

# Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain



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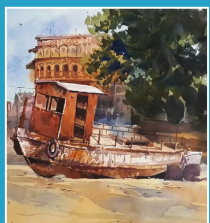
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**LOTS OF LAUGHS:**  
Max's stand-up  
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**EATING OUT:**  
Chinese New Year  
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**ARTSY BOOK**  
Why watercolour?  
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# Hair raising cause

**THE** Lions Club of Riffa (LCOR) have launched a kingdom-wide hair-cutting campaign with the aim of snipping and collecting 1,000 inches of tresses to transform into wigs for children and young adults undergoing cancer treatment.

The Crown of Care project came about by Anjali Gupta who empathised with the trauma that her loved ones and others experienced from hair loss through cancer treatment.

The 51-year-old former banker and now a self-employed freelance recruiter, living in Budaiya, said "My mother was a cancer patient and passed away in 2012. My mother-in-law is a cancer survivor and lives with us in Bahrain. I have closely experienced the trauma; pain and suffering the cancer patients go through during their treatment.

"Hair loss resulting from

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE  
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side effects of chemotherapy is a devastating experience and causes a big loss in the self-confidence for women and children, specifically.

"I came to know about certain organisations that make wigs for cancer patients. In 2018, I donated my hair in India and in 2019 I found that Beauty Spot Salon & Spa in Bahrain cut hair for free and donated it to the Little Princess Trust in UK which produces wigs for children undergoing cancer treatment.

"In October 2019, I donated my hair through that salon as it was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It was my personal decision."

After her hair donation, she attended the next club meeting where one of the other members and president of the ladies' Lions group Lion Tosin suggested motivating other women in Bahrain by starting a hair donation campaign.



Moved by the idea, and knowing she had the backing of LCOR's Riffa Lion Debashis president as well as other board members, she set out to spearhead the campaign.

Her aim and that of LCOR's is to donate a total of 1,000 inches to be sent to the Little Princess Trust by World Cancer Day on February 4. The Little Princess Trust provides free real hair wigs to children and young people, up to 24 years, who have lost their hair through cancer treatment or other conditions.

Full report – Page 2



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# Donating locks of love

**B**IG-HEARTED members of the Lions Club of Riffa (LCOR) along with women and children from across the kingdom are cutting their locks for a caring cause, writes Mai Al Khatib-Camille.

The Crown of Care project, spearheaded by Anjali Gupta, the secretary in the LCOR board, aim to collect 1,000 inches of hair to be donated to the Little Princess Trust. The charity supplies real-hair wigs to boys and girls in the UK and Ireland suffering from cancer and other conditions resulting in hair loss, such as alopecia. The LCOR campaign started in December last year and will run until February 4, which is World Cancer Day. All hair is to be sent in time for that day.

Anjali, a mother-of-two, who donated seven inches of her own hair, said: "I believe a campaign like this is very important for two reasons - it brings awareness within the society about the sufferings



Lion ladies raising awareness

of cancer patients and it provides an opportunity for the society to make their contribution towards a cause and demonstrate their care and love.

"It helps people in Bahrain know how and where to make their individual contributions even after our campaign is done too.

Anyone can participate in the initiative. The minimum length of hair required for donation is seven inches; however, the greatest need is for 16 inches or longer hair lengths. Hair must be clean,

dry, no split ends and of any natural colour.

The project started with Beauty Spot Salon & Spa as it initially began sending hair to the Trust. The Little Princess Trust was launched in 2006 by the parents of Hannah Tarplee, who died in 2005 after struggling against Wilms tumour, or nephroblastoma, a cancer of the kidneys that typically occurs in children.

Cancer treatment often causes patients to suffer hair loss which can have devastating psychological

effects at a time when all efforts need to be concentrated on fighting the disease.

"Now many other salons such as Monalisa Beauty Salon and Joz Salon have joined and are supporting our campaign," added Anjali. "All these salons are providing free haircuts to donors. We are really grateful for their support for this noble cause.

"What we hope to achieve from this is a smile on the face of a little one somewhere in the world."

Other members of LCOR, such as Dr Hala Jamal and Dolly Rosh Paulose, have also made donations.

Dr Hala, a businesswoman, social activist and a vice-president of the Individual Social

Responsibility Society (ISRS), has been with LCOR for two years. She said: "I feel it's part of our social responsibility to help people who are suffering from any type of cancer, in particular the ones that undergo chemical treatment - whether they are children or adults. I hope this raises more awareness and encourages other women to donate. The ISRS also participates with the Lions Ladies in doing whatever we can to encourage others and to serve the community."

Dolly, a teacher, joined the Club around a year ago and her husband, Rosh, a



Vatsala Kumar donates a whopping 16 inches

finance manager, is a long-time member. Dolly donated around nine-inches of hair and said if she had more to give she would. "I wanted to give back to the children and young adults suffering from cancer and its treatment," explained Dolly. "When Anjali started the campaign I was more than happy to

take part in it. I feel lucky to be a part of this campaign. I hope this encourages other people too to

participate. I have two girls at home and wanted to lead by example and show the importance of supporting different societies and causes."

This is not the first initiative that LCOR has conducted. The not-for-profit organisation has been dedicated to serving the community in Bahrain since 1995 through charitable activities geared towards social causes.

It is a part of the international movement of Lionism, which started its first community service club in 1917 and has since grown to 47,000 clubs enrolling 1.4

million members across 200 plus countries and has earned recognition from the United Nations.

"We provide help to the neediest sections of society," explained Anjali. "We work on projects to improve our communities and protect the environment. We also participate in other health programmes and projects.

"Some of our flagship programmes are blood donation camps, medical camps, Ramadan donations every year to the Red Crescent Society for distribution to the needy people in Bahrain, a visit to Geriatric Ward twice in a year, beach cleaning and essay and painting competitions for children at all schools in Bahrain." The LCOR has more than 40 members from different nationalities.

Those interested in participating and finding out more can click on the link <http://bit.ly/CrownofCare>. The form will get back to the donor with the details. Donors then will fix the appointment with the salons as per their convenience.

Find out more by visiting Crown of Care on Facebook and Instagram.

**Celebrate Chinese New Year with guest chef**

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Lion Tanima after her eight inch cut



Anjali - before and after



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# Stand-up to the Max

**N**EARLY 500 comedy lovers flocked to Al Areen Palace and Spa to watch stand-up comedian Max Amini perform new and classic bits from his repertoire for a night of unforgettable laughs.

The Iranian-American comedian and actor who has been active on the global stand-up circuit for the last 18 years, saw his fame skyrocket 12 years ago, when one of his bits talking about the behavioural nuances of Middle-Eastern mothers titled *Tomato Juice* went viral.

During the show, the 38-year-old performed the bit again to a crowd going berserk with laughter, as a sea of phones recorded the moment.

During a post-show interview with *GulfWeekly*, Max said: "It was very interesting re-performing that bit. First off, I felt great because even though they knew the bit, the audience was thoroughly enjoying it. It feels great knowing that people remember and love that to this day. It also inspires you as an artist to keep creating and write material that really resonates with people."

While other stand-ups like the recent Maz Jobrani show focused on the comedian's pre-rehearsed bit, Max's performance involved more crowd-work. The comedian got to know members of the audience and caricatured them, which then became personas and metaphors for the rest of the show.

Max's Bahrain show, organised by Hollywood Pop up Comedy Club (HPCC) and Wanasa Time, who had also helped organise the Maz Jobrani show, was opened by



**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
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stand-up newcomer, actress, model and Max's mentee Estrella Nouri.

This is the second time that Max has performed in Bahrain, having done a show in the kingdom four years ago.

During a pre-show interview, Max commented: "Bahrain has always been terrifically nice, warm, friendly and family-oriented. The Middle East in general is very warm and hospitable but in Bahrain, I felt an extra connection. With regards to my material, it seemed like they knew my jokes and it resonated personally with them. My *Tomato Juice* was enjoyed as I performed it again then and I did not realise that I had this much love in Bahrain."

"While every artist has a clear perspective, I have often stayed away from political humour. I am a very observational type of comic, so family or social topics are where I thrive. I prefer to push the envelope there and I do a lot of improvisation."

"I generally don't like to plan too much of my show out in advance."

I have a few bits, the opening and the conclusion charted out but for the most part, I like to read the room and be in the moment. Whatever is happening in the moment, we talk about

it. For me, stand-up is about connecting with the audience. For instance, if someone is wearing a funny hat, we talk



**SPREAD-EAGLED:**  
Max performing at Al Areen Palace and Spa last weekend



Max performing at the Orpheum Theater in Vancouver, Canada



Max and Estrella with executives from Al Areen Palace and Spa as well as the Comedy Club

**I am a very observational type of comic, so family or social topics are where I thrive.**

about the hat and it becomes a conversation."

Max's performance often finds him calmly and entertainingly navigating uncomfortable situations. One of his popular clips show a conversation he had on-stage with the husband of one of his fans, while another performance was on a cruise ship for a room full of police officers who thoroughly enjoyed being ribbed and roasted by the raucous entertainer.

Max has entertained a range of venues over the years, recently performing in Canada, the UK, UAE, Germany, Australia and

throughout the US, regularly performing at Comedy Store and Laughter Factory in Los Angeles.

"In Bahrain, I do a different type of material than in an all-American comedy club. For example, here, I talked specifically about the flies."

"Coming from a Middle Eastern background but raised in America, I have been blessed to have a very dynamic viewpoint. I have also emulated some of the best story-tellers around me. My dad, for example was a

great storyteller. Sometimes, I'd tell him that if he got into stand-up, he would do much better than me. He was always the life of the party."

Max pays homage to his late father by donating all proceeds from his merchandise to a grassroots fundraising campaign that his father used to work towards, along

with his friends. A few of Max's family friends collect the proceeds, adding in funds themselves and during an annual trip to Iran, invest in clothes, toys and education for struggling families.

His show is the first of many planned for 2020, with more coming soon, one around the F1 season and another in time for Eid, organised and promoted by HPCC and Wanasa Time.

Ron Senkowski, who has previously worked on top movies like *Toy Story* and now owns and runs Hollywood Pop-up Entertainment, said: "Having worked in the region to shoot some movies, I noticed there are not many English comedy clubs, so we opened one in Beirut. Now we want to bring some of the top world-class comedians to the region and give them venues across the MENA region to record their specials."



Ron



# Best paws forward

**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE  
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**P**ET Arabia's groomers recently received a brush up on their special skills and were taught the top haircut and styling trends for 2020 by master groomer Gabriel Feitosa; proving yet again why they stay a cut above the rest in Bahrain's grooming sector.

The kingdom's popular animal haven invited the talented Brazilian, who has won countless awards for his grooming expertise, judged numerous competitions and travels around the world teaching his art form, to conduct a four-day workshop at the Budaiya branch.

Pet Arabia owner Abdulrahman Alkhan and his team were thrilled to have such a renowned professional as Gabriel sharing his 13 years of experience in the cut and care industry.

Abdulrahman, an avid animal enthusiast who provides his clients with only the best in quality toys, clothes, nutritious food and treats, accessories and grooming products, said: "I wanted to make sure that our pet grooming procedures were up to the highest international standards and I wanted the team to learn about the latest haircuts



ALL SMILES: Gabriel and the Pet Arabia team

and trends.

"When it comes to cleaning and maintenance, overall, that is very important to us at Pet Arabia. We are very strict about these things and it's always good to check and get that audited from time to time. There is no one better to do that than Gabriel. He has excellent experience, is an award winner and a judge in dog shows. We were so happy to have him."

Gabriel has been passionate about dogs and grooming since he was 12. It all started in a small town outside of Sao Paulo, Brazil where he used to take his sister's dog to

the groomers. He adored it so much that he asked the groomer at the shop to let him bathe the dog and he would still pay for it. In time, he began working in the shop after school. Then at 16, he moved out to work in one of the most prestigious kennels in South America, Hampton Court Kennels, learning and developing show grooming skills and specialty techniques.

He worked there for three years as the coordinator of education and a teacher at Unipet Brazil, developing and instructing new groomers.

In his free time, he worked with Johnny Duarte, an internationally awarded animal photographer, preparing dogs for more than 35 ad campaigns including music videos, TV, magazines, pet product packaging, and reference Books.

He also prepared show dogs for top breeders and eventually was contacted by Paul Flores, one of the top Bichon-Frise breeders, offering him a position as a groomer and handler at his Kennel in the US. He worked there for two and a half years, learning grooming and handling skills. He is now half breeder of some blood lines.

During his time at the Kennel, he won awards across North and South America. He then got married and moved to San Diego where he started

working for Leel Michelle's signature grooming shop and pet boutique. Eventually, they began to co-own Bow Wow Beauty Shoppe and Gabriel Feitosa Grooming Salon, a vintage dog bakery, boutique and salon.

People drive hours upon hours to get their pooches snipped and styled by Gabriel who continues to make headlines in the competition and judging circuit.

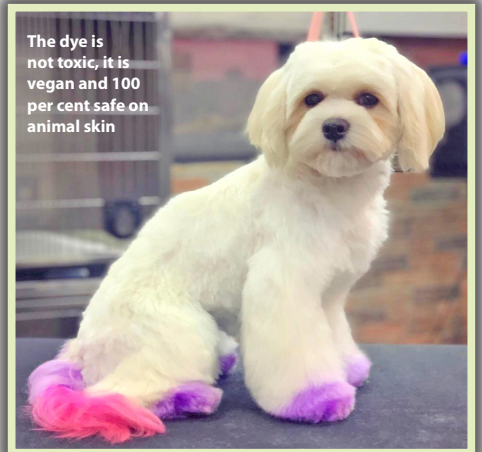


Happy pooch

In Bahrain, he first observed Pet Arabia's team in action and was impressed. He said: "Pet Arabia's grooming services are exceptional. They are already very capable professionals. It's hard when you have to teach someone



Gabriel giving a training session



The dye is not toxic, it is vegan and 100 per cent safe on animal skin

who doesn't have the basic skills. Half of my visit here then would have been spent on teaching them the basic and foundation but they have the foundation; I just showed them the flash.

"I noticed that part is still very new here, such as hair dye for dogs which are actually vegan, not toxic and 100 per cent safe for animal skin. By the time the trends hit the market in Bahrain, Pet Arabia will be 10 steps ahead of everyone! I already think they are a million steps ahead. I know a lot of groomers that travel around the globe and nobody has come to this part yet to teach. Education is very important and I think Pet

Arabia is innovative in that area."

Some of the trends that were taught included Asian Fusion, also referred to as Asian Freestyle. That is when pets are transformed into a cute toy or teddy bear character. Another trend is breed transformation, where a Yorkie can be made to look like a Westie. Gabriel also taught them how to do cording which is a technique in which dog coats are separated patiently into dreadlocks.

He had many other tips and tricks up his sleeve and armed the team with all the knowledge they needed to stay ahead.

Gabriel also advises pet owners to seek professional grooming assistance.

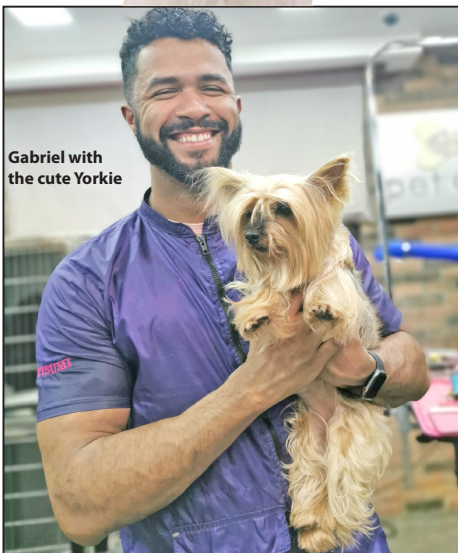
He said: "Grooming can keep your dog away from the vet. There are dogs that if they don't get groomed, they can die. It's a necessity. Short haired dogs need it too. All dogs do."

Ideally, Gabriel says dogs should see a professional groomer once a month. "Great hygiene keeps the dog away from the vet," he added. "Also, dogs like looking good and I believe I can bring out the best in every dog."

"When I deliver the dog to the client, the best moment for me is to see how happy the client is and I know from that moment forward they will have their best day."

Pet owners interested in getting their furry friends looking fabulous can check out the different branches in Budaiya, Amwaj Islands, Riffa, Um Al Hassam and Zallaq. The chain also has a store in Saar Mall.

For more information, visit [www.petarabia.com](http://www.petarabia.com) or follow on Instagram @petarabia



Gabriel with the cute Yorkie



# Bahrain's pride

**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
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**T**WO students from Bahrain, Tamara Himani and Josie Dodson, have achieved the highest GCSE scores in the world, showcasing the kingdom's commitment to academic excellence.

The two students, who study at St Christopher's Senior School Bahrain in Isa Town, wrote their International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) exams last summer and were recently awarded, along with their colleagues, for their high achievement.

Tamara achieved the highest worldwide IGCSE score in history and Josie, taking the revamped course in religious studies attained the highest mark worldwide in the subject.

Tamara said: "I have always loved learning history, especially the writing aspect. Initially, I would write too much and we had to refine that as we got close to the exam. But I really enjoyed it, especially as we studied the Cold War and Nazi Germany, which normally we have never really understood until we studied them in depth.

"To be honest, I think I studied for it more than most of my other subjects, except maybe English. And now, I have chosen it for my A-Levels. And I am still enjoying it. And my essays are still too long, but it's fun."

Josie added: "I decided to take religious studies because the different perspectives that people have on theology fascinated me, even though I am not religious myself. My teacher, Mrs Helen Boyle was



Tamara with her teacher, Patrick

excellent at teaching it and she gave me a lot of resources to expand my understanding and writing.

"St Chris doesn't offer it at the A-Level. I did try to petition for it to be offered but at this time, it's not. So, I am studying psychology, mathematics, chemistry and physics this semester. But, the awareness of different perspectives and how to approach complex topics with many different viewpoints, like theology and euthanasia, is a skill I am going to find useful in my education going forward."

The IGCSE tests student knowledge in subjects across a spectrum of groups – languages, creativity, technology, humanities and social sciences, sciences, mathematics, physical education and more.

The IGCSE exams are administered by UK-based education bodies, like Pearson Edexcel for Year 11 students in British curriculum schools worldwide. Based on these results, students typically chose their subjects for school-leaving qualifications such as Advanced (A) Levels or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma.

The IGCSE exams are targeted at students studying internationally in British curriculum schools, where being part of diverse systems

can be helpful and evident in the classroom.

Helen, who teaches religious studies, said: "The course moves from theological arguments to contemporary issues in society, like equality, racism, sexism et cetera.

"From my perspective, it does not matter if a student is religious or not and we find that having a very diverse classroom, with a wide range of beliefs, gives students a holistic understanding of the subject.

"Josie, for example, was excellent at distilling multiple perspectives on complex issues and communicating them with clarity and empathy."

According to the St Christopher's school website, 167 candidates from the school sat the exam in 2019 and 56.4 per cent of them scored A and A\* grades, up from 55 per cent last year.

Louis Mulleagues scored the highest mark in physical education (PE) in Bahrain; Daniella Louca scored the highest mark in Bahrain in Arabic and Angela Rajasegaran scored the highest Mathematics grade (193 out of a maximum 200) in Bahrain.

Patrick O'Shaughnessy, head of the history department and Tamara's teacher, said: "Working with Tamara was an absolute pleasure. What



Louis, Josie, Daniella, Tamara, Angela

really stood out to me was her ability to absorb feedback and implement it in her writing and learning. This is something we encourage in all our students

"I have been here since 2014; it's a wonderful school and really, the success of the school is rooted in Bahrain, where the community is warm, caring and most importantly, educationally focused.

Education and learning are highly prized here. And with diverse classrooms with young people all with unique experiences, backgrounds and aptitudes, our students get a well-rounded experience, which is not found everywhere in the UK."



Josie with her teacher, Helen



Tamara and Josie, right, receiving their awards



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# Rasika's



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## EXPANDING CUSTOMER REACH

A leading retail giant in the region and Asia, known for its value-for-money products, has expanded its reach yet again by opening a new hypermarket in Halat Bu Maher, Muharraq.

The Ramez Group unveiled its seventh hypermarket in the kingdom and 42nd in the region under the patronage of HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy PM of Bahrain. The launch was officially inaugurated by Ramez Al Awadi, chairman of the Group and was attended by ministers, ambassadors, dignitaries, invited guests and members of the media.

Mr Ramez said: "We are grateful to Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa for opening our seventh hypermarket in the kingdom which reflects the wise vision of Bahrain's leadership and the permanent support of the government for the national investments and Bahraini projects in various business fields and vital economic sectors.

"We are committed to train and deploy more



Shaikh Khalid inaugurating the hypermarket with Ramez Al Awadi and Mohammed Ramez

young talented Bahrainis in all our branches and outlets and we are keen to continue supporting Bahrain labour force by giving employment to more Bahrainis in the retail sector. We are proud to announce that Ramez's Halat Bu Maher branch employees are all Bahrainis."

The hypermarket is located in the heart of Muharraq, sprawling 5,000sqft, consisting of

two floors in addition to a 250sqft car parking space that can accommodate more than 220 vehicles.

Ramez offers shoppers a range of home appliances, clothes, cosmetics, stationary, furniture, toys, kitchen kits, food and more. The new hypermarket also contains a special display area for Bahraini products.

### Lulu Hypermarket

1. Society premium tea 450gm x 2 – BD3
2. Karami classic basmati rice 10kg – BD5.690
3. Crystal olive oil 2ltr – BD2.450
4. Davidoff instant coffee jar 100gm + mug free – BD3.290
5. Americana tender chicken breast 1kg x 2 – BD3.990
6. Cashew nuts medium/kg – BD4.290

### Mega Mart Bahrain

1. Nur Jahan basmati rice 10kg – BD4.750
2. Sanaa basmati rice 5kg – BD2.990
3. Puck UHT milk f/cream 4x1ltr – 900fils
4. Extra white detergent powder 25kg – BD8.750
5. Clorox bleach 2x1 gallon – BD2.950

### Al Jazira Supermarket

1. One protein bar maple glazed 60gm – BD1.400
2. One protein bar peanut butter 60gm – BD1.400
3. Justines protein cookie 64gm – BD1.100
4. Justines protein cookie choco fudge 64gm – BD1.100
5. Justines protein cookie choco chip 64gm – BD1.100

## Successful travel show



**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
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**THE Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) participated for the first time at the 26th edition of SATTE 2020, South Asia's leading travel show in Delhi, India earlier this month.**

The delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain, headed by Dr Ali Follad consisted of a number of representatives from BTEA, Gulf Air, The



Dr Ali Follad, third from left, with Gulf Air representatives at the travel show

Ritz-Carlton Bahrain, Al Areen Palace and Spa, and a number of travel agents.

The BTEA delegation met with a number of prominent travel companies specialised

in organising conferences in India, including Easemytrip.com, Carewell Travels and

Pegasus Investment.

Leading the delegation, Dr Ali, acting director of marketing and tourism promotion directorate at BTEA, said: "We are pleased with the success of our first participation in SATTE 2020, wherein over a period of three days we managed to hold a number of meetings with several organisations and authorities associated with the tourism sector in India, which were held with an aim to attract more tourist delegations and increase the number of visitors coming into the kingdom of Bahrain.

"As we strive to promote the kingdom and enhance its position on the global tourism map, we look forward to participating in various regional and international events in the future."

The BTEA's delegation held a series of productive meetings in which they promoted Bahrain as a leading tourism destination for individuals, wedding celebrations and Meetings, Incentives,

Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE).

In addition, one lucky winner won two tickets to the Bahrain Grand Prix Formula 1 race, two airline tickets from Gulf Air and a stay at a five-star hotel, after participating in the 'Fastest Lap' competition, organised by the Bahrain Pavilion.

Each year, SATTE attracts more than 1,000 participants from more than 50 countries as well as 28 states and 90 cities from across India with an aim of promoting their tourism offerings and establishing commercial and business partnerships. The event draws decision makers, global travel and tourism companies, as well as representatives of government agencies and the Indian tourism market.

BTEA's participation comes in line with its long-term strategy to further develop Bahrain's tourism sector and strengthen its position on regional and international levels under the slogan of 'Ours. Yours.', which contributes towards the kingdom's economy and the 2030 Economic Vision.



Members of the Bahrain delegation at SATTE 2020



# EatingOut

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



Shrimp passion salad



Five flavoured cones



Selected dishes from Chef Chih-Yuan's menu

## Garden of delight

**GOURMET REPORT**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
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**W**HEN this ravenous reporter started writing about food, the last thing I expected was to use the word 'Rat' on the same page. But then, I ended up talking about the movie *Ratatouille* when I reviewed a master chef's cooking class last November and now... well, let's talk about the Chinese New Year.

January 24, 2020 marks the end of the Year of the Pig and the advent of the Year of the Rat. And while rats get a bad name in the post-Great Plague era, they are actually amongst some of the smartest animals. So, it comes as no surprise that the Year of the Rat is supposed to be one of vitality and intelligence.

To celebrate that, the *GulfWeekly* team headed to the Gulf Hotel Bahrain's China Garden restaurant to meet renowned Chinese-Taiwanese culinary icon Chef Chih-Yuan Lin. We had a sneak peek at the menu he is setting in the leadup to the Chinese New Year.

Chef Chih-Yuan is known in China for his contemporary takes on traditional Chinese fare and has quickly climbed the culinary ladder to become executive chef of Sanhoyan, a chain of popular Taiwanese restaurants at just 29.

He is setting the menu at China Garden until Saturday



Braised lamb shank

Photos by Ahmed Al Fardan



Taro duck breast

and teaching a masterclass before jetting back to China. We were lucky to sample four of his finest culinary creations.

As we arrived and took our seats in the regal Emperor suite, Gulf Hotel's food and beverage manager Sunuj Deen welcomed us and told us a bit about the culinary celebrations to come.

He said: "This is our third year of flying in a celebrity chef for Chinese New Year. As one of the choicest Chinese restaurants in the kingdom, we believe it's our obligation to give our guests the best Chinese New Year experience. The menu

this year, cooked by Chef Chih-Yuan, will take them on a journey through Taiwan and will give them an experience of contemporary Chinese-Taiwanese culinary creations."

As we talked, our appetisers wafted over.

First up were the five flavoured cones (BD4.2). While ice-cream cones may not necessarily be considered traditional Chinese culinary flavour, the mashed potato filling with veggies, topped with mussels and a unique five-flavour Taiwanese sauce gave us the Chinese flavour we expected, in a shiny crunchy package.

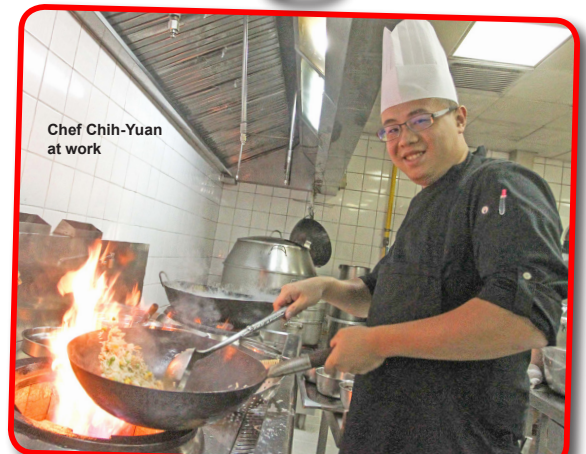
Combining sweet, sour, spicy and salty flavours with just a hint of bitter, the sauce was delectable, setting an extremely high



bar for the dishes we are to enjoy for the rest of the year.

However, the real showstopper was the shrimp passion salad (BD4.2) with the chef's special passionfruit sauce. While it seemed simple, the warm deep-fried Gulf prawns with the citrusy passionfruit, pineapple and kiwi were the perfect intermingling of warm-cool food temperatures.

As we waited for our main course, we



Chef Chih-Yuan at work

chatted with the team about the changes the chef has made to adjust to the local palate. While Chinese foodies prefer sweeter cooler flavours, Bahrain's bellies tend to prefer spicier warmer tones, so the cuisine is much closer to the Sichuan flavour profile.

Soon, the taro duck breast (BD6.5) was served. Duck meat is one of the newer introductions to my carnivorous consumption collection and the trick is to eat it when warm, lest it become rubbery and lose its juicy flavour. And served atop a bed of mashed taro with scallions and Sichuan spicy sauce made from scratch, flavour was definitely not amiss in this dish.

Finally, to really give us the meat lover's delight, Chef Chih-Yuan served us a two-hour slow-braised lamb shank (BD8) with a side of seasonal vegetables topped with green onions, cumin dust and a Chinese herb gravy. It was the perfect end to an intriguing

look at the intersection between contemporary and traditional Chinese cuisine, a juxtaposition in a very classical Chinese-looking establishment.

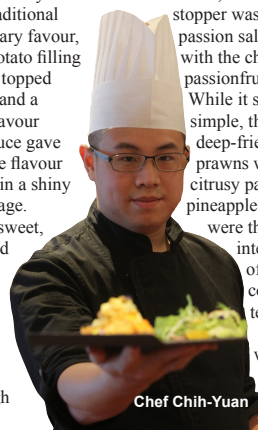
Try out Chef Chih-Yuan Lin's creations for yourself until Saturday, January 25, at China Garden. If you would like to learn some of his saucy secrets, check out his masterclass this Saturday from 10:30am to noon.

Priced at BD39net, this is definitely not one to miss. Call 1771 3000 for details and bookings.

Scan the QR code to check out our pre-Chinese New Year culinary adventure.



Subscribe to GulfWeekly's YouTube Channel.



Chef Chih-Yuan





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# Leisure Guide



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

## Today (January 22)

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.

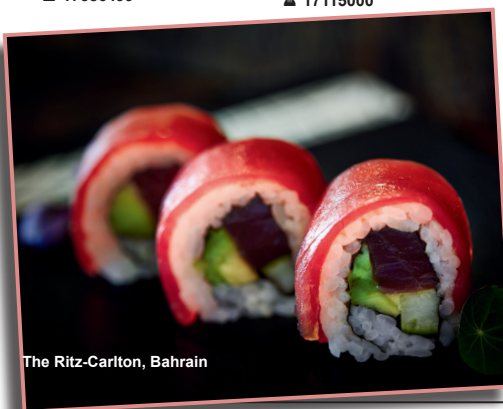
❖ **Crowne Plaza Manama**  
☎ 17531122

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



The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain



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

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 23)

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 an a la carte menu 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 24)

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.

There is a dedicated buffet and special activities for children organised by the Bulbul Kids Club team too.

❖ **Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain**  
☎ 77707070



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 a Middle Eastern dessert station. Priced at BD15net inclusive of soft beverages. Select beverage package available for additional BD5 - BD7net.

❖ **Crowne Plaza Manama**  
☎ 17531122

Every Friday from 12:30pm to 4pm feast on more than 130 kinds of desserts, unlimited beverages and extravagant 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



Spread across Selections, Medzo and Legendz restaurants is the Brunchtime experience from 12:30pm to 4pm. It's 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 25)

Enjoy a delectable International buffet spread every Saturday from 12:30pm to 4pm at Furm 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

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 inclusive of soft beverages and BD29 net inclusive of select beverages.

❖ **Intercontinental-Regency**  
☎ 17227777

Spice up your weekly brunch around Mexico at Cantina Kahlo. The Brunch Fiesta will be held from noon to 4pm, priced BD36.5 net 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





## 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 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.



## Sunday (January 26)

Developed by renowned US-based Chef Matthew Kenney, founder of Plant Food, and HRH Prince Khaled bin Alwaleed bin Talal, Folia is the new plant-based à la carte menu highlighting ethical, wholesome and plant-based dining. A treat for carnivores too, dishes transform vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs and spices into unforgettable feasts. Available every day from 12pm onward.

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

Devour a selection of international cuisine at Baharat every Sunday to Thursday from 12:30pm to 3pm. The lunch buffet, featuring a tandoor oven & indoor grill, 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

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

Feast on a Mediterranean 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

The Primavera restaurant invites you to its two-course power lunch with special menus from Sunday to Thursday, set by Chef Delfino.

## Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel



Priced at BD12net, you can combine your choice of mains, salad and/or desserts.

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

## Monday (January 27)

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

From Monday to Thursday from noon to 3pm, at CUT by Wolfgang Puck, 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 à 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 28)

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 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 fater which is crispy, fresh & available sweet, with meat or prawns from 1pm to 10pm every day.

✦ **The Westin City Centre**  
☎ 17171441

## WHAT'S ON FOR THE CHINESE NEW YEAR



Chinese culinary icon Chef Chih-Yuan Lin will be at China Garden until Saturday to celebrate the Chinese New Year at the Gulf Hotel. Though he is young, his traditional Chinese and Taiwanese cuisine has been featured on several TV shows and he is currently the executive chef at Sanhoyan, one of most popular local cuisine restaurant chains in Taiwan. A special menu set by him is available at China Garden until Saturday.

In addition, from 10:30am to noon on Saturday, stop by for a special Art of Cooking class taught by Chef Chih-Yuan and learn Chinese cooking from the best of the best. Priced at BD39net including lunch. Advance booking is required. <https://pay.gulfbahrain.com/cookingclass/>

✦ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**  
☎ 17713000

● Check out Naman's review of Chef Chih-Yuan's menu on Page 7

From 1pm to 4pm, at Re/Asian 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

Starting at 5pm on Saturday, 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





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# Fashion Weekly

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

## Sleek and simple

**T**ED Baker's spring and summer 2020 line promises to offer fashionistas elegant eveningwear along with casual athleisure for the woman-on-the-go, writes Mai Al Khatib-Camille.

The collection consists of sultry satin fabrics, patterned knitwear and pleated skirts and trousers. There are also leather separates with contrasting textures to create simple and sleek sophistication. The colours for the season are muted and soft, with bolder highlights of rust, mustard, lime and navy. The prints also add a dramatic flourish with a mix of modern florals, polka dots and animal prints to slay all day.

The British luxury fashion company features nautical looks with its statement stripes in bright red, navy and white. The designer's sartorial showstoppers include a knitted dress with matching cardigan jacket and a tweed shorts suit boasting striped tipping detail.

Summer sees the launch of Ted's Cabana print, showcasing sophisticated styles such as a broderie anglaise dress with lace trims and a halter neck makes for a summer evening staple.

Accessories for spring and summer are kept simple with woven basket style totes and matching clutches. There are also canvas totes with leather trims and black and royal blue colour blocked bucket bags with adjustable handles that are big enough to carry all the essentials. Step into the season in spring and summer style.

There is a Ted Baker located in City Centre Bahrain.



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

RALPH Lauren's Purple Label is celebrating its 25th anniversary by creating fabulous fall looks reimagined from its iconic styles.

Its autumn 2020 collection is impeccably crafted from exclusive Italian fabrics with a dedication to the finest details that have been the hallmark by the brand since its founding.

The 25th anniversary assortment is headlined by a reissued capsule of tailored looks from the 90's inspired by Ralph's personal suittings and his love of sartorial English tailoring.

These pieces feature his signature suit silhouette that is strong, broad shouldered with wide lapels balanced by a contoured waist, shorter length, and lower button stance. The new Ralph suits are recreated in the original English fabrics and patterns, hand-picked and styled by the American fashion designer himself exactly the way he would wear them. They include pattern-on-pattern combinations of classic chalk-stripes, hounds-tooth checks, glen plaids and a range of sophisticated heathers and solid blacks.

Ralph has always believed in the art of fine tailoring and it shows. He said: "Before I started my own company I had my suits custom-made. I wanted the fit and construction to have the integrity of old-world craftsmanship yet remain soft and supple, natural and comfortable."

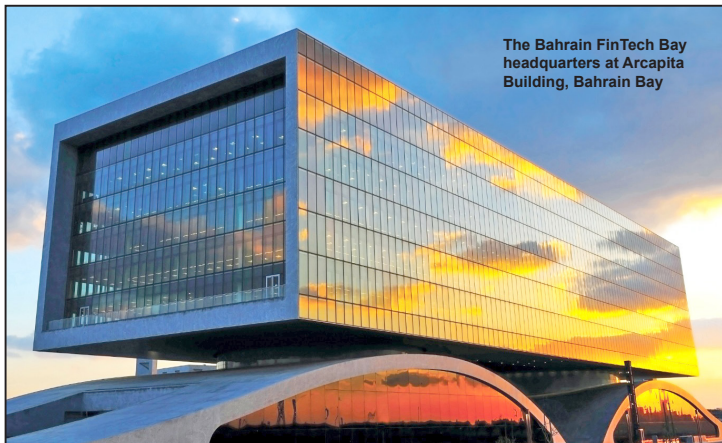
"For Purple Label's 25th anniversary, I wanted to recreate that tailored style I've always believed in – from the cut of the suit and the original fabrics, to the mix of patterns in the shirt, the tie and other accessories. Purple Label to me is more than just beautiful clothing; it reflects the personal style of the wearer and a way of living inspired by timeless quality."





# FinTechFocus

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



The Bahrain FinTech Bay headquarters at Arcapita Building, Bahrain Bay

## Full speed!

**B**AHRAIN FinTech Bay (BFB) is now accepting applications for its flagship Acceleration Programme until March 15.

Start-ups working to solve problems within the following spheres will be considered for the programme: Blockchain & Cryptocurrency, Cybersecurity and Data Science, Digital and Open



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

Banking, Financial Health and Inclusion, InsurTech, Payments and Remittances, RegTech and WealthTech.

To be eligible for the course, the start-up must have at least a product prototype, or an early proof-of-concept (PoC), a clear product development and execution roadmap, a ready-to-go business plan and

pitch deck and a balance of technical background and some business experience

The 12-week programme will kick off on May 1 with special training and mentoring activities for legal and organisational matters, branding, business planning, marketing and PR, analytics, as well as management and governance.

## A galaxy of ideas

**T**he UAE Space Agency has entered into a strategic partnership with Abu Dhabi-based Krypto Labs, collaborating to form the UAE New Space Innovation Programme to empower new space-tech companies to make the most out of New Space, the rising private spaceflight industry.

New Space Innovation is a part of the UAE's broader National Space Investment Promotion Plan, which among other things, aims to upgrade the home-grown space industry into one of the key pillars supporting the country's economy.

Commenting on this new initiative, Dr Mohammed Nasser Al Ahbabi, director-general of the UAE Space Agency, said: "The UAE New Space Innovation Programme invites students, entrepreneurs and start-ups to share their ground-breaking ideas and transform them into viable commercial products. This supports developing space technology as part of the UAE's private spaceflight New Space sector, which aims to make space more accessible, affordable and commercial."

The programme will focus on incubating and accelerating the growth of four handpicked start-ups over three months at the Krypto Labs headquarters, where they will enjoy unrestricted access to the innovation hub's regional and global network of investors. Additionally, they will also be mentored by global space experts and other professionals who will help them nourish their business creation, marketing, and sales skills.

The Soyuz missile which carried UAE's first astronaut Hazzaa Al Mansoori to the International Space Station last year



## Value for security

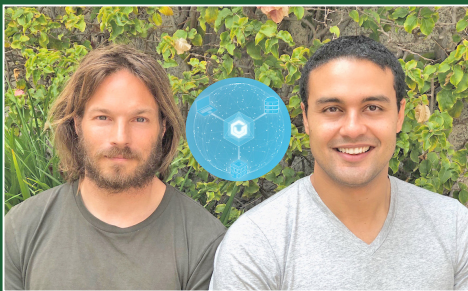
**D**ays after acquiring payment connection start-up Plaid for \$5.3 billion (BD2 billion), Visa continued its FinTech investment spree with a significant investment in Very Good Security (VGS), which helps FinTech companies better protect their data.

VGS works with start-ups like Brex and Petal to hide sensitive data and swap it for an alias. In other words, VGS helps companies with compliance and safely

handles things like credit card numbers to protect identities. VGS customers can issue credit cards without ever having to see a card number and they can run background checks without needing to hold personal identifying information.

This is not the first time Visa and VGS have worked together. Visa chose VGS as a partner for its FinTech Fast Track programme earlier this year.

VGS vice president of business



INVESTED INTEREST: VGS co-founders Marshall Jones & Mahmoud Abdelkader

development strategy, Peter Berg, said: "There's a need for specialised infrastructure to handle the toughest challenges in FinTech. VGS is building that infrastructure and making it easier for companies to get value from sensitive data without compromising security or privacy."

Visa has invested in more than 46 companies to date, according to Crunchbase data, including VGS, Square, Finix and Gojek.





# The wonders of watercolour



**ARTIST** Anil Kumar aims to help aspiring painters in the kingdom pick up the water-based medium through his book *Wisdom of Watercolour*.

The father-of-two, who is the art director of Paint & Palette, Bahrain, is a renowned painter in the fields of landscape and watercolour. He studied the art forms at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and has been a mentor and coach for artists for several years, helping them achieve their fullest potential and strokes of success.

Anil, who has been an artist and teacher for more than 25 years, said: "Watercolour is a medium that can be as demanding and temperamental as those who choose to paint with it. But, it is a colourful and exciting medium all the same – well suited to describing the many moods of the subject, as well as those of the artist wielding the brush."

Many artists around the world have chosen to paint with it because of its emotive beauty. It is no longer stigmatised as only a "sketch" medium and serious artists such as Anil are pushing the boundaries of what watercolour can be and what effects it can produce. In the hands of a Master it can thrill and captivate by showcasing energy and sheer boldness. It may appear simple in execution but it can take years to perfect and



## ART REPORT

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

this quality often discourages artists to take up the medium.

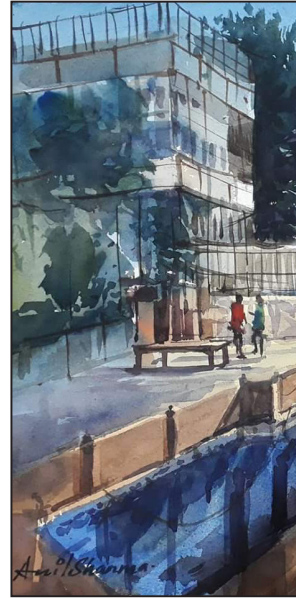
Anil had the patience and passion to pick up the art form. He developed a unique method for emphasising the fluidity of transparent colour and uses this technique to reinforce his vision of natural rhythms.

"I was inspired to take up art in particular by my parents Ram Dayal Sharma and Phuleswari Devi," said Anil. "And I got into it to promote self-esteem, to motivate, to raise aesthetic awareness and emotional expression as well as social harmony and appreciation of diversity. I felt I could do that through art."

Over the years he developed as a Colour Field painter and mastered colour theory. The colours of his paintings feature an array of resplendent light and vivid colours. His themes range from abstract figures to surreal landscapes with exaggerated colour and glowing foliage.

As an abstract painter, he is deemed by other artists as an "optical illusionist whose art defies special limitations" and as "visual poetry bursting forth with relentless energetic expression". His practiced technique conveys a sense of immediacy and harmony and Anil feels that art is not a luxury but a necessity.

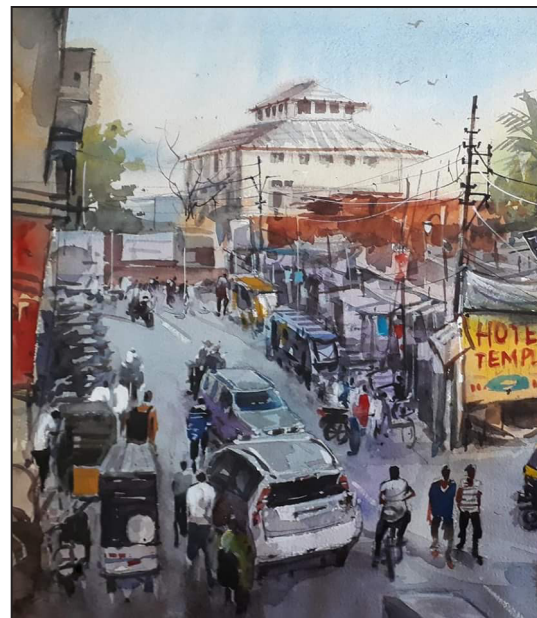
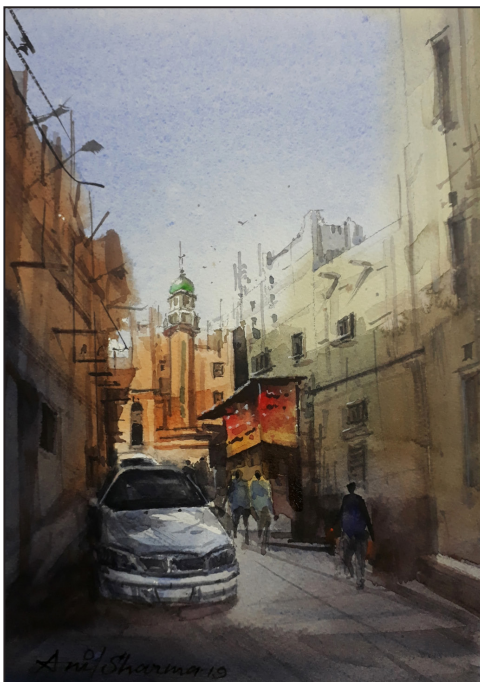
His fondness for art, in particular watercolours, encouraged him to publish his book in April 2019 which his



son Kishan, a fine arts student at BHU, helped him with as well as one of his students.

He said: "Watercolour can produce painting effects which no other medium can match. It took two years to publish this book. My son and my student helped me a lot. The book features all the techniques and disciplines used and needed introduced step by step."

Anil's dream for the future of Bahrain is to help bring the International Watercolour Society Festival to the kingdom. The International Watercolour Society (IWS), a non-profit organisation established in January 2012, gathers the largest





# watercolour



Artist Anil Kumar in action



Anil's book



and most diverse group of watercolour artists and art lovers alike. The objective of IWS is to promote the world's oldest and most deeply rooted painting technique and it provides a platform for the continual development, learning and passing of the art of watercolour. The festival, which has been hosted in Spain, India, Turkey and soon to be in Nepal, helps raise awareness about watercolour painting by presenting to the world an array of watercolour art and artists. This event acts as interaction points for attending artists, collectors and academicians from

various countries.

Anil aims to make that dream a reality by staging a three-day workshop with Master Artist Amit Kapoor who is the president of IWS India and vice president of IWS Global.

"I noticed in Bahrain that there aren't many painters working with watercolours compared to other countries in which artists are constantly working with it," Anil explained. "I decided to spread that style by curating the workshop and bringing in Amit who is a leading master of watercolour medium in India. I'd like to thank Paint & Palette owner and artist Karina Zubin for giving us

her blessing to stage this initiative at the art school."

Amit has received international honours for his paintings and any of his paintings are hanging on the walls of private and corporate collectors. He says that painting with watercolours is one of his greatest delights and he is addicted to it. He finds an ultimate bliss while painting and that it is like meditation for him as it captures the soul of the subject.

Artists wanting to start their watercolour journey with Anil do not have to wait till February 7, 8 and 9 to learn. They can join Anil every weekend on his explorations

around the kingdom where he uses Bahrain as inspiration and practice to hone his skills.

Some of his paintings of Bahrain have already been published in his book. "Every weekend I go to different places in Bahrain to paint," he said. "Some of my followers and students join me, observing what I do and get inspired to work directly with nature. I believe that nature is the real teacher for man."

Anil's book, priced at BD39, can be purchased from Amazon or from Paint & Palette, Bahrain.

To find out more about his book and about the class, contact him by emailing [arbyanil@gmail.com](mailto:arbyanil@gmail.com)



## WHAT'S WATERCOLOUR?

**W**atercolour, also known as aquarelle in French, is a painting method in which the paints are made of pigments suspended in a water-based solution. It refers to both the medium and the resulting artwork. Watercolours are usually translucent and appear luminous because the pigments are laid down in a pure form with few types of filler obscuring the pigment colours. In the past in East Asia, watercolour painting with inks was referred to as brush painting or scroll painting. In Chinese, Korean and Japanese painting it was the dominant medium, often in monochrome

black or browns, often using ink-stick or other pigments. India, Ethiopia and other countries have long watercolour painting traditions as well. American artists in the early 19th century seemed to regard it primarily as a sketching tool in preparation for the finished work in oil or engraving. It also played a major role in the Renaissance era.





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# Property Weekly

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

## BEACH-STYLE LIVING

**A fully-furnished two bedroom apartment is available for rent and also up for sale in the beachfront Marassi Shores residences situated in Marassi Al Bahrain's Diyar Al Muharraq.**

The contemporary designed home, which boasts a built-up area of 94.3sqm, features an open plan kitchen alongside a spacious living and dining area and a laundry room. There is also a balcony overlooking the area.

The bedrooms include built-in wardrobes and the master consists of an ensuite bathroom. There is a bathroom for guests.

The residential tower features 11 floors including 289 studios alongside one, two and three-bedroom apartments. It also consists of an array of amenities such as state-of-the-art gymnasiums, adult and children's temperature-controlled pools and a children's play area.

This tower was crafted in line with

Marassi Al Bahrain's philosophy of elegant living. There will be 2km of beaches and waterfront promenades filled with cafes and restaurants for residents to enjoy and there will also be a landmark shopping and entertainment destination along with four and five-star beachfront hotels.

### FACTS AT A GLANCE

**Location:** Marassi Shores residence in Marassi Al Bahrain

**Reference number:** AP641

**Rental price:** BD785

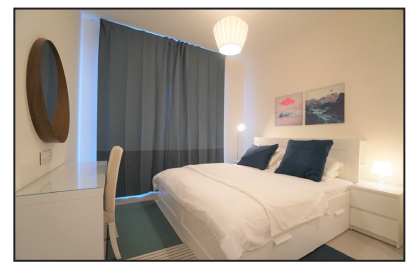
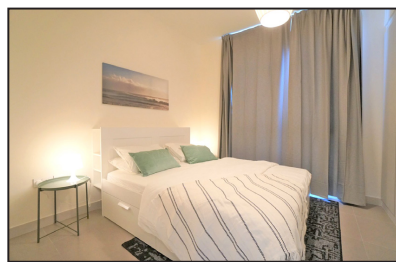
**Sales price:** BD132,250

**Living rooms:** 1

**Bedrooms:** 2

**Bathrooms:** 2

**Additional information:** There are gymnasiums; temperature controlled swimming pools, beaches nearby, a promenade as well as shops and restaurants. 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**

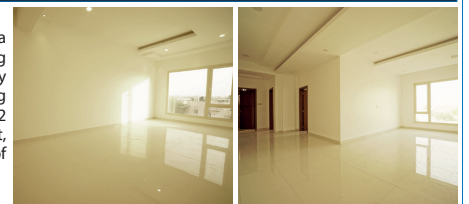
Classification: **RA**

### 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

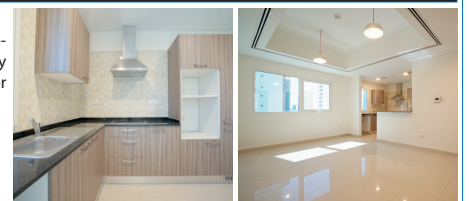


### FOR SALE! FREEHOLD BRAND NEW APARTMENT MINUTES FROM SEEF

#### 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 best in furnishing and design

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## Beautiful blue



**F**OR decades Pantone's Colour of the Year acted as a trend forecaster for interior and fashion designers as well as consumers and experts within multiple industries.

At the beginning of every New Year, more than 10,000 designers and producers wait in anticipation to hear what the latest colour craze would be to get their businesses up and running in line with the "in-thing" to do.

In 2019, a vibrant living coral stole the show and the year before that designers gushed over purple and violet hues. This year, classic blue makes its comeback and according

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

to the Pantone website, it is "a timeless and enduring blue that is suggestive of the sky at dusk".

Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Colour Institute, said:

"Imbued with a deep resonance, classic blue provides an anchoring foundation. A boundless blue evocative of the vast and infinite evening sky, it encourages

us to look beyond the obvious to expand our thinking; challenging us to think more deeply, increase our perspective and open the flow of communication."

Classic blue is a subtle hue



that is said to reflect a sense of calmness and serenity making it suitable for creating a collected atmosphere at home combined with added sophistication.

Designers, in particular,

adore the rich, dark blue for its versatility.

For example, Caitlin Murray, founder and designer at Black Lacquer Design in Los Angeles, told the *Insider website*, that she is a fan of

incorporating the shade by way of large furniture pieces while interior designer Jared Epps, owner at JSE Design in Brooklyn, New York, often uses the shade as an accent paint colour, but that he's also

used it as the main colour for a space. Naturally, that all depends on the type or size of the room.

It makes sense to either paint with classic blue or add furniture pieces and accessories to a room as the shade brings forth a sense of peace, tranquility and refuge. It also aids concentration, helps to provide clarity and to centre thoughts. This colour is suitable for any room be it the bedroom, bathroom, kitchen or even the office.

Here are three ways to use this hue when decorating your home:

### Make a statement:

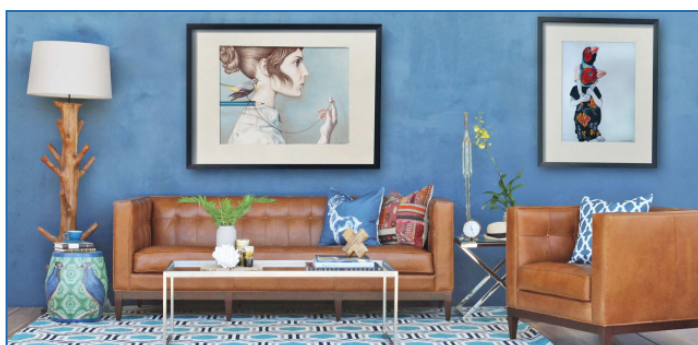
I've said it time and time again; paint is the quickest and cheapest way to revamp a space. Splash some classic blue on a wall to create an ambience of classiness and liveliness. Paint one wall or use complementary colours in the same palette on different walls to brighten the room.

### Comfy cushions and furnishings:

This shade is both décor-friendly and offers a sense of cosy comfort to any dwelling. Add a throw pillow or artwork in that colour to your living room or place a rug or sofa set to tie other elements together.

### Excitable exterior:

The colour can be used outside too on front doors, window panels or patio benches. It's a refreshing shade that can complement any season.





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## In focus



His Majesty King Hamad received Seychelles president Danny Faure and his delegation at Shaikh Hamad Palace to boost relations. Bahrain and Seychelles signed a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding on visa requirements and exemptions as well as banking co-operation.



A delegation from the Ministry of Education visited Ebrahim K Kanoo's managing director, Talal Kanoo, at the company's corporate office in Manama. Headed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Lateefa Al Bonothea, the team thanked Mr Kanoo for his commitment to national development through the company's support of the educational sector.



More than 90 women from Saree Speak, a ladies group that celebrates the traditions and cultures of the Saree, came together at Elite Crystal Hotel in Juffair to mark the auspicious Makar Sankranti Haladi Kumkum event. There was a Maharashtrian cultural programme including food, song and dance.

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) consolidated its position as a hub of international education as it hosted a series of postgraduate professional exams organised by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). A record number of 180 dentists from Bahrain and around the Middle East took the Membership of the Faculty of Dentistry (MFD) examinations, following on from the two-day MFD International Intensive Revision Course, which also took place at the RCSI Bahrain campus.



# SocialScene

Why wait a month! Join Social Scene every week

## Fresh fragrance



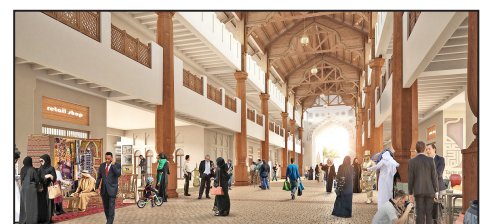
Al Hawaj launched the latest fragrances from the BDK Parfums Paris collection with a special visit by French perfumer and BDK founder David Benedek. The event was held at the new Al Hawaj Seef Mall outlet and was attended by French Ambassador Jerome Cauchard, other VIP guests, members of the media, bloggers and Al Hawaj Board members and management. Al Hawaj's managing director Jawad Al Hawaj officially opened the event by welcoming guests and attendees with Abdulwahab Al Hawaj, the general manager.

## Making waves



The Waha Splashclub had its grand opening in Amwaj Islands last week in the presence of representatives from the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Economic Development Board (EDB) and members of the media. The Waha Splashclub, led by CEO Nabil Rashidi in partnership with Canadian company Vortex Aquatic Structures, 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 is now open to the public daily from 10am to 10pm.

## Landmark project



Diyar Al Muharraq has announced its beginning in the laying of foundation for the Souq Al Baraha project, located in the heart of the city. Al-moayyed Contracting Group has been appointed to complete the entire project and officially launch the project to the public by the end of the first quarter of 2021.

## Punjabi Divas



Indian School Bahrain (ISB) celebrated Punjabi Divas 2020 at the school's Jashanmal Auditorium. Jhuhar Singh Minhas, managing director of Dashmesh Groups of Companies, was chief guest. Trophies and certificates were awarded by the chief guest to all winners of the different competitions. The programme was organised by the ISB Punjabi Language Department. It was the grand finale of the week-long celebrations. The competitions included handwriting, picture identification and poem recitation. There was also a Punjabi 'Giddha dance, a Bhangra Dance, Punjabi poems and songs.



# Film Weekly



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



## Lovable duo

**B**UDDY cop movies are a fascinating movie medley – a comedic and thrilling blend of the good cop-bad cop trope, the straight man-wise guy dynamic and a testosterone overdose of the explosive variety.

The *Bad Boys* franchise is perhaps one of the most memorable and also most-parodied of this genre, up there with *Rush Hour*, *Lethal Weapon* and *Tango & Cash*.

When the 1995 *Bad Boys* classic came out, both Will Smith and Martin Lawrence were at the apex of their comedy careers.

Despite a disastrous monologue on *Saturday Night Live*, Martin was enjoying the success of his eponymous TV show *Martin* and film *House Party*. Having come off a seven year stint as the *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Bad Boys* became the first of many proofs of Will's 'Midas' touch.

The movie didn't need to be new or good. As long as Will was in it with a trusty sidekick and Michael Bay making things unnecessarily explode, a blockbuster was in the bag.

### BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

**CAST:** Will Smith, Alexander Ludwig, Martin Lawrence, Vanessa Hudgens

**DIRECTORS:** Adil El Arbi, Bilall Fallah

**GENRE:** Action, Comedy, Crime

**RATING:** R

**RUNTIME:** 123 minutes

When the 2003 sequel happened, Will was still the golden boy of Hollywood while Martin's career, despite being financially successful, was starting to show its age. Tragically, Michael was only getting started on his multi-billion dollar block-busting adventure.

And now, after a 17-year gap during which Martin occasionally blew up the box office but mostly raised his family, he returns to *Bad Boys for Life* to reprise the role of Marcus Burnett, a cop who has spent the last two decades... occasionally blowing things up but mostly raising his family. It's uncanny how original Hollywood can be.

Will reprises the role of Mike Lowry, the playboy every male cop must

imagine he'll become upon receiving his badge. But this time, for added character, there's lots more brooding. Because he's matured, but continues to act like the freshest prince of buddy-cop movies.

The storyline is... wait, no one really cares. There's a big cartel baddie, lots of action and explosions that almost make one forget that Will is 51 and gratuitous shot-for-shot remakes of

scenes from the original movie.

This time, for added flavour, there are four new kids on the block in the form of the Advanced Miami Metro Operations (AMMO) team. Get it? Because Mike and Marcus are the guns and... never mind. Rita (Paola Núñez), Kelly (Vanessa Hudgens), Dom (Alexander Ludwig) and Rafe (Charles Melton) add little to the movie beyond their stock aggravated leader, explosive badass, bro nerd and rebel foil characters.

But no one is going to see anyone but Will and Martin. And these two, helped by the fiery direction of Michael, prove why they continue to demand some of the highest salaries in Hollywood.

Even as an old and retiring cop, Martin is entertaining and holds the screen well. Will, with his billion dollar charisma, manages to pull off the character of Will as a cop perfectly. And that's what everyone really cares about.

But here's a fun game to play when you watch this movie with friends – everyone take a blank 5x5 grid, write down your favourite tropes in each of the squares and as you watch the movie, play some boiler plate bingo. The one who loses has to spend 2020 watching Michael Bay's movies.

Do we care that this is thoroughly unoriginal and unnecessary in action comedy canon? Do we care that critically all three movies are on the dark side of the average? Do we care that without the explosions, brooding and clichés, this movie would be a 10-second foot race between Will and Martin? No, no and definitely no.

But for consistency sake, I might as well give the movie its two-popcorn rating, knowing that it will still blow up the box office.

### NAMAN'S VERDICT



1 popcorn – stay home  
5 popcorns – start queuing

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## Bite-sized trailers

### Dolittle

**DIRECTOR:** Stephen Gaghan

**CAST:** Robert Downey Jr., Antonio Banderas, Michael Sheen

**PLOT:** Dr. Dolittle lives with an array of animals that he speaks to on a daily basis. When young Queen Victoria becomes gravely ill, he and his furry friends embark on an adventure to find the cure.

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



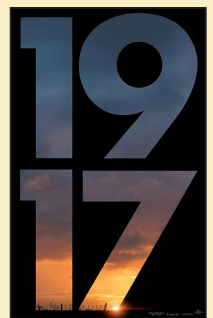
### 1917

**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.



### Jai Mummy Di (Hindi)

**DIRECTOR:** Navjot Gulati

**CAST:** Sunny Singh Nijjar, Sonnalli Seygall, Supriya Pathak

**PLOT:** A light-hearted family comedy that portrays the trials and tribulations a couple has to undergo due to the dynamics between their respective mothers.

**SHOWING IN:** Oasis Juffair and Seef II.



## imdb movie charts

Current Position	Title	Weekend Takings	Gross to date
1	Bad Boys for Life	\$59M	\$59M
2	Dolittle	\$22M	\$22M
3	1917	\$22M	\$77M
4	Jumanji: The Next Level	\$10M	\$270M
5	Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker	\$8M	\$492M
6	Just Mercy	\$6M	\$20M
7	Little Women	\$6M	\$84M
8	Knives Out	\$4M	\$146M
9	Like a Boss	\$4M	\$17M
10	Frozen II	\$4M	\$465M







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# Write to the editor

Follow GulfWeekly on Instagram @gulfweekly  
Your views make all the difference – email: mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

CONGRATULATIONS to Gulf Air for its 70th anniversary and its temporary museum located at City Centre Bahrain. I was told the pop-up museum will show the national airline's history since its take-off in 1950. It will include rare and exclusive photography and memorabilia items from different decades. There will also be various aircraft models and uniforms from different eras on display to show how the brand evolved. The museum will also have on show the latest Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner Falcon Gold seat.

From Sane

AFTER staying for almost six months in Aurangabad, I have re-joined my two sons and members of their families in Bahrain. Kindly accept and convey our regards and best wishes to the members of your families.

With kind regards,  
R M Arora

#### Editor's note:

Hello Mr Arora. We are happy to have you back in Bahrain and look forward to hearing from you. Hope you had a wonderful start to the New Year.



## REAL OR FAKE?

AS I am getting increasingly involved in research based studying, there is one particular segment that often gets me thinking - citation and references. Nope, it's not restricted to just that. It's about sources on the internet - which ones are reliable and which ones are not.

With internet connection becoming widely available and accessible to one and all, the power to put anything and everything online has also reached out to everyone. A very basic example is that on searching for anything through search engines, the first suggested link is Wikipedia. Now, Wikipedia, in actuality is a website that can be edited by people like you and me. Voila! Credibility?

What's more? There are millions of websites out there that started by just about anyone. In this maze of information, it's hard to know what is true, what has been mistakenly uploaded and what is online to intentionally mislead the audience.

Personally, I feel that the scariest and most impactful involvement of said misinformation is in academics and politics. The degree of education and politics of a country indicates its growth, general mindset and overall potential.

Academic citation has to be done very carefully. If academic works are a given structure, if the base blocks aren't strong, entire studies can fall to the ground. Certainly, there are

some coveted search tools like Britannica, published books by renowned authors and others, as a student, I feel that the need of the hour is to educate young scholars to identify good information from bad information. This should take place at home as well as in school and should take place on a continuous basis. In terms of politics, it is no secret that easily accessible non-credible sources often end up as fuel to already heightened divisions between diverse social, economic, religious and racial groups.

Today, it is imperative that we all acknowledge this and attempt to disassociate from misinformation and irresponsibly presented facts and figures. In this too, I feel that volatile content of this nature must be controlled, either by the receiving end or by the platforms that make the spread of information possible. Additionally, adults and children alike should educate themselves and improve information communication. Academia and politics are very important frameworks for the successful machinery of a country and we should ensure that the gears never fall apart due to misinformation.



WHEN driving, one often comes across roads where the only option of movement is either turning left or right. The nature of these roads makes it nearly impossible to assess whether

there are other cars or vehicles coming towards you.

Logically, you would think one would have to gamble the moment that they turn 90 degrees, having no idea when to precisely go. Lucky for all of us, safety mirrors were invented and are placed very conspicuously on these very corners. These wide convex mirrors allow us to properly assess road situations, preventing road side disasters from becoming a regular occurrence.

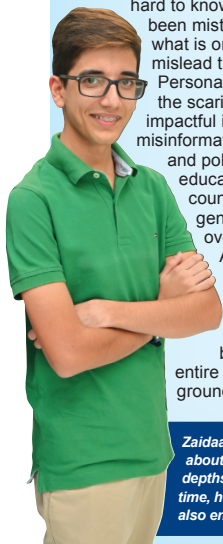
Now just imagine every news source, media outlet or business being just as transparent with their information. Instead of running off on partial knowledge and potentially creating a crash site, imagine having all information that allows you, the consumer, to make a well informed decision.

Whenever my classmates and I had to carry out a research project for secondary school, our teachers would constantly remind us to not use Wikipedia. Wikipedia, to our teachers at least, was notoriously known for misinformation and blatant inaccuracy. It's a common misconception that 'everyone' can upload 'something' on Wikipedia. However, there is a somewhat lengthy process to finally getting published on Wikipedia; moreover there are even workers who actively patrol the site to detect any errors of unsupported facts.

Despite this success story, of a company trying to combat misinformation, there are many other instances where information is misconstrued or even censored. From asymmetric information presented to consumers who are trying to make an economic choice, to news channels and newspapers running stories that only tell a percentage of the truth, there is a fragrance of dishonesty all over our society.

Like puppets manipulated by a puppeteer, consumers are at the expense of powerful corporate companies and even the government. As consumers, all we can hope for is that we're given enough to know when it's safe to go.

He says,  
She says



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.



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.



# cerebrally crust & crema



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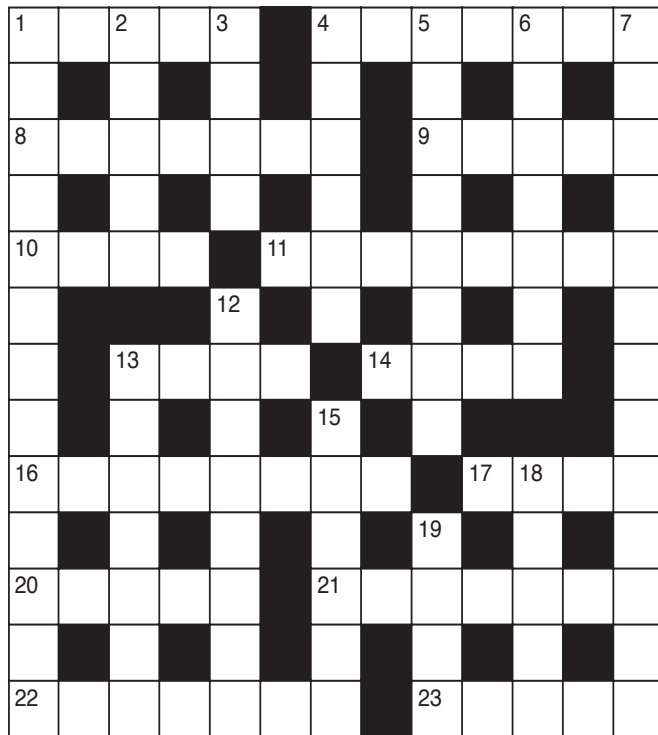
@crustandcrema



crustandcremah



## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

1. Angry (5)
4. Suppose (7)
8. Clumsy (7)
9. Writhe (5)
10. Chessman (4)
11. Elegant (8)
13. Circle (4)
14. Cabbage (4)
16. Saviour (8)
17. Stupefy (4)
20. Vigilant (5)
21. Odd (7)
22. Oriental (7)
23. Spectre (5)

### DOWN

1. Unsuitable (13)
2. Awry (5)
3. Vivacity (4)
4. Abrupt (6)
5. Reasonable (8)
6. Copy (7)
7. Diversion (13)
12. Upset (8)
13. Remedy (7)
15. Diminish (6)
18. Dance (5)
19. Card game (4)

### who, what, where, when

WHO ... was the American cartoonist who created Batman?

WHAT ... make of car was the time machine in *Back to the Future*?

WHERE ... is the home ground of the Chicago Cubs?

WHEN ... did Herschel discover Uranus?

WHO ... wrote the play *Journey's End* about life in the trenches of The First World War?

WHAT ... is a guenon?

WHERE ... is the capital of Mississippi?

WHEN ... did Francis I become King of France?

### just so

♂ OF  
ER

√ SUEZ

EPIDERMIS

RESIST

## 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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

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

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

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

**Across:** 3 Appertain; 8 Sort; 9 Connected; 10 Author; 11 Rivet; 14 Large; 15 Tome; 16 Realm; 18 Near; 20 Obese; 21 Lofty; 24 Demand;  
**Down:** 1 Assailant; 2 Fraternal; 4 Poor; 5 Ennui; 6 Ticket; 7 Item; 9 Cover; 11 Ready; 12 Tolerable; 13 Defendant; 17 Mover; 19 Rotate; 22 Tepid; 23 Lift; 24 Dawn.

**Who, What, Where, When:** Sir Frank Whittle; bird; Singapore; 1976; Inigo Jones; Silver Street; Africa; 1982.

**Just So:** A foot in the door, An afterthought, Golden parachute, Leicester Square

Darn Tough Sudoku

9					1			4
7			3			2		8
	6	8		7				
	8				3			
1				2				3
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The C-Class sedan cuts an elegant figure and provides the ultimate in refinement, with an aerodynamic design

SEE YOU AROUND: The Mercedes-Benz C-Class



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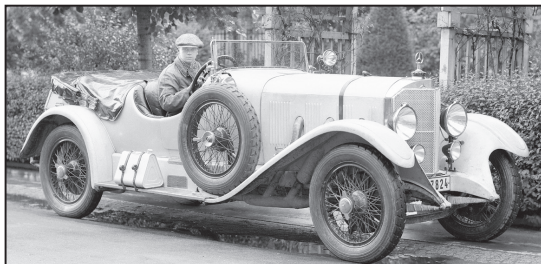
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Rudolf Caracciola with the Model K, in which he won the touring car category at Klausen Pass and the International Semmering Race in 1926



The Mercedes-Benz 500 K Special Roadster (1934 to 1936)



Early examples of mudguards

# History in the detail

**T**HE Mercedes-Benz Museum, located in Untertürkheim, Germany, claims to have the longest history of any automotive brand, tracing its roots back to the three-wheeled Karl Benz Patent Motorwagen of 1886 and Gottlieb Daimler's horseless carriage of the same year.

It also claims to be the only museum in the world to present the 120-year history of the automotive industry from day one.

One of the crowd-pleasing fixtures, aside from its permanent exhibition with 160 vehicles dating back to the invention of the motorcar in 1886, is the "33 Extras" display which adds touches of intrigue and whimsy, steering people's attention to the history of mobility.

For example, there's a display for the Wunder Baum pine-tree air fresher which was invented in 1951.

One of its displays focuses on the story of the mudguard and how it is a vital body element for any vehicle.

This is what visitors will learn about the meaningful mudguard:

The single mudguard found in the museum display case emphasises how vital this unassuming component is. Its appearance may have changed significantly over the decades. However, to this day, it protects occupants and vehicles from stirred up dirt on road surfaces and spray.

The wheels of the first vehicles were covered by slim strips of sheet metal or wood. As a result of their elegant shape reminiscent of birds'



Saloons and coupés of the "Dash Eight" series W 115/114 set benchmarks in contemporary automotive design from 1968



wings, Germans called them "Flügel" (wings). They protect against all types of dirt; something the most important means of transport before the invention of the motorcar in 1886 left behind.

Early vehicle versions also adopted the mudguards from horse-drawn carriages. The function and design have been the focus ever since. When the wheels got wider, so did the mudguards. From the 20th century they became more closely linked to the main

body and have ultimately been fully integrated into the vehicles' outer shell.

What does the mudguard actually protect us against? English chemist Dr Henry Letheby already analysed the dirt on London's roads back in the mid-19th century. No less than 30 per cent of the dirt is made up of abraded stone from the cobbles and a further 10 per cent consists of metal particles from wheels and horseshoes. The roads themselves and the vehicles

consequently produce a large part of the dust that turns into mud in poor weather conditions.

The issue becomes even more apparent on country lanes. Mudguards play a key role in the success story of this new means of transport, ever since 1888 when Bertha Benz went on the first long-distance trip with a motorcar from Mannheim to Pforzheim. In contrast to towns and cities, country roads feature only a few cobbled stretches and carriageways are made of compressed gravel and surfaces consisting of sand and pebbles. What a stroke of luck then that the history of innovations for vehicles went hand in hand with those for road building. Nowadays road surfaces made of composites with surfaces consisting of asphalt or concrete have long since become the standard.

However, modern carriageways are far from making mudguards obsolete. On the contrary, on these new and smooth roads vehicles these days can drive faster

than ever before. And with increasing speeds, tyres stir up even more spray and dust. This correlation made the mudguard one of the favourites of automotive designers in the 1920s and 1930s. Its extended lines, dynamic curves and expressive, shapely design tell a tale of the speed and aesthetics of fast driving. Consequently, the most beautiful Mercedes-Benz bodies produced during this era are far removed from the down-to-earth, fundamental principle of the mudguard for protection against spray. More than ever before, they turn vehicles into works of art.

The mudguard for passenger cars and commercial vehicles continues to develop. Aerodynamics also plays an increasingly vital role as part of this evolution. Early examples in this context include designs with an optimum flow in vehicles, such as the Mercedes-Benz 540 K Streamliner and the Mercedes-Benz 320 "Autobahnkurier" (motorway courier) with its flowing forms. It goes without saying that both vehicles still had mudguards that were clearly separate from the body. From the 1950s the ponton design prevailed in modern Mercedes-Benz passenger cars. Starting with commercial vehicles, a new styling took over in the 1960s featuring cubic shapes.

Many racing cars and in particular formula racing cars

have free-standing wheels to this day so drivers can accurately steer into corners. The Mercedes-Benz W 196 R dating back to 1954/1955 took a different route: this Formula 1 car was available both with free-standing wheels as well as with a streamlined body that covered the wheels and, you guessed it, featured striking elements over the front wheels. Depending on the race track, the Racing department would rely more on the specific strength of improved aerodynamics.

The mudguard, formerly a free-standing element, finally became an integral part of the body in the second half of the 20th century. However, its design has more variants than ever before. There is a stylists' portfolios ranging from a wheel housing with a cheeky lid line in the 300 SL (W 198) and 190 SL (W 121) models dating back to 1954 and the elegant wings of "tail fin" saloons that picked up on the North American zeitgeist of short rear fins to make backing up easier, to the smooth shapes of the traditionally contemporary, compact W 201 series models.

Mudguards have always remained a paramount element of the overall design in each era. Thanks to the Mercedes-Benz model campaign and the differentiation between different body shapes, this variety of forms and styles is as ample today as it ever was.



Image taken in front of Le Corbusier House at Stuttgart's Weißenhof Estate, 1928



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# Motor Sport

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

## Drag and Drift Night

**M**OTORING enthusiasts can put the pedal to the metal and drive to their hearts content on Monday at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir in the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights.

Those who take part will have a chance to drive their cars or ride their motorbikes down the Circuit's world-class drag strip or around the tracks Vehicle Dynamics Area, or even both!

The double-header remains one of the most popular activities on offer at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East".

Drag racing action will be staged at the quarter-mile strip. The Circuit is a member of the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Worldwide Network where some of the region's best, world record-



Action in the Vehicle Dynamic Area

breaking drag racers go head to head in the national championship.

Drifting will take place at the Vehicle Dynamics Area, which is a specially configured venue at BIC's car park that has been surrounded by safety barriers. It is the largest open tarmac area in Bahrain.

Both the drag and the drifting can be enjoyed for a single fee of BD10.500. Participation

in just the drag racing or just the drifting costs BD7.500.

Registration on Monday begins at 5pm and will be open until 9pm. The action is on from 6pm to 11pm.

Those who would like to experience the drag or drift as a passenger can get into a participant's car for an additional BD4. Spectators can purchase tickets for BD2 apiece.



Thrills on the drag strip

Also as part of the evening's drag racing programme, BIC is offering the Dragster Xperience. This is an ultimate-adrenaline activity, as it gives participants a rush of pure speed as they are taken from zero to 100kph in just one second while seated in a Top Dragster. The Dragster Experience costs BD42. Safety standards are followed at

all times during the evening's events for both drivers and spectators alike. For more information, visit [www.bahrainp.com](http://www.bahrainp.com), call the BIC Hotline on 17450000, follow BIC on Facebook at Official-BahrainInternationalCircuit, on Twitter at BAH\_Int\_Circuit, on Instagram at @bah\_int\_circuit and on YouTube at [youtube.com/bahrainbic](https://www.youtube.com/bahrainbic) for updates.

## Bahrain races to glory



Sainz and Lucas Cruz in action

**T**he Bahrain JCW X-Raid roared into victory in the off-road odyssey that was the 2020 Dakar Rally held in Saudi Arabia for the first time.

Competitors across five categories were pushed to their limit over 12 stages of 7,500km of unforgiving terrain.

In the car race, Spaniard Carlos Sainz, who raced for Bahrain JCW X-Raid team, secured his third Dakar title with his co-driver Lucas Cruz (ESP). The champions put their Mini Buggy in pole position on Stage 3 and stayed on top of the general classification all the way to Qiddiya. They finished the rally in forty two hours and fifty nine seconds. Sainz said: "It makes the victory even nicer when the battle is so tough. On top of that I win in a third different car, I'm very proud of that."

El Matador Sainz was pushed all the way by Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) and Stéphane Peterhansel (FRA).



VICTORIOUS: Sainz and Peterhansel after the Dakar Rally

The Spanish champion needed to call on all his off-road experience and expertise to keep the challengers at bay. At the conclusion of Stage 12, Al-Attiyah was in second overall and Peterhansel third. This trio now has a grand total of 19 Dakar wins between them.

The Bahrain-sponsored winning team also included Peterhansel and his co-driver Paulo Fiuza.

Also equipping himself well on Dakar's debut in the Middle East was Giniel De Villiers (ZAF). A fifth place finish for the South African

gives him his 13th Top 5 at the Dakar. Meanwhile, Kuba Przygonski (POL) battled back from a tough first week to show impressive speed in the closing stages and rose to a Top 20 finish.

Following nine Dakar truck wins in 11 years while the rally was hosted in South America, Team Kamaz Master continued their winning record in Saudi Arabia. Andrey Karginov (RUS) won his second Dakar title and the nearest non-Kamaz truck to him was more than two hours back in the general classification.

Karginov's team-mates Anton Shibalov (RUS) and Dmitry Sotnikov (RUS) finished second and fourth overall.

Building his own legacy at the Dakar is Ignacio Casale (CHI) who claimed his third quad bike title. Casale put together an unassailable lead in the opening stages, so when he did suffer a navigation error on Stage 10 he was able to stay in top spot.

History was also made in the side-by-side race when Cyril Despres (FRA) – alongside co-driver Mike Horn (SUI) – became the first Dakar

competitor to win stages in three different categories (bike, car and SxS).

Chaleco Lopez (CHI) arrived at the 2020 Dakar as the defending SxS champion and dug deep to come away with a podium finish at this latest edition of the world's toughest rally.

The 2020 Dakar Rally bike race will be remembered for the fatal crash suffered by Paulo Gonçalves (POR). Gonçalves was a much loved and respected rider within the bivouac and his passing on Stage 7 led to Stage 8 being cancelled for the bikes and quads in honour of the former Dakar runner-up.

The bike race in Saudi Arabia was won by American Ricky Brabec on a Honda, the first time in 19 years that the fastest Dakar rider had not been on a KTM. Brabec was followed home in second place by Pablo Quintanilla (CHI) on a Husqvarna.

Third place gave Red Bull KTM Factory Team rider Toby Price (AUS) his fifth Dakar podium result. The two-time Dakar winner maintains his record of landing in the Top 3 every time he has finished motorsports

ultimate test of endurance.

Female rider Laia Sanz (ESP) was also proud of her accomplishment. She said: "I started 10 Dakars and I've finished all 10. This is something that is really difficult and it's an achievement I'm very proud of."

Celebrations might have started in Saudi but continued in City Centre Bahrain when Sainz and his teammate along with 13-time Dakar winner Peterhansel met with fans.

Sainz shared the intensity of the race saying: "We were expecting a tough race and it was indeed a tough race! We had tough competition from Al-Attiyah and Peterhansel and it was very close all the way to the end."

The team members also all agreed that the first week of the rally raid starkly contrasted the second, with the first remembered for its "fantastic landscaping" and the second for its extreme speed.

Meanwhile, Peterhansel noted the genuine camaraderie within the Bahrain JCW X-Raid team, something made very clear as the two motorsports legends posed together with the trophy for the fans.



Sainz and Nasser Al Attiyah and Peterhansel





Saracens will be relegated at the end of the season for salary cap breaches

# Put a cap on it!



**L**IVING in Bahrain for the past couple of years has been terrific viewing for someone who takes any form of interest in Rugby. The Bahrain rugby team has been incredible during that period, winning last year's West Asia Premiership, losing once in the whole season and they are on course to do something similar again this year.

Last weekend's thrashing of the Knights Eagles by 92 points to seven further emphasised not just the ability but the ruthless nature of the team. The showdown against the Exiles on February 7 is not one to be missed.

Our entertainment in Bahrain, whilst fantastic, isn't quite as good as what Saracens fans have been treated to over the last five years. They have won the Premiership Rugby championship four out of the last five years and added to that with three European honours. They have nine players, who were part of England's World Cup squad, beaten in the final last year.

Unfortunately for them, that particular gravy train of success is coming to an end, for a year at least, as the Premiership Rugby chiefs announced that they will be relegated for the 2020/21 seasons for breaking salary cap rules.

The team had already been given a 35 point deduction and fined £5.4m for the breach which has occurred for the last three years and they were asked to prove immediate cap compliance in order to not face any further sanctions. They declined to do so.

It is a weird dilemma that English rugby currently finds itself in. The policing of the salary cap has many merits, not least it encourages the development of young



Saracens fans



Coach Eddie Jones

English talent and their early integration into first team squads and it also ensures a strong level of competition within the league. It is very difficult to acquire a squad of superstars to dominate a league if you cannot pay

them what they would otherwise get elsewhere.

The problem comes with the added rule that players are not available for selection for England unless they play within the English leagues, a rule set up as an added

incentive to stop players plying their trade in other countries, such as in France, where such salary caps do not exist. Whilst the Rugby Football Union (RFU) has assured players that playing in the second division does not rule them out for selection for national duties, Saracens cannot afford to keep all of their stars and get back below the salary cap. Hence, a number of them will have to find new teams. Add to that the fact that most Premiership Rugby teams have already done their recruitment ready for the new season and will already be spending a sizeable chunk of their caps leaving players in limbo.

A professional sports

career is short and whilst playing for your country is undoubtedly the biggest honour, you can't help but feel the lure of a good payday in France might become all the more tempting if there is uncertainty.

Eddie Jones' men have become favourites for the next Six Nation's tournament, down in huge part to their great success at the World Cup and there is also a Lions Tour in South Africa that has to be considered. The last thing selectors need is the headache of players uncertain of their future or even worse, not available for selection completely.

That is not to say that I

have great sympathy for Saracens as a club. I am far more on the side of Tony Rowe, chief executive of the Exeter chiefs, who is rather annoyed that the situation was allowed to go on for so long and has ended the way it did. As Rowe pointed out in an interview with the BBC, Saracens had the chance to open up their books or to offer an explanation and they refused to do so. They have chosen relegation of their own accord and acknowledged their mismanagement so for this there is no sympathy.

I do not believe that any player should be punished for a chairman or chief executive's decision regarding finances. If you are offered a good contract you take it. It isn't your fault that the rest of the team was also offered those lucrative contracts.

I wonder if the RFU could allow special dispensation for a year for players of Saracens affected by this but my fear is that it would open a can of worms they would rather not deal with. Players are available for selection for national duty no matter where they play for one year? Would teams in other nations even be interested in players for a year only anyway?

Either way, I hope Bahrain's success doesn't involve a salary cap breach as I hope to see them win a few more titles in the near future.



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'Miss Dakar' and Patissier are set to work with Saudi girls to develop their motorsport skills



The project aims to introduce the first female Saudi racer to Dakar Rally

## Fuelling female racers

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

**B**UILDING on the success of Dakar Rally 2020 held for the first time in Saudi Arabia, enthusiasts and teams from the region have stepped up their efforts to attract and train more Arab women in rally racing and motorsport.

This year, Bahrain's JCW X-Raid competed and won in the race that took place over 12 stages and saw 342 pilots from 62 countries drive 7,500km of uncharted Saudi desert. However, there were only 13 female contestants in the race.

In 2001, Jutta Kleinschmidt, nicknamed "Miss Dakar" became the only female racer to win the competition in its 42-year history and helped organise the race this year.

When asked at the side-lines of Dakar 2020 about her victory and women in the sport, she said: "I loved this sport and wanted to compete, and I never thought about my gender in that process. I was a competitor against the others and I wanted to win against them. I felt equal and, for me internally, there was no reason I could not achieve that."

"This is important because of the [predominant belief] that women are not as



Martyna

good [as men] because of the difference in physical strength, but motorsport has many other skills and it is not as important to be muscular.

**Motorsport has many other skills and it is not as important to be muscular. This is one of the things I like about motorsport.**

This is one of the things I like about motorsport; it is one of the very few sports that are mixed."

In Bahrain, Martyna Ewa Al-Qassab, who in 2017 became the first woman to finish on the podium of the 2000cc Championship held at the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), has been spearheading Yalla Banat,

a forum for women racers across the Middle-East, aiming to "inspire the next generation of women achievers, especially in motorsports."

In comments to the *GulfWeekly*, she stated: "As a result of efforts by Yalla Banat, there are plans in place to launch an organisational body to further nurture and grow female talent in rally racing and motorsport in Bahrain."

"This would make Bahrain the first country to have a separate organisational body dedicated to encouraging and nurturing female talent in motorsports. We want to build on Bahrain's history of great rally racers including Karina Ghaloum, the daughter of Abdulrahman Ghaloum. We hope to have

a team ready for the 2023 Dakar rally."

In Saudi Arabia, Dakar Rally organisers Amaury Sport Organisation (ASO) have worked with Saudi circuit racer Aseel Al Hamad, in developing a grassroots approach to put young Saudi talents in the driving seat and prepare a team to drive a simulation of the desert race. ASO also recruited Isabelle Patissier and Thierry Delli-Zotti, Dakar Rally veterans and owners of a rally driving academy in Morocco. Patissier has participated in the race nine times between 2002 and 2014 along with other several rallies in Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and UAE.

Patissier noted: "Our idea is to train the females on the actual Dakar stages to give them a true sense of the experience and prepare them for a real Dakar to come. I liked doing this because I could see how Reem Al Aboud was so happy doing this. She drives so well, and she has a bright future ahead."

Al Aboud, whose passion for motorsport started with karting, drove along the first stage of Dakar Saudi Arabia 2020 from Jeddah to Al Wajh. Al Aboud has previously won the second place at Saudi Time Attack and was the first Saudi female to test the Formula-E car in Diriyah ABB Formula E in 2018.

Al Aboud said: "I never

imagined how thrilling it would be. The experience is totally different from track racing. I now know that I'd want to be a rally driver besides my passion for track racing. It will require a lot of training and dedication to gain proper experience, and I am up for it."

Al Hamad drove the fifth stage from Al Ula to Hail and the sixth stage from Hail to Riyadh. Dania Akeel who is the first female licensed speed biker and has competed in UAE National Sportsbike Super Series and the Bahrain BMR600 Championship, was behind the wheel in Stage 7 from Riyadh to Wadi Al Dawasir.

Masha'al Al Obaidan, meanwhile, drove in Stage 8, which started from and ended in Wadi Al Dawasir.

On her involvement in the female Saudi drivers' project, French rally trainer Patissier said her excitement grew even more when she was pleasantly surprised by the strong interest of Saudi women in motorsport. "Before I came to the kingdom, I didn't expect that females might be interested in racing," Patissier explained. "But, I discovered a totally different sentiment; they love racing! This initiative will help improve the sport scene for females in Saudi Arabia, and we will work to expand this experience further in the future."

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