



CELEBRATING RENEWED

RENAISSANCE

SULTANATE MARKS 50TH NATIONAL DAY ANNIVERSARY

HM pardons 390 prisoners

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, has issued a Royal pardon to a number of prisoners convicted of different cases. They included 390 prisoners, 150 of them are foreign prisoners. The Royal pardon of His Majesty the Supreme Commander coincides with the occasion of the 50th National Day of the Renaissance and in consideration of families of the prisoners. — ONA

MUSCAT: The Sultanate will today mark its 50th National Day anniversary. With firm resolve, Omani citizens continue to make more achievements under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, who vowed to upgrade the march of nation building and enhance the pace of progress, striking a high note in Omani people's enthusiasm for an ambitious renaissance that covers all spheres of life. Yet, this year's celebration is impinged by sentiments of sour sorrow for the loss of Father of the Omani Renaissance, late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, who sculpted this Arabian

edifice from scratch, his vigilant eye not missing a flaw on any side of the monument. Despite the immense calamity that befell on Oman, the Arab world and the Islamic nation upon the death of the late Sultan, the January 11, 2020 was a virtually unforgettable day in Oman's history. On this day, Omanis depicted a unique national saga of loyalty and devotion when the Sultanate surprised the whole world with a smooth transition of power. In gratitude and tribute to the late Sultan, the Royal Family endorsed, with unwavering certitude, the successor chosen by the late monarch to take the

helm, given his proven wisdom and farsightedness. To answer this wish, the Defence Council opened the letter of the late Sultan who "recommended installing Haitham bin Tarik as the Sultan of Oman due to (what the late Sultan perceived as) traits that qualify him to shoulder the responsibility." Omanis bade farewell to "the dearest and finest of men" (to quote His Majesty Sultan Haitham), pleaded mercy on his soul and recalled his everlasting good deeds and the legacy of nation building that he left behind in 49 years during which Omani citizen

were the means and mainstay of development. Within a short span of 10 months, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik was able to make many achievements. With insight and strong will, he restructured the state administrative apparatus to keep pace with Oman Vision 2040 whose salient features were drawn out by all segments of society in a manner that responds to His Majesty the Sultan's aspirations. Under his auspices, the participants determined the future goals and economic, social and cultural approaches for a more verdant phase of development. **TURN TO P6**

HM greeted

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received cables of greetings from Shaikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Nassir al Ma'awali, Chairman of Majlis Ash'shura, Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Nuomani, Minister of the Royal Office, Head of the Office of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Lt Gen Hassan bin Mohsin al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, and Lt General Said bin Ali al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service (ISS). **DETAILS ON P7**

MADE IN OMAN CAMPAIGN



Coinciding with the 50th National Day celebrations and as part of the Made in Oman campaign, a corner for the Omani products was launched at Lulu Hypermarket in Muscat Mall, under the auspices of Dr Saleh bin Said Masan, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, on Monday. The Made in Oman promotional campaign is organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in collaboration with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority. PHOTOS BY KHALFAN AL RUZAIQI

OHRC welcomes expatriate exit scheme

VINOD NAIR
@vinot_nair

Thousands of expatriates have started visiting their embassies in Oman to finish formalities under the exit scheme while the Oman Human Rights Committee (OHRC) welcomed the decision of the government.

OHRC said it appreciates the Ministry of Labour's decision to allow the expatriates to return to their homes and families with exemption from all fees and fines.

The committee said that this is a noble humanitarian step taken by the Sultanate.

With special counters set up for the purpose, expatriates have been queuing in good numbers to fill the required form to get the outpass. "We have also made arrangements for expatriates outside Muscat to take advantage of this scheme without the need to travel all the way to the capital. Arrangements have been made for them to submit the form," a social worker associated with the

embassy said.

The Indian Embassy has established counters to facilitate the people in filling the form. "We will issue the emergency certificate after they receive approval from the Ministry of Labour. Around 50 people had visited the embassy by noon."

The Ministry of Labour has opened the registration for expatriates who wish to leave the country permanently during the grace period, starting today until December 31.

Warmest congratulations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham
Bin Tarik
and the people of Oman
on the occasion of the
50th National Day of the
Renaissance.

Oman LNG
is honoured to congratulate
HIS MAJESTY
SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK
and
the people of Oman
on the occasion of the
50th National Day of the Renaissance

OmanLng.co.om @Oman LNG f Oman LNG OmanIngllc in Oman LNG L.L.C.



Our warmest felicitations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
 and the people of Oman on the joyous occasion
 of the 50th National Day of the Renaissance

A LEGACY RENEWED AND ENERGISED

Our nation commemorates 50 years of achievements in its modern renaissance initiated by late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said (may Allah have mercy upon him), even as we accelerate towards a promising future under the guidance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik (May Allah protect and preserve him).

At Khimji Ramdas, we are proud of our 150-year Omani legacy, and will continue to contribute to realising His Majesty's Vision 2040 by investing in the economy, supporting Omani youth, promoting the inclusion of women in the workforce, and creating equal opportunities for all citizens.

Eshraqa, the social development arm of Khimji Ramdas, epitomises our deep commitment to the nation and to the core values of trust, care, commitment, and learning. Eshraqa projects aim to touch and transform lives; enhance education; inspire professionals; awaken the entrepreneurial spirit; and enable communities in every corner of our great land to thrive.



EDUCATION



HEALTH



COMMUNITY
WELLBEING



TRAINING



"Our Best Wishes for
our Great Nation on this
Golden Occasion!"

Eshraqa al Ajeeba



eshraqa_oman

www.eshraqa.om

khimji_ramdas

www.kr.om



Felicitations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
 & the people of Oman on the occasion of
 50th National Day of the Renaissance



مشاريع علوي ش.م.م
Alawi Enterprises L.L.C.

(The Heirs of Late Qais Al Zawawi)

P.O. Box: 401, P.C: 114, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, Tel: 24647800 Fax: 24647801 Web: www.zawawigroup.com



On the occasion of the
50th National Day of the Renaissance,
we extend our heartiest congratulations to

**His Majesty
Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**
and the people of Oman.

We renew our pledge of allegiance
and loyalty and pray to Allah the
Almighty to protect and grant
His Majesty good health and
happiness, and to perpetuate
blessings of success and progress
upon the people of Oman.



OMINVEST

الشركة العمانية العالمية للتنمية والاستثمار ش.م.ع

Oman International Development and Investment Company SAOG

ominvest.net

CELEBRATING RENEWED RENAISSANCE, SETTING FURTHER MILESTONES

FROM PAGE 1

Royal Decree No 75/2020 on the State's Administrative Apparatus constituted a turning point in practicing and regulating administrative action in the Sultanate. Its pursuits will shake up the structure by introducing new mechanisms that contribute to streamlining of procedures, maximising benefits from services and finalising them in the shortest possible time in a manner that conforms to Oman Vision 2040.

A strategic approach of Oman Vision 2040 is to accord priority to the development of sustainable governorates and cities by espousing decentralisation as a style of governance mentioned in Article 2 of the above-mentioned Decree, which states that "the State's Administrative Apparatus consists of central units like ministries and councils and non-central units like authorities and public establishments."

Royal Decree No 101/2020 on regulating governorates and municipal affairs will contribute to the establishment of sustainable development, utilisation of resources in the most ideal manner, generating benefits from tourism resources and heritage landmarks of every governorate and managing municipal utilities. The Governorates Affairs Council will facilitate coordination among governorates as they practice their respective specialisations and it will follow up the implementation of developmental projects. It will also assess their performance, evaluate their budgets and monitor investment of their resources.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik met a number of tribal chiefs (shaikhs) in the Governorate of Dhofar in the Wilayat of Salalah in September. An aura of dialogue prevailed in the meeting in a style reminiscent of the late Sultan's meet-the-people tradition. His Majesty Sultan Haitham expressed his keenness to meet citizens, study their needs and listen to their proposals for the development of their respective wilayats and their views on how to enhance the role of government departments and their services within the country's comprehensive development plans.

Apart from the role undertaken by the Council of Oman, through its bicameral chambers (State Council and Majlis Ash'shura), coupled with the role of municipal councils in promoting development, such face-to-face meetings represent a practical application of Omani Shura (consultation) method — which is a value derived from the habits and traditions of Omani society.

His Majesty the Sultan's attention to the people crystallised in the way he tackled coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic since its outbreak in late 2019 in most countries of the world. His Majesty gave orders to form a Supreme Committee to find scopes to deal with the virus, monitor its spread, follow up regional and international efforts to limit its impacts and to devise solutions in accordance with assessment of general health results.

The Supreme Committee, headed by Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal al Busaidy, Minister of Interior, has been on ongoing session and it has embarked on implementing the Royal directives of His Majesty the Sultan, who presided over one of its meetings last March. In the meeting, His Majesty pledged the government's full support to the committee. He said that the government "in its mandate to protect the health of citizens and residents, will spare no effort in combating the pandemic and curbing its spread."

Meanwhile, an Endowment Fund



and an "Anti-COVID-19 Support Fund" were established as prime movers of public support to the Ministry of Health in the battle against coronavirus. His Majesty the Sultan himself donated RO 10 million as a personal contribution to the funds. The Royal gesture reaffirms full collaboration between the leader, the government and members of the public, both citizens and residents, to help eliminate the threat of the virus.

The Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic took many decisions and espoused precautionary measures to curb the spread of the virus. It imposed partial lockdown in some governorates and total lockdown in other governorates. It also set up Command and Control Points, banned nighttime movement, closed mosques, suspended study in schools and other educational institutions, downsized workforce at public and private workplaces, activated online work, suspended some commercial activities and imposed laws and regulations to ensure abidance by preventive procedures and stem the spread of the virus.

FOREIGN POLICY

In his speech, His Majesty the Sultan said: "We shall trace the course of the late Sultan, reaffirming the fundamentals of our country's foreign policy based on peaceful coexistence with nations, good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, respect for countries' sovereignty and international cooperation in various spheres."

This stance was reaffirmed by the Sultanate's government in September in a speech delivered by Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy before the 75th General Assembly of the United Nations. Sayyid Badr said: "His Majesty the Sultan has reaffirmed beyond any doubt that the Sultanate will continue the prudent policy set by late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, Founder of Oman's modern renaissance and architect of its foreign policy and its international relations over the past 50 years."

In addition, the principles of Omani foreign policy as established in its blessed renaissance espouse dialogue as a means for solving disputes. They also support values of tolerance, justice equality and the settlement of conflicts in accordance with the UN charter and rules of the international law. This enhanced the Sultanate's regional and international status and made it a lighthouse of peace and security.

ECONOMIC VISION

The much-awaited Oman Economic Vision, scheduled to be implemented upon the start of the 10th Five Year Plan

in January 2021, meets with serious challenges, including the slump in international oil prices and the global spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

FISCAL PLAN

These challenges prompted the government to undertake stringent measures, including a Medium-Term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2024) which features many initiatives and programmes aimed at establishing solid foundations for financial sustainability, reducing general debt, upgrading the efficiency of government spending, enhancing the State's financial reserves, improving revenues from investment of government (to help the country deal with any challenges) and, thus, setting economic growth upright.

ROLE OF SMEs

Due to the vital role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in economic growth, the government of the Sultanate, represented by the Ministry of Labour, worked to establish a suitable environment for SMEs. The steps included the exemption of SMEs from Omanisation percentages and the allocation of some professions to expatriate manpower. Also, the portal Invest-Ease has introduced many electronic services to the business community.

In this respect, His Majesty the Sultan said, "We understand the significance of the Small and Medium Enterprise Sector and the Entrepreneurship Sector, notably projects based on innovation, artificial intelligence and advanced technologies. Attention will be accorded to training and empowering youth to help them benefit from opportunities offered by these vital sectors so that they could establish the core component of a smart national economy. Our government will follow up the progress made in these domains step by step."

The laws and incentives related to investment helped furnish an attractive climate for investments from home and abroad. These include the Foreign Capital Investment Law.

The government capitalises on investment in Omani ports, particularly the Port of Sohar and the Port of Salalah, in addition to special economic zones (like the Special Economic Zone in Duqm and the Port of Duqm). The tourism sector also forms one of the basic pillars of economic diversification. The government has devised clear-cut strategies to maximise benefits from investment in the tourism sector.

ROLE OF MEDIA

Meanwhile, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik granted the Order of Royal Commendation, 3rd Class,

to some media personnel, which reflects His Majesty's conviction in the significance of media's role during the Omani renaissance march.

DECENT LIVING

To provide means of decent living for Omani citizens amid adverse global economic conditions, a Job Security System Law has been promulgated by Royal Decree. His Majesty the Sultan donated RO 10 million as a personal contribution towards the foundation of the fund. He also issued directives to speed up the establishment of a comprehensive national Social Security Scheme that provides protection to low-income groups and Social Security Fund beneficiary families against expected impacts of the medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan.

His Majesty accorded top priority to the sector of education. He gave directives to provide a supportive environment that enhances learning, research and innovation. The aim is to enable Omani citizens to contribute to the forthcoming stage of development.

The National Strategy for Research and Development has been modernised to keep pace with Oman Vision 2040, notably the development of a cognitive community that is capable of competing and converting knowledge into economic revenue. The setting up of University of Technology and Applied Sciences last August is a testimony to this approach of encouraging research and innovation and benefit from advances of artificial intelligence and the 4th industrial revolution (4IR). For the same purpose the name of Ministry of Higher Education has been changed to Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation.

MODERN RENAISSANCE

The Sultanate's modern renaissance is influenced by the memorable quote of the late Sultan who said, "We will educate our sons and daughters even under the shade of a tree" (way back in the 1970s). Since then, the march of education has gone a long way and, today, educational establishments are set up on each mountain and plain in Oman.

The recent Royal directives to set up six priority schools in the forthcoming stage to the tune of RO 8.85 million reflects the attention accorded by His Majesty the Sultan to the needs of citizens. It is a gesture that denotes his Royal support to education, being the basic requirement for nation building.

In the field of environment, since the outset of its blessed renaissance, the Sultanate has been implementing a policy of environment protection and pollution prevention. This policy comes within the framework of a

comprehensive strategy for sustainable development, conservation of wildlife and preservation of renewable resources.

The renewed renaissance led by His Majesty the Sultan accords importance to the freedom of expression guaranteed by the Basic Law of the State's Article (29).

The article provides that the law secures to the individuals of society the freedom of expression either through speaking, writing or other means within the boundaries of the law. This has been reaffirmed by His Majesty the Sultan, who said that the State is founded on grounds of freedom of speech, justice and equality of opportunities where people's dignity, rights and liberties are preserved.

One of the bright aspects of renewed Omani renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik is the Royal attention accorded to Omani women. The vital role of women in the nation building march has been highly recognised. His Majesty the Sultan said, "We all have to ensure that women get their full rights guaranteed by law, including their right to work side by side with men across all sectors to serve their country and society."

ROYAL COMMENDATION

Last month, His Majesty the Sultan conferred the Order of Royal Commendation on a number of Omani women. The Order was presented by the Honourable Lady, the Spouse of His Majesty the Sultan, at a ceremony held at Al Barakah Palace on October 17.

His Majesty the Sultan described youth as "the inexhaustible wealth of nations... its hands that build." He voiced his sincere desire to listen to youth, explore their interests, address their concerns and achieve their aspirations. The celebration of Omani Youth Day on October 26 came as reaffirmation of the Sultanate government's commitment towards this segment of society and its determination to provide them with all means that facilitate their march forward as they contribute to their country's progress.

ROLE OF YOUTH

HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, gave a speech at the event, saying, "Omani youth have shown that they are highly capable of shouldering their national responsibility. This confidence stems from their full awareness about their cause and how to serve by it espousing means of advancement, coupled with clear vision and firm resolve to participate in the rejuvenating renaissance of Oman. They are open to the culture of coexistence, love and peace."

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik pledged, as he leads the promising reign of the renewed renaissance, that he will elevate Oman, in the coming stage, to the level of aspirations of its people in all spheres. Citizens participation will be the main pillar of national action, he said, asserting his absolute confidence in the abilities of loyal Omani people to cope with the requirements of the age and the next stage of development, with clear vision, extreme wisdom, steadfastness and self-denial.

His Majesty the Sultan said, in a Royal address that: "Nation building is a public responsibility binding upon all. No one is exempted. All should contribute within their capacities. Oman has been founded and its civilisation consolidated with the sacrifices of its people, who relinquished everything dear for the sake of their country's dignity and supremacy. They exhibited exemplary fidelity in performing their national duties." — ONA

His Majesty greeted on 50th National Day



Greetings from Royal Office Minister

HIS Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday received a cable of greetings on the occasion of the 50th National Day of the Renaissance from General Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani, Minister of the Royal Office, Head of the Office of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, reading as follows:

Your Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander

It gives me the honour, as our dear homeland is celebrating the 50th National Day of the Renaissance, to express my best wishes and heartfelt greetings, praying to the Almighty Allah to have many comebacks of this auspicious occasion find Your Majesty in full health and wellbeing, with Oman relishing plentiful bounties of security, progress and prosperity under Your Majesty's wise leadership.

Your Majesty the Sultan,

The 18th of November constitutes the anniversary of an eternal parade of glory in Oman's deep-rooted history. It marks the day when the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said flagged off Oman's modern Renaissance. Your Majesty has then carried forward the torch supported, God willing, with the Almighty Allah's divine assistance and the loyal Omani people's collaboration; it is a pledge to continue the triumphant march, so that Oman remains a lighthouse of peace and an oasis of wisdom and moderation.

Your Majesty's farsighted vision and Royal directives form the pillars that influence the forward march of Oman's progress so that the Sultanate affirms its prominent status among nations of the world in the midst of developments experienced by the international community. Your people lend their staunch support and rally as one column behind Your Majesty's judicious leadership, willing to sacrifice everything dear and bracing to address all challenges and armed with knowledge, faith and confidence to achieve success.

This is evidenced through Oman Vision 2040 which forms tangible reality, the central element of which is the restructuring of the State's Administrative Apparatus, so that Oman, as Your Majesty said, will constitute an influential entity in world civilisation.

The jubilant crowds, from Musandam to Dhofar, pray to the Almighty Allah to protect Your Majesty and achieve further progress and prosperity at your hands. The personnel of the lofty Office of Your Majesty, your loyal guards and unflinching troops, reiterate their allegiance, wishing Your Majesty a Happy National Day. — ONA

Greetings from State Council Chairman

HIS Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, on Tuesday, received a cable of greetings from Shaikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah bin Ali al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, on the occasion of the 50th National Day of Renaissance reading as follows:

Your Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, May the Almighty Allah protect you.

In my name and in the name of the honourable members of the State Council and its Secretariat General, I am honoured to express the most heartfelt sentiments and best wishes to Your Majesty on the 50th National Day of the Renaissance, praying to the Almighty Allah to assist you and have many future anniversaries of this auspicious occasion find you in wellbeing, while Omani people are savouring the bounties of progress, security and prosperity in Your Majesty's glorious reign.

Your Majesty,

Today we relish, with extreme delight and pride, the treasures of Your Majesty's flourishing reign, which unleashed, over the past months, a host of extremely significant achievements that covered the modernisation of legal systems, restructuring of the State's Administrative Apparatus and orientation of government units and departments to be more capable of meeting the requirements of renewed Renaissance as envisioned by Your Majesty.



We, at the State Council, reiterate our pledge of allegiance to Your Majesty's leadership, as well as our commitment to the approach that Your Majesty has outlined in the enthronement speech, which sets out principles of national action. We bear in mind the successive development witnessed by the world and their political, economic, health and social implications.

We comprehend the fact that we stand on the threshold of a significant stage of development that requires all public and private sectors to operate within the spirit of one team whose prime aim is to accomplish the objectives announced by Your Majesty, including attention to the sector of education by establishing

a supportive environment for scientific research.

Other goals include care to human resources and youth, being "the inexhaustible wealth of the nation". This is in addition to diversifying economic resources, sustaining the integrity of the national economy, increasing income, shrinking debt and achieving fiscal balance, which entails developing systems and laws.

The State Council will shoulder its national responsibilities as prescribed by the law and stated in Your Majesty's wise directives, so that "Oman remains the greatest objective of all that we accomplish and aspire to achieve", as Your Majesty has commanded. — ONA



Greetings from Majlis Ash'Shura Chairman

HIS Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday received a cable of greetings from Shaikh Khalid bin Hilal al Maawali, Majlis Ash'Shura Chairman, on the occasion of the 50th National Day of the Renaissance reading as follows:

Your Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, May the Almighty Allah protect you.

I am honoured, and so are members of the Majlis Ash'shura, to express our deepest sentiments and sincere wishes to Your Majesty on the occasion of 50th National Day of the Renaissance, praying to the Almighty Allah to grant you good health and long life.

Your Majesty,

Since the progress of nations is measured by their civilisational feats, the achievements made across the benign land of Oman are exemplary in terms of bounty, peace and prosperity. Today, Oman, in its fifth decade of modern renaissance, has become a leading nation.

By proclaiming the rejuvenation of Oman's Renaissance, you have consolidated the pillars of justice and placed the country on the threshold of a new era of rebuilding based on sustainable economy

Your Majesty,

By proclaiming the rejuvenation of Oman's Renaissance, you have consolidated the pillars of justice and placed the country on the threshold of a new era of rebuilding based on sustainable economy.

Your Majesty,

The Shura practice is the cornerstone of governance, and this evidenced through the accomplishments of the Majlis Ash'Shura and future pursuits as stated in Oman Vision 2040. We look forward to coordination between the Majlis and the Government towards securing the success of the Vision's plans.

We pledge to follow the course set by Your Majesty's wise leadership and reiterate our determination to shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to us by Your Majesty.

Your Majesty,

We pray to the Almighty Allah to guard you as an inspirational leader. We wish that many anniversaries of this auspicious occasion will come back with further wellbeing to Your Majesty, with Oman relishing further progress and prosperity. — ONA



Greetings from Inspector General of Police

the occasion of the 50th National Day of the Renaissance, praying to the Almighty Allah to bring back this auspicious occasion for many years to come and find Your Majesty in full health and Omani people enjoying the fruits of prosperity.

Your Majesty the Sultan,

It is with the Almighty Allah's support and continuous care that Royal Oman Police (ROP), since the outset of Oman's modern renaissance, witnessed rapid development in terms of manpower and equipment. The ROP now enjoys a high level of preparedness and professionalism and has thus occupied a prominent place among its counterparts of in the world.

Omani people have competed to enrol in the ranks of the ROP. They proved a high level of capability in learning modern police sciences. They utilised their full potential mastering the tasks entrusted to them, thereby earning laurels in national services.

Your Majesty,

While celebrating this glorious national occasion, the personnel of Your Majesty's police hereby reiterate their pledge of allegiance, vowing to sacrifice everything dear in honouring their call of duty to safeguard the gains of Renaissance.

May the Almighty Allah protect Your Majesty. Happy National Day. — ONA

Greetings from Head of Internal Security Service

HIS Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday received a cable of greetings from Lt Gen Said bin Ali al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, on the occasion of the 50th National Day of the Renaissance reading as follows:

Your Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, May the Almighty Allah protect you.

In the fullest sentiments of pride and true expressions of respect, I am

honoured to convey the heartfelt wishes and best greetings to Your Majesty on the occasion of 50th National Day of the Renaissance, praying to the Almighty Allah to have this anniversary come back for many years when Your Majesty is blessed with wellbeing. May the Almighty Allah guard Your Majesty as an inspiration to this great nation and a symbol of its power and originality.

Your Majesty the Sultan,

The Almighty Allah has protected Oman's modern Renaissance, whose shoots have grown and flourished over a span of 50 years of growth. Your Majesty has been chosen by the Almighty Allah to lead the march of renewed Renaissance towards further horizons of progress and prosperity. It was His divine will that our country passed through extremely difficult moments and,



with Your Majesty on the helm, the vessel sailed forward, armed with authentic factors of power and embarked on the shores of safety.

Attired in dignity and fond of the grandeur of its people, across its verdant land, Oman stands as one column chanting the anthem of glory. It remains, as Your Majesty has desired it to be, an oasis of security, peace, tolerance and harmony.

Your Majesty,

We, in your Internal Security Service, as officers, non-commissioned officers, cadets and troopers, take this opportunity to greet Your Majesty on this auspicious occasion. We pledge loyalty and allegiance to Your Majesty's judicious leadership. And, as we honour our calling to defend the nation, we will sacrifice everything dear.

Happy National Day. — ONA

Treasury bills worth RO 62m issued

MUSCAT: A tender of government treasury bills, issue number 105, worth RO 62 million was announced this week.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds.

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). — ONA

Madayn conducts training programmes

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates – Madayn, represented by Madayn Industrial Academy, organised three training programmes on topics of practical leadership, e-learning and geotechnical engineering.

These programmes come along the lines of the constant efforts undertaken by Madayn to develop the capabilities of the human cadres in the various industrial cities.

The virtual practical Leadership programme, which targeted the director generals at Madayn, aimed at equipping the participants with the advanced leadership methods through theory and practical approaches. The programme represents an introduction to a further advanced and comprehensive programme for leadership development in the institutions.

Moreover, the e-learning programme, which was also conducted remotely, emphasised on the significance of remote training opportunities especially in light of the current coronavirus pandemic circumstances. — ONA

Mangrove cultivation campaign held in South Al Batinah

MUSANNAH: The Marine Environment Conservation Department, in coordination with the Environment Directorate in the Governorate of South Al Batinah, on Wednesday planted 1,000 mangrove seedlings in Khor Al Quraim in the Wilayat of Musannah. The moves comes as part of the masterplan for the conservation, management and rehabilitation of mangrove habitats. Badr bin Saif al Busaidy, a specialist in nature reserves, said that the cultivation project of mangrove forests began in 2001, when approximately 689,000 mangrove seedlings were planted in 32 sites.

He added that this project is considered one of the most important projects undertaken by the Environment Authority to

Ministry of Health launches book on scientific achievements in 2 editions

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) launched on Tuesday a *Leadership and Decision Making* book in two editions in Arabic and English under the auspices of Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal al Busaidy, Minister of Interior.

Present at the launching ceremony were ministers and members of the State Council.

The book, which reflects a scientific experience, started before eight years ago. It contains a series of scientific achievements of the Ministry of Health. It focused on the human who was and still contributing to upgrade the health services at a time when the health systems facing unusual challenges.

MoH believes that reaching the advanced levels of the health field is made only by following the scientific research methods, which are aligned with the work reality and environment.



Therefore, the ministry carried a field research survey that resulted in the determination of 36 competencies creating the required and optimal leadership quality.

The research samples were

taken from the field, in which the study that was carried out on MoH leadership competency contributes methodologically in the way of selecting, improving and assessing the future health leaders. This results in develop-



ing a succession management plan at various administrative divisions as part of strategies in line with Oman Vision 2040. The book contains 18 chapters divided into five main fields.

It aims at enabling and developing leadership at all healthcare sections.

The book is part of ‘Netaj’ project, which is a leadership and decision making forum adopted by the Ministry of Health under the supervision of Dr Darwish



al Maharbi, member of State Council and former MoH Under-Secretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs, with a membership of more than 2,000 MoH officials from various medical, paramedical, nursing, administrative and financial disciplines.

Through this book, the Ministry of Health provides a perfect model that contributes to forming a specialised and trained leadership to improve the performance at all levels. — ONA

VOICES

Be calculated risk takers



A lot of our youth has lost reading capability, and I want to say read — read to learn and understand nation and global context. One thing that had helped and I would like the youth to pursue is to find a mentor who can guide and support you

FAIZA RAHMATULLAH
People Director, PDO

LAKSHMI KOTHANETH
@lakshmioman

Faiza al Rahmatullah is People Director at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), and the department is considered as the heartbeat of the organisation as it ensures the culture and values of the entity are truly represented through its employees.

As the Sultanate celebrates 50 years of renaissance, she reflected on how human resource as a profession has gained momentum in Oman. “Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos was visionary as he identified and actually elevated the HR

profession. There was a surge in youth opting to take this field as a profession. We understood that HR was the heart and core of development and that is why you would see that many of the actions which are even taken during COVID-19 are shifting towards becoming more agile and set for the future because that is what an organisation would need in terms of supporting employees — agility and flexibility and adapting to the new norm.”

The year 2020 brought a new twist to human resources where people had to work away from office. According to Faiza this is how they tackled the changes the working culture has faced during the pandemic, “What we have done is to bring an understanding of how to deal with individuals who are working remotely. We try to keep our engagement as much as possible. We have established a culture of engagement. The supervisors have been continuously given tool kits to understand how to reach the hearts and minds of the employees. We have statistics as we have conducted surveys to ensure that our employees are actually engaged and when needed we have taken action to address the areas of concern.”

The other elements that continue to have prominent place are good leadership, engagement as well as collaboration and putting people first is going to be crucial as we move forward.

Meanwhile, gender equality is also something that PDO has succeeded in establishing. Where there was a time when women engineers felt they may not stand an equal chance with their male counterparts, now it is a thought of the past.

“At PDO we treat all our employees equal – male and

female get equal opportunities. PDO does not discriminate between men and women and it cares for all its employees. For example, when we offer learning or development, we actually look at the business needs, knowledge, as well as what experiences an individual needs. Women work in our oil fields too, they can get up to the executive level and there is no gender pay gap between the male and female employees. Additionally, we support women through various networks, which are widely available such as Hawa, Young Professionals, Engineering Society, Mentoring Circles and so on,” she pointed out.

This is what Faiza would like to say to the youth about the changing dynamics of the job market and the economy — most importantly to qualify oneself with extra skills to secure a job, “youth are the leaders of tomorrow. So my advice to them would be to please gain exposure to different areas as possible. Focus your efforts on both hard and soft skills because this is where they will become more agile and set for the future. Additionally, we of course hear about artificial intelligence, digitalisation and robotics all these are skills that would be required in the future. Be calculated risk takers in a positive manner and most importantly – network, network, network, nationally as well as globally. Last but not the least — read. A lot of our youth has lost reading capability, and I want to say read — read to learn and understand nation and global context. One thing that had helped and I would like the youth to pursue is to find a mentor who can guide and support you,” advised Faiza Rahmatullah, People Director, PDO.



Health prevention measures discussed

MUSCAT: The under-secretaries of the GCC Ministries of Health held on Wednesday a virtual extraordinary meeting to discuss the standardisation of health prevention measures in the GCC points of entry.

The extraordinary meeting was held on the decision of the ministers of health in their sixth meeting to discuss the

health prevention measures in the GCC points of entry (land, sea and air), developing a mechanism for adoption of COVID-19 test (PCR), as well as the virus vaccine certificates.

It is worth mentioning that all recommendations agreed on during the meeting will be submitted to the GCC Health Ministers Committee for approval. — ONA



conserve and preserve natural resources.

The masterplan for the conservation, management and rehabilitation of mangrove habitats aims

to expand areas of mangrove forests, increase the biological diversity of marine life and rehabilitate mangrove forests in order to balance the ecosystems. — ONA

Battle climate crisis like COVID, Red Cross urges governments

MEGAN ROWLING

The experience of having to respond so rapidly to the COVID-19 crisis should serve as a wake-up call to accelerate action to deal with climate change, which is already hitting vulnerable communities hard, the Red Cross said on Tuesday.

In its annual World Disasters Report, the world's largest humanitarian network said the coronavirus pandemic had shown how governments can "take unprecedented steps affecting their entire economies, and find the necessary resources to robustly face a major global threat".

The same level of "energy and boldness" should be mobilised to curb global warming and use a window of opportunity created by the pandemic to prepare for future shocks, it added.

"A global catastrophe of the magnitude of COVID-19 could finally open this window wide enough for us to look directly into the face of the climate crisis," the report said.

At the same time, the pandemic has exacerbated the difficulties facing poor countries and communities

THE PANDEMIC
HAD SHOWN HOW
GOVERNMENTS
CAN TAKE
UNPRECEDENTED
STEPS AFFECTING
THEIR ENTIRE
ECONOMIES

struggling to deal with worsening climate and weather extremes as the COVID-19 situation soaks up scarce resources, it noted.

In the first six months after the pandemic was declared in March, more than 100 disasters occurred, from floods to storms, affecting more than 50 million people, it said.

Jagan Chapagain, secretary general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), cited Sudan as one country that had suffered such pressures - first a locust infestation, then COVID-19, followed by severe flooding.

Three months on, when he visited in October, more than 800,000 people were receiving minimal humanitarian support, with the transitional government forced to divert resources to tackle COVID-19, he added.

The economic stress exerted on poor nations by the pandemic - such as having to spend more on health while livelihoods are damaged by COVID-19 - plus a squeeze on funding for local groups often best placed to help their communities could prove

catastrophic for the most vulnerable people, he warned.

"When you have a health impact, socio-economic impact and institutional impact (from coronavirus) coming together, and you have the climate crisis getting worse year by year, this is a very dangerous mix," he said.

The report included analysis showing some of the countries judged to be least able to cope with climate change impacts - from intensifying storms and heat to droughts and floods - were receiving the smallest amount of money per person to adapt.

"Resources are not reaching the countries that are most at risk and are most vulnerable," said Chapagain, noting that even when money does arrive, it often fails to trickle down to communities on the ground.

Five out of eight countries with very high climate vulnerability - Somalia, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan and Afghanistan - received less than \$1 per person in international adaptation funding in 2018, the report noted.

— Thomson Reuters Foundation

THE NEXT CLIFF

Millions of jobless Americans risk losing aid

JONNELLE MARTE

Millions of Americans will see their unemployment benefits disappear at the end of the year unless Congress extends pandemic-related programmes that made the aid available to a wider swath of the workforce and for a longer period of time.

The looming expiration would spark the most substantial reduction to unemployment benefits since the end of July, when a \$600 weekly supplement - also added as part of the CARES Act - expired.

And with coronavirus infections surging, some economists caution that job losses could rise during the winter, increasing the need for support.

Data released by the Labour Department last week showed the majority of people receiving unemployment benefits are now participating through pandemic-related programmes created as part of the legislation passed by Congress in March.

Meanwhile, the number of people receiving regular unemployment benefits is declining as people facing long stretches of joblessness exhaust their state benefits and move on to pandemic programmes. If nothing changes,

more than 13 million people are at risk of seeing their benefits end, potentially leaving them with less money to pay the rent, buy groceries or cover other bills.

"The bottom line is that many workers will see a massive drop in living standards and increases in poverty

HEIDI SHIERHOLZ
Director

Heidi Shierholz, director of policy for the Economic Policy Institute. Lawmakers have to decide whether to extend two key programmes. One known as pandemic unemployment assistance made unemployment benefits available to freelancers and self-employed people who wouldn't normally be eligible. Another programme — pandemic emergency unemployment compensation — provided an additional 13 weeks of benefits for people after their state benefits ran out.

More people are transferring to the pandemic emergency programme as regular benefits expire. Some may be able to receive another 13 to 20 weeks of benefits under a separate programme that is not poised to expire, but it is not available in all states.

Asked how he would help those facing long-term unemployment, President-elect Joe Biden on Monday called on Congress to pass the Heroes Act, a bill passed by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives that would extend the two unemployment benefit programmes, along with other assistance.

Some economists say the CARES Act programmes patched up long-standing holes in America's safety net for the unemployed by making jobless benefits more generous and offering them to people who wouldn't normally qualify, including parents who cannot work during the pandemic because they have to care for children. The benefits helped people to boost spending and pad savings and lifted millions out of poverty, even as unemployment surged, researchers found.

"There was a recognition that we needed something stronger and broader than regular (unemployment benefits), and it actually worked," said Andrew Stettner, a senior fellow at The Century Foundation who is an expert on unemployment benefits. — Reuters

LAST-STAGE TRIALS

India pins hopes on locally-tested COVID-19 vaccines

KRISHNA N DAS

India hopes five locally-tested vaccines will help it to control COVID-19, as those developed by Pfizer and Moderna may not be available to it in big quantities soon.

The five candidates include Russia's Sputnik-V whose "Phase-II going to Phase-III" trials in India will start next week in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Vinod Paul, the head of a committee advising the prime minister, said. The other experimental vaccines are the one being developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University which is being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India; Bharat Biotech and the Indian government's COVAXIN; Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D and lastly one being developed by Biological E Ltd alongside Baylor College of Medicine and Dynavax Technologies Corp.

Paul told a news briefing that AstraZeneca vaccine's last-stage trials in India had gone well and had almost been completed. The country of 1.35 billion people has reported 8.87 million infections, second only to the United States, and 130,519 deaths as a result of COVID-19.

"We are very hopeful that we will be successful with the five vaccines," Paul said on Tuesday.

"They are easy platforms, availability of doses is very high. They will be able to control our pandemic in terms of the numbers of doses required."

Paul said the government was also watching the progress of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, both of which have said interim results of last-stage trials of their candidates showed that they were more than 90 per cent effective. Unlike Pfizer's vaccine which must be kept

ASTRAZENECA
VACCINE'S
LAST-STAGE TRIALS
IN INDIA HAD
GONE WELL AND
HAD ALMOST BEEN
COMPLETED



A medical worker collects a swab sample from a woman for a RT-PCR test for the COVID-19 coronavirus along a street in New Delhi on Tuesday. — AFP

at minus 70 degrees Celsius or below, Moderna's can be stored at normal fridge temperatures, making it more suited for poorer countries such as India where cold chains are limited.

"This obviously will be a very big hindrance to scale up the vaccine," Paul said of Pfizer's, adding that if India finds itself needing to do so it will pursue this option. "If we are required to form our strategy on this particular vaccine, then we will proceed with it. Though, even if we get it, we will get it in a few months only. But talks are ongoing."

Meanwhile, the Indian capital battles its worst phase in the coronavirus

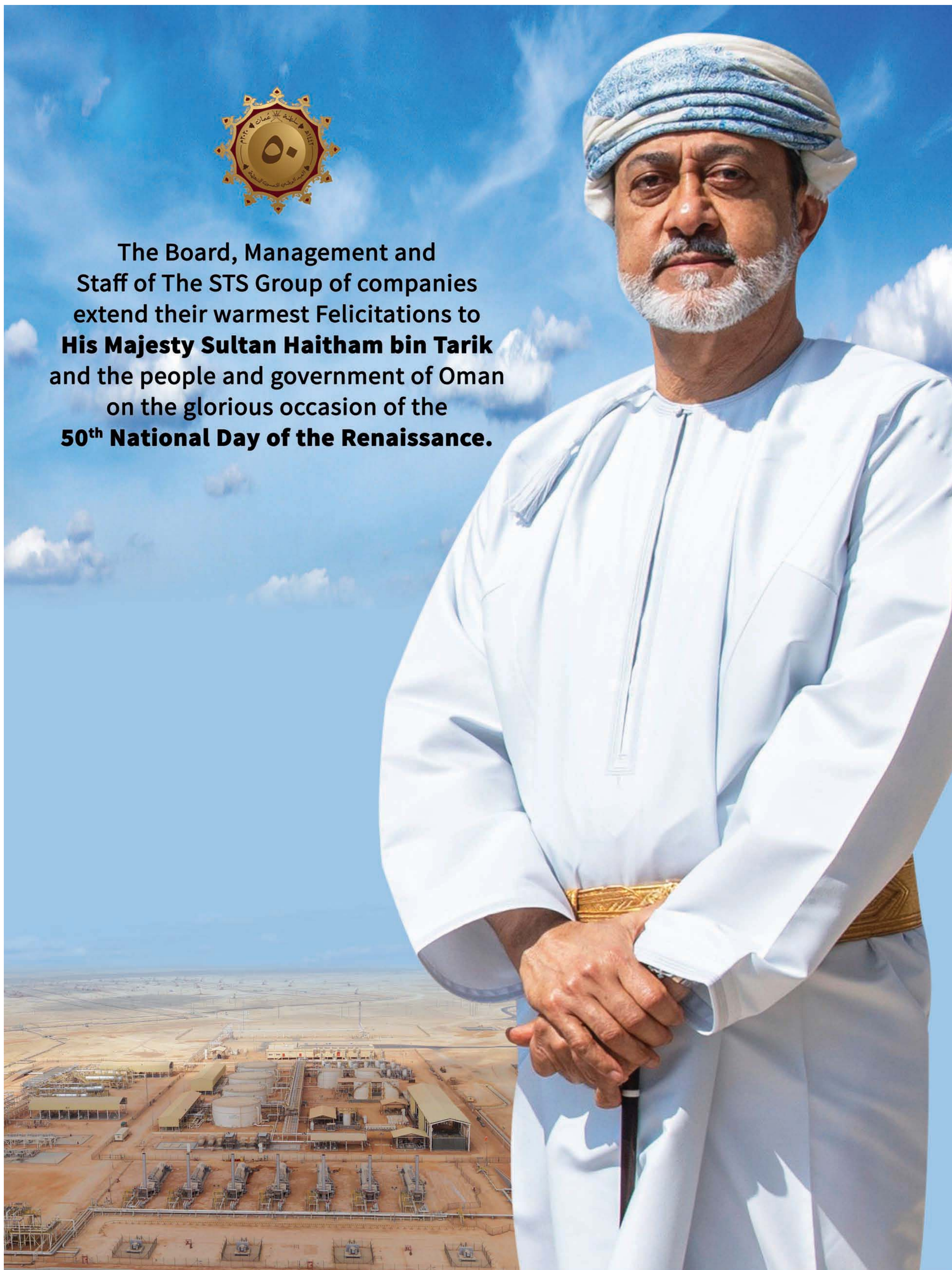
pandemic, authorities drew up plans on Tuesday to reinstate some curbs, such as lockdowns of some markets, if necessary, although elsewhere in the nation new infections are falling.

India added 29,163 cases over the past 24 hours for its lowest such increase since at least mid-July, government data showed, taking its tally of infections to 8.87 million. Both infections and deaths have fallen from a mid-September high but the situation is different in Delhi, a city of 20 million swathed in air pollution, where crowds thronged markets for last week's festival of Diwali.

— Reuters



The Board, Management and Staff of The STS Group of companies extend their warmest Felicitations to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** and the people and government of Oman on the glorious occasion of the **50th National Day of the Renaissance.**



STS

شركة الخدمات الفنية الخاصة ش.م.م.
SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES L.L.C.

INSPIRED TO DELIVER

CONSTRUCTION | FABRICATION | MAINTENANCE

Website: www.stsoman.com

Email: info@stsoman.com



From the Nation's Bank, to the Nation



We always take pride in service to this nation. For more than forty seven years, we have contributed in supporting the development process, engaged actively in promoting economic diversification and achieving the goals of the Oman Vision 2040.

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





Congratulations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik
And the people of Oman on the Joyous Occasion
of the **50th National Day of the Renaissance**

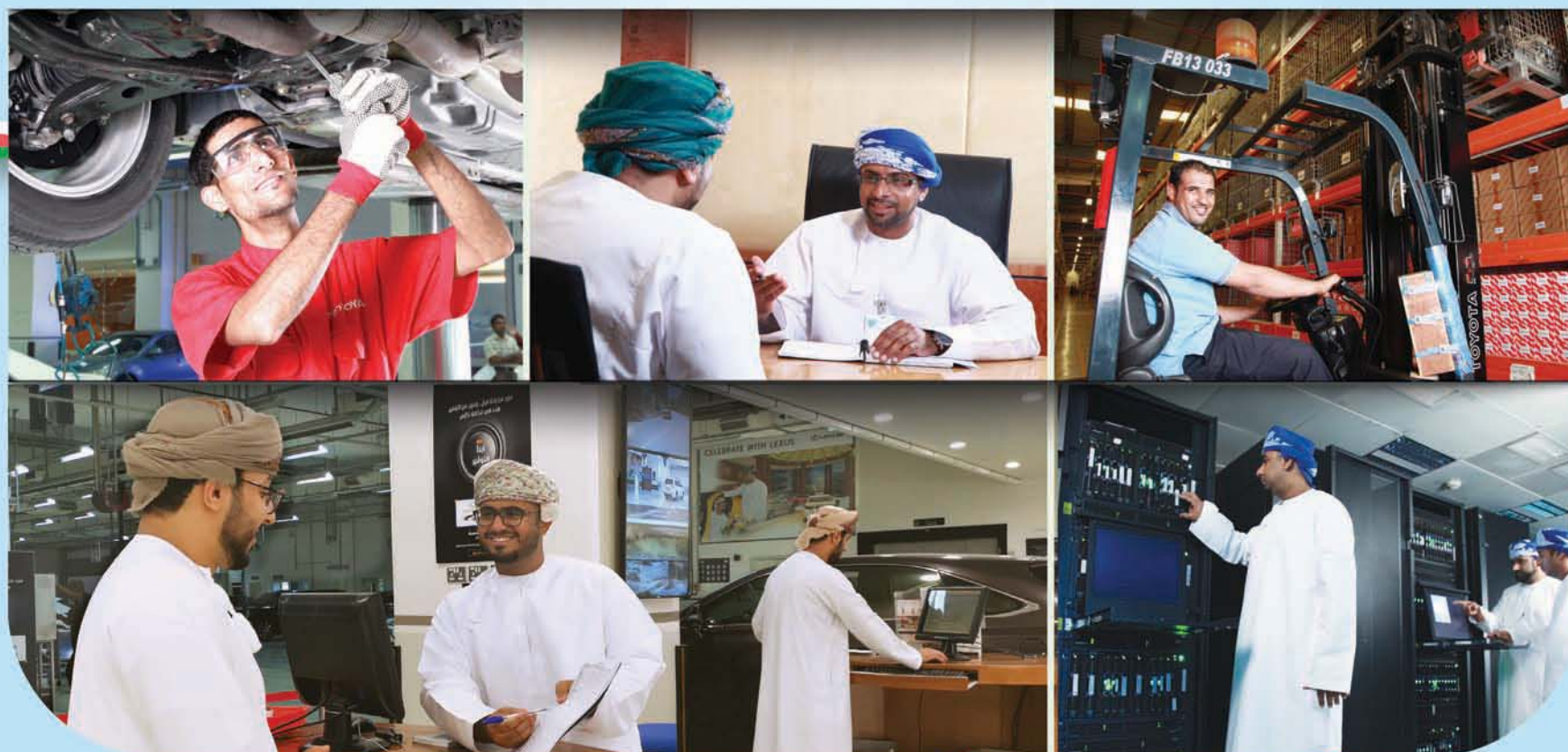
A Glorious Future Built on Timeless Values

Over the past five glorious decades, Oman has witnessed a great transformation in building a modern state and establishing advanced infrastructure, all over the country.

Now, under the wise and able leadership of **His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik**, Oman continues to follow on the progressive path. Marching forward with far-sighted initiatives, touching every sphere, including culture, heritage, education among many others.

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

On the occasion of the **50th National Day of the Renaissance**, Saud Bahwan Group reiterates its commitment to His Majesty's vision of an even more prosperous Oman.



SAUD BAHWAN Group



“ We stand today with a firm invincible will on the threshold of a vital stage of development and nation building. It is a stage which you all have participated in drawing out its prospects in Oman 2040 Future Vision, and contributed to devising its economic, social and cultural goals, in a manner that embodies a clear-cut vision, and great expectations towards a more prosperous future. ”

His Majesty
Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

Heartiest felicitations to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** and the people of Oman on the glorious 50th National Day of the Renaissance. As we celebrate this momentous day, Sohar Aluminium reaffirms its sincere vows of loyalty to His Majesty and asserts its continuous endeavours towards the prosperity of Oman.



Enhancing pace of progress

SAMUEL KUTTY
@samkutttyp

The Sultanate is celebrating its 50th National Day today with a firm resolve to continue the modern renaissance process under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq.

Along with other places in the country, the capital city of Muscat wears a festive look with colourful lighting adorning many streets as part of the golden jubilee celebrations being held as low key programme due to different reasons.

The achievements made during the past five decades in all sectors reveal the amount of efforts made during the renaissance path to position Oman as a prosperous and secure state.

Although January 10, 2020 marked the end of an era in the history of Oman with the passing away of the founder of this modern nation the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, his successor vowed to upgrade the march of nation building and enhance the pace of progress by striking a high note in people's enthusiasm for yet another renaissance covering all spheres of life.

Within a short span of ten months, His Majesty Sultan Haitham was able to make many achievements.

With insight and strong will, he restructured the State's Administrative Apparatus to keep pace with Oman Vision 2040 whose salient features were drawn out by all segments of the society in a manner that responds to His Majesty the Sultan's aspirations.

He has adopted a 'centralised' approach which delegates more powers to other parts of the government.

The changes came as part of his efforts to address the nation's looming challenges, including unemployment, fiscal deficit, and maintaining a neutral foreign policy.

In his first national address, His Majesty Sultan Haitham reaffirmed the permanent stand of the Sultanate's foreign policy that advocates peaceful co-existence among nations, good neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

His Majesty the Sultan also stressed that he would follow the footsteps of the late Sultan Qaboos.

The government restructuring undertaken in August 2020 is one of the many efforts underway to increase operational efficiency, unlock synergies and realise real savings on a structural basis.

"Nation-building is a public responsibility binding upon all. No one is exempted. All should contribute within their capacities. Oman has been founded and its civilisation consolidated with the sacrifices of its people, who relinquished everything dear for the sake of their country's dignity and supremacy. They exhibited exemplary fidelity in performing their national duties," His Majesty said in a speech.

As part of his keenness to meet citizens and study their needs and proposals for the development of their respective wilayats, His Majesty Sultan Haitham met a

number of Shaikhs in Dhofar Governorate in September.

The Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic took many decisions and espoused precautionary measures to curb the spread of the virus.

The Royal gesture reaffirmed full collaboration between the leader, the government and members of the public, both citizens and residents, to help eliminate the threat of the virus.

The much-awaited Oman Economic Vision, scheduled to be implemented upon the start of the 10th Five Year Plan in January 2021, meets with serious challenges, including the slump in international oil prices and the global spread of coronavirus.

The Medium-Term Fiscal Plan 2020-2024 has been developed to reduce the primary and overall fiscal deficits as a percentage of GDP in the medium-term to sustainable levels in the mid-term period and establish suitable conditions to support the Oman Vision 2040.

The plan includes initiatives, some of which have already been started to be implemented, while the rest will follow suit according to priorities and readiness, the ministry said.

the development of a cognitive community that is capable of competing and converting knowledge into economic revenue.

The Sultan issued directives to set up six priority schools in the forthcoming stage to the tune of RO 8.85 million in a gesture that denotes his support to education.

One of the bright aspects of renewed Omani renaissance is the Royal attention accorded to Omani women. The vital role of women in nation-building has been highly recognised.

His Majesty The Sultan is also keen on listening to the youth, exploring their interests, addressing their concerns and helping them achieve their aspirations.

The celebration of Omani Youth Day on October 26 came as reaffirmation of the Sultanate government's commitment towards this segment of the society.

Since the outset of its Blessed Renaissance, the Sultanate has been implementing a policy of environment protection and pollution prevention. This policy comes within the framework of a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development, conservation of wildlife and preservation of renewable resources.

Congratulations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq
and the generous people of Oman
on the occasion of the
50th National Day for the Renaissance

شركة ظفار لتوليد الكهرباء ش.م.ع
Dhofar Generating Company S A O G
www.dgcoman.com

Heartiest congratulations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq
and the people of Oman
on the occasion of the
50th National Day of the Renaissance!

As "builders of nations", L&T is playing a vital role in building the economy of the Sultanate of Oman. In almost every sphere of construction, across sectors that move the wheels of industry, L&T has been setting benchmarks and fueling the nation's progress.

Larsen & Toubro (Oman) LLC, PO. Box 598, PC 112, Ruwi, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel: +968 24762200, Fax: +968 24797024, E-mail: ltom01@omantel.net.om



For the first time in the Sultanate, BankDhofar introduces the PaySticker

Now you do not have to worry about forgetting your debit card. Place the sticker on your mobile phone and use it to pay by tapping your mobile phone on the POS machine.*

*The maximum payment via the PaySticker is OMR 40 per transaction, OMR 100 per day.

For more information
<https://www.bankdhofar.com/en-GB/PaySticker.aspx>



*Terms & conditions apply

the best bank for you 24751111 www.bankdhofar.com

Guardian of stability



KABEER YOUSUF

@kabeeryousuf

The Royal Oman Police (ROP), regarded as one of the best law enforcement force in the region, has been striving to implement the national resolutions effectively while making sure the internal law and order is maintained.

Formed In 1974, four years after the first Renaissance, the force was conferred with the title 'Royal Oman Police (ROP)' by late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

"Since then, the ROP has been keen to carry out its responsibilities based on the Royal directives of late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and with the new Renaissance, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, which stems from his

absolute belief that security is the fundamental pillar of growth, prosperity and maintenance of the state. It spares no stones unturned in maintaining the security and stability, by harnessing all human and material capabilities to achieve this," representative from the ROP Public Relations Department said.

What the Royal Oman Police has achieved during the past years is a great milestone in building a modern police force with sound strategic and scientific planning that keeps pace with the developments and security challenges in the contemporary world, which enables it to maintain law and order.

In the recent years, the Royal Oman Police have brought many official services closer to citizens and residents in all parts of the

Sultanate. Several projects have been launched which varied from establishing various police stations, service centres and other facilitation centres in various governorates of the Sultanate.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic statistics indicate a decrease in traffic accident deaths for the sixth year in a row as a result of the efforts made by the Royal Oman Police, which include raising awareness among all segments of the society through various media and social media, holding lectures, events and various activities, as well as doubling the monitoring devices. The usage of the latest global technologies has curbed speeding and jumping red lights, which are the most important causes of traffic accidents. Efforts

also included increasing the police presence on the roads.

UNIQUE E-SERVICES

The Royal Oman Police has been able to provide quality and integrated electronic services to citizens and residents alike, especially after direct linking of the civil registry database with government and private agencies.

"In a bid to create a paperless society, we have reduced the number of transactions that involved the usage of papers and instead, the majority of our services are now online that enables citizens and residents alike complete their transactions through the website and the ROP application on smartphones." The Royal Oman Police is a forerunner in building Oman's digital society

(e-government), as the police provide many electronic services to citizens and residents, including online passports and visas services, services related to issuing personal IDs, vehicle renewal and registration services, in addition to paying fines.

THE SPECIAL TASK POLICE COMMAND

The Special Tasks Police Command, which operates across all governorates received great attention from the General Police Command, due to its great role in maintaining security in the Sultanate. The Police General Command was keen on raising the efficiency of the Special Tasks Police and providing it with modern equipment and mechanisms that enable it to move quickly and work

efficiently.

THE BAYAN SYSTEM

Since its first launch in July 2015, Bayan system, which includes 35 subsystems, has contributed to facilitating international trade in a fast and smooth manner and facilitate the process of obtaining permits from government agencies in 24 hours.

With this, the time taken for processing and delivery of the goods has been reduced and single point inspection for all registered agencies was set and goods are delivered within two hours only.

Thanks to Royal Oman Police's tireless efforts, the Sultanate was ranked as the safest country in the world by several international agencies including the World Economic Forum.

A strong digital society for a strong nation

MIDHUN RAJ

@midhunralpha

Nation-building has always been a multi-dimensional process. Essentially a creative process with mutual weightage given to historical and geographical perspectives of the country while taking into account the peculiarities and diversity of its cultural ethos. A holistic process that essentially draws positive change and the innovative development of these structures or institutions.

Social media has become an essential part of a healthy society, an incredibly powerful tool that has redefined the way society communicates among its members and beyond. Social media platforms across the globe have been playing a key role in nation-building by forming public opinion, an instrument of social change.

Over the past 50 years of the blessed Renaissance, as a result of the emphasis given by the late His Majesty the Sultan Qaboos, the digital society in Oman has evolved and attained an inevitable stature in the nation-building process.

The eOman strategy envisioned by the late HM has ensured voice to those who have never had any access to the mainstream media due to geographical barriers in the country. Today, Omanis from all walks of life have been actively using social media to communicate within society and with those in power.

A recent study by the National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed 94 per cent of Omanis have social media accounts and most of them are active at least on one platform. Leaders, including ministers and administrative heads, are constantly seeking public feedback



on social media for inclusive implementation of projects and developmental activities.

Social media has continually eliminated the barriers between leaders and the society and helped the leaders to connect directly with people, creating an opportunity for every citizen to participating in

nation-building process.

New media has revived the spirit of nationalism by bringing the people of the Sultanate together. These platforms have become a billboard of cohesion, unity, affinity, and connectivity in Oman.

Local communities through

various platforms are actively assisting to construct a national identity which is the first and foremost step in nation-building.

DIGITAL SOCIETY

As part of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's grand vision of transforming Oman into a sustainable knowledge-based economy, the Sultanate has come a long way in streamlining access to information and communication technologies, achieving a higher level of digital penetration and readiness.

The Sultanate has been empowering its people, through the eOman initiative to bolster the digital society in the country. The initial goals included a significant improvement in the quality of services the government provides to its citizens and by now, we have successfully achieved most of it.

The Digital Transformation Program is still a key pillar that

supports the strategic and vital sectors in the Sultanate and has a great impact on the national economy.

One important aspect of nation-building is identifying major hurdles and other barriers in the development process and making efforts to stamp them out. The groups and forums on social media give a platform to its users concerned about a common issue to come together, raise awareness, and work towards eliminating it.

We have so many brilliant examples to show how actively the Omani community participates in the nation-building process by enthusiastically involving to highlight developmental needs through social media.

The continued renaissance by the HM Sultan Haitham bin Tarik is promised to transform the Sultanate into a significant digital hub in the world.

Opec+ panel
sees weaker oil
demand in 2021



Men are seen working at an oilfield in Nasariya, northern Iraq. – AFP

DUBAI: Opec and its allies have revised oil demand scenarios for 2021 with demand seen weaker than previously anticipated, a confidential document seen by Reuters shows, supporting the case for a tighter supply policy next year.

“For 2021, oil demand is expected to grow by 6.2 million barrels per day, year on year, representing a downward revision of 0.3 million barrels per day compared to last month’s assessment,” the report by a panel of officials from Opec+ producers, called the Joint Technical Committee (JTC), said.

The JTC has met virtually on Monday ahead of the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, which meets on Tuesday and can recommend policy steps to Opec+.

The Opec+ group of producers was due to raise output by 2 million bpd in January — about 2 per cent of global consumption — as part of a steady easing of record supply cuts implemented this year. But with demand for fuel weakening, Opec+ has been considering delaying the increase. — Reuters

Liwa Plastics’ imminent launch to ignite
growth of Oman OQ’s market portfolio



PROMISING POTENTIAL: ‘Our customer profiles will increase from 500 presently to more than 3,000, representing a significant increase in our market portfolio’

CONRAD PRABHU
@conradprabhu

Liwa Plastics — Oman’s biggest petrochemicals project to date — is set to dramatically ramp up the global market portfolio of OQ, the Sultanate’s integrated energy company, when the \$6.7 billion complex comes on stream at Sohar Port next month.

According to a high-level executive of wholly government-owned OQ, a stream of new petrochemical and polymer products from Liwa Plastics will bolster OQ’s already sizable portfolio and market footprint.

Talal al Awfi, CEO – Commercial at OQ, noted that Liwa Plastics’ commercial launch will not only boost output of polypropylene and polyethylene, but it will also contribute significantly to the growth of OQ’s international markets.

“Currently we have 60 countries in our market portfolio, which will increase to more than 100 (post-launch), while our product grades will increase from 10 to over 50. Our customer profiles will also increase from 500 presently to more than 3,000, representing a significant increase in our market portfolio,” said the official.

Al Awfi’s observations came during a webinar hosted recently by The Business Year (TBY) on the theme, ‘Oman Downstream Petrochemicals Potential’. Also taking part in the online forum were Ahmed al Jahdhami, CEO — Downstream at OQ; Abdulrahman al Yahyai, CEO

— Oman Society for Petroleum Services (OPAL); and Eng Khalid al Mushaileh, Downstream Petroleum Expert.

At full capacity, Liwa Plastics will boost OQ’s production of polyethylene and polypropylene to 1.4 million tonnes. The product portfolio will include linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE), High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and Polypropylene (PP) — part of a product portfolio that will enable OQ to meet the growing global demand for polymers.

The mega project’s imminent launch, said Al Awfi, will not only drive up OQ’s petrochemicals output, but also expand the integrated energy conglomerate’s marketing reach globally. “We have successfully developed our trading arm globally and replicated this to our marketing arm internationally. We also have the benefit of having access

to (the expertise of) an already established subsidiary OQ Chemicals (formerly Oxera). So we are trying to not necessarily replicate but also grow the model.”

Earlier, he acknowledged that market uncertainty and volatility associated with the global economic downturn and pandemic had varying degrees of impact on the downstream petrochemicals industry internationally. Amid these challenges, companies are learning to survive by optimising their costs, initiating lean programmes and diversifying across the value chain.

OQ, for its part, has also been looking to diversify its downstream value chain, as illustrated by its investment in the Sultanate’s first cracker as part of the Liwa Plastics project, he said.

“This hopefully will minimise the impact going forward. We also have initiated a number



We have successfully developed our trading arm globally and replicated this to our marketing arm internationally. We also have the benefit of having access to (the expertise of) an already established subsidiary OQ Chemicals

TALAL AL AWFI
CEO – Commercial at OQ

of initiatives to manage the significant risk we are all going through,” Al Awfi stated.

Nevertheless, the Sultanate represents an attractive destination for foreign direct investments (FDIs), the CEO said. “Oman has put in place the platform to attract FDIs; it has made good investments in infrastructure, the crown jewel being Duqm representing 2,000 sq km of free trade zone. It also has access to young talent. The Oman Vision 2040 targets a ranking for the country among the Top 20 destinations for FDIs. Indeed, all the enablers are in place to attract FDIs in this sector,” he added.

Financial advisers misjudging women investors

Despite much talk about inequality and diversity in the financial services industry, reports still show that the industry continues to fall short when working with women, exacerbating a persistent gender pay gap in retirement savings.

Past research has shown women are less involved than men in longer-term financial decisions and hold less retirement wealth — partly due to the gender wage gap and taking time out care-giving — to fund longer life expectancies than men. But the industry, which is still 80 per cent male, also has played a role.

In a recent Life Investments report, only 51 per cent of advisers viewed married female breadwinners as the primary decision maker. Further complicating the situation: While more than half of the married female breadwinners said they are in charge of investing, only eight per cent of spouses had the same view.

The industry is still struggling with stereotypes and unconscious bias that could hurt its prospects, especially as younger women take more control of their financial lives, become less tolerant of biases in the industry and are demanding more, according to a report by Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

Women under the age of 45 who work with financial advisers are twice as likely as older married women to be a financial decision maker in their family, four and half times as likely as women over 55 to consider themselves knowledgeable about financial products and services and three times as comfortable making decisions on their own, according to Merrill’s research. Reviewing analysis that tracks eye focuses, Merrill found advisers focus over 60 per cent of their time on the man in meetings with a couple.

Merrill also found miscues in live simulations between investors and advisers that included assuming the man was the financial decision maker, viewing



ANDY JALIL
andyjalil@aol.com

WOMEN ARE LESS INVOLVED THAN MEN IN LONGER-TERM FINANCIAL DECISIONS AND HOLD LESS RETIREMENT WEALTH — PARTLY DUE TO THE GENDER WAGE GAP AND TAKING TIME OUT CARE-GIVING — TO FUND LONGER LIFE EXPECTANCIES THAN MEN

women as more risk averse, and concluding a couple’s finances were merged and jointly invested.

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management executive, Lindsay Hans said: “Unconscious bias and gender bias exists, and being able to be transparent about that as a firm and industry is only going to make faster progress.”

Though women are more likely to recommend an adviser than men, they are also more likely to switch after a bad experience while men are more likely to confront the advisor or file a complaint.

At Merrill, Hans says the firm has trained 20,000 employees about unconscious bias and awareness of its unintended effects, as well as making structural changes, such as changing the wording on new account forms so joint accounts don’t include designations such as “primary account holder”.

The research found fewer miscues when advisers met with women alone. Women also tended to have higher risk tolerance — 2.5 times — when working with a female adviser, and made more of

their own decisions, while those who worked with male advisers were more likely to defer decisions to him, according to research. On a separate issue, of the current dreadful COVID-19 — it appears that the pandemic has made employees in the UK financial services sector introspective and prompted thoughts as to their next move. In a survey of 632 financial services employees, KPMG found that 44 per cent are mulling a career change in light of the pandemic, with just over one in 10 saying they would leave the sector entirely.

That increases to 16 per cent for those between the ages of 18 and 30. Long hours, long commutes and heavy regulation were the main complaints.

However, not all is bleak: 54 per cent of those polled said the competitive salaries and good employee benefits kept them in the sector. A third of those under 30 said that career progression opportunities attracted them to financial services. (The writer is our foreign correspondent based in the UK)

UK airline
EasyJet dives
into historic
loss on virus



EasyJet airplanes are parked on the tarmac at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport in France. – Reuters

LONDON: EasyJet on Tuesday posted the first annual pre-tax loss in its 25-year history, prompting it to seek more government help as the coronavirus pandemic hammers air travel.

The British no-frills carrier suffered a pre-tax loss of £1.27 billion (\$1.7 billion) in its reporting year to September. That contrasted with a year-earlier profit of £430 million. Passenger numbers halved to 48.1 million as COVID-19 travel restrictions slammed demand.

Revenue slumped by a similar proportion to stand at £3.0 billion, it said. — AFP

US retail sales slow as lack of fiscal stimulus weigh

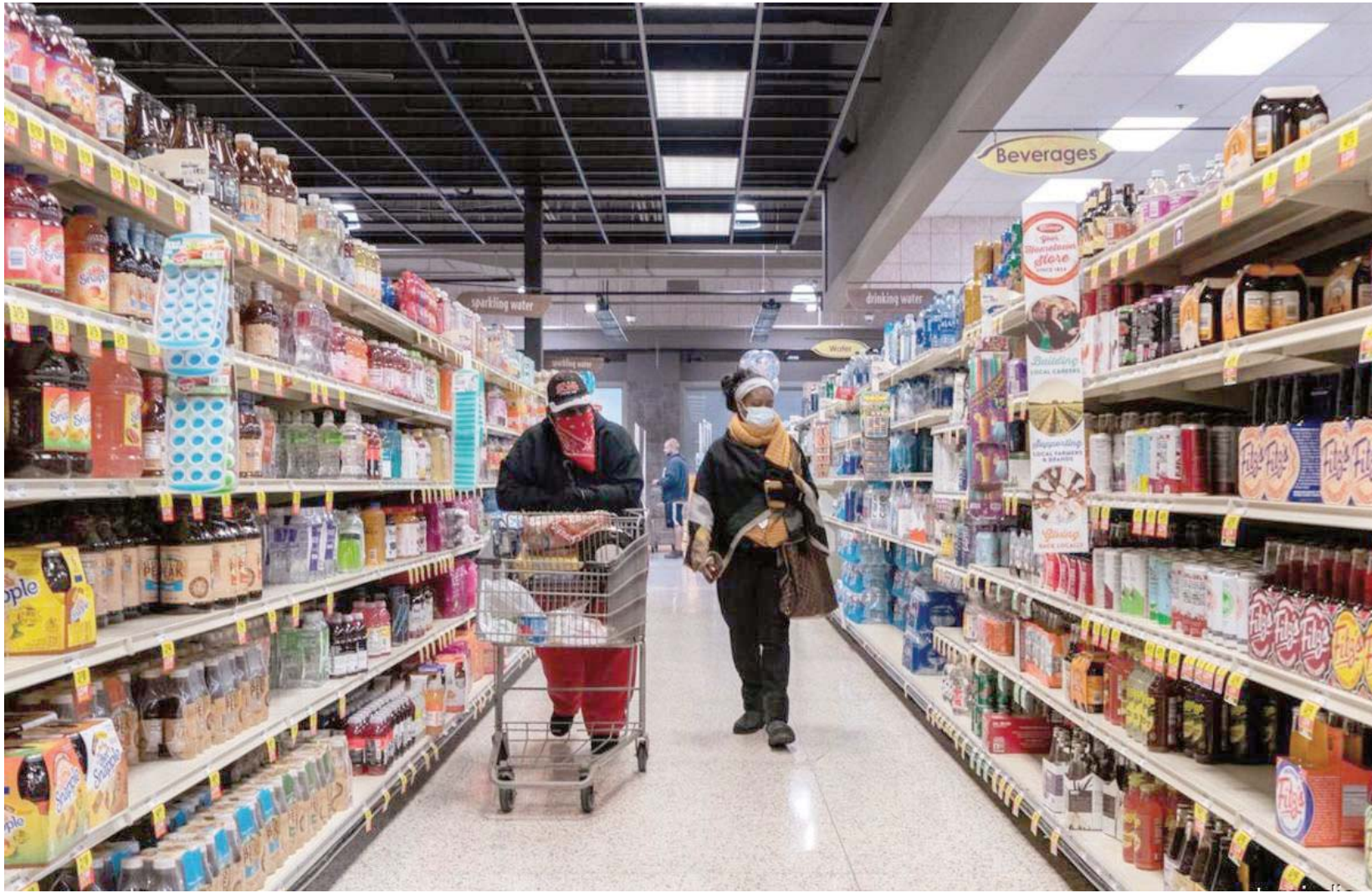
Sales were supported by Amazon.com's 'Prime Day' event, with online receipts surging 3.1 per cent. Consumers also bought motor vehicles, though at a much slower pace than in the previous months

WASHINGTON: US retail sales increased less than expected in October and could slow further, restrained by spiraling new COVID-19 infections and declining household income as millions of unemployed Americans lose government financial support.

While other data on Tuesday showed production at factories accelerating in October, output remained well below its pre-pandemic level and the uncontrolled coronavirus outbreak could disrupt production.

The public health crisis and frail economy are major challenges confronting President-elect Joe Biden when he takes over from President Donald Trump in January. Biden on Monday urged Congress to come together and pass another pandemic relief package. This is unlikely to happen before he is sworn on January 20, putting pressure on the Federal Reserve to pump more money into the economy.

"It looks like consumer spending is increasingly turning into a headwind for this recovery from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression," said Chris Rupkey, chief economist at MUFG in



People are seen shopping inside a grocery store in central New York. — Reuters

New York. "Fed officials are saying they might have to do more and today's data may turn that thinking into a reality." Retail sales rose 0.3 per cent last month after increasing 1.6 per cent in September, the Commerce Department said. They account for the goods component of consumer spending, with services such as healthcare, education, travel and hotel accommodation making up the other portion.

Sales were supported by Amazon.com's 'Prime Day' event,

with online receipts surging 3.1 per cent. Consumers also bought motor vehicles, though at a much slower pace than in the previous months. There were also increases in sales of electronics and appliances, as well as building materials and garden equipment. But households cut back spending on sporting goods and hobbies, clothing, furniture, drinking and dining out.

Economists had forecast retail sales would gain 0.5 per cent in October. Retail sales rose 5.7

per cent on a year-on-year basis in October. They have pulled above their February level, with the pandemic shifting demand away from services to goods. US stocks opened lower, and the dollar slipped against a basket of currencies. US Treasury prices rose. Daily new coronavirus cases have been exceeding 100,000 since early this month, pushing the number of infections in the United States above 11 million, according to a Reuters tally. Some state and local governments

have imposed new restrictions on businesses. Restrictions and consumer avoidance of crowded places like bars and restaurants could undercut spending and trigger another wave of layoffs, further squeezing incomes following the loss of a government weekly unemployment subsidy.

The supplement, which was part of more than \$3 trillion in government coronavirus relief, has lapsed for millions of unemployed and underemployed workers. Millions more will lose

benefits next month when a government-funded programme for the self-employed, gig workers and others who do not qualify for regular state unemployment programs expires.

Another government programme providing benefits for people who have exhausted their six months of eligibility for state aid will also lapse at the end of December. Excluding automobiles, gasoline, building materials and food services, retail sales edged up 0.1 per cent after a downwardly revised 0.9 per cent increase in September. These so-called core retail sales correspond most closely with the consumer spending component of gross domestic product.

They were previously estimated to have risen 1.4 per cent in September. Economists expect moderate retail sales growth for the rest of the year, which will contribute to slower economic growth after a historic rebound in gross domestic product in the third quarter. A JPMorgan survey of credit and debit cardholders showed a broad decline in spending through November 9, with big drops in states where COVID-19 is spreading most rapidly.

A separate report from the Federal Reserve on Tuesday showed manufacturing output increased 1.0 per cent last month after gaining 0.1 per cent in September. Still, factory production remains about 5 per cent below its pre-pandemic level. Last month's increase in factory output was in line with economists' expectations.

— Reuters

Work begins on camel race track at Special Economic Zone at Duqm



BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, NOV 17

As part of efforts to conserve and promote traditional sports, the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) has begun preparing the groundwork for the establishment of a camel race track in the Wilayat of Duqm.

A number of officials from SEZAD recently went on an inspection tour of the proposed site of the race track. They were

joined by Shaikh Ahmed bin Salim al Mahrouqi, Wali of Duqm, and officials of the Housing Department at Duqm.

SEZAD, represented by Tawasul Foundation, is collaborating with a number of companies operating in the SEZ in funding the construction of a 6km-long race track covering an area of 4,800,000 m2.

The location was designated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning at the behest of the local community and other stakeholders.

PRESS RELEASES

PAYMENT HAS NEVER BEEN FASTER WITH BANKDHOFAH'S PAYSTICKER

As part of its aim to design products and services that ensure a convenient banking experience to its customers, BankDhofar has launched the innovative PaySticker.

The sticker, that attaches to the back of mobile devices and allows customers to make payment transactions in about one second.

Talib Mohammed al Hajri, Acting AGM & Head of Distribution Network, BankDhofar noted: "At BankDhofar, we have always been at the forefront in designing unique innovative services and products to ensure the ultimate convenient banking experience. With the launch of the PaySticker we will enhance our customers experience by providing them with a swift payment solution. All they need to do is to attach the sticker to the back of the



Abu Baker
Karim al Balushi

Talib Mohammed
al Hajri

mobile phone, and conduct their transactions with the peace of mind."

Elaborating on the features of the PaySticker, Abu Baker Karim al Balushi, Head of Digital Banking at BankDhofar said: "Taking advantage of the evolution of contactless payments, we are introducing innovative PaySticker to our customers, which contains an embedded chip with all the data required to complete payments as if the customers were using their debit card."

QATAR AIRWAYS CELEBRATES OMAN'S 50TH NATIONAL DAY WITH SPECIAL OFFERS

Qatar Airways is pleased to commemorate Oman National Day on November 18 with special offers for tickets booked between November 10-19, 2020. With these incredible fares, Qatar Airways is inviting Omani travellers to rediscover the world or visit their loved ones abroad on this special occasion.

Qatar Airways is currently operating more than 700 weekly flights to over 100 destinations, providing more global connectivity than any other airline.

Passengers travelling from Muscat now enjoy enhanced connectivity to many key destinations across the airline's expanding network including London, New York, Houston and Montreal via the award-winning Hamad International Airport.

Qatar Airways' Vice President for the Middle East, Levant and Caucasus region, Bennet



Stephens, said: "Qatar Airways would like to congratulate Oman and all the wonderful Omani nationals on this very special occasion, and celebrate the longstanding and important ties Qatar and Qatar Airways shares with the Sultanate of Oman. Oman has always been a key market for us, and today is an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to the country."

OUIIC DISTRIBUTES LAPTOPS TO ITS EMPLOYEES

Towards supporting children's home-based online learning, Oman United Insurance Co (OUIIC), gave away laptops to its employees, as part of its dynamic corporate social responsibility programme.

Sayyid Nassir bin Salim al Busaidy, Chief Management Executive of Oman United Insurance, handed over the laptops to members of staff under the company's 'Support Kids' e-Learning' initiative at a function held on November 10, 2020 at its corporate office in Al Khuwair.

Speaking on the occasion, Sayyid Nassir stressed on the need for parents to ensure that their children's education is not disrupted in anyway due to the pandemic crisis and the absence of formal classroom-based learning facilities.

"As a socially responsible organisation, Oman United



Insurance has always believed in supporting its employees and communities during challenging times. Our corporate social responsibility vision is driven by the principle of enabling people to overcome difficulties through innovative solutions.

It is in line with our cherished CSR values that we have decided to distribute laptops to our valued employees, and we sincerely hope that their children can pursue their education without any hassles in the comfort and safety of their homes," he said.

WJ Towell Group Company



Quality car rentals
at competitive prices.

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

• Fleet of 2,000 vehicles

• Choose from a wide range of brands & models

• PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available

• Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

أوربت
ORBIT

Car Rental & Lease

Classifieds

OMAN DAILY

Observer

For Advertisements

Please Contact with our Team:

Head Office

Muhammad Al Rashdi
99841230
m.alrashdi@yahoo.com

Salalah Office

Bakht Al Shihri
9998577
bakht.omandaily@gmail.com

Ali Al Maashari

9963064
wadi.almashari@yahoo.com

Nizwa Office

Abdullah Al Ahri
9942094
nizwaofc@omandaily.net.om

Subar Office

Muhammad Al Saidi
9942032
sohar.daily@outlook.com

OMAN DAILY

Observer

Classified Section

Mohammed al Rashdi: 99841230
m.alrahd86@yahoo.com

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

Saada al Rashdi
95919344

94501166
24649593
24649595

■ FOR RENT

■ INVESTMENT

■ BUYING

■ ACC AVAILABLE

■ FOR SALE/RENT

■ RENT A CAR

■ SERVICES

NEW family flats in Darsait near the beach, 5 bedrooms, hall with AC, 4 bathrooms, balcony with sea view, RO 450 per month. Contact: 99315986.

FLAT for rent. 98403020

SOUTH Al Ghubra flat in villa on the first floor, 3 rooms + 3 toilets + majlis + family room and dinning room with balcony very nice view, the house all with AC, RO 400. 96559696.

GENERAL clinic licence along with building and clinical equipment in Maabela. Size: 400 sqm. 99323030.

FLAT for rent in Maabela 3 master rooms. 96088926.

FLATS in Mumtaz, Al Khuwair and Al Ghubrah, 2BHK and 1 BHK. 99341138/ 90991079.

2 BEDROOM flat Al Khuwair. 99322344.

FOR rent in Salalah, north Auqadain. Call 91711118.

ONE bedroom flat at Darsait near Medical RO 170/-. Two BHK Al Khuwair RO 300/-. Athaiba behind Zubair RO 300/-. 24790449, Fax: 24790559

NEW apartment for rent, one room, 2 toilets, kitchen and dinning. Location, Al Khoudh Market, Red Taj building, 7th floor. Per month rent RO 190/-. 92838118

WELL maintained 1&2 BHK and office space/ store available at Rex Road. Contact 92227165

NEW penthouse, N Ghubra — 2 bedroom + 3 toilets + 1 maid room with toilet and 1 big hall 99370300.

FLAT for rent at Al Khuwair 33, 4 bedrooms, majlis, 2 halls, kitchen and store. 99383446.

NEW apartment in Ruwi near church consists of 2 rooms with its facilities. Contact. 94664635, 95850345.

1BHK & 2 bhk flats for rent at Ruwi and Al Khoudh. 93994402, 93994403, 24834644.

3 BHK Flat & studio flat in central Ruwi & 2 BHK in Medinat Al Ilam. Call 99238012/ 24704994.

■ SIT. VACANT

SALES ENGINEER (PEB) B.Tech Mechanical with minimum 7 years of experience in Pre Engineered Steel Building (PEB) sales and marketing. Responsibility involves Technical discussion with the customers, preparing proposals, cost estimation and quotation. Valid GCC driving licence is a must. Contact: hrjob191@yahoo.com.

JOB Vacancy in a private School. 1. Biology teacher; 2. Chemistry or Physics teacher. Required: 1. Appropriate qualification. 2. Experience in teaching languages. 3. IELTS Certificate minimum 6. Contact: 96062530

DENTAL Clinic looking for experienced **Female Nurse** with bachelor/ diploma & three years' experience. Candidates who are ready to join, please send your resume to hiringmedicalstaff@hotmail.com

URGENT requirement, Marble grounding expert 2 nos. External glass cleaner - 2 nos. Visa available. Mobile: 95175645, 97468796

Duct Man/ Fabricator URGENTLY required for Duct Factory **Duct Men/ Fabricator** With minimum 4 years Oman experience. Contact: 98901648.

WE are urgently for AC & Auto electrician (car electrician) who can join immediately. Contact: 99677756.

AN organic jaggery (Al Harifayuh)1 manufacturing industry available for partnership or investment in Hubli India. 0091 9742421122.

■ SIT. WANTED

YOUNG experienced Pakistani driver with Omani light vehicle driving licence seeks suitable opening. Speaks Arabic, Hindi, English and familiar with interior and Muscat areas. Contact GSM 95856719.

CIVIL engineer/QS engineer, 11 years in UAE, freelance & Oman driving licence available, looking for full-time or part-time job 97299165.

SALES/Marketing/ retail executive BMS in Marketing. 6 years experience. Contact 93920174. Rehankadri91@hotmail.com

FINANCE Manager/ CFO. Indian Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant with 25 years of experience in Trade Finance, MIS, Budget, Planning, Strategy, PROJECTS, Procurement, Admin, seeks suitable placement. Contact. 99884291 / 99741875 Email vipul70@gmail.com

SMART Indian professional, excellent English, double Masters — journalism & communication, finance, writing & research skills, Arabic speaker, 15 years diversified Oman experience in Muscat Airport project, healthcare, media, EPC, seeks suitable role. NOC. 99283938

AL Awsad Modern llc, electronic and furniture used. 99834373.

We buy used and broken cars which have instalments in cash. 90202090.

■ SIT. WANTED

LADY Indian English teacher with over 25 year experience, currently seeks full time position in colleges or training institutions. Responsibilities in English language teaching or soft skills trainer with preference for aviation sector. Possess valid Omani driving license. Contact GSM 92541510

33 years, Indian, female having MBA in finance looking for position of accountant, having 8 years of experience in Muscat as accountant. NOC available. Contact No: 79161458.

MECHANICAL engineer. 21, Indian male currently in Oman looking to work at any engineering field. Contact 96511338. Email: rkdhanush11@gmail.com

I NEED a driver job, urgent, with NOC paper. My name: Masum Billah. 968 94991705.

■ FOR SALE

WE supply quantities of excellent mountainous soil in Bausher (suitable for compaction and filling) 99242445, 99327939.

A SHOWROOM in Al Qurum in strategic location with extravagant interior design on 280 sqm is offered for sale at RO 25,000. 92470024.

■ ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement of Capital Reduction

IN accordance with the provisions of Article 150 of the Commercial Companies Law. The company **Al Mashary Al'alyt Llmoawlat**, which is registered with the Commercial Registration No **126521**, hereby announces that it is going to reduce its capital from RO 255,000.000 to

SINGLE room with attached bathroom and air-condition for executive bachelor, non-cooking, Wadi Kabir/ Al Falaj/ Ruwi High Street area. Contact 99657906

■ MANPOWER

MANPOWER from Philippines. Whatsapp: 91206344.

PEST CONTROL

OMAN CO. L.L.C.

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

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

Tel: 24787606, 24787503

Direct Line: 24786077

GSM: 99382355, 99172309

pcomctom@omantel.net.om

P.O. Box 565, Al Wadi Al Kabir 117, Sultanate of Oman

■ FOR SALE OR LEASE

A STORE which can be made into a two-storey building, has a 350 sqm area. Contact 97811111.

■ FOR SALE

INSTITUTION Licence contact 95595512.

DIESEL Tanker, 1,600 gallon Volvo, 1987. 92836774

COLD store in Al Seeb for lease or sale. Contact: 94272979, 96252664.

NEW 3 storey villas for sale/rents Wadi Kabir/Al Khuwair), (Shops/offices for rent/ Al Khuwair) (Flats for rent/Wadi Kabir). 96596348.

abc

RENT A CAR

SPECIAL Rates on New Cars & 4 WDs

RENTING & LEASING

Tours and Airport Transfer

Tel: 24582663

GSM: 95859497,

Fax: 24582664,

abcrent@omantel.net.om

Buttercup Rent A Car
AMAZING OFFERS
○ Rent a car for 10 days and get an extra free day.
○ Rent for one month and get 5 days free.

All the cars are 2016 brand new special prices for public departments, companies and long-term contracts. ☎972494490.

LUXURIOUS Toyota bus 2016, air-conditioned, 30 passengers, offered for daily/monthly/annually, Muscat. Contact: 98080609, 96316269.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We are a company dealing in ambulance service in the interior and in capital area of OM. We are looking for male nurse (Omani) retired from service between the age of 40 to 55 years. Having ACLS, BLS certificate and Ministry of Health License. Interested parties may please send their CV along with copies of ACLS, BLS and MoH license to: **khalfan@rawabittrading.com** or **george@rawabittrading.com**

A LEGAL translation office needs **Marketters**. Contact E-mail: oman4n@gmail.com

1. AC maintenance and servicing.
2. Fridge, washing machine and dish washer repairing.
3. Painting and cleaning services.
4. Electrical, plumbing and carpentry work 97014234, 99447257, 24290686.

ORIENT Trading llc, Shampooing, sofa, carpet, floor polishing. Old house repairing. 99834373.

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

■ SIT. WANTED

LIGHT driver, Pakistani male, 39, with good knowledge of Oman roads and areas, speaks English, Arabic, Urdu and Hindi. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79250786.

A reputed company in Sultanate of Oman is looking for the following personnel :

- Wiring Electrician – General:**
 - To read SLD, GA Drawing, Schematic drawing & BOM
 - Prepare Layout & component assembly as per GA drawing
 - Prepare Busbar links and busbar assembly
 - Wiring of electrical components based on schematic drawing
 - Testing of panels.
 - Should follow his superior instructions and work closely with team
- Technician for Cold Storage Systems:**
 - ITI holder (Mechanical), candidate should be able to install insulated cold storage panels, condensing units and evaporator units. Basic electrical knowledge will be an added advantage.
- AC Technician:**
 - ITI holder. Adept in handling package unit/chiller installation and commissioning.
- Laundry Technician:**
 - ITI/Diploma Holder: Capable to handle the installation of the Industrial Heavy duty Laundry Equipments namely washers, dryers, dry cleaning machines, flat work ironers and finishing presses. Basic knowledge in electronics/programming feature of the machine will be an added advantage.
- Kitchen Equipment Technician:**
 - Preferably ITI / Diploma Holder in Electrical/Electronics.
 - Min 5 years hands on experience in installation / Trouble shooting and Maintenance of Commercial kitchen equipments (Combi ovens, All gas and electrical cooking equipments, Dishwashers, Ice machines, Refrigeration system etc.)
 - Must have hands on experience in reading Circuit drawings, operation manual and trouble shooting guide.
 - Must be able to work independently with minimum supervision with maximum flexibility.

Experience: 5-8 years
Age Group: 25 -32 years

Interested candidates may send in their resume on **igcc.res@gmail.com** or fax on **24816976**.

VACANCIES

A leading company in Oman is looking for suitable candidates for following positions.

Trade	Qty	Salary (OMR)	Qualification	Contact Details
Rotating Technicians	30	250 - 300	Preferred Diploma in Mech/ Elect and experience of Maintenance in Oil & Gas. (VISA readily available) (Work Place: Sohar & Fahud)	careers1572@gmail.com
Electrical Technicians	20			Inteshar Siddiqui: +968 93214353
Instrument Technicians	20			Wasim Kazi: +968 93221460
Planning Engineers	4	400 - 500		Khalifa Al Tourshi: +968 99224602

دعونا نحتفل بمناسبة
العيد الوطني



Let's Celebrate
50th National Day

50% OFF

18th & 19th November 2020

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 1.690
RIAL 0.845
Sun King Sunflower
Oil 1.8 Ltrs

5
Kgs



WAS
RIAL 1.990
RIAL 0.990
Fortune Chakki Fresh
Atta 5 kgs

50%
OFF

5
Kgs



WAS
RIAL 4.400
RIAL 2.200
Al Gizaal Gold XXL
Premium Rice 5 kgs

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 1.690
RIAL 0.845
Shahi Masoor Dal 2 kgs

50%
OFF

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 2.050
RIAL 1.025
Shahi Turmeric Powder
2 x 500 gms

2
Pcs

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 1.590
RIAL 0.790
Golden Raisins
per kg

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 2.240
RIAL 1.120
Heinz Mayonnaise
2 x 400 gms Assorted

2
Pcs

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 2.450
RIAL 1.225
Sadia Crunchy Chicken
Sticks Spicy 750 gms

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 2.700
RIAL 1.350
Sadia Chicken Thighs
2 x 900 gms

2
Pcs

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 6.990
RIAL 3.495
Arctic Gold Shrimps
Jumbo Peeled &
Deveined 800 gms

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 1.975
RIAL 0.985
Bond Street Talc
3 x 125 gms

3
Pcs

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 1.650
RIAL 0.825
Always Total Protection
with Wings 24's

50%
OFF

Chefline



WAS
RIAL 14.900
RIAL 7.450
Chefline Biryani Pot 36 cms

50%
OFF

Chefline



WAS
RIAL 13.900
RIAL 6.950
Chefline Aluminium
Pressure Cooker
5 Ltrs + Frypan 2 pcs

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 2.825
RIAL 1.400
Kleenex Daily Care
Facial Tissue 5 x 170's

5
Pcs

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 0.920
RIAL 0.460
Bahar Dishwash
Liquid Ultra 1 Ltr

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 7.900
RIAL 3.950
Tag Basic Ladies Bag
Assorted per pc

50%
OFF

firststep



WAS
RIAL 18.900
RIAL 9.450
First Step Baby Walker
Assorted

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 5.900
RIAL 2.950
Men's Polo T-Shirt
Short Sleeve Assorted

50%
OFF



WAS
RIAL 7.900
RIAL 3.950
Men's Jeans
Assorted

50%
OFF

Sapil
50% OFF on all Sapil
brand perfumes

4 DAYS
OFFER
18th to 21st
November 2020



EYVOKE ALTA MODA

Shirley May

AREEN

ROYAL[®]
Jasmine

HYPERMARKETS.
SUPERMARKETS.
DEPARTMENT STORES.

Lulu
Where the world comes to shop,
safely!



**OMAN
INTERNATIONAL
HOSPITAL**

MANAGED BY IDEALMED GHS

مستشفى عُمان الدولي

بإدارة آيدل ميد

salutes

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said

and

wishes the people of Oman a very joyful

50th National Day of the Renaissance



OPENING SOON

OMANTEL LEAGUE TO START ON DECEMBER 17 AND CONCLUDE ON MAY 20

ADIL AL BALUSHI
MUSCAT, NOV 17

The new season 2020/2021 of Omantel League will start on December 17 as confirmed by the Oman Football Association (OFA) officials in a press conference on Tuesday at Seeb Stadium.

The coveted HM Cup will begin next January. Said bin Othman al Balushi, the Secretary-General of OFA and Shaikh Shabib al Hosni, the Assistant Secretary-General, unveiled the details of the new season at the press meet.

The Omantel League will end on May 20, 2021. The commencement date of the first division league is scheduled on December 19 while it will conclude on April 28, 2021.

Said al Balushi said that the junior leagues is under revision and further study. "There are many factors depending on cancellation or postponement of the junior leagues. The final decision will be clear by January after evaluation of the pandemic situation. The 2019/2020 season of the junior leagues were stopped in last March due to



the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

Commenting on the national teams plan, the OFA Executive Director, responded that the national teams did not want to be negligent. "The reason behind not having the overseas camps is due to the current situation of the globe health crises. Obviously, OFA will provide all the arrangements for the external camps once health situation is in normal condition. However, the domestic camps are going on and technical preparation is moving as per the plan," he said.

Shaikh Shabib al Hosni affirmed during his clarification at press meet that all the league

matches will be at sports complexes only. "According to the OFA approved medical protocol, all the matches will be played in the sports complexes and that will allow implementing all the medical preventive measures to avoid spreading the virus," he added.

The Assistant Secretary-General and Director of Omantel League clarified the new league systems.

"The first round (first leg) matches of the league will be played in a league system while the clubs will be divided into two groups at the second round," he added. Al Hosni ended his statement that OFA

managed to end the 2019-2020 matches successfully with full implementation of the medical protocol. The 2019/2020 season ended by crowning Seeb as the champion of the league for the first time while Dhofar was placed as runner up and Al Nahda ended in the third position.

Mirbat, Al Oruba and Oman Club were relegated to the first division league. Nizwa had crowned as the first division league champions while Al Shabab was positioned in the second place. Al Musannah team placed in the third position and confirmed their presence in the top flights in the next season.



ooredoo



نهضة متجددة

Empowered future
is our promise





We extend our greetings to
**His Majesty
Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**
and the people of Oman
on the occasion of
50th National Day
of the
Renaissance



Al Ansari Group, management team and employees
are wholeheartedly committed to the progress of the Sultanate
and the prosperity of its people under the wise leadership of
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik



Al Ansari Group of Companies

Oman • GCC • India

Our Vision : To be an inspiration for fostering human values and
enhancing business performance.



/Al-Ansari-Oman



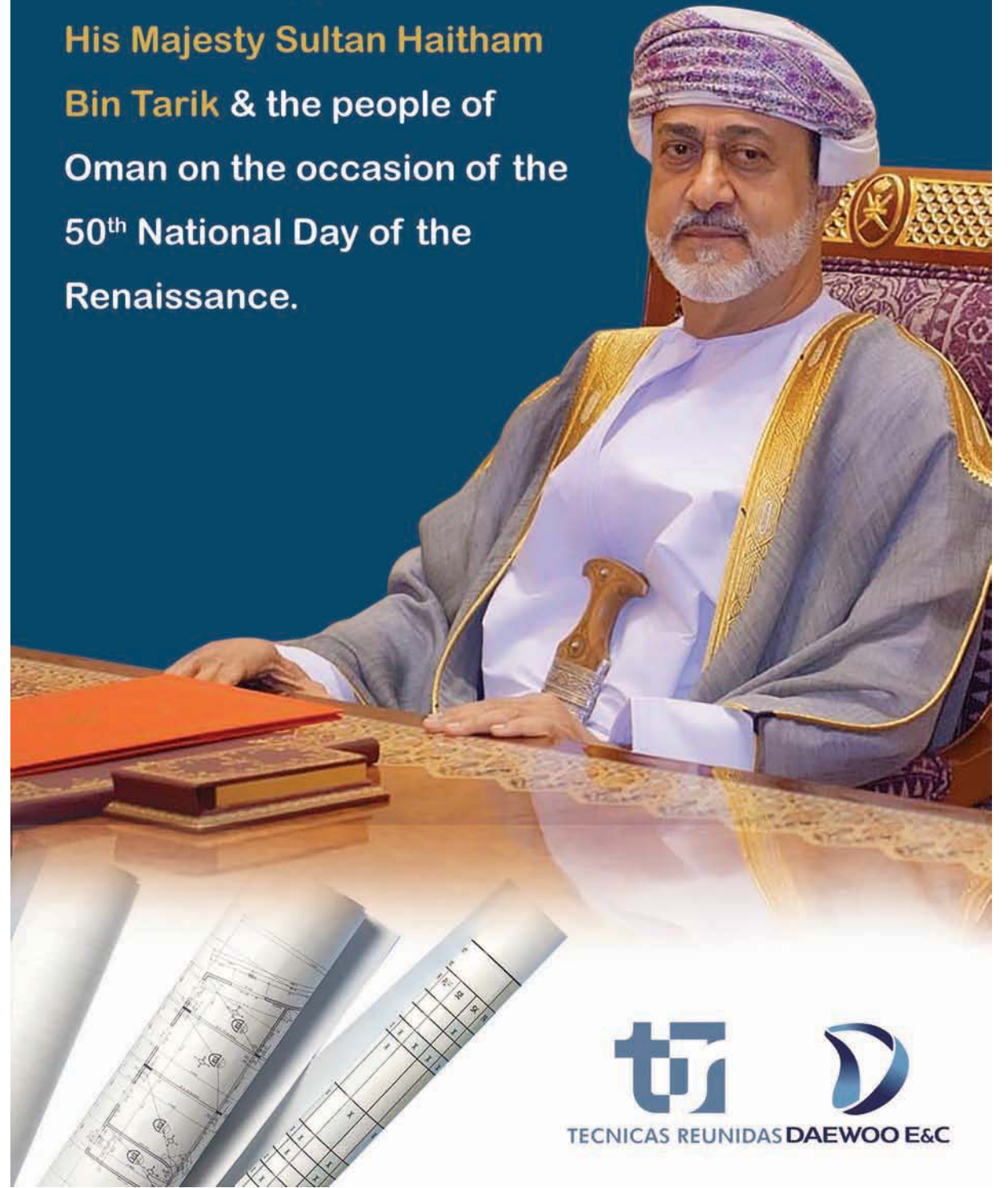
/alansarioman



alansarioman.com



Warmest congratulations to
**His Majesty Sultan Haitham
Bin Tarik & the people of
Oman** on the occasion of the
50th National Day of the
Renaissance.



TECNICAS REUNIDAS DAEWOO E&C

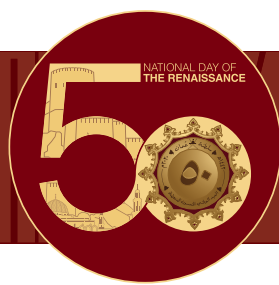
PEACE. PROGRESS. PROSPERITY.

Hutchison Ports Sohar
extends heartiest congratulations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik
and the people of Oman,
on the Glorious 50th National Day
of the Renaissance.

hutchisonportssohar.com
Hutchison Ports Sohar

 A member of CK Hutchison Holdings

 **HUTCHISON PORTS
SOHAR**



A FACILITATOR OF PEACE, ALWAYS!



We will follow the same line as the late Sultan, and the principles that he asserted for the foreign policy of our country, of peaceful coexistence among nations and people, and good neighbourly behaviour of non-interference in the affairs of others

HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK

SAMUEL KUTTY

[@samueltutty](https://twitter.com/samueltutty)

In his first public remarks immediately after ascending to the throne, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik promised that he would continue adhering to the foreign policy principles that the Sultanate has embraced since 1970.

Oman has always remained as a facilitator of peace under a 49-year-old long reign of late Sultan Qaboos. Oman's stable and consistent foreign relations, based on the principles of neutrality, non-interference and mediation have made the country different from many other global and regional powers.

This was evident in the message when His Majesty Sultan Haitham affirmed, "We will follow the same line as the late Sultan, and the principles that he asserted for the foreign policy of our country, of peaceful coexistence among nations and people, and good

neighbourly behaviour of non-interference in the affairs of others."

The continuation of the policy was further emphasised by Oman's new Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy during his speech at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 30.

"His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has reaffirmed categorically that the Sultanate will follow the wise policy developed by late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, the builder of modern Oman and the mastermind of its foreign policy and international relations over the past fifty years", the minister said.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham has extensive experience in foreign affairs, having worked as an under-secretary and secretary-general in the foreign ministry.

The firm and consistent principles upon which Omani foreign policy is based are not merely theoretical concepts. They are basic precepts that are intimately linked to the country's history, traditions, geographical location and its relations with other countries.

Since the beginning of Oman's glorious Renaissance era, the Sultanate set about building bridges and extending the hand of friendship, while making determined efforts to play its part in making a better life for the region and the world.

This is reflected in the way in which it has expanded its relations with other countries and in the active role it plays in Gulf, Arab and international organisations.

"The Sultanate of Oman follows the path of dialogue and encourages it. My country's government supports the values of tolerance, collective action and peaceful coexistence with all. We believe in the principles of justice, equality, good neighbourliness, the rule of law and non-interference in the

internal affairs of others", Sayyid Badr told the General assembly.

Oman has always been keen to fulfil all its international and regional obligations towards different organisations. It recognizes its international responsibility towards different causes that aim to serve humankind in several fields.

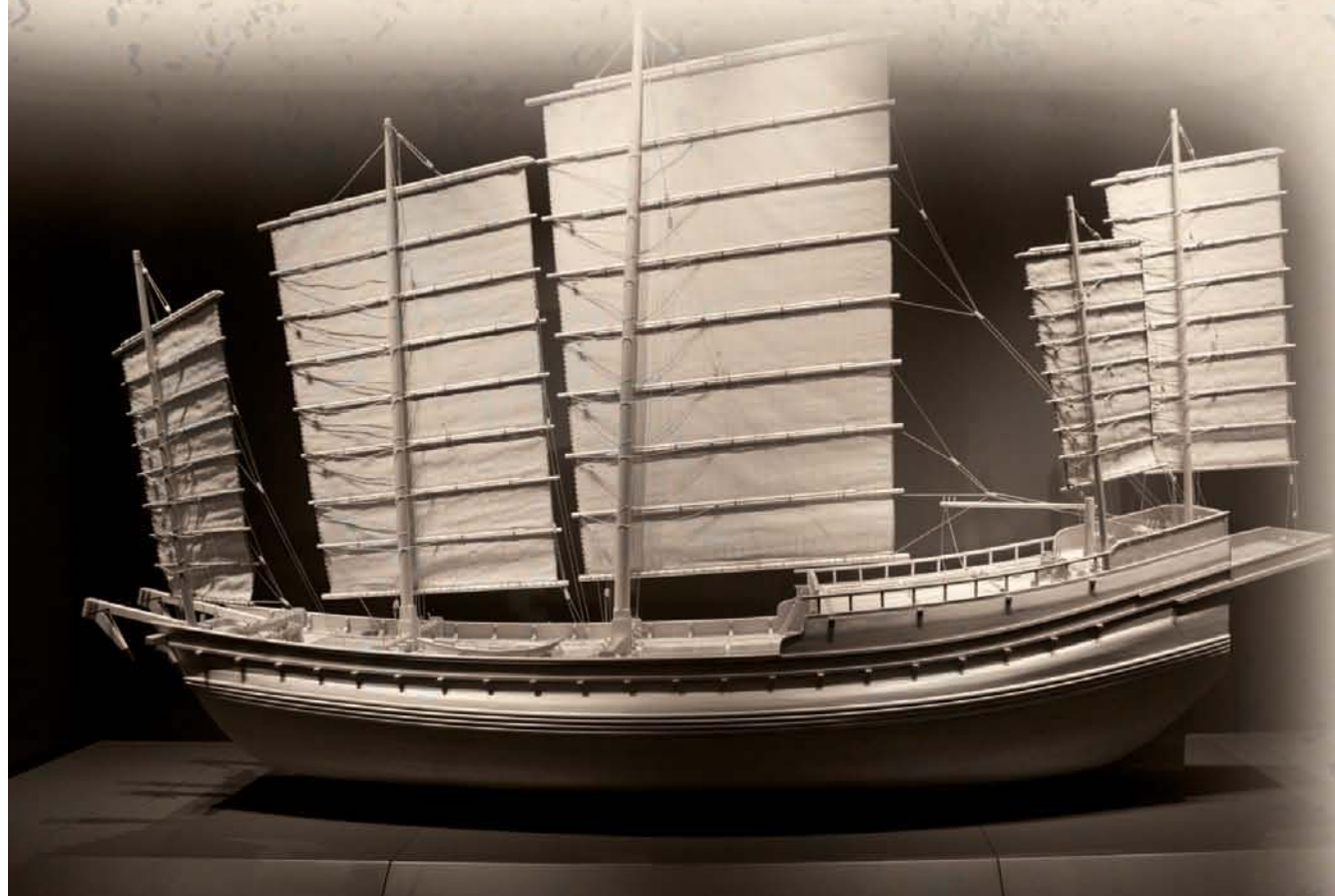
"We stress the peaceful settlement of disputes, based on the rules and principles of the UN Charter and international law, as an obligation that we all should honour", Sayyid Badr, a long-time foreign policy specialist, told the world body.

The Sultanate also plays an important role in the convergence of views among neighbouring and friend countries, and has always sought to assist belligerent states in conflict resolution. This important role has been welcomed internationally.

Since peace is indeed indivisible, and constitutes a highly important value for the Sultanate, peace has been the central topic of Omani policies at different levels, in the Gulf, regionally and internationally, without any compromise or overestimations.

"While my country supports the sovereign right of states to determine whatever they deem as fit for their national interests, our common interests make it incumbent upon us all to support peace and to participate effectively in efforts to disseminate it as a global culture by which people can progress and prosper", he said.

Very often the Sultanate showed its ability and courage not only to clearly and honestly express its opinions and vision towards situations and developments occurring in the Gulf, the Arab world and internationally. It has also deployed relentless efforts in implementing its policy in its relations with other states, whilst maintaining Oman's basic principles.





JOB FUND TO SECURE DECENT LIFE FOR ALL

ZAINAB AL NASSRI

[@zainabalnassri](#)

Since the Omani Renaissance, social protection has been the focus of development plans and strategies. The Basic Law of the State ensures social protection based on justice and equality.

The state guarantees aid to the citizen and his/her family in case of emergency, illness, disability and old age, according to the social security system.

Emphasising the supreme care and concern for Omani citizens and realizing their aspirations, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik issued the Royal Decree No 82/2020 regarding job security system in order to achieve the goals of the future

vision of Oman 2040, which ensures decent livelihoods for current and future generations alike.

The decree was preceded by the royal directives last March to take the necessary measures to establish a job security system and prepare its work mechanisms. His Majesty the Sultan donated RO 10 million to kickstart the fund.

The Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry announced support for the job security fund by contributing RO 1 million.

The fund supports Omanis whose jobs were terminated and those who undergo training to find alternative employment. The fund will be financially backed up by the government, the private sector and workers. Every employee contributes by RO 1 for every RO 100 of his/her monthly salary. The job security system will be implemented through two phases, the first phase starting in November 2020, in which the benefit will be granted for Omanis whose

services have been terminated, while the second phase will start after 3 years of establishing the system, during which a subsidy will be disbursed to job-seekers.

It is hoped that this symbiotic initiative will contribute to strengthen efforts aimed at improving the work environment and providing job security for citizens, especially in the private sector. This fund assumes in the light of COVID-19, which badly hit the economy and resulted in job losses.

According to a survey of the National Centre for Statistics and Information, Omanis do not prefer to work in the private sector due to lack of job security. The job security fund will help in alleviating such apprehensions and encourage citizens to take up private sector jobs.

It will also boost efforts of the government to find employment for all Omani youths and ensure a better standard of living.

Insurance against job loss is one of the most effective and successful experiences in the field of social protection for workers at the regional or global levels. It helps the government to offer a cushion against loss of income in the event of an economic crisis.

The Public Authority for

Social Insurance (PASI) has the overall role of administering the Fund. Eligibility to receive the benefit will be determined by the Committee established by the PASI. The eligibility criteria for an Omani employee to be paid the benefit includes if the Insured:

- has completed certain eligibility periods with the Employer stipulated in Article 11 of the Royal Decree;
- does not receive a retirement benefit;
- has not wilfully left his or her employment;
- has not been dismissed from employment for disciplinary reasons;
- is capable of working and is looking for employment (in accordance with regulations and rules set by the Board of the PASI); and
- is not enrolled as a student in any educational institutions.





COST CUTS, TAXES TO SHORE UP REVENUES

SAMUEL KUTTY

[@samkuttyvp](#)

The government is committed to further recognizing efficiencies in 2021 by reducing expenditures and pursuing to increase non-oil revenues.

Accordingly the government plans to put expenditures on a sustainable path through prioritisation, increased efficiency and larger involvement of the private sector in line with “private sector and global investment” priority envisaged in Vision 2040.

“Cost optimization and reductions do not mean across-the-broad cuts, but they are rather rationalized in order to ensure the least disruption to government operations”, points out Oman’s Medium-Term Fiscal Plan 2020-2024.

Current, or operational, expenditures by civil, security and defence agencies account for the majority of government expenditures currently.

The government restructuring undertaken in August 2020, points out the report, “is just one of the many efforts under way to increase operational efficiency, unlock synergies and realize real savings on a structural basis”.

The Medium-Term Fiscal Plan 2020-

2024 has been developed to reduce the primary and overall fiscal deficits as a percentage of GDP in the medium-term to sustainable levels in the mid-term period.

As Oman’s infrastructure has already begun to meet demand requirements, focus will now shift towards maintaining critical infrastructure and prioritising new projects that are in-line with the country’s development objectives.

This presents cost saving opportunities for the government and the ability for the private sector to play a larger role in the provision of competitive goods.

The fiscal plan report points out that salaries and wages are the single most significant cost currently in the state budget, accounting for more than 60 per cent of total operational expenditures for the government entities.

“Oman has undertaken several reforms over the past five years to contain the growth of the public wage bill — including hiring freeze except for critical public services such as health and education. Work is being undertaken to introduce individual and entity performance management systems and linking this system to the wage bill”, the report reveals.



Cost optimization and reductions do not mean across-the-broad cuts, but they are rather rationalized in order to ensure the least disruption to government operations

MEDIUM-TERM FISCAL PLAN 2020-2024

The Medium-Term Fiscal Plan stresses on the need to strengthen the Sultanate’s revenue-raising framework by decreasing its reliance on hydrocarbon revenues. The initiatives related to increasing non-oil revenues will have an impact of almost RO 1.4 billion. The plan targets government revenues of RO 8.6 billion in 2020; RO 9.28 billion in 2021; RO 10.21 billion in 2022; RO 11.53 billion in 2023 and RO 12.095 billion in 2024.

The targeted expenditure during the four years are: RO 12.66 billion in 2020; RO 12.482 billion in 2021; RO 12.798

billion in 2022; RO 12.639 billion in 2023; and RO 12.632 billion in 2024. The deficit will move from 15.8 per cent in 2020 to 1.7 per cent in 2024.

By implementing financial initiatives and policies of this plan, the fiscal policy seeks to avoid making deficits and relegating in its credit ratings. In the meantime, it will work to achieve safe and attractive investment grades.

Currently, the government is evaluating the tax and how it can best be implemented. It is currently engaged in strengthening taxation administration and collection efficiency to ensure that the corporates are adequately addressing their tax obligations under the law.

The use of personal income tax on the high earning group is another tool to diversify governments’ revenues.

The introduction of VAT will serve as the foundation for the Sultanate’s revenue raising framework by introducing a broad-based indirect tax.

The government is also redesigning the subsidy system with a view to reallocating it to the vulnerable and people who deserve it by gradually increasing the electricity and water tariffs and ensuring that support is provided for vulnerable segments of the population.





THE WORLD HAS MUCH TO LEARN FROM OMAN

LIJU CHERIAN
@cherianmathiker

Six expatriates who lived and worked in the Sultanate share their personal experiences on the occasion of Oman's 50th National Day. They reflect on the progress the country achieved and how they feel having been part of its Renaissance march. Prof Mike Searle, Dr Gerhard Heck, Anita Gustafson, Susan Bagyura, Dagmar Symes and P K Thomas from different backgrounds and nationalities talk about their nostalgic memories to *Observer*.



Prof Mike Searle, Oxford University, UK: Oman remains a beacon of political stability and compromise, and its non-aligned status has served it extremely well; indeed, it is a policy that the rest of the World should learn from.

In all this development it is crucial to preserve the country's natural heritage, including archaeological, wildlife, scenic and geological sites. Where many other countries have largely destroyed their heritage sites with excessive and unnecessary developments built in the wrong place, Oman remains a unique exception.

In July 1970, I was a schoolboy out in Oman on summer holidays with my parents. My father worked for PDO for 12 years from 1968 and my mother was the Reuters correspondent, and also worked in the Muttrah Mission Hospital with Don Bosch and colleagues. When late Sultan Qaboos stepped off the plane at the landing strip in Ruwi, the only building in the Ruwi valley was the army fort at Bait al Falaj.

Muttrah and Muscat were old medieval mud brick towns with forts and watchtowers on every hill and city gates that closed at sunset. There were no roads, no schools, but only one hospital, the Mission in Muttrah, for the entire country.

When the country opened up we used to

explore the mountains, desert and coastline at every opportunity, and found a wonderful landscape, with a wealth of treks, climbs, dives and incredible off-road drives with villages full of extremely hospitable and polite people. I returned to Oman almost every year since, carrying out geological fieldwork for my PhD, and then during my academic career.



Susan Bagyura, United States:

The Sultanate exerts great efforts in the elaboration of strategic visions in the matters pertaining to current Arab situations. In addition, the Sultanate prides itself on adhering to its Islamic identity that informs its policy, which is based on moderation and tolerance in its civilisational and cultural exchange; it spares no efforts to promote love and peace among all nations and peoples, and condemns all forms of extremism, terrorism and violence.

Having a mission that is much greater than self, the country and the region says everything about Oman and its people.



Dr Gerhard Heck, Germany:

I visited the Sultanate for the first time in 1979 when I was working as a professor at King Saud University in Riyadh, when the German Consul in

Jeddah asked me to join him for an official trip. The country, its impressive landscapes and not least the warm hospitality of the people fascinated me. On this trip I kept a diary about the historic places we visited, as well as various interesting cultural aspects, the Bedouin people and the beautiful wadis between Sur and Muscat, which in those days were still very difficult to reach.

The Sultanate is well-known as a safe, hospitable and culturally rich tourism destination. I provide German-speaking visitors with a very intense preparation for their destination of Oman, and try to fine-tune their expectations.

On the other hand, during my research in Oman, tour operators frequently ask me how they might improve their offering to appeal more to German tourists. Generally this involves improvements to personalised services, or how they might most appropriately react to certain individual visitors. Thanks to frequent feedback from my readers about their travels in Oman, I have been able to give my Omani friends useful practical information how they might further improve the satisfaction their visitors receive.



P K Thomas, India: Oman is a heaven on earth as I have always admired the hospitality of its citizens. Oman exhibits the most humble and welcoming brotherhood, which I observed from my very first day in this country.

The majestic beauty of its mountains immediately overwhelmed my heart when I arrived in 1979. It is this kind of peaceful and accepting culture that makes Oman one of the safest and most liveable countries in the world. The kind nature of Omanis is reflected in the generous hospitality extended to guests. In all honesty, my time in Oman has been most memorable and satisfying.

It is truly mesmerising to have witnessed the exponential growth and evolution of this great country as we see today. The country was blessed with the wisest of leadership, a true visionary in late Sultan Qaboos. In 1979, we had very few roads spanning Muscat and few facilities, now one of the cleanest countries in the world.

Its natural beauty cannot be ignored with its lovely wadis, deserts, pristine beaches and mountains. The tourism opportunity in Oman is abundant. Year after year we see more and more tourists wanting to explore this country and returning back for further visits. I believe.

Dagmar Symes, Saudi Arabia: An unexplored eden, the Sultanate is home to a vast realm with its extensive coastline, alluring deserts



and graceful mountains. The Sultanate itself has been getting more and more exposure as a prime travel destination in the Middle East and expected to attain an increasing positive growth in the next couple of years.

However, a constricting factor of COVID-19, has somewhat shifted the tourism component in restricting travel to a bare minimum, thus impacting the main revenue lifeline.

As tourism is one of the main pillars of the government's vision, educational institutions need to adjust their curriculum and academic portfolio to accommodate the rising demand for hospitality and tourism specialists.



Anita Gustafson, Sweden:

The beauty of the country and the friendliness of the people in Oman made an impression on me. I also appreciate the fantastic and unspoiled nature of Oman. Late Sultan Qaboos who was behind its modern development always thought of keeping Oman's history and their old buildings original. Muscat is nicely developed with beautiful hotels and restaurants. As a visitor you can take part in the history of the country at interesting museums and forts. Also visit the Souq where you can find nice handmade Omani things.

I worked and lived in Muscat with my husband during 1996-99 as General Manager for KLM, Royal Dutch Airlines and was the first female General Manager who came from a country abroad. I appreciated that the Omani ladies were encouraged to work by late Sultan Qaboos in 1997. I had then employed five ladies who should work in our ticket office proudly wearing the KLM female uniform.

When living in Oman I invited a lot of travel agents from Scandinavia and The Netherlands. They were all impressed about the country and are still promoting the Sultanate in every possible way.



On the occasion of the Sultanate's 50th National Day of the Renaissance, we wish His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and the people of Oman continued progress, peace and prosperity. Guided by a forward-thinking vision may we continue working together as one, building a better tomorrow for Oman.




**Congratulations to
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK
and the generous people of Oman
on the occasion of the
50th National Day of the Renaissance**






**A befitting legacy.
An ever promising future.**

Congratulations and warm wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and the people of Oman on the occasion of the 50th National Day of the Renaissance.

Lulu Group pays tribute to this vibrant and progressive nation made possible by a proud past and carried forward by a worthy and inspiring leader.

On the momentous occasion of the 50th National Day of the Renaissance, we also salute the spirit of the people of Oman who have stood shoulder to shoulder in living the dreams of its leaders. Lulu Group celebrates the same indomitable spirit and character in a pursuit towards excellence and reaffirm our pledge to keep exploring new heights, every day.

**HYPERMARKETS.
SUPERMARKETS.
DEPARTMENT STORES.**

www.luluhypermarket.com www.facebook.com/LuLuHypermarketOM www.twitter.com/luluhyperom www.instagram.com/luluhyperom



Where the world comes to shop safely!



With **you**
on the path of
progress

On this glorious occasion of the
50th National Day of the Renaissance,
we would like to felicitate and
congratulate

**His Majesty
Sultan Haitham
bin Tarik**

and the people of Oman.



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

www.mhdoman.com



Congratulations to
*His Majesty
Sultan Haitham
Bin Tarik*

and the generous people of
Oman on the occasion
of the 50th National Day
of the Renaissance



شركة الأسماك العمانية ش.م.ع.
Oman Fisheries CO.SAOG



OMANFISHERIES



الوطنية للتمويل
National Finance

We extend our sincere congratulations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik,
may Allah protect and preserve him
and the Omani people on the occasion of the
50th National Day of the Renaissance

