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News circulating across all social media regarding theft of vehicles at gas stations happened in the past. #RoyalOmanPolice confirms it is old news.

Editor's Pick

 Oman Observer  
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Reaction

 viju james  
@vijuames

@OmanObserver Why is it that the excellent Omani dates are not available at any of the Duty Free outlets in the GCC area?

## LOCAL SCENE



# An eye for locally produced textiles

SIHAM AL SAIDI

For as long as the human civilization has existed, textile has been there. Although it's hard to pinpoint the exact date of when people started using clothes, experts believe that adaptation by covering themselves for protection against the elements would have been the most logical solution invented by early humans especially that they migrated to changing climates.

In the earlier days, homo sapiens would have used animal skins or vegetation to clothe themselves. When they discovered sewing, their designs were crude and simple yet everything that we learn and know today spun from those early moments of discovery.

In the Sultanate, textile is one of the traditional crafts practiced by Omani people. This tradition can be traced back to the olden times of the Omani society. It has been and continues to be a source of income for Omanis, a craft that will not die as long as Omanis cling to their traditional clothes.

In the past, the Sado seller, which is what the Bedouin women are called, used to travel and sell the textile and thus promoting the textile industry in the country.

Women used to work in a special machine called amalou which is used to turn the goat hair and camel hair into wool or cotton.

To boost this industry, crafts makers had developed their own style and as of today, works by artisans from the Sultanate are identifiable for their specific elements that boasts is strong heritage and culture.

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### PROTECTING THE INDUSTRY

The Sultanate of Oman has paid great attention to revitalizing and developing the traditional textile industries to cope with modern times. In order to maintain and boost the industry, the General Authority for Craft Industries was established which now plays great roles in maintaining and developing this profitable industry.

The Training and Production Center for Textile and Embroidery in the Wilayat of Samayil in Al Dakhiliyay Governorate, which was established by the Authority, is one of the training centres that works to improve Omani talents.

There are many departments and craft houses located in different governorates of the Sultanate. All of them has the primary goal of enriching the textile industry no matter of its kind.

Under the textile industry are different genre of creating clothes. Wool and cotton yarns alone have spun different practices.

Today, Bedouins still produce various garments and products such as wool, bedspreads, carpets, mats, tents, medals, goat hair, household furniture, camel hair. They also create manassels, rugs, bags and belts based on the knowledge pass on to them by their forebears.

All these products are still actively in use are widely sought after. In fact, they are not just being sold locally but many of them are being exported.

Producers of these local textiles and garments have also gained special places in society and are often invited to join celebrations, carnivals and festivals to showcase the uniqueness and authenticity of their work.

These artisanal craftsmen are also asked to teach their crafts in the training centres for those youth who are interested to learn and thus preserve this craft.

### VISIBILITY IN THE SOCIETY

Any local celebration today will not be complete visually without the local textiles produced by Omani artisans.

If one attends an Omani wedding, or even simple party, one would immediately notice the Omani halwa offering. These offering is mostly carried by two people who serve it to the audience. What carries this offering however is the traditional mat called elseiha — a local product that is truly Omani.

As modernisation kicks in, local weavers and garment producers also become smart with their use of locally produce textiles. With the right support and dedication to preservation to an importance heritage, we may soon see local produce textiles on runways as well as high end furniture and garment shops. The key is only to keep it alive and thriving.

## MUSIC



## Omani children to taste one-day fusion music

KABEER YOUSUF

Children in the Sultanate will have a one-of-a-kind, fun-packed music training day on Saturday, July 29 when the acclaimed Swiss music duo, vocalist Saskia Stauble and pianist Michael Odermatt aka Mikey, is to offer musical sessions at the City Seasons Hotel.

The day, conducted in partnership with their Omani counterparts and the hotel, will have four elaborate sessions starting at 10am, according to the music duo.

"The day will start with kids' talent show till forenoon followed by Disney kids workshop," the vocalist who is also known as 'Dusty' said.

Thereafter, children will be taken through a musical journey with the amazing renditions of Mikey who has already carved a niche for himself for his immaculate skills on piano accompanied by Saskia's songs on Oman.

The event, presented by Fly Events will also feature a live orchestra by the duo to enthral both the kids and their parents.

"This is first of its kind gift for the children in Oman and to recognise and nurture their skills in singing and music," Mikey said.

Saskia and Mikey have already done an album titled 'The Colour of Oman is Love' after the first time they come to Oman and had a 'love at first sight' experience with the Sultanate last year. They also shared that talks were made regarding collaboration with Oman's celebrity singer Haitham Mohammed Rafi for a National Day composition which will be recorded and filmed soon, according to the music duo.

The song, which was written in Oman and composed in Switzerland was first performed at the famous Chateau Gutsch in Luzern, a beautiful boutique hotel built along the green mountains and overlooking the city and Lake Lucerne to an elite European crowd. Before the duo ended their last note, a standing ovation and hugs followed. She felt all the more energised and decided to go ahead with a musical album on Oman.

"We have plans to dedicate the album to the Ministry of Tourism as a tool to convince the visitors what they can look forward to when they visit the country."

## DIGITAL TREND

### Microsoft Paint brushed aside

Microsoft on Monday announced the end of days for its pioneering Paint application as it focuses on software for 3-D drawing.

Paint drawing and image processing software that made its debut in 1985 with the Windows operating system was among the applications listed as "removed or deprecated" in a Windows 10 Fall Creators Update set for release later this year.

Features or functions on the list "are not in active development and might be removed in future releases," according to the US technology company.



For decades, Paint was among applications installed by default on Windows-powered personal computers and drew a strong following.

Fans of the application will be able to take solace in a Paint 3-D version launched early this year. — AFP