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Cover Story



Manufacturing

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With several construction and infrastructure projects announced in the Eighth Five Year

Plan, being either in the drawing or initial stages, suppliers as well as manufacturers of materials to these sectors will be quite busy in the future. Many local firms including cement manufacturers and steel units have already increased output or are looking to boost capacity.

The businesses in infrastructure and con-

struction will get a big boost because of the government's large investment plan in all of these areas. The filter down effect from government's infrastructure spending in building airports, roads, and expanding ports on the local manufacturing sector will be huge due to the linkages that the infrastructure sector has with other sectors.

Several ancillary industries such as cement, steel, brick, and building materials are dependent on the construction industry. A unit increase in this sector has a multiplier effect and the capacity to generate more employment and income. This will also act as a catalyst for the future development of the sultanate.

All the planned expansions will lead to significant increase in energy demand and the government is planning many major mega power projects and corresponding interconnecting transmission grid projects. A number of renewable energy projects are also being planned, including the development of a large-scale solar power plant. All these developments augur well for domestic manufacturers in power generation, transmission and distribution space.