**Auto news**

BMW X3, 6 Series Convertible in Oman

Al Jenaibi International Automobiles, the BMW Group importer in Oman, has announced the arrival of two new generation models - the BMW 6 Series Convertible and BMW X3 - in Muscat. Now available at the Al Jenaibi International Automobiles showroom in Muscat, both models have new interior and exterior designs and come with a wealth of new technology highlights that distinguish the new cars from their predecessor models. The latest generation models offer stylish design, outstanding performance, luxury and sheer driving pleasure.

All new Dodge Durango

Dhofar Automotive has launched the All New Dodge Durango in Oman, the first country in the gulf to introduce the American branded SUV. The new Dodge Durango was launched at a special event held at the Dhofar Automotive showroom in Azaiba where Chris Edwards, general manager, Dhofar Automotive and Ahmed Hussain Nasr, regional sales manager, Chrysler Middle East unveiled the attractive new SUV and demonstrated its new features. “Dodge Durango appeals to customers who need the versatility of a crossover and capability of an SUV, but want the refinement and characteristics of a premium performance vehicle,” says Ahmed Hussain Nasr.

ZTC partners with Al Najid

Zawawi Trading Company (ZTC) has delivered a fleet of Mercedes-Benz Actros units to Al Najid Transport, Trading and Contracting in line with a partnership deal with the company. The authorised general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in the Sultanate, ZTC said with the delivery of this consignment, Mercedes-Benz now enjoyed a share of more than 95 per cent of the current fleet of Al Najid Transport.

As per the deal, the company sold 24 units of Mercedes-Benz Actros 3340 S 33 (6X4) (2011 model) prime movers to Al Najid Transport, says Craig Hardie, CEO of Automotive Division, ZTC. Hardie later handed over the keys to Gheitha Al Mahrouki, owner of Al Najid Transport along with Gopalan Uppiliappan, general manager (Business Support, Strategy and Projects) and Sashi Menon, assistant manager, Commercial Vehicles. “Outstanding reliability and economy, impressive driving, comfort and exemplary safety – these are the key attributes with which the Actros sets standards in long-distance operations,” says Al Mahrouki.

World’s fastest pickup

Following the BMW M3 Coupé, BMW M3 Convertible and BMW M3 Sedan, a fourth body variant of this globally successful high-performance sports car is about to cause a stir. Under the strictest secrecy, the world’s first high-performance pickup has been created at the BMW M GmbH development centre. The sportiest example by far in this vehicle category, the BMW M3 Pickup will fire the imaginations of all motorists with a deep appreciation of top performance matched by a keen practical twist.

420 hp under the bonnet and a rear-axle load capacity of upto 450 kilos take the hallmark BMW M relationship between race-oriented driving pleasure and everyday utility to an entirely new level. With this vehicle, BMW M GmbH once again furnishes evidence of its exceptional competence in developing and building high-grade, individual dream cars.

Mazda’s new SUV christened Mazda CX-5

Mazda Motor Corporation has announced that its new compact crossover SUV will be called the Mazda CX-5. It is the production model derived from the Mazda MINAGI concept car, which made its debut at the Geneva Motor Show in March and was shown at the New York International Auto Show in April. The CX-5 will be the first production vehicle to incorporate Mazda’s new design theme, ‘KODO – Soul of Motion’ as debuted on the Mazda SHINARI concept car, as well as the full range of breakthrough SKYACTIV technologies, including engines, transmissions, body and chassis. The CX-5 will join Mazda’s global line-up in 2012.

The “CX” in CX-5 represents Mazda’s line-up of crossover SUV vehicles, which also includes the Mazda CX-7 and Mazda CX-9. The CX-5 will be the compact model in the series. The Mazda CX-5 will make its international debut at the 64th IAA Motor Show to be held in   
Frankfurt, Germany in September 2011.

Striking new Mercedes-Benz Viano

Zawawi Trading Company, the authorised general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Oman, launched the powerful and luxurious new look Viano to the Omani market. Unveiled at a glittering event attended by press and senior Zawawi representatives at Grand Hyatt Muscat, the striking new Mercedes-Benz Viano set hearts racing with its powerful yet fuel efficient engine, muscular styling, and luxurious new interiors and features.

Speaking at the event, Craig Hardie, CEO, Automotive, Zawawi Trading Company, hails the Viano as “the embodiment of Mercedes-Benz core values of safety, quality, reliability, comfort and efficiency.”

Offering superior power and driving pleasure, the rumble from under the Viano’s front bonnet packs a punch that grants the same driving experience as the German automotive company’s passenger car range.

Free air-conditioning inspection

Mitsubishi Oman invited all Mitsubishi motorists across the Sultanate to visit its local Mitsubishi Service Centre for a free air-conditioning inspection, which will include a thorough check of the air-conditioning system as well as a gas refill from their team of qualified technicians. As part of the promotion Mitsubishi Oman will be offering special discounts on any repairs that are required following the inspection. The offer is valid until April 24 from any General Automotive Company centre, the authorised distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles throughout Oman. The campaign, jointly conducted by Mitsubishi Oman and General Automotive Company, is being supervised by top engineers from Mitsubishi Japan, headed by Konno, manager of Field Service and Mitsubishi Motors for the Middle East and   
Africa region.

Skoda’s best ever deals

Wattayah Motors, the official distributor of Skoda in Oman, has launched a new deal on a selected range of Skoda vehicles, in particular Skoda Superb Limo starting at an amazingly low price of RO7,995.

Wattayah Motors is also offering a 3-year 150,000km extended warranty and a 3-year 45,000km service to ensure that all motorists remain safe and secure on the roads even after they have purchased the car. James Oliver, general manager of Wattayah Motors says, “This is a fantastic offer which we are excited to bring to the Sultanate. Skoda is well renowned for its quality technology and we are delighted to be able to offer our customers the luxurious Skoda Superb from as little as RO7,995.” The new Skoda Superb Limo was introduced to Oman as a luxury saloon ideal for both senior executives and families seeking comfort and reliability together with a powerful engine controlled by state-of-the-art Skoda technology.