

Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain



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January 29 - February 4, 2020

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Vol 19 - Issue 5

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BAHRAINI HERITAGE
Saturday souq
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Light it up for F1

COMMUNITY REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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THE Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) unveiled plans for the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020 with a spellbinding 7D hologram experience.

It was open to the public near The Avenues – Bahrain from Thursday to Saturday in the lead up to the March 19 to 22 racing bonanza.

The 7D hologram, a spectacular live experience never seen before in the Middle East, was the first of many experiences under this year's F1 race theme of "Light it up," which will also include several iconic buildings around the BIC lit up during Formula 1 season's first night race.

The March race is the biggest and most sought-after event in the region staged each year at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East." In addition to the Grand Prix, the FIA Formula 2 Championship, FIA Formula 3 Championship



The 7D Hologram dome at The Avenues-Bahrain



BIC's Shaikh Salman and Gulf Air's deputy chief executive officer Captain Waleed Al Alawi at the inaugural event

and Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East will entertain fans at the event. Amongst the entertainment announced so far is world-

renowned DJ Afrojack in addition to a slew of thrilling rides for the entire family, including the adrenaline pumping carousel-type ride

"Ghost Rider".

BIC chief executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa told *Gulf Weekly*: "We wanted to give Bahrain a taste of our "Light it up" experience that is planned for the F1 race. This year, we hope to offer visitors the best package yet. Not only are there three additional races, we also have the Ghost Rider, which

is one of the most thrilling rides ever.

"The goal for us this year is to also promote the event locally and to make BIC a part of the various clubs and societies on the island. We wanted to be part of the local events, starting last year with the TribFest and we want to be part of more events this year."

Full report – Page 2

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AFROJACK
FRIDAY - 20 MARCH

FOR TICKETS BAHRAINGP.COM

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FORMULA 1 GULF AIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX

موتور سباقات الفورمولا 1
البحرين الكبرى

AFRJACK is the top musical act announced for this year's Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, slated to perform on Friday, March 20, writes Naman Arora.

Named one of the top DJs in the world, Afrojack is also one of the most sought-after producers today. He has won a Grammy for his and David Guetta's remix of Madonna's *Revolver*.

Since making his breakthrough with the multi-platinum-selling single *Take Over Control* in 2010, the Dutch-born musician has produced tracks including David Guetta's number one smash *Titanium* (feat. Sia) and co-created hits for Beyoncé, Pitbull, and will.i.am.

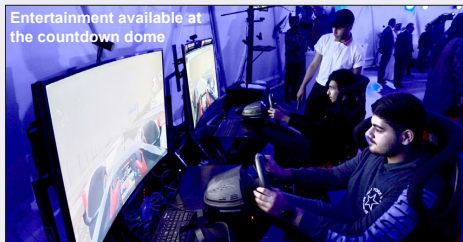
In the last four years, Afrojack placed on the Forbes '30 Under 30' list, and became the second DJ ever to cement his hands into the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Amongst the other attractions at the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) over the race weekend are carnival games, children's play areas, stage acts and roaming acts. The roaming acts will include renowned street performer Abraham Thill, a life-sized toy brigade, a hot air balloon travelling parade, the Funky Style band from Italy, Jam Batucada musical show from Spain as well as long-time favourites Dr Bubbles and Pop the Balloonman, with more to be announced in the coming weeks.

For the second year in a row, BIC will be open to the public from Thursday. Fans will be able to enjoy the vending area, participate in a walk down pit lane and experience family

Jack up the F1 party!

Entertainment available at the countdown dome



entertainment.

This year, some of the biggest attractions include the 42-metre high Ferris wheel and the carousel-like "Ghost Rider" speed ride.

BIC's chief executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, said: "This year will mark some major milestones, with the 70th anniversary of both F1 and our partners at Gulf Air. We are truly celebrating in style with Afrojack as our major concert act, together with an amazing mix of other entertainment and racing."

"On the racing side, we are delighted to be welcoming F3 for the first time, together with the return of F2. With 52 cars taking to the grid in these feeder series, drivers will be pushing the limits to prove themselves and progress to the ultimate level of F1."

Formula 2 and Formula 3 will be holding their season-opening rounds in Bahrain in support of Formula 1. Both

series are considered stepping stones to the top flight, giving race fans an exciting look at the sport's future stars.

The Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East will also be holding the final round of its 2019/2020 season during Grand Prix weekend.

Gulf Air's deputy chief executive officer Captain Waleed Al Alawi added: "This is an exciting time for Gulf Air and for the Kingdom of Bahrain as a whole as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the airline and Formula 1 as a sport."

"We are delighted to once again welcome visitors to the Kingdom to attend the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020. There's so much to look forward to this year and, on behalf of Gulf Air, we are honoured to be longstanding partners with the Bahrain International Circuit and to bring the Formula 1 Grand Prix to Bahrain year after year, further showcasing Bahrain onto the international stage."

Shaikh Salman concluded: "We urge fans across the world to get booking their tickets as soon as possible as seats are already selling

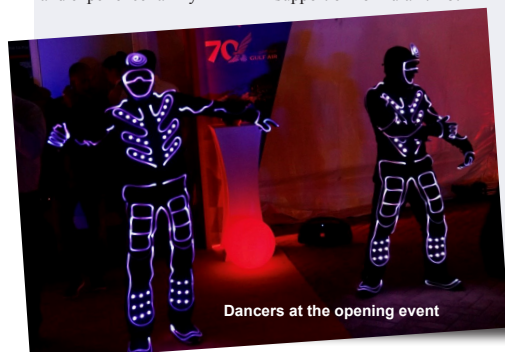
fast. We look forward to welcoming everyone to BIC for our night-time spectacle in March."

For a limited period, tickets to this year's Bahrain Grand Prix are still available with up to 15% off under BIC's Early Bird promotion.

A Main Grandstand seat now costs BD127.5net down from BD150. A Batelco Grandstand ticket for all four days now costs BD108net, down from BD120. Batelco Grandstand tickets for only Saturday and Sunday are individually priced at BD90net, down from BD100; and Friday-only tickets are BD54net each, reduced from BD60.

A four-day ticket to Turn One Grandstand now costs BD90net, reduced from BD100, and University and Victory Grandstand tickets cost BD54net, down from BD60.

Tickets can be bought online at BIC's official website www.bahraingp.com, by calling the BIC Hotline on 17450000, or at BIC's City Centre Bahrain stand.



Dancers at the opening event

Afrojack will be performing at the BIC on March 20

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BD **1.990** Horlicks Malted Drink 500gm Assorted /pc



BD **0.990** Cola Cao Cocoa Drink 400gm + 50gm



BD **2.690** Grenade Carb Killa White Chocolate Cookie Spread 360gm



BD **1.490** Nando's Sauces 250ml Assorted/pc



BD **1.190** A1 Steak Sauce 5oz



BD **1.690** Frank's Red Hot Sauce 12oz

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Fortnite Dab equals fame

TIKTOK, a video-sharing social media networking service that encourages individuals to be their own creators, has racked up around one billion users around the world and continues to grow.

The 15-second-or-less video creation app, owned by ByteDance, has users sing, dance, act, or meme to the backdrop of pre-recorded audio clips or songs, making everyone feel like a star. It is available in more than 150 countries, in 75 languages and has been downloaded more than 123 million times in the US alone.

As of last year, *Bloomberg* stated that ByteDance has been estimated to be worth more than \$75 billion. And according to *Esquire Middle East*, TikTok describes its appeal as the following: "To capture and present the world's creativity, knowledge, and precious life moments, directly from the mobile phone. TikTok enables everyone to be a creator, and encourages users to share their passion and creative expression through their videos."

One such user was 26-year-old Abdulla Abdulhakeem, known across the kingdom as Confait, a Bahraini-Seychellois rapper that is signed under the Outlaw Productions recording Hip Hop label.

His TikTok friend, @k.aa.rh, had suggested he create a song for the app and Confait decided to give it a shot.

"The most interesting thing about TikTok to me is the sound of any video on TikTok can be used by anyone else on the app, which makes it easier for creators to start challenges. I really enjoy making TikToks. It's fun for me. I'm into filming, editing and acting so apps like this allow me to showcase that.

"I've always wanted to do something with Fortnite's dance moves so I thought I'll write a song and choreograph a dance to it! It's made up of a mix of popular dance



COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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moves from the video game, put together by me."

His song and dance challenge, called *Fortnite Dab*, went viral and racked up a whopping 1.8 million views. It also won him the award for TikTok Arabia's Most Popular Original Song in 2019. The awards were announced at TikTok's end of the year ceremony on New Year's Eve in Dubai. It was

Just by seeing people doing the challenge and having fun doing it was already a win for me.

his first award in his musical career.

He said: "I knew it was going to be popular but I honestly did not expect that. I was surprised when I heard I was nominated for the award and I was even more surprised to hear that I won it! I appreciate TikTok for acknowledging me. It is an honour. Just by seeing people doing the challenge and having fun doing it was already a win for me.

"I actually wanted to name the challenge Fortnite Dance but I think I accidentally wrote Fortnite Dab and now it's stuck."

Confait, who had to stop going to school when he was

in the eighth grade due to his family moving around a lot, started rapping in 2007. He then took up a dancing job where he performed on stage and he was hooked.

"That's when I knew I wanted to make dancing my career," he explained. "I performed in many events after that and continued to write and rap as a hobby until one day I decided to take it seriously. So here I am today, a signed artist under Outlaw Productions."

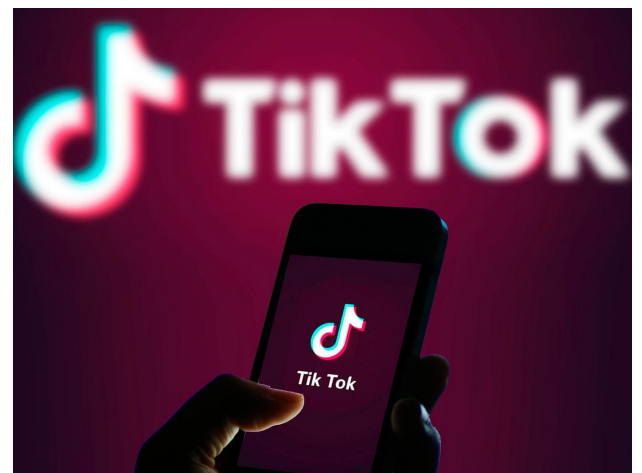
His ultimate dream is for his music to reach as far as possible; making people want to get up and dance as well as lighten up someone's mood. He advises aspiring artists to get out of their comfort zones and see what happens. As for him, perhaps a few fun challenges are in his future. He said: "Dance videos or comedy videos, you're basically going to see a lot more of me but definitely more music. Official music is coming soon! I've been in the studio with the team lately and we've been working on some projects."



Confait on the rise



Confait performing at last year's Spring of Culture





About 650 stalls from 16 countries are offering a huge range of products

Shopping bonanza



COMMUNITY REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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BAHRAIN'S 31st Autumn Fair kicked off last Thursday at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre, highlighting businesses and products from across the region, especially from the kingdom.

The opening was attended by Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed Alzayani, commerce affairs Undersecretary Nader Khalil Almoayyed and other officials and dignitaries.

According to Nader, exhibitions like the Autumn Fair specifically shed a spotlight on promoting Bahrain's local businesses and industry. He said: "In this exhibition we have about 650 businesses under one roof and a good number of them are Bahraini businesses; we managed to get an attendance

of 140,000 last year and we think that the number will increase this year.

"Because a good number of Bahraini businesses are participating in the event they have added value; they will have captured customers under one roof that will help promote their businesses."

Stalls from 16 countries



The Natural Forever team – Shereen, Mohammed Riyad, Ali Hassan

are offering a huge range of products such as speciality food, fashion, beauty, home décor, technology, toys, textiles and much more in the 15,400sqm facility. From stalwarts like Al Hawaj to relative newcomers, every vendor tried to get visitors' attention and stand out from the stiff competition.

Amongst the Bahraini

businesses is Muharraq-based Natural Forever, a six-year old natural body care business that sells shampoos, conditioners and soaps, all with zero additives and made in Bahrain.

Shereen Abdul Kareem, representing the company, said: "This is our first time at the Autumn Fair. There are a lot of people visiting but there's also a lot of competition. We try to stand out by showing customers that we use completely natural products. Since we are local, it is easier for them (to trust us). We have a factory in Hidd and as far as possible,

we source our ingredients locally."

There is also an outdoor street food market that offers shoppers a selection of culinary delights from some of Bahrain's finest traders.

Organiser Yaqoob Ali said: "With a wide range of products and excellent dining options, the Autumn Fair is the perfect opportunity for friends and family to meet in the New Year. Visitors can look forward to discovering bargains, new-to-market products and old customer favourites from local and international traders in a friendly, festive atmosphere."

In addition to the main exhibition halls, there is a large tent set up outside the main building housing a number of Bahraini home-based businesses.

Fadheela Ali, the owner and vendor of Saraya Perfumes, a small business that makes homemade fragrances and

incense, told our sister publication GDN: "As a Bahraini I am very proud to be here to represent my country and myself. It is also wonderful to be part of a community like this. The

Bahraini participation in the fair is a strong base and is vital to its success."

The exhibition is open from 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 10pm today and from 10am to 10pm tomorrow

and Friday. Entry fee is BDI and tickets can be purchased during the opening hours of the fair from kiosks at the centre.

Children under the age of 12 gain free entry.

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Mezzanine floor, Almoayyed Tower, Seef District



Traditional Bahraini delicacies being sold at the fair



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FRESH FRUITY FRAGRANCE



REGIONAL perfume house Rasasi has added a zesty and sweet-smelling unisex scent to its best-selling Qasamat collection.

Qasamat Rasana, a fruity fragrance with top notes of bergamot, lemon and apple, was unveiled in time for the New Year, to symbolise and celebrate fresh new beginnings.

This elegant Eau de Parfum also features unique woody middle notes of leather, sandalwood and

cypril with base notes of amber, cedarwood, musk and agarwood to ensure the scent lasts all day long.

The brand's perfume experts have stated that it was crafted using the best quality ingredients sourced from across the globe to guarantee a lasting impression.

There is a Rasasi shop in Seef Mall, Atrium Mall, City Centre Bahrain, Sultan Mall, Hidd Mall and Ramli Mall as well as in Bab Al Bahrain, Busaiteen, Muharra and in Bukuwara in Riffa.



Alosra Supermaket

1. Avocado organic per kg – BD4.995
2. Beef stroganoff strips per kg – BD3.995
3. Tanmiah fresh chicken bag 1kg – BD1.375
4. Lagnese bee honey 500gm – 975fils
5. Organic celery per pack – BD1.595

Mega Mart Bahrain

(Tomorrow's one day offer)

1. Falcon facial tissue 7x120 – 795fils
2. Fish biryani rice 5kg – BD1.150
3. Black olive basmati rice 20kg – BD9.495
4. Awal yogurt 2kg – 700fils
5. Sadia chicken griller 10x1,000gm – BD8.990

Al Jazira Supermarket

1. Waimete UMF5+manuka honey 250gm – BD5.700
2. Egmont honey UMF10+manuka 250gm – BD8.500
3. Egmont honey UMF15+Manuka 250gm – BD12
4. Egmont honey UMF5+Manuka 250gm – BD5.500

Lulu Hypermarket

1. Gold sugar 20lb – BD1.860
2. Mango basmati rice 10kg – BD4.625
3. Afia sunflower oil 1.8ltr 3pcs – BD3.990
4. Lulu frozen chicken 900gm 10pcs – BD7.990
5. Kellogg's crunchy muesli 380gm assorted/pc – 900fils
6. Almarai milk powder pouch 1.8kg+25% extra – BD3.950

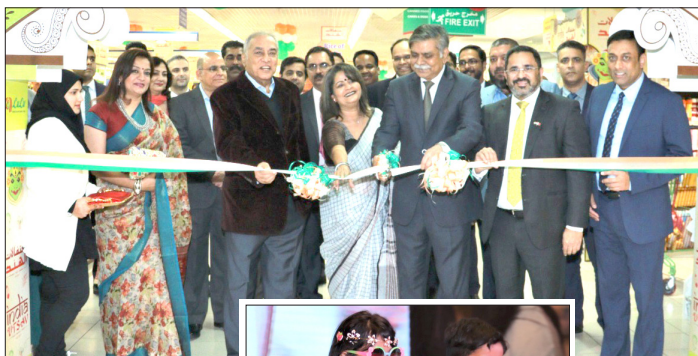
Fantastic festival

LULU Hypermarket launched its celebrations of India's Republic Day with Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha inaugurating the Indian Utsav festival, which continues until Saturday.

Also present were Lulu group director for Bahrain and Egypt, Juzer Rupawala and top management of the hypermarket as well as community dignitaries.

The festival showcases the best of Indian produce and products, including Lulu's wide range of Indian food and non-food items, fresh vegetables and fruit, with special offers as well as a dedicated section for fresh winter produce from the Indian state of Gujarat.

The inauguration, held at the Dana Mall location of Lulu Hypermarket featured an enthusiastic cultural display of folk and patriotic dances by community members, a children's fashion catwalk and a Brides



Ambassador Alok with company executives and dignitaries inaugurating the festival

of India show by members of Saree Speak, an online fashion group.

MasterChef India winner Ripu Daman Handa conducted a live food demo, showing attendees how to make several Indian dishes including a special apricot chutney, while answering questions from the audience.

There was also a desserts contest which attracted many home-chefs.



A cultural performance



Kids fashion show



Chef Ripu Daman Handa

EatingOut

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

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Omelette



Robie Pagar, left,
and Dhan Gurung



Pancakes



Pineapple
and orange
juice

Bountiful breakfast

UNIVERSITY and college weekends hold a special place in everyone's hearts. After a week of working hard or hardly working and a night out with friends, the first day of the weekend is the perfect morning to catch up on long-lost sleep and consume an inordinate amount of protein and carbs to end one stupor and start another.

To relieve those days and get our morning kick, we headed to Bennigan's in Juffair last Friday to sample their famous breakfast menu.

The Bennigan's in Juffair attracts an interesting assortment of morning folk. From the nearby Naval Support facility's military personnel to beleaguered weekend warriors, we found a surprisingly lively crowd when we walked in at nine in the morning. A tragically early morning, if you ask me, but by the looks of it, a good time



GOURMET REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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to visit the restaurant.

After being seated by the restaurant's morning team supervisor Dhan Gurung, we surfed the menu and ordered some of the classics. I went for the All American breakfast (BD6.670) with two eggs (I elected for the poached variety), American style beef sausage, mushrooms, onions, green peppers, grilled tomato, breakfast potatoes, beef bacon rasher and hash browns.

My colleague meanwhile decided to go for the Full Irish (BD6.670) with beef sausages, beef bacon rashers, two eggs (It was a somewhat glum day outside, so he took the sunny side up route), baked beans, plum tomatoes, hash browns and black pudding.

Of course both of our extremely hearty meals came with toast. And just so the other side of the menu did not

feel left out, we also ordered plain waffles (BD3.030), and strawberry pancakes (BD3.395), in addition to a stuffed omelette (BD5.455).

While the stuffed omelette was something I had become used to in Canada having learned most of my cooking lessons making it, my colleague was fascinated by the concept of an omelette being crafted around a huge helping of meat, cheese and veggies.

And for beverages, we ordered fresh orange and pineapple juices (BD2.305 each) and a couple of cappuccinos (BD1.820 each).

Now, here's the real secret of a breakfast place. While eating out for brunch, lunch or dinner usually involves some level of foresight and planning, going out for



The Full Irish
spread

breakfast is usually because you can't be bothered to cook at home. So the speed of service is crucial to a successful breakfast joint.

And the crew didn't disappoint, as our breakfast quickly wafted over to our

table. I took my All-American dive, gently cutting open the poached eggs to use the egg yolk as a sauce for my toast and beef sausage, chasing it down with some ketchup-drowned breakfast potatoes and a massive gulp of pineapple juice.

Silence settled comfortably over the table for the next few minutes as my colleague and his wife dug into the Full Irish, which was quite similar to mine, except for the skinned plum tomatoes and baked beans.

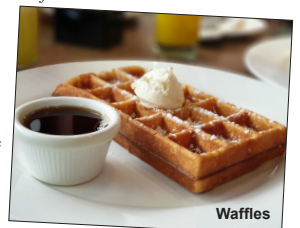
Conversations trickled up again when the omelette arrived, living up to its stuffy reputation. Beef sausage and red capsicum with just enough Swiss cheese to hold the entire beast together fascinated my colleague as he poked and prodded, before devouring it.

As we sipped our cappuccino, we also snacked

on the waffles and the pancakes, served with butter and maple syrup. For the pancakes, we sampled the strawberry reduction, finding each bite to be delectable and perfect.

Surprisingly, the meal despite being massive, did not feel as heavy as I had come to expect of American style breakfasts. In fact, we felt quite spry for the day and weekend ahead.

Stop by Bennigan's every morning to get a head start to the day and try out some of their fantastic hearty breakfasts and let us know what you think! Call 17813750 for more information.



Waffles



The Bennigan's in Juffair



The All American spread



OGN
OIL & GAS NEWS

The energy industry's
trade journal for the GCC region

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Leisure Guide



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

Today (January 29)

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 pairings, BD67net for five courses with select beverage pairing and BD85net for seven courses with select beverage pairings. 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 and soft drinks and BD25net with unlimited grape.

❖ **Crowne Plaza Manama**
☎ 17531122

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

❖ **Intercontinental-Regency**
☎ 17227777

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

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

Every Wednesday at Al Waha's butcher nights, enjoy steaks cooked to your preference from the live cooking station. Priced at BD15+++

❖ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**
☎ 17713000

Every Wednesday from 7pm to 11pm, a BBQ experience awaits you at Baharat



Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay

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 30)

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



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

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

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 31)

Every Friday for the next month from 1pm to 4pm, the Street Food Brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen lets you hit the streets from South East Asia to Europe with your

palate. Epicurean delights are presented with live cooking stations and signature sips that are accompanied by the melodic sounds of the resident band El Zephyr, taking you away with their live jazz tunes and acoustic sessions. Priced at BD30net inclusive of soft beverages and BD43net inclusive of select beverages. Children between six and 12 get 50% off and kids five and under eat for free.

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

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

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 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

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



Crowne Plaza Manama

Spread across Selections, Medzo and Legendz restaurants is the Brunchism 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



Check out 'The Brasserie Way' brunch every Friday from 1pm to 5pm, priced at BD27net with soft drinks and BD35net with selected beverages. Along with complimentary pool and beach access for all, there is a dedicated buffet and special activities for children organised by the Bulbul Kids Club team.

❖ **Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain**
☎ 77707070

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 (February 1)

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

❖ **The Westin City Centre**
☎ 17171441

At re/Asian Cuisine, soak in the immersive views from the 50th floor and feast on mouth-watering Asian selections like Korean Fried Chicken Bao Buns, Wok Fried Shrimp Dumplings and Brisket Wontons during this hugely popular brunch from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Priced at BD24net for food only and BD32net including premium beverages.

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

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 playroom area where a sphere of entertainment and educational-fun will keep younger guests amused in a safe and engaging environment. For inquiries, call: 77900700.



VALENTINE'S DAY HAPPENINGS – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

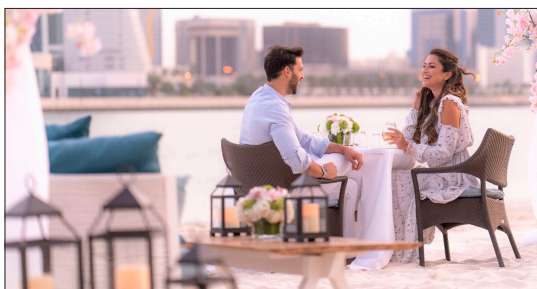
Treat your loved one this Valentine's Day to a romantic Afternoon Tea in the exquisite Bay View Lounge from February 13 to 15, from noon to 9pm. Choose from a variety of 18 loose-leaf teas and indulge in a selection of finger sandwiches, freshly baked scones and a range of pastries. You will also receive a box of home-made chocolates to take home with you. Priced at BD17net per person and BD31.5net per couple.

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

With the azure water of the Arabian Gulf ahead and soft white sand underfoot, private beachside dining offers a special experience this Valentine's Day. Starting at 7pm, a four-course dinner for two curated by expert chefs awaits. Take away fresh roses and a complimentary box of house-made chocolates. Priced at BD194net per couple inclusive of select beverages and BD145net inclusive of soft beverages.

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

All of Gulf Hotel's restaurants have a special Valentine's



Day set menu for you and your loved one this year. Pre-booking is required. And for BD90++, enjoy dinner at any of Gulf Hotel's restaurants as well as an overnight stay.

❖ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**
☎ 17713000

This Valentine's Day, from 7pm to 11pm, spoil your loved one with a six-course dining experience at Brasserie Royale. Priced at BD70net per couple inclusive of soft beverages and BD80net inclusive of selected beverages. Or, enjoy an exclusive six-course dining experience in the Al Hadiqa private Pool Cabanas with personal butler service. Priced at BD200net per couple, inclusive of select beverages.

❖ **Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain**
☎ 77707070

From 12:30pm to 3:30pm, indulge in a Valentine-themed buffet of international specialties, along with live cooking stations and a delectable dessert buffet. Priced at BD30 per person inclusive of soft beverages and BD38 per person

inclusive of select beverages. In the evening, enjoy luxurious dining experiences with your loved ones at one of Ritz's award-winning restaurants.

Cantina Kahlo has a four-course set menu for BD28 per couple, starting at 6pm.

Primavera welcomes you to enjoy a five-course set dinner menu for BD36 per couple.

Nirvana is offering a four-course dinner menu priced at BD25 per person.

Plums invites to sample their four-course dinner menu for BD36 per person.

The Lobby Lounge and the Gourmet Lounge are hosting a Valentine-themed Afternoon Tea from 3pm to 7pm, priced at BD27 per set.

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

Stop by The Westin and Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain for a selection of couples' four-course dining options. Prices include select beverages, with soft beverages also available. Enjoy dinner at Furn Bistro for

BD50net per couple. Sample the private pod experience with dinner at Mezzanine Lounge for BD60net per couple. Relax in the poolside cabana with dinner for BD60net.

❖ **The Westin/ Le Meridien City Centre**
☎ 17171441

Enjoy the stop light themed brunch at La Mosaïque and Harvesters with great food and ample beverages while the in-house band entertains you with new and old school classics. Wear red if you are taken, yellow if you are not sure and green if you are single. The after party starts at 4pm. The brunch is priced at BD33net with beverages.

❖ **Crowne Plaza Manama**
☎ 17531122

This Valentine's Day treat your loved one to an exciting four course menu accompanied by a grape beverage pairing at Waves. Priced at BD50 per couple. Stop by the Spices Indian restaurant from 7pm to 11pm for an evening of love and celebration with a romantic candle-lit dinner, rose for the lady, hot chocolate lava cakes to share and a finger bowl with rose petals. Priced at BD24 per couple.

❖ **Crowne Plaza Manama**
☎ 17531122



February 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. The full menu is available for BD22net per person.

❖ **Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain**
☎ 77707070

In celebration of waffles, from today until February 15, executive pastry Chef Imad Boukli has rounded up his favourite collection of waffles, in every possible incarnation. From the doughy to the crispy golden batches at the Bay View Lounge. Priced at BD9net for a selection of homemade waffles and one beverage.

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

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

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 BD29net inclusive of select beverages.

❖ **Intercontinental-Regency**
☎ 17227777

Stop by the Al Waha restaurant for the famous Waleema Brunch, featuring an

authentic world of Arabic food culture. Priced at BD18+++ exclusive of beverages.

❖ **Gulf Hotel Bahrain**
☎ 17713000

Sunday (February 2)

Every Sunday to Thursday from 12:30pm to 3pm, devour a selection of international and Middle Eastern cuisine at Baharat. The lunch buffet, featuring a tandoor oven and 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

Monday (February 3)

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

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

At the Spices restaurant, starting at 7pm, every Monday

during February, challenge yourself to an Indian feast of vegetarian and non-vegetarian kebabs, curries and accompaniments. Priced at BD8net for two-person platter and BD15net for a four-person platter.

❖ **Crowne Plaza Manama**
☎ 17531122

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

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.

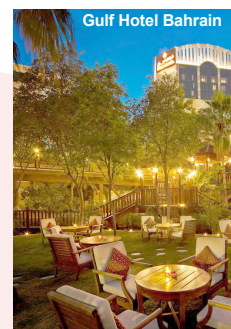
❖ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**
☎ 17586499

Tuesday (February 4)

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



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



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Fashion Weekly

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



Chic urban designs

WHILE it is getting warmer in Bahrain, fashionistas will still want to get their sweater weather on after they get a glimpse of Chloé's autumn 2020 collection, writes Mai Al Khatib-Camille.

The polished line, which oozes an urban softness, was designed by the French fashion house's creative director Natacha Ramsay Levi.

The Parisian native was the director and protégé of Louis Vuitton's creative director Nicolas Ghesquière, before joining Chloé in 2017.

She wowed fashion experts and magazines with her first collection – spring/summer 2018 – and is most likely going to have the same effect with this grounded and ladylike line.

The silhouettes feature an essence of femininity with elemental details in a woody and mineral palette from chestnut, straw and apricot to moss and deep navy. The collection pays



a contemporary homage to the heroines of the *nouvelle vague* era.

There is a lot of layering involved to exude a relaxed classic look. Natacha added tactile pieces that can easily be mixed-and-matched.

The natural texture of brushed tweeds and cotton infuses the pieces with an understated elegance. Crêpe dresses and blouses are traced with finery: flowery lacework collars, petal shapes and geometric cord embroideries, whilst all-over micro floral prints are smocked and

draped in long-sleeve dresses and a button-down house coat.

Morning stripe and micro-check wool tailoring is thrown over striped scarf blouses, slinky ribbed knits and wide fluid pants. Trench-style and chain belts also distinguish the softly cinched waistline on pleated skirts in mini, mid-length and ankle-length skirts.

Toughening the silhouette, utility trousers and city shorts in sartorial fabrics are worn slouchy with delicate ruffled blouses, and the boyish



shapes of boxy outerwear are re-imagined in soft shearing and washed leather.

Bold jewels and hardware accent the collection's matte textures with subtle shine, from 'Feminiities' coin necklaces to tooth-shaped pendants, relic earrings and matching hammered cuffs.

Round-toe riding boots are worn flat, laced and buckled or raised on a high block heel, both finished in rich shades of glossy burnished leather.

Let your cross of composed country gal meets chic city slicker come to life.



Jalal's timely tips on the latest trends

Chronoswiss's latest timepiece aims to set watch enthusiasts hearts into overdrive. The Regulator Classic Carbon Racer evokes a Formula 1 feel with its automotive-inspired elements and just in time for the 2020 Grand Prix season.

Its distinctive stainless steel case, high-tech carbon mesh dial and the look of a speedometer simply cry out "speed".

The new model brings together the colours typically associated with motor sport which are racing red, white and black carbon. The design is reminiscent of a speedometer, with the power red hand in the style of a gauge needle. The triangular shape of the hour and minute hands can be perfectly read in the dark thanks to luminous Super-LumiNova inlays. The guilloché pattern on the dial is also unconventional. Centuries-old regal craftsmanship of guilloché is fused here with ultra-thin carbon from the premier class of motor sport.

The case back is sapphire crystal through which you can see the beating heart of the watch. There is also a skeletonised second's dial visually inspired by the design of a racing car rim. The high-performance engine of the watch is its automatic C.295 caliber with a power reserve of more than 40 hours. Its sturdy case and water resistance to 10 bar (100 m) make the Regulator Classic Carbon Racer the ideal timepiece for every occasion – even off the track.



FinTechFocus

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



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Bahrain leading the way



DIGITAL CURRENCY
By NAMAN ARORA
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WORLD Economic Forum 2020 held in Davos, Switzerland concluded last week, with a monumental achievement and task ahead as the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) has been chosen as the first central bank to employ the World Economic Forum's (WEF) newly released tool kit for determining if the nation would benefit from implementing a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

A CBDC is a digitised sovereign currency issued by a nation's central bank,



Rasheed Al Maraj

which would be similar to current public blockchain networks. Despite strong initial resistance, bankers and policy makers have flipped on the issue of CBDCs and are designing frameworks to issue their own.

Rasheed Al Maraj, governor of the CBB, said: "We will pilot the new toolkit developed by the World Economic Forum. We hope that it will be an opportunity to learn, grow and to adapt to the changes in the Fourth Industrial Revolution."

Bahrain has been a leader in blockchain in the Gulf region. Last year, the CBB released regulatory guidelines for blockchain start-ups, and has encouraged blockchain businesses to set up shop locally. Bahrain is also a leading financial hub for the Middle East and North Africa. The kingdom has also made international headlines for granting a regulatory license to Rain, the first Sharia law compliant cryptocurrency exchange.

The kingdom of Bahrain has become a leader in the region in regards to cryptocurrency and blockchain policy, so it makes sense that they would also be a leader in the region for pioneering CBDCs. Additionally, the CBB's regulatory sandbox provides a contained environment in which to test an initiative as expansive as a CBDC before deploying it nationwide.

Sheila Warren, head of Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology at the World Economic Forum, commented: "Given the critical roles central banks play in the global economy, any central bank digital currency implementation, including potentially with blockchain technology, will have a profound impact domestically and internationally. It is

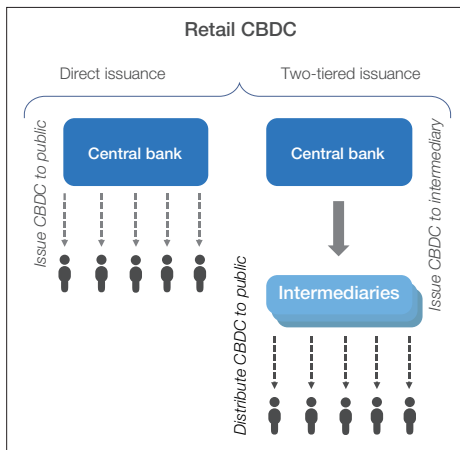
The WEF consulted with central bank researchers, global policy makers, international organisations and experts from over 40 institutions to create the CBDC Policy-Maker Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to help nations analyse and understand the viability of CBDC on a case by case basis. According to the WEF, the toolkit will provide risk-aware information to policy makers to better understand the trade-offs and benefits of deployment of CBDCs.

The document is intended to be a framework to assess the costs, risks, benefits, and retail, wholesale, cross-border CBDC and alternatives in private money

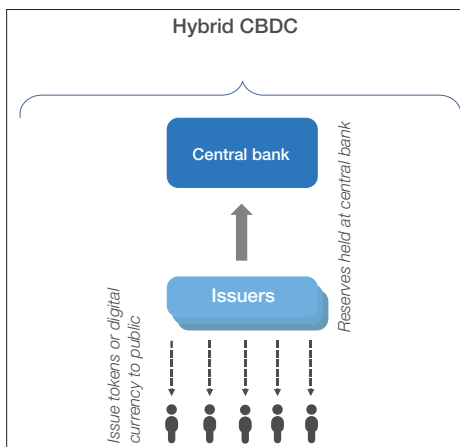
such as "hybrid CBDCs". It provides guidelines for large developed economies as well as emerging developing economies to make policy decisions in a climate where no existing policy is available for reference.

World Economic Forum 2020's top financial buzzword has been CBDCs. China's announcement of a national CBDC has sparked a financial "arms race." The Bank of International Settlements recently partnered with various central banks around the world to analyse CBDCs and how to implement them. The CBDC Policymaker Toolkit is freely available on the WEF website.

imperative that central banks proceed cautiously, with a rigorous analysis of the opportunities and challenges posed."



A depiction of how retail and hybrid CBDCs would work



Celebrating Bahra

COMMUNITY REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gulfweekly.com

THE second "Saturday Market" kicked off last weekend at Bab Al Bahrain, showcasing various skilled craftsmen and offering visitors a chance to take home a piece of Bahraini tradition and skill.

This year, the market that lines the alley within Manama Souq right behind Bab Al Bahrain, is open all day, except for a lunch and prayer break, which runs from 12:30pm to 2pm.

Chief executive of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA) Nader Almoayyed said: "We are pleased to officially launch the Saturday Market to the public at Bab Al Bahrain. It provides a space for local craftsmen to participate on a weekly basis, enabling them to showcase their creative talent and unique handicraft products and masterpieces to visitors from Bahrain and the region as a whole."

"The weekly event highlights our efforts at BTEA, which involve diversifying the kingdom's tourism offerings



Crowds at the market

and preserving the handicraft sector in Bahrain. With this in mind, we look forward to hosting more events and festivals suitable for all ages, which aim at strengthening the Tourism sector and its contribution to the growth of the Bahrain national economy."

The market features 40 craftsmen specialised in 25

crafts such as basket weaving, traditional decorated chests, woodworking, pottery, hand embroidery, henna design, dolls, carpets, cage-making, pearl shucking and crochet among other trades.

The vendors are not charged a fee for their stall and are allotted one, two or three week slots, with new vendors rotating in every week, giving

regular visitors something new to look forward to.

Amongst the vendors was the Can Company, which *GulfWeekly* had featured in October, comprised of a team of aspiring scientists from University of Bahrain, who have engineered a line of clay bottles in leather satchels that neutralise the sometimes-acidic nature of Bahrain's water.

Ohoud Muthana, who along with Ahmed Muneer, was representing the company at the market, said: "This is the first year we are at the Saturday market. We have

a range of new products we have introduced since October based on customer feedback. We now offer a narrower bottle in glazed and non-glazed options.

"Additionally, to celebrate Bahraini heritage, our leather satchels now feature designs like the Dilmun seal and Bahraini flag so our customers can feel proud of owning a part of Bahraini heritage."

Additionally, various activities and entertainment are available for visitors to enjoy, including live band performances, traditional Bahraini food vendors and activities and play areas for

children.

Vendors have been curated with particular focus on the kingdom's longstanding pearling history, and handicraft tradition.

Bahraini ceramic artist Shahnaz Ali had her hand-painted ceramic plates, cups, coasters and more on display, while Mohammed Helal, whose family continues its 100-year-plus tradition of basket-weaving, was hoping to sell some of their recent creations as well as educating visitors on the family's history in the business.

Mohammed told our sister newspaper *GDN*: "As you

Misbahs on display



Handmade oud and perfumes



Shahnaz's creations

Bahrain's craft culture



ART MAGIC: BTEA chief executive Nader Almoayyed watches as a basket-weaver works

can see, the palm tree wicker is used in making amazing baskets which are used to store several items. This tradition has been in my family for more than 100 years, my father taught me and my grandfather taught my father.

"We use colours to paint the palm wicker after making them into beautiful designs. Some of them include plates and you can store anything from sweets, nuts, fruits, any food.

"I am proud of the Bahraini traditions and I plan to pass it on to my children in the future."

Bahraini artist Mustafa Halwachi was on hand as well with a steady hand to showcase centuries-old



Clay bottles from Can Company

calligraphic tradition. He worked with 33-year-old Hassan Al Malik to create custom-made engraved wooden boxes used to store jewellery and other items.

Wafa Al Awadh and her mother Aisha, who run Al Dewania coffee, were offering

visitors a taste of Arabic beverages. Wafa roasts her coffee at home, adding spices like saffron and cardamom, and considers her home-based business to be more of a passion, even though her mother has been running it since 2001. Wafa joined the

bean business seven years ago.

Wafa explained: "This is our second year at the Saturday market. So far, the crowds have been good. Last year, it was only during the daytime but this time, it's all-day. It can be a bit tiring but it's good because we get to see more customers and show them some of our new custard

creations!"

According to the BTEA, the market aims to further enlighten the public about the local handicraft sector, as well as encourage Bahraini youth to engage in craft projects in order to preserve local crafts as a trade which is deeply rooted in the longstanding history of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The weekly Saturday Market is being held until March 22 at Bab Al Bahrain, every Saturday morning from 9am to 12:30pm and in the afternoon from 2pm to 7pm.

During the Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix 2020, it will be held from March 19 until March 22 and open to visitors for four consecutive days.



Ohood and Ahmed from the Can Company



Wafa from Al Dewania



Musicians at the Saturday market



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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 one-bedroom apartment is available for rent and for sale within Meena 7 Towers situated on Amwaj Islands.

The property, which has a total built-up area of 89sqm, features a living and dining area with a balcony offering views over the sea and across the area.

There is a spacious closed kitchen, a storage room as well as a guest closet. The master bedroom includes a built-in wardrobe and ensuite bathroom with shower and tub.

The towers present a relaxing village vibe and boast a private beach offering a range of water sports, a playground and a business

centre.

Children can enjoy the indoor/outdoor swimming pool and adults can make full use of the state-of-the-art health club and spa housed within the towers with a Jacuzzi, steam room and sauna. There is basement parking for tenants with one per unit and ample outside parking for visitors.



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Location: Meena 7, Amwaj Island
Reference number: AP1053
Rental price: BD450
Sale price: BD70,000
Bedrooms: 1
Living rooms: 1
Bathrooms: 2
Additional information: One parking per apartment. There is a health club and spa, a swimming pool, a playground and a beach. 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

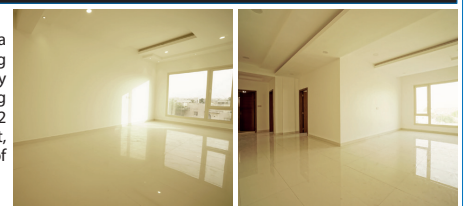
Price Per Square Feet: from BHD 22.5 - 24.5
Plot Area: from 529 - 743 Sqm
Total Price: from BHD 131,000 - 188,000
Classification: RA

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

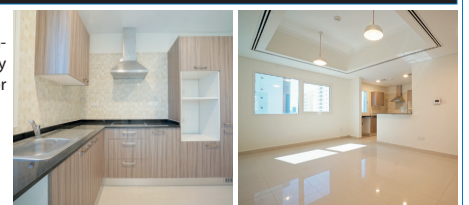


FOR SALE! FREEHOLD BRAND NEW APARTMENT MINUTES FROM SEEF

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



InteriorsWeekly

Your guide to the best in furnishing and design

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Marvellous marble

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

MANY people joke that they do their best thinking in the bathroom so why not add a touch of marvel and elegance with the new TAO washbasin to get those ideas flowing.

The sink, designed by Marco Piva for Kreoo, is a free-standing or countertop clean-shaped piece that is emphasised by shiny metal inserts. The metal runs along its entire length and diameter, framing the round column in a crisply crisscrossed geometry.

The metal insert is not only a beautiful design feature but adds to the functionality of production.

The sectioning of the washbasin allows TAO to be carved from multiple small blocks of marble, reducing the waste of material.

Also, TAO's essential design draws upon the "Yin and Yang" Taoist philosophy.

It involves the juxtaposition of bright and dark, full and empty spaces, lightness and heaviness, light and shadow as well as opposites that meet in



harmony.

It expresses the strength running through matter; a strong, graphic design, which reflects marble's intrinsic dynamism.

Many interior designers advise using marble within bathrooms because the material is timeless, it increases property value and

is extremely versatile when it comes to decor.

Also, it is easy to maintain. Back in Ancient Roman bathhouses, marble would eventually lose its sheen and shine over time because sealant did not exist when the bathhouses were built.

Now, you can easily protect marble by cleaning it with a

marble and granite cleaner and sealing it regularly as well.

They are naturally built to last. Then again, marble is basically a rock.

It is organically forged within the earth by way of pressure and an immense amount of heat from the earth's core.

It's durable and often incorporated into a build as a

finishing feature.

Plus, marble tiles are waterproof making it great for bathroom flooring because of its ability to hold water at bay.

Should the sink or tub overflow, marble tile will be able to keep the water from seeping into the floorboards that could cause rot.



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In focus



AlMabarrah AlKhalifa Foundation's (MKF) provided the winning students of "Al Raya Award" with the opportunity to visit Masdar City and participate in Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. The "Al Raya Award" is an initiative dedicated to the Foundation's students to encourage them and appreciate their efforts. The winners of the award consisted of two students of the Rayat programme, Mohammed Yusuf and Rifaida Al Mahmood, and two students from the Ithra programme, Malak Al Qudah and Dalal Al Balooshi.



The Lost Paradise of Dilmun water park Bahrain has won the "Brand of the Year" 2019-2020 at the World Branding Awards in London. The international award ceremony was held at Kensington Palace, London honouring some of the best global and national brands in recognition of their work, achievements and excellence in their respective categories.



A memorandum of understanding was signed between INJAZ Bahrain and BMMI Group, resulting in the company supporting 20 INJAZ Bahrain students with full scholarships each year.

The British University of Leeds has announced the selection of human resources consultant, Abeer Al-Matoq, as a member of the Executive Education Programmes of the University's Business School, to be the first Bahraini to hold membership of this programme.



SocialScene

Why wait a month! Join Social Scene every week

Honouring pensioners



Seef Properties hosted a luncheon for retirees who served across various sectors and industries in Bahrain at Rendezvous, Seef Mall, as part of the annual Retiree Festival and in celebration of their dedicated efforts over the years.

Future doctors



The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) welcomed high school students to its Busaiteen campus for the latest edition of the Future Doctors programme. The programme, in its fifth year, aims to introduce attendees to the life of a medical student and the life of a doctor by engaging them in a host of academic and social activities.

Paying tribute



Al Hawaj Group management, executives and dignitaries honoured Youth and Sport Affairs Minister Ayman bin Tawfiq Almoayyed as well as Bahrain's national football team manager Helio De Sousa for the grand Gulf Cup victory. Al Hawaj Group had paid homage to the entire team last month but De Sousa was away at the time.



Jobs vow

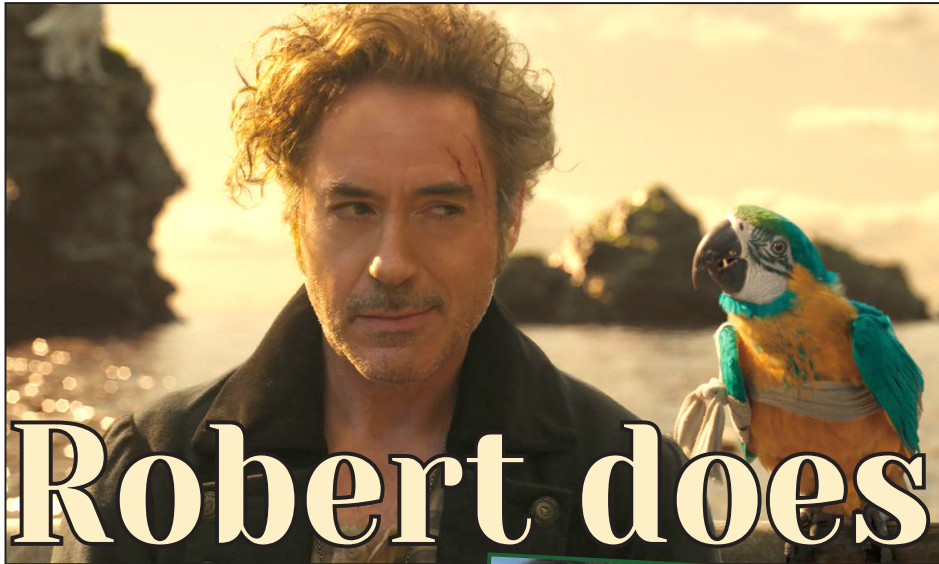
Ebrahim K. Kanoo has signed a MoU with National Institute for Industrial Training (NIIT), which outlines the company's commitment to train Bahraini job seekers in a three-month technical programme for auto detailers, accredited by the Institute of Motor Industry. Upon successful completion of the apprenticeship, candidates will be offered permanent positions within Ebrahim K. Kanoo's aftersales department.



Film Weekly



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



Robert does little!

THE reclusive doctor who speaks to animals sounds like an excellent premise for a movie. There's scope for good voiceover acting, tons of room for CGI and the title role sounds idyllic for a potential movie star.

And yet, every time, they actually try and make a movie, it's a critical disaster. Every time, it sends a rising movie star's career on a weird tangent. And every time, it somehow ends up being a cult classic.

Dolittle continues the tradition of travesty. With a disinterested Robert Downey Jr playing the title role, too many directors seemed to have been brought on board to commit atrocity after atrocity from *Dolittle*'s insulting Welsh accent to CGI and human characters not even bothering to make eye contact.

Originally intended to be titled *The Voyage of Doctor Dolittle*, the movie is directed by Stephen Gaghan, who has little to no experience directing CGI movies. In April last year, to rescue the operation, Universal brought in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*' Razzie-nominated director Jonathan Liebesman as a re-shoot consultant and *The Lego Batman Movie*'s

director Chris McKay as a writer.

Surprise surprise, despite an added 21 days of shooting, putting together a rookie, an award-winningly terrible director and a decent director shoehorned into a writing role, only worsened the CGI concoction that is *Dolittle*.

The movie starts off with a rushed backstory about veterinary doctor John Dolittle (Robert Downey Jr)'s wife Lily (Kasia Smutniak) joining the dead

DOLITTLE

CAST: Robert Downey Jr, Antonio Banderas, Rami Malek

DIRECTORS: Stephen Gaghan

GENRE: Action, Adventure, Comedy

RATING: PG

RUNTIME: 101 minutes

maternal figure society. Cut to a vague amount of time later and John is living the high society recluse life with an assortment of animals including Polynesia the parrot (voiced by Emma Thompson), Chee-Chee the cowardly gorilla (voiced by Rami Malek), Yoshi the polar bear (voiced by John Cena), Plimpton the ostrich (voiced by Kumail Nanjiani) and many, many more.

It is mindboggling how many big names lent their voices to this movie and



Monkeying around

even more shocking how misused these voices are, barely matching the mouth movements on screen and at times, with a completely inaccurate tone in the context of the scene.

Anyways, back to the movie. Tommy Stubbins (Harry Collett) accidentally shoots a squirrel (voiced, quite irritatingly, by comedy legend Craig Robinson) and brings him to Dolittle's animal asylum, I mean, "sanctuary."

By pure coincidence, at the same time Queen Victoria sends for Dolittle because she is ill. Why is a human queen sending for a vet? No explanation. How much time does she have? No idea. Why does he need to take an entire circus on the ship through waters and lands with unknown diseases and parasites? No clue.

What is obvious, however, is that Dr Blair Muddfly (Michael Sheen) is the small baddie and Lord Thomas Badgley (Jim Broadbent) is the big baddie, roles they play with entertaining incompetence. The rest of the movie is a

muddle of storylines with a stereotypical pirate island with a ruler who hates John (played by Antonio Banderas – yes, that Antonio Banderas, who once and for all proves that maturity does not lead to better decisions when it comes to picking roles) and for some bizarre, indiscernible reason, dragons. I guess a doctor who talks to "real" animals was not enough and Universal had leftover flying lizards from *Harry Potter*.

Overall, within a year or so, at best, I could see this movie disappearing from all these big name IMDB profiles. At worst, Robert Downey Jr wakes up from his post-Iron Man hangover and publicly disavows this movie.

But in the meantime, the damage is done, and sadly, despite being a phenomenal actor and great human being, the crown of billable movie star evades Tony Stark, I mean, Robert Downey Jr.

And for that affront alone, this movie earns its one out of five popcorn rating.

NAMAN'S VERDICT

1 popcorn – stay home
5 popcorns – start queuing

OGN
OIL & GAS NEWS

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Bite-sized trailers

The Gentlemen

DIRECTOR: Guy Ritchie

CAST: Matthew McConaughey, Charlie Hunnam, Michelle Dockery

PLOT: A British mobster tries to sell off his highly profitable empire to a dynasty of Oklahoma billionaires.

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



The Turning

DIRECTOR: Floria Sigismondi

CAST: Mackenzie Davis, Finn Wolfhard, Brooklynn Prince

PLOT: A young governess is hired by a man who has become responsible for his young nephew and niece after their parents' deaths.

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



Just Mercy

DIRECTOR: Destin Daniel Cretton

CAST: Brie Larson, Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx

PLOT: World-renowned civil rights defense attorney Bryan Stevenson works to free a wrongly condemned death row prisoner.

SHOWING IN: Oasis Juffair, Seef II and Wadi Al Sail



imdb movie charts

Current Position	Title	Weekend Takings	Gross to date
1	Bad Boys for Life	\$34M	\$121M
2	1917	\$16M	\$104M
3	Dolittle	\$13M	\$45M
4	The Gentlemen	\$11M	\$11M
5	Jumanji: The Next Level	\$8M	\$283M
6	The Turning	\$7M	\$7M
7	Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker	\$5M	\$502M
8	Little Women	\$5M	\$94M
9	Just Mercy	\$4M	\$27M
10	Knives Out	\$4M	\$152M



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(domestic violence
or sexual violence)

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Visit us!
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Hospital

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Write to the editor

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Your views make all the difference – email: mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

I was pleased to read your article on Hair Raising Cause being organised by the Lions Club of Riffa (LCOR) and how they are donating their hair for children undergoing cancer treatment. Many ladies and gents contribute or donate their hair in the temple of Balaji Triupati and their hair is also used for many reasons or causes. All the ladies of LCOR must be acclaimed and credited for this great cause of donating their hair for the noble campaign. Thanking you, the editor for writing about their cause to attract more ladies and gents to come forward and donate their hair and to help patients undergoing cancer treatment.

With kind regards and best wishes,
R M Arora

Editor's note:

It's always a pleasure hearing from you Rajinder. I'm glad that people are donating at the temple for such a cause as well. The Gulf Weekly is more than happy to share people's stories and help promote initiatives, projects or causes that can help better the community and humanity. Have a wonderful week and best wishes to your family.

Gulf Weekly
The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

January 22 - 28, 2020

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Hair raising cause

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

The Cause of Cure project came about by Anjali Gupta who empathized with the women that her friend's son and others experienced from hair loss through cancer treatment.

The 31-year-old former banker and now a self-employed freelance recruiter, living in Shadiba, 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 of hair loss and suffering the cancer patients go through during their treatment."

"In October 2019, I donated my hair through the 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' Lion group, Lani Tawana suggested motivating other women in Bahrain by starting a hair-raising campaign.

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

Her aim and that of LCOR 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, age 1 to 24 years, who have lost their hair through cancer treatment or other conditions.

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The Little Princess Trust provides free real hair wigs to children and young people, age 1 to 24 years, who have lost their hair through cancer treatment or other conditions.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have a few events coming up in February for the Bahrain Writers' Circle and newcomers are welcome to join.

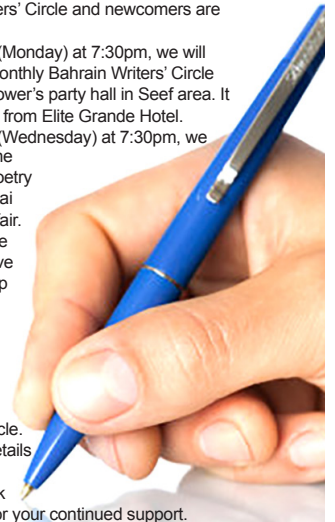
On February 10 (Monday) at 7:30pm, we will be holding our monthly Bahrain Writers' Circle meeting in Era Tower's party hall in Seef area. It is located across from Elite Grande Hotel.

On February 12 (Wednesday) at 7:30pm, we will be staging The Second Circle Poetry meeting at Mannai Sea Plaza in Juffair.

Then we will have a Bahrain Creative Writer's workshop on February 17 (Monday) at 7:30pm at Café Chantilly in Saar.

Please feel free to visit <http://bahrainwriterscircle.net/> for further details or contact us on 39574795. Thank you very much for your continued support.

Claudia Hardt
Bahrain Writers' Circle



WHAT IS FEMINISM?

A few years ago, Malala Yousafzai in her speech said: "We cannot succeed when half of us are held back." Today, as I reflect upon everything, I feel that this quote is increasingly relevant. It's the struggle towards equality.

Today, most women around me are feminists. What has to be explicitly clarified to everyone is that this isn't a movement led by women alone, and it certainly isn't a fight between women and men. It is a drive towards what is right and we need to work towards this goal together as a society, irrespective of our gender, age, socio-economic backgrounds, lives etc. This also means that we break the walls around what has been toxically fed into our brains about being "masculine" or "feminine." This ranges from accepting men to be capable of displaying a large array of emotions such as crying and other vulnerabilities, women choosing not to have children, men being scared of lizards and women not liking flowers and chocolates. It is when we accept the abnormalities in our mundane normal lives that we gradually develop a deeper understanding of equality. Additionally, I do not believe in the segregation of tasks and roles based on whether a person is a female or not. Not that I feel that this has ever been right, but, especially now, tasks are so gender-fluid that it is the duty of each and every one of us to encourage



this positive movement. We have come a long way already. The stereotypes regarding gender-based occupations are slowly falling. Women are acing it in engineering, construction, flying and so many other fields where previously, their entrance was considered taboo. At the same time, men too have been able to expand and successfully strive as makeup-artists, costume designers and other domains where they weren't considered capable. What I want to reiterate is, feminism isn't, and never has been, a struggle for women to become equal to men – it's much larger than that. It is about both men and women reaching equality together. After all: "We cannot succeed when half of us are held back."

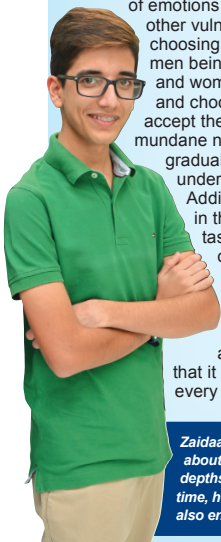
*He says,
She says*

I think this is the first time that I am writing about a topic which does justice to the title of this column: 'He Says, She Says'. From writing about global warming to mental health, the perspectives of male and female are hardly different. However, the role of men in feminism... The coined term feminism is fairly new, and is still being adjusted with how it stands within a world full of diverse opinions. With only a limit of 350 words, I think it is important for me to simply stick to the pressing bullet points of this sensitive topic. Unlike what many seem to believe or misinterpret, feminism is the advocacy for equality. People may be confused that

the word 'feminism' does not in fact mean women over men. Apologies to the small handful of confused men who thought we wanted to be superior to them. Don't worry, we're only asking for equal pay. I hope I am not misunderstood with my tone.

I am surrounded by men in my life who are quite frankly just as much of a feminist as I am. To go a little further, it isn't just men that seem to have misinterpreted the idea of what feminism really is; women do it too! Donned with the term 'feminazi', there are radical women pushing for not equality, but an equally horrid world of women over men. Don't worry folks, we do not claim them.

Now, feminism on its own is a complicated matter, but to add the 'role of men' into the mix throws us all into a whole new dimension. I personally believe that a man can be just as much of a feminist as any woman. Honestly, my brother and father are more vocal than many women I know about the matter, which may seem sad or shocking, but shouldn't be. Men should be just as concerned about equality as women are. And while it is a pleasant surprise to find that a man believes you deserve just as much as he does; I hope I live a day where I am not surprised at all.



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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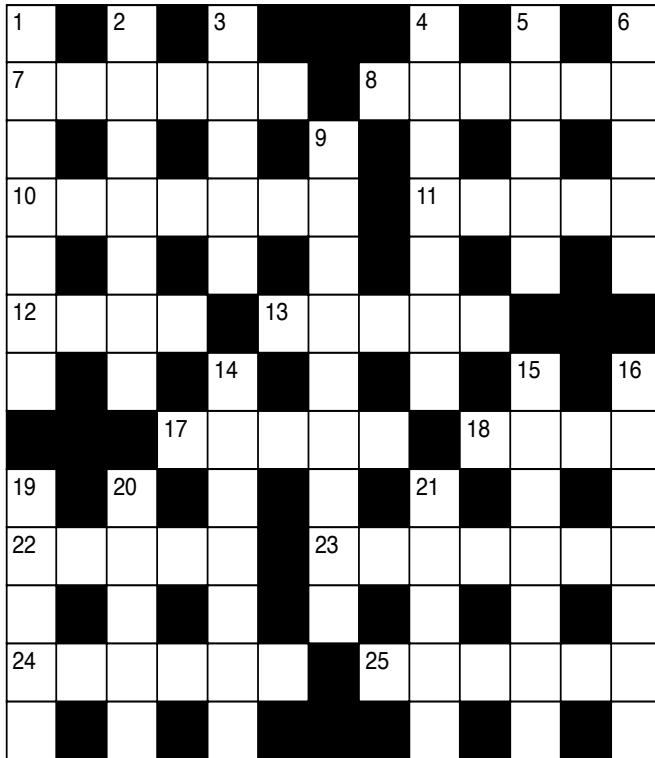
@crustandcrema



crustandcremabh



crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

7. Clouded (6)
8. Disprove (6)
10. Train (7)
11. Loft (5)
12. Adjoin (4)
13. Fragment (5)
17. Foolish (5)
18. Agitate (4)
22. Verity (5)
23. Striking (7)
24. Offhand (6)
25. Verbose (6)

DOWN

1. Diary (7)
2. Diplomatic (7)
3. Amusing (5)
4. Escape (7)
5. Allocation (5)
6. Attain (5)
9. Unrelenting (9)
14. Road (7)
15. Spire (7)
16. Excuse (7)
19. Adhere (5)
20. Annul (5)
21. Stare fiercely (5)

who, what, where, when

WHO won the Grand National in 1986?

WHAT is a reredos?

WHERE is the mountain range housing the Khyber Pass?

WHEN did Joseph Stalin die?

WHO said 'A friend is one before whom I may think aloud'?

WHAT is the monetary unit of Guatemala?

WHERE is the Angkor Wat Temple?

WHEN was Hong Kong acquired by Britain before handing it over to China?

just so

S OFTEN S

F O F

JINX

THARE

darn tough sudoku

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

Last week's sudoku

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

Across: 1 Irrate; 4 Surmise; 8 Awkward; 9 Twist; 10 Pawn; 11 Debonair; 13 Ring; 14 Kale; 16 Redeemer; 17 Stun; 20 Alert; 21 Strange; 22 Eastern; 23 Ghost.

Down: 1 Inappropriate; 2 Askew; 3 Elan; 4 Sudden; 5 Rational; 6 Imitate; 7 Entertainment; 12 Unsettle; 13 Redress; 15 Lessen; 18 Tango; 19 Brag.

Who, What, Where, When: Bob Kane; DeLorean; Wrigley Field; 1781; R. C. Sherriff; Species of monkey; Jackson; 1515.

Just So: Man of honour, Root canal, Thick skin, Laid to rest

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

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Happy centenary

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

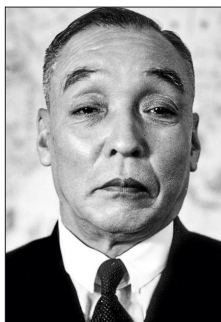
MIGHTY Mazda will be celebrating its 100th anniversary tomorrow and devoted drivers of the Japanese marquees have been sharing their adoration of the brand to mark the occasion.

The popular make wouldn't have become what it is today if it wasn't for Jujiro Matsuda and his determination to succeed.

The Mazda Motor Corporation was founded by Jujiro and while he spent his early years in an environment that was far from peaceful, he was still driven by a passion to manufacture and create.

He was born in 1875 in Hiroshima as the youngest of 12 siblings and was unable to attend school. He moved to Osaka at 13 to work and live with a blacksmith. It was during his tenure that he realised that he wanted to dedicate his life to the machine industry.

He began to work with



Founder Jujiro

different factories including shipyards and arsenals and would use his work breaks to visit other factories to continue his learning process.

Jujiro founded "Matsuda Seisakusho" in Osaka at age 31 by renting a tiny, 33sqm cowshed. His business didn't go as planned and there were several obstacles.

He studied existing products by breaking them down into pieces, made some modifications and introduced "the Exclusive Patented Matsuda Pump".

In 1918, in his mid-40s,



Judy Laviolette

he went back to Hiroshima and founded "Hiroshima Matsuda Seisakusho". His name preceded him and he was respected as a successful business person.

Two years later, he joined ailing Toyo Cork Kogyo Co and while the company was not doing well, he decided to bring it back to life. He came up with new product ideas, including manufacturing of compressed cork board. After being appointed president of Toyo Cork Kogyo, he struggled to produce a new cork product that could be used as a thermal insulating and shock absorption material. The new product's success helped the company to get back on track.

The company's success was short lived because in 1925, the entire factory was destroyed by fire and he was distraught by the loss of employees during the blaze. Yet he was determined to rebuild the company by shifting business to what he excelled at – the machine industry, with a motto "lifetime dedication to a single business". To showcase his determination, he renamed the company Toyo Kogyo Co.



Mazda celebrates 100 years

The Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 turned public attention to automobile as a means of transportation and Jujiro found a business opportunity in three-wheeled truck manufacturing.

It was cheaper than the four-wheeled automobile so he focused on three-wheeled trucks. He said: "This will improve the quality of people's lives and the development of my country. It was a word 'faith' that kept me going at what I was most passionate about."

While other domestic manufacturers relied on overseas-manufactured engines and other key parts, Jujiro insisted on in-house manufacturing of as many

parts as possible and devoted his time and attention to research and development with engineers.

His efforts paid off when mass-production three-wheeled trucks were completed and introduced to the market. The three-wheeled truck was named "Matsuda Go", after Jujiro's family name.

The name "MAZDA" began to be used around this time and the rest is history.

People such as Australian Brett McAlister and Canadian Judy Laviolette are elated over their cars and appreciate Jujiro's determination to never give up.

Brett, who has an RX-7 FB, wanted one ever since he was a child.

He said: "When I was 11, I was lucky enough to see the Mazda RX-7 being driven by an Australian racing legend and it was the best looking car I'd ever seen. One year later, my uncle and aunt purchased the RX-7. When they said they were taking me out for drives, I was over the moon. I felt like a king."

"After getting a driver's license, I purchased a Mazda RX-4 and at the same time, I began an apprenticeship for the Maz Engine Company where I learned to rebuild

rotary engines. The skills I learned led me to become an engineer for the Mazda Australia racing team and eventually a navigator in an RX-7 SP.

"In 2012, I finally purchased a Mazda RX-7 and carefully restored to its shining glory. My RX-7 would make the Australian racing legend proud."

Judy has a CX-5 which she finds as reliable and great for long trips. She said: "I spent the winter of 2018 in Florida with my partner. From our residence in Quebec, we hopped into the Mazda CX-5 and travelled 3,000km in three days. What I love about my CX-5 is that it is so practical; you can take everything you need for four months with you."

"The CX-5 is our 15th Mazda. Our first Mazda was a red 1988 Mazda323 station wagon. We've owned two B2000s, three MPVs, two Proteges, one Mazda5 and one Tribute. Of the many Mazdas we owned, the flamboyant green Mazda2 continues to be my absolute favourite."

"My most memorable expedition was driving our first CX-5 purchased in January 2014 for 15,000km over 65 days. During the long drives on the highways, I played the ukulele and we sang Beatles songs together."

Brett McAlister





Mercedes-Benz EQ Formula E team's Nyck de Vries at Santiago E-Prix 2020

Tales from the paddock

MERCEDES-AMG 2020 motor racing season is off to a stellar start with countless successes from Formula E to GT ad from Dubai to Santiago.

The ABB FIA Formula E Championship started the new calendar year with one of the hottest races on the itinerary and the Mercedes-Benz EQ Formula E Team scored points for the third time in the third round of its debut season.

On the Parque O'Higgins circuit in the Chilean capital, Formula E rookie Nyck de Vries and teammate Stoffel Vandoorne finished fifth and sixth respectively. For

de Vries, this was the best result yet of his budding Formula E career. Meanwhile, Vandoorne was scoring points for the third time in a row, a consistency that is paying off in terms of the drivers' championship which the Belgian currently leads by three points. In the team classification, the Mercedes-Benz EQ Formula E Team is second, four points behind the leaders in the standings.

Also, a Customer Racing team topped the podium in the last race of 2019 - a great way to usher in the 10th anniversary season of the Mercedes-AMG Customer Racing programme.

In the grand finale of the Endurance Brazil

held towards the end of December, Xandy and Xandinho Negrão in the Mercedes-AMG GT3 fielded by Scuderia 111 were crowned GT3 Drivers' Champions of the Brazilian endurance series.

The father-son duo earned the title with a consistent performance throughout the season, in which they won three of eight races and finished runners-up on three occasions.

And the first race of the year also ended with victories for cars from Affalterbach. In the 24-hour race in Dubai, Black Falcon with their driver line-up of Emirati Khaled Al Qubaisi, Briton Ben Barker (GBR), Dutch

Jeroen Bleekemolen and Germans Hubert Haupt and Manuel Metzger secured victory in the season opener of the 24H Series.

It was the fifth time that Mercedes-AMG and also Black Falcon had finished first in the general classification of the endurance race in the Emirates as well as the 13th podium appearance since 2011 for the performance and sports car brand from Affalterbach.

It's going to be a very special Valentine's Day for the Mercedes Formula 1 car for the 2020 season. It will be making its track debut on February 14 in the context of the shakedown at Silverstone.

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REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER - BAHRAIN

Are you dialled into regional media outlets and influencers? Do you have a genuine passion for (and understand) PR? If so this could be the right move for you.

As Regional Communications Officer, you will work closely with the regional Sales and CRM teams, as well as the Retail Marketing Manager, to support the organisation of local and retailer events, with an aim of generating brand exposure. You will also build relationships with the Central PR team to support the key product launches and activate the global communications strategy in the region.

If you are motivated to take on a new challenge AND you meet the requirements below then please apply urgently.

Responsibilities:

- Leverage news opportunities generated by the Central PR team on a regional level and contribute to the implementation of a regional communications strategy for product launches and corporate affairs
- Responsible for generating impactful film and photography content to resonate with local audiences
- Work alongside the Retail Marketing Manager to support key commercial objectives of the region through developing and managing integrated digital campaigns
- Monitor and evaluate the retailer-owned microsites, and social media channels to ensure that they are kept up to date and in line with the global best practice focusing on engagement and reach
- Be the first line of contact for regional media and external stakeholders for product and brand enquiries, as well as crisis communications
- Develop a network of non-traditional media contacts such as bloggers, influencers and word-of-mouth advocates that support Sales and Marketing goals and help position the company at relevant venues, events and locations in the region

Requirements:

- Experience in core PR skills, including presenting, writing for print and online media, internal reporting, and agency/supplier management
- Experience of leveraging integrated digital and social media campaigns to drive demand and leads
- Knowledge of the regional media landscape and existing relationships with regional media and influencers
- Ability to influence senior management and engage with all levels of employees, dealership, and agency management
- A proactive mindset that has generated creative solutions to strategic and tactical business challenges, supporting Sales and Marketing goals and positioning the PR function as a core role in a company's marketing activities
- Fluent in written and spoken English. Arabic, Portuguese or Spanish would be an advantage

Please note that unsuitable applicants, who have not read the job description and requirements, will not be contacted or considered for other opportunities. For general applications please send your CV to jobs@gulfconnexions.com

Applications will only be considered if you have the relevant experience and your skill set match those required and stipulated within the advert text

For further details on these vacancies or for more information on our services please contact us on +973 17565363 or email a Word format CV to one of our experienced consultants at jobs@gulfconnexions.com. For more jobs kindly refer to our website: www.gulfconnexions.com

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Motor Sport



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



The victors from BIC's 2000cc Challenge and BMR600 with their trophies

Races roar on



ROUND five of National Race Day ended in glory for Shaikh Salman bin Isa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and Ahmed Almuyini whom continued their winning ways in their respective local championships at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

Shaikh Salman in his multi-coloured Honda Civic won the first of two races in the BIC 2,000cc Challenge while Almuyini claimed

the opening sprint in the Bahrain Motorcycle Racing (BMR) 600. Both drivers are the current leaders in their respective series.

The races, which were held along Sakher circuit's 2.55-kilometre Inner Track, were organised by the BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation (BMF), Circuit Racing Club (CRC) and the Bahrain Motorcycle Club (BMC).

Mohammed Faqih, who was also driving a Civic, was the other race winner in the

2,000cc, while Ali Ahmed Adiby took the second event in the BMR 600.

Nasser Al Alawi, driving a Honda S2000, started the 2,000cc battles on a positive note after topping the practice timesheet with a best lap of one minute 17.645 seconds.

Shaikh Salman then captured pole position with a fastest lap of 1:16.331, beating Raed Raffii in another S2000 by just 0.059 seconds.

Shaikh Salman made the

most of his leading starting position in a pole-to-flag victory in the 2,000cc's opening 12-lap race. He completed the sprint in a total time of 15:35.606, just 1.275s ahead of Raffii, who did well to maintain his position in second all through the event.

Shaikh Hamad bin Isa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, who was also driving a Civic, claimed third place 6.923s behind Shaikh Salman.

Meanwhile Faqih, Ahmed bin Khanen driving a Civic

EG4, and Tareq Al Tajer in a Ford Focus, rounded out the top six. They were all in the Pro class.

In the Novice category, Andreas Buelow was first in 16:28.740. Wiebke Buelow came second while Ali Al Bahrani was third. All three were also driving Civics.

Shaikh Salman added to his win by posting the sprint's fastest lap of 1:16.667.

In race two, Raed Himmo and Al Alawi were on the front row following the reverse grid rule. Faqih started from fifth, but he gradually made his way to the front before taking over as the leader on lap eight. He captured the chequered flag in a total race time of 15:42.985.

Raffii was once again the runner-up, beaten by just 0.791s. Al Tajer came third 2.994s behind. Bin Khanen, Majed Himmo and Andreas Buelow completed the top six.

Shaikh Hamad clocked the fastest lap of the sprint of 1:17.087.

With both race results, Shaikh Salman claimed his seventh victory of the season while Faqih won for the first time.

Meanwhile, in the BMR 600, Adiby in a Kawasaki

ZX6R topped practice times with a 1:09.992 lap, before Almuyini riding a Yamaha R6 snatched pole in qualifying with a best mark of 1:09.604.

Almuyini then went on to win the first 11-lap race in 13:04.655. Adiby followed 2.363s behind while Ibrahim Alsharida on a Kawasaki ZX6R was a distant third, 19.165s back. Saad Al Hazza in a Kawasaki ZX6R was fourth, Mohammed Alsadiq on a Triumph 675 fifth and Mohammed Alzahrani riding an R6 was sixth.

In race two, Adiby was the winner in 13:14.660. He finished 6.212s ahead of Alsharida, while Al Hazza came third 8.790s behind. Alsadiq, Mohammed Redha on a ZX6R and Alzahrani completed the top six.

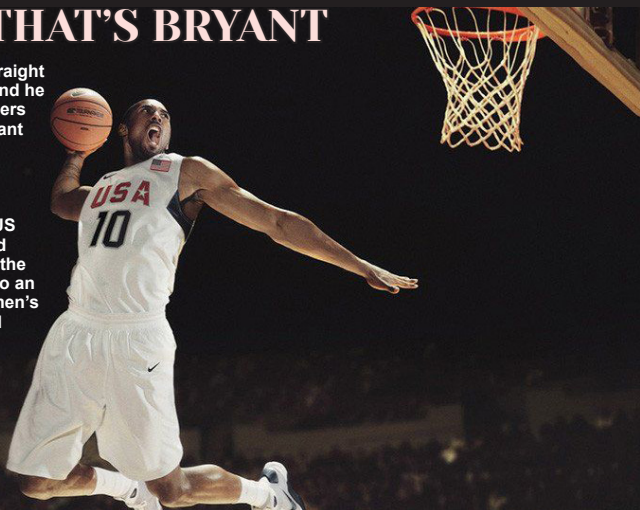
Following all the action, the winners in both championships were presented their respective trophies in the podium ceremony by BIC, BMF, CRC and BMC officials.

The season resumes with the sixth and penultimate round of national races on of February 21 and 22 at BIC.

For details on National Race Day, visit www.bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on 17450000.

THE MAGIC THAT'S BRYANT

The Philadelphia native went straight from high school to the NBA and he played his first game with the Lakers soon after turning 18 in 1996. Bryant played all 20 of his NBA seasons with the Lakers, won several MVP awards over his career, five NBA championships and two Olympic gold medals as a member of the US men's basketball team in 2008 and 2012. He became eligible to enter the Hall of Fame this year. He was also an avid supporter of soccer and women's basketball. He spoke Spanish and Italian, having spent part of his youth in Italy, where his father, former NBA player Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, played several seasons professionally. He also won an Oscar in 2018 as writer-producer of best animated short film, *Dear Basketball*, which he also narrated.



R.I.P MAMBA!

SITTING on the couch, chilling in my 'snuggie' and watching *Pelé: Birth of a Legend*, one of my favourite sport movies on Netflix, with my husband Sam; I was thinking this is looking to be a great Sunday night.

And then, the news came. My best friend in Canada, Ziyada Callender, a supervising producer for CTV Morning Live, messaged saying: "Kobe Bryant was killed in a helicopter crash in California!"

What? I turned to Sam, who is an avid basketball player that grew up watching NBA greats such as Los Angeles Lakers Magic Johnson and Boston Celtics Larry Bird, and I shared the news. Sam was a fan of Bryant's. He began wearing the legend's No 8 jersey when he started playing in tournaments during his teen years.

We turned to Google and there it was. Bryant, 41, had passed away in a horrific helicopter crash.

The cause of the crash was unknown and an investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board could take months. His Sikorsky S-76 craft went down in low clouds and foggy weather shortly before 10am just outside Calabasas, California, about 40 miles (65 km) northwest of central Los Angeles, sparking a brush fire, officials said.

There were no survivors and the flight's manifest showed nine people on board.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver confirmed that Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna aka "Gigi", were among those killed, and sent condolences to Bryant's wife, Vanessa.

Silver said: "He was one of the most extraordinary players in the history of our game, with accomplishments that are legendary. But he will be remembered most for inspiring people around the world to pick up a basketball and compete to the very best of their ability."

"He was generous with the wisdom he acquired and saw it as his mission to share it with future generations of players, taking special delight in passing down his love of the game to Gianna."

NBC News reported that others on board, besides the pilot, were a teammate from Bryant's daughter's basketball squad and a parent of the teammate.



VOICE OF SPORT

By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli was one of the victims and girls basketball coach Christina Mauser was another. Athletes, politicians and entertainers took to social media, posting highlights of the All-Stars greatest performances, such as his 81 points in one game where he led the Los Angeles Lakers to victory against the Toronto Raptors.

I will always remember him as a man who was much more than an athlete."

The Black Mamba, which eventually shortened to Mamba, was deemed the second-highest scoring performer of all time in one game in NBA history, trailing Wilt Chamberlain's legendary 100-point game.

The Lakers were trailing by 14 points at halftime and 18 early in the third quarter before Bryant completely took over. He scored a ridiculous 55 points in the second half, including 23 in the final nine minutes of the game.

Bryant was also the third all-time top NBA scorer with 33,643 points following ex-Utah Jazz's Karl 'The Mailman' Malone in second place with 36,928 points and table topper Kareem Abdul Jabbar, an ex-Lakers and Milwaukee Bucks centre, with 38,387 points.

As of last Saturday, Los Angeles Lakers James 'The King' LeBron passed Bryant to become the third all-time top NBA scorer with 33,655 points during his showdown against the Philadelphia 76ers. When Bryant heard the record-breaking news, he took to Twitter saying: "Continuing to move the game forward @KingJames. Much respect my brother."

Bryant inspired LeBron when he was a child at a youth basketball camp. In San Antonio, the Toronto Raptors and San Antonio Spurs allowed the 24-second shot clock to expire on each of their first possessions as a way to pay homage to Bryant's jersey No 24.

Michael Jordan, who won six NBA championships with the Chicago Bulls, said: "He was a fierce competitor, one

of the greats of the game and a creative force. Kobe was an amazing dad who loved his family deeply - and took great pride in his daughter's love for the game of basketball."

Abdul Jabbar said on Twitter: "Most people will remember Kobe as the magnificent athlete who inspired a whole generation of basketball players. But I will always remember him as a man who was much more than an athlete."

Fans gathered near the Staples Centre in downtown LA with

a wreath carrying the message: "Kobe we love you RIP." Some were wearing No 24 and No 8 jerseys.

Former US president, Barack Obama said on Twitter: "Kobe was a legend on the

court and just getting started in what would have been just as meaningful a second act. To lose Gianna is even more heartbreaking to us as parents."

Former Lakers legend Earvin Magic Johnson said on Twitter: "I'm in disbelief and have been crying all morning over this devastating news that Kobe and his young daughter, Gigi have passed away in a helicopter crash. Cookie and I are heartbroken."

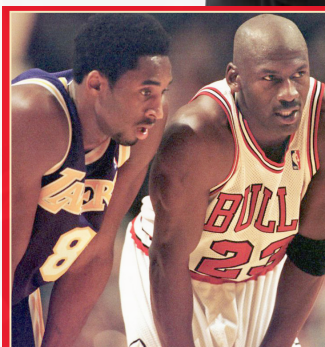
Bryant's former

teammate, Shaquille O'Neal, also said on Twitter: "There are no words to express the pain I'm going through with this tragedy of losing my niece Gigi and my brother @kobe Bryant. I love you and you will be missed."

Still stunned by the news, myself, Sam and *GulfWeekly*, would also like to pass on our deepest condolences to his wife Vanessa and daughters Natalia, Bianka and Capri as well as his parents.

January 26 will forever be

remembered as the day we lost a legend far too soon.
#RIPMamba
#MambaOut



Bryant playing against Jordan

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TOP OF THE LEAGUE FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORT

January 29 - February 4, 2020

Handball history!

AFTER a valiant and close match, Bahrain's national handball team lost 26-27 to Japan in a bid for the bronze medal at the 19th Asian Men's Handball Championship.

The team however has been making history during the championship, clinching a berth in the World Men's Handball Championship to be held in Egypt next January.

A last-ditch 18-17 victory over Saudi Arabia in Kuwait last Thursday triggered double celebrations as Bahrain claimed a maiden World Cup spot, to add to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics berth they had claimed last October.

The Bahrainis managed to score at the very last second of the match to secure an epic victory, thanks



SPORTS
By NAMAN ARORA
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to Ahmed Fadhul's all-important goal.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sport first deputy chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa directed officials last Friday to pay bonuses to Bahrain's national handball team.

Unfortunately, hindered by key player Ali Merza sitting out most of the second half due to a red card, and after putting up an intense fight to win, the Bahrain team lost their semi-final match 24-28 to Qatar.

Back in October, the national team beat South Korea 34-29 in a heart-stopping thriller to win the

Asian Handball Qualifying Tournament and book a berth in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.



Highlights from different games

