



WORLD LEADERS CONVEY CONDOLENCES

HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES LEADERS, ROYAL FAMILY MEMBERS AND DIGNITARIES

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour received at Al Alam Palace on Sunday Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jabir al Sabah, Emir of the sisterly State of Kuwait, and his delegation who arrived here to extend condolences on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

During his meeting with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour, the Emir of Kuwait expressed his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased soul in peace and grant His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to Shaikh Sabah and his delegation for their sincere condolences and sympathy. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect Shaikh Sabah and the Kuwaiti people against all harms.

QATAR: His Majesty the Sultan received Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, Emir of the sisterly State of Qatar, and his accompanying delegation, who arrived here to extend condolences on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

While meeting His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour, Shaikh Tamim expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

BAHRAIN: His Majesty also received King Hamad bin Issa al Khalifa of the sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain, and his delegation who arrived here to extend condolences.

During his meeting with His



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour receives Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jabir al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, at Al Alam Palace, on Sunday.

Majesty the Sultan, the King of Bahrain expressed his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy on the demise of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace and grant His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

JORDAN: His Majesty the Sultan received King Abdullah II of Jordan, and his delegation who arrived here to extend condolences on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

The King of Jordan expressed his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the soul of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos in peace and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to King Abdullah II and his delegation for their sincere condolences and sympathy.

YEMEN: His Majesty the Sultan received President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi of the sisterly Republic of Yemen and his delegation who arrived here to extend condolences.

During his meeting with His Majesty the Sultan, the President of Yemen expressed his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased in peace in paradise, and grant the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks to the President of Yemen and his delegation for their sincere condolences and sympathies. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect the President of Yemen and the Yemeni people against all harms.

TURN TO P3



His Majesty the Sultan with Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, Emir of Qatar.



His Majesty the Sultan with Prince Charles.

PHOTOS BY ONA, MOHAMED MUSTAFA AND MOHAMED AL RASHDI

Condolences from Saudi King

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour has received a cable of condolences from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

In his cable, King Salman said that he received the news of the demise of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos with deep grief and sorrow. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest his soul in peace.

Queen extends condolences

His Majesty the Sultan received a cable of condolences from Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth, on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

Queen Elizabeth II expressed her heartfelt sympathies to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour. She said she was deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of HM Sultan Qaboos, who, she added was inspiring to his people and dedicated to developing his country.

Trump deeply saddened

President Donald Trump of the United States said in a statement that he was "deeply saddened about the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos".

President Trump hailed His Majesty Sultan Qaboos as a "real partner and friend of the United States of America."

Trump added that His Majesty Sultan Qaboos "brought peace and prosperity to his country", noting that His Majesty Sultan Qaboos worked with nine different American presidents.

Putin sends condolences

His Majesty the Sultan received a cable of condolences from President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

In his cable, President Putin expressed his sincere condolences and deep sympathy to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour, the Royal Family and the Omani people on this immense loss. He underscored the great contributions of the late Sultan Qaboos in enhancing the friendship between the two countries.

Condolences from Japan

His Majesty the Sultan has received a cable of condolences from Emperor Naruhito of Japan on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. In his cable, Emperor Naruhito expressed his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people.

He also underscored his meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos during his visit to the Sultanate in 1994, and the warm welcome extended to him during the visit.

An 8-page supplement on His Majesty Sultan Qaboos with today's edition

A WELL KEPT PROMISE



HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES LEADERS, ROYAL FAMILY MEMBERS AND DIGNITARIES



His Majesty the Sultan receives King Hamad bin Issa al Khalifa of Bahrain



His Majesty the Sultan with President Kais Saied of the Republic of Tunisia



His Majesty the Sultan with King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands



His Majesty the Sultan with President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi of Yemen



His Majesty the Sultan with King Abdullah II of Jordan



His Majesty receives Ismail Omar Guelleh of the Republic of Djibouti



His Majesty with President Mahmud Abbas of the State of Palestine



His Majesty receives Heir Apparent of Abu Dhabi



His Majesty receives Ruler of Fujairah



His Majesty receives Ruler of Sharjah



His Majesty receives Boris Johnson, British Prime Minister



His Majesty receives member of Sudan Sovereignty Council



His Majesty receives Egypt Prime Minister



His Majesty receives Iranian Foreign Minister



His Majesty receives Nicolas Sarkozy



His Majesty receives British Defence Secretary, Chief of Defence Staff.



His Majesty receives Hamas Movement.



His Majesty receives Algerian Premier.



His Majesty receives Iraqi Deputy Premier.



His Majesty receives King of Tooro.



His Majesty receives Vice President of Turkey.

WORLD LEADERS CONVEY CONDOLENCES

FROM PAGE 1

TUNISIA: His Majesty received President Kais Saied of the sisterly Republic of Tunisia and his delegation who arrived here to extend condolences.

During his meeting with His Majesty the Sultan, President Saied expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his thanks to President Saied and his accompanying delegation for their sincere condolences and sympathy, praying to the Almighty Allah to protect President Saied and the Tunisian people against all harms.

PALESTINE: His Majesty the Sultan received President Mahmud Abbas of the State of Palestine, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and his delegation who arrived here to extend condolences on the demise of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

During his meeting with His Majesty the Sultan, President Abbas expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the soul of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos in peace, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the Palestinian President and his delegation for their heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathies on this immense loss. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect President Abbas and the brotherly people of Palestine against all harms.

NETHERLANDS: His Majesty the Sultan received King Willem-Alexander of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and his delegation, who arrived here to extend condolences on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

While meeting with His Majesty the Sultan, King Alexander expressed his sincere condolences

and sympathy on this immense loss.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to King Alexander and his accompanying delegation for their heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy, praying to the Almighty Allah to protect the King of the Netherlands and Dutch people against all harms.

DJIBOUTI: His Majesty received Ismail Omar Guelleh of the Republic of Djibouti, and his delegation who arrived here to extend condolences on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

During his meeting with His Majesty the Sultan, the President of Djibouti expressed his sincere thanks and sympathy. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the soul of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos in peace in paradise, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

UAE: His Majesty the Sultan received Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, Heir Apparent of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of Armed Force of the sisterly United Arab Emirates, and his delegation who arrived here to extend condolences on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

During his meeting with His Majesty the Sultan, Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed conveyed condolences and sympathy of the President of the sisterly UAE and his sympathies on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks to Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, President of the UAE, Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed and his delegation for their sincere condolences and sympathies. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect Shaikh Khalifa and the brotherly UAE people against all harms.

BORIS JOHNSON: His Majesty the Sultan received Boris Johnson,

British Prime Minister.

The British Prime Minister expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy to His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people on the demise of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan thanked the British Prime Minister for his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy on this immense loss.

IRAQ: His Majesty received Fuad Mohammed Hussein, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Envoy of President Barham Salih of the Republic of Iraq.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq conveyed condolences and sympathy of the President of Iraq to His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the soul of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos in peace, and grant His Majesty and the Omani people patience.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the Iraqi President for his heartfelt condolences and sympathy on this immense loss.

PRINCE CHARLES: His Majesty received Prince Charles of Wales. During the meeting, Prince Charles expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy to His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan thanked Prince Charles for his sincere condolences and sympathy on this immense loss. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and protect all against all harms.

SUDAN: His Majesty received Hassan Mohammed Idris, Member of Sudan Sovereignty Council.

The guest conveyed condolences and sympathy of the leadership

of Sudan, government and the brotherly people of Sudan to His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people on the demise of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to Hassan Idris, Sudan, its government and people for their heartfelt condolences and sympathy on this immense loss, and protect all against all harms.

FUJAIRAH: His Majesty the Sultan received Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed al Sharqi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ruler of Fujairah, and his delegation, who arrived here to extend condolences.

While meeting with His Majesty the Sultan, Shaikh al Sharqi expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the soul of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos in peace in paradise, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

SHARJAH: His Majesty the Sultan received Shaikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ruler of Sharjah, and his delegation, who arrived here to extend condolences.

While meeting with His Majesty the Sultan, Shaikh Al Qasimi expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

TURKEY: His Majesty the Sultan received Fuat Oktay, Vice President of Turkey, Envoy of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the Republic of Turkey.

The Turkish Envoy conveyed condolences and sympathy of the Turkish President to His Majesty and the Royal family on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, praying

to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

ALGERIA: His Majesty the Sultan received Abdelaziz Djerad, Prime Minister of Algeria.

The Algerian Premier conveyed condolences and President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of Algeria, his government and the brotherly people of Algeria to His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people on the demise of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the soul of the His Majesty Sultan Qaboos in peace, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

IRAN: His Majesty the Sultan received Dr Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his accompanying delegation.

The Iranian Foreign Minister conveyed condolences and sympathy of the Iranian President to His Majesty and the Royal family on the death of the His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the Iranian President for the sincere condolences and sympathy on this immense loss.

SARKOZY: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq bin Taimour received Nicolas Sarkozy, former French President.

The former French President expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy to His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

His Majesty the Sultan thanked the former French President for his sincere condolences and sympathy.

TOORO KINGDOM: His Majesty the Sultan received King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba of Tooro Kingdom, Envoy of President Yoweri Museveni of the Republic of Uganda.

The King of Tooro conveyed condolences of the President of Uganda to His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people on the death of the His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace, and grant His Majesty, the Royal family and the Omani people patience.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for the Ugandan President's sincere condolences and sympathy on this immense loss.

UNITED KINGDOM: His Majesty received Ben Wallace, Secretary of State for Defence and Gen Sir Nicholas Carter, Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) in the United Kingdom and their accompanying delegations.

During the meeting, the two guests expressed their sincere condolences and sympathies to His Majesty the Sultan, the Royal family and the Omani people on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan thanked the British guests for their sincere condolences and sympathies.

ROYAL FAMILY: His Majesty the Sultan received mourners on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

His Majesty received mourners from the Royal family members, ministers, advisers, under-secretaries, members of the State Council, members of Majlis Ash'shura and military commanders.

His Majesty the Sultan also received members of the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to the Sultanates, sheikhs, dignitaries, civil and military senior officials and citizens.

The condolences' conveying ceremony was attended along with His Majesty by members of the Royal family. — ONA



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Tributes pour in



MUSCAT: Condolences on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos continued to pour in from leaders around the world.

UK Queen: Ardently dedicated to developing his country

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour al Said received a cable of condolences from Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth, on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

Queen Elizabeth II expressed her heartfelt sympathies to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. She said she was deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, who, she added was loyal to the Sultanate, inspiring to his people and ardently dedicated to developing his country. She underscored the prudent leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and his commitment to peace and understanding between nations and religions. She voiced gratitude to all that the great leader has done for the sake of fostering ties of friendship between the two friendly countries. She hoped that the deep-rooted historical relations between the two countries will continue to grow and prosper.

Trump remembers: 'Friend to all'

US President Donald Trump expressed his condolences over the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, calling him a friend to America who worked for peace in the Middle East.

"As the longest-serving leader in the Middle East, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos brought peace and prosperity to his country and was a friend to all," Trump said in a statement.

"His unprecedented efforts to engage in dialogue and achieve peace in the region showed us the importance of listening to all viewpoints.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos was a true partner and friend to the United States, working with nine different American presidents," Trump said.

Russian President: Underscores personal contributions

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq received a cable of condolences from President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

In his cable, President Putin expressed his sincere condolences and deep sympathy to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, the Royal family and the Omani people on this immense loss. He praised the ruling period of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and the social and economic development witnessed in the Sultanate during his era. He underscored the great personal contributions of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos in enhancing the friendship relations between the two countries.

President of Comoros: Heartfelt condolences

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq has received a cable of condolences from President Azali Assoumani of the Union of the Comoros on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

In his cable, President Assoumani expressed his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy and that of the government and people of the Comoros. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased soul in peace in paradise along with martyrs and the faithful, and grant the Monarch of the country and the Omani people patience.

King of Spain: Values distinguished relations

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq has received a cable of condolences from King Felipe

VI of the Kingdom of Spain on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

In his cable, King Felipe VI expressed his deep sadness, sincere condolences and sympathy and that of the government and the friendly people of Spain to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, the Royal family and the Omani people on this immense loss. He hailed the distinguished relations binding the two friendly countries.

Sultan of Brunei Darussalam: Example of sincerity

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq has received a cable of condolences from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

In his cable, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos of Brunei Darussalam expressed his sincere condolences on this immense loss. He pointed out that His Majesty Sultan Qaboos was an example of sincerity and hard work that have transformed the Sultanate into a civilised country. He affirmed that the Sultanate would continue the path of progress and prosperity in light of his wise leadership. He also valued the bilateral relations binding the two countries and the importance of strengthening them in the upcoming years. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased in peace in paradise along with martyrs and the faithful.

King Mohammed VI of Morocco: Active role in building bridges

King Mohammed VI of Morocco said in a statement that "The Sultanate of Oman and the Arab world lost a great, wise leader who has established a comprehensive renaissance in his country. This renaissance qualified him to play an active role in building bridges of Arab and Islamic solidarity and reinforcing dialogue, peace and moderation."




ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Directorate of Public Relations

ANNOUNCEMENT

Royal Oman Police-Directorate of Public Relations- announces vehicles are banned from parking on both sides of the Sultan Qaboos Street from As'Sahwah Roundabout to Muscat City, passing through Muttrah Costal Road, in addition to Riyam Park's Layby starting from Monday morning 13/1/2020 to Tuesday evening 14/1/2020.

ROP calls upon drivers of vehicles to abide by the above-mentioned statement and co-operate with police personnel for the public interest.



"Tender Announcement"

Supply of Food Parcels for the "Ramadan Iftar Program" for the Year 1441 AH / 2020 AD for Al Mahrah Governorate and Surrounding Areas in the Republic of Yemen

Tender No. 1/2020

Oman Charitable Organization (O.C.O.) announces a tender for the supply of 25,900 (twenty five thousand and nine hundred) food parcels for the "Ramadan Iftar Program" for the year 1441 AH / 2020 AD, and distributing them to all the districts of Al Mahrah Governorate and the surrounding areas according to the attached list of locations (16 locations).

Specialized merchants and suppliers wishing to submit their bids for this tender can obtain the terms and conditions from the Financial Department of Oman Charitable Organization against payment of nominal fees, during the period from Sunday 12 January 2020 to Thursday 16 January 2020. The last date for bid submission and acceptance shall be Thursday 23 January 2020.

Bids shall be deposited in the tender box at the Financial Department, O.C.O. Headquarters Building at the Wilayat of Baushar, Muscat Governorate, Al Khuwair 33, Southern Street No. 47, near Sultan Said bin Taimur Mosque.

Bids shall be placed in closed envelopes sealed with red wax and addressed to H.E. the Chairman of the Projects and Tenders Committee of O.C.O. before the specified date.

"O.C.O. is not obligated to award the tender in whole or in part or to consider the lowest price."

India declares state of mourning today

NEW DELHI: As a mark of respect to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos the Government of India has declared one day's State mourning on January 13, 2020, throughout India.

The National Flag will be flown at half-mast throughout India, including at Indian missions/posts abroad and there will be no official entertainment on the day.

French Elysee mourns HM Sultan Qaboos

PARIS: The French Presidency Office, the

Elysee Palace, issued a statement in which it mourned His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

The statement reads as follows: "His Majesty Sultan Qaboos was well-known for developing and modernising his country while at the same time respecting its traditions and values.

"The Omani people lost a high-spirited, cultural conscious man, who is also deeply linked to his Omani roots at the same time open to the world, particularly France, which he knew very well.

"In times of troubles, His Majesty Sultan

Qaboos was able to rise to the expectations of his people. He was a man of peace. He worked tirelessly for resolving regional disputes and alleviating tensions. He never stopped promoting principles of reconciliation and mutual tolerance".

The President of the French Republic extends to the family of Sultan Qaboos and to the Omani authorities and Omani people his deep sympathies and reaffirms his own friendship and the friendship of the French people to the Omani people."

— ONA

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Global leaders pay respects

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour received a cable of condolences from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, as condolences continue to pour in from leaders around the world.

Saudi King: Hope the march of progress will continue to grow

In his cable, King Salman said that he received the news of the demise of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos with deep grief and sorrow. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest his soul in peace in paradise and grant His Majesty Sultan Haitham fortitude to bear the loss.

King Salman also expressed his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour on the occasion of his assumption to power in the Sultanate. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to grant His Majesty Sultan Haitham good health and success in continuing the march of the late Sultan Qaboos.

King Salman hoped the Sultanate's march will continue to grow and prosper under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham. He said he looks forward to working with His Majesty Sultan Haitham.

Emperor of Japan: Fondly remembers meeting

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour has received a cable of condolences from Emperor Naruhito of Japan on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

In his cable, Emperor Naruhito expressed his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour and the Omani people. He also



underscored his meeting with late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos during his visit to the Sultanate in 1994 and the warm welcome extended to him during the visit.

President Aoun: A man of dialogue, wisdom and peace

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour received a cable of condolences from President Michel Aoun of the Lebanese Republic on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

President Aoun extended his heartfelt sympathies, along with the condolences of the brotherly people of Lebanon, to the Omani

President Aoun said that the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos had served his country for a half century. He described His Majesty Sultan Qaboos as “a brother and a friend of Lebanon at all stages and during difficult conditions witnessed by the country.”

He said that His Majesty Sultan Qaboos supported Lebanon's legitimate cause and backed the country's stability, security and aspirations of its people.

President Aoun pointed out that, upon the demise of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, the Arab world lost “a man of dialogue, wisdom and peace”, a man who worked to cement Arab solidarity and enhance its power in the face of impending challenges threatening its states and

He prayed to the Almighty Allah to have mercy on the deceased's soul and grant His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour and the Omani people patience to bear the loss. He wished His Majesty Sultan Haitham good health and success in shouldering his national responsibility of serving the prosperity of the Sultanate and its people.

Turkish President: Important personality in the region

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also mourned His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, who, he said, exerted tremendous efforts for promoting the growth and development of the Sultanate. Erdogan described His Majesty Sultan Qaboos as an "important personality in the politics of the region".

European Commission & EU: Shared vision for peace

The European Commission and the European Union mourned His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, sending a joint statement in which they said, "The Sultanate, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, undertook unprecedented reforms that resulted in improving the living standards of Omani people. His vision has introduced a foreign policy that placed the Sultanate in a domain of the closest partners of Europe, right from the midst of a region deeply immersed in conflicts and rising tensions."

German President: Loss of a good friend

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said that the “death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos means the loss of a good friend of Germany.”

He added that His Majesty Sultan Qaboos “was a patronage of understanding and peaceful

political settlements in the Middle East. His opinions are highly heeded in the region.”

**Former US President:
Strong ally of US**

Former US President George Bush said in a mourning statement that “His Majesty Sultan Qaboos was a solid power in the Middle East and a strong ally of the United States. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos had a vision for Oman to be a modern and prosperous country and he wanted to have this vision to become a reality.”

Chairman of Libyan Presidential Council: Oasis of peace

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq received a cable of condolences from Fayez Mustafa al Sarraj, Chairman of the Presidential Council of Libya and Prime Minister of the Government of National Accord of Libya, on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

Al Sarraj extended his sympathies to the Royal family and Omani people, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the soul of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos in peace.

He reiterated the noble stands of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos on various issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic nations and to the world at large, noting that those stands reflected in the continuation of Oman's support for peace and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Al Sarraj hailed His Majesty Sultan Qaboos' reign which, he said, transformed the Sultanate into an oasis of peace and enabled the country to play a major role in rapprochement among citizens of countries and in resolving intra-Arab issues.

He lauded the Sultanate's support in resolving the Libyan issue, hoping that His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour will be the best successor for the best predecessor. — **ONA**

Condolences

With utmost grief,
we extend our deepest condolences to

His Majesty Haitham bin Tareq al Said
May Allah bestow him with Good Health

the members of the Royal Family
and the people of Oman
on the sad demise of

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said

May the Almighty bestow mercy upon his soul
and grant him eternal peace in heaven.





HM receives Royal family members, ministers



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour received mourners on the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. His Majesty received mourners from the Royal family members, ministers, advisers, under-secretaries, honourable members of the State Council, members of Majlis Ash'shura and military commanders. His Majesty the Sultan also received members of the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to the Sultanates, shaikhs, dignitaries, civil and military senior officials and citizens. – ONA





‘World has lost a great leader’

GLOBAL MEDIA GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO HIS MAJESTY SULTAN QABOOS

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Sultan Qaboos bin Said obituary

Ruler of Oman for nearly 50 years who transformed his country into a prosperous modern state

Paul Legg

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Sultan Qaboos bin Said in Doha, Qatar, in 2007. Photograph: Fadi Al-Assadi/Reuters

Over the course of nearly five decades, **Sultan Qaboos bin Said**, who has died after suffering from cancer, transformed Oman from a backward and

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Opinion

Smooth transition in Oman good for the region

Sultan Qaboos leaves behind a rich legacy, he pushed education, opened the economy to non-oil sectors

By Anil Wadhwa

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Oman names a new leader after the death of Sultan Qaboos bin Said

By [Amir Vora](#), [Rob Picheta](#) and Taylor Barnes, CNN

Updated 11:59 GMT (19:59 AEST) January 11, 2020

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Many international newspapers and media platforms published reviews about the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, may God have mercy on his soul. They highlighted how the late Sultan managed 50 years of his reign to transform Oman into a modern developed state.

Ben Hubbard, Chief for The New York Times Beirut Bureau wrote an article titled 'Sultan Qaboos, Who Built Oman Into a Prosperous Oasis of Peacemaking, Dies at 79' with a subtitle reading: 'The longest-serving Arab ruler, Qaboos pulled his nation from poverty and brokered quiet talks between global foes.'

The article said that His Majesty Sultan Qaboos' decades as a monarch who used oil wealth to pull his country from poverty made him a towering figure at home, with roads, ports, universities, sports stadiums and other facilities bearing his name. Internationally, as the longest-serving leader in the Arab world, he used Oman's place in a turbulent region, next to one of the world's busiest shipping

lanes, to become a discreet but essential diplomatic player.

The Guardian published an obituary reading: Sultan Qaboos Ruler of Oman for nearly 50 years who transformed his country into a prosperous modern state.

Over the course of nearly five decades, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, who has died aged 79, transformed Oman into a prosperous, modern and unified state fully engaged in the Arab region and the wider world, the article said.

Clinics, hospitals, schools and a sports arena, invariably named after the Omani ruler, almost entirely absent before 1970 are now commonplace across the kingdom.

Jon Gambrell wrote an article in *Time* under the heading 'His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, Who Modernized Oman, Dies at 79'. Under his reign, Oman became known as a welcoming tourist destination and a key Mideast interlocutor, helping the US free captives in Iran and Yemen

In an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper in 2008, late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos said, “We do not have any conflicts and we do not put fuel on the fire when our opinion does not

agree with someone.”

An article published in the *CNN* website said: "The US Embassy in the capital of Muscat said it's "deeply saddened" by Qaboos' death.

"We have lost one of the world's great leaders — a visionary responsible for Oman's prosperity and progress for the last half century," the embassy's tweet read. "His steadfast leadership embodied his sincerity, his generosity, his tolerance, and his deep love for his country. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos will be missed not only by the people of Oman, but also by his friends and admirers around the world over, including in the United States."

The article reads: "The late Sultan Qaboos was seen as a modernizing leader who played a key role in diplomacy and mediation in the Middle East. During his reign, Qaboos encouraged the greater involvement of women in roles in politics, business and sport, after allowing them to enter the workforce in the 1990s."

The *Middle East Monitor* published an article under the heading 'Oman's Sultan Qaboos dies; cousin Haitham named successor'.

The article goes on to say “With his death, the region loses a trusted and seasoned leader. Omanis took to social media to mourn the death of a ruler who had made regular tours of the nation to speak to citizens, often driving his own four-wheel drive in the convoys.”

"The first words I heard from my weeping mother after news of the great Sultan Qaboos's death was: The father of orphans, of the poor of the downtrodden, of all of us, has died," Twitter user Abdullah bin Hamad al Harthi wrote. "Our minds cannot comprehend his absence," another Twitter user who gave her name as Sheikha said.

Bloomberg News said: Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Omani leader who turned an isolated Middle Eastern country torn by civil war into a stable oil exporter, has died at age 79.

Qaboos set himself apart from his peers in the Gulf with an unorthodox regional policy. During his rule, Oman instead often served as a neutral mediator in the region, earning it a “Switzerland of the Middle East”. It hosted discussions between the US and Iran that paved the way for the landmark nuclear deal.

in 2015. At home, Qaboos gave women the vote in the early 1990s and enabled them to stand for public office, unprecedented moves for the Gulf.

“This impressive feat was done without antagonizing other nations,” said Gary Grappo, a former US ambassador to the country. “His Sultanate rightly became known as an island of stability in a very troubled region,” Bloomberg said.

The Washington Post published an obituary under the heading 'Sultan Qaboos, who transformed Oman into a regional power broker, dies at 79'.

The article goes on to say that the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos shunned the skyscrapers and extravagances of nearby Dubai and Abu Dhabi, stressing that Muscat and other cities should generally retain their traditional character and architecture as much as possible, even as five-star resorts and international brands moved in.

“The sun has risen on our country, and we will regain our previous fame and strength and become a country worthy of respect and appreciation,” the late Sultan was quoted as saying, the article said.



‘WILL ALWAYS BE IN OUR THOUGHTS, WE ALL MISS HIM’

MUSCAT: Condolences continue to pour for late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos on Sunday as the country marked the first day of official mourning on Sunday.

“Very sad and my condolences are with the people of Oman at this tragic moment. Sultan Qaboos will always be in our thoughts we all miss him,” said an emotional message received at the *Observer*.

“The sad demise of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos marks the end of an era. A visionary, statesman and nation builder the likes of His Majesty walk this earth seldom. It’s difficult to come to terms with this loss,” said a senior journalist based in Oman.

He was a great King and such people are alive in history always. Rest him in peace, I really can say the Omani people are very kind,” said another message.

“On behalf of the International Human Rights Commission. I am deeply saddened to learn the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. The region lost a great statesman and peacemaker.

Our condolences and sympathy go to the people and Government of Oman, Said Dr M Shahid A Khan of International Human Rights Commission.

“I couldn’t meet him or catch a glimpse of his ever in life, but, my pain is no less than the pain his family n near n dear ones would be going through today. I stand with Oman today on this day of grief and sorrow,” said Dr Nandita.

Congratulations to the people of Oman on this smooth transition. May Allah bless the soul of Sultan Qaboos, a pragmatist and wise leader, who developed his country while at the same time shielding it from the regional tensions and conflagrations,” said an expatriate. Chona Thomas, senior consultant plastic surgeon and former head of plastic surgery service in Oman, says the spectacular transformation of Oman as a primitive country in the early 70s to a modern country with all excellent facilities for a civilised living within a short time in the history is the greatest contribution of His Majesty Sultan

Qaboos to Oman and its people. “This is possible only because His Majesty sets up a role model to government and to Omanis in general. Having come to Oman as a locum surgeon in 1971, I became an Omani Citizen and got the wonderful opportunity to witness the tremendous changes to uplift Oman to its present stage by the guidance and leadership of His Majesty.

“With a group of dedicated people comprising of Omanis and expatriates in the different ministries under His Majesty’s government, the picture of Oman started changing rapidly in all fields under the many five-year plans.”

He added, “The regular yearly program of His Majesty’s ‘Meet the People Tour,’ used to get first-hand information regarding the different wilayats of the country and the people and their problems, and formulated and implemented policies for the improvement and development of that region.

His Majesty proved to be an amalgam

— what is best in a ruler, a benevolent leader, a visionary, a disciplined chief with the total dedication and determination for the improvement of Oman and its people and a peacemaker to the entire world.

His demise is a great loss to the Sultanate, Middle East region and the world at large and may his soul rest in peace. We wish and pray that the spirit of Renaissance will be continued with prosperity and peace in Oman under the wise leadership of his successor His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour.”

Dr Saida Khalilova, SQU Associate Professor in piano, also expressed condolences to the Omani nation and its people. “It is most definitely a great loss of such an impeccable leader. One of the greatest to have ever walked on the earth and his vision and foresight led the country all these years. I wish patience and fortitude to everyone as we are led under a new Sultan. Ameen.”



Jacqueline D'Souza From my memory of my younger days growing up in Oman, a home we never forgot, living at His Majesty's Royal Flight, I remember hearing warm hearted stories of HM Sultan Qaboos about how HM treated his employees with kindness and generosity and my father being one of his employees. My favourite and most exciting memory was when we got to travel in His Majesty's Royal Aircraft VC10 which is now in a museum in UK. For my siblings and I as children, it was like experiencing a real life fairy tale. HM's kindness and generosity towards his employees and families has always and will always be fondly remembered. We loved growing up in Oman and till today we hold Oman and it's Royal Kingdom close to our hearts. On the behalf of my dad, retired employee of His Majesty's Royal Flight, please accept sincere condolences from Geoffrey D'Souza and family. Thank you for our fondest memories of our home in Oman at the Royal Flight. R.I.P., HM, you are forever missed.

Like · Reply · Message · 3h



Florael Castro Arab world's longest serving ruler (5decade) May Allah bless his soul of the beloved his majesty Sultan Bin Said Qaboos . To the family and to the people in Oman my heartfelt condolences 🌹❤️🙏🏻🤲🏻

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



Jambo Mambo I am not Omani, I am Scottish, but in my years in Oman I have always felt safe and happy, due to HRH and the Omani people. He has always been a wise, tolerant and thoughtful leader for us all, like my favourite uncle. I have also been proud of His connections to my small country of Scotland which he has always nurtured. I will miss Him and cherish His memory.

May His successor have a long, peaceful and happy leadership and rule Oman with the same wisdom and harmony.

It is an honour for me to be in Oman. Thank you,

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



Marissa Diaz San Esteban Even the skies mourn for the loss of a great leader.. Along with the rain showers are the tears Of your countryman and ours.. Thank you for a peaceful country Proud but humble people.. Rest in peace Our majesty!

Like · Reply · Message · 1d · Edited



Nick Koh K C Rest In Peace Sultan Qaboos for a very well deserved rest having contributed your lifetime in growing Oman in the way and to what Oman is today. Many of us love Oman because of the way You had cultivated a strong set of values in the people, so united by passion and love for each other. Rest well and be blessed with happiness and great health in heavens!

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



Aziz Mohamed I worked in Oman from 1968. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos came into power during 1970. Long time I worked in Oman, in fact I lived in Oman more time than my mother country India. I have witnessed all the developments Oman had under the wise rule of HM Sultan Qaboos. I love HM Sultan Qaboos and HM will live in my heart, similarly all the Omanis and expatriates living in Oman. May almighty Allah keep his soul in eternal peace.

Like · Reply · Message · 2h



Biplob Sen Gupta Top Fan Feels like he was my local guardian, during my long stay in Oman. Seen a country of dust and Rocky mountains and barren Sandy land grow into skyscrapers... Ports... Schools.. Hospitals.... and the magnificent roadways.... RIP...

Like · Reply · Message · 2h



Babu Pn Muppathadom Deeply saddened by the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. Our deepest condolences go to the people of Oman. May His Soul Rest in peace... #Sultanqaboos #Oman

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



Vera Kleinhans Farewell to a great leader!! May he rest in peace, and may whoever succeeds him follow in his footsteps and uphold his legacy of peace and prosperity for the Omani people!!!!

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



Mylife Myjourney Truly a great leader...not only for Omani people but for all nationality that live in the Sultanate...thank you Sultan Qaboos for welcoming us in your countryrest in peace Your Majesty 🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



Vinodkumar Nair May his soul rest in peace. One and only sultan of oman. PBUH With his blessings may the new ruler (to be crowned) HE Haitham bin tariq al said lead the wonderful country forward.

Like · Reply · Message · 1d · Edited



Tarun Dahiya He was a great and a visionary leader who took Oman to become a prosperous nation he will always be missed May his soul rest in peace Ameen

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



CITIZENS, RESIDENTS PAY HOMAGE

MUSCAT: Hundreds of citizens and residents poured into the offices of walis and governors in all governorates of the Sultanate since early Sunday morning to offer their condolences and sympathy on the passing away of the His Majesty Sultan Qaboos whose untimely death on Friday left everyone in a state of shock.

Unified in grief, mourners expressed their sadness over the departure of their beloved Sultan. They prayed to Allah Almighty to rest his soul in peace and mentioned some of the late Sultan's countless goodness achievements he made since he came to power in 1970.

They all agreed that the death of Sultan Qaboos is a great loss to Oman and the world as well. They declared their allegiance and loyalty to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour who is poised to carry on with the development march initiated by the His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

— ONA



Mourners express grief at the Royal family graveyard



addened by the passing of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, may Allah Almighty have mercy on his soul, citizens gathered by the Royal family graveyard in Muscat, on Sunday. They prayed to Allah Almighty to rest his soul in peace and enter him into His paradise.

Grief, sorrow and serenity prevailed over the place with everyone praying silently for the loved His Majesty Sultan Qaboos whose death on Friday sent shock waves across the width and breadth of the Sultanate. Most of the mourners were born during his prosperous reign and grew up under the welfare initiated by the Father of the Nation as many love to call their beloved Sultan Qaboos.

(Photos by Salih al Sharji and Mohammed Mahjoub)



MAKER OF
MODERN OMAN

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



A WELL KEPT PROMISE

SAMUEL KUTTY

Since the day of blessed renaissance when His Majesty Sultan Qaboos took to office, a glorious chapter opened in the history of Oman. This has been an era marked with development, progress and prosperity in all fields.

Forty-nine years have passed and the person who set the wheel of development rolling has now returned to the soil of the country that he reshaped with his blood and sweat, for his final rest.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, whose name is synonymous with modern Oman, has led the country to glory since July 23, 1970. “I promise to proceed forth with in the process of creating a modern government. My first act will be the immediate abolition of all the unnecessary restrictions on your lives and activities. My people, I will proceed as quickly as possible to transform your life into a prosperous one with a bright future,” he said to his people.

Since the first day, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos was keen on ensuring that the Omani citizen is the maker of the development, its foundation and guardian, and to be the first beneficiary. The citizens have been the focus of all the national development efforts, plans and programmes.

Today this pride nation holds the status as a peaceful and diplomatic

state while its citizens and residents enjoy a better life.

Prudent utilisation of oil revenues to develop social and physical infrastructure — with substantial investments undertaken in health, transportation, electric power, water supply and communications — contributed to a rapid transformation of Oman’s economic foundation and structure.

The government of Oman pursued a clear socio-economic path articulated in consecutive five-year development plans that revolved around fundamental long-term objectives, most prominent of which are the creation of new sources of national income.

Also included in the development plans have been focus on human resources to enable them to fully assume their role in advancing the national economy, the continuous building of the components of a free economy underpinned by private sector activities on the basis of free competition, and the attention to water resources as a vital element indispensable for thriving and uninterrupted economic activity and environment preservation.

During the period from 1970-1995, the Sultanate successfully laid down the foundations of a socio-economic shift and embarked on a journey towards future horizons, continuous

self-sustaining growth and interaction with the outside world.

In 1995, the economic future vision Oman 2020 was developed, setting out a clear and well-defined path towards the 21st century under which the Omani economy can shift from an economy that depends on government initiative and spending, oil resources, and an expatriate workforce as the main drivers of economic activities, to an economy that relies on private initiatives, a national workforce, and renewable resources in order to achieve sustainable development.

First announced in 1995, Oman Vision 2020 is an ambitious plan designed to steer the Sultanate towards a more sustainable and diversified economy by using oil revenues to boost investments in health, education and social services, better train citizens, and raise living standards across the board.

To do so, the government is working hard to boost output in 10 key sectors: manufacturing, transport and logistic services, tourism, fisheries and mining, ICT, education, health, agriculture and environment. To help do so, the government is working hard to boost Omanisation, or the rate at which Omanis rather than foreigners are employed throughout the economy, as much as possible.

Through the implementation of a succession of national development plans, we have successfully completed laying the foundations of a modern state and will continue to build on this achievement; improving living standards and implementing programmes which aim to boost economic growth through the diversification of sources of national income and the development of human resources

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos

Shortly after the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, the Sultanate devised the 9th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) which underscores Oman’s determination to keep pace with evolving international development instruments, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The principal aim of the plan is to deliver a shift away from an economy that depends on a sole main resource, i.e. oil, towards a diversified economy to which various promising sectors are contributing, with a view to minimising the consequences of external shocks resulting from oil price fluctuations in the global markets.

During the last four years of the 9th Plan, Oman made significant progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Subsequently, His Majesty the Sultan ordered the preparation of Oman Vision 2040 that would serve as a fundamental guide and reference to the Sultanate in any planning exercise during the next two decades. Oman Vision 2040 seeks to elevate the Sultanate to the position of an advanced nations by focusing on three key themes: the individual and society, economy and development and governance and institutional

performance.

Promoting the role of the private sector is one of the main pillars of the 9th Plan. An array of policies, programmes and trends have been brought into effect, including enhancing the business environment and investment climate, improving Oman’s ranking in international indices, promoting investment between the public and private sectors, and activating the privatisation programme and development schemes for small and medium enterprises.

The 10th Five-Year Plan is the first implementation plan of Oman Vision 2040, and will determine the priority aims that the country will be working on during the next five years. One of the most important features of the methodology of setting the 10th Five-Year Plan is the first phase of implementation for Oman Vision 2040.

The late Sultan also ensured that Oman has its own experience in the field of Shura with citizens are given a role in national decision-making. This has strengthened the development process, contributing to the establishment of a state of institutions and law, and strengthened the values of partnership and the multiplicity of opinions in the context of ensuring the achievement of national interest.



WISELY WEAVED FOREIGN POLICY



■ This file photo taken on April 15, 2009, shows His Majesty Sultan Qaboos with Sultan of Brunei Hassan al Bolkih in Muscat. – AFP



■ His Majesty Sultan Qaboos with President Mahmud Abbas of Palestine in Muscat.

SAMUEL KUTTY

Thanks to the deep-rooted faith in peace, the Sultanate had the ability and courage not only to clearly and honestly express its opinions and vision towards situations and developments in the global arena, in the Gulf and the Arab world.

The wisely weaved policy of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos since the beginning of the Omani Renaissance has helped make new friends and receive world acclaim and respect.

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

The main priority of the Sultanate has been to maintain friendly relations with its neighbours. Since 1970, Oman has never severed diplomatic relations with any government in the world. On the contrary, this has enabled Muscat to actively facilitate negotiations in the Middle East.

Oman could establish a reputation as a trustworthy peacemaker in the Middle East with a host of regimes across the ideological spectrum often welcoming its mediation in various conflicts.

The Sultanate has adopted peace as a pillar in its political practice since the beginning of the modern Omani Renaissance. It is based on the firm belief that building processes and national growth and building a modern state require mainly the right climate on local, regional and international levels.

It has also deployed relentless efforts in implementing its opinions in its relations with other states, while maintaining Oman's basic principles. His Majesty has asserted how essential this is in his Speech delivered on the glorious 28th National Day.

"In our opinion, while at the gates of a new millennium, our most vital obligation is to work with states on fighting injustice and tyranny, curb ethnic cleansing and embrace human dignity, fight the occupation of other states' territories and denying their legitimate rights" he said.

"We must create a justice system equitable for those suffering from injustice, in order to enshrine peace, security and welfare all over the globe" he added. This important endeavour is clearly reflected in Omani policies and positions, in a way that has increased the Sultanate's credibility in the world.

The Sultanate is an active member in different UN organisations and is keen to fulfil international and regional obligations



■ In this file photo taken on November 25, 2010, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos welcomes Britain's Queen Elizabeth II upon her arrival in Muscat. – AFP



■ His Majesty Sultan Qaboos with Iranian President Dr Hassan Rouhani.



■ Then US Secretary of State John Kerry meets with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos at Bait Al Barakah in Muscat, on May 21, 2013. – Reuters



■ In this file photo taken on September 27, 2005, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos meets then Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Muscat. – AFP



"We must create a justice system equitable for those suffering from injustice, in order to enshrine peace, security and welfare all over the globe"

**His Majesty
Sultan Qaboos**

towards different organisations. The Sultanate recognises its international responsibility towards different causes that aim to serve humankind in several fields, and its faith that it is a part of the world and a partner for humanity. Therefore, represented by the Oman Charitable Organisation, the Sultanate has extended a helping hand at the service of humanity abroad.

It seeks to mitigate the suffering and pain of the victims of natural disasters or political instability. Its activities include assistance, relief and reconstruction, conducting development programmes and projects that aim to provide livelihoods and build the capacities in many developing countries. The Organisation's activities covered many states during the last years.

The scope of projects and programmes implemented and adopted in 2017-2018 amounted to around \$101.5 million.

The Sultanate is keen to foster regional and international North-South, South-South and tripartite cooperation in science, technology and innovation and improve knowledge exchange, the Office of Science, Knowledge & Technology Transfer was established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Sultanate was nominated to lead international efforts for the achievement of social development goals, set forth by the United Nations and entitled: "Life Below Water". Many preliminary Memoranda of understanding were also set with international institutions to build the national capacities in the field of ocean economy.



INVESTMENT IN HUMAN CAPITAL PAYS OFF



STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, JAN 12

Since the onset of the blessed renaissance, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos had strongly emphasised on the need to focus on plans and programmes that enhanced the living conditions of Omani citizens. These directives paved the way for significant progress towards achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals at the time and enabled the Sultanate to move forward steadily and confidently.

This became possible thanks to the Sultan's clear vision and a steadfast political will to defeat the fundamental causes of poverty through various programmes that successfully tackled them.

As a result, the Sultanate has been ranked today among high-level income countries and is an inspiring model for investment in human capital and infrastructure of the knowledge development necessary to deliver socio-economic sustainability.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) puts Oman in the high human development category (0.8-1.0), with a Human Development Index value of 0.821 in 2018 on a scale of 0 to 1, which positions it 5th among

Arab countries and 48th out of 189 countries globally.

In light of these facts and developments, it becomes evident that the Sultanate has moved above the international poverty line, and is therefore not subject to the sustainable development goal's poverty indicators as it is now far beyond that phase.

The social protection scheme in Oman encompasses an array of programmes and policies such as retirement and social insurance systems that are tailored to fit every sector in the country including the private sector.

These systems provide primarily protection against aging, disability (including work injuries), and death, together with other benefits.

Such insurance protection is extended to cover Omanis working in public and private institutions outside of the Sultanate.

Aside from these social insurance systems, the government has put in place other programmes that secure the right of all individuals to a proper level of justice and equity, particularly those in need.

These programmes include schemes against poverty aiming at enhancing living conditions such as



the Social Security Programme that supports persons with difficult social situations, namely widows; orphans; divorced, unmarried, and abandoned females; incapacitated individuals; elderly; and families of prisoners.

The Social Security Programme disburses monthly cash assistance pursuant to the Social Security Law of 1984 and its amendments, which stipulate the allocation of monthly salaries to households and individuals

in case of absence of a person to support them or a source of adequate income.

In addition to monthly cash assistance, beneficiary households and individuals are eligible to other benefits, including academic grants and scholarships in Oman and abroad, housing and financial assistance in the case of emergencies and disasters, and exemption from public utility charges.

Housing programmes have also been developed by the Sultanate in order to ensure adequate housing to society members, by building housing units for persons with limited income and providing them with housing assistance and concessional housing loans.

The primary aim is to ensure that these persons have access to decent livelihoods and appropriate housing in proximity to their villages to enable them to carry out their socio-economic activities and contribute to the development of local communities.

The governmental service units in collaboration with both private and civil sectors build housing units and provide housing assistance and housing loans and they ensure houses maintenance and rehabilitation

services for the beneficiaries of the social security, persons with disabilities, elderlies and low-income individuals.

The Social Action Strategy 2016-2025 was devised by the Ministry of Social Development in order to address the challenges explained above. It brings a change in the prevailing perception of cash assistance as a hindrance to economic growth to one that views cash assistance as a catalyst of growth, by reducing inequalities and alleviating destitution.

The strategy perceives cash assistance provided for social protection and development purposes as a principal direct contributor to economic growth. In this spirit, it focuses on enhancing channels that affect economic growth by supporting the labour market and increasing the involvement of women, youth and other categories that face difficulties, preventing their contribution to the national economy.

Oman 2040 Vision lays down the necessary tenets and directions to build a comprehensive system of social protection linked with the macro-economy, while bringing about social integration and contributing to social stability.



EQUAL AND FULL RIGHTS

ZAINAB AL NASSRI

Among the most important priorities of the blessed renaissance in 1970, was the concern for women and their participation in the march of development. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos had always paid a great attention to Omani women and included her in many of his speeches and press interviews.

During the opening of Shura Council for the second period in 12/26/2004, he said: "We invite the Omani women everywhere; in the village and the city, in the urban and the desert, in the plain and the mountain to contribute in the economic and social development, each according to her ability, energy, experience and skill. Our country needs all arms to continue the path of progress, growth, stability and prosperity."

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos also stressed on the importance of Omani women's role in the development process in his speech delivered at Oman Council held on 11/16/2009, where he said "We have given, since the beginning of this era, our full attention to the participation of Omani women in the blessed renaissance process, so we have provided them with education, training and employment opportunities. We supported their role and in society, and we stressed the necessity of their contribution in various areas of development as we ease this through systems and laws that guarantee their rights and clarify their duties, so they are able to achieve advancement of their own, its experiences and skills in order to build their country and uphold its position"

For this, the Omani women



We invite the Omani women everywhere; in the village and the city, in the urban and the desert, in the plain and the mountain to contribute in the economic and social development, each according to her ability, energy, experience and skill in society. Our country needs all arms to continue the path of progress, growth, stability and prosperity"

**His Majesty
Sultan Qaboos**

have proven, throughout the forty-nine years, their worth in all the fields in which they worked, including leadership positions, as well as in medical, educational, administrative, cultural, scientific occupations, and others.

Crowning this supreme interest for Omani women and in appreciation of their role in the renaissance march, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos ordered to designate October 17 every year as a day for Omani women. On this day, women in the various governorates of the Sultanate celebrate this noble honour, where seminars and events are organised in which women gather and discuss their various issues and their future aspirations in the service of the country.

It is not surprising after all this that the Sultanate won the first rank in empowerment

of Omani women in 2018, according to the annual report issued by the Centre for Arab Women Participation Studies, affiliated to the Paris-based Arab Women Foundation. The report, published by Al Jazeera Net on October 17, 2018, stated that women in the Sultanate obtain all their rights.

Female workers in the government sector at the end of 2016 accounted for 41.5 per cent of the total number of employees, while their percentage in the civil service was 47 per cent.

The percentage of Omani women working in the private sector reached 24 per cent at the end of July of last year. The percentage of women insured at the end of 2016 and registered in pension funds accounted for 32 per cent and female beneficiaries of social security stood at 58 per cent.





BETTER ENVIRONMENT, BETTER TOMORROW

SAMUEL KUTTY

The Sultanate’s has always put environment first even as it embraced rapid development. Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos always insisted on the conservation of environment.

“It is the responsibility of all of us, a responsibility that knows no political boundaries. Therefore, man, wherever he lives, must contribute to this conservation and must order his life accordingly. This must be done in a planned, rational way and taking into consideration the numerous causes of pollution, whether natural, biological, industrial, chemical or physical,” he said while addressing the International Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in 2013.

The Sultanate had initiated several measures to preserve the country’s national wealth by enacting laws and regulations that protect natural habitats and wildlife and guarantee the right of all generations to benefit from the natural resources in a balanced and equitable manner.

Different governmental institutions cooperate with the private sector and civil society organisations to implement educational and awareness programmes that enshrine the values of preserving biodiversity among the youth and within the society in general.

The focus is on sustainable forest management, restoration of degraded lands, successful desertification control, reduction of degraded natural habitats and elimination of biodiversity loss.

The Sultanate has developed the Omani Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation, which included the development of a natural resource registry for the Sultanate containing water sources, vegetation cover and soil.

As well as the reasons for the status of desertification, the potential for its future deployment and the strategy for its control with the implementation of the project on the use of models and remote sensing to monitor the status of vegetation, agricultural land and water. Oman seeks to increase its green spaces through establishing green belts, gardens and parks and green landscapes whilst preserving agricultural areas and implementing planting and agricultural programmes in different natural sites such as valleys and grazing areas.

Many initiatives were launched in this regard including “ASHJAR” for planting wild trees and plants. The idea came to complement efforts deployed by the Sultanate to raise society’s awareness and knowledge related to the preservation of wild flora and participation in increasing green spaces.

Other initiatives include “Al Awdiya Khadraa” (Green Valleys) for the rehabilitation of damaged areas and the “Asdikaa Al Biaa” (Friends of the Environment) initiative for environmental education targeting the children in 8-13 years age category.

In the field of preserving local flora, the Sultanate has launched a project establishing the largest plant garden in the Gulf named Oman Plant and Tree Garden. It encompasses the different natural and environmental life aspects in the Sultanate.

The National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation that aims to regulate and encourage field research and develop research projects for environmental protection and sustainability in the Sultanate also saw the light.

Light pollution is one of the challenges humans currently face and is increasingly growing day by day



due to urban, industrial and trade expansion. This impacts health and ecology in addition to astronomical and space research.

The Sultanate declared the first dark sky reserve. It declared the Al Hajar Al Gharbi starlight a natural dark sky reserve via Royal Decree No (40/2019). The reserve is located in Al Hajar Al Gharbi mountain range. The largest part is located in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate and the reserve spans over Jabal Shams and Al Sarah Mountain.

The establishment of Al Hajar Al Gharbi starlight reserve aims at protecting the sky from light pollution

resulting from human activities and population expansion. The reserve was also created to preserve the ecological components at the heights of Hajar Mountains, including the juniper trees in Al Sarah Mountain.

The reserve also features the highest mountaintop in Oman, Jabal Shams, at an altitude of 3,009m above sea level. It is the highest reserve in the Sultanate of Oman and includes juniper trees located at 2,000m above sea level. It is considered as the area least affected by human activity. It is also home to the Arabian Oryx.

The Sultanate has been keen to set up nature reserves and sites

declared through royal decrees and orders. These protected areas include desert reserves, some of them freely and others in mountainous areas with difficult geological terrain, representing 3.77 per cent of the total area of the Sultanate.

The Qurum Nature Reserve, located in the heart of Muscat Governorate, was declared the first protected site for Ramsar in the Sultanate, with 80 hectares of Avicennia Marina forests, the only existing species that can adapt to the climate of Oman while the total area covered by the Crimean trees in the Sultanate is about 1,030 hectares.

The Wetlands Reserve in Mahout in

“We must set a limit to haphazard methods and protect what is left of our grazing lands and water resources against desertification and drought”

HIS MAJESTY
SULTAN QABOOS

Al Wusta Governorate is one of the top 25 sites of international importance to migratory birds during the winter in the Middle East. It has an estimated area of 2,621 square kilometres, and is in the process of being announced as a second Ramsar site in the Sultanate.

In the early seventies, the Sultanate has launched the Arabian Oryx preservation project, through which it was able to re-introduce the Arabian Oryx species into the Omani environment following the extinction of the wild Oryx at that time.

A natural reserve currently known as the Wildlife Reserve was specifically established for this purpose. Another

reserve protecting living creatures and wildlife is Al Wusta Wetlands Reserve. In 1997, the first project for the protection of the Arabian Leopard was established, the first effective protection measures took place with the declaration of these animals’ living area, known as Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve as a natural reserve.

Since 2007, the Sultanate launched the sooty falcon study project and installed satellite tracking devices with the support of local institutions and in international cooperation with Austria’s BirdLife International and The Peregrine Fund in the Republic of Madagascar.

The sooty falcon migration route that starts in Oman and ends in the African Island of Madagascar was tracked. This was the first-ever practical study for tracking juvenile sooty falcons, take stock of their migration route and the most prominent obstacles and challenges these vultures face.

From 2013 to 2016, the Sultanate implemented a systemic biological and geographical study project related to the Sultanate’s reptiles. The study revealed an unprecedented diversity in Oman’s terrestrial reptiles. Twenty-four new reptile species were discovered, out of which 14 are currently populating the Sultanate.

In order to mobilise resources and motivate countries for sustainable management, the Sultanate in 1989 launched Unesco Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation. The prize consists of a certificate of appreciation with a financial grant and is awarded ever two years on the sidelines of the Organization’s General Conference.



IN THE PINK OF HEALTH



The measures taken by Ministry of Health to combat communicable diseases eradicated many of them including polio, diphtheria, and tetanus, and brought the incidence of the others to endemic levels



SAMUEL KUTTY

Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, Oman could make tremendous development in health care.

In the World Health Organisation's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) index, Oman ranked high in 2017.

The UHC index is based on 16 tracer indicators selected for four service coverage categories, namely reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health; infectious diseases; non-communicable diseases; and service capacity and access.

Thanks to a developed health system and a scrupulous attention to child health by the Government, vaccines were made available nationwide and particularly to children, which ensured a 100 per cent childhood immunisation coverage since 2010 till date.

The health system in the country is equipped with an epidemic monitoring system that tracks communicable diseases and ensures optimal preparedness and alertness to counter the risks of global transmission of diseases.

The measures taken by Ministry of Health to combat communicable diseases eradicated many of them including polio, diphtheria, and tetanus, and brought the incidence of the others to endemic levels.

Malaria had remained one of the biggest challenges until the Malaria Eradication Programme was launched in 1991. Registered malaria cases plummeted from around 33,000 in 1990 to almost 1,000 cases in 2017, while the incidence rate reached 0.41 per 100,000 populations.

A decline was also registered in the incidence of tuberculosis to 5.8 per

100,000 populations in 2017, down from 11 in 2010.

The incidence rate of Hepatitis B is extremely low in the Sultanate, as it did not exceed 0.72 cases per 100,000 populations in 2017. Data indicates that no more than 150 cases of HIV (Aids) were registered among Omanis in 2017.

As for the rate of mortality caused by heart and cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases among those aged between 30 and 70 years, it registered a decrease from 142.9 per 100,000 populations in 2016 to 138.7 in 2017.

Suicide is a rare phenomenon in the Sultanate where 2.7 individuals per million populations committed suicide in 2017, which reflects the remarkable level of stability in medical and social conditions in the country.

The health system in the country today provides a follow-up of women

during pregnancy and up to six months after delivery in order to monitor their health condition, address risk factors, and ensure that the mother and the foetus are in good health.

In fact, 73.3 per cent of pregnant women were registered during the first trimester of their pregnancy in 2017, while less than 1 per cent of those who delivered were not subject to any monitoring during the postnatal period because they were not registered on the pregnancy care record.

Statistics indicate that the percentage of pregnant women who visited antenatal care (ANC) clinics at least 4 times during their pregnancy stood at 73.3 per cent in 2017, while the number of new female outpatients of birth spacing clinics grew by 15.6 per cent from 18,000 women to over 21,000 in 2017.

As a result of this growing interest in

birth spacing methods, the number of women who spaced their deliveries by three or more years rose from 35.2 per cent in 2010 to 40.1 per cent in 2017. Moreover, the needs of 38 per cent of married women were met in terms of modern birth spacing methods.

The government also sought to reduce the birth rate among adolescent females by focusing on enabling adolescent girls to pursue education and managed to induce an increase in the average age at first marriage to 26.1 years among females in 2008, in contrast with 20.7 in 1993.

Government efforts also resulted as well in a decline in the adolescent birth rate from 14.5 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years in 2015 to 12.5 in 2017.

On the other hand, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) decreased from 26.4 per 100,000 live births in 2010

to 20.2 in 2017. Similarly, the child mortality rate and infant and newborn (aged less than one month) mortality rate dropped to 9.5 and 6.3 per 1,000 live births respectively.

As for children under the age of five, they also registered a decline in mortality rate to 11.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017, in contrast with 21.7 in 2000.

The Sultanate is currently in the process of devising future development plans, epitomised in Oman 2040 vision and the future vision of the health care system "Health Vision 2050".

The Sultanate is engaged in drafting an enhancement and development vision for the period 2020-2040. Oman 2040 Vision revolves around three main themes, namely the Individual and Society, Economy and Development, and Governance and Institutional Performance.



MAI ALABRI

Based on the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, and with realisation of the importance of the role of women in maintaining security and peace, Royal Oman Police and armed forces have engaged women in military work. This stems of HM's belief that half of the efforts of this community can't go wasted and that women are the safety valve when it comes to dealing with different security issues, intellectual security, religious extremism and terrorism.

Over the years, women have played various roles in the military. Equal opportunities were given to women to serve in the military as they are quite capable of handling the training as well as the duties given to them.

Today, women receive great attention in appreciation of their prominent role and active contribution to all actions entrusted to the Royal Oman Police formations, and they have earned the status and empowerment they deserve as they have provided the capabilities necessary to fulfil their role in the service of the security and safety of the country, citizens and residents.

In ROP, policewomen are doing their work in a highly efficient manner in various formations, whether in the field of training, investigations, forensics, traffic or medical services, in addition to their work in the special mission police units, music and police aviation, and others.

Since 1972, Oman has begun to prepare women to be part of the police and in 1974, they first joined training along with men. It started only with 17 female policewomen and they worked later in prisons and airports.

Since then, the accomplishments of women in this field have attracted the attention of the world, and the Omani experience is regarded a role model for many other countries.



FEARLESS, STRONG AND BRAVE



Over the years, women have played various roles in the military and police. Equal opportunities were given to women to serve in the military as they are quite capable of handling the training as well as the duties given to them





LEADER WILL LIVE IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER

STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, JAN 12

A great leader, a man of strength and vision, peace maker, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos will long be remembered by future generations for the prosperous reign even after his final return to the soil of the Sultanate. He reshaped this country into a sparkling oasis peace and stability in the turbulent region. The Sultanate is today a prosperous, secure is a monument to his decades of singular resolve and sweat.

When His Majesty took reins of the

country in 1970, he made a promise to the people of the Sultanate. “My people, I will proceed as quickly as possible to transform your life into a prosperous one with a bright future. Every one of you must play his part towards this goal. Our country in the past was famous and strong. If we work in unity and co-operation, we will regenerate that glorious past and we will take a respectable place in the world. I call upon you to continue living as usual.”

The late Sultan kept his word and took Sultanate to new summits

of development. Born in Salalah in Dhofar in 1940, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos was the eighth descendant in the Royal Al Busaidi family, which was founded by Imam Ahmed Bin Said in 1744. He was the longest serving leader in the Arab world, as he has been in the office for over 49 years. He attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in his twenties, and then joined the British Army after graduation. He also studied in England in 1966 before returning to Oman and taking over the reins of the Oman in 1970.

His Majesty set out his vision for the Sultanate in many of his speeches and exhorted fellow citizens to contribute to the development. “We promise you that we shall do our duty towards the people of our dear country. We also hope that every one of you will do his duty in helping us to build the thriving and happy future that we seek for this country, because, as you know, unless there is co-operation between the government and the people we will not be able to build our country with the speed required to free her from the backwardness she has endured

for so long. The Government and the people are as one body. If one of its limbs fails to do its duty, the other parts of the body will suffer. We hope that you will think well of us and at the same time we hope that we shall think well of you.”

His Majesty believed in the power and abilities of the Omani people, and encouraged them to work hard to build their country, which made him work harder to facilitate their education and provide them with work opportunities and equal rights. “Every Omani is required today –

more than at any time – to roll up his sleeves and give his devoted efforts to carrying out his duties seriously and consistently.”

The march of blessed renaissance mobilised energy of the people. July 23, 1970 will be etched in the golden letters in the history of the Sultanate as Sultan Qaboos set out to relaunch the country on the path to unprecedented development and progress in the form of wide network of roads and expressways, airports, schools and colleges, hospitals and clinics, and telecommunications.