

# What's On

## Opens iconic Great Scotland Yard Hotel, London

# LuLu's Twenty14 Holdings completes £300m investment in UK

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 7: Twenty14 Holdings, the hospitality investment arm of LuLu Group International has completed investments of £300 million in UK, with the inauguration of the Great Scotland Yard in London today. The hotel will be open for business from Dec 9, 2019. The historic property was acquired in 2015 for Rs 1,025 crores, and the makeover of the hotel involved a further Rs 512 crores. In addition to the Great Scotland Yard, Twenty14 Holdings had acquired the celebrated Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh – The Caledonian in Scotland in 2018.

The Great Scotland Yard Hotel, which is being managed by Hyatt under their The Unbound Collection by Hyatt brand, is located in the St James's district of Westminster. The Unbound Collection by Hyatt brand is a portfolio of independent hotel properties, ranging from historic urban gems to contemporary trend-setters. Whether it is a fascinating past, an exclusive location, famous architecture and design or an award-winning dining experience, each hotel has its own distinct narrative and creates novel, story-worthy experiences for guests, while at the same time offering World of Hyatt members all of the program's benefits.

Steeped in history, The Great Scotland Yard was once a dwelling



The Great Scotland Yard being formally inaugurated by Nicky Morgan, Secretary of State, Lord Jonathan Marland, Sir Edward Lister, UAE Ambassador HE Mansoor Abulhoul, Indian High Commissioner Ruchi Ghanshyam, Hyatt Hotels Global President & CEO Mark Hoptmazin in the presence of LuLu Group Chairman Yusuf Ali M. A. and Twenty14 Holdings MD Adeb Ahamed in London.

for visiting Kings of Scotland during the Tudor period, while today the building is most famous as the former headquarters of the London Metropolitan Police force. In 1910, the building served as the British Army Recruitment Office and Royal Military Police headquarters.

Speaking about the new project, Yusuf Ali M. A., Chairman and MD of LuLu Group International said:

"London is one of the world's greatest cities and the Great Scotland Yard represents its illustrious past as well as its modern significance. The hotel spotlights the city's vibrant history, its several celebrated aspects and its status as a global melting pot. In essence, we have curated an unmatched experience for every guest while recreating the historic premises into a symbol of ultimate hospitality.

We welcome you to experience this unique and fabulous experience at the Great Scotland Yard."

An 1820s Grade II listed building with Edwardian & Victorian architecture, the high-end luxury boutique hotel with 7 floors and spanning 93,000 sq ft has 153 rooms and 15 suites apart from a 2-bedroom townhouse VIP-suite created from part of the original Scotland Yard Police premises. The hotel also

features a library, gymnasium, meeting/conference rooms, a 120-seater conference space/ballroom and VIP function rooms.

Adeb Ahamed, Managing Director, Twenty14 Holdings, said "The Great Scotland Yard Hotel is a dream come true for us. The culmination of a path set long ago.

Transforming one of the world's most historic addresses into an icon of modern hospitality. Twenty14 Holdings' focus remained steady right through, keeping the building's reputation in mind, every effort made in its rebirth had to be extraordinary, beyond expectations. And, this is what has been accomplished. The Great Scotland Yard Hotel invites you to experience its myriad stories."

Once the famous and historical home of law and order in London's City of Westminster, Great Scotland Yard will be a modern destination, an innovative and lively space offering multiple F&B options – The Yard, The Forty Elephants, The Parlour and Sibin serving international & British modern food under the supervision of acclaimed Chef & restaurateur Robin Gill.

Peter Fulton, Group President EAME/SWA, Hyatt Hotels said "We at Hyatt feel extremely proud to find ourselves charged with preserving the illustrious heritage of this iconic building, Great Scotland Yard, and give it a new

life as the first hotel within The Unbound Collection by Hyatt. I could not think of a better London home for this brand, which is all about creating unique stays and story-worthy experiences. I want to thank the LuLu Group for putting their trust in us and handing us the keys to this one-of-a-kind hotel. We look forward to our continued success and building further on the fruitful relationship between Hyatt and the LuLu Group."

The hotel has partnered with the Koestler Trust, the UK prison arts charity, to showcase some of the award-winning pictures, ceramics, and sculptures by serving prisoners from the Trust's annual competition. The themed luxury hotel has secret doors, hidden rooms, shields, emblems, and historic details etched into glass and metalwork. Walls are lined in walnut paneling, antique bronze mirror work, and bespoke joinery, secret doors give access to the whiskey bar and signature restaurant, marble marquetry design flooring graces the cocktail bar with built-in banquet seating lined with button-cushion leather. Newly commissioned works of art and curated interior displays using antiques, collectables, and ephemera recall multiple aspects of the history of crime, detective work, and the police – as well as the hotel's location.

## School, LoYAC hold workshop for special students

# DBS celebrates special needs students

By Michelle Fe Santiago  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 7: The Dasman Bilingual School (DBS) in collaboration with the LoYAC Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA) held on Tuesday three workshops for special needs students namely the Move and Motion, Arts Workshop and Music Workshop at the Dasman Bilingual School in commemoration of the United Nation's International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD).

The UN IDPD is being observed to protect and promote the understanding and dignity of people with disabilities and a special time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of persons with disabilities.

During the workshops, the special needs students had fun in dancing in the Move and Motion, creating colourful paintings masterpieces in the Arts Workshop and singing their hearts out in the Music Workshop.

"We celebrate the special needs students every single day. They are part of the school culture. We are a special needs school and a regular school at the same time and we have been like this for 23 years. We are the first inclusive school in Kuwait and we are very proud of that. Our special needs students are part of the school culture, school community. They take part in every activity that we do. So we celebrate it everyday but of course today is a special day because it's the International Day for Persons with Disabilities," stated Dasman Bilingual School Superintendent Samar Dizmen as she thanked LoYAC – Organization in Kuwait for Youth Development for collaborating with DBS.

### Empowers

The LoYAC Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA) is an academy that empowers the talented youth of Kuwait to develop their skills and nurture their passion through programs in the fields of theatre, dance and music. LAPA was founded out of the deep belief in the therapeutic qualities of Art in all its forms. LAPA is the first private Arabic academy for performing arts in Kuwait. It started in 2003 and was officially established in 2010 and offers the youth workshops in acting, music, singing, and dancing.

"Today LoYAC is collaborating with LAPA, our Art Academy and with Dasman Bilingual School to deliver three workshops for the special needs kids here in Dasman Bilingual School. This initiative is to fulfill our commitment towards the society and our mission which is to provide unique opportunities for youth to evolve into effective citizens. Without collaboration with institutions like Dasman School, we find it impossible to deliver our mission especially that we cater to all segments of youth in Kuwait regardless of their nationality, gender or any other category," outlined LoYAC General Manager Al Razi Al Budaiwi.

Al Budaiwi cited that this is the first collaboration between DBS and LoYAC. They usually start it with workshops and then discuss it with the schools to find out their needs.

"By doing so, we can develop a sustainable program with measurable impact on the kids. This is just a start and we hope that cooperation between us and Dasman Bilingual school will continue so we can achieve more impact. I would like thank Dasman Bilingual School for



Dance workshop



Dasman Bilingual School Superintendent Samar Dizmen



Photos by Bassam General Manager Al Razi Al Budaiwi.

## First Gulf company to share its expertise with UAE

# KGL participates in RTA – Sharjah celebrations

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 7: On the occasion of the 48th anniversary of UAE's national day, KGL Passenger Transport Services, participated in the celebrations organized by the Roads & Transport's Authority (RTA) in the Emirate of Sharjah at its premises located in Al Azra area in the presence of HE, Yousuf Saleh Al Suwaidi, RTA Chairman and management along with Fahad Al-Awadhi CEO of KGL Passenger Transport Services (a subsidiary of KGL in the Emirate of Sharjah) and other partners.

Fahad Al-Awadhi, said: "in this honorable patriotic occasion, we are proud to congratulate our brothers in the UAE wishing them further progress and prosperity and are honored to take part in UAE's national day celebrations in general and the Emirate of Sharjah in particular. Our initiative stems from our deep appreciation to our sister country to which we owe sharing its joyful patriotic occasions as we pride ourselves of being part of its prosperity."

Al-Awadhi asserted that KGL Passenger Transport Services prides itself of being the first Kuwaiti and Gulf company to move its expertise to the UAE, hence effectively participating in boosting the public transportation's sector with the latest updates in transport systems. The company offers the easiest, fastest, most convenient, safest, and most affordable transport

services through its fleet of buses. Al-Awadhi elaborated: "since the launch of its operations in the Emirate of Sharjah in 2007, the company works restlessly to distinguish its offerings to satisfy its passengers who trust its services and in recognition of the RTA's confidence in the quality of services it provides. This confidence is

entrusting us with their kids. This is a valuable gift and we're honoured to be working with the special needs kids and to deliver our mission, beamed Al Budaiwi.

Dizmen also looks forward to collaborating with LoYAC in the future. "What made my day is to see the students dancing even before they started the session. The happiness in their eyes, the confidence that they radiate because the community in Kuwait is not an inclusive community so I'm sure they see eyes all the time looking at them in a weird



RTA Sharjah awards its strategic partner KGL.

the main drive behind our continuous quest to develop our services according to latest developments in the international transportation industry."

Al-Awadhi further elaborated that the company has recently increased its fleet in the Emirate of Sharjah to reach 220 buses of eco-friendly Euro 5 model, reinforcing the company's commitment in applying the latest global standards for environmental management and quality (ISO)

"This growth in our fleet was a result of gaining our customers' trust" continued Al-Awadhi, "which led it to doubling our capacity hence extending our services to a larger customer segment and optimizing our network coverage". Al-Awadhi concluded: "Our business model highly considers preserving the environment, focusing on deploying the latest in information technology, using satellite-tracking systems to assess the buses' speed while monitoring them through GPS, as well as applying developed monitoring systems to guarantee unparalleled operational services".

It is worth mentioning that KGL Passenger Transport Services is the first Gulf company to transfer its expertise to the UAE, especially in the Emirate of Sharjah since 2007. It is one of KGL's operations in cooperation with the government sector in the Emirate of Sharjah.

"Actually, empowering them, enabling them is something very important because not everything is academic. We don't want more doctors and engineers. We want soft skills, humanity, empathy. This is what we should have. To give people a chance whether special needs or not because we are all God's creation. If we look at things from that point of view, everybody will be happy. Everybody will have a chance. Everybody will get an opportunity. Life is about sharing and caring. We are one community," stated Dizmen.

way, checking why they look like this or act like this. For them to be able to act freely with this type of happiness is something that I will never forget," she stated. Dizmen called on the people of Kuwait to have empathy, empower people with disabilities and help them transform these disabilities to abilities. Dasman Bilingual School has 350 special needs students and 300 students between special needs and mainstream that they call Learning Support Unit and a total of 3,127 students.



A photo from the event.

## First in Kuwait

# KIB launches service for booking appointment through phone app

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 7: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) launched the first-of-its-kind service in Kuwait allowing customers to book appointments via a smartphone application at all branches across Kuwait. One of the latest technologies in customer service, the service was recently debuted at an exclusive launch at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kuwait, in cooperation with CFM Gulf Company as the sole exclusive agent in Kuwait for the Swedish company KOMATECH which specializes in customer service and scheduling systems.

On this occasion, Othman Tawfeq, General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, said: "KIB's first-of-its-kind service in Kuwait is one of the latest technologies in customer service. Through this service, our customers can schedule appointments via their smartphones, avoid congestion on the road, learn about working hours of branches and services offered, as well as receive priority when visiting the branch for quick services."

Tawfeq also pointed out that the introduction of this latest service came as part of KIB's new strategic direction under the slogan 'Bank for life'; the slogan was selected by the Bank's senior management and embodies the new strategy for developing systems and customer service. The launch of this new service will boost the level of customer service across Kuwait, not just at KIB, but also across all sectors that provide customer service.

### Efforts

Additionally, Tawfeq lauded the efforts made by the KIB team as well as their cooperation with CFM Gulf Computers, which resulted in the development of a 'customer service smartphone application'. Tawfeq added that this service will be followed by many more developments, as the Bank is continuously studying the latest services and products to be introduced to the local market; thereby exceeding its customers' expectations and serving diverse segments and lifestyles.

On his part, Chairman of CFM Gulf Computers, Eyad Omar Al-Serri, said: "I would like to personally thank KIB for

their continued trust and cooperation over the past years, culminating in the launch of this latest service. I would like to thank the Swedish company (KOMATEC) and its team on their boundless support in working to make this dream a reality. Currently, we're living in a stage that has jumped leaps and bounds to reach the future of technology we are in. Today, life has become centered around smartphones, which ultimately led us to develop this service."

### Sectors

Al-Serri also noted that the launch of this service with KIB will boost customer service across all sectors, serving as a 'gateway to the future' that enables people to adopt technology that helps humanity. He also added that competition in the market is open to everyone, where those who succeed must meet the needs of customers, provide quick and efficient services, gain the trust of customers, meet their goals, and turn their dreams into reality.

On this occasion, Khalil Al-Arian, General Manager of CFM Gulf Computers delivered a technical presentation on the advantages of the Swedish-made QMATIC digital customer service system. Al-Arian presented a brief historical background on the introduction of these products to the Kuwait market in 1990, as well as developments in the system over the past few years to remain up-to-date with the times. These developments have allowed this service to be one of the best devices and systems for customer service on a global scale. He also lauded KIB's management which has led the Bank to become the first in Kuwait to adopt this innovative customer service, which will positively affect all sectors, allowing both public and private entities to provide services to its customers.

Al-Arian also pointed out that this service is one of the best technologies to serve customers remotely. Today, customers can book appointments and avoid congestion before visiting the branch, helping distribute traffic over different periods, reduce waiting times and manage queues; thereby allowing customers to truly benefit from the services provided by KIB.

# Burgan Bank Premier clients can enjoy free screenings of 'Jumanji'

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 7: Burgan Bank in collaboration with Grand Cinemas announced today that Premier Banking customers will be offered the chance to watch the first screening of "Jumanji: The Next Level" movie for free at the most luxurious movie theatre – Grand Class VIP in Al Hamra Center, on Thursday, Dec 12.

The movie screening will be held on Thursday, Dec 12, with four exclusive screenings. Wherein each Premier customer is entitled to two free tickets on one of the four shows, at 2:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:45 pm or 10:15 pm.

Reservations are on first-come-first-serve basis as free seats are limited. Burgan Bank allocated a special number to receive calls from Premier cus-

tomers to reserve their free VIP seats for any of the four shows that will be available that day.

Premier Customers can call 22988211 from 9 am till 4 pm.

Burgan Bank is committed to reward its premier customers with exclusive offers and a wide range of benefits that are especially designated for them. To find out more about Burgan Bank's Premier Banking benefits and latest promotions, customers are encouraged to visit any of the bank's branches, or contact the call center on 1804080. For more information, customers can also log onto the bank's website on www.burgan.com or email: premierbanking@burgan.com.