

Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

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NEW GM
Spencer steps in:
SEE PAGE 5



EATING OUT
Special dining options:
SEE PAGE 11

BSB TEAM'S BLITZ ON LONDON

A young group of talented millennials from Bahrain have joined forces and created something 'monumental' in the middle of the hustle and bustle of London.

From the British School of Bahrain (BSB) classrooms in Hamala to the busy offices in the English capital, the fab four have combined their ambition and drive to take the marketing and public relations world by storm.

With a specialty in digital growth marketing, Jamie Love – former BSB student, CEO and founder of Monumental Marketing – has created a multi-channel ecosystem that has allowed him to grow his team and multiply revenue by 10 in less than a year.

"Having grown up around my colleagues and having gone through familiar experiences makes for a great working environment," said Jamie, 24. "We can talk about the old BSB days and people we knew or even meet up in Bahrain when we all return for our holidays. It's really nice having a familiar feeling and environment in a city as large as London. It gives us all a home-from-home."

Although he says it was never intentional to have a Bahrain-centric team, he admits that 'business for me is based on trust' and that's where Tala Nasr, Alicia Van Der Meer and Amani Moosa prove their weight in gold, or probably Bahraini pearls would be a more apt metaphor.

Like most expat children, Jamie, of



TOP TALENT: Tala, marketing executive, Heidi Wolfe, chief of staff, Jamie, CEO & founder, Chris Roy, designer, Amani, visual designer and Alicia, marketing executive. Four of the six have Bahrain connections

COMMUNITY REPORT

By STAN SZECOWKA
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Scottish and Italian descent, moved to Bahrain with his parents, Andrew and Giuliana, after his dad secured a job here. Twelve years on, his parents still

live in the kingdom, and have settled in Riffa Views. His sister, Nadine, 21, has also moved back to the UK for university.

"I was a pupil at BSB for five years, there I pursued my GCSEs and A-levels," he explained. "The thing

that really stands out to me about living in Bahrain is the sense of community and the general relaxed feeling about the place. Wherever I went I always bumped into someone I knew, and life just seemed really easy!

Turn to Pages 12 & 13



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OUT OF PLACE ... PATHLESS, CRAZY IN THE SEA

Translated by Sarah Clarke & E.M. Sri
Rajeshwari from an original poem in Tamil by S. Muralidharan

*I helped you walk from here to there
And the world with me you did share
Yet after our bond you left me alone
Wondering why and where you had flown
Our miles together made our hearts soar
Without each other the way a chore
And now that you have abandoned me
I find myself pathless, crazy in the sea*

*Laying in the waves she speaks to me
Explaining what she seeks to be
Her bounty she gives without restraint*

*Life and livelihood for many, no
complaint
She spies a child playing, kisses his feet
Rocking back and forth with joy replete
Transformed into a child without
hesitation
Though she the biggest of your global
nation
She is mother to life within her
Feeding all their growth to spur
Yet when angry she engulfs all in her
path
Warning of the care needed for your
world to last*

*Rainbows, moon, sun and clouds
Reflect their beauty in her to watching
crowds
People though notice something amiss*

*A view dulled without purity and bliss
Marred by things that tarnish the sea
Things like me left for eternity*

*You who owned, repaired and cleaned
me,
Even showed me how to be free
Forgot to care for where you have been
The places we walked and have seen
She was created beautiful and whole
Why didn't you respect her as she was
so?
After giving much to you
I will not despair or be blue
She has preserved my lonely footprint
So you may find a mysterious hint
Of you and me and where we went
And what was lost since the time we
spent.*

When words fail, art speaks

A group of writers and poets have teamed up with several artists from across the kingdom to stage a colourful and expressive showcase to encourage and inspire future creative collaborations.

The 'Confluence - Where Words and Images Meet' has been organised by the Bahrain Writers' Circle (BWC) and will be launched on Saturday on the second floor of Harbour Gate, Bahrain Financial Harbour. It is open from 11am-8pm, admission is free and it will run until May 2.

The joint venture initiative was the brainchild of Rohini Sunderam, a founding member of BWC, and the event's name was created by member, Preeti Rana.

The exhibition will feature around 33 works of art inspired by the words created by 23 teams of writers and artists. The BWC has two sub-groups, The Second Circle - a poetry group and the Creative Writers' Workshops - which explores the craft of writing.

Claudia Hardt, a PR and communication consultant, who plays an active role helping to organise BWC activities, together with her colleagues Rohini and Gunner Gunderson, said: "This event is important to our members as it gives them an opportunity to showcase their talent for writing and, in some cases, their artistic prowess.

"It's also an opportunity for artists to collaborate with writers, and, as our patron Sheikhha Lulwa Al Khalifa puts it ... 'this will encourage the building of more bridges of appreciation and collaboration between the arts'.

"We hope to achieve just



COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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that - to encourage more local and expat artists and writers to join together and express creativity in new and exciting ways."

British author Sarah Clarke, who penned two celebrated books featuring her therapy dog, Baloo, has teamed up with Murali, the head of governor and engine controls at a ship repair company, his wife Raji, a teacher and blogger, and their son, Sanjay, nine, to create poetry pieces.

Sanjay wrote a poem about a deflated superman balloon found floating in the sea. Murali, an award-winning Tamil poet, produced an entry in his native tongue inspired by the photographs Sarah took of rubbish washing up during a dog walk with her pet, Duba, and beach clean-up called *Out of Place ... Pathless, Crazy in the Sea*.

This work has also been translated into English with Sarah and his family's help. They called on Noha Mousa, an Egyptian art teacher, to create an art piece for the event.

Murali, 39, from Hoora, said: "The confluence of writers and artists working together is a unique experience and helps give birth to new ideas."

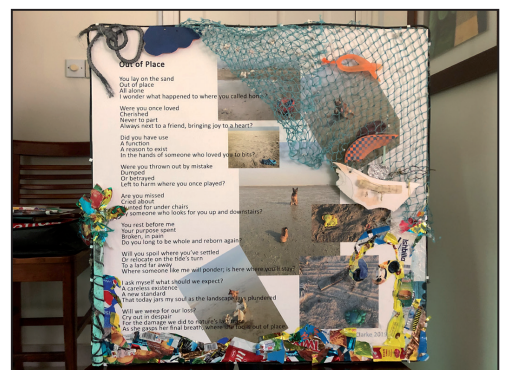
Sarah added: "Through including others we learn so much - it can only improve our creativity and also help us to understand others better. "When words fail, art speaks. We do not need to know another language to communicate."

To find out more about BWC, visit them on www.bahrainwriterscircle.net

● **Cousteau's call and the environmental voice of youth: Page 10**



SOLEFULL EXPRESSION: An abandoned boot inspired writers and artists. *Below left*, Murali, Raji and Sanjay. *Below right*, Sarah's poem and collage following the beach-clean up with the family



New hospital work to start



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION: How the new hospital will look, below, Dr George



COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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A new American Mission Hospital (AMH) facility, specifically focusing on the well-being of women and children, will be breaking ground today in A'ali.

It's the first step to offering new healthcare provisions to residents in the area, with a multi-specialty hospital to follow.

The ceremony for the private, not-for-profit medical operation will be carried out by invited VIPs and once built it will be AMH's fifth base in Bahrain alongside its original Manama hospital and sister clinics in Saar, Amwaj Islands and Riffa.

The *GulfWeekly* first revealed plans for the new facility last October and corporate chief executive officer Dr George Cheriyan is thrilled to see the project coming to fruition.

"The opening of the new American Mission Hospital at A'ali is a new beginning in setting the standards of a futuristic health care organisation in Bahrain," said Dr George. "AMH has been providing healthcare to the people of Bahrain for nearly 120 years. The expansion of our services is part of a 10-year strategic plan to be in sync with the changes being introduced in Bahrain through the introduction of universal healthcare and the increased private-public partnership.

"The future of medicine is to provide increased care in the community and home, and hence the hospital will be equipped with the latest telemedicine capabilities to

source expert consultations seamlessly from around the world.

"AMH is a trusted brand in healthcare in Bahrain, and we aim to improve on what the hospital has been to the people of Bahrain by providing state-of-the-art high quality care at prices that are affordable for all segments of the community."

Dr George says the new facility will be built in two phases – with the opening of a Maternity and Children's Hospital first, to be followed by a multi-specialty hospital with 100 beds.

The facility will be set in 30,000sqm of grounds and feature intensive care units, operating rooms, an imaging centre, an infertility centre and a 300-seat auditorium for meetings and conferences.

There will also be a special-needs children's development assessment and treatment centre. A training centre for medical students will also be established.

The Reformed Church in America co-owns the enterprise, which runs under a government ministry. Shaikh Mohamed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa holds the position of board chairman and its members include Hall Delano Roosevelt, the grandson of a former US president and a leading Bahrain-based businessman.

The ground-breaking ceremony will be carried out in the presence of Eddy Alemán, the General Secretary and Head of the Reformed Church in America, local dignitaries, the Deputy Chief of Mission from the US embassy, Aimee Cutrona, other hospital board representatives and AMH

members of staff, as well as invited guests and the media.






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ARTIST Amina Aiubova, who has travelled around the world in search of inspiration, captivated creatives at a recent collaborative exhibition featuring some of the kingdom's most talented filmmakers, photographers, producers, musicians and artists.

The 26-year-old Russian expat recently participated in the 'Pain is an Illusion' group exhibition staged at Words Bookstore Café and curated by Canadian artist and fashion designer Frances Stafford.

Amina was joined by producer and musician Kayan, designer and artist Maryam Jamal, documentary maker, photographer and film editor Angelina Soon from Saudi Arabia, multimedia fine artist Amal Ahmed, visual artist Adbull and Vivimar Salazar, an experimental performance artist who creates pieces using her typewriter.

"It felt more like a gathering of artistic family members than an official event and everyone was welcome to watch as we painted and performed," said Amina, who lives and works out of her home and studio in Juffair, and lives near her mum, Arina, a choreographer. "Being a part of this exhibition was a great experience."

Amina, a proud member of the Aghul, part of an ethnic group living primarily in Russia's southern Dagestan, featured seven works of art at

From Russia with love



WORK IN PROGRESS: Amina, above, her work, below, during a live painting session, the crowd and, right, Kayan and Vivimar



ART REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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the showcase.

"Some of the topics I wanted to touch upon and deliver to the viewer were about trust, fear and consciousness linked to the main theme of the

exhibition," she explained. "Like many artists, for a long time, I was hesitant to showcase my work, I believe it was because I had the feeling of being misunderstood."

Art-lovers were attracted to Amina's pieces, priced from BD75, as a result of her

powerful use of colours and fascinating subject matter, and many were snapped up by collectors. "For an artist, to sell his or her work is the biggest award we can ever receive," admitted Amina. "I have always liked to experiment with techniques and materials. Recently, I

discovered the delights of ultraviolet paints and how the picture changes under different lighting, but the main materials in my studio are water colour, oil paints, acrylic and ink liners.

"For me, it's like a food. I use water colour when I feel like something light.

Ink is like coffee, acrylic is like lunch with friends, and oil painting is an amazing, proper family dinner ... but you should clean the dishes afterwards!

"Basically, I am a very freedom-loving person and that affects the essence of my work and concepts that I try to portray.

"I focus on the subconscious and mindfulness. I'm a multimedia artist and I explore painting as well as metal and woodworking, jewellery design and dance.

"I believe that inspiration is all around us, we should just be capable of catching it. All my life I have been searching for inspiration in different people, cultures and nature. I'm always searching for ideas and shapes."

Her work has been displayed at numerous exhibitions in Bahrain and Russia and she also shows at pop up markets.

Amina, who has been practicing visual and performative arts since 2007, attended various art schools and colleges growing up and graduated from Stroganov Moscow State University of Arts and Industry in 2016.

To find out about her upcoming exhibitions and market appearances, follow her on Instagram @amino_acid_



A **AMERICAN** with a mission Spencer H. Wadama aims to ensure one of the most prestigious properties on the island fulfils its rich potential.

He's the third GM to take hold of the reigns of the 174-room Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain since it opened last year.

And Spencer, a seasoned hospitality operator, is lapping up the challenge of a highly-competitive sector and looking forward to unveiling the Seef beach resort's first-ever Ramadan tent.

"I bring 25 years of global experience to the table and the last eight years in the region. I bring tremendous optimism and I love to win," he told *GulfWeekly*. "Being the fact that I'm a 'grass roots' hospitality person, I understand and stand side-by-side with my team to ensure we deliver on our guests expectations."

Father-of-three Spencer, 51, boasts a decade of senior management experience including a successful spell as GM of the award-winning Armani Hotel Dubai, the flagship property that marked the partnership of global developer Emaar Properties and fashion legend Giorgio Armani.

Although being actively involved in 12 new property openings, he left hotel management for a spell as a managing partner of a gourmet food company ... but the chance of following in the footsteps of Nordine El Yafi and Zeki Ozal in Bahrain proved too tempting to resist.

"Honestly, hospitality is in my DNA," he said. "I love it too much." But he admitted that after 'all the years' he got 'a bit bored and even hyper-critical of the business'. "I needed to step out for a bit and allow me a chance to realise that having a team, watching them grow and succeed, meeting new people and being a part of creating memories for people IS what I truly love to do," he explained.

The magnificence of the Jumeirah Royal Saray was a magnet too. "I personally love the Arabesque-style, yet the hotel has a very elegant, modern feel to it," he said. "In a new property, there is

New challenge for GM

HOSPITALITY EXCLUSIVE

By STAN SZECOWKA
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always change. The resort needs to find its best operating model. Most new hotels open with an aspirational structure then as time goes by, attrition happens.

"At the level of GM, you always need 'fresh eyes'. My predecessors have all been a crucial part of where this hotel is today so I would never take away from their contributions.

"I am truly honoured to be a part of the Jumeirah Royal Saray family and feel fortunate to be entrusted with such a beautiful property. Jumeirah is an amazing brand and Sevens Holding is a supportive owner which, for a GM, is a great combination.

"The Jumeirah brand also brings comfort and stability to all the staff. Being a part of such an iconic hospitality group is what means most to them and even our guests.

"It was very satisfying to meet the staff of the hotel and feel the passion they have to serve and the way they are enjoying their jobs. Our ownership Seven Holding continues to offer amazing support and guidance with a shared vision for success.

He appreciates the competitiveness of the hospitality sector in the kingdom but also believes the country should take 'credit' for enticing such major brands, 'Jumeirah being one', to set up operations here and encourage a growth in tourism.

"I've been to Bahrain a few times, mainly on business, so I really have not seen much yet," he said. "My visits have always consisted of 'airport to hotel and back to the airport' so I'm excited to explore more of the island."

He enjoys working out and keeping fit and is also a motorsport fan, a proud member of 'Team LH' made up of fans of British Formula 1 world champion Lewis Hamilton – although basketball was his sport growing up. "Being a



IN THE HOTSEAT: Spencer and, below, Nordine, the grand entrance to the Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain, and Zeki

NORCAL (Northern California) guy, the current world champs (Golden State) Warriors is my team," he added.

And, he'll need all the energy he can muster for the months ahead. "Well, we have finally taken over the new Garden and Royal Villas which are amazing 3-4 bedroom private 'homes' with all the Jumeirah touches, definitely a 'must see and experience' – with private butlers," he said.

"We have our ballroom/event space recently opened too, perfect for weddings, events, meetings and receptions.

"This year we will also have a true Ramadan offering in our very special Ramadan tent. Its unique see-through dome and Arabesque-style will make it the perfect venue for Iftar and Ghabga between friends, family and colleagues."

● See Leisure Guide:
Pages 8 & 9



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4. Huawei P30 lite 128GB – BD112.900
5. Huawei watch GT B19S – BD69.990
6. Canon DSLR camera – BD115.500

Jawad Supermarket

1. Filiz vermicelli 4x400gm – BD1
2. Madina vermicelli 4x400gm – 900fils
3. Libby's baked beans 220gm (5+1) – BD1.200
4. Al Alali fruit cocktail 6x227gm – BD2.375
5. Mazola sunflower oil 2x1.8ltr – BD3.125
6. Al Alali gelatine dessert raspberry 6x85gm – 950fils

Al Jazira Supermarket

1. Third Street tea honey/vanilla chai – BD1.200
2. Third Street tea mystic/msla chai – BD2.400
3. Crispy Roll mangosteen flavoured – BD1.300
4. Crispy Roll lychee flavoured – BD1.300
5. Honest Kids organic juice assorted flavour – BD1.300

Alosra Supermaket

1. Alphonso mango per kg – BD2.700
2. Fresh tilapia fish per kg – BD1.200
3. Waffer green olives pitted per kg – BD1.750
4. New Zealand beef sirloin steak per kg – BD8.500
5. Mature English cheddar cheese per kg – BD4.750



TECH REPORT
 By KRISTIAN HARRISON
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THE smartphone market remains as competitive as ever, as one of the industry's heavyweights has launched its latest product in Bahrain.

Huawei's flagship P Series now has two new models in its portfolio, with the P30 and P30 Pro available at all authorised sales points in the kingdom.

The release of the devices and the excitement generated by them has delighted retailers. Mustafa Murad, GM of iZone, located in Oasis Mall Juffair, believes that the Chinese brand has the capabilities to focus on wooing consumers' hearts against rivals such as Apple's iPhone and Samsung's Galaxy series.

"It's an exciting concept and the P30 is amazing in terms of its cameras," he said. "Huawei have the best cameras on the market by far in my opinion, it's a huge difference compared to other smartphones. If it's photography you like, then there's no better phone than this."

"The concept of iZone is to provide a good quality digital shop in an easy-to-access area. We also offer service as well as accessories. We do free delivery and pick-ups in Juffair, for example, where we will send a technician to homes to fix phone issues, or collect them if they need more serious repairs."

The P30 Pro incorporates a Leica Quad Camera System that includes a 40MP primary camera with the Huawei SuperSpectrum Sensor, a 20MP ultra-wide angle camera, an 8MP telephoto camera fitted with SuperZoom Lens and a Huawei ToF Camera.

The P30 is equipped with Leica Triple Camera consisting of a 40MP



Huawei SuperSpectrum sensor, a 16MP ultra-wide angle camera and an 8MP telephoto camera.

The new sensors, lens set-up, image signal processor (ISP), NPU and custom image processing algorithms work seamlessly together to enable sophisticated professional camera features. These devices feature the innovative Huawei Time of Flight (ToF) Camera, and enhanced optical and AI image stabilisation technology.

Huawei Dual-View Video can capture two perspectives of the same scene at the same time by using multiple cameras simultaneously.

Huawei certainly appear on the ascendency. It reported a 39 per cent year-on-year increase in first-quarter revenue on Monday as it continues to see growth despite continued political pressure.

The Chinese networking equipment maker said revenue totalled 179.7 billion yuan (around BD11 billion) for the first three months of 2019. The company said it shipped 59 million smartphones in the first quarter.

Huawei added in a press release that 2019 will be a year of 'large-scale deployment of 5G around the world' and its carrier business 'has unprecedented opportunities for growth'. By the end of March, Huawei had signed 40 commercial contracts for 5G with leading global carriers. 5G refers to the fifth generation of mobile networks that promises super-fast data speeds with the ability to support new technologies like driverless cars.

The US has reportedly tried to pressure allied countries like Germany and the UK to block Huawei from 5G, but neither has done so yet, and the warnings have not washed in Bahrain either, as tech collaborations continue to prosper.

Washington has accused Huawei of being a national security risk, warning that its equipment could be used by the Chinese government for espionage purposes. Huawei has repeatedly denied this claim and Chinese officials suggest the US is simply jealous of the company's success.

In a recent interview, Huawei's founder Ren Zhengfei said that the US has been helping to advertise the company by talking about it so much.

The P30 & P30 Pro smartphones are available in Breathing Crystal, Aurora and Black, for the price of BD348,900 for the P30 Pro, and BD256,900 for the P30.

For more details about Huawei products and iZone, call 17600100, visit www.iZonebh.com or follow @iZonebh on Instagram.

Zooming in on Huawei



TOP ATTRACTION: The new P30 and P30 Pro, a welcoming iZone smile and, above left, Mustafa



FinTechFocus

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



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Gaining an insight on trends

BAHRAIN FinTech Bay's National FinTech Talent Programme (FTP) has officially kicked off with its first batch of 25 Bahraini candidates.

The first cohort will be part of a specialised roadmap that will offer unique opportunities to develop their professional skills and gain insightful experience in the latest FinTech trends and technologies on a global scale.

The programme started accepting applications in early January and a successful batch of 50 'high-calibre' candidates progressed to an exclusive career fair exposing them to around 15 employers, including speed networking, as well as breakout sessions, at the event.

Following the candidate's performance at the FinTech and Innovation Career Fair, 25 candidates have been placed within FinTech and innovation-related internship roles for a period of six months.

The accepted candidates start their journey by receiving mentorship from global partners of Bahrain FinTech Bay and will complete training on FinTech verticals focusing on block-chain and artificial intelligence run by SettleMint, Blockchain Academy Global and TAIGER A.I. Academy.

In parallel to their internships, candidates will be enrolled on a three-month professional development course in FinTech delivered by the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University. The semi-annual programme will be delivered in a combination of live and online modules certified by Georgetown.



TECHNOLOGY GURU: Professor Jim leading the conversation, below, Bahraini students

The certification comprises of seven modules and four case-studies led by Professor Jim Angel, Associate Professor of Finance, and co-inventor of 12 FinTech patents.

He said: "The financial services industry is undergoing a fundamental transformation. New technology enables us to offer services, products and interact with consumers like we could never do before."

Additionally, the course will be hosting local and international guest speakers, the entrepreneurial community and 'thought leaders' from the financial services industry.

Khalid Saad, CEO, Bahrain FinTech Bay said: "As

the FinTech ecosystem in Bahrain and the region transforms further, the development of talent to continue and sustain such transformation is key.

"Initiating the region's first National FinTech Talent Programme with Tamkeen is a key step in the development

of such talent.

"Through training and job placement opportunities within our partner network, we aim to develop a generation of leaders that will be able to take the industry forward and support Bahrain's transition into a knowledge and innovation



FACT FILE

PROFESSOR Angel, known as 'Dr Jim' specialises in the market structure and regulation of global financial markets, and he has visited more than 70 financial exchanges around the world.

He teaches undergraduate, MBA and executive courses, including Investments and Capital Markets.

Dr Jim has testified before the US Congress about issues relating to the design of financial markets. In addition, he has been quoted in hundreds of newspaper articles and has appeared numerous times on radio and television.

Dr Jim began his professional career as a rate engineer at Pacific Gas and Electric, where he worked on FERC and CPUC related issues. Along the way he has also worked at BARRA (later part of Morgan Stanley) where he developed equity risk models.

He has also served as a Visiting Academic Fellow in residence at the US National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD – now FINRA) and also as a visiting economist at the Shanghai Stock Exchange. He has also been chairman of the Nasdaq Economic Advisory Board, a member of the OTC Bulletin Board Advisory Committee, and has served on the board of directors of the Direct Edge Stock Exchanges (later part of BATS Global Markets).

From 2012-2014 he was a visiting associate professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Angel is a co-inventor on 12 FinTech patents. He is now Associate Professor at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University which boasts a Master of Science in Finance (MSF) programme, renowned for helping to transform today's best professionals into rising industry leaders. It was created by the distinguished faculty of the McDonough School of Business.

driven economy."

Bahrain FinTech Bay is considered the leading hub in Middle East, conveniently in the Arcapita Building on Bahrain Bay. It provides a physical hub to incubate insightful, scalable and impactful FinTech initiatives through innovation labs, acceleration programmes, curated activities, educational opportunities and collaborative platforms.

Bahrain FinTech Bay partners with governmental bodies, financial institutions, corporates, consultancy firms, universities, associations, media agencies, venture capital and FinTech startups with the aim of bringing the full spectrum of financial market participants

and stakeholders together.

The National FinTech Talent Programme focuses on the development of Bahrain's FinTech ecosystem and ensures Bahrainis master the skills and knowledge to capitalise on the new opportunities created by FinTech disruption. It's a one-of-a kind FinTech initiative for Bahraini university graduates, who will have the opportunity to develop their professional skills and gain insightful experience in the latest FinTech trends and technologies on a global scale.

● For more information on the National FinTech Talent Program, visit www.fintech-institute.com/ftp



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- Social Media Support
- Access to ABC mailing lists across 6 GCC countries with over 150K email addresses



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Today (April 24)

Every Wednesday is 'Wings and Wisdom' night at Big Texas Barbeque & Waffle House inside Best Western Plus - The Olive Hotel. It's a quiz night with an added bonus of BD10net for 'all-you-can-eat' chicken wings.
Call 17360063 for details.

The Swiss-Belhotel Seef Bahrain is hosting a Mediterranean Lunch every day except Friday and Saturday, from 12.30pm-3pm at Swiss-Café. Priced BD6net per person, BD3net for children aged six to 12, and free for those under six.
For details, call 66310000.

The Sheraton Hotel Bahrain hosts an evening of live music at An Nada Lounge by the Caribbean Girls band every day except Saturday. This takes place from 8.30pm-12.30am during weekdays and from 8.30pm-1.30am during weekends.
Call 17533533 for details.



The Sheraton Hotel Bahrain is also hosting a special lunch and dinner promotion at Al Safir Restaurant for BD10+++.
For details, contact 17533533.

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's famous steak night starts from 7pm at La Mosaïque Restaurant, priced BD18net. For details, contact 17531122.

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-11pm, and weekends from 11.30am to midnight.
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.
For details, call 13110110.

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.
For details, call 13110110.

Enjoy Sushi-Meshi at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Thai with 50 per cent savings on select sushi and beverages.
For details, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

Le Meridien City Centre

Mexican festival hots up at restaurant

THE ever-popular Mexican Food & Cultural Festival has returned to The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Conference & Spa with music, dance and fine fare.

The acclaimed Mexican folklore ballet company Yolitzli Widen de la Laguna from Coahuila has been flown in to perform along with vocalist Martha Saenz.

Award-winning Margarita Mexicana restaurant's resident Mexican Chef Ruben Herrera Aguilera has prepared a special BD15+++ set menu that includes both classic dishes and modern Mexican cuisine, followed by sweet delights, alongside an a la carte menu.

The visit has been coordinated once again by Imelda Widen, who has been promoting Mexican culture and tourism around the globe for several years. The word 'Yolitzli' derives from the native indigenous Aztec language meaning 'movement'.

The regional dances and songs being performed represent the great variety of the country's diversity and culture. "I hope the people of Bahrain who visit the hotel and enjoy the food and entertainment in the restaurant will be inspired to visit us in Mexico on holiday," said Imelda.

The festival was launched last Thursday in the upper

foyer of the Al Andalus Lounge and will continue at Margarita Mexicana until Friday. Check out the entertainment by placing your smartphone over the QR Code.

For more details call 37372111 or visit www.gulfhotehbahrain.com



Subscribe to GulfWeekly's Youtube channel

Bahrain's Baharat restaurant hosts a BBQ night every Wednesday featuring ribs and wagyu prime rib steak as well as music from Twin Band from 7pm-11pm.

The BBQ buffet inclusive of soft drinks and water is BD19net and inclusive of free flow beverages it is BD26net. For details, contact 17171144.

Tomorrow (April 25)

Big Texas Barbeque & Waffle House hosts Thursday Night Lights from 7pm-9pm. This event showcases local and international musicians in Bahrain. Don't miss American country legend Rusty Golden performing live every Thursday through to Sunday.
Call 17360063 for details.

Indulge in a variety of seafood from fresh oysters to sushi and Lobster Thermidor at Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain's Baharat restaurant every Thursday from 7pm to 11pm. The buffet is priced BD25net, including soft drinks and water, or BD31net inclusive of selected beverages.
For details, contact 17171144.

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain hosts a BBQ night every Thursday at Bar de La Plage from 7pm to 11pm. It's priced BD20net per person inclusive of soft drinks or BD30net per person with select beverages.
For details, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

At Jumeirah Royal Saray's Al Hadiqa Pool & Beach outlet, treat yourself to a dinner buffet from 7.30pm to midnight offering a wide variety of dishes from seafood, sushi and meat-carving stations to a divine desserts display while breathing the fresh sea breeze and listening to a Cuban live band.

The price is BD22net per person, including soft drinks and BD32net per person including selected beverages.

Friday (April 26)

The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is hosting Friday Brunch at CUT by Wolfgang Puck Steakhouse from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Priced BD32net per person including soft beverages, BD32net

person including extensive beverage package for ladies, and BD34net per person including extensive beverage package.



At the InterContinental Regency Bahrain's Elements outlet, join in the popular salsa nights with the kingdom's finest dancers. It takes place every Friday from 8pm-midnight.

Big Texas Barbeque & Waffle House presents its 'Small Town, Throw Down' brunch – the only five-hour brunch in the kingdom – from 11am-4pm. It features a buffet and specific table orders. There's also karaoke.
Call 17360063 for details.



Bahrain's Sweetest Brunch takes place every Friday from 12.30pm-4pm at Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain's Baharat restaurant. Enjoy the award-winning sweet and savoury experience for BD28net including soft drinks and water, or BD40net including selected beverages. Live music from Twin Band accompanies the fare. Book for 10 people or more and receive 20 per cent discount.
For details call 17171144.

Saturday (April 27)

The Crowne Plaza Bahrain's Pearl of Arabia-themed night takes place from 7pm at La Mosaïque Restaurant, priced



BD13net, with a special beverages package available too.

For details, contact 17531122.

Spice up your weekly brunch with a culinary journey around Mexico at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Cantina Kahlo Restaurant. This will be held from noon to 4pm. Priced BD36.500net per person with selected beverages and BD23net per person with soft beverages.

For more details, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

Families can enjoy a buffet meal at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's La Med Restaurant every Saturday from noon to 3.30pm. The price is BD19net per person.

For details, contact 17586499.



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 BD31.500net and BD43.600net with selected beverages.
For reservations, contact 17115046.

Sunday (April 28)

Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain's Baharat restaurant features a buffet concept-style business lunch offering a selection of Middle Eastern and Indian fusion cuisine from Sunday to Thursday from 12.30pm-3pm. There is also a tandoor oven and indoor grill. The lunch buffet is priced BD16net, the soup and salad buffet costs BD7net and

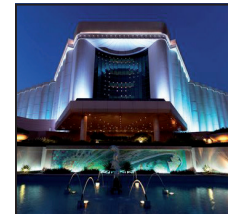


children aged six to 12 dine for half-price. Children under the age of six dine for free.
For details, contact 17171144.

Enjoy Sundown Grill at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Plums from 7pm to 11.30pm every Sunday. Satisfy your steak cravings with US Black Angus, Australian Kobe Wagyu and Irish grass-fed served with a side salad, truffle fries, creamed spinach and sautéed mushrooms for BD38net per person, inclusive of one grape beverage.
For more details, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

Monday (April 29)

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Pazzi Per La Pasta at Primavera, will offer a special set menu, including five signature Italian dishes that can be shared by up to four guests, cooked up by Chef Vincenzo Nigro from 7pm to 11pm. The dinner is every Monday and priced at BD34net per set.
For more details, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

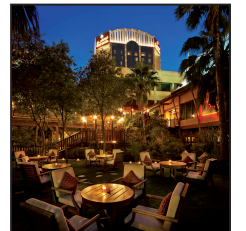
**Tuesday (April 30)**

The Gulf Night Out is back! Every Tuesday, experience the great buffet festival at the Gulf Hotel Bahrain Conference & Spa, featuring live entertainment and numerous other surprises. The cost is BD19+++
For more information, call 17713000.

Every Tuesday, men can visit Havana Club at Jumeirah Royal Saray between 8pm-midnight and enjoy your first drink on the house while grooving to the rhythm of a live band trio from Cuba.

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 Raosi by Vineet.
For details, contact 17713000 or email info@gulfhotehbahrain.com



Every Tuesday, Big Texas Barbeque & Waffle House inside Best Western Plus - The Olive Hotel hosts an authentic Tex-Mex cuisine with Latin entertainment from 5pm-midnight. Each week there are various food and beverage specials to keep things fresh.
Call 17360063 for more details. 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.



Enjoy Taco Tuesdays at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Cantina Kahlo from 6pm to 10pm. Choose from 10 varieties of tacos for BD22net per person. It's also inclusive of one selected beverage.
For more details, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com



Ramadan Kareem

THE Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay invites guests during the holy month to break their fast at the Al Bahrain Ballroom, featuring a wide selection of traditional Bahraini fare as well as Lebanese, Moroccan, Indian, Turkish, Italian and global cuisine with a number of live cooking stations including sushi, bao, dosa and carry.

Iftar will take place every day from sunset until 8pm, and Ghabga daily from 9pm until 2am. A live band will play traditional music in the Ramadan tent.

Priced BD32net for Iftar inclusive of soft beverages and Arabic coffee, and BD16net for children between six and 12 years old. Ghabga is BD34.500net, inclusive of buffet beverages, and BD17net for children aged five to 12.

Groups of a minimum 30 people pay BD26net per person for Iftar inclusive of beverages and BD28net per person on weekdays and BD31net per person on weekends for Ghabga, exclusive of beverages.

During the holy month, a professional live band from Cairo will be playing mellow traditional tunes in the Ramadan Tent accompanied by an opera singer. A large tent connected to the ballroom will feature a kid's club with numerous fun activities.

For reservations, call 17715500.

EXPERIENCE tradition this Ramadan at The Sheraton Bahrain Hotel with Iftar at the Awall Ballroom, boasting



traditional Arabic décor, dishes, juices, and a dates corner and crepe station for all guests to enjoy. Iftar buffet is served from sunset to 8.30pm. Priced BD18+++ and children aged four to 12 will be charged BD8.500+++ and those below four, dine for free.

The hotel will be serving a daily Ghabga at Golestan Iranian Restaurant from 9pm to 2am, priced BD12.500+++ for adults.

For reservations, call 17533533.

ENJOY Iftar and Ghabga at Elite Resort & Spa's Noor Tent, featuring a Ramadan buffet and family entertainment. Priced BD10.900+++ per person for Iftar and BD9.900+++ for Ghabga. Children can eat for

BD5.500+++.

For details, call 17313333.

The Elite Seef Residence & Hotel is celebrating the holy month with buffets for Iftar, Ghabga and Suhoor. Inclusive of soft beverages, these are priced BD9net, BD8net and BD5net respectively.

For details, call 17583388.

THE Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa is celebrating Ramadan with its famous Khaimat Al Khaleej Ramadan Tent. Iftar and Ghabga will take place daily, and will feature live cooking stations and traditional entertainment. Priced BD20+++ for Iftar from sunset until 8pm, BD18+++ for Ghabga from 10pm-2am on weekdays, and BD20+++ for Ghabga from 10pm-3am

on weekends. Children up to the age of five eat for free, while those aged six to 12 are discounted 50 per cent.

Special rates are available for Prestige Club members. To find out more, call 17713000.

THE Crowne Plaza Bahrain is celebrating the spirit of giving during the holy month of Ramadan by offering a donation of 500filis to the Children and Women's Wellness Charity for every guest. Not only that, but daily and weekly rewards from dinner vouchers to electronic goods will be given out to guests.

Enjoy a lavish Iftar buffet featuring Ramadan delicacies, live-cooking stations and a delightful array of mouth-watering

desserts served daily at sunset. Priced at BD12+-. The little ones will be taken care of at the 'Kids Corner' where children under six dine for free, and those up to age 14 pay half price.

For bookings and more information, call 17531122, or email info.cpbahrain@ihg.com

THE Furn Bistro & Bakery at The Westin and Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain is hosting a family-style Iftar menu available from sunset to 9pm, priced BD15net per person.

For details, call 33502121 or email devika.fernando@marriott.com

LE MERIDIEN City Centre Bahrain is hosting an Iftar buffet, priced BD20net inclusive of beverages, at its Baharat restaurant throughout the month. Children aged between six and 12 eat for BD10net, whilst those under six dine for free.

For more details, call 17171441.

REEF Resort's Pool Delight will offer both an Iftar Buffet and a la carte Suhoor to get into the Ramadan spirit. The buffet will include the freshest local ingredients and traditional Arabic specialties will be served. For those with a sweet tooth, a live dessert counter offering traditional Bahraini and Arabic sweets such as Blancmange, Kunefe and Um Ali will be available.

The Iftar Buffet is priced at BD18+++ per person. For those who wish to enjoy

a late evening get-together with friends and family, Reef Resort's Ramadan tent, Reef Tent, will be open every night during Ramadan from 9pm onwards. Prices are BD22+++ and includes a buffet and live entertainment.

For reservations, call 13110110 or email us on info@reef-resort.com

THIS Ramadan, Jumeirah Royal Saray invites guests to experience its authentic Al Saraya Tent and its see-through dome. There will be traditional live Arabic music and a buffet showcasing a variety of Arabian and international cuisines.

Iftar is priced at BD27net, Ghabga is BD29net, a double package for BD50net and children, aged between four and 12, eat for half price.

For more information and reservations call 77707070 or email jrbs.brasserie@jumeirah.com

THE InterContinental Regency Bahrain's Ramadan tent will be serving authentic culinary dishes prepared by Bahraini Executive Sous Chef Mohammed Samara.

Iftar buffet price is BD12++ from Sunday to Wednesday and BD14++ on weekends, with children aged four to 12 eating for BD6.500++ and children under four eating for free.

Daily Ghabga will be from 9pm-2am with an a la carte menu or a set-menu.

For details and reservations, call 17208308 or email selections.icbahrain@ihg.com



CINEMA CLUB JUFFAIR (TODAY)

Film: *The Favourite*
Director: Yorgos Lanthimos
Duration: 1 hr 59 mins
Cast: Olivia Colman, Rachel Weisz, Emma Stone
Plot: In the early 18th Century, England is at war with the French. Nevertheless, duck racing and pineapple eating are thriving. A frail Queen Anne occupies the throne, and her close friend, Lady Sarah, governs the country in her stead, while tending to Anne's ill health and mercurial temper. When a new servant, Abigail, arrives, her charm endears her to Sarah. Sarah takes Abigail under her wing, and Abigail sees a chance to return to her aristocratic roots.
 For details, call Huda Tabbara on 39682323.



Book now or you might look back in anger!

DEFINITELY Oasis are regarded by many fans and promoters alike as the best Oasis tribute band there is, and they will be playing at the Gulf Hotel Bahrain's Sherlock Holmes on May 2 at 7pm. The price is BD10net inclusive of one free selected beverage. On May 3 from 12.30pm, they will be playing during brunch. This costs BD26net for early birds and Prestige Club members, or BD29net on the day for the unlimited food and selective beverages package.



Bringing the youth on board

THE Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain welcomed world-renowned oceanographer Jean-Michel Cousteau for a two-day interactive session, taking young audiences and adults alike on a 'land to sea' journey, unveiling his life-long expeditions and explorations of unique ocean environments and the natural wonders of the world.

As reported in *GulfWeekly*, the campaigner arrived in the kingdom straight from high level talks to 'Save the Russian Whales' captured illegally to be sold to theme parks in China.

He was on his first visit to



Bahrain as part of a global Ritz Kids environmental programme.

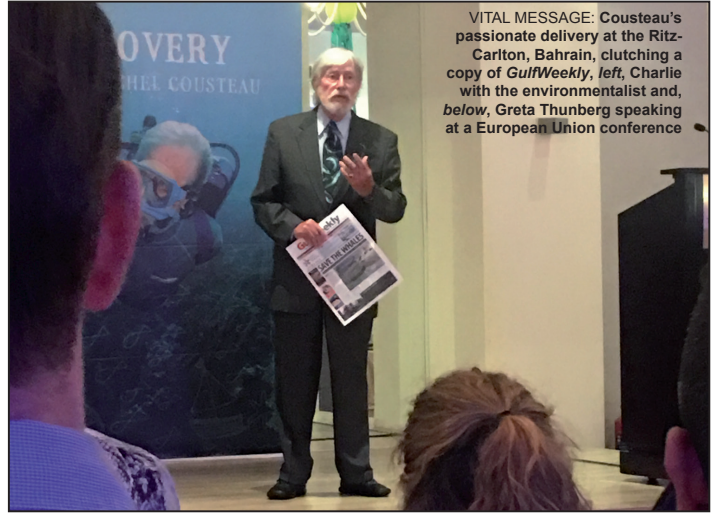
In an emotional address to the audience of young people and their families, he clutched a copy of this newspaper in his hand, and

said he was deeply moved by the coverage as he was keen to spread the message around the globe.

Amongst the audience was British expat schoolgirl Charlie Axtell. The 15-year-old from Saar gave up precious time from her studies as she revises for her GCSE examinations to attend one of the insightful Cousteau sessions.

Charlie, who is torn between a career in marine biology and architectural design, was delighted to note that the star guest was qualified in both subjects. Whatever her future path she remains determined to passionately campaign on behalf of the planet.

This is her report:



VITAL MESSAGE: Cousteau's passionate delivery at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, clutching a copy of *GulfWeekly*, left, Charlie with the environmentalist and, below, Greta Thunberg speaking at a European Union conference

OCEANS are one of the earth's most valuable resources. They cover more than 70 per cent of our planet and govern the weather, clean the air and provide a living for millions while helping feed the world.

They house most of the life on earth ranging from microscopic algae through to the largest animal on the planet, the blue whale.

Yet we are bombarding them with pollution. Choking plastic, discarded nets and leaking oil are amongst the countless ways humans find to destroy the beautiful blue planet.

Micro-plastics and even finer degraded particles have been traced in the darkest depths while whales and dolphins are being washed ashore suffering from new diseases. Species have become extinct while ecosystems are destroyed.

After generations of neglect at least we now have a voice.

In some countries tougher protection for waterways is the Number One concern of the electorate, ranking above child poverty, rising costs or housing shortages.

The ability to fish and swim in rivers is a birthright.

Greta Thunberg may be the modern face of environmentalism (the Swedish schoolgirl climate activist has been described as a role model for worldwide student activism and is famous for having initiated a school strike for climate movement last year that surged globally) yet the Cousteau family name has legendary status.

Jean-Michel, 81, the son of the late legendary pioneering sea adventurer Jacques,



visited the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain last week.

Despite spending only a brief time in the kingdom, he had the opportunity to educate hundreds of people, including more than 300 schoolchildren.

Starting by highlighting one of his campaigns featured on the cover of *GulfWeekly*, he spoke passionately about

the need to make a bridge between the main issues facing us today and the impact current decisions will have on the future – hence the need to heavily involve students.

He pointed out that 12 of the last 20 years have been the hottest on record and the effect of this on the diminishing life in the oceans.

Cousteau also established a link to the audience by showing the connection between all water sources, stressing the importance of our 'one water system' by referring to the fact that more than 55 per cent of the human body consists of water.

His mantra is 'we cannot protect what we cannot

understand'. He appeared particularly impressed by the development of a new Exosuit that will allow exploration to new depths of the ocean.

There is so much that needs to be done it can all seem daunting. You may be asking: 'what difference can I make?'

Governments and industry need to take action. It is

not acceptable to place the burden of responsibility on someone-else, pointing the finger at each other. Yet they are often motivated by the will of the people.

I challenge you to take a decision today that will have a positive impact on saving our planet.

Inspired by Cousteau, I have already written to a

charity to encourage them to help educate and collect data to support his work. What will you do?

The oceans may roar, but they cannot speak for themselves – they need our help.

● Listen to Cousteau's address to the young audience by placing your smartphone over the QR code.



Eating Out

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

TIME and time again, the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay's re/Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck has proven its award-winning status with beautifully presented dishes, exceptional service and food bursting with explosive flavours.

Its contemporary and classic take on Asian fare inspired by the cuisines of China, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam has made it a favourite destination for those craving tastes from the Far East with a twist.

Things are definitely heating up in the five-star hotel's kitchen yet again with Executive Sous Chef Josh Wetshtein and his culinary team cooking up some sweet and spicy breakfast and lunch options to keep diners satisfyingly full and happy throughout the coming weeks.

"We will have a merged breakfast and lunch menu next month," said Executive Sous Chef Josh. "We will have things like fresh blueberry pancakes and crab cake benedict with Sriracha Hollandaise sauce along with our normal fried rice, noodles and a lot of the Asian favourites that are staples on our menu such as the wagyu beef potstickers, chicken dan dan dumpling and korean fried chicken bao on the day time menu."

"Our sister restaurant CUT will be closed for the month of May but we will not deprive our customers from the Philly cheese steak which has become quite famous here. We also have a lot of new items coming on the dinner menu. When we move into our dinner service, it will have our same a la carte but with new revitalised dishes."

"We wanted to make sure that people in this particular month have some place to eat."

He had me at pancakes! Other dishes that will surely tantalise the taste buds include

Blueberry fills the gap



PERFECT PANCAKE: Set for the May menu and, below, some of Chef Josh's other delights



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

fried chicken and red velvet waffles. In the evenings, the restaurant's à la carte dinner menu will feature dishes such as Thai rice salad, Malaysian style braised lamb shank with black forbidden rice and a light and refreshing halo halo dessert.

On Saturday, my husband Sam and I, joined by sales and marketing manager Jalal Muradi and his wife Zainab, decided to put Chef Josh's new treats to the test whilst also enjoying some of its signature dishes.

This was especially a delight for me as I had never dined at the popular restaurant that is located on the 50th floor and can seat 94 diners comfortably. I was stunned by the elegance of its interior design as well as its breathtakingly beautiful views over Bahrain Bay and the Manama skyline.

Savoury and sweet scents wafted from the kitchen making my tummy growl and grumble with glee as we waited for the helpful waiters to serve up our chosen treats.

The first meal to make its way to our table was a thick stack of blueberry pancakes with a side of echire butter and

maple syrup. My heart skipped a beat when I sliced into the fluffy goodies and noticed there wasn't just blueberries on top and around the pancakes but also within.

We joked this should have been our dessert but as all expat Americans will, in particular, testify, there's nothing quite like enjoying a sweet start to the day and who can argue as this was such a delicious choice.

After we gobbled up the pancakes, our brunch orders began to pile in including the chef's favourites szechuan lamb dumplings, Sichuan dan dan dumplings, bamboo fried

rice, crazy noodles and black bass satay.

After sharing and devouring we unanimously agreed that the dan dan, which is organic chicken with peanut sauce, was something to rave about, as well as the lamb and Thai chili-infused fish dish.

I especially enjoyed the crispy chicken salad which featured a creamy coconut dressing and candied peanuts. I love those Thai influences.

The experience was made doubly enjoyable by the musical styling of Bahraini singer and musician Ahmed AlQasim.

The breakfast and lunch à la

carte will be available from 7am to 3pm and dinner will be served from sunset to 11pm on weekdays, and sunset to midnight on Thursdays and Fridays.

For reservations, call 17115046.



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From Page 1

"My fondest memories of BSB were when I first joined. At that time the school was still a mismatch of buildings and portable cabins. My year was tiny, so we all got along as well as mixing with younger and older students."

"Anyone that was in the school at that time absolutely loved it – not to mention the great teachers I had, honestly I wasn't the most academic person but I had certain subjects that I adored, especially business."

"That was the one subject I was always excited about and had a great teacher for, as well as languages and sciences. However, my role as 'background dancer number five' in the school's production of *Mamma Mia* is also a standout!"

After BSB he moved to Edinburgh and took a gap year. He looked at numerous university courses but none jumped out at him so he thought it would be best to just take some time out to consider his options.

Over the following months he started working in the hospitality sector and managed to work his way up as well as starting his first business called JLUK.

However, the following

year he tried academia again and started a degree course in psychology at Stirling University. "After completing the first year I realised university wasn't really for me, so I moved to London and got my first marketing job," he said.

"I have a curious mind, so I took it upon myself to find courses to help me in my career journey."

Every evening and weekend he studied marketing and now boasts professional certifications that entitle him to add Chartered Digital Marketing Specialist to his CV.

Throughout Jamie's experience in the marketing industry, he noticed a growing need for what he describes as 'an honest, dynamic and results-driven solution' for brands who are tired of 'too many big promises and poor results'.

Monumental took a 'deep dive' into digital marketing to find out exactly how it worked and, according to Jamie, 'multi-channel' proved to be the answer.

"Our ecosystem believes in pairing channels to leverage each other to boost the overall success of marketing," he explained. "Maximising budgets through the unique

Making a mark in

understanding of how channels work together technically and operationally but as well as understanding user journeys and behaviour.

"The focus on driving bottom-line success naturally attracted a number of start-ups to Monumental. Many started with just one channel and it wasn't long till the results sparked an interest in adopting the full 'Monumental' ecosystem. Clients see their businesses, teams and revenue grow month-on-month."

He started working in digital marketing for a fitness company but wanted to do more.

"Working with lots of agencies throughout my career I noticed that there wasn't really an agency that could just be different, results-driven and flexible with their offering," he said. "I started Monumental alongside my day job and in September 2017 I took the jump to going full-time."

"The first few months were really tough, but I chose to

grow organically, slowly and steadily. Being completely bootstrapped and self-funded I could only invest what I was getting in. Early 2018 is when momentum really started to grow, we were welcoming clients to Monumental regularly and that's when the team started growing."

"From my sofa in my living room, to the Monumental offices in Monument. This was the best place for us to base our headquarters, in the centre of all the hustle and bustle and with the branded location to match."

The Monument, near London Bridge, was designed by Sir Christopher Wren to commemorate the Great Fire of London. It has been welcoming visitors for more than 300 years. Today, visitors can still climb 311 steps to the top of the historic landmark built in 1677 to take in spectacular views of the city.

"It's great!" added Jamie. "London is the heart of digital marketing, so it made sense for Monumental to be here. The best thing about London is the environment, there is always something happening both social and business – one can never get bored here."

Monumental now has a fixed team of six in the London office, as well as a team of six who work on a contract basis, part-time and as freelancers.

The BSB alumni have brought their own individual flair to the business, as well as using their expat experiences to shape the company in many ways as their unique outlooks influence their marketing work, according to Jamie.

Their roots in the multi-cultural kingdom means that they are able to approach many aspects of the business 'from a point of view that many people just don't have', as well as equipping them for the diverse client base that Monumental has built globally with companies based across England, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Canada, and the list continues to grow.

"Everything from lifestyle, to tech, to finance – our ethos is wide and results-driven meaning we are completely industry agnostic," he said.

"Our big focus this year is to bring Monumental to Bahrain. The Monumental Marketing model has been tested in one of the busiest markets in the world and the result was success."

"Couple this with our



BEFORE AND AFTER:
Jamie, 13, in BSB uniform
and, right, impressing in
the big city

knowledge of Bahrain and our Arabic speaking team it's a no brainer... and I'm surprised we haven't done this sooner! We'll also look to continue growing in the UK and Europe, however, I don't ever want to lose sight of who we are and what we do. We are the new age of marketing and PR – I don't ever want to lose that."

With a constantly growing portfolio of clients, celebrities and corporate businesses alike, the former BSB students don't seem to be slowing any time soon with Jamie's mantra singing in their ears 'Create. Optimise. Grow'.

Lebanese Tala, 20, is currently in her final year at the University of Kent studying a Bachelors in Politics and International Relations and works as a marketing executive for Monumental.

She has an older sister and younger brother, who still live in Bahrain – her dad works as a business consultant in Saudi Arabia and her mum's an image consultant in the kingdom.

"I studied in BSB from Year 7 to Year 12 then I went straight to university," she said. "My favourite memories of living in Bahrain is experiencing the diversity and the close community – I loved the fact that wherever you went there was always a

friendly face to run into.

"As for BSB, my best memories are when I founded the Debate Club, coaching delegates in public speaking for MUN, and being selected for the University of Warwick gifted and talented programme, not to mention being part of many committees. My best memories were made from being actively involved in the school's extra-curricular activities."

"Initially I was looking for an internship that would be mentally stimulating and also help me build discipline whilst making a positive contribution towards a company."

"I found Monumental Marketing through *LinkedIn* and saw that Jamie had founded it. I had asked him if there were any opportunities available and he mentioned that they were only looking for marketing executives but would be more than happy to still give me a chance to apply."

"After completing the marketing and PR task that I was sent and going through the interview process, Jamie invited me to the Monumental offices in London and explained that due to my transferable skills and the potential he saw, he wanted me on the team."

"It's funny because we never used to talk much in



April 23-24-25 2019
Bahrain Exhibition Centre
FREE ENTRY 10am-9pm

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 Al Naseem	 Hasabi	 Sa'ada
 Layan	 Harbour Row	 Bahrain Marina
 Dilmunia	 Hillcrest Residences, Cyprus	 Catamaran Towers

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amazing working in such a comfortable environment surrounded by people who grew up in the same place as you, so we all get along really easily and can relate with one another in a way that would be different if we hadn't all grown up in Bahrain.

"It is so much fun working in London too. It's such a lively and culturally diverse city, so there is so much going on all the time. It's impossible to get bored here."

Former *GulfWeekly* intern, *Leisure Guide* compiler and film reviewer Amani Moosa, 23, has Scottish and Bahraini roots and is also currently in-between London and Bahrain.

The freelance visual communicator and designer was born and raised in Bahrain and only moved to the UK to start her university degree in Bournemouth. Her parents still work and live in Bahrain and her brother now works in Glasgow.

"I attended BSB for 11 years, starting in Year 2 and finishing in Year 13," she said. "For me, Bahrain will always be my home, no matter where I live, I will forever treasure all the crazy, fun experiences of growing up there! I also have great memories of the BSB, I am truly thankful for all the incredible friendships that were made throughout the years that I still cherish and value!"

After finishing school in 2014, she attended the Arts University Bournemouth in England and went on to achieve a BA Honours Degree in Visual Communication and a Certificate of Higher Education in Graphic Design.

"After moving to London, Jamie and I got into contact with each other as we both lived in the city and hadn't seen each other for a few good years so we decided to meet and have a catch up," she explained.

"Jamie was telling me about his journey with Monumental Marketing and it just so happened to be that he had recently got involved with some creative projects and would need designers to work on them, so I sent over my portfolio and began working a couple weeks later!"

"It was most definitely a delightful surprise to have ended up working alongside people that I attended school with many years ago in a different part of the world! Everyone working at Monumental is so lovely and it's great to be able to share some memories of growing

up in Bahrain.

"It's not very often we go to work and sit around a table with people who have shared similar experiences of attending the same school in the same country, so that has been pretty incredible!"

"I have dreamt of moving to London for more than five years now, so to finally be able to say I live here is fantastic. The opportunities are endless, you meet great people and there is always something to do at whatever time of the day! The only downside is the living costs ... and the weather!"

BSB's executive head Jeff Smith said: "It is always pleasing to hear about the success of former BSB students. There are many teachers at BSB who remember Jamie as a student and it is no surprise to them that he has already made his mark on the business world at such a young age.

"Teachers and school leaders describe him as a popular, courteous and



TOURIST ATTRACTION: The Monument in London

respectful young man with 'an air of flamboyance' that naturally drew people towards him. His UCAS references for his UK university applications identified his enthusiasm for life, his aptitude for business and his creative mind.

"Wayne Ridgway, his tutor at the time – recently appointed head of senior school – wrote about his contributions to school and his determination to succeed. BSB is very proud of Jamie's achievements."

school, and now we're all wondering why. It amazing to be working with like-minded individuals, and to be able to see where we all started from and where we are now is truly motivating. We've built a little family and when Jamie told me that working at Monumental Marketing would not be a 9-5 and is a lifestyle, he wasn't lying. But honestly, I wouldn't have it any other way.

"I currently live in Canterbury as I am still a student, so I commute to London for work. Working in London is very hectic because of the extremely fast momentum the city adopts, and especially in contrast with Canterbury which is a lot more mellow and quiet. However, I love it and I personally thrive under pressure so this is a very invigorating environment to be working in. The best part about London? The networking.

"Jamie has really invested in me during this whole experience and gave me the chance to really build myself whilst helping build the company, something I will be forever grateful for. It's not often that you find business leaders that really invest in and look after their team the way Jamie has."

Fellow marketing executive Alicia, 21, is part-Belgian, part-Indonesian and currently

lives between London and Bahrain.

"I moved to Bahrain with my parents and little brother from Singapore due to my dad's job," she explained. "My family still live in Bahrain, they have been here for 11 years and counting.

"I was a student at BSB from Year 6 to Year 13. I graduated in 2015 to go on to study at university. My memories of Bahrain; I couldn't imagine growing up somewhere-else. From getting late-night shawarmas to lounging beachside at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain will always be home to me no matter where I end up in the world. BSB was also amazing. We had such a close-knit community where everyone was friends with each other, so it was such a lovely environment to be a part of."

She studied Sociology and received a Bachelor of Arts with Honours at the University of Kent.

"Jamie and I knew each other from BSB and our families are pretty close so it was bound to happen that I eventually would work for him," she said. "It's the most surreal feeling to be working alongside former BSB students.

"We used to see each other in the BSB hallways and now we are at business meetings with each other. But it is

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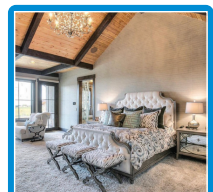
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Property Weekly

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

Spacious tower apartment

STAR Real Estate has a semi-furnished two-bedroom apartment available for rent in Juffair's Mal Suites tower.

The 14-storey building, which was designed by Orchid Developers, features panoramic windows and fine finishings.

The spacious apartment has a built-up area of 140sqm and features a large living and dining area, as well as an open plan kitchen.

The bedrooms are also sizable and include wardrobes and ensuite bathrooms, one featuring a tub and the other a shower. There is also a guest closet.

Mal Suites offers residents a selection of recreational facilities that includes a rooftop swimming pool, a Jacuzzi, sauna and steam room, a game room, fully-equipped gymnasium and a squash court.

The building also has a two-floor parking deck with each apartment allocated one space.

Mal Suites is located near the Al Murjan Complex and other malls, a variety of restaurants and hotels, as well as shops.



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Location: Mal Suites, Juffair

Reference number: AP838

Rental price: BD600

Living room: 1

Bedrooms: 2

Bathrooms: 2

Additional information: There is a swimming pool, game room, a gym and squash courts. One parking space per apartment.

For further information on this and other homes call Star Real Estate 17298210.



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Fashion Weekly

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

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Jalal's timely tips on the latest trends



THE rebirth of Oris's iconic Big Crown Pointer Date is symbolic of both the independent Swiss watchmaker's rich watchmaking heritage and also the broader revival of simpler, more traditional watch styles.

The story behind Oris's most celebrated model begins in 1938 when it was introduced for pilots. The oversized crown meant the watch could be easily adjusted even when wearing gloves.

Its pointer date function has become an Oris signature and here sits over a deep red dial. This model has a 40mm case and comes on a vintage brown leather strap.



Case

Material *Multi-piece stainless steel case*
Size 40.00 mm, 1.575 inches

Top Glass *Sapphire, domed on both sides, anti-reflective coating inside*
Case back *Stainless steel with see-through mineral crystal, screwed*

Operating Devices
Stainless steel screw-in security crown
Water Resistance *5 bar*
Interhorn Width 20 mm

Movement

Number *Oris 754, base SW 200-1*
Dimensions \varnothing 25.60 mm, 11 1/2"

Functions *Centre hands for hours, minutes and seconds, date centre hand, instantaneous date, date corrector, fine timing device and stop-second*
Winding *Automatic winding, bi-directionally rotating red rotor*
Power-Reserve 38 hours

Vibrations 4 Hz (28'800 A/h)
Jewels 26

Dial

Design *Deep red Luminous Material*
Indices, numbers and hands with *Super-LumiNova®*
Indices *Painted*
Strap/Bracelet *Brown chamois deer leather strap with stainless steel buckle or stainless steel bracelet with folding clasp.*

SPRING is in the air and it's the season for hope, love, rejuvenation and growth. It's a time to pack up your warm winter wear, donate unused clothing to those in need and liven up your wardrobe with bold and vibrant new attire.

Shoppers craving a fashion transformation need not look any further as City Centre Bahrain has unveiled its new Spring/Summer 2019 campaign, offering visitors a chance to snap up high-end and street-style looks from its plethora of stores as well as get the chance to personally design their own shirts. There are several sales also happening throughout the mall.

"With more than 100 exclusive fashion brands from which to choose at City Centre Bahrain, shoppers of every age are sure to find an opportunity to embrace their own distinct fashion style and identity," said Duaij Al Rumaihi, senior mall manager, below. "We are celebrating the new collections and individuality through our 3D printing activation as well as a range of rewards for fashionable guests."

The shopping, entertainment and lifestyle destination is featuring an exhibit in its Central Galleria, on the

New collections at mall



FASHION

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

ground floor, boasting the latest in branded attire along with a Yokai 3D fashion

robot from Austria which can print people's designs on the spot, on a white shirt, right before their eyes. Shoppers can avail this offer by spending BD50 at the

mall's fashion outlets. They will receive a code on their mobile phones to redeem their shirts at the Spring of Fashion 2019 activation. The drawing or design will then

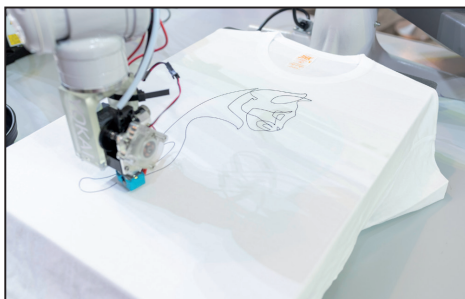
be instantly created by the robot using 3D technology. Some of the current designs featured to choose from include fashion capitals such as London, Rome and

Manama as well as some animal caricatures or female portraits.

Those who spend BD30 or more will be entered in a draw to win one of five daily airline tickets to Dubai plus a BD50 mall gift card to spend at any of Majid Al Futtaim's malls in the UAE. By the end of the campaign, the mall is expected to be rewarding 150 customers.

People can also enhance their shopping experience with the mall's exclusive, complimentary Hands Free shopping bag delivery service allowing them to shop to their heart's content and leave bags behind at the Hands Free collection desk. The bags can be brought to the shopper anywhere in the mall, to their car, or to hotels connected to the mall at their convenience by using the City Centre Bahrain mobile app or by calling the team 15 minutes before finishing shopping.

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



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In focus



ITHMAAR Bank has extended its support to the Crown Prince's Centre for Training and Medical Research. The bank's CEO Ahmed Abdul Rahim held a presentation ceremony with the Commander of the Royal Medical Services, Major-General Professor Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, in the presence of deputy CEO - banking group, Abdulhakeem Al Mutawa and the head of business banking group, Abdulla Taleb.



SAAR Mall recently staged an event to celebrate World Health Day, in collaboration with the Life Pulse Team and held under the patronage of MP Mamdooh Al Saleh.

Competitions were staged for visitors and Saar Mall management provided plenty of prizes. A variety of medical examinations were also offered with the support of Dr Talal Al Sindi, a consultant from Kanoo Centre, and nephrology expert Mohamed Habib, a speciality of medicine and paediatrics that concerns itself with the kidneys.

The Medical Centre of the Middle East, Olympic Lounge E, Al-Jars Factory Company, Wikisiha Health Medical Company, Eucerin Company, Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Society and Ram Dental Clinic were also thanked for their assistance by the mall's MD Esmahan Hassan Bokhwa.



US ambassador Justin Sberrell along with public affairs officer, Karen Ehler and educational specialist, Samar Hasan, visited RCSI Bahrain's campus in Busaiteen to meet with senior officials, including RCSI Bahrain president, Professor Sameer Ootom.

The delegation was shown a presentation on the university by vice president for academic affairs and head of school of medicine, Professor Joe McMenamin, which also included information on relationships with Penn State University on Global Health Initiatives and the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (CCAD) on training of nurses. Fadi Ghosn, recognition, careers and alumni manager, also provided an overview of the university's collaborations with institutions in the US for student electives, specifically with Johns Hopkins University.

SocialScene

Why wait a month! Join Social Scene every week

Drumming up support



THE Royal Marine Band's Corps of Drums visited the British School of Bahrain and drummed up a storm with a musical programme for the children in the main sports hall.

Lucky winners



LUCKY Batool Ebrahim Abdulla Alhaddad, S. Adnan Saeed Baqer Ali, Nujoom Mohsin Abdulla Al Hakam and Omran Abbas Hasan Abbas have won US\$25,000 each in the National Bank of Bahrain AlWatani Savings Scheme draw.

Birthday celebrations



THE British Embassy in Bahrain held an official birthday celebration for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at a garden party hosted by ambassador Simon Martin and his wife, Sophie.

More than 600 guests gathered and the event included

a photographic exhibition spanning the seven decades during which Her Majesty has reigned. The Manama Singers performed the British and the Bahraini national anthems and The Elton & Hameed Band also entertained guests.



His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa attended as guest of honour. Other VIPs included Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa and Shaikh Khalifa bin Rashid Al Khalifa attended as representa-

tives of HRH the Prime Minister. BAE Systems, EuroMotors, Standard Chartered Bank and Oak Solutions f sponsored the event, with support from the Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa, Gulf Brands International and BMMI.

Welcome party



VIPs and media guests attended a special pre-opening gathering of the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's new La Table Krug by Y fine-dining restaurant and were welcomed by GM Bernard de Villèle.

Stepping out



THE Ballare Studio staged 'Magnifique - a World of Dance' at The Cultural Hall on Saturday featuring choreographed performances showcased by students and teachers.

Independence Day

THE US Embassy marked the country's 243rd Independence Day at the Gulf Hotel Convention & Spa with an early glittering ceremony.

Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa and Shaikh Khalifa bin Rashid Al Khalifa attended as representatives of HRH the Prime Minister. Also present were senior government officials, diplomats, businessmen and guests.



The theme of the celebration was 'Roads Across America' and featured pictures, videos

and installations of well-known freeways and boulevards in America.

"We Americans have much to celebrate in our country's relationship with Bahrain, a strategic partnership built on an enduring friendship between the American and Bahraini people, and supported by the leadership of our two countries," the ambassador said.

Advances in the partnership included more than \$3 billion in the two-way trade between Bahrain and the US in 2018, a 60 per cent increase over 2017.

Film Weekly



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



A familiar format

THE *Curse of La Llorona* is set on the outskirts of the blockbuster *Conjuring* franchise, which may lend it a mainstream commercial appeal but also a by-now deadened familiarity thanks to the series' well-worn formula.

We've seen many of this film's supernatural scenarios before – in this franchise and in bogeyman/haunting films in general – but in the end *The Curse of La Llorona* just about gets by due to its occasional playfulness and the sympathy engendered by its main family.

After a brief but brutal prologue set in 1673 Mexico – where we see how 'The Weeping Woman' of Latin American folklore came to be by drowning her own children in a jealous rage, thus cursing herself to roam forever as a spectre searching for other kids to kill – the film resumes in Los Angeles 1973, a period which *Conjuring*-verse fans will know is not long after the events of the LA-based *Annabelle*.

Do note that there is the bare minimum of connective narrative tissue between the films, so you don't need to have seen any *Conjuring* movies to enjoy this one.

A solid Linda Cardellini anchors the proceedings as Anna Tate-Garcia, a recently widowed social worker whose tragic intervention in the child welfare of the sons of the disturbed Patricia Alvarez (Patricia Velasquez) unleashes the titular spirit after Anna's own children. Turns out Patricia wasn't crazy or abusive towards her kids – she was protecting them from La Llorona! Anna will learn that, as the old adage goes, no good deed goes unpunished. Cardellini brings a steeliness and

THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA

STARRING: Linda Cardellini, Raymond Cruz, Patricia Velásquez

DIRECTOR: Michael Chaves

GENRE: Horror

RATING: 18+

RUNTIME: 93 Mins

world-weariness to Anna, who was a cop's wife and is an urban social worker, both of which means she's already dealt with fear and horrors completely separate from the occult variety. This life experience gives her a bit more edge than the *Conjuring*-verse's usually suburban or otherwise heretofore untried protagonists.

Cardellini has good chemistry with Roman Christou and Jaynee-Lynne Kinchen, who ably play her children Chris and Samantha, respectively. Together, these three actors make for a sympathetic and believable family unit that roots this otherworldly movie in the human and the relatable. Simply put, you care about this family and want to see them make it through this ordeal okay.

They receive an ally in Rafael Olvera (a sincere Raymond Cruz), a curandero (a traditional healer) whose old school arsenal against La Llorona generates a few chuckles but his deadpan machismo even more so.

Director Michael Chaves assembles some suitably suspenseful set-pieces, particularly whenever it's just the kids going up against La Llorona (most notably the scene in the family car and another one where poor Samantha thinks it's her mum washing her hair).

But these sequences also try the movie's own logic, where you're questioning the rules of physical contact with a spirit.

La Llorona herself can at times be as corporeal as a vampire or zombie and then as ethereal and intangible as a ghost. So what gives? You can either strike this being or you can't. This questioning of the movie's laws pulls one out of the story precisely at moments where a viewer shouldn't be distracted.

Much of this movie's story and overall execution is right in line with the *Conjuring*-verse, but now this entry – the sixth in this franchise – has further exposed the series' increasing reliance on formula. The creative architecture of the film is the same as in the preceding five films, the same pacing and tone, largely the same stock scares at this point. While there can be comfort in the familiar there is also frustration, especially when the premise of this particular piece of folklore could lend itself to even better and scarier exploration. Maybe it will in another inevitable sequel or spin-off of the franchise.

Ultimately, *The Curse of La Llorona* offers some decently suspenseful set-pieces and has a family you care about at its centre, but it's also a very familiar and formulaic. It's certainly not the weakest movie in this series but it also doesn't necessarily bring as much new to the table as might have been expected given the compelling folklore the film borrows from.

● Now showing in all Bahrain's cinemas.

KRISTIAN'S VERDICT
 1 popcorn – stay home
 5 popcorns – start queuing

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Bite-sized trailer

Missing Link

DIRECTOR: Chris Butler

CAST: Hugh Jackman, David Walliams, Stephen Fry

PLOT: Mr. Link recruits explorer Sir Lionel Frost to help find his long-lost relatives in the fabled valley of Shangri-La. Along with adventurer Adelina Fortnight, this trio of explorers travel the world to help their new friend.

SHOWING IN: City Centre, Oasis Juffair, Seef II, Saar, Wadi Al Sail



Stockholm

DIRECTOR: Robert Budreau

CAST: Mark Strong, Noomi Rapace, Ethan Hawke

PLOT: *Stockholm* is based on the true story of a 1973 bank heist and hostage crisis documented in the 1974 *New Yorker* article *The Bank Drama* by Daniel Lang. The film follows Lars Nystrom, (Ethan Hawke) who dons a disguise to raid a central Stockholm bank. He then takes hostages in order to spring his pal Gunnar (Mark Strong) from prison. One of the hostages includes Bianca (Noomi Rapace), a wife and mother of two. Negotiations with detectives hits a wall when (at the request of the Prime Minister) the police refuse to let Lars leave in a getaway car with the hostages.

SHOWING IN: City Centre, Seef II, Saar, Wadi Al Sail



The Hummingbird Project

DIRECTOR: Emma Tammi

CAST: Miles Anderson, Caitlin Gerard, Julia Goldani Telles

PLOT: In this modern epic, Kim Nguyen exposes the ruthless edge of our increasingly digital world. Cousins from New York, Vincent (Eisenberg) and Anton (Skarsgård) are players in the high-stakes game of High Frequency Trading, where winning is measured in milliseconds. Their dream? To build a fibre-optic cable straight between Kansas and New Jersey, making them millions.

SHOWING IN: City Centre, Seef II, Wadi Al Sail



imdb movie charts

Current Position	Title	Weekend Takings	Gross to date
1	Shazam!	\$25M	\$95M
2	Little	\$16M	\$16M
3	Hellboy	\$12M	\$12M
4	Pet Sematary	\$10M	\$41M
5	Dumbo	\$9M	\$90M
6	Captain Marvel	\$9M	\$90M
7	Us	\$7M	\$164M
8	After	\$6M	\$6M
9	Missing Link	\$6M	\$6M
10	The Best of Enemies	\$2M	\$2M



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

THE Ministry of Education in partnership with Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), and in collaboration with Isa Cultural Centre, recently launched a two-week campaign, inspiring children and families to read.

READ helped to celebrate 100 years of education in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

A portable library bus visited both public and private schools, such as Bahrain Bayan School, St Christopher's School, Alia School, West Riffa Primary Girls and Boys School, Somaiya Primary Girls School and many others, as well as popular locations such as Cinekids Bahrain, Studio Ceramics, Yellow Submarine, Zallaq Springs and Ready Get Set Cook.

The initiative was a great success as it energised and encouraged children to learn about people, places and events outside of their own experience. Local thinkers, authors and social media influencers were also invited to act as reading ambassadors.

With sustainability in mind, the campaign focused on the parents' and educators' engagement levels through various literacy-promoting activities and on social media through the channel @readbahrain.

Books and reading are fundamental to children's language development, regardless of their first or second language. There is no greater gift we can give to a child than the ability to read, which is why I extend my appreciation to BisB, Isa Cultural Centre, and members of the community for supporting us and being committed in this campaign with us.

Shaikha Hala Al Khalifa,
campaign project manager.

THE Rotary Club of Salmaniya organised its annual Raft Race fundraising



event at Al Bander Hotel & Resort in Sitra on April 19 and can report that more than BD25,000 has been raised thanks to our sponsors and the teams who participated.

The club, working under the theme of 'Challenge Disability', aims to support those mentally and physically challenged in Bahrain, and to challenge society's approach as a whole.

The event witnessed 24 teams representing different companies and generous supporters, such as our platinum sponsors Credimax and DHL and gold sponsor NBB.

The winners of this year's Raft race were:

Men's open sea:

3rd Am Yateem Team 1
2nd APM Terminal
1st MMC (Motor Sports
Marshals club) Team 3

Mixed Lagoon:

3rd MMC (Motor Sports

Marshals club) Team 1
2nd Al Ghalia
1st MMC (Motor Sports
Marshals club) Team 2

Since it started in 1976, the event has raised more than BD2m for various charities. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

We were glad to see such a good turnout, including so many families. At the end of the day we are all here to have fun and help others.

Seema Baqi, race chairman and incoming club president, The Rotary Club of Salmaniya

THINKSMART for Development and Training is organising the third Forsati Connect, part of the series of events aiming at connecting young Bahrainis with ICT leaders and also giving them internship opportunities.

The event brings together Bahrain's ICT community

for networking and offers an opportunity to meet IT leaders in Bahrain and gain valuable insights into their businesses.

This edition will have a speaker from Microsoft and will take place this evening at the Awal Ballroom, Gulf Hotel Bahrain Conference & Spa at 6pm-8pm.

Forsati, a programme launched in 2017, aims to train and certify Bahraini students and job-seekers on the latest Microsoft technologies, along with soft skills aimed at improving employability skills and assisting with internship opportunities.

Contact 17746746 for more details or visit www.forsatibh.com

Fosati Connect.

THE progress achieved by Bahrain is remarkable. I had a chance to visit the kingdom for a sixth time recently. I had also travelled from Los Angeles to Tokyo but still find the speed of development more noteworthy here.

I send my heartiest congratulations to all those dedicated people responsible for making Bahrain one of the best countries in the world.

R. M. Arora,
Aurangabad, India.

TOURISM continues to be a growth sector for



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

THE Whisperer spotted this excellent sign in the car park at the Ministry of Labour & Social Development in Isa Town. These sentiments are superb and wouldn't it be a good idea to spread the message across the kingdom and follow it up with a policy of towing away those who ignore the message?

Next, let's target those who abandon their vehicles on roundabouts and those who think it's OK to park in bus bays causing long traffic queues every time a bus is forced to stop in the middle of the road to collect or allow passengers to alight the vehicle.

The authorities need to get tough ... and the Whisperer will support them all the way.



Bahrain's economy with more than 12 million visitors per annum according to the latest government statistics, increasing on average by plus-eight per cent year-on-year since 2012.

The largest group of tourist arrivals are residents from Saudi Arabia, entering the country via the King Fahd Causeway, comprising 87 per cent of total visitors last year. Hotels are the preferred accommodation type across the market with 71 per cent of tourists choosing this option, followed by furnished

apartments as the second most popular choice (17 per cent).

With the average length of stay rising to 2.9 tourist nights, the majority of visitors travel to Bahrain for the purpose of holiday and leisure (63 per cent of the total). The second largest grouping of visitors travel to visit friends or relatives (17 per cent).

James Lynn, head of strategic advisory and Heather Longden, head of advisory and transactions,
www.cbre.com

BEING incredibly fond of cats, after deciding to do a university presentation on them, I thought I'd share with you some of the info I've learned.

Any discussion on the topic of cats throughout history and their early domestication is incomplete without a mention of Ancient Egypt.

It seems that in much the same way cats are venerated today in some

Youth Talk

By
Sarah Belal



of our homes and certainly, on the Internet, the early Egyptians held the same reverence for their feline companions.

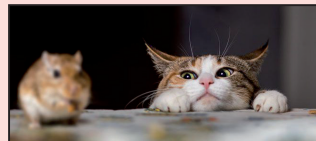
Initially appreciated for their efficiency at keeping rodents at bay, cats eventually went

on to be much loved for there even was a goddess of cats, Bastet, and the death of a household cat was a cause for deep mourning. Owners would shave their eyebrows when this occurred and grieve until their eyebrows grew back.

And it's not just early Egyptian civilisation that adored cats. Several other cultures across various points of time thought of cats

in good light; Irish folklore regarded tortoiseshell cats as harbingers of good fortune, Japan's Maneki Neko famous to this day signifies luck whereas Norse mythology depicted the goddess Freyja as driving a chariot pulled by two (presumably, large) cats.

Conversely, many time periods saw felines associated with evil spirits



– this was particularly grim during the Middle Ages when cats were routinely killed after the church started affiliating them with witchcraft and pagan symbols. Thankfully, this sentiment

didn't last for long and cats regained the affection they enjoyed prior to this time.

Evidently, cats have been charming their admirers since the dawn

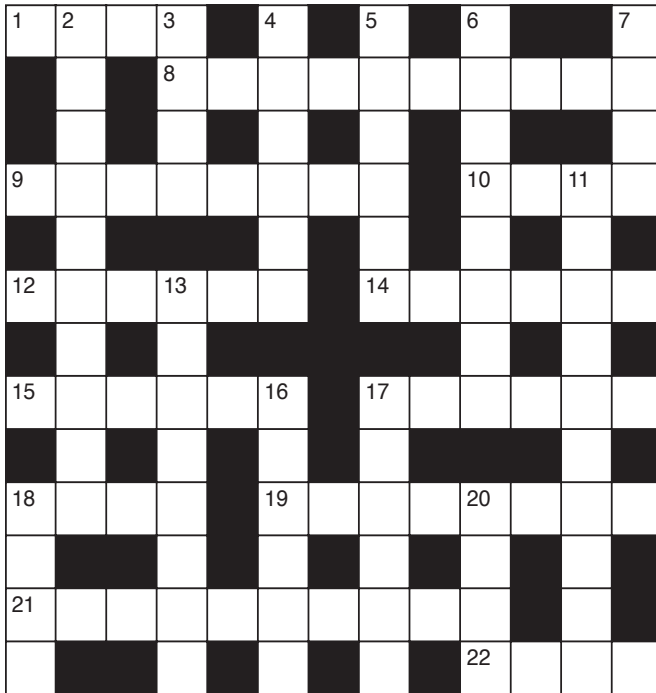
of civilisation itself! Their roles as important agents of pest control and cuddly companions for people proved their popularity then as now.

cerebrally crust & crema



17214155 @crustandcrema crustandcremah

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Eager (4)
8. Deviation (10)
9. Power (8)
10. Fashion (4)
12. Sullen (6)
14. Fanciful (6)
15. Hand digit (6)
17. Chaperon (6)
18. Psalm (4)
19. Produce (8)
21. Fulfil (10)
22. Retain (4)

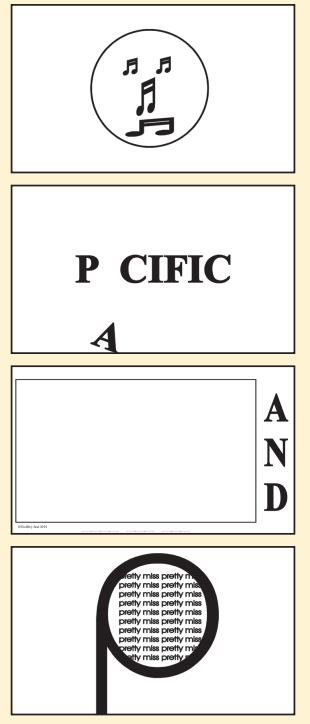
DOWN

2. Brilliance (10)
3. Valley (4)
4. Scant (6)
5. Curved (6)
6. Rush (8)
7. Gaming stake (4)
11. Tiny (10)
13. Arrange (8)
16. Diet (6)
17. Refusal (6)
18. Chop roughly (4)
20. Smell (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... wrote the novel *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*?
 WHAT ... type of creature is a nannygai?
 WHERE ... in South America is the city of Londrina?
 WHEN ... did Martina Navratilova last win the Wimbledon Ladies Singles tennis title?
 WHO ... designed the Admiralty Arch in London?
 WHAT ... city lies across the Hooghly River from Calcutta?
 WHERE ... was Agustin de Iturbide emperor from 1822-23?
 WHEN ... did Jacques Delors first become president of the European Commission?

just so



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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 7 Chase; 8 Promise; 9 Prickle; 10 Kudos; 12 Revelation; 15 Impeccable; 18 Mania; 19 Rostrum; 21 Illegal; 22 Crown.

Down: 1 Scepticism; 2 Magic; 3 Weak; 4 Sphere; 5 Cocktail; 6 Disdain; 11 Sanctimony; 13 Exchange; 14 Spindle; 16 Airily; 17 Broom; 20 Suck.

JUST SO: For the love of god, Last but not least, Sign on the dotted line, The Royal Mail

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Ninus; Italy; Craggy Island; 1788; Peter Bowker; Earth, Air, Fire and Water; South Africa; 1985.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

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Motoring Weekly

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Winners all the way

AL HADDAD Motors won two prestigious customer services awards at this year's Mercedes-Benz Cars Middle East Customer Services Conference recently held in Dubai.

The Tubli-based company drove away with the Dealer Retail Standard Fulfilment Award and the Best Planning and Forecasting Award based on its performance throughout 2018.

The awards were presented by the president and CEO of MBCME, Mark De Haes, and the director of customer services at MBCME, Thilo Grossman, to the delighted GM of Al Haddad Motors, Warren Hudson, who was accompanied to the event by aftersales manager, Ian Beattie, parts manager, Jorge Roldao, and marketing manager, Imran Ali.

"These awards merely mark the starting line and not the finishing line for Al Haddad Motors. Our Customer Services department have embarked on a journey to improve procedures and performance in every single



aspect of our daily business," said Warren, "We will strive continuously and endeavour to set the standards in Customer Services that everyone else will be measured by."

The conference was attended by representatives from all the Mercedes-Benz General Distributors from the region, which consists of all GCC and Levant markets, as well as representatives from Daimler AG and MBCME.

For more information, please visit the Mercedes-Benz Bahrain website www.bahrain.mercedesbenzme.com or call the Mercedes-Benz showroom on 17785454.

Special deals to celebrate the holy month

BEHBEHANI Brothers will be offering buyers the chance to drive away with BD16,000 as part of an extended Ramadan promotion.

Customers purchasing Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram vehicles from the dealership from now until June 30 will receive a raffle coupon and four lucky buyers will win BD4,000 each.

The raffle draw will take place at the Behbehani Brothers showroom in Sitra on July 2 under the supervision of officials from the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism. "In addition to the promotion, customers can also be



assured of the best prices on the latest models of Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram brands," a spokesman said.

Behbehani Brothers has launched five new and refreshed models in the last 18 months as part of

FCA Middle East product offensive such as the Jeep Compass, Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Cherokee, Chrysler Pacifica and the Ram 1500.

For more details, call Behbehani Brothers on 17459955.

Beach delights for families

THE thunderstorms and high winds subsided and summer sunshine returned in wheely-glorious style in the kingdom over the weekend, making for a marvellous reason to celebrate owning a special marque with a family day out on the beach.

People flocked to Marassi Beach in Diyar Al Muharraq to splash in the waves and top up their tans ... and it wasn't just the crystal blue ocean that was sparkling as the Chery Tiggo2 was placed on prominent display, attracting envious glances.

The Chery Family Day proved a roaring success with sun, sea, sand and sensational activities for people of all ages, with the 'Chery on top' being the Chinese marque's prize offering.

The Tiggo2 is the company's latest SUV, boasting a 1.5L



DRIVING AHEAD: Family Day out in the sunshine

VVT engine that delivers a maxi-mum 105BHP and 135Nm of torque.

It comes in two trims; Basic and Comfort, both focusing on safety with front airbags for driver and passenger, Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Stability Program

(ESP), Electronic Brake-Force Distribution (EBD) and rear parking sensors.

The Comfort trim also comes with an added rear camera, an audio system with an eight-inch display screen and 17-inch aluminium alloy wheels. Officials from Motorcity,

the Chery dealers in Bahrain, were on hand to greet guests and offer advice on both the Tiggo2 and other models in the portfolio.

Motorcity chairman, Waleed Kanoo, said: "Chery cars have gained much popularity in Bahrain thanks to the support

of our loyal customers. More people are realising the true potential of superior Chinese products and their high quality, along with the trusted Motorcity brand name and our world-class service facility in Ma'ameer.

"To show our sincere

appreciation, we are happy to welcome everyone to a fun day at the beach."

● For more information on Chery vehicles in Bahrain, visit www.motorcity.com.bh/passenger-cars/Chery, visit the Motorcity showroom in Sanad or call 17621162.



From Page 24

Between 2005 and 2007, Crosse was elected president of the club.

He said: "I want to say thanks to the club from the bottom of my heart. I've been involved for so many decades and it's been an amazing honour and privilege to play for it through thick and thin."

"The rugby club has changed massively, from its beginnings as barely a field in Muharraq, to its second home in Saar, and now the wonderful, booming facility in Janabiya."

"I'd like to say a big thank you to the club, Andy Walsh – the captain of the Golden Oldies – and all my fellow teammates."

"People think we're complete lunatics. Fat, balding and should know better ... and they're completely right! But it's a great thing to be involved with as you make great friends for life."

As for what's next, Crosse expects Eiblin to drag him along to Pilates or yoga classes to keep fit, but he will still support his veteran buddies on match days. Indeed, now that games are being live streamed on social media, he is angling for a

It's time to pack it all in



GOING STRONG: Crosse in action and, right, flashback to the original BRFC team in 1976



commentator's job. Current rugby club chairman, Mike Cunningham, had some kind

words for both Crosse and Wilson. He said: "It's been a privilege to have played with

both of these legends of the club over the years. Crosse has played for practically every senior team we've put

out at some stage, and almost 45 years of service is an incredible legacy in any form.

"Not only that, but both guys have been outstanding servants off the field as well as on it. Whether it's fundraising, social events or community projects, they've had a hand in them all. Wilson in particular has organised numerous tournaments in support of the Cancer Warriors, something we are most proud of."

"On behalf of the club, I wish both of them the very best in the future and will be delighted to see them continue to be upstanding members."

● On May 2, once again the DHL Barbarians will be vying for the trophy when they take on Bahrain Select during DHL's annual memorial rugby match. DHL's 10th annual memorial game pays tribute to the DHL colleagues who lost their lives whilst working in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2008.

To honour their memory, members of DHL's rugby team from across the world have been flying into Bahrain every year since 2009 to take part in the match and help raise funds in support of local charities.

The match will kick-off at the rugby club at 7pm.

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Motor Sport

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

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

HISTORY-MAKING
Bahrain-based
race ace Martyna
Ewa Al-Qassab is
trumpeting the remarkable motorsport journey of a pioneering driver from Saudi Arabia who is building up a successful racing career of her own.

Reema Juffali recently made her F4 British Championship Circuit debut at the legendary Brands Hatch Indy track in England.

"I am glad to see such a great step toward more women from the region being represented in motor sport on a global scale," said Al-Qassab.

"It's not only a great success for the Saudi national joining F4 but an inspiration for all women from the region that all things are possible, as long as we set our minds on a goal."

"She is a very dedicated individual and we all could learn from her. Women in this region have been inspiring me for many years and I'm personally very happy for Reema."

Juffali, 27, kicked off her racing career just 10 months ago in the United Arab Emirates when she started racing on local circuits there.

She then left her financial services job in Dubai behind to test her mettle on the world's race tracks.

Given that women were not allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia until last June, sitting in the cockpit of a single-seater race car was an accomplishment few may have predicted for a Saudi woman.

Juffali took her first competitive laps last October behind the wheel of a Toyota GT86 road car at a TRD 86 Cup race at Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina Circuit. She grabbed two class podiums and won her first race there in December.

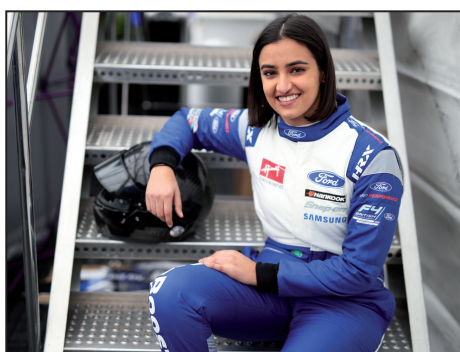
She then segued to single-seater racing in India's MRF Challenge, making her debut earlier this year at the season finale in Chennai. In addition to joining the MRF Challenge, Juffali continued competing in the TRD 86 Cup where she now leads the Silver category and currently holds third place overall.

"All the guys are quite welcoming," Juffali said of her competitors in the lead-up to the weekend of racing at Brands Hatch.

Women in the hotseat



ON TRACK: Juffali in action and, below, from left, all geared up and, right, Al-Qassab



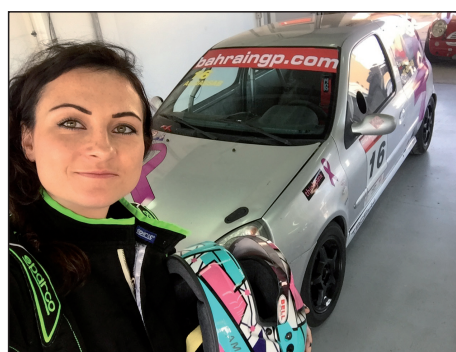
She then joined Double R Racing to compete in the UK-based F4 British Championship Circuit that launched at Brands Hatch on April 6-7 and will conclude at the same venue on October 12-13.

The F4 British Championship, certified by the FIA, comprises 10 races around the UK, with the first and last race weekends of the season taking place at Brands Hatch. She placed 12th, 9th and 11th respectively.

Juffali said: "I went into the weekend with certain goals in mind and I managed to achieve them, so I'm very happy about that. I finished all three races and even scored some points."

"In terms of being from Saudi Arabia, it's such a great thing for me to do and represent my country and it's a good time in Saudi to be doing such a thing and all the support I've received from friends, family – even people I don't even know – has been fantastic and it's only been pushing me to do better."

Meanwhile, things continue to hot up on the tracks in Saudi Arabia too. Reem Al Aboud, 19, completed a series of test laps around the track before the start of the Formula E competition in Ad Diriyah, last December. And, Aseel Al Hamad also took a lap in a Renault F1 car before the start of the French Grand Prix.



Al-Qassab, the founder and managing director of Yalla Banat (let's go girls), a campaign created to help connect, inspire and empower women from across the region, was launched after women were given the green light to drive in Saudi Arabia. She even drove over the causeway bridge to congratulate the first female drivers.

Al-Qassab is best known for becoming the first woman in the history of Bahrain International Circuit's 2000cc Challenge to step on to the podium and securing a third place finish in her silver Renault Clio.

The Polish business development executive

continues to race ahead having won the last three rounds in this season's Novice category. The last round of the season will be staged on Friday.

Al-Qassab added: "There are many initiatives globally that are now focusing on women drivers, an example of FIA's Girls on Track initiative or W Series providing a platform for skills development but we would like to see more women in all motorsport-related activities – whether as a drivers, engineers or team principles."

"We're very proud of Reema. And, of course, Emirati Amna Qubaisi last year joined the Formula E testing programme. I will be

cheering for more women joining them soon."

The W Series aims to help women reach Formula 1. Organisers believe that it will allow women to compete with men on equal terms with the same opportunity and training. The W Series six-round championship is set to start next month and is being backed by former F1 driver David Coulthard and Red Bull design chief Adrian Newey.

The last female to start an F1 Grand Prix was Lella Lombardi in 1976 and she scored half a point in her 12 F1 races. The 1976 Austrian GP – which she finished 12th – remains the last time men were joined by a woman on the starting grid.

In the two decades which followed Lombardi's F1 career, three female drivers – Britain's Divina Galica, the Olympic Skier turned racer, South Africa's Desire Wilson and, at three GPs in 1992, Italy's Giovanna Amati – all attempted, but failed, to qualify.

And, 22 years passed before a female even took to the track in a practice session. Susie Wolff, the former DTM driver and wife of Mercedes boss, Toto, was given her chance by Williams after two years as a development driver. She competed in four practice sessions over 2014 and 2015.

Carmen Jorda has been an F1 development driver, first at Lotus and then at Renault. Simona Silvestro and the late Maria de Villota also tested F1 machinery, but there hasn't been a woman in an official test session since Wolff.

Tatiana Calderon is the only female affiliated to an F1 team as a Sauber test driver and she has been competing in the GP3 series for the last two years. Jamie Chadwick has also made history as she became the first female driver to win a race in British Formula 3 earlier this year – and she already has a British GT Championship under her belt.

Sophia Floersch is also racing in European Formula 3 alongside drivers such as Mick Schumacher and Dan Ticktum.

OLE might be at the wheel, as the song goes, but the wheels are starting to come off rapidly.

Jose Mourinho might have been accused of parking the bus ... but at least he didn't crash it!

This might be an unfair assessment of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's current plight as Manchester United boss. Whilst he enjoyed three months of bliss, riding a wave of positivity as United went on a long run of consecutive victories, including that wonderful miracle in Paris, the team seems to have reverted to type.

Sunday's defeat at Everton was simply abject. They were outplayed from the first whistle in terms of technical ability and desire. Most tellingly, they were outrun by more than 8km by their opponents, which is simply unacceptable for Manchester United.

The 4-0 thrashing was the worst defeat of the season, and the sixth loss from the last eight games (their worst run since 1989) to leave the Red Devils marooned in sixth place in the Premier League.

United did not have an attempt on target until the 86th minute and Solskjaer strode over to the singing away supporters at full-time to apologise for the shellacking.

Certain players led a quick getaway, with Paul Pogba the first down the tunnel, though Scott McTominay and Diogo Dalot stayed out and held their hands up apologetically.

When asked if he had seen enough hurt to be confident the players care enough, Solskjaer paused and eventually said: "I don't know. You've got to ask them."

"I've asked them, you're not going to get the answer from me. But, of course, if you want to play at this club it has to mean more. I've said this as well, I want them to be the hardest-working

So close and yet so far



ECSTASY AND THE AGONY: Everton's Lucas Digne, left, celebrates scoring against Manchester United with teammate Seamus Coleman, below left, an apologetic Ole Solskjaer and, right, Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang looks on as Crystal Palace players celebrate



team in the league, that's what we were under Sir Alex Ferguson, that's what we were, what we've always been ... Ryan Giggs, David Beckham, Gary Neville, Denis Irwin, whoever you were.

"No matter the level of talent you've got, you ran more than everyone, every single week, and put a shift up and down that pitch for your teammates and we have to stick together as a team."

Body language tells you a lot about a team and it was obvious what kind

of performance was to be expected even after five minutes.

United have got a lot of talented players but, right from the start they showed no heart, no desire and no will to win. They were woeful.

Everyone was guilty. Even Marcus Rashford, who has got one of the best attitudes of anyone at the club, got sucked in by what seems to be a vacuum of negativity.

It was the kind of half-hearted display you might expect to see right at the end of the season from a team

that have not had a great time of things and do not have anything to play for.

It is Solskjaer's job to motivate them, but sometimes that's an impossible job. Numerous players seem more bothered about how many social media followers they have than how they perform on the pitch.

It also remains that United simply lack real quality.

How many of their players would get into the starting XI of their other Premier League rivals? David de Gea – who himself has been fairly shaky this season – is one.

Paul Pogba? When he can be bothered, definitely. Marcus Rashford perhaps on his best day, but aside from that there is a severe lack of world

class talent which a club like United should possess.

What makes up for lack of talent?

Effort. Desire. Working hard.

Luckily for United, none of their other rivals seem to want to finish in the Top 4 either. Spurs can be forgiven for losing to Manchester City, but Arsenal slumped to a defeat at home to Crystal Palace and Chelsea are prone to dropping points in winnable games too.

There's still a chance for United with Manchester City and Chelsea still to play, but it will take another of Ole's miracles to steer this club from sliding further off the cliff.

Root and branch changes

are needed, not only in terms of a good bunch of players who need shifting out but at board level too. A director of football is essential, and a footballing brain should be in charge of footballing matters, not former banker Ed Woodward who is outstanding on the financial and marketing side of things but sorely lacking when it comes to the pitch matters.

United have a chance to prove their critics wrong tonight when they face rivals Manchester City in a fierce local derby, but as a cruel twist of fate, that would possibly hand the title to even more hated adversaries, Liverpool.

I'm not saying I want Man City to win, but ...



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TOP OF THE LEAGUE FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORT

April 24 - 30, 2019



VETERAN STARS:
Crosse and Wilson



POSITIVE COACH: Haque

Cricketers set for challenge

BAHRAIN'S U19s national cricket team is hoping to knock the competition for six as it strides out into the middle for a prestigious competition today.

The ACC U19 Western Region Tournament is being staged in the UAE and will run until May 2.

Bahrain will be competing as one of eight teams at the competition and have been placed in a group alongside the hosts, Iran and Saudi Arabia. The other group consists of Kuwait, Maldives, Oman and Qatar.

The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals. Each team will play the others in their pool in 50-over round-robin matches.

Under the watchful eyes of head coach Azeem Ul Haque the players have been honing their skills at regular training sessions at the Cricket Bahrain Association's ground at Alba Club. Coca Cola has sponsored the team's training accessories.

"The boys have been working hard and go into the tournament with confidence," Ul Haque added.

GOLDEN OLDIES

ONE of the Bahrain Rugby Football Club's greatest stalwarts bowed out of competitive action in style after claiming his 150th cap for the institution's veteran team.

Jonty Crosse has played for the Bahrain Golden Oldies for more than 20 years and signed off his career with a 24-14 win over Khobar RFC.

Crosse, a hooker, is considered a man of great stature within the rugby club, having played his first game for Bahrain in 1975 while he was still at school



EXCLUSIVE
By KRISTIAN HARRISON
kristian@gulfweekly.com

in the UK. Since then, he has represented the first, second and veteran teams, as well as other iterations which are no longer active.

"I turned 60 in November, so I promised my wife, Eibhlin, that I'd stop," Crosse said.

"The law of averages in rugby says that you'll get hurt eventually, and especially at my age, the aches and pains start to add up. Eibhlin was starting to dread me playing every time, but I wanted to eke out

my career to retire after my 150th cap as it's a milestone I'm extremely proud of.

"It was fitting to bow out playing a team I know and respect and who I've played against many times over the years."

Another player heading off to sporting retirement is prop Sal Wilson, who earned his 100th Golden Oldies cap in the same match.

He holds the record for the oldest player to represent the Bahrain first team, at 50 years old, and has contributed enormously to the rugby club's Cancer Warriors team who raise

awareness for male cancers and offer advice and support to sufferers and their families.

Both Crosse and Wilson put in excellent performances on Friday as they signed off in style. Afterwards, the two contributed generously to a social event for both teams and guests.

As well as his contributions on the field, Crosse has offered a significant amount off it. During the Eighties and Nineties, he started a club called the Arabvision Revues, which were social events featuring a collection of skits and satire.

During the Gulf War, he organised 'Backs Against the Walls' parties from August 1990 to February 1991, at a time when tensions in the region were high and a heavy number of expat families left the island. Of those that stayed, more than 750 guests attended these festivities as a way to relax and make friends in troubling times.

Such gatherings founded the club's reputation as a good place to hang out, leading to the present day where it is regarded as much a social hub as it is a sporting centre.

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