



Children warming up before a game at Al Hail School of Cricket.

is as famous as football yet. It is because the playground is targeting certain group of audience who are interested in this game.”

“As football is the nation’s favourite activity in the afternoons, I hope to see cricket played everywhere in villages, cities and neighbourhoods,” said Ahmed.

Ahmed appeals to Omani youth to not only watch the matches on TV but also to come to the grounds to play cricket.

Cricket is slowly beginning to make its way among Omani youth as there are some efforts made to spread the game like in case of Moula Bakhsh Al Balushi, Board Director of Al Hail School of Cricket, a cricket academy for upcoming and young Omani players.

In a survey conducted by Moula Bakhsh Al Balushi, that included a sample of young Omanis from 14 to 15 years old based in various areas in Al Amerat, Al Mabela, Al Seeb and Al Khuwair, Al Balushi found out that during summer school break, most of them had nothing useful to do during the three-month break.

“It’s summer and it’s hot. Many young boys said they didn’t know where to go during summer school break. They would just hang out on the streets for fun. If they were able to travel, it’d be for a short period, at least a month. Then they come back to the same routine. Plus, not everyone can afford to travel,” said

Al Balushi.

“I sat with a group of friends and relatives and we thought of doing something for our children to make the best of their free times. Started running in 1993, Al Hail School of Cricket is a service for the Omani community with the aim to contribute to the development and growth of all Omani cricket players in the Sultanate for the advancement of this game in the country,” he added.

According to Ahmed al Hattali and Moula al Balushi, there are many Omanis who love cricket, but something must be done to popularise the game in the country.

They both expressed how a useful addition it would be for the Omani economy to host international cricket championships.

“Hopefully, I expect this sport to be really as popular as football. But this will be in the long term. Not for the



Ahmed al Hattali with his children.

short term, especially for other governorates. But as for Muscat, the game is spreading so fast.”

“I expect it to be popular by the two or three coming years. The sport has already made its impact in Al Amerat and Mabelah,” said Al Hat-

tali.

“I’m supportive of all kinds of sports. I hope young people love sports as a practice and not just watch it on TV. I believe cricket can create revenues for the country. “

“It can attract investments. Cricket has become very popular around the world. We want the government, since expatriate cricket players are here, to take the chance to spread this game and train Omani young players,” Al Hattali added.

Ahmed Al Hattali, hopes that cricket will one day become as popular as football in Oman.

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MOULA BAKHSH AL BALUSHI,
Board Director of Al Hail School
of Cricket

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