

Bharat Billpay and Federal Bank partner with LuLu Financial Group

Deal to enable direct utility bill payment for NRIs

● This arrangement allows Indians living in the GCC to remit money directly to pay for their utility bills back home through any LuLu Exchange branch

TDI | Dubai

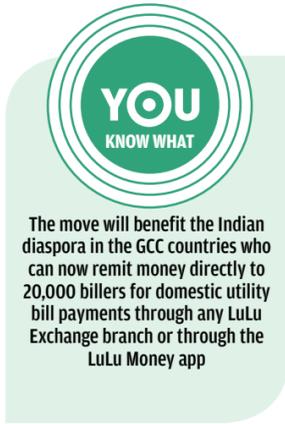
In a major boost towards strengthening the scope of cross-border remittances into India, the much-awaited Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) has been activated for Indian expats living in the GCC region.

Federal Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks, launched this facility in association with Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) - the wholly owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), and Lulu Financial Group, at the Global FinTech Festival held in Mumbai earlier this week.

This arrangement - considered a long-pending ask of NRIs, will now allow Indians living in the GCC to remit money directly to pay for their utility bills back home through any LuLu Exchange branch, as well as the digital money transfer app,



Officials during the launch held at the Global FinTech Festival



LuLu Money.

At present, over 20,000 billers across 20 categories are cov-

ered for receipt of inward remittances in a cost-effective and convenient option, through the LuLu Exchange network.

Commenting on this historic launch, Shalini Warriar, Executive Director, Federal Bank, said: "We are delighted to be the first mover in launching this much-awaited facility for Non-Resident Indians in collaboration with NBBL and Lulu International Exchange at the Global Fintech Festival in Mumbai. The direct payment facility in cross-border transactions has optimized the digital payment ecosystem and will equally delight the beneficiaries as it enables seamless bill payment."

Adeeb Ahamed, MD, LuLu Fi-

ancial Group, said, "The BBPS facility enables Indian expats to have greater control over the hard-earned money remitted to meet the expenses of their families back home. This facility has immense applications in widening the scope of cross-border payments beyond its traditional role, and Lulu Exchange is proud to partner with Federal Bank and NBBL to make this a reality for Indians living in the GCC region."

The arrangement comes on the heels of RBI's recent decision to permit foreign inward remittances to be received under the rupee drawing arrangement (RDA) through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

Gulf Air Acting CEO reflects on Airline's role as an effective international citizen

TDI | Manama

Gulf Air Acting Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed AlAlawi reflected on the airline's achievements during a number of interviews and media opportunities conducted with him by several local and international media publications.

Captain AlAlawi stated: "We are pleased to have the Gulf Air services and products recognized by so many renowned aviation related entities; while maintaining our status as an effective and conscience international citizen. We are constantly striving to deliver excellence to our passengers by enhancing a broad spectrum of deliverables from our convenient flight schedules, numerous international and regional flights, and a variety of products and services both on the ground and onboard. Winning these awards is a reflection of Gulf Air's ongoing commitment to fulfil the ever-changing travel needs of our passengers; placing us truly in 'a class of our own'."

During the pandemic, and being one of the few airlines in the world that never stopped flying; Gulf Air repatriated many citizens and non-citizens who were affected by the close down, and helped take them back home. Also, the airline shipped food and medical supplies into Bahrain, using its Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner cabin seats for cargo. Moreover, The American Government officially thanked Gulf Air for repatriating US citizens out of Afghanistan, as a token of appreciation for the national

carrier's humanitarian gesture.

Gulf Air received the Skytrax Five Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating after a vigorous audit by Skytrax Research that took place between November and December 2021. The rating came as a direct result to the success of airline's operations in flying safely throughout the pandemic and enhancing its airport and onboard protocols to combat the spread of COVID-19. The airline received this recognition by providing the highest standards to customers and staff whilst maintaining its boutique strategy to deliver its renowned Arabian hospitality.

Gulf Air also received, for the second consecutive year, APEX's Five Star Major Official Airline Rating. Based solely on certified passengers' feedback, the rating came as proof of the success of Gulf Air's boutique strategy and the major developments in its products and services since the launch of the recent brand refresh and fleet modernization programme.

Captain AlAlawi added "I am so proud to have the opportunity to work with such a dedicated team represented by the national carrier's workforce, to help turn around Gulf Air and make it the customer-centric airline it has become today. The immense team effort paid towards realizing this goal has led to the many achievements and accolades we now enjoy at Gulf Air".

More recently, the national carrier was honoured at Singapore's Changi Airline Awards, winning in the "Connectivity Award" and the "New Airline Award".

Helping hand



In its efforts to support the welfare and living care aspects for orphans in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Gulf Hotels Group made a donation to the Child Care Home; Garfield Jones - Group Chief Executive Officer - presented Dr Akbar Mohsen, Vice Chairman of Child Care Home with the cheque. The center cares for servicing orphans and children of broken families to naturally assume their future role in society.

Tesla recalls nearly 1.1 m US vehicles to update window reversing software

Reuters | Washington

Tesla (TSLA.O) is recalling nearly 1.1 million US vehicles because the window automatic reversal system may not react correctly after detecting an obstruction, increasing the risk of injury.

The electric vehicle manufacturer told the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) it would perform an over-the-air software update of the automatic window reversal system. The recall covers some 2017-2022 Model 3, 2020-2021 Model Y,



Tesla vehicles are shown at a sales and service center in Vista, California and 2021-2022 Model S and Model X vehicles.

Tesla said it was not aware of any warranty claims, field reports, crashes, injuries, or deaths related to the recall.



Transportation and Communications Minister Mohammed bin Thamer Al Kaabi and ABM Terminals Chief Executive Officer Keith Svendsen discussed the development and promotion of the maritime and logistics sector. The meeting also discussed training and equipping Bahrainis with the skills to assume leading positions in the sector.

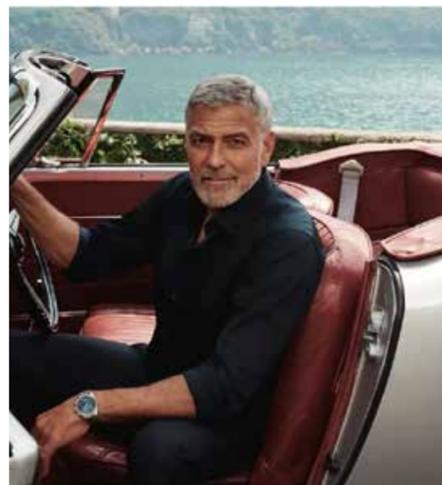
George Clooney, Hyun Bin Wear 'The OMEGA Speedmaster '57'

TDI | Manama

The actors George Clooney and Hyun Bin are taking a front seat role in the promotion of OMEGA's new Speedmaster '57 collection.

Perfectly complementing both sides of the famous chronograph, Clooney brings his classic style and iconic character to the campaign, yet again highlighting his long-standing connection to OMEGA. On the other hand, Hyun Bin is the rising star, with a cool and modern spirit that epitomises the Speedmaster's constant evolution.

As the name suggests, the Speedmaster '57 is emblematic of the original Speedmaster design, which was released in 1957 for racing car drivers and engineers on the track. As a tribute, today's Speedmaster '57 collec-



tion of eight new watches has been delivered with a slim style, colourful dial choices, a vintage



bracelet, and an outstanding Co-Axial Master Chronometer 9906 movement - reaching the

pinnacle of precision, magnetic-resistance, and performance. Raynald Aeschlimann, Pres-

ident and CEO of OMEGA, says "The Speedmaster '57 is known for its quality and timeless charm. George Clooney and Hyun Bin are the perfect leading men to showcase these values and prove exactly how the timepiece fits with the dashing style of today."

George Clooney is a long-time friend of OMEGA and, in many ways, both he and the Speedmaster share the same story. Both their lives began in the optimistic years of the space age, and both are known for their lasting popularity and qualities of excellence.

For this shoot, George wears the stainless steel model with a PVD blue dial (ref: 332.10.41.51.03.001). Amongst the new portraits, the actor can be seen wearing the timepiece

while driving a vintage car near his home around Lake Como - a nod to the Speedmaster's racing origins.

The South Korean actor, Hyun Bin, recently joined the OMEGA family. Exuding his typically confident and laid-back style, he was shot on location with a classic car in Korea, this time wearing a 40.5 mm stainless steel model with a black dial (ref: 332.12.41.51.01.001).

Coinciding with the 65th anniversary of the Speedmaster line, the full OMEGA Speedmaster '57 collection now includes eight new models. Along with blue and black dial models, there are also green and burgundy choices. Signature 1957 details include the brushed metallic bezel with its "Dot Over Ninety", as well as the famous Broad Arrow hands.