

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat's presence enlivens Muscat Festival

The bank has extended key support to the festival

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the flagship financial services provider in the Sultanate, has evoked strong response to its presence at Muscat Festival, the annual tourism and cultural celebration presently underway at Al Amerat Park and Naaseem Gardens. In step with its vision "To serve you better, everyday" and commitment to partnership in events of national importance, the bank has extended key support to Muscat Festival, which runs till February 9.

Facilitating banking convenience for the large turnout of visi-



tors, the bank has installed ATMs, including mobile ATMs, at the festival venues. Ever since the launch of Muscat Festival, Bank Muscat is a strong partner and remains committed to ensuring the success of the most celebrated annual tourism and cultural event in Oman.

The bank aims to fulfill its commitment to national initiatives,

uniting citizens and residents in sharing the good times and discovering the joy of being connected. The Muscat Festival partnership is an earnest attempt by the bank to propagate the core family values held dear by Omanis.

Bank Muscat's presence at Muscat Festival highlights its role in facilitating the exchange of tradi-

tions and culture between nations. The bank attaches importance to preservation of Oman's rich heritage and culture, aimed at familiarising people, especially youth and children, with the country's glorious legacy. The ethos of national events like Muscat Festival runs parallel to the stated objective of Bank Muscat in serving the nation as the banking partner of choice. While Muscat Festival showcases varied expressions of Omani heritage and culture, Bank Muscat utilises the occasion to help people understand, appreciate and preserve Oman's rich legacy.

Muscat Festival serves as a window to Oman's heritage and culture, offering numerous fun and entertainment activities for children and families. The festival is a big attraction to visitors from the region and other countries. The participation of Bank Muscat complements in making the festival a memorable experience.

RESTAURANT

McDonald's presents Spicy Chicken range

MUSCAT: McDonald's Oman is celebrating the region's love for both chicken and spicy food with their Spicy Chicken range, which now includes the new limited-time Spicy Chicken McNuggets.

McDonald's Spicy Chicken range offers four menu items that have just the 'right kick' of spice, all made Halal chicken. The range includes the Grand Chicken Spicy, a deliciously juicy chicken patty topped with Dijon mustard sauce, ripe tomatoes, shredded lettuce, emmental cheese, generously stacked together in between a soft bun.

The Spicy McChicken is a tasty breaded spicy chicken patty topped with creamy mayonnaise, shredded lettuce, and cheddar cheese, all packed between a toasted sesame seed bun. A spicy take on a popular sandwich, the Spicy Chicken Burger, is also available through the range.

The Spicy Chicken range also introduces for a limited time



Spicy Chicken McNuggets made with 100% white meat marinated chicken, breaded, and coated with a tasty tempura mixed with chili and parsley flakes that is sure to be a crowd-pleaser for lovers of chicken and spicy food alike.

McDonald's Spicy Chicken range is available at all McDonald's restaurants across Oman. The range may also be ordered through Talabat. Exclusive offers for the Spicy Chicken range are also available through the McDonald's App.

HOSPITALITY SECTOR



Twenty14 Holdings marks entry into Switzerland with new Intercity Hotel

MUSCAT: Twenty14 Holdings (T14H), the hospitality investment arm of Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group International, has entered into a forward purchase contract with Swiss real estate developer Necron AG for the upcoming Intercity Hotel Zurich Airport in Rümlang, Switzerland.

The addition of the Intercity Hotel marks Twenty14 Holdings entry into mainland Europe and joins a portfolio of \$750m worth of luxury property across the UK, the Middle East, and India.

The purpose-built, 260-room, 4-star hotel will be located close to the Rümlang station, A1 motorway and offers fantastic transport links, including access to Zurich International Airport in ten minutes, while the city centre is just 15 minutes away. The property will include meeting and event spaces, a restaurant, an indoor fitness centre, and spa area as well as underground and outdoor parking facilities. The property is scheduled to open in 2020.

The hotel will be operated by Deutsche Hospitality (Steigenberger Hotels AG) under a 20-year lease contract. The design of the property will be based on the new Intercity Hotels Matteo Thun design standards, and keeping in mind business travellers and tourists, the property will feature modern guestrooms and public spaces. The hotel is the first of many development projects planned by Necron AG's in cooperation with Deutsche Hospitality. HVS Hodges Ward Elliott acted as exclusive advisers to Necron.

Commenting on the acquisition, Adeb Ahamed, Managing Director, T14H said, "We are excited to mark our entry into mainland Europe with our first property in Zurich. It is an important milestone in our group's portfolio as we work towards becoming a billion-dollar investment firm by 2020."

"This is an exciting hotel development and we are delighted to be working in partnership with both

Twenty14 Holdings and Deutsche Hospitality. We very much hope this is the start of a successful long-term partnership with both," said Gerard van Liempt, CEO, Necron AG. The IntercityHotel Zurich Airport launches our brand in Switzerland and adds a highly attractive location to the portfolio," said Thomas Willms, CEO, Deutsche Hospitality. "This hotel is symbolic of our growing international presence at strategically important locations and we are delighted to have such a reliable partner as the Twenty14 Holdings on our side."

This is Twenty14 Holdings' second property to be operated by Deutsche Hospitality. The German hospitality firm currently operates T14H's Steigenberger Hotel Business Bay in Dubai, UAE. International law firms Trowers & Hamlin, and Thouvenin Rechtsanwälte acted as legal counsel for Twenty14 Holdings with ADB as their Swiss tax counsel.

ONE STOP DESTINATION

Nawras Mall taking lifestyle and businesses to next level

MUSCAT: Nawras Mall is a brand new, modern and centrally located mall with prime highway visibility.

The Nawras Mall offers a convenient, professional as well as family friendly shopping experience. The mall is a one stop destination where there is something for everyone. Professionals and government employees from the local areas can visit on their lunch break to do some shopping or grab a bite to eat. There is a mix of fashion, entertainment, convenience stores and food and beverage outlets.

Nawras Mall is complemented by a 4 star hotel and nearly 8,000sqm of office space offering an solid basis of footfall for the retailers; 17,400sqm of Shopping Mall; 7,800sqm of leasable office space; 4 star hotel; 2 levels of basement parking. The ground floor will be a



place to meet and discuss business in one of the coffee and at the same time the upper floor will be somewhere that families with children can visit.

The interior "Mall area" is finished to a high standard and the corridors will be wide enough to allow customer movement

through the areas. The mall will be a clean well managed area and a nice environment to spend time in. There will be clear signage around the mall with maps and information stations, and easy access to the parking. There is a gross mall area which is approximately 17,000sqm.

ECO CLUB

The Sultan's School students, staff help clean Seeb beach

MUSCAT: A group of students and staff from The Sultan's School joined forces to clear garbage from Seeb's popular beach in Muscat on December 15, 2018.

Led by primary teacher and Eco Club member, Patrice Perpall, the dedicated team worked for two hours to collect kebab sticks, pieces of broken plastic, glass, plastic bottles and even some discarded car tyres. A total of 35 large refuse bags were filled with litter collected from a 200 metre stretch of sand. Delighted with the success of



this event, Patrice said afterwards, "To the naked eye it didn't seem as if we would collect so much. We will definitely have another cleanup next term!"

The school is a proactive, eco-friendly and has recently achieved Green Flag status for its innovative, student-led initiatives and commitment to 'go green'.

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