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**PRIZE CONTEST:**  
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**SEE PAGE 17**



**WIN TICKETS:**  
Comic-Con prizes  
and contest details  
**SEE PAGE 10**

# PERBE'S PERGOLA!

**B**AHRAIN'S latest celebrity chef, Michelin-starred Chef Giancarlo Perbellini touched down in the kingdom as preparations were being put in place to transform one of the kingdom's oldest Italian dining destinations into one of his international signature restaurants.

The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention Centre & Spa's La Pergola will be rebranded as La Pergola by Perbellini following a redesign and extensive refurbishment. It is being carried out following high level talks and an agreement with the culinary master's architect and likely to cost more than BD200,000.

Chef Giancarlo has already appointed two leading members of his existing team to work the kitchens in Bahrain, alongside another senior chef from Italy, and he will be alongside them for the opening in late summer.

"It's very exciting times," he told *GulfWeekly* in an exclusive interview. "The reason we are here is because we must look at the layout of the restaurant and the kitchen and speak about the Italian chefs we are bringing in. We need to decide on

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By STAN SZECOWKA  
editor@gulfweekly.com



the timing for their arrival. We're looking at the middle of July."

He loves to define himself as an 'artisan cook'. Xbe (pronounced Perbe) is Perbellini's brand, his 'corporate' logo and it is also the nickname that friends have always given him. It is on his uniforms at all official events, bringing his way of understanding cuisine and of doing business both within and outside the national boundaries.

He told *GulfWeekly* that the new design of La Pergola by Perbellini will be inspired by his outlet Al Capitan, a winning vibe that will also be mirrored at his new restaurant in Milan which opens at the end of March.

As well as celebrating the cuisine, restaurant reviewers have also highlighted its 'warm and welcoming ambience in the heart of Verona'.

He says the aim will be to create a similar buzz in Bahrain with a feel that encapsulates the desert sands alongside the waves and beauty of the Arabian Gulf.

**Turn to Page 2**



**ALL SMILES:** Chef Xbe at the restaurant which will soon bear his name



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# Write to the editor

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I HAVE been noticing this for a while now. Whenever I hit a highway, I rattle around to find the board that displays the speed limit. And, very rarely must I have driven below that speed limit.

Now, even though this ensures I reach places faster, I have realised that these days we are all rushing towards our destination. We have started assuming that every action that we do in our life is a task. A task that we must finish at the earliest, in the best possible way, and our brains have evolved to undertake the Gantt chart constructions to accommodate everything.

It is not about the journey anymore, rather, it is about each milestone and reaching all the thought-of nodes in life.

Sometimes, the voyage is far more important than

## Youth Talk By Saamia Zia



where you reach but in today's fast-paced life, this doesn't seem to pan out.

Even when I am going out with my family, it is a sort of checklist in my brain - café, dinner, drive. And then, instead of enjoying my time at dinner or having a pleasant drive, I am knocking off these three from the checklist.

I am sure that a lot of people do this. Life has become far more hectic now and people are (and not incorrectly) very achievement-driven (reaching destinations) but one must realise that happiness doesn't require big things to happen.

Happiness all depends on where you derive it from.



WE are pleased to have witnessed such a great turnout at the Bahrain Food Festival since its launch last month, and we look forward to welcoming more visitors from inside and outside the kingdom in the coming days.

We are also delighted to see so many promising local ventures in the food sector. The festival provides an ideal platform for local talents to showcase their concepts. BTEA will continue to provide the necessary support for

the development of such projects in Bahrain, further strengthening the kingdom's position among other countries in the region.

**Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa, CEO, BTEA.**

● **Editor's note:** The third edition of the Bahrain Food Festival has attracted more than 80,000 visitors since it opened to the public on February 22. It runs until Saturday. More details in Leisure Guide: Pages 12, 13 & 14

## THE WHISPERER

You don't know me; I know you, I know what's being said about you. I'm the 'whisperer'. I am socially mobile: Arab, Brit, Indian, Pakistani, American and the rest, they all invite me and share their world with me. Not much gets past me but if you think it may have done, email me on ...

...[editor@gulfweekly.com](mailto:editor@gulfweekly.com)

THE world premiere of *Baloo the Movie* has fittingly taken place at the RIA Centre for Children with Special Needs in Adliya where the loveable rescue Labrador, the star of two fund-raising books, regularly brings joy and laughter to autistic children and those with communication challenges.

The eight-minute long docu-drama was made by Bahrain-based filmmaker Jason Carter and is a 'super fun story', told by Baloo himself - a film about his time in the region, documenting some of the highlights of his life.

The release coincided with aging Baloo's 13th birthday and it will be used to help highlight and promote the work of therapy dogs. Owner Sarah Clarke said the response to the movie has been 'amazing' and a few tears have been shed too. "Jason did a fabulous job," she added. Check it by placing your smart phone over the QR code. There won't be a dry eye in the house.



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# Signatures for success

## From Page 1

As well as the look he knows Italian food connoisseurs and regulars of the Gulf Hotel outlet will judge him on the quality of the fare on offer.

"I believe in bringing real Italian cuisine and traditional recipes to the table with my own twist," he explained. "You must always remember that taste is the most important thing, you may make the dishes in a new way but you must always remember the taste."

Garfield Jones, CEO of Gulf Hotels Group, is delighted to have signed up such a culinary legend and thinks the vast sums to be invested in the restaurant's refurbishment, will be money well spent. Work will start in mid-May and it will remain closed until the grand reopening ceremony.

This will be the hotel's second venture with a Michelin-starred chef, following on from the introduction of Rasoi by

Vineet in 2015, which was not only voted best Indian restaurant but picked up the plumb prize of 'Best Restaurant' in the whole kingdom at last year's Bahrain Food and Travel Awards.

"Following on from the success of Rasoi by Vineet, we certainly expect great things from Chef Perbellini who will deliver the very best in Italian cuisine," Garfield added.

Not much pressure then?

Although he will be a frequent visitor to the island in the coming months and conducting the kitchen orchestra well before the opening date, Xbe has already appointed a pair of safe hands - Zeno Bevilacqua and Matteo Mez - who are well-versed to the standards he sets.

One currently works in the kitchens of his Italian gourmet restaurant and the other was sous chef at his Hong Kong operation. "They know very well what we want to do here in Bahrain," he said. "We



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The chef at work in the kitchen with his team, right, CEO of Gulf Hotels Group, Garfield signing the contract, and, below, one of his dishes and the Al Capitan restaurant

will make something fresh. A new concept - we look at traditional Italian cuisine in a modern way, with our eyes and with our hearts."

Long-standing favourites on the current menu will remain in place such as the famous La Pergola Salad and he's

not adverse to amending his own dishes to take account of local tastes, something he successfully adopted for the Chinese market in Hong Kong.

To tempt the taste buds, on the menu will be his unique Carbonara creation, an Italian pasta dish originating from Rome made with egg, hard cheese, guanciale and pepper and given a 'Xbe twist' with shrimps and there's also his take on Mozzarella cheese, which originates in Naples, and comes served with bread on the side. Langoustines with peas and mandarin and Mille-feuille 'strachin' are firm favourites too.

Coming from a long line of pastry makers held in high regard since 1890, it's no surprise that Giancarlo is known for his desserts.

Despite working with some of Europe's greatest chefs, he says the most influential mentor he ever had was his grandfather. "My grandfather was a very important figure in my life," he explained. "From a young age he taught me how to make amazing pastry."

He keeps his memory alive in the kitchen, where his chefs often wear traditional waistcoats and flat caps, just as his grandfather would have done.

Born in 1964 in Bovolone, a quiet town located in the Verona valley, Xbe's roots lie in the great Italian rural tradition, where the land and its produce are a fundamental resource. He grew up while cultivating a passion for pastry-making, kept alive by his family, and for cuisine, to which he decided to dedicate his studies and career.

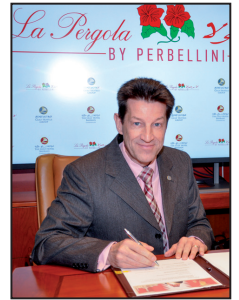
His first steps were taken at the restaurant Marconi and 12 Apostoli in Verona, to then take off at San Domenico

in Imola. The elegant and refined atmosphere at Gianluigi Morini's grande maison and the French inspiration of Nino Bergese's cuisine led him to important restaurants outside Italy, placing refinement alongside tradition.

From Taillevent to Ambroisie, as well as Terrasse in Juan Les Pins and Chateau d'Esclimont, thanks to his experience at these temples of cuisine, he created a foundation within haute cuisine.

In 1989, he opened an eponymous restaurant in Isola Rizza, where he was able to temper the taste of tradition with innovation. Three years later, in 1992, his hard work produced its first results - he was awarded the Chef European du Poisson.

In 1996, Giancarlo Perbellini earned his first

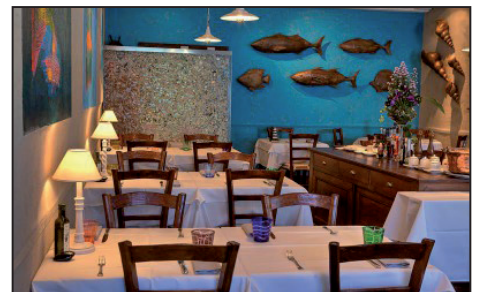


Michelin star and in 1998 he was named Emerging Chef by the Espresso Guide. His second star was awarded in 2002, to which were added three forks from the Gambero Rosso Guide in 2005. He has been President of the Italian Commission of the prestigious competition for chefs, the Bocuse d'Or, since 2010.

He disseminated his knowledge at four other restaurants and, along with other partners, endorsed the opening of the gourmet pizzeria Du de Cope, Locanda Quattro Cuochi, the restaurant Al Capitan della Cittadella and Tapasotto.

During the same years, he exported Italian culinary excellence abroad, curating the opening of the restaurant Rana in New York in November 2012. Then, in March 2014, he endorsed Locanda for the Indian group Dining Concepts, which opened in Hong Kong in the centrally-located Ocean Centre in Kowloon.

The Xbe world continues to be a contrast of the old and the new. It's one in constant evolution ... a gastronomic restaurant, a tapas bar, a pizzeria, a seafood table and even a boutique hotel. In Verona, Venice, New York, Hong Kong and now a venture into the Middle East with La Pergola by Perbellini in Bahrain.





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# Dishing up a winning idea

**ENTREPRENEUR**  
Nada Rahimi has proven herself to be one of the brightest business minds in the kingdom after winning a prestigious national accolade and being chosen to represent Bahrain on the world stage.

The 26-year-old, a full-time student at Bahrain Polytechnic majoring in Management, is the founder of Prep-a-Plate, a business designed to streamline the food preparation process in order to prevent excess shopping and food consumption.

Nada, who lives in Hamad Town, said: "I used to have trouble managing my life as a student, a part-time employee and being a wife taking care of my family. I had so little time to think about myself and it all led me to gain lots of weight in so little time, and I faced serious health issues as a result."

"That is when I decided to go by a system where I'd pre-prepare all of my meal ingredients, freeze them and defrost them when I needed to cook, and even left my family members an easy 'how-to' description to follow on preparing any meal that included the ready ingredients."

"A while later, I started my studies in Bahrain Polytechnic and used this idea as a subject project."

She then developed the concept and came up with the Prep-a-Plate idea with encouragement from her tutor, Evelyn O'Donoghue.

Customers place orders for pre-prepared healthy meals through phone calls and text messaging, with an app in the pipeline for future project expansion. The food is delivered ready to be put straight in the oven, or the stove, or in the microwave.

For busy business people and students this saves time and prevents waste from buying too many ingredients and weight gain from overindulging and snacking. Nada has more than 70 customers, many of whom are regular followers.

Her crowning achievement was coming first in the Bahrain leg of the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA), dubbed as the premier global competition for



**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By KRISTIAN HARRISON  
kristian@gulfweekly.com

students who own and operate a business while attending college or university.

Nada competed against six other finalists and emerged victorious in front of a four-strong judging panel made up of Tamkeen's Mohamed Ahamadi and Hassan Yaseem, Faeed Bader of Bader Group, and Esmahan Bokhowa, financial director of Bokhowa Group.

She will now fly to Toronto, Canada for the grand finals to be held on April 14-17, where she will compete against 55 other global participants.

Nada explained: "I was very honoured to win this competition, as the others had really bright ideas and promising businesses. I will be sure to use this success to strengthen my position in the market as the judges provided such important points of improvement on my business concept."

"To be honest, I am nervous about going to Toronto - competing with students from all around the world with so many successful businesses, and all having their own dreams is overwhelming."

"As for my own future, the next step will be increasing my customer base, adopting new marketing methods and launching the app. I have always dreamed of having my own business and to be my own manager, so I would love to see Prep-a-Plate grow to have several branches or a big centre able to service the Bahrain population, and then several other branches in nearby countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE."

"Of course, I have to overcome the most difficult obstacle for any budding

entrepreneur ... time management!"

"I have great difficulty with this, what with studying, Prep-a-Plate, competitions, taking online courses to improve my business acumen, and family commitments. I try to devote a certain number of hours a day to each, and I'm so grateful for my family's support when I can't always give them full attention."

Nada's prowess has won her the acclaim of some of Bahrain's best business minds. Judge Esmahan, managing director of Saar Mall, believes Nada has the ability to go all the way. She said: "Nada had a unique project that she presented extremely confidently. It is of a benefit to lots of working people in society, making their lives easier."

"We decided to choose her as the winner because it was clear she had lots of knowledge about her project, with confidence that her business plan would succeed, and she also demonstrated how much research she had carried out."

Furthermore, the GSEA organiser and Nada's mentor, Safa Sharif, is proud of his student's accomplishments. He explained: "I had the chance to mentor Nada for 12 weeks during the Mashroo3i competition organised by Tamkeen, and it was a pleasure to get to know her. "Prep-a-Plate has a very good cause and adds value in so many aspects. Not only that, but Nada has always been very committed, focused and willing to develop. She had the right attitude from Day One so I was not surprised to see her win."

"I wish her the best of luck for the Global Finals and I'll be supporting her all the way."



PRIZE TIME: Safa presents Nada with her first prize and, below, the judging panel at work



## New Season Begins

### March 8

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## zinger deals

Putting Bahrain's supermarkets under the spotlight and searching for the best deals

### Lulu Hypermarket

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 LuLu Coffee Gold 200gm – BD2.290  
 LuLu White Egg Medium 30 per tray – BD1.725  
 LuLu Smoked Turkey/Chicken/Beef Fat Free per kg – BD4.690  
 LuLu French Fries 1kg – BD0.625  
 LuLu Ice Cream Vanilla 4Ltr – BD1.990

### Jawad Supermarket

Lays Forno Authentic Cheese 170gm – BD0.750  
 Americana Super Ground Beef 4x400g – BD1.250  
 Mixed Vegetables 4x400gm special offer – BD1.100  
 S.I.S Fine Sugar 2x1kg – BD1  
 Americana Super Ground Mutton 4's – BD1.615  
 Mixed Vegetables 4x400gm 1x4's special offer – BD1.050

### Al Jazira Supermarket Zinj

Jubileu Chocolate Pralines with Caramel 12X200gms – BD2.600  
 Guylian La Truffina Assorted Truffles 12X90gms – BD2.250  
 Guylian Opus Assorted Chocolate Pralines 12X90gms – BD2.250  
 Cemai Sea Shell Box 13X200gms – BD1.750  
 Godiva Mast.Heart Tab.D.Cho 3X6X86gms – BD1.200

### Carrefour Hypermarket

Shorook Pure Sunflower Oil 1.8Ltr – BD0.790  
 Rozana Basmati Rice 5kg – BD2.390  
 Almarai UHT Milk 1LtrX4pcs – BD1.150  
 Perdix Frozen Chicken 1KgX10pcs – BD6.990  
 Nido One Plus Stage 3 - 900gm – BD2.990

*These offers are available until March 14.*

## We're setting the pace with individual style

CITY Centre Bahrain's Spring of Fashion promotion features a special 'Fashion for You' segment with a team of stylists providing personal touches to purchases at the Central Galleria on the ground floor.

The popular mall, which boasts 340 exclusive brands, is offering shoppers the latest trends and a chance to monogram their special item by adding individual patches, initials, logos or decorative pieces such as flowers and pearls.

The first 20 shoppers of every day that spend BD100 will be able to redeem this prize. The receipt can be exchanged at the customer service desk for a token to be presented at the fashion station where an expert stylist will brand one of the newly-purchased items whether it's a hat, jacket, denim or bag. The shopper will also instantly win a BD10 gift card.

The campaign, which runs until March 31, also offers visitors spending BD30 or more to enter a draw for a chance to drive off in a



luxurious Porsche Cayman 2018. For more information about Majid Al Futtaim's City Centre Bahrain, please visit the mall's

customer service desks or visit: [www.Facebook.com/CityCentreBahrain](http://www.Facebook.com/CityCentreBahrain) or [www.citycentrebahrain.com](http://www.citycentrebahrain.com)

# Good time to be feeling Blu

**THE Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel Residence & Spa is the latest five-star property in the kingdom to invest millions of dinars in upgrading its facilities.**

Members of the media were shown around its gleaming new lobby this week and given a glimpse of a renovated guest room just days after newcomers to the highly-competitive sector opened their doors to guests.

As reported in last week's *GulfWeekly*, the long-anticipated Reef Resort unveiled its chic villas, sandy pools, spas and restaurants just as the Jumeirah Royal Saray beach destination, close by in Seef district, unlocked its gates.

The Diplomat Radisson Blu, owned by National Hotels Company, which first opened for business in 1982, detailed the progress of its extensive BD7.5m renovation project being undertaken across its public areas as well as its rooms and suites. Now boasting a modern blue and beige interior, the contemporary lobby features floor-to-ceiling columns and glass panels embossed with Arabesque patterns, plus elegant lighting to add to the ambience.

General manager Kosta Kouroutsidis, said: "We are



committed to providing the highest standard through the best hospitality and I look forward to welcoming both existing and new guests as we celebrate a new stage in our hotel's history."

A new outlet has been added in the lobby, called Royal Café, where guests and visitors can have casual meetings, a cup of tea or coffee and a quick bite, he added. And Olivos, an all-day-dining restaurant, has been given a complete refurbishment as well.

A warm and welcoming open floor plan has been created where the front desk and lobby seating area are mixed in a single large space to greet guests.

The Diplomat Hotel, located in the Diplomatic Area, offers a choice of 367 guest rooms, suites

& residence apartments. Its new-look guest rooms feature state-of-the-art technology with Apple TVs, sensor lighting and bedside docking stations.

The property has recently appointed Hasan Barakat as its director of sales & marketing, described as a 'timely appointment' as the on-going 'massive renovation' takes shape. "I'm sure we will benefit from his experience to market and correctly position our upgraded property," added Kosta.

As reported in *GulfWeekly*, the Crowne Plaza Bahrain has completed extensive refurbishment too and the Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain is about to undergo a full-phase renovation over 10 months.

**COOL COMFORT:** One of the renovated guest rooms, left, Kosta and Hasan and the new lobby





# Techtronic Specials



Your guide to the best in-store deals of the week

	Item	Make and Description	Store	Price
1	Air Conditioner	Nikai Split AC (NSAC18131), 1.5 ton, 18000 BTU, EWA approved, four metre pipe lit free, five years warranty on compressor.	Gajria Electronics	BD160 with free home delivery and installation.
2	Smartphone	Nokia 8 Smartphone, 5.3-inch WQHD Display, 4GB RAM, 64GB built-in memory, OCTA Core CPU, 13MP rear, 13MP front camera, finger print sensor, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, LTE, Dual Sim, Android OS.	Home Electronics	BD169
3	Vacuum Cleaner	Candy (TWDC1400 001) Vacuum Cleaner Wet and Dry, 1400W tank cleaner, INOX/Blue, metal pipes, six metre cable, cloth bag, stainless steel tank.	Sharaf DG	BD34.990
4	Vacuum Cleaner	Black & Decker drum type vacuum cleaner (20Ltr) BV2000.	Kewalram & Sons	BD40
5	Television	LG Super UHD TV 4K (55SJ850V), Nano Cell Display, Active HDR with Dolby Vision, minimal design, Optical Digital Audio Out, sound designed by Harman/Kardon, WebOS 3.5/3D Smart, Magic Remote, Magic Mobile Connectivity, HDMI:4/USB:3, built-in satellite receiver, floating screen.	LG, Sehla showroom	BD650
6	Earphone	Wireless Music Earphone HBQ.	Carrefour Hyper Market	BD1 This offer is open until March 14.

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## GADGETS OF THE WEEK

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**What does it do?** Say goodbye to messy cables and devices piled on top of one another with this awesome six-port charger station, featuring four rubberised grooves for holding various electronic devices, its own charger wires and adaptors, and secondary function as a portable power bank.

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**What is it called?** Pet Grooming Glove

**What does it do?** If you own a pet, this glove will spare you a lot of cleaning. It's very comfortable to use, and all you have to do is pet your furry friend like you're stroking them. It's guaranteed to be more relaxing than combing. It works on any kind of animal and it's very easy to clean.

**Cost: BD3**

Visit [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



**What is it called?** Retro Vinyl Coasters

**What does it do?** Tired of water rings forming on your beautiful furniture? These quirky vinyl coasters in the shape of old fashioned records aren't just cute, they're also extremely practical. Made from food safe plastic and ideal for the music lovers out there.

**Cost: BD5**

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WITH the Beast from the East causing the coldest start to spring in the UK for five years, schools, roads, rail and air were deeply affected by the extreme cold weather and snow.

Photographs hit social media when children took advantage of the frosty weather to make snowmen and to go sledging. From a comparatively balmy 27°C the white blanket across the UK looked magical. However, as the cold persists, thousands of people remain without power and motorists and rail commuters face severe delays.

It's this time of year when most of our family and friends want to exit the long winter in search of sunnier skies. And this often means, visitors ... and lots of them. Welcome to the Visitor Season.

We love having visitors, especially family. I like to play host and it's a chance to see Bahrain again through a tourist's eyes, doing more than just driving up-and-down Budaiya Highway to get from A to B.

It's the chance to show the fabulous spots you've discovered, the infamous brunches and an opportunity to pretend as though you are on holiday too.

## Elissa's island life

*An expat wife, mother, artist and runner*



My next visitor is my mum, which means the kids watching their P's and Q's, improving their table manners but it also means 'Grandma time' with cuddles and stories, love and laughter.

Some of our visitors like to stay up late and sleep in, spend mornings by the pool which can be tricky if they come to visit during school time as work is still going on.

But Grandma who is coming during school time, likes early nights and early mornings. My youngest son, whose body clock starts to function at 5.30am most mornings always finds it fascinating that Grandma is often up before him.

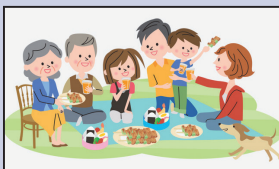
The emotional seesaw of having visitors is that when people come to stay they remind you what you have

left behind. You are able to fly back for the wedding or Christening but you miss the build up to the Big Day, you miss meeting the baby when they are first born.

You miss the Sunday lunches, the girls' nights in. When my mum flies back she will certainly leave a gap but luckily a few days later a dear friend and her two sons are coming to visit.

This particular friend lived in Bahrain for more than 20 years, so not only is she coming in the school holidays but I also don't have to turn into a de facto tour guide or chief organiser. We shall visit all our favourite places, and laugh at the highs and lows of living here as expats in Bahrain.

Visitors are generally excited to fly out and visit you, they can create amazing memories between you and your friends/family and if it's a particularly good visit, you'll probably be talking about it for years to come.



## Bahrain For All, All For Bahrain

Bahrain is a perfect paradigm of unity in diversity.

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**Friday, 30th March 2018**

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**OGN**  
OIL & GAS NEWS

The energy industry's  
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**Today (March 7)**

Juffair's Elite Crystal Hotel has launched a Flaming Seafood Platter promotion at Waikiki Kitchen.

**Full details in Eating Out: Page 11**

Buckle up for an electrifying grand finale in the 2017/2018 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship, taking place this week at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhr.

Test and Tune continues today in preparation for Qualifying tomorrow and then the last head-to-head battles of the season on Friday.

● **See Panel on P10 – Motorsport on Pages 22, 23 & 24**

KPMG in Bahrain is hosting a seminar to shed light on the impact of money laundering-related risks at the Downtown Rotana Hotel, Manama. *For registration and more information, contact Khalid Seyadi at kseyadi@kpmg.com*

The Bahrain Economic Development Board, with support from Start-up Bahrain, is hosting a two-day festival to celebrate the most innovative start-ups in the region, taking place today and tomorrow from 9am-6pm at the Bahrain International Circuit.

*For more details, visit www.bahrainedb.com*

The second Middle East and Africa FinTech Forum will be held in Manama today and tomorrow under the theme 'Beyond Disruption.' The forum brings together leading global experts and industry leaders addressing pressing issues in the evolving FinTech landscape.

Guest speakers include keynote speaker Anthony Thomson, founder and former Chairman of the UK's first fully digital bank, ATOM, and Eileen Burbidge, the UK Treasury's Special Envoy for FinTech, among others. *For more information, visit www.bank-abc.com*



The Steppingstone Global Team invites guests to its next business event 'Organisation Development' to be held at Wyndham Garden in Juffair today.

This is the 28th in the team's series of evening workshops, bringing together themes of leadership, management, strategy execution, and empowerment. *For information on how to register, email events@steppingstoneglobal.com*

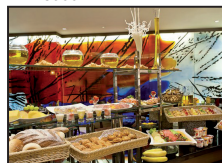
Catch the last day of the 44th Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition at the tent at Arad Fort, from 10am to 9pm. Admission is free. *For details, visit www.culture.gov.bh*

The Swiss-Belhotel Seef Bahrain is hosting a Business Lunch Buffet every day except Friday and Saturday, from 12.30pm to 3pm at Swiss-Café. Priced BD5.5net for a two-course buffet, or BD8net per person for full buffet. *For details, call 66310000.*

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's romantic overnight packages, such as the Half Board Deluxe, starting from BD158++ per night, are available until March 31. Includes overnight accommodation in a Deluxe Room, daily buffet breakfast at La Med, 20 per cent off at The Ritz-Carlton Spa, valet parking and access to Ritz Kids. *For details, call 17586808 or email rc.bahrz.spa@ritzcarlton.com*

Children aged four to 15 are welcome to join Bahrain Hockey Association training sessions at St Christopher's Senior School in Isa Town. *For details, contact hockeybahrain@gmail.com or call 39658618.*

The Gulf Hotel Convention and Spa is hosting a butcher's-themed night at Al Waha restaurant tonight from 7pm-10.30pm. *For details and bookings, call 17713000.*



Crowne Plaza Bahrain is holding a steak night every Wednesday from 7pm at La Mosaic Restaurant, priced BD18net.

The Harvesters Restaurant Pub & Terrace is offering a new Camel Burger with French fries and coleslaw. Ask to be part of the Beast Burger Challenge, and if finished in the stipulated time your meal is free and you receive a free T-shirt and your name on the wall of fame. Runs daily from 11am to 9pm. Priced BD8.410 per person. The hotel is also holding a South Indian Curry Promotion daily from 12pm to 11pm at Spices Indian Restaurant, available as vegetarian or non-vegetarian package. Priced BD4.840net per person. *For more details call 17531122.*

Elite Seef Residence & Hotel

is holding weekly ladies nights with live grills and the sounds of a saxophonist every Wednesday from 8pm to midnight at the Oasis pool area. *For details, call 17583388.*

The Elite Grande Hotel is hosting a seafood night every Wednesday at H2O Lounge with live grills by the pool and beautiful city line views. Priced BD12++ per person. *For details, call 17565888.*

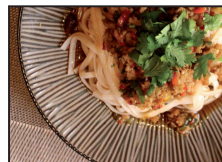
Le Meridien Bahrain City Centre offers a daily business lunch at Baharat Restaurant with a selection of Middle Eastern and Indian fusion cuisine from 12.30pm to 4pm. Priced BD12++ for full buffet, or BD5.5++ for soup and salad buffet. Children aged six to 12 dine at half price. Baharat is also hosting a weekly BBQ night every Wednesday from 7pm to 11pm on the Baharat terrace with live music from South African duo, The Deux Song. Priced BD18net inclusive of soft beverages, or BD24net inclusive of a free flow of beverages. Mezzanine Lounge is hosting an English afternoon tea daily from 3pm to 6pm, priced BD12++.

*For details, call 17171144.*

The Sheraton Bahrain Hotel is presenting a Szechuan Street Food promotion until Friday at Soie Chinese Restaurant from 7pm to 11.30pm, featuring street dishes like Szechuan noodles and seafood, meat, and vegetables. Priced starting BD2.500.

There is also a daily special lunch menu at Espresso Illy Café daily from 7am to 11pm priced BD2.9++ inclusive of soft beverages.

*For details call 17533533.*

**Thursday (March 8)**

The Swiss-Belhotel Seef Bahrain is hosting a Pan Asian Dinner Buffet specialising in Vietnamese cuisine every Thursday at Swiss-Café from 7pm to 11pm. Priced BD12net inclusive of soft beverages, BD16net inclusive of two selected beverages, and BD22net inclusive of free flow selected beverages. *For details, call 66310000.*

As part of its Art at the Harbour series, Bahrain Financial Harbour Holding Company would like to invite guests to visit its 22nd exhibition featuring 20 pieces

by Bahraini artist Aalima Almosawi, titled Searching for the Light.

The exhibition is open at Harbour Towers East until March 15. Admission is free.



The Sheraton Bahrain Hotel is hosting Indian Nights at Al Safir restaurant, with traditional Indian delicacies every Thursday from 7.30pm to 11.30pm. Priced BD10++ per person. The hotel is also offering the chef's specialty dishes every Tuesday and Thursday throughout March at Golestan restaurant.

*For more information and to book online, visit www.sheratonbahrain.com or call 17533533.*

The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention and Spa is hosting a Seafood Night at Al Waha restaurant tonight from 7pm-10.30pm. *For details, call 17713000.*

Crowne Plaza Bahrain is celebrating Mother's Day with special cakes from Cappuccino, available to order until March 21 with 20 per cent off your order. Minimum 1kg order.

The hotel also invites guests to its Asian Food Festival at Waves restaurant, featuring authentic Asian and Asian inspired cuisine all cooked under the watchful eye of Chef Suseno, until March 31 daily from 4pm to 11pm. There is also a seafood night from 7pm at La Mosaic Restaurant.

The Harvesters & Terrace is hosting a weekly night every Thursday of fun music, BBQ and selected beverages from 6pm onwards. Priced BD7net for entrance, inclusive of one round of selected beverages. Entry is exclusive to those aged 21 and over.

*For more details call 17531122.*

Al Areen Palace & Spa is staging an Arabian Food Festival at its Saffron restaurant from 7.30pm-11pm. There will be live cooking stations and a buffet. The festival is being held every Thursday and Friday and tickets are priced BD12. *For details, contact 17845000.*

Elite Seef Residence & Hotel is hosting weekly Layali Al Bazerkan Nights with live entertainment and grills every Thursday from 8pm to midnight at the Oasis pool area. Priced BD14net per person.

*For details, call 17583388.*

Elite Grande Hotel is hosting a Red Velvet Night every Thursday at H2O Lounge with choice of grills and selected beverages. Priced BD10++ per person.

The hotel is also hosting 'Hi Tea and Coffee' every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Ahlan Cafe with a special coffee price with free cookies for BD3++ per person. *For details, call 17565888.*

Elite Resort & Spa is staging weekly Layali Al Naseem Live Grill Nights by the pool every Thursday. Priced BD10++ per person. *For details, call 17313333.*

Le Meridien Hotel Bahrain's Seafood Night at Baharat Restaurant takes place every Thursday from 7pm to 11pm. Priced BD24net inclusive of soft beverages, or BD29net inclusive of beverages.

The hotel is also hosting a Retro Night every Thursday at its Mezzanine Lounge from 8pm onwards with retro-themed drinks and bites, and live entertainment from South African duo, The Deux Song. *For details, call 17171144.*



The Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain is staging a fun Thursday Night Out for guests at its Silk's Restaurant inclusive of live cooking stations, a buffet and music from 7pm to 11pm. It is priced BD32net per person, including selected beverages.

*For details, call 17460017.* The hotel is also offering a special wedding promotion. Book 60 days before your big day to receive 25 per cent off any wedding package, including 25 per cent off spa services at Rimal Spa and 20 per cent off bridal hair and makeup services at Elie and Jean Salon. *For details, contact the wedding and events team on 17460028.*

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, is hosting a weekly BBQ dining experience every Thursday at La Med from 7pm to 10.30pm. Priced BD20++ with soft beverages and BD25++ with selected beverages. The hotel is also staging a new weekly BBQ on the Bay at La Plage every Thursday from 7pm to 11pm with live music and an assortment of tender meats, sauces, side dishes and desserts on the beachfront restaurant. Priced BD25++ with soft beverages, and BD30++ with selected beverages. *For details, call 17586499*

or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

**Friday (March 9)**

The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain is staging a new weekend brunch at Nirvana, available every Friday and Saturday from 12pm to 4pm, with an extensive range of plated brunch specialties cooked to perfection by Chef Mahipal Singh. Priced BD16++ for adults and BD7++ for kids aged four to 12.

*For reservations, call 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com*

The Swiss-Belhotel Seef Bahrain is presenting a Seafood Lunch every Friday from 12.30pm to 3pm at Swiss-Café.

The hotel is also hosting an Arabic Dinner every Friday from 7pm to 11pm at Swiss-Café from 7pm to 11pm. Both offers are priced BD12net inclusive of soft beverages, BD16net inclusive of two selected beverages, and BD22net inclusive of selected beverages. *For details, call 66310000.*

The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is also hosting a CUT Brunch every Friday at CUT by Wolfgang Puck Steakhouse from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Priced BD24++ with soft beverages, or BD34++ with selected beverages. *For details, call 17115044.*

The Bahrain Bay Kitchen International, in collaboration with ARTDIVANO, invites guests to imaginative, innovative food fare with its weekly Friday Art Gallery Brunch, every Friday until March 23 from 1pm to 4pm. Priced BD25++ inclusive of soft beverages, or BD35++ inclusive of selected beverages.

*For reservations, call 17115500.*



The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention and Spa is hosting its celebrated Gulf Grand Brunch at Al Waha Restaurant every Friday from 12.30pm-4pm featuring fabulous fare from its award-winning restaurants. It boasts a fun-filled children's corner, a buffet selection offering 10 different cuisines alongside live counters, pool usage, live entertainment and an after-party at Typhoon Lounge. Price is BD32net inclusive of selected beverages, with special rates for Gulf Hotel Partners and Prestige Club members.



For details, call 17713000.

The Sheraton Bahrain Hotel is hosting a Chocoholic Friday Brunch at Al Safir Restaurant every Friday from 1pm to 4pm with live cooking stations, plus an extravagant selection of desserts and crepe station with lots of chocolates. It is priced BD34net inclusive of selected beverages, BD28net inclusive of soft beverages, and BD10net for children. *Guests can book by calling 17533533 or visiting www.sheratonbahrain.com*



Don't miss the Elite Resort & Spa Muharraq's Carnival Friday Brunch with music, merriment, sea views and pool fun all part of the package. BD14++ for adults and free for children under six and BD22++ with selected beverages. *Call 17313333 for more details.*

Le Meridien Bahrain City Centre's 'Sweetest Brunch' takes place from 12.30pm-4pm. The price is BD26net inclusive of soft drinks or BD38net inclusive of a free flow of selected beverages. Book for 10-plus guests and receive a 20 per cent discount. *For more details call 17171000.*

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's popular Absolutely Fabulous Friday Brunch from 12.30pm-4pm will take place at La Mosaïque Restaurant and The Harvesters. It's priced BD31net and BD8.750net for children aged seven to 12. The hotel is also hosting a weekly international themed night buffet every Friday from 7pm onwards, featuring a wide selection of dishes. Priced BD13net for food only. *For details, call 17531122.*

Elite Seef Residence & Hotel holds a weekly Grill and Taarab Night every Friday from 7pm to 11pm with live Arabic entertainment and live grills. Priced at BD14net per person. *For details, call 17583388.*

The Elite Grande Hotel is staging a 'Grill to Chill Night' every Friday and Saturday at its H2O Lounge with unlimited grills by the pool and beautiful city line views. Priced BD12++ per person. *For details, call 17565888.*

The Elite Resort & Spa is staging its popular weekly Friday Family Lunch with pool access, kid's activities and a wide variety of international food. Priced BD10++ inclusive of soft beverages. *For details, call 17313333.*

The Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities is hosting Al Fann: Art from the Islamic Civilisation from The

al-Sabah Collection exhibition until June 30 at the Bahrain National Museum. Admission is free. *For details, visit www.culture.gov.bh*

#### Saturday (March 10)

The 3rd edition of the Bahrain Food Festival continues at The Avenues until today, daily from 5pm to 11pm, featuring a wide selection of local food and beverage vendors. *For more information, visit www.bahrainfoodfestival.com/en/*

The Swiss-Belhotel Seef Bahrain invites guests to its Saturday Family Lunch every Saturday from 12.30pm to 3pm at Swiss-Café. Priced BD8net per person, children below 12 years old eat for free. *For details, call 66310000.*

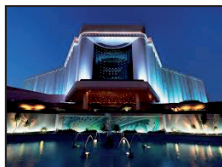
The Sheraton Hotel Bahrain is hosting Flashback Saturdays at An Nada Lounge for hospitality industry staff members working in hotels, hospitals, or airlines, every Saturday, with 90s hits from DJ John Bituin and discounted food and beverages. Bring work ID cards for entry. *For more information, call 17533533 or visit www.sheratonbahrain.com*

Soak up the stunning views from the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay's 50th floor and feast on Asian delights like Korean Fried Chicken Bao Buns, Wok Fried Shrimp Dumplings and Brisket Wontons at the re Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck's Saturday Brunch. The price is BD19++ and BD37++ with selected beverages. *For reservations, call 17115046.*



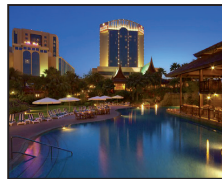
The Bahrain Bay Kitchen at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is staging a Saturday Brunch from 12.30pm-3.30pm offering a wide selection of Arabic favourites such as Lamb Ouzi and cold mezzehs, priced BD16++ including soft beverages. *For more details, call 17115000.*

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Cantina Kahlo's popular Mexican Brunch is priced BD35net per person, including food and beverages, and BD20net per person for food only. It takes place from 11am-3pm. *For more details call 17580000.*



Crowne Plaza Bahrain is hosting an International Theme Night at La Mosaïque Restaurant. The price is BD14.550net. The hotel is also hosting a weekly Asian Night Buffet every Saturday from 7pm onwards at La Mosaïque restaurant, featuring South East Asian specialties. Priced BD13net for food only. Selected beverage package is available. *Call 17531122 for more information.*

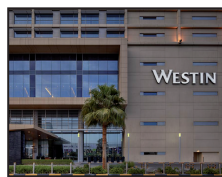
The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention and Spa is holding salsa classes every Saturday from 7pm to 9pm at Typhoon Lounge. Classes are priced BD10 inclusive of two rounds of selected beverages. Every Saturday, the hotel's The Art of Cooking classes take place from 10.30am to noon, designed for home cooks with busy lifestyles and a passion for food. It includes hands-on demonstration classes led by professional chefs. Priced BD18net, including lunch. *For details, call 17713000.*



The Elite Crystal Hotel is holding a weekly Sushi Night every Saturday at Waikiki from 6pm to 10.30pm featuring unlimited Japanese sushi. Priced BD10++ for food package, or BD15++ inclusive of selected beverages. *For reservations, call 17360360.*

Enjoy live cooking counters including saj, burgers, shawarma and oriental pizza at the Elite Resort & Spa every Saturday night, with live oud performances. Priced starting BD3+++. *For details, call 17313333.*

The Westin Bahrain City Centre is holding complimentary junior baking classes at Furn Bakery for children every Saturday from 9am to 10am, featuring hands-on experience and supervision from its master bakers. There is an optional kid's breakfast menu priced BD2++ for bakery items, plus water and juice for children aged three to 12. *For details, call 17171441.*



The Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities is hosting its 'Between Muharraq and Seville: A Bolza – Bussad Dialogue Exhibition' until March 20 at the Bahrain National Museum

from 8am to 8pm. Admission is free. *For details, visit www.culture.gov.bh*

The Bahraini Farmers' Market is back for its sixth season and will be open every Saturday from 8am-12pm until April 1 at Budaiya Botanical Gardens. Entry is free. *For more information, visit @farmersbh on Instagram.*



#### Sunday (March 11)

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) and Bahrain Polytechnic are teaming up to host an Employability Summit at the RCSI Bahrain campus in Busaitien. *For further details, contact Fadi Ghosn at fghosn@rcsi-mub.com*

The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is hosting a Red Carpet lunch at CUT by Wolfgang Puck to celebrate the movie industry's biggest event. Join Executive Chef Brian Becher and his team, walk the red carpet, and savour signature dishes to feel like a true Hollywood star. The lunch is available daily until today, from 12pm to 3pm. Priced BD14++ for two course menu with tea or coffee. *For reservations, call 17115044.*



The hotel's Chef Ravneet Manchanda will be leading an Indian Cooking Class and inspiring class attendees as he reveals all of his secrets while teaching you to prepare several classic Indian favourites today from 4pm to 6pm. Priced BD20++ per person. *For reservations, call 17115500.*

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain is hosting a two-course Business Set Lunch Sundays to Thursdays from 12pm to 3pm at its Italian-signature restaurant Primavera. Priced BD9.5++ per person including soft beverages. *For more details call 17586499.*

Crowne Plaza Bahrain is staging an FBI Night every Sunday Night at The



Harvesters & Terrace and Tracks Sports Bar from 9pm-1am. Drinks are 50 per cent off for employees of the food and beverage industry. The Harvesters is also hosting a new Think & Drink night every Sunday night. A fun night of trivia, join for a night of brain draining fun at the new trivia evening starting from 9pm onwards. Entry exclusive to those aged 21 years and above. The hotel is offering a Business Lunch at Waves Seafood Restaurant every Saturday to Thursday from 12pm-4pm. The price is BD8net per person for three courses. A Business Lunch is also available at La Mosaïque Restaurant every Saturday to Thursday from 12.30pm-3pm. The price is BD8net for three courses or BD6net for two courses. The hotel is also staging a weekly Italian Night Buffet every Sunday from 7pm onwards at La Mosaïque restaurant. Priced BD13net for food only. Selected beverage package available. *For more details call 17531122.*

The Elite Grande Hotel is hosting a Taste of Italy offer at Zodiac and H2O Lounge with a choice of Italian pasta or pizza and one soft beverage. Priced BD5++ per person. *For details, call 17565888.*

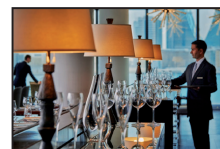
The Sheraton Bahrain Hotel invites guests to enjoy performances by its new Filipino band Ekklusiv, daily except Saturdays, at its An Nada Lounge from 9.15pm to 12.45am during weekdays and from 9.15pm to 1.30am at the weekend. *For details, call 17533533.*



#### Monday (March 12)

Enjoy smooth Midweek Monday Music at Coda Jazz Lounge in Adliya with the sounds of Dihann Moore & The SheGroovee Band while tasting bistro-style food. *For details, contact 34342828.*

CUT by Wolfgang Puck at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain offers business lunch every day from noon to 3pm. Enjoy a two-course meal in 60-minutes, with your choice of tea or coffee, priced BD14++ per person. CUT Bar & Lounge is also hosting 'CUT The Lounge to the Chase' featuring Celebrity Chef Wolfgang Puck's signature bites and drinks with chic music every Monday to Thursday from 5pm-7pm, and Friday and Saturday from 4pm-7pm.



Priced BD3 for entrance. There is also an Afternoon Tea at Bay View Lounge every day from 3pm-9pm priced at BD15++ per person, or BD28++ for two guests. *For details, call 17115044.*

The Elite Grande Hotel is hosting a Dish of the Day every Monday night at H2O Lounge with a selection of special dishes prepared by the chef. Priced BD10++ per person. *For details, call 17565888.*

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain Hotel is hosting a weekly French Night every Monday from 7pm onwards at La Mosaïque restaurant. Priced BD13net for food only and a beverage package is also available. *For details, call 17531122.*

The Movenpick Hotel Bahrain is staging a Seafood Night every Monday from 7pm to 11pm at Silk's restaurant priced BD24net per person and BD29net per person with a selected beverages package. *For details, call 17460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com*

#### Tuesday (March 13)

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain Hotel is hosting a weekly Catch of the Day Seafood Night every Tuesday from 7pm onwards at La Mosaïque restaurant. Priced BD18net for food only. There is also a selected beverage package available too. *For details, call 17531122.*



The Movenpick Hotel Bahrain is hosting a Kababna Night every Tuesday from 7pm to 11pm at Silk's restaurant, featuring mixed grills and freshly squeezed refreshments. Priced BD18net per person or BD30net inclusive of selected beverages. *For details, call 17460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com*

The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain invites guests to its afternoon tea experience at Lobby Lounge, daily from 3pm to 5pm, with new menu items such as foie gras terrine, organic chicken with eseplette chilli, and pistachio and spiced pineapple cake. Priced BD21++ per set. The hotel is also inviting guests to enjoy a special a la carte menu of artisanal cheeses at Plums restaurant until March 16, daily from 7pm to 11.30pm. Starting from BD6 to BD30. *For information, call 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com*



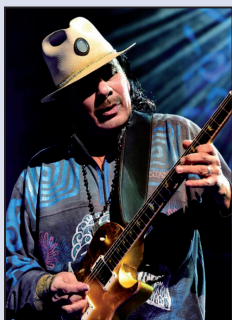


## Santana ready for F1 party

TEN-TIME GRAMMY award winner Carlos Santana is bringing his celebrated *Divination Tour* to the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) on April 6 to kick off the F1 musical entertainment.

Santana is a legendary voice of world music and a guitar-playing hero, known for hit singles *Black Magic Woman* and *Smooth*.

All three-day ticket holders to this year's Formula 1 Gulf Air Grand Prix will be able to attend the concert. Tickets can be purchased online at BIC's official website [www.bahraingp.com](http://www.bahraingp.com), by calling the BIC Hotline on 17450000 or at the BIC stand in City Centre Bahrain and Seef Mall.



**MORE than 55,000 people from 40 local and expat communities will take part in the upcoming Bahrain for All festival on March 30 at Prince Khalifa bin Salman Park in Hidd, supported by Tamkeen.**

There will be performances

representing the Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Filipino, Jordanian, Ethiopian, Thai, Bangladeshi, and Egyptian communities, among others. Special needs children from RIA Institute and Hidd Rehabilitation Centre will also put on special performances.

## Comic Con fever erupts

BAHRAIN Comic Con, the kingdom's first comic convention, will be held on March 16 and 17 at Bahrain International Circuit. Joe Keery, Jerome Flynn and Charlet Chung are among celebrities scheduled to appear.



WWE superstar and *SmackDown Live* GM Daniel Bryan will be appearing at the Comic Con, conducting a Q&A session and an exclusive meet and greet for ticket holders on March 16 and 17.

Tickets are available online from <https://tickets.visitbahrain.bh/>

For details, follow @bahraincomiccon on Instagram.

● Two lucky *GulfWeekly* readers, Neil Armstrong Jintalan and Hani Salman, have each won a free ticket to the event. You could be lucky too if you visit and like *GulfWeekly's Facebook* page – we have four more tickets to give away.



### SPRING OF CULTURE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Today**  
What: The 44th Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition  
Where: Arad Fort  
When: Open daily until today, 10am to 9pm

**What:** Archaeologies of Green Exhibition  
Where: Muharraq, Sheikh Abdulla Avenue  
When: Open daily until April 30

**What:** Al-Fann, Art from the Islamic Civilisation from the Al-Sabah Collection Exhibition  
Where: Bahrain National Museum  
When: Open daily from 8am to 8pm, until June 30

**What:** Between Muharraq and Seville, A Bolza Exhibition  
Where: Bahrain National Museum  
When: Open daily from 8am to 8pm, until March 20

**What:** This Compass will always point to Palestine  
Where: Art Centre  
When: Open Wednesdays to Saturdays from 8am to 8pm, until March 31

**Tomorrow**  
What: Rita Ora  
Where: Bahrain Bay  
When: March 8 at 8.30pm

**What:** Mohammed Bin Faris Band  
Where: Mohammed Bin Faris Music Hall  
When: Every Thursday, at 8pm

**What:** S4K's Macbeth  
Where: Cultural Hall  
When: March 8 at 11.30am and 6.30pm and March 9 at 6.30pm

**March 9**  
What: Abdallah Al Rowaished and Nabil Shuali  
Where: Bahrain Bay  
When: March 9 at 8.30pm

**March 10**  
What: Dar Al Muharraq Traditional Performances  
Where: Muharraq Al-Ghouse House  
When: March 10, March 24, April 21, at 8pm

**March 11**  
What: Khalid Al Hashimi Paradise Lost  
Where: Bin Matar House  
When: Starting March 11, Saturday to Thursday, 9am to 1pm and 4pm to 7pm, until April 26

**March 12**  
What: Rawda Al-Haj – Two Niles From The Ink Of The Poem  
Where: House of Poetry, Manama  
When: March 12 and 13, at 8pm

**March 14**  
What: Korea Sookmyung Gayageum Orchestra  
Where: Cultural Hall  
When: March 14 at 8pm

**March 15**  
What: Movie Night: Sitt Al-Bayt (Lady of the House), 1949  
Where: Qal'at Al Bahrain

**When:** March 15 at 7pm

**March 16**  
What: The Right Fusion Concert  
Where: La Fontaine Centre for Art  
When: March 16 at 8pm

**March 17**  
What: Warlukurangu Artists Exhibition  
Where: La Fontaine Centre for Art  
When: Starting March 17, Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 6.30pm, until May 16

**What:** George's Marvellous Medicine  
Where: Cultural Hall  
When: March 17 at 11.30am and 5.30pm, and March 20 at 11.30am

**What:** Likwid & Friends  
Where: Bahrain Bay  
When: March 17 at 8.30pm

**March 19**  
What: Parween Habib (Jasmine Night) Poetry  
Where: Shaikh Ebrahim Centre for Culture and Research  
When: March 19 at 8pm

**March 22**  
What: Jerusalem Arabic Music Ensemble  
Where: Cultural Hall  
When: March 22 at 8pm

**March 23**  
What: James Arthur  
Where: Bahrain Bay  
When: March 23 at 8.30pm

**March 25**  
What: Duo Etnopolis  
Where: Cultural Hall  
When: March 25 at 8pm

**March 26**  
What: Fadel Al-Sultani  
Where: Abdulla Al Zayed for Bahraini Press Heritage  
When: March 26 at 8pm

**March 27**  
What: Scenamide Exhibition  
Where: Bahrain National Theatre  
When: Starting March 27, daily from 8am to 8pm, until May 27

**What:** Construction and Architecture of the Island of Muharraq Lecture  
Where: Qal'at Al Bahrain  
When: March 27 at 7pm

**March 28**  
What: The 18th Bahrain International Book Fair  
Where: Arad Fort  
When: Starting March 28, daily 9am to 1pm and 4pm to 9.30pm, Fridays 4pm to 10pm, until April 7

**What:** Unveiling Beauty Lecture by Dr Sabiha Al Khemir  
Where: Bahrain National Museum  
When: March 28 at 6.30pm

**What:** European Classical Music  
Where: Cultural Hall  
When: March 28 at 8pm

**March 30**  
What: Ragheb Alama  
Where: Bahrain Bay

**When:** March 30 at 8.30pm

**March 31**  
What: Mary McBridge Band  
Where: Cultural Hall  
When: March 31 at 8pm

**April 2**  
What: Hubert Lang  
Where: Shaikh Ebrahim Centre for Culture and Research  
When: April 2 at 8pm

**April 4**  
What: Music and Mirrors Exhibition  
Where: Art Centre  
When: Starting April 4, daily from 8am to 8pm, until April 30

**What:** 36 Abbas Street, Haifa  
Where: Cultural Hall  
When: April 4 at 8pm

**April 6**  
What: Whirling Dervishes Ceremony  
Where: Cultural Hall  
When: April 6 at 8pm

**April 8**  
What: Enchained Dyads Works by Annie Kurkjian  
Where: Al Barez Art Gallery  
When: Starting April 8, open daily from 8am to 8pm, until April 22

**April 9**  
What: Rashid Issa  
Where: House of Poetry, Manama  
When: April 9 at 8pm

**April 12**  
What: The Very Hungry Caterpillar  
Where: Cultural Hall  
When: April 12 at 4.30pm, April 14 at 11am and 4pm, April 15 at 10.30am and 4pm, and April 16 at 10.30am and 4pm

**April 16**  
What: Hussein Shobokshi  
Where: Shaikh Ebrahim Centre for Culture and Research  
When: April 16 at 8pm

**April 23**  
What: Hassan M. Yousef  
Where: Abdulla Al Zayed for Bahraini Press Heritage  
When: April 23 at 8pm

**April 26**  
What: Movie Night: Toy Story (1995)  
Where: Qal'at Al Bahrain  
When: April 26 at 7pm

**April 30**  
What: Saad Jawad  
Where: Shaikh Ebrahim Centre for Culture and Research  
When: April 30 at 8pm

**What:** Evening Conversation: 'The Magic of Natural Pearls'  
Where: Bin Matar House  
When: April 30 at 7pm

For ticket prices and more details, visit [www.springofculture.org/](http://www.springofculture.org/)



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

AMCHAM Bahrain is hosting its first American Fun Day BBQ on March 23 at the Royal Golf Country Club in Riffa, from 1pm to 7pm, featuring traditional American BBQ, entertainment for all ages, swimming, and raffle prizes. Tickets are priced BD15 for adults, BD5 for children aged five to 12, and free for children below four. They must be purchased ahead of time and are available at AmCham Bahrain, Royal Golf Club and American Business Association Eastern Province offices. For more information, email [info@amchambahrain.org](mailto:info@amchambahrain.org) or call 17568186.

THE St Chris Community Big Band is performing a concert on March 15 at 6pm at St Christopher's Cathedral, playing hits like *Feeling Good* and *Eye of the Tiger*. Tickets are priced BD5

with accompanying children free, and are available from the Cathedral office at 17253866.

THE BSPCA is organising its charity Annual Dog Walk on March 16 at its animal welfare centre in Askar. Bring your own dog or book one of theirs. Registration starts at 9.30am and is priced BD10 per person, and the walk starts at 10.30am.

The event will include a raffle, market stalls, and refreshments. Information, sponsorship forms for those who want to raise more funds for the shelter and location maps are available on [www.bspca.org](http://www.bspca.org) and at the AWC, Thrift Shop, and Pet Arabia.

Contact Kate on 37733415 or Rachel on 66608901 for more information.

THERE will be a car boot sale at the Bahrain Rugby

Football Club on March 17 from 9am to 12pm to raise money for Tony the Dogfather's Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre. Price for booking a car starts at BD5 and there is a 500 fils entry fee.

To reserve a space, call 39801393.

BECKETT-MCINROY and CoachME Leadership invites women entrepreneurs, business owners, professionals, charity workers, parents and carers to a special workshop on the Seven Strategies of Resilience, led by Rima Al-Ibrahim.

The workshop is taking place at the Capital Club on March 17 from 9.30am to 12.30pm, and is priced BD25 including light refreshments.

To register, email [rima@beckett-mcinroy.com](mailto:rima@beckett-mcinroy.com) or call the office on 17590135.

THE Lost Paradise of Dilmun Waterpark is geared up for opening its 11th season with a host of family events and special offers. In time for its opening day, the waterpark will celebrate International Women's Day tomorrow, by offering ladies a 50 per cent discount on entry.

Plenty of fun games and activities and planned to mark the occasion too with beach picnic mats and bean bags, free henna, back and hand massage, plus a live DJ and acoustic musicians



will complete the chilled out atmosphere.

Guests will also have a chance to win a luxury spa treatment too from Al Areen Spa & walk away with a Ladies Night Season Pass with unlimited entry for the entire 2018 season. The day will be completed with

a special awards ceremony to recognise young women achievers who strive to make a difference in their own field.

Other events to look out for include the third Car & Motorbike Show and Colour Fun Festival with games, live Dhol and Bhangra music and Indian street food delights, both staged on Friday.

● A discounted rate is available on entry for all guests at BD10 for anyone over 1.2m in height and BD5 for those under.

### BAHRAIN CINEMA CLUB (Today)

**Film:** The Big Sick  
**Director:** Michael Showalter  
**Duration:** 2hr  
**Cast:** Kumail Nanjiani, Zoe Kazan, Holly Hunter.  
**Plot:** Pakistani-born comedian Kumail Nanjiani and grad student Emily Gardner fall in love but struggle as their cultures clash. When Emily contracts a mysterious illness, Kumail finds himself forced to face her feisty parents, his family's expectations and his true feelings. For details, call Huda Tabbara on 17725959.





# Eating Out

The places to dine in Bahrain plus culinary tips for the food connoisseur



## Burning desire to celebrate

**T**HE quality of the cuisine is hotting up in the kingdom and 2018 looks like becoming the year of the flambé (French for 'flamed' or 'flaming') with presentational flair as the order of the day.

Only last week a culinary torch was used to produce a crust on a glorious crème brûlée at an Indian restaurant and this week a Polynesian paradise pulled off the party trick by the pool.

The technique is primarily executed for dramatic tableside presentation and brave food & beverage manager Bharathi Perumal, known as Barty to his friends, was on hand to perform the honours at Elite Crystal Hotel's Waikiki Kitchen.

The aim, apart from the fun of the exercise, is to leave behind a subtle, sweet flavour without reducing the food to a cinder. Barty has clearly perfected the art when it comes to putting the finishing touches to Chef Mohan's mighty prawns lovingly layered in a secret recipe spread of mighty buttery mustard.

Whether there is a change in flavour as a result of flambéing is unclear. Some claim that because the flame is above the food and since hot gases rise, it cannot significantly affect the flavour. Indeed, experimental work shows that most people cannot tell the difference.

That said, in an informal taste test conducted by one restaurant reviewer of two batches of caramelised apples



**SKILLFUL APPROACH:** Barty gives Chef Mohan's delights the finishing touch and Ronnie brings a tray of treasures to the table

**GOURMET REPORT**  
By STAN SZECOWKA  
editor@gulfweekly.com



(one flambéed and one simmered), one tester declared the 'flambéed dish was for adults, the other for kids'.

I'd go along with that but readers can judge for themselves tonight and every Wednesday when this delightful dining out destination in Juffair delivers its Flaming Seafood Platter at just BD6++.

Chef Mohan, a native of Nepal, is one of my favourite chefs on the island who was

introduced to the flavours of the South Sea during his 17-year culinary journey, and once presented me with the finest crab salad I have ever tasted.

His platter is cooked to perfection and apart of his star turn jumbo prawns, he delivers heavenly hamour, calamari and two varieties of marvellous mussels in the mix with small jacket potatoes and a tray of accompanying vegetables which were cooked to perfection.

Although I enjoy the South Sea Islands-inspired surrounds of the quaint



restaurant, the pleasant weather made choosing a shaded cabana close to the pool the perfect place to dine with the good lady wife Kathryn and some friends.

The surrounding tall buildings offer a buffer to the wind and in the hot summer they even boast a clever air-conditioning chill for comfort if needed. Other nice touches included a beautiful basket of real flowers which added to the ambience.

On the evening we visited an impressive guitarist/vocalist called Richardo was entertaining folk from the

poolside stage. He played a superb version of Santana's classic *Black Magic Woman*, which had us salivating in between courses for the real McCoy who will be headlining the Formula One party at Sakhir next month.

The big screen flickered on the water as Barcelona performed their magic on the pitch ... what a perfect evening, marvellous live music, footy and fabulous fare!

The service was swift and friendly thanks to our waiter Ronnie.

Chef Mohan was not going

to let me escape without tasting some of his other house specialities which included some cheeky little fried cheese balls, a superb salmon dish with smooth mashed potatoes, followed by the juiciest, chunkiest scallops possible. For those with a sweet tooth, a tray of bite-size chocolate treats was also presented.

Barty the party man has lots of other tricks up his sleeve for this special venue which includes a 'Wings Is Back' promotion every Thursday - apparently Waikiki Kitchen used to dish up unlimited Buffalo wings in the past, and regulars have demanded its return. For the uninitiated this is a hot favourite US cuisine featuring deep-fried chicken, coated in a cayenne pepper hot sauce and melted butter prior to serving.

Every Friday a Pool Party is also staged with a buffet and selected beverages included in the price.

Find out more by calling 17360390 to make a reservation.

Check out the YouTube video interview with Chef Mohan and Barty by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone or visiting [www.gulfweekly.com](http://www.gulfweekly.com)







## REVIEW: *Rats in the Kitchen – Sherlock Holmes Lounge & Restaurant*

THEY love their reggae and ska in Bahrain and following the success of the *One Step Behind* tribute show celebrating the music of Madness, now it was time to stomp along with 'dad dancing' steps to the sounds of UB40.

Rats in the Kitchen flew into Bahrain from the English city of Birmingham, home of the original band, to perform at The Gulf Hotel Bahrain's famous British public house-style venue with a crowd that knows how to party.

A bitter split has led to the original UB40 line-up splitting up with the brother of the lead singer now performing with one act and the lead vocalist behind all the chart hits, Ali Campbell, joining two other playmates, in another version. The latter appears to be keen on collecting air miles by regularly popping over to the kingdom to perform (twice in less than a year).

But we can't get enough of their classic tunes, like *One in Ten*, *Falling in Love With You* and *Rat in Mi Kitchen* which the cover band was inspired to play with for their name.

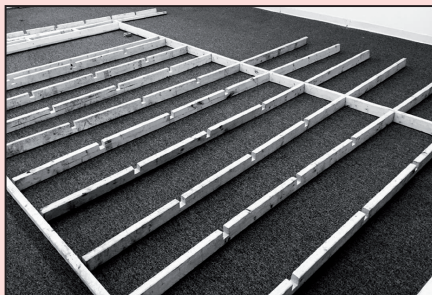
Singer Box did a fair impression of the Campbells, supported by Longdraw, also on vocals and playing guitar, Bill on bass, KD on sax, Joey on keyboards and Bamboo on drums. The band delivered a fun couple of sets to keep the Friday Brunchers well and truly satisfied.

Although Rats in the Kitchen had more than 50 UB40 songs in the UK Singles Charts to choose from, they added numbers from a few others acts too, such as Bad Manners' *Lip Up Fatty* and even Dexys Midnight Runners' *Come on Eileen*.

Perhaps they got carried away by the atmosphere because they then destroyed my personal UB40 favourite, a reggae version of the Chi-Lites' classic soul hit *Homely Girl*, by regretfully speeding up the tempo. But I was on my own as far as any criticism was concerned. The dance floor was packed and the crowd was happy to sing along in harmony to everything the band delivered.

They'll never find a more enthusiastic audience ... and one that's looking forward to the Police tribute act set to shine at this venue next month. They'll be Walking on the Moon in anticipation.

- Stan Szczowka



# Having a h

**V**IDEO artist Tamara Al-Mashouk, who went to school in Bahrain, is setting the art world alight in more ways than one ... as well as picking international awards and critical acclaim.

Born in Saudi Arabia, she moved to Bahrain in 2002, studied and worked in the US and has returned to the kingdom with plans for a new project here after a trip back to the UK to focus on a 'Gothic gingerbread villa'.

The 29-year-old's latest video work has received a Highly Commended Award from the Young Masters Art Prize Contest hosted by the Cynthia Corbett Gallery in London which attracted more than 750 entrants.

"It felt great exhibiting among some talented people. I didn't expect to win anything, especially coming into Young Masters with a video work - that was a surprise.

"Its aim was to spotlight art that has a relationship with the past. In my case this entailed critiquing the history of the male gaze. And, then there's the Mid-Century Modernist sculptural installation that I built then burnt down!"

Unsurprisingly, her work continues to turn heads and gained attention. Her video titled *License III* premiered at Gallery 8 in London and she was then invited to exhibit at The Royal Opera Arcade Gallery for the Young Masters 2.0 exhibition among selected shortlisted artists.

Tamara comes with an architecture background and six years of event production experience. She creates video installations for galleries as well as event-based art works for the public sphere.

She has produced large scale events and curatorial projects such as founding an annual all-female outdoor Fine Art Gallery at a music and arts festival in upstate New York and co-founded VISA Collective; two female Arab artists concerned with facilitating conversation and creating event based spaces to negotiate complex global conflicts through art.

She also installed a solo exhibit



DESIGNS ON FILM: Artist Tamara Al-Mashouk

### ARTS REPORT

By STAN SZCZOWKA  
editor@gulfweekly.com



featuring a five-channel video installation in the Mission Hill Gallery, Boston and curated an evening of video art screenings at 555 Gallery as a part of the city's Artweek event, premiered two experimental video art films at its Museum of Fine Arts and taken part in the group show titled *Neither Here nor There* at the Yuan Museum in Beijing, China.

But her inspiration for art and life started in Bahrain and continues to this day. "I moved to Bahrain in 2002 for high school, went to IKNS and had the quintessential high school experience. It's been home ever since.

"There's something really beautiful about Bahrain - not in the traditional sense of being beautiful - I'm so drawn to the open spaces. The places that contain remnants of the past ...





# oplast with video art



work, left and below, a collection of installations and stills from her award-winning videos

the open lots.  
"I'm obsessed with the monochrome beige in Saar, the graffiti that says 'Welcome to Vegas Baby', pictured below, and that small strip that has Alice in Wonderland on it and the man standing right next to it selling roses. So much source material!"

"I currently live in Saar although for the past year or so I've been travelling a lot. I

lived in Boston for nine years first for my undergrad, then a post bac diploma, then a masters, and some work study. "It's a magical place where I met incredibly talented and thoughtful people. I was able to work on a massive scale in Boston which kept me there and made me really push the limits of what I thought I could do."

"The arts community within

academia and the underground is rigorous and challenging while staying really supportive. I left Boston after so long there to do an artist residency at the Brewery Artist Complex in L.A. I needed to shake things up and challenge myself in new ways but I'll always go back to Boston as I'm still a member of an artist collective of event producers, musicians and artists there. And I still have friends there I care deeply about."

Tamara discovered video art in 2011. "I was transitioning from architecture to art," she explained, "and video provided the possibility of building worlds inside the screen and then in the tangible world by installing multiple projectors and screens."

"My first solo was a five channel video installation- each screen was 7' x 4' that I welded together and hung from the ceiling. I started projecting onto buildings, building massive

sculptures in warehouses to project onto, and setting up screens in forests."

"Aside from how satisfying it feels to see the work take on these massive scales, I really just love playing with light and setting up complex systems to project on to."

"My most recent project in London involved two screens that started out completely hidden from the crowd and then dropped down in a cascade in a choreographed sequence. The projectors were also hidden and lit up as the screens dropped sequentially."

She then projected live videos on to them in a three-hour long video performance.

The show goes on and Tamara has plenty of plans packing her notebooks. "I'm always working on several projects at the same time," she said.

"I have a notebook that has one really messy page per project and my mind kind of travels between them. I'll see a scene in my head for one video and write it down. The videos kind of build like this until they're done."

"The one I'm most inspired by right now is a video I plan on filming sometime this year about a house built in 1852 by Thomas Allfree, tutor to the children of Nicholas I, the Tsar of Russia, on his return to England."

"I ended up at the house over Christmas and fell in love with it. It has such a rich history and hasn't had that many owners over the years - those who did own it transformed it while respecting its heritage. It's become this beautifully quirky incubus of history. It reminded me of the Rokeby Villa in Ragnar Kjartansson's *The Visitors*."

"I've also been planning a video work I'd like to film in Bahrain too - but that one's staying mine for a little bit longer!"

● Watch this (rather large) space! For more details of Tamara's work visit [www.tamaralmashouk.com](http://www.tamaralmashouk.com)



## REVIEW: *License III* by Tamara Al-Mashouk

*License III* by Tamara Al-Mashouk is slow, breathtaking anarchy. It's six minutes and 38 seconds of a monument burning to the ground in slow motion in the pouring rain.

Al-Mashouk's work explores a dichotomous existence. One that simultaneously understands and critiques the social politics of being a contemporary Middle Eastern woman.

One that doesn't reject it, one that celebrates an alternative narrative, her narrative.

Her work is an unbridled exploration of how all of her parts come together and her tone is refreshingly honest and captivating.

*License III* is the final iteration of a three year series in which Al-Mashouk explores the relationship between the institution and the other. In its first form, *License I* is a two channel video that pictures Al-Mashouk using her body as a vessel for resistance through playful and challenging performance amongst brutalist architecture. It's strong, bold, and daring. It leaves us at once exhausted and exhilarated as with each fall she rises.

The sound of her falls echo, and leave us feeling bruised, celebrating our bruises as temporary tattoos of resistance.

*License II* sees the work transform into the mid-century modernist monument to be ultimately burned for *License III*. The installation from *License II* featured three performers, their positions in the massive installation defined by custom built spaces. They are contained and their intersectional narratives are housed within their performance and are freed and celebrated as the structure erupts in flames.

The transformation throughout the series from medium to medium, from narrative to narrative, from video to sculpture and back to video is a testament to Al-Mashouk's commitment to reworking core concepts and inclusivity. And, it is this same transformation that imbues the finale with explosive definition.

The burn is tragic and beautiful. The burn burns for all of us and we can all celebrate our freedom within the smoke and the entrancing burning embers.

Reminiscent of Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth house and Philip Johnson's Glass House, Al-Mashouk deconstructs mid-century Modernisms core elements with *License III*. She brings them to the forefront by the ordering of private and public spaces by placing them, dissected, on display for us. It's impeccably constructed, it's white lines draw in space, it's an uninhabitable home, and what it houses is an anonymous woman. And so, there are few things more satisfying than watching the same woman stand in front of the sculpture, flame in hand.

While the English voice over is bold and empowered, the Arabic is more self-reflective as the artist dissects the relationship between herself, her background and her aspirations. Both, however, weave together stories all too familiar to women globally.

The ambiguity lends itself to the ubiquity of every woman's experience, and it is this ebb and flow between the personal and the universal, between specificity and obscurity, that creates such a powerful connection to the work.

The editing is fluid, each pan seamless, and each shot absolutely crisp. The pans are reminiscent of Amie Siegel's camera movement in *Provenance*, and there is a hint of Ragnar Kjartansson's bubbling rebellion.

Each shot celebrates the sensuality of destruction, and the moments of heavy rain juxtaposed with the fire are enchantingly violent.

*License III* uproots your insides and leaves you wanting more and I for one cannot wait to join Al-Mashouk's triumphantly dazzling artistic revolution.

- Maral Pour





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# Fashion Weekly

Keeping you in on the latest trends and what they wore in the past

## Bagging a racy fashion look

**G**ERMAN brand MCM, which stands for Modern Creation München, recently launched its Spring / Summer 2018 collection called Viva Life to showcase its new direction.

The energetic and dynamic line is highlighted by two key themes - victory and unity - which are reflected consistently throughout.

The Victory Patch motif channels badges traditionally found on the uniforms of race car drivers, while the Stark Chevron Visetos series includes styles that seamlessly fuse a symbol of formidable strength and progress with the brand's timeless stylish coated canvas.

**FASHION**  
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE  
[mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com](mailto:mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com)

MCM's latest offering includes the debut of its Kreuzberg, a spacious and super-functional backpack inspired by its traditional rucksack design.

At the core of the brand's new seasonal offering is the Trisha shoulder bag. The softer, sizzling sister to MCM's Patricia bag, Trisha is the latest in a series of chic shoulder styles inspired by Patty, one of its most popular archive designs. Offered in three luxurious options including monogrammed leather, chain detail leather and suede, Trisha offers the perfect spring accessory.

For details, visit [www.mcmworldwide.com](http://www.mcmworldwide.com)



### Social Scene

#### In focus



WEMBLEY Sports Lounge on the fourth floor of The Premier Hotel, Juffair, celebrated its second anniversary with a Birthday Friday Brunch and a cake-cutting ceremony.



THE Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) held a gathering to celebrate Arab Tourism Day at the Arcapita building at Bahrain Bay. It was attended by several dignitaries including Dr Bandar bin Fahad Al Fuhaid, president of Arab Tourism Organisation, and the executive chairman of BTEA, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa, along with representatives from the tourism sector, including hotels and restaurants.

#### Tourism workshop



THE Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) recently hosted a workshop under the title 'Tourism in Bahrain: Challenges and Opportunities' at the Wyndham Grand Manama.

#### Beach clean-up



GPIC organised a campaign to clean the beach next to Bahrain Fort in cooperation with the Manama Municipality.

More than 300 students from public and private schools took part in the campaign armed with gloves and sunscreen caps, as well as drinking water, refreshments and snacks provided by the company. Several bags were filled with rubbish and debris.

#### Opening ceremony



LEBANESE casual café concept, Bebabel made its debut at The Avenues – Bahrain with a grand opening ceremony hosted by Dory Rizk, CEO of Afkar Holding and Babel Restaurants, Lebanon.

#### Feed the Need



MARRIOTT Worldwide Business Councils Bahrain organised a donation campaign with local charity Feed the Need at the Westin City Centre hotel by donating clothing and food items for the cause. The charity fills 19 fridges around Bahrain offering support to poor families and labourers.



# Education Matters



An educational insight and comment by head teacher Chris Fenton

**H**OW long does it take for a child to be influenced by their parents? Some research shows that a growing child learns things such as sleeping patterns and daily routines from inside the womb and, of course, physically we can all see little bits of ourselves in our children's facial features or movements.

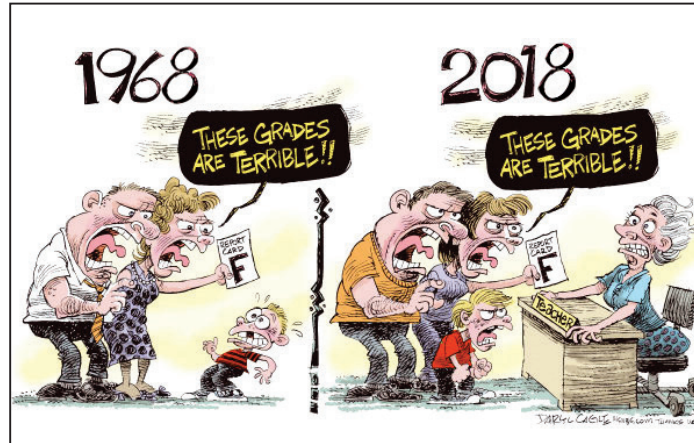
But physical and pre-natal influences aside, how parents influence their children depends on exactly how much time they invest in both their physical and emotional development. For example, sometimes, just being physically present is not enough. A Harvard University study showed that parents that may be nearby but that are not emotionally invested or responsive tend to raise children that are more distressed and less engaged with their play or activities.

A further study investigating the connection

between parent's investment and children's competence suggests that the emotional involvement of parents really does matter and affects the outcome of their child's ability to both understand and regulate their emotions.

Parents should keep this in mind when considering the quality of the time they spend with their children, because if they do not invest enough of their time and commitment into pouring emotionally into their child, the evidence suggests that the child will potentially struggle to learn important life skills such as interacting with others appropriately.

But the concept of parent / child interaction and influence goes even further since children learn exponentially from what their parents do as much as what they say, (the child of an alcoholic, for example, is statistically more likely to turn to substance abuse in adult life) and the example, therefore, that we set them, is of paramount importance.



It's very rare to be able to pinpoint the exact moment in which a child's behaviour patterns change for the worse as a result of their parents actions, but recently I heard of someone who witnessed this first hand.

A particularly unpleasant parent who had a habit of screaming at teachers and demonstrating all sorts of

brattish behaviour whenever anything regarding her child's school life was discussed, (a broken pencil case or a missing school tie, for example) took particular offence when her son's test results dipped.

Rather than taking the necessary steps of discussing whether her child understood the work or was having

problems at school she decided to blame the school entirely and with test paper in one hand and said child in the other she marched into the coordinator's office, slammed the exam paper on the desk and began screaming in characteristic fashion at both the teacher and coordinator herself.

This delightful lady blamed

the school, the teachers and even their nationalities without once thinking that a pair of young eyes was watching everything that she did and a young brain was deciphering her actions and deciding that screaming, shouting and blaming everyone-else must be the right way to go in life because it certainly got a reaction.

From the moment the woman's hand slapped the test paper on to the desk, her son's behaviour changed for the worse and has continued in that vein ever since.

If the boy does not get his own way, he screams and shouts at everybody and tells them that they don't know what they are doing. Ominously, he is showing racist tendencies too.

This is perhaps an extreme example, but it is something that teachers and head teachers do experience in their careers from time-to-time and it certainly draws attention to the importance of thinking before acting when children are nearby.

## Social Scene

### Celebrating friendship

THE Bosnia & Herzegovina Friendship & Business Society in Bahrain recently met at Al Hawaj Garden, Budaia, under the patronage of Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, minister of Labour & Social Development. Amongst those in attendance were Zoran Milicevic, ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina in the UAE, Ali Abdul Hussein Al Asfoor, governor of the kingdom's Northern Governorate, and the society's chairman Jawad Al Hawaj.



### Mini marathon



AROUND 1,700 people stepped out to run and walk in the 11th Annual Jawad Mini Marathon staged along Budaia Highway along five and eight kilometre courses helping to raise more than BD2,600 for the Bahrain Autistic Society.

### Festival of colours



MORE than 5,000 revellers took part in festivities at the Shri Krishna Hindu Temple to celebrate the famous Hindu Holi festival of colours - coating each other with multi-coloured powder.

The Rangotsav event was organised by the Thattai (Bhatia) Hindu Community and amongst those gathered were Indian ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha and British ambassador Simon Martin with their families, as well as a delegation from the Nepalese Embassy.

### In focus



THE Nine Training Centre in Zinj trained a group of employees from the Bahrain Public Transport Company on a practical trainer course supported by Tamkeen.



THE Rotary club of Sulmaniya and the Rotaract Club of Bahrain jointly organised a social evening to celebrate 113 years of Rotary International which was held at Upstairs Downstairs restaurant in Adliya.





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# Film Weekly



Movie-loving Anna Romanska checks out the big screen releases on show in a cinema near you

## New spin on sport



**I, Tonya** takes on truth, sport and relationships in a no-holds-barred dark comedy turned tragedy. This is diesel-fuelled figure skating, more like a knockout boxing match than *Swan Lake* in technical artistry.

This biopic, centred around the life of the prolific competitive US figure skater Tonya Harding, deals with her rise to the top of the sport's ranking.

Watching Tonya skate at the time was a breath of fresh air in a staling championship, the first US woman to land a triple axel. She was extremely talented, yet hindered on all sides by an abusive mother, abusive husband and a biased system.

Harding's future in the sport was thrown into doubt when her ex-husband intervened in her career, accused of conspiring to assault her greatest competitor, Nancy Kerrigan.

Margot Robbie plays Tonya Harding, and there's good reason for her Academy Award for Best Actress nomination for this role. She is phenomenal and captivating, down to the slack-jawed, slurred inflection in Harding's speech and her eager-to-please wink to the camera.

Her Tonya is rock 'n' roll on ice, blasting full volume, uncensored and just insanely talented. Robbie's face is so expressive that often the distance between desperate rage and euphoria is no greater than the edge of a blade.

Alison Janney, who plays Tonya's mother, LaVonda, has all the warmth of a prickly cactus, daring anyone to come close for fear of a pointed barb to

### I, TONYA

**STARRING:** Margot Robbie, Allison Janney, Sebastian Stan

**DIRECTOR:** Craig Gillespie

**GENRE:** Biography, Comedy, Drama

**RATING:** PG-15

**RUNTIME:** 120 Mins

the face. She's less a mother and more a savage drill sergeant.

Janney earns her own *Best Supporting Actress* win through subtlety and timing, her pursed lips a constant disapproval of her daughter's life during the highs as well as the lows.

Everyone in this film is kind of an idiot, but no-one takes the cake more so than Jeff Gillooly, Harding's ex-husband, played by Sebastian Stan, and his out-of-touch sociopathic best friend, Shawn, played by Paul Walter Hauser. Jeff does a stellar job teaching you how to hate him, a free course in what not to do as a man, husband, or conspirator.

There's an electrifying vibe of 1990s paranoia that hangs about the whole

film. Everyone is frantic and frazzled, like they're connected to a faulty battery pack that might fry them all at a moment's notice.

The script is beautifully composed, like a choreographed battle between a pathological world and a perfectly sculpted one, with a once-in-a-lifetime talent trapped in between. All Tonya wants is to skate and be loved, but it seems no-one is willing to give her a chance at either.

If you've never watched figure skating, then *I, Tonya* is a flash-bang introduction. In this sport, the competitors are masters of physics, bending the ice to their will all the while balancing on razor-thin edges.

The routines are beautiful, nerve-wracking and you're half out of your seat punching the air by the moment they land.

It's also just really darkly funny. The faux documentary snippets are brimming with ironic self-reflection and vastly differing accounts of the same story. They all insist they know what happened and most of the time, they're talking nonsense.

You'll have to make up your own mind about whether or not Tonya Harding had anything to do with the assault on Nancy Kerrigan. As Tonya herself notes, everyone has their own truth.

● **Now showing in:** Seef II, Dana Cinemas, Wadi Al Sail, Mukta A2, Al Jazeera

### ANNA'S VERDICT



1 popcorn - stay home  
5 popcorns - start queuing



## Bite-sized trailer

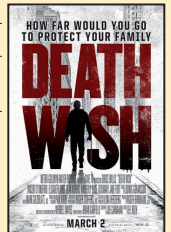
### Death Wish

**DIRECTOR:** Eli Roth

**CAST:** Bruce Willis, Vincent D'Onofrio, Elisabeth Shue

**PLOT:** Dr. Paul Kersey (Bruce Willis) is a surgeon who only sees the aftermath of his city's violence as it's rushed into his ER - until his wife (Elisabeth Shue) and college-age daughter (Camila Morrone) are viciously attacked in their suburban home. With the police overloaded with crimes, Paul, burning for revenge, hunts for his family's assailants to deliver justice. As the anonymous slayings of criminals grabs the media's attention, the city wonders if this deadly avenger is a guardian angel ... or a grim reaper. Fury and fate collide in the intense action-thriller *Death Wish*.

**SHOWING IN:** City Centre, Juffair, The Avenues, Seef II, Saar, Jazeera, Dana, Wadi Al Sail, Seef Muharrag, The Walk



### Gnome Alone

**DIRECTOR:** Peter Lepeniotis

**CAST:** Becky G, Josh Peck, Tara Strong

**PLOT:** When Chloe discovers that her new home's garden gnomes are not what they seem, she must decide between the pursuit of a desired high school life and taking up the fight against the Troggs.

**SHOWING IN:** City Centre, Juffair, The Avenues, Seef II, Saar, Dana, Wadi Al Sail, Seef Muharrag, The Walk



### The Leisure Seeker

**DIRECTOR:** Paolo Virzi

**CAST:** Helen Mirren, Donald Sutherland, Janel Moloney

**PLOT:** A runaway couple go on an unforgettable journey in the faithful old RV they call *The Leisure Seeker*, traveling from Boston to The Ernest Hemingway Home in Key West. They recapture their passion for life and their love for each other on a road trip that provides revelation and surprise right up to the very end.

**SHOWING IN:** City Centre, Seef I, Dana, Wadi Al Sail, Seef Muharrag, The Walk



## imdb movie charts

Current Position	Title	Weekend Takings	Gross to date
1	Black Panther	\$66M	\$501M
2	Red Sparrow	\$17M	\$17M
3	Death Wish	\$13M	\$13M
4	Game Night	\$11M	\$36M
5	Peter Rabbit	\$10M	\$84M
6	Annihilation	\$6M	\$21M
7	Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle	\$5M	\$393M
8	Fifty Shades Freed	\$3M	\$96M
9	The Greatest Showman	\$3M	\$165M
10	Every Day	\$2M	\$5M



# cerebrally crust & crema



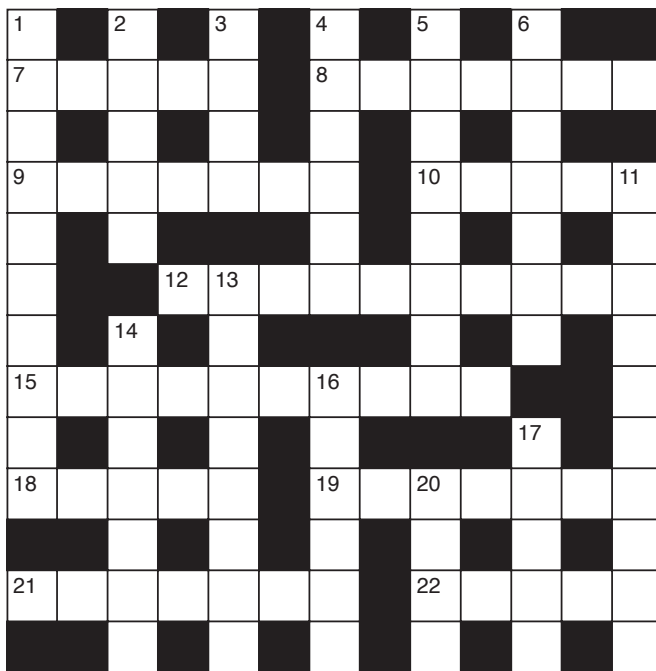
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PLANET DONUT & BAKERY

**WIN COFFEE-FOR-TWO** at crust & crema by answering this quiz question and emailing your answer to [editor@gulfweekly.com](mailto:editor@gulfweekly.com)  
**Kopi Luwak, the world's most expensive coffee is:** a) Processed during a full moon b) Brewed only with solid gold pots  
 c) Made from coffee beans eaten and then excreted by a Sumatran wild cat. Entries must be received by noon on Sunday. The first correct one opened will be emailed a coupon. Normal GulfWeekly contest rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.

Quiz winner: Deena Alkhamis won a cup of coffee by correctly answering that most coffees are a blend of (c) arabica and robusta beans.

## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

7. Commerce (5)
8. Stuffy (7)
9. Castigate (7)
10. Haste (5)
12. Colony (10)
15. Pronounce (10)
18. Grippers (5)
19. Immediate (7)
21. Occurrence (7)
22. Freight (5)

### DOWN

1. Skill in government (10)
2. Destruction (5)
3. Sea-bird (4)
4. Obvious (6)
5. Outlook (8)
6. Venerable (7)
11. Explosion (10)
13. Amputation (8)
14. Implement (7)
16. Dawdle (6)
17. Bear (5)
20. Bag (4)

### who, what, where, when

WHO ... was the 'father' of Buster, the eponymous hero of a British comic?

WHAT ... two streets lie at either end of *Coronation Street* in the television soap of that name?

WHERE ... in Africa is Île Idjwi?

WHEN ... were Alaska and Hawaii admitted to the Union?

WHO ... sailed round the world single-handed in the vessel *Lively Lady*?

WHAT ... was the name of the house where Bob Dylan & The Band recorded *The Basement Tapes*?

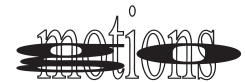
WHERE ... in South America is the mountain Pico Cristóbal Colón?

WHEN ... is Burns Night?

### just so

winter  
autumn  
summer  
fowl

DO 12" OR



## darn tough sudoku

So you think you're good enough at Sudoku to crack this baby? Remember, we were the first in the Gulf to bring you this bit of Japanese mayhem...so we don't kid around

Last week's sudoku

3	7	9	2	6	1	8	5	4
2	4	8	7	5	3	1	9	6
6	5	1	4	8	9	3	2	7
7	3	2	5	4	6	9	1	8
4	9	5	8	1	7	6	3	2
1	8	6	3	9	2	4	7	5
5	6	7	1	3	4	2	8	9
9	2	3	6	7	8	5	4	1
8	1	4	9	2	5	7	6	3

3	5	6	8	9	7	2	4	1
2	4	7	1	5	3	9	8	6
1	9	8	4	2	6	7	3	5
9	7	1	5	3	4	8	6	2
5	3	4	2	6	8	1	9	7
8	6	2	7	1	9	4	5	3
7	2	9	6	8	5	3	1	4
6	1	3	9	4	2	5	7	8
4	8	5	3	7	1	6	2	9

darn tough sudoku

7	5	8	2	6	3	4	1	9
2	3	1	5	9	4	8	7	6
4	6	9	8	7	1	2	5	3
5	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	2
6	4	3	7	5	2	9	8	1
1	9	2	3	8	6	5	4	7
9	7	5	6	3	8	1	2	4
8	2	6	1	4	7	3	9	5
3	1	4	9	2	5	7	6	8

Sudoku

		1		7	6	8		
	6		8	1		5		9
	3					7		
				5		9		3
6	5				8		1	7
8		9						
		6					9	
1		7		6	2			5
		5	3	8		6		

Sudoku

9			7			1	2	
		5		8				
6		4					3	5
			6		3			9
3	9	8	5		1	2		4
5					8			
8						3		2
		6		9		4		1
	5	1			7			

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

#### CROSSWORD BREAK:

**Across:** 1 Happiness; 8 Rue; 9 For instance; 11 Reserve; 12 Erect; 13 Casket; 15 Demean; 17 Prior; 18 Impasse; 20 Alter course; 22 Net; 23 Clergyman.

**Down:** 2 Ado; 3 Inner; 4 Esteem; 5 Sincere; 6 Predecessor; 7 Penitence; 10 Resuscitate; 11 Recipient; 14 Erratic; 16 Fierce; 19 Prong; 21 Sea.

#### JUST SO:

The black hole of Calcutta, The New York Times, A round Trip, The crack of dawn  
**WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:** Mr. Boddy; He produced the first sketch for the present London Underground map; 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair; 2001; Jonathan Swift; The Walker Brothers; Laos; 1954.

### Darn Tough Sudoku

		3		4	1	6		
			8		5			
	7							3
2						3		5
				9				
4		9						2
7							4	
			9		8			
		6	3	2		1		



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# Motoring Weekly

Steering you to the best deals on wheels

## Classic cars touch the heart

**THEY** came sporting stickers in their cars with a simple message proclaiming a love and devotion for a Japanese marque with certificates of appreciation on show under their windscreens and a particular Z...est for one model in particular.

The passion was clear to see as devotees of classic cars gathered outside the Y.K. Almoayyed & Sons' Nissan & INFINITI dealership in Sitra for the staging of the second edition of a popular motor show with music booming out and food being distributed.

All original interiors and exteriors without a scratch were earnestly displayed although some boasted special artwork painted on the inside of the bonnets, one paying homage to the late, great Bahraini singer Ali Bahar and his Brothers Band.

Once upon a time the global sports car market was dominated by British manufacturers with MG, Triumph, Healey and Jaguar ruling the roads. Their domination was being challenged by Italian giants Alfa Romeo and Fiat but inroads suddenly came from the place where the sun rises – Japan.

Japanese car manufacturers started wooing folk with perfectly-priced economic and reliable runners and Bahrain was no different but then they started pursuing a higher degree of respect from the West and Middle East by building a world-class sports car.

### MOTORING

By STAN SZECOWKA  
editor@gulfweekly.com



The first to accomplish that mission was the 1969 Nissan Fairlady Z, which was known as the Datsun 240Z overseas.

The birth of 240Z was driven by Yutaka Katayama, the boss of Nissan US then and now known as 'the father of Z-cars'. The story goes that he visited the research and development department in Japan, persuading the chief engineer and designer to develop a stunning sports car instead of continuing making cheap economy cars forever.

His words moved them, the project got the green light and project code 'Z' was born. Four years later, the production car went on sale. It was called the Fairlady Z at its home market following the tradition of Nissan sports cars (note: Nissan had been building the unremarkable Fairlady roadster series since 1959). But Mr K preferred a stronger name for export market and called it the 240Z instead, where the number represented its engine displacement.

The Z-car was beautiful. Its styling was probably influenced by an earlier study prototype penned by Albrecht Goertz, who was renowned for BMW 507 and then had a short stint at Nissan until 1964 – and that led to the speculation that it was designed by Goertz. However, the car was equally inspired by the contemporary Ferraris and Jaguar E-type.

Anyway, it was by no means a copycat. Nissan created a car



ON SHOW: Star turn at the motor show, below, from left, Anwar and Jassim, and cars on display

that looked not only original but far more modern than its nearest rivals, and would be compared to the more expensive Jaguar and Porsche offerings.

The upmarket look was supported with modern technologies, such as all-independent suspensions, front disc brakes, five-speed gearbox and an SOHC

straight-six engine producing 151 gross horsepower. It was capable of 0-60 mph in eight seconds or so, and reaching a top speed of 125 mph.

The 240Z was also praised by road testers for not only good performance but also good handling and road-holding.

The passion for the car remains evident today.

Mechanic and shop owner Anwar Shaar, 26, for Seef, owns a 1973 version and said: "I love it. Every time I sit in the driver's seat I appreciate what a very special car this is."

Stables owner Jassim Salman, 33, from Adliya, proudly drove off with second-place and a BD500 prize in the highly-competitive Batelco Motor Show with his beloved

1982 280ZX Turbo which he imported from the US at a cost of BD6,000 six years ago.

A good investment too, as it's now worth around BD8,000. And, although he drives a BMW for the daily commute, nothing quite beats this beast and it's not just what's under the bonnet either. "It's hard to put into words," he admitted, "but there's something wonderful about this car."

"Somehow, it feels like family. My father drove a Datsun when I was a child and I still get a wonderful sense and smell and warm memories as soon as I open the car door. Those early days sort of rubbed off on me and I just knew I needed to have one. This is my baby, my lovely car."

Although come 1986, and with the Datsun brand firmly established across the world, Nissan decided it was about time it marketed its cars under the parent brand's name plate.

No matter the name the following continues to grow. In Bahrain the marque boasts a Z Club, GT-R Club, Datsun Club, Patrol Club and an INFINITI Team ... plus, the love affair with the Z continues unabated.

Sitting stylishly in the showroom was a 370Z gathering glances of admiration from the visitors. As long as there's been a Nissan Z, there has been a soulful six-cylinder leading the way and this one will cost you just short of BD40,000.

For more details visit [www.nissanbahrain.com](http://www.nissanbahrain.com) or call 17734218.





# Third anniversary

**MOTING**  
By KRISTIAN HARRISON  
kristian@gulfweekly.com

**E**URO Motors celebrated the third anniversary of its Land Rover Experience Centre Bahrain in emphatic style by holding a two-day event at the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

During last week's event, guests were able to participate in a wide range of activities, including Land Rover Experience rides and Jaguar Dynamic Drives.

Furthermore, the dealership hosted the semi-finals of Jaguar's Art of Performance Tour. Guided by Jaguar's expert drive instructors, this tour allowed enthusiasts to drive and push the Jaguar vehicles to the limits through a series of challenges, testing their precision and dynamic driving skills.

Winners will earn a trip to the United Kingdom to visit the home of Jaguar along with special passes to the



**HILL CLIMB:** The Land Rover tackles the course and, below, the Jags seen setting the pace

Goodwood Festival of Speed this summer.

Stephen Lay, general manager of Euro Motors Jaguar Land Rover, said the event was a 'grand success' and it proved to be a winning way of 'giving something back' to customers.

Located within the grounds of Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir, the facility covers 3.5km of varying terrain such as



sand, rock, hills and water landscapes.

There are 32 natural and man-made obstacles allowing guests to traverse terrain including slide slopes, humps, rocks, gravel roads



and watercourses, all the while assessing the driving environment, maximising the capability and technology of the vehicle and most importantly developing driving skills.



**FLOWERS AND THANKS:** Marzook with the Mercedes team

## Sixty years on and still a devoted Merc man!

MANY customers claim brand loyalty as a major factor when buying a new car, but few can claim to be as devoted to their marque-of-choice as Marzook Ahmed Marzook.

Al Haddad Motors recently held a ceremony to commemorate the man who is surely their most devoted and loyal client, having purchased the very first Mercedes-Benz from Al Haddad Motors 60 years ago ... and he has been a regular purchaser ever since.

An award was presented to Mr Marzook by Abdulla Al Haddad, a director of the company. Imran Ali, the marketing manager of Al Haddad, said: "Al Haddad Motors value greatly Mr Marzook's continued support and trust in Al Haddad Motors and the Mercedes-Benz brand for more than six decades. We hope for this relationship to continue, as we do with all our valued customers, in the years to come."

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### SAAR:

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# Property Weekly

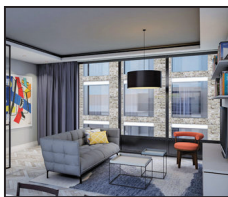
A guide to the best properties home and abroad – edited by Mai Al Khatib email: mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

## New homes woo investors

**INVESTORS in Bahrain have found out that Brighton, the English seaside resort town about an hour south of London by train, really rocks ... or rather ROX!**

A property exhibition was staged at the InterContinental Regency on Saturday and Sunday offering details about a new landmark development set on the old Astoria site. Built in 1933 in a prominent art-deco style, in its heyday the theatre was capable of seating 1,823 people and was seen as a major attraction for Brighton before closing its doors in 1997 and falling into disrepair.

Twenty years on, new life is being breathed into the area. Developed by Ktesius, ROX, a



mixed-use scheme, showcases a selection of 70 studios and one to two-bedroom apartments and duplexes with private outdoor space and bespoke commercial spaces at ground level.

ROX also boasts a double-height atrium apt for exhibitions and creative collaborations, and a further boost for Brighton's vibrant local arts scene. Enjoying an

ideal location in Gloucester Place, opposite a conservation area, it is moments away from the celebrated Brighton Pier and the historic Royal Pavilion along with Brighton's excellent transport links to London.

With forthcoming regeneration plans for Valley Gardens, residents can look forward to a plethora of amenities including a new square, additional green space and improved walking and cycling links.

Prices range from £210,000 - £785,000 (approximately BD109,000 – BD407,000) with completion estimated by late next year.

For more details contact Mohamed Abdulrahman on 17298211 or 39602096.



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION: Rox will help revitalise the resort site, and, left, inside an apartment



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FOR RENT





# Golf Weekly

Teeing off to a great read



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**T**HE 30th Bahrain Ladies Open Golf Championship was hosted at Awali Golf Club last weekend, with 32 players from Bahrain and overseas locations in the field, including last year's champion Fiona Elsdon, as well as Sarah Hobday and Lynn St. Lawrence, champions in 2016 and 2015 respectively.

With the organising committee kicking-off preparation activities more than six months ago, the event got under way on Thursday with player registration and a welcome reception.

Day 1's play started in a blustery north-westerly wind and a light rain shower, the gloomy skies gradually brightening during the day but with winds remaining around 20 knots.

After the first nine holes, Jo Pawson and Dena Wales led the field, both on gross 44, with Stacey Thomas chasing them with 45. Elsdon, seen as the bookies' favourite to repeat her 2017 podium position, followed in a group with 46, along with St. Lawrence, Hobday and Nicola Bailey.

Completion of the back nine resulted in a re-arrangement of the leader board, Thomas edging ahead with a gross 46 to total 91 for the day, one ahead of five joint-second-place players: Elsdon (46/46), St. Lawrence (46/46), Wales (44/48), Susan Scott (47/45) and Ariette Paul (47/45).

Thomas's play was also noteworthy in that she carded two of only three birdies over the whole day, Paul achieving the third. Rounding off the Top 10 placings at the end of Day 1, a further four players looked as though they were still in with a chance, being within five shots of the leader, namely Nicola Park (95), Sarah Hobday (96), Johanna Hassett (96) and Kerry Diaper (96).

Clear blue skies greeted Day 2 play together with a slightly reduced wind speed. Teeing-off last, the two leading groups comprised Scott, Wales and Paul, with the final grouping of Elsdon, St. Lawrence and Thomas.

Both with 95 for the second day, Scott (48/47) and St. Lawrence (49/46) slipped from contention, as did Wales with 98 (51/47). Overnight leader Thomas started her round shakily with bogey, double bogey, double bogey and finished her front nine with gross 50. Although carding

## Paul packs title punch



GLORIOUS GOLF: Paul chips her way to success and, right, the competitors join in to celebrate



swing courtesy of an adjacent shrub. Elsdon played her third competently up toward the green, but a couple of yards short of the putting surface. A good chip and a putt would see her down in par. The commotion on the terrace became a hush.

A final word from Paul's caddy Floris Brand and he stepped back. With a descending blow with her iron, Paul lifted the ball sweetly into the air, it striking near the top of the bank. It rolled and rolled some more.

The terrace commotion returned and got louder and louder, and became a roar as the ball cruised to a halt one foot from the pin. With what was probably the shot of the Championship, Paul had a sure-fire birdie.

To force a second play-off, Elsdon now had to produce a chip-in from off the green. A tall order that was not to be, the ball rolling past the hole by a few metres and needing a two-putt for her to finish with a 6. Paul stepped forward, and with a simple tap-in, her worthy birdie won her the Championship.

Club Captain Paul Anderson was master-of-ceremonies for the presentation, starting with thanks to the sponsors, organising committee, roving photographer and other helpers.

He then presented the prizes, assisted by tournament director Mark Hodgkinson.

By popular demand, Paul took the microphone and thanked everyone that had made the event so enjoyable, gave special thanks to her caddy, and finished by summarising her day with: "I wasn't prepared for this!"

### FULL RESULTS:

**30th Bahrain Ladies Open Champion: Ariette Paul (gross 139 - 92/87, won on 19th hole play-off), 2nd Fiona Elsdon (139 - 92/87), 3rd Lynn St Lawrence (187 - 92/95), 4th Susan Scott (187 - 92/95), 5th Stacey Thomas (188 - 91/97), 6th Dena Wales (190 - 92/98), 7th Jo Pawson (192 - 101/91), 8th Nicki Bailey (192 - 98/94), 9th Nicki Park (192 - 95/97). Best nett overall: Dena Wales (152 - 73/79), best nett Day-1 Johanna Hassett (75), best nett Day-2 Diane Loney (71).**

a respectable 46 for her back nine to total 96 for the day, she slid down the leader board and waved her overnight lead goodbye.

Paul, in the second-to-last group, commenced her Day 2 play steady, but then managed a quadruple bogey 9 stumble on Hole-5, luckily to regain her composure with a birdie-4 on the par-5 Hole-7, helping her to a front-nine score of 46 and a tally of 138 over 27 holes.

With a birdie on the par-4 11th together with pars on Holes 12, 14, 15 and 17, the back nine saw Paul engage cruise control and great play to achieve the Championship's best nine-hole score with a gross 41, finishing the round with gross 87 and a competition total of 179, placing her at the top of the leader board.

Elsdon commenced her Day

2 without major hiccup, a birdie-4 on Hole 7 helping her to a front-nine score of 42 and a tally of 134 over 27 holes. Elsdon's back nine started bogey, par, birdie to keep her on track, but a triple bogey on Hole 13 and a double bogey on Hole 15 saw her safe position evaporate. As Elsdon commenced her play at Hole 17, she needed to putt out over the last two holes in eleven shots or better so as to win.

A bogey-6 on Hole 17 meant she still had a chance, but the par-5 she needed on the 18th proved elusive, her score of 6 being one too many. The upshot: a nineteenth hole playoff to decide the Championship, starring Ariette Paul and Fiona Elsdon.

After the formalities of posting scores, the two leaders, caddies and equipment were chauffeured back to 18th tee, this location being chosen so

that the players can have the pleasure of being watched by the assembled crowd at the clubhouse yet again.

Bathed in orange as the sun started to set, the battle commenced with Paul drawing the short straw to tee off first. And, a very confident tee shot it was: almost up to the fairway bunker.

The more diminutive Elsdon remained calm, also to place her tee shot nicely in the middle of the fairway, but 50 yards short of Paul's monster.

Elsdon played her second, not quite reaching the road and slightly to the right of centre, leaving a distance of about 80 yards to the green. Paul, for her second, made another solid connection, across the road but not straight: the ball ending in the left rough at 50 yards - cueing up a difficult third shot up to the green, the lie having a somewhat restricted back

## Open tees-off for the 55th time

and challenging tournament.

"With golf on 'sand', most people will talk about how and why but you really have to experience it to understand it. Playing on sand with the famous 'Awali bounce' is a big thing in Bahrain and the Open is a great opportunity for amateurs and professional players alike to display their skills over two days at our fantastic club."

Players will play two rounds, one on Friday and the other on Saturday, and the best gross score over both will be declared

the winner. There are also nett prizes on both days, which take into account score adjusted for handicap, meaning there is a goal for everyone to aspire to regardless of skill level.

Furthermore, AGC will welcome back two previous club professionals, Matt Chalmers and former Bahrain Open winner Dave Park along with five other pros, including new club professional Rory Young.

Defending champion Saleh Ali Musbah Al Kaabi will also return

to defend his crown in what looks like being one of the strongest fields in the competition's history. Rampersad added: "As vice-captain, I really want to address the fact that all of this wouldn't be possible without our great sponsors Bapco, Coca Cola, Banz, McWane, African & Eastern and Audi. But most of all, I have to express my deepest gratitude to the committee and volunteers who are doing a great job in supporting this event."

Spectators are welcome to follow their favourite players around the course. Admission is free. Competitors will be teeing off from 7am each day.

THE 55th Bahrain Open Championship tees off this weekend with 102 registered players ready to play for glory on Friday and Saturday, with space for only six more. The only entry requirement is a handicap of 12 or better, writes Kristian Harrison.

Awali Golf Club vice-captain and tournament director Serwin Rampersad is thrilled that the club's most prestigious tournament continues to attract the region's top players after so many years.



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## YOUTH FOOTBALL



GLORY DAYS: Unbeaten Juventus Academy U16 win league

THE Youth Development League has moved into its seventh week. The results so far, with winning teams in **bold** (goals scored not used in placing, three points for a win, one for a draw).

## U8 RESULTS

Juventus v Tekkers

TFA v Winners

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Tekkers	6	6	0	0	18
2	Juventus	5	4	0	1	12
3	TFA	6	2	1	3	7
4	Winners	5	1	0	4	3
5	Champions	6	0	1	5	1

## U10 RESULTS

Al Najma v Winners

Juventus v Champions (postponed)

Tekkers v TFA

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Tekkers	7	6	1	0	19
2	Al Najma	5	5	0	0	15
3	Winners	6	3	1	2	10
4	Track	5	2	0	3	6
5	Juventus	4	1	1	2	4
6	Champions	6	1	1	4	4
7	TFA	7	0	0	7	0

## U12 RESULTS

Juventus v Champions

Spire v Winners

Tekkers v Bahrain Rugby Club

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Tekkers	6	6	0	0	18
2	Juventus	5	3	0	2	9
3	Champions	6	3	0	3	9
4	Winners	6	3	0	3	9
5	Spire	5	2	1	2	7
6	Sparta	6	2	1	3	7
7	Bahrain Rugby Club	6	0	0	6	0

## U14 RESULTS

Black Castle v Champions (postponed)

Tekkers v Spire

Winners v Juventus

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Tekkers	7	7	0	0	21
2	Juventus	6	6	0	0	18
3	FUTMission	4	2	0	2	6
4	Winners	4	2	0	2	6
5	Champions	6	1	1	4	4
6	Black Castle	4	0	1	3	1
7	Spire	7	0	0	7	-3

## U16 RESULTS

Juventus v Ole

Tekkers v Spire

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Juventus	6	5	1	0	16
2	Spire	6	2	1	3	7
3	Tekkers	6	2	0	4	6
4	Spire	6	2	0	4	6

# MotorSport

Bahrain International Circuit – the home of motorsport in the Middle East



TESTING TIMES: Gasly finds the fit ghastly and, below, he struggles to climb out of his car

# Halo unhappiness

**F**ORMULA One driver Pierre Gasly expects to be ripping through race-suits this season after complaining that the sport's new halo head-protection device had torn holes in his overalls as he got in-and-out of the car.

The 22-year-old Frenchman, starting his first full season with Red Bull-owned Toro Rosso, expressed his frustration after completing 82 laps of a cold Circuit de Catalunya on the second day of pre-season testing.

"I don't like it (the halo). It's just a big mess to get in the car and get out," he said. "I think my suit is already broken. We'll have to ask for many suits from supplier Alpine Stars this season."

"It's only the first day in the car and I have many holes on the back. You need to be a lot backward to slide into the car. It's actually quite weird. "With all the winglets you have on the halo you cannot really pull, to get out you cannot really touch it."

The halo, which extends up from a central pillar to



## F1 REPORT

By KRISTIAN HARRISON  
kristian@gulfweekly.com

circle the driver's head, is designed to protect against flying objects and is making

its debut this season as a mandatory safety addition.

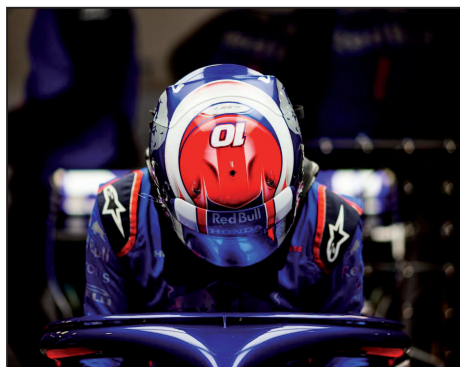
Getting in and out, particularly for taller drivers, is more awkward than when cockpits were

completely open. There are also concerns that in the rare cases of a car flipping over or being set on fire, that drivers may find it impossible to pull themselves out without external help.

Haas driver Kevin Magnussen also spoke of his reservations about the new device. He said: "It's very annoying. Ugly. Difficult to get into the car, difficult to get out of the car, difficult to get the steering wheel on and off, just awkward and annoying."

Though he ruled out any problem seeing start lights, Magnussen suggested there were some types of corner where the device could prove a distraction, such as high elevation turns like Eau Rouge at Spa, Belgium and Turn 1 in US track in Texas.

"Once you get into the corner it's fine because you look to the sides and left and right of the pillar in the middle so it's not a problem visually to see the corner, but it distracts your eye obviously when you change direction like chicanes and you have to move your vision across the pillar," he explained.





# Series success goes regional

**T**HE Bahrain Superbike (BSBK) Championship made its debut in Dubai last month, and it proved so popular that the series returned to the UAE again last weekend.

BSBK was the first Bahraini-owned championship to spread across other circuits in the region when Round 4 took place in Dubai, and Round 5 also proved a roaring success at the Dubai Autodrome.

With the riders getting familiar with a new track and riding conditions, this was the most exciting round yet. The competition was intense and standings saw further shuffling as Ahmed AlMuyini (KSA) took the winner's trophy in Race 1 followed by Djion



RACE ACTION: Championship thrills

Compton (UK) and Fahad Al Gharbally (Kuwait). Djion Compton took the chequered flag in Race 2 with Ahmed AlMuyini and Wesley Pearce (UK) in second and third.

Hussain Al Kooheji, co-founder of Motogulf, BSBK's parent company, said: "This round was the most interesting round of BSBK so far, in my opinion. We have seen an absolute shuffle in standings and this has been an

outstanding experience for all with the backdrop of thrilling racing.

"Racing on different circuits in the same season has been a very exciting concept for us and the riders. We are glad we have been able to execute this well and hope to take BSBK to more circuits in the coming season."

The final and concluding round of BSBK will also be held in Bahrain on April 20.

## Hawks win battle of Bahrain abroad

BAHRAIN Rugby Football Club U14 Hawks brought home the silverware by snatching a narrow victory over the British Club's Bahrain Lamanades 5-4 to win the Shield Final in the 3rd Youth Inter Gulf Netball Tournament staged in Fujairah last weekend.

The club had two teams, sponsored by American Express, enter the competition with both coming second in their pools.

The Bahrain Rockets narrowly lost 4-5 to Sharjah Panthers in the semi-final of the Plate Competition.



TROPHY TIME: Bahrain Hawks with the cup and trophies, below left, Bahrain Rockets and, right, the teams in action



## Ready and waiting for the teams with a warm welcome guaranteed

### From Page 24

If the sport's executives decide to return to the Middle East for testing, then the kingdom would be willing, ready and able, according to Bahrain International Circuit's chief executive officer Shaikh Salman Bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He said: "The BIC has always welcomed the opportunity to hold testing for Formula One and has successfully hosted several tests in previous years.

"The decision remains in the hands of Formula One Management, the teams and Pirelli, but, as always, if BIC was selected as the venue for winter testing, we will do all what is needed to ensure the testing programme is successful. The circuit is well known and the conditions are representative of what the cars would face over the course of a season."

Of the four days which encompassed the first pre-season test, only the fourth day had any significant times posted. Unfortunately for those expecting a shift in the status quo, four-times world champion Lewis Hamilton was back on top of the timesheets for Mercedes.

The Briton, who had driven only 25 laps earlier in the week, completed 69 more



TIMELY REMINDER: Hamilton and, below, Bottas and the frozen track

with a fastest time of One Minute 19.333 seconds using the medium Pirelli tyres.

"I was really happy to get out, to be honest," Hamilton said afterwards. "I don't like testing but I actually

was really keen to get out, obviously because we hadn't had many laps ... to get a feel for the tyres and warm-up process and kind of stretch-the-legs a little bit on this new car. So far it's positive."

The pace of the Mercedes came as no surprise, with the team having won the last four drivers' and constructors' titles, and they already look the team to beat even though testing times can be deceptive.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, also a four-times champion and last year's runner-up, has already said that Hamilton and Mercedes will be favourites when the season starts in Australia on March 25.

Belgian Stoffel Vandoorne, in the now Renault-powered McLaren after the team's split with Honda at the end of last year, did 110 laps and was second quickest, although he was using the much faster hyper-soft tyres.

Vandoorne's time of 1:19.854 was still half a second slower than Hamilton's.

The Belgian's Spanish team mate and double world champion Fernando Alonso did another 51 laps and was fifth on the timing screens in an altogether much more positive showing for the team partly-owned by Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund, Mumtalakat.

French driver Pierre Gasly, in the Honda-powered Toro Rosso, did the most mileage - an impressive 147 laps - while Vettel completed 120 and was third fastest on a day that started wet but dried out.

"I'd have liked to have driven more, but we can do that hopefully at the second test, when we will start to get a clearer picture," said Vettel, who spent some time in the garage as mechanics worked on the car.

The second and final pre-season test started yesterday and will run until Friday.







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# SPORT

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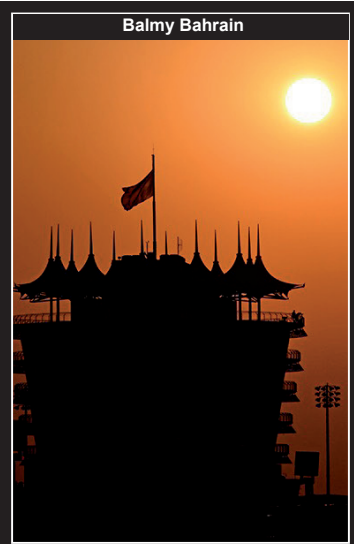
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**F**ORMULA One team bosses sent a clear 'wish we were there!' message to the kingdom this week after a disastrous first pre-season test in Barcelona, writes **Kristian Harrison**.

Heavy snow fell across Europe and the Circuit de Catalunya did not escape the white wrath as the track was blanketed, leaving many executives wondering why testing could not take place in warmer Bahrain.

Haas team principal Guenther Steiner had plenty to say about the situation after the third day of testing was completely wiped out due to the arctic weather conditions. He fumed: "This is not a normal cold for Barcelona. There is a whole cold front going through Europe. At the moment I'd love to be in Bahrain at 30C and standing in the sun."

"In these current conditions, you can do a little bit more than systems checks. You can check some aero data. Whenever you go out with these cars you learn something. But is it efficient testing? By no means."

Bahrain International Circuit previously hosted a successful test in 2014, with many teams expressing satisfaction at the circuit's suitability and hospitality for testing, but the decision was made later that year to host future tests in Barcelona.



**SNOW GO: Red lights spell danger and disappointment at Circuit de Catalunya**

The rationale behind the reduced number of tests was to lower the costs for teams. With so many outfits struggling financially, it was decided that for logistical and cost-cutting reasons, it made sense to host the tests in Europe where all 11 teams are based.

However, the downside of this is that it makes little sense when the test conditions in brrrr ... late February and early March in Europe bear little resemblance to those that cars experience in racing throughout the season, especially with baking Australia and balmy Bahrain being the first two races of the season.

Races in the Southern Hemisphere and nearer the Equator are scheduled for the beginning and end of the season to take advantage of conditions, whilst the European trail takes place

throughout the continent's summer for similar reasons.

It was not just team bosses who had misgivings about Barcelona, but the drivers too ... with Bahrain close to their thoughts and hearts. Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo said: "The reality is that we are never going to drive in these conditions. Part of me wishes we were somewhere else like Bahrain where you can get some real testing in real temperatures. I don't want to be negative but it is a bit frustrating when you can't do too much."

Turn to Page 23

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