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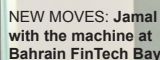


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Basket is the brainchild of founding entrepreneur Jamal Al Mutawa, a technologist, highly-regarded telecom professional, Bitcoin investor and blockchain authority. "I believe it (the ATM) will become common," he said, "once more adoption takes hold and shops and commercial establishments realise how useful it is since it is person-to-person with no intermediate, coins received are immediate with no clearing period, and fees are minimal compared to



other established payment networks.

"I see changes and developments in the cryptocurrency world very similar to the time when the internet became mainstream and popular.

"A lot of very smart people are building platforms and

providing solutions that a few years back would be considered impossible. As an example of one of many, a new innovation using Bitcoin and other similar coins is the *Lightning* network.

“This allows you to pay very small amounts almost immediately. One use for this is that there would be no need for a person to subscribe to a video service like *Netflix*

with a monthly fee. Instead you pay as much as has been consumed – if it was five minutes of a film, you'd pay just for that.”

The ATM development created a storm of interest across social media as soon as details were outlined by a Bahrain FinTech Bay executive on *LinkedIn*.

The reaction was overwhelmingly positive

with one top banker describing the move as 'revolutionary' and suggesting it would contribute further to the 'development, awareness and acceptance of the crypto-eco system'. A communications specialist simply said 'proud' and a payments & cards products manager described it as 'such a beautiful machine'.



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Help at hand



GULFWEEKLY is urging its readers to open their hearts and lend a helping hand this holy month by volunteering to package food from five-star hotels as part of its Spirit of Ramadan appeal, writes **Mai Al Khatib-Camille**.

Bahrain's campaigning community newspaper has teamed up with Mumtalakat, the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, to support The Conserving Bounties Society's annual call to provide food packages for underprivileged families and labourers.

Suha Matar, head of communications and public affairs, said: "We launched the Spirit of Ramadan programme and campaign last year in Mumtalakat to bring together our staff in the spirit of the holy month in support of the wider community."

"We are conscious that the other side of the coin, with respect to our company mandate to generate wealth, is to address hunger. Hence, we partnered with the Conserving Bounties Society who have been established since 2014 to help collect and redistribute food to the needy and underprivileged in Bahrain."

Since its launch, the non-profit organisation that acts as a food bank has assisted more than 300 families and 3,000 labourers.



While the Society is run by a team of 16 big-hearted individuals, they could use all the help they can get.

"The Society collects leftover food that would otherwise go to waste from five-star hotels and supermarkets in Bahrain throughout the year," added Suha. "However, it needs as many volunteers as possible to help aid the venture."

"Our staff and group annual award-winners are coming together this year in support of this initiative by joining the Society representatives after iftar and suhoor to collect and package leftover foods from hotels including The Sheraton Bahrain Hotel, the Movenpick Hotel Bahrain, ART Rotana Amwaj Islands and Downtown Rotana, which are then distributed in the country."

The Society has also linked up with Lulu Hypermarket and Alosra.

GulfWeekly's Mai Al Khatib-Camille and her husband, Sam, had joined Suha and her daughters, Nada, 18, a University of British Columbia computer science student, and Hana, 12, a St Christopher's School student, at the Sheraton Bahrain Hotel to package food after iftar.

"Both this year and last, my daughters joined me and it's been a good experience for them as they have to think about food wastage and how best to conserve their own food and consider others," explained Suha.

Waleed Al Marah, one of the Society's volunteers and delivery drivers, was also on hand to guide his food packaging team of five. They



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for the cause



load the vans, which have been donated for the cause by local companies, to distribute the food parcels on the same night.

Waleed, 33, who has been volunteering from the start, said: "As soon as I receive a call from a hotel, or a venue, to pick up food – be it after a wedding ceremony or another special occasion – I'm there! I must have picked up around 1,200 boxes of food from different hotels."

All the donations follow internationally-recognised health and safety standards to ensure they are clear to be distributed safely.

Cristalyn Pastrana, cluster director of marketing of the Sheraton Bahrain Hotel, The Westin City Centre Bahrain and Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain, said: "We have been supporting the cause

throughout the last couple of years. We give them a call every time we stage a big wedding or event which results in lots of leftover food from the buffet.

"During Ramadan, the volunteers come on a daily basis to collect items from our iftar buffet. I think initiatives like this help us all be more responsible. It reduces food wastage and gives something back to the community."

Before beginning the packaging process, the team of volunteers donned crisp, clean white coats featuring the Society's emblem, as well as gloves, medical face masks and hair nets.

The food, which featured buffet trays of untouched Harees, fresh salad, ouzi, chicken and other saucy dishes, was packaged into clear containers and labelled

with a safety message to the consumer.

More than 60 boxes were collected and packed into crates on Thursday night that were then rolled out of the hotel on a trolley and loaded into the van.

Individuals or an organisation that has surplus food during the holy month and would like to help should contact the society on 33499499 for more details.

The Spirit of Ramadan campaign aims to also provide meals to children in need around the world through the smartphone application, *ShareTheMeal*, designed to fight global hunger through the UN World Food Programme (WFP). *ShareTheMeal*, which features more than 920,000 downloads and 17 million meals shared as of November 2017, enables users to make small donations to specific WFP projects and to track its progress.

The ongoing projects provide meals for children in Syria, Palestine, India and refugee camps across the globe.

● *GulfWeekly readers have a chance to ensure Spirit of Ramadan makes its own mark throughout the holy month and beyond. Follow #Mumtalakat4BH for more details.*

● *Download the ShareTheMeal app from AppStore or GooglePlay and join #Mumtalakat4BH team.*

● *Check out Mai and the gang, pictured, in action by placing your smartphone over the QR Code.*



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New 'dome' sets the style

THE Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain has merged the past with the present as the five-star property has revealed its first Ramadan tent with a traditional under-the-stars throwback fused with the best of modern engineering.

The kingdom's newest resort property in Seef is staging iftar and ghabga feasts in its stylish transparent dome as it continues to establish itself as a hospitality heavyweight.

The dome took almost three weeks to construct by a 42-strong team, with a total team of 85 people working on the project at Design



HOSPITALITY REPORT
By KRISTIAN HARRISON
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Creative for the past four months.

Project manager Jalal Mohammed said: "We wanted guests to feel like they're outside but still protected from the elements inside. Most tents are enclosed but we really wanted to follow the tradition of being 'under the stars'."

"Our mandate was to bring the hotel inside the dome. You can see everything all around – the villas, the sea, the people. We're proud of what we have achieved."

The benefits of the dome include excellent

aerodynamics. Wind noise is almost non-existent thanks to the high ceiling and steep curves, so none of the communal atmosphere or art of conversation is lost.

Another major advantage of the design is the temperature control. Because of the height of the dome, it acts as a vacuum for the rising hot air, which is released through triangular vents on the roof, whilst cold air remains lower down. Once the air conditioning is turned on, the temperature is fully regulated within five minutes.

Design Creative managing director Raouf Nasser said: "We really covered every base when it comes to the dome. There are no columns



COOL AND INVITING: The entrance to Jumeirah Royal Saray's Al Saraya Tent and, below, the interior of the dome, Imran, a mighty Merc, and Raouf and Jalal

at all in the tent to allow as much space as possible and the infrastructure is so strong that everything is hanged from the ceiling including a 200kg star.

"There are three emergency exits and the material of the dome shell is completely fireproof."

The buffet itself is concentrated in the centre area with seating around it in a circle, a deliberate feature to minimise disruption with people milling around between tables.

As well as normal seating areas, there are enclosed private tables for families who want more privacy and also traditional Arabic seating on cushions. Live entertainment including oud players and contemporary singers will feature throughout the month.

At night, the dome is lit with

purple lighting which bounces off the mostly white fixtures flecked with gold pattern.

The hotel's marketing manager, Melissa Lalande, said: "In terms of the design, we picked white, purple and gold because they are the Jumeirah signature colours and lends a royal feel."

"It was somewhat of a risk to 'go different' and have everything white rather than bright and bold colours, but we felt it offers a relaxing, comfortable vibe which is very important after a day of fasting."

"Not only that, but all of the design patterns are consistent throughout, from the tables to the ceiling hangings. No effort has been spared."

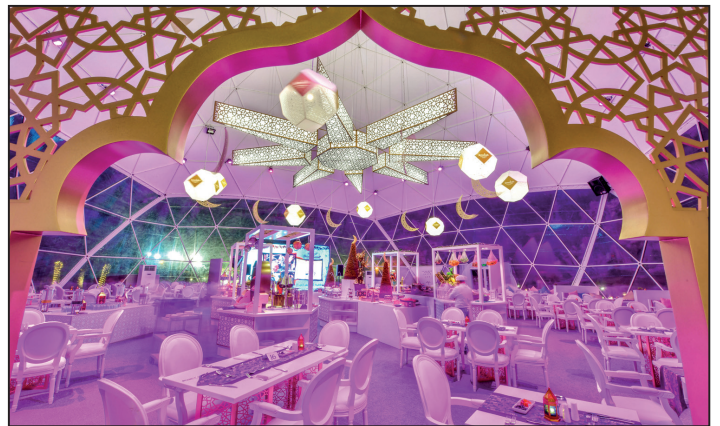
"It's our first year doing the tent and it's important to learn as we go along as we want to do this for years to

come. We're improving it day by day."

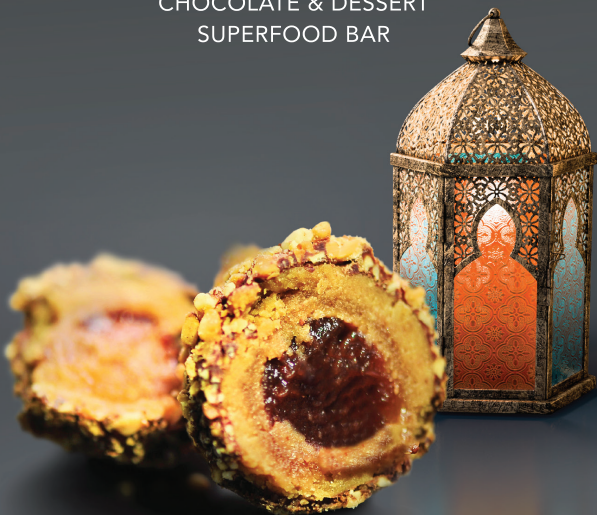
The Ramadan dome is sponsored by Mercedes this year, something Imran Ali, the marketing manager for the German marque's dealers Al Haddad Motors, is proud of. "Mercedes as a brand believes that the Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain is an excellent location to be associated with," he said.

"We have a Ramadan offer which includes voucher for iftar at Jumeriah and so it seemed natural to collaborate with them. Guests can check out a variety of our models which will be parked outside the tent throughout the month."

● Check out GulfWeekly next week to read Editor Stan's Eating Out review for the new Jumeirah dome and its fare.




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Marathon joy for navy boys

RUNNING BUDDIES Donald Wells and Joseph Lopez have successfully completed a marathon to raise funds and awareness for a special military charity, The Navy Special Operations Foundation.

The dynamic American duo travelled back stateside to compete in the Potomac River Run Marathon & Half Marathon, staged alongside the 184-mile-long Chesapeake and Ohio canals that stretch all the way from the tidal basin in Washington, DC to the mountains of western Maryland.

Donald, 48, a Washington native who works in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department at the Naval Support Activity (NSA) base in Bahrain, teamed up with Joseph, who is originally from Tampa, Florida.

Donald, who lives in Juffair, said: "The trail was dirt and rock, so it was puddles and mud which was not ideal for our first marathon. But knowing that all the work we have done was going to help so many extraordinary people in their time of need, helped to push me to go further!"

He's been pals with Joseph, 22, a diver who used to be based in Bahrain but is currently stationed in Japan, for around three years. "I'm ecstatic to have completed the marathon and be able to work closely with the Navy Special Operations Foundation as they are a remarkable foundation providing assistance for remarkable men and women."

This marathon (42.195km or 26.219 miles) is only open to a total of 350 entrants and both men completed the challenge in respectable times and managed to raise around BD3,384 (\$9,000) for their cause whilst running in 19 degrees in pounding rain over most of the course. Donald finished in 6:30 in 168th place and Joseph achieved an impressive time of 4:30 and finished 86th.

The Navy Special Operations Foundation ensures that those working



COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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in the field and their families are provided with all the tools necessary to overcome any challenges they may face and let them know that they are 'never alone'.

It was founded in memory of senior chief explosive ordnance disposal technician (EOD) Scott Dayton and all his brothers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defence of their nation. It was formed by active or former members and their spouses that understand, through experience, what the families and operators need and how to persevere through the most difficult circumstances.

Donald, a former director of the NFL Washington Redskins Cheerleaders, who has been living in Bahrain for the past five years, added: "This charity helps NAVY EOD and divers in many areas. It ensures that those who have selflessly served within the Navy Special Operations community are connected for life, and that they are never neglected or forgotten."

"This was our first full marathon. I did run a half marathon in January with the Bahrain Road Runners as preparation and it was a great experience, while Joseph also finished a half marathon in Japan."

"We also wanted to further push ourselves. This marathon showed us, that at any age, if you are training consistently, then you can achieve anything you put your mind to do. It's also helped build our bond as friends to stick to a running programme even though we are now far apart in two different countries."

Joseph, who enjoyed a two-year spell in Bahrain, has

always enjoyed swimming and running. Donald, however, has never really run before. He only started training and jogging around 1.5km last August and soon become a well-known figure running around Juffair and as the months went on his distances increased.

Their long-distance schedule included at least three runs a week, one over a 20-mile (32km) distance plus two shorter runs over 45 and 90 minutes.

"The running has been great with so many paths to find around Juffair and I'm thankful for those places," Donald said. "I always hated running but learned to do it. So anyone who says they can't do it, I'm proof that you can!"

Joseph's mother, Rennis, said: "He's always been a good runner so that's no surprise to me, but seeing him work so hard to help others was a great thing."

Donald's mother Mary was stunned at how hard he worked to achieve his goal. "He has worked so hard to run a marathon for the first time and at 48," said Mary. "I was worried but am so proud of his dedication."

The determined duo also staged fundraising events for the good cause including a Joseph & Donald Run A Marathon Party at Big Texas Barbeque & Waffle House at the Best Western Plus-The Olive Hotel in Juffair which featured a silent auction, karaoke, food and beverages and other activities.

"We have managed to raise thousands of dollars for the foundation in the last week of events and from online donations," said Donald.

● Those interested in supporting them further can visit @joseph.donaldrunamarathon on Instagram.



CHALLENGE ACCOMPLISHED: Donald and Joseph celebrate after completing the run and, below, holding T-shirts featuring the charity's name

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6. Libby's fruit cocktail 3x420gm – BD1.833

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3. Juice OG black cherry blend – BD2.600
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Alosra Supermaket

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2. Broccoli per kg – BD1.195
3. BFree wheat and gluten free sweet potato wraps 252gm – BD2.250
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5. Mushrooms Holland 250gm – 655fils
6. Nescafe gold premium blend 200gm – BD3.995

Our cases of good fortune

GRAPHIC designer Nujood Al Mahmood has once again created a series of cool carriers featuring cartoon characters on multi-shaped cases full of goodies to help celebrate one of Bahrain's most cherished dates on the calendar, writes Mai Al Khatib-Camille.

Children from across the kingdom are all set to sparkle and shine in sequined jalabiyas and cotton white thobes on Sunday and Monday as part of the Gergaoun candy-gathering tradition.

Gergaoun, usually celebrated on either the 13th, 14th or 15th of the Islamic calendar month of Ramadan, and traditionally the smart youngsters visit homes in the neighbourhood receive sweet treats.

The demand for her goodies continues to soar and this year



her tins have taken the shape of old TV sets, yellow school buses and money boxes.

"The boxes have brought joy to thousands of children over the years so I wanted to

do something a little different this time," said Nujood, 28, from Muharraq. "Old is gold, so I thought of designing the new collection in the shapes of old TVs and buses to make

it more memorable and fun. That way the new generation will know what their parents experienced during their childhood.

"I designed the TV because

it reminds me of the 1980s and 1990s when we used to watch Ramadan shows together and, as for the bus, children would hop on and sing songs on their way to gatherings.

"The money bank idea hopefully teaches children to be charitable and give as well as to count their blessings during the holy month.

"It's always exciting to see children's reactions to the new designs. I wish everyone a happy Ramadan and Gergaoun!"

Nujood's cool carriers, full of nuts, candies, chocolates

and crisps, often feature her distinctive cartoon characters of smiling children on them.

The TV boxes are being picked up for BD2 each full of treats and the container on its own costs BD1.800 from her sister Nahla Al Mahmood's chocolate, flower, wedding and events planning boutique, LalaBella located in Moda Mall and in Qalali. The bus is priced BD1.900 with treats and BD1.700 without. The money bank costs BD2 with items inside, and BD1.800 without.

To find out more, follow @angie_arts.

Shoppers making a difference at mall

CITY Centre Bahrain is once again collaborating with the Bahrain Islamic Association to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate by encouraging people to donate during Ramadan.

Make A Difference, now in its 13th year, is mall owner Majid Al Futtaim's annual initiative aimed at spreading the message of kindness and empathy.

Duajj Al Rumaihi, senior mall manager, City Centre Bahrain, said: "We hope that this year even more residents and tourists open their hearts and embrace the spirit of giving and generously donate to

families in need this Ramadan."

A donation station will be located next to Gate 4 on the ground floor and shoppers are invited to donate 'gently used' clothes, books, toys and non-perishable food items. All donated and collected goods will



be distributed through the charity's distribution channels.

Plans are also in place for City Centre Bahrain's Gergaoun annual celebrations, tomorrow. In conjunction with the Ministry of Social Development, the mall will host the popular ceremony where children dress up in traditional clothes and go around receiving sweets while singing songs. The colourful event will feature traditional games, songs, mascots and young guests will receive Gergaoun 'goodie bags' offered by City Centre Bahrain and its retailers.



FinTechFocus

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



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From Page 1

Anyone can use the ATM once they have gone through the registration process of 'taking a selfie', providing their mobile number and being approved. "Your crypto coins are referenced using a crypto wallet, usually in the form of a mobile app, the wallet accesses the blockchain and sees how many crypto coins you own," Jamal explained. "Cash / paper bills are used to buy these crypto coins and vice versa, crypto coins can be sold to the machine and cash is paid out by the ATM."

Jamal describes cryptocurrencies today as a form of 'digital gold' where owners keep their money in a manner that is 'always available' to them.

"It is also used for speculation, it can be used for remittances and transfers and is very easy and reliable and low cost," he said. "It is possible to use it for online commerce and more and more e-commerce sites see the benefits and are adopting it."

For the uninitiated, a cryptocurrency is a digital asset designed to work as a medium of exchange that uses strong cryptography to secure financial transactions, control the creation of additional units, and verify the transfer of assets.

Although he lives in Kuwait, Jamal considers Bahrain as his 'second home' as he lived here for a few years during his past work with Zain Group. "I came to Bahrain with my Crypto ATM project because they welcome new initiatives in FinTech similar to mine and have a very robust and comprehensive approval roadmap for these projects."

Jamal, a former business support systems / operations support systems director at Zain Group, said that although his new business was still in the Central Bank of Bahrain's 'sandbox process', he is confident that once the bank sees the operation as 'competent and following the conditions set forth by the CBB', Basket will be allowed to operate in Bahrain.

Basket S.P.C. is a 'Bahraini company' he said, adding: "Our aim primarily is to roll out and manage Crypto ATMs in Bahrain, and expand wherever the regulatory environment is friendly and welcoming in the MENA region."

"We will also include more

Start coining it in!



NEW ATM: The machine gives Jamal, below, a receipt for a transaction



coins on our ATMs, including local currencies when they become digital."

The move has delighted the crypto-pioneers at Bahrain FinTech Bay. CEO Khalid Saad said: "Basket is currently testing their solution under the Central Bank of Bahrain's Regulatory Sandbox. This is a great addition to Bahrain's growing crypto ecosystem."

Bahrain FinTech Bay recently celebrated its first anniversary confident it can continue accelerating local early-stage FinTech companies to their next stage of development, as well as attracting foreign 'growth-stage' FinTech companies to Bahrain.



Since its launch, to date, it has attracted 75 local and international partners, eight venture acceleration platform partners and published several in-depth market ecosystem reports.

After successfully creating a physical hub located at Bahrain Bay for co-creation and the sharing of resources and ideas, it has ambitious plans to attract even more young FinTech brains into the arena.

As reported in *FinTech Focus*, The CBB has granted a number of licenses under the sandbox regulation framework in the kingdom, setting the stage for much-awaited acceptance by regulators, banks and currency exchange houses in the region that have been weary of transacting with digital currencies.

A regulatory sandbox is a framework and process that facilitates the development

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

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

Whilst in the regulatory sandbox, companies are required to adhere to CBB regulations including Know Your Customer, Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism, as well as follow appropriate

disclosure, protection and compensation requirements related to their customers.

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

A short-lived unofficial Crypto ATM is believed to have been set up in Dubai back in 2014 but was unlicensed and closed down. That is why Bahrain can proudly boast 'the only live one in the region' and under the framework of the regulator. "These ATMs will grow in popularity down the road," Khalid also predicted.

In fact, the number of crypto ATMs installed worldwide

has surged past the 4,000 mark, data from industry statistics aggregator *Coin ATM Radar* indicated earlier this year.

Around 70 per cent are located in North America, 23 per cent are in Europe, and 2.6 per cent in Asia. 1.3 and 1.1 per cent are in Oceania and South America respectively, and just 0.2 per cent are located in Africa.

Within Asia, Hong Kong has the lion's share of them – accounting for 0.8 per cent of machines worldwide – while in Europe it is Austria (6.4 per cent), closely followed by the UK (4.8 per cent).

While the vast majority support Bitcoin (BTC) – 99.9 per cent, or 4,162 – 64.6 per cent support one or more altcoins.

These break down to 59.5 per cent support for Litecoin (LTC), 49.3 per cent support for Ethereum (ETH) and 33.9 per cent support for Bitcoin Cash (BCH). Dash (DASH) is supported by 17.9 per cent of ATMs, while Monero (XMR), Dogecoin (DOGE) and ZCash (ZEC) are each supported by three per cent or less.

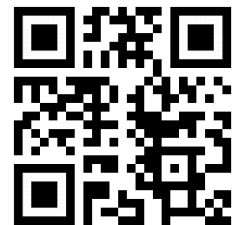
Conspicuously absent from *Coin ATM Radar's* global statistics is India. Last November, the developers of the country's first Bitcoin ATM were arrested in the city of Bangalore under criminal charges due to its ATM label, as the machine was not strictly an ATM but a device that aimed to allow crypto-users to circumvent banking channels.

The arrests came after the Reserve Bank of India's spring 2018 prohibition on banks' dealings with crypto-related firms.

Earlier this month, *Cointelegraph* reported that Bitcoin ATM manufacturer Lamassu has relocated to Switzerland, due to regulatory difficulties in other countries.

For more details, follow @basketbahrain on Instagram

● Watch Jamal using the Crypto ATM by placing your smart phone over the QR Code.



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CRYPTOCURRENCY, broadly defined, is virtual or digital money which takes the form of tokens or 'coins'.

- Beyond that, the field of cryptocurrencies is always expanding, and the next great digital token may be released tomorrow, for all anyone in the crypto community knows.

- Bitcoin (One Bitcoin currently equals BD2,261)

continues to lead the pack of cryptocurrencies, in terms of market capitalisation, user base, and popularity. Satoshi Nakamoto is the name used by the unknown person or group of people who developed it, authored the white paper and created and deployed its original reference implementation. As part of the implementation, they also devised the first

blockchain database.

- Virtual currencies such as ethereum and ripple, which are being used more for enterprise solutions, are becoming popular.

- Litecoin, launched in 2011, was among the initial cryptocurrencies following bitcoin and has often been referred to as 'silver to bitcoin's gold'. It was created by Charlie

Lee, an MIT graduate and former Google engineer. Although Litecoin is like Bitcoin in many ways, it has a faster block generation rate and hence offers a faster transaction confirmation. Other than developers, there are a growing number of merchants who accept it. As of February 9, Litecoin has a per token value of \$43.41 (around BD27,500).



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Ramadan Guide

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

THE Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's VIVA Masaya Pavilion will offer nightly iftar and ghabga buffet feasts amidst elegant décor designed by renowned designer and scenographer Ammar Basheir.

Iftar takes place from sunset to 8pm for BD32net, and ghabga from 9pm-2am for BD35net. Guests may also book one of the Pergola seating areas for BD360net and enjoy silver service for up to eight people.

For more information, visit ritzcarlton.com/bahrain, call 17586499, or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

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 carvery.

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 17115500.

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.

EXPERIENCE tradition this Ramadan at The Sheraton Bahrain Hotel with Iftar at the Awali 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

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.

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



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

AL AREEN Palace & Spa has



launched a new multi-purpose built events space for the holy month.

The freshly-constructed, luxurious Al Qasr Tent has been added adjacent to the main building and will offer both Iftar and Ghabga feasts throughout Ramadan.

Iftar is served daily from sunset to 9pm, while every night from 9pm-2am guests can enjoy a lavish and eclectic Arabian buffet for Ghabga including live cooking stations and Ramadan sweets and juices.

The Tarabeesh Band from Lebanon will provide live entertainment and there's also the chance to get lucky in the special weekly raffle prize draws.

Both meals are priced at BD18++ on weekdays and BD20++ at the weekends. Children aged six to 10 years eat for half price and those aged five and under eat free.

For more information and reservations, call 17845000.

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 7707070 or email jrsb.brasserie@jumeirah.com



DATES FOR THE DIARY

THERE will be an Indoor Car Boot Sale on May 25 at Bahrain Rugby Football Club from 2-5pm. There is a BD10 table fee for sellers in aid of Tony the Dogfather's Animal Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre. Entry costs 500filis for the cause.



CINEMA CLUB JUFAIR (TODAY)

Film: Valley of Saints
Director: Musa Syeed
Duration: 1 hr 22 mins
Cast: Gulzar Ahmed Bhat, Mohammed Afzal, Neelofar Hamid
Plot: War and poverty force Gulzar, a young tourist boatman at Dal Lake, to run away from Kashmir with his best friend. But a military crackdown derails their escape, and they become trapped in Gulzar's lake village.

Waiting for conditions to change, they discover a mysterious woman, Asifa, a scientist braving the curfew to research pollution levels in the lake. As Gulzar falls for her, rivalry and jealousy threaten his boyhood friendship and their plans of escape. Gulzar must choose between a new life and a new love.

For details, call Huda Tabbara on 39682323.



Eating Out

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



THERE is something for every member of the family to feast on and enjoy at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's opulent VIVA Masaya Pavilion this Ramadan as it boasts a bountiful buffet full of traditional Arabic cuisine and international fare.

The 40m x 40m pavilion, elegantly designed by scenographer Ammar Basheir, can accommodate 500 guests, and is situated by the resort's Seaside Villas.

The octagon-shaped venue has been split up into three dining areas and combines elements of traditional Islamic architecture with modern design to capture the ambience of a welcoming Moroccan courtyard.

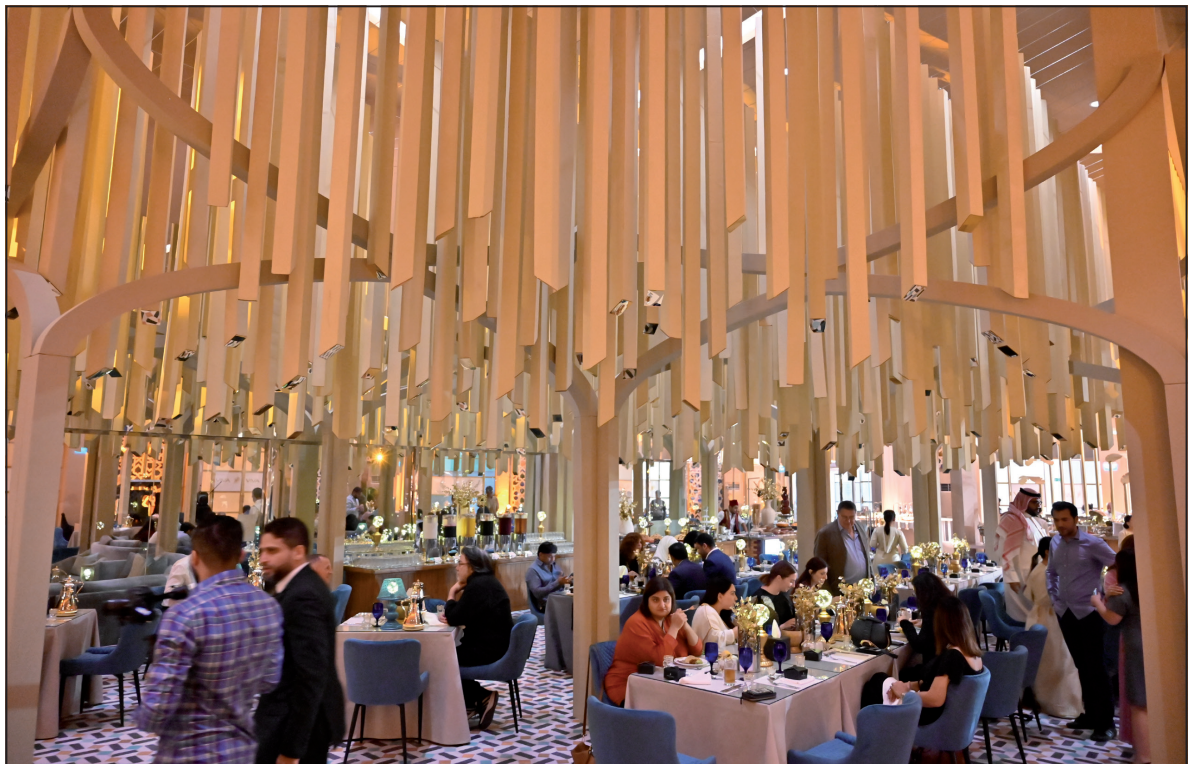
Rich hues of gold, blue and turquoise add touches of Arabesque glamour throughout, for example as centre pieces, to match the geometrically patterned walls and Moroccan-style lamps that light the way to sumptuous buffets.

Andrea Colla, the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's executive assistant manager – food & beverage, said: "This year we have a beautifully-designed pavilion representing a Moroccan courtyard which is said to provide a welcoming feeling when you enter any home. Well, this is ours and we welcome you all to our house."

Aside from the dazzling décor, the buffet equally impressed with cuisine from across the globe created by more than 30 chefs and lead by the resort's own social media sensation Executive Chef Yann Bernard Lejard.

"Anything you can think of from cuisine, you will find it in our buffet," said Andrea, *top right*. "Live stations offer great pasta, Mexican food, grills and more. Our Indian food is also fantastic and we even have an Egyptian chef baking fresh breash. We can proudly

Perfect pavilion excels



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

say we have something for everyone."

He wasn't kidding. There were more than 200 food items to choose from with those live stations carving succulent slices of seasoned meat, poultry and fish for example.

The hot and cold mezzeh station and salad section offered plenty of choice too alongside the traditional offerings of lamb ouzi, chicken

madhrouba and lamb thareed.

The Ramadan desserts were also delightful with traditional Arabic treats such as Um Ali and sweet doughy luqaimat.

There are also gourmet sweets from cheesecakes to carrot cakes and a Turkish ice cream trolley.

After breaking my fast with a sip of gahwa with Andrea, I zip-lined to the buffet to plate up. Andrea recommended the pasta and the four cheese truffle risotto was to die for!

The penne with onion, beef

bacon and tomato sauce was also tasty, as well as the sushi.

The California Maki Roll was refreshing and the Grilled Sea Bass with Potato Scales, lemon topped with a basil tomato sauce, was yummy too. The Chicken Pad Thai was spicy and a small helping of the Beef Harees proved just as memorable.

Diners can also enjoy the musical-styling of a traditional band from Lebanon while feasting. The superb singer on hand was Margo Kassari.

The iftar, from sunset to 8pm, is priced for BD32net and the ghabga, from 9pm to 2am, is priced at BD35net. Guests can also book Pergola seating areas for BD360 and enjoy silver service for up to eight guests.

● For details, contact 17586499, visit ritzcarlton.com/bahrain or email at rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com. Follow the Ramadan celebrations on Instagram @masayapavilion and hashtag

#MasayaRamadan.

● Watch Mai's interview with Andrea by scanning the QR code below.



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Fashion Weekly

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

Jalal's timely tips on the latest trends



AT FIRST sight, the new special edition is a beautiful marriage between avant-garde design and traditional métiers d'arts, which become evident in the dial sophisticatedly decorated with guilloché by hand.

The wave-like pattern is crafted onto the dial in the House of Chronoswiss in Lucerne by means of an ancient rose-engine lathe, and afterwards galvanised blue.

The unusual and intricately designed day/night dome

display at the 9 o'clock position is another thing to catch the eye. It was embedded in a half-dome and given a gleaming metallic look with titanium.

The stars on the night side even glow in the dark thanks to their Super-LumiNova coating. The luminous white material on the hands and indexes also significantly helps to ensure optimum legibility at night. The day side is a lighter shade of blue. The dial design alone comprises a total of 19 parts.

In terms of colour, the new

limited edition focusses on the elegant combination of blue and silver, complemented by a stainless steel case. The limited edition numbers of the 50 timepieces are meticulously painted by hand on the bottom of the day/night display.

Alongside the latter, the Flying Regulator Night and Day also features a three-day date display at the 3 o'clock position. At the 6 o'clock position, the dial reveals some intense insights. Here, Chronoswiss has artfully

uncovered the seconds wheel, on which the funnel-shaped scale draws the gaze almost hypnotically. The day/night display and date are easy to set using the crown.

Apart from the limited edition, three further designs are available in the collection: elegant red gold combined with a matte black galvanised dial, or a sporty stainless steel case with a blue or silver dial. Whatever your choice, you can count on a reliable timepiece at any time of the day or night.



Looking modestly vibrant

PARISIAN fashion house Weill's has created a modestly vibrant collection for Ramadan to help women celebrate the holy month in style.

The brand's creative director, Mathilde Castello Branco, who has been captivating fashion lovers with a series of colourful, light and airy designs, has pieced together a wardrobe combining classic cuts with several mix-and-match items to keep wardrobes looking



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

fresh and vibrant.

The trends for this year's modest collection includes pleated skirts, overskirts for evening dresses and flowing numbers in bright eye-catching colours. It's time to lower those hemlines ladies and add some give to fitted dresses.

The label's Spring Summer 2019 Ramadan Edition features many of the upcoming trends as well as

touches of tweed and bold patterns.

The line features long billowy or pleated skirts in stripes, floral prints and dramatic designs. Buttons, ties and bows add emphasis to skirts, tops and dresses. Pair belts with long shirts worn over skirts for an edgier look.

There is also the chance to keep it simple by throwing on a long or mid-sleeved dress where the necklines are high and the hemlines are not.



Eating Out

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

AFTER deciding to fast during the Holy Month of Ramadan, mainly as a test of willpower and as a weight-loss mechanism, satiating my hunger is now the highlight of my day.

And, although I now cook for myself at home with culinary tips picked up from numerous *Eating Out* reviews, I had yet to sample the authentic experience of iftar in full this year. Thankfully, the Sheraton Bahrain Hotel served up delicious dishes of goodness that left me desperate for more traditional fare.

Walking through the hotel's marble lobby, I was in high anticipation mode to see what delights the crew could serve up in its Awali Ballroom.

It did not disappoint, with no holding back on the festive theme. The red cloths dotted with stars and crescent moons evoked feelings of tradition, comfort and warmth, with friendly staff offering smiles as they sat guests down ready for the Maghrib prayer to call out over the speakers to signal sunset.

As some of the friendliest hospitality connoisseurs in the kingdom, the hotel's GM, Thomas Flindt, and Executive Chef Magnus Falk were on hand to greet me in their inimitable way and pointed out some specialities I should try.

One thing you can guarantee from having a Dane, a Swede and a (half) Norwegian in the same room together is fireworks ... but it just so happened that here the pyrotechnics were on the plate!

My first port of call was the soup selection and in particular the Cream of Pumpkin Soup which I'd spied on the way in. Gladly, it proved just as creamy and flavourful as it looked, particularly when accompanied with a selection of breads.

On the way back to my seat,

Pyrotechnics on a plate



GOURMET REPORT
By KRISTIAN HARRISON
kristian@gulfweekly.com

I loaded up with salads, dips, cheeses and sushi ... I was juggling plates like a clown at a birthday party!

One of the main problems I have experienced in the past with iftars or ghabgas is that often the focus is so strong on the decoration and the vibe, that the food is almost an afterthought.

When you have a room packed with people who haven't eaten all day, that isn't great. However, the team at the Sheraton have managed to perfect the balance between an authentic décor but also ensuring that the food is the centrepiece of the event.

Food was piping hot throughout the evening and each plate full of pasta, meat, grills, vegetarian curries, noodles and more felt like it was cooked to order specifically from the menu rather than mass produced in buffet style.

I was seriously impressed.

I even discovered something new, chicken harees. Served in a cute red pot, this is a slightly bizarre concoction of wheat and meat, infused with cinnamon, cardamom and date butter, it just ... worked. I'll never be able to have normal porridge again after sampling this delight.

Although my stomach was telling my brain that

there was simply no room for dessert, I reneged on my promise of 'no more' when I saw just what was in store.

A mixture of traditional Arabic sweets like Um Ali and basbousa, mixed with traditional favourites such as berry cheesecake, chocolate cake, crème brûlée and a variety of yoghurts and tiramisu in a glass, left me reaching for my belt to undo a notch or two.

Furthermore, one side of the room was completely enveloped by a table packed with different types of dates. I honestly didn't know there were so many varieties, but there were plates full of the sweet treat in a number of different

sizes, colours and shapes.

The final flourish, though, was the crêpe corner with a Baskin Robbins stand next to it. The temptation was almost unfair ... how could I say no to that?

My taste buds certainly thanked me, even if my diet didn't! Rarely, if ever, have I felt so satisfied after dining out. Quality food, superb service, awesome atmosphere and endless variety. That's the true spirit of Ramadan in my book.

● The 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.

● Please scan the QR code below with your smartphone to see Kristian's interview with General Manager Thomas and Executive Chef Magnus.



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The beauty of the



TEENAGER Ipshita Singh has gone wild with her paintbrush and captured an amazing array of images for lovers of the natural world, writes Mai Al Khatib-Camille.

Her work was inspired by her father Ajay Kumar's collection of photographs of birds, gazelles and other animals taken on his travels, as well as during family vacations.

The 18-year-old Indian School graduate's 27 vibrant acrylic and oil paintings have been placed on display at Harbour Gate to much critical acclaim.

"I've always been very interested in wildlife," said Ipshita, pictured painting left, who lives in Hooraa.

"My father was the one who introduced me to it and these paintings are all based on his photographs that he has taken from his time in Bahrain and during our trips to India and Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve.

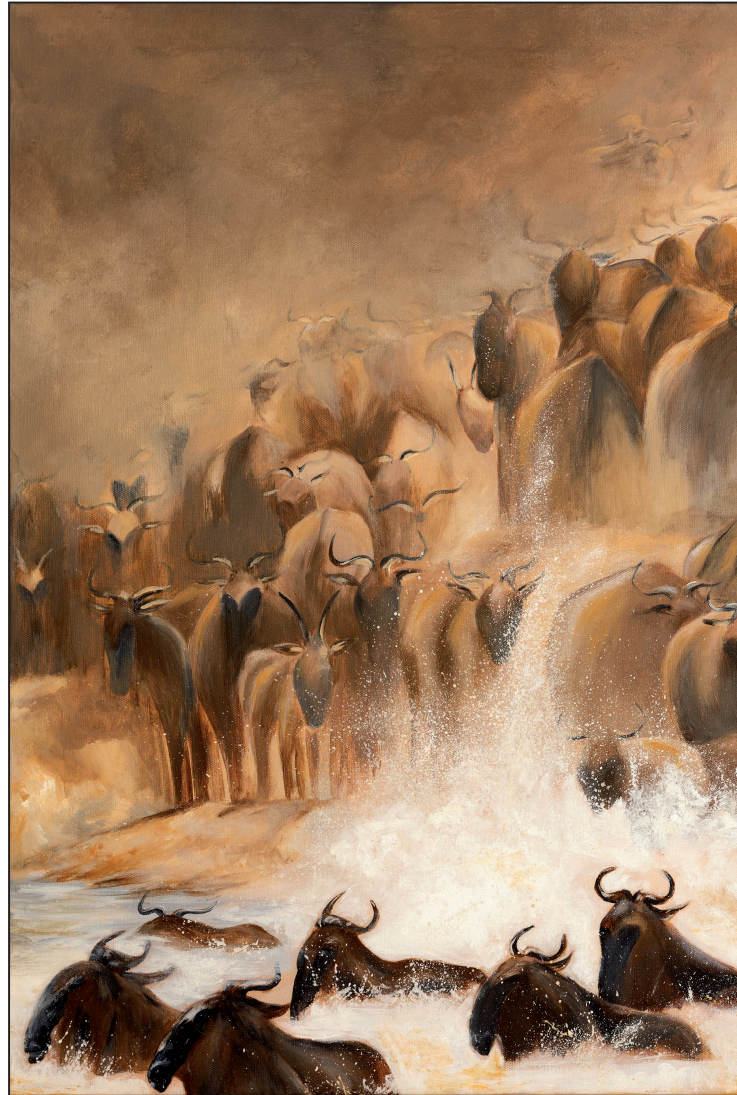
"My dad travels quite a bit and he comes home with tons of pictures. Sometimes I get to travel with him and that has really inspired me too.

Ipshita's paintings, priced from BD25 onwards, featured colourful birds in mid-flight, perched on a branch or in the sea. Her tiger looked life like as well as her herd of bison called *The Migration*. Those two paintings are not for sale as they hold a special place in her heart. Other paintings that impressed included a sunset safari ride and a crane hunting for fish.

Ipshita, a still and wildlife painter, has been passionate about art since she was a child.

Her parents, Ajay, who is a Geographical Information Systems specialist at the Ministry of Interior, and his wife, Puspita Roy Choudhury, spotted her artistic talent at a young age.

Ipshita started art classes at the age of six with abstract artist Ella



beasts in full flight



Prakash who is renowned for her expressive paintings focusing on feminism, female empowerment and self-discovery.

The youngster started off with pencil work and shading before tackling various art techniques using different mediums such as water colours, acrylic, oil and charcoal.

"Ipshita is very talented and she has worked so hard for this exhibition," said proud Ella, who has 14 years of experience in abstract expressionism and figurative art. "She was always a dedicated student and would come to class twice a week. I have seen her grow over time and I believe she has something truly special. I love her work and I believe she has a bright future ahead of her."

Ipshita will soon be attending university in India with the aim of studying graphic design and is hoping to explore more artistic techniques. When she returns to Bahrain she hopes to continue having lessons with her 'amazing teacher'.

Aside from her solo exhibition, Ipshita also displayed her work at the Al Ali Art Festival Bahrain in 2014.

It took her almost a year to compile all her works needed for the latest *Colours of Wildlife* Exhibition and it will stay on display until June 13 at the south ground floor entrance within the Bahrain Financial Harbour, as part of the popular Art at the Harbour series. This is her first solo exhibition and she sends a 'huge thank you' to Financial Centre Development Company and CEO Angus Campbell for allowing her to exhibit in the space. "I can't even imagine that I am getting this chance to exhibit my work here and I can't thank them enough," Ipshita added.





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Property Weekly

A guide to the best properties home and abroad - by Mai Al Khatib-Camille

Splashing out at the lagoon

A modern two-storey villa is available to rent or buy at the sought-after Riffa Views Lagoon Estate.

The semi-furnished five-bedroomed home has a built-up area of 472sqm with fine finishes and a private swimming pool and a children's playground in the backyard.

The ground floor of the villa consists of a grand majlis, a dining room and family room and an open-plan kitchen. There is also an outdoor kitchen for heavy duty cooking and a laundry room.

The guest bedroom is on the ground floor with a built-in wardrobe and an ensuite bathroom.

There is also plenty of storage room by the kitchen and another

spot under the staircase. The guest closet and vanity room are also situated close by.

The first floor features a family room and four sizable bedrooms. The master bedroom has a dressing area, an ensuite bathroom and a balcony overlooking the land. The other bedrooms also include built-in wardrobes and ensuite bathrooms and two of them also have terraces. There is a garage for two vehicles.

In terms of amenities, there is an 18-hole PGA championship Colin Montgomerie-designed course and a 9-hole executive golf course.

Also available close-by is a country club, a tennis facility, an international school and the Riffa Palms shopping area which includes cafes, restaurants and a supermarket.



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Location: Lagoons Estates at the Riffa Views.

Reference number: VI874

Rental price: BD1,500

Sale price: BD330,000

Living room: 3

Bedrooms: 5

Bathrooms: 5

Additional information: The villa is nearby a shopping area, a school, a golf course and a country club. There is also a private swimming pool and children's playground in the backyard. For further information on this and other homes call Star Real Estate 17298210.



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THE dining table is one of the most significant furniture pieces in the home because it's quite multifunctional – a place to eat, play and occasionally work.

It's the heartbeat of the home. Families gather to share meals and stories together and particularly during the holy month it's the place to break bread.

Ethan Allen has launched a new line featuring majestic dining tables alongside a range of chairs and buffet tables.

The American brand, which boasts stores in North America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, offers beautifully-crafted lines, lustrous finishes, and fine, hand-tailored workmanship.

● **Traditional style:** This has been designed to shine with a modern mix of neutrals and a strong brass tone. The Evansview dining table has an unforgettable star quality,

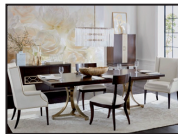
Time to turn the tables

a starburst pattern created and an Indonesian mahogany finish. It's well complemented by the Yves host and side chairs. Featuring elegance in a chic transitional design are the Lynnwood and Barrymore table that has precise lines clubbed with exotic wood finish.

● **Modern style:** Everything small is big again, especially in today's condensed dining spaces. Scaled down with a cool vibe, the Hazelton and Hoyt dining table mixes

materials in the most stylish way without making a small dining space feel crowded. To complement these tables are the smart and petite in scale, Vera and Jewel Chair, for the perfect statement piece.

Owners can also beautify the chosen table and add to the sparkling setting with Arabesque-inspired accessories such as crescent-shaped candle holders, lanterns, decorative fruit and candy bowls, as well as elegant trays to serve up the after iftar refreshments.



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- Assists with the development of a sales pipeline in coordination with product development and marketing management teams
- Analyzes customers' existing business through profitability modeling, financial forecasting and competitive analysis
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In focus



STUDENTS from Al Maariffa Secondary Girls' School recently visited The Arabian Gulf University, calling into its autopsy museum at the College of Medicine and Medical Science, where they learned about the different parts of the human body and the methods of diagnosis and treatment.

The students also visited the simulation and medical skills centre and were briefed about the curricula, the necessary medical skills needed to treat patients and the learning methods followed by the university.



BAHRAIN Red Crescent Society held an awareness-raising anti-smoking workshop called 'Let's say no to tobacco' for intermediate students of Awal Boys School.

The objective was to create awareness and highlight the harmful effects of tobacco products. It coincides with the upcoming World No Tobacco Day on May 31.

Globally, smoking is still on the rise amongst teenagers, and once hooked they find it difficult to stop.



VIVA Bahrain recently hosted its annual Ramadan Media Ghabga at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain.

The event was attended by Mohammed Al Khushail, VIVA acting CEO, and the company's senior management team.

The evening featured a crossword and trivia game, during which the guests grouped into teams in a bid to win prizes and giveaways.

The evening also saw the introduction of a donations campaign to raise funds for cancer and diabetes patients, individuals with special needs and towards the purchase of medical equipment.

Donations, which will be supervised by Royal Charity organisation, can be made using cash or through the VIVA Cash App by scanning QR codes found on donation screens across the island. Donations can also be made by sending an SMS with the desired amount to 98977, or by donating directly through VIVA Cash merchants or with retail screens at VIVA outlets.

SocialScene

Why wait a month! Join Social Scene every week

Workers unite

SAAR Mall staged a fun evening out for a group of labourers working in the Bokhowa Group to celebrate Labour Day. The mall also invited families to participate in a series of prize games, competitions and activities.

The event was supported by company executives including Bokhowa Group CEO Hassan Abdulla Ali Bokhowa, Shaikh Salah Ali Omar, company advisor, and Mohamed Rais Shaikh of the company's human resources department.



Ghabga gathering



ZAIN hosted its annual Ramadan Ghabga gathering at Gulf Hotel's Al Dana Ballroom. Guests and members of the media participated in traditional games and joined in a prize raffle.

Lulu expands



LULU, which boasts seven outlets in Bahrain, has opened its latest shopping destination – Mall of UAQ in the emirate of Umm Al Quwain along with its LuLu Hypermarket.

They were officially inaugurated by HH Shaikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mualla, a member of UAE Supreme Council and Ruler of Umm Al Quwain, in the presence of HH Shaikh Rashid bin Saud Al Mualla, Crown Prince of Umm Al Quwain, and other royal family members.

They were received by Yusuf Ali MA, chairman & MD of Lulu Group along with Saifee Rupawala, CEO, Ashraf Ali MA, executive director, Salim MA, director, and other senior officials.

Traditional treats



KIMS Bahrain Healthcare staged a glamorous Ghabga at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Al Ghazal Ballroom. A band played on as invited guests dined on traditional treats.

Resort's offering



INVITED guests and members of the media celebrated the holy month at Reef Resort's beautifully-decorated Reef Ramadan Tent. Guests enjoyed a sweet and savoury buffet while listening to the sounds of a traditional oud player and singer.

Film Weekly



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



Chemistry counts

ROMANTIC comedies are a fundamental cog in Hollywood's multi-billion dollar entertainment wheel, with a formula that's easily recognisable and often predictable: two people meet each other, they fall in love, there's an obstacle to overcome, and then they – usually – live happily ever after.

Long Shot, written and directed by Jonathan Levine, doesn't stray too far from the norm, but still elevates the rom-com genre with a politically-themed, whimsical script and impeccable casting. Specifically, Charlize Theron and Seth Rogen, whose on-screen chemistry is instantly captivating and really, really funny.

Theron plays Charlotte Field, the current Secretary of State who is aspiring to become the first female President of the United States. Rogen's character, Fred Flarsky, is an outspoken journalist with a talent for saying the most inappropriate things at the worst possible moments.

When Charlotte finds herself in need of a new speechwriter, Fred – she used to babysit him when they were kids – seems like just the right kind of crazy to help her achieve her political goals. *Long Shot* isn't breaking any new narrative ground here, as Fred is a fish out of water in Charlotte's glamorous life. But that's what makes their love affair so charming.

Fred's frequent trips with Charlotte as she interacts with diplomats from all over the world offers some witty moments and even some unexpected action sequences. Fred is in no danger of winning GQ's best-dressed man of the year, and it's amusing to watch him struggle to fit in with the rich and famous. Rogen really knows how to

LONG SHOT

STARRING: Seth Rogen, Charlize Theron, Andy Serkis

DIRECTOR: Jonathan Levine

GENRE: Romantic comedy

RATING: 15+

RUNTIME: 125 Mins

play the insecure oaf, and even though we've seen him do it several times now, it's as charming as ever in *Long Shot*, especially when pitted against Theron's regal presence.

Every time Charlotte talks to another handsome male acquaintance, Fred uses that sad puppy dog expression of his that's difficult to resist. That doesn't mean Fred is a pushover. On the contrary, some of the best scenes in the film are when he pushes back against Charlotte's policy changes. If Fred feels passionate about a certain political issue – protecting the environment in this case – he lets her know, which adds tension to the mostly light-hearted script.

Levine should be applauded for his work behind the camera and for his screenplay. Instead of starting with the ideal first meeting/date between Charlotte and Fred that instantly sparks their romantic flame, Levine puts the two at odds from the very beginning in terms of their political views.

Their relationship feels more authentic because it's not all rainbows and sunshine. Levine's script keeps the comedy coming at a fast pace, which might make you miss the next joke since you'll still be laughing at the one that landed 30-seconds before.

Theron, meanwhile, is sensational. You can tell she's having a lot of fun here and the sharp script allows her to

use her myriad of skills. As Charlotte, Theron easily embodies the fierce political figure you would expect her to be, but she can also let loose with Fred, like accompanying him on wild and hilarious benders.

While Rogen and Theron are excellent, *Long Shot* also features an equally impressive roster of supporting actors that add even more comedy and charm. Chief among them is Bob Odenkirk's portrayal of the acting US President, Charlotte's boss. He's a former TV actor turned politician who's so self-centred that he watches clips of his old shows while he's in the oval office. Odenkirk is perfect for the part, using some of his *Better Call Saul* smarm to great effect.

O'Shea Jackson Jr is another standout here. Jackson plays Fred's best friend, who is far more successful and confident in himself than Fred. Their discourse is enjoyable and even though the movie is not primarily about their friendship, Levine devotes enough time in his script for you to develop an affection for them.

Long Shot doesn't rewrite the rom-com gospel, but that really doesn't matter. Charlize Theron and Seth Rogen's chemistry elevates the story beyond its familiar formula. Rogen and Theron may not seem like the obvious choice to headline a movie about falling in love, yet Jonathan Levine's delightful script and skilful direction helps their relationship flourish. Mix in some stellar supporting and you have a very entertaining movie with a feel-good attitude.

● Now showing in all Bahrain's cinemas.

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

OGN
OIL, GAS, PETROCHEMICALS & RENEWABLES

The energy industry's trade journal for the GCC region

www.oilandgasnewsonline.com

Bite-sized trailer

Brightburn

DIRECTOR: David Yarovesky

CAST: Elizabeth Banks, Jackson A. Dunn, David Denman

PLOT: What if a child from another world crash-landed on Earth, but instead of becoming a hero to mankind, he proved to be something far more sinister?

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



Breaking & Exiting

DIRECTOR: Peter Facinelli

CAST: Milo Gibson, Jordan Hinson, Adam Huber

PLOT: Harry, a charming house thief, gets more than he bargains for during an attempted burglary when he stumbles upon Daisy and decides to save her from herself, sending both of them into a darkly comedic journey of self discovery and love.

SHOWING IN: Seef II, Wadi Al Sail



Primal Rage

DIRECTOR: Patrick Magee

CAST: Casey Gagliardi, Andrew Joseph Montgomery, Jameson Pazak

PLOT: Lost deep in the forest of the Pacific Northwest, Ashley and Max Carr are stalked by a terrifying creature that might be Bigfoot. Soon they find themselves embroiled in a strange land of Native American myth and legend turned real. Hopelessly trying to survive, with a handful of unsavory locals, they must fight back against this monster in a desperate battle of life or death.

SHOWING IN: Seef II, Wadi Al Sail



imdb movie charts

Current Position	Title	Weekend Takings	Gross to date
1	Avengers: Endgame	\$63M	\$723M
2	Pokémon Detective Pikachu	\$58M	\$58M
3	The Hustle	\$13M	\$13M
4	The Intruder	\$7M	\$21M
5	Long Shot	\$6M	\$20M
6	Poms	\$5M	\$5M
7	UglyDolls	\$4M	\$14M
8	Breakthrough	\$2M	\$37M
9	Tolkien	\$2M	\$2M
10	Captain Marvel	\$2M	\$424M

Ladies, are being hurt? Or abused?
Help is available.
 (domestic violence or sexual violence)

Call us!
3844 7588 Helpline

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Write to the editor

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

ON BEHALF of the Bahrain Longsteppers, I would like to thank all British Club members and guests who supported our Birdman of Bahrain event recently held poolside.

A special thanks goes to our main sponsors, being A&E, The Domain Hotel and Hertel scaffolding, also to the Royal Hospital for first aid cover and the British Club of Bahrain for use of the facilities.

A fun day (without injuries) was enjoyed by all, the costumes and participation by budding aviators was well appreciated, and at the end of the day a total amount of BD2,500 was raised through sponsorship, raffle prizes and T-shirt sales.

Nominated charity for this year's event was the RIA Institute and student director Christine Gordon MBE was in attendance to judge the winners of the children and adult categories for the furthest flight, best costume or machine and best entertainment value.

Every year a similar contest takes place in the South of England with attempts to fly by jumping off a pier. To date no one has succeeded, and all have been caught by the safety net of the English Channel, likewise, to date, nobody has managed to fly the length of the British Club pool!

Andrew Savage, Bahrain Longsteppers.

HURRY on over to the Second floor of Harbour Gate May 14, 15 & 16 between 9.30am and 12.30pm to snap up a one-of-a-kind up-cycled T-shirt or T-shirt bag for your wardrobe.

They have been made



by volunteer artists and students at RIA Institute's 'Trash to Treasure' T-shirt up-cycling event in April organised by @baloosbuddies to raise awareness about autism.

All donations will be used to sponsor a child at the centre who is in financial need says RIA Institute co-founder Christine Gordon, MBE.

We were delighted with the amazing works of art painted at the event and the incredible transformation of

unwanted T-shirts.

In fact many people wanted to buy them on the spot. In addition to more than 40 T-shirts and T-shirt bags, a small number of original artworks will also be available on a donation basis.

We would also like to thank the management and staff at Harbour Gate for their ongoing support and to BMMI, Wild about Art Co and Paint and Palette for sponsoring the Trash to Treasure event.



Please call 38338064 for further details.

Dr Sarah Clarke, event organiser.

FASTING is a deliberate abstinence from physical gratification, usually going without food for a period of time to achieve a greater spiritual goal.

A sound body and a sound mind are most essential in our daily life, and fasting helps to keep both mind and body in a perfect state of health.

Fasting bestows a divine happiness which can be enjoyed with such delight that once you take to it, you will be reluctant to leave the habit.

A man who spends a few hours in absolute calmness after his first meal on breaking a fast has a feeling of enjoyment which can never be expressed.

A man who genuinely practices fasting at regular intervals has clear-cut thoughts – dramatically, he can become gentle, polite and humble.

The ego stands nowhere before him. His thoughts are sublime and firm. His actions are diligent. There is a transcendental glow on his face, and he has found the kingdom of God in his own personality. He never wounds the feelings of others. Fasting teaches compassion for others.

While the goal of fasting is usually focused on faith and belief, it doesn't mean we are not experiencing other benefits of fasting spiritually, psychologically and sociologically.

Fasting in Ramadan is truly one of the greatest social experiences. It strengthens the control of impulses and it helps to develop good behaviour.



A BRITISH chef has laid down the gauntlet to Bahrain's culinary wizards to be more creative when it comes to plating their dishes. He believes his stunning cauliflower starter with a countryside theme would take some b(l)eating. On behalf of his many friends working in the kitchens of this country's fabulous five-star restaurants, the Whisperer has picked up the challenge convinced our chefs will not be sheepish in coming forward. Email your entries in and our readers will be the judge.

Fasting leads to a feeling of inner peace and tranquility.

Dr Meraj Ahmad Meraj, by email.

TEN-YEAR-OLD: "What social network has caused the most harm?"

Me: "That's a hard question."

Eight-year-old: "No, really. Which one?"

Me: "Well, without Twitter I'm pretty sure Trump wouldn't be president."

Ten-year-old: "I think Instagram has caused the most harm."

Me: "Why?"

Ten-year-old: "Because it

makes so many kids sad."

Five-year-old: "I have an idea for what I'm going to do when I grow up."

Me: "What?"

Five-year-old: "I'm going to do two things. I'm going to be a baker and I'm going to make a machine that zaps people."

Me: "That zaps people?"

Five-year-old: "Yes, it's a machine that zaps adults when they are walking down the street looking at their phones. And then it makes them go and play with their friends."

Nicholas Thompson, parent.

FOR those of us fasting in the holy month and missing that daily cuppa, or anyone looking to reduce their coffee consumption really, I've got news for you!

A study published in the journal *Consciousness and Cognition* has revealed that simply looking at coffee enables one to become more attentive as though actually drinking the sweet stuff!

The study, led by Sam Moglio, assistant professor of marketing at Toronto University, tested around 342 participants from both Eastern and Western cultures by exposing them to tea and coffee-related cues.

The results were analysed in four separate groups, and it was found that participants, particularly those from Western cultures, exposed to coffee cues experienced an increase in alertness, just by being made to think of it. They were able to think in 'more concrete, precise terms' and perceived time as going by faster than those who consumed tea.

Interestingly, this effect wasn't as pronounced in those participants hailing from East Asia as people there, where tea is the preferred hot beverage, don't have as strong an association between coffee and focus as their Western

Youth Talk

By **Sarah Belal**



counterparts.

"In North America we have this image of a prototypical executive rushing off to an important meeting with a triple espresso in hand," Maglio said. "There's this connection between drinking caffeine and arousal that may not exist in other cultures."

This study illustrated perfectly the psychological phenomenon known



as priming wherein exposure to a reminder of a stimulus produces the same effects as direct contact with that stimulus, such as the sight of a tasty meal kicking your

salivary glands into action or a photograph of a cute animal arising positive emotions as if that animal were right there with you.

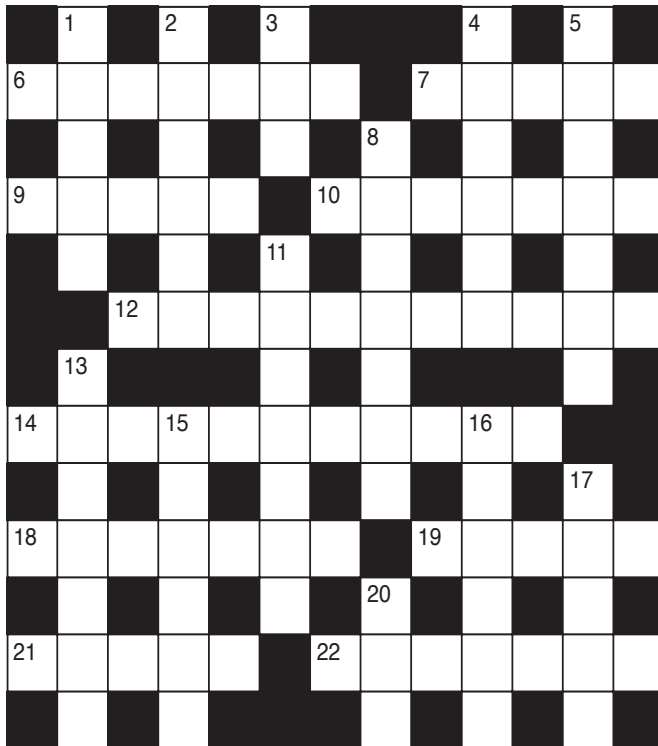
And really, this forms the premise of the study's results – many coffee drinkers have in their minds such a strong association between coffee and concentration that simply looking at it produces tangible physiological effects of alertness. If this rings true to you, then a picture of some java is all it takes!

cerebrally crust & crema



17214155 @crustandcrema crustandcremah

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

6. Echo (7)
7. Convenient (5)
9. Hurry (5)
10. Liberty (7)
12. Outlay (11)
14. Agreeing (11)
18. Assert (7)
19. Answer (5)
21. Material (5)
22. Gather (7)

DOWN

1. Rot (5)
2. Whirlpool (6)
3. Tavern (3)
4. Aptitude (6)
5. Put off (7)
8. Forecast (7)
11. Merrymaking (7)
13. Receives (7)
15. Exaltation (6)
16. Irritate (6)
17. Courage (5)
20. Intimidate (3)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... coached Holland in the 2006 FIFA World Cup Finals?

WHAT ... nationality was the poet Georg Trakl?

WHERE ... in South America is the lake Poopo?

WHEN ... was the Nobel Prize in Economics first awarded?

WHO ... were the three Erinyes in Greek mythology, known by the Romans as the Furies?

WHAT ... type of creature is a tigon?

WHERE ... in Europe is the city of Dornbirn?

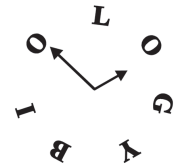
WHEN ... did the German film director Rainer Werner Fassbinder die?

just so

ca12"mp ca12"mp

derdnuh

chance



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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Proclivity; 7 Right; 8 Curdled; 10 Dynamite; 11 Bias; 13 Garish; 15 Handle; 17 Oast; 18 Wireless; 21 Servant; 22 Tutor; 23 Periodical.

Down: 1 Pagan; 2 Optimism; 3 Locate; 4 Vary; 5 Tallied; 6 Prodigious; 9 Dispensary; 12 Majestic; 14 Reserve; 16 Tinted; 19 Extol; 20 Taxi.

JUST SO: Not a moment too soon, Quick on the uptake, Mirror mirror on the wall, American beauty

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Henry Green; A dowry brought by a bride to her husband; England; 1964; Van Der Graaf Generator; 1455; Lithuania; 1813.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

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space
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Motoring Weekly

Steering you to the best deals on wheels

Unbelievable packages

GET your dream Mercedes-Benz from Al Haddad Motors this Ramadan – both new and certified pre-owned vehicles – at exclusive, unbeatable prices and receive a gift-packed 'exciting lifestyle booklet'.

The booklet includes a three-year service package, one-year insurance, and one-year registration to ensure a 'peaceful driving experience for you and your family,' the dealership says.

It also features several luxurious gifts such as a health club

membership, Ghabga voucher and lifestyle voucher to enjoy the festivities ahead.

Al Haddad Motors is also offering customers a gift voucher that can be used for Mercedes-Benz accessories and lifestyle items for any service carried out on their Mercedes-Benz equivalent to BD100 or more.

● For more details, visit Al Haddad Motors showroom in Tubli, call 17785454, or the Mercedes-Benz Service Center on 17785999.



Enjoy the best deals on wheels

SPECIAL deals will be available on a range of Mazda models throughout the holy month of Ramadan which The Japanese marque's dealer in Bahrain says are the 'best ever' offered.

International Motor Trading Agency (IMTA) aims to entice those looking for a new set of wheels with prices to please on all 2019 models.

Furthermore, there will be a free five years or 100,000km service package, free insurance, free registration, free window tinting and free rust proofing.

In addition to this various

finance benefits will be available such as 90 days deferred payment, Special interest rate 1.99 per cent & customer will also have a chance to win a raffle draw.

A trade-in facility will also be made available from IMTA for any make and any model with a free evaluation on all cars.

Some of the models included in the IMTA offer are the Mazda CX9 2.5L Turbo, Mazda3, Mazda6, CX-5, plus the new generation Mazda3 which will be unveiled in the kingdom imminently.

The Mazda CX9 has a

starting price of BD11,400. The starting price for Mazda 3 is BD6,250 and Mazda 6 is BD7,900. The CX-3 starting price is BD7,600 and CX-5 will start from BD8,600. All these prices are inclusive of VAT. The offers are valid until the end of Ramadan. Terms and conditions apply.

● The showroom timings during Ramadan will be 8am to 1pm and from 8pm until midnight, with the facilities closed on Fridays. For more information, visit the showroom in Sitra, call 17706010, and in Tubli, call 17875777, or visit www.mazda.kekanoo.com

Tempting delights in store

SPECIAL deals will be available on a range of Geely models throughout the holy month of Ramadan, with the Chinese marque promising tremendous value.

The new 2019 Emgrand 7 model is starting from a monthly cost of BD74, the Emgrand GS from BD91 and the Emgrand X7 Sport from BD104.

All prices are inclusive of VAT and require zero down payment. In addition, the company is offering free insurance, registration and rust proofing, while all customers who book a new

Geely motor before the end of Ramadan will receive a gift of their choice worth BD100.

The 2019 Emgrand GS, the company's flagship model, was recently revealed by the Chinese marque as an urban crossover SUV, the first of its kind from Geely Auto, and features the same design elements that first appeared on the GC9 and Bo Yue.

A full moon glass roof turns the Emgrand GS's cabin into a light, airy and space-conscious interior. To keep passengers fully connected, Geely has installed multiple

connectivity systems on the GS including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto systems which are connected via Geely's self-developed G-Netlink, allowing music, videos, radio and television to be played via the eight-inch screen in the centre console.

The Geely showroom in Tubli will be open from 8am-12.30pm and from 7.30pm-11.30pm every day except Friday, when it is closed.

For more information, call the showroom on 17680110 or visit www.geely.kekanoo.com



Special draw with big cash prizes

DURING the holy month of Ramadan, Behbehani Brothers will be offering buyers the chance to drive away with BD16,000.

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.





PERFECT PACKAGE: The stylish Mazda CX-9

Photographer: Honey Sharma

Cruising along in a crossover

BEING an expat non-Muslim during Ramadan presents some challenges. Waiting to eat until dusk, for example, or conducting a gruelling workout but not being able to sip water until you're back in your own home.

But it has its delights too. The month-long community spirit of giving, charity endeavours and plethora of iftars and ghabgas are frequent cause for celebration.

So too is one facet of daily life that often slips under the radar... the lack of traffic during the daily commute and the vast number of parking spaces near *GulfWeekly's* Exhibitions Avenue HQ now



TEST DRIVE
By KRISTIAN HARRISON
kristian@gulfweekly.com

that the local hotels have closed for the season.

There's no better time, then, to take out a new, super-stylish Mazda CX-9 for a test drive and really put it through its paces on the open roads. What a difference it makes to the experience when you can open the throttle and put the steering through its paces as opposed to sidling from one traffic jam to the next.

What a joy it was to roar along with the 2.5L Turbo engine with SkyActiv Technology engine purring with pleasure. Generating 227bhp, the CX-9 is no slouch. It accelerates with gusto, quickly launching you from a stop or tendering extra

oomph when merging on to the highway. Additionally, you can carry a full load in the CX-9 without noticing a discernible slow down.

The 2019 CX-9's exterior is beautifully designed and really looks the part, with a long bonnet, a steeply raked windshield and a sweeping rear end. Inside is an equally lovely cabin, dressed in quality materials and high-tech features.

I'd be lying if I told you all this goodness came without compromises: cargo capacity and third-row passenger space could indeed be more generous. However, these compromises are small and in no way diminish how the car drives.

In my experience, three-row crossovers are great

for hauling families and cargo, but they aren't always pleasing to drive. The CX-9 is a rare example of a crossover that still blends a great deal of driving fun with all the utility thanks to a well-sorted chassis and communicative steering.

Surprisingly light on its feet, it often feels as if you're driving a smaller SUV. The suspension is firm, but it's still supple enough riding over rough stretches of road and the kingdom's numerous potholes and speed bumps. The firm suspension and accurate steering culminate in superior cornering control.

As far as infotainment features go, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto capability have finally join the spec sheet, which is most

welcome. The Japanese marque has also included a list of optional features for 2019, including ventilated front seats, a 360-degree-view exterior camera system, SiriusXM Travel Link (live traffic and weather updates, among other things), a digital gauge display, power-folding exterior mirrors, and a frameless rear-view mirror.

From my experience, the navigation worked perfectly and unlike some models, hooking my phone up to the centre console in order to play music was completely seamless. It took me less than 10 seconds to do so which is an exceptional benchmark compared to other brands which can be unnecessarily fiddly and overcomplicated. Speaking of music, the

sound quality was absolutely superb with a premium Bose system, complete with 12 high-performance speakers and AudioPilot, Centerpoint and SurroundStage technologies. Driving to marvellous melodies and positive vibes turns a good test drive into a great one.

For a beautiful crossover vehicle that drives really nicely and packs in a raft of features, you can't look much further than the new Mazda CX-9 this Ramadan.

Until the end of the month, the vehicle has a starting price of BD11,400 inclusive of VAT.

● *Special deals are available on a range of Mazda models throughout the holy month of Ramadan – See Page 20.*



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Motor Sport

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

LEWIS Hamilton wasn't going to be kind to his teammate this time ... but he showed his big heart by dedicating his latest win to a special young fan who is battling against cancer.

World champion Hamilton blasted past pole-sitter Valtteri Bottas at the start of the Spanish Grand Prix, kept his nerve when things got tight at the first corner, and then raced away to reclaim the overall Formula One lead on Sunday.

Two weeks ago, five-time and defending champion Hamilton said he was maybe 'too friendly' when Bottas stayed in front after a similar grid start for the Mercedes drivers in Azerbaijan.

Hamilton hinted that he wouldn't make that mistake again in Spain, and he got some help from a poor getaway by Bottas to overtake him in the opening metres en route to winning the race at the Barcelona-Catalunya Circuit for a third consecutive year.

The Mercedes pair strengthened their grip on F1 with their record-extending fifth one-two finish in as many races in 2019.

"This is history in the making to have five one-twins," Hamilton said after his 76th career win, second only to Michael Schumacher's 91. "It is incredible what we are achieving together and I plan on working with this team to help it become the most successful team of all time. That is my sole goal and my sole purpose."

"When the lights went out, my initial getaway was quite good and we were very close all the way down into Turn 1. I think the Ferrari was alongside us at one point too, so it was a great battle and also a decisive moment in the race."

"After that I just had to keep my head down and focus on trying to deliver each lap. I want to dedicate this win to Harry, a young kid who sent me a message today. He was my inspiration out there. He could've chosen any other driver, so for him in the most difficult of days to send a message like that is really humbling and much appreciated. I'm sending you love, Harry."

Hamilton added a bonus point for the fastest lap to take a seven-point advantage over Bottas. Max Verstappen was third in his Red Bull, in

Winning race for Harry

JUST CHAMPION: Hamilton celebrates after winning the Spanish F1 Grand Prix, below, ahead of Bottas, and the Mercedes team mates hold Dr Dieter Zetsche, head of Mercedes-Benz, aloft on the podium



MOTORSPORT
By KRISTIAN HARRISON
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front of Ferrari pair Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc.

Hamilton got the jump on Bottas off the line when Vettel surged forward and made it three abreast going through the first corner. Vettel locked up on the turn, and Bottas, sandwiched in the middle, had to blink to avoid a possible collision as Hamilton sped clear.

Verstappen took advantage of the jousting to slip by Vettel.

Verstappen is 46 points adrift of Hamilton in the standings. Vettel fell to fourth at 48 points back.

Bottas had shown more speed in practice and in qualifying than Hamilton, when Bottas set a scorching track record that was 0.6 seconds faster than Hamilton's best effort. But Bottas' chances for victory were sunk by his poor start, when his wheels appeared to spin while Hamilton immediately made up the difference.

Bottas said: "I felt some strange behaviour with the clutch. I lost it there. It is

really annoying. All the hard work went out down to that."

Except for the race in Bahrain, when Hamilton won thanks to an implosion by Ferrari, the other four races this season have been decided in their opening seconds.

Bottas surged past Hamilton from the line before winning the season-opening Australia GP. Hamilton did likewise to get past pole-sitting Bottas at the first turn to win in China, and Bottas defended his pole position from Hamilton in his victory at Azerbaijan last round.



"It wasn't a replay of Baku at least," Hamilton said stepping onto the winner's podium.

Hamilton experienced firsthand what an overzealous rivalry between teammates can lead to when he and former Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg knocked each other out on the first lap at the 2016 Spanish GP.

Three years later Hamilton says that he has matured and that the mild-mannered Bottas is as close as it comes to having an ideal driving partner.



"Our competition is respectful and balanced as always," the British driver said. "I think we have the best balance of any team."

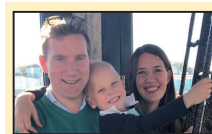
Pierre Gasly of Red Bull, Kevin Magnussen (Haas), Carlos Sainz (McLaren), Daniil Kvyat (Toro Rosso) and Romain Grosjean (Haas) completed the top 10.

Lando Norris of McLaren and Lance Stroll of Racing Point failed to finish after colliding two-thirds through the race.

Renault's Nico Hulkenberg had to start from the pit lane because of a penalty incurred after a replacement front wing did not meet specifications. Hulkenberg finished 13th, right behind Renault partner Daniel Ricciardo.

Antonio Giovinazzi started from last place after he incurred a five-place grid penalty for an unscheduled gearbox change to his Alfa Romeo. Giovinazzi finished 16th, in front of Williams pair George Russell and Robert Kubica.

Mercedes' struggling rivals will now have two weeks to try to improve before the Monaco GP on May 26.



BATTLE: Harry with parents

ON APRIL 29 five-year-old Harry Shaw was given one week to live after a nine-month battle against Ewing's Sarcoma; a rare bone cancer. Despite this terminal diagnosis he's still fighting to stay alive.

Harry's parents, Charlotte and James, set up Harry's Giant Pledge working with giantpledge.com and the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. Their aim is to raise money for research into Ewing's Sarcoma and other childhood cancers to ensure children like Harry have a better chance of surviving.

Harry was diagnosed with cancer when a routine scan on a small lump showed a tumour the size of a large baked potato inside Harry's right chest.

For more details visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/harrysgiantpledge>

The Mancunians march on

MANCHESTER City let Liverpool dream for 83 seconds before slamming the door shut on any possibility that the last day of the Premier League season would provide one final dramatic twist in the tale.

This was the time it took for Sergio Agüero to put Manchester City level after Glenn Murray had stunned the visiting fans basking in glorious Sussex sunshine in Brighton's Amex Stadium. And, for the moment to arrive when the compelling battle for the title finally swung decisively in City's favour.

Manchester City had been sleepwalking into trouble. It had arrived. Liverpool's lead over Wolves at Anfield already had them on top of the time-honoured 'as it stands' table and now City had an added obstacle to overcome.

The team Pep Guardiola has built is too strong mentally, and when measured in talent, and had come too far to be denied so close to the finishing line – and so it proved. Murray's moment actually turned out to be the shock to the system they required – the push towards glory they needed.

And yet, for those few seconds, Manchester City supporters were silent. Manchester City's players stood still, shocked. They feared the worst. They, rather like those who had travelled to watch them, were lethargic, lacking in urgency and suddenly left facing the nightmare.

It was a tightrope walk for less than two minutes



CHAMPIONS: Captain Vincent Kompany lifts the trophy with teammates

VOICE OF SPORT

with Kieran Harrison



but City kept their balance and eventually strolled imperiously to a 4-1 victory and the three points that continues their domestic supremacy.

At the same time, they ensured that football fans worldwide would retain their sanity in the face of a first

Premier League crown for Liverpool.

English football's highest tier is indeed a global fascination now. No other league has the pull, the financial power, or perhaps even the quality now considering four of its teams hold the four European

cup final spots ... and the champions aren't even one of them!

In one special City Live! event at Zayed Sports City in Abu Dhabi, fans cheered on their heroes who some consider make up their home team considering City were floundering in obscurity until the emirate's oil money flowed in.

Hamid Al Sheraifi is a six-year-old Manchester City fan and went to the event with his father Mohammad.

Mohammad said: "Hamid just joined the City Football School this year and is loving every minute of it. It's great to get all the fans together for an event like this and it's been an amazing season from start to finish."

Waseem Siddique, 28, and Jasim Moidutty, 30, have been following Manchester City for the last 10 years and often watch the games together each week. "Winning the title with hundreds of other City fans is the perfect

end to a perfect season filled with goals and incredible football."

Jasim added: "Winning trophies has been an important part of what we do in recent years but this season has been extra special and now we cannot wait for the FA Cup Final."

Indeed, the opportunity to become the first English team to win the domestic treble looms large. And, on this form, who's going to stop them?

Thanks for your support

From Page 24

"I've been with the team for two years and I've improved massively as a player," said Smith. "Juan helped tremendously to develop my game and I can't thank him enough. Sadly, he has just left his position and we will be getting a new coach in the summer, but I will stay in contact with him and ask him for tips."

"At the moment I'm balancing golf with studying for my A-levels, but I usually have lessons on Mondays and Wednesdays where we work to improve technique, mentality and course

management. Then, in my other free time, I play rounds socially with other RGC members or practice skills."

There are two major tournaments on the calendar, the Pan-Arab Championship and the GCC Golf Championship which are held approximately six months apart. In the meantime, Smith takes part in school competitions and recently starred in the British Schools in the Middle East Golf Tournament in Dubai, where a tremendous captain's performance helped St Chris secure a runners-up position, as featured in *GulfWeekly*.

He describes his best performance as the 2018 Faldo Series, where he won his division after shooting just two over par over three days.

Last month, he won 'best junior' at the Bahrain Amateur tournament.

As for the future, Smith is prioritising academics but is keen to pursue a career in golf if he can. He said: "The current plan is to go to university in the UK and join a golf team there. I'll put my education first but if I get a lucky break, who knows?"

"However, if in the next year my game really

improves, I'll perhaps look at the US if I can get to the level I really want to achieve. The US has more opportunities and golfing scholarship programmes than the UK, so we'll see."

"As for where I am with the game right now, I'd mainly like to thank the coach because he helped me develop my game so much, the Bahrain national team for being so supportive, my mum for allowing me to join the team and, finally, my late dad for encouraging me to play and giving me the opportunity to represent this country."



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ON COURSE: Smith in action

I'M PART OF THE TEAM!

HE'S fair-haired and has Scottish roots and teenager

Ronan Smith is proud to don the national team jersey of Bahrain as one of the kingdom's brightest golfing talents.

The 17-year-old St Christopher's School pupil is originally from the UK's North Sea oil centre of



EXCLUSIVE
By KRISTIAN HARRISON
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Aberdeen, but has spent almost his entire life in Bahrain, the country that made the Gulf region's first oil discovery.

He qualified for a Bahrain passport due to his late father, Bob, being a holder, therefore qualifying him to

play for his adopted country. "At first I was extremely nervous being the only British-born player in the team," he said. "Blonde, six-foot tall ... it was hard not to feel like the odd one out! However, it didn't take me long to fit in and the guys have been brilliant. They treat me exactly the same as anyone-else and I feel

completely part of the team. They're all so supportive and we're all friends."

Smith, who lives with his mum, Diane, and brother, David, first developed a passion for the sport when he was eight and regularly played with his grandpa in Scotland.

When he returned to Bahrain, he continued

playing with his friend Sebastian Woodrow and really enjoyed the game and carried on developing his sporting talent.

He impressed as a schoolboy and had lessons at the Royal Golf Club with its then-teaching professional Juan Manuel Fuentes Perez.

After Perez became the Bahrain Golf Association

(BGA) national team coach, he was invited to become part of the national junior team.

Smith's father, Bob, a former Gulf Air and Bahrain Air pilot, passed away in 2015 and was a Bahraini passport holder, which allowed his son to also receive one and represent the kingdom internationally.

Turn to Page 23

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