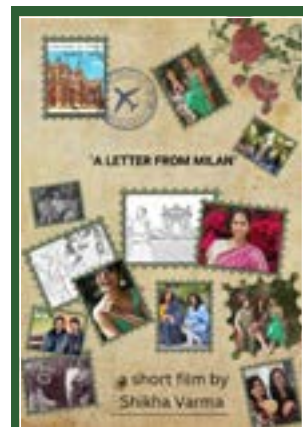




UNVEILED: Amina with Dr Abdullah



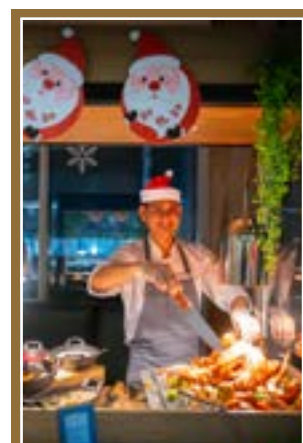
TREASURED: Dr Abdullah signing a copy of the book



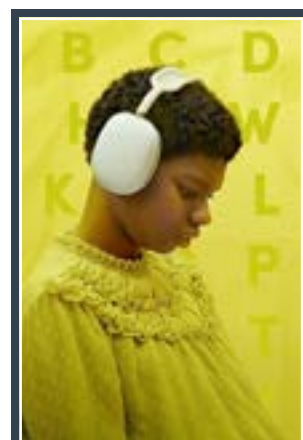
LITTLE ITALY
New movie release
SEE PAGE 2



DAR AMANA
Collage art display
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LEISURE SCENE
Festive fun & dining
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP
Movies, music & more
SEE PAGE 6

Twinkling tales

A NEW book by renowned Bahraini author Dr Abdullah Al Sulaiti shines a spotlight on timeless pieces of dazzling jewellery worn by the former royal family of Egypt from the 19th century.

The book, entitled *Egyptian Royal Family Jewellery*, focuses on rare and exquisite designs, pearls and other priceless possessions of the dynasty of Muhammad Ali



BOOK REPORT
By RIMA ALHADDAD
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Pasha, who was the ruler of Egypt from 1805 to 1848, explaining in detail their history and artistic value.

Known for their appreciation for unique and extraordinary creations, the family got the gems handcrafted by renowned European luxury jewellery design houses, including Cartier and Van Cleef & Arpels.

"It took me around six years to complete this book as I had to research and travel a lot to conduct personal reviews with members of the royal family," Dr Abdullah told *GulfWeekly*.

"I was given the green light after I presented the project to Ahmed Fuad II, a member of the Egyptian Muhammad Ali dynasty, and he welcomed the idea and provided me with the information I needed."

As a child, Dr Abdullah was fascinated by the history of the Egyptian royal family and became curious about their jewellery that he saw in museums and magazines. "I'm glad I got the opportunity to write about them and to focus on the most important pieces," the 50-year-old historian with more than 16 years' experience in the fields of heritage, antiquities, and museums added.

Throughout his career, Dr Abdullah has held numerous administrative positions at the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities.

One of the designs highlighted in the book is a precious Van Cleef & Arpels bib necklace, crafted in the shape of a bib. It has around 600 diamonds in art deco style, with baguette diamonds topped with rows of brilliant cut diamonds



ELEGANT: A necklace owned by Muhammad Ali Pasha that consists of 16 decorative units

(having higher shine). According to Dr Abdullah, this masterpiece was worn by Queen Nazli Sabri, who was Egypt's first queen consort.

"She was seen wearing the necklace for the 1939 wedding ceremony of her daughter, Fawzia of Egypt, who became the queen of Iran following her marriage to Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the former Shah of Iran," he said.

"Later on, the queen took the necklace with her to America and it stayed with her until it was taken by an American bank," the author claimed. Eventually, Van Cleef & Arpels bought the necklace back in an auction and it was seen thereafter on Amina El Demirdash, Queen Nazli's great granddaughter, who featured in *Vogue Arabia* magazine in 2019,

according to Dr Abdullah.

Another necklace owned by Muhammad Ali Pasha has also been featured in the book. The golden neck piece consists of 16 decorative units, with 'Muhammad Ali' engraved on eight of them. Eight others are in the shape of a rose.

Amina attended the book launch, which was staged at the DANAT booth at Jewellery Arabia 2024.

DANAT is the Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones and an international pearl testing authority.

Other books published by the author include *Sultan Ali bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, from the sultanate to Exile* (2023), *Forts in Bahrain* (2009) and *The Journey of Exile of Khedive Ismail from 1879 to 1895* (2020).



ELEGANCE:
Queen Nazli's
necklace

With love, from Italy



FILM REPORT

By MELISSA NAZARETH
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BAHRAIN-BASED creative and filmmaker Shikha Varma's fourth short film is set to premiere in theatres on Sunday, and explores the idea that 'love is the only force that sustains us'.

The Indian expatriate penned the story almost a decade ago when she lived with her family in Rome, Italy. However, the project finally came to fruition this year.

The 24-minute Hindi language film with English subtitles, *A letter from Milan*, will be screened at Cineco Bahrain in Oasis Mall, Juffair for selected invitees, after which it will be available on YouTube for public viewing.

"I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the Bahrain Cinema Company for providing me a platform to make it big," the Awali resident for the last 18 years, told *GulfWeekly*.

"While stationed in Italy in 2015, I attended a couple of youth art festivals and that's where the concept took root. I created a few short films along the way, but this particular story continued to linger, perhaps waiting for the perfect moment, location, and the ideal people to bring the characters I envisioned to life," she added.

A story teller well versed with various art forms, from photography to poetry, Shikha's tales always have an underlying message.

"*A letter from Milan* explores the idea that love is the only force that sustains us because it is stored in the heart. The mind can forget love but it always remains in heart," she said.

For Shikha, film-making is an extension of photography. "My passion grew from my love of viewing life through a lens," the shutterbug and mother of two explained.



TALENT: Shikha with her dynamic cast and crew

The film revolves around lead character Anjali, portrayed by Bahrain-based painter and dancer Pia Banerjee, who has an encounter with her past through a letter she receives after a postal delay. What unfolds next is beyond her imagination.

Local creative talent Anindita Bhoomik, yoga instructor Neelanjana Bharadwaj, writer and poet Nivedita Roy and architect, artist and poet Sudeep Deshpande also star in the production. Renowned Bahraini kathak (Indian classical dance form) dancer Khalil Alashar makes an appearance too.

Shikha has scripted, directed and produced the film, while her younger daughter Veda Varma, who previously attended British School of Bahrain and is currently studying Business Economics at Amsterdam University, handled the editing.

Majority of the filming was shot in March and April last year at various locations in Bahrain, including a public park and some of the cast's homes.

"We shot the film when the pink bougainvillea was in full bloom in my garden. The lamp posts and vibrant benches at Neelanjana's garden in Saar, along with

the stylish décor of Pia's home, add a positive, uplifting vibe to the film. The opening scene was filmed at Andalus Garden," Shikha, whose elder daughter Reet is a lawyer residing in Amsterdam, revealed.

"In addition to the dialogues, the script includes my poetic expressions which flow seamlessly through the storyline, creating a cohesive and interconnected narrative. My voice and I have a small appearance in the film."

The film's structure alternates between the present and the past, with snapshots playing a crucial role.

"Both my love for photography and film-making worked together seamlessly in this project," the wanderlust and freelance travel writer said.

Shikha, who lives with her husband Sumit, has bigger dreams to produce a full-fledged feature film in the near future. In the past, her work has been screened at various local and international film festivals.

Some of her previous works include *The Ring*, *Udaan* and *Keep in Touch*.

For more details, follow @shiks_kliks on Instagram.



TRIO: From left to right, Shikha, Nivedita and Pia

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) December has two zodiac signs, name both.
- 2) The General Theory of Relativity was published on December 16, 1915. Who was it from?
- 3) Which Leonardo Di Caprio movie was released on December 19, 1997?
- 4) Which group sang *Oh, What A Night* about a 'late December in 1963'?
- 5) What was the world afraid of on December 31, 1999?
- 6) Who did Anthony Joshua defeat to



- become British Heavyweight champion on December 12, 2015?
- 7) Helen Viola Jackson, who died in December 2020, was the last surviving widow of which war?

- ANSWERS**
1. Sagittarius and Capricorn
 2. Albert Einstein
 3. *Titanic*
 4. The Four Seasons
 5. Y2K
 6. Dillon Whyte
 7. American Civil War



Speak your mind!

THE New Year is around the corner and as we gear up to turn a new leaf, *GulfWeekly's* 'Speak Your Mind' feature series invites you, our family of readers, to share your views on: How do you plan to prioritise your mental health in 2025? Share your thoughts in no more than 100 words by emailing gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on

Instagram by December 25. 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. Together, let's get the conversation started!

Congratulations to last month's winner Rejina Chhinal!



ART REPORT

By MELISSA NAZARETH
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NINE Arab artists are set to take people on an introspective journey at the inaugural exhibition of Amana Creative Collective's newly-opened community hub tonight (December 5).

Fragments of Self: A Collage Journey into Arab Identity will be staged at Dar Amana (Arabic for 'house of Amana') in Bahrain's cultural capital Muharraq.

The venue will serve as the dedicated headquarters for the community-based platform, which raises awareness on humanitarian causes through art.

"We still aim to collaborate with other creative spaces and artists, but having a headquarters of our own to host events is something we're all excited about," co-founder Ramah Al Hussein told *GulfWeekly*.

"Starting with this exhibition that invites self-reflection is a great way to launch this new chapter of Amana," she added.

Amana Creative Collective was founded this year by Bahrainis, Maryam Abdulla, Fatima Al Saad, Maha Al Sahhaf and Tamadher Al Fahal and Palestinian-Saudi Ramah Al Hussein. Dar Amana will be on the Pearling Path for the next six months as part of a larger Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Baca) activation.

"We don't know what the future holds but our doors are open until the summer when the Pearling Path

Self-reflections



Ali



Yasmine



Layla

closes," she said.

Bahraini programme manager Ali Al Shaikh is one of the participating artists in the collage-themed showcase. He discovered the style during the 'trying times' of the Covid-19 pandemic and found it to be a great outlet for creative expression.

"I design my pieces from a variety of print material salvaged, or collected from thrift stores. The idea that everything can be a part of a bigger story excites me and informs my work," he said.

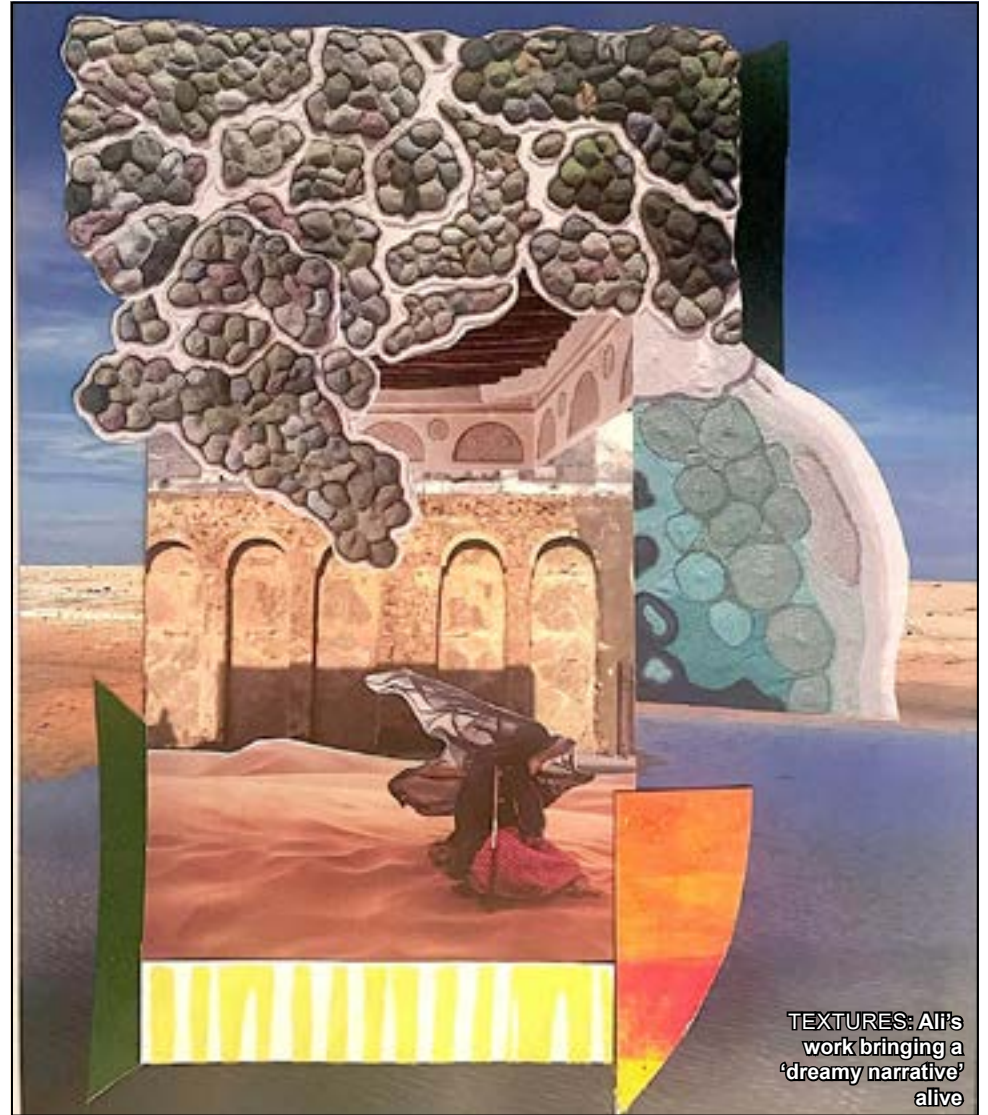
"In this piece, I attempt to have elements of nature, textures, architectural motifs and colours interact to represent a dreamy narrative, that shows the different periods we (Arabs) went through, culturally and socially over the last century. I think our identity is highly impacted by the changes our societies go through," the 36-year-old explained.

Mixed-media artist Layla Al Ammari describes her

style as 'loose, colourful, and whimsical'. The Saar resident will be displaying her unique interpretation of what it is to be Arab, drawing from her own Arab identity.

"I identify as Arab as my father is Bahraini and Saudi, and my mother is Dutch. However, I grew up in both Bahrain and Saudi, and connect to the Arab culture, both in a beautiful and in a complicated way," she noted.

The self-taught artist plays a lot with collage, which is her



TEXTURES: Ali's work bringing a 'dreamy narrative' alive

signature style and aspires to pursue a Master's degree in Fine Arts in the coming years. In the Amana exhibition, the 23-year-old uses collage and colour to bring alive the patterns, inspired by the different designs associated with Arab fashion, clothing and furniture, across the entirety of the Middle East.

"My artworks represent the importance of community and culture in the Arab world. But also, the dream of a cohesive and interconnected future, where we can expand, challenge, and include more in the Arab identity," she said.

"I work a lot through themes of identity and belonging through my art. I am interested in better understanding the emblems of 'Arab culture', and challenging them through different representations," she added.

RAK (Rashid Al Khalifa) Foundation director Yasmin Sharabi's creation points to her Palestinian roots. The Palestinian-American-Bahraini artist and curator from Janabiya explores her relationship with her Palestinian father in this exhibition.

"I acknowledge how my father's homeland, heritage and existence are synonymous with mine and how his lifelong struggle for

liberation is also a defining characteristic of my Arab identity," she said.

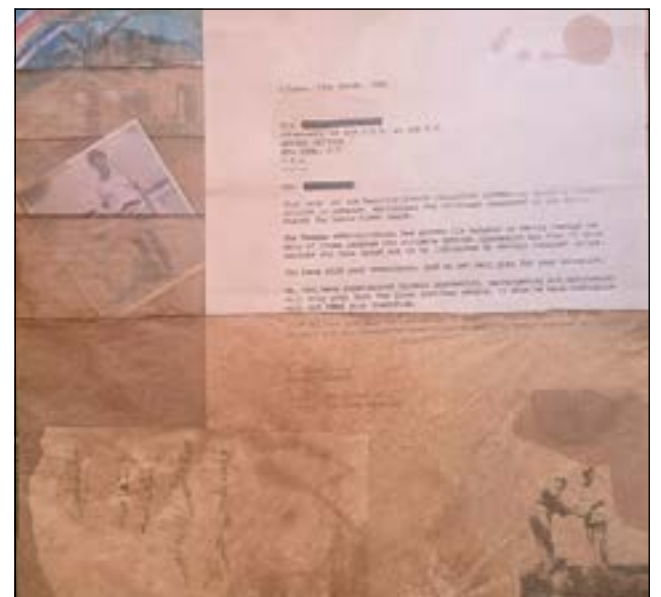
"In *A letter from my father*, I contemplate my relationship with my father by translating his memories into visualisations and layering them within a translucent file. This process of deciphering thoughts and transforming memories into tangible images, invites me to identify with my father, conflating his narrative with my interpretations," she added.

The 43-year-old, who has a Master's degree in Art Business from Sotheby's

Art Institute, used scraps of paper, including copies of items from her personal collection such as old photos of her father, his childhood drawings and a copy of his handwriting to create her artwork.

Dar Amana will be hosting exhibitions, workshops and music events throughout the next few months. The space also features Dukkan Amana – a shop with locally crafted items designed by talented artists and creatives – and a café. The exhibition runs until December 30.

For event details, follow @we.are.amana on Instagram.



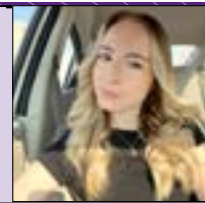
IDENTITY: *A letter from my father* showcasing Yasmine's interpretation of her Palestinian roots



VIBRANT: Layla's colourful canvas portraying Arab influences

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



A PARTY LIKE NO OTHER AT RITZ-CARLTON

CELEBRATE the holiday season at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain.

Get ready for a spectacular celebration and a range of culinary delights at the Grand Christmas Brunch.

Enjoy live cooking stations and a tempting selection of delectable desserts at the ballroom.

It costs BD60 per person, inclusive of selected beverages, BD45 inclusive of soft beverages and BD25 per child, aged four to 12, inclusive of soft beverages.

The hotel is also hosting a range of Christmas dinners at its many luxurious restaurants on December 24 and 25.

La Table Krug will stage a five-course tasting menu for BD60 per person. Primavera and Plums is also offering guests a four-course menu at BD45 per person. A la carte menus are available at Cantina Kahlo and Nirvana, with a minimum spend of



BD35 per person. There will be live entertainment at all venues.

Meanwhile, Ritz Gourmet Lounge and Lobby Lounge invite guests to their Festive High Tea until December 31, from 3pm to 7pm. Indulge in a delightful twist on afternoon tea, and savour a selection of freshly baked scones and cakes.

It costs BD35 per set, inclusive of tea or coffee, or BD38 per set with one glass of bubbly.

Enjoy the Ritz Gourmet Shop and La Gourmandise Holiday Takeaway, until December 31. It includes a turkey with trimmings, holiday cakes, festive hampers, minced pies, cookies and more. Offers range from BD170 to BD250.

Ring in the New Year in style with La Plage and Thai Lounge's Open Air-Count Down Party. Enjoy delicious bites, irresistible music and a grand countdown on

SWEET TREATS: The Grand Christmas Brunch



December 31, from 7.30pm to 1am.

It's priced at BD30 per person, inclusive of two selected beverages. A range

of live performances will be staged including three DJ sets, band performances, dancers, percussionists, fire show and roaming acts.

A New Year's Eve nightclub party will also be held at Al Noor. Immerse yourself in a vibrant electric night of music, dance and

rhythm for BD55 per person, inclusive of two glasses of a special beverage.

For more information, contact 17586499.

TEA-RRIFIC TREATS FOR ALL SEASONS

THE Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay has a lineup of festive activities to keep the merry cheer going all month long.

Get whisked away by an array of pastries and sweets at Bay View Lounge's Winter Wonderland Tea. It's available until January 11, from noon to 9pm. The festive tea is priced at BD22 per person while the royal afternoon tea with warm apple cider costs BD26.

Celebrate Bahrain National Day at Bay View Lounge, with a special tea infused with traditional flavours.

Indulge in locally inspired savoury items such as Bahraini kebab muffins, meat sambosa, safi brandade sandwich and more from December 10 to 17, from noon to 9pm. It's priced at BD22 per person for Bahraini tea, or BD26 per person inclusive of selected beverages.

Step into the winter wonderland at CUT by Wolfgang Puck for a magical Christmas dining experience. Savour dishes such as chicken rhubarb chutney, turkey with



DELICIOUS: Beef Wellington and other festive dishes at CUT by Wolfgang Puck

sage and onion stuffing and beef Wellington. An a la carte menu is available from December 23 to 26, 7pm to 11pm, and a Christmas lunch menu on December 25, from 12.30pm to 3pm.

A Christmas special set menu for brunch will also be available on December 27, from 12.30pm to 4pm. The set menu costs BD70net per person, inclusive of a bubbly beverage package.

Guests can also enjoy a fabulous dining experience at home with the hotel's



TASTY: Christmas takeaway dinner

Christmas Celebration at Home, from December 22 to 28. It costs BD105net for six people, inclusive of a roast turkey and all the trimmings, or BD190 for six for a full festive feast.

Don't miss out on spectacular New Year's Eve celebrations at CUT by Wolfgang Puck, featuring stunning views of Bahrain

Bay and an exclusive a la carte menu curated by executive chef Brian Becher, on December 31. Relish the one-of-a-kind feast from 7pm to 1am for BD60 per person.

New Year's Eve celebrations are also taking place at Bahrain Bay Kitchen, Byblos, and re/Asian Cuisine. For details, call 17115500, 17115044 or 17115046.

MOVIE TIME

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

MOANA 2 (3D) (PG)

After receiving an unexpected call from her wayfinding ancestors, Moana journeys to the far seas of Oceania and into dangerous, long-lost waters for an adventure unlike anything she has ever faced. **Actors:** Dwayne Johnson, Auli'i, Alan Tudyk **Timings:** 11am, 3.30pm, 8pm

ELEVATION (PG-15)

A single mother and two women shun the safety of their homes to face monstrous creatures to save the life of a young boy. **Actors:** Anthony Mackie, Morena Baccarin **Timings:** 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm, 12.30am **HERE (15+)**

A generational story about families and the special place they inhabit, sharing in love, loss, laughter and life **Actors:** Tom Hanks, Robin

Wright, Pail Bettany **Timings:** 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

BLACK CAB (15+)

A couple find that their jovial cab driver diverts them to a remote, haunted road, revealing disturbing motives and true intentions. **Actors:** Nick Frost, Synnove Karlsen, George Bukhari

Timings: 2pm, 6pm, 10pm **DEER CAMP '86 (18+)**

In the fall of 1986, six knuckleheads from Detroit travel north to partake in the annual tradition of deer hunting. But something horrific has been awakened and the hunters become the hunted. **Actors:** Noah LaLonde, Jay Bidwell, Arthur Cartwright

Timings: 4pm, 8pm, midnight **GLADIATOR II (15+)**

After his home is conquered by the tyrannical powers who now lead Rome, Lucius is forced to enter the Colosseum and must look to his past to find strength. **Actors:** Paul Mescal, Pedro Pascal, Denzel Washington

Timings: 10.30am, 1.30pm, 4.30, 7.30pm, 10.30pm

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment



PRIDE: National Day celebrations at Hilton Bahrain

GET IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH HILTON

ENJOY a range of festive events at Hilton Bahrain.

Origin Kitchen and Culture is hosting an array of spectacular dining experiences that are sure to get you in the holiday spirit.

A Festive Brunch will be held tomorrow, from 12.30pm to 4pm. It costs BD28net with unlimited soft beverages and BD39net with unlimited selected beverages. An exclusive rate is applied for military personnel at BD25net.

A Bahrain National Day Lunch will also be held on December 16, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

Guests can also book the restaurant's Nutcracker Christmas Eve dinner on December 24, from 7pm to 11pm. It costs BD18 with unlimited soft beverage and BD25 inclusive of unlimited selected beverages.

A Nutcracker Christmas Brunch will also be held on December 25, from 12.30pm to 4pm, at Origin Kitchen and Culture. It costs BD25 with unlimited soft beverages and BD32 with unlimited selected beverages.

Celebrate New Year's Eve in style at the restaurant's Midnight Masquerade – A Fairy Tale New Year's Eve Ball on December 31, from 8pm to midnight. It costs BD55net with unlimited classic beverages and BD65net with unlimited



FESTIVE: Brunch at Origin Kitchen and Culture

premium beverages.

Meanwhile, a festive baking class for children, aged five to 12, will be held on December 21, from 2pm to 5pm at Lamar Café and Lounge.

For a relaxed and chilled Christmas, order the hotel's Turkey To-Go, which includes a whole turkey and trimmings for BD60net. It serves six to eight people and is available until December 25.

Meanwhile, guests can enjoy Origin Kitchen and Culture's Pan Asian Night on Wednesday, from 7pm to 10pm. It's priced at BD22net with unlimited soft beverages and BD28net with unlimited selected beverages.

Tonight, the freshest catch and live cooking stations are available at the same location for BD32net with unlimited beverages and BD28 with unlimited soft beverages.

For more information, call 33692013.

CULTURAL SOJOURN

MUHARRAQ Nights is back and set to feature a range of cultural activities and musical performances.

The festival, which kicks off today and runs until December 30, is being organised by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Baca). It will include a number of food, music and art-related events, all taking place along the 3.5km-long Pearling Path.

An art installation titled, *Windows of Muharraq* will highlight the city's rich history by using televisions to play old songs and screen pictures that represent the Muharraq's past.

It's open from Sunday to Wednesday, 5pm to 10pm, and Thursday to Saturday, 5pm to midnight, at Dar Jnna.

There will also be a number of live shows at Qala't Bu Mahir.

Bahraini singer Faisal Al Ansari, who is best known for fusion music, will perform a range of traditional songs tonight, at 8pm.

Tomorrow, singer Mohammed Aseeri will stage a sensational musical evening with the Qanun, a Middle Eastern instrument that dates back to the 10th century, at 8pm.

Bahraini singer Rashid Zowayed and the Mohammed Bin Faris Band will

Mohammed



perform timeless Bahraini folk acts on Sunday, at 8pm.

AT THE CLUBS

CHRISTMAS FAIR FUN FOR FAMILIES

HEAD down to the British Club Bahrain for an array of holiday treats.

Don't miss out on the Christmas Fair being held tomorrow, at 7pm. Vendors will be selling all sorts of handcrafted gifts, stocking fillers and more. Entry is free for all.

Children can enjoy a Christmas party on Saturday, where there will be singing, dancing, goodie bags, a photo booth, face painting and games, from 5.30pm to 7pm. Entry is free for members, and it costs BD2.500 for non-members.

Enjoy homemade pizzas at the club's Pizza Wednesday. It costs BD15 inclusive of selected beverages for members and BD17.500 for non-members. A food-only package costs BD10 for members and BD12.500 for non-members.

Manama Theatre Club will stage its festive pantomime *Help! I'm a Celebrity Pantomime Dame... Get Me Out of Here!* at the club tonight at 7.30pm, tomorrow at 3pm and 7pm and on Saturday at 3pm.

For details, contact reception@britishclubbahrain.com or call 17728245.

LIVE MUSIC AND TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

THE Bahrain Rugby Football Club is hosting a tree lighting ceremony tomorrow, along with Christmas carols.

Guests can enjoy live music, delicious treats and a children's zone.

Normal guests' rule apply.

For more information, contact 17695809.

MAKE MOMENTS MEMORABLE

FOR a fabulous holiday celebration, book Dilmun Club Bahrain.

Enjoy a four-course set menu at the club for BD11 per person, or BD14.500 per person with an additional steak.

A Christmas takeaway menu is also available, inclusive of a choice of roast turkey or roast beef and all the trimmings. It costs BD30 for 5.6kg of turkey and BD10 for 1kg of roast beef. Both offers are available until January 10. Enjoy a festive dinner show with a four-course meal and performance by Manama Singers tonight, 7pm onwards for BD18.800net.

For bookings, call 17690926.

BLISS ON A PLATE

JOIN the Royal Golf Club (RGC) for a magical festive journey.

Guests can reserve their festive Christmas Eve (December 24) dinner featuring a delicious four-course menu and live entertainment. It's priced at BD25 per person, inclusive of one selected beverage, from 8pm until midnight.

A spectacular Christmas Brunch will also be available on December 25. Enjoy a traditional buffet with live cooking stations, festive music and activities for all ages. It costs BD40 per person, inclusive of a beverage selection and BD15 for children aged five to 12. Children under four dine for free.

For an unforgettable New Year's Eve, book the club's Noche de Rumba, featuring

a lavish buffet and live entertainment, on December 31, from 9pm to 2am. It costs BD50net per person, inclusive of selected beverages.

Take the stress out of the kitchen this holiday season with the club's festive gourmet specials.

Choose from roasted turkey with glazed root vegetables, sautéed brussels sprouts, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing and gravy for BD50. It serves eight to 10 guests. A feast for 10 to 12 people is also available for BD60.

Roasted lamb leg is available with glazed root vegetables, buttered beans and broccoli, braised red cabbage, gravy, Yorkshire pudding, mustard, and horseradish sauce. It serves six to seven guests and costs BD80.

For more information contact 39007546.



FABULOUS: Christmas dinner

Pulse of Pop

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

FINDING HER VOICE



BASED on a true story, the heart-tugging documentary *Makayla's Voice: A Letter to the World* is set to release on Netflix on December 11.

It chronicles the extraordinary story of a teenage girl grappling with a rare form of autism that has rendered her nonverbal.

Harboring an unwavering belief in their daughter's potential, Makayla's parents embark on a remarkable journey to explore their daughter's world. Makayla unlocks the joys of self-expression as she shares her voice for the first time, using a letter board.

The film won Best Documentary Short at Tribeca Film Festival

2024 and gives the audience an insight into Makayla's courageous steps as she unveils her thoughts and feelings. She goes on to advocate for autism, determined to show the world the power and beauty of neurodiversity.

Executive produced by Academy Award winner Roger Ross Williams, Khari Cain, Mañana Cain, Rostam Zafari, and Dylan Mulick, and produced by Sam Hanson, Sasha Levinson, and Julio Palacio – who is also the director – the short movie runs for 24 minutes and is sensitively and respectfully made.

A story of incredible resilience, the film will deeply resonate with viewers and sensitise them to the challenges faced by individuals on the spectrum.

WHERE MUSIC MEETS COMEDY

FESTIVE: Sabrina

HOLIDAY variety music special *A Nonsense Christmas with Sabrina Carpenter* premieres on Netflix tomorrow.

The creative talent is set to perform songs from her festive EP (extended play) *Fruitcake*, released last year, as well as other iconic songs.

The one-hour-special will feature performances by guest artists, including Chappel Roan, Shania Twain, Tyla, Kali Uchis, and more.

"The holidays have always been so special to me. I am excited to bring my take to a classic holiday variety show, infusing my love of music and comedy to make something that is uniquely me," Sabrina said in an interview.

"It's an hour of literal nonsense, if people are expecting boring, me singing by a tree, it's not that. It's so fun, so chaotic," she added.

The creative talent released her sixth album *Short n' Sweet* earlier this year, which debuted at number one on Billboard 200 and was received with critical acclaim, earning the singer six nominations for the 2025 Grammy Awards.

Producer of the album Jack Antonoff commended the singer for the way she weaves humour into her song-writing, which is something that she is most known for.



FIGHTING THE DARK FORCES

EPIC fantasy novel *Wind and Truth: Book Five of the Stormlight Archive* by Brandon Sanderson hits the shelves tomorrow.

Taking place on the fictional planet Roshar in the Cosmere universe, the literary series features a range of characters with magical powers, who fight against evil while also learning to face their demons, tackling mental health themes, among others.

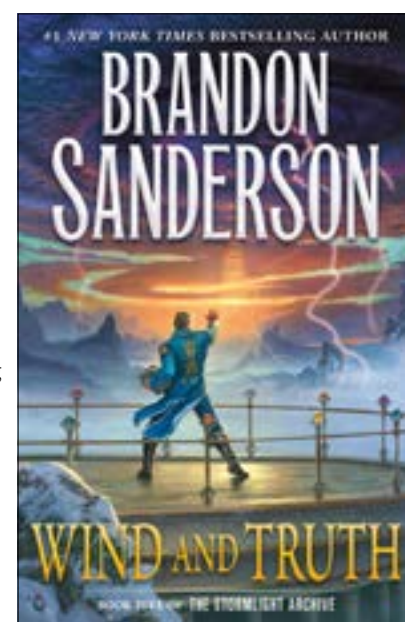
The fifth book is set to follow former assassin Szeth, who must cleanse his homeland from the dark influence of the mysterious group Unmade.

"It's (the book) going to answer a lot of questions, it's going to delve into the lore of Roshar more than any book has so far," Brandon, who took 10 years planning the series, said in an interview.

The award-winning author has become highly regarded for his captivating writing style and detailed worldbuilding, as many of

his works are set on different planets in the Cosmere universe, with subtle connections and character appearances across his creations.

So far, the *Stormlight Archive* comprises *The Way of Kings*, *Words of Radiance*, *Edgedancer*, *Oathbringer*, *Dawnshard*, and *Rhythm of War*.





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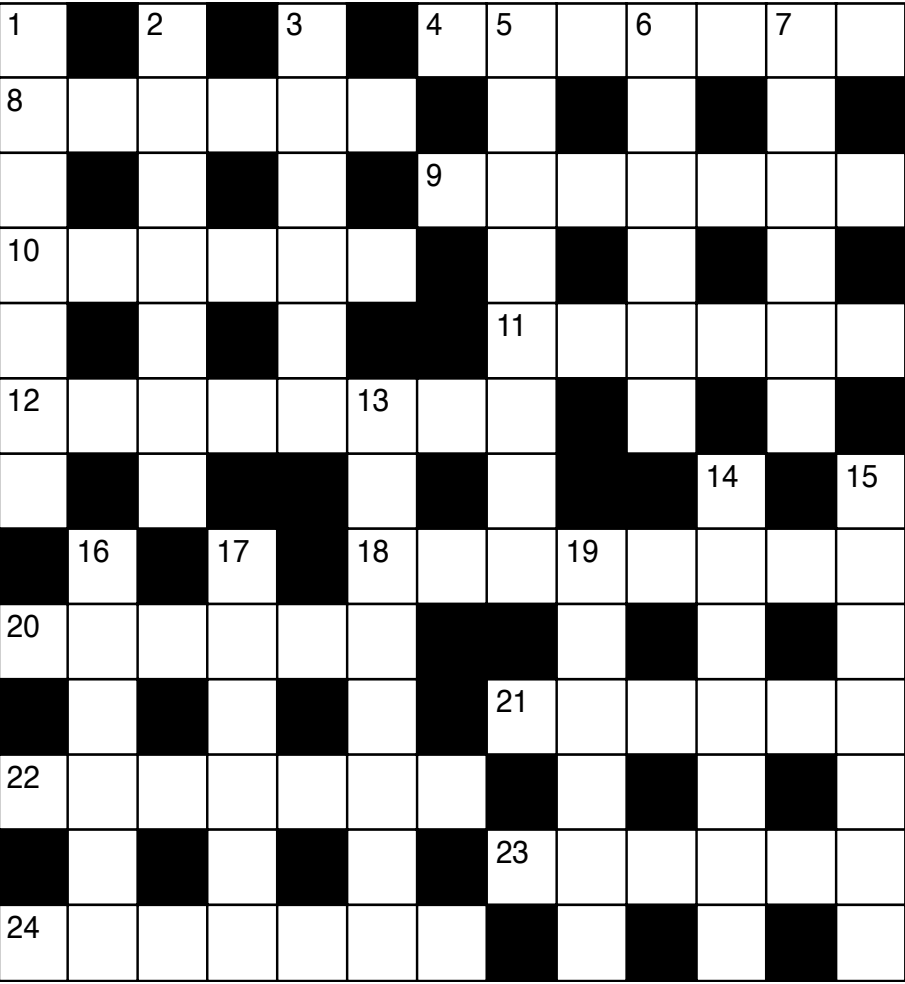
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Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 4. Refrain from (7)
- 8. Exempt (6)
- 9. Stupid (7)
- 10. Confederated (6)
- 11. Confine (6)
- 12. Succession (8)
- 18. Endurance (8)
- 20. Yankee in S. America (6)
- 21. Slave to a habit (6)
- 22. Commotion (7)
- 23. Choose (6)
- 24. Protection (7)

DOWN

- 1. Fantastic (7)
- 2. Rival (7)
- 3. Fabricate (6)
- 5. Perambulator (8)
- 6. Principles (6)
- 7. Disregard (6)
- 13. Uncivil (8)
- 14. Invigorate (7)
- 15. With a will (7)
- 16. Channel (6)
- 17. Creature (6)
- 19. Really (6)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... released the album *Tales from Topographic Oceans*?
WHAT ... canal originally ran from Albany to Buffalo in New York State?
WHERE ... in South America is the port of Talcahuano?
WHEN ... was the TV presenter and former footballer Gary Lineker born?
WHO ... destroyed the ancient Greek city of Eretria in 490BC?
WHAT ... might you do with a nasi goreng?
WHERE ... in Asia is the Lingayen Gulf?
WHEN ... did the US poet E.E. Cummings die?

just so



ORDERS

odd

PPPOD

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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Infertility; 9 Nap; 10 Elevation; 11 Unfit; 13 Despoil; 14 Inside; 16 Entire; 18 Imitate; 19 Ought; 20 Unanimous; 21 Tea; 22 Restitution.

Down: 2 Nip; 3 Erect; 4 Treads; 5 Liaison; 6 Tailoring; 7 Injudicious; 8 Influential; 12 Fascinate; 15 Diarist; 17 Devout; 19 Onset; 21 Too.

JUST SO: Circle of friends, Forbidden fruit, Part of the furniture, Godfather.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Lot's wife; Starfish; Nigeria; 1815; Wilhelm Friedemann Bach; A New Zealander; Scottish Borders; 1999 French Open.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work pad space ...