

Gulf Weekly

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Globetrotter on goal

TRAVEL REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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WITH more than 600 cities and 100 countries under his belt, global traveller Ken Utsumi, who recently blitzed through Bahrain to catch the World Cup qualifier against Japan, has no plans to slow down and is still excited everytime he sees football making the world a smaller place.

The 46-year-old 'eternal traveller' may have lost track of the number of countries that he has visited, once he crossed 100, but every exhilarating football match he has witnessed in 23 years of travels lives forever in his memory.

"Football is special to me, because of how passionate its fans can get and it's such a simple game that every country I have travelled to has a fanbase for it," the Japanese globetrotter told *GulfWeekly* on the sidelines of the recent Asian third round qualifying match between his home country and Bahrain.

"Football is a universal language that ignites passion transcending borders!"

Just for his love and undying support of Japan's football team, as well as his local team Vissel Kobe, Ken has been to more than 30 unique countries in the last 12 years.

This year alone, he has been to seven countries already, and after a week in Bahrain, is currently in Thailand.

Since 2001 and the age of 23, he has been chasing football around the world, starting with a backpacking trip in Europe visiting all the major cities as he tried to catch as many European

TRAVELLER:
Ken in Qatar in 2022



League soccer games as he could.

The next year, he took a step few can even fathom - he quit his job to chase a life filled with travel, football, music, film, food and all the other passions he was yet to find.

"In 2002, on the opening day of the World Cup, the first-ever hosted in my home country by the Japanese national team, I resigned from my company, picked up my backpack and traversed Japan, visiting friends from elementary, middle, high school, university and from my workplace," he writes in his memoirs titled *Eternal*

Traveller published last year.

"I travelled by slow trains, night buses and even hitchhiked. Thinking back, the style of travelling while doing a homestay originated around this time."

Later that year, he moved to Toronto, Canada to study, and in 2003, founded U23, a remote work concept before the idea took hold in the tech valleys of the world. Since then, he has lived in Canada, Brazil and Japan for longer stints, while also having set up base camp in a smorgasbord of countries from Albania to Zimbabwe.

He has met the Prince of Swaziland, lost tickets for a World Cup final only to luck out and buy a sponsored ticket near the gates, visited Burning Man, fallen asleep under the Northern Lights in Whitehorse, watched as the world descended on Qatar in 2022 for the World Cup and even spent seven days on the Trans-Siberian Railway where he was interviewed by reporters as he made his way to Russia for the 2018 World Cup.

In 2012, he began an art project, collecting stories under the title *World Odyssey: 23 Laps Round The World*. The number 23 in 23 laps

signifies my lucky number - the 23 of U23, my jersey number 23, and also my birthday which falls on the 23rd," he explained.

"I believe after 23 laps, I might be able to understand a bit about the real world, despite its inherent biases.

"It's merely the antithesis to the cookie-cutter, stamp rally-like round-the-world trips that are prevalent everywhere."

As for what he will always remember from the places he has been to, including Bahrain, his answer is simple: the people.

For more details, follow @u23ken on Instagram.



HAPPY: Ken with football fans in Bahrain last week



PASSION: Ken in Argentina



GAZA TRIBUTE
New short film
SEE PAGE 2



LEISURE SCENE
Dining & entertainment
SEE PAGES 4-5



MUSICAL TREAT
Majaz's new drop
SEE PAGE 5



PULSE OF POP
Music, movies & more
SEE PAGE 6



CURIOS: Ken at the Edge of the World in Saudi Arabia



TALENT: The crew behind the scenes

FILM REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

CANADA-BASED Bahraini creative Deena Alsaweer's latest short film that explores the power of human connection and the resilient Palestinian spirit is set for global release this month.

The production, titled *Stitches*, will premier in Toronto after which it will be available online for a limited time.

Laced with humour, cultural nuances and 'a touch of bittersweet reality', the English language movie, with some Arabic, runs for around 13 minutes.

The plot follows Palestinian dressmaker Kareem and his feisty niece Hind who defy a wedding dress ban by smuggling the sartorial creations as wrapping papers into the country.

Since 2007, various items categorised as 'dual-use' – primarily civilian but could have military uses – have been banned or require special permission to enter Gaza. Wedding dresses were added to the list later.

"*Stitches* was part of a film residency hosted by the Toronto Palestine Film Festival (TPFF)," Deena, who wrote, directed and produced the short film, told *GulfWeekly*.

"I worked with co-producer, Kevin Laporte and Saudi filmmaker Maha Al Saati, who graciously helped me in the script development process."

"They (TPFF) announced the residency with the prompt 'pitch a story about what

it means to be Palestinian today'. I wanted to show the nuances of Arab culture that we never see in Western media: passion, hospitality, resilience and a sense of community.

"Initially, my idea was to follow a Palestinian bride at a salon in Canada, showing the unique traditions of Arab weddings. But then I learned about a wedding dress ban in Palestine, amongst other household items such as chocolate, crayons, baby bottles and many others. So, I adapted my vision to a Palestinian-Canadian dressmaker who gets deeply affected upon learning about this ban," she added.

The project was filmed in a café in Ottawa, Canada where Deena is currently based. The filmmaker also collaborated with a local Palestinian-owned wedding dress boutique for props.

"Our biggest challenge was finding the perfect location," she said.

"As the film is visually tied to our main character, the dress shop had to be an accurate reflection of his personality: warm, colourful, inviting and well-taken care of.

"Kevin took on this challenge and not only did he find the perfect shop, but the owner of that shop had all the qualities of our main character. He was extremely generous, very supportive, kind and passionate about the message we were delivering through *Stitches*.

"I really wanted to include a Bahraini character in this film, but there aren't any Bahraini actors in Ottawa and none that I know of in



DRAMA: A scene from the film

A stitch in time



Ontario/Canada in general. It's important for me to continue to find places in my work to spotlight Bahrain in any way I can," the Fulbright scholar with a Master of Arts in Film/TV from the Savannah College of Art and Design said.

Deena also revealed that the short film features popular Bahraini musician Flipperachi's song *Hayalla Min Yana*, Arabic for 'welcome to whomever is coming to visit us'.

The filmmaker also worked with Los Angeles-based former Bahrain resident Ashwin 'Xenai' Shenoy for the production's soundtrack.

"It's (*Hayalla Min Yana*) the most perfectly unexpected combination of visuals and music. I'm extremely excited for Western audiences to hear and experience this side of Bahrain.

"We put a lot of thought into the music to blend Western, Khaleeji, and Palestinian styles to create a unique rhythm that fits the story and characters," she said, explaining her collaboration with Ashwin.

GulfWeekly previously reported that Deena is focused on sharing stories where Arabs and Arab culture are showcased positively.

And while she enjoys making short films, she hopes to take the leap into feature film production soon.

"I am working towards becoming a full time director, but what I've learned through all my past projects and short films is that it's unlikely one can be a great director without working on the craft of screenwriting.

"So this year, my focus is on writing and developing a

web series with a co-writer, and my first feature film, inshallah, with a co-writer as well," she added.

Stitches is premiering at the TIFF Lightbox Cinema on September 26 in Toronto. The short film can also be viewed online starting September 27, for a limited time – those interested can pre-order the film now.

For more details, follow @batikha_pro on Instagram.



ARTY: The promotional poster

Speak your mind!



GulfWeekly is continuing its 'Speak Your Mind' feature series where we invite you, our family of readers, to share your mental health concerns and challenges on a chosen subject, with our experts who will respond to a selection of them.

Together, let's get the conversation started! September's topic is: 'The mental health impact of witnessing violence and global conflict on social media' Some points to ponder: A feeling of helplessness over

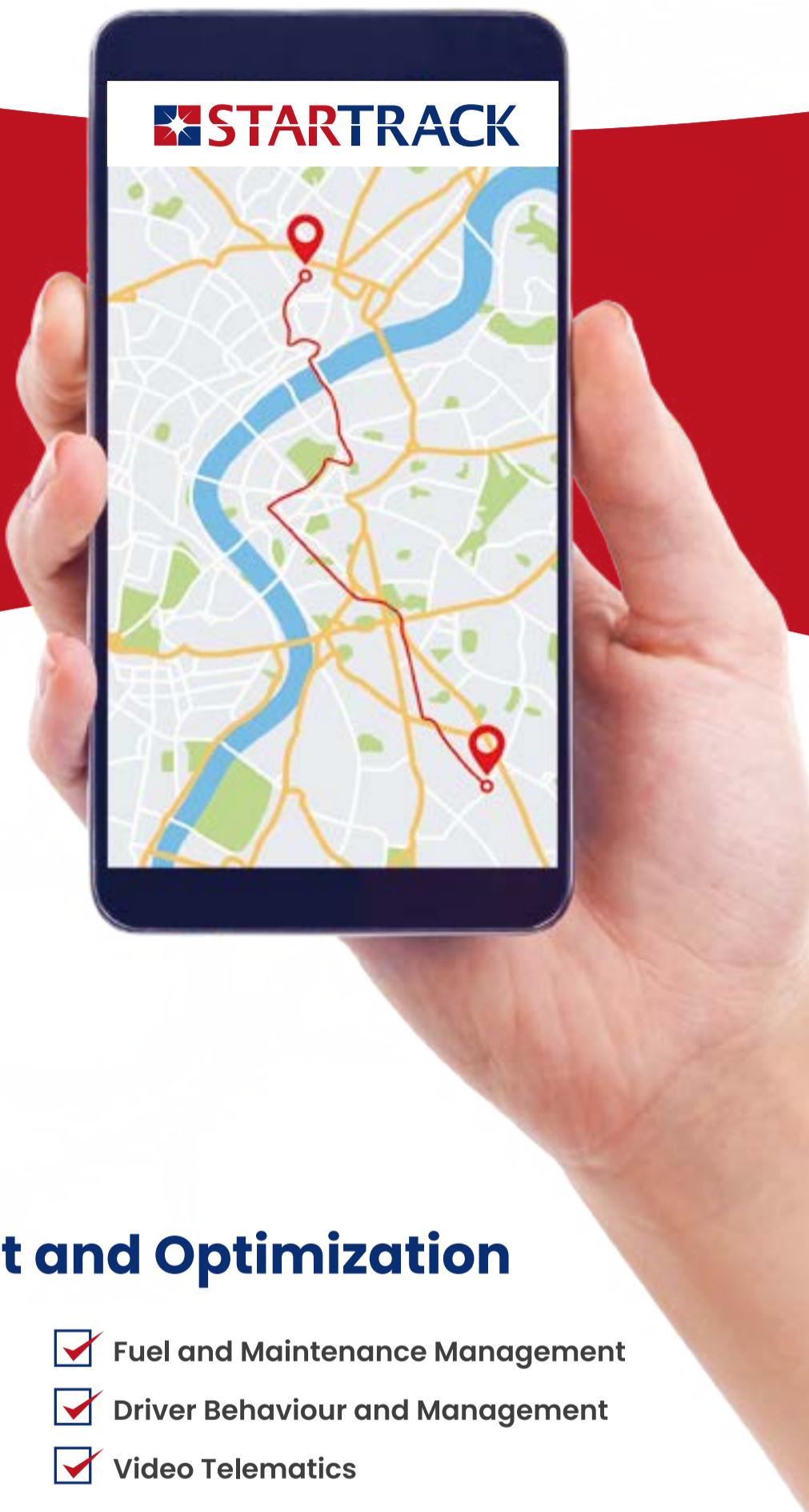
not being able to 'fix' things.
 ↗ Guilt about living a 'normal' life.
 ↗ Anger boiling over into day-to-day social interactions.
 Share your thoughts in no more than 100 words by emailing gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or [@gdnonline](https://www.instagram.com/gdnonline) on Instagram by September 30. We will publish a selection of the comments received in *GulfWeekly* and the top submission will win a box of Raw Candy vegan chocolates as a token of our appreciation.

Optimizing Connected Operations

Helping businesses to monitor, measure and optimize entire logistics delivery process on an IoT platform

Connected Logistics

- Intelligent route optimization
- Order automation
- Field task management
- Dispatch and proof of delivery



IoT Fleet Management and Optimization

- Fleet and Drivers Management
- Sensor Management and Control
- IoT Data Management and Analytics

- Fuel and Maintenance Management
- Driver Behaviour and Management
- Video Telematics



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Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Jayne Houghton



GASTRONOMIC DELIGHTS AT RITZ

THE Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain offers a delectable array of dining experiences to tantalise your taste buds - from casual indulgence to sophisticated celebrations.

For a touch of afternoon indulgence, explore the Lobby Lounge's exclusive Coffee and Cake Combo (BD 9). This delightful pairing features rich, aromatic coffee alongside a selection of their finest cakes, each a masterpiece crafted to provide a moment of pure pleasure. They are available Sundays through Wednesdays, from 10am to 4pm.

Indulge your senses at La Table Krug, where an exquisite five-course à la carte menu promises a truly unforgettable dining experience. This bold and inventive menu awakens your senses, taking you

LUXURIOUS: Interior at La Table Krug



on a revolutionary gourmet journey.

For a more relaxed setting, visit Go Bistro Corner, a charming nook nestled within La Table Krug that blends comfort with elegance. La Table Krug is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from

7pm to 11pm.

Running until September 28, immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of Mexico during Cantina Kahlo's 'Festival del Mole y el Mezcal'. This exciting event celebrates Mexican Independence Day with a focus on the rich flavours

of traditional mole paired perfectly with exquisite mezcal. Savour authentic dishes, immerse yourself in the festive spirit, and enjoy an exceptional evening.

For reservations or further information, call 1758 6425 (Lobby Lounge) or 1758 6499 (La Table



DECADENT: Lobby Lounge's exclusive coffee and cake

FIESTA: Mexican magic at Cantina Kahlo



Krug & Cantina Kahlo) or email [@ritzcarlton.com.](mailto:rc.bahrz.restaurant) reservations



INDULGENCE: Desserts at Royal Golf Club

EVERY DESSERT A MASTERPIECE

THE Royal Golf Club (RGC) has lined up a weekend of sweet treats and fun.

Dig into premium steaks, all cooked to perfection, at Links Steak Night, 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 more information or bookings, contact 39007546.

TECHNO MUSIC ON HILTON MENU

GET ready to immerse yourself in the electronic beats of Arcane-Enter the Abyss, a one-of-a-kind techno event taking place tonight at Hilton Bahrain from 9pm.

Featuring an impressive lineup of DJs (@fawazotechno, @nfrared_, and @itsone_off), this event is not to be missed. Tickets start at BD8 and are available on Platinumlist.

Hilton Bahrain invites guests to start their weekend right at Block 44's Afro Series tonight, from 9pm to 2am. A 50 per cent discount will be applied on selected beverages from 9pm to 11pm. Ladies also get two free drinks.

Visitors can look forward to tomorrow's themed Friday brunch. It's priced at BD39net with unlimited beverages and BD28net with a soft drinks package. A special discount is available for BD25net for teachers and military personnel with ID.

There is a continuation of non-stop fun at Block 44's Salsa Nights tomorrow, from 9pm to 2am.

Meanwhile, celebrate Saudi National Day and join the fun on September 22 with a special lunch buffet featuring soft drinks at Origin Kitchen and Culture, for BD12.5net from 1pm to 3.30pm. The celebrations continue on September 23 in the lobby with a live traditional band performance, sweet

FIERY: Fun at Pan Asian Night



treats, face painting and activities for all ages!

Guests can enjoy Origin Kitchen and Culture's Breakfast Buffet, from Sunday to Friday, 6.30am to 10.30am. The price is BD13net per person. A Lazy Breakfast is also available on Saturday, featuring live cooking stations and a spread of continental, Asian and Arabic favourites. It costs BD13net per person with extended timings from 6.30am to 11.30am.

Get your chopsticks ready for the restaurant's Pan Asian Night, on Wednesday, from 7pm to 10pm. It costs BD22net with unlimited soft beverages and BD28net with unlimited selected beverages.

Don't miss out on the freshest catch

and live cooking stations at the hotel's ultimate Seafood Night. It's available tonight, from 7pm to 10pm and costs BD32net with unlimited beverages and BD25net with unlimited soft beverages.

The hotel's Society Club is open everyday from 9pm to 2.30am. On Tuesdays, it offers three free beverages for Ladies' Night.

Cocoluna Lounge offers ladies three complimentary beverages on Wednesday for Ladies' Night.

On Wednesday, a hip-hop and R&B Night with DJ Aaron Wolf will make for an unforgettable experience, from 9pm to 2.30am. Ladies get two complimentary selected beverages.

For more information, contact 33690081 or 33692013.

Weekly Entertainment



THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT FOUR SEASONS

GUESTS are invited to Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay to indulge in a celebration of culinary delights and cultural experiences.

From family-friendly brunches to sophisticated seafood dinners, there's something for everyone.

Enjoy Back to School Brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen on Friday, where families can savour a delicious spread of international cuisine while enjoying live music and kids' activities from 1pm to 4pm. It costs BD35 including soft beverages and BD46 inclusive of a selected beverage package. Children under six years dine with the hotel's compliments and those aged six to 12 enjoy 50 per cent savings.

For those craving a taste of Mexico, the Taco Fiesta at Bay View Lounge offers a variety of mouthwatering tacos, from classic beef and chicken to vegetarian and seafood options. It's available everyday from 11am to 11.30pm and costs BD10 for vegetarian and BD12 for chicken, beef or fish.

As autumn approaches, celebrate Oktoberfest at Bahrain Bay Kitchen with a feast of traditional German specialties. Enjoy crispy schnitzels, smoky Steckerlfisch and Bavarian-style beef short ribs, all paired with classic German salads and desserts. Join the celebration on September 27 and October 4, 1pm to 4pm. It costs BD35, inclusive of

soft beverages and BD48 including a selected beverage package.

Byblos invites guests to embark on a culinary journey with its seven-course seafood menu from Tuesday to Saturday, 6pm to midnight. Savour the freshest seafood prepared with innovative techniques by Chef El Khoury, priced at BD45 for two people.

Those seeking a more relaxed atmosphere can unwind at the newly renovated Blue Moon Lounge, which offers handcrafted mocktails and Asian-inspired bites.

Happy Hour at CUT Lounge provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy Wolfgang Puck's signature creations while listening to laid-back music, available Monday to Thursday and Saturday, 5pm to 7pm.

In addition to culinary delights, the Four Seasons Bahrain Bay is also offering a variety of cultural events.

Join a dance class at Al Bahrain Ballroom on September 27 for BD12, or indulge in a relaxing 'Spaftnoon Tea', which includes a massage, facial and afternoon tea, for BD110.

For those seeking a spiritual experience, Moon Yoga sessions offer a unique opportunity to connect with the lunar cycle through yoga practices, priced at BD6 for hotel guests and members and BD12 for outside guests.

For more information, contact 17115500, 17115044, 17115046.

MOVIE TIME

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

TRANSFORMERS ONE (PG)

The animation film takes the viewer to the start when Optimus Prime and Megatron, better known as sworn enemies, were friends.

Actors: Chris Hemsworth, Brian Tyree Henry, Scarlett Johansson

Timings: 11.45am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 11pm

WEEKEND IN TAIPEI (PG15)

Watch the romance between former DEA agent and undercover operative unfold, again, during a fateful weekend in Taipei.

Actors: Luke Evans, Sung Kang, Lun-Mei Gwei

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

BAD GENIUS (PG15)

A back-to-school entertainer following a bunch of high school seniors who challenge and take down a rigged admission system.

Actors: Benedict Wong, Taylor Hickson, Jabari Banks

Timings: 11.45am, 4.15pm, 8.45pm

CLASSIFIED (PG15)

A career CIA hitman who's been solely using the classified section of various newspapers to receive his orders suddenly discovers that his division's actually been shut down for years.

Actors: Aaron Eckhart, Tim Roth, Abigail Breslin

Timings: 2pm, 6.30pm, 11pm

SHARK WARNING (15+)

Twenty years after his brother was killed in a shark attack, a man returns to his hometown and embarks on a quest to eliminate the predator.

Actors: David Chokachi, Andrew J Katers, Angela Cole

Timings: 10pm, 12am

CINDERELLA'S CURSE (18+)

A spine-chilling spin on a childhood classic, the film brings alive the beloved character's vengeance. A desperate Cinderella summons her fairy godmother from an ancient flesh-bound book.

Actors: Kelly Rian Sanson, Chrissie Wunna, Lauren Budd

Timings: 3.15pm, 10pm.

Culture Weekly



FUSIONISTS:
The core quartet

Capturing the Khaleeji spirit

NFUSING the magic of Afro-beats with the spirit of Khaleeji music, Bahrain's popular fusionists Majaz are set to drop the third single from their upcoming extended-play (EP) album tomorrow, writes Naman Arora.

The musical quartet comprising three Bahrainis - guitarist Hameed AlSaeed, bassist Salah Sharakhat and Jehad Al Halal on cello - as well as Saudi percussionist Abdulla Faisal, will be dropping *Ya Lala* this weekend.

When speaking to *GulfWeekly*, Salah described the music as, "another feel-good track that encapsulates the wondrous spirit of Khaleej, and navigates through its richly-textured beats and rhythms – with a tinge of North African influence – in a celebration of culture and diversity".

The four-minute-53-second Afro-Khaleeji song is set to have a music video to be released at a later date. It will complement their upcoming as-yet-untitled third EP, which celebrates the 'interconnectedness of African and Khaleeji music'.



RELEASED: Single Cover

"The non-lyrical chants in *Ya Lala* are vocables that are commonly used in Khaleeji culture and music, most often as a display of joy and care-free sentiments – an apt reflection of the nonchalant geniality of the Gulf and its people," Salah added.

Majaz, which means 'metaphor' in Arabic, celebrated a decade of making hypnotic beats last year and has been busy touring this year, performing at the Netherlands' Musica Mundo festival in June.

Their recent releases include the Moroccan Gnawa-inspired *Heila Hei* (a generational Bahraini phrase with no particular linguistic meaning), released in September last year, as well as *Ala Wain* (Arabic for 'to where'), released in April. Both these are expected to be included in the five-track EP to be announced in the coming months.

The band has previously performed in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, Tunisia, Egypt, and Bangladesh.

For details, follow @majaz_music on Instagram.

BROKEN BONDS

BAHRAIN CINEMA CLUB – Wednesday, 7pm, Juffair, September 25

Film: *Four Daughters*

Director: Kaouther Ben Hania

Duration: One hour and 47 minutes

Cast: Olfa Hamrouni, Eya Chikhaoui, Tayssir Chikhaoui

Plot: Partly dramatised, the documentary brings alive the experience of Tunisian mother Olfa and her two eldest daughters, Rahma and Ghofrane, until the day they disappear – they were radicalised



by extremists. Olfa Hamrouni and her two younger daughters Eya and Tayssir feature in the production, sharing gripping narratives that are further intensified by cinematic talent.

For details, call Huda Tabbara on 39682323.

Pulse of Pop



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

WHOA! NELLY IS BACK



COMEBACK: The album's promotional image featuring Nelly

BACK TO THE START

ANIMATED science action film *Transformers One* is out in theatres today. The movie depicts the origins of the Transformers' home planet, Cybertron, and how its fate was forever changed by the early relationship of known rivals Autobot leader Optimus Prime (voiced by Chris Hemsworth) and Decepticon villain Megatron (Brian Tyree Henry).

Directed by Josh Cooley, this is the franchise's first theatrical animated feature film



since *The Transformers: The Movie* (1986), which had Megatron (Frank Welker) killing Optimus (Peter Cullen).

Josh, who is a huge fan of the franchise, revealed that the trauma caused by the beloved protagonist's death influenced his prequel film. He assured other fans that it would not feature a scarring turn of events.

"When I first started on this film, knowing it was

an origin story was the thing that really got me interested. I've seen all the live actions, I've seen the cartoons, I've seen everything, but this part has never been seen on screen before," Josh said in an interview.

"You want to see them together (Optimus and Megatron,) you want to love them together, so that when the relationship starts to fall apart, it's a tragedy," he added.

DARK FORCES RISING

DC COMICS-BASED crime drama *The Penguin* is out on Max, with eight episodes scheduled to run until November 10.

Starring Colin Farrell as Oswald 'Oz' Cobblepot (also known as Penguin), *The Batman* (2022) spinoff series takes place one week after the film's events. It is expected to explore the Penguin's rise to power in Gotham City's criminal underworld.

"It's dark; that's what I can tell you about it. It's really dark. It's really heavy," Colin revealed in an interview. "Not to say I didn't

have fun, I had an amazing time doing it. It's incredibly violent. It's one man's rise to what he's always dreamt of inhabiting, which is a certain power or social status. This is Oswald's journey trying to rise to the top through extraordinary obstacles," he added.

The series will also star Cristin Milioti as Sofia Falcone, a psychopathic serial killer who fights the Penguin for control of Gotham's criminal underworld. Rhenzy Feliz stars as Victor Aguilar, a teenager who befriends the Penguin and becomes his driver.

TALE OF TWO BROTHERS

POPULAR author Sally Rooney's fourth novel *Intermezzo* is set to hit the shelves on September 24.

The book tackles two brothers grieving their father. Peter is a successful Dublin lawyer in his 30s who is meditating himself to sleep and struggling to manage his relationships with two different women - his first love Sylvia and college student Naomi.

Ivan is a 22-year-old competitive chess player who sees himself as socially awkward and a loner. In the midst of his bereavement, he finds himself intertwined with Margaret, who is an older woman.

Sally revealed in an interview that the decision to focus on brotherhood was not intentional, as she started solely writing about Ivan, then Peter came to her from a

upcoming project. Nelly has sold more than 45 million records, making her one of the most successful Canadian artists.

Released in 2000, her trip-hop debut studio album *Whoa! Nelly* put the creative talent on the map, earning her commercial success, and the Grammy award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for her song *Turn Off the Light* in 2002.

However, she is known mainly for her work with Timbaland on her third studio album *Loose* (2006), which features Billboard 100 number one hits *Promiscuous* and *Say it Right*, which received Grammy Award nominations in 2007 and 2008 for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance, respectively.

CONIC Canadian singer Nelly Furtado's new album, 7, drops tomorrow.

The title comes from it being the artist's seventh studio album, and her first in seven years since her 2017 release *The Ride*.

"It's more like a collection. Fashion collections don't really have titles, they're just called collection number 10 or 21. This is my collection seven," she said in an interview, explaining the concept.

The 45 year-old singer confirmed her musical comeback last year and said she recorded more than 100 songs in 18 months.

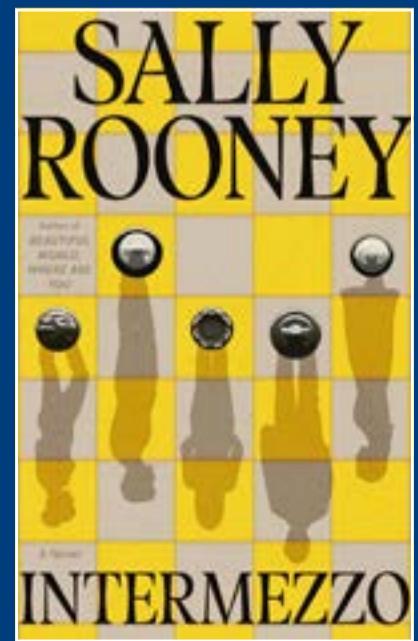
The album was announced in July.

The *Maneater* singer said she wrote around 400 to 500 songs in four years, 14 of which were chosen for the

writing block.

"I suddenly realised that Ivan had a brother, and, in that moment of realisation, I felt I could see the brother's entire personality, and these other important relationships in his life," she said.

The 33 year-old writer is best known for her two novels *Conversations with Friends* (2017) and *Normal People* (2018) which were adapted into namesake TV miniseries in 2020 and 2022.



Motoring Weekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

THE 2024 Formula 1 World Championship will intensify this weekend during the Singapore Grand Prix, a fixture on the Formula 1 calendar since 2008, as top racers take to the grid to battle it out during the iconic night race, held under the city's vibrant lights, at the Marina Bay Street Circuit.

Here are some of the top storylines that are sure to keep fans glued to their seats and screens this weekend.

SEALING THE LEAD

The biggest question that the kingdom's F1 fans will be hoping to answer is whether Bahrain-owned McLaren can solidify the lead they took in the Constructors' Championship last weekend.

Although Lando Norris, who currently sits at second in the Drivers' Championship, acknowledged that the track can be challenging due to the humidity, he has done well on the track historically, coming in second last year and fourth the year before.

However, the team has not won a race there since 2009. "It feels good going into this race knowing we're currently first in the Constructors' Championship," he added.

"The team has done and keeps doing an excellent job. We know we now need to keep working hard and delivering consistent results."

His team mate Oscar Piastri, fresh off an incredible weekend in Baku where he secured his second Grand Prix win, is also hoping to challenge for the top prize this weekend.

TROUBLES WITH THE BULLS

Red Bull fans who were hoping for the star team to turn around its fortunes after a lacklustre second leg of the season, were sorely disappointed when three-time champion Max Verstappen finished fifth and his team mate ended up 17th after a devastating crash with Ferrari's Carlos Sainz.

"We have learnt from what we did wrong last week in Baku and can try a few things differently this week in Singapore," Verstappen said, ahead of next Sunday's race.

"Marina Bay is a cool circuit but we do expect this to be a bit more of a challenge, as it has been historically."

"The race is usually quite close here and obviously very hot and humid."

"The changes that we



ACTION: Race at the Marina Bay circuit

Fight under the night lights



Verstappen

initially made in Baku were positive and we were heading in the right direction; we think we know what we can do better and of course need to make sure that we are optimising the set up."

Of course, not all is glum in the Red Bull camp - although Verstappen has not taken victory since the Spanish Grand Prix in June, he remains the only driver to have won more than two races this season with seven wins. In addition, Perez won the 2022 Singapore GP as he led from start-to-finish, after overcoming a five-second time penalty to win by more than 2.5 seconds.

PETRONAS TURNS 50

In celebration of Petronas' 50th anniversary, the Silver Arrows will sport a different look for this weekend's Singapore Grand Prix.

The predominant colour on the W15 will be the iconic

emerald green of the team, replacing the silver on the nose and sidepods.

With Malaysia bordering the Asian city-state of Singapore, the Grand Prix this weekend is the closest race to the home of Petronas, and therefore a fitting place to mark the occasion.

"The livery looks incredible," seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton added.

"I can't wait to see it on the

car in the garage tomorrow and then to get behind-the-wheel on Friday. I am sure the fans will love seeing it up close and it will shine brightly under the lights of Singapore."

CIRCUIT CHALLENGES

The Marina Bay Street Circuit is a unique track, renowned for its challenging layout and demanding nature. With a mix of high-speed straights and tight corners, drivers need to be precise and aggressive to extract the maximum performance from their cars. The track's layout also makes overtaking difficult, often leading to intense battles throughout the race.

The Marina Bay Street Circuit's demanding nature and the potential for unexpected incidents can significantly impact the championship race. The last four Singapore

Grands Prix have had four different winners from three different constructors, so this weekend is definitely one to watch as the championship heats up in its final leg.

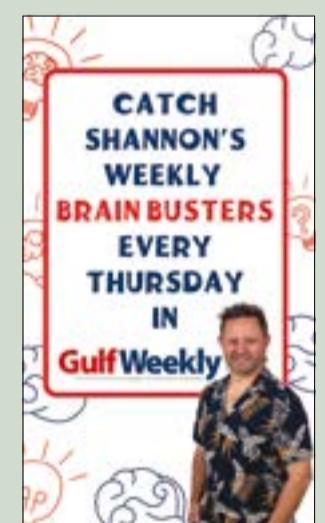


Norris

BRAIN-BUSTERS

Q uizmaster 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. Captain Ahab is a fictional character in which book?
2. The Ugli fruit is a Jamaican what?
3. Which famous guitarist has the nickname, 'Slow Hand'?
4. The Battle of Hamburger Hill was a battle in which war?
5. Which golfer is nicknamed 'The Great White Shark'?
6. Which Indian state is famous for beaches, tourism and
7. Pepsi



the Basilica of Bom Jesus?
7. Michael Jackson's hair caught fire while filming a commercial for which product?

1. Moby Dick
2. Tangier
3. Eric Clapton
4. Vietnam
5. Greg Norman
6. Goa
7. Pepsi

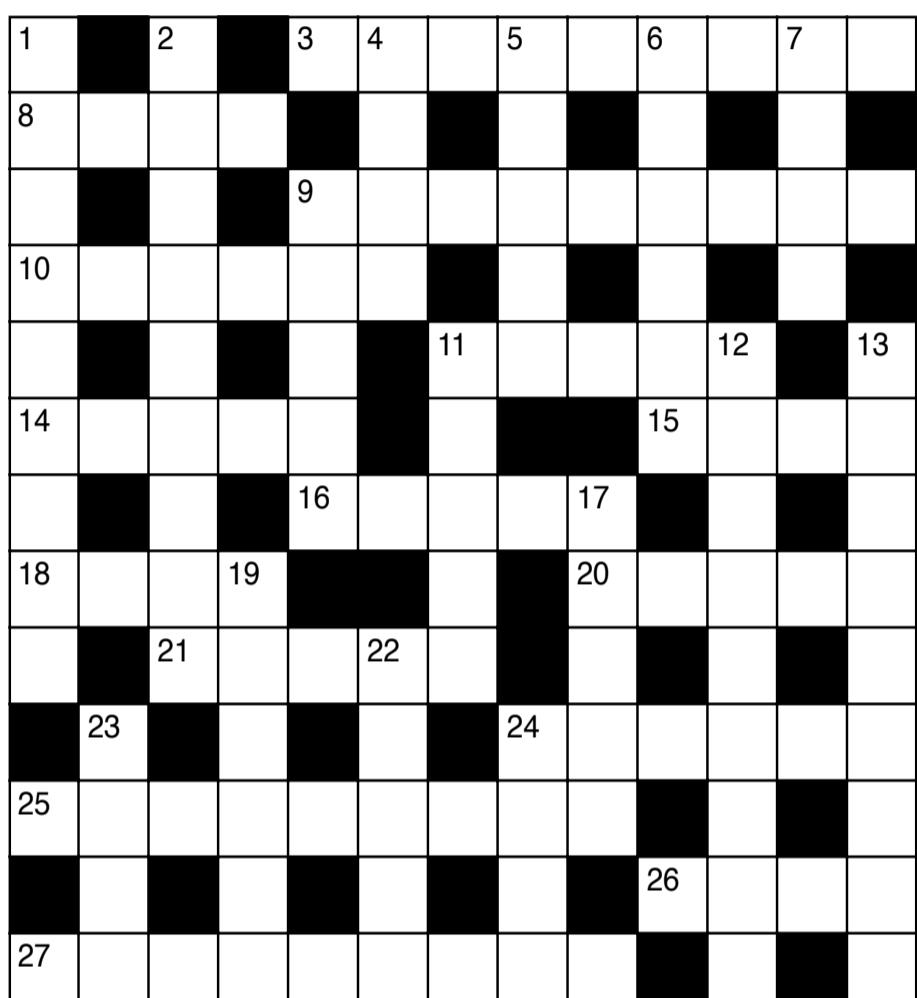
ANSWERS



PETRONAS: The special edition Mercedes livery

Time Out

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

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

Last Week's Sudoku								
5	4	9	8	3	7	2	6	1
1	6	2	9	4	5	7	3	8
7	3	8	1	2	6	4	9	5
3	8	6	5	9	4	1	7	2
4	5	1	7	6	2	9	8	3
2	9	7	3	8	1	6	5	4
8	7	5	4	1	9	3	2	6
9	2	4	6	5	3	8	1	7
6	1	3	2	7	8	5	4	9

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Alps; 3 Abdicate; 8 Pert; 9 Describe; 11 Announcement; 13 Scrape; 14 Clothe; 17 Ostentatious; 20 Believer; 21 Snub; 22 Latitude; 23 Mere.

Down: 1 Appraise; 2 Partner; 4 Breach; 5 Incomplete; 6 Alien; 7 Even; 10 Supplement; 12 Feasible; 15 Trounce; 16 Attend; 18 Split; 19 Abel.

JUST SO: Over the rainbow, Sense and sensibility, All creatures great and small, The last straw.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Matthew Broderick;
Thespis; Puerto Rico;
1998; Heathcote Williams;
Alan Bennett; France;
1977.

Darn Tough Sudoku

A partially filled 9x9 Sudoku grid. The visible numbers are:

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