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The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

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JACKFRUIT JOY:
Old favourite shines
SEE PAGE 5



EATING OUT
Sweetest Brunch:
SEE PAGE 11

GLORY FOR GAMER



WINNING WAYS: Hakam with his certificate and, below, unlocking his 1,700th Platinum trophy

AVID Bahraini PlayStation gamer Hakam Karim has established himself as the king of gaming by becoming the proud holder of a Guinness World Record for his online exploits, and is being earmarked to lead the next generation of elite players.

The 34-year-old former Bayan

COMMUNITY REPORT
By KRISTIAN HARRISON
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School pupil and Arab Open University graduate first got hooked on collecting 'trophies' – in-game achievements unlocked by completing certain tasks within games – back in 2008 when Sony first released them for the PS3 system.

Now, a decade later and under his handle 'Hakoom', he has

earned 70,737 trophies and 1,736 Platinum prizes at the time of writing, and it is the latter for which he has been recognised.

A Platinum is the final trophy that is unlocked once all the other trophies (Bronze, Silver and Gold) in the game have been earned and a reward which signifies that the game has been fully completed.

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Prize time for dedicated star

From Page 1

When Guinness officially acknowledged him on September 19, he had 1,691 Platinum Trophies, a haul more than a hundred greater than his nearest competitor.

Hakam, who lives in Adliya, said: "As soon as I popped my first trophy when playing *Super Stardust HD*, I became addicted. I had quite a lot of free time when trophies were released and it was a new way to play games, so I tried to unlock as many as I could.

"It initially started out as a hobby that I was balancing with my studies, but when I saw that I was top of the leaderboards, I was determined to stay as Number One. Everything I do in life, I have to be the best. I attribute that to being a Leo!"

Despite finishing his studies and obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology, Hakam decided to forgo launching into a full-time career and instead

focused on trophy hunting.

He explained: "I am an only child, so my parents wanted me to go out into the world and pursue a career. They felt I was wasting my time playing video games and that I would not get anywhere with it. However, it was impossible to maintain my status on the leaderboards and study, or work, at the same time, so I had to make a decision. I chose gaming, of course!"

Now, he has finally achieved the recognition he has long desired, after many years of being rebuffed by Guinness. Hakam attributes this to the current explosion of video gaming into mainstream culture, with the rise of e-sports and celebrities involved in online games such as *Fortnite*. In fact, Guinness are collating a new video game-centric record book to be released in the near future.

Hakam worked at Bloomberg for two years before its office also closed.



PLAYING RECOGNITION: Hakam with Abdulrahman and, below, game on

He is married to Jana, a German national, who he met online through a mutual love of gaming. They have a

three-year-old son, Karim.

Since Bloomberg closed, Hakam has been feeding his habit with a combination of a family and marriage allowance, renting out his vast collection of games, and occasionally through his 'Trophy Service' – where other gamers pay to have Hakam's friends earn a Platinum trophy for them and he takes a commission.

However, he may be on the verge of returning to work. After his stunning Guinness success, Hakam was invited to a meeting with the Secretary General of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar, who has held initial consultancy talks with Hakam regarding the emerging e-sports scene in Bahrain.

As featured in *GulfWeekly* earlier this year, Saudi pro-gamer Musaed AlDossary triumphed over more than 20 million other players to be crowned the champion of the FIFA 2018 eWorld Cup Final, and Bahrain wants to match its neighbours by establishing a legitimate operation for its budding gamers.

Some gamers in the kingdom, many of whom are Hakam's friends, win regional tournaments on games like *FIFA* and *Tekken*, and have been hoping for many years to be taken seriously by the BOC. Now, opportunity and sponsorship is imminent.

However, Hakam believes that his lack of 'traditional' employment has aided him in his quest for glory.

He explained: "Sometimes, when you have nothing and are scraping by financially, your performance is better than when you have everything and life comes easy. You get a stronger adrenaline rush and drive to prove you've achieved something."

Invariably, as with all frontrunners in competition, Hakam has to deal almost daily with a deluge of abuse from what the community refers to as 'haters'. He said: "At the beginning, even for the first two or three years, I had many detractors. It was a lot of pressure and it affected me mentally, of course. However, as time went by I learned to brush it off and now I have a huge number of fans who say positive things and support me."

Hakam dismisses criticisms, merely attributing the abuse primarily to jealousy from those who wish they could

just play video games all day, but have to balance gaming time with schooling and work commitments.

The most frequent barbs are those tired clichés aimed at gamers, such as 'you have no life' or 'you'll never have a girlfriend', both of which Hakam can heartily dismiss by pointing at his robust social life, large friendship circle and his aforementioned marriage. After waking up, he makes sure to spend a number of hours with Karim, either by taking him out or playing with toys, before settling down in the evening to tackle his latest games.

Despite being at the top for a decade and seeing off numerous challengers, Hakam has no intentions of slowing down. He is the first to admit he is addicted, and on a number of occasions admits to have felt 'broken' and ready to give up.

However, the Guinness honour, something Hakam labelled as 'the one per cent chance I was clinging on to' has given him a new lease of life.

He said: "Since I got this award and since the Bahraini officials approached me, it's like a fire has been lit inside me. I'm more motivated than ever. I've also gained a large number of new followers on social media, and prominent game companies have offered me congratulations and agreed to send me special editions of their games for free.

"I love what I do, and I'm very happy that I've finally been recognised for my achievements. I'm already looking forward to my next Platinum!"

● To find out more about Hakam and his gaming achievements, follow his Instagram @psn_hakoom and Youtube.com/otchstyle

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THE French School of Bahrain, also known as Lycée Français MLF de Bahreïn, has undergone a significant BD2m revamp, as revealed exclusively in *GulfWeekly*, and has appointed a proud new principal to overlook the expanded learning institution.

One of the most pivotal moments in French history was the Revolution from 1789 to 1799 and an educational one is now taking shape far from the European homeland, in the town of Busaiteen.

Bénédicte Bessette is now at the school's helm, having taken charge at the start of the new school year. She said: "As the principal, I'm very proud to say that the school is equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology and with all equipment being completely new.

"The primary and secondary classes are equipped with Toshiba Starboard smartboards, whilst all students in secondary school have a digital tablet which enables them to learn in an innovative way, thereby developing their life skills and encouraging them to work independently.

"The new building boasts rooms that are designed to impart quality education to our students, namely a new computer room, science laboratories, a music room, art room, a library with a huge collection of books in French, English and Arabic, and an auditorium.

"I am delighted to be able to provide students with an environment that is conducive to their learning. Technical innovations lead us to educational initiatives and to work actively with students and build their competencies and skills."

The final addition was the laying of a car park next to the new building, which will help alleviate long-standing problems of traffic flow.

The school was founded in 1976 as a means of catering to the small French community in the kingdom at the time. Starting from

COMMUNITY REPORT
By KRISTIAN HARRISON
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a small villa in Salmaniya, the well-respected learning establishment, in which French, Arabic and the English language is spoken by many of its pupils, has become one of the main institutions on the island.

The multi-cultural centre caters to 740 students comprising 40 different nationalities, and follows the French curriculum from nursery through to the final year of high school (Grade 12). It was initially founded under the auspices of the French Government Department of Education but is now managed directly by the Mission Laïque Française, which is a non-profit organisation which works to spread the French language and culture by creating and running schools outside France.

Bénédicte has a distinguished career in the education field, having held numerous posts in various French institutions. Before commencing her latest assignment in the kingdom, she was in charge of another MLF establishment, the French International School of Agadir in Morocco. She appears to have settled in well, already building up a rapport with students, colleagues, parents and locals too. "The people are very warm, hospitable and friendly. I look forward to a great partnership with the local community," she added.

This year, for the first time, the school is offering French language courses to non-French speaking parents, free of charge, from a qualified, specialist teacher. The aim is to help parents follow their children's education more closely, aiding in communication skills at home, and to improve their vocabulary to help with homework and lessons.



NEW ARRIVAL: Bénédicte and flashback to *GulfWeekly*'s exclusive highlighting the building plans and, below, students at work in class



Bénédicte said: "We are the only school approved by the French Ministry of Education in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The success rate in exams is exceptional (100 per cent) and we offer a plethora of extracurricular activities after class to further growth in other departments.

"There is a real sense of belonging in the school and our doors are open to all new students wishing to grow up in a multi-lingual and multi-cultural environment."






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Jack of all culinary trades!

A humble Asian fruit has suddenly become a star attraction with foodies across the globe, receiving banner headlines in newspapers and turning into an internet sensation.

Only weeks ago the star culinary fad was old vegetable favourite cauliflower, as highlighted in *GulfWeekly*, but it has been replaced on the kitchen scene by the jackfruit, heralded as a 'miracle' food crop.

Some scribes have suggested it can smell like rotting onions and have pointed out that the skin has a leathery texture but jackfruit is seeing soaring demand as a meat-alternative.

When cooked, the Asian fruit resembles the texture of meat and has now begun to rival traditional meat substitutes such as tofu, Quorn and the wheat gluten-based seitan.

The jackfruit plant originated in southwest India, where it grows abundantly, and spread across southeast Asia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand and as a result, with a large expat population from the countries mentioned, has always been a firm favourite purchase from supermarkets in Bahrain for decades.

Its appearance on menus has coincided with the growing number of vegans in the world and many restaurants have pounced on its new-found appeal.

French Executive Chef David Miras of the Crowne Plaza Bahrain is well versed with the jackfruit's versatility, saying: "I've been using jackfruit since I first worked in the Philippines which is where I first observed its many uses. Here in the Middle East we get asked for it often enough that it prompted us to start using it on our buffets and desserts menus. Jackfruit protein shakes are a perfect meal substitute if, like me, you're on a diet!"

The Crowne Plaza recently launched a successful

HOSPITALITY REPORT

By STAN SZECOWKA
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"One Night in Bangkok" promotional event every Monday evening and one of the most popular tastes is the jackfruit Thai chili basil (which non-vegans love with a sliced of roast beef!). Chef David has been working with colleague, Indonesian Chef Rizqan Fauzan, on some special recipes including the Jackfruit Larb Gai, a glorious minced chicken delight, and when it comes to dessert, they say the Jackfruit Panna Cotta is divine.

The largest tree-borne fruit in the world, jackfruit can weigh up to 100 pounds and grow up to three feet long. A melon-shaped fruit with spikes, before being opened it can produce the unusual odour but the flesh smells sweet inside. Each fruit contains multiple yellow-coloured edible bulbs and its seeds can be ground into flour. The seeds are especially nutritious, high in protein, potassium, calcium and iron.

Supermarkets are now selling ready-prepared vegetarian jackfruit biryani and vegan hoisin jackfruit parcels, as well as canned pieces of the fruit in brine. Another has a sweet & smoky BBQ pulled jackfruit available. And a gourmet burger restaurant recently launched a 'jack in a bun' jackfruit burger and a pizza company uses the fruit, which comes from the same family as the fig and mulberry, on its vegan offering.

The recent upturn in popularity in western countries is thought to have sparked a production increase in India's most southerly state, Kerala, the world's largest jackfruit supplier, and one Bahraini supplier is also filling the shelves with fresh imports from Thailand.

Experts suggest jackfruit could be one of the most promising solutions for sustainably feeding the world. Compared to the intensive land

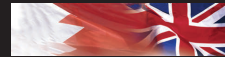


and water resources necessary to produce meat, jackfruit is far more efficient as a global food source.

Danielle Nierenberg, president of Food Tank, which focuses on sustainable agriculture, said: "It is easy to grow. It survives pests and diseases and high temperatures and is drought-resistant. It achieves what farmers need in food production when facing a lot of challenges under climate change."



PRIZE PACKAGE: Jackfruit, left, from above, Chef David, Chef Rizqan and in a store near you



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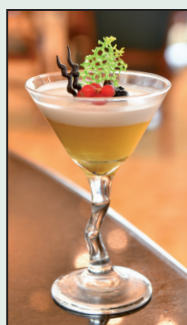
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Jackfruit Panna Cotta recipe

Ingredients: (Number of portions: 10)

Jackfruit ripe	500gms
Gelatin	10gms
Coconut milk	250ml
Sugar	75gms
Salt	3gms

Preparation:

Peel the ripe jackfruit and remove the seeds, cut into small pieces and boil with a little

water and sugar, after 10 minutes of simmer blend into a puree while adding the gelatin. Fill the glasses and chill for an hour.

Heat up the coconut milk to a simmer, add sugar and salt for balance then add the other half of the gelatin.

Once cooled down, top up the jackfruit jelly with the coconut milk and keep in the chiller until meal time.



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Brand new prize for leading retailer

POPULAR supermarket Lulu won the coveted Brand of the Year Award in the Retail Category at the 2018 World Branding Awards ceremony staged in the United Kingdom.

The annual event evaluates companies from around the globe through a three-step procedure including brand evaluation, public online voting and consumer market research.

At a glittering function held at Kensington Palace in London, Ashraf Ali Musliam, executive director of Lulu Group, received the top award from Richard Rowles, chairman of World Branding Forum, in the presence of leading business executives and dignitaries from around the globe.

World Branding Awards are considered the benchmark in the industry. "We're obviously very delighted and proud to be chosen as the top global brand and the fact that this award is primarily



based on a public survey and customer feedback, makes this recognition much more valuable for us," said Ashraf.

The seeds of the Lulu Hypermarket chain were planted by Yusuff Ali M.A. who started in the 1990s with department stores and supermarkets in the UAE. The first hypermarket was opened in 2000 and the Lulu Group now boasts around 140

stores and malls worldwide.

The first store in Bahrain opened in Dana Mall in September 2007 and the kingdom is now served by six hypermarkets – at Dana Mall, in Riffa, in A'ali's Ramli Mall, in Hidd, at Juffair Mall and Galleria Mall – with more to come. The Atrium Mall & Towers, in Janabiya, is getting closer to completion and, as reported earlier, boasts a planned giant Lulu and cinema complex.

Carrefour Hypermarket

Mango Basmati Rice 10kgs – BD4.750
My Club Price BD4.250
Kelloggs Cornflakes 500gm – BD0.990
Fresh and Tender Chicken Breast 2kgs – BD2.750
Belvita Kleija 62gm 11+1free – BD0.850
Melon Honi Dew kg – BD0.375
Note: These offers are available until Nov 11, 2018.

Al Jazira Supermarket Zinj

Brookside Dark Chocolate 12x7 oz – BD2.150
Spangler Jelly Belly Blue 12x 5.3 oz – BD1.700
Barkthins Almond Chocolate 12x4.7 oz – BD2.900
Barkthins Chocolate Quinoa 12x4.7 oz – BD2.900
Brookside Dark Chocolate 12x7 oz – BD2.150

Lulu Hypermarket

Farm Rich Breaded Mozzarella Sticks 283gm – BD3.690
Nutiva Organic Coconut Flour 454gm – BD3.590
Limo Chef Lemon Juice 200ml Assorted – BD0.390
Lemon plus Bio Lime Juice 500ml – BD1.690
One Organic Organic Tea Powder 125gm Assorted – BD5.990
Somerset Super Cereals Honey Crunch 400gm Assorted – BD1.390

Al Osra Supermarket

Green Apples per kg – BD0.675
Clementines Morocco per kg – BD2.195
Pure'n Ezy Baby Sweetcorn 250gm – BD0.750
Chocolate Cake 1kg – BD5.500
Large Wholemeal Bread – BD0.350
Alosra Signature Stinking Bishop Cheese per kg – BD25.495
Marinated Lemon & Pepper Chicken Boneless kg – BD3.300
Note: These offers are available from tomorrow.

Techtronic Specials



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

	Item	Description	Location	Price
1	Tab	Tab4 730 7 QC Lenovo.	Carrefour Hypermarket	BD24.990 <i>Note: this offer is available until Sunday.</i>
2	Washing Machine	Printer 2130 HP.	YKA Almoayyed & Sons	Was BD131.990 Now BD99.990 Saving BD32
3	Steamer	Handheld Garment Steamer 1200w (HST1200)	Kewalram & Sons	BD19.500
4	Watch	Casio G-Shock with Bluetooth smartphone link, Shock resistant, 200m water resistant, double LED light, LED light for the face (auto LED light, super illuminator, selectable illumination duration 1.5 seconds or 3 seconds, afterglow)	Ashrafs	BD54
5	Air Conditioner	Pearl (WNT18FC2B1AH) Window AC, 1.5 ton capacity, rotary compressor, R-410A gas, anti-bacterial filter, 4-Star rating, free delivery and installation.	Sharaf DG	BD99.990

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GADGETS OF THE WEEK

What is it called? Tetris Light
What does it do? Seven brightly coloured lights in different Tetris shapes illuminate once they come into contact with each other. All you need is one to be plugged into the mains to power a whole tower. It's completely customisable so you can change and rearrange it as often as you like.
Cost: BD17.500
Visit www.amazon.com



What is it called? iKettle
What does it do? Using the iKettle's built in Wi-Fi, you can start boiling your kettle from anywhere in the house. With the iKettle app, you will save up to two days a year pre-boiling your kettle! Not only can it boil the water for you, but it will also notify you when it's ready to pour, needs refilling and when it's empty.
Cost: BD58
Visit www.amazon.com



What is it called? NeXtime Moon Clock
What does it do? This clock is made with the latest in glow in the dark technology so as night falls, your Moon Clock will change from grey to a soothing blue tone. Each hand has a blue glowing tip. When the real moon has disappeared and the sun is out, your blue moon will gently fade back to its original self.
Cost: BD6
Visit www.amazon.com



FinTechFocus

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

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THE impact of blockchain is no longer a matter of imagination and science fiction, writes **Richard Singh**.

Tech behemoths such as IBM have spent significant resources towards conducting comprehensive studies to understand how vital blockchain can be for healthcare, and dozens of high-octane blockchain start-ups have set out to revolutionise the healthcare space for the better.

The intersection of blockchain, tokenisation and smart contracts with the healthcare industry looks set to pave the way for new and highly-innovative solutions to solve problems that have been festering for decades.

The start-ups in this article, originally published on *SingleCare*, are utilising the above technologies to fight dangerous and rampant global pharmaceutical counterfeiting, streamline the transmission and storage of medical records, and even create long-term incentivisation-based loyalty programmes for dental communities.

The pharmaceutical industry has been slowly bleeding out to the tune of \$75 billion every year due to counterfeit drugs. With more than 100,000 deaths worldwide directly linked to their use, 'fake pharma' not only poses a global threat to corporate innovation but also to thousands of people unknowingly taking drugs that may end up killing them.

The fake pharma problem doesn't show any signs of slowing down; experts estimate that an investment of \$1,000 in a counterfeit prescription drug operation could result in a \$30,000 return – nearly 10 times the profit of trafficking some hard drugs. To spice up the deal for bootleggers, the criminal penalties for selling counterfeit medications are far less than dealing their more illegal and nefarious cousins, making the profit margins higher and the risks lower.

Perfect pill to swallow



The rise of internet pharmacies has also made it incredibly difficult for authorities to keep up with the tracking and verification of billions of pills shipped out every year. Many consumers are largely oblivious to the dangers of purchasing drugs online, as millions have been able to buy drugs online without a valid prescription. Stricter regulatory supervision would require a technological asset to help track supply chains at scale.

That's where MediLedger aims to come in. It is an open and decentralised network for the pharmaceutical supply chain. Blockchain has long been praised for its supply chain applications, and it has already been used broadly in large shipping networks that share similar logistical concerns as the pharmaceutical industry.

Using a project such as MediLedger allows pharmacists and patients to verify the legitimacy of their drugs, and even see minute details such as the date and manufacturing details for each order. It utilises features such as compliance, track, trace and security protocols to

create a cost-effective GS1-compliant verification system for pharmaceutical companies. Regulators are also able to use the platform to obtain crucial information whenever needed.

Medical records create several cumbersome responsibilities for doctors, hospitals, pharmacists, and patients, particularly for maintenance and storage.

Medicalchain utilises blockchain to securely store and maintain health records in a single location, allowing for different organisations such as doctor offices, hospitals, pharmacists, laboratories, and pharmacists to request permission to access each patient's record.

Each patient would essentially be assigned a unique blockchain fingerprint

that verifies their identity and provides them with full access and control over their data. Patients will be able to grant different levels of access to various users by setting access permissions and designating who is able to write data to their blockchain.

This feature is particularly notable in the context of the emerging trend of telemedicine, or the online consultation between doctors and patients using a webcam. This would make it possible for patients to grant their digital doctor access to their records, ultimately leading to more in-depth consultations.

Maintaining medical records on the blockchain would not only offer higher degrees of flexibility in treatment, but is also much less expensive than

current methods.

Although it might not be your typical healthcare start-up, Dentacoin showcases a unique consumer-facing application of blockchain and smart contracts.

For many people, going to the dentist is an experience forced by circumstance rather than preventative care, and procedures such as root canals can be very expensive and painful. Billions of dinars is spent on dental treatment globally every year, and according to one international dental association, 90 per cent of these expenses can be avoided if patients visit a dentist at least three times a year for early preventative treatments and check-ups, while also establishing healthier dental habits like

flossing and better nutrition.

Dentacoin removes the need for big insurance companies acting as intermediaries via smart contracts that link patients directly with dentists. Essentially, each smart contract encourages patients to take control of their pre-emptive dental care. Additionally, patients can earn rewards by providing accurate reviews for each visit to help increase the overall quality of the dental community. Since these reviews are stored on the blockchain, they're immutable and can't be manipulated.

Dentists are also being incentivised to ensure long-term dental success for each patient using the Dentacoin network and are rewarded in small monthly contributions of the Dentacoin token, which can later be sold on a variety of exchanges.

Since its launch in August, there are more than 4,000 dentists using the Dentacoin platform.

Experts suggest blockchain enables a fundamental increase in the technological capabilities of multiple sectors that focus on the well-being and longevity of the human population.

The start-ups listed above are not only showcasing how this new technology can impact such a critical industry such as healthcare, but they're also paving the way for countless future start-ups and applications.

BATELCO has just launched an application called *MyClinic*, a digital-cloud based solution it believes is ideal for medical staff working in hospitals and clinics across the kingdom.

The application, it says, will help medical institutions with a patient and appointments management system,

medical and lab history, radiology and prescription management, billing and accounting, in addition to a fully customisable dashboard including medical reports.

"Technology is playing an increasingly important role in the healthcare sector and the launch of *MyClinic* will serve to greatly improve the

communication channels within medical premises by establishing enhanced communication and reporting platforms," a Batelco spokesman said.

The application aims to help healthcare providers enhance their interactions with patients, thereby improving efficiency and effectiveness when

providing medical assistance. It also serves to replace paper documents and file folders, making it more convenient.

It is available on 'easy and competitive' installment plans, compatible with any browser on any handheld device, and is available on both Android and iOS for smartphones and tablets.

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- Over 60K referrals per month to Bahrain Companies + 160K referrals per month across the GCC
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Today (November 7)

Two-Michelin starred Chef Giancarlo Xbe (pronounced Perbe) Perbellini is in Bahrain visiting his new signature Italian restaurant - The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa's La Pergola by Perbellini. **He'll be meeting diners until tomorrow who can win dinner-for-two prizes by liking, sharing and posting their selfies of their visit on #lapergolabyperbellini** For details, contact 17713000.

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's famous steak night starts from 7pm at La Mosaïque Restaurant priced BD18net, with the 1kg steak-eating challenge too. For details, contact 17531122.

Spend time with friends and family in an Afternoon Tea experience at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Lobby Lounge and Ritz Gourmet Lounge. Indulge in new items on the menu and enjoy the piano entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays. Afternoon Tea is served from 3pm to 5pm priced BD21++ per set. For details, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

Treat your special someone to a romantic dinner by the sea at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain. This is staged daily at the sea breeze area and private island, from sunset to 10pm. Priced BD350 per couple at the sea breeze area and BD500 per couple at the private island. For details, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com



Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's spa provides a refreshing wellness package, complete with a full-body massage followed by Vitamin-C scrub to help protect your skin. Priced BD90 for 90 minutes. This package is available until Sunday.

For details, contact 17586808 or e-mail rc.bahrz.spa@ritzcarlton.com

Celebrate your birthday at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Gourmet Lounge where celebratory Afternoon Tea, lunch, dinner menus and an inclusive birthday cake are provided. The special menu is available for a minimum-of-two and maximum of 10 guests. This offer is ongoing until Sunday. For details and reservations, contact 17586499.

The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay's poolside Italian restaurant, Vento, is offering a wide selection of pizzas from wood-fired ovens and artisan pastas. Available on weekdays from 11.30am to 11pm, and weekends from 11.30am to 12pm. For reservations, contact 17115500.

The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is offering family spa bonding sessions. Its 'Relaxed Us' offer aids muscle tension, releases stress and promotes wellbeing, 45 minutes for BD80. The 'Beautiful Us' offer is designed to cleanse, gently exfoliate and hydrate skin with a 100 per cent chemical-free product range from Australia and the UK, 45 minutes for BD85. The 'Glowing Us' offer is a special indulgent full-body treatment, 45 minutes for BD85. For reservations, contact 17115500.

Reef Resort's lobby café Chocolaterie is offering an array of signature teas, coffees, pastries, and delectable hand-made chocolates. The ideal venue for morning coffee or afternoon tea. Every day from 4pm-6pm. Net price of BD4.

Reef Resort's Tokyo Reef restaurant features a specially-created set menu that is offered on weekdays (Saturday-Wednesday, closed on Mondays) and guests can watch as the chef prepares sushi and sashimi before their eyes. The promotion is BD15++ per person.

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's band The Eye Candles will entertain every evening, except Saturday, at Harvesters.

The outlet is also dishing up a new Camel Burger 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. For details, contact 17531122.

Tomorrow (November 8)

There will be a Seafood Night at Ramada Hotel & Suites Amwaj Islands, every Thursday from 7pm-11pm. BD12++ for adults, BD6++ for children aged six to 12, children below six dine for free. For details, contact 16000099 or email dining@ramadamanama-amwaj.com

Elite Resort & Spa hosts a sea & grill buffet dinner every Thursday and Friday from 7pm to 11pm at Al Naseem & La Brasserie priced BD12++ per person. For details, contact 17313333.

Prime US beef and other gourmet cuisine will be on the menu at Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain's Al Murjan Ballroom from 7pm to 11pm. The Thursday Night Out is priced BD32net per person and includes selected beverages. For details, contact 17460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com

Friday (November 9)

The BBBF & BBA Annual Poppy Ball will take place from 7pm-1am at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, Residence & Spa. Visiting Chelsea Pensioners will be guests of honour and all proceeds will go to the Chelsea Pensioners Appeal and Mother & Child Welfare - Bahrain. Tickets are BD35 per person. For details, call 17813448.

Enjoy a lavish dining experience at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's restaurants by indulging in a culinary extravaganza at La Med, Italian classics at Primavera, exotic Indian fares at Nirvana and prime steaks and seafood at Plums. This will be held today from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, priced BD35 per person with soft drinks and BD39 per person with selected beverages. For more details, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

At the Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa's China Garden Restaurant, Chef Ding and his culinary brigade will be offering pan-seared Chinese delicacies. For details, contact 17713000 or email info@gulfotherbahrain.com

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's La Mosaïque Restaurant

is hosting an International Theme Night Buffet every Friday, from 7pm onwards, priced BD13net. For details, contact 17531122.

The Wyndham Garden Manama in Juffair is offering a Friday brunch at Café Mosaic from 12.30pm to 4pm, where food and soft drinks are priced BD12++ while food and selected beverages are priced BD22++.

For details, contact 66316666 or email dining@wyndhamgardenmanama.com

A buffet is served every Friday from 12.30pm to 4pm at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's La Med Restaurant, combined with drinks of your choice. Soft drinks priced BD30++, special beverages priced BD35++.

For details, contact 17586499.

Eat and party at the Reef Resort's Pool Delight with an unlimited seafood BBQ buffet accompanied by the chill out music from the Beat's Zone band. Every Friday from 7pm.



The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is hosting Friday Brunch at CUT by Wolfgang Puck Steakhouse from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Priced BD26++ per person including soft beverages, BD26++ per person including extensive beverage package for ladies, and BD36++ per person including extensive beverage package.



Also at the hotel's CUT by Wolfgang Puck Steakhouse, a Bistro-inspired lunch is being hosted every day from 12pm to 3pm. For details and reservations, contact 17115044.

and grills. For details, contact 66666360 or 17360360.

The Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain's 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. Children aged six to 12 will receive 50 per cent price reduction and children under six dine for free. For details, contact 17460017 or email hotel.bahrain.fb@movenpick.com

Saturday (November 10)

Check out The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's new Pearl of Arabia themed night from 7pm at La Mosaïque Restaurant, priced BD13net, with a special beverages package available too. For details, contact 17531122.

The Awali Ladies Hospitality Group is hosting its Awali Festive Fayre from 11am-3pm at the Bapco Club in Awali. Entry is 500fills and a table rent costs BD20. All proceeds go to charity.

For more information, call 39850372 or email alghbahrain@gmail.com

Spice up your weekly brunch with a culinary journey around Mexico at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Cantina Kahlo Restaurant. This will be held today from noon to 4pm. Priced BD35 per person with selected beverages and BD20 per person with soft beverages. For more details, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

A Kids Special Movie Time takes place at Ramee Grand Hotel & Spa, Seef's second floor Banquet Hall every Saturday between 3pm to 5pm. Entry costs BD2, snacks included. For more details, contact 36693693 or 36479898.

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's Waves Seafood Restaurant is hosting a three-course business lunch, from Saturday-Thursday, 12pm to 4pm. The lunch is priced BD8net. For details, contact 17531122.

Experience spa treatments at the Crowne Plaza Bahrain's bFit Health Club. They are providing facials, body scrubs and combined packages to help you relax and rejuvenate, while their massage therapy focuses on alleviating stress and encouraging well-being. For more details and bookings, contact 17525812.

The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa is offering

'Art of Cooking' classes for those with busy lifestyles who have a passion for food. Classes feature demonstrations, from the building blocks of culinary practice to mouth-watering menus, led by professional chefs. Priced BD18net, including lunch. Seats are limited, book now. For details, contact 17713000 or email info@gulfotherbahrain.com

Families can enjoy a buffet meal at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's La Med Restaurant every Saturday from noon to 3.30pm. Soft drinks are priced BD15++.

For details, contact 17586499.



Enjoy an authentic Italian buffet at Ramada Hotel & Suites Amwaj Islands every Saturday, from 7pm-11pm. BD10net for adults, BD5net for children aged six to 12, children below six dine for free. For details, contact 16000099 or email at dining@ramadamanama-amwaj.com

Soak up the stunning views from the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay's 50th floor and feast on Asian delights like Korean Fried Chicken Bao Buns, Wok Fried Shrimp Dumplings and Brisket Wontons at the re Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck's Saturday Brunch. The price is BD19++ and BD37++ with selected beverages. For reservations, contact 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 details, contact 17115000.

Sunday (November 11)

Ramada Hotel & Suites Amwaj Islands is hosting a ladies breakfast for the price of BD4net, every Sunday until Thursday from 7am-11am. For details, contact 16000099 or email dining@ramadamanama-amwaj.com

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain

Leisure Guide



Listings, lifestyle, travel, entertainment and sporting events by Kristian Harrison

holds an Italian Night at La Mosaïque Restaurant from 7pm featuring pasta, pizza and more priced BD13net for the food only and there is a separate beverage package. For details, contact 17531122.

Monday (November 12)

Check out The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's new One Night in Bangkok themed night from 7pm at La Mosaïque Restaurant, priced BD13net, with a special beverages package available too. For details, contact 17531122.

Bahrain's award-winning Indian restaurant, Rasoi by Vineet, at the Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa, is offering a new set menu by Michelin-starred Chef Vineet Bhatia, for the price of BD22++. For details, contact 17713000 or email info@gulftelbahrain.com

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's Harvesters Back to School-themed party starts at 9pm. Entry is free. 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 BD24net including soft drinks, or BD29net including unlimited selected beverages. For details, contact 17460017.

Tuesday (November 13)

The Gulf Night Out is back featuring cuisines from the Gulf Hotel's 10 fine dining outlets and live cooking stations, with performances from Bahrain's top local band Al Rayash, followed by a Lebanese performance from the hotel's outlet Zahle. The pool party also boasts a BBQ station with 'smoky surprises' from the grills. The buffet starts from 8pm. For reservations, call 17713000.

Ladies Night at the Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa every Tuesday, where women receive a 50 per cent discount for the hotel's lounges, spas and restaurants, excluding Rasoi by Vineet. For details, contact



17713000 or email info@gulftelbahrain.com

The Wyndham Garden Manama in Juffair is hosting an American Night at its Player's Lounge with duo, Notre Viú on stage. Enjoy special offers on selected beverages and Angus steaks every Tuesday from noon to 2am.

For details, contact 66316666 or email dining@wyndhamgardenmanama.com

At the hotel's Via Brasil Restaurant, the Cuban duo, First Class, Martha and Claudia, will perform live. Indulge in a Brazilian-style all-you-can-eat barbecue restaurant, where there is

a wide selection of meats, salads, hot appetisers, side dishes and drinks selection to complement the meals. Located on the rooftop of the hotel, the restaurant provides scenic views overlooking the Bahrain skyline, open from 7pm-2am. For details, contact 66316666.

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

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's bFit Health Club is offering swimming classes every

DATES FOR THE DIARY

MORE than 150 artisans and designers will be selling their products at the annual Snowflake Craft Fair on November 17. The event is being run by the American Women's Association at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel from 11am-4pm. Entry fee is 500fils.

November 20-24 and will host a cooking class on the last day. He is a two-star Michelin chef and was a judge on the Belgian version of Masterchef. For reservations, call 17713000.



A PRINCE and Princess / Teen King & Queen contest will be held on November 22 at 8pm at the Indian Club. Entry forms are available at the club reception and the last date for registration is November 15. For further details, call 36433552 or 33381762.

CELEBRITY chef Wout Bru will visit the award-winning Fusions restaurant at the Gulf Hotel Bahrain between

Monday and Wednesday. Classes for children aged eight to 11 are from 4pm-4.45pm, classes for children aged five to seven are from 5pm-5.45pm, and adult classes are from 6pm-6.45pm. The

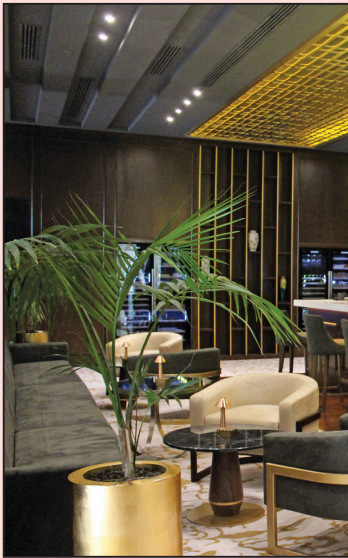
classes are priced BD40 per month for bFit Crowne Plaza Bahrain members, and BD50 per month (eight sessions) for non-members. For bookings, contact 17531122.

Cuban-style comforts in lounge

JUMEIRAH Royal Saray Bahrain's new Havana Club lounge was officially unveiled last night.

It offers a Spanish-inspired tapas menu, an extensive beverage selection and features live entertainment adding to the authenticity of the theme. Resident Cuban trio Intention will be performing at the venue six days a week.

Due to Havana's inspirations, like its contemporary and neoclassical artistic identity with tints of Hispano-Moorish influence, the lounge aims to invoke 'intellectual and flavourful' conversations and offer the widest range in Bahrain of a product that Havana is famous for.



THE Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain welcomes back classical pianist, Tiziano Zanella, for Italian-inspired evenings at the resort's signature Lobby Lounge, until December 1, from 5pm-10pm. To complement the experience, guests can enjoy a special afternoon tea menu from 3pm-7pm for BD21 per set.

Born in Venice, Zanella began playing the piano at the age of five. At the age of 25, he became artistic director and chief conductor at the famous Caffè Florian in Piazza San Marco in Venice.

His repertoire includes classical pieces and lighter music. He is currently the pianist in residence at the Hotel Danieli, a Luxury Collection Hotel in Venice.

For more information, 17586499 or email rc.bahz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

CINEMA CLUB JUFFAIR (TODAY)



Film: *The Way He Looks*

Director: Daniel Ribeiro

Duration: 1hrs 36mins

Cast: Ghilherme Lobo, Fabio Audi, Tess Amorim, Isabela Guasco

Plot: Leo is a blind teenager who's fed up with his overprotective mother and the bullies at school. Looking to assert his independence, he decides to study abroad to the dismay of his best friend, Giovana. When Gabriel, the new kid in town, teams up with Leo on a school project, new feelings blossom in him that make him reconsider his plans. Meanwhile, Giovana, grows jealous of this new found companionship as tensions mount between her and Leo.

For details, call Huda Tabbara on 39682323.

FINE dining connoisseurs are in for a delightful culinary treat this week, with the launch of a pop-up version of celebrity Chef Wolfgang Puck's legendary Spago restaurant at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

The one-off event will bring a true taste of Beverly Hills to Manama, and offers guests a unique opportunity to sample specially-crafted tasting menus from the kitchen of one of the world's most glamorous restaurants.

Spago is renowned as one of Los Angeles' hippest places to see and be seen at. The two-day pop-up event at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay will transform the hotel's CUT by Wolfgang Puck steakhouse into a faithful representation of the iconic eatery tomorrow and Friday.

Each and every detail of the Spago experience will be

Serving up Spago sensations

authentically recreated, from the beverage list, to the staff uniforms and – most excitingly – the two Michelin-starred cuisine by Chef Tetsu Yahigi, who will be flying in from the States to cook up a storm in the kitchen alongside Brian Becher – Executive Chef, Wolfgang Puck restaurants at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

Chef Tetsu said he is very excited to be visiting. "As a chef of multi-cultural Californian cuisine, there is nothing more exciting than working with new ingredients, meeting local people and being exposed to different cultures. It's also an honour to collaborate with talented Chef Brian," he added.

Diners are invited to embark on a nine-course culinary

journey encompassing handmade pastas, fresh seafood, all-natural meats, and an array of tempting desserts.

Highlights will include goat ricotta gnocchi, prepared using freshly-made goat ricotta, medjool dates, toasted pistachio and wild field mushrooms; beluga caviar served with market cauliflower hummus, black lemon blini and lamb belly macaron; and steamed wild black sea bass with beet-ginger ponzu, edamame and wasabi tobiko.

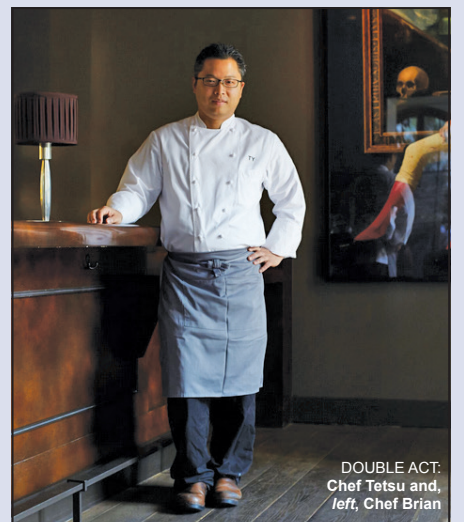
Brian's feeling blessed too: "We look forward to an exciting two days, as we bring the Spago experience to diners here in Bahrain for the first time," he said.

There are various menus



available, with the six-course dinner BD42++, the nine-course dinner BD57++, the three-course lunch BD26++ and the five-course lunch BD32++.

For more details, call 17115044.



DOUBLE ACT: Chef Tetsu and, left, Chef Brian

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Fashion Weekly

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

Clothing with a conscience



STAY bundled up and cosy as the weather starts to dip and go green at the same time with Mango's Committed Capsule Collection boasting recycled wools and natural materials.

The special line features garments designed with reprocessed fabrics that use sustainable fibres.

Artist and model Saskia De Brauw was captured wearing the chic and comfortable designs as part of a campaign shoot staged at the Spanish Aiguas Tortas nature park by the Barcelona-based brand last year.

The collection was especially befitting of the artist as she tends to focus on space and the passing of time or cities in her projects. Her concepts produce a vision of clarity and simplicity and the same can be said about the garments in the collection.

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

Natural materials such as wool, biodegradable fibres such as Tencel, or recycled fibres such as viscose, are used in shades of white, brown and aubergine within the new line.

This is an important achievement for the brand as it champions sustainable style and has a desire to create fashion with a conscience. In fact, the fashion house has established a goal for itself to increase the proportion of sustainable fibres and to commit to supporting the use of 50 per cent sustainable cotton by 2022.

In addition, Mango is continuing with its SECOND CHANCES project to recycle clothing and footwear, allocating the collected clothing to local recycling and international reuse.



Eating Out

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

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THEY'RE as proud as Punch at Le Méridien Bahrain City Centre's Baharat restaurant ... and with good reason too.

You can spot the smiles on the faces of the chefs and front of house staff the moment you step through the door. It's simply electrifying and appreciative diners have been quick to shower them with well-deserved praise.

So much so that Baharat has just achieved No 1 ranking on travel and restaurant website *Trip Advisor* as 'best restaurant' in Bahrain, remarkable if you take into consideration it was ranked in 35th spot this time last year.

And, where better to celebrate the achievement than at the 'sweetest brunch' on the island? The good lady wife, Kathryn and I, were joined on Friday by our Aussie expat friends, Geoff and Tracy, who are amongst this destination's biggest fans.

I was one of the first restaurant reviewers to taste test Chef Hany Mostafa's bid to reinvigorate its offering at Baharat. The Friday brunch scene remains one of the most competitive in the kingdom's hospitality sector and it's great to witness that all the months of hard work, culinary imagination and perfection appears to be paying off.

Not surprisingly, Chef Hany has been promoted to Complex Executive Chef since we last met. He was busy on another assignment last Friday but passed on the message that he was fully confident in shining the spotlight on Chef de Cuisine Manoj Chaminda and Pastry Chef Suresh Perera.

It takes a lot for a brunch to stand out because the kingdom has so many truly outstanding offerings, there's got to be something unique. Obviously the 'sweetest brunch' proclamation clearly outlines

Taste of sweet success



TASTY TREATS: Tempting desserts on display, *right*, Pastry Chef Suresh and Chef de Cuisine Manoj above the BBQ Beef Short Ribs, *below*, Deuxsous, the Seared Foie Gras, the team, a helping of pudding and Vinoth



GOURMET REPORT
By STAN SZECOWKA
editor@gulfweekly.com

its intent ... but let's get to that later.

The salad selection was excellent, crisp and clean with well-presented choices in dishes and glasses, the seafood offering was as good and as fresh as anything I've had on the island, and the main course cuts were superbly succulent, such as Beef Strip Loin, Roasted Duck and Salmon en Croute ready to be carved. I tried a slice of all three, each with their own gravy suggestion.

There are various live cooking areas including an Asian Station, veiled off with a pretty array of lamps, and right opposite diners can pick up the most sensational Seared Foie

Anna-Marie Dowling • 1st
Complex General Manager at The Westin & Le Meridien City...
58m

Celebrating with the culinary and service teams in Baharat Restaurant in Le Meridien this afternoon for achieving number 1 rank on Trip Advisor for best restaurant in Bahrain - this time last year they were ranked number 35! Fantastic team performance - so proud of them! #awesome #teamspirit #culinaryskills #serviceexcellence #innovation #hardwork #barriofoie #sinal

Gras and my star attraction, BBQ Beef Short Ribs, in the most delicious sauce imaginable.

Adding to the ambience was a South Africa and Irish duo called Deuxsous, namely Byron and Sionelle, delivering delightful sing-along ditties at the perfect volume level.

Restaurant manager Vinoth Sivalingam should be congratulated too for running the show with precision and charm. I was also particularly

impressed by our ever-helpful bright young Sri Lankan table waiter, Raveen.

And, now for the desserts ... please make room for the pudding. Regular readers will know I have a soft spot for the best thing that Bahrain has ever done for me ... rekindled a lost love of Sticky Toffee Pudding.

You have to make a date with this warm and wonderful masterpiece, served in all its glory with a scoop of

homemade vanilla ice cream.

I know it's only one of a multitude of choices on display, a creative collection of cakes and sweet delights beyond your wildest dreams. And, once again the pastry team displayed its originality with an absolute first for me ... the Date Strudel!

Apple, eat your heart out, this is the future.

Another star turn was the Bahraini favourite Kanafeh, a quality take on this traditional pastry with sweet syrup and layered with cheese.

Keep up the good work guys, you're reached the pinnacle of success and in this game, that's when the work really starts. On this showing though, you're the act to beat.

The Sweetest Brunch runs from 12.30pm to 4pm every

Friday priced BD26net, inclusive of soft drinks, tea and coffee and BD38net, including selected beverages.

To book a table call 17171000 for more details or visit www.limeridienbahraincitycentre.com/en/forms/Friday-Brunch.

● Check out Stan's YouTube interview with Chefs Manoj and Suresh and Vinoth by placing your smart phone over the QR Code.



All hands on deck for



'TIS the season to be jolly ...' well it isn't yet, considering we've barely put our Halloween masks and broomsticks back in the cupboard for another year, but that hasn't stopped the Elite Resort and Spa, Bahrain from getting into the spirit of the coming festive season by preparing some annual treats, writes *Kristian Harrison*.

Journalists recently gathered at the Muharraq location to ring in the annual start of the frivolities by mixing together traditional Christmas cake ingredients into a giant bowl, which will mature and marinate over the next month until it is ready to be made into a batch of cakes.

It was already a day of celebration for the hotel, with its Facebook social media page attaining its 300,000th 'like.' Amongst the party atmosphere, general manager Puneet Siagal expressed his delight.

He said: "This cake-mixing ceremony is a very proud event for us.

"We were the first to do it in the kingdom, and now in some ways it heralds the start of the festive season. Considering the number of different events around this time of year, the fact we kick it off is special.

"We take our time to prepare the cake, and the products that come out at the end are equally as good as the love and care put into making them."

On the patio by the swimming pool, overlooking the calm autumn sea, we donned our obligatory large white hats without a care for our daft appearance and, armed with a wooden spoon and huge plastic gloves that



IT'S TEAMWORK: Members of the media join the Elite team before getting blessed for their efforts, as o

would look more appropriate on *Breaking Bad* character Walter White than a hapless hack, we set about our task.

After years of honing my culinary craft at various events, I was confident of

tackling a traditional treat.

We've always been more of a Yule Log family but it's good to expand your horizons!

Before we could get started, a prayer was said by a visiting priest who blessed the

ingredients by spraying them with an aspergillum. This was certainly unexpected, but it did lend a festive feel along with the choice of classic festive tunes emanating from the speakers.



for the festive season



our Kristian, *right*, grabs hold of a large stirring stick to lead the charge

On a large table were trays laid out with traditional Christmas cake filling, and each of us in attendance were asked to mix them all together with our spoons. However, the implement wasn't quite

big enough so we dug in down to our elbows and mixed the ingredients in harmony.

These included cashew nuts, almonds, dried prunes, dates, dried fruits, raisins, blackcurrants, cherries,

cinnamon powder, honey and a hefty dose of seasonal beverages.

After our tray full of filling was sufficiently jumbled up, we took turns adding to a huge silver bowl which was

subsequently carried away into the hotel's kitchens, where it will stay until December before other ingredients like flour and eggs are mixed in.

Christmas cake is a type of fruitcake popular in the UK and many Commonwealth countries. It may be light or dark, crumbly-moist to sticky-wet, spongy to heavy, leavened or unleavened, shaped round, square or oblong as whole cakes, fairy cakes, or petit fours, with marzipan, icing, glazing, dusting with icing sugar, or plain.

If a Christmas cake is covered in icing, it is usually decorated with models of houses, Christmas trees or even Father Christmas. As with so many truly great things in life, good things come to those who wait and this festive delicacy is no different.

A good Christmas cake is left to age for at least a month before serving. Head Chef Ankon Mukherjee, who is the man in charge of the festive treat this year, said: "We have to do this event at this time of year to give the ingredients time to soak up the liquid and completely ingest the flavour. To be a truly authentic cake, it needs room to breathe and develop naturally."

Ankon will be doing the hard graft in December, baking and decorating the cakes to be sent out to various media outlets for us to sample our own delights.

Unfortunately, my suggestion to uphold British tradition and drop a coin in the mixture, with the person who finds it in their serving getting to keep the coin as a sign of good wealth for the year ahead, was thwarted due to the potential damage it could cause to Editor Stan's dentures.





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Property Weekly

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

Contemporary family home

A spacious contemporary villa is available for rent in the popular Saar area. The semi-furnished three bedroom home, which is laid out with tiles, marble and parquet flooring, features two living rooms, a separate dining area, as well as a guest closet and a large kitchen on the ground floor.

The kitchen includes breakfast-bar-style-island giving families more preparation room for cooking or enjoy quick meals. There is a second kitchen for heavy-duty cooking as well.

The bedrooms are on the first floor including another living area. All rooms consist of built-in wardrobes and ensuite bathrooms.

The gated property also boasts a landscaped garden, a private swimming and two car parks. There is also a maid's room.

It is located close to Saar Mall and the Al Nakheel Centre, Saar Cinema, as well as St Christopher's Junior School and an array of restaurants, coffee shops and expat members' clubs.



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Location: Saar
Rental price: BD1,300 exclusive (negotiable)
Living rooms: 2
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2
Additional information: There is a garden area and private swimming pool.

For further information on this and other homes call Star Real Estate's Kathryn on 39722131.



starrealstate.bh

ROVE RESIDENCE

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STUNNING works are being exhibited by emerging practitioners residing in the region who have collaborated under an innovative design programme set to help shape the future of home interiors with a touch of history.

The Tashkeel and Van Cleef & Arpels' Voices of Design exhibition opened yesterday in Dubai and runs until December 13.

Established in 2008 by Lateefa bint Maktoum, Tashkeel provides a nurturing environment for the growth of contemporary art and design practice rooted in the UAE.

Voices of Design revisits five years of design innovation, with works from the Tanween Collection and the Van Cleef & Arpels Middle East Emergent Designer Prize competition. The exhibition features furniture, lighting and arts-based works.

Among the exhibitors are:

● **Zuleika Penniman.**

Coral Sun. 2016. Table lamp.
Gold, silver, steel, repurposed coral.
Dimensions variable.
Limited edition series of 10.

Coral is a powerful reminder that this is a region of confluence between man and nature, sea and desert, sun and the passing of time. Using the light bulb as a metaphor, Penniman recalls the coral's past in all its natural glory, directing light through its translucent geometry. Using repurposed coral salvaged from traditional houses scheduled for demolition, the series exhibits the dualistic nature of coral, one that is extremely resilient yet delicate and ephemeral.



● **Hamza Omari**

Zea. 2017. Table lamp.
Stone, sand, brushed stainless steel/copper/brass.
40 (L) x 58 (W) x 16 (H) cm.
Limited edition series of 15.

Zea aims to bring sand back into the home and inculcate a rooted and reverent sense of the past. Desert sand slowly ebbs back and forth, alternately and progressively exposing or covering a light source filtered through a repurposed mashrabiya. Zea also harks back to traditional construction and domestic spaces through its base of handcrafted Fujairah stone.



● **Studio MUJU**

Moza. 2016. Chair.
Teak wood, brass, leather, woven fabric.
70 (L) x 65 (W) x 150 (H) cm.
Limited edition series of 10.

Studio MUJU aims to revive and reinterpret traditional Emirati handicrafts. Sadu is a form

New voices of design

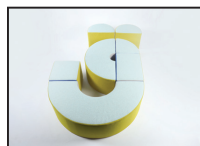


of weaving that is on the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Through extensive interaction with the weaving process, Studio MUJU translated the essence of the woven fabric into the realm of furniture and lighting design.

● **Lujain Abulfaraj**

DHADH. 2017. Children's seating.
HD foam, fabric (available in vinyl or wool).
280 (L) x 140 (W) x 40 (H) cm.
Available in various limited edition.

Named after the letter unique to the Arabic language. Observing how her children found no enjoyment in Arabic classes or books, Abulfaraj saw the need for an interactive language-learning activity. Building on her design practice and Lara Assouad's Modular Arabic Typography workshop she took at Tashkeel, DHADH was born – eight modules that can be combined to form all 28 Arabic letters. Strong and resilient, the pieces encourage perpetual play with children's energy in mind.



● **Rand Abdul Jabbar**

FORMA: Two. 2016. Stool.
Burma teak wood.
70 (L) x 34 (W) x 48.5 (H) cm
Limited edition series of 10.

The table sheds light on a disappearing craft of dhow building.



A collaboration between designer Rand Abdul Jabbar and dhow builder, Mutayya, each piece is entirely handmade. By exposing the public to the beauty of dhow building, the FORMA series aspires to instil a renewed sense of appreciation for the craft, its history and the profession that it sustains.

● **Salem Al Mansoori (Van Cleef & Arpels Middle East Emergent Artist Prize)**

Winner | 2013 | First Edition.
Mimicry. 2013.
3D-printed synthetic polymer.

Responding to the inaugural theme 'Metamorphosis', this series of 3D-printed, polyamide sculptures represents the transformative stage of the life cycle of the butterfly. Salem chose four species, inspired by their colours and the emotions they evoked - the dark grey Small Copper, the bright pink Swallow Tail, Mazarine Blue and Green Veined Pearl.

Using basic platonic shapes to represent each butterfly, he applied progressively complex algorithmic transformation to them.

The title Mimicry is borrowed from the scientific term used to describe the phenomenon seen in butterflies of mimicking the patterns of other creatures on their wings as a form of protection. It also refers to Salem's geometric imitation of a natural process.

● **Vikram Divecha (Van Cleef & Arpels Middle East Emergent Artist Prize)**

Winner | 2014 | Second Edition).
Degenerative Disarrangement. 2013.
Pavement bricks.
Dimension Variable.

Responding to the 2014 theme 'Turning Point', Vikram chose to focus on the defining moment during the creative process. His 'turning point' was a conversation about how

stonemasons work within time constraints, which ensured disarrangement in the course of development.

The resulting installation used construction materials and industrial production methods, made of four tonnes of pavement bricks uprooted from a bus stop and re-laid in the courtyard of House 33, Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, the diagonal yellow lines originally painted on the pavement became dispersed to form an abstract geometric pattern in their new location.

● **Ivan Parati (Van Cleef & Arpels Middle East Emergent Designer Prize)**

Winner | 2015 | Third Edition.
TileTable. 2015.
Wood, lacquer, copper.

TileTable is a modular coffee table, which responds to the user's requirements. Consisting of three elements with a variable geometric layout, the piece offers almost an infinite number of possible arrangements. It takes traditional Islamic elements and projects them in a contemporary aesthetic and function.

It is manufactured from timber products using the ancient wood-turning technique. Elements are connected by double threaded bolts and finished with a thick, black lacquered coating with copper trim to emphasise its pattern.



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SocialScene

Why wait a month! Join Social Scene every week

In focus



SEEF Properties chairman Essa Najibi presented a donation to the Al Kawthar Society for Social Care as part of its corporate social responsibility initiatives and community outreach programme.

The cheque was received by the society's chairman Ahmed Saleh Al Naomi, in the presence of the vice chairman of Seef Properties and head of its CSR committee, Dr Mustafa Al Sayed, and the company's CEO Ahmed Yusuf.



A CHEQUE for BD200,000 has been given to the Crown Prince's International Scholarship Programme (CPISP), the latest instalment of GFH's overall BD1 million contribution to the initiative as a platinum category sponsor.

A cheque hand-over ceremony took place between the advisor for political and economic affairs at the Court of the Crown Prince, board member and head of the financial and administrative committee of CPISP, Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa, and the chairman of GFH Capital, Shaikh Ahmed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

CRISP offers educational opportunities to outstanding students, preparing them for the job market and providing them with the skills to contribute to Bahrain's long-term development.

Other attendees at the meeting included GFH Financial Group's Hisham Al Rayes, CEO and board member, Dr Cynthia Gessling, director of the programme and Shatha Ahmed Ali, head of administrative, financial and student affairs.



SOLIDARITY Bahrain has opened self-service kiosks at all its branches, powered by SADAD, aimed at simplifying the renewal of motor insurance policies and allowing customers to avoid waiting in queues.

Noel Silveira, director of business development, Dr Rifat Mohamed Al Kashif, SADAD board member, Mohamed Awachi, head of corporate support - Solidarity Bahrain and Jalal Aqelah, corporate communications & marketing manager - Solidarity Bahrain attended the launch event in Manama.

Annual charity



THE Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's ninth annual charity swimming challenge took place on Saturday afternoon, in support of the



Friendship Society for the Blind. Big-hearted swimmers took part in two distance categories, 200m and 1km and



a splashing good time was had by all with BD1,500 raised for the cause from charitable endeavours.



Happy Diwali



ICICI Bank hosted a Diwali event at The Diplomat Radisson BLU Hotel attended by Indian ambassador Shri Alok Kumar Sinha and senior dignitaries from the Central Bank of Bahrain, Ministry of Finance and major business groups in Bahrain. They were welcomed by the bank's country head Amit Bansal, relationship manager Varun Kumar and other executives.

Going green



GO GREEN committee members at Alhekma International School have started planting inside the school's greenhouse. Hassan Ramadan, an agricultural engineer and greenhouse consultant, explained the hydroponic, vertical and closed planting systems to the students.

Awareness programme

THE Supreme Council of Women recently hosted the third batch of intermediate school teachers to a workshop themed 'Awareness of the Inclusion of Women's Needs in National Development and Equal Opportunities Units in Educational Establishments', in association with the Ministry of Education.

The two-day workshop was



staged at the Regional Centre for Information and Com-

munication Technology at Bahrain Training Institute and

highlighted an awareness kit now available to schools.

Helping hand

THE Yousif and Aysha Al-moayyed Charity has made a donation to the Migrant Workers Protection Society to support its programmes. It was handed over by Aziz Jasim, executive director at Y.K. Almoayyed & Sons to Marita Diaz, the society's president, in Manama.



Teachers' collaboration



THE American Embassy Regional English Language Office organised a five-day visit by Dr Carol Anne Cao, a specialist in teaching children with special needs.

She has been working with teachers at the Ministry of Education, Alya Centre for Autism and Bahrain Teachers' College.

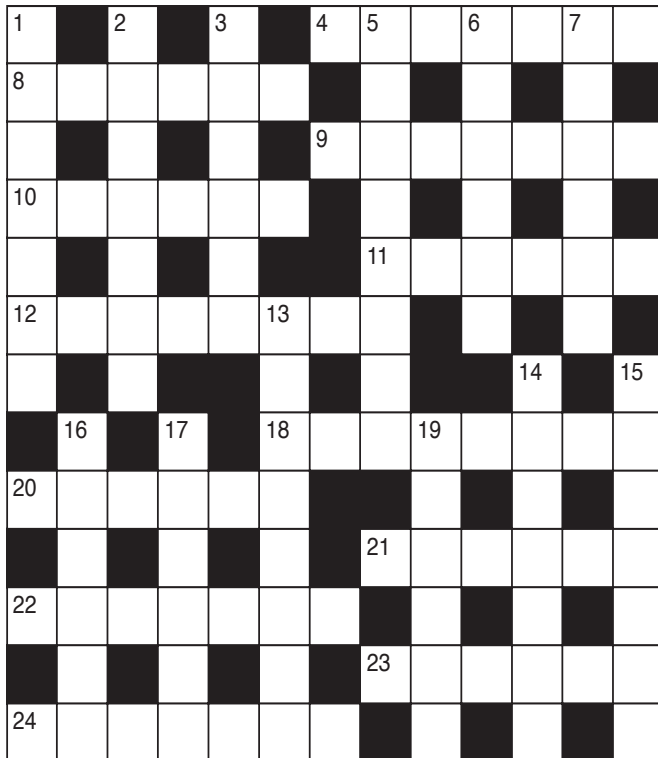
Her programme consisted of collaborating with teachers to improve on teaching methodologies and to provide best practices in helping students with learning difficulties, dyslexia, ADHD and autism.

Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

4. Shorten (7)
8. Cunning (6)
9. Let (7)
10. Invisible (6)
11. Puzzle (6)
12. A missile (8)
18. Encumbrance (8)
20. Failure (6)
21. Distant (6)
22. Impart (7)
23. Acquits (6)
24. Hint (7)

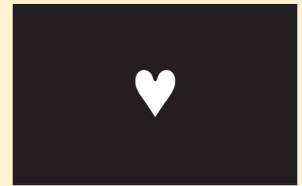
DOWN

1. Stunted (7)
2. Corrosive (7)
3. Stripe (6)
5. Official statement (8)
6. Sarcastic (6)
7. Shines (6)
13. Indebted (8)
14. Tumbler (7)
15. Pacify (7)
16. Repudiate (6)
17. Beneficial (6)
19. Profoundly (6)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... played Colonel Oliver in the film *Hotel Rwanda*?
WHAT ... is the least populous US state?
WHERE ... was the actor Raymond Burr born in 1917?
WHEN ... was The Gorbachev Foundation created?
WHO ... wrote the 1995 stage play *Dealer's Choice*?
WHAT ... is the largest city in the state of Montana, US?
WHERE ... in Africa is the mountain Maromokotro?
WHEN ... did Lord Irvine of Lairg become Lord Chancellor?

just so



19 12 12

♀ ♀ ♀ & ... first

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Evangelists; 9 Low; 10 Intricate; 11 Space; 13 Nearest; 14 Fathom; 16 Pellet; 18 Sincere; 19 April; 20 Editorial; 21 Tie; 22 Destitution.

Down: 2 Vow; 3 Naive; 4 Extend; 5 Imitate; 6 Traveller; 7 Close-fisted; 8 Teetotaler; 12 Attentive; 15 Open out; 17 Resist; 19 Allot; 21 Too.

JUST SO: 1 Claudius, Fish for compliments, Hyde park corner, On par for the course

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Blythe Duff; The Black Shorts; Dominica; 1977; Warren Christopher; East Caribbean dollar; North Yorkshire; 2005.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

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Write to the editor

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



AS a way of showing support to recent breast cancer awareness activities, Harbour Gate themed our weekly Harbour Run in pink last weekend.

More than 200 people of all ages participated in the Pink Run, which took place in partnership with the Ministry of Health, and many of the runners, joggers and walkers wore pink clothing and ribbons for the occasion.

With a 5k Challenge as well as a 2.5k Fun Run, this was a great way to gather, show support to cancer sufferers and their families and help spread awareness, not only in October, but throughout the year.

Harbour Run is one of a series of activities organised by Financial Centre Development Company, the owner of Harbour Towers & Harbour Gate. The weekly Saturday morning family activity is such a simple concept: turn up every week and walk, jog or run 1.5, 2.5 or 5k, from 7am to 8am.

The idea behind having the weekly run is to build a closer relationship with tenants and their families, friends and inviting runners from outside the complex

to be a part of our social activity.

Fatima Majeed, fmajeed@bfharbour.com



IT'S MO time! As a club we are getting involved in Movember - the annual event involving the growing of moustaches during the month of November.

The Movember Foundation's goal is to improve and save men's lives through projects focused on prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention.

We would like to invite BRFC members and supporters to create their very own MoSpace and let the growth begin. Sign up, donate or join the BRFC team!

You can update your MoSpace with regular photos of your growth (or lack of, for

some) and we'll be sharing some of our favourites! There will be prizes for the Best Final Moustache, Worst Moustache and Most Money Raised.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone getting behind this fantastic cause.
Bahrain Rugby Football Club.

● **Editor's note:** The Movember Foundation runs the Movember charity event, housed at movember.com - the goal of Movember is to 'change the face of men's health'.

REMEMBRANCE Sunday this year has a special significance, marking as it does the Centenary of the end of the First World War.

On Saturday at 12.30pm there will be a simple Service of Remembrance and prayers for peace in the Old Christian Cemetery in Manama, where a memorial is sited for those who gave their lives for their country in the two World Wars. All who wish are invited to attend.

On Sunday at 3.30pm, in the St Christopher's Cathedral compound, there will be Bells for Peace at which leaders

and representatives from different faith groups will ring the ship's bell, which was presented to the Cathedral by Captain Charles Kendall in 1956, 100 times.

It is an event to which people of all faiths are invited and will need to gather at 3pm. All are asked to bring a bell or other instrument to play at the conclusion of the one hundred rings. It is a celebration of peace and it is timed to begin at 3.30pm to coincide with the ringing out of bells from Westminster Abbey and churches throughout the UK, as well as on Royal Navy ships in port in Bahrain at this time.

Later on Sunday at 6.15pm at St Christopher's Cathedral, there will be a Service of



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

CONGRATULATIONS to former Radio Bahrain morning show host Krazy Kevin who has won the 26th Australian Town Crier Championships with the loudest cry ... and also notched the coveted People's Choice accolade.

Oldham football fanatic Kevin, who was once regarded as Bahrain's 'true celebrity' and had to fight through hoards of fans even on a trip to his local cold store, is proving just as popular Down Under.

He told the Whisperer in a croaky voice that he would like to thank everyone in Bahrain for their warm messages of congratulations as he sipped a honey and lemon concoction to soothe a sore throat.

He'll be back on song shortly ... to meet public demand!



Remembrance attended by ambassadors and embassy representatives, the visiting Chelsea Pensioners, scouts and sea scouts and the wider community. Wreaths will be laid, a two-minute silence kept, the Last Post and Reveille played and the preacher will be the

Reverend Mark Mander, Royal Navy Chaplain. Taking part too will be Lt Christina Mauntel, US Navy Chaplain, as well as the cathedral staff. It is a service to which all are invited.

Dean, The Very Reverend Christopher Butt.



ALLOW me to introduce a method that will help increase your productivity, like it does for me, someone who easily falls prey to the perils of procrastination.

This method is especially beneficial to students, or for tasks that require sitting down for a while and exerting mental effort.

Set a timer for 25-45 minutes and work continuously for that time, after which you may take a

Youth Talk

By **Sarah Belal**



five to seven minute break.

Repeat this cycle three or four times and then take a longer break of 15 minutes. The five to seven minute break is quite short, but only because it is simply an opportunity for a breather and you may enjoy a longer

rest during your 15 minute break. Oh, and stay away from social media (the black hole of productivity)!

This method works for several reasons.

Firstly, because it factors in break time, it leaves you with something to look forward to as you work or study and helps you plough through it.

The next reason is that the promise of a break makes you more liable to

sit down and get at least some work done. Kind of like in chemistry, where extra energy is needed to overcome the baseline energy needed to start the reaction, this break serves as an incentive to start on your task.

And lastly, because optimal cognitive function (the way a person best learns) is said to taper off after around 20 to 45 minutes of work, even

though you feel you could do more, this study-break cycle ensures your mind remains fresh and receptive to take in new information.

The Pomodoro Technique really came in handy back in school when the last thing I wanted to do was practice balancing chemical equations or solve math problems. I hope it does the same for you, whatever the task needed to be completed.

Film Weekly

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



Pirouetting along

EVER since the massive success of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Disney has been attempting to catch that same live-action lightning in a bottle. Though they've had numerous record-breaking smashes within the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *Star Wars* and by raiding their own animated intellectual properties for remakes, they've found it hard to recreate the model of a new original franchise with both *Tomorrowland* and *The Lone Ranger* failing to grab the attentions of audiences.

The newest original Disney live-action film is the veritable Christmas classic *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms*, which whilst by no means a great movie has definitely learned some lessons from the studio's mistakes of the past.

Loosely inspired by the classic ballet *The Nutcracker*, this reimagining sits somewhere between *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Return to Oz*, with a young feisty girl who doesn't quite fit in with her fancy family and longs for something more.

In that way, MacKenzie Foy's Clara is just like so many other Disney leading ladies; Belle's tired of her provincial town, Ariel's desperate to explore the human world, and (live action) Alice is ready to follow her father's footsteps and explore the globe. Clara's motivations though come from the loss of her mother.

On a production level, *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* is far better than the uninspiring *Alice in Wonderland*, *Cinderella*, and *Beauty and the Beast* remakes. Once the story enters the magical *Four Realms*, directors Lasse Hallström and Joe Johnston create a decadent, festive landscape that almost feels tangible with more expressive and effective use of practical effects and sets than Disney's other recent efforts, and it's a pleasant surprise.

Though as is so often the way, the film

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS

STARRING: Keira Knightley, Mackenzie Foy, Helen Mirren, Morgan Freeman

DIRECTORS: Lasse Hallström & Joe Johnston

GENRE: Fantasy adventure

RATING: PG

RUNTIME: 99 Mins

does still get lost in giant CGI set pieces that muddy the extravagant world that the film creates. But the overall look and colour palette is definitely an improvement on the flat computer-generated worlds of *Oz* *The Great and Powerful* or Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*.

If *Oz* and *Alice* are recurring themes here it's because the story borrows heavily from both. It's essentially a story about a strong-willed young girl who ends up in a mysterious and enchanting new world which only she can save. Although it shares threads with those classics, the film's strongest moments are when it veers into the surreal and scary, with some strange sequences incredibly reminiscent of Disney's Marmite sequel, *Return to Oz*.

One standout scene occurs as Clara ventures quickly (the film is mercifully short at 100 minutes, which feels refreshing in the face of the bloated running times that fill our cinemas these days) into a forbidden forest, coming across a giant robotic woman whose tented skirts reveal a collection of nesting doll clowns who jump in and out of each other. It's as strange as it sounds and all the better for it.

You can tell that the film is aiming for a 'strong female lead' and 'diverse cast' but the reality is that both of those efforts come across as slightly hollow, with Foy still a young, rich, upper class woman who's strangely obsessed with her father.

And her companion for the film, the titular Nutcracker named Phillip, played with bundles of charm by Jayden Fowora-Knight, is never really given any responsibility of his own.

The film quickly establishes a weird power dynamic between the two, who we're meant to believe have an instantly organic friendship, as there's a running joke that Phillip only does what Clara says because in his world she's royalty, which makes their relationship come across as unbalanced at best.

Helen Mirren is great as always as Mother Ginger, though slightly underused. When she finally shares the screen with Foy they make a really fun pairing, and it's absolutely fantastic to see Mirren running around and kicking butt whilst wielding a whip.

The movie also criminally underutilises American Ballet Theatre star Misty Copeland, whose appearance is an absolute highlight but remains just that, an appearance, which does potentially invent a new trope ... ballet exposition.

However, the dancing is wonderful and it leaves you wishing that Disney had committed a little more to the ballet aspects. It seems like a missed opportunity to not have Copeland play a larger role or at least make the incredible choreography a little more central to the story.

Ultimately, *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* is an uneven festive offering brimming with glitter and gaudiness that excels when it embraces its strangeness and the brilliance of the production design.

If you have a child in your life who loves Christmas and ballet, then they'll probably love this film. If you have an adult with a fear of clowns, definitely don't invite them to watch this film unless they've wronged you deeply.

● **Now showing in:** Cineco, Seef II, Saar, Wadi Al Sail, Avenues

KRISTIAN'S VERDICT



1 popcorn - stay home
5 popcorns - start queuing

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Bite-sized trailer

Summer of 84

DIRECTORS: François Simard, Anouk Whissell

CAST: Graham Verchere, Judah Lewis, Caleb Emery

PLOT: Summer, 1984: The perfect time to be 15 years old and free. But when neighbourhood conspiracy theorist Davey Armstrong begins to suspect his police officer neighbour might be the serial killer all over the local news, he and his three best friends begin an investigation that soon turns dangerous.

SHOWING IN: City Centre, Seef I, Wadi Al Sail, Oasis Mall Juffair, Seef Muharraq

Halloween

DIRECTOR: David Gordon Green

CAST: Jamie Lee Curtis, Judy Greer, Andi Matichak

PLOT: Jamie Lee Curtis returns to her iconic role as Laurie Strode, who comes to her final confrontation with Michael Myers, the masked figure who has haunted her since she narrowly escaped his killing spree on Halloween night four decades ago.

SHOWING IN: City Centre, Juffair Mall, The Avenues, Seef II, Saar, Wadi Al Sail, Oasis Mall Juffair, Seef Muharraq

White Fang

DIRECTOR: Alexandre Espigares

CAST: Nick Offerman, Rashida Jones, Paul Giamatti

PLOT: Set in Yukon, Canada during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush the story explores themes of morality, redemption and love. Since Jack London's classic novel was first published in 1906 it has gone on to become an international bestseller translated into more than 89 languages.

SHOWING IN: City Centre, Seef I, Wadi Al Sail, Oasis Mall Juffair, Seef Muharraq

imdb movie charts

Current Position	Title	Weekend Takings	Gross to date
1	Bohemian Rhapsody	\$50M	\$50M
2	The Nutcracker and the Four Realms	\$20M	\$20M
3	Nobody's Fool	\$14M	\$14M
4	A Star Is Born	\$11M	\$166M
5	Halloween	\$11M	\$150M
6	Venom	\$8M	\$199M
7	Smallfoot	\$4M	\$76M
8	Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween	\$4M	\$44M
9	Hunter Killer	\$4M	\$13M
10	The Hate U Give	\$3M	\$24M

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Motoring Weekly

Steering you to the best deals on wheels

Desert falcon drive produces another world record

THE Nissan Patrol has broken another Guinness World Records title for the Largest Synchronised Car Dance, which recognises the greatest number of cars moving in unison within a

formation. A total of 180 Nissan Patrols took part in the record attempt at the Dubai Rugby 7s stadium, driving in a synchronised routine in the shape of a giant desert falcon. This new

accolade is the third time the car has achieved a Guinness World Records title.

Led by international racing driver Axcil Jefferies, two concentric lines of vehicles drove in opposite directions

around the outline of a falcon, a total distance of 1,476 metres.

The shape formed by the 180 Nissan Patrols taking part in the attempt measured 176.5 metres by 225 metres.



So big, bold and beautiful

SUVS may be in vogue but the four-door pickup remains perfectly in place to continue wooing hearts and minds in Bahrain thanks to a move by leading US manufacturers in particular to make them bigger and more luxurious.

Interior space seems to have no upper limits. The rear-seat area of the latest Ram 1500 Crew Cab, for example, boasts more than 114cms of legroom, enough for a seven-foot tall person, one motoring scribe suggested. That's more legroom than many luxury sedans.

Handling and performance has been improving too. But size and capability are not the only reasons who pickups remain popular. Today's new vehicle customers appear eager to spend more on comfort.

Luxury, however, is different for pickup buyers versus car fans, explained Ram interior designer John Godneau: "In a pickup, luxury is when it does something for you," he said. "Designers want a subconscious connection to communicating the purpose of the truck. Materials that look good in a luxury sedan, they don't have a purpose. In a pickup, materials have an interlocking look, they make it look strong. Pickup design shapes wouldn't work in a car."

"You don't see the corners of a bolt in a car. In a truck you see something you could put a wrench on. A car interior is relaxing, like being at a spa. A pickup communicates strength, like Lego blocks!"

One motoring correspondent translated that difference



ON THE ROAD: Rams are all the rage across the globe

between car and truck luxury to a real-world experience. During an off-road drive in a Ram 1500 Laramie crew cab with optional air springs and standard electronic

'Active Tune Mass Modules' (both systems designed to counteract noise and vibration), he experienced eerie silence through foot-deep sand ruts.

"The interior of the Ram remained so unusually quiet that we had to open the windows to hear when the tires were slinging dirt," he reported. "It was so quiet that

we couldn't orient ourselves to the bouncing chaos of off-road driving going on outside. It seemed to our senses more like a video game."

As an example of highly

developed automotive technology, there are no luxury sedans in appears that can fully tame the Wild West, plus Bahrain's highways on a busy Thursday night and the occasional venture off road in Sakhr with the level of luxury available in today's pickups.

GulfWeekly's motoring correspondent Kristian Harrison has been invited to put the new RAM 1500 to the test on a media drive in Dubai on December 5 and 6.

But if you can't wait till then, check out the pick-ups on show at Behbehani Bros showroom in Sitra. One of the stars on display, with limited stock availability, is the RAM Bighorn, starting from BD16,000. For more details, call 17459955.



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Track action thrills the fans

A thrilling second round of National Race Day took place under the bright lights of Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

Mohammed Faqih, Shaikh Salman bin Isa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and Ahmed Almuyni were all victorious at Friday's meeting.

Faqih and Shaikh Salman shared the honours with a race win apiece in the BIC 2,000cc Challenge, while Almuyni posted an impressive double in the Bahrain Motorcycle Racing (BMR) 600.

Both championships raced along BIC's 2.55km Inner Track with BIC's state-of-the-art floodlighting system brilliantly lighting up the circuit.

In the BIC 2,000cc Challenge, Faqih narrowly missed out on securing pole position after topping the timesheet in Practice. Qualifying was won by defending champion Raed Himmo, who clocked a fastest lap of one minute 17.008 seconds in his black-blue Honda CIVIC – just 0.319s quicker than Faqih.

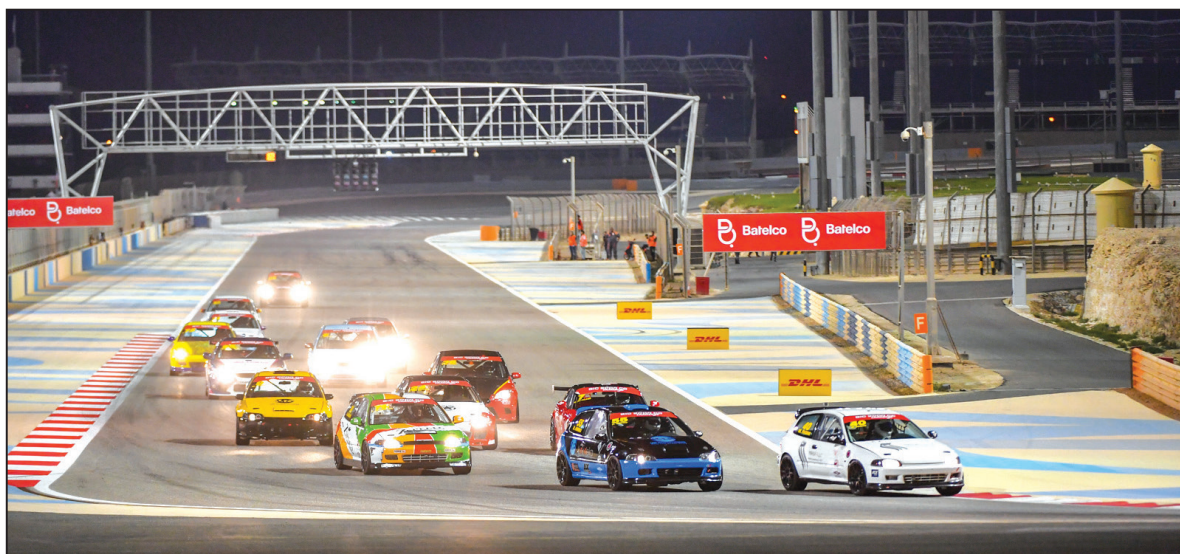
In Race One, however, it was Faqih who quickly made the most of his front row starting position. Driving a white Civic, Faqih captured the lead and by lap eight, the race was red-flagged due to incidents on track.

The drivers' positions at that time counted as the final classification, and Faqih was in first, followed by Ahmed Bin Khanen in a white Honda Civic EG4 5.739 seconds behind. Taking the final podium place in third was Tareq Al Tajer in a red Ford Focus, who was 8.057s from the winner. All three top overall placers were competing in the Pro class.

Amongst Novice drivers, Majed Himmo in a yellow CIVIC was in first place. Martyna Al Qassab in a blue Acura DCS came second and Giovanni Saerno in a blue Ford Focus finished third.

Raed Himmo posted the Race One fastest lap of 1:17.617.

In Race Two, Nasser Al Alawi in a red Honda



ON COURSE: Four wheel competition and two-wheel action too at Bahrain International Circuit



S2000 was in pole position following the reverse grid rule. Shaikh Salman was right beside him on the front row, and he challenged for the win with Raed Himmo.

In the end, only 0.113s separated the pair, with Shaikh Salman narrowly taking the chequered flag ahead of his rival. Bin

Khanen was third for his second podium of the night.

The Novice class top three included Martyna with the win, Saerno in second and Wiebke Buelow in a white CIVIC in third.

Shaikh Salman registered the race's fastest lap of 1:17.308.

Meanwhile, in the BMR

600, Almuyni continued his seemingly unbeatable form in the series – one that dates back to previous seasons.

After setting the pace in both Practice and Qualifying, Almuyni went on to dominate Race One which he won by 9.958s ahead of runner-up Ibrahim Alsharida. Hasan Al Awadhi claimed

third place a distant 22.113s behind, as all three competed in the Super Stock class.

Salman Khalaf was the winner of the BMR's Hornet category, adding to his overall classification in eighth place.

In Race Two, Almuyni was once again the winner but Nasser Al Khadra narrowed

the final gap to just 2.499s. Alsharida had to settle for third place as he enjoyed a double podium for the night.

Almuyni clocked the fastest lap in both sprints, going for a 1:11.168 time in Race One and then a 1:12.251 in Race Two.

Following all the action, the winners were presented their respective trophies in a podium ceremony attended by officials from BIC, the Bahrain Motor Federation, Circuit Racing Club and Bahrain Motorcycle Club.

The 2018/2019 racing season at BIC will feature seven rounds of National Race Day. Round Three is set for December 7, Round Four on January 11, Round Five on February 1, Round Six on March 8 and Round Seven on April 26.



Gearing up for festival fun

MOTOR SPORT fans are getting all set for the Bahrain International Circuit's first major international event of the 2018/2019 racing season.

The Bacpo Bahrain GT Festival will feature three categories, headlined by the all-new FIA GT Nations Cup. The other two are the SRO GT4 World Final and the Bahrain Classic Challenge.

All three race classes are being hosted in Bahrain for the first time and each will contest multiple races, with some competing under the lights, on November 30 and December 1, in Sakhir.

The FIA GT Nations Cup is an all-new championship sanctioned by the International Automobile Federation (FIA). It features drivers from across the globe in two-man crews representing their home nation.

There is one car entered per



NEW CHALLENGE: Multiple races should keep motor sport fans on the edge of their seats

country/national motorsport authority. Two qualifying sessions will set the grid for a pair of 60-minute qualifying races – the first on Friday, the second on Saturday – which in turn decide how drivers will line up for a 60-minute main race on Saturday afternoon.

The inaugural SRO GT4

World Final will feature machinery from 12 globally relevant brands, including Aston Martin, Audi, BMW, Chevrolet, Ford, Ginetta, KTM, Maserati, McLaren, Mercedes, Nissan and Porsche.

Competitors come from the 12 series either directly promoted by SRO or

organised through franchise agreements around the world, including the GT4 European Series, GT4 Central European Cup, GT4 Belgian European Cup, Championnat de France FFSA GT, British GT Championship – GT4 Class, Creventic 24h Series, VLN – SP10 Class, Continental Tires IMSA



(Silver-Silver) and Am (Bronze-Bronze) classes.

There will be two 60-minute qualifying races followed by a main 60-minute event, mirroring that used by the FIA GT Nations Cup.

Meanwhile, fans will also be able to take a step back in time at the festival with the Bahrain Classic Challenge. Held in cooperation with Patrick Peter's Classic Endurance Racing Series, it will feature a packed 35-car starting grid and combine iconic machines such as the Ford GT40, Porsche 910 and Ferrari 512.

Usually found at Europe's premier venues, the series makes its journey to Bahrain to add a 'historic flavour' to the event, organisers say.

Tickets to the event will cost BD5 apiece for adults and BD2.500 for teenagers aged 13 to 17. Those aged 12 and under can attend for free.

● To find out more, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on 17450000.

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Tragedy that united fans

AS kick-off approached on a grey wintry afternoon, a banner was passed between Cardiff City and Leicester City's fans – two tribes setting rivalries aside, uniting to pay their respects.

The flag bore the clubs' emblems and the national flag of Thailand in tribute to Leicester's owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, one of five people killed in a helicopter crash near the club's King Power Stadium last weekend.

This was Leicester's first match since the tragedy and the game itself felt incidental.

After a wreath was laid on the pitch, the two sides gathered around the centre circle for a minute's silence and the usually boisterous Cardiff City Stadium fell profoundly silent. The crowd was consumed by the stillness. Players were in tears as the hush fell.

And then came the noise.

Once the game was under way, Leicester's supporters sang in memory of their owner and roared encouragement to their players. Cardiff's fans joined in. This was a rare, harmonious atmosphere.

On the pitch, this looked like any other match. In the stands, it was one like no other.

And after a week of tributes, Leicester provided another with a courageous victory, clinched by Demarai Gray's goal, which prompted emotional celebrations that will be etched in the club's history.

Within an hour of the game finishing, the players were on



VOICE OF SPORT

with *Killian Harrison*



the way to the airport to attend billionaire Srivaddhanaprabha's elaborate funeral, which had begun earlier in the day in Thailand.

The royally-sponsored funeral was being held at a Bangkok temple, and attendees included top government officials, business people and other public figures before the Leicester players arrived.

The grounds of the temple, Wat Thepsirin, were guarded by scores of security officers. White sheets were lowered to block outsiders and the

news media from viewing the proceedings.

The chanting of monks, amplified by loud speakers, could be heard resonating around the temple's grounds.

The crash left fans in mourning, with many making a pilgrimage to the club's stadium to leave flowers and other mementos for the owner.

Tributes were also left for the four other people who died in the helicopter crash: two members of Vichai's staff, Nursara Suknamai and Kaveporn Punpare; the pilot, Eric

Swaffer; and another passenger, Izabela Roza Lechowicz.

Air accident investigators in Leicester said this past week that flight data and voice recordings had been successfully downloaded from the helicopter's 'black box.'

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch said it had been able to obtain information from the device even though it was subjected to intense heat in the fire.

Inspectors have started to analyse the data to determine what caused the aircraft to spiral out of control shortly after take-off. A video has emerged online showing the helicopter take off from the stadium's pitch,

ascending upwards before starting to rotate wildly in an uncontrollable spin.

Experts believe that a tail rotor malfunction is the most likely cause of the accident. The wreckage was removed from the crash site late Thursday.

Leicester players have expressed their sense of deep loss, with striker Jamie Vardy writing on *Instagram* of Srivaddhanaprabha: 'To me you are legend, an incredible man who had the biggest heart, the soul of Leicester City Football Club. Thank you for everything you did for me, my family and our club. I will truly miss you ... may you rest in peace ... #theboss'.

England defender Harry

Maguire wrote on *Twitter* how Srivaddhanaprabha had supported him at the club and at international levels during the World Cup, describing the Thai billionaire as 'a truly great, kind, loving man who will be missed so much by everyone'.

At times like these, football is truly put into perspective. It also shows the beautiful side of the game; how two sets of tribalistic fans can come together in harmony and pay respects without resorting to chanting vitriol at each other.

The *GulfWeekly* team would like to express our deepest respects to Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha and the four others who tragically passed away.

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TOP OF THE LEAGUE FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORT

November 7 - 13, 2018

YOUNG footballers in Bahrain came back from a regional tournament carrying the silverware and the praises for the performances ringing in their ears from a former international superstar.

Juventus Academy Bahrain's U10 captain Faris Saleh produced a match-winning performance in the final to help his side beat hosts Kuwait in an exciting seven-a-side cup final and avoid a penalty shoot-out.

Retired Dutch international Edgar Davids, whose illustrious career began with Ajax, winning several domestic and international titles, was present. He subsequently played in Italy for Milan, and later enjoyed a successful spell with Juventus, before joining Spanish giants Barcelona.

"Saleh had a great tournament and a stand-out performance in the final that won the game," said proud academy head coach Andrew Collins. "Not only this, Edgar Davids pulled him to one side after the game to say how well he had done!"

Bahrain went a goal up early in the final and appeared comfortable until Kuwait tucked in a last minute equaliser. However, from the kick-off Saleh received the ball, beat four players and squared it into the box for Ayad Aladhamy to slot home the winner with the last kick of the game.

There are eight Juventus academies vying for glory at different age levels - Bahrain,

LEGEND IMPRESSED

EXCLUSIVE

By STAN SZECOWKA
editor@gulfweekly.com



Oman, Saudi, Kuwait, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Egypt and Tunisia. There will be an U12 event hosted in Dubai to follow, U8 in Oman, U14 in Abu Dhabi and finally an U16 tournament in Bahrain. Wherever a nation finishes it receives a certain number of points, with them all collected at the end of the series and a winning academy crowned.

With a name like Saleh, it's not surprising the young Bahraini/English player is making a name for himself on the football pitch, with his own twist on the surname as Liverpool's star Mo spells his with an 'ah' at the end. The modest 10-year-old St Christopher's School pupil and central midfielder, said: "We did really well and showed great determination as a team."

"It was brilliant to meet Edgar Davids and have a chat with him. He congratulated me on our win and I was very happy he was there to see it. I want to be a professional footballer when I'm older and will work really hard for it to happen."

The cup winning squad also starred goalkeepers William Brown and Leo Williamson and outfield players Mohammed Mirza, Sofiane Alahmed, Pedro Farias, Hamza Najeeb, Yousif Ayoob, Ayad Aladhamy and Yanis Ali. Collins was joined on the touchline by fellow coach Jordan Stephens.

Juventus Academy Bahrain, based in Saar, also took the Plate Final trophy but this time the team needed nail-biting penalty shootout success



STAR TURN: Saleh with Davids, below, from left, flashback to his playing days, and Juventus Academy Bahrain celebrate in Kuwait

to pick up the prize. Collins added: "We're really proud of the boys not losing a game and conceding only two goals all weekend in normal play."

In a similar story to the cup final, Bahrain took an early lead but Oman clawed back to equalise with only minutes to go. Bahrain won 5-4 on penalties with keeper Sari Al Zubi saving a spot kick.



The squad was also made up of Sterling Fraser, Andre Dutta, Bader Qarooni, Ali Aljasim, Faisal Ali, Mohammed Kanoo, Nemer Abdulamer, Ahmed Alkhan and Abdulaziz Alkhan. Captain Qarooni said: "It was a great feeling. We were so excited to win."

Davids was well known for wearing protective glasses on the field. This followed surgery in his right eye caused by glaucoma, which developed in 1995.

He earned the nickname The Pitbull during his playing career for his tenacious performances in central midfield and even stepped forward to film the penalty action for the academies.



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