

Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

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FINTECH FOCUS:
Perfect slice
of the action
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FILM WEEKLY:
Anna reviews
Incredibles 2
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LYDIA BOUNCES BACK

ONE of the most colourful characters in the world of music and performing arts on the island has found God, love and a career resurrection in an incredible turn of fortune.

Seven years ago Lydia Martin witnessed her business go bust and her former husband leave the country and set up home with another woman and, as featured on the front page of this newspaper, was left 'holding the baby'.

Today, she is busy preparing to marry her sweetheart, celebrated musician and film maker Jason Carter, her new music, speech, drama and leadership training centre is booming and she's just been appointed director of performing and creative arts at the very same school she was once dumped from.

"Somehow I have always managed to reinvent my life one way or another," said Lydia, 43, an English expat who comes from Folkestone in Kent, although she considers Bahrain to be her 'adopted country' because it has been so good to her.

Now settled in Saar, she has

EXCLUSIVE
By STAN SZECOWKA
editor@gulfweekly.com

never been one to do things in a conventional manner and even proposed to Jason, rather than the other way round. "He didn't, I did," she revealed. "We are not traditional!"

Lydia said she knew he was 'the one' within the first few days of chatting to him on the social media site, Facebook. "I just knew we were supposed to be together," she said. "He is the kindest most loving, caring person I have ever met. He is creative, bold and determined and I love him beyond words."

A mutual friend introduced them to one another online so that they could collaborate with research into the music of the Bahraini pearl divers and traditional Fijeri songs.

Jason was living in France at the time so invited Lydia and her son, Xavier, six, to meet him near Avignon.

"I guess it was kind of like a blind date as until that time we had only chatted on Skype and through social media," said Lydia. "We had a marvellous time and had such a great connection through music, creativity, our faith and more. We both knew God had brought us together."

Turn to Page 2



HAPPY DAYS: Lydia and Jason



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Golden future plans all set

From Page 1

Jason, 49, had been planning a trip to the UAE to complete his work on his *Grain of Sand* film project and switched his focus almost two years ago to Bahrain ... and he's been here ever since.

Romance blossomed. "Actually I just plain said; we have to get married now! That's it. Not that romantic, unfortunately, but it is what it is. All that matters is we will be together," Lydia said.

Lydia came to Bahrain in 2002 to work at St Christopher's School as Head of Junior Music with her then-husband, Alistair Auld, who was Head of Senior Music, and later took up the baton of musical director of the Manama Singers.

Meanwhile, Lydia became co-creator, founder and director of Sar Music Centre, a venture which came unstuck during the unrest in the kingdom in 2011. Students and parents were first alerted about the centre's collapse through a posting on its page on Facebook which revealed it had suffered 'vast financial losses' resulting from the 'uncertain position of the situation in Bahrain'. At the time Lydia said she had lost almost all of the BD30,000 she had invested in the project two years ago along with her business partner.

"Sar Music Centre folded resulting in massive loss of life savings, friendships, hopes and dreams," she said. "I was a single mum, no money, no job but something always came up. I don't think I ever actually felt despair because something was always there."

For a short-lived time Lydia seized the Manama Singers conductor's baton after Mr Auld's sudden departure to Wales with the choir's former chairman Edel Moroney where they started running a guest house together.

Dejected but determined Lydia, who had recently given birth to her son, secured the position of Director of Performing



HAPPY FAMILY: Jason and Xavi and, right, flashback to *GulfWeekly's* front page in 2011

Arts at the British School of Bahrain (BSB). In June 2014 she was officially made redundant during a turbulent time at the school which witnessed a large turnaround of staff.

However, come September she will be striding through the corridors of the school once again, in the role of Director of Performing and Creative Arts after being appointed by BSB's new owners, the Inspired group which also operates private schools across Europe, Australia, Africa and Latin America.

Coincidentally, Inspire is the name of the training and performance operation Lydia conducts from new premises close to Saar Mall after expanding from its original location off

Budaiya Highway. "I plan to enhance the great work that is already going on at BSB through more 'whole school' events, greater unity across the broad spectrum of the performing arts and creative subjects and also rejuvenate the Academy of Performing Arts, head up a new public speaking programme and raise awareness of music and drama opportunities to the wider community."

"In line with the vision of the new Inspired group, who headhunted me for the post, I will be bringing more emphasis on productions, community events and opportunities for the gifted and talented."

"As I understand, many people including staff and parents had spoken about my previous achievements at

BSB, and indeed throughout Bahrain, to the Inspired group who then requested an immediate meeting with me.

"Of course there was some hesitation in accepting the offer as it hadn't ended well last time I was on the BSB staff."

"Well, with my own company called Inspire and now also working for a group called Inspired, I sure hope to prove inspirational!"

Much of that confidence appears to come from a spiritual rebirth. "BSB was great when we started, back in 2011 when I was recruited by the amazing head Karen Moffat; what a lady and what a leader," Lydia explained.

"She changed the way I saw people and the way I saw leadership. In a word, she 'inspired' me! Then, just



when it seemed as if all was lost again when Karen was dismissed, I suddenly found faith in God.

"With this new found faith my life was totally transformed in more ways than one; whilst BSB was changing into a place I could no longer be a part of, my new found friends and leaders at Rivers of Joy Church supported me to set up Inspire, my new venture. Inspire is now a successful performing arts, events and film company."

She also went on a mission to build bridges and mend fences. "When I fully understood the message of forgiveness I decided to make peace with some people that I had fallen out with at various times in my life," she explained.

"To my surprise most of them welcomed me with open arms and I think in each case the reunion brought something special into all of our lives, an understanding and acceptance that it is always possible to move forward if both sides are willing."

"One thing I have learned is that if you look hard enough you will always find gold and

it's most certainly worth the dig!"

She certainly appears to have struck gold with Jason, originally from the English county of Cornwall, who is a renowned guitarist, having performed harp guitar and classical guitar concerts in more than 100 countries and whose celebrated *Grain of Sand* project, focusing on the kingdom's pearl diving culture and legacy, was brought to life on the big screen at the Dubai Film Festival.

"Lydia is one of a kind," he said. "She is patient, graceful and I don't think I have ever met such a generous person with such integrity. We are very different in character but we meet in terms of balance."

Xavi is also excited about the coming wedding on July 21 and, Lydia, said: "He told everyone we were going to be married the first time we met in France!"

The ceremony will take place back in Jason's English home county with a beach party to follow before they fly off to his beautiful village in the South of France for a honeymoon. "Life couldn't be better," said Lydia. "We are blessed!"



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Keeping ahead of the game



COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

THREE of Europe's top footballing freestylers are showcasing their dazzling ball control skills and cool juggling tricks at The Lost Paradise of Dilmun waterpark to help visitors celebrate the FIFA World Cup.

Ukrainian friends Vlad Fanatov, Serhii 'Sava' Savenok and Roman Shershen who have been thrilling people around the globe with their signature styles are keeping the kingdom's football fans entertained at the attraction as part of its 10-day Eid festivities that kicked off on Saturday.

A series of musical concerts featuring Arabic singers and fun games and activities will accompany the soccer spectacular show too.

Vlad, 25, who is a programme engineer by day in Kiev and a freestyler by night,



Photographs: Henry Sharma

ON THE BALL: The trio, from left, Vladislav, Sergio and Roman performing at LPOD

is delighted to be in Bahrain to showcase his juggling skills which he has been perfecting

for more than a decade. "We are extremely happy to be here to show what we can do

and we hope the crowds will love it," he said. "We perform classic tricks such as *Around the World*, *Crossover* and more besides and we have also created our own signature styles.

"There is so much competition around the world so we decided to devise our own tricks. Readers will have to come out and see them and where better place than at

the Lost Paradise of Dilmun waterpark which is such a beautiful setting to display skills of the beautiful game."

Vlad used to play football to a high standard until he suffered a serious leg injury and decided to develop his freestyle skills. He added: "Football freestyle is not an easy feat to master as it's quite technical with patience as important as fancy

footwork. I practice regularly for at least two hours at a time. I do this for the love of the game."

Meanwhile, Roman Shershen, 24, and Sava, 21, are founders of the ART Freestyle School in the capital of Ukraine and they are probably happier playing while the World Cup action in Russia is being screened because Ukraine failed to make it into the finals from their group, giving way to Iceland who qualified from top spot and Croatia who slipped through after a play-off with Greece.

Roman said: "We play street football and freestyle because it's fun and cool. People love trying it, learning tricks done by big time footballers like Cristiano Ronaldo. We have around 50 students from as young as eight to as old as 42 learning how to master the techniques. We feel alive when we juggle and the people in Bahrain appear to love it too."

The freestyle fun takes place every day until June 25 at 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.45pm.

To find out more on the events, schedules and timings contact the waterpark at 17845100 or follow them on Facebook and Instagram @lpodwaterpark

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TOUGH Twister, the nation's favourite show jumping horse who suffered horrific burns in a freak accident, continues to defy the odds as he slowly makes strides to recovery.

He is being treated by one of the Royal Stables most skilled veterinarians and is also now wearing a pair of state-of-the-art shoe heels created by a leading farrier to help him cope with a crippling laminitis condition.

Owner Jerri Taylor said: "Twister has had a bit of run for the worse by getting laminitis in both front legs. He sleeps a lot which is good as it takes the pressure off and he seems to still be in good spirits. He is defiantly a tough horse and has a strong will to survive."

As reported in *GulfWeekly*, Twister is slowly recovering under the care of Dr Lidia Bizhenka, one of the Royal Family's top vets ... with the support of the whole equine community and other animal-lovers.

The stunning Dutch Warmblood, standing 18.2hands tall, is proving to be a wonder horse after making incredible strides against the odds after sustaining 65 per cent burns.

A fund-raising event was recently staged to help cover the cost of his treatment at Bahrain Rugby Football Club. Supporters wore *Help Save Twister* T-shirts and manned stalls containing a variety of goodies on sale.

Since *GulfWeekly* highlighted the community's involvement, the campaign has continued to grow in strength ... just like Twister.

"The response has been FANTASTIC!" said Jerri, stable manager and horse riding instructor at Al Maha Stables. "Everyone was out looking to buy the paper. I received another BD330 donation dropped off to the clinic by other supporters. I have to say it again how much your support means to all of us. Everyone was very excited."

Silicon steps to health

COMMUNITY REPORT

By STAN SZECOWKA
editor@gulfweekly.com



Calamity struck 18-year-old Twister when he got loose from his groom and ran into a smouldering pile of manure. A dry pile had recently been placed on top of the burning waste and when he ran into it, flames suddenly shot up his legs. It spooked him and he fell over on to his side.

In similar circumstances in Bahrain, the horse would likely have been euthanised, but horse lover Jerri and a friend convinced his owner to allow them to purchase him in an attempt to save his life.

Twister will stay with Dr Lidia at the clinic in the Endurance Village in Zallaq until his stance has stabilized and his wounds healed, which will probably take between four to seven months, although full recovery could take as long as two years.

His legs are also suffering from pastern dermatitis, a skin reaction that affects the horse's lower legs, but being diagnosed and treated early, there's a good chance of full recovery in around a month.

Dr Lidia was born in Brest, Belarus, and for most of her life lived in the Russian port city on the Baltic Sea of St Petersburg before moving to work in Moscow. She first came to the kingdom three years ago to deliver a horse to His Majesty King Hamad, a gift from Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Photographs showing before and after treatment of Twister's back legs show how badly they had swelled up and now they are back to normal. "A huge 'thank you' to Dr Lidia, she has done an amazing job. Her hard work and commitment to Twister had been amazing, we are so lucky to have her," added Jerri.



RESTING AND RECOVERING: Twister gets a cuddle and, right, looking brighter with his special silicon pads

As well as care, the vet is giving Twister plenty of cuddles too and calling on friends for support. It has been suggested in equine circles that farriers are around because 'even vets need heroes'.

Responsible for the trimming, shoeing, health and overall well-being of all feet in their charge, a farrier works specifically with horses, although they need training as a blacksmith to learn techniques for shaping the shoes. In short, all farriers are blacksmiths, but not all blacksmiths are farriers.

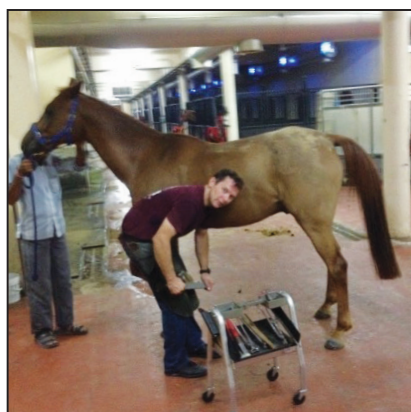
Stephane Perennes, a farrier at the Royal Stables, has stepped in to help. Twister was suffering from great pressure on the coronary band, the special cell structure at the top of the hoof that generates the hoof wall.

Bandages and a silicone pad are providing support. "Thank goodness we have a farrier that knows how

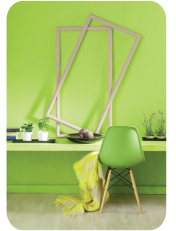
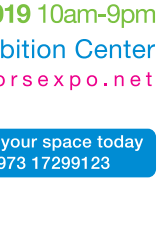
to use silicone!" said Jerri, "also, if you notice, the shoes have been put on backwards, providing more support to

the back of the hoof and allowing pressure to be released in the front. "I'd like to thank everyone

so much on Twister's behalf for their prayers, good vibes and love. It gives him the strength to keep on fighting."



HELPING HAND: Farrier Stephane at work on another horse and, right, flashback to our report



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My Club members price – BD0.690
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Let's dance to a World Cup bonanza!

SHOPPERS in the kingdom could net a fortune during the World Cup Finals football fiesta with a trip to City Centre Bahrain.

The popular Majid Al Futtaim mall has put up a staggering BD20,000 to play for until July 14. "Your shopping experience can be one of your best yet!" a mall spokesman said. "Enjoy the greatest football action and receive instant rewards at City Centre Bahrain!"

Shoppers spending BD30 will be offered the chance to enter a draw and be one of four winners taking home BD5,000 every week during the promotion. And, those who splash out BD50 in a day could take home a limited-edition football collectible while stocks last.

To add to the experience, with the 2018 World Cup taking place in Russia,

visitors can also enjoy a thrilling show too. City Centre Bahrain is hosting for the very first time colourful performances by traditional Russian dancers as well as accordion and balalaika musician performers, at the mall's Central Galleria, every day until Friday at 4pm, 5pm, 7pm and 8pm.

Named Barynya, and created in 1989, the highly-professional folklore collective has arrived in the kingdom all the way from Russia. The group recently toured in Finland, Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Poland and South Korea where they impressed crowds with their outstanding technique and creative approach.

● For more information visit www.facebook.com/citycentrebahrain or www.citycentrebahrain.com



STEPPING OUT: The Russian dancers

GulfWeeklyBookClub – in association with The Bookcase



BOOK OF THE WEEK by Linda Jennings – THE PRESIDENT IS MISSING, JAMES PATTERSON & BILL CLINTON, 9781780898407 (RANDOM HOUSE) BD6.900 for Gulf Weekly Book Club members

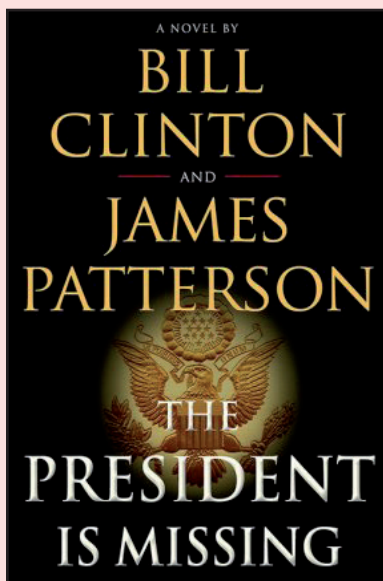
AS THE novel opens, a threat looms: Enemies are planning an attack of unprecedented scale on America. Uncertainty and fear grip Washington. There are whispers of cyber terror and espionage and a traitor in the cabinet. The President himself becomes a suspect, and then goes missing.

Nobody knows of this terrible threat other than the President and a handful of his trusted aides. Their role is simple. It is to provide informed advice that the president can then ignore in favour of his own instinctive solution. This consists of slipping the Secret Service to meet two young cyber terrorists who are having second thoughts about a virus they've planted that will shut down every operating system in America once it's activated.

Who's behind the attack that would send the US back to the Dark Ages? Russia? China? North Korea? The plot continues in a page turning - 'what's going to happen next?' - kind of way.

Set in real time, over the course of three days, The President Is Missing has been one of the most anticipated thrillers of the year. And, it could all really happen.

Easy to read with no complicated subplots and numerous chapters so you can pick it up and put it down when you have to, it is a good read if you are looking for a summer thriller that will give those over-worked brain cells a well needed rest – and isn't that what holidays are all about?



READ IT NOW IN PAPERBACK

DARKEST HOUR, ANTHONY MCCARTEN, 9781787390300 (VIKING) BD4.400 for Gulf Weekly Book Club members

THIS is the Sunday Times Number One bestseller and official tie-in edition to the award-winning motion picture starring Gary Oldman, who took home best actor at the Oscars for his sublime turn as Winston Churchill.

From the prize-winning screenwriter

of *The Theory of Everything*, this is a cinematic, behind-the-scenes account of a crucial moment which takes us inside the mind of one of the world's greatest leaders - and provides a revisionist, more rounded portrait of his leadership.

It is May 1940 and Great Britain is at war. European democracies are falling rapidly and the public are unaware of this dangerous new world. Just days after his unlikely succession to Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, faces this horror - and a sceptical King and a party plotting against him. He wonders how he can capture the public mood and does so, magnificently, before leading the country to victory.

It is this fascinating period that Anthony McCarten captures in this deeply researched, gripping day-by-day (and often hour-by-hour) narrative.

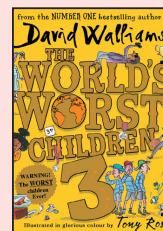
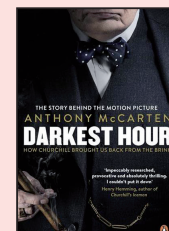
In doing so, he revises the familiar view of Churchill - he made himself into the iconic figure we remember and changed the course of history, but through those turbulent and dangerous weeks he was plagued by doubt, and even explored a peace treaty with Nazi Germany.

It's a scarier, and more human story, than has ever been told.

MY FAVOURITE READ OF THE WEEK

THE WORLD'S WORST CHILDREN 3, DAVID WALLIAMS, 9780008304591 (HARPER COLLINS) BD7.300 for Gulf Weekly Book Club members
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FinTechFocus

Editor Stan Szecowka takes a look at the world of financial technology and beyond...

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Perfect slice of the action

PAYMENT International Enterprise (PIE) has become a principal licensee for Mastercard. With this development, the enterprise says it has renewed its strategic commitment to providing innovative, reliable and efficient financial products for its customers in the region.

PIE is a leading specialist in prepaid, mobile and ear-field communication solutions for the banked and unbanked at the core of customers payment needs. It was one of the first and is now one of the largest FinTech companies in Bahrain.

The company offers the full value chain of cashless payment including various types of prepaid products for the banking and telecom sectors. In addition, it will offer online check-out solutions such as Masterpass, a digital wallet that allows consumers to store card information in a secure location, providing a hassle-free way to make convenient, simple, fast and safe payments while enhancing and simplifying the physical and digital shopping experience.

It has been investing heavily in infrastructure development, thus making high-value commitments to the future and striving to provide its customers with end-to-end services as a single provider.

One of the company's major projects in 2016 was the launch of eGov kiosks and TAM-Dinar project for government institutions in Bahrain to facilitate ease of payments for government services. This successful project is one of many strategies PIE is undertaking

to lead the way in moving towards a cashless society and innovating alternative payment options for a modern world.

Fawaz Ghazal, CEO, PIE said "This is a major milestone for PIE. The Mastercard license allows us to provide international player products to our clients and expand our services beyond conventional payments. Our newly-formed partnership will play a vital and crucial role towards our commitment to transform Bahrain into a cashless society by 2030.

"We look forward to the future and will continue to take major leaps through our collaboration with Mastercard.

"This comes at a strategic time when the kingdom's government is looking to mandate a Wage Protection System (WPS) solution which is set for implementation on a national level.

"Our partnership with Mastercard will allow us to provide outstanding end-to-end solutions that serve employers and employees in the best of our capacity within the region."

Mastercard, one of the leading technology company in the global payments industry, is just as delighted with the partnership.

"We are pleased to announce the licensing of Payment International Enterprise. Mastercard is at the forefront of driving cashless payments in the MENA region and we believe in working with likeminded organisations to achieve our vision of a world beyond cash," added Samrat Raj, country manager, Bahrain at Mastercard.

PALMEX, a professional digital asset exchange powered by ArabianChain Technology, has become the first and only cryptocurrency exchange in the Middle East and North Africa to receive a Regulatory Sandbox License.

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) granted it under the sandbox regulation framework in the kingdom, setting the stage for much-awaited acceptance by regulators, banks and currency exchange houses in the region that have been weary of transacting with digital currencies.

A regulatory sandbox is a framework and process that facilitates the development of the FinTech industry in a safe and calculated way. New business models in the sector can create regulatory ambiguity, therefore, regulatory clarity is critical to innovators in order to bring compliant services to market.

ArabianChain founder and CEO Mohammed Alsehli said:

Digital delight



SANDBOX STYLE: Mohammed

"When we launched Palmex, we did so with the conviction that regulatory status is fundamental to our future and the future of the industry. Our team has put in a lot of time and resources into working with regulators to ensure we are compliant, and we are excited to give our users an added level of confidence in using Palmex with this extra layer of legitimacy.

"ArabianChain will start with a limited number of select users to test and optimise the process and then

expand to the rest."

In effect, the sandbox creates a virtual safe space in which both start-ups and established businesses can trial and refine innovative products, services, platforms and business models in a live but controlled environment, where risks to customers and the wider financial system are mitigated, giving regulators time to adapt legislation as needed.

Whilst in the regulatory sandbox, companies are required to adhere to CBB regulations including Know Your Customer (KYC), Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism, as well as follow appropriate disclosure, protection and compensation requirements related to their customers.

The approval from the

Bahrain Central Bank marks the arrival of a new wave of forward-looking regulation around digital asset trading in the region that is geared toward creating an environment to encourage FinTech innovation and inclusion, while ensuring the best interests of the nation, the banking system, investors and customers are protected.

Companies will also be able to apply to list their tokens and coins with Palmex and benefit from the compliance of the exchange.

Mohammed added: "As the only regional digital asset exchange with a Sandbox license, we expect to see a significant rise in awareness and adoption, driving a huge spike in the number of trades and token-based fundraising across the region while maintaining the safety of the financial system."

BAHRAIN Islamic Bank (BiSB) has recently announced the launch of its in-house innovation lab, a dedicated creative space that will allow it to perform exploratory test runs, in an effort to continually improve new banking products and services before they are deployed in the market.

The unveiling of the Innovation Lab is part of a drive to harmonise financial technology with its business operations, in order to deliver superior integrated financial solutions to satisfy its customers' expectations.

Launching of BiSB

Special space for creativity

Innovation Lab is one of the major achievements carried out by the in-house IT team in line with the bank's digitisation strategy and includes a "Virtual Voice Assistant" to help guide callers.

CEO Hassan Jarrar said: "The inauguration of this lab stems from the need to create an innovative work environment that inspires creativity, thinking outside the box and brainstorming new ideas.

"We have equipped the lab

with advanced technology in order to empower our IT team with the ability to pilot and test drive new products currently available in the digital market, leveraging digital interfaces within the bank's systems in order to design new solutions in the FinTech field."

BiSB says it is continually seeking new ways to streamline its operations in order to 'transform the lives of customers' through innovative, simple solutions that facilitate their banking transactions.

"The Lab is automated with biometric authentication for added security measures, and is equipped with various new technologies, including Location Based Services, Self-Service Machines, New Generation ATMs, robotics, digital banking services, instant cheque book and card printing services.

"It also comprises a Virtual Voice Assistant, which will enable our retail and corporate customers to chat online, allowing them to manage their financial business faster in a simplified and hassle-free manner.



ROOM FOR IDEAS: BiSB launches its Innovation Lab

"The possibilities are endless, our employees can utilise the lab to demonstrate potential services, identify the business value of trending technologies, and experiment with services remotely before they go-to-

market. Moreover, the lab will play a pivotal role in facilitating the exchange of ideas, serving as a creative space, further promoting a culture of innovation within the bank."



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Leisure Guide



Listings, lifestyle, travel, entertainment and sporting events by Mai Al Khatib-Camille

Today (June 20)

City Centre Bahrain is featuring a performance by traditional Russian dancers at the mall's Central Galleria, four times per day, until Friday.

For details, visit www.facebook.com/citycentrebahrain or www.citycentrebahrain.com

● See Shopping Tip: Page 6

Celebrate Eid Al Fitr at Swiss-Café until Saturday with a wide selection of Middle Eastern dishes priced at BD8net per person, inclusive of soft drinks. It's free for two children under six for every one paying adult and 50 per cent discount for children aged six to 12.

For details, contact 66310041.

THE 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee will be held at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain. Two international forums will take place. The Young Heritage Professionals Forum, running until Tuesday, will feature 30 experts from all over the world who will interact with locals to exchange experiences and ideas.

A Site Managers Forum is planned to take place from tomorrow until June 28, offering a platform to reflect on heritage protection and also share information. The World Heritage Committee Meeting runs from Sunday to July 4. The event starts at 10am and is free for all.

For details, visit <http://42whcbahrain2018.bh>

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's band the Eye Candies will entertain every evening from 9pm, except on Saturdays, at The Harvesters. The outlet is also dishing up a new Camel Burger with French fries and coleslaw and staging a Beast Burger



Challenge which, if finished in the stipulated time, offers the meal for free, a T-shirt and wall of fame celebrity status. It runs daily from 11am to 9pm and is priced BD8.410 per person.

The hotel is also holding a steak night every Wednesday from 7pm at La Mosaïque Restaurant priced BD18net, with the 1kg steak challenge too. Spices Indian Restaurant hosts its popular Punjabi Thali until June 30 priced at BD5.450net for vegetarians and BD6.650net for meat-eaters, for food only. For more details call 17531122.

The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is offering a summer camp until September 30 from Sunday to Wednesday, 9am to 6pm, and Thursday to Saturday, 9am to 8.30pm. It will include an outdoor camping experience, culinary events, swimming lessons and educative art workshops. It's BD7 for an hour, BD15 for three hours, and BD30 with lunch and dinner for full day, BD135 with lunch and dinner for five days and BD155 with lunch and dinner for one week. The camp is complimentary for in-house guests and spa members. Children under the age of four must have their parents

or nanny with them. For details, call 17115091

Tomorrow (June 21)

Elite Resort & Spa has a sea & grill buffet dinner every Thursday and Friday from 7pm to 11pm at Al Naseem & La Brasserie priced at BD12++ per person. For details, call 17313333. Rapper OT Genasis, known for his single Coco and Touchdown will perform at The One Bahrain at Park Regis Lotus Hotel in Juffair. He will be supported by DJ Santi, DJ Shortman and DJ Riddler. Pre-Sale tickets are BD5 for ladies and BD10 for gents. For details, call 33366659 or 33536446.

Friday (June 22)

The British Club Bahrain is staging a Christmas in June event in which people can dress festive, eat turkey and pull crackers.

For details, call 17728245.

The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is hosting Friday Brunch at CUT by Wolfgang Puck Steakhouse from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Priced BD24++ with soft beverages, BD24++ with extensive beverage package for ladies, or BD34++ with extensive beverage package. For details, call 17115044.

The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is hosting a Friday Spring Fair Brunch every Friday until May 11 from 1pm to 4pm, featuring seasonal dishes, fair-style games, and other activities for children. Priced BD25++ inclusive of soft beverages, or BD35++ inclusive of selected beverages. For reservations, call 17115500.

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain hosts a FIFA-themed Family Fun Brunch at La Mosaïque with free pool access from 12.30pm to 4pm. It's priced BD31net for adults and BD8.750net for children aged seven to 12. For details, contact 17531122.

Elite Crystal Hotel has a Friday Pool Party brunch at Waikiki from 1pm to 8pm with entertainment by DJ Santi, DJ Smiley and DJ Goose. It's free entrance for women with one welcome drink, BD10net for men with one complimentary beverage and BD25net inclusive of unlimited selected beverages and grills. For details, contact 66666360 or 17360360.

The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & 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. It's priced BD32net, inclusive of selected beverages, with special rates for Gulf Hotel partners and Prestige Club members. For details, call 17713000.

The Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain

Construction-themed Friday Brunch offers a variety of food and a selection of drinks, a band and DJs from 12.30pm to 5pm at its Al Murjan Ballroom. It's priced BD36net per person, including unlimited beverages. This Friday is the FIFA-themed brunch and will feature prizes. Children aged six to 12 will receive 50 per cent price reduction and children under six dine for free. For details, call 17460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com

Saturday (June 23)

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 mezzeh, priced BD16++ including soft beverages. For more details, call 17115000.

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain has an Asian Night offering South East Asian specialities from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, China and Japan starting at 7pm at La Mosaïque Restaurant priced

at BD13net (only food). For details, contact 17531122.

Sunday (June 24)

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain hosts Italian Night at La Mosaïque from 7pm featuring pasta, pizza and more priced at BD13net for the food only and there is a separate beverage package. For details, contact 17531122.

Rhythms of Arabia concert will be held at the Cultural Hall and admission is free and starts at 8pm. It's organised by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities and will include Bahraini and Arabic music performed by a group of musicians from Bahrain including singers Mohammed Assiri and Yousif Al-Jabri. For details, call 17298777.

Monday (June 25)

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain has a French Night starting at 7pm and priced at BD13net (food only) at La Mosaïque restaurant. For details, contact 17531122.

The Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain has a Seafood Night offering the freshest catch of the day, a buffet and live cooking station priced at BD24net including soft drinks, or BD29net including unlimited selected beverages. For details, contact 17460017.

Tuesday (June 26)

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain has a Catch of The Day-Seafood Night starting at 7pm and priced at BD18net (food only) and a beverage package available at La Mosaïque restaurant. For details, contact 17531122.

THE Lost Paradise of Dilmun marked Eid with a 10-day celebration featuring an array of activities including performances by Arab singers, DJs and street-style entertainment.

There are also tasty meal offerings along the newly-launched Shebab Avenue Food Street.

To celebrate the World Cup, three freestyle football jugglers from Europe are performing and showing off their eye-catching tricks and gravity defying skills.

Also, seven of the most popular Arabic singers have jumpstarted the waterpark's biggest Eid music festival to date. The festival concludes with Nasser Al Bahar on June 22.

Prizes games and competitions are being staged throughout the event.

For more information on events, schedules and timings, call 17845100 or follow their Facebook/ IG @lpodwaterpark

● Juggling skills: Page 4



CINEMA CLUB JUFFAIR



Film: *Our Souls at Night*

Director: Ritesh Batra

Duration: 1hr 43mins.

Cast: In a small Colorado town called Holt, Addie Moore pays an unexpected visit to a neighbour, Louis Waters. Both their spouses had passed on and although they live in a small town for decades, they have had little contact. Their children live far away and they are all alone in their big houses. Addie seeks to establish a connection and make the most of the rest of the time they have.

For details, call Huda Tabbara on 17725959.



ELITE Grande Hotel is staging World Cup Fever at Zodiac & H20 priced at BD15+.

For details, contact 17565888.

ELITE Crystal Hotel is hosting Kick Off at The Lotus and Wakiki until July 15. For details, For details, contact 66666360 or 17360360.

FOOTBALL fans can enjoy the 2018 World Cup Football Games at the exclusive World Pavilion at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain daily until July 15 from 2pm to 2am. Guests will also enjoy a football-themed atmosphere, à la carte menu options and special beverage menus by beverage partner BMMI. Entrance is free with a minimum

spending of BD10 per person. For information, contact 17586499.

THE Football Stadium at Four Seasons will show matches on a massive 4x10m high-definition screen, together with 160 LCD screens, offering 150 supporters a perfect view of each game. The fully air-conditioned venue aims to recreate the thrilling atmosphere of a packed football stadium, complete with grandstand-style seating, exclusive fan zone seating sections with bean bags and comfortable lounge areas with sofas. Spectators can take part in a range of fun activities, from taking on friends in a table football

tournament and honing their scoring skills with Play Station games.

Entry cost BD12 from June 14 to 28 June, BD18 from June 30 to July 15 with the cost taken off the overall bill spent for food and drinks. There is also a BD150 all-inclusive package for groups of five or more, with complimentary beverages and food platters.

For information, contact 17115500.

THE FIFA Soccer world championship will be a part of the programme in both Downtown and Elements restaurants at the InterContinental Regency Bahrain. For details, call 17208308.

WATCH all the thrills of the World Cup after Ramadan in the Gulf Hotel Bahrain's newly-renovated Sherlock Holmes. The venue will include additional screens at every angle, continue to retain its Old-English feel along with modern entertainment features from surround sounds to state-of-the-art lighting.

For more details, call 17713000.

Gather your friends to watch the FIFA World Cup 2018 at the Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain. The games will be broadcasted on a giant screen at the Fun Zone outdoor air-conditioned tent, which was particularly designed for this sporting occasion which also features a special menu.

For information, contact 17460017.

ENJOY the FIFA World Cup 2018 at Crown Plaza's Harvesters Lounge & Terrace from 11am.

For details, call 17531122.

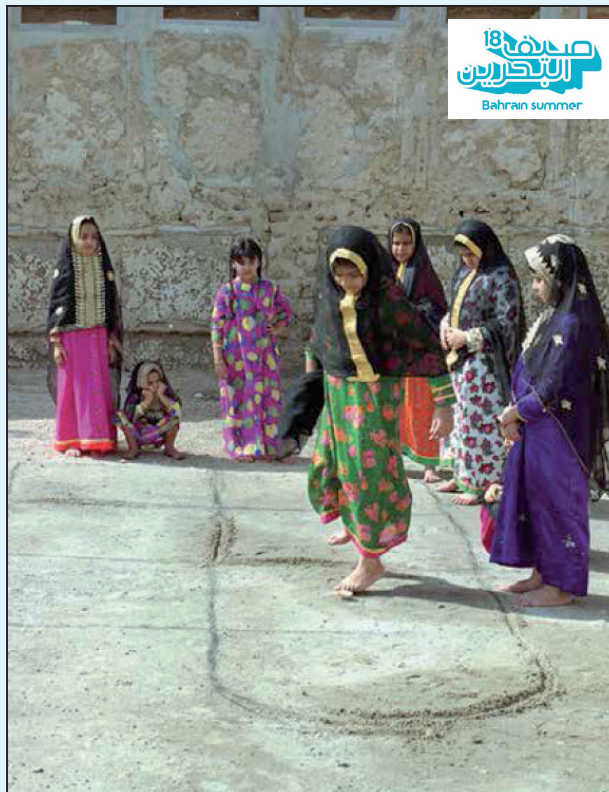
Watch all the games in comfort and style with soccer-style snacks and refreshments at Al Areen Palace & Spa.

And get fit like Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi by joining special 45-minute World Cup Training Sessions in the Fitness for Life studio. Classes are BD5 for 45mins with mixed and ladies only sessions.

For details, contact 17845000.

● See Eating Out: Page 11

SUMMER FESTIVAL



THE 10th edition of the Bahrain Summer Festival returns under the slogan Muharraq Capital of Islamic Culture with a two-month programme. It will take place in the Nakheel Tent at Arad Fort and will also feature a variety of children's activities.

Nakheel and Nakheel, the adventurous mascots will welcome families on arrival. The tent is open every day, except on Sunday, from 5pm to 9pm and admission is free.

For details, call 17567171.

● June 18, 20, 22, 27, July 4, 13, 17

The Mohammed bin Faris Band: The band, featuring artists and musicians and members of folk music groups in the kingdom, will perform various types of traditional local musical genres and songs.

Time: 8.15pm to 9pm

● June 19, 20, 26, 27, July 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, August 1, 7, 8, 14, 15

The Puppet Show: Puppet theatre specialist Ramadan Yousif presents a series of educational and entertaining shows inspired by local heritage, animal stories, adventures, folk tales and traditional games.

Time: 7pm to 7.20pm

● June 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16

Magic Show: Bahraini artist Walid presents a series of magic tricks with comedy and fun for adults and children.

Time: 7pm to 7.20pm

● June 28 and 29

Reda Troupe: The Reda Troupe performs two shows featuring folk music and dance concerts organised in collaboration with the Egyptian embassy on the first day presenting Andalusian-inspired muwashshahat scored by Fuad

Abdelmajid and choreographed by Mahmoud Reda, and on the second day a folk dance and music show.

Time: 8.15pm to 9pm

● June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17

Police Music Band: The band will present a variety of musical shows that combine military music and traditional Bahraini music.

Time: 6.45pm to 7.30pm

● July 6

Musicians without Borders: This music project is made up of seven musicians from different countries, languages and cultures.

Time: 8.15pm to 9pm

● July 19

Maqamat Badi' Al-Zaman Al-Hamathani: Theatrical vignettes that combine comedic situations inspired by Arabian folklore and characters such as Abu Al-Fateh Al-Iskandari and Issa bin Hisham and others.

Minimum age: 10+

Time: 8pm to 9.30pm

● July 25, 26, 27

Zapin Dance: This celebrated Malaysian dance style was once performed for royal guests.

Time: 8.15pm to 9pm

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New in post

THE board of directors of Bahrain Real Estate Investment (Edamah), the real estate arm of sovereign wealth fund Mumtalakat, has appointed Amin Al Arrayed as CEO of the company.

He boasts extensive executive experience having led First Bahrain Real Estate Development Company since 2007 and contributed to the development of several successful real estate projects, including the El Mercado development in Janabiya and the Majaal project, which includes the development of industrial facilities for SMEs, in Hidd.



In focus



CREDIMAX has made a donation to Bahrain's Smile Initiative to help spread awareness and provide better care for children and families battling cancer. Its chief executive Yousif Ali Mirza presented a cheque to Future Youth Society chairman Subah Al Zayani. Present were Smile Initiative's financial secretary and head of psychological support, Safaa Al Nasser, and financial sources development and corporate relations head, Hanan Al Hadi.



NBB has made a donation to Bahrain Red Crescent Society as part of its ongoing donations and contributions programme. Chief executive – treasury, capital markets & wealth management, Hussain Al Hussaini presented a cheque to Bahrain Red Crescent Society president, Mubarak Al Hadi. The ceremony was attended by NBB's board secretary, Nasser Mohammed Nasser and the society's supervisor, Mohammed Ebrahim.

TEN-YEAR OLD pupils Jennika Bangunan and Aliya Delgado won a British School of Bahrain 'green bag' design competition.

Their art work will now be printed on 1,000 bags that will be sold in school over the next few weeks to dissuade pupils and parents from using plastic bags which often end up polluting the environment.



SocialScene

Why wait a month! Join Social Scene every week

Team work



BOKHOWA Group and the management of Saar Mall recently held a Ghabga for their employees and their families at the Ram-

ada City Centre Hotel's Reem Al Bawadi Restaurant. The company's owner Hassan Abdullah Bokhowa and the mall's execu-



tive director Esmahan Hassan Bokhowa thanked their teams. They all enjoyed a culinary feast, prize competitions and gifts.

Stunning showground



MEMBERS of the media enjoyed at night at the Al Rashid Group's Ghabga at the Crowne Plaza Convention Centre which had been transformed into a showground with fun entertainment and Hollywood movie classic characters.

Business partners



IN CELEBRATION of the holy month of Ramadan, American Express Middle East hosted a Ramadan Ghabga at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Masaya Pavilion for its business partners and merchants.

Apartment prize

LUCKY customer Abdulsamad Ghanim won a luxury apartment at Marassi Al Bahrain in the fifth KFH-Bahrain Libshara Grand Prize Draw which took place at the bank's headquarters located in Bahrain World Trade Centre under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

The apartment handover ceremony was staged at the Marassi Al Bahrain Sales Centre, in Diyar Al Muharraq, in the presence of representatives of the developers and the bank, including deputy executive manager of KFH-Bahrain's Retail Banking Group, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, pictured here with the winner.



Rotarian cheer



THE Rotary Club of Salmaniya and the Bahrain CSR Society jointly organised an Iftar for 30 orphans from the Al Kawthar Society at the Nakheel Centre in Saar.

Eating Out

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

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WIN a 'Dim Sum Platter' for two at Wok Station by answering this quiz question and emailing your answer to editor@gulfweekly.com. Dim Sum originates from ____ a) Nepal b) China c) Spain. 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.

Wrapping up the real action

AL Areen Palace & Spa's Ramadan tent has been transformed into a World Cup wonderland with football-themed décor and treats, comfy couches and a super large screen to watch the sporting action in style.

The tent was already attracting food lovers from across the island with its tasty Turkish grills and traditional décor and now Sumon Ghosh, the assistant outlet manager who handles the entire food and beverage division at the hotel, believes it will entice football fanatics across the island and beyond.

The Al Qasr Tent can accommodate around 150 to 170 guests comfortably and the opening game between Saudi Arabia and FIFA World Cup 2018 hosts Russia attracted a large contingent from across the causeway.

Sumon said: "The World Cup experience here is unique and you will not get this kind of ambience and décor everywhere. We have created a special menu for the World Cup that's nicely categorised and themed around the players."

"The main attraction of the tent is the huge screen and the comfortable couches. There is a great ambience here with lighting to help create the atmosphere. We simply want to share the football fever with our guests and hope they all enjoy the experience."

The BD2 soft drink selection is also based on



TASTY TREATS: Football fare and, below, star celebrity Sami helping with a prize draw, Chef Das, and Bahrain footballers watching the big screen action

GOURMET REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

a World Cup theme with refreshing delights such as Dribbled by Neymar, Tackled by Salah and Saved by David De Gea and on second thoughts, be careful you don't drop the last one!

The waiting staff members have also got wrapped up in soccer style by wearing different coloured jerseys that score with visiting fans.

Meanwhile, Executive Chef Janardan Das and his team of chefs have created finger foods and bites to ensure guests can enjoy the cuisine

without missing any of the action and avoiding messy spills in the penalty area.

The Forwards are a selection of cold appetisers including items such as hummus and tabouleh. The Midfielder features hot nibbles such as falafels and kibbeh. The Defenders star superb grilled halloumi sandwiches, crispy fried shrimp, mini chicken and beef burgers with French fries, oven-cooked Shuwa sliders - whole lamb sliced into mini buns with fries, mixed grills and more.

The Goalkeepers section offers dessert with Arabian

favourites Umm Ali and kunafa leading the line.

The tournament's opening match also attracted members of the media and a celebrity mix of sporting stars including members of the Bahrain national football squad and Bahraini bodybuilding champion, Sami Al Haddad.

It was the last chance to tuck into the iftar buffet, which has already received a rave review on this page. The salads, cheese slices, grills, French toast, rice dishes and creamy pasta all lived up to their reputation.

My husband Sam dressed

in green to show his support for our neighbours across the causeway and looked as dejected after the match as the Saudis in the crowd after the crushing 5-0 defeat.

Fans can experience the sporting vibes every day until July 15, when the tournament comes to a final conclusion. The tent will be open an hour before the first scheduled match begins and will end around 45 minutes after the last match is played.

It's a minimum spend of BD8 net and fans can utilise that inside with choices of food and beverages included on the menu.



● Check out chief reporter Mai's interview with Chef Das by scanning the QR code with your smart phone or by visiting www.gulfweekly.com and our Facebook page.

● Leisure Guide: P8 & P9
● See match fallout: P24



Delight on ice ente

IT truly is a small world after all as spectacular skaters from across the globe delighted Disney fans with a series of magical musical performances throughout Eid Al Fitr.

On the ice the family-favourite characters displayed high-flying tricks wearing colourful costumes amid exciting visual effects and foot-stomping numbers.

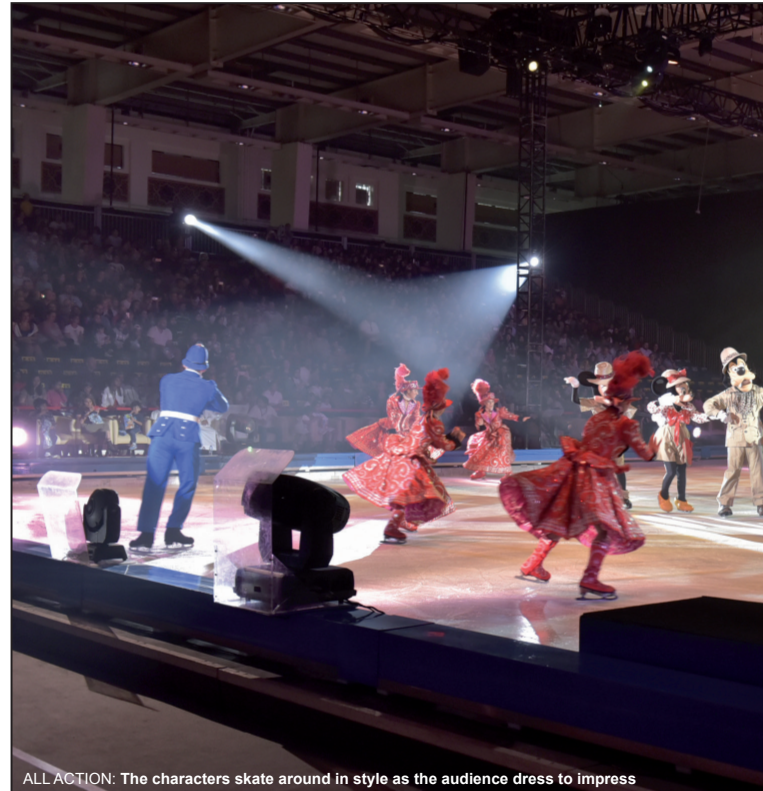
Disney on Ice presents *Passport to Adventure* concludes today. The show, produced by Feld Entertainment and hosted by the Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority, lived up to its hype in more ways than one.

Members of the media were treated to a sneak-preview and backstage visit earlier on in the week. During the special tour, costumes and props were placed on display and a selection of scenes from the show were unveiled.

Keri Jones, the Disney on Ice tour coordinator, promised that the show, which features 48 world-class ice skaters from around the world including Japan, Belgium, Czech Republic, America, Canada, Philippines and Bulgaria would have something for everybody and it truly did.

She said the performing troupe was particularly excited to be part of the first touring ice show in Bahrain. "Our show boasts lots of colour, amazing costumes and favourite songs like *The Little Mermaid's Under the Sea* and *Frozen's Let it Go*," she explained. "It's great when we are touring to hear all the children singing along."

"There is so much activity on the ice and so many stories that children and adults never get bored ... plus some amazing



ALL ACTION: The characters skate around in style as the audience dress to impress

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

skating and tricks that produce plenty of surprises for the audience."

Passport to Adventure was created by a team of ice show industry experts such as award-winning choreographer Cindy Stuart, who collaborated with Olympic Gold Medalist Robin Cousins on multiple projects, Jerry Bilik, music coordinator for The 31st Annual Emmy Awards, and Patty Vincent who has been creative director for all touring Disney On Ice productions. The tour started

in Europe in September taking in the UK, Spain, France, Belgium and Switzerland before heading to the Gulf region with a stopover in Dubai before helping to make the Eid holidays memorable in Bahrain.

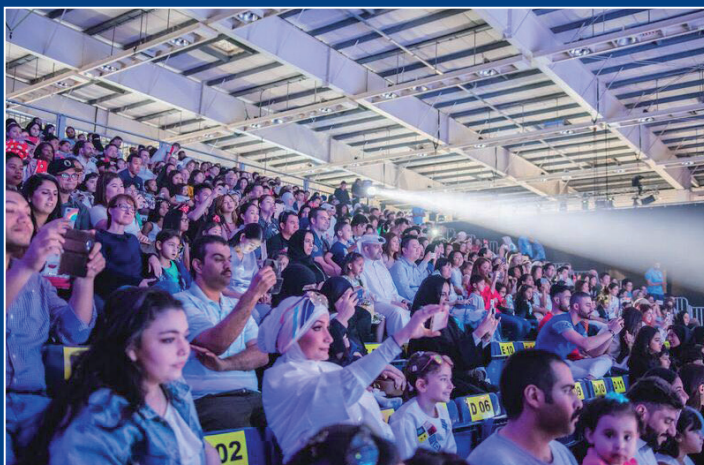
Although the show has been updated and changed into different formats, it has been electrifying fans for the past 23 years.

Hundreds of families and friends have already flocked to the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre (BIECC) and there was a full house on Saturday

afternoon for the premiere.

From the moment people stepped through the BIECC doors, they were transported into a Disney wonderland full of memorabilia including *Little Mermaid* and *Frozen* princess dolls, glowing icicle sticks and wands, Olaf soft toys and other fun souvenirs. Even some of the snacks were *Frozen*-themed with Olaf snow cones in mugs alongside Mickey Mouse & Friends popcorn bags.

Disney movies and past ice performances played on giant screens in the food court and the whole arena was full of life



ertainains Disney fans



After a 15-minute break ... the magic continued with *The Little Mermaid's* Princess Ariel began to sing *Part of Your World*. Sebastian the crab and other colourful creatures sang *Under the Sea* and *Kiss the Girl* before Wicked Witch Ursula appeared. Her costume was mesmerising.

Just as the audience thought it couldn't get any better, *Frozen's* princesses Elsa and Anna appeared in full voice. Elsa's *Let it Go* as always had children singing along in full voice and screaming. With every flick of Elsa's wrist more sparks flew from the rink.

The show ended with a Disney flash mob dance and fireworks.

Jehan Hasan, 34, AVP in group strategy at Bank ABC, took her four-year-old twins, Hasan and Aryana, to the show. "We had a great time," she said. "What a brilliant idea to bring this to Bahrain, it was extremely entertaining and the children loved the interaction."

British School of Bahrain pupil and Ariel fan, Amelia Taylor, six, from Saar, came to the show with a friend and said: "I loved the dancing, especially when Wendy and her brothers flew and the skaters were lifted up in the air."

Amelia's mum, Nicola, a teacher at BSB, added: "The girls have been talking about it for weeks and were very excited. They loved all the costumes and the songs they know so well. The timing was perfect too because everyone has been in a really celebratory mood for Eid. It was so lovely."

● *There is a final show today at 3pm so if you haven't seen it, this is the one time GulfWeekly suggests you really don't 'let it go'!*



and laughter even before the show started. Many children were dressed as their favourite Disney movie characters and their parents appeared equally as excited.

Businessman Jude D'Souza, who attended the show with his wife, Dona, and children Andreas, six, and Alexis, one, said: "This show transports you back to your own childhood and I'm happy that the kids were able to enjoy what we watched growing up."

When three skaters glided onto the ice for a pre-show warm-up assisted by *Zootopia* mascots, children began to

scream and joined in their routine. The skaters reminded the audience to stay hydrated and wished them all a great time and then the two-hour show took off.

It started with a *Small World* feature in which performers dressed in outfits representing numerous countries spun and twirled to the classic song.

Everyone who has watched Walt Disney movies or visited Disneyworld will have heard this family favourite which also boasts its own ride.

Then Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Daisy and Goofy appeared and everyone waved

hello and screamed.

The first stop on a global journey included a stopover in Africa where Simba from *The Lion King* and his friends Timon and Pumbaa, Nala and Rafiki took to the ice.

Peter Pan's Tinkerbell sparkled too as pixie dust shot out of her wand every time she twirled. The pirate ship and the Lost Boys home were remarkable with producers obviously paying attention to every detail. The crowd stomped their feet at the *Pirates Yo Ho Ho* song and laughed at Captain Hook when he came across the Tick-Tock Croc.



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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

Sweet retreat by the water

STAR Real Estate has an unfurnished three bedroom villa available for rent in Amwaj Islands' serene Al Marsa Floating City.

The spacious home, which has a total built-up area of 290sqm, is situated in the Venice-inspired development surrounded by views of the sea and canal.

The ground floor includes a closed kitchen and guest closet as well as a living and dining area.

The bathroom features monochrome mosaics. There is a small patio outside and a place for boat or Jet Ski mooring.

The master bedroom is located on the first floor with views over the canal with a second bedroom is located close by. Both boast built-in wardrobes and ensuite bathrooms.

Step up to the second floor for a further bedroom, also with a built-in wardrobe and ensuite, along with a terrace offering delightful views over Al Marsa.

Tenants have two parking spots.



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Location: Al Marsa Floating City
Reference number: V1621
Rental price: BD1,000
Bedrooms: 3
Reception Areas: 1
Bathrooms: 3
Additional information: The villa has a patio and a jetty.
For more details, contact 17298210.



SocialScene

In focus



Downtown Rotana hosted 20 orphans from Al Sanabel Society to a themed iftar buffet at its Al Maha Ballroom.



ETONHOUSE Bahrain, which provides an early years programme for children aged 18 months to six, staged a Book Week at its Janabiya campus. It included a pyjama day in which parents came along to read stories to the pupils and a dress up day where the proceeds of a BD1 donation went to the BSCA. The children also got to meet a puppy from the charity's shelter.



Making contact



INVITA, the multi-lingual contact centre, hosted its annual Ghabga at the InterContinental Regency Bahrain with management and staff members attending the event.

Inspiring artwork



THROUGH an inspiring exhibit of artwork by students from different disability centres around Bahrain, the British Council concluded its programme for Art-Able for this year, which was sponsored by HSBC Bank in Bahrain.

The event took place at Saar Mall and was attended by representatives from the British Council, the participating centres, students and their parents.



Continuous support



AL HILAL Group managing director Ronnie Middleton has received a memento of thanks for his continuous support to Labour Day celebrations organised by The Indian Club and the Tamil Social & Cultural Association.

Ram Raj, Sujit Kumar Choubey and Shiva presented a plaque to him at the company's headquarters in Hoora.

More than 3,500 people participated in the club's event which included medical check-ups, lunch, dinner and cultural programmes with the support of ministry officials, sponsors and dignitaries, including the Indian ambassador.

Education Matters



An educational insight and comment by head teacher Chris Fenton

It was Abraham Lincoln who said that if he had six hours to cut down a tree, he would spend four hours sharpening the axe.

This is a very wise statement from a legendarily wise man. It makes reference to the importance of what taking care of the tools of your trade so they work to their maximum efficiency, thus reducing the time needed to do the job effectively.

Recently it was announced that Premier League footballers in England will be granted a two-week winter break to recuperate mid-season, lessening their chances of injury toward the end of the season and ensuring that they are in their best form to the benefit of those who pay their million pound wages, the fans.

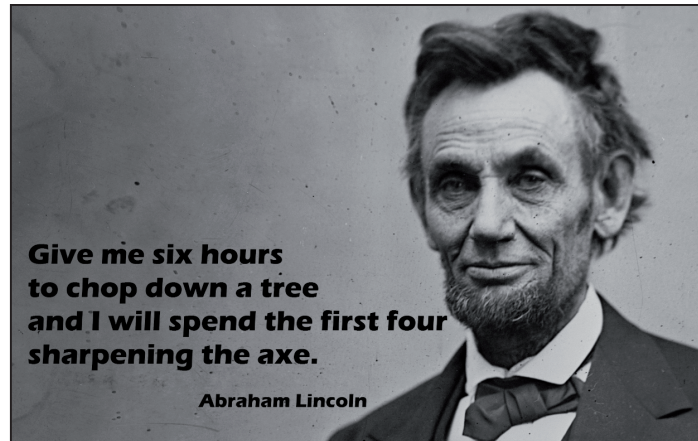
So, two examples of how rest and relaxation is to the significant benefit of those

taking it as it strengthens the spirit, refreshes the mind and takes care of the body.

The long summer holiday is looming and whilst that is to the absolute consternation of every other occupation in the world, it is an absolutely necessary break for children and teachers so they can refresh themselves and return to the classroom alert and inspired to do it all again.

That, however is only a half truth, because it's what teachers and children do with their time off that will directly influence how inspired and refreshed they are when they return in the autumn and this where Lincoln's quote begins to take on relevance in the world of education.

If the teacher spends no time at all reflecting on their performance in the previous year, considering the career goals they have for the next and spending at least some of their leisure time



reading and increasing their professional knowledge, the six to eight weeks holiday in my opinion are wasted time.

A friend and former colleague of mine introduced me to the book, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Steven R Covey in which the author applies

Lincoln's quote to everyday life. Referring to a saw rather than an axe, he states that sharpening the saw means preserving and enhancing the greatest asset you have – you. This is a very valuable life lesson and one when heeded can become a habit for life.

So, how to sharpen the saw? According to Covey, it requires a commitment to one's self both physically, spiritually, emotionally and mentally.

This means using the time we have to ensure we are working to capacity by listing the areas of our

lives in which we want to improve ourselves and listing how we can start. The holidays are an excellent time for broadening the mind through travel, starting personal health and fitness programmes or increasing our knowledge of our profession or the world around us, but they are also a time for reflecting on our previous behaviours, our relationships, our values and our perceptions.

This summer therefore, I urge teachers and students alike to start their holidays with a view to sharpening their saw because as Covey himself puts it: 'You may think that you don't have time to exercise, build friendships or get inspired, but in reality you don't have time not to. The downtime you spend sharpening your saw will pay you back immediately because when you resume your normal routine, you'll cut that much faster'.

SocialScene

Game on



APM Terminals Bahrain recently hosted its annual ghabga for its employees at Downtown Rotana, Manama. With traditional Arabic hospital-

ity and entertainment lined up during the course of the event, members of staff and senior management were also treated to an evening of games and quizzes with an opportunity to win attractive raffle draw prizes.



Chinese delight



THE Nine Training Centre hosted a traditional Ghabga, in association with HanVang Education and Training and event organiser Medpoint, at The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel for their clients and members of the media.

Shaikha Noora Khalifa A.

Aziz Mohamed Al Khalifa, The Nine Training Centre's chairman and CEO, welcomed guest of honour, Chinese Ambassador An Wa'er, who addressed the attendees.



In focus



EBRAHIM K. Kanoo has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Bahrain to support and nurture students and graduates through its Graduate Recruitment and Development Programme.

Bahraini students in their third year will be supported by the company and, upon graduation, be given an opportunity to work at one of the many of its divisions, such as in marketing, engineering, business management and IT.

Perfect prefects



A team of 26 students from Class 3 was inducted to the Prefectorial Council for the next academic year during a ceremony in the presence of teachers and fellow pupils at the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Riffa campus.



THE Economic Development Board held a Ramadan Majlis at the ground floor of the Arcapita Building in Bahrain Bay. Executives were joined by visiting VIPs, business leaders and members of the media.

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Fashion Weekly

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

Stepping out in retro-style

PHILIPP Plein's Resort 2019 collection is full of attitude with a touch of glam-rock. The German designer launched his collection at his private palace on the Cote d'Azur, 'La Jungle Du Roi's surrounded by fashion lovers, celebrities and his friends.

At the entrance, on a wall of white roses, the word 'PHILIPP PLEIN DYNASTY' was framed by two giant 'Ziggy Stardust' lightning bolts and the runway was created in gold glitter. David Bowie's Rebel Rebel started pounding through the speakers and the models dressed to impress began walking the runway in style.



FASHION
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

This season Plein's woman is inspired by the iconic 1980s TV drama Dynasty exuding all the brazen attitude of Alexis Colby with bright-coloured 70's style hair and glitter nails. The girls sparkled in sequin suits, palm-leaf embellished bombers and hoodies, studded denim mini-skirts, skin-tight leather trousers, carrying a transparent PVC bag and wearing metallic skull stilettoes.

The men were equally as bold dressed in dollar-bill print shirts and suits; turquoise tailored python biker jackets, sequined shawl-collared tuxedos and embellished cowboy hats.

The eveningwear was

sophisticated and elegant with a capsule collection of ultra-luxe gowns for exclusive red-carpet events staying true to the Rock 'n' Roll spirit of Plein. There were leopard printed gowns, python-style sequinning, a biker jacket ball gown along with flowing chiffon and lace bodices.

The collection is also a reflection of the natural surroundings of the Plein villa featuring banana trees and exotic plants. The collection has a softer, more romantic side with floral patterns decorating denim dungarees, military-style jackets and silk flared trousers. Looser shapes and fuller volumes give a fluid, relaxed 1970s feel, revealing a quieter confidence.

For details, visit www.plein.com

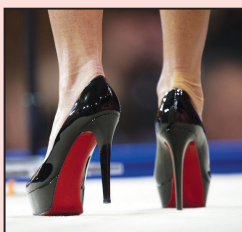


● **FOOTNOTE:** A top court has defended French fashion designer Christian Louboutin's claim to trademark red soled high-heel shoes.

The European Court of Justice ruled that Van Haren, a Dutch company that sold similar shoes, had infringed the trade mark.

The court said that it did not matter that its shoes were different in shape. It said the registration of the trademark 'sought solely to protect that application of a colour to a specific part of that product'.

Louboutin said in a statement that it warmly 'welcomes' the judgment.



cerebrally crust & crema



@crustandcrema

crustandcremabh



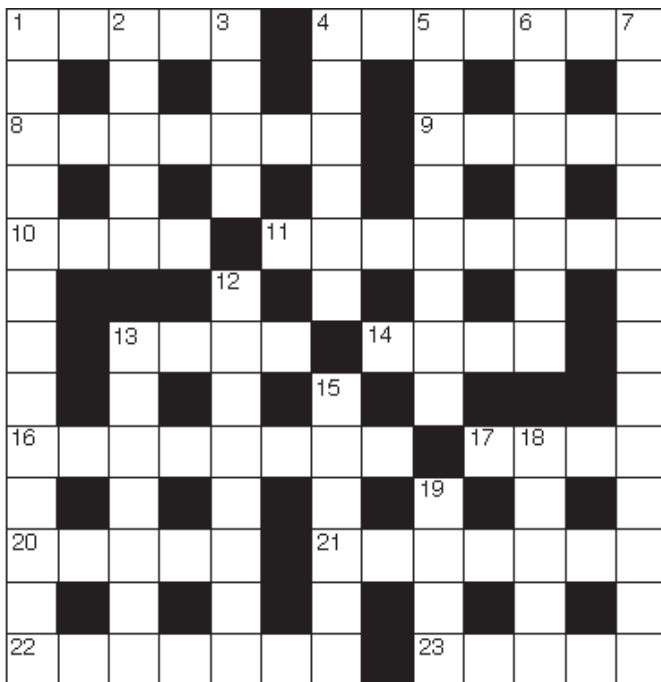
WIN COFFEE-FOR-TWO at crust & crema by answering this quiz question and emailing your answer to editor@gulfweekly.com

There have been _____ attempts to ban coffee throughout history. a) three b) five c) zero

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: Sonal Jagtap won a cup of coffee by correctly answering that a) True, coffee was the first food to be freeze-dried.

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Due (5)
4. In addition (7)
8. Coach (7)
9. Zest (5)
10. Touch (4)
11. Trader (8)
13. Munch (4)
14. Let it stand (4)
16. Maintain (8)
17. File (4)
20. Sluggish (5)
21. Frankness (7)
22. Beg (7)
23. War horse (5)

DOWN

1. Rusty (3,2,8)
2. Angry (5)
3. Crew (4)
4. Margin (6)
5. Wisdom (8)
6. Far (7)
7. Irascible (5-8)
12. Disparage (8)
13. Vanity (7)
15. Sweet (6)
18. Solitary (5)
19. Responsibility (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... co-founded the computer manufacturer Apple?

WHAT ... nationality is the tennis player Nicolas Massu?

WHERE ... was the scientist Sir Humphry Davy born in 1778?

WHEN ... did John Wesley, a leader of the Methodist movement, die?

WHO ... scored two goals for Manchester United in the 2006 League Cup Final?

WHAT ... is the book by Michael Baigent, Henry Lincoln and Richard Leigh that was the subject of a copyright case in the High Court in 2006?

WHERE ... in Europe is the royal residence of Drottningholm Palace?

WHEN ... did The Honeycombs have the No. 1 UK single *Have I The Right*?

just so

1 a.m. 2 a.m. 3 a.m.

never
never

♡
♡
♡ or £
♡

this

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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 3 Adversity; 8 Leer; 9 Behaviour; 10 Eluded; 11 Sever; 14 Incur; 15 Rein; 16 Dying; 18 Tire; 20 Radio; 21 Empty; 24 Terror; 25 Disregard; 26 Snag; 27 Celebrate.

Down: 1 Alleviate; 2 Sepulchre; 4 Deed; 5 Erase; 6 Shiver; 7 Thus; 9 Beard; 11 Spicy; 12 Rendering; 13 Encourage; 17 Greed; 19 Emerge; 22 Tiger; 23 Lime; 24 Trot.

JUST SO: Rise to the bait, The great divide, Female intuition, None of the above.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg; Sorry; Ruthwell, Dumfries; 1973, Simon Stephens; Fat Tuesday; Exeter, Devon; 1955.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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



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Follow Stan on Twitter @stanszeczowka

Your views make all the difference – email Stan Szczerwka at editor@gulfweekly.com



A deserted pet will wait
forever for their family
to return home.

Abandonment is cruel reward for unconditional loyalty.
Consequently, when moving-on ensure all your family
moves-on with you.

50°E

Supporting Animal Welfare in Bahrain
david@50degreese.com

IT'S the time of the year when many expats depart for good and some abandon their pets.

I took a most poignant photograph earlier in the year which summed-up the sense of desertion and made it into an advertisement.

Perhaps you could publish it, you never know, it might prick a conscience or two.

After all, any pet saved from being left behind is less of a burden on welfare services on the island and, hopefully, we'll help rescue a pet from a miserable life.

Kind Regards,
David Jeffery, MD
50degreeW.com

IN COLLABORATION with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain), the Al Mabarrah Al Khalifa Foundation has launched the registration phase of Her Highness Shaikha Moza bint Hamad Medical Grant for the second consecutive year.

Registration for the scholarship will run from Sunday to July 7, through the foundation's website. The grant covers all tuition fees as well as other benefits of the Rayaat programme, where students will be selected according to a set of criteria.

Eligible applicants must be

of Bahraini nationality, fresh graduates, with a minimum average of 98 per cent in secondary school in the field of science. The student must complete all procedures pertaining to the application process at RCSI Bahrain for entry in September 2018.

The Rayaat Scholarship programme was launched in 2011, in line with the foundation's vision to provide students with scholarship opportunities at accredited universities in the kingdom, in addition to providing many benefits including financial incentives, workshops and training opportunities in the public and private sectors, as well as many activities

that promote a culture of 'community responsibility and volunteerism' among young people in a supportive environment.

Al Mabarrah Al Khalifa Foundation, by email.

● **Editor's note:** For more information on the application process, please visit Al Mabarrah Al Khalifa's website at <http://www.mkfbh.org>

SO GRATEFUL to have my home country recognise the work I'm putting in.

I couldn't have done this without the support from my family and friends. I want to thank all of you and know that I really love you and

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 ...

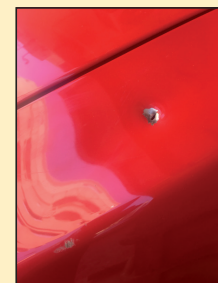
...editor@gulfweekly.com

ONE of the perils of parking around the Hooraa area is trying to find a safe and secure place to park, particularly over the weekend when the area's hotels and apartments receive a mass arrival of weekend tourists from across the Causeway. It was with great relief that with saturation point being reached over the Eid holiday the big boss's prime parking bay was empty.

The delighted Editor of this newspaper gleefully parked his beloved Charger and went to work only to be greeted moments later by the sound of crash, bang, wallop.

Workmen loading a skip nearby somehow managed to miss the bucket and throw a large heavy tile on the car's bonnet, the sharp edge leaving a lovely dent and a hole for good measure.

Fortunately the escapade was captured on CCTV and a trip to police station followed. Happy Eid ... not for some.



hope that someday I can give back to the community much more than what you have given me.

A big thank you to

GulfWeekly and shoutout to reporter Kristian Harrison for his wonderful words!

Ashwin Shenoy,
musician.

THIS is Sarah Belal reporting for duty! I am the new face of *Youth Talk*, and let me say, I'm delighted at this opportunity and happy to believe that my road to writing is finally gaining substance.

Funnily enough, the first career I envisioned myself having was one that involved writing, although I had put any such grand thoughts on the backseat, feeling like I didn't have enough aptitude for it, failing to see it as something to work towards.

I'm 19, a Bahraini national who has lived on the island her whole life. I've gotten much used to introducing myself as a student although I hope that with attending university that extends to include other titles I would be proud to include in my repertoire, 'writer' being one of them!

With that said, I'm an English student and this September marks the beginning of my second year.

Youth Talk By Sarah Belal



Time flies, and it seems to get on by even faster the older I get, for I remember a time when a year felt like an eternity!

How do I make that time go even faster? I adore reading and love that in it one gets to experience multiple lives and personalities.

I'm currently working towards earning myself the title of self-proclaimed movie buff, plowing through long lists of movie classics and must-sees.

I'm hugely passionate about environmental sustainability and animal rights activism, and love to spend time writing, learning and studying new languages.

I look forward to sharing my opinions here on this platform and hope to provide a pleasant and thought-provoking read.

IT'S easy for little grammar mistakes to slip by, especially when you're texting. The new millennials prefer texting over legitimate human interaction, and it's no secret that text messaging has changed the way we communicate, but it has also changed the meaning of sentences, punctuation and grammar.

Most texts now are stuffed with emojis and enthusiastic abbreviations. A lot of screen time by the younger generation seems to involve reading or writing English that doesn't look quite like it should.

My daughter, Liliana, recently celebrated her birthday and she had decided on not having a home baked cake as her party wasn't for another week. But, a day before her birthday, she ceremoniously changed her mind and sent

Ellissa's island life An expat wife, mother, artist and runner



me a few text messages on what kind of cake she would like.

A six-layer multi-coloured Rainbow Cake topped off with a pink chocolate ganache drip frosting, pouring delicately down the sides, if it's not too much trouble she kindly asked.

So that morning I set about baking the sponges, each layer individually coloured and baked, then came the assembly job with lashings of homemade buttercream to keep the layers neat and smooth.

I was just about to chill the first layer of buttercream when my daughter burst into the house, excited to see the cake in its development stage.

I eagerly anticipated her delight but unfortunately she stood transfixed and stated gloomily: 'but it's not chocolate'. Refraining from throwing buttercream or worse at all I replied, but you texted: 'Can't be chocolate'.

My daughter looked perplexed and retrieved her text message. Apparently she was walking whilst texting and had managed to omit the vital 'i' to the 't', which completely changed the meaning. She had meant to text 'can it be chocolate'.

After the initial shock, my daughter

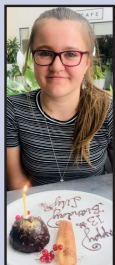
helped with the final decoration of the cake and it was delicious. Fortunately, most of the time, poor use of punctuation or grammar creates amusement rather than life-threatening danger.

Punctuation can potentially save lives though: 'Let's eat, Grandpa' versus 'Let's eat Grandpa'.

A rogue full stop: 'Thank you! Your donation just helped someone. Get a job'. Hannibal Lecter's version of a famous bumper sticker: 'Love People. Cook them. tasty food'.

So I tried to tell my children how important it is to spend an extra minute or two and type words fully and correctly. My daughter then texted me: 'DWBH, TTYL, LOL' followed by a row of winking emojis.

Welcome to the new world of teen words ...



Film Weekly



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



Simply incredible!

THE sequel to the acclaimed classic film always ends up one of two ways: a complete disaster, or everything you hoped and wanted. In the case of *The Incredibles 2*, it's most definitely the latter.

Following from the success of the first installment, we're back with The Incredibles family, with events picking up essentially just where they left off. This time, Bob Parr, alias Mr. Incredible (voiced by Craig T. Nelson) is left at home to care for the family, including the still-developing Jack-Jack (voiced by Eli Fucile).

In the meantime, Helen Parr, alias Elastigirl (voiced by Holly Hunter), is offered the role of poster girl for a new PR campaign that aims to restore the reputation and legal standing of superheroes that in the first movie, were outlawed and shamed.

From the get-go, we're thrown back into the cool, familiar, pseudo-60s spy film vibe that drove the first film, making it all that more appealing. Bob is disgruntled at his new role as house husband and father, but Helen comes into her own.

THE INCREDIBLES 2

STARRING: Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Sarah Vowell.

DIRECTOR: Brad Bird

GENRE: Animation, Action, Adventure

RATING: PG

RUNTIME: 118 Mins

It's a nod to the era where women entered the workforce en masse while dealing with condescension and revulsion from male counterparts as they tried to build their careers.

What's always been so charming and relatable about *The Incredibles* is the focus on the tight unit of the family and its various entanglements. There's more action set pieces in this sequel for sure, but director Brad Bird doesn't rely on them to replace the most important movie-making ingredient: heart.

It's not only empowering seeing Helen take on the role of protagonist,

but she encourages the same from the sister of her new employer Evelyn and Winston Deaver (voiced by Catherine Keener and Bob Odenkirk respectively). Once you've realised that Winston is essentially a Steve Jobs but wearing better suits, it's clear that Evelyn could double as an anxious Steve Wozniak, doing all the work for little credit.

The script is very strong, and the direction of the film is clear. It doesn't force anything and doesn't attempt to be greater and grander than everything we saw in the first film. It lightens the mood in a world gone super-serious, with that recognizable blend of nostalgic, character-driven humour.

New characters such as Voyd, voiced by Sophia Bush, bring a different dimension of superhero to the mix, showing us that greatness may have humble beginnings, and that even superheroes can be starstruck in the presence of others of their kind.

Technology has advanced far enough for us to expect excellent animation, and that's exactly what we get. Everything is crisper, cleaner, more vibrant, doing an excellent job of bringing us into the world of *The Incredibles*.

This is an adventure of new heights, and Bird does well not to copy or parody superhero films released in the last 14 years. Instead, we're embracing the memorable heart of what made the first movie so good: the Parr family and their work to overcome insurmountable odds together.

It is, simply put, incredible.

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

ANNA'S VERDICT

1 popcorn - stay home
5 popcorns - start queuing



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Bite-sized trailer

Jurassic World

DIRECTOR: Colin Trevorrow

CAST: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Ty Simpkins

PLOT: 22 years after the original Jurassic Park failed, the new park (also known as Jurassic World) is open for business. After years of studying genetics, the scientists on the park genetically engineer a new breed of dinosaur. When everything goes horribly wrong, will our heroes make it off the island?

SHOWING IN: City Centre, Juffair, The Avenues, Seef I, Saar, Dana, Wadi Al Sail, Seef Muharraq, The Walk



Hotel Artemis

DIRECTOR: Drew Pearce

CAST: Jodie Foster, Sofia Boutella, Dave Bautista

PLOT: Set in riot-torn, near-future Los Angeles, *Hotel Artemis* is an original, high-octane action-thriller starring Jodie Foster as The Nurse, who runs a secret, members-only hospital for criminals. Jodie Foster is joined by an all-star cast that includes Sterling K. Brown, Sofia Boutella, Jeff Goldblum, Brian Tyree Henry, Jenny Slate, Zachary Quinto, Charlie Day, and Dave Bautista.

SHOWING IN: City Centre, The Avenues, Seef II, Wadi Al Sail, Seef Muharraq, The Walk



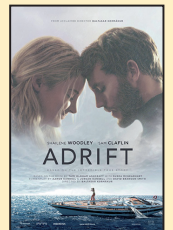
Adrift

DIRECTOR: Baltasar Kormákur

CAST: Shailene Woodley, Sam Claflin, Grace Palmer

PLOT: *Adrift* is based on the inspiring true story of two free spirits whose chance encounter leads them first to love, and then to the adventure of a lifetime. As the two avid sailors set out on a journey across the ocean, Tami Oldham (Woodley) and Richard Sharp (Claflin) couldn't anticipate they would be sailing directly into one of the most catastrophic hurricanes in recorded history. In the aftermath of the storm, Tami awakens to find Richard badly injured and their boat in ruins.

SHOWING IN: City Centre, The Avenues, Seef II, Dana, Wadi Al Sail, Seef Muharraq, The Walk



imdb movie charts

Current Position	Title	Weekend Takings	Gross to date
1	Incredibles 2	\$180M	\$180M
2	Ocean's Eight	\$20M	\$79M
3	Tag	\$15M	\$15M
4	Solo: A Star Wars Story	\$9M	\$192M
5	Deadpool 2	\$9M	\$295M
6	Hereditary	\$7M	\$27M
7	Superfly	\$6M	\$8M
8	Avengers: Infinity War	\$5M	\$664M
9	Adrift	\$2M	\$27M
10	Book Club	\$2M	\$62M

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Motoring Weekly

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MERCEDES-AMG is extending its sports car portfolio with the new **AMG GT S Roadster** as an attractive open-air model.

With this latest addition the AMG GT family now has a dozen members: four two-door Coupés, three Roadsters, two customer sports racing cars and three four-door Coupés.

The basis for the high driving performance of the new AMG GT S Roadster is the combination of a lightweight aluminium spaceframe, a V8 biturbo engine, a seven-speed dual clutch transmission, a rear axle locking differential and a sport suspension with aluminium double wishbone axles.

Compared to the AMG GT Roadster, the AMG GT S Roadster is rendered even more dynamic by numerous modifications to the engine, suspension, brakes, design and interior.

This positions it between the AMG GT Roadster and the even more powerful AMG GT C Roadster, now providing a choice of three open-top two-seaters.

The AMG 4.0-litre V8 biturbo in the AMG GT S Roadster delivers an output of 384 kW (522 hp) and maximum torque of 670 Nm. This is available over a wide engine speed range from 1900 to 5000 rpm. The eight-cylinder power unit delivers a sprint from standstill



SOFT TOP: The new AMG GT S Roadster

to 100 km/h in 3.8 seconds. The dynamic power delivery continues right up to the top speed of 308 km/h.

The two turbochargers of the V8 are not positioned on the outside of the cylinder banks, but inside the cylinder V. Advantages: a compact engine design and spontaneous response of the turbochargers.

Power transfer is based on the combination of a front mid-engine and the AMG SPEEDSHIFT DCT 7G sport transmission in a transaxle arrangement, combined with a torsionally-rigid torque tube. Thanks to the wide gear

ratio spread, the decidedly high torque of the V8 biturbo engine can be used to optimum effect. The weight distribution is also ideal for optimum driving dynamics at 47 (front) and 53 (rear) percent.

The driver is able to set the AMG GT S Roadster to his or her individual requirements using the AMG DYNAMIC SELECT controller. Five drive modes, C (Comfort), S (Sport), S+ (Sport Plus), RACE and the individually programmable setup I (Individual) are available. These allow a broad range of driving experiences - from

comfortable to very sporty.

By pressing the separate M button in the centre console, the driver can activate the manual transmission mode in any drive mode to change gear using the steering-wheel shift paddles.

For the body of the GT S, Mercedes-AMG has opted for an intelligent and particularly lightweight mix of materials with a high proportion of aluminium.

The three-layered fabric soft top is supported by a magnesium/steel/aluminium structure of low weight, which helps to keep the

vehicle's centre of gravity low. Additional roll-over protection is provided by an integrated aluminium cross-member, while the inserted acoustic mat improves noise comfort.

From the expressive AMG radiator grille to the long bonnet and the muscular tail end, the two-seater guarantees a pure sports car experience even when stationary, its designers say.

The flat front section and forward-sloping radiator grille make the Roadster appear to hug the road. At the same time this shape lowers the vehicle's back-pressure point,

enhancing the flow of cooling air and the car's aerodynamic performance.

Viewed from the side, the arched roof line (when the soft top is closed) and the frameless doors are eye-catching features. The surfaces and lines of the side wall flow into the tail end with a dramatic tapered effect.

The active air regulation system AIRPANEL included as standard is a particular technical highlight. Vertical louvres at the bottom of the front apron are opened and closed electronically by means of an electric motor in around one second to guarantee the required amount of cooling.

As another active aerodynamic component the Roadster features an extendable rear spoiler. This reduces lift at the rear axle at higher speeds. With its broad shoulders and expressive tail light graphics, the rear end enhances the emotional overall appearance.

The interior design echoes the design lines of the exterior. The dashboard places a firm emphasis on width, creating an impression of a powerful wing. Thanks to the high beltlines, concave door panelling, a dynamic, rising centre console and the low seating position, the driver is integrated into the cockpit and feels fully attuned to the Roadster.

Prices will be announced soon. For more details contact Al Haddad Motors on 17785454.

Heartfelt call made to urge motorists to secure unwieldy loads

A GRASS-ROOTS movement launched in the US looks set to go global in a bid to cut down on the number of injuries caused by unsecured loads.

Cars and trucks can regularly be spotted on the highways of Bahrain with items dangling over the sides, attached by rope with an occasional piece of cloth warning vehicles behind.

A Secure Your Load Day movement has been established by Robin Abel, a Washington mother whose daughter was severely injured by an errant piece of debris that came from a moving trailer.

Her 24-year-old daughter, Maria,

was injured when a piece of particle board escaped from the back of a trailer and broke her windshield. She was nearly decapitated as the debris crushed every bone in her face.

Maria's recovery has been long and painful. She has had seven operations



TRAGIC ACCIDENT: Maria, left, with her mother, Robin

and needed to learn to swallow, talk and walk again. She was also left blind. "When you see what someone has to live through and what they have to endure because of such a simple thing - securing a load on a car - it's very heart-breaking," said Abel.

Education is also a big part of her crusade. Using the slogan: "Secure your load as if everyone you loved were in a car behind you", she successfully petitioned to have an educational module added to driving lesson courses.

A recent study by a motoring organisation found that about two-thirds of crashes related to debris

were caused by unsecured loads.

Offenders in Bahrain can be stopped by traffic police in Bahrain and face fines.

● Editor's note: Is it time Bahrain had a 'secure your load day'?

Write in to editor@gulfweekly.com and we will publish a selection of your comments.

Tips for securing vehicle loads include:

- ✓ Tie down load with rope, netting or straps.
- ✓ Tie large objects directly to the vehicle or trailer.
- ✓ Cover the entire load with a sturdy tarp or netting.
- ✓ Layer your load: put lighter items at the bottom and heavier items on top to help keep them in place, then secure the heavy top items.
- ✓ Don't overload your vehicle (take multiple trips when necessary).
- ✓ Always double-check your load for secureness.



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THE Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) honoured the car and kart champions of the past racing year at an end-of-season awards ceremony in Sakhir.

Amongst those celebrated were the winners of the 2017/2018 BIC 2,000cc Challenge as well as the 2017/2018 Bahrain Karting Championships.

BIC chief executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa thanked all those who participated and praised the racers for their title triumphs and expressed his appreciation to all those who had contributed to the season's success.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were officials from both circuits, the Bahrain Motor Federation and the Circuit Racing Club. Together with Shaikh Salman, they handed out a number of glittering trophies to the newly-crowned champions.

Receiving the top prize in the BIC 2,000cc Challenge was overall winner Raed Himmo. He claimed his title driving a Honda CIVIC and also took the prize for achieving the Most Pole Positions, having clinched four of a possible seven.

Finishing right behind him as the season's runner-up was Nasser Al Alawi, who competed in a Honda S2000, with Ahmed bin Khanen taking third place, who also drove a CIVIC.

Former 2,000cc champion Shaikh Salman bin Isa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa took home an award for posting the Season's Fastest Lap of 1min 16.325secs around BIC's 2.55km Inner Track. A final 2,000cc accolade was presented to Majed Himmo,

Glory time for winners



ON TRACK: Himmo and Buhindi and, bottom, the prize winners line-up

who clinched the Rookie Cup.

Meanwhile, the Bahrain Karting Championships featured winners in two different series, namely in endurance and in sprint.

In the Bahrain Karting Endurance Championship, Batelco Racing were the big winners having finished in first place overall amongst all participating teams. Go Gosaibi were second overall and Zain Racing 1 were third.

Batelco Racing were also the winners in the Pro class, finishing ahead of Zain Racing 1 and Ice Racing.

Finishing the season atop

the Nations Class were Go Gosaibi, while behind them were BeeSa Racing 1 and Zain Racing 2. Finally, in the Corporate class, taking home the top prize were Redline Racing 1. Texel Air were the runners-up and Redline Racing 2 third.

The Bahrain Karting Sprints Championship had winners further split into two categories: the Bahrain Sprint Sodi World Series (BSSWS) and the Bahrain Rotax Mojo Max Challenge (BRMMC).

Abdulla Buhindi was the main man in the BSSWS. He was crowned the season's champion, beating out Ali



Baslar for the top prize. Mohammed Amin came third overall in the highly competitive championship.

In the BRMMC, winners

were crowned in the Senior Max, Master Max, Junior Max, Mini Max and Micro Max classes.

Najashi Rashdan was the

champion of the Senior Max category. He won ahead of Rashid Almuammari and Hussain Hasan came third. Batelco Racing once again claimed a trophy after finishing as top Senior Max Entrants.

In the Master Max class, Isa Abdulla beat out Essa Aldosary for first place. Sulaiman Al Kanderi followed suit in the Junior Max category, defeating Fahad Alkhaled for the number one spot while Abdullaj Aldossary took third. Batelco Racing were again winners as Junior Max Entrants.

Fahad Al Muqla took home the Mini Max crown ahead of Xanda Topp and Jacob Topp, who were second and third, respectively. Batelco Racing clinched first place as a Mini Max Entrant.

Finally, the Micro Max title was won by Shanthosh Kumar, who battled with Kalan Vine for first place. Gracie Grantham claimed third place, while Batelco Racing were once again winners, this time as Micro Max Entrants.

Aside from the trophy presentations, the end-of-season awards night was also an occasion for socialising and networking.

Shaikh Salman added that he was already looking forward to 'even greater action and excitement' in the new campaign to come, which gets underway this October following the summer break.



THE world of golf has been rocked by Phil Mickelson intentionally hitting a moving putt on the 13th green, then asking the United States Golf Association (USGA) to explain the ruling after hearing suggestions he should be disqualified from the US Open.

His bogey putt from above the hole ran by the cup and was headed down a slope when he trotted over and swatted it back toward the hole with the ball still in motion.

Mickelson's adventure on the hole at Shinnecock Hills in the third round of the tournament on Saturday will go down as one of the odder moments of his Hall of Fame career.

The six-time US Open runner-up incurred a two-stroke penalty under Rule 14-5 for hitting a ball in motion. On his 48th birthday, no less.

His approach on the 366-yard hole went long and right and his ensuing chip rolled past the pin and off the green. He then chipped 18 feet past the hole. His first putt missed on the right side and kept going. Mickelson saw that his ball was going to crest a ridge and likely roll off the green

again, so he jogged after it and stroked it while it was still moving.

That putt hit the lip and finished some 5 feet past the hole. Mickelson's next putt missed and he tapped in for a 10 - eight strokes, including four putts, plus the two-shot penalty.

Mickelson said he was not trying to make a point about the course set-up or the speed of the greens and added that he meant no disrespect to the game, his competitors or the USGA.

"Look, I don't mean disrespect to anybody," he said. "I know it's a two-shot penalty. At that time, I just didn't feel like going back and forth and hitting the shot over. I took the two-shot penalty and moved on. It's my understanding of the rules. I've had multiple times when I've wanted to do that. I just finally did."

His action did not impress. "The starting point of golf's rules is this: play the ball as it



PAINFUL PUTT: Mickelson intentionally hit a moving ball and, right, Hobday's winning smile

lies. The rest is commentary. Mickelson didn't do that. It wasn't clever or cute or funny or smart. For a moment, he demeaned the game and

revealed more of himself than he could have possibly intended. Phil is one of the greatest players in the history of the game, but for a moment



he acted like a spoiled child," slammed golf.com

In Bahrain, former Royal Golf Club (RGC) captain Barry Hobday, whose professional golfer son, Sam, is the club's ambassador, was equally stunned but a little more forgiving.

"Wow! That was certainly something different," he said. "I've never seen that before on a golf course but who can blame him when the greens are that fast! The greens at Shinnecock make ours look like you're putting through treacle!"

"Clearly, playing with Beef Johnston was making him feel

hungry so he was obviously in a rush to finish his round to go and get a burger."

Unlike Mickelson, Hobday had some US Open joy, winning the RGC tournament linked to the main event, playing alongside Alexander Norén, the 35-year-old Swedish professional golfer.

His Stableford score on Friday was added to a player's second round real US Open score. "Everyone drew out a name after we finished our rounds," explained Hobday Snr. "Luckily for me I picked out Alex Norén who shot +2 for 34 points. So, my 36 and his 34 gave me 70pts to win by one shot."

"It's awesome, who wouldn't feel great about winning the US Open as their first major? Especially being paired with such a brilliant player who will no doubt play in his first Ryder Cup this year."

American Brooks Koepka retained his US Open title with a one-shot victory over England's Tommy Fleetwood.

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A great opportunity has arisen with a leading financial services firm in Bahrain who is currently looking for a Siebel Consultant to join their Information technology team.

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THE World Cup has started with a bang, with spectacular goals, controversial decisions and unconvincing performances available in spades.

Surprisingly, considering their poor form in recent friendlies and their crippling injury problems amongst the defence, one of the most impressive performances so far has come from Russia.

Granted, their 5-0 hammering of Saudi Arabia was as much due to the dreadful performance of our neighbours across the causeway as it was the tournament hosts. However, they admirably dealt with the pressure of playing in their own nation under the watchful eyes of President Vladimir Putin and other footballing royalty, not to mention the billions around the world.

The tournament truly sparked to life in the heavyweight clash between Spain and Portugal, and if there's a finer game in this tournament I'll eat my hat! Cristiano Ronaldo once again proved himself as the best player to have ever graced this planet with a scintillating hat trick, including a late trademark free kick to rescue a point.

Portugal may be the team which relies on one player more than any other (except perhaps Egypt, who fell 1-0 to Uruguay after star man Mo Salah was left on the bench), but when he's that good, they may be able to go all the way.

The same adulations can't be lavished on his great rival, Lionel Messi, who put in a dreadful performance and missed a penalty after Argentina were held to a 1-1 draw by titans of world football, Iceland. Seeing the Argies in tears brings joy to any Englishman, and coupled

Game on!

WINNING FEELING: Mexico's Hirving Lozano celebrates scoring his side's goal against Germany



with Messi being put firmly in Ronaldo's shadow, this was a glorious game to savour.

France barely scrambled over the line against a resolute Australian side, with a dodgy penalty and a huge deflection late on giving them a 2-1 victory. I thought the point of VAR was to award penalties and red cards when the referee had missed them, but apparently I missed that memo and it is there to award penalties for good tackles! I've never been a fan of video technology for numerous reasons, and incidents like this reconfirms it.

As mentioned in last week's Whisperer column, I'm on a hot streak of cursing numerous teams and individuals with my predictions.

This week, I'm glad to

report it is continuing with aplomb as my tip for the title, Germany, suffered a shock 1-0 defeat to Mexico in their opener.

Even Brazil, who showed plenty of attacking verve at the start of their game against Switzerland, had to settle for a disappointing 1-1 draw.

As for Week Two, there are no fixtures that immediately jump out, but it will be interesting to see how the big hitters fare in their second game.

Germany in particular need a win against a tricky and experienced Sweden side, whilst Argentina have a very difficult fixture against Croatia.

Saudi Arabia v Egypt has plenty of local interest, whilst Poland v Colombia is a battle between two dark horses.

GROUP STAGE (Kick-offs are shown in Bahrain time zone)			
DATE	MATCH	VENUE	KICK-OFF
Wednesday 20 June	Portugal vs Morocco (Group B)	Moscow (Luzhniki)	15:00
	Uruguay vs Saudi Arabia (Group A)	Rostov-on-Don	18:00
	Iran vs Spain (Group B)	Kazan	21:00
Thursday 21 June	Denmark vs Australia (Group C)	Samara	15:00
	France vs Peru (Group C)	Ekaterinburg	18:00
	Argentina vs Croatia (Group D)	Nizhny Novgorod	21:00
Friday 22 June	Brazil vs Costa Rica (Group E)	St Petersburg	15:00
	Nigeria vs Iceland (Group D)	Volgograd	18:00
	Serbia vs Switzerland (Group E)	Kaliningrad	21:00
Saturday 23 June	Belgium vs Tunisia (Group G)	Moscow (Spartak)	15:00
	South Korea vs Mexico (Group F)	Rostov-on-Don	18:00
	Germany v Sweden (Group F)	Sochi	21:00
Sunday 24 June	England vs Panama (Group G)	Nizhny Novgorod	15:00
	Japan vs Senegal (Group H)	Ekaterinburg	18:00
	Poland vs Colombia (Group H)	Kazan	21:00
Monday 25 June	Uruguay vs Russia (Group A)	Samara	17:00
	Saudi Arabia vs Egypt (Group A)	Volgograd	17:00
	Spain vs Morocco (Group B)	Kaliningrad	21:00
Tuesday 26 June	Denmark vs France (Group C)	Moscow (Luzhniki)	17:00
	Australia vs Peru (Group C)	Sochi	17:00
	Nigeria vs Argentina (Group D)	St Petersburg	21:00
Wednesday 27 June	South Korea vs Germany (Group F)	Kazan	17:00
	Mexico vs Sweden (Group F)	Ekaterinburg	17:00
	Serbia vs Brazil (Group E)	Moscow (Spartak)	21:00
Thursday 28 June	Japan vs Poland (Group H)	Volgograd	17:00
	Senegal vs Colombia (Group H)	Samara	17:00
	England vs Belgium (Group G)	Kaliningrad	21:00
Friday 29 June	Panama vs Tunisia (Group G)	Saransk	21:00
ROUND OF 16			
Saturday 30 June	1C vs 2D	Kazan	17:00
	1A vs 2B	Sochi	21:00
Sunday 1 July	1B vs 2A	Moscow	17:00
	1D vs 2C	Nizhny Novgorod	21:00
Monday 2 July	1E vs 2F	Samara	17:00
	1G vs 2H	Rostov-On-Don	21:00
Tuesday 3 July	1F vs 2E	St. Petersburg	17:00
	1H vs 2G	Moscow	21:00
QUARTER-FINALS			
Friday 6 July	W49 vs W50	Nizhny Novgorod	17:00
	W53 vs 54	Kazan	21:00
Saturday 7 July	W55 vs W56	Samara	17:00
	W51 vs W52	Sochi	21:00
SEMI-FINALS			
Tuesday 10 July	W57 vs W58	St. Petersburg	21:00
Wednesday 11 July	W59 vs 60	Moscow	21:00
PLAY-OFF FOR THIRD PLACE			
Saturday 14 July	L61 vs L62	St. Petersburg	17:00
FINAL			
Sunday 15 July	W61 vs W62	Moscow	18:00

From Page 24

"Football is about growth and if you don't grow economically, socially, technically, you will not be moving," Ezzat told The Associated Press. "It's not enough for us to be in the World Cup Finals. We have a vision that an Asian country will win the World Cup one day, but there must be a start for that. Football is underdeveloped in many areas in Asia."

"It will help Asia and it will help FIFA. We don't see anything wrong creating that connection between the south and the west. Football needs to grow. It's not about the geographic map. It's about zones."

Ezzat wants to create new football competitions under the auspices of SWAFF and invite countries to participate from beyond the region - particularly Europe.

New grouping, network gnashing and reevaluating

"The country is going through an important change," he added. "Football can be a catalyst for change. The FIFA president I'm sure knows this very well. My country can play an important role in football."

Bahrain's Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, president of the Asian Football Confederation since 2013, said he 'had no objection' to the creation of SWAFF as long as it remains as a football body outside of the AFC's zonal structure'.

SWAFF says it has followed the right legal steps to avoid breaching the rules of world football's governing body. Founding members also include Bahrain, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Yemen and Kuwait.

Oman Football Association General Secretary, Said Othman Al Bulushi, said his nation was waiting to assess the statutes and legality of the body within FIFA before confirming its membership.

Iran and Qatar are not in it. Ezzat won't discuss Qatar, or the 2022 World Cup. Al-Sheikh, has been less circumspect, demanding earlier this year that Qatar be stripped of the hosting rights if corruption around its bid was proven.

Other footballing asides, Qatar's flagship TV network, which owns exclusive Middle East and North African rights to the World Cup, discovered its coverage of the Russia World Cup opener was watched across Saudi Arabia on a pirate

channel, *beoutQ*.

Soccer's world body has intervened. FIFA said it is 'exploring all options to stop the infringement of its rights, including in relation to action against legitimate organisations that are seen to support such illegal activities'.

And, what a difference a game can make. Millions of Russians have listened to and laughed at a song deriding their football team, but the side's thumping win over Saudi Arabia has suddenly filled them with pride and hope.

The national team had until Thursday not won a single match since last October and has long been derided by many Russians.

The margin of their victory over

the Saudis and the flair some of the Russian players showed on the pitch, however, has triggered an outpouring of national pride and the start of what looks like a re-evaluation of Russia's team.

GulfWeekly's Russian World Cup reader, Yaroslav Levin, attache and head of the ambassador's office in the Russian Embassy in Manama, was delighted with the team's performance. Last week he predicted that midfielder Aleksandr Golovin would shine in the tournament.

The 22-year-old playmaker from CSKA Moscow, started the Russian party in the 12th minute when he picked out the head of Yuri Gazinskiy with a pinpoint cross from the left wing and provided the final flourish when he curled a superb free-kick beyond Abdullah Al-Mayoof with the final act of the game.

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June 20 - 26, 2018



OPENING DAY: Russia's Denis Cheryshev scores his side's second goal and, right, Saudi social media influencer Nasser reacts at Al Areen and, below, sad face of a Saudi fan in the stadium

CRUEL GAME FOR SOME

THE full repercussions of Saudi Arabia's dismal opening performance against Russia in the World Cup Finals are still echoing across the region as the competition gears up for its second week of action.

Scores of fans from across the causeway gathered in tents around the island to break their Ramadan fast for one of the last times before the Eid weekend and instead of cheers the match ended in tears.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had to endure the humiliation in the stadium last Thursday, with Saudi Arabia's mauling in Moscow coming at the hands of a side just below the Saudis in the FIFA rankings.

Saudi social media influencer Ali Nasser, 30, joined compatriots to watch the action on the big screen last Thursday evening at the Al Areen Palace & Spa's Al Qasr Tent, and said: "We had high hopes of doing well in this game. Even when the first half ended with us 2-0 down we were still hopeful. When the third goal went in

WORLD CUP REPORT

By STAN SZECOWKA
editor@gulfweekly.com



our hopes began to shatter and sadly it ended with the hosts scoring five. What can I say? It's so sad, especially as it was the night we began our Eid celebrations. I'm upset ... but what to do?"

It wasn't just the boys who were disappointed. There were Saudi women in the Moscow crowd, draped in the nation's flag and enthusiastically waving them. Some carried posters of the Crown Prince, who was sat next to FIFA President Gianni Infantino and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Reem Al Muteiry came to Moscow with her mother and siblings. Wearing a flowing robe and a hijab, the 25-year-old civil servant said: "I came all the way here for the sake of our national team. The presence of Saudi women here should be a source of pride for both the kingdom and the team."

That may have been the case but on the field the aftermath now looks a lot messier. Saudi Arabia's sports authorities have threatened to hold members of the national football team

'accountable' after their crushing defeat, as reported by our sister newspaper, *The Gulf Daily News*.

While no one considered Saudi Arabia to be contenders for the trophy,

the result was 'disappointing and unsatisfactory', Adel Ezzat, president of the Saudi Football Federation, told Al Arabiya television.

A 'number of players' including goalkeeper

Abdullah Al-Mayouf would be held accountable, he added. The team had been trained so they could rise to the occasion, Ezzat said. "The collapse was not because of fitness, but errors in passing the ball, technical errors," he claimed.

Alongside the goalkeeper, Ezzat named two other players – defender Omar Hosawi and striker Mohammed Al Sahlawi – without specifying what action would be taken. It remains unclear what Ezzat meant by a 'penalty'.

Saudi sports authority chief Turki Al Sheikh said he took 'full responsibility' for the defeat. But he also lashed out at the players. "We did everything for them ... we provided them the best coaching staff," Al Sheikh said in a video posted on Twitter.

"Let no-one tell me (Argentinian coach Juan Antonio) Pizzi is not a known coach. But these are our players. They did not do give even five per cent of what was required of them. This is a reality that we should admit."

This year is the first World Cup finals tournament Saudi

Arabia has reached since 2006. Football's global governing body ranked the team 67th in the world, ahead of Russia in 70th.

Head coach Pizzi took over the Saudi team in November last year after the football federation sacked Edgardo Bauza, a fellow Argentinian who had only been in charge for two months.

Off the pitch, there appears to be a move by the federation to have more influence in footballing matters with the creation of another bureaucratic institution within the sport.

On the face of it, the establishment of the South West Asian Football Federation (SWAFF) to help to develop the game, appears a benevolent undertaking, especially when the existing regional governing body is so vast.

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