

# Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain



January 15 - 21, 2020

BAHRAIN.OURS.YOURS.

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**BHR4ALL:**  
Leaving nobody behind  
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**EATING OUT:**  
Beyond dim sum  
SEE PAGE 11



**TRAVELLING EXPO**  
The Place I Call Home  
SEE PAGES 12-13

# Making a splash!

**B**AHRAIN'S first publicly accessible splash pad experience is set to have its grand opening today in Amwaj Islands, giving residents and children a respite from their screens and a novel way to experience water while moving, laughing and socialising.

The Waha Splashclub, which had its soft launch in December, provides a fun space for the whole family to enjoy with water features that allow children to engage and control the water direction, enabling them to learn while having fun. With the official launch, the Splashclub will be open to families in the evening as well, with light and water displays that invite families to play even after the sun goes down.

Nabil Rashidi, chief executive officer of Waha



**EXCLUSIVE**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
naman@gulfweekly.com

Splashclub, said: "In 2015, we were inspired to come up with a splash pad experience that would be publicly accessible. Traditionally, splash pads are the smaller water play areas that have five to ten features and are available in hotels, public parks and so on. We really wanted to experiment with it as a standalone experience and focus on the cognitive learning and family aspect of the experience."

Located in the heart of The



Children enjoy the Super Wave water feature during the soft launch



Night view of some of the water features

Lagoon in Amwaj Islands, Waha Splashclub showcases a dynamic, zero-depth

aquatic play area, accessible to people of all ages and all abilities, that combines the

sensations of different water movements – flowing, misting, and jetting into 30 diverse water features. With temperature controlled water, visitors can spin, splash and enjoy refreshments, ice cream and snacks outdoors all year long.

Full report – Page 2



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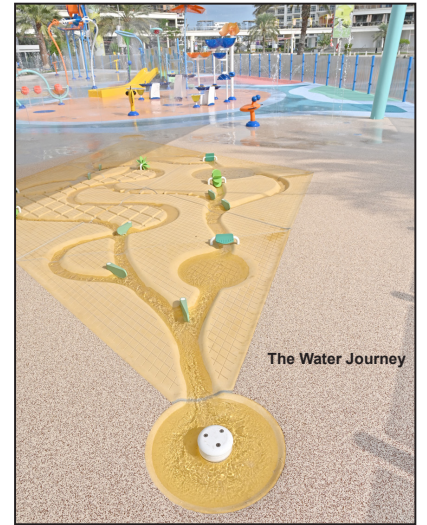
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Waha Splashclub located in The Lagoon, Amwaj Islands



The Water Journey

# Water paradise

**R**ESIDENTS of Bahrain will be able to enjoy its first publicly accessible splash pad experience during the day and the evening starting today at the Waha Splashclub, located in The Lagoon, Amwaj Islands, writes Naman Arora.

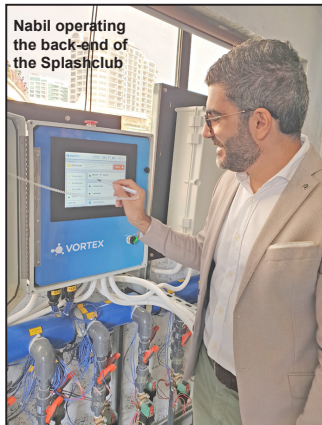
The 'splash park' intends to create a space where kids and families of all ages can learn about water and have fun, with up to 30 diverse water features. Even those who use a wheelchair are able to enjoy the splash pad area as well as the accessible washrooms.

Nabil Rashidi, the chief executive officer at Waha Splashclub, has created splash pad experiences for companies and hotels across the region, including The Grove in Bahrain and Saudi ARAMCO.

Nabil, who is a father of three, said: "As a parent myself, I wanted to make the splash pad experience available to tourists and residents across the kingdom, instead of having it exclusive to certain club members or people who are staying at a five-star hotel."

Nabil's firm Premier Q, which also designs, supplies and constructs waterpark equipment, partnered with Vortex Aquatic Structures International, a Canadian company that specialises in building splash pad equipment.

As the *GulfWeekly* toured the facility last week, some of the standout features included the Water Journey, an



Nabil operating the back-end of the Splashclub

experience with paddles and water paths to teach children about the flow of water through tactile experience as well as the various pressure-sensitive water fountains to give children a fun way to learn about Pascal's Principle, whereby pressure is uniformly transmitted throughout a liquid.

Stephen Hamelin, president and chief executive of Vortex Aquatic Structures International, said: "While some play events focus on the cognitive play others provide various levels of physical play. For example, the Water Journey is an interactive event that allows children to explore the hydraulic cause and effects as they control the flow of water through a maze of channels. There is also special attention to providing physical challenges for the very young

as well as the older school age kids. At the Splashclub, toddlers can take their first trip down a waterslide while move physically advanced children can venture under the thundering splash of the Super Wave."

A unique misting stand, invented by the team for Bahrain, gives those on the side-lines a cooling water based experience of their own.

The Waha Splashclub, which is an all-Bahraini company with mostly Bahraini employees, also has its own food truck, which serves light snacks and drinks

aimed for kids.

The entire park has a fully computerised control system with the ability to adjust flow, light colours and activities build into a programmable back-end.

The splash pad has been designed with environmental sustainability and safety in mind. As we watched the most visually striking feature, the Super Wave splash water down, Nabil explained that the reservoir for the splash area, which can accommodate up to 300 children, was 15,000 litres, less than a third of the 50,000 litres needed to fill a small

swimming pool.

Additionally, the system recycles its water, sanitising it along the way to ensure a minimal carbon footprint. The splash pad also includes various safety features to avert the possibility of any injury or drowning.

Stephen said: "Safety is at the core of our product development process. We challenge ourselves to provide exciting play experiences while minimizing the risk of injury. All products are designed and engineered in accordance with international safety guidelines for aquatic play and amusements. In addition, an impact attenuating flooring system is installed to improve comfort and to reduce the risk of injuries from falls.

"The Splashclub is also designed to have no standing water eliminating the risk of drowning. This is a huge

FUN TIME: Some of the water features, including the pressure sensitive fountains



stress relief for families with very young children and affords parents with some peace of mind."

According to Cristina Fulgencio, general manager at Waha Splashclub, based on the success of this club, the company will explore opening similar public splash pads in the country and region.

The Waha Splashclub is open to the public every day from 10am to 9pm, with a two-hour pass priced at BD5 and a day pass priced at BD8 per child. Parents, who are required to be present to supervise their kids, pay BD2 per person. The area is also available for birthday parties and other events, with live entertainment, annual memberships and other added features to be unveiled in the coming months. For details, visit [www.wahasplashclub.com](http://www.wahasplashclub.com)



Nabil



Cristina



Food and beverage options at the Splashclub

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# Crafty Curios

**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
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**B**AHRAINI home-based business, Curio, is giving art and environmental enthusiasts 'fun' for their money with upcycled containers and lanterns made out of discarded coffee containers and beverage bottles.

Curio, owned and operated by entrepreneur Sowsan Hasan, features handmade crafts and accessories for sale, the latest of which are money banks upcycled from coffee containers and bottle lanterns as well as from empty beverage bottles.

Sowsan has become a regular on the island's small-business craft fair circuit and last weekend, was at the Bold Art Talent Convention held at Reef Mall.

Upcycling, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality and environmental value.

Sowsan said: "It began with a pickle jar and the need for a place to put my paint brushes. From there I saw the potential in giving new life to so many beautiful glass pieces that were being thrown away daily. Chatting with customers, I see their eyes light up as they start to see the potential in these beautiful pieces. Thanks to their feedback, I can tweak the glass to suit different needs."

“With a small change to the lids, my up-cycled wish jars became one of a kind money banks.”

PRETTY DESIGNS:  
Sowsan with her up-cycled products



For example, with a small change to the lids, my up-cycled wish jars became one of a kind money banks."

As opposed to recycling, which falls under the category of down cycling, that involves breaking an item down into its component elements or materials. Upcycling is a simple real-world method of preventing waste through everyday recycling of old products into newer ones.

The term upcycling was officially coined in 2002 when William McDonough and Michael Braungart wrote a book called *Cradle to Cradle: The Way We Make Things*. It talks about the benefits of upcycling and its place in creating different products. The end result of upcycling is reduced raw

material consumption.

In creating her 'Curios', Sowsan takes empty bottles, and after cleaning them, paints designs onto each of

them.

Sowsan added: "I've always been a crafter. I like to play with different mediums, materials and techniques."



Some of Curio's other designs



Curio is how I share those creations with others. Each piece can take three to five days. I'm always coming up with new designs. As a result, my work appeals to a wide variety of people.

"My process is organic. I experiment with techniques, colours and textures and allow the piece to inspire me. It doesn't always work out but I've learned not to be afraid of trying new things and keeping an open mind"

In addition to upcycled products, Curio also sells a variety of handmade items including bracelets, bookmarks and cross-stitch key-chains depicting popular comic and animated



characters.

To check out Sowsan's upcycled bottles and jars, follow Curio on Instagram – @curio.bh





A harmonious crowd of diversity



Bahraini artisan



A girl getting her face painted



Ladies dressed in traditional wear from Thailand Embassy and club

# United by

**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE  
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**T**HE kingdom is all set to unite next month in festival form in a bid to bring different communities together to highlight inclusivity and harmony in diversity; ensuring no one is left behind.

The non-profit initiative, entitled Bahrain for all, All for Bahrain (BHR4ALL), has been attracting thousands of people from different walks of life, embassies, clubs, societies, organisations and directorates to come together to showcase their heritage and abilities.

The cultural campaign was conceptualised by Nivedita M Dhadphale in 2011, who is also the founder of ConsultNivs and CSR Heroes. She, Salman Amjad, a mechanical engineer, and Mohammed Usman, an IT engineer, have volunteered their time and efforts into organising the annual event which is now in its ninth edition under the theme of BHR4ALL 2020 "Leaving Nobody Behind".

"It is important for the communities to unite under the umbrella of one vision and one goal – that being Bahrain," said Nivedita. "We need to show the world that there are so many communities with rich cultures that make up the



Children at a cultural display



Dancers in vibrant skirts from Nepal Club and Embassy

fabric of Bahrain's society. We live and work in harmony and stand by the country regardless of our nationality, gender or ability.

"I believe that our event also creates more camaraderie and understanding between each other. We have communities from different faiths and countries including Pakistan, India, Sudan, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Kenya, Tunisia, Jordan, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Palestine and more participating in BHR4ALL 2020. For the first time, the event is in the Manama. We are very much part of society and it is an opportunity to thank and celebrate the country we call home."

Last year, the main event, which was held in Prince Khalifa bin Salman Park in Hidd, was said to have attracted a footfall of more than 50,000 people. This year, the two day social spectacular will be held at Bahrain Bay on February 6 and 7 and according to Nivedita it will be an inclusive event in every sense of the word.

"In every event, we try to fill in the gaps and offer more to visitors and participants," explained Nivedita. "The



Performing troupe from Indonesian Club and Embassy

overall theme being "Leaving Nobody Behind" meaning we must include all members of our society regardless of ability. The idea of BHR4ALL was to mobilise different communities in Bahrain to showcase their culture and abilities, to highlight the strength of "inclusivity and unity in diversity" in the kingdom and use it as a platform to promote and raise awareness of the differently abled community."

Nivedita has worked with the differently-abled in Bahrain for more than almost 20 years and before that in the UK with a specific focus on the intellectually disabled.

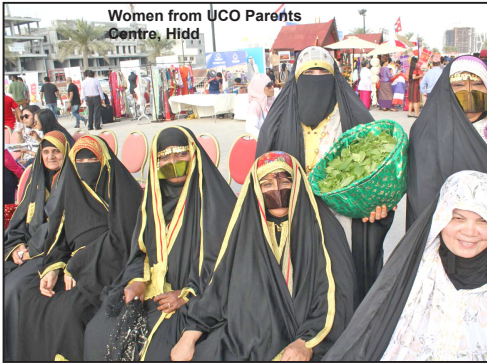
She gained insight into the difficulties faced by the families and over the years, she developed the ability to alleviate to some degree their hardships as well as to appreciate the fundamental challenges and requirements of this vulnerable and voiceless community.

"They are a community that is often less understood and inadvertently ignored," she added. "Hence, we make sure that all of the centres and schools are contacted and invited. From the outset, we have invited and ensured that special needs centres, women's groups and senior citizens who are the pillars of any society are specially

# one vision...



Organisers Salman, Nivedita and Mohammed



Women from UCO Parents Centre, Hidd



One of the folkloric performances on stage

invited and included.”

Every year they organise more than 30 events to raise awareness about all communities in Bahrain which culminates with a mega event to showcase all participating societies.

She added: “All our events are inclusive whereby we ensure that those with different abilities and included. During our inclusive public events, not only are queries raised about long-term care but also about the full spectrum of special needs, indicating a glaring lacuna in our knowledge of disability.

“In the long term, our resolve is to inspire optimisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budgets with a genuine impact on society through: alignment of thinking, integration of activities, active engagement of key stakeholders and the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We cannot work without sufficient funding.

“We are deeply grateful to the private sector that has supported our initiatives. Their presence has touched tens of thousands while showcasing the inclusivity and unity in diversity in the Kingdom of Bahrain.”

This year's event will feature a Sensory Room as well as several stalls

showcasing cultural items, handmade goods, food and products for sale from various communities and societies on the island.

“This is the first event in Bahrain to create an area designed specifically for those who may develop sensory overload,” added Nivedita. “Family members with different sensory issues will have an opportunity to enjoy the event in a comfortable environment. The Sensory Room provides a calm space for people with special needs to relax, offers a relaxing environment to calm anyone who may feel overwhelmed in busy and unfamiliar surroundings and is designed for people with autism, dementia or cognitive impairment.”

There will be more than 30 performances by different communities too including the Regional Institute of Autism (RIA), the Friendship Society for the Blind and the Dance Academy.

She added: “Apart from the performances by different groups, we have a large children's play area which includes the sensory room. Free space has been allocated to Little Pearls Nursery and the Friendship Society for the Blind amongst others to conduct arts and crafts.

“Space is also offered free of charge to special needs centres, communities and

embassies and we charge small businesses to help cover the cost of the event.”

The event is being supported by the Ministry of Interior and the Capital Governorate and it all falls in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa's position on the protection of religious freedoms and respect for pluralism and intellectual, cultural and religious diversity.

“The Capital governor HE Shaikh Hisham bin Abdul Rahman Al Khalifa and his team are being highly supportive with logistics and have offered their assistance to ensure that the event runs smoothly,” said Nivedita. “The Ministry of Interior has always supported us with community police, trained uniformed social workers, traffic the Police Band and the police horses. The Ministry of Interior and social workers help us manage the crowds and liaise between communities.”

The kingdom's commitment to the physical, moral and mental development of youth as well as the values of inclusivity, tolerance, peace and social solidarity are referenced in the National Action Charter. BHR4ALL's goals are clearly aligned with those of the National Action Charter and their vision is to support and encourage youth empowerment, health through sports, intellectual development and inclusive social cohesion.

“The success of the events lies squarely on the shoulders of our small team of organisers, communities and generous partners who

see the value of showcasing national unity and inclusivity,” Nivedita said. “Moreover, the agonising stigma of having a child with different abilities is rarely discussed openly, but it does exist and is a covert reason for unhappiness in some families. Studies suggest that

extensive support from and involvement of extended family can no longer be counted upon as the family structure is rapidly changing. We as a society should accept some responsibility in the long run.

“Our aim at BHR4All continues to be to invite the

private sector to share some burden of care by converting short-term “charity-based donation” to that of enduring partnership, empathy and collaboration. The families are thus assured, they are not alone and that we are here to help: Leaving Nobody Behind.”



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# Rasika's



# real deals

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

## FAB FRENCH FRAGRANCES



**SWEET SCENT:** David introducing his line at the launch. Left, managing director Jawad Yousuf Al Hawaj sharing the delight with David and Shyam Narayanan, Al Hawaj's operation manager

**A**L Hawaj Group was delighted to launch a series of floral, musky and sweet scents from BDK Parfums, a new and independent fragrance creation house with roots in Paris, France.

Its founder, David Benedek, presented his fragrances, in particular the French Bouquet and Tabac Rose to Al Hawaj Group management, invited guests, social media influencers and members of the media at the perfume unveiling in its spacious

store in Seef Mall. He has two collections, one series boasting black caps and another with gold tops.

He also shared that the inspiration behind his perfumes which is all about French craftsmanship and Paris.

"The brand is linked to Paris and the city where I grew up," he told *GulfWeekly*. "The inspiration comes directly from Paris, selecting the best raw materials that I can find within the market. With each perfume I am telling a story."

BDK was founded in 2016 by David who grew up in a family surrounded by perfumery. His father has Romanian heritage, his mother was born on the border of Algeria and Morocco and his grandparents moved to Paris after WWII. They were the first authorised to distribute renowned perfume brands such as Christian Dior in Paris in the 1950s.

David studied fragrances and raw materials with professors and master perfumers from Guivaudan. He graduated from Institut Francais de la

Mode (IFM). His perfumes can be found in various Parisian boutiques as well as shops worldwide in Europe, Russia, North America and the Middle East.

He is excited to be working with Al Hawaj Group. He said: "I was told that people in Bahrain love French fragrances and perfumes. I was put in contact with Al Hawaj Group, presented the brand to them and they enjoyed it. My relationship with Al Hawaj Group began three to four months ago."

### Alosra Supermarket

1. Apples green France per kg – 690fils
2. Aquafina water 12x60ml – 625fils
3. Driscoll's strawberries pre-packed 454gm – BD2.995
4. Mushrooms Holland pre-packed 250gm – 695fils
5. New Zealand beef minced low fat per kg – BD3.990

### Mega Mart Bahrain

1. Biryani basmati rice 5kg – BD2.900
2. Afia extra virgin olive oil 570ml – BD2.650
3. Quaker oats bag 500gm – 770fils
4. Fino halloumi cheese 225gm – BD1.350
5. Bird channa dal 1kg – BD1

### Ansar Gallery

1. Rino milk powder 2.5kg – BD3.995
2. Zaina sunflower oil 2x1ltr – 995fils
3. Kellogg's cornflakes 375gm – 795fils
4. TDM chakki atta 5kg – BD1.100
5. Almarai triangle cheese 5x120gm – 895fils

## Techtronic Specials



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

	Item	Description	Location	Price
1	Water dispenser	Nikai water dispenser, Nwd 1208, free standing, two taps (hot and cold), cabinet storage and cup holder.	Gajria Electronics	BD40
2	Smart TV	Supra 50-inches, 4K, Smart LED TV.	Ansar Gallery	BD99.900
3	Air fryer	Clikon air fryer, 2.5ltr and 1,500 watts.	Ansar Gallery	BD16.900
4	Air pods	Apple AirPods 2nd Gen with wireless charging case, white, one year warranty and two pieces left.	eXtra Bahrain	BD59.990
5	Smartphone	Apple iPhone XR, 64GB, 4G, IOS 12, black and one year warranty.	eXtra Bahrain	BD229.990
6	Heater	Clikon heater, 1,000-2,000 watts.	Sharaf DG	Now: BD23.990 Was: BD26.240 Savings: BD2.250
7	Condenser dryer	IGNIS 7kg condenser dryer, electronic control and anti-crease.	Y K Almoayyed & Sons	Now: BD120.750 Was: BD160 Savings: BD39.250

### GADGETS OF THE WEEK

**What is it called?** Chubby Buttons Bluetooth Music Remote

**What does it do?** This smartphone easy-touch remote is water resistant making it ideal for action sports or active lifestyles. Never fumble again while trying to make a call, change music or take a selfie. It features big buttons to control tunes even when wearing gloves or mittens. No need to download any apps, just pair it and go!  
**Cost: BD21**



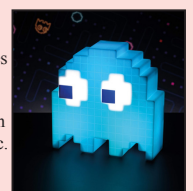
**What is it called?** AXIS Gear

**What does it do?** Gear is the easiest and best way to automate existing window blinds, shades and curtains. There is a five-minute DIY installation process and it is compatible with any window shade or blind that has a beaded chain (plastic or metal). It can be controlled with the free smartphone app or its intuitive Touch Strip controls.  
**Cost: BD90**



**What is it called?** Pacman Ghost Light Table Lamp

**What does it do?** The light features 16 different phasing colours including purple, red, blue, green, yellow, light blue and orange. It can also change to the beat of the music. It's eight inches and has one micro USB as it is USB powered.  
**Cost: BD11**



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

# EatingOut

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

## Dim sum, then some

**GOURMET REPORT**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
naman@gulfweekly.com

ONE of the greatest travesties of globalisation is the continental grouping of cuisines but in recent years, with the emphasis on 'authentic fusions,' five-star kitchens are seeking to bring together authenticity from different parts of the continent, especially Asia.

The perfect example of this was on show last Saturday at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay's re/Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck restaurant, where we stopped by to enjoy their famous Dim Sum Asian brunch.

Executive sous chef Luke Omarzu has created a 25-item shareable menu, which changes every week, with dishes from every corner of the East and South-east Asian continent. Each diner gets a choice of five dishes from the menu with extras thrown in for our palette perusal courtesy of Chef Luke and assistant restaurant director Rumena Martin.

We started with four 'dumpling-esque' items - potstickers with Wagyu beef, black vinegar and chili oil, Szechuan lamb dumplings with Szechuan pepper and crispy shallots, vegetable spring rolls with sweet Thai chili sauce and shitake mushroom and Szechuan 'Dan Dan' dumplings with organic chicken and peanut sauce.

While our vegetarian photographer enjoyed the unparalleled crispiness of the spring rolls, my carnivorous colleague and I dug into



Szechuan style striploin and pan seared sea bass

the rest. The 'Dan Dan dumplings' are the most popular item on the dumpling menu, and with a buttery flavour and texture, combined with a very distinct peanut taste, it was easy to see why.

The next course featured items from the 'Land', 'Sea', 'Air' and 'From The Wok' sub-menus. The crispy turnip cakes with black bean and garlic chili glaze and the 'General Tso' cauliflower with roasted peanuts and blackened chili gave us our dose of earthy flavours. While I am not traditionally a fan of turnips, the glaze as well as the crispy exterior giving way to a succulent core made a believer out of me.

The crispy 'salt and pepper' squid with red Thai curry dipping sauce and the line-

caught black bass skewer with Thai chilies and sour dipping sauce took us out to sea but did not leave us adrift.

And just as food coma reared its lethargic head, the Korean fried chicken bao buns with radish kimchi and gochujang aioli, stir-fried chicken lettuce cups with bean sprouts and the chicken Yakatori with sweet soy, cilantro and citrus zest got us soaring amongst the clouds. For our vegetarian readers, re/Asian is happy to accommodate, and we were served vegetarian lettuce cups, with eggplant instead of chicken.

When we came in, Rumena emphasised the shareable nature of each dish and while we were sceptical at first, this intentional preparation was evident in the servings.

For our main course, I went for a medium-rare Szechuan style striploin with Wok-fried greens and garlic pepper sauce (which is a larger sized



Korean fried chicken bao buns



Wagyu beef potstickers

portion for an additional BD7) while my colleague tried the pan seared sea bass with sweet soy, jasmine rice and Thai basil (for an additional BD5).

And straight from the wok, we were also served Hong Kong-style noodles with shitake, bean sprouts and bok choy; Shanghai-style noodles with braised beef, Hon Shimeji mushroom and Thai basil; vegetable fried rice with sweet onion and toasted sesame oil; and hand-cut Chow Fun "Crazy Noodles" with Hon Shimeji, Thai chilis and black pepper.

The steak was delectable, with a perfect pepper sear and a garlic-pepper sauce glaze on the outskirts. As Chef Luke informed us, it was a culmination of French and Chinese culinary tradition.

Of course, as we prepped the additional guest room in our bellies for dessert, a chocolate and yuzu cake with ganache montee and chocolate sorbet; a pear caramel chocolate bar with chocolate mousse, peanut cream and yuzu ice cream; a black sesame bar with sesame cake, pistachio cream and Dulcey ice cream and the



Rumena



Chef Luke

chef's special homemade sorbet and ice-cream with seasonal fresh fruit magically appeared.

I had never heard of Yuzu before but it's one of the most wonderful pairings with chocolate. The flavour is impossible to summarise. Some say the flavour is a tangy mix of lemon, mandarin and grapefruit. Some say it's more like peach, lemon and lime.

Basically, it's a citrus that tastes better than all the others put together. Yuzu is popular in Japan, used in savoury dishes and desserts. Originally, Yuzu comes from China and rolled into Japan during the Tang Dynasty 1,000 years ago, where it

was used for medicinal and cooking purposes. Paired with chocolate, every bite is a celestial coupling of culinary perfection.

And saved from my impending food coma by a double espresso as well as the breath-taking view, we retired for the afternoon, with a special reserved place in our hearts and bellies for Four Seasons' re/Asian culinary experience.

Soak in the immersive views from the 50th floor and feast on mouth-watering selections during this hugely popular brunch from 12:30pm to 3:30pm every Saturday. Priced at BD28net for food only, BD32net including soft beverages and BD36net including premium beverages. For more details, contact 17115046.

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The desserts on the menu



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# Leisure Guide



Listings, lifestyle, travel, entertainment and sporting events by Naman Arora

## Today (January 15)

From Monday to Saturday during dinner service, savour CUT by Wolfgang Puck with the special Kitchen Dining Experience. Embark on a menu-free bespoke and interactive culinary journey away from the typical setting of a restaurant dining room table. Priced at BD48net for five courses with soft beverage pairing, BD60net for seven courses with soft beverage pairing, BD67net for five courses with select beverage pairing and BD85net for seven courses with select beverage pairing. Accommodating guests between 7pm until 8:30pm to start.

❖ **Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay**  
☎ 17115044

Every Wednesday from 7pm to 11pm, sit down for a steak dinner at La Mosaïque's red meat buffet and enjoy a host of international meat dishes along with a grill station filled with A-grade cuts of steak. Priced at BD18net inclusive of water & soft drinks and BD25net with unlimited grape.

❖ **Crowne Plaza Manama**  
☎ 17531122

Every Wednesday evening at Medzo, enjoy pizza for BD5 from 6:30pm to 11pm.

❖ **Intercontinental-Regency**  
☎ 17227777

If you need a midweek excuse to "sushilize" with friends and colleagues, stop by the Thai from 7pm to 11:30pm for 50 per cent savings on selected sushi and beverages.

❖ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
☎ 17586499

Every Wednesday at Al Waha's butcher nights, enjoy steaks cooked to your preference from the live cooking station.

Priced at BD15+++  
❖ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**  
☎ 17713000



Four Seasons  
Hotel Bahrain  
Bay

Every Wednesday from 7pm to 11pm, a BBQ experience awaits you at Baharat Restaurant, showcasing BBQ ribs and Wagyu prime rib steak. The BBQ buffet is priced at BD22net including soft drinks and water and BD28net including selected free flow beverages.

❖ **Le Meridien City Centre**  
☎ 17171441

## Tomorrow (January 16)

Savour live stations of seafood and meat cuisine every Thursday at the Selections Restaurant from 7pm to 10:30pm priced at BD19net for food and BD29net inclusive of selected beverages.

❖ **Intercontinental-Regency**  
☎ 17227777

A cup of quality tea along with gourmet bites is the perfect excuse for a little break during a busy day. Available every day in the Bay View Lounge. Priced at BD26.7net for two guests or BD14.6net for one guest.

❖ **Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay**  
☎ 17115000

January is the month to relish delicious Bahraini prawns. Visit Brasserie Royale to discover a special a la carte menu designed with the freshest ingredients of the season including crispy coconut prawns, handmade pasta with prawns or prawns biryani.

❖ **Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain**  
☎ 77707070

Every Thursday at Al Waha, enjoy an all-you-can-eat seafood themed buffet with live cooking and delectable offerings of the sea. Priced at BD23net with soft beverages and BD29net with select beverages.

❖ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**  
☎ 17713000

Stop by Nirvana on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 3pm and 7pm to 11:30pm to welcome the simple refinement and comfort of home cooking this season. Savour the harmony of textures, flavours and aromas of Indian street delicacies including favourites like Aloo Tikki, Murg Chatpatta, Channa Chaat, Sev-Murmura Chaat and more.

❖ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
☎ 17586499

Every Thursday from 7pm – 11pm, indulge in a wide selection of fresh oysters, prawns, Lobster Thermidor, sushi, clams and mussels cooked to your liking. The seafood buffet is priced at BD28net including soft drinks and water and BD36net including selected free flow beverages.

❖ **Le Meridien City Centre**  
☎ 17171441

## Friday (January 17)

At La Med from 12:30pm to 3:30pm every Friday, enjoy a one-of-a-kind brunch experience featuring a wide variety of culinary favourites, roast stations, Asian corner, fresh seafood spread and a sumptuous dessert buffet along with live entertainment and fun for the littlest guests. Priced at BD30 including soft beverages and BD38 including

select beverages.

❖ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
☎ 17586499

Check out 'The Brasserie Way' brunch every Friday from 1pm to 5pm, priced at BD27net with soft drinks and BD35net with selected beverages. The little guests will love their dedicated buffet and the special activities organised by the Bulbul Kids Club team exclusively for them.

❖ **Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain**  
☎ 77707070

Enjoy brunch at CUT by Wolfgang Puck featuring some of the chef's favourite dishes. The event runs from 12pm to 3:30pm and is priced at BD32net per person including soft beverages and BD44net for the select beverage package.

❖ **Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay**  
☎ 17115044

Be spoiled for choice every Friday night with La Mosaïque's newest offering: Pearl of Arabia. Revel in the tastes of the region with food sections, live grill and shawarma stations, as well as an unrivalled Middle Eastern dessert station. Priced at BD15net inclusive of soft beverages. Select beverage package available for additional BD5 - BD7net.

❖ **Crowne Plaza Manama**  
☎ 17531122  
Check out Naman's review of the Pearl of Arabia feast on Page 11.

Spread across the Selections, Medzo and Legendz restaurants is the unforgettable Brunchism experience from 12:30pm to 4pm, a brunch buffet featuring live food stations and culinary choices from around the world, accompanied by entertainment and kids activities, with food and music around the pool area. Priced at BD22net for the soft drink package and the BD32net for the select beverage package.

❖ **Intercontinental-Regency**  
☎ 17227777

Enjoy Thai culinary nights with live cooking counters serving papaya salad, satays, carvings and a selection of main courses. Priced at BD15net per person inclusive of two select beverages.

❖ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**  
☎ 17713000

At La Table Krug by Y from 12:30pm to 3:30pm, experience an elegant buffet of the most exquisite culinary delights tastefully unveiled for an afternoon of indulgence, Krug-style. And enjoy a surprise dish prepared exclusively by executive chef Yann Lejard. Priced at BD55, includes a selection of premium beverages.

❖ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
☎ 17586499

## Saturday (January 18)

From Saturday to Wednesday, take a midday respite in the luxurious comforts of The Palm Lounge and imbibe of the festivities with delicate delights that reflect the season. Enjoy warm scones with clotted cream and house-made chocolate spread, savoury bites, Christmas-inspired patisseries and more. Complete the afternoon with your choice of hot beverages. Priced at BD25net for two persons.

❖ **Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain**  
☎ 77707070



Lounge at the Legendz Steakhouse and enjoy the Lazy Legendary Lunch in a relaxed cosy setting every Saturday from 11:30am to 4pm. Priced at BD19net.

❖ **Intercontinental-Regency**  
☎ 17227777

Enjoy a delectable International buffet spread every Saturday from 12:30pm to 4pm at Furn Bistro, while revelling in the Rotunda's ambience. Priced at BD8net.

❖ **The Westin City Centre**  
☎ 17171441

At re/Asian Cuisine, soak in the immersive views from the 50th floor and feast on mouth-watering Asian selections like Korean Fried Chicken Bao Buns, Wok Fried Shrimp Dumplings and Brisket Wontons during this hugely popular brunch from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Priced at BD28net for food only, BD32net including soft beverages and BD36net including premium beverages.

❖ **Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay**  
☎ 17115046

Check out Naman's review of the brunch on page 7.

Spice up your weekly brunch around Mexico at Cantina Kahlo. The Brunch Fiesta will be held from noon to 4pm, priced BD36.50net per person with select beverages and BD23net per person with soft beverages. Stick around for a separate special after brunch a la carte menu featuring Ensalada Verde, Ceviches, Antojitos, Tacos and Churros.

❖ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
☎ 17586499

Enjoy an all-new Saturday lunch at Primavera with a variety of sharing dishes including the signature Antipasti Board, selection of meat and fish, traditional pastas, grandma's Tiramisu and more. Priced at BD25net per adult, includes beverage package and BD10net for children ages four – 12.

❖ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
☎ 17586499

Every Saturday from 10:30am to noon, the Art of Cooking class is designed for home cooks with busy lifestyles who have a passion for food.



The Ritz Carlton  
Bahrain



## REEF RELAXATION

Designed for your absolute relaxation, the Lagoon Beach boasts serene views from sunrise till sunset and is one of Reef Clubhouse's most scenic spots in the kingdom.

The Reef Clubhouse's new indoor pool is now open! The large-scale indoor pool is a sight to behold with every detail designed to make being here a delightful experience. Whether enjoying the warm water, a drink at the poolside bar, soaking in the Jacuzzi, or relaxing on deckchairs, the pool offers a world-class environment in which to spend moments of leisure.

Enjoy their Pre-Launch Special and relax and unwind every day until Sunday. For only BD10 net/person at the food savoury area,

guests can enjoy free access to Lagoon Beach facilities including the new indoor pool while children under five are free of charge. Located at the Reef Island, the scenic Clubhouse & Lagoon Beach are perfectly positioned overlooking the panoramic view of Bahrain skyline where guests can create memories with loved ones aboard the Lagoon Moon floating restaurant as they witness the striking view.

The Clubhouse is a vibrant hub of lifestyle amenities placing you at the heart of a world where dining, well-being, leisure, socializing and relaxation are all yours in luxury surroundings. It also has a playground area where a sphere of entertainment and educational fun will keep younger guests amused in a safe and engaging environment. For inquiries, call: 77900700.



Prepare some Thai treats with Chef Wasanee this Saturday. Special aprons with the logo and chef hats will be provided for guests. Priced at BD18net including lunch.

✦ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**  
☎ 17713000

Every Saturday from 12:30pm to 4pm feast on more than 130 kinds of desserts, unlimited beverages and selection of International dishes and live cooking stations. Priced at BD28net including soft drinks and water and BD36net including selected free flow beverages. Children aged six-12 dine at half price. Those aged 5 and under dine for free.

✦ **Le Meridien City Centre**  
☎ 17171441

Devour a selection of international and Middle Eastern cuisine at Baharat every Sunday to Thursday from 12:30pm to 3pm. The lunch buffet is priced BD16net, the soup and salad buffet is priced BD7net and children aged six to 12 dine at half price.

✦ **Le Meridien City Centre**  
☎ 17171441



Sushi treat at Gulf Hotel Bahrain

Only on the third Thursday of the month, enjoy all-you-can-eat sushi for BD12net at Sato restaurant.

✦ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**  
☎ 17713000

Every day from 8am to noon, enjoy a special Bahraini breakfast platter by Chef Samara, served with karak tea. Priced at BD9.5net

✦ **Intercontinental-Regency**  
☎ 17227777

The Primavera restaurant invites you to its two-course power lunch with special menus from Sunday to Thursday, set by Chef Delfino. Priced at BD12net, you can combine your choice of mains, salad and/or desserts.

✦ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
☎ 17580000

### Monday (January 20)

Every Monday, test out your general knowledge at Sherlock Holmes' Trivia Night hosted by Radio Bahrain's Ian Fisher.

✦ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**  
☎ 17713000

Dive in and explore Poseidon's kingdom at Olivos every Monday from 6pm to 11pm with a wide selection of seafood dishes, priced BD15net per person.

✦ **Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel**  
☎ 17531666

Enjoy all-you-can-eat Asian bite and bao every Monday at the Elements Pool and Lounge from 7pm to 11pm. Priced at BD9.9net for the bite package and BD 12.9net for the bite and bao package.

✦ **Intercontinental-Regency**  
☎ 17227777

From Monday to Thursday from noon to 3pm, explore the flavour-focused lunch menu and expect bistro-inspired indulgence that complements the pace of your lunch break.

✦ **Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay**  
☎ 17115044

At Waves seafood restaurant, from noon to 4pm, enjoy a three-course business lunch every day and take a break from your busy schedule for their special a la carte menu, featuring Bahrain's freshest seafood.

✦ **Crowne Plaza Manama**  
☎ 17531122

Start the week with Italian favourites at Primavera and entice your palate with a new three-course sharing menu featuring a chef-selection Antipasti Board, your choice of Veal Milanese or Mix Seafood Grill, along with a signature Italian dessert. Priced at BD15 per person with minimum two people per sharing menu.

✦ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
☎ 17586499

### Tuesday (January 21)

Experience a sensory journey through a five-course tasting menu with optional blind beverage pairing. The daily Degustation Dinner at Plums from 7pm to 11:30pm is perfect for culinary enthusiasts and couples or friends seeking an exciting evening. Priced at BD45net per person or BD65net including a blind beverage pairing.

✦ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
☎ 17586499

At the Spices restaurant, starting at noon, during the month of January, take your palate on a journey of flavour and spice through the Nawab region of India when Chef Pramod will be preparing a range of dishes unique to the city of kings.

✦ **Crowne Plaza Manama**  
☎ 17531122

Every Tuesday night, ladies enjoy 50 per cent off at all



Crowne Plaza Manama

of Gulf Hotel's restaurants and lounges except Rasoi by Vineet. There is even a special set menu for ladies at Rasoi by Vineet!

✦ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**  
☎ 17713000

Stop by the Furn Rotunda for some Arabic afternoon tea daily from 2pm to 6pm, enjoy its unique ambience as well as specials in the Furn bakery display. Stick around for the fateer which is crispy, fresh & available sweet, with meat or prawns from 1pm to 10pm every day.



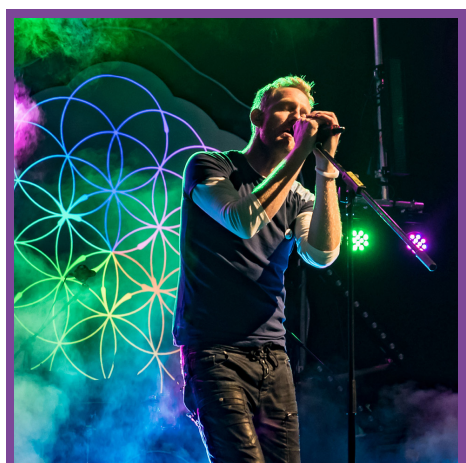
✦ **The Westin City Centre Bahrain**  
☎ 17171441

Dates for the Diary  
On January 24 from 1pm to 4pm, have a special Friday brunch to ring in the Chinese New Year including live dim sum stands, a Peking duck station, prosperity tossed salad, Singapore chili crab. Priced at BD30net inclusive of soft beverages and BD43net inclusive of select beverages. Children aged between six and 12 get a 50 per cent discount, and those five and under eat for free.

✦ **Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay**  
☎ 17115500

On January 25 starting at 5pm, enjoy Chinese New Year with specially crafted Chinese snack platters while enjoying the live band at The Harvesters Terrace as part of The East Meets West celebration.

✦ **Crowne Plaza Manama**  
☎ 17531122



## COLDPLAY TRIBUTE

The world's leading tribute to Coldplay, Coldplace is visiting Bahrain for a show at Sherlock Holmes. The cover band has been on the tribute circuit for about seven years now and has firmly established itself as one of the top tributes in the world. With many memorable shows in their back catalogue, they aim to give the audience a live experience they won't forget. They regularly tour abroad and have played in nearly 20 different countries, some of them regularly. Their adventures have led them to appear on Sky News, BBC Radio One and Two and The Gadget Show and to have played at festivals along with Bob Geldof, KT Tunstall, Ringo Starr and Roxette to name but a few.

Coldplace will be performing a concert on January 30, starting at 9pm. Priced at BD10net, inclusive of 1 selected drink. They will also be accompanying the Friday Brunch party on January 31, from 12:30pm to 4pm. Priced at BD26net (for early birds) and BD29net (at the door) Tickets to the show are available at <http://pay.gulfhotelbahrain.com/events/>



### Cinema Club this evening at 7pm

Title: My Brother Is an Only Child  
Director: Daniele Luchetti  
Duration: 100 minutes  
Cast: Elio Germano, Riccardo Scamarcio, Diane Fleri, Angela Finocchiaro

Two brothers living in Italy, grow up against the backdrop of the tumultuous years of the '60s and '70s. As the years wear on, their family loyalty is tested by their political differences and their dueling loves for Francesca, a compassionate and intelligent activist.

For queries, call Huda at 39682323



Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain

Business lunch at the Brasserie Royale from Sunday to Thursday with a three-course menu and delicious options to choose from. Priced at BD15net per person.

✦ **Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain**  
☎ 77707070

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# Fashion Weekly

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

## From Munich to Berlin

**G**ERMAN luxury fashion house MCM, which stands for Modern Creation München, used music and club culture to create its Spring Summer 2020 collection.

The line pays a music-themed tribute to its brand by capturing its seminal moments in sound from 1976 Munich Disco to 2020 Berlin Techno. The SS20 collection presents five creatives from around the globe who personify the assortments they're wearing. The campaign depicts a series of contrasting testimonials throughout a typical nightclub in Berlin, from the darkness of the discotheque to the rising sun at the exit.

Dirk Schönberger, the brand's global creative officer, said: "We were inspired by the collection's narrative of versatility and mobility with limitless opportunities for self-

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

expression. For us, the concept of 'From Munich Disco to Berlin Techno' expresses not only the mood and attitude of the collection, but the musical elements which inspired it. That's what we wanted to celebrate with this high-octane campaign that is as dynamic as it is irreverent."

The line boasts bold industrial tones and downbeat pastel hues in retro and futuristic styles that can easily be taken from day to night. The clothing fuses construction with deconstruction, street culture with luxury and material with emotion. It also features tailored fluidity to assist with functionality.

Rock 'n' roll black sits alongside bright pops of primary colour, while cool neutral hues reference both disco glamour and the



modern, utilitarian aesthetic of techno.

Renowned photographer Lukas Wassman captured the truth and beauty of the underground with a series of raw portraits in a laid back, reportage style aesthetic.

The campaign stars

designer Imran Potato, model Won Dae Joo, singer Daisy Maybe, rapper Tayahna Walcott and skateboarder Evan Mock dressed in MCM's daring designs.

The designers also state that this campaign illustrates MCM's DNA of

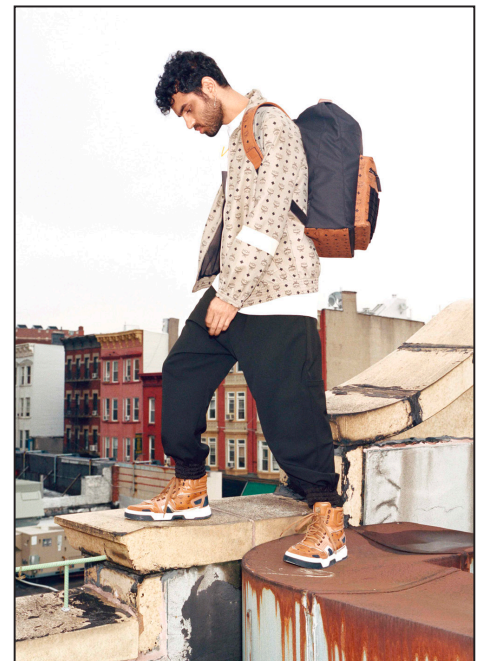


and accessories for the first time.

The collection, which features billowy trousers, oversized and mini bags, metallic embellishments, track suits and street wear, are available in store and online worldwide.



inspired visuals, introducing a full men's and women's ready-to-wear range of apparel



### Jalal's timely tips on the latest trends

Art Blakey  
from The Jazz  
Messengers



SWISS watchmakers Oris have jumpstarted the New Year with a series of swinging timepieces inspired by American jazz drummer and bandleader Art Blakey.

Art, who was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1919, made a name for himself in the 1940s and 1950s playing alongside iconic jazz legends such as Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. Oris also paid tribute for their talents by creating limited edition watches.

In the 1950s, Art formed the Jazz Messengers and went on to play with them for more than three decades. He died in 1990 and won a Grammy Lifetime Achievement award in 2005.

The watch, which is a time-only automatic and limited to 1,000 pieces, marks one hundred years since his birth. It features a dial decorated with the eight claws from Art's bass drum, and a case back with a cymbal inlay.



Oris Art Blakey watch



# FinTechFocus

GulfWeekly takes a look at the world of financial technology and beyond ...



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# Slice of your time

**START-UPS**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
naman@gulfweekly.com

**A**n online social networking app, solely dedicated to empowering the community through voluntary work, aims to encourage people to spend one per cent of their time to positively impact the kingdom.

Bahraini one% mobile application was founded by Bahraini entrepreneur father-son duo Fawaz Algosaihi, a businessman involved in various fields such as logistics, distribution, manufacturing and tourism, and Fahad, a start-up investor experienced at working with start-ups across different industries.

Fawaz had been playing around with the idea for several years and Fahad helped translate that vision to reality.

Fahad said: "We began working on the project during the beginning of 2019 and launched it publicly in September. Our big hairy audacious goal (BHAG) is to help one billion people donate one per cent of their



Strong Village Trees for the Future event organised through the one% app

time on a regular basis."

The events on their platform are being initiated by a wide variety of people with different goals in mind.

He added: "We aim to facilitate events that enable people to donate their time, as opposed to money. Any kind of event aimed at helping a good cause is welcome as long as it's not connected to religion or politics, because we want to focus on things that bring

everyone together.

"For example, we have large scale beach clean-ups that are organised by Cleanup Bahrain, but also smaller scale beach clean-ups that are facilitated by individuals with a desire to clean a particular shoreline. It's been great to see the variety of events coming up recently, everything from animal welfare to caring for the elderly."

The company's first event

was run in partnership with Cleanup Bahrain on World Cleanup Day last September. Within a span of two hours, with logistical support from the company, a whopping 1,752 volunteers, managed to collect 10,274kg worth of waste from 12 different beaches around Bahrain.

According to the company, the app currently has about 2,000 users and more than 1,900 volunteering hours have been logged over the

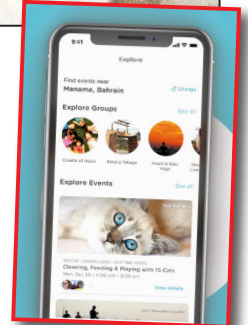


Footprints Rescued Dog Walk, organised through the app

course of 127 events.

Registration takes about three minutes and users have an option to pick their interests, including environmental, educational and economic empowerment. The app then provides each user with a list of upcoming events as well as groups they can join to connect with like-minded individuals.

The one% app is available for download on Android and iOS.



A screen capture from the one% app

## Open banking platform

**A**n Open Banking conference is set to be hosted by the Bahrain FinTech Bay (BFB) next month.

The OpenX 2020, which is being held under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), will take place at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay on February 27. It will host more than 25 speakers and aims to attract more than 300 delegates, covering pertinent topics such as regulations, monetisation of open banking, application programming interfaces (APIs) and

data protection.

Khalid Saad, chief executive of BFB said: "As part of its continued efforts to develop world class and forward-looking FinTech regulations, Bahrain has become the first country in the Middle East to embrace open banking at a national level. Open banking is transforming the way financial institutions operate and interact with their customers.



Khalid

OpenX aims to be the platform that brings together different stakeholders to shed light on this new paradigm and explore collaborative opportunities."

The platform aims to provide knowledge exchange, foster synergies among market players to find solutions, encourage, and promote a more open digital economy. It will bring together leaders and

innovators from banks, FinTech and big tech companies to discuss the latest insights in open banking technologies and trends.

In addition, the platform will host networking sessions creating an environment to connect with peers and discuss crucial topics.

The agenda includes keynote speeches and various panels highlighting the emergence of a new regulatory banking landscape, the global perspective and adoption of open banking, open banking in practice, and more.

Bahrain  
FinTech  
Bay

## OPEN X

The API Economy

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Central Bank of Bahrain



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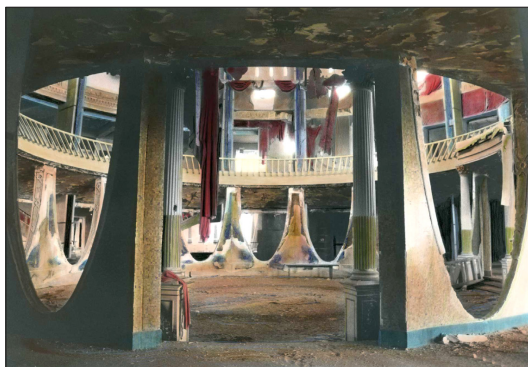
# Capturing the essence



A side of the exhibition at Ffotogallery, Cardiff



Visitors at the exhibition opening in Kuwait



Artwork by Mohammed Al-Kouh - Qasr AlSalam

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

**A** unique travelling exhibition boasting contemporary photographs and film, focused on what home means to young people living in the Gulf and UK, will be opening its doors today to art lovers and shutterbugs in the kingdom.

*The Place I Call Home* exhibition, which is being presented by The British Council at the Bahrain Museum Art Centre until the end of the month, features the work of 14 artists and photographers, each providing a different response to the theme.

The showcase, which is meant to travel across seven countries in six months, has already exhibited in Derby and Cardiff in UK as well as Kuwait, Oman and Qatar.

It is being curated by David Drake, the director of Ffotogallery which is the national photography agency of Wales. He was

commissioned by The British Council in January 2018 to develop a photography exhibition that reflected the lives and experiences of Arab and British residents in the UK and the GCC.

He said: "I chose the theme *The Place I Call Home* as I wanted the audience to think about what home means for them at a time when more and young people

**ADMIRABLE WORK:** A visitor at the exhibition opening in Kuwait



Mariam and Hussain's work of Mohammed Sharaf, employee at J P Morgan, London

spend part of their lives living, working or studying abroad. After several scoping visits to the GCC in 2019, the theme was developed and an open call for artists was

launched.

"The speed of change in the Gulf has created new perspectives that are sometimes highly local and specific, but also transcend

borders. *The Place I Call Home* explores this process of change and its impact on people. It prompts questions and conversations on 'home' as a concept and not just a

## HUSSAIN ALMOSAWI & MARIAM ALARAB (BAHRAIN/ UK)

For *The Place I Call Home*, they will be looking at six Bahraini individuals who have built their lives in the UK; focusing on the themes of citizenship and place-making. The final output will be based on archival imagery, audio, and creative documentary photography.

### AMMAR AL-ATTAR (UAE)

Ammar is a photographer and mixed media artist. Born in 1981, he lives in Ajman and is completely self-taught. His practice seeks to not only document and translate but also methodically research and examine aspects of Emirati ritual. Salat presents an investigative series of self-portraits centred on the act of prayer in Islam and the underlying explanations for each micro-movement of the ritual.

## RICHARD ALLENBY-PRATT (UK/DUBAI/ UAE)

Richard is a commercial photographer and photographic artist living in Suffolk, England, but working regularly in the Middle East; particularly the UAE. *The Story of Two Rivers* relates to the exhibition theme of place-making, being a consideration of the importance of environmental elements in personal welfare and the nature and diversity of personal needs and self-understanding of them.

### MOHAMMED AL-KOUH (KUWAIT)

Born in 1984, Mohammed lives and works in Kuwait. He is a self-taught artist who has explored different aspects of art since childhood. The artist has been commissioned to make new work for the project, reinterpreting memories of when his family evacuated to Riyadh during the invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and his feelings about returning to his homeland after the Gulf War.

## EMAN ALI (OMAN/ UK)

Eman is a self-taught professional artist photographer based and living in London. For the exhibition, she has produced a new artist photo book that draws from archive material such as photographs and films relating to the formation of the modern Oman dating from the start of the 1970s to rethink the meaning of identity, history, memory and loss. She uses the journals issued by the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman from 1973 to 1980, collected and preserved by her father during his time as a diplomat.

### BEN SOEDIRA (UAE/ UK)

Ben lives in Glasgow. With attentiveness to space and the everyday that passes through it, Ben's work encompasses what it means for a place to be recognised and understood. Ben's work revolves around the ideas of belonging and foreignness, both coinciding with one another to create the idea of home and familiarity. The visual work created follows the documentary elements within the photographic medium, whilst pushing the photograph in a way that can be read conceptually and descriptively. *Foreign Sands* explores what constitutes 'home' when living in a foreign country.

# ence of home



physical place.

"Through the exhibition, workshops and talks, I want to capture and make sense of these societal shifts in order to build understanding around the strong and rich cultural history that informs the identity of the contemporary Arab World.

"The exhibition is touring to all six GCC countries (Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and UAE) and four cities in the UK (Cardiff, Derby, Edinburgh and London), and has an accompanying public programme which works on both physical and online platforms."

**The speed of change in the Gulf has created new perspectives that are sometimes highly local and specific, but also transcend borders.**

Whilst working on the project for the past two years, David learned a great deal about the cultural richness and diversity of the



Gulf and the Arab presence in the UK. He stated that he had positive experiences working with artists, students, cultural institutions and partners in all seven countries.

"I'm also proud to have shed light on the Gulf

region and its historical and contemporary relationship to the UK, going beyond stereotyped images and the narrow representation of life in the Gulf that Western media so often projects," he explained. "It has been an enriching experience for

everybody involved, and I hope that comes through in the exhibition."

Alongside the exhibition, the programme will also include a panel talk and presentation tomorrow at 7pm, a photo walk for school children on Sunday and a portfolio review and career progression talk on Monday at 6:30pm.

Richard Rooze, director of The British Council Bahrain is delighted with providing the exhibition to enthusiasts in the kingdom.

He said: "The exhibition showcases how art is a vehicle for cross-cultural relativity and creativity, bringing together photographers and visitors across the Gulf and UK to examine the sense of place-making.

"It is the aim of British Council's cultural work in Bahrain to explore the connections and understanding between the people in the UK and Bahrain. I therefore would

warmly welcome all to visit this exhibition to go on this exploration."

Bahraini documentary photography duo, Hussain Almosawi and Mariam Alarab, are exhibiting their photo series of Bahraini immigrants finding 'home' in England, alongside other selected artists reflecting the sense of home from photography shot in the UK and other Gulf countries.

The exhibition, which is free to the public, will open tonight at 7pm and then from 8am until 8pm every day after that until January 31. Schools interested in the interactive photo walk can email maryam.abudeeb@britishcouncil.org.bh and kawthar.alarab@britishcouncil.org.bh to register.

There is a photo walk for children aged 10- to 12 from 9am to noon and for teens aged 15 and 16 from 2pm to 5pm.

## MOATH ALOFI (SAUDI ARABIA)

Born in Medina in 1984, Moath is an artist, researcher, explorer and certified tour guide of the Medina region. The *Last Tashahhud* is a photographic documentation capturing deserted mosques scattered along the winding roads leading to the holy city of Al Madinah Al Munawwarah.

## ABI GREEN (WITH SEBASTIAN BETANCUR-MONTOYA) (UK/DOHA)

Abi is a still life photographer and art director based between the UK and the GCC. Born and raised in London, she graduated with a BA (Hons) in Photography from Middlesex University. Her projects carefully balance minimalism with a graphic, colourful aesthetic resulting in her unique style. Being published both in the UK and the Middle East, her work has been featured on *Vogue Online*, *Le Book* and *It's Nice That*. Her work for *The Place I Call Home* features a contemporary video art/installation alongside photographic prints, shot in the shifting sand dunes of the Arabian Gulf coast and the remote Inland Sea.

## HASSAN MEER (OMAN)

Hassan Meer was born in Muscat in 1972 and continues to work there as an artist incorporating painting, photography and mixed media into his practice. *Reflection from Memories* is a photographic series depicting life in Oman in the sixties and seventies when the country underwent huge changes.

## ZAHED SULTAN (OMAN)

The Kuwaiti-Indian multimedia artist has received particular attention for his audio-visual-dance performances which have been presented internationally. His film *Hiwar: Reimagining the Music of Oman* captures the development and performance by Zahed as he reimagines the land, mountain and sea music of Oman. The film was developed out of Zahed's fascination with traditional sea music from the Arabian Gulf – music that conveyed a strong connection to time and space and was characterised by themes of belongingness and togetherness as well as separation and loss.

## GILLIAN ROBERTSON (UK/ UAE)

During the 1980s, Gillian gained her Higher Diploma in photography at Edinburgh Napier University, majoring in studio still life and portraiture. Upon moving to the UAE, she has re-established her photography career, delivering photography workshops and winning awards from the Ras al Qasimi Foundation and Ras al Khaimah Arts Festival. Her project for *The Place I Call Home* is titled *Melting Boundaries* and explores inter-culturalism and relationships formed between British and Emirati cultures within the locality which she has made her home.

## JOSH ADAM JONES (UK/OMAN)

As a social documentary photographer from Cheltenham, UK, Josh's practice seeks to communicate stories about often misrepresented places and those who live there. He is now making new work in Oman and the UK whilst studying in Bristol. He plans to continue this template in the near future, looking at the relationship between local people and expats living in Oman, and broadening it to Omanis living in the UK.



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# Property Weekly

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

## DELIGHTFUL DILMUNIA

**A** fully-furnished one bedroom apartment is available for rent in Dilmunia Island off the north-eastern coast of Muharraq, described by developers as the haven for wellness and family-centric activities.

The apartment, situated in Essence of Dilmunia, has a total built-up area of 88sqm and features a spacious living and dining room along with an open-plan state-of-the-art kitchen and breakfast bar. There is a guest closet too and a washing machine in the kitchen.

The bedroom features a built-in wardrobe and an ensuite bathroom with a shower and a bath.

There is also a large balcony connecting the bedroom with the living room area. The apartment comes with one parking space.

In terms of amenities, there is a fitness centre, a spa, indoor pools, an infinity pool, a tennis court, rooftop jogging track and playground.

There is also a waterpark for children as well as indoor activities for them and a cinema. Adults also get an indoor games area, a meeting room and a functions hall.

The project is developed by Ahmed

AlQaed Group and includes two and three bedroom apartments as well that integrate outdoor and indoor living through balconies and rooftop terraces.

### FACTS AT A GLANCE

**Location:** Essence of Dilmunia in Dilmunia Island

**Reference number:** AP987

**Rental price:** BD450

**Living rooms:** 1

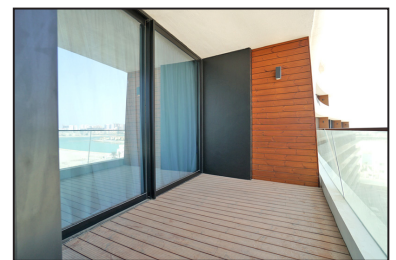
**Bedrooms:** 1

**Bathrooms:** 1

**Additional information:**

There is a cinema, a function hall and a meeting room.

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



## FREEHOLD | SALE | RENT RESIDENCES



**DILMUNIA, EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD  
FOR SALE! FREEHOLD  
RESIDENTIAL LANDS**

Price Per Square Feet: from BHD 22.5 - 24.5

Plot Area: from 529 - 743 Sqm

Total Price: from BHD 131,000 - 188,000

Classification: RA

### FOR SALE! BRAND NEW APARTMENT NEXT TO ISA TOWN GATE

#### Spacious Property Features:

En suite master bedroom, 2 bedrooms share a bathroom, spacious living/dining area welcoming guests, closed kitchen and a maid's room, fully finished, with flooring throughout, air conditioning units and a fully fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 allocated parking spaces are provided for each flat, elevator, garbage chute, high-quality soundproof windows.

**Starting Price:** BHD 65,000 – Ref: AP733

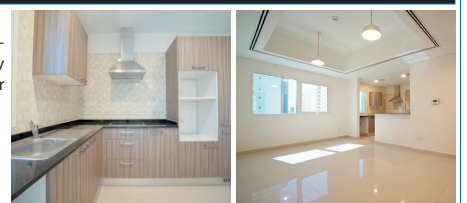


### FOR SALE! FREEHOLD BRAND NEW APARTMENT MINUTES FROM SEEF

#### Spacious Property Features:

Open plan kitchen, living and dining area, 1 en-suite bedroom, 1 guest toilet, balcony with a city view, one car parking, 24 hour security, outdoor rooftop swimming pool, ladies and gent's gym.

**Starting Price:** BHD 47,000 – Ref: AP869



### FOR RENT FULLY FURNISHED INCLUSIVE FLAT IN ZINJ

#### Fully Furnished Flat Features:

Fully fitted open plan kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rent is inclusive of electricity and water bill (BD 30 cap), 1 car parking.

**Rent Price:** BHD 390 – Ref: AP887



# Interiors Weekly

Your guide to the most relaxing spa treatments and staying fit

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## New Year, new look

**D**ESIGN experts have spoken and the top trends for 2020 are set to be fresh and fun, keeping homes looking chic and cool for every season. It's time to Marie Kondo your home, throwing out what doesn't bring you joy and putting the sass back into your space through the use of fabrics,

**INTERIORS REPORT**  
By MAIAL KHATIB-CAMILLE  
maialkhatib@gulfweekly.com

colours and furnishings.

Here are five fab features to refresh a room:

◆ **Vibrant velvet:**

One of the hottest looks for the New Year is velvet and interior design firms can't seem to get enough of it. The smooth fabric may not be for everyone but it is more than enough to make a statement. It offers the perfect combination of comfort and luxury. Velvet is being pushed by designers to be incorporated for sofas and boasting wider colour options than ever including blues, pinks, burnt orange and shades of taupe.

◆ **Bold backsplash:**

Make your kitchen and bathroom stand out by

adding a lively backsplash. The New Year is all about daring patterned tiles and colours. Mix and match textured tiles and perhaps form designs as well.

◆ **Biophilia design:**

Biophilia is a new type of design that combines human design and natural elements in a non-manufactured method. Consumers are more conscious about climate change and sustainability that they are beginning to incorporate eco-friendly options into their homes such as recycled wood and other organic aesthetic to promote clean living. High tech homes were in, but 2020 is about getting back to nature.

◆ **To the max:**

This is the year for maximalism which is the complete opposite of the art of minimalism which is simplifying everything. It is all about embracing the grandeur of design such as going big with bright colours and gaudy décor. As different designers said: "It's caring without actually caring."

◆ **Going green:**

As as we embrace earth tones and sustainable home accessories, its only right to jump on the environmentally friendly train by adding splashes of green colour



throughout the home. Plants for example add the perfect pop of colour to a neutral-hued room. Over the past two years, people saw a huge rise in the incorporation of vegetation and it does not seem to be slowing down anytime soon. Invest in rubber plants, money plants or snake plants to add some rich greenery. You can even add leaf-patterned accessories, wall paper, cushions or beddings.



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## In focus

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), held a foundation stone-laying ceremony under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, deputy supreme commander and first deputy prime Minister to mark the commencement of above ground construction works on the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre in Sakhr. The total cost of this milestone national project is approximately BD83.6 million, and construction is expected to be completed within the next two years.



Diyar Al Muharraq has announced its sponsorship of the Bahraini team that has participated in Dakar Rally 2020 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, organised through Wheels of Arabia. Bahraini rider Salman Mohammed is the first ever participant from the island to participate in the rally which ends on Friday.



The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) has officially launched its President's Honours List. A total of 60 students from countries including Bahrain, Canada, Kuwait, the US and Pakistan, across both the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing and Midwifery, have made the Honours List which recognises the academic achievements of the top six academically ranked students across its programmes on an annual basis.



Dilmunia Mall Development Company announced that the entertainment centre Funscape World at Mall of Dilmunia is currently in its final stages of development. The entertainment centre will be located within the Mall's unique concept and soon be ready to offer visitors an exceptional entertainment experience for the whole family in a fun and novel atmosphere.



# SocialScene

Why wait a month! Join Social Scene every week

## Roaring success



The Zill-E-Tabahi held at the Cultural Hall, which had sold out, was a roaring success with profits from the event to be shared with the Al Rehma Centre for Highly Autistic Adults.

## Travel show



The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) participated in the 26th edition of South Asia's leading travel show, SATTE 2020. The event, supported by the Indian Ministry of Tourism and United Nations World Tourism Organisation, took place at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, Delhi. Bahrain's delegation was headed by acting director of marketing and tourism promotion directorate at BTEA, Dr Ali Follad, and included representatives from the BTEA, the national carrier Gulf Air, Best of Bahrain, The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain Hotel, Al Areen Palace and Spa, Sofitel Bahrain Zallaq Thalassa Sea and Spa, Mathias Tours, Farhat International Tours and Travels.

## Special training



Bahrain medical society organised a workshop to train doctors in sign language, allowing them to communicate with deaf patients effectively and therefore describe the appropriate treatment plan for them. The workshop, which took place at the society's headquarters at Juffair, was organised jointly between society's students committee chaired by Dr Nezar Bukamal and Bahrain Deaf Society.

## Delightful dinner



The latest Diner Amical of the Bahrain chapter of The Chaîne des Rotisseurs was held at the Fine 12th Café in Reef Resort, Bahrain. More than 45 members and guests were hosted by chairman Khalid Almoayed. The theme was 'precious jewels' and the décor was based on different precious gems. A creative menu was prepared by executive chef Michel and kitchen team was as we say in French "hors de l'ordinaire".

# Film Weekly



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

**OGN**  
OIL & GAS NEWS

The energy industry's  
trade journal for the GCC region

www.oilandgasnewsonline.com

## Bite-sized trailers

**1917**

**DIRECTOR:** Sam Mendes

**CAST:** Dean-Charles Chapman, George MacKay, Daniel Mays

**PLOT:** Two young British soldiers during World War I are ordered to deliver a message in enemy territory that will stop 1,600 men, and one of the soldiers' brothers, from walking straight into a deadly trap.

**SHOWING IN:** Oasis Juffair, City Centre Bahrain, Seef II and Wadi Al Sail.



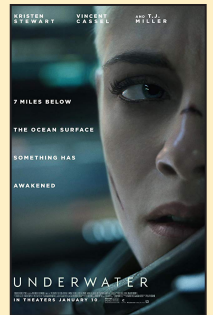
**Underwater**

**DIRECTOR:** William Eubank

**CAST:** Kristen Stewart, T.J. Miller, Jessica Henwick

**PLOT:** A crew of aquatic researchers work to get to safety after an earthquake devastates their subterranean laboratory. But the crew has more than the ocean seabed to fear.

**SHOWING IN:** Oasis Juffair, City Centre Bahrain, Seef II and Wadi Al Sail.



**Like a Boss**

**DIRECTOR:** Miguel Arteta

**CAST:** Rose Byrne, Tiffany Haddish, Salma Hayek

**PLOT:** Two friends with different ideals start a beauty company together. One is more practical while the other wants to earn her fortune and live a lavish lifestyle.

**SHOWING IN:** Oasis Juffair, City Centre Bahrain, Seef II and Wadi Al Sail.



# Deadly bore

**H**ORROR movies share a lot with comedies. Good timing, atmospheric music and unintentional stupidity by the lead actors are all required for both.

Perhaps that's why Nicolas Pesce, director and screen-writer for the new *Grudge* movie decided to cast John Cho (yes, Harold from *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle*) in this reboot/sidequel of the 2004 remake of the 2002 Japanese original *Ju-On: The Grudge*.

And that's about the extent of the good decisions made in the making of this movie. Right off the bat, in this critic's books, a reboot is headed through rough waters. Even the first remake was mediocre and this felt like the faded Xerox copy of a photocopy.

The movie starts off with live-in nurse Fiona Landers (Tara Westwood) leaving a house in Tokyo and returning to America before encountering the ghost of Kayako Saeki (Junko Bailey). Fiona arrives at her home on 44 Reyburn Drive, reuniting with her husband Sam and daughter Melinda before the ghost possesses her and the usual hijinks ensue.

We then cut to 2006, where rookie detective Muldoon (Andrea Riseborough) moves to town with her son Burke (John J. Hansen) following her husband's death from cancer. She

OUT IN THE COLD: A scene from *Grudge*



starts working with Detective Goodman (Demián Bichí) and they are called to the woods, where assisted suicide consultant Lorna

Moody's corpse has been discovered. Goodman becomes uncomfortable when they learn that Lorna had been visiting 44 Reyburn Drive. Noticing this, Muldoon questions him, and he reveals his suspicions the house is cursed and he wants nothing to do with it.

The rest of the story is told in non-chronological order through several different storylines, all with the same grisly ending. We meet real estate agents Peter (John Cho) and Nina Spencer (Betty Gilpin) as well as elderly couple Faith (Lin Shaye) and William Matheson (Frankie Faison) who encounter 44 Reyburn Drive in different ways and are haunted by a smorgasbord of ghosts of people who continue to die there.

It's dull, predictable and except for

a few jump-scares, nothing truly haunting happens. And yet, I can't entirely blame the script for that.

One of the biggest tragedies of the high definition era has been the horror movie. The most iconic horror movies have left about half the scare factor to people's imaginations. All too often, it's what you don't see that will scare you the most. *Jaws*, *The Blair Witch Project* and *Saw* all relied on shadows and our own imagination to scare us. Not to say that there weren't horrifying images,

but even before that, our hearts were beating with a familiar sense of dread overcoming us.

In recent years, with the advent of computer generated imagery (CGI) technology, we're all too often seeing more of those scary monsters, killers, or ghosts, to underwhelming effect. CGI is often jarringly obvious, at best, and comical, at worst.

Let's take the shower scene with the ghostly hand that was shown in the trailer. The CGI of course is obvious but the impact is diluted when we see that it seems to simply be helping Peter apply shampoo. That's the villain of this movie, ladies and gentlemen – the shampoo spectre of 'soap'-landia.

And then there is the climax. It is supposed to be building to a great showdown between good and evil, and yet I found myself yawning when I should have been trembling or excited. All in all, it was a sorely disappointing movie with a handful of jump-scares. And for that, it earns its 1.5 stars.

**NAMAN'S VERDICT**

1 popcorn – stay home  
5 popcorns – start queuing

## imdb movie charts

Current Position	Title	Weekend Takings	Gross to date
1	1917	\$36M	\$39M
2	Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker	\$15M	\$478M
3	Jumanji: The Next Level	\$14M	\$257M
4	Like a Boss	\$10M	\$10M
5	Just Mercy	\$10M	\$10M
6	Little Women	\$8M	\$74M
7	Underwater	\$7M	\$7M
8	Frozen II	\$6M	\$459M
9	Knives Out	\$6M	\$140M
10	Spies in Disguise	\$5M	\$55M



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# Write to the editor

Follow GulfWeekly on Instagram @gulfweekly  
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I'd like to clarify that I am not part of the Dawoodi Bohra community as published in the article in the previous week's paper. I was part of it, as previously written for the reporter that wrote the feature. The Silver Kick Company, an award-winning, all-woman creative agency that I am the founder and managing director of, is proud to be the official agency for design work and digital marketing support for Sahiyo. We do this work passionately and pro-bono as we want to see an end to the practice of Female



Shabana with creative director Ancita Sherel

Genital Cutting (FGC) around the world.

Warm Regards,  
Shabana Feroze  
Managing director

#### Editor's note:

Dear Shabana,  
Thank you for the clarification. All has been rectified already. The work that you ladies are doing with Sahiyo is admirable and brave. Keep up the great work.

Kindest regards,  
Mai Al-Khatib-Camille  
GulfWeekly  
Editor

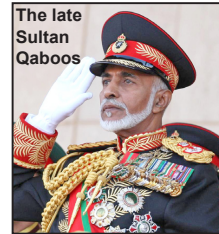
PEOPLE across the kingdom are mourning the sad passing of renowned Bahraini artist Ali Al Ghurair who brought laughter and joy to television watchers in Bahrain. The 51-year-old, who acted primarily in television series since 1990 playing iconic roles such as Tafash in Sawalif Tafash and Mahdi in Sadoun, had a heart attack on January 12. In his 30 year career, he worked in 50 shows, five movies and 13 plays in Bahrain and the GCC. He was beloved by young and old. His fans took to social media to voice their sadness and how much they will all miss him. Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty King Hamad's representative for charity work and youth affairs and the Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) board of trustees chairman, stated that the RCO will take care of the late actors' children. The GulfWeekly would also like to pass on their deepest condolences to the Al Ghurair family. He will truly be missed.



THE GulfWeekly would like to offer its heartfelt condolences to the Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, on the passing of Sultan Qaboos bin Said. The late Sultan Qaboos transformed Oman during his 49-year reign from a poverty-stricken country into a prosperous state and an internationally trusted mediator for some of the region's thorniest issues. His funeral procession passed along Muscat's main road amid tight security. Omanis flooded the palm tree-lined route with some reaching out to him and others snapping pictures of the procession. The casket was draped in the Omani flag and was carried into Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque where hundreds joined in prayer. Sultan Qaboos was later buried in a family cemetery. Oman's state television said his cousin Haitham bin Tariq Al Said was named sultan after the high military council called on the ruling family council to choose a successor. His Majesty King Hamad extended his condolences to Sultan Haitham as well



The King in talks with Sultan Haitham



The late Sultan Qaboos

as to senior members of the Ruling Family at Alam Palace, Muscat, praying Allah grant the soul of the late sultan eternal peace. The King praised the late Sultan's qualities, role and efforts in building the modern Sultanate of Oman and its development in all fields, while also serving his people and the Arab and Islamic Nation. He also lauded Sultan Qaboos' contributions,

along with their majesties and highnesses, in establishing the Gulf Co-operation Council and consolidating its foundations. His Majesty also wished Sultan Haitham every success in carrying on the development march in his country.

## BAHRAIN'S EXPAT LIFE

TEN years ago, my mother walked over to me and told me: "We are moving to Bahrain to live with papa. You'll love it." Bahrain? I'd never heard of this place before but six-year-old me wouldn't admit that. I just smiled back. Honestly, I was a tad upset and completely confused. After all, I had never encountered such a significant change in my entire six years! As I sought clarity, I approached my grandmother. However, she dodged the topic with ease. I walked out of her room an hour later, still thinking about the ghost stories that she recited. Next, I

approached my sister who talked all too dramatically about "change" and "life"...boring. Lastly, I went to my mother who, obviously, diverted the topic and just focused on the new school I was going to go to. Change is hard to accept for everyone, it was for us too.

There was an assortment of happiness and sadness, there was the excitement of going to a new place, mixed with the sorrow of leaving.

Soon enough, we'd reached Bahrain- my grandmother, my mother, my sister and me. A year later, I finally knew what Bahrain was... home.

Living in Bahrain has been amazing from the beaches, the sand, the desert, the malls, the restaurants and best of all, the people. Bahrain has offered warmth and love to all of us from the moment we stepped into this country. It boasts diversity and a potpourri of culture. One meets people from various walks of life and everyone has a story to tell. We're diverse, but the same, and this very diversity has enriched my childhood in the most extraordinary way. In the same breath, I still miss my family back in India- my maternal grandmother, my aunts and uncles, my cousins, friends. That pain of separation still lingers, however faintly. It's an exciting journey, that of living as an expatriate. I like to see it in the following light - I have two homes now. One is Delhi, India and the other is Bahrain, because, in the simplest sense, I have memories, emotions, friends, family and connections in both! And they are both so close to my heart!



I have lived in Bahrain for nearly my entire life, 17 years to be exact. Having never lived anywhere else, there isn't much I can compare my standard of living to. However, I think I can just about trust the judgment of the people around me to gather that this 'lifestyle' is unusual in its high standards. As an expat in Bahrain, life is extremely comfortable. My family and I live in a spacious villa and perhaps this wouldn't be the case if we were living somewhere else in the world. Don't be fooled, this isn't a selfish observation; even our pets live a privileged and pampered lifestyle! Ginger (my dog) has an entire lawn to herself to explore and chase cats in.

I can just imagine Ginger haughtily looking down her (literal) long nose at dogs living in a different country... Distances between anywhere in Bahrain are laughable! I feel like if people from other parts of the world heard us complain of the 'heavy traffic' where one must wait an excruciating 25 minutes, we would not be taken seriously. Although, I may take perks like the ones found in Bahrain for granted. I honestly could not be more pleased about the serendipity of my geographical location.

Whenever I describe Bahrain to someone who may not know much about the country, I like to use the word 'Island'. I feel like this word perfectly encapsulated its intimate and almost paradisiacal essence. Before this description of Bahrain, I never even knew about the existence of the word 'paradisiacal', maybe because very few places actually inhabit such a nature...



Athena Puri, 17, studies at St Christopher's School. She is interested in studying marketing, finance and management and has begun applying to different universities. She loves to read and her favourite authors are Khaled Hosseini and Liane Moriarty. She is also extremely passionate about art and enjoys painting and drawing in her free time.

Zaidan Zia Siddiqui, 15, studies at St. Christopher's School. Although he is fascinated about science, he is more inclined towards physics. He would like to explore the depths of space and is especially captivated by the mysterious 'dark matter'. In his free time, he likes to fight zombies, ancient pharaohs and Greek gods on the PlayStation. He also enjoys travelling, reading, swimming, chess and writing.



# cerebrally crust & crema



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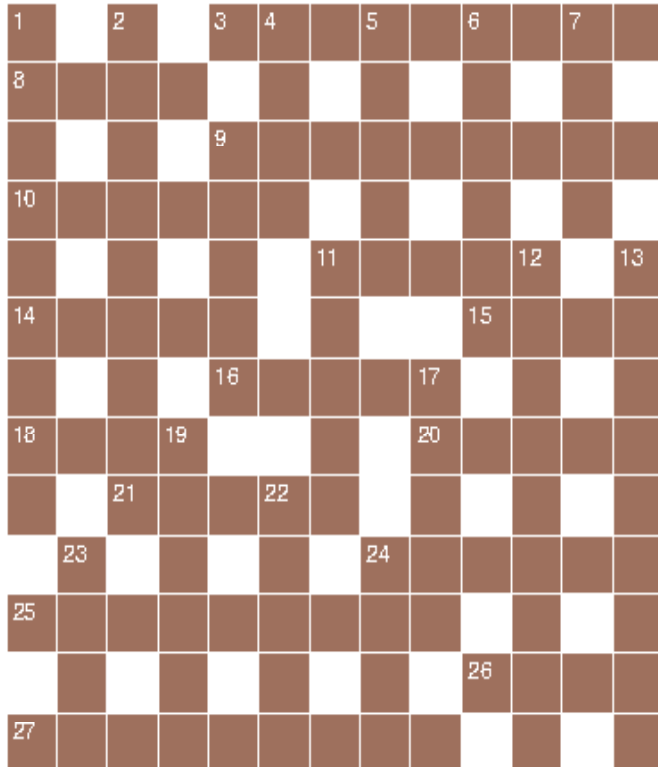
@crustandcrema



crustandcremahh



## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

3. Belong (9)
8. Kind (4)
9. Joined (9)
10. Writer (6)
11. Clinch (5)
14. Big (5)
15. Volume (4)
16. Province (5)
18. Close (4)
20. Corpulent (9)
21. High (5)
24. Claim (6)
25. Vanish (9)
26. Scheme (4)
27. Accompanying (9)

### DOWN

1. Attacker (9)
2. Brotherly (9)
4. Inferior (4)
5. Boredom (5)
6. Voucher (6)
7. Particular (4)
9. Lid (5)
11. Prepared (5)
12. Not too bad (9)
13. The accused (9)
17. Proposer (5)
19. Revolve (6)
22. Lukewarm (5)
23. Raise (4)
24. Daybreak (4)

### who, what, where, when

WHO ... is known as The Father Of Jet Flight?

WHAT ... sort of creature is an oriole?

WHERE ... was the drama series *Tenko* set?

WHEN ... did Bjorn Borg first win the Wimbledon Men's Singles title?

WHO ... designed and built the banqueting hall in the UK's Whitehall?

WHAT ... is the name of the *BBC Asian Network's* daily soap?

WHERE... did US band Toto '*bless the rains*' in 1983?

WHEN ... did Laker Airways collapse?

### just so

DOYARDOR  
3

THOUGHTN

PARACHUTE

LEI  
CES  
TER

## darn tough sudoku

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

Last week's sudoku

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

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

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

**Across:** 1 Dais;  
3 Handicap; 8 Dupe;  
9 Prestige;  
11 Contemptible;  
13 Tremor; 14 Bitter;  
17 Obstreperous;  
20 Exigency; 21 Able;  
22 Together; 23 Rest.

**Down:** 1 Dedicate;  
2 Impinge; 4 Abrupt;  
5 Dispirited; 6 Chill;  
7 Plea; 10 Department;  
12 Prospect; 15 Trouble;  
16 Rescue; 18 Being;  
19 Left.

**Who, What, Where,**  
**When:** Simon  
MacCorkindale; Let  
the buyer beware;  
Tallahassee; 1982; Matthew  
McConaughey; Helium;  
Oxford; 1599.

**Just So:** The prodigal son,  
The three rrrs, The whys  
and wherefores, Turn the  
other cheek.

### Darn Tough Sudoku

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

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# Motoring Weekly

Steering you to the best deals on wheels

Exterior of the new showroom



The Dodge Challenger GT in the Dodge viewing gallery



## Fancy new facility

**BEHBEHANI** Brothers, the exclusive distributor for Fiat-Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) has launched their new flagship showroom in Sitra, integrating the full line-up of Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Ram (CDJR) into the 1,750 sqm state-of-the-art facility.

The new showroom is designed to increase the reach and visibility of the CDJR brands and improve customer experience in a highly prominent area adjacent to Sitra petrol station.

Sam Yacoub, general manager of CDJR brands for Behbehani Brothers, said: "The corporate identity for FCA shifted in 2012 and once Behbehani became the exclusive distributor for the entire line-up, it made business sense to invest in a bigger showroom and showcase all the CDJR marques."



MOTORING

By NAMAN ARORA  
[naman@gulfweekly.com](mailto:naman@gulfweekly.com)

Models on display in the viewing galleries of each showroom include the Jeep "Go anywhere, do anything" line-up, including the latest generation of the iconic Jeep Wrangler, the distinctive and contemporary Jeep Compass and Jeep Cherokee and the Jeep Grand Cherokee – the most awarded SUV of all time.

Other highly popular vehicles to be showcased at the new facility include muscle cars such as the Dodge Charger and Dodge Challenger, the true seven-seat Dodge Durango SUV, the popular Chrysler 300CC and the all-new 2019 Ram 1500, which was named North American Truck of the Year earlier this year.

The previous showroom did not have Ram trucks, but along with the new corporate identity, the new facility will feature the marque's ever-popular Ram 1500.



The Chrysler viewing gallery



The Jeep viewing gallery



The Ram viewing gallery



The Dodge viewing gallery

The new showroom features a free-flowing layout with an emphasis on demarcation between the brands, catering to FCA's spectrum of customers, some of whom may come in wanting to

purchase a vehicle from a specific brand, while others may come in look for a specific class of vehicle, like SUV, which is available in multiple marques.

In the last year, Behbehani

Brothers has launched a spectrum of new models including the latest Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Compass and Ram 1500.

Sam said: "The opening of our new showrooms

represents the next major phase of the expansion and growth plans of Behbehani Brothers and demonstrates our commitment to Fiat Chrysler Automotive Middle East in improving accessibility to CDJR products for our customers in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

The next phase includes a full-spectrum showroom in Manama as the company aims to reach out to city customers.

Meanwhile, the CDJR Service Centre will remain at its current location.

As part of the launch of its new showroom, Behbehani Brothers is offering savings of up to BD5,000 on select models.

For more information, contact 17459955 or visit the new showroom in Sitra.

## Rewards for loyalty

**A**l Haddad Motors, the only licensed distributor for Mercedes-Benz vehicles in the kingdom is now offering additional rewards and benefits with the exclusive Al Haddad Motors Loyalty Programme for the German marque.

The programme is free to join and open to anyone who owns a Mercedes. For every service carried out on customers' Mercedes-Benz by Al Haddad Motors, it caters completely to a customer's needs with exclusive

rewards, collection items, free safety checks, free car polishing and more.

The Programme is valid on all Mercedes-Benz vehicles including older vehicles as well as vehicles that are not covered under warranty.

The offers and rewards of the Programme are individualised and customised based primarily on the vehicles' model year in order to differentiate their requirements. For example, those with cars older than three years can enjoy

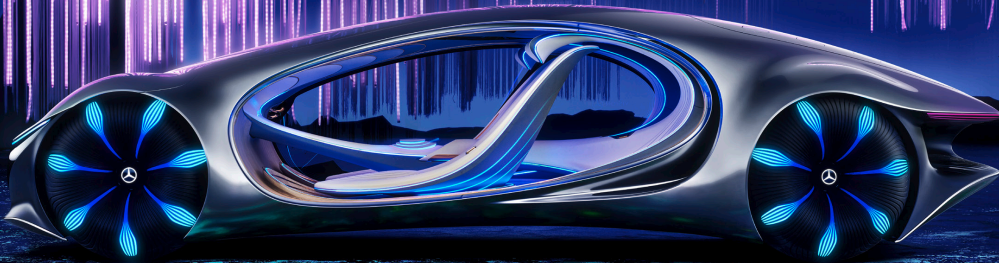
discounts of up to 30 per cent on genuine parts.

In order to join Al Haddad Motors Loyalty Programme, customers can visit either one of the Al Haddad Motors facilities - the Mercedes-Benz showroom in Tubli or Mercedes-Benz service centre in Salmabad and fill in the Loyalty Programme application forms that are available at the reception area.

For more information about how to join the Al Haddad Motors Loyalty Program, call 17785454.



# Futuristic ride



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

Mercedes-Benz has unveiled the drive for the future inspired by James Cameron's 2009 science fiction film Avatar at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2020 in Las Vegas.

James and his team helped develop the groundbreaking concept vehicle called Mercedes-Benz VISION AVTR along with the German marques designers, engineers and trend researchers to make mobility smoother and more high tech in the distant future.

Ola Källenius, chairman of the board of management Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz AG, said: "As a film buff,

I spent some time catching up with old and new movies. One of the classics, Back to the Future, predicted we would be traveling in flying cars by now.

"Yes, air taxis exist. One example is the shared Volocopter from a great team of entrepreneurs that we are supporting. But it's still far from a standard option today. There's another area of technology where the car has made great progress and still has amazing potential: connectivity.

"And to us at Mercedes, that's way more than pairing a smartphone to your car entertainment system. What I want to focus on is the bond

between human and machine. Tech in a car is all about the interface. From wooden sticks to switches and buttons, all the way to our MBUX voice assistant - like in our all-electric EQC.

"For example: you can ask Mercedes how your favourite sports team recently performed or what the weather looks like on the way to your favourite ski resort. Later this year, you will also be able to control your smart home from the road and the next step in the evolution of the interface at Mercedes is just around the corner: the first truly intuitive gesture control.

"The more natural the connection gets the better. One idea we want to show is based on a biometric connection between the car and the driver. The car recognises the human driver's heartbeat and breath so human and machine literally merge into a fully intuitive experience.

"Selecting different functions, for instance, is easy. Simply raise a hand and the menu is projected onto your palm. Before we get to that, there's another, even more fundamental dimension of connectivity we cannot ignore: connecting tech and nature. It is time to bring luxury and sustainability even closer

together because for us, the two are no contradiction."

Say goodbye to the conventional steering wheel as this "One Bow" designed car boasts a multifunctional control element in the centre console. By placing the hand on the control unit, the interior comes to life and the vehicle recognises the driver by his or her heartbeat and breathing. The car also includes an immersive space in which the menu selection can be projected onto the palm of the hand to choose between different functionalities.

The battery technology is also revolutionary based on graphene-based organic

cell chemistry that is completely clean of rare earths and metals. The materials of the battery are compostable and therefore completely recyclable. In this way, electric mobility becomes independent of fossil resources. As a result, Mercedes-Benz underlines the high relevance of a future circular economy in the raw materials sector.

Every element from the exterior and interior has a benefit too from its 33 "bionic flaps" on the back of the vehicle reminiscent of scales of reptiles refined by vegan DINAMICA leather seats.

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# Motor Sport

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

## Conquering challenge...

**S**HAikh Salman bin Isa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa topped the practice timesheet in the 2019/2020 2,000cc Challenge, captured pole position in qualifying and then steered his Honda Civic to the chequered flag in both of the meeting's 12-lap races.

He dominated the fourth round which was held as part of a wet National Race Day last weekend at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

It was a thrilling race to behold, especially with the tricky slippery conditions around the circuit's 2.55km Inner Track.

Shaikh Salman wasted no time in making his presence felt after setting the fastest lap in practice of one minute 25.032 seconds. He maintained his hot pace in qualifying where he won pole for the round's first race with a best lap of 1:23.473, beating out rival Mohammed Faqih, who was also driving a Civic, by just 0.282s.

In the opening sprint, Shaikh Salman won from



Shaikh Salman takes the chequered flag in race one

pole in a total time of 19:34.677. Raed Raffii in a Honda S2000 was the runner-up 1.607s, behind while Faqih was third 3.841s back.

Taking fourth through sixth place, respectively, on the final classification were Shaikh Hamad bin Isa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa in his Honda Civic, Tareq Al

Tajer in a Ford Focus and Ahmed Bin Khanen in his Honda Civic EG4. Each of the leading finishers were competing in the series' Pro class.

Hussain Alghanim and his Honda Civic won the Novice class ahead of Ali Albahrani in his Honda Civic. Raffii managed to clock the race's fastest lap of 1:22.959.

In race two, Shaikh Salman started from fifth position following the reverse grid rule but he powered through to the front. After battling it out with pole-sitter Al Tajar, Shaikh Salman then claimed the chequered flag in 16:42.637.

Al Tajar was a close second with 1.044s adrift, while Shaikh Hamad took the other



Shaikh Salman celebrates with his race one trophy on top of the podium alongside Raffii and Faqih

podium step after finishing 3.645s behind. Raffii, Majed Himmo in his Honda Civic and bin Khanen completed the top six.

Alghanim, Albahrani and lady driver Farah Jaber in her BMW E30 were the top three in the Novice class.

Shaikh Salman capped off his round by posting the race's fastest lap of 1:21.324.

Following all the action, the winners were presented their trophies by officials from BIC, the Circuit Racing Club and the Bahrain Motor Federation.

The BIC 2,000cc Challenge returns to the tarmac with the season's fifth of seven rounds on January 24.

National Race Day was also scheduled to feature action in the Bahrain Motorcycle Racing 600, but stewards deemed it to be too dangerous for riders in the championship due to the wet circuit.

For more information on the 2,000cc Challenge or on National Race Day, visit [www.bahraingp.com](http://www.bahraingp.com) or call BIC's Hotline on 17450000.

Also, follow BIC's official social media accounts on Facebook at OfficialBahrain-InternationalCircuit, on Twitter @BAH\_Int\_Circuit, on Instagram @bah\_int\_circuit and on YouTube at bahraimbic for regular updates.

## All set to race

**E**IGHT-TIME Grand Prix winner Max Verstappen has extended his contract to race with Aston Martin Red Bull Racing until the end of the 2023 season.

Verstappen became the youngest ever race winner in his inaugural season with the team in 2016 and has since become an integral member who embodies the Red Bull ethos.

He is truly happy to continue racing with the team. He said: "Red Bull believed in me and gave me the opportunity to start in Formula 1 which I have



**MOTORSPORT**  
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE  
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always been very grateful for. Over the years I have grown closer and closer with the team and besides the passion from everyone and the on-track performance it is also really enjoyable to work with such a great group of people.

"Honda coming on board and the progress we have made over the last 12 months gives me even more motivation and the belief that we can win together. I respect the way Red Bull and Honda work together and from all sides everyone is doing what



they can to succeed. I want to win with Red Bull and our goal is of course to fight for a World Championship together."

Aston Martin Red Bull



Racing team's principal Christian Horner is also delighted stating that with the challenge of the 2021 regulation changes on the

horizon, continuity in as many areas as possible is key. He added: "Max has proven what an asset he is to the team. He truly believes

in the partnership we have forged with our engine supplier Honda, and we are delighted to have extended our relationship with him."

# Winning returns

**R**ETURNING to something you love is always a nice feeling. It can be big or small in terms of importance, maybe even just returning home after work to that favourite chair that no one would ever actually claim ownership of, yet it goes without saying that it's yours when you're there. Last weekend, Zlatan Ibrahimovic returned to AC Milan colours and scored, whilst Serena Williams returned to her winning ways in the Auckland Classic for her first title in three years and her first since becoming a mother.

For Ibrahimovic it has been a strange few months. The Swedish superstar left LA Galaxy at the end of the MLS season last year and had been a free agent until December when former employers AC Milan offered him a six-month deal. In the intervening period, Ibrahimovic's hometown club, Malmo FF, built a statue of him which he declared that it was for "everyone out there who doesn't feel welcome."

You can't help but appreciate the irony in the fact that the statue was initially defaced, had the nose cut off and eventually was snapped by the ankles and pulled down before being branded as the most unwanted statue in Malmos history. In fairness, it was



Ibrahimovic is happy to be back with AC Milan



Williams is back to being number one



Williams holding her daughter Olympia donates her Auckland prize money to charity

not without reason. Shortly after unveiling the statue, Ibrahimovic invested into rival club Hammarby IF and vowed to make them the "biggest in Scandinavia." I would suggest that an attitude that conveys the idea that you are doing a football club a favour by having a statue of yourself outside, before giving your money to their rivals would go a long way to explaining why Ibrahimovic may not have always felt so welcome.

By his own admission, to score again for AC Milan

made him "feel alive" and to be adding to an impressive first stint at the club; 42 goals in 61 league games must be a form of relief for the world's most confident footballer. With Milan lagging behind in the race for European football, the return of Ibrahimovic along with a win, their first since early December, against top half rivals Cagliari might be the best thing for both parties.

Meanwhile, Williams' absence from the top table of tennis over the last three years is an entirely

understandable one. Williams won her first WTA title in February 1999 when she beat France's Amelie Mauresmo on carpet at the Open Gaz de France and amassed a huge 72 WTA titles. She also achieved 23 grand slams before the competition started in Auckland and will be chasing a record equalling her 24th grand slam when she competes in the Australian open later this month.

Since giving birth to her daughter, Olympia, Williams has fallen

just short on a number of occasions including both the Wimbledon and US Open finals in 2018 and 2019. Much like Ibrahimovic, as Williams comes closer towards the end of her career, there was a suggestion that maybe she didn't have what it takes to go all the way anymore.

Her return to winning ways may go a good way to proving them wrong. Her dominance over the past two decades will mean that she would go down as an icon in tennis history and I personally hope that she

can go on and beat Margaret Court's record of 24 grand slams. Her actions off the court, including donating all of her winnings to charity from the last win, will mean she will go down as one of the most memorable sports people to have existed, regardless of whether she even wins another point.

The feel-good factor of a triumphant return should not be underestimated. I look forward to writing about whether any of my hopes for Williams come to fruition in what is the most unanticipated return of the lot!



Ibrahimovic scores in first game back



Ibrahimovic's statue sawn down

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# SPORT

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TOP OF THE LEAGUE FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORT

January 15 - 21, 2020



OUT FLANKED: A Tigers player attempts to run a play as he is flanked by BRFC players



Action from the game's final few minutes

## Roaring Red Wall

**RUGBY**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
naman@gulfweekly.com

**T**HE Bahrain Rugby Football Club (BRFC) decimated league newcomers Dubai Tigers in a home game in Janabiya, putting up a stellar 62-0 victory on the scoreboard.

The BRFC's Red Wall roared, in support of the defending champions of the West Asia Premiership and in defiance of the gathering rain clouds, as the BRFC 1st XV squad took the lead early in the game.

With tries from centre Jack Phillips, centre/wing Nika Morehu, back-row Tommy Booth and wing Greg Heath and conversions from fly half Ross Preedy, Bahrain's Reds had run up 29 points by half time.

Bahrain did not relent in the second half of the game, as fly half/full-back James Whittingham, back-



Head Coach Wallace shares a moment with the jubilant team



Mr Jones, BIC

row Jordan Viggers, as well as Morehu and Booth continued the onslaught of tries, with Preedy nailing most of the conversions.

Until the final conversion, Bahrain showed its top form, adding a fourth notch to the victory streak it has been on, since a close 21-15 loss to the Dubai Exiles, Bahrain's strongest rival in the league.

Mike Cunningham, chairman of the BRFC, said: "It's been a great first

half of the season so far. We are two points behind the Exiles. Today was a great performance by the boys, despite slippery conditions. The guys are all fit and ready to go; it's fantastic having most of the squad fit. We're looking forward to the next couple of away games and then the home game against the Exiles, which, like last year, could be the deciding game. If we can beat them, there's a good chance we can come top of the league again this year."

Despite tough competition from the Dubai Exiles, Bahrain RFC hope to secure

the West Asia Premiership title for a third consecutive year with head coach Adam Wallace well on his way to live up to the legacy of BRFC's former coach Louie Tonkin, who moved on to the Exeter Chiefs before the season started.

Bahrain hold a 6-1 win-loss record so far, while Dubai Exiles hold a perfect 6-0 record in the league. This makes the Dubai team slight favourites for the February 7 game in which Bahrain will be facing them again, this time on home turf with the raucous support of the Red Wall.



A Tigers player kicks off the play, with team mates looking on

The BRFC vs Dubai Tigers game was also the kick-off of the official strategic partnership between BRFC and the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

Laurence Jones, head of marketing and communications at BIC commented: "Our strategic alliance with BRFC is a natural partnership for us. It will enable us to offer exclusive offers and events for BRFC members, so they can explore what we

have to offer at the circuit throughout the year. BRFC is a superb community facility, supporting sporting initiatives across all ages and abilities and we are delighted to become a partner of the club. With a superb win for the team this weekend, we look forward to sharing their successes throughout the rest of the season."

Bahrain RFC plays the Dubai Knights-Eagles this weekend and the Dubai Hurricanes next weekend.