

Gulf Weekly

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BOOK REPORT

By MELISSA NAZARETH
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BAHRAINI author Rasool Darweesh has released his book *Soul of The King*, the English translation of his Arabic novel *Rouh Al Malik*, which he wrote after his deceased mother appeared to him in a dream.

Rouh Al Malik hit the shelves two years ago and spurred on by readers' positive response the author decided to release the English version. While the idea for the novel came to Rasool much earlier, it wasn't until November 2017 that he started writing the book.

"After I had the idea, I read various books on the topic but even after long-term preparation, I couldn't write the novel, and I walked away from it," Rasool, 51, told *GulfWeekly*.

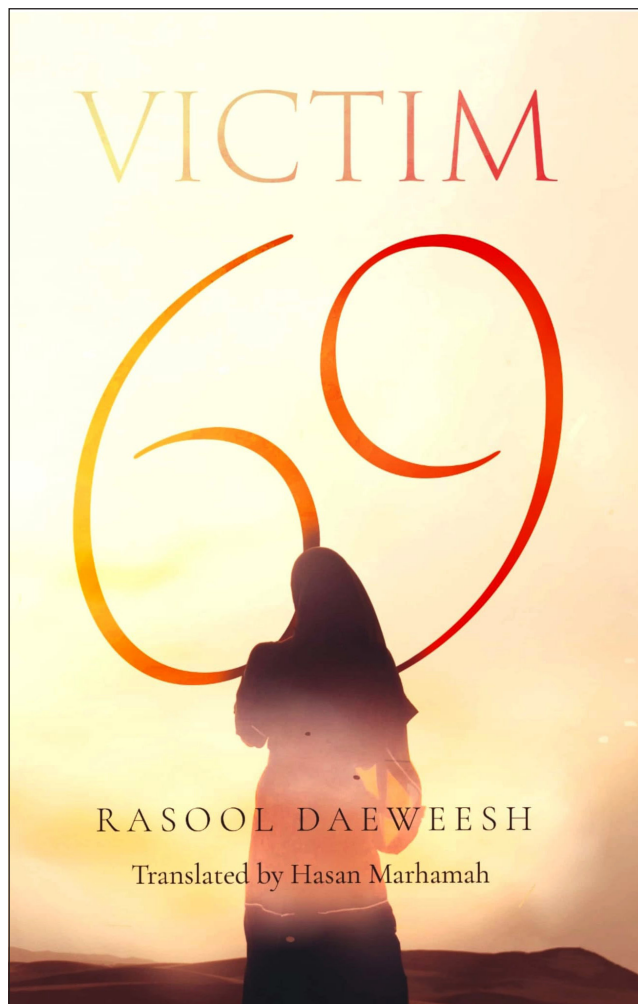
But fate had other plans and Rasool was encouraged to revisit his story.

"On November 29, 2017 at around 2.45 pm, my deceased mother came to me in a dream, asked me to open my right hand, and put the names of the characters in it. She asked to open my left hand and put the names of the places. Then, she told me the introduction to the novel, which I wrote exactly as she said. Finally, she asked me to write the novel, and she promised to visit me again once I completed it. I finished the mission in six months and published the novel in Arabic and now, translated it into English. I've been waiting for my mother to visit me again... she hasn't returned yet," he added.

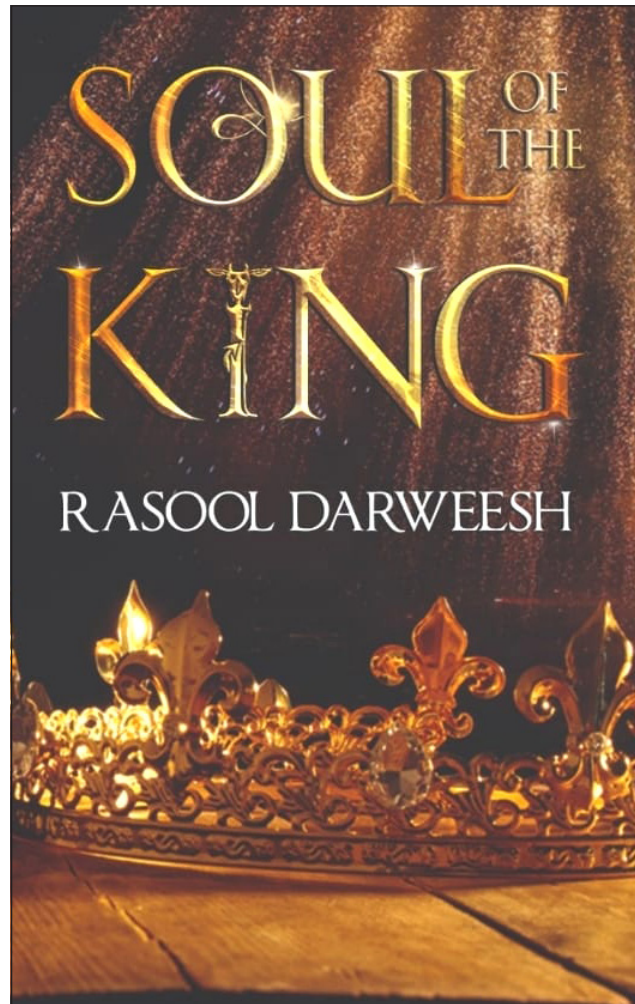
The 274-page translation brings alive Rasool's conversation with his mother after the death of his father. The author vows to discover the truth about his father's demise through 'the recollection of real events and the extortion of souls'. In the book, bodies and souls narrate the same events through two parallel perspectives.

An excerpt of the book reads:

'At this moment, I felt the joy and freedom of the



POWERFUL: Translation of *Al Dayihah 69*



MAJESTIC: The book's cover



TALENTED: Rasool

world of eternity. And while Azrael still held me for his grooves, I asked him: "Where to?"

"To where you were before you chose the king's body, a fetus in his mother's womb."

"It is ages, I have forgotten."

Rasool's curiosity about

the soul and afterlife led him to the idea of the book.

"Everything that happens can be perceived by our five senses, but the soul does not use the five senses of the body and is not limited to a place or time. So, I decided that the book would be narrated by one of the characters, and by the soul of the king as well, recounting the same events through man's soul and body," he revealed.

Rasool, a graduate of Bahrain University with a

specialisation in literature, began his writing journey in 2009 and published his first novel three years later. So far he has written nine novels in Arabic, a couple of which have been translated into English by him and some others by literary experts.

Al Dayihah 69, which follows one woman's life steeped in tragedy and at the same time a celebration of the renewed role of women in society, won the Ibn Al Muqarrab Award in Saudi Arabia. *Victim 69*, the English translation of the book, is also available.

Rasool's other past works include *Dilmunia*, and *Al Hajer Al Aswad* – Arabic for 'the black stone'. Earlier this year, he released *Awalia* about the British rule in Bahrain, and is set for his Arabic translation of British-Polish author Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* – *Qalb Al Dhalam* – to hit the shelves in January next year.

Rasool's books are available on various platforms including Amazon and at Jashanmal bookstore.

For more details, visit @rasool_darweesh on Instagram.



OCEANIC TREASURES
New comic release
SEE PAGE 2



MEMORIES & MILESTONES
Dr Nagesh Babu
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE
Fun and flavours
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PULSE OF POP
Music, movies & more
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THE ART, THE ARTIST: Zainab with her *Lost, and Maybe Found* mural

Marine mysteries



ART REPORT

By RIMA ALHADDAD
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BAHRAINI artist Zainab Almahdi's illustrated story has been published in Sharjah Art Foundation's collaborative art project Corniche's first GCC edition, and offers readers a lesson in the importance of treating nature correctly.

The six-page picturesque tale *What belongs to the sea* was featured in the comic anthology's fifth edition, which was made open to artists across the Gulf region, marking the programme's expansion. Up until then, it was open to artists in the UAE.

The Corniche programme, provided by Sharjah Art Foundation in the Emirates, is a platform for illustrators and comic artists to share their artwork through the compilation book's yearly edition. The sixth edition is set to launch in November this year, participants are yet to be announced.

"The comic is based on a real story of me going to the sea with my nieces and picking up a scary sea sponge which turned the water in the glass I put it in nearly black," the 26-year-old artist told *GulfWeekly*.

"I applied for Al Riwaq Art Space's art residency at Youth City last year and that's where I created the comic. We were given a studio space and professionally instructed by Bahraini artists Ali Hussain Merza and Mariam Alnoaimi and Canadian artist William Wells.

Youth City is the Youth Affairs Ministry's youth empowerment initiative that spans entrepreneurship, media, arts and culture, technology, and sports.

"I initially struggled with deciding on an ending for the comic, but Bahraini director and writer Taqwa Ali Naser

helped me come up with a fitting conclusion. I decided to go for a mysterious end that would leave room for readers' imagination, which I believe can be scarier than anything you could actually show," she revealed.

The story starts with a young Bahraini woman watching her nieces and nephews on the beach, playing and collecting shells. As it gets dark, the woman announces that it's time to go. The children, upset about having to leave, get warned by their aunt that Swaichen, a menacing sea creature, will devour them if they don't hurry.

On the way out of the beach, a dark blue sea sponge captures the attention of the lady, she picks it up and takes it home with her. Later at night, while she is grabbing water to drink from the kitchen before bed, the lady gets swallowed by overflowed black water from the glass she put the sea sponge in. She gets captured by Swaichen, who angrily confronts her for stealing the 'sea's bounties'.

The comic, published in November last year, openly ends with Swaichen saying, "what belongs to the sea, returns to the sea." Swaichen, a mythological character in Gulf folklore, is typically brought up by Arab parents and adults to discourage children from doing something that could threaten their safety.

"All my stories tackle real issues relevant to Bahrain, one being the environment. The sea is a giver, but also is a taker, and we keep taking and not returning. I believe that if the sea was a person, it would be angry at us," she noted.

Not one to rest on her past laurels, Zainab is already working on multiple projects. She is set to release a comic dedicated to Youth City next month, and is in the process of publishing her new comic soon.

Earlier this year, Zainab's mural titled *Lost, and Maybe Found* was displayed at Al



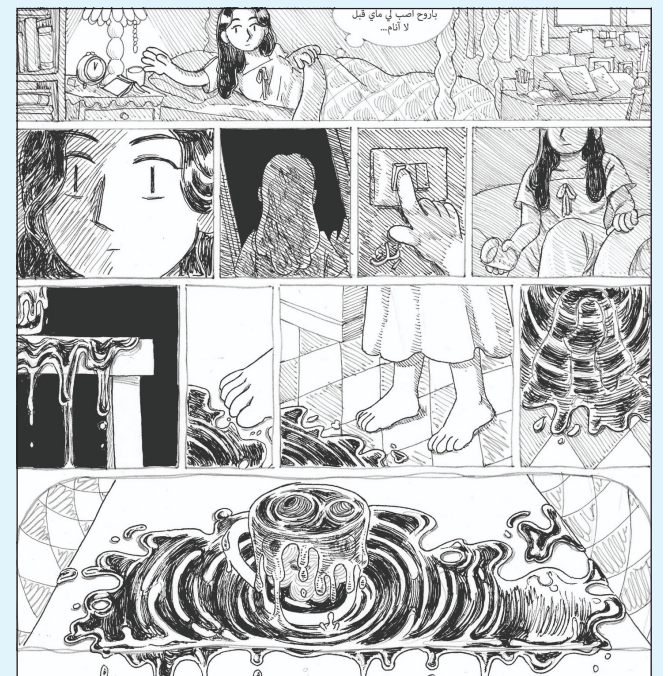
POWERFUL: Illustrations in *What belongs to the sea*

Riwaq Art Space's The Nest art festival, and another one *Where were you? And where will you go?* at Muharrag Nights cultural event, both inspired by marine themes – something she feels strongly about. Culture is another topic that makes its way into her creations. In 2021, Zainab's comic titled *Um Hmaar Returns!* featured several mythological creatures associated with the Gulf.

"Culture generally plays part in a lot of media and entertainment, for example, a lot of manga comics include Japanese mythical creatures. I believe that we have rich culture and mythology, as well as urban legends, and I would like to explore that even more in the future," she explained.

The illustrator and comic artist from Muharrag likes to deliver stories she deems authentic to her home country and culture. Her comics are mainly written in Bahraini Arabic dialect.

The fifth edition of the comic anthology featuring *What belongs to the sea* is available to order through the Sharjah Art Foundation email: publications@sharjahart.org.



Speak your mind!



GULFWEEKLY has launched its latest 'Speak Your Mind' feature where we invite you, our family of readers, to share your concerns and challenges on a chosen subject with our panel of mental health experts who will respond to a selection of them.

Together, let's get the

conversation started!

July's topic is: 'The challenges parents face with children forced to stay indoors during the summer'. Some points to ponder over:

- Reducing screen time
 - Working parents' concerns
 - Insufficient opportunities for fun, constructive activities
- Share your thoughts in

no more than 100 words on gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on Instagram by July 15.

We will publish a selection of the comments received in *GulfWeekly* and one star entry will be awarded a box of Raw Candy vegan chocolates as a 'thank you' gift.

***Congratulations to our June winner Nanju Francisco!**

Feels like home

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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AN Indian medical professional, who is completing 30 years on the island this month talks about his unexpected journey in the land of 'friendly people and 'unending opportunities', and a reveals a lesser-known hobby.

Dr Nagesh Babu landed in Bahrain International Airport back in 1994. After working in Saudi Arabia for one and half year, he decided to return to his hometown Hyderabad but around the time, was approached for a three-month locum (a person who temporarily fulfils the duties of another) job opportunity at American Mission Hospital (AMH) and decided to come to Bahrain. Destiny had other plans and three months extended into three decades.

"Time has passed by so quickly. I still feel like I landed here some years back," Dr Nagesh told *GulfWeekly*. "I remember the first day. Just a few hours after I landed, I got a call from the emergency department. I attended to the case and decided to admit the sick patient. The management was impressed with the way I handled the situation even before officially joining. I was offered a permanent job," he added.

Before coming to Saudi Arabia, Dr Nagesh worked in his hometown Hyderabad. He committed 15 years of service at AMH before moving to Al Kindi Hospital where he presently works as an internal medicine specialist, since 2009. Throughout his professional journey, he

has built strong relationships with his patients that, over time, transcended the doctor-patient paradigm.

"Pursuing a medical career in Bahrain gave me the opportunity to know many families. They treat me more like a friend than a doctor. I've treated three generations of patients in some families, which is only because of their trust in me and affection toward me," the 64-year-old noted, highlighting that his 'extended family' is instrumental to his decision to stay in Bahrain for so many years.

"I wish to thank Dr P. Richardson (former AMH doctor for more than 20 years) who introduced me to American Mission Hospital and all the staff for their support during my stay with them. I also wish to extend my sincere thanks to Dr Ebtisam Al Dallal, the chief executive of Al Kindi Hospital and the staff for their continued support in my career," he added.

Even on the personal front, Dr Nagesh highlights that 'Bahrain has given them a happy and peaceful life'. He feels the kingdom offered a 'safe' place where he and his wife Dr Jayashri Gadangi, who currently works as a family physician at AMH and



MEMORY: Dr Nagesh and family with former AMH chief executive Dr Paul Armerding



TOGETHER: At the Gulf Hotel Bahrain

has been with the institution for more than 20 years, could raise their two children.

"We moved to Bahrain when our daughter Shruti was four years old and she did her schooling here, as

did our son Abhishek, who was born here. Bahrain has provided plenty of opportunities for our children. My son used to play tennis regularly and even won the Under-10 tournament hosted



PROFESSIONAL: Dr Nagesh with Dr Ebtisam

by Bahrain Tennis Club, Juffair some 10 years ago. But most importantly, Bahrain has a safe atmosphere for children," he added.

Dr Nagesh's son and daughter attended The Asian School and laid the foundation of their successful careers in Bahrain. Abhishek is currently pursuing a Rheumatology fellowship at Yale Medical School in the US, and his daughter leads the North America safety and quality programme team at Amazon in Seattle.

The Riffa resident is all praises for the transformation that the kingdom has exhibited in the last 30 years, from infrastructural growth to tourism. However, he often misses the yesteryear small pleasures that one doesn't see too often today.

"There are so many commendable positive developments in Bahrain. However, sometimes, I do miss my walks around Bab Al Bahrain and at the corniches while my children

had fun cycling," he said nostalgically.

When Dr Nagesh isn't treating patients, he is most probably boarding a plane to embark on a new travel adventure. The wanderlust has visited 46 destinations so far, including Bhutan, Lisbon, Cambodia, Rome, Arizona, London, Barcelona, Sri Lanka, Seattle, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Prague, Helsinki, Oslo, Copenhagen, and, most recently, Scandinavia.

"My goal was to finish 50 countries before I hit 60 but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, things slowed down," he added.

Of all the places he has visited, Dr Nagesh finds Bhutan the most memorable mainly because of its people and how they interact with each other including with tourists - a testament to his 'people personality'.

"I have four more places left and hope to hit my goal soon," he said.

LOBETROTTER: In the lap of nature - Bhutan



HISTORICAL: Fun at Helsinki, Finland



Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



LUXURIOUS DINING EXPERIENCES



MOREISH: Pizzas at Primavera

JOIN the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain on a dazzling culinary journey this weekend.

Guests can look forward to an unparalleled dining experience as La Table Krug makes its grand return to its original location in Seef. An extraordinary tasting menu will be offered to guests and they can savour a curated selection of dishes.

Priced a la carte, the unique dining experience is available from Tuesday to Saturday, from 7pm to 10.30pm.

Meanwhile, guests can dig into traditional Italian cuisine and have their palates delighted with Primavera's latest creations.

Irresistible gourmet pizzas, pastas and risottos, alongside delicious

desserts such as tiramisu will have your tastebuds dancing with joy from Wednesday to Monday, 12.30pm to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm. It's priced a la carte.

Guests can also enjoy Nirvana's new vegan concept, where traditional flavours blend with innovative cuisine. Some of the dishes include chowk ki tikki (a vegetarian patty-like creation) and pindi choley (a chickpea dish), all prepared with local ingredients and authentic spices. Celebrate veganism and Indian tradition from Tuesday to Sunday, noon to 3pm to 7pm to 11pm.

■ For more information or bookings, contact rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com or 17586499.



FLAVOURFUL: Stunning vegan dishes at Nirvana

SUMMERTIME DELIGHTS

GATHER your family and friends for a one-of-a-kind culinary experience at the Royal Golf Club (RGC).

Links Steak Night offers an array of the highest quality steaks, all cooked to perfection. Dig into the delightful feast every Wednesday from 6pm. It's priced a la carte.

Guests can also satisfy their sweet tooth cravings with the club's decadent cakes and desserts. Order your cake today at 32184647. All orders must be placed 24 hours in advance.

For the ultimate summer experience, choose RGC's epic Summer Camp which has everything from sports to dance and kindergarten activities. Even more, PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) athletes will give youngsters the opportunity to learn some new skills.

The camp will be held on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am to 1pm, and costs BD25 per day or BD60 per week.

It also offers add-ons, including a one-hour golfing session with a PGA-certified



DECADENT: Delicious cake at RGC

coach for BD8 (one hour a week) or BD32 per month.

To register, call 33001261 or 17750777.

Special discounts are available for RGC members as well as Riffa Views residents.

■ For more information or bookings, contact 39007546.

GASTRONOMIC ADVENTURES AT HILTON

AN exciting line-up of promotional activities is taking place at Hilton Bahrain this weekend.

Head to Origin Kitchen and Culture to experience the ultimate tropical party brunch. Guests can enjoy island-inspired delights and keep the good vibes flowing from 12.30pm to 5pm, tomorrow.

The brunch costs BD39net with unlimited beverages and BD28 with unlimited soft beverages.

For a one-of-a-kind seafood adventure, opt for Origin Kitchen and Culture's Seafood Night, where fresh catch and live cooking stations will have your tastebuds dancing with joy.

It is available tonight, from



FRESH: The hotel's Seafood Night

7pm to 10pm. It costs BD32net with unlimited selected beverages and BD25net with unlimited soft beverages.

Meanwhile, guests can enjoy Origin Kitchen and Culture's breakfast buffet, available from Sunday to Friday, 6.30am to 10.30am at BD13net per person.

On Saturdays, hotel visitors can also dig into the

restaurant's Lazy Saturday Breakfast, from 6.30am to 11.30am. It costs BD13net per person.

The property's lounge invites guests to start their weekend fun at Block 44's Afro Series tonight, from 9pm to 2am. A 50 per cent discount will be offered on selected beverages from 9pm to 11pm. Ladies receive two

complimentary drinks.

Tomorrow, guests can move to the groove at Block 44's Salsa Nights, from 9pm to 2am, with ladies receiving two free drinks.

And, don't miss out on Cocoluna Lounge's Fun Fridays, where a DJ and flowing drinks will make for an unforgettable night from 5pm to 7pm for BD10. This lounge also offers three complimentary beverages on Wednesdays, from 7pm to midnight, for Ladies' Night.

On Tuesdays, the hotel's Society Club's Ladies' Night offers three free beverages for female guests from 8pm to 2.30am.

■ For more information, contact 33690081 or 33692013.

GET together with your family and friends to enjoy some of the English language films being shown at CINECO Seef this weekend.

A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE (PG 15)

Experience the day the world went quiet. As aliens crash land into the streets of New York, people realise they are in trouble and begin searching. They soon discover that these monsters can only detect their prey by noise and the world goes quiet.

Actors: Lupita Nyong'o, Joseph Quinn, Alex Wolf

Timings: 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

HORIZON: AN AMERICAN SAGA (15+)
Spanning 15 years of pre and post

Civil War, Costner's cinematic adventure will take audiences on an emotional journey across a country at war with itself, experienced through the lens of families, friends and foes all attempting to discover what it truly means to be the United States of America.

Actors: Kevin Costner, Sienna Miller, Sam Worthington

Timings: 11.30am, 5.15pm, 11pm



THE KING TIDE (PG 15)

After discovering a child with mysterious powers awash on their shores, a once peaceful community devolves into civil war, torn over the belief that the child is the next saviour.

Actors: Frances Fisher, Clayne Crawford, Alix Lefler

Timings: 12pm, 4.45pm, 9.30pm

THE EXORCISM (18+)

'The Exorcism' stars Academy Award-winner Russell Crowe as

Anthony Miller, a troubled actor who begins to unravel while shooting a supernatural horror film. His estranged daughter Lee, wonders if he's slipping back into his past addictions or if there's something more sinister at play.

Actors: Russell Crowe, Ryan Simpkins, Sam Worthington

Timings: 3pm, 8.45pm

BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE (15+)

This summer, the world's favourite Bad Boys are back with their iconic mix of edge-of-your-seat action and outrageous comedy but this time with a twist: Miami's finest are now on the run.

Actors: Will Smith, Martin Lawrence, Vanessa Hudgens

Timings: 10.45am, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm

Weekly Entertainment



SCRUMPTIOUS: Blueberry pie

FUN AND FLAVOURS
AT FOUR SEASONS

H EAD down to the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay for a true All-American experience this weekend.

Classic backyard favourites such as hot dogs, smash burgers, slushies, blueberry pie and more will be available for CUT by Wolfgang Puck's one-of-a-kind 4th of July Feast, today and tomorrow.

Priced a la carte, it's available from 12.30pm to 3pm and 7pm to 11.30pm on both days.

Get together with your family and friends and watch the UEFA European Football Championship in style at Byblos, a stunning beachfront restaurant offering guests scenic views and delicious Lebanese cuisine, from 4pm to midnight.

Meanwhile, don't miss out on your new takeaway favourite – Pastel de Nata.

The Portuguese classic custard tart has been specially crafted by executive pastry chef Pierre Chambon and his exceptional team. Orders can be placed four hours in advance by calling 17115500. For bulk orders, one day in advance is required.

It costs BD1.500 for one piece and BD6 for six pieces.

To cool down and relax on a hot summer day, opt for Bay View Lounge's Gelato Gourmet. Savour the famous Affogato Al Caffè, tiramisu, coconut tapioca or your favourite ice cream flavour with freshly made Belgian waffles.



DIVINE: Gelato Gourmet delight

The offer is priced at BD7.500 per plate and available everyday from 11am to midnight.

Meanwhile, enjoy all the summer flavours at re/Asian Cuisine. Dig into grilled prawns, veal 'Ham Sui Gok', braised beef short rib pho, bincho grilled asparagus and yang chow fried rice, alongside a spectacular view of Manama city.

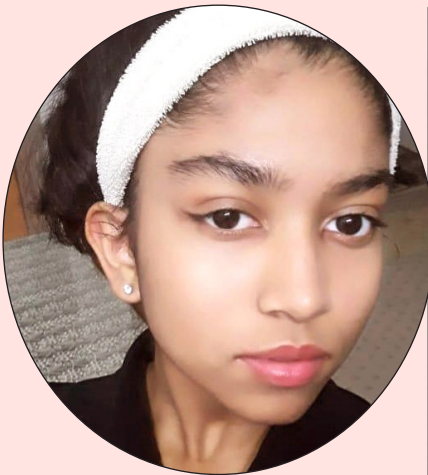
It's available on Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday, from 7pm to 11pm and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 7pm to 11.30pm, priced a la carte.

Unwind after the long weekend at the Four Seasons Spa New Moon Yoga on Saturday (July 6), from 6pm to 7pm.

It costs BD6 for hotel guests and members and BD12 for outside guests.

■ For more information or bookings, contact 17115500, 1711 5046, 1711 5045

Budding creativity



TALENTED: Erika

YOUNG artist Erika Gonsalves has exhibited an artistic streak ever since she could hold a pencil. From drawing stick figures to winning one of the biggest art competitions in Bahrain, she is determined to pursue her love for art, writes Melissa Nazareth.

Erika, a 14-year-old student of the Sacred Heart School, has been drawing from the tender age of three. Naturally, her creations were 'basic' at that age, but overtime, the teenaged talent developed her skill.

"I have been drawing ever since I could talk or properly hold a pen, around the age of three, beginning with basic stick figures, as every artist does, and moving on to bigger pieces as the years went by, and I gained more experience," Erika told *GulfWeekly*.

The only child to parents, businessman Pankras Davidson Gonsalves and homemaker Lucy Violet Quadras, Erika was always encouraged to pursue her gift.

"She has always been drawing since she was young. If there was a test the next day, instead of studying, she would be sketching until midnight. She was always incredibly creative and chose to express her creativity through art projects that depicted simple things in incredibly creative ways," Lucy said.

Spurred on by her proud parents and supportive well-wishers, and with a dream of taking her creativity to the next level, last year, Erika decided to participate in Spectra, the art competition organised by The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF).

Around 3,000 young artists from 25 schools participated across four age groups and Erika won among the 11 to 14-year-old contestants.

"My proudest moment in art was when I won first place in the Spectra



ARTISTIC: A painting depicting Erika's interpretation of animal extinction

art contest and got to receive the award from Ambassador of India to Bahrain himself (Vinod Kumar)! I've also won several awards at school for my drawings and models," the passionate creative, who lives with her parents, added.

Speaking of her future artistic goals, the Muharraq resident said that she 'hasn't put thought into it yet but whatever she does has to be artistic in some way. For now, the Bahraini creative intends to participate in more competitions in the future.



NATURE: Inspired by her friend's love for sakura or Japanese cherry blossoms



KUDOS: Erika, centre in pink attire, winning the award at Spectra 2023

Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY RIMA ALHADDAD

MAKE IT POP!

MUSICAL star Kesha celebrates her freedom on new single *Joyride*, out today.

This is the 37-year-old singer's long-awaited first release through her independent label Kesha records, marking her departure from RCA and Kemosabe records' contract that she signed at 18, forcing her to work with producer Dr Luke whom she was in a legal battle with from 2014 till 2023.

The singer started teasing new music in January, as she was photographed out and about holding a cardboard sign that read 'new music coming soon'.

In an interview published in February, the *TikTok* singer said she had a date set on her calendar for when she is 'free' to release music, and that she has been constantly

writing new material 'till four in the morning'.

She also expressed being mentally in a good place, as she is entering a new chapter in her life.

"I've never felt happier, more excited, more at peace and had such a purpose in my entire life. And I feel like I have earned the right to be this happy for sure," Kesha stated.

On March 7, the singer revealed on social media that it was the 'first day she owned her voice in 19 years'.

On June 29, Kesha announced the new independently released single with a photo that included the song title and release date, which also lands on American Independence Day.

The fifth and final album under the singer's now expired contract, titled *Gag Order*, was released last year. It served as a creative risk for

Kesha, who is known for bubblegum pop, party girl anthems, as she experienced with a psychedelic art pop sound.

Lyrically, the songs discussed Kesha's torment caused by the legal battle she was going through at the time. The album was praised by critics for the way she discussed the matter without directly referring to the lawsuit.

Born Kesha Rose Sebert, the pop sensation was encouraged by her singer/songwriter mother Patricia 'Pepe' Sebert to pursue singing after she noticed her daughter's talent. The Grammy-nominated singer earned a near-perfect score on her SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) and was offered a scholarship to Barnard College, however, she decided to pursue her musical career instead.



READY TO RIDE: The album's teaser on social media

THE Japanese movie *The Imaginary* is set to release on Netflix tomorrow. The fantasy film was produced with hand-drawn animation by Studio Ponoc, and is based on A.F. Harrold's 2014 novel of the same name.

The story follows imaginary boy Rudger, who lives in the attic of his creator, young Amanda. Rudger escapes the attic when Mr Bunting, a man who hunts 'imaginaries', arrives at Amanda's doorstep. Rudger arrives to a town where all the imaginary friends come when they are forgotten by their creator, but he remains hopeful of not meeting the same fate as them.

Written and produced by Yoshiaki Nishimura, the movie released in theatres in Japan last year, followed by Netflix announcing, in January, that they had acquired worldwide streaming rights to the film.

"This is a tale of Rudger, neither human nor animal, who is dismissed by adults as a fake, a mere figment of imagination," Yoshiaki said. "Our vision is to be as true as possible to our own stories, founded on our belief in this outrageous and wild fantasy."

ESCAPING REALITY



FANTASY: Imaginary friends

ONE LAST TIME

THE heroes embark on one final journey as season three of *Vikings: Valhalla* is set to release on Netflix on July 11.

The 2022 series serves as a sequel to the History channel's original *Vikings*, which ran from 2013 to 2020.

Vikings: Valhalla was created by Jeb Stuart, who is known for writing the blockbuster movie 'Die Hard'. He is also credited as an executive producer alongside Michael Hirst, creator and writer of the original historical drama.

The sequel takes place more

than a century after the events of *Vikings*, as the tension between descendants of the Vikings and the native English rises, resulting in a bloody breaking point.

Season three, which will consist of eight episodes, is set to pick up seven years after season two, with Freydis Eriksson (Frida Gustavsson) being the leader of Jomsborg, and her brother Leif (Sam Corlett) along with Harald Sigurdsson (Leo Suter) being champions of Constantinople. Despite their victories, bigger and greater challenges lie ahead for the heroes.



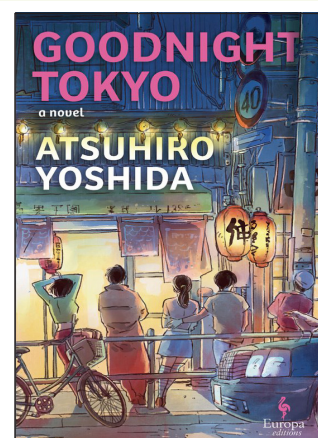
BATTLE: The series' poster

TALES OF TOKYO

THE English translation of Japanese author Atsuhiko Yoshida's 2018 fiction novel *Goodnight Tokyo* is set to release on July 9, translated by Haydn Trowell.

Set over several nights, the novel takes the reader on a journey around the Japanese capital through the eyes and experiences of a set of characters with different stories and lives that interconnect as they search for meaning and purpose.

Readers should expect an intimate and fantastic take on Tokyo's late night atmosphere and to find a connection to the novel's wandering characters. Born in 1962, Japanese



author Atsuhiko Yoshida has published more than 40 books. *Goodnight Tokyo* is set to be his first English-translated book, as it has previously been translated into French and German.

Australian translator Haydn Trowell is dedicated to bringing Japanese literature to English speakers, as he claims to have strong Japanese-to-English translation skills, as well as linguistic expertise and creative writing ability.

"If you have ever engaged a literary translator, you will know that a great translation is the melding of three distinct elements: an accurate final product, the subjective, sensitive judgement of an integrous creative writer, and most of all, trust," Haydn says in an interview. "I am experienced in satisfying all three stakeholders—consistently delivering highly readable translations that align with the original text, and that demonstrate more than just a literal transfer of meaning."

LEWIS Hamilton has branded his Austrian Grand Prix performance as ‘pretty shocking’ after finishing P4 in Spielberg, but he reserved special praise for Mercedes as team mate George Russell went on to win the dramatic race.

While there was elation in one half of the Mercedes garage, as Russell picked up the pieces following Max Verstappen and Lando Norris’s dramatic clash at the front, Hamilton endured a challenging Grand Prix despite just missing out on the podium.

The seven-time world champion started the race well, initially moving up to P4 past the Ferrari of Carlos Sainz and attacking Russell for P3 – the pair briefly exchanging places on Lap 3 – but he was soon back down to P5 after being asked to give his position back to Sainz, with the stewards investigating the Briton for leaving the track and gaining an advantage at the race start.

Things then got worse for Hamilton on Lap 23 as he slid across the pit lane entry line on his way in for a stop, a five-second penalty ultimately coming his way as he apologised to his team over the radio for the error.

“Lewis there is everything to play, everything to play!” exclaimed Mercedes Team Principal Toto Wolff over the radio following that penalty, as he attempted to rally his driver in the race. However, while Hamilton would finish in P4, he was left dejected with his own performance

‘Pretty shocking’ performance

this weekend. “Pretty shocking, but really happy for the team,” he said in an interview, when asked to sum up the day. “Everyone at the factory has worked so hard this year to get a result like this. So big congratulations to the team, and to George, and well deserved.”

Pushed on what he meant by ‘pretty shocking’, the Briton added: “It’s not for the lack of trying but (I’m) just generally slow and it’s just not acceptable.”

Hamilton did also reveal that his race had been hampered after picking up damage on his W15 following the Lap 1 move on the man he will be replacing at Ferrari next year, Sainz.

“I had some damage on the car, I think Sainz and I touched,” he said. “There’s a mark on the side of the car, which is why I went wide in Turn 1.

“But, anyways, yeah, congratulations to George. One of those days.”

Despite Hamilton’s disappointment with his personal performance in Austria, the weekend

SPORTSMAN:
Hamilton



represented another significant step forward for Mercedes as they claimed their first win in 33 Formula 1 races – the last victory being Russell’s triumph in the 2022 Sao Paulo Grand Prix.

And with Silverstone

next up – a home race for both Mercedes drivers – the team will want to continue their upward performance trajectory that has seen them score three podium finishes in a row, having had none to shout about in 2024 prior to that.

BRAIN-BUSTERS

Quizmaster and *Radio Bahrain* host Shannon Crockett, who has been entertaining people across the island with his brain-teasing quiz night sessions, has offered to put *GulfWeekly* readers’ general knowledge to the test. Join in the fun every Thursday with Shannon’s seven brain-busters.

- 1) What is a California roll?
- 2) Which is the only US president to not live in The White House?
- 3) What is the name of the largest fresh water lake in the world, located in the US?
- 4) English is the most-spoken language in Canada. French is second. What language is third?
- 5) If hockey is Canada’s national winter sport, what is its national summer sport?
- 6) Available here in Bahrain, what is Canada’s

GulfWeekly
The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

Catch Shannon’s weekly
BRAIN-BUSTERS
every Thursday
in *Gulf Weekly*



version of Starbucks?
7) In the War of 1812, who tried, unsuccessfully, to invade Canada?

- 1) Sushi
- 2) George Washington
- 3) Lake Superior
- 4) Mandarin Chinese
- 5) Lacrosse
- 6) Tim Horton’s
- 7) United States

ANSWERS



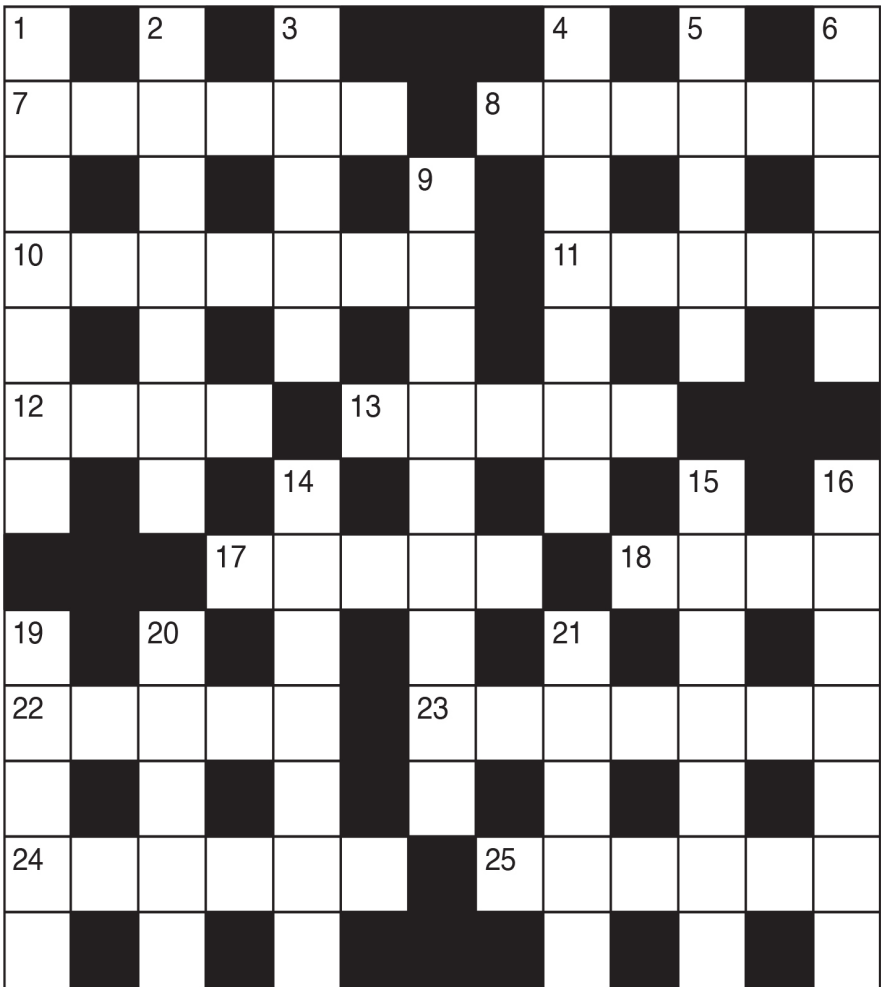
VICTORY: Russell’s golden moment

Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 7. Soften (6)
- 8. Soak (6)
- 10. Least (7)
- 11. Blend (5)
- 12. Ogle (4)
- 13. Comic (5)
- 17. Defame (5)
- 18. Dam (4)
- 22. Cloth (5)
- 23. Vocation (7)
- 24. Crush (6)
- 25. Climb (6)

DOWN

- 1. Prickly shrub (7)
- 2. Cover (7)
- 3. Dwarf (5)
- 4. Disintegrate (7)
- 5. Trap (5)
- 6. Robber (5)
- 9. Crisis (9)
- 14. Testifier (7)
- 15. Convey (7)
- 16. Calamity (7)
- 19. Melting snow (5)
- 20. Cancel (5)
- 21. Joy (5)

who, what, where, when

WHO...was named Best Actor at the 2006 Bafta TV Awards?
WHAT...is the largest city in New Mexico, US?
WHERE...was the 2001 film *Training Day* set?
WHEN...did the Russian dancer and choreographer Bronislava Nijinska die?
WHO...won the F1 2006 European GP?
WHAT...1986 film featured the character Gordie Lachance?
WHERE...did Wigan Athletic sign French footballer Pascal Chimbonda from?
WHEN...did C. J. Curran become Director-General of the BBC?

just so



SHININGARMOUR

my not dray

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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Sudoku

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Sudoku

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| | 5 | 6 | | 3 | | 7 | | |
| | 7 | | 5 | | | 8 | | 6 |

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Court; 4 Caustic; 8 Natural; 9 Spurn; 10 Tilt; 11 Pedantic; 13 Drab; 14 Flue; 16 Assorted; 17 Halt; 20 Inept; 21 Portico; 22 Nunnery; 23 Tongs.

Down: 1 Constellation; 2 Until; 3 Tart; 4 Caller; 5 Unstable; 6 Trustee; 7 Conscientious; 12 Garrotte; 13 Discern; 15 Deeply; 18 Align; 19 Grit.

JUST SO: Thin on top, Siamese twins, All mixed up, Brain wave.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Neil Robertson; Ludacris; Saint Helena; 1891; Bruce Springsteen; Yellow; Dublin, Ireland; 1947.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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