

# CRAFTING THE FUTURE

**ASPIRING** artisans in Bahrain will have an opportunity to learn Bahrain's traditional crafts in a one-of-a-kind initiative being launched in conjunction with the Bahrain Summer Festival next month.

The Young Artisan programme, targeted at children aged seven to 12, will debut in July and train the young ones in the basics of palm frond weaving, traditional chest-making, gypsum engraving and pottery.

"The initiative is concerned with teaching handicrafts and promoting the concept of heritage in support of efforts to revive traditional crafts in the kingdom," a Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Baca) spokesperson said, in a statement.



**CULTURE REPORT**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
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Over the course of four weeks, the young artisans will meet twice a week to participate in workshops centred on the four disciplines.

Each young artisan will walk away with their own hand-crafted mat, chest, pottery piece and gypsum wall ornament.

The programme will be taught at Al Jasra Handicrafts Centre in English and Arabic on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 12.15pm starting on July 4 and ending on July 27.

"In the last two years, we have been hesitant about conducting workshops for children because of the Covid-19 pandemic," Baca handicrafts director Shouq Al Alawi told *GulfWeekly* on the sidelines of the Bahrain



**AT WORK:**  
A young artisan at the Heritage Village

The initiative is concerned with teaching handicrafts and promoting the concept of heritage in support of efforts to revive traditional crafts in the kingdom

Summer Festival press conference.

"This year, however, since the Summer Festival is returning to an in-person format, we are unveiling this new initiative, which goes well alongside our Little Archaeologist programme.

"The idea is to have the older generation pass on their knowledge and skills to young artisans, and encourage



them to consider a career in traditional handicrafts, which are coming back in vogue around the world."

The programme will cost BD50 per child and includes all supplies and tools.

The entire Bahrain Summer Festival programme is focused on encouraging children to engage with Bahrain's traditions and culture.

The festival will be held from July 11 to 31 under the slogan 'Golden Edition' to commemorate 50 years of Bahrain sovereignty

and will feature a series of multicultural performances and workshops.

"The Bahrain Summer Festival returns to share our celebration of the golden jubilee of Bahraini achievements, as we meet the festival's audience face-to-face for the first time in

two years," announced Baca president Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa.

The 14th edition of the three-week-long festival has come together with the participation of embassies from a number of countries, including South Korea, Palestine, Italy, the UK, the US, Spain, Thailand, India and Indonesia.

In addition, for the first time in the festival's 14-year history, Saudi Arabia's culture ministry's heritage commission will take part in the events.



**GOLDEN HERITAGE**  
Gems galore  
SEE PAGE 2



**TOP PRIZES**  
Passing on the torch  
SEE PAGE 3



**LOCAL LENS**  
Stories and Tales  
SEE PAGES 4-5



**F1 REPORT**  
Canada to the Max  
SEE PAGE 7



**MOLD BREAKING:** A young Bahraini at the pottery wheel



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# Gem of a collection

**J**EWELLERY designer Swayta Toolsidass's collections shimmer and shine in a bid to bring beauty to women's everyday lives while also paying tribute to her gold heritage.

Coming from a business family of jewellers to the Nizams (royal rulers) of

**FASHION REPORT**  
By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE  
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Hyderabad, the 44-year-old is combining 'traditional elegance and new age brilliance' in her designs to bring pride to her family while also making women sparkle with her brand Swayta Sha.

"I grew up surrounded by love for the art of jewellery making," said Swayta, who has an MBA in business. She worked in a bank and as ground crew for an airline before finally taking on jewellery design full-time. "My father Madan Mohan, who has been in the business for almost 90 years, imbibed in me the culture of jewellery in line with my ancestry," she added.

In the 20th century, the mantle of the family business was passed from Mukundas Bhagwandas to his eldest son, Dwarkadas Mukundas and later to Madan Mohan who carried on the legacy of jewellery making into post independent India. Back then, the main occupation of the Bhagwandas family was jewellery, banking and business.

"The royal rulers owned the largest priceless jewellery collection in India and fostered the lineage of jewellers," added Swayta who relocated to Bahrain with her husband in 2002. "My father's work has been shown and sold internationally, particularly in the US. He is my inspiration. My brand was born not only from me, but also as a tribute to the rich legacy passed down to me by my forefathers.



CONFIDENT: Swayta at her stand in the luxury retail outlet

My ideal is that every woman should be able to look at herself in the mirror and be appreciative of what she sees and who she becomes.

"My first job title was that of a professional banker. I feel my past experiences have led to my artistic awakening, where I am able to accentuate

my talents and conviction in my love for the art of jewellery."

According to Swayta, her designs, which include 18 carat gold, real precious and semi-precious stones as well as top quality diamonds in earrings, rings, pendants and more, are for the women of today.

"It is an expression of femininity to me and it represents boldness, beauty, confidence, and, most importantly, independence," she said.

"The aesthetics of my pieces represent strength of character and womanhood – a woman with transparency of mind, clarity and structure. I have found it invigorating to launch my own company with this very objective in mind.

"My ideal is that every woman should be able to look at herself in the mirror and be appreciative of what she sees and who she becomes. This mind-set is what drove me to start my brand in Bahrain which

has been a star-studded one."

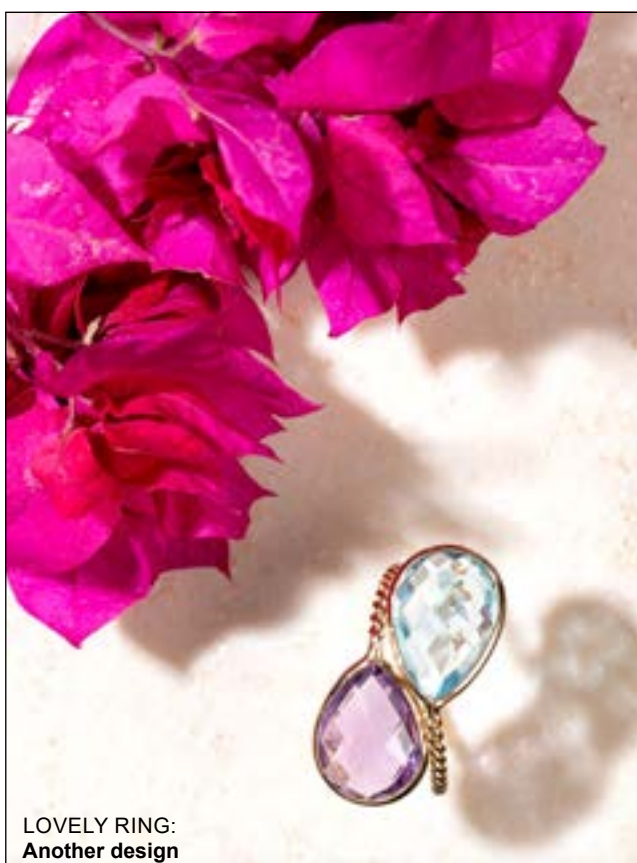
She showcased her collections for the first time in 2017 in Bahrain and associated with Saks Fifth Avenue five years ago. Her latest collections are bold and exquisite and hence called Amira and Mira.

All the designs are developed by Swayta and at times her daughter Vriddhi, an 18-year-old St Christopher's School student, chips in with her drawings.

She also has plans for a global expansion over the next 10 years.

For details, follow @swayta\_sha on Instagram.

VIBRANT:  
One of her rings



LOVELY RING:  
Another design







PROUD: Delegates at the Rotary Conference in Lebanon

# A JOB WELL DONE!

**B**AHRAIN'S globe-trotting philanthropists have been recognised with four accolades on a regional level for their efforts to bring water to a rural Ghanaian community, reports Naman Arora.

At the Rotary Conference held in Lebanon, Rotaract Bahrain brought home the 'Best Community Service', 'International Service', 'Professional Development' and 'Project of the Year' awards across the Rotary regional district number 2452.

The district is comprised of Rotary clubs in Lebanon, Cyprus, Jordan, Sudan, Bahrain, the UAE, Georgia, Armenia and Palestine.

"We feel very blessed that we were able to save thousands of lives and bring together a strong team to help as part of the Rotaract platform," Rotaract Bahrain president Tanima Chakravorty told *GulfWeekly*.

During Eid Al Fitr holidays, members of Rotaract Bahrain visited the rural community of Obodanase, located 80km away from the capital Accra. They built a water pump and well, irrigation channels, public toilets and a recreational area, while also providing medication, menstrual supplies and more.

Supported by the Rotary Clubs of Manama, Salmaniya, Adliya and Seef and conducted in collaboration with Rotaract clubs in Ghana, Project Nsuo (water in the local dialect of Twi) is already transforming the lives of the 62,000 Ghanaians in the area.

The Rotaract team



FLASHBACK: The Rotaract team in Ghana

comprised 10 volunteers – Tanima, Paa Dadzie, Hanadi Al Ansari, Mohammed Al Haddad, Adnan Al Ameer, Hishang Kewalram, Anton Miraj, Hassam Hameed, Hadeel Isa and Antonette Arila.

In addition to Project Nsuo, the club's 'Each One, Teach One' initiative, which encourages people to

donate their time and teach underprivileged children, was also recognised. The team collaborated with the Bahrain-based Dream Big community organisation to provide free English classes to underprivileged students.

And finally, the team, under the leadership of Tanima, also participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards,

organising a series of personal development sessions alongside other Rotary clubs in Bahrain.

"I am also incredibly proud that we have more female leaders taking the mantle and contributing to making people's lives better, one initiative at a time," Tanima added.

With her tenure as president

coming to an end, Tanima is handing over the reins for Rotaract Bahrain to Razan Jamal.

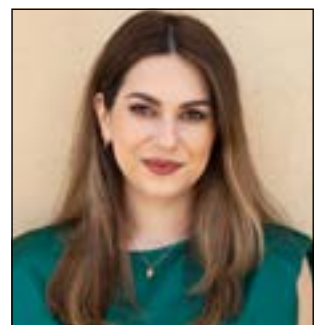
Paa and Tanima will be moving to district-wide roles, with Paa becoming the district community service chairperson and Tanima taking on the role of country representative for Bahrain at the district level.



FLASHBACK: The Rotaract team in Ghana



HONOURED: From left, Lebanon District Rotaract Representative Yasmina El Assi, Tanima and Paa



INCOMING: Razan

Incoming president Razan is hoping to build on Tanima's legacy and provide a platform for young leaders to exchange ideas and build networks.

"My goal for this year is to serve the community of Bahrain and to connect members to international opportunities, through a series of projects, that will create a lasting impact," she added.

"We will be discussing the needs of local organisations with our stakeholders and setting up our schedule of initiatives accordingly. I am also hoping to have a renewed focus on the international picture and collaborating further with Rotaract clubs in other countries."

For more details, follow @rotaractbahrain on Instagram.





# Culture



PHOTO BY: Muneer Busebaia (@apolloman)



PHOTO BY: Mirza Al Shehabi (@mirza363)



PHOTO BY: Khatoon AlKamel (@khatoon-alkamel\_)



PHOTO BY: Ramzi Groof (@ramzi\_groof)

# UP CLOSE PERSONS



A NEW BEGINNING: Dignitaries at the exhibition inauguration

**B**AHRAINI photographers have turned their lens on subjects and stories across the kingdom, capturing lesser-known slices of life in the country and beyond and showcasing them at an exhibition that opened last week.

Organised by the Bahrain Photographic Society in collaboration with Colours of East, the second edition of the *Stories and Camera Tales* annual photography exhibition was inaugurated last Thursday at Seef Mall.



PHOTOGRAPHY REPORT  
By NAMAN ARORA  
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“A total of 29 photographers have showcased their work in this exhibition, using a variety of techniques and styles,” exhibition curator Mahdi Al Jallawi told *GulfWeekly*.

The exhibition is being held under the patronage of Capital Governor Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa and continues until today.

Although most of the lens maestros have used street photography to underline lesser-known and oft-overlooked slices of Bahraini



# Weekly



PHOTO BY: Soma Moumen  
(@masooma123)



PHOTO BY: Hassan Bin Dawood (@hassandy\_14)



PHOTO BY: Hiba Al Ghuraify  
(@hiba.al.ghuraify)

## OSE & ONAL!

life, some have used low shutter speeds to depict rapid motion and encapsulate traditions from countries like Morocco and Iraq.

Most of the photographs have been captured during the last four years, since the previous edition of the exhibition, either during travels or photography workshops exploring the villages of Bahrain.

Mirza Al Shehabi, for example, was fascinated by the enduring legacy of the kingdom's farmers and captured a shot of Abu Issa, an octogenarian farmer who

works in his field in Khurra to this day.

The juxtaposition of Abu Issa's varicose veins against the bright green mint that he is tending to pays homage to his legacy of sowing seeds in a garden his successors will live to see.

"It was heart-warming and thought-provoking meeting someone like him who has devoted his entire life to working the land," Mirza added.

Meanwhile, Khatoon Al Kamel invoked the idea of painting with a lens in her photograph titled *Laura*



PHOTO BY: Najat Alfarsani  
(@n\_alfarsani)

framing a girl with flowers in a 'Renaissance-esque' style.

Soma Moumen highlighted the culture of Bahrain's villages and their deep cultural ties in her picture of a gypsy decked out in traditional clothing and

jewellery.

Although Najat Alfarsani is known for her images capturing the faces of Bahrain, she ventured out to South-east Asia, capturing an Indonesian woman looking out at nature against the

spellbinding background of a mountain.

Muneer Busebaia also picked vignettes from his travels, capturing in charcoal-level detail the face of a spiritual leader in India.

"It is amazing to see all

these different part of life depicted by the talented photographers in Bahrain, and we are honoured to provide this platform and showcase their beautiful images in a physical format," Mahdi added.

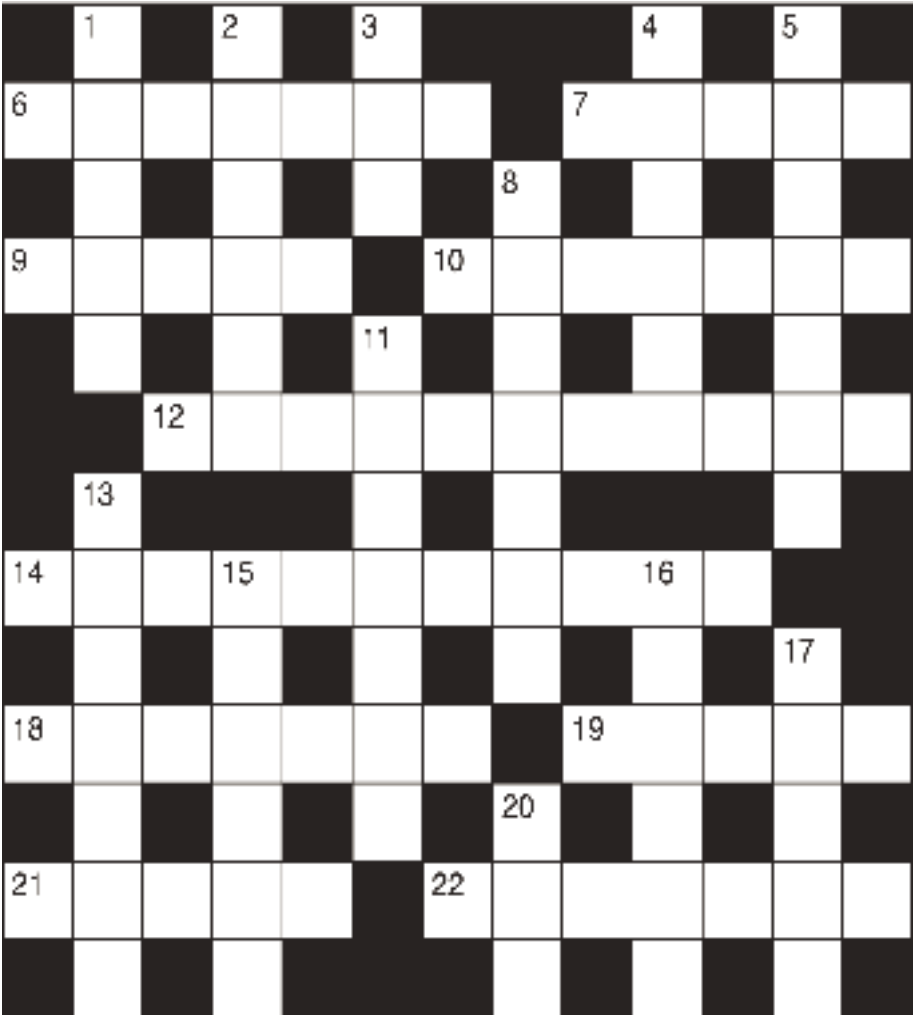


# Time Out



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## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

- 6. Spear (7)
- 7. Plank (5)
- 9. Mantle (5)
- 10. Aid and abet (7)
- 12. Unconcerned (11)
- 14. Mawkish (11)
- 18. Rapture (7)
- 19. Endure (5)
- 21. Cut (5)
- 22. Terse (7)

### DOWN

- 1. Wire (5)
- 2. Keep waiting (6)
- 3. Slash (3)
- 4. Bend (6)
- 5. Thwart (7)
- 8. Limit (7)
- 11. Sack (7)
- 13. Instructor (7)
- 15. Giggle (6)
- 16. Deed (6)
- 17. Caper (5)
- 20. Tank (3)

### who, what, where, when

- WHO...wrote the novels The First Horseman and Trance State?
- WHAT...is the capital of Jamaica?
- WHERE...is the Bloc Québécois a federal political party?
- WHEN...was the dictator Benito Mussolini shot and killed?
- WHO...was runner-up in The Rileys Club Masters snooker tournament in February 2005?
- WHAT...is the approximate population of New Zealand - 4 million, 8 million or 12 million?
- WHERE...are the towns of Great Yarmouth and Caister-on-Sea?
- WHEN...did Don McLean have a UK No. 1 single with the song Vincent?

### just so

old old old old x sake

tienvsdhaveit

JULY & AUGUST

t

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

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

### darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

#### CROSSWORD BREAK:

- Across:** 1 Reorganise; 7 Uncle; 8 Fervent; 10 Lopsided; 11 Sham; 13 Botany; 15 Bonnet; 17 Lard; 18 Disquiet; 21 Origami; 22 Igloo; 23 Gratuitous.
- Down:** 1 Recap; 2 Obedient; 3 Gifted; 4 Norm; 5 Stephen; 6 Hullabaloo; 9 Temptation; 12 Mosquito; 14 Terrier; 16 Bikini; 19 Idles; 20 Cant.
- JUST SO:** A month of Sundays, A square deal, A vicious circle, Blind with science.
- WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:** Red; Sweden; July 15; Stanley Kubrick; French; Devon; 1973.

### Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work pad space ...





WINNER: Verstappen celebrates with a trophy on the podium



THE START OF THE RACE: Red Bull's Verstappen leads

# Verstappen refuses to tempt fate

**M**AX Verstappen has gone from being 46 points behind to 46 points ahead this season but, with the Formula One campaign yet to reach the halfway mark, the Red Bull driver refused to tempt fate in Canada on Sunday (June 19).

His sixth win from nine races - and Red Bull's sixth success in a row and seventh in all this season - suggests the 24-year-old Dutch driver is cruising towards his second successive championship.

Verstappen insisted he had won, in his 150th race, despite not being fastest, however.

"It's still a very long way," he said after a race heavily influenced by a late safety car that brought Ferrari's Carlos Sainz back into play on fresher tyres and with 16 laps of racing remaining.

"I know the gap of course is quite big, but I also know that it can switch around very quickly. I mean, (after) race three I was 46 behind, so we just need to stay calm, we need to focus and we need to improve because today

we're not the quickest.

"It swings a bit, like in Azerbaijan it looked good in the race. Now it didn't look as good but we still managed to win and that I think is also a quality."

Verstappen, who leads his own team mate Sergio Perez, also had to contend with a radio that stopped working.

Red Bull have only once before racked up six successive wins, with four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel managing a run of nine in 2013, and Ferrari will be doing their best to stop it stretching to seven.

Spaniard Sainz did his best, chasing Verstappen to the chequered flag for second place, but the Italian team was hampered by having Charles Leclerc start on the back row after engine penalties.

Leclerc, who held that 46 point lead after winning two of the season's first three races, still came through the field to finish fifth.

"It was a tough race. I expected to have a little bit more pace. But we seemed to lack a little bit compared to Carlos," said Verstappen.



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**SPORT REPORT**

By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE  
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**B**AHRAIN'S fitness fanatics stretched out their limbs and breathed deeply in harmony with people from around the globe yesterday, marking International Yoga Day.

Yoga, an ancient practice that originated 5,000 years ago in India, was proclaimed by the United Nations to be celebrated annually on June 21 to raise awareness worldwide about its health benefits.

"It improves strength, flexibility, organ functions and reduces stress, anxiety and depression," said Weam Zabar, a 38-year-old Bahraini yoga teacher and founder of Namaste. "The less obvious and less spoken about benefits relate to personal development. Yoga is currently prescribed as one of the top five trauma treatments in the world."

"From personal experience, yoga serves as a mirror that uncovers our thinking habits, pain, internal narrative and limiting beliefs. Once that's done, transformation and growth becomes possible in all areas and relationships in our lives."

According to Zabar, 'there is something very special about the sense of community that comes with yoga'.

Many yoga enthusiasts grabbed their mats in Bahrain to join the global movement that was themed this year as 'Yoga for Humanity'.

Hundreds of the sport's aficionados, along with members of Indian and Bahrain yoga centres flocked to Isa Sports City in Isa Town, to join a mass yoga event organised by the Indian

NAMASTE: Zabar, fourth from right, with fellow yoga teachers and students



## STRIKE A POSE

Yoga improves strength, flexibility, organ functions and reduces stress, anxiety and depression

Embassy in association with the Youth and Sports Affairs Ministry and the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA).

The event was attended by the Ministry's operations re-engineering head Mahmood Abdulsamad and NHRA's Allied Medical Profession adviser Namat Al Subaie alongside diplomats from other countries.

Carousel Aerial Arts and Fitness Academy also staged a women's only event with yoga and pole instructor Walaa Alawi to motivate people to take up the practice developed to connect the mind, body and soul.

"Yoga is a group of mental, physical and spiritual practices and that is exactly what I taught

in my class," said Alawi, 26, from Sanad, who started practising yoga five years ago. "We started the class with a physical practise to move our bodies while bringing the awareness within the movement."

After that, we completed pranayama (a breathing exercise) to balance our emotions and energies. We then ended the classes with a small meditation to find some mental clarity."

Dina Elhifnawi, the owner

and lead instructor of Carousel, was delighted with the turn-out and thrilled to take part as she said 'yoga gives her mental clarity and calmness'.

"I hope my class has encouraged people to live a

FLEX:  
Alawi



healthier lifestyle and helped them take the first step toward their healing or self-care journey," added Alawi.

Schools and centres from across the kingdom, such as Sneha's recreation centre for children with special needs, also staged a series of yoga sessions in the lead up and on the day.

Yoga has brought people together since its inception as an international day. The idea was first proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 27, 2014, during his speech at the UN General Assembly in which he said that 'Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action ... a holistic approach [that] is valuable to our health and our well-being'.

The resolution to establish the day was then introduced by India's then permanent representative to the UN Asoke Kumar Mukerji.

A year later, nearly 36,000 people, including Prime Minister Modi, and many other high-profile political figures from all around the world, performed 21 asanas (yoga postures) for 35 minutes in New Delhi, in what was the first International Yoga Day, and the day has been celebrated in around 175 countries ever since.



THROWBACK: One of Alawi's past yoga and relaxation sessions at Carousel