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Sur display at Muscat Festival



By Suad Ali Al Alawi
ALAMERAT, Jan. 25

The city of Sur participated in the Muscat Festival here today with a display of its arts, customs and traditions in a contest between 22 cities.

The city presented such folk arts as Rizha, Al Shoobany, Al Maghaid and Al Tanbora, as well as the traditional clothing of the city called Al Suri.

An organizer from Sur, Amna Al Madelwi, said: "The Al Suri clothing is characterized by its unique design and accurate tailoring. The fabrics of the garments vary in type and color as well as in sewing method."

Marwa Khalid, a visitor to the Sur pavilion said: "For the first time, I got a chance to see how women in Sur city design and stitch their traditional clothes, which is indeed accurate, focused and takes time to do it."

Women from Sur participated through the Omani Women Association in Sur which provides support to some

women-run industries including women's art and the traditional foods of Sur city cooked and presented in an attractive way.

Various environments seen in and around Sur were displayed, including the urban, agricultural, coastal and nomadic environments, all of which, differed from one another in terms of professions, traditional arts and popular genres.

Along with its cultural heritage, Sur City also highlighted the development of its industrial estate and exhibited agricultural produce and traditional crafts like the manufacture of sweets, ships, Al Khanjar, artefacts made of silver etc.

It also showcased its citizens, especially the youth, who have memorized the Qur'an. Abdullah Mohamed, a resident of Sur, said: "When we were young, we used to memorize the Qur'an and in the final memorization, we celebrated to thank and appreciate the teacher. This is called *tayminah*."



Lab risks & safety explained

By Amal Al Araiimi
SUR

The Biotechnology Department of Sur College of Applied Sciences, in cooperation with Khawla hospital, organized a two-day workshop on "Basic Laboratory Safety" in the college on October 2018.

The workshop targeted the biotechnology students and teachers, who regularly utilize the laboratories, to pursue effective health and safety measures within the laboratories. The workshop was presented by Dr. Ahmed Al Harthy, a medical laboratory specialist at Khawla Hospital. The workshop aimed to educate students about safe laboratory practices and help them gain an understanding of different types of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) & Safety equipment.

Dr. Al Harthy said, "It is very important for the students to know the hazards of the samples they are working on and to understand the safety precautions. People can fall sick from lab bacteria and infectious waste if they do not use their proper PPE."

Fatema Al Mushrafi, a biotechnology student who attended the workshop said, "The workshop was very beneficial. I learned the correct way of washing my hands with soap after finishing the experiment, and that is totally different from my previous, incorrect way."

The workshop offered important safety tips like wearing proper clothing, not wearing long dresses, open shoes and wearing PPE. It discussed problem areas in the lab like infec-



Workshop cautions biotech students on personal safety in laboratories



tious material and hazardous chemicals. It also discussed how hazardous and waste materials must be disposed: where normal waste must be disposed in black bags, yellow bags are used for laboratory hazards samples and radioactive materials and lab personnel are responsible for handling these items.

Providing a safe lab environment helps to minimize risks with injury and illnesses among laboratory workers.

Also, providing the necessary training and information will better support and equip the students.

Safety training is closely tied to building awareness. The laboratory as a workplace is a unique and complex place which needs some level of training. Interesting, innovative and interactive training with the use of new technologies makes for a safer workplace in the laboratory.

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Youth debate on saving Oman's environment

Sur CAS team reaches pre-final stage at environment public speaking competition

By Fatema Al Rawahi
MUSCAT

A team of four students from Sur College of Applied Sciences participated in the Inter-College Environment Public Speaking competition organized by the Environment Society of Oman for Colleges and Universities October 22 and 23 at Muscat Holiday Hotel. The event was presided over by His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Al Tobi, Minister of Environment and Climate Affairs.

Forty teams from 19 colleges and universities had the opportunity to interact with their peers and review key environmental issues and problems.

The Sur CAS team made their presentation on "The impact of fashion and cosmetics on the environment" and reached the pre-final stage. The team was represented by fresh graduate Aseela Al Kitani; students of communication Fatema Al Rawahi, and Ammar Al Kasbi; and Asya Al Saibi, a Biotechnology major.

Darren Mahdi, a member of the Board of Directors of the Environment Society of Oman, said: "This annual



competition is not limited to competing and winning, but is an interactive platform that allows students to understand and discuss the most important environmental issues of today."

He said that common habits of the people make an impact on the environment and it is important to find ways to protect the environment.

"Through research and discussions in the competition, we trust that

students will learn how to make a difference in our lives. During the years since the competition began, it has contributed to promote environmental awareness among hundreds of Omani students," Mr. Mahdi added.

Taha Al Qasimi, an ambassador of the environmental competition to colleges and universities said that this competition had provided him with great educational experience on environmental problems faced by Oman.

"It is a great platform to discuss the best solutions to these challenges and I am honored to join this competition and contribute to a positive difference to the environment," he said.

The Environment Society of Oman launched the environmental discourse competition for colleges and universities in 2012 as part of its efforts to encourage students to learn about the importance of environmental issues and offers them the opportunity to be ambassadors of environmental sustainability.

Over the past six years, participating students throughout the Sultanate were able to gain confidence to achieve their potential and develop their personalities as they played an active role in nature conservation and tried to find the best solutions to enhance the quality of life and create a better world for future generations.

The competition included four themes: "Sustainable Urban Environment: Do We Achieve It?", "The Impact of Fashion and Cosmetics on the Environment", "The Future of Agriculture in the Middle East" and "The Impact of War on the Environment".

By Asila Nasser Al Harthi
SUR

A lover of the nature of Oman with its deserts, mountains and seas... The lenses of this photographer have a very friendly relationship with the environment, especially with the golden, sandy expanses.

Meet Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Hosni, an artist of the International Federation of Photographic Art (IFPA), who began photography at the age of 15 when he was in school. "After school I practiced photography, and I didn't stop it," he recalled.

Al Hosni is also founder of the Swarah group, which encourages 26 children of up to 18 years from the Children's Welfare Centre to develop their talent in photography. Established in October 2015, the Swarah group's vision is to also encourage the development of these children in the social aspect through this voluntary program.

Al Hosni is deeply interested in Oman's environment and his experience of photography here made him fall further in love with this country. The variety and diversity of landscapes in Oman attracted him to capture the fascinating scenes of nature through his lens. This included the rugged mountains, the blue seas and the desert sands. He also highlights the traditions of Oman, its clothes and customs, all of which make great material for photography.

Al Hosni said that joining the Omani Society for Photography was the real beginning of his journey, where he began to attend professional courses and specialize in the field of photography. He discovered that interaction and ex-

A story of love, told through the lens



change of information with other photographers gave him a much deeper perspective.

However, Al Hosni is certain about one thing: "One of the most important things I have done in my opinion, and I have given much of my time to it, was

the founding of the photography group Swarah in 2015."

In addition to photography, Al Hosni has carried out some voluntary work with Swarah, including 50 hours for environment as a voluntary initiative to clean the Ruwais Beach in Mahut,

Al Wusta Governorate last March. This campaign carried the slogan, "Not just a photographer".

Al-Hosni added that Swarah had also organized a two-day forum called "Wataad" at the Child Welfare Center in cooperation with Youth Vision Corpora-



Swaraha Founder Ahmed Al Hosni tion targeting the center's children.

Wardah Abdulsalam, member of Swarah group, spoke about how she participated in group. "I attended a photography workshops organized by photographer Ahmed Al Hosni at the Child Welfare Center, where he explained the basics of photography. After that, we were practicing taking photographs, and from here I started to love photography."

Wardah also had a great time on the photography field trips in addition to developing her talent. "Photography made me face society and made me love life," she said, adding that the social program helped her to be more strong and confident.

Ahmed Al Hosni said that the goal of the group is service of the community with sustainable work: The group seeks to achieve the overall objective of promoting tourism and providing social security to the community.

Al Hosni added: "For the second time in a row, the Swarah group contributed to the Sultanate's acquisition of the World Cup of Photography by contributing nine works, and I am so proud of all the young photographers' success!"

Photographs display diversity of life and land in Oman



By Asma Al Jalboubi
SUR

Media Studies students of the Communication Department, Sur CAS, presented their skills and talent in photography through an exhibition entitled "A Walk through Oman" under their guidance of their instructor Ms. Saba Naqvi.

Over 70 photographs were on display at this exhibition which was inaugurated by Dean Dr. Salma Bint Khamis Al Musharafi. Assistant Deans, heads of academic department, academic support and administrative departments, and students of the college toured the exhibition held in the central square of the college, and expressed their admiration for the exhibition and the photographs.

Appreciating the photography exhibition, Dean Dr. Salma said: "The exhibition is well planned with photographs representing every part of the map of the Sultanate."

Photographs taken by the students represented scenes, wildlife, customs and traditions of each governorate, appropriately in their place on the map. Students from local schools also visited the exhibition.



Student field trip leads to National Museum

By Suad Ali Salem Al Alawi
MUSCAT

Students of Sur College of Applied Sciences went on an educational field trip to the National Museum in Muscat on October 31.

The Museum exhibits were displayed in a number of halls and depicted the civilization and heritage of ancient Oman and some of its neighboring countries.

One section featured the Marine Heritage of Oman, Weapons and Shields and the Industrial Civilization. Silver and copper ornaments were displayed as were many impressive Omani ships.

The exhibition explained about the types of ships and the way they were manufactured. It included a brief about the history of Omani navigators and historical excerpts of the most famous historical traditional ships.

Student Mohammad Al-Aowfi said, "Oman has a strong relationship with the sea and so has a glorious maritime history. For centuries, fishermen have been sailing along these coasts."

Maha AL-Bulushi too was delighted with this section "because I live in Sur which is famous for its ships," she said.

Nursin Al Subhi, another student, was impressed by the mini-cinema inside the museum. "It presents Oman from the past to the



present. It was very enjoyable and entertaining," she said.

Among other things students of Communication were enchanted by the exhibition of silk, tea and ceramics in the section of China.

The National Museum is an important cultural monument in the Sultanate dedicated to highlighting the cultural heritage of Oman.

**ABT students visit
Museum of Natural History**

Eight final year students from the Applied Biotechnology Department also went on a scientific trip to the Museum of Natural History in Muscat, along with supervisors from their department.

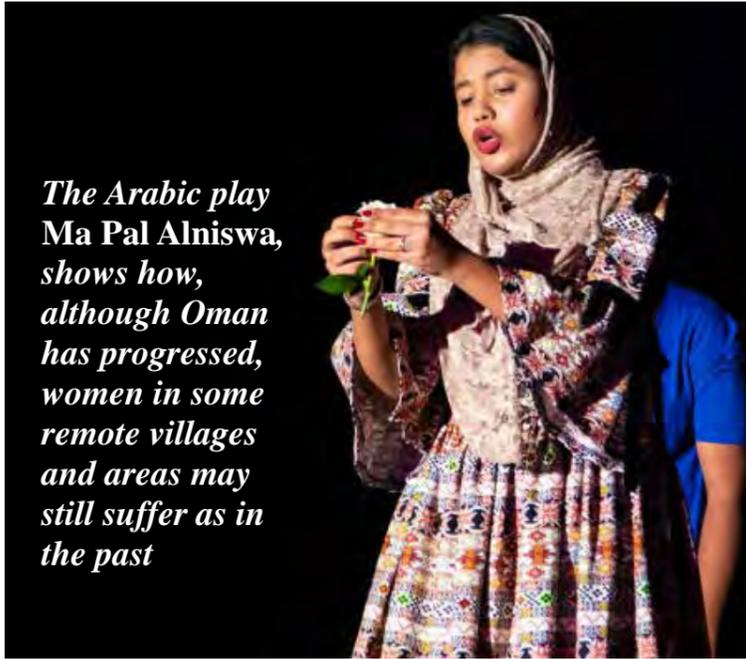
The museum staff briefed students about various sections of the museum, namely: Physical features of Oman, Oman



through the geological ages, wildlife of Oman and whales and marine creatures of Oman.

Interesting exhibits included the fossil of a 260 million years old tree; coral reefs dating back to about 270 million years ago discovered in the Wadi of Asahtan in Rustaq; different kinds of butterflies and reptiles; and teeth of prehistoric animals that lived 15 to 35 million years.

Comedy, language flavour success of a play on women



The Arabic play Ma Pal Alniswa, shows how, although Oman has progressed, women in some remote villages and areas may still suffer as in the past

By Mashaal Khalid Al Saadi
SUR Dec. 3

The Theatre Group of Sur CAS performed the Arabic play *Ma Pal Alniswa* on Monday evening at Al Sharqhiya Hall on campus to an appreciative audience of mainly students of the college.

Dean Dr. Salma Al Musharafi attended along with sponsor Saud Bin Hamad Al Alawi, manager of the Department of Tourism in the South Sharqhiya. Faculty members, college staff and the community of Sur, with special seats reserved for the parents of representatives and students participating in the production of this play.

The Theater Group sent special invitations to sponsors and business-women Ms. Youstra Al Daoudia and Ms. Hassaneh Daoudia

The play was a success due to the great combination of the local popular

dialect of Arabic combined with comedy. In addition, the dramatic characters discussed important social issues and women's issues, such as divorce and women's rights.

The title of the play was imaginative, raising many questions in the minds of the audience.

The play was written and directed by Mashaal Khalid Al Saadi, a Communications student at the Sur CAS. In this play, she tried to show how, although Oman has progressed, women in some remote villages and areas may still suffer as in the past.

The play portrays how women are trying to break age-old customs in which their rights are limited to their place in the home and family. Such women are looking to the future passionately and are trying to break the framework of ignorance that has restricted them and denied them their rights.

The success of the play gives an opportunity for the Theater Group to perform it as participants in the competition of Youth Creativity in February 2019.

Achievements of the Theatre Group

Each year, the Theater Group presents plays that discuss important issues. Among the important plays that have been presented and have participated in competitions and theatrical festivals, are: *Sundug Al Aleab*, presented at the College of Education Rustaq last December; *Aldabab* presented at CAS Ibri in the student creativity contest; *Aldmino*, *Manjour* and many more.

The Theatre Group has continuously produced plays every year, with teamwork contributing to good production. In addition, the theatre helps develop students' confidence and personalities, and encourages them to achieve success in public life.



Scenes from the plays (left to right): Sundug Al Aleab, Al Dabab and Domino

News Briefs



'Voice of Excellence' visits children at hospital

In conjunction with the Sultanate's celebrations of the 48th National Day, the Voice of Excellence group of Sur CAS organized a visit to the children's wing at New Sur Hospital. The visit was an initiative by members to include children at the hospital in the National Day celebrations and to create a happy atmosphere for them by distributing flags and gifts to celebrate this occasion. Nearly 50 children found reason to smile as a result of the Voice of Excellence group's work.

Alraffd Fund encourages student entrepreneurs



Alraffd Fund made a presence at the National Day celebrations at Sur CAS. Fund managers arrived on campus in a van equipped to seat students and advise them about entrepreneurship, funding opportunities etc. Several students availed of the facilities to know more about setting up small and medium enterprises.

Sur CAS supports cancer awareness event



The Dean of Sur CAS, Dr. Salma, Al Musharafi, inaugurated a breast cancer awareness campaign of the Oman Cancer Society, in the presence of Dr. Mohammed Bin Saleh Al Daoudi, director of Sur Hospital, medical staff and hospital management. The aim of the 4-day campaign was the prevention and control of cancers of all kinds, which are prevalent in Omani society.

Workshop boosts student talent, creativity in oil painting

By Khamis Al Balushi
SUR, Nov. 4, 2018

Well-known artist and coach, Harith Al-Naabi conducted a two-week workshop in oil painting and sculpture for students of the Fine Arts Group under the Student Services Centre, Sur CAS. The workshop targeted aspiring and talented students to teach them art, calligraphy and sculpting in modern materials.

Artist-coach Harith Al Naabi, said: "The workshop aims to develop and refine the talents of interested students and hone their artistic skills through discussion and training. We focused on a number of aspects, the most important of which is an introduction to art, color philosophy and the way to deal with shadow and light."

He added that discussions also focused on anatomy, perspective and painting, the painter's eye and the main tools of the painter in oil colors.

Mr. Mohammed Al Sawaai, Head of Students Services Center, said: "We

organized this workshop to encourage students' artistic talents to encourage their participation in and contribution of their creative works to the 18th student creativity competition to be held in the Spring semester."

Student participants in the workshop expressed their pleasure in attending such a course in drawing and utilizing such workshops to develop their skills and enhance their drawing abilities. The workshop helped students develop their in a way that leads to professionalism and instills mastery and precision in drawing and production of visual arts of the highest level.

Harith Al Naabi said: "This workshop is designed to develop the aesthetic sense and the artistic tastes of



the students, as well as to develop their spirit of imagination and creativity so that their paintings are a means of expression and communication with other

painters. The workshop gives them the opportunity to express through colors and drawing on any subject that they choose."

The course concluded with an exhibition of the students' work to the public and to parents to encourage and motivate them.

National Day celebrated with fun and fanfare

SUR, Nov. 27

By Team Sur Post

Sur College of Applied Sciences celebrated the 48th National Day with fun and fanfare with some outdoor performances followed by more programs held inside the Sharqhiya Hall auditorium on campus.

Horses and an Alsatian dog named Sandy were a major attraction as faculty members, staff and students lounged about in the mild winter sun. Some rode the three horses brought on campus by members of the local community in Sur while Sandy faithfully followed her owner who was astride one horse.

A local troupe of artists performed folk arts, marching along the promenade on two sides of the Sharqhiya Hall. They sang, played drums and also a bagpiper as their feet kept rhythm to the beat.

The celebration later moved into the Sharqhiya Hall and was presided over by Dr. Salma Al Musharafi, Dean of the college, accompanied by two assistant deans and members of the academic and administrative staff. The Dean expressed her happiness and joy on the 48th National Day and all that has been achieved under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

Students of local schools participated with songs of national pride and poetry about His Majesty the Sultan. Students of CAS also participated with poetry and with a canvas painting of His Majesty along with a grand poster featuring historical pictures of His Majesty.

All participants thanked His Majesty for the glorious development of the Sultanate. Dr. Hulyas Al Areimi, Assistant Dean for Academic Support Affairs, handed away the prizes for a competition amongst the departments for 'best decoration' of their building. Other participants in the ceremony were also honored with gifts and mementos.

Photographs by Noorah Mohammed Al Araimi & Sara Khaled Al Alawi



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