A - U12	Pitch 1A	Group B - U12	Pitch 1B	Group C - U12	Pitch 2A
Al Muhaitib Professional	3-0	Sports Sport	2-1	Al Mawaleh Professional	2-1
Group B - U12	Pitch 2B	Group A - U12	Pitch 1A	Group B - U12	Pitch 1B
AL KHOD ACADEMY	4-0	All Star	1-1	Excellence	2-1
FUTURE GENERATION	0-0	Junior Star Academy	4-0	Al Seeb	4-0
Group A - U12	Pitch 2A	Group B - U12	Pitch 2B	Group A - U12	Pitch 1A
AL MUHTARIF	1-0	EXCELLENCE	2-1	Alagha	0-0
AL NOOR	1-0	AL HOSSON	4-0	Jenova	0-0
Group B - U12	Pitch 1B	Group A - U12	Pitch 2A	Group B - U12	Pitch 2B
Al Shamali	3-0	SPORTA SPORT	2-1	AL SHAMALI	4-0
Al Noor	0-0	AL SEEB	4-0	3M	0-0
Group A - U12	Pitch 1A	Group B - U12	Pitch 1B	Group A - U12	Pitch 2A
MFA	2-1	Excellence	2-1	ALL STAR	2-1
3M	1-1	Sports Sport	4-0	GHALA SCHOOL	1-1
Group B - U12	Pitch 2B	Group A - U12	Pitch 2A	Group B - U12	Pitch 2B
MFA	2-1	AL MUHTARIF	2-1	EXCELLENCE	2-1
JENOVA	2-1	Al Mawaleh	2-1	AL KHOD ACADEMY	1-1





The first round of the tournament witnessed 40 exciting games played over 2 days

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Football Academies League (OFAL), a groundbreaking tournament designed to elevate youth football in the Sultanate, was launched on

Friday at the Cheltenham School grounds in Seeb. The inaugural tournament will feature 160 teams and more than 4,000 players from various academies. Organised by Muscat Media Group (MMG) in partnership with the Oman Football Association (OFA), the competition marks a significant milestone in Oman's youth football landscape. The highly anticipated event will run for six months, offering a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and compete for top honours in four age categories. Fadi Kattar, Chief Operating Officer of Muscat Media Group, welcomed the participating teams at the launch of the Oman Football Academies League (OFAL), emphasising the importance of the

collaboration with the Oman Football Association to deliver a world-class competition. "The tournament will not only nurture young talent, but it will also contribute to the long-term development of Omani football," Kattar said. He elaborated on the tournament's significance, adding, "It provides an invaluable opportunity for players in football academies, schools, and youth teams to refine their skills through consistent competitive play." Kattar also highlighted the need for a structured platform, stressing, "Creating such a platform is essential for enabling young athletes to showcase their talent and for coaches to train their teams to high standards."

The competition will see teams from four age categories – under-16, under-14, under-12, and under-10 – compete for four prestigious titles. In addition to team awards, individual honours such as Best Player, Best Goalkeeper, and Top Scorer will be presented, with winners gaining the opportunity to participate in regional and international tournaments. Substantial cash prizes will also be awarded to the top three teams in each age category. Mike Seaton, Executive Principal, Cheltenham School, which is hosting the preliminary and final rounds of the competition, expressed his excitement about the event. "It's a pleasure to host this pres-

tigious tournament here at Cheltenham School. We are honoured to be key partners in an event that is already showing promising numbers and enthusiasm. The participation of 160 teams is an indicator of the success to come." Seaton also noted that this tournament could produce future football stars who may one day represent Oman at the highest levels of international competition. "Nothing is impossible in football, and we may soon see these young talents playing on the world stage, even at the World Cup," he added. Salem Al Habsi, the media supervisor for the tournament, said the competition would be organised with the highest standards and will be covered within

Oman and internationally. Al Habsi said: "This tournament serves as a model for age-group competitions, and we are confident it will have a lasting positive impact on Omani football." Chuck Martini, former English Premier League player and Head of Muscat Football Academy, also shared his enthusiasm for the league, noting the unique learning experience it offers. "This is a great moment for youth football in Oman," Martini said. "It's about developing the players' potential, not just competing. The experience gained here will benefit them both nationally and internationally." The first round of the tournament kicked off with 40 exciting matches over two days, filled with intense competition.



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RANEEN: ILLUMINATING MUTTRAH WITH CONTEMPORARY ART AND STORIES FROM OMAN AND BEYOND

The impressive gathering of talent offers a multifaceted experience, bringing Oman's past, present, and future to life through art.



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth of Oman will unveil RANEEN, a pioneering contemporary art experience, in the heart of historic Muttrah from debuting from November 21 to 30, 2024.

RANEEN will transform Muttrah's storied houses and winding alleyways into a vibrant canvas, where acclaimed Omani and international artists reimagine the town's rich architecture, heritage, and maritime legacy through innovative installations, video art, projections, photography, and more.

With exhibitions that evoke both nostalgia and modern perspectives, RANEEN promises a journey of collective memories and fresh artistic dialogues, inviting visitors to see Muttrah through a renewed lens.

Sayyid Saeed Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, expressed the significance of RANEEN.

He said: "Oman has a long history of hosting exceptional art events and exhibitions in Muscat's historic quarters, an area renowned for its forts, heritage sites, and growing contemporary art scene. Through RANEEN, we continue to preserve our heritage while welcoming local and international artists to celebrate this vibrant culture."

David Drake, RANEEN's curator, highlighted the event's impact. He said: "RANEEN captures the dynamism and ambition of Oman's contemporary art landscape. This event not only promotes local artistry but also offers a platform for the next generation of Omani artists to reach new audiences across the Gulf and internationally. Visitors will experience

an art trail that illuminates Omani history and culture through imaginative installations."

RANEEN will foster local pride and creativity through an extensive engagement programme led by Makaan Studios, ensuring that Muttrah's community connects with and contributes to the festival. The ten-day programme includes family workshops, storytelling sessions, light displays, musical performances, and more, with opportunities for all ages to explore their artistic potential while deepening appreciation for Muttrah's cultural heritage.

Drake, a curator with four decades of expertise, has organised over 400 exhibitions on five continents and published 30 artist monographs. He has curated major international exhibitions, including The Place I Call Home, a UK-Gulf collaboration, and won the Casa Arabe/PhotoEspana Nur Award in 2023. Formerly Director of Ffotogallery in Wales, he led projects across Europe, South Korea, India, North America, and Africa, showcasing diverse voices and fostering cross-cultural dialogue.

Exhibition highlights

Among the event's highlights is Museum of the Moon, a spectacular touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram, situated in the courtyard of Bait AlKhorji. Azra Akşamija's Abundance and Scarcity, a 70-metre canopy installation, merges environmental themes with cultural heritage.

Finnish artist Elina Brotherus, known for her evocative photographic works, will unveil pieces created during a residency in Oman, supporting emerging Omani artists through mentorship.

Other notable works include Unity in Diversity, a 20-metre mu-



Marwa Al Bahrani (Oman): In her installation Shifting Hues of Time, Al Bahrani uses iridescent glass to symbolise Oman's transformation, creating a display that shifts with the viewer's perspective.

HH Sayyida Tania al Said (Oman): Founder of Stal Gallery, Sayyida Tania presents Unity in Diversity, a 20-metre mural celebrating Oman's legacy of peace and tolerance.

Elina Brotherus (Finland): Brotherus's photography series captures architectural details and natural landscapes, creating poetic representations of Muttrah's scenery.

Ammar Alkiyumi (Oman): Alkiyumi's sculptures, inspired by Muttrah's sea breakers, reflect resilience and Oman's connection to the sea.

Khadija Al Maamari (Oman): Circles of Time explores family, tradition, and societal continuity through circular motifs symbolising Omani bonds across generations.

Laurenz Theinert (Germany): Theinert collaborates with Omani musicians on a son et lumière installation, transforming Muttrah's public spaces into immersive light and sound experiences.

Bashair Faqir (Oman): Her piece Childhood Home is a nostalgic exploration of memory and play, reflecting the warmth of Omani family life.

Huria Al Harassi (Oman): Known for textured compositions, Al Harassi's pieces capture spontaneous joy and cultural connections in richly layered works.

Clive Gracey (United Kingdom): His photography series Yesterday's Rooms evokes nostalgia for Muttrah's historic interiors, capturing their essence and storied past.

John Meirion Rea (United Kingdom): Rea's soundscape combines field recordings with Oud music, paying homage to the diverse sounds of Muttrah's port.

Ahmed Al Sinani (Oman): In Desert Echoes, Al Sinani uses desert sand to create textured landscapes that speak to Oman's vast and serene natural beauty.

Fatma Al Rashdi (Oman): Her installation Threads of Heritage uses traditional fabrics to highlight Omani textile craftsmanship, blending historical techniques with modern forms.

Said Al Harthy (Oman): In Legacy Stones, Al Harthy's stone carvings evoke ancient petroglyphs, reminding viewers of Oman's rich archaeological heritage.

Reem Al Faisal (Saudi Arabia): Al Faisal's photography captures the spirit of pilgrimage and spiritual journey, a nod to Oman's role in connecting Islamic cultures.

Oliver Ressler (Austria): His installation Sea of Change addresses environmental concerns, drawing attention to Oman's oceanic ecosystems through interactive displays.

Maha Al Balushi (Oman): In Voices of the Past, al Balushi presents mixed-media portraits inspired by Omani oral histories, preserving cultural narratives.

Rachid Koraichi (Algeria): Known for calligraphic art, Koraichi's work The Language of Peace incorporates Arabic script to symbolise unity and cross-cultural understanding.

Ali Al Ajmi (Oman): His large-scale installation Market Rhythms mimics the sights and sounds of Muttrah's souk, bringing its vibrant energy and community feel to life.



SPORTS

AFC ASIAN QUALIFIERS - ROAD TO 26 GROUP B CLASH

Oman’s coach Jaber eyes momentum after Palestine triumph

MUSCAT: Oman head coach Rashid Jaber has called on his team to build on their hard-fought 1-0 victory over Palestine as they chase their FIFA World Cup 2026 aspirations.
 Mohsin Al Ghassani’s decisive 83rd-minute goal secured the win in Thursday’s AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26 Group B clash, revitalising Oman’s campaign.
 Jaber commended his players for their focus and effort but emphasised the need to maintain momentum.
 “We thank God for the three points that we desperately needed,” Jaber said.
 “The players gave their all, and our defensive effort was commendable. However, the match is



over, and we must immediately shift our attention to the next challenge (against Iraq on Tuesday).”
 Reflecting on the game, Jaber acknowledged missed opportuni-

ties but remained optimistic about Oman’s path forward.
 “We could have added a second goal but wasted several chances,” he added.



“The Palestinian team played well, but circumstances didn’t favour them in this campaign. For us, this result is a crucial step forward in reigniting our competi-

tive spirit in the group. We aim to build on this success in our next match.”
 Palestine’s head coach, Makram Daboub, lamented the defeat but

refused to give up hope.
 “This result feels harsh as we didn’t deserve to lose,” Daboub remarked. “We missed several opportunities and had to make forced substitutions, but we will focus on our next match against South Korea.”
 The victory keeps Oman in fourth place in Group B, narrowing the gap to just two points behind Iraq and Jordan. With a crucial clash against Iraq on Tuesday, Oman has an opportunity to climb further in the standings.
Group B standings: 1 South Korea: 13 points (+7 goal difference), 2 Jordan: 8 points (+4 GD), 3 Iraq: 8 points (+1 GD), 4 Oman: 6 points (-2 GD), 5 Kuwait: 3 points (-6 GD), 6 Palestine: 2 points (-4 GD).

India shine with record-breaking brilliance to clinch T20I series



Tilak Varma and Sanju Samson hit centuries to power their team to a resounding win against South Africa



JOHANNESBURG: India delivered a masterclass in batting as Tilak Varma and Sanju Samson etched their names into the record books, leading India to a resounding 135-run victory over South Africa in Johannesburg on Friday. With twin centuries, the pair dismantled South Africa’s bowling attack to secure an unassailable 3-1 lead in the T20I series, capping off India’s fifth bilateral series win of 2024.
 This stunning performance saw

India amass 283 for 1, the highest T20I total ever recorded in South Africa and India’s second-highest overall. It also marked the first time a Full Member side achieved two centuries in the same T20I in-

nings, underscoring a series filled with remarkable batting feats.
 Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma were relentless, combining for a breathtaking 210-run partnership - the highest for any wicket by In-



dia in men’s T20Is. Their power-hitting was clinical and comprehensive. Samson hammered nine sixes, splitting his runs almost evenly across the off and leg sides. Tilak, meanwhile, showcased his

leg-side dominance, smashing 10 sixes, eight of them in that region.
 Their onslaught began early, with India reaching 73 for 1 after the powerplay and accelerating to 200 by the 15th over. The duo

didn’t spare a single bowler, forcing economy rates to skyrocket as high as 14 runs per over for most of the South African attack.
 South Africa’s response never gained traction. Arshdeep Singh, swinging the ball under overcast skies, struck early to remove Reeza Hendricks and Aiden Markram, leaving South Africa reeling at 1 for 2. Hardik Pandya joined the party, unsettling Ryan Rickelton with consistent movement before drawing an edge to the keeper.
 While David Miller and Tristan Stubbs briefly resisted, the chase never gained momentum. Stubbs’ 43 and Miller’s 36 provided fleeting hope, but India’s bowlers kept them in check. Varun Chakravathy, the series’ leading wicket-taker, and Axar Patel ensured the collapse was swift and decisive.
Brief scores: India 283/1 (Tilak Varma 120*, Sanju Samson 109*, Abhishek Sharma 36) beat South Africa 148 in 18.2 overs (Tristan Stubbs 43, David Miller 36, Arshdeep Singh 3-20, Axar Patel 2-6, Varun Chakravathy 2-42) by 135 runs

T20I SERIES

England seal series win against Windies

ST LUCIA: England edged past the West Indies in a tense third T20 in St Lucia on Friday, securing the series with a 3-0 lead and two matches to spare.
 Chasing 146, England recovered from a shaky start, thanks to Sam Curran’s composed 41 and Liam Livingstone’s impactful 39. Despite nervy moments, the visitors crossed the line with four balls remaining.
 The game began with a stand-out performance from England’s bowlers. Saqib Mahmood (3-17) and Jamie Overton (3-20) dismantled the West Indies’ top order, reducing them to 37-5 inside the powerplay. Mahmood’s eight powerplay wickets in the series set a record for bilateral T20 contests. Rovman Powell’s fighting 54 and a late flurry from Alzarri Joseph helped the hosts reach 145-8.
 England’s chase got off to a rough start, losing Phil Salt, Jos Buttler, and Jacob Bethell early. Akeal Hosein’s sharp spell (4-22) kept the pressure on, but Curran and Will Jacks rebuilt with a steady partnership. After Jacks fell for 32, Livingstone took charge, surviv-



ing three dropped catches to punish the hosts. His 16-run burst off Joseph swung momentum in England’s favor, and although he was dismissed with four runs required, Rehan Ahmed’s crisp boundary sealed the win.
 The West Indies were left to rue four dropped catches, which proved decisive in a close contest. With the series in the bag, England head into the fourth T20 full of confidence, while the hosts aim to bounce back and salvage pride in the remaining games.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE: ROUND-UP

Ronaldo leads Portugal into quarters

LISBON: Cristiano Ronaldo’s superb bicycle kick helped Portugal reach the Nations League quarter-finals with a thumping 5-1 win against Poland on Friday.
 With Portugal 4-0 up in the final few minutes, Ronaldo acrobatically fired home at the far post for his second of the game.
 All five Portugal goals were scored in a dominant second-half display, with Rafael Leao getting the ball rolling when he headed in the opener.
 The hosts were then awarded a penalty following a foul by Arsenal defender Jakub Kiwior inside the box and Ronaldo stepped up to coolly send the spot-kick down the middle.
 Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes grabbed a fine third, driving a fierce strike in off the underside of the bar, before Chelsea winger Pedro Neto wrapped up the big win with a powerful strike inside the near post.
 Dominik Marczuk grabbed a late consolation for Poland but it did little to quell the celebrations from the Portugal fans following their superb second-half showing.
 The two goals for Ronaldo continued his excellent form in the



competition, having now scored five goals in five Nations League games.
 The victory means Portugal progress as Group A1 winners.

Spain seal top spot
 Spain secured top spot in their Nations League group with a 2-1 victory at Denmark.
 The European champions were

already through to the quarter-finals but needed to win at Parken Stadium to progress as Group A4 winners. Mikel Oyarzabal opened the scoring in the 15th minute when he latched on to Ayoze Perez’s pass before slotting in.
 Former Newcastle and Leices-ter winger Perez got on the scoresheet himself in the second half when he finished off a flowing Spain attack, firing beyond Kasper Schmeichel. Gustav Isaksen gave Denmark some late hope when he prodded in but they could not find an equaliser.
First win for Scots
 At Hampden Park, hosts Scotland earned their first Nations League victory and ended their long winless run as substitute John McGinn’s late goal finally overcame 10-man Croatia 1-0 on Friday. The midfielder seized upon a loose ball after Dominik Kotarski parried a Ben Doak shot to send Hampden into belated uproar with his 19th goal for his country.
Other results: Group 1: San Marino 1 Gibraltar 1; Group 2: Cyprus 2 Lithuania 1; Group 3: Luxembourg 0 Bulgaria 1, Northern Ireland 2 Belarus 0; Group 4: Switzerland 1 Serbia 1. - Agencies

VISITORS WIN SERIES 2-1

Netherlands outplay Oman with all-round display in third T20I

MUSCAT: The Netherlands reserved their best for the last as they secured an impressive 29-run victory over Oman in the third T20I, sealing the series 2-1 with an all-round display.
 Oman, who won the toss and elected to field, had hoped to put pressure on the Netherlands’ batting order, but the Dutch proved too strong, posting a competitive total of 147/9.
 Oman’s chase got off to a poor start as they lost early wickets. Jatinder Singh (6) and Aamir Kaleem (9) were dismissed cheaply, while Ashish Odedara fell for a

duck, leaving Oman in dire straits at 13/3. A brief revival came from Hammad Mirza (9), but he too fell to Vivian Kingma, and the pressure mounted on the Omanis. At 24/4, the chase seemed all but over.
 Sandeep Goud’s dismissal for a duck (0) made it 25/5, and Oman’s hopes of chasing down the target seemed increasingly slim. However, Shakeel Ahmed mounted a valiant resistance, scoring a quick-fire 45 off 33 balls, hitting three boundaries and two sixes.
 His efforts gave Oman a brief glimmer of hope, but wickets kept tumbling at the other end. Mehran

Khan (18) and Sufyan Mehmood (23 not out) tried to rebuild, but the required run rate continued to climb beyond their reach as they managed only 48/7 in the 10th over.
 Kyle Klein was the standout performer with the ball, claiming four wickets for 16 runs. Paul van Meekeren backed up Klein with two wickets for 24.
 Oman’s lower order was unable to launch a fightback, and the host innings ended at 118/9.
 Earlier, the Netherlands’ innings began with a wobble as Michael Levitt was dismissed for

just two runs in the first over by Shakeel Ahmed. However, Max O’Dowd (66 off 55 balls) steadied the ship with a fluent knock, hitting seven boundaries and one six.
 Teja Nidamanuru provided valuable support, scoring 36 off 24 balls, as the pair put on a crucial partnership. O’Dowd’s steady strike rate ensured the Netherlands kept ticking along despite fall of regular wickets.
 Scott Edwards (10) and Colin Ackermann (1) were dismissed cheaply, both falling to Oman’s spinners. Bas de Leede was dis-

missed for five runs, while Noah Croes (15) and Kyle Klein (2) also departed, leaving the tail exposed.
 Shakeel Ahmed was the pick of Oman’s bowlers, claiming 3 wickets for 24, while Muzahir Raza (1 for 11), Sufyan Mehmood (1 for 14), and Mohammad Nadeem (1 for 36) chipped in with key breakthroughs.
Brief scores: Netherlands 147/9 (Max O’Dowd 66, Teja Nidamanuru 36; Shakeel Ahmed 3/24) beat Oman 118/9 (Shakeel Ahmed 45, Sufyan Mehmood 23*, Kyle Klein 4/16, Paul van Meekeren 2/24).



Bank Muscat, GIG Gulf launch offer on comprehensive motor insurance plan

Through the exclusive offer, customers can avail a cash voucher when obtaining or renewing a comprehensive insurance policy, which includes a number of services such as changing engine oil and filter, checking and adjusting tire air pressure

MUSCAT: In commitment to its customer-centric vision “To Serve You Better Everyday” and dedication to providing customers with the best banking services and solutions, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, and GIG Gulf have introduced an attractive two-month offer for the comprehensive Motor Insurance plan, in collaboration with Precision Tune Auto Care.

Through the exclusive offer, customers can avail a cash voucher when obtaining or renewing a comprehensive insurance policy, which includes a number of services such as changing engine oil and filter,

checking and adjusting tire air pressure, cleaning the air conditioning filter, washing and cleaning vehicle, and checking and inspecting the computer battery. The offer starts on 1 November until 31 December.

Customers can benefit from the current offer by visiting G.I.G desks located at the nearest Bank Muscat branch, applying through the online portal, or contacting the call center at 24032666. Both Omani and Expats are eligible to benefit from the comprehensive Motor Insurance plan for either new or renewal purchases of G.I.G comprehensive motor insurance.

On this occasion, Abdullah Tamman Al Maashani, General Manag-



er – Products, Bank Muscat, said: “We take pride in our partnership with G.I.G Gulf, a worldwide insurance services provider. The launch of the current offer came after the success of last year Auto Insurance campaign which featured positive customer feedback. We invite our valued customers to benefit from the offer and enjoy the various benefits motor insurance plan offers. The bank will continue offering them the best insurance services at affordable and highly competitive premiums. We would like to extend our appreciation to the valued customers for their

continuous trust on the different offers, services and facilities.”

Abdullah Al Maashani further stated: “This offer came in line with the exclusive offer the Bank provides its customers with, on Sayyarati Auto Finance. The offer starts at a special rate of 3.75 per cent on both new and pre-owned cars for Omani nationals and expatriates. This year, customers will be able to start paying their instalment after 2 months of loan disbursal. I would like to stress that Sayyarati has some of the best interest rates in the country, including 4 per cent for a period up to 2 years and 4.25

per cent for loan tenors of 3 years and 4.5 per cent for a 4-year loan tenor. All customers are invited customers to benefit from the exclusive features offered by Bank Muscat and G.I.G.

Mehdi Salim Al Harthy - General Manager & Head of Partnerships – Oman, GIG Gulf, said: “We are delighted to continue strengthening our strategic partnership with Bank Muscat and continue introducing various offers for customers. We hope through the current offer to provide customers with added value so they can fully benefit from the comprehensive Motor

Insurance package from GIG.”

Some unique features of GIG Gulf Motor Insurance plan are that customers will be able to get 24/7 roadside assistance and recovery, guaranteed repairs and extended opening hours. It is one of the highest levels of motor protection in the Middle East as it is combined with the security and service standards of a large international operation.

Through the Motor Insurance plan, customers will benefit from compensation for loss or damage caused to their vehicle and their personal belongings, third party liability against personal injury and property damage, UAE extension cover and in the event of total loss the cost of the insured value will be covered, as per original invoice with no depreciation for 24 months.

Since 2013, Bank Muscat has had a strategic partnership with GIG Gulf, a leader in insurance which provides a wide range of insurance products and services to corporates, SMEs, and individual customers throughout the region. Through this strategic alliance, the bank provides best-in-class bancassurance products and services to its diverse customer segments, including health insurance, motor, home, savings, life, and more.

FUNDING OPENING OF PREPARATORY CLASSES

Marafiq strengthens its support for local community

MUSCAT: Marafiq, a company owned by OQ (Oman's leading energy company) and Gulf Energy Development (GED), a leading power and water utilities company based in Thailand, has strengthened its support for the local community by funding the opening of preparatory classes at schools in Al Wusta Governorate for the third consecutive year.

According to the agreement between Marafiq and the Directorate-General of Education in Al Wusta Governorate, Marafiq has renewed its support to open preparatory classes at Dhahr School for Basic Education in Duqm and Al Lakbi School for Basic Education in Al Jazir for the 2024/2025 academic year, after previously funding the opening of preparatory classes at both schools in the past two academic years.

Eng. Abdullah Al Hashimi, Managing Director of Marafiq, confirmed the company's commitment to supporting social ini-



tiatives in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) in particular and Al Wusta Governorate in general. He emphasised that the company's support for the opening of preparatory classes reflects its focus on school children and enhancing the local community's benefit from Marafiq's social responsibility programs.

He added, “Social investment is an integral part of Marafiq's corporate social responsibility, as the company places special emphasis on supporting the education sector in Sezad and Al Wusta

Governorate in general. Through its continuous funding of preparatory classes at schools in Al Wusta Governorate, the company aims to enhance human development and build the capabilities of young generations to make the most of local potential.”

The opening of preparatory classes is part of the efforts made by the Directorate-General of Education in Al Wusta Governorate to provide comprehensive care for children to overcome the challenges they face when transitioning to the first grade of basic education.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Renaissance Services appoints CFO



MUSCAT: Renaissance Services announced the appointment of Juma Al Khamisi as Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective November 2024. Al Khamisi brings over 25 years of extensive experience in finance, having previously held CFO roles at National Finance and the Ministry of Defence Pension Fund. His comprehensive expertise in audit, risk management and financial strategy makes him a valuable addition to the company's leadership team.

Board of Directors Indian Schools – Sultanate of Oman

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**STATUTORY AUDITING FOR FY 2024-25 & 2025-26
AND INTERNAL AUDITING FOR FY 2025-26 & 2026-27**

Board of Directors of Indian Schools Oman invites Expression of Interest from reputed Auditing Firms / Companies with proven track record to carry out the following assignments.

1. STATUTORY AUDIT OF 19 INDIAN SCHOOLS & BOD
2. INTERNAL AUDIT OF 19 INDIAN SCHOOLS

These schools are situated in places like Muscat, Muladha, Rustaq, Nizwa, Ibra, Ibri, Sur, Jalan, Salalah, Khasab, Masirah, Thumrait, Saham, Buraimi, Duqm etc.

Further details can be obtained from BoD office located at Indian School Muscat (Phone: 71599773 email: bodfinance@indianschoolsoman.com).
EOI's are to be submitted by **28 th November, 2024** in sealed envelopes marking 'EOI for Statutory Audit' or 'EOI for Internal Audit' addressed to

**The Board of Directors Indian Schools,
PO.Box. 2470, PC.112, Ruwi, Muscat**

Recall

**Accord-city-odyssey-crv-civic
2018-2019**

Recall Date: 17/11/2024

Brand of Commodity	Year of Production	Number of Affected Commodities
Accord-city-odyssey-crv-civic	2018-2019	Total: 1814 units

Recall consequence

Material of plastic impeller from some lots used inside fuel pump have low density, and some had many cracks at the process of drying fuel for inspection. This resulted in impeller swelling and deformation due to immersion in fuel and temperature on market, causing less clearance between impeller & pump cover and this will cause the fuel pump to lock resulting in engine stalling or engine not starting

Recall action

The procedure will be carried out according to the technical instructions received from Honda.

To check the serial Numbers of the affected commodities, please visit the website for Recalls & Warnings: <http://recall.pacp.gov.om>

Contact Info:
+968 24665700
+968 24665742

Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainmentof tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)		
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies	Property owner
484/2024	Provision of medical staff of doctors, nurses, legal nurses, nutritionists and clinical psychologists, Nursing assistants, and health care technicians for persons with disabilities for the Department	Companies specialized in the field of hospital services and care homes and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree.	Thursday 5-12-2024 02:00 PM	Monday 30-12-2024 0:00 AM	12 R.O	60 R.O	60 R.O
486/2024	Leakage treatment works at the National Autism Center in Al-Khoud	Required projects in the field of construction contracting and maintenance services, registered with the General Secretariat, fourth degree	Tuesday 26-11-2024 02:00 PM	Sunday 8-12-2024 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O	—
487/2024	Cleaning works of air ducts for air conditioning units in the Ministry of Social Developmet building	Companies specialized in the field of industrial workshop services, blacksmithing, carpentry, machinery and vehicle repair, and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board with excellent or first class.	Tuesday 26-11-2024 02:00 PM	Sunday 8-12-2024 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 On Tuesday 12/11/2024

❖ For Inquiry, please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) Tel. (24402200) “The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry”

www.mosd.gov.om

ROUND-UP

Grand Millennium Muscat celebrates National Day with exclusive offers

From November 15 to 30, the hotel will celebrate the spirit of the nation with exclusive packages designed for families and friends

MUSCAT: Grand Millennium Muscat announced its impressive offers in honour of Oman's 54th National Day, inviting guests to indulge in luxurious accommodation, delightful dining experiences, and rejuvenating spa treatments. From November 15 to 30, the

hotel will celebrate the spirit of the nation with exclusive packages designed for families and friends. As part of the celebratory offer, guests can enjoy a memorable stay with the 'National Day Rooms Package', starting from just OMR54, which includes a delicious



breakfast for two adults. Families can benefit from special incentives, including complimentary stays for children aged six and under when sharing existing bedding. In addition, guests are entitled to a 54% discount on extra food and beverage purchases at any of the hotel's outlets, as well as 54% saving on selected treatments at Zanta Spa. To enhance their stay experience, guests will also receive a delightful

welcome amenity upon arrival. The hotel is further celebrating the occasion with special food and beverage offers. On November 17, 18, 24 & 25, diners can enjoy a special rate of OMR 5.400 for an abun-

dant buffet selection of Belgian chocolates, treats & a live Omani Halwa station at Bait Al Shukolatah in Café D. What's more, Bahriyat Restaurant will offer a 54% discount on meals throughout the National Day holiday period available to all visitors. For those seeking relaxation, Grand Millennium Muscat is providing National Day Spa Offers from November 15 to 1 December. Guests can enjoy a Spa Discovery or Jasmine Harmony package, reduced to just OMR 54 per person. Grand Millennium Muscat invites everyone to experience the best of Omani hospitality while celebrating this significant occasion, ensuring that guests make unforgettable memories this National Day.

NEW SHOWROOM IN MUSCAT



Noblessa expands presence in Oman

MUSCAT: Noblessa, the renowned German brand known for its premium kitchens, is making its mark in Oman with the opening of a new high-end showroom in Muscat. Following successful openings in the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the authorised distributor, Ahmed Abdullah Alessa Group, the showroom, will showcase a curated collection of premium kitchen solutions. The showroom, set to inaugurate on November 13, offers a glimpse into the world of exquisite design, cutting-edge technology, and sustainable kitchen solutions. Designed for discerning homeowners and real estate developers, it will feature modular, customizable kitchens crafted to meet the latest standards in both contemporary design and environmental responsibility. Located on 18th November Street, Muscat, the state-of-the-art showroom will provide an immersive experience, highlighting Noblessa's commitment to innovation, functionality, and aesthetics. From vibrant color palettes to high-tech features, the showroom will showcase a seamless fusion of design and practicality that has made Noblessa a global leader in the premium kitchen segment. Abdullah Al Essa, CEO of Ahmed Abdullah Hamed Al-Essa Company, expressed optimism about the entry of Noblessa in Oman: "This showroom is an exciting step forward for Noblessa in Oman. It allows us to cater to the growing demand for high-quality kitchens in the Sultanate of Oman, driven by new luxury real estate, individual homes, and hospitality projects, offering Omani homeowners and developers the very best in both, design and durability."

A legacy of excellence in kitchen design
Founded in 1996, Noblessa has built a reputation for excellence

in premium kitchen design, with all products crafted in its state-of-the-art German factories. Every Noblessa kitchen reflects meticulous craftsmanship, elegant design, and cutting-edge technology. The brand's attention to detail and commitment to perfection are evident in every piece, making Noblessa more than just a brand -- It's a way of life. Noblessa is dedicated to designing living spaces where elegance and harmony reign supreme. Drawing inspiration from its clients, the brand offers personalized guidance for every project, considering everyone's lifestyle and kitchen requirements. This bespoke approach ensures that each kitchen is not just a space for cooking, but a reflection of personal taste and style.

Capitalising on booming real estate market
As Oman's real estate and construction sectors continue to thrive, the demand for high-end interiors is on the rise. With an expanding market in residential, commercial, hospitality, and retail developments, the need for premium kitchens has never been greater. Noblessa is poised to take advantage of this growth, offering kitchens that seamlessly blend style with efficiency. Each Noblessa kitchen is designed to be both a personalized cooking space and a functional centerpiece in any home or business. By combining elegant design with advanced technology, Noblessa provides kitchens that cater to the sophisticated tastes of Omani homeowners and developers, while also enhancing the value of any property. Whether for luxury homes or high-end commercial projects, Noblessa's kitchens are the epitome of timeless design and quality craftsmanship. With this new showroom, Noblessa is set to become a key player in Oman's premium kitchens market.

RUWAD ALIZZ LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Hashil Al Mahrouqi inspires Ruwad Alizz leaders

MUSCAT: As part of the Ruwad Alizz Leadership Programme, Alizz Islamic Bank welcomed Dr. Hashil Al Mahrouqi, CEO of Omran Group as a keynote speaker for an insightful session with the candidates of the fourth batch of the programme to connect with audience and convey important leadership lessons, overcoming challenges, career advancement and how to make an impact in a globalised and rapidly evolving world. As the CEO of Omran Group, Dr. Hashil Al Mahrouqi is taking the helm of development, progress and growth in the tourism sector. Aiming at maximising investment returns and achieving local added value, these efforts will contribute towards delivering key objectives



of Oman 2040 Vision, through attracting tourism investments, developing pioneering projects and yielding socio-economic returns for the Sultanate. Al Mahrouqi holds multiple academic and professional qualifications, most notably the Master

icate from INSEAD International Business School, in addition to many professional and specialised certificates in the fields of investment, real estate and management. The 'RuwadAlizz' programme is a comprehensive leadership development journey that spans various stages of study. Initially, employees engage with Harvard University, accessing educational online materials. As part of the programme, participants conduct independent research on a specific leadership topic and experience a comprehensive and accelerated development journey. The programme facilitates a assimilation of diverse experiences and leadership styles throughout the 6 months course.

LUXURY VEHICLE

Drive newly released luxury Certified Pre-Owned vehicles with Mercedes-Benz

MUSCAT: Mercedes-Benz Oman announced exclusive prices on a range of Certified Pre-Owned vehicles, giving customers the chance to own a luxury vehicle with the assurance of exceptional quality and value. Our Certified Pre-Owned programme guarantees that every vehicle has undergone a comprehensive 150-point inspection by factory-trained technicians, ensuring it meets the highest performance, safety, and reliability standards. This quarter, Mercedes-Benz Oman features four standout models. The Mercedes-Benz A 200 (2023) is available for OMR17,995, including VAT. With only 20,043 KM mileage, this model comes in Digital White Metallic with a refined leather two-tone Classic Red/Black interior. For those seeking a more recent model, the Mercedes-Benz C 200 (2024) is priced at OMR 26,995, including VAT. Driven for only 10,753 KM, it is offered in a sleek Spectral Blue Metallic exterior and ARTICO leather upholstery in Neva Grey/Black. Additionally, the Mercedes-Benz CLA 250 (2024) is offered at OMR 23,995, including VAT. This model, with 13,684 KM mileage, is finished in Spectral Blue Metallic and features ARTICO man-made leather in Sage Grey and Black.



Lastly, for those with a preference for high-performance vehicles, the Mercedes-AMG GT 43 (2023) is available at an exclusive price of OMR 46,995, including VAT. With only 140 KM on the odometer, it boasts a striking Polar White exterior and a premium Exclusive Nappa Leather interior in a 2-Tone Red Pepper/Black combination. Each Certified Pre-Owned vehicle comes with an unlimited-mileage warranty of one year, with the option to extend up to two years, alongside 24/7 roadside assistance for certain models. Customers will also benefit from a complete history of all services performed and access to a variety of service packages, adding even more value to their purchase. With these additional benefits, owning a Certified Pre-Owned Mercedes-Benz delivers peace of mind and unmatched quality. These exclusive prices are valid until December 31.

OMAN AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL



OABC hosts Tourism Committee roundtable with Oman Air CEO

MUSCAT: The Oman American Business Council (OABC) Tourism Committee recently held a high-level roundtable, bringing together top industry leaders from Oman's tourism sector. This gathering, held at Europcar's regional HQ for Oman and Bahrain, highlighted the Tourism Committee's role, established in 2023, as a dedicated platform for industry professionals to connect, provide feedback, and stay informed on emerging trends. Con Korfiatis, CEO of Oman Air and guest speaker for the event, addressed CEOs and general managers from leading hotels, tour companies, and tourism organizations. His presentation covered Oman Air's vision for bolstering Oman as a global tourism destination and shared strategies aimed at attracting more visitors, including new initiatives to encourage extended stays through Oman Air's

stopover programs. Rebecca Olson, CEO of OABC, emphasized the significance of Oman Air's engagement with the committee, noting, "We were honored to host Con Korfiatis in his role as CEO of Oman Air, especially given his busy schedule. Events like this one are exactly why the Tourism Committee exists—to bring industry leaders together to share insights and collectively support Oman's tourism ambitions, which are too big for any one entity to achieve alone. Thanks also to Europcar for hosting the event, always looking for ways to support Oman's business community." Nitin Sapre, CEO of Europcar Oman & Bahrain, also expressed his appreciation for the gathering, adding, "It was a privilege to host this important discussion with OABC and Oman Air as part of our commitment to supporting Oman's business community."

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