

# Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain



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EATING OUT:  
Fusion of flavours  
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SPRING SENSATION  
Cultural masterpiece  
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COMMUNITY REPORT  
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE  
mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

**W**HAT started as a personal Instagram account showcasing the life of Birthe van der Heijden in Bahrain, flourished into a community initiative in which she and big-hearted individuals cook up meals for migrant workers as well as spread the message of unity through kindness.

OneHeartBahrain was launched in September of last year and has already garnered 165 members all working on the same vision – “to help people recognise that we are One World, One People and One Bahrain Community.”

The Dutch mother-of-three, who is a social strategist and teacher in meditation practice, said: “Goodwill is the simple mechanism by which we can achieve this state of oneness as it is the glue that unites people into right relationships promoting greater peace, harmony and potential value within our society.”

Birthe moved to the kingdom with her husband Simon Peters, director Middle East in Education Services, five-and-a-half years ago along with her children Darcey, 14, Caitlin, 12 and Sacha, 10, who study at St Christopher's School. She immediately fell in love with the island's “rich tapestry of

Birthe with  
migrant  
workers



## One heart, one Bahrain

nationalities”.

“I wanted to do something to support this diversity,” explained Birthe.

“Everything I was doing just reflected my desire to promote oneness amongst people. I started to incorporate some posts about food charity, purely as a demonstration of our human

connection with the migrant workers.

“I was also offering group meditation as a form of community service. Afterwards, I started to focus the group meditation specifically on World Goodwill. Then the three components came together – social media awareness

about having one Bahrain community, a World Goodwill Meditation Group and the Food Initiative.”

They first started buying restaurant meals and distributing them to the workers but then felt they could create deeper and more meaningful experiences of doing good if they created the

meals themselves.

Birthe teamed up with Monica Fernandes, who is originally from Goa, to be her right-hand woman and head chef of their food initiative.

Now, they produce a weekly batch of meals, ranging from 50 to 80 meals from a nonindustrial kitchen.

Full report- Page 2

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# Stronger together



Birthe hosting a World Goodwill lecture with Bahrain National Life Assurance at North Sehla Youth Centre

**O**NEHEART-BAHRAIN, founded by Birthe van der Heijden, aims to unite the kingdom through acts of kindness from preparing meals for migrant workers to staging meditations to inspire like-minded individuals.

The community driven Instagram account started on Birthe's vision of spreading awareness about the beauty of diversity and how we are all stronger together. She began to post her charitable food endeavours as well as hosting group meditations geared towards World Goodwill.

World Goodwill is an organisation founded in 1932 to apply the teachings of former Theosophist Alice A Bailey, specifically to improve human relations in the world. The energy of goodwill is potentially a powerful force for social change. The organisation supports the work of the United Nations and the people of goodwill are those who think and act with a measure of loving understanding and of concern for the well-being of all.

Birthe, who is a firm believer in World Goodwill, said: "We are stronger when we come together as one. We are all part of one global system and Bahrain has its own beautiful and diverse ecosystem made up of many nationalities."

"When we embrace this diversity whilst recognising and nurturing our shared humanity, it creates a more powerful nation, as the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts. Together everyone achieves more."

"My meditation group grew into more of a community service shortly after I started offering the Goodwill



Birthe reaching out to the needy



Sushmitha and Monica with the workers



Chef Monica



Tabitha handing out food

Meditations in which I was explaining to people about the general merits of doing service. To give people this experience, I started inviting them to join the food drives.

"The food effort then evolved. In the last two months, we have started cooking our own meals to offer both our volunteers a deeper and more meaningful experience of community service. Monica Fernandes, who has worked with us since we first came to Bahrain, loves to cook and as such is the natural choice to be in charge of the meal production. She has prior experience in catering and makes the most wonderful Indian food."

The group of volunteers is

made up of Bahrainis, British, Australian, Indian, Swedish, Irish, Russian, Dutch, South African, Canadian, Italian, German and Bangladeshi. Members from the multinational team prepare food together in Birthe's kitchen in Saar.

She said: "We are very lucky to have a large 'island' in the centre of the kitchen which allows us to work well as a group, especially when it comes to parcelling up. We have bought special oversized cooking tools to accommodate the large quantities of food, but given the size of the pans and the restricted size of a 'private-use' cooker, we are still limited how fast and how much we can cook."

"We generally operate on a five mile radius around Saar to ensure the food is nice and warm when it reaches the workers. But sometimes a volunteer may request a different site with people that they wish to serve and whilst we are still small, we are able to accommodate this."

Her meditation sessions are also held every Wednesday at noon from her house. She said: "I feel meditation is more meaningful when we use it to do good and expand our minds and hearts to embrace the whole human race as one great big family. We have found that the people who do these meditations become more influenced by this more inclusive way of thinking and start to

incorporate goodwill practices into their daily routines and work life."

"We furthermore plan to offer the meditation every Saturday at noon and are looking for a good location where there may be relevant interest - if anyone wishes to host then please get in touch." All Goodwill Meditations are free of charge.

The group has kept the volunteering involvement fairly small thus far, but there will come a point when they need to expand their operations.

"We have had both children and adults helping in the kitchen and with the distribution of the meals," added Birthe. "The children are the future and they are

naturally very caring and altruistic and as such we wish to encourage them to maintain that selfless outlook as they mature."

"I like to involve my children in our work so that they develop certain life skills as well as gain an understanding of what's involved in doing 'service' from the ground up. They usually help to prepare the food and deliver to the workers and on a personal wellbeing level, practicing selflessness helps to expand their minds and hearts, teaches them humility and kindness."

St Christopher's School student Tabitha Moore, 12, loves the food initiative. She said: "It is good to give food because the workers often have families to support in their home country and they don't always have much money to spend on themselves. So when we give them a healthy meal it helps."

The group's greater vision is to create a goodwill ecosystem in Bahrain that supports the development of human capital and as such the economic potential of the nation. "We hope to collaborate with the bright young minds of the academic community to develop an AI technology platform for this purpose, the full potential of which could be explored by means of an entrepreneurial academic incubator," she explained. "This is something we are investigating at present and we would love to hear from interested parties who wish to contribute to the development of a Goodwill Shareconomy in Bahrain."

People interested in participating can email [oneheartbahrain@gmail.com](mailto:oneheartbahrain@gmail.com) or follow [oneheartbahrain](#) on Instagram and Facebook.





**BD 4.800** Valentine's Cream Cake Strawberry Medium



**BD 0.750** Valentine's Cup Cake /pc



**BD 1.890** Mars Celebration Choco 385gm



**BD 1.990** Lindt Hello A Little Something Just For You Heart Tin 45gm



**BD 2.990** Lindt Lindor Strawberry & Cream 200gm



**BD 0.990** Storck Merci Finest Selection 250gm Assorted /pc



**BD 2.600** Soft toys Assorted /pc



**BD 2.000** Maple Leaf Wall Clock Assorted /pc



**BD 1.300** Bravo Cushion Heart Shape Assorted



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- 6GB RAM
- 24MP+5MP+10MP+8MP
- Rear Camera
- 24MP Front Camera
- 3800 mAh Battery



**AirPods 2**



**Skullcandy**



**BD 99.990** Samsung Galaxy A9 SM-A920 128GB

**BD 109.990** Apple iPad 7 10.2" Wi-Fi 32GB

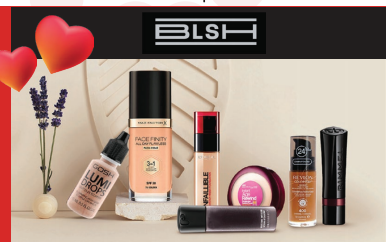
**BD 62.990** Apple AirPods 2 Wireless Charging Case MRXJ2Z

**BD 19.990** Skullcandy Bluetooth Earphone RIFF S5PXW L003 /pc

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# Leaving nobody behind



COMMUNITY REPORT  
By NAMAN ARORA  
naman@gulfweekly.com

**T**HE ninth edition of the Bahrain For All festival was held at Bahrain Bay, attracting more than 55,000 visitors and bringing different communities together to highlight inclusivity and harmony in diversity.

The two-day festival, held under the theme "Leaving Nobody Behind", showcased traditional dance and stage performances and 150 market stalls highlighting cultural items, handmade goods, food and products for sale from various communities and societies on the island including the Regional Institute of Autism (RIA) and the Friendship Society for the Blind.

Bahrain for all founder and organiser Nivedita Dhadphale said: "Bahrain has a very long history of tolerance and unity in its diversity so really this is about promoting inclusivity and endorsing everything that Bahrain stands for."

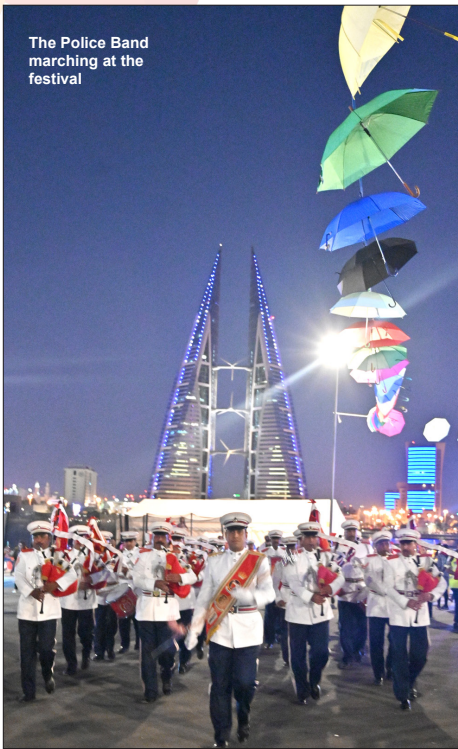
"We are grateful to Capital Governor Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, as well as the Capital Governorate team and the volunteers who have worked with us to make this event happen. Having the event at Bahrain Bay was fantastic – not only was the stage bigger and the view much more scenic, this presented the modern face of Bahrain and we are glad to be part of it."

The popular Bahraini Police Band, celebrating 100 years of Bahrain Police, also performed at the event, along with several local emcees and musicians.

The event, which was inaugurated by Shaikh Hisham, included stalls exhibiting handicrafts from various countries, including Philippines, Thailand, Ethiopia, India and more.

Thai Ambassador to Bahrain, Thanis Na Songkhla said: "It has been a very successful couple of days. We got a lot

The Police Band marching at the festival



Chutima and Tarinee at the Thai stall

of interest from visitors who wanted to know more about our culture and traditions. We look forward to being a part of the event in the coming years."

Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Thai, Filipino, Jordanian, Bangladeshi, Egyptian and more performers entertained the crowd during the festival, which also aims to raise awareness and acceptance for individuals with special needs.

For the first time, in consultation with Steps Rehabilitation Centre, a sensory room was set up for

differently-abled individuals to assist in focusing on the present moment and to better process sensory information.

The room, designed to combine lighting, colours, textures and aromas, helped individuals overcome anxiety and engage their senses in a safe and calm environment.

Sarva Velamuri, one of the volunteers at the event, added: "The Sensory Room provided a calm space for people with special needs to relax and offered a calming environment to anyone who may

have felt overwhelmed in unfamiliar surroundings. That way everyone could enjoy the festival which can be overwhelming to those who are hypersensitive to sensory inputs."

The festival drew families from across the island, with a special maze, children's stage and activities set up for the little ones. Mohsin Akbar, who was there with his wife Ahsan and their two children, said: "My kids enjoyed all the different activities and my wife and I enjoyed the view. This is the first time we came to the

Egyptian dancers at the festival



Traditional dancers on stage



Mohsin and Ahsan with their children



Gayathri and Anamika, Indian dancers at the festival

festival. In previous years, it's been too far from home but this location is perfect!"

Belgian tourists Christine Tierens and Peter Slabbaert who were visiting Bahrain and staying at a hotel nearby when they saw the festivities and joined in, added: "It was a happy accident that we were visiting the country when this festival took place! It is quite wonderful to be able to experience so many different cultures in one place. We have experienced some of the most generous hospitality during our time in Bahrain and we can see here why so many diverse cultures choose to call Bahrain home."



The four finalists with the Italian ambassador



Noor the winner

# Bellissimo contest

**T**HE sixth season of Italian Master Chef concluded with its fourth and final heat, featuring four of the top amateur chefs on the island competing in a black box challenge at the Cucina Italiana restaurant, writes Naman Arora.

Bahraini Chef Noor Abdul took home the top prize of a round trip to Italy, with Chef Saïed Ali nabbing second, Laura Gualnetti securing third and Christian Agulto winning fourth place.

The competition, which was attended by dignitaries, including the newly appointed Italian Ambassador to Bahrain Paola Amadei, drew 36 amateur chefs from across the region.

Each of the four chefs picked a mystery black box, each with a different protein that would be the focus of their entrée or piatto. The contestants were also required to prepare an antipasto starter.

The semi-finals were held on February 2 and 4 with 12 participants taking part in a taste-and-make challenge. They were required to recreate one of Italia Cucina executive Chef Jagath Jayasekara's dishes from taste alone.

While this proved a challenge for some of the chefs, Noor noted: "Understanding what



One of the mystery black boxes

flavours were in the food was the easy part of the semi-final. While cooking is my passion, this competition has pushed me out of my comfort zone, especially when it

comes to plating and presentation. I have always focused on flavour but for this competition, I trained myself on things like plating food properly and figuring out the right bite portion."

The final was split into two rounds – the 30-minute appetiser round and the 45-minute main course round, with each round being judged separately.

To start, contestants were given 10 minutes to pick their choice of fresh ingredients and Italian spices from a spread set up by executive Chef Jagath.

They then headed to the kitchen to prepare their starters, while a kitchen camera gave the audience an inside perspective of the culinary experience.

The four-heat competition was launched last month, with support from sponsors like the Bahrain Family Leisure Company and Gulf Hotel Bahrain. Competitors of every nationality participated, with some like Laura driving in from Saudi Arabia to cook up a storm.

Laura added: "I have been cooking since I can remember. And now that I am a full-time mom, it's a big part of my life. But it was good to take a break and cook for a different set of stomachs."

The event was judged by Chef Carlo Cirone, executive chef at Gulf Hotel Bahrain, Anisa Al Hawaj, editor-in-chief of the *Food and Travel Magazine*, Lorenzo Sabella, professional chef and sommelier and Laura Bellato, wife of the former Italian ambassador to Bahrain Domenico Bellato.



The judges at the competition



The antipasto dishes

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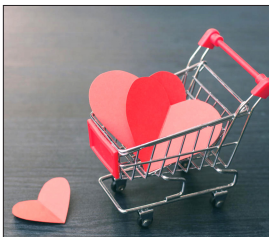
Putting Bahrain's supermarkets under the spotlight and searching for the best deals

## SHOPPING WITH LOVED ONES

**C**ITY Centre Bahrain is celebrating the 'day of amour' with an array of prizes to be won.

The Valentine's Day campaign is being staged at the mall until Friday, giving 50 shoppers a chance of winning exciting gifts that will make their hearts skip a beat.

The 'Locked in Love' stand features a heart-shaped cabinet including multiple



boxes with gifts sealed inside each box. Customers spending BD30 or more at any store in the mall can



redeem their receipts and receive an electronic swipe key to unlock the boxes and win instant prizes.

Various retailers also have every gift imaginable to make the romantic month

a success. The mall offers a wide selection of brands, experiences and unlimited deals which include everything from candy to chocolate, haute-couture to ready to wear collections,

jewellery, dining and entertainment. For those that don't know what to get the guy or gal that has everything, perhaps a gift card will do the trick.

For more information

and details about City Centre Bahrain Valentine's Day offers, and other promotions and offers, visit [www.facebook.com/citycentrebahrain](http://www.facebook.com/citycentrebahrain) or [www.citycentrebahrain.com](http://www.citycentrebahrain.com).

### Alosra Supermaket

1. Florida's natural premium orange juice no pulp 1.8ltr – BD1.750
2. Peaches US per kg – BD1.950
3. Kraft cheese string original 160gm – BD2.495
4. Nectarines per kg – BD1.950
5. Nada Greek yoghurt honey 160gm – 300fils
6. New Zealand beef mince per kg – BD3.990

### Lulu Hypermarket

1. Banno Indian basmati rice 5kg – BD3
2. Baraka sunflower oil 4ltr – BD2
3. Maza sugar 10kg – BD2
4. Nido milk powder pouch 400gm – BD1
5. Nutella chocolate spread 1kg – BD3
6. Sadia chicken 1200gm 2pcs – BD2

### Al Jazira Supermarket

1. Sun tropics organic coco rolls salted caramel – BD2.800
2. Sun tropics organic banana chips unsweetened – BD3.400
3. Sun tropics organic banana chips – BD3.400
4. Brad's organic sesame blue chips – BD1.525
5. Brad's organic multigrain chips – BD1.525

## Techtronic Specials



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

	Item	Description	Location	Price
1	Food processor	Optima food processor, 1,000W, 1.8ltr blender jar, 2.5ltr mixing bowl, citrus juicer, food chopper, fine slicer, course shredder, kneading accessory, egg mixer, French fry cutter, potato slurry cutter and spatula.	Ansar Gallery	BD19.900
2	Washing machine	Clickon semi-automatic washing machine, twin tubm 7kg and powerful motor.	Ansar Gallery	BD34.900
3	Smart TV	Samsung 65 inches, 4K Smart LED TV.	Sharaf DG	BD324.990
4	Instax mini polaroid	Fujifilm Instax mini 9 instant film camera, flamingo pink, AA batteries, selfie mirror, automatic exposure measurement and macro lens – 35cm to 50cm.	Sharaf DG	BD31.490 plus 10 free sheets *Offer available until February 14, 2020
5	Hair straightener	Philips straight care vivid ends straightener, ionic conditioning, cool tip, 11 digital settings, 130C-230C and 30 seconds heat up time.	Sharaf DG	BD19.900 *Offer available until February 14, 2020

Email your gadget stories to [mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com](mailto:mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com)

### GADGETS OF THE WEEK

**What is it called?** Tile Pro Tracker

**What does it do?** This small and nifty gadget will help you find anything you attach it to as long as your phone is within Bluetooth range of 400 feet. In case you lose an item, you'll receive notifications when the gadget comes within range of another Tile user. Available in black and white, **Cost: BD19**



**What is it called?** HP Sprocket Select Portable Printer

**What does it do?** It is a stylish gadget that's capable of printing 2.3-by-3.4-inch photos on Zero Ink paper. It's equipped with Bluetooth 5.0 connectivity for a strong connection with a smartphone. You can edit photos before printing with Sprocket's mobile app. There's even an option to interact with the prints in augmented reality. **Cost: BD44**



**What is it called?** Nintendo Switch Lite

**What does it do?** The gadget is designed solely for handheld gaming. It has a lightweight design and a more compact 5.5-inch display than the regular Switch. It can come in yellow, turquoise, and gray. It's compatible only with games that support handheld. **Cost: BD75**



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



# EatingOut

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

## Where East meets West



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

**T**HERE was a time when Tala Bashmi, former captain of the vibrant Venus football team, was scoring on the pitch and now the talented Bahraini chef is scoring high marks in her kitchen at Gulf Hotel Bahrain's Fusions restaurant.

The 31-year-old, who competed in the popular reality Top Chef Middle East (TV cooking series), is heading the signature rooftop restaurant, Fusions by Tala, at the five-star luxury property and is doing so flawlessly from what I observed at her pre-launch dinner service event earlier in the week.

The culinary alchemist has transformed traditional Middle Eastern cuisine into contemporary works of art that are whimsical, sensory and nostalgic.

Her creativity knows no bounds as she brought smiles to the faces of lucky first-time tasters during the event that were invited to sample her dishes.

Justin Tomy, Fusions by Tala restaurant manager who shared that the fine dining section can accommodate 45 patrons comfortably, was eager to hear the feedback from the invited guests



and *Gulf Weekly* before tomorrow's official restaurant opening.

He said: "We are already fully booked for tomorrow and Valentine's Day but we still wanted to get our guests feedback. How else can we grow?"

"Chef Tala selected to serve her surprise menu to guests and people were

able to order a la carte too. Fusions by Tala is a truly chef driven concept where Tala creates modern Middle Eastern cuisine. She is a charismatic and energetic person that is young and fresh. You can see all her youthfulness and trendiness in her food too."

Justin was spot-on as we watched through the glass-walled partitions as Tala buzzed around in her kitchen with her culinary team, whisking, stirring and plating her dishes to be adored by her diners.

I was already impressed by her educational background and skills so I couldn't wait to see what surprises she had in store in her signature five course tasting menu.



Chef Tala and her creations

Tala attended the Culinary Arts Academy in Luzern, Switzerland for two years and received an MBA in Culinary Management. She interned at in Switzerland at the Les Trois Rois in Basel and Prisma in Park Hotel Vitznau. She joined the Fusions team at the end of September 2018 as senior sous chef before taking up the head chef's role and responsibilities and officially being appointed three months later. She also received the coveted Gulf Hotel Group's CEO Award, presented annually in recognition of an 'outstanding contribution' to the success of the company by an employee at any level of the organisation in 2019.

Now, let's discuss her artistic craft — her food. I was seated with photographer Honey Sharma and marketing manager Jalal Muradi.

Tala weaved past tables meeting her guests and getting them ready for the flavourful journey to come. The amuse bouche was a variety of cauliflower and romanesco from Bahrain all from the farmers market on top of a cerial puree, capers and a couple of foie gras which Tala described as a little explosion of really nice local produce.

She started us off fresh!

For the first course, we had sous vide salmon with cucumber and fennel with mehyawa salt. Mehyawa is an Iranian cuisine tangy sauce made out of fermented fish. It is an acquired taste that I personally am not a fan of as it's usually overpowering. Not in this case though. This salmon was everything! I could have had two more of those salmon dishes and called it a night. It was refreshing, summery and melted like butter.

The next course was the Cheeba which is Bahraini prawn dumplings stuffed with raisins and onions in a tamarind sauce. It was divine. A coconut sorbet with cured egg yolk appeared to cleanse our palette which was another one of my favourites. My main was delish. I opted for seafood while Jalal chose the meaty bamia dish that was tender and juicy. My bouillabaisse curry, featuring octopus, clams and seasonal seafood, was a scrumptious and savoury under-the-sea medley that made me wiggle in my seat. It was flavourful

to the last bite.

The evening ended with a fudgy chocolate sponge cake delight with pistachio ganache and salted whey caramel sauce dripped all over the cake. It was the perfect dessert to end the flavourful food voyage. Tala took us on a tantalising trip of the senses. I can't wait for her outdoor terrace to open up as well.

Check out the restaurant by following @fusions.bh on Instagram and book a table by calling 17713000 or emailing fbm@gulfbahrain.com

Scan the QR code below to sample the experience.



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# Leisure Guide



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

## Today (February 12)

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 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

## The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain



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

## Friday (February 14)

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**  
☎ 17115500

## Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay



sushi to pastries while the live band and DJ keep the beat flowing all afternoon. There is a dedicated buffet and special activities for children organised by the Bulbul Kids Club team. Enjoy complimentary access to the pool and beach at this buffet, priced at BD27net with soft drinks and BD35net with unlimited selected beverages.

❖ **Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain**  
☎ 77707070

at BD31net with unlimited selected beverages.

❖ **Crowné Plaza Manama**  
☎ 17531122

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

❖ **Le Meridien City Centre**  
☎ 17171441

Spread across Selections, Medzo and Legendz restaurants is the 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

## Saturday (February 15)

In celebration of waffles, from noon to 9pm today, 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, every waffle lover will find their unique tastes covered. Priced at BD9net for a selection of homemade waffles and one beverage.

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

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

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

❖ **The Westin City Centre**  
☎ 17171441

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



Every Wednesday evening at Elements Pool and Lounge, enjoy unlimited sushi for BD9.9net from 7pm to 11pm.

❖ **Intercontinental-Regency**  
☎ 17227777

From Monday to Saturday during dinner service, savour the special Kitchen Dining Experience at CUT by Wolfgang Puck. Embark on a menu-free bespoke and interactive culinary journey unlike the typical setting of a restaurant dining table. Priced at BD48net for five courses with soft beverage pairing, BD60net for seven courses with soft beverage pairings,

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

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

Treat your family and friends to a delicious brunch at Brasserie Royale every Friday from 1pm to 5pm with an array of options from seafood and



Every Friday, from 12:30pm to 4pm, feast and party the Mexican way at the newest brunch offering in La Mosaic. Indulge in authentic delicacies from the Mexican food station and enjoy Mexican beverages served to your table, and dance the brunch away with the house DJ's Latin American classics. Priced

## 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 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 your Pre-Launch Special and relax and unwind every day until Sunday. For BD10 net/person at the food savoury area, guests can enjoy free access to Lagoon Beach facilities

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

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

❖ **Reef Clubhouse, Reef Island**  
☎ 77900700

## Reef Clubhouse





## OUR FAVOURITE VALEN-DINE'S

Treat your loved one to a romantic Afternoon Tea in the Bay View Lounge from tomorrow to Saturday, from noon to 9pm. Choose from 18 loose-leaf teas and indulge in a selection of finger sandwiches, fresh scones and 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

On Friday, from 7pm to 11pm, spoil your loved one with a six-course dining experience at Brasserie Royale where delicious food and picturesque views under the glistening chandeliers will leave you delighted. 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 on Friday, indulge in a Valentine-themed buffet, 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 person, starting at 6pm.

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

● 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

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

Stop by on Valentine's Day 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 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 and a finger bowl with rose petals. Priced at BD24 per couple.

❖ **Crowne Plaza Manama**  
☎ 17531122

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 18)

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

## CULTURAL SHOWCASE



Spring of Culture is back for its 15th season, with a diverse line-up of initiatives and collaborations that cater to various tastes, interests and age groups, under the slogan of Dilmun: Land of Density. Here are some of our favourites!

The Dive in the Jurassic will continue its display until March 16 bringing an interactive exhibition with touchable artefacts and immersive CGI that will submerge visitors into the ancient sea.

❖ **Bahrain National Museum**

Every Thursday at 5pm, stop by the heart of Manama for a spectrum of music, arts and cultural events, with a different realm of heritage highlighted every week. This Thursday, the "A Nation's Love: Woven Threads" artistic workshop will teach youth about tools and methods to weave wool as they create the Bahrain flag.

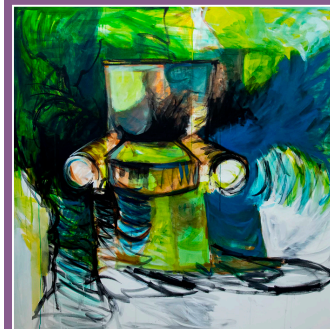
❖ **Bab Al Bahrain**

Every Thursday at 8pm, set sail with the Mohammed bin Faris Band in a lyrical voyage through the tales of a pearly diver's life from festivities to farewells.

❖ **Mohammed bin Faris Music Hall**

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 6pm, take an interactive and moving audio-visual journey through the past to the present Bahrain and then back again.

❖ **Qal'at Al Bahrain Site Museum**



From Saturday until March 26, check out Hala Al Khalifa's latest collection of chair and sofa-centric series of paintings on canvas, an exploration of feelings of belonging, emptiness and loss.

❖ **Memory of the Place: Bin Matar House**

A solo exhibition of Bahraini artist Mohammed Al Mahdi honouring the work and teachings of Fernando Botero opens on Tuesday at 7pm.

❖ **Albareh Art Gallery**

beverage pairing.

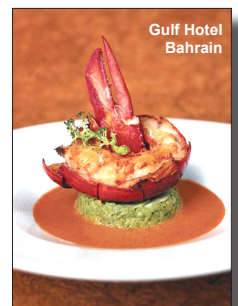
❖ **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**  
☎ 17586499

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

Every Tuesday from 7pm to 11pm, treat yourself to an unrivalled all you can eat Sushi experience at the Waves seafood restaurant. Priced at BD10net, inclusive of a glass of grape or a fresh juice.

❖ **Crowne Plaza Manama**  
☎ 17531122



Gulf Hotel Bahrain

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 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 16)

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



The Westin City Centre

breakfast platter by Chef Samara, served with karak tea. Priced at BD9.5net

❖ **Intercontinental-Regency**  
☎ 17227777

From 7pm to 11:30pm, satisfy your team cravings at Plums with three of the best cuts – US Black Angus, Australian Kobe Wagyu and Irish grass-

fed - together served with a side salad, truffle fries, creamed spinach and sautéed mushrooms. The Sundown Grill is priced at BD38 per person, including one special grape beverage.

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

### Monday (February 17)

From Monday to Thursday from noon to 3pm, explore the 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 Spices restaurant, starting at 7pm, every Monday during February, challenge yourself to an Indian feast of vegetarian and non-vegetarian kebabs,



Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain



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# Fashion Weekly

Keeping you in on the latest trends and what they wore in the past by Mai Al Khatib-Camille

## Bold BOSS

**S**ITCOMS and dramedy's often feature a recurring skit of a spouse forgetting Valentine's Day and rushing to the store to pick up a last minute gift to secure safe snooze in bed-town rather than on couch-ville.

Here's a trick to help remember the romantic day, what colour outfit is your spouse sporting? The second it's Valentine's Day, every shade of red and pink comes flying out the wardrobe and onto your person in a way to signify that, "Yes I'm on board this romance train!"

The colour pink symbolises sweetness, romance, femininity and charm. As for red, it is the colour of passion, love, power and strength. It conveys confidence, elicits emotion and is used professionally to capture attention. It's also the shade used in BOSS's bold spring summer 2020 runway capsule collection. The line, which is in stores now, not only captures the brand's shared passion for craftsmanship and expressive style, but it's just the right look to make that fashion statement for V-Day.

The collection features daring dresses, layered over looks, fluid coats with details and utility elements which is everything you will need for your special Valentine's night out. The line is available in crisp cotton or crafted from nappa leather and ultra-soft suede. There is a BOSS boutique in City Centre Bahrain.



## United we can

**A**DIDAS, known for its iconic Superstar shoes, is celebrating five decades of culture makers, boundary pushers and limit breakers with the launch of its new line entitled **Change Is a Team Sport**.

Throughout 2020, adidas Originals will use the power of teamwork on a series of initiatives designed to create and inspire positive change in local communities across the globe.

The popular brand is bringing together stars from the worlds of music, fashion, sport and art to showcase that change doesn't happen alone.

"Change Is a Team Sport celebrates the idea that when creators join together, we can drive and inspire change", said Torben Schumacher, general manager adidas Originals & Style Global Brand. "Much like the way the adidas Superstar has been the shoe for game-changing creators and teams for 50 years and counting, we've looked to our adidas family to inspire the next generation and create a new legacy for one of the most iconic shoes of all time."

Change Is a Team Sport kicks off with a film directed by and starring Jonah Hill, featuring a cast of adidas' family of creators.

The film follows skater Jenn Soto as she makes her way through a facility where creators from different crafts and generations come together to work for change.

Meeting an array of different creators along the way, all decked out in black tracksuits and Superstars, Soto's trip through the facility underscores the fact that it's teamwork that drives meaningful change.

The film also features Ninja, Kerwin Frost, Blackpink, Pharrell Williams, Yara Shahidi, Anitta, Mariah Duran, Mark Gonzales, Blondey, Tyshawn Jones, Liz Cambage, Pogba, Nigo, Jackson Wang, Chris Severn, Mette Towley, Tracy McGrady and Anna Isoniemi.

It was produced by adidas Originals' global agency of record Johannes Leonardo.



Subscribe to Gulf Weekly's YouTube Channel.

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

**P**urchasing the perfect present for your partner for Valentine's Day can either be an absolute delight or a horrible nightmare, especially when you're plum out of ideas.

Thankfully, Middle Eastern online retailer Namshi has unveiled a carefully curated collection of gifts for the guy-on-the-go. Choose from dapper footwear styles, slick leather goods as well as a range of quirky games and tech accessories that are sure to make your gift stand out from the rest. Think musky scents, travel bags and cosy sweaters too. Check out the collection by visiting [www.namshi.com](http://www.namshi.com)





# FinTechFocus

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



Ronnie

**B**AHRAIN'S own social media network, *GDNLife* was launched earlier this week, giving residents an opportunity to share stories and events while engaging with the Bahraini community.

The new website, added to Al Hilal Group's integrated publishing platform, establishes *GulfWeekly* and the *Gulf Daily News (GDN)* as the only media in Bahrain with a social media network dedicated to the kingdom's community of citizens and expatriates.

Ronnie Middleton, Al Hilal Group's managing director, said: "Newspapers have had to embrace new technology as well as the accompanying social media which has advanced significantly in the last decade. We have been part of that with our print edition, online edition as well as our various social media channels on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn."

"Three years ago, we asked ourselves, what more can we do to interact with our readers. With everyone using social media these days, a good way of getting our readers more involved is to provide a platform for citizen journalists. That's what *GDNLife* aims to be, by allowing readers to share videos, pictures and stories with the local community."

The platform encompasses

# Bahrain's new platform



**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
naman@gulfweekly.com

15 categories, including food, motoring, sports, travel, technology, fashion, education, entertainment and photography.

*GDNLife* is also the latest addition to *GulfWeekly*'s online portfolio, giving advertisers unprecedented reach to Bahrain's vibrant community.

Ronnie added: "We now have four elements that provide our clients with an integrated publishing platform – print, online, social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and now, our own interactive social media designed specifically for Bahrain."

"So when an advertiser comes to us, they are getting an integrated publishing solution and intense community platform unlike anything offered by any



other media. We decided to go down this unprecedented route to provide massive reach, more so than an individual blogger may have and a chance to be an active part of the Bahraini community."

The platform has been designed, created and is supported by Bahrain-based North Star Media, aiming to provide a platform that cuts through the noise of global content to deliver topics tailored to the interests of local residents and citizens.

All submitted content is moderated by the *GDN*

Online team, to ensure no offensive content is uploaded and a high standard of quality is maintained.

Andre Bigg, creative director of Al Hilal Group, said: "I, along with a team of diverse designers and programmers, designed this over the last year. We noticed that on social media platforms like Facebook, it's very easy to get lost in a sea of information and you tend to see stories based only on profiles or groups you choose to follow."

"With *GDNLife*, we show visitors stories relevant to Bahrain at large, with the option to drill down into 15 specific categories if they desire. The desktop and mobile responsive platform has also been designed for longer form content, so if users have an interesting story related to a photo or video they upload, we have built in tools to help them create and showcase their



**Gulf Daily News editor-in-chief George Williams**

content creatively."

This latest addition to Al Hilal Group's portfolio which includes *GulfWeekly*, *Arabian Business Community (ABC) Bahrain*, *Gulf Construction*, *Gulf Industry*, *Oil & Gas News* and *Travel & Tourism News*, aims to provide a cutting-edge platform for up-and-coming social media influencers and bloggers to reach their local audience.

*GDN Online* editor Stan Szczewka said: "*GDN Online* is the voice of Bahrain and now *GDNLife* is the voice of the community. Readers can now share their news and views, trials and tribulations and everything going on in their lives on this one-of-a-kind platform. Hundreds of people have



Stan

created accounts and uploaded content within the first few hours of the launch. "I encourage everyone to create an account today and share significant moments of their life with the community. This is life. This is *GDNLife*."

Scan the QR code below to create an account and follow *GulfWeekly* on *GDNLife*!



Subscribe to *GulfWeekly*'s YouTube Channel.



# A SPRING FULL OF



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

**T**HE kingdom is set to come alive with a series of spectacular cultural, musical and artistic performances as well as educational workshops and exhibitions as part of the annual Spring of Culture celebrations.

The festival, which is in its 15th edition, aims to keep both young and old entertained throughout Bahrain starting from February 25 until the end of April and Shaikha Hala bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, the director general of Culture and Arts at the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, is particularly excited about the first event.

"We look forward to a really interesting edition of Spring of Culture this year and of course we start on the 25th with a very special performance held at the Bahrain National Theatre. The performance highlights the work of Zaha Hadid, the late architect who passed away," said Shaikha Hala. "She is an incredible woman, who gave a lot to architecture all around the world, and in honour of her legacy and her work, there is a performance that will take place here. I look forward to attending it with everyone."

This mystical show will be held on Arab Tourism Day, an occasion which was adopted when Manama was the Capital of Arab Tourism in 2013 to mark the birthday of the great Arab traveler Ibn Battuta.

It will be commemorated by the contemporary dance performance called *Hadid Tears* celebrating Zaha's legacy. The show will explore her connection to the Sufi dervishes of the Mawlaw'iyya Order through circular movements paralleling her architecture, a study of gravity and the notion of cathartic release when fusing with the infinite. It will be conducted by the Egyptian Modern Dance Theatre & Cairo Opera House and directed by Walid Aouni.

This edition of the festival, which is organised by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), the Economic Development



Mubarak Najem



Ms Lauryn Hill

Board (EDB) and the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research, in cooperation with Albareh Gallery and La Fontaine Centre for Contemporary Arts, also comes as part of BACA's year-long celebrations for 2020 under the slogan of Dilmun: Land of Density.

During the official launch, held at Bahrain National Theatre, Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, President of BACA, said: "This edition oversees a variety of cultural activities along the lines of civilizational development, reflecting the slogan that we have selected to underscore all our activities for 2020."

"The upcoming two months will present residents and visitors with diverse activities and eclectic programs to attend including literary, musical, fine arts, theatrical events and more".

Shaikha Mai also expressed

her gratitude to Khalid Humaidan, chief executive of EDB, praised private institutions for their annual contributions as

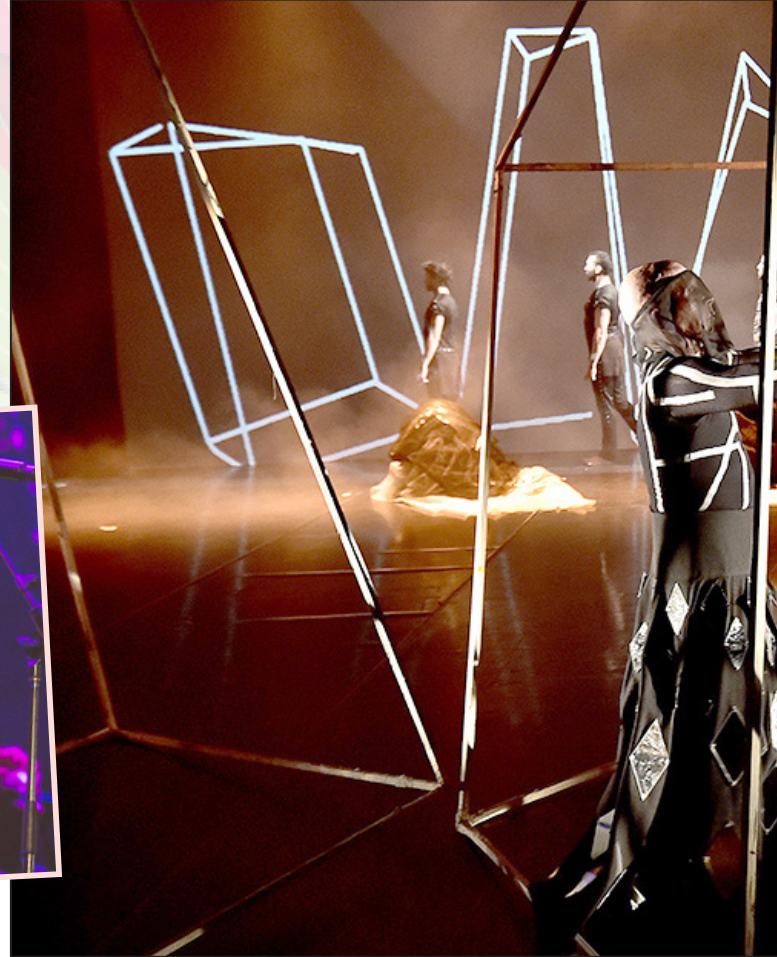
well as thanked supporters and its contributors from Arab and foreign embassies.

As the events agenda appeared on a giant screen at the conference,

Tunisian singer Faiza Al-Arba'i performed traditional *tarab* tunes including songs by Umm Kulthum, Fayrouz and Sabah Fakhri, setting the mood for what theatrical and musicals were set to come.

The Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research welcomes Japanese musician Naoko Kikuchi on February 27 for an evening entitled *Koto Player*. She will perform classical tunes on the traditional instrument.

Also on February 27, at the Cultural Hall, will be a performance by the Sri



Lankan Dance Company, the Channa-Upuli Performing Arts Foundation. It is a collaborative effort with the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Bahrain.

One concert that is set to enthrall music-lovers is the return of Ms Lauryn Hill. The rhythm and blues soulful singer is scheduled to appear at Bahrain Bay on February 28 at 8:30pm.

The Grammy award winner is best known for her hit tracks with the Fugees in the 90s *Killing Me Softly* and *Ready or Not*. She followed this with 10 Grammy award nominations for her album *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*. She is now back on the scene in full force celebrating the extended 20th anniversary of her hit album.

The Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research also brings Lebanese qanun player Elie Achkar and Barcelona native and guitarist Manuel Delgado on March 2 for a collaborative concert.

PopUp Marlon Banda show



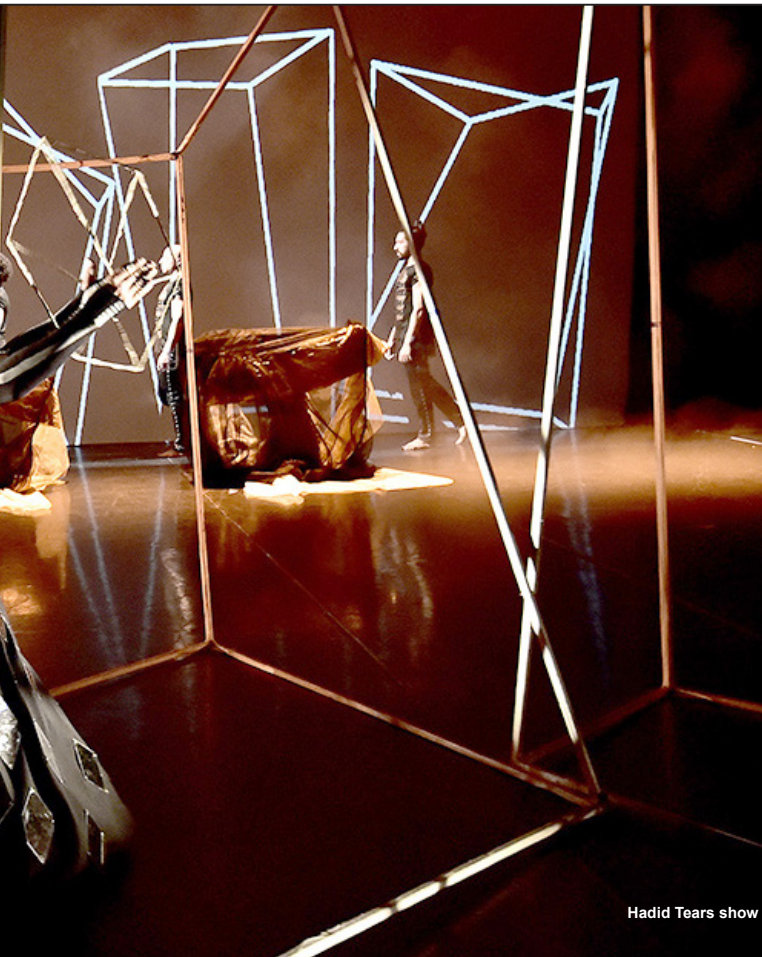
The "Mr. Men & Little Misses" puppetry show will take stage at The Cultural Hall on March 4, 5 and 7.

Other musical performances include singers Omar Kamal

and Banah on March 6 at 8pm at Bahrain Bay with a *Fusion of the East & The West*. The concert combines a special mix of English and Arabic classics showcased in



# F SHOWS



Hadid Tears show



a new and modern way. The Australia-based theatrical dance performance *The Merchants of Bollywood* is scheduled for March 26

and 27 at Bahrain Bay and the Bulgarian Symphony Orchestra with *Melodies of a Beautiful Time* will be held on March 28 at the Bahrain National Theatre conducted by Bahraini Maestro Mubarak Najem and Bulgarian Maestro Diane Pavlov.

Palestinian pianist Fadi Deeb and Palestinian-Japanese artist Mariam Tamari join forces for an extraordinary performance on March 30 entitled *From Debussy to Darwish* at The Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research.

Bahraini folk music is a key part of this edition as the Mohammed bin Faris Music Hall will host the Mohammed bin Faris Band every Thursday regaling audiences with tales of a pearl diver's life through festive melodies, working songs and farewell ballads.

Dar Al Muharraq invites all to attend evenings highlighting the Bahraini

Fijiri tradition whereas Dar Al Riffa spotlights a variety of local folk traditions within Bahrain.

A storytelling and dance event entitled *Traditional Japanese Vaudeville Theatre*, a collaborative effort with the Embassy of Japan and sponsored by K E Kanoo -Mazda Bahrain, will showcase two distinct forms of Japanese performance art — traditions of the comedic Rakugo storytelling that traces back 400 years and the ritualistic Daikagura stemming from the Edo period. It will be held at the Cultural Hall.

Meanwhile, the German Embassy will be bringing the critically acclaimed, one-of-a-kind concert *Pianotainment* to perform on March 13 at the Cultural Hall as well.

The Cultural Hall presents a modern dance performance in collaboration with the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt entitled *Raya & Sakina* on March 25 and 26.

The Qal'at Al Bahrain



*Greetings to Fernando*, art exhibition by Mohammed Al Mahdi

Site Museum returns for the ongoing *The Sound & Light Show* every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, taking audiences on an audiovisual journey towards the depths of history when the Dilmun civilisation reigned and then back to the present.

While some look forward to the performances, others get excited about the workshops, lectures and exhibitions.

Shaikha Hala added: "The Spring of Culture is one of the most amazing platforms in the kingdom of Bahrain that brings together a lot of entities under one umbrella celebrating art, culture, performances. I'm particularly proud that there is a strong workshop and educational programme that takes place alongside the Spring of Culture events. It's not only about entertainment; it's also about engaging the public and our young audiences. There are so many events to follow. I believe that there are many that suit all audiences."

The Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research presents various literary and intellectual lectures. Prof. Dr Albert De Roeck will discuss his experiences working on the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest and highest-energy particle collider and the largest machine in the world, on March 4.

Additionally, Ibrahim Issa's lecture entitled *A Novel of History* or *A Historical Novel*



Naoko Kikuchi

is on March 16.

Beyond literature, this season sheds light on Arabic poetry through readings at the House of Poetry: Ebrahim Al Arrayed.

Children are also invited to attend the Folk Storytelling event on February 22 at Dar Al Muharraq, and BACA will host a Medicinal Plants tour at the Qal'at Al Bahrain Site Museum on March 7.

Additionally, BACA will host the Pearl Path Board Games League on March 28 at Siyadi Public Square in Muharraq.

Cinephiles have a breadth of phenomenal films to look forward to as well. For example, the Tunisian Film Festival at the Bahrain National Museum will screen films on February 26 and March 4 and 14. As for workshops, participants

can learn Arabic calligraphy through designated workshops, traditional crafts and creative skills in cinema, design and more.

To find out more about the different events, workshops and exhibitions visit [www.springofculture.org](http://www.springofculture.org) or follow @springofculture on Instagram.

**Weekly Spring of Culture event details – P8 & 9**  
Scan the QR code for the official launch.



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# Property Weekly

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

## SPACIOUS AND SERENE

A spacious and green landscaped home is available for rent in the sought-after Riffa Views Lagoon Estate.

The semi-furnished five-bedroomed villa, which has a built-up area of 472sqm, includes a grand majlis (lounge), on the ground floor along with a dining room and a family room. There is also an open-plan kitchen, an outdoor kitchen, a laundry room and a guest bedroom with a built-in wardrobe and an ensuite bathroom.

There is also a guest closet and a separate vanity room near the kitchen.

A second family room can

### FACTS AT A GLANCE

**Location:** Lagoons Estates at the Riffa Views.

**Reference number:** VI292

**Rental price:** BD1,400

**Bedrooms:** 5

**Living rooms:** 3

**Bathrooms:** 5

**Additional information:** The villa is nearby a shopping area, school, golf course and country club. For further information on this and other homes call Star Real Estate 17298210.



be found on the first floor along with four sizable bedrooms. The master bedroom has a dressing



area, an ensuite bathroom and a balcony overlooking the development. The other bedrooms also consist of built-in wardrobes and ensuite bathrooms and two of them also have terraces. There is a maid's quarter and as for parking, there is a garage for two vehicles.

As for amenities, there is an

18-hole PGA championship Colin Montgomerie-designed course and a 9-hole executive golf course.

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



## 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

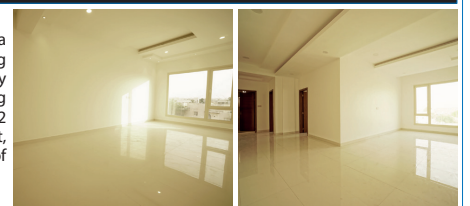
Classification: RA

### 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

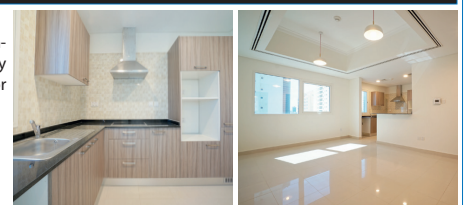


### FOR SALE! FREEHOLD BRAND NEW APARTMENT MINUTES FROM SEEF

#### Spacious Property Features:

Open plan kitchen, living and dining area, 1 ensuite 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





# GDNlife

Bahrain's Social Media Platform



## Come to life.....

GDNLife is Bahrain's own social media platform designed to bring together all members of our diverse and vibrant community.

With 15 separate categories, GDNLife has something for everyone. Whatever your passion or interest you will find a section where you can post your own stories, videos, pictures and comments about your favourite topic on Bahrain's leading English language media.

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## In focus



The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) launched its Diabetes Mobile Unit programme for the new academic year, with a trip to Safiyya bint Abdul Muttalib Primary Girls School in Hamad Town. The visit was the first in a series of trips to schools around the country. It featured students from the University's senior nursing class, raising awareness of type 2 diabetes and how to prevent the disease through a number of interactive educational games and activities.



In line with the Rotary International's January theme of 'Vocation', the Rotary Club of Salmaniya arranged a vocational visit to Peninsula Farms. The members toured the farms and learned about hydroponic farming techniques. The tour was given by the general manager Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.



Yousif & Aysha Almoayyed Charity made a financial donation of BD 3,000 to the Future Society for Youth for the Bahrain Smile initiative to support children with cancer. Zahra Hamza, a representative of the charity, handed the donation to Sabah Al Zayani, the president of Future Society for Youth, during a ceremony at the new headquarters of the Smile Initiative in Um Al-Hassam.

# SocialScene

Why wait a month! Join Social Scene every week

## Sweet tour



Members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bahrain (AmCham) enjoyed a tour of the US-based snacks company Mondelez International's state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in Bahrain International Investment Park. It currently produces Oreo cookies, Barni soft cakes, Belvita biscuits as well as Tang powdered beverage.

## Promoting tourism



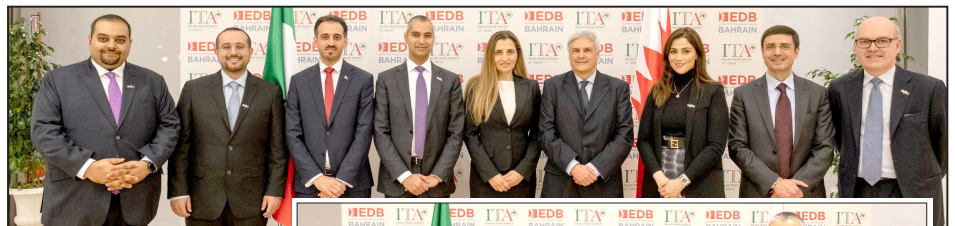
The Acting Director of marketing and tourism promotion directorate at the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Dr Ali Follad, took part in the 9th meeting of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CTC), one of the technical committees of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). The CTC meeting aims to enhance tourism ties among participating countries while providing a highly sustainable and constructive environment to develop the tourism sector as a whole.

## Going green



A tree plantation drive was held at the Indian School Riffa campus along with the Lion's Club members attended. The Lion's Club of Riffa donated a spectrum of flowering and medicinal trees to adorn the school's front boundary walls. The event involved the student council of the school.

## Trade boost



The Italian Trade Agency announced the opening of an office in Bahrain after signing an agreement with the Bahrain Economic Development Board, on the sidelines of an official delegation visit to the Italian Republic, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister.





# Film Weekly



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



## Birds of a feather

**T**HERE are very few opinions that achieve consensus in the comic book community – *Suicide Squad* being an abomination is one of them.

With a ridiculous amount of hype around the making of the movie as well as the mayor of melodrama Jared Leto involved, *Suicide Squad* sullied the name of DC comics, at least until the recent chain of excellent movies from the DC extended universe.

Building on the success of *Wonder Woman*, *Birds of a Feather: And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn* tells a story that is both entertaining and emotionally satisfying to those who have watched Batman's most famous supervillain abuse his girlfriend and biggest fan through the years.

The movie starts off with a cartoon-animated retelling of Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie)'s childhood and encounter with the Joker, all the way up to her final breakup with the killer clown. This is the first time we are shown that despite most of her depictions, she really has built herself up from nothing

with the Joker being her fatal flaw... much like *Suicide Squad* the movie. Alright, that's enough Jared jabs.

Right after the life recap, Harley goes on a break-up party spree involving the usual hallmarks of an 'uncoupling'

### BIRDS OF PREY (AND THE FANTABULOUS EMANCIPATION OF ONE HARLEY QUINN)

**CAST:** Margot Robbie, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ewan McGregor

**DIRECTORS:** Cathy Yan

**GENRE:** Action, Adventure, Crime

**RATING:** R

**RUNTIME:** 109 minutes

including a new haircut, aggravated assault and a hyena named after her ex's broody bat-crazy soul mate.

And she decides to finally and very publicly update her relationship status by blowing up Ace Chemicals, the site of her transformation into The Clown Prince of Crime's princess.

As all the people she irked over the years are finally free to kill Harley, we celebrate her emancipation by diving into four interlocked stories as

narrated by the former Miss Joker.

We meet our villain Roman Sionis (played by the ever enigmatic Ewan McGregor), a ruthless crime lord, who wants to take over the city. Yes, very original. Jokes aside, and trust me, there's so many terrible jokes by Roman that I began to wonder if he was auditioning for the role of Mr Harley Quinn, Ewan always gives one of those performances you can never take your eyes off, no matter if he is the hero or villain. And

his bromance with Victor Zsasz (Chris Messina), one of the most sadistic and psychopathic killers in the DC universe, is hilarious yet nuanced.

We are also introduced to Renee Montoya (Rosie Perez), the stereotypical cop who steals evidence, pursues the truth and kicks butt for breakfast. Black Canary, i.e. Dinah Lance (Jurnee Smollett-Bell) gives a memorable voice to our crew, which is rounded

off with Cassandra Cain (Ella Jay Basco) and Huntress i.e. Helena Bertinelli (Mary Elizabeth Winstead).

The movie is predictable in some ways, but a re-imagining of the comic book universe in many more ways. While some parts are a slow burn, the action is much better paced and extremely satisfying to watch, with fantastically choreographed and entertaining yet gruesome fights.

Yes, there were plot holes. Yes, it sometimes seemed like a smoothie of moments kidnapped from the Marvel universe. And yes, character traits often seemed incongruent or altogether missing when compared to the comic books.

But it had surprisingly complex characters, beautiful fight sequences and a car chase with roller skates. It was fun, interesting and had just the right amount (none) of Jared for any Joker-related movie. For that last bit alone, it earns its four popcorns.

### NAMAN'S VERDICT

1 popcorn – stay home  
5 popcorns – start queuing

**OGN**  
OIL & GAS NEWS

The energy industry's trade journal for the GCC region

[www.oilandgasnewsonline.com](http://www.oilandgasnewsonline.com)

## 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:** City Centre



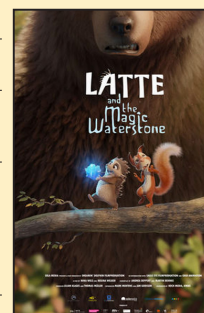
### Latte and the Magic Waterstone

**DIRECTOR:** Mimi Maynard, Regina Welker

**CAST:** Ashley Bornancin, Danny Fehsenfeld, Leslie L. Miller

**PLOT:** Latte, a hedgehog and Tijum the squirrel embark on a journey to recover the magic waterstone from the claws of the despicable Bear King and save the forest

**SHOWING IN:** Oasis Juffair (Kids), Seef II City Centre, Seef



### The Room

**DIRECTOR:** Christian Volckman

**CAST:** Olga Kurylenko, Kevin Janssens, Joshua Wilson

**PLOT:** Matt and Kate buy an isolated house where they discover a strange room that grants them unlimited material wishes. But, after two miscarriages, what they desire most is a child.

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



## imdb movie charts

Current Position	Title	Weekend Takings	Gross to date
1	Birds of Prey: And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn	\$33M	\$33M
2	Bad Boys for Life	\$12M	\$166M
3	1917	\$9M	\$133M
4	Dolittle	\$7M	\$64M
5	Jumanji: The Next Level	\$6M	\$299M
6	The Gentlemen	\$4M	\$27M
7	Gretel & Hansel	\$4M	\$12M
8	Knives Out	\$2M	\$159M
9	Little Women	\$2M	\$103M
10	Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker	\$2M	\$511M





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# Write to the editor

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

**Who is the @KhaleejiGirl? She is the voice of women across the region, touching on poignant topics and what is close to her heart. She has captured the attention of men and women on Instagram and will be sharing her thoughts with our readers too.**

## FAILURE DOES NOT EQUAL SHAME

Ignore the way us girls were raised. We need to learn that failure and mistakes are not things for a @KhaleejiGirl to be ashamed of. They actually are things that are part of growing up for everyone.

So why does it seem like us women who grew up in the MENA region are scolded at every imperfection that occurs in our lives? Whether it's other people, be it both men and women alike who do this, or be it us functioning in self shaming of ourselves because we're used to continuing the cycle of self-negative talk.

But why do we do that? Even if we see this as a problem, it seems like it's a very rare thing that we do anything to stop it.



Now this of course is not limited to women living in the MENA region. In fact, this is not a new thing at all. We see this as a major debacle for all women around the world. But the underlying question then becomes, why haven't we done anything about it?

Are we waiting for someone to take the lead to paint a pretty positive image that fits every woman out there?

Whatever it is that women may be waiting for, if we're even waiting for something, I pray to God it will be the end of negative self-talk. Let's eliminate negative self-talk in its entirety.

By Noor K Alawayat

It was heartening to read the humane and sensitive viewpoints expressed by Zaidaan and Athena in last week's *Gulfweekly* related to the Coronavirus danger that has gripped the world in our new year of 2020.

The teenagers have their hearts in the right place while commenting on the way a tragedy like the Coronavirus disease is being trivialised on the internet and social media.

Life and death are sacred and profound aspects of humanity-never to be toyed with or cheapened for the sake of concocting inane humour.

The ability to laugh is a priceless treasure entrusted to mankind - to lighten the heaviness of life for both oneself and others around - though never to be used in an inconsiderate or distasteful manner.

Those who make light of death are those who have never yet had the misfortune of losing a



precious loved one - never trudged behind a beloved parent's hearse as a child, never kissed a dead child goodbye for the final time nor ever witnessed a young soldier breathe his last breath on a battlefield.

Young people like Zaidaan and Athena cause the flickering candle of hope to burn brightly with the noble sentiment: One for All and All for One.

In the unforgettable words of the renowned English poet John Donne:

No Man is an Island,  
Entire of Itself,  
Each is a piece of the  
Continent,

A part of the Main...  
Each Man's death  
diminishes me,

For I am involved in  
Mankind,

Therefore, send not to  
know for whom the bell tolls,  
It tolls for Thee.

Nivedita Kantipudi

**Editor's note:**  
Well said Nivedita. Well said!

## INFLUENTIAL STARS

Marilyn Monroe. Audrey Hepburn. Shah Rukh Khan. Celine Dion. They all have so much in common – they all discontinued trends, changed trends and built trends. Ever since the advent of movies, TV shows and songs, celebrity culture has only spread more and more. No one can deny that no one has influenced us more than actors, singers, reality stars and other celebrities.

From clothes to slang, brands to books, habits to culture (what up, Migos reference!), they mould so many aspects of our lives that sometimes, we don't even realise it. Therefore, considering how celebrities shower this 'influence' in our lives, I feel that this can be used very positively to raise awareness about global issues and topics of substance like domestic violence, climate change, feminism, peace and for standing up for what is right.

However, it is also important to realise that this power can easily be misused by some celebrities for spreading toxic content and breeding hatred amongst people for personal gain, publicity or out of personal views. When this translates to arrogance and hinders effective communication, it is imperative that we, as the audience, rationally decide what we should absorb and what we should not. Moreover, I feel that we need to accept that although

actors play multiple roles on screen, in reality, their opinions on education, the economy, politics and social issues are as unprofessional as any of ours unless they have significantly contributed or worked in a certain field. With *Twitter*, *Facebook*, *Instagram*, websites and other social media becoming more and more widespread, celebrities have more avenues to communicate to their fans at an increased frequency without the restriction of the earlier print and radio interviews. This influence has both a positive and a negative effect and it is up to us to decide how much we let this enter our lives.

He says,  
She says

Jane Fonda



From advertisements on the highways to screens on one's laptop, celebrities have a way of touching every aspect of our lives. Maybe watching Messi kick around a football while elegantly balancing a bottle of Pepsi on his elbow is just

the motivational kick - pun surprisingly unintended - that I need, to try out the sweet drink. Perhaps these famous faces are more influential than we actually think they are.

Being a celebrity, although glamorous in many ways, has its heavy set of burdens. Imagine being scrutinised with every step you take, judged for your personal choices and mocked for things out of your control.

While 'normal' people have the chance to live a 'normal' life, a celebrity's reality is far different - having their mistakes and growth looked on through by a magnifying glass by those around. However, I must say that there is a lot of positive influence that a celebrity can

bestow.

They have the power of their voice to be heard in a way that people might actually listen.

It is usually controversial topics, ones that need a voice, that are left alone by celebrities. In a world where human beings are driven by selfish desire, I understand their reserved motive. The power of voice can so easily be corrupted, twisted and misinterpreted - especially when that voice is that of a celebrity.

Celebrities have their public image to think about, whether they are willing to risk jeopardising their career for the sake of speaking out and having a stance.

That is what makes a celebrity's decision to speak out and use their powerful influence, for a noble cause, all the more admirable - the risk. Take Jane Fonda, the 82-year-old actress turned political activist who has even been arrested numerous times for taking part in and even arranging climate change protests.

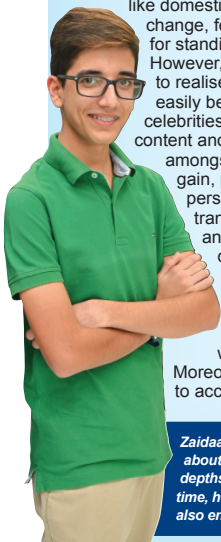
I think it has always been common for ordinary people to want to live life like a celebrity.

This time however, I think I have different reasons for wanting to.



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.

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



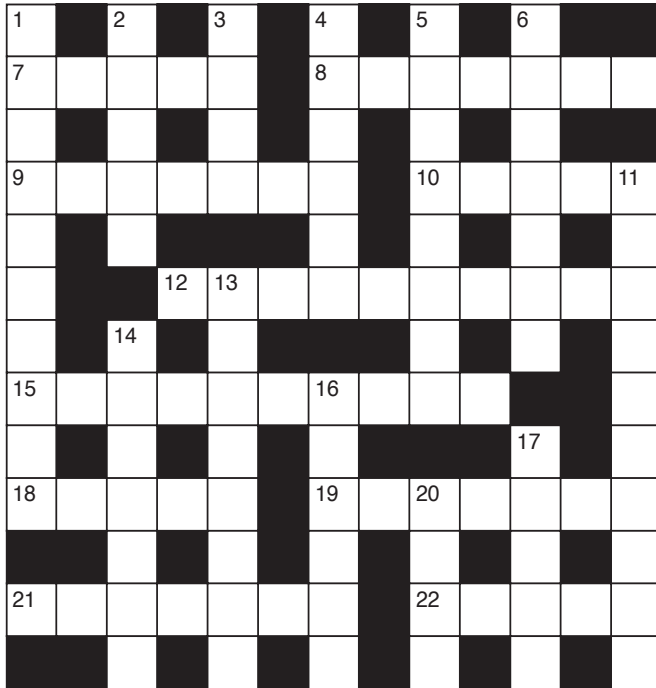


# cerebrally crust & crema



17214155 @crustandcrema crustandcremah

## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

7. Foster (5)
8. Issue (7)
9. Frequenter (7)
10. Helvetian (5)
12. Past times (4,4,2)
15. Prepared (2,3,5)
18. Circular (5)
19. Supply (7)
21. Performance (7)
22. Contempt (5)

### DOWN

1. Presiding (2,3,5)
2. Buy off (5)
3. Departed (4)
4. Vacation (6)
5. Countersign (8)
6. Sailor (7)
11. Keep mum (3,7)
13. Story (8)
14. Unwavering (7)
16. Embrace (6)
17. Trinket (5)
20. Hazard (4)

### who, what, where, when

WHO ... wrote *The Defence of Poetry* in 1821?

WHAT ... letter comes after X C V on a QWERTY keyboard?

WHERE ... was the first free settlement in Australia?

WHEN ... did Champlain found Quebec?

WHO ... was the 13th president of the US?

WHAT ... is Zuppa Inglese?

WHERE ... were the 1972 Olympics held?

WHEN ... was the Bank of England founded?

### just so

yggip

**MASTER**  
4

**B** *BEATRICE*

NO  
IS  
AC  
CO

## 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

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

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

### darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

**Across:** 1 Plausible; 8 Run; 9 Appreciable; 11 Science; 12 Ridge; 13 Praise; 15 Docile; 17 Erect; 18 Extinct; 20 Ill-mannered; 22 Cos; 23 Refreshed.

**Down:** 2 Lap; 3 Stern; 4 Boiled; 5 Embargo; 6 Bread-winner; 7 Increment; 10 Philatelist; 11 Supremacy; 14 Settler; 16 Behalf; 19 Tense; 21 Ewe.

**Who, What, Where, When:** Laomedan; My fault; Venice; William Hogarth; Mu; Alor Setar; 1946.

**Just So:** Every man jack, Eyes on the road, From first to last, Odds and ends

### Darn Tough Sudoku

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

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# MotoringWeekly

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## FERRARI FEVER..!



Get ready!



Gallop onto the circuit in these beauties

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

**I**TALIAN stallion motoring enthusiasts will soon have a spring in their steps when they hear the big news...the Ferrari Club Challenge has been introduced for the first time in the region.

The Challenge, unveiled by Ferrari Middle East, acts as a launching pad for 'Ferraristi' that are keen to take their driving prowess to the next level. It is apparently designed for the most spirited Ferrari driver with a curiosity to see how they stack up against the professionals, enjoying the chance to enjoy the sights and sounds of their luxury sportscars at 300kmph.

Giorgio Turri, general manager at Ferrari Middle East, said, "Ferraristi in the region have a lot of appetite to engage in adrenaline pumping track experiences



Discussing the Challenge

and Ferrari Club Challenge will provide them with that and more.

"The excitement we got from our customers once they realised this opportunity was really encouraging for us, and we expect the Ferrari Club Challenge Middle East to grow a lot over the next few years."

The events are not races, but are designed to enhance the driving skills of participating enthusiasts with every car equipped with telemetry devices to record lap times. The members-only

experience will be overseen by Ferrari instructors across the track days, as drivers will get to learn the finer skills of racing in a safe and nurturing environment where they are pitched against the clock and themselves, as opposed to other competitors.

Ferrari 488 Challenge Evo and 488 Challenge owners are presented with this platform to experience the thrill of circuit driving and to develop the abilities required to later become qualified Ferrari Challenge racers.

The first season of

Ferrari Club Challenge will include five events, providing participants with a minimum of eight hours of track-time per event, technical support for the car, coaching sessions and access to the Passione Ferrari hospitality and track activities.

The 2020-2021 season will begin in October 2020 at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, before heading to Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi in November, Kuwait Motor Town in December, Dubai Autodrome in February 2021 and finally back at Yas Marina Circuit in March 2021.

The exclusive members-only platform provides every participating driver with all the track requirements of customised race equipment for optimal performance including a race suit, gloves, personalized helmet, fireproof underwear and HANS device.

## Bring it on!

**T**HE kingdom is already gearing up for Dakar Rally 2021 in Saudi Arabia and will be competing with its own team courtesy of a joint venture between Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company and Prodrive International.

The sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain has teamed up with the British motorsport and engineering group, that has extensive experience in creating championship winning race and rally cars, to develop the new Prodrive International car to race in the top level T1 class.

Khalid Al Rumaihi, Mumtalakat's chief executive officer, said, "Prodrive has participated in numerous regional and international motorsports events throughout its 30 plus years of operation, winning six FIA World Rally Championships, five Le Mans titles and seven Middle East Rally Championships.

"We're very proud of the Rally's move to the region and in partnering with Prodrive, we expand Bahrain's significant motorsport heritage, having established the Bahrain International Circuit to host Formula One in the Middle East for the first time in 2004."

Two rally cars will be manufactured and operated annually by Prodrive



International who will also produce other customer cars and offer a range of performance parts and body kits as accessories for clients.

The multi-stage annual race, which was first established in 1978, would normally begin in Paris, France and end in Dakar, Senegal, covering approximately 10,000sqm over a period of about 16 days.

Between 2009 and 2019, the race was relocated to South America and opened in Saudi Arabia for the first time this year. Rally cars race one at a time, against the clock, across multiple stages of the intense off-road terrain.

David Richards CBE, founder and chairman of Prodrive, added: "It has been a long-held ambition of mine and Prodrive to compete in the Dakar Rally. To be able to do so with Mumtalakat and in Saudi Arabia makes the prospect even more special."



Ferrari racing on the track



# Electric avenue

The electric charging station



Going electric

**A** new charging park for electric commercial vehicles has been opened by Daimler at the Stuttgart-Untertürkheim headquarters in Germany. Daimler Trucks and Mercedes-Benz

Vans will jointly use the charging stations for its electric test vehicles. The new charging park will be a further step in the electrification strategy and connected corporate activities. The stations have a total

output of 1 megawatt, distributed to two DC fast charging stations with 300 kilowatts each for trucks and three more charging stations with 150 kilowatt output each for vans. When the vehicle is connected to

an appropriate station, the charging process is started via a chip by which the station recognises the respective vehicle automatically. The stations are equipped with all common plug variants for electric trucks.

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- 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:

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- Experience of leveraging integrated digital and social media campaigns to drive demand and leads
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# Motor Sport

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

## Go ladies go!

**T**HE all-ladies Bahrain Airport Services (BAS) Motor Sport Team aims to impress at the Bahrain International Karting Circuit over the weekend as they battle for glory in the 24-hour endurance championship finale, writes Patrick Salomon.

The fearless females, made up of BAS staffers, have already completed the three-hours, six-hours and most recently, the grueling 12-hour race of the 2019/2020 Bahrain Karting Enduro Championship (BKEC) at the track in Sakhir.

The ladies team, which is managed by Milla Smith, includes Christina Anieliesia, Alanoud Alaiwi, Alya Adel, Sujusha Bakaal, Fatima Mohammed and Maryam Al Qassim. They are excited about the fourth and final



round of this championship held on Friday and Saturday. They are urging all women to come out and cheer for them with a clear message that karting isn't just a man's world.

"Women have the talent to race as well," said Smith. "With dedication and hard work, they can excel in this sport and look for support across the Kingdom of Bahrain to drive them into future events."

Adel, who made her debut with the team in the 12-hour race, added that she has fallen in love with karting and never felt this thrill

before. She said: "I always wanted to join but I never had the confidence to go for it. My colleagues told me to just try it and that it's going to be amazing. I realised they are right and I hope I can be a part of the racing all the time." Teammate Anieliesia added: "The 12-hour race was a completely different race from the first two rounds but I enjoyed it more. I can't wait to be a part of the next race over 24-hours."

There are four teams competing under the BAS umbrella and the overall teams are managed by Tony



Smith, BAS's chief operating officer. He said: "We are all so very proud to have the only women's team in the event which shows true courage and dedication to the sport."

Twelve teams will be competing in the Pro,

Corporate and Nations classes behind the wheel of a 390cc RT8 kart on the 1.414km Commission Internationale de Karting track.

BAS chief executive officer Salman Al Mahmeed wishes his team the best of luck and

success. He said: "We aim to finish the season on a high."

For more information on the BKEC or any karting activity at BIC, contact the karting circuit on 17451745, e-mail [karting@bic.com.bh](mailto:karting@bic.com.bh) or visit [www.bahraingp.com](http://www.bahraingp.com).

**V**ETERAN Bahraini racer Hani Ali roared to victory in the Pro Mod class to highlight a hugely exciting fourth and penultimate round of the 2019/2020 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship, held at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

Ali, who competed for Bapco Motorsports Team, clinched first place following a fiercely contested final race against Bahrain 1 Racing ace Khalid Al Balooshi.

Ali posted a winning time of 3.729 seconds down the eighth-mile with a top speed of 324.30kmph. Al Balooshi had a pass of 4.269s at a top speed of 226.92kmph.

Ali was one of only three Bahraini competitors to climb to the top of the podium at the end of the meeting, which was organised by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation (BMF), the Bahrain Drag Racing Club (BDRC) and the Bahrain

The winning Bapco team



## FANTASTIC FOURTH

Motorcycle Club (BMC).

Around 140 competitors took part, including more than 100 in the cars classes and the others in the motorbikes categories.

All the action was held along BIC's NHRA-sanctioned quarter-mile drag strip.

Yousif Khamiri and Sayed Yousif Faisal were the other two homegrown talents to emerge victorious on race day. Khamiri triumphed in the Index 9.5 category while Faisal

claimed first place in the Street Fight Bikes class.

Khamiri took his win after beating Abdulwahab Al Mutaib in their final with a run of 9.497s at 224.41kmph, while Faisal had a winning mark of 9.561s at 226.00kmph.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti and Saudi contingents competing in the round also featured a handful of winners.

Amongst the competitors from Kuwait, Ahmed Alsaeei won in the Outlaw Front-

Wheel-Drive class after beating Zakariya Alkuwari in their final with a time of 8.583s at 292.62kmph; Mohammed Suliman won the Pro Street V8 with a 7.362s pass at 292.36kmph to defeat Esmail Ebrahim; Fahad Kadida overcame Jaber Salman in the Index 8.5 final with a 8.645s run at 245.22kmph; and Mohammed Alawwad defeated Christopher Dominique from the US to win the Pro Bikes class with a time of 4.005s at a

top speed of 279.06kmph.

Five Saudis triumphed. Ali Saleh Ebrahim won the Outlaw 6-Cylinder category with an 11.366s pass at 102.27kmph to beat Hamad Al Merbati; Abdulla Alshamsi won the Super Street V8 in 4.422s at 271.64kmph to defeat Hussain Mohammed; Thamer Al Khaldey overcame Ali Khamiri with a 10.615s pass at 186.69kmph to triumph amongst the Index 10.5 drivers; Khalid Aldoseri defeated Fadi

Abu Jamus in the Index 8.5 Bike final with a time of 8.485s and a top speed of 254.89kmph; and Mishari Alturki won the Super Street Bikes class after finishing the final ahead of Bader bin Eidan in 4.467s with a top speed of 259.33kmph.

Abdulmajid Al Zarooni of the UAE won the competition 4.5 class after beating Obaid Al Balooshi with a 4.522s pass at 249.15kmph in their final.

After all the action, the winning racers were presented their respective trophies in the podium ceremony attended by BIC, BMF, BDRC and BMC officials. The drag racing season now heads to the 2019/2020 championship finale, scheduled for February 25 to 28 at BIC.

For details, visit [www.bahraingp.com](http://www.bahraingp.com) or call the BIC Hotline on 17450000. Also, follow BIC's official social media accounts on Facebook Official BahrainInternationalCircuit, Twitter @BAH\_Int\_Circuit, Instagram @bah\_int\_circuit and YouTube youtube.com/bahrainbic.





**E**NJOYING yourself is an essential part of living a fulfilled life and we can strive for many different things within our careers and personal lives that help us achieve this happiness. For some it may be money, others recognition and for a lot of people it may be socialising, parties or owning nice things.

Floyd 'Money' Mayweather had a hugely successful career and is considered by some as the greatest boxer of all time, boasting a hugely impressive record of 49 wins with zero defeats to his name.

He was also known for spending huge amounts on his cars and homes as well as throwing massive parties and spending enormous amounts in casinos and nightclubs. It was this lavish lifestyle which earned him the nickname 'Money' but his out-of-the-ring exploits never detracted from his obvious boxing abilities.

Rob Gronkowski was an exceptional NFL player; he holds the record for most touchdowns per game for any tight-end in NFL history and smashed the single season record for most touchdown catches by a tight-end with 17. Gronk, as he was known, also had a keen taste for a party during his career, including hiring a cruise liner known as the Gronk party ship that was used for a four-day party and included more than 12 lounges and other recreational

# Neymar falls from grace...



facilities on board.

The reason I am looking to these examples of athletes who have enjoyed themselves throughout their career is to highlight that it is possible to reach your potential within sport without cutting back on your lifestyle.

I also wanted to emphasise how easily sports fans can forgive you for this so long as you still produce the

goods. Something Neymar is currently struggling with at PSG.

Those close to Neymar came out and told the world that his decision to leave Barcelona in 2017 was a footballing one. He was perceived to be in the shadow of Lionel Messi and was ready to step out of that to assert himself as the best player in world football. That

move, it has to be said that he is well off getting close to achieving his goal. The reason that has been suggested for this is Neymar's own lavish lifestyle. Last week, the media hammered him again.

He rented out a high-end nightclub and invited 400 people all to celebrate his birthday just days before PSG's next fixture. In fact, Neymar has been conveniently injured on his birthday all three seasons he has been in Paris and whilst that may be nothing more than unfortunate coincidence, last year he was hobbling around on crutches. It doesn't help the narrative.

As I have mentioned, however, it is still perfectly possible to indulge in off-field activities and still be able to produce on it. Neymar himself hasn't just started to become a flamboyant figure, he was still this way when partnering with Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez at Barcelona and managed to be a part of the most feared attacking trio at that time.

For me, the problem is

deeper than that and more reflective of PSG and the French "Ligue 1" as a whole. They have fueled Neymar's celebrity and stardom. He is almost untouchable within the ranks and is the star of the show no matter where he goes or how well he plays in France.

Just days before his birthday, Neymar played against Montpellier in a league game and received the ball with three defenders around him.

He attempted to flick the ball over the heads of the defenders and failed. The referee then came over to him to advise Neymar that he could potentially incite retaliation from his opponents if he continued to try and humiliate them.

Neymar threw his toys out of the pram at the suggestion he should be careful in any way and was subsequently booked for his reaction.

At 28, there is still time for Neymar to perform as one of the best players on the highest stage but he has to change his mind set on what is important on the pitch.

Messi and Ronaldo are not just beautiful to watch but they are ruthless in their performances. Neymar's dancing on and off the field might see him boogie into obscurity with a new generation of superstars coming up behind him not least his own teammate Mbappe. The boy from Brazil might just have to leave the Parisians to get back to where he needs to be.



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# SPORT

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## REDS RAGE ON

**T**HE Red Wall roared in support as the boys from the Bahrain Rugby Football Club (BRFC)'s 1st XV Squad demolished arch-rivals Dubai Exiles in a top-of-the-league clash.

The event, which was attended by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Affairs (SCYS) Chairman along with the Minister of Youth and Sport Affairs Ayman Tawfiq



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

Almoayyad and British Ambassador to Bahrain Roderick Drummond, drew a large crowd and raucous roars every time the boys in red got close to their end zone.

Centre Jack Phillips scored two tries while backrow Aled Morris, backrow Jordan Viggers and scrum half/full back Steven Komene each nabbed a try. Fly half Ross Preedy brought it home with four conversions and two penalties, with fly half/full back Leon Mauer adding

another conversion to the score board.

The victory nearly cements Bahrain's spot in the finals as the team has had a near perfect season, winning nine of its 10 matches and sitting comfortably at the top of the league with 46 points, with the Dubai Exiles sitting in second with a distant 34 points. The team's singular loss this season was early on at the hands of the Dubai Exiles during an away game, making Saturday's game monumental as the team looks ahead to playing in the finals on March 27.

Ambassador Drummond



Shaikh Nasser greets the BRFC team

said: "It was a great afternoon with a strong finish to the season. It looks like we could make it to the finals again at the end of March and defend our title championship from

last year. Great spirit and good support from the crowd and it was great to see Shaikh Nasser and the Minister of Youth and Sport Affairs here supporting the team and the

club."

In the meantime, the team faces off at home against the Abu Dhabi Harlequins on February 28 and the Jebel Ali Dragons on March 6.



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