

# More top-class brands set to occupy spaces at Moda Mall

● MODA Mall is giving away an Aston Martin Vantage as part of its Shop and Win campaign from 5th December 2021 to 31st January 2022

● Shoppers also stand a chance to win instant prizes

● For every BD30 spent, shoppers are given an entry into the Golden Jubilee draw

TDI | Manama

Many top-class international brands have shown interest to occupy spaces at Moda Mall, a senior executive revealed.

Chris Gibson, Deputy General Manager at BWTC and MODA Mall, said 2022 is a year of great hopes with many plans in the pipeline for the mall.

"2021 has been a year of consolidation. We are encouraged by the footfall and the quality of customers coming in. A lot of tenants are going forward on towers and the retail side."

"Many brands consider MODA Mall as the best destination and location for its customers, be it coming from Saudi Arabia, other GCC countries or cruise ships. We have high hopes and big plans in place for the coming year. More international brands, including Nomad, are going to come. We are delighted by the number of people committed over going forward," Chris

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CHRIS GIBSON, DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER AT BWTC AND MODA MALL



pointed out.

Aston Martin Vantage

In the spirit of the festive season and to commemorate the Kingdom's Golden Jubilee - marking the 50th National Day - MODA Mall, Bahrain's high-end shopping destination, is giving away a prestigious Aston Martin Vantage as part of its Shop and Win campaign starting from 5th December 2021 - 31st January 2022. MODA Mall has partnered with Adamas Motors, the official dealer for Aston Martin in the Kingdom.

In addition to the Shop and Win campaign, during the National Day weekend, shoppers

will stand a chance to win instant prizes at the stand located in the North court, near Gate 3. Shoppers will have to validate their receipts by one of the promotional staff to qualify in selecting a box to stand a chance to win an instant prize.

"This year is a unique year marking the 50th anniversary of the Kingdom of Bahrain's independence, as such, it required a special prize to reward our shoppers for their continuous support. For this campaign, we have once again tied up with Adamas Motors to give away an Aston Martin Vantage, an iconic British Marque - a truly

remarkable piece of engineering that has featured in several James Bond movies. MODA Mall has been a part of the Kingdom's history for over three decades. On this occasion, we thank His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for fostering an economic environment where international and local brands can thrive," Chris said.

## One entry per BD30

For every BD30 spent at MODA Mall's refined retail outlets, shoppers are given one entry into the Golden Jubilee draw. Customers will need to scan the QR code available at MODA Mall or click the link on the website to register, enter their details and upload their receipts.

## 3rd February 2022

The Grand Prize draw for Aston Martin will take place on 3rd February 2022 and be overseen by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Tourism (MOICT).



## Amazon restores cloud services after power outage hits data center

Reuters

Several apps and websites, including those of streaming service Hulu, office messaging app Slack and Epic Games, were up and running after being hit by a brief power outage at one of Amazon.com Inc's data servers on the U.S. East Coast.

"The issue has been resolved and the service is operating nor-



mally," AWS said.

Amazon earlier said the outage had affected its platform

that provides computing capacity to cloud network operated by its unit, Amazon Web Services

(AWS).

Office messaging app Slack had said it was experiencing issues with file uploads, message editing and other services.

A major outage in the same region earlier this month brought down streaming platforms Netflix and Disney+, trading app Robinhood as well as Amazon.com Inc's e-commerce website.

## US opens investigation into 580,000 Tesla vehicles over game feature

Reuters | Washington

US auto safety regulators said yesterday they have opened a formal safety investigation into 580,000 Tesla vehicles sold since 2017 over the automaker's decision to allow games to be played on the front center touchscreen.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said its preliminary evaluation covers various 2017-2022 Tesla Model 3, S, X, and Y vehicles. This functionality, referred to as "Passenger Play," "may distract the driver and increase the risk of a crash," the agency said.

NHTSA said it has "confirmed that this capability has been available since December 2020 in Tesla 'Passenger Play'-equipped vehicles." Before then,



Representative picture



The Times said the Tesla update added three games - Solitaire, a jet fighter and conquest strategy scenario - and said that vehicles have warnings reading: "Playing while the car is in motion is only for passengers." The paper said the game feature asks for confirmation that the player is a passenger, though a driver could still play simply by pressing a button.

the game feature "was enabled only when the vehicle was in Park."

NHTSA said in a statement on Wednesday it was "committed to ensuring the highest safety standards on the nation's roadways."

The agency said the decision to open the investigation was based on reports "Tesla's gameplay functionality is visible from the driver's seat and can be enabled while driving the vehicle."

The Governors Highway Safety Association said yesterday it was pleased with NHTSA's Tesla safety investigation "and want to remind all drivers to be alert and focused on the road when you're behind the wheel."

Tesla did not immediately

## US authorises certain transactions with Taliban to ease flow of aid to Afghanistan

Reuters | Washington

The United States yesterday formally exempted US and UN officials doing official business with the Taliban from US sanctions, clearing the way for proposed UN payments next year of some \$6 million to the Islamists for security.

The US Treasury Department made the announcement a day after Reuters exclusively reported a UN plan to subsidize the monthly wages of Taliban-run Interior Ministry personnel who guard UN facilities and to pay them monthly food allowances.

Some experts said the proposal raised questions about whether such payments would violate UN and US sanctions on the Taliban and on many



A boy pushes a man's wheelchair on a street in Kabul, Afghanistan

of their leaders, including Sirajuddin Haqqani, the Interior Ministry chief and head of the Haqqani network.

Having designated the Taliban as a terrorist group for years, Washington has ordered its US assets frozen and barred Americans from dealing with them, including with funds, goods or services.

## Musk says he has sold 'enough' stock

Reuters | San Francisco

Tesla Inc shares surged 6% yesterday after Chief Executive Elon Musk said in an interview he has sold "enough stock" following several weeks of share sales by the billionaire.

Musk gave conflicting statements on Tuesday and Wednesday as to whether he may or may not be done with his stated goal of selling 10% of his shares.

"I sold enough stock to get to around 10% plus the option exercise stuff and I tried to be extremely literal here," he said in an interview on Tuesday with conservative satirical website Babylon Bee.

But on Wednesday he suggested he may not be done selling shares. "This assumes completion of the 10b sale," he tweeted, possibly referring to his prearranged sales plan related to his options.

Under the Rule 10b5-1 trading plan set up in September, he has exercised stock options that expire next year and sold a portion of the stocks to pay for taxes, according to Tesla filings.

Musk said on Nov. 6 he would sell 10% of his stake if Twitter users agreed. Tesla shares, which had hovered near record highs, lost about a quarter of their value soon after that.

Following a flurry of sales,



Tesla CEO Elon Musk

Musk still has more than 3 million stock options that expire in August next year.

On Tuesday, Musk sold another 934,091 shares, bringing the total number of shares he has offloaded to 13.8 m - shy of the 17 m or so shares he was expected to sell.

Tesla shares were up 6.2% at \$996.65 on Wednesday afternoon, off an earlier high at \$1,015.66.

Asked whether he sold the stock because of the Twitter poll, he said on Tuesday he needed to exercise stock options that are expiring next year "no matter what." He added he sold additional "incremental stock" to get near 10%.

Of the 13.8 m shares sold, 8.4 m were sold to pay taxes related to his options exercise, according to Tesla's securities filings.

On Sunday, he said on Twitter that he would pay more than \$11 billion in taxes this year.

traction-prevention into their designs and adoption of infotainment devices in vehicles."

The guidelines "recommend that in-vehicle devices be designed so that they cannot be used by the driver to perform inherently distracting secondary tasks while driving," the agency said.

The agency in August opened a safety investigation into 765,000 Tesla vehicles over its driver-assistance system Autopilot after a series of crashes involving the system and parked emergency vehicles.

A preliminary evaluation is a first step before NHTSA decides whether to upgrade a probe to an engineering analysis, which must happen before the agency can demand a recall.

comment.

NHTSA said it would "evaluate aspects of the feature, including the frequency and use scenarios of Tesla 'Passenger Play'."

Earlier this month, the New York Times highlighted the game feature, prompting NHTSA to say it was in discussions with Tesla about its concerns.

The agency noted earlier in December that distracted driving accounts for a significant number of US road deaths - 3,142 in 2019 alone. Safety advocates have said official figures underestimate the problem because not all drivers involved in crashes later admit they were distracted.

In 2013, NHTSA issued guidelines to encourage automakers "to factor safety and driver dis-