



DAZZLING multi-media show during the opening of the Muscat Festival at Qurum Natural Park yesterday. — *Picture by Mohamed Mahjoub*

Nation's cultural heritage on show

By Kaushalendra Singh

MUSCAT — A spectacular laser show, fireworks and carnival, showcasing Oman's culture and heritage marked the opening of Muscat Festival yesterday at Qurum Natural Park and Naseem Garden.

With this the Festival opened the floodgates of celebrations offering residents an opportunity to celebrate with incentives, as many new features have

been added to this year's festival marking the Sultanate's 40th National Day.

Saif Subba al Rusaiddi, Director-General of Information and Public Relations and Head of Information and Cultural Committee at Muscat Municipality, said the theme of this year's Muscat Festival is 'Oman Present and Future' and the laser show and carnival represent the Sultanate's achievements in 40 glorious years.

"The shows reflect the old and new

landmark structures with focus on Royal Opera House, Muscat International Airport and Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre symbolising Oman's achievements with emphasis on international peace," he said.

Many events are lined up for the festival and each day is going to be special for the visitors at either of the festival plazas.

The festival will enable visitors to learn some of the key techniques used

in some traditional crafts including how to weave baskets of date palm leaves, used in most Omani villages both to store and collect dates.

There will also be displays of traditional Omani dresses, a souq, silver-smiths working on the making of traditional coffeepots, weavers assembling goat hair cloaks and experts in Bahla pottery. ■ **To page 2**

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