

OMAN

ISHQABAD AGREEMENT

NFC organises trip to Bandar Abbas port

MUSCAT: The National Ferries Company (NFC) organised an experimental trip last Thursday to Bahonar Port at Bandar Abbas in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The trip comes as part of the company's efforts to activate Ishqabad agreement, which the Sultanate had joined as per Royal Decree (No.108/2011). It also comes in the wake of the outcomes of the 14th meeting of Omani-Iranian Joint Commission – the meeting was held in Tehran recently – on opening a marine route from Khasab Port to Bandar Abbas.

The NFC team, which included the company's CEO, engineers,

and technicians, studied the route plan and conducted direct field tests for the route between Khasab and Bandar Abbas. It also surveyed depths at Bahonar port.

The NFC officials held meetings with their Iranian counterparts and discussed ways for utilising all resources to launch this route in the near future.

They also reviewed the basic principles for transit transportation to provide the platform for promulgating efficient laws and systems that facilitate the movement of passengers and goods between the ports in the Sultanate and Iran. -ONA

Spanish musicians to share their culture

The music show by the two award-winning musicians will go a long way in helping develop cultural ties between Spain and the Sultanate of Oman

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MUSCAT: Two award-winning musicians will present an evening of traditional Spanish music for piano and voice in a free concert hosted by the Embassy of Spain tomorrow evening.

Soprano Dolores Lahuerta and pianist Cristina Lucio-Villegas hope that the audience will feel the emotion and romance in the music, and get a feel of Spanish life and love from the songs, which were written by their favourite composers, including Enrique Granados and Joaquin Rodrigo.

The concert will feature a selection of music written specifically for piano and voice, and some written for orchestras but adapted for the duo.

In each case, the piano and voice are equally important, so both the musicians will be important to listen to. They selected pieces that best suit Dolores's voice, which she describes as a "light, lyrical soprano."

"I think it's a very nice programme. People will love it because you can recognise very well the Spanish popular music in the melodies and rhythms. It's very inspired by folk music," Dolores said.

Though Dolores and Cristina are from Spain, but they met for the first time in Belgium, where they were both studying music. But it's here in Oman that they will perform together for the first time, sharing their homeland's music in a foreign country.

"The world works like that



TALENTED DUO: Soprano Dolores Lahuerta and pianist Cristina Lucio-Villegas hope that the audience will feel the emotion and romance in the music, and get a feel of Spanish life and love from the songs. -supplied picture

Though Dolores and Cristina are from Spain, it's for the first time they will perform together in Oman, sharing their homeland's music in a foreign country

sometimes," Cristina said with a laugh. "It's a nice opportunity to do after all this time thinking of performing together."

Dolores, a native of Valencia, has performed in opera houses throughout Europe, and also in Cairo, but this is her first time in Oman. She said she is excited to be here as she loves performing Spanish music abroad.

"I think in general Spanish music is very appreciated by the public, even if the public doesn't know this music, because it's very easy

to listen to and even if you don't understand the words you can get the meaning," she explained.

Dolores said she is also happy to learn about Omani culture and explore Muscat when she and Cristina are not rehearsing. Among the places she plans to visit is the Royal Opera House Muscat, fitting for a singer who has sung many big opera roles, including Juliet in Romeo and Juliet and Violeta Valery in La Traviata.

Cristina, who is a resident of Muscat, has played for private re-

ceptions at the Spanish embassy before, but this will be her first public concert.

"I'm very happy to do this because I think in Oman there is an increasing desire for western classical music," she said.

Jorge Notivoli, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Spain, said the concert is the third in a series of events showcasing Spanish arts. He said it will help develop cultural ties between Spain and Oman, and it will add to the growing interest in western music that is being fostered at the opera house.

"This trend, this interest in music at the opera house, is great, and that's why we thought it would be nice to have this kind of concert," Jorge said.

The concert will take place at the American British Academy (ABA) in Al Khuwair at 7pm, on September 24. Admission is free.

ABSCENDING	Name	: Aruidas Thankamony	He who employs the above shall bear legal consequences. The absconding has the right to report inaccuracy of this statement to any of the Ministry of Manpower Offices within 15 days of this notice.
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WADI KABIR

Burglars break into house, decamp with valuables

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MUSCAT: Burglars are on the prowl in Wadi Kabir area again, residents complain.

"After a lull, burglary cases are on the rise once again. Last Wednesday, burglars broke into my house when we had gone out for a few hours. When we came back we saw that our door locks broken and found goods worth nearly RO1,000 and cash RO600 stolen," an Indian expatriate whose house was burgled, said.

According to the expatriate, his laptop, digital camera, mobile phones, watches, some gift items and cash were stolen from his house near India School Wadi Kabir.

"We went out only for a few hours. When we returned by 9pm, we found that the burglars had ransacked our house by tampering with the front door's lock. They had searched our entire



POINT OF ENTRY: The broken lock of the house in Wadi Kabir where burglars entered the expatriate's flat. -supplied photo

house. Everything was in a mess when we returned. We called the police; they came and collected the evidence from the crime scene," the expat added.

Targeting flats
"Burglars are targeting small flats which don't have security guards and other safety measures. Recently, a similar incident was reported in the same area when the burglars removed the air conditioner and entered the house, and decamped with items worth a big amount," the expat added.

In July, two burglaries were reported in broad daylight in Wadi Kabir on the same day.

Two men recently hoodwinked a butcher to steal RO1,000 from his shop while a generator and drilling equipment were stolen from a construction site.

In May also, burglars broke into a house in Wadi Kabir and escaped with a laptop, mobile phones and other valuables.

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