

# GULF NEWS

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## Al Ashkhara an exceptional summer resort needs to develop



cause of its mild weather and cool breeze which come from the sea unlike other places which have very hot weather at this particular time.

Al Ashkhara located in Al Sharqia South Governorate on Jalan Bani Bo Ali and it is about 300 km far from Muscat. It can be accessed through two routes: Quryat-Sur or Bedbed-Sur. Because it is near Arabian Sea, it often has a fresh air even in the summer. Therefore, a lot of visitors all over Oman go there

enjoying its mild weather especially in holidays and weekends. Most visitors take a seat near the beach to have some relaxation and fun and others build a barrier for sand by their cars. There is only one inn with very simple specifications for people who want to sit there for a long time since there is no hotels or inns. It is so important to develop this place to become an attractive tourist place and to add more tourist facilities that provide the best and newest services for all, citizens, tourists, and visitors.

The low temperature

Oman newspaper visited Al Ashkhara and asked some visitors there about their impression about the place. Saleh Al Jabri (tourist) said that Al Ashkhara is a special place because of its nice

weather, its fresh breeze, and its wonderful location near the Arabian Sea. Although all places in Oman have very hot weather between June and September, Al Ashkhara has a mild weather and the temperature is between 22 - 28 because of the autumnal monsoon. Saleh added that Al Ashkhara needs more inns and toilets and its public park need more servicing.

The flow of visitor

Fahad Al Shamakhi (tourist) said that a lot of visitors from inside and outside Oman come to visit Al Ashkhara to enjoy its nice weather. He added that Al Ashkhara is not so far from Muscat so people who visit it come to visit it again. He mentioned that Al Ashkhara can be accessed through three routes. First, the route from the west which

come from the center of Jalan Bani Bo Ali. Second, Aseela - Ras Al Dad route from the north. Finally, Al Ashkhara - Shanna route from the south. He also said that government must fix the lighting from Jalan Bani Bo Ali to Al Ashkhara, so that visitors can avoid the moving sand at the night.

The role of the Ministry of Tourist

Modhafer Al Rashdi said that visitors can camping near the beach, near the soft sand dunes, or near the Fishing Port in Al Ashkhara. Visitors can also use boats to make a pleasure cruise on the sea or near the port. If the sea is calm, visitors can also exercise water skiing. We are wonder about the role of the Ministry of Tourist here. Yes, Oman has a lot of attractive tourist places but they need to develop!



Transparency in the media is the concept of determining how and why is the transfer of information and news through various means. The subject of transparency in the media means openness and accountability. Which is an extension of the meaning of the use of "transparent" object is that it can be seen through.

In communications and media studies is transparent in the following cases: There are many sources, often competing information and knows a lot about the way information delivery, as well as media production available to the public financing include aspects of media transparent open source documents, open meetings, financial disclosure, and the law of freedom information, a review of the budget, audit .

John Stewart was born in New York City . Ashkenazi Jewish family. Stewart moved to Lawrenceville, New Jersey during his childhood. He graduated from William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia. And he gave him a break on the Larry Sanders Show (1992), where he had the same role to play, and the timing of a lot, "guest host" of the "Larry Sanders Show." An integral part of the fabric exhibition and some of the artists

has become regular. In the 2000s, Stewart appeared as a television personality faithful with his ascension to host the daily show (1996) / Comedy Central. The masses have embraced the sense of sarcastic, sardonic and incisive humor, which covers politics and other news stories.

My observation about Jon Stewart and his program : He facilitated a lot of famous people, and that he try to make a group of spectators all over the vicinity of the current events that have occurred on this planet, the US strategy and the Jewish religion, culture and race relations and discuss. I agree with his harsh approach to providing world issues, but I think it offended at that, particularly in cases in the Middle East through distorts the image of Nations and the Arab rulers.

The Jon Stewart's way of distorting the truths, nowadays, was used before seventy years ago to deceive people and distort facts. The international powers worked in World War I on the basis of " anything goes in the war". And for this was used and the media and everything produced thought to dominate public opinion and guidance and convert illusion to victory. Propaganda used to stir up nationalist sentiment and tarnish the image of the enemy and lift the morale of the troops. For example newspapers and the media used phrases such as "Ger-

## Jon Stewarts way to distorting the truths.



mans bodies smells worse than the bodies of the French," as in the newspaper Le Matin published in the July 14, 1915. "The Germans are shooting very badly and very low."

# A Dinosaur in the Rub al Khali desert

In 09/11/2005, some Omani people have seen a strange lizard in specially south west Oman. In first time, they thought the lizard is a kind of Uromastyx, but then they ensured that this lizard is different because it can run by two legs only. In addition, it is more huge in size compared with other types of Uromastyx. Hence, they decided to call the police for what they have seen because they are so afraid about their families and animals to be eaten by it.

After one day exactly, Royal Oman Police has taken this responsibility by cooperating with some foreign and Omani scientists and Omani army to ensure that all people who cooperate in this dangerous journey will be totally safe. In first day of this journey, they found nothing. They were surprise that how they cannot find this huge lizard although they have developed facilities to pick up any tiny signal of this

puzzle. Unfortunately, the wind was wiping any footprints of this lizard on this desert. Suddenly, they heard a frightening shout. All of them were fear because they do not know anything about its behavior. In addition they heard that at night in 11:43 pm. Anyway, they decided to move toward it. They were totally ready to catch it. So, they moved quickly to never allow it to keep hidden anymore. Firstly, they fire it via needle to make it sleeping. Then, they covered it by an enormous net. After that, three helicopters picked up it and they moved it into a big laboratory to find out it's characteristics. Scientists were surprised. "I have never seen a dinosaur like this before, it has so many amazing characteristics to be adaptable for wherever it lives. For instance, it eats grass basically, but it eats meats also when grass is lack.

So, it can eats both as human beings. In addition, it moves by two legs, but in emergency times it run on four legs to decrease air resistance on its body to keep itself faster. It can also change the colour of its skin which it depends on the situation same as chameleons" Ahmed bin Saleh Al Riyami said (the leader of scientists group). Finally, they named it "Adaptsaur", which means the adaptable Dinosaur, because it has many features to keep itself alive whatever the environment is. Unfortunately, it dead after some weeks because of unknown reasons. Today, no one knows if there is more.

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# Should teachers ban students from using their smartphones in class?



Whether at a class, in a restaurant or at any waiting hall, the first thing you notice is almost everyone is busy on their smartphones. Smartphones have become part of our daily lives. They have become so valuable, that some might prefer to have their wallets stolen than their phones. But among all, it is teachers who suffer the most. Their students rather stick their eyes on the screens of their phones than actually focusing and learning something new.

Smartphones are essential for students. They act as dictionaries, notepads, translators and alarms to wake them up. In some cases, they are considered to be references.

Therefore, smartphones are essential. However, students tend to misuse them during class times. Rather than using them for educational purposes, they use them to chat with their friends on WhatsApp or catch the latest gossip on Instagram. No class seems to be complete without a teacher asking a fellow student to stop using one.

Rasha Al-Raisi, a former teacher at Caledonian College, demands on installing a ban that prohibits students from using their phones. “Phones are very distracting. Unfortunately, despite their bright side, students misuse them. Rather than using them as dictionaries and references during class times, they use them to chat and play video games. I often fail to keep all students focused as many are busy using their phones. This is why I ask all colleges to ban smartphones”.

“The challenge is to control their usage and controlling them in general. Nevertheless smartphones should not be banned” says Mr. Mundua Samuel, a lecturer at Bayan College. Mr. Samuel adds, “Smartphones are useful tools for learning. When students do not understand a word in English, I ask them to use their phone to find out the meaning. I therefore believe students must be allowed to use their phones during class times, since it helps in better understanding”.

When asking her about whether she believes smartphones should be banned by teachers, Ms. Sadia Younis- a lecturer at Bayan College- answers; “No!”. Since time have changed and students now access the internet using their smartphones, banning them would not work. Students can use them for academic purposes such as clarifying certain points, finding the meanings of words and in some cases taking photographs for educational purposes”. Having a subject which is based on photography, the use of smartphones to take pictures is necessary therefore; I don’t believe they should be banned.

Contrary to what one might believe, Osamah Al-Shukaili, a student at Bayan College, believes that teachers have the rights to ban smartphone usage. “When a student uses his phone, it tends to distract the rest of the class. The teacher needs to stop and ask the student to stop using their phone, which ends up in time wastage. If a student wishes to use his phone, he can easily go out of the class and use it; rather than wasting everyone else’s time”.

Nahla Al-Balushi, a student at Bayan College, says: “When a teacher sees a student using his or her phone while he or she is teaching, it will have a negative effect. The teacher might believe he is not doing his job right and therefore might feel depressed. This will lower his teaching

attitudes, as his students tend to be careless so he might feel discouraged to teach and will be careless too”. Exceptions do exist though. In emergencies, teachers must allow students to use their phones.

Dana Al-Abulsalam, a student at the American University in Sharjah, states; “No, they have no rights to ban, but they can request students to stop. Smartphones have replaced notepads and notebooks. Nowadays, many students tend take notes on their phones as it is easier. It is also a mean to communicate with your teachers. It is up to the student to choose the way he or she wants to use it. Those who want to play games can do so, but at the end they will be the ones lost. Using it correctly does not give the rights to ban. Rather than prohibiting, teachers can reward and encourage students to keep away distractive apps like Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook. What teachers can also do is giving breaks. No student can stay a whole hour focused. A break is essential. Even without their phones, students would find another way to distract themselves either by talking to their mates or drawing on their notepads. Most important of all is emergencies. In many cases, a mother or father would depend solely on



their son or daughter. Sometimes they need to make phone calls.” Dana also adds; “banning a smartphone in this century is as weird as banning a laptop for educational purposes”.

Smartphones have their advantages and disadvantages. Banning them works when extreme usage is seen and allowing them should be regulated. Students are old enough and responsible enough to know their own good.

# Is it a surprise that obesity is increasing?

In the old days, mothers would spend hours in the kitchen, cutting vegetables and preparing a fresh and healthy meal for the family. Obesity was less than it is today, and very few people suffered from heart diseases. People would walk and do a variety of exercises.

Nowadays, both parents have jobs. Their children would stay at school. No time is available for mothers or even fathers to cook. Therefore, the easiest option is to depend on fast food. Many people have become so fond of fast food that they have it three times a week. They claim to have no time to prepare a meal. Yet, it seems that the members of the same family have plenty of time to watch TV, go out and play around with their smartphones.

A recent survey conducted by Y magazine have shown an increase in the obesity rate in Oman. 30% of the people are overweight. Most of which are women. The same survey claims that the Sultanate is the fourteenth fattest nation in globe. This is a frightening rate, especially when considering that most of the Sultanate's people are under the age of 35.

This high obesity rate is most definitely not surprising. The eating habits of today's world is false. Families have no time to cook so their best option is pizzas, burgers and other forms of fast food. However the question is why do people eat fast food despite knowing its dangers? Ali Al-Lawati, a student at MSQ Private School, answers this question. "Fast food tends to be cheap, quick and delicious. Therefore, it is popular. People have no option but to have them,

because they have no time to cook."

But there are a lot of healthy alternatives and healthy options. So Ali's answers might not be 100% correct. On this issue, I have asked Rasha Al-Raisi, on why obesity is increasing and what can we do about it?

Rasha says; "Obesity is increasing because of lack of sports. People at their work, when they come back home, when they do something and almost every time but they do not do any form of exercises and work-outs. Therefore, obesity is increasing. It is not all about fast food. The best way to decrease obesity rate is doing motivational programs that encourages people to walk, go to gyms and do any form of sports."

This is true. Fast food is dominating our eating habits. Pizzas, burgers, nuggets, shawarmas and many more are becoming part of our daily meals. It is not a surprise that obesity is increasing. To solve this issue, we must do plenty of exercising and watch what we eat. Colleges, schools as well as working organizations must have gyms as part of their campuses. The college must also focus on serving healthy salads, grilled meats and fresh juices to help in lowering obesity as well as health diseases



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# Sports

ALsaqr team scored a great victory over Almawj team by achieving two goals against one goal in the match that took place last Wednesday in the stadium of ALmawj Club. The match was in the seventh round of the second league of the first class league.

The match started in 6:15 pm where the performance was strong from both teams in order to score goals. During the first 10 minutes of the half time one player from ALmawj team his name is Mohammed Al.Eshaki lose good chance because of his bad receipt of the ball in front of ALsaqr goal. While in the next 15 minutes ALsaqr team also lose chance when Philippe kick the ball away from the goal. There was surprise to ALsaqr Goalkeeper from Adnan AL.Tubi by make a strong kick almost rupture the ALsaqr goal but the goalkeeper was stronger than that kick ,where he handled the ball brilliantly. As well as, ALsaqr team continued to try to reach the goal of ALmawj team where there have been several successful attempts one of them was by professional player from ALsaqr team who was Mohammed Takoo , where he managed to kidnap the ball from the defense and try to kick the



ALsaqr team



ball but it passed next to the goal bar and it consider as the most dangerous chance in the first half. Because of the progress of ALsaqr team , ALmawj team coach made change early through the exit of player Haytham AL.Salmi and entered the player Ahmed AL.Nabhani. Just before the end of the first half , the referee awarded a free kick from dangerous place for ALsaqr team which led to the first goal by the player Yousif AL.Nubi. The referee announced the end of the first half with goal against nothing.

In the second half , ALmawj team began a different and strong way to achieve a draw and satisfy its audience. The player Hisham AL.Tubi kick the ball but it passed next to the goal bar to prevent the fans of Almawj from the joy of a draw. Play continued strongly from both teams and after wasting more than a chance by

ALmawj team , the player Hisham AL.Tubi managed to score the draw that brought hope back to the audiences. The waste of chances continued by ALmawj team , in the 67th minute the Player Yousif AL.Nubi kick a powerful kick but it hit the bar. At the end of the match , ALmawj team goalkeeper blocked one of the ALsaqr team defender which led to penalty. This penalty led to score the second goal by professional player Phillippe and the match ended with the victory of ALsaqr team.

The balance of ALsaqr rose to 11 points in the third place and ALmawj rose only 8 points in eighth place . The referee of the match was Yahya AL.Digashi and his aides Mohammed and Ayoob AL.Eshaki.