

Four new shopping malls set to open in the UAE, Oman and Bahrain

Landmark Group announces expansion plans for Oasis Mall

KUWAIT CITY, April 16: Landmark Group, one of the largest retail and hospitality conglomerates in the Middle East, Africa and India, is expanding its shopping mall footprint across four GCC countries under its Oasis Mall brand.

Oasis Mall, the leading neighbourhood shopping destination in the region, will open four new malls in strategic locations in the UAE, Oman, & Bahrain.

Supported by Landmark Group's vast history of creating innovative businesses, and utilising its rich experience and expertise, the upcoming malls will be located in vibrant communities to deliver an enjoyable experience to customers in both urban centres as well as satellite cities.

Set to be completed in 2019, the expansion will increase Oasis Mall's presence to 11 mall destinations across existing territories with a total GLA of over 2.6 million square feet of retail space within the malls' portfolio of over 500 stores.

Mark Ruffley, Business Head — Oasis Malls, said: "We pride ourselves on our in-



Oasis Mall Sharjah (UAE) view

depth understanding of the GCC retail landscape and our ability to meet changing customer needs with speed and simplicity. With the new neighbourhood destinations, we aim to offer shoppers and retailers an engaging retail experience that is fun, inviting, affordable

and approachable, through a vibrant mix of retail, dining and entertainment for the entire family."

Recent statistics from Frank Knight, a global real estate consultancy firm, reveal that the existing malls in the UAE, combined with the ones that are in the pipeline, will together account for ten million square meters of retail space by 2020, promising a bright future for malls.

In the UAE, Oasis Mall is set to open its first destination in Sharjah in early 2019, which will also host the Emirate's first flagship Centrepoint store, and the first Cinépolis Cinema in the UAE. The upcoming 61,000 square metre, multi-storey destination will host several of Landmark Group's other home-grown brands as well, including Home Centre, Max, Fun City, Emax and Shoexpress, as well as other well-known brands including Carrefour market, Okaidi, Vincci, Parfois, Nabeel Perfumes and more.

Outside the UAE, three new destinations will be launched — one in Bahrain and two in Oman. In Oman, following the tremendous

response for Oasis Mall in Khuwair district of Muscat, new destinations will open in Sohar and Salalah by Q4 2018. The new mall in Bahrain will be home to over 80 shops including Landmark's flagship stores Centrepoint, Homebox, Fun City, Max, a platinum standard Fitness First, Cineco Cinemas, Carrefour market and a host of over 20 food outlets including Hard Rock Café opening in Q3 2018 in Juffair.

Ruffley added: "The new malls will feature designs, materials and finishes that have been inspired by nature, and driven by functionality. We have incorporated natural elements to the overall look and feel and focused on sustainability in all aspects of design and material use."

With a focus on implementing sustainability and ensuring family friendly spaces across the destinations, and providing a compact, shopping-friendly format with ample parking spaces, Oasis Mall strives to be a 'good neighbour' in every way, as part of its commitment to enhance lifestyles in the various communities it serves.



This picture taken on Jan 27, 2018 shows Indonesia's street children football team 'Garuda Baru' gathering on the training field in Bekasi on the outskirts of Jakarta. (AFP)

'Journey of a lifetime'

Street side: Indonesia slum kids eye youth World Cup

JAKARTA, Indonesia, April 16, (AFP): Somad rarely ventures beyond his impoverished Jakarta neighbourhood, but the 14-year-old is now gearing for a trip to Russia next month as a player in the 2018 Street Child World Cup.

It's the journey of a lifetime for the aspiring striker and eight other Indonesian kids set to compete against teams of other disadvantaged children from two dozen nations.

The event's third edition in Moscow is a long way from Bekasi on the outskirts of Indonesia's teeming capital where

Off the pitch, the kids will take part in art lessons, workshops and there is a conference focused on disadvantaged youth.

"I want to help Indonesia win the competition. But if we do win, I don't want to show off," says striker Bayu, picked for the Indonesian contingent from among more than 90 children.

"I want to share the experience with my friends when I'm back."

In 2014, the boy's team from Tanzania won the tournament while the girl's trophy was claimed by hosts Brazil.

The inaugural 2010 event, started by British charity Street Child United, was played in South Africa.

Indonesian team coach Wahyu Kurniawan said children from poor neighbourhoods have a vitality that is key to breaking into professional football.

"Kids from the street are more active and tend to have more power and spirit," he told AFP.

"My job is to convert those qualities into good football skill and sportsmanship on the field."

But the tournament is about more than just sports — it's to give a voice to marginalised children.

"Achievement in the tournament is not our main priority, it's a bonus," said Jessica Hutting from Kampus Diakoneia Modern (KDM), a children's rights NGO that selected the Indonesian players.

"We use football as a tool to bring street-connected children together in a safe space where their voices can be heard."

Japan's Kodaira beats Kim in playoff for PGA Heritage title

Rahm wins Spanish Open

WASHINGTON, United States, April 16, (Agencies): Japan's Satoshi Kodaira sank a 24-foot birdie putt on the third playoff hole to defeat South Korea's Kim Si-woo and win the Heritage tournament on Sunday for his first US PGA Tour victory.

The 28-year-old from Tokyo had won six times on the Japan Tour, most recently at last November's Taiheiyō Masters, but captured the biggest title of his career with a birdie at the par-3 17th at Harbor Town in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

World number 46 Kodaira was coming off his best major showing, and what had been his top US result, with a share of 28th at last week's Masters.

Kodaira settled for the plaid jacket given to Heritage winners instead of the green one handed out at Augusta.

GOLF

Kodaira also was excited to accept a berth on the US PGA Tour and several guaranteed tournament entries that will come with the triumph as a tour member.

Kim and Kodaira both finished 72 holes at 12-under-par 272, one stroke ahead of Americans Luke List and Bryson DeChambeau with Billy Horschel and Webb Simpson on 274.

Kodaira and 51st-ranked Kim began the playoff by replaying the 18th hole. Both parred twice more as they had in the final round. Kodaira went up and down from beyond the green and sank a testy five-footer for par on the second playoff hole to extend the playoff.

Both had made bogeys at 17 in the final round but Kodaira sank his tricky putt and Kim missed to end the showdown.

Kim, 22, was denied his third US PGA title after wins in 2016 at Greensboro and last May at the Players Championship.

Kodaira, who shot 63 Friday, fired a final-round five-under-par 66 to charge into the hunt. He opened with three birdies, began the back nine with another then sank birdie putts of 28 feet at the par-3 14th and 10 feet at the par-5 15th but missed the 17th green and made bogey.

He still needed the leaders in the final group to back up and that's what they did, Kim firing a par 71 while List shot 72 and 54-hole leader Ian Poulter of Britain closed on 75 — threesomes being used in a bid to finish before pre-



Satoshi Kodaira of Japan poses with the trophy after winning on the third playoff hole during the final round of the 2018 RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links on April 15, in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. (AFP)

dicted storms arrived.

Kim blasted out of greenside bunkers to within five feet to birdie the par-5 second and fifth holes, then holed out from 22 feet at the ninth to make the turn on 15 under.

But Kim stumbled with bogeys at the par-4 12th, missing an 11-foot par putt, and par-5 15th, where he never found the fairway and missed a 4-footer for par, leaving him only one stroke ahead of Kodaira.

Kim missed a 5-foot par putt at the par-3 17th for a bogey that dropped him level with Kodaira. At 18, Kim lipped out a six-foot birdie putt for force the playoff.

Poulter saw his title hopes collapse with five bogeys on the back nine, fading at the end of his sixth consecutive week of playing to a final-round 75.

The 42-year-old Englishman, who won the Houston Open two weeks ago to earn a Masters berth, shared seventh with Americans Bill Haas, Kevin Streelman, Patrick Cantlay, Chesson Hadley and Kevin Kisner and South Korea's An Byeong-hun on 275.

In Madrid, world number four Jon Rahm won the Spanish Open to claim his third European Tour title on Sunday after holding his nerve against fellow Spaniard Nacho Elvira and Irishman Paul Dunne in a

tight finale.

Rahm began the day third on the leaderboard, two shots behind Dunne, who had set the pace in the first three rounds, and one behind Elvira.

He signed off, however, with an impressive five-under 67 to win by two shots, finishing with a 20-under-par total of 268, as Dunne and Elvira both carded final-day 71s.



Spain's Jon Rahm tees off during the Spanish Open golf tournament in Madrid, Spain on April 15. (AP)

Basque Country native Rahm returned to Spain less than a week after finishing fourth in the Masters.

He was hunting a first national title as a professional to add to his two previous European Tour wins in Dublin and Dubai last year.

He becomes the sixth Spaniard to win the Spanish Open since it became part of the European Tour in 1972, joining some illustrious company including Seve Ballesteros, Sergio Garcia and Miguel Angel Jimenez.

The 23-year-old sneaked ahead overall after the fourth hole before Elvira got his nose in front with an eagle on the fifth. Rahm, who had birdied three of the opening seven holes, bogeyed the ninth to open up a three-way tie at the top of the leaderboard.

Rahm and Elvira were both tied at 19 under on the 15th and a playoff beckoned, but Elvira hit the water with his first shot on the penultimate hole, leading to a double bogey.

Rahm narrowly escaped the water on the 17th and made it into the clubhouse in a strong position with a birdie on the final hole, embracing his grandmother after completing the round.

That left Elvira or Dunne needing an albatross on the 18th to force a tie but that was too tall an order with Dunne getting a birdie to pip the Spaniard to second place.

Joyalukkas world-class shopping experience lands in Dajeej, Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, April 16: The much anticipated Joyalukkas Dajeej showroom opened at the Lulu Hypermarket in Dajeej, the new

Joyalukkas showroom will be a welcome addition to this hub.

The showroom was inaugurated by Mohammad Ismael Safar

Bahzad, Director, Joyalukkas Kuwait, in the presence of Mohamed Haris, Regional Director, Lulu Group International Kuwait and at-

tended by local dignitaries, VIPs and chief executives of the Joyalukkas Group.

"It is a pleasure to open our doors in Dajeej," said John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group, "and we are excited to present residents with a world-class jewellery shopping experience they won't find anywhere else. This is also a great opportunity to thank our loyal patrons for their support over the years which has greatly contributed to the growth and success of Joyalukkas. I look forward to welcoming them to Joyalukkas Dajeej."

Joyalukkas Dajeej will feature over a million jewellery designs showcasing a mix of traditional, ethno contemporary and international influences. It will carry an exclusive line of Joyalukkas brands, such as Veda Temple Jewellery, Pride Diamonds, Eleganza Polki Diamonds, Masaaki Pearls, Zenina Turkish Jewellery, Li'l Joy Kids Jewellery, the Apurva Antique collection & Ratna Precious Stone Jewellery, as well as brand-new diamond collections 7 Wonders Daily Wear and Iris Colorful Diamond Jewellery.

Festival brings sunshine to scandal-hit sumo wrestling

TOKYO, Japan, April 16, (RTRS): Laughter, sunshine and optimism were the order of the day at the ceremonial Spring Festival sumo tournament held at a controversial war shrine in Tokyo on Monday.

As the ancient sport looks to move on from a raft of negative publicity surrounding incidents ranging from assault and bullying to accusations of sexism, there were few signs evident that the recent issues would dampen sumo's popularity.

Hard core sumo fanatics and tourists alike flocked to the event held at the Yasukuni Shrine, seen by many in Asia as a symbol of Japan's past militarism. They were treated to exhibition bouts, preceded by time-honoured foot-stamping ceremonies, as well traditional chanting and even a comedy routine explaining the dos and don'ts of sumo wrestling.

One of the more controversial 'don'ts' within the sport, although not mentioned on Monday, is the tradition that forbids women from entering the ring on the grounds that it is sacred and their presence, considered "unclean", would pollute it.

Earlier this month, Japan Sumo Association Chairman Hakkaku, who led a prayer during a more reflective moment in the shrine, was forced to apologise after several female medics were asked to leave the ring during a tournament near Kyoto.

They were expelled by a referee when they attempted to revive local Mayor Ryozo Tatami, who had collapsed but later made a recovery in hospital.

Many fans leaving the shrine on Monday believe sumo wrestling should be more inclusive, particularly with the next Summer Olympics taking place in Tokyo.

"We, sumo fans, hope to build up the mood of excitement all together, regardless of gender, as we head towards Tokyo 2020 Olympics," said Takamichi Masui, who had travelled all the way from Mie Prefecture for the festival.

"Although sumo is a traditional and sacred ritual, I believe that (the female medics incident) was a humanitarian and right thing to do," added sumo fan Hiromi Omori, who stressed that those traditions should be applied on a case-by-case basis.



Joyalukkas Dajeej, Kuwait inauguration