



ART REPORT

By NAMAN ARORA
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FROM Manama's fading family homes to the changing coastlines of the kingdom, memory does not sit quietly in the past, and six Bahrain-based artists are exploring the power it can hold on people and places at an upcoming exhibition.

Opening next Tuesday, September 16, at Al Riwaq Art Space, *Mnemosyne: Personal Memories, Shared Histories, and the Memory of Things* will mark the culmination of the gallery's fifth residency cycle, *Application 005*.

The programme brought together artists whose practices are grounded in Bahrain but speak to wider questions of history, belonging and the passage of time.

"Memory is not a single archive but a living topology," the organisers said.

"In *Mnemosyne*, six artists map how memory travels across scales – from the intimate rooms of a home to the expansive, changing landscapes of coastlines and environments.

"The show traces the fragility of family spaces and the ways memory inscribes itself in objects, places, and bodies."

Named after the Greek goddess of memory, *Mnemosyne* will feature the works of Shaikha Dwa Al Khalifa, Daniah Radhi, Ebrahim Jameel, Sara Fathalla, Judy Abi Roustom, and Hawra Al Marzooq.

Shaikha Dwa is exploring everyday rituals that quietly guide behaviour across generations by reimagining these practices as public warnings issued by a fictional *Protected Beliefs Authority*.

"Protected beliefs such as not trimming nails after sunset, carrying salt for protection, or not singing in the shower often guide our behaviour in subtle ways, followed almost unconsciously," she explained, highlighting how superstition continues to shape daily life.

For Ebrahim, memory is tied to resistance and the legacies of liberation. His work, *Striving Thesis*, is inspired by Bahraini musician and activist

ETCHED IN MEMORY



MNEMOSYNE: Judy, Ebrahim and Sara in the back row, with Daniah, Hawra and Shaikha Dwa in the front row

Majeed Marhoon.

"His music, in a time of imperialism, embodies the essence of a star lighting a long-dark road, teaching us how to claim victory over our own contemporary challenges," Ebrahim said.

Through elemental materials, he explores the endurance of struggle against external influence.

Daniah turned to Manama's changing urban landscape, where houses hold the echoes of generations.

"It is not the story of one house alone, but a reflection of many that generations have passed through, gradually transforming into repositories of stories more than dwellings," she said.

For her, these buildings are more than remnants; they are 'story capsules that preserve what archives cannot capture.'

Hawra is focusing on the persistence of trauma within families and bodies.

"When the joyful giggles of children are replaced by a loud, aching silence behind closed doors... invisible scars remain that no time can erase," she said.

Her work, *What are you storing?*, reflects on how emotional burdens are passed down 'like heirlooms.'

Judy is calling attention to the often-overlooked rooftops of urban life.

"These elevated, often overlooked spaces carry subtle yet powerful traces of

presence: a chair, a carpet, a piece of clothing left behind," she said.

Her series, *Above the City*, captures rooftops as thresholds between public and private.

Sara's *Pretending to Forget* takes memory to the shorelines, exploring how reclamation reshaped Bahraini communities bound to the sea.

"Decades of reclamation have reshaped the coastline, disrupting communities whose lives, livelihoods, and spirituality were deeply bound to the water," she said.

Her conversations with fishermen highlight two opposing ways of remembering: 'one that tries

to forget, and one that insists on remembering.'

These artists' practices demonstrate how memory acts as a generative force rather than a fixed record.

"The art residency programme reflects Al Riwaq's continued commitment to fostering diverse artistic experiences, providing space for creative research and experimentation, peer exchange, and critical dialogue that encourages artistic development and growth," Al Riwaq founder Bayan Al Barrak Kanoo explained.

"Each residency open call attracts a remarkable number of talented applicants, which is why we are proud to present the six artists of the *Application 005* programme, each of whom showcases a personal and unique experience, point of view, and method of expression.

"This programme is also an important exercise in preparing Bahraini artists to step onto international platforms, where they can be seen, recognised, and celebrated, as an integral part of our vision."

Curated by William Wells, *Mnemosyne* runs until October 30 and includes an artist talk on September 18, where audiences can hear directly from the participating creatives.

For more details, follow @alriwaq on Instagram.



CHOCOLATE RAIN
Bites of bliss
SEE PAGE 2



GRAPPLING GLORY
Packing a punch
SEE PAGE 3



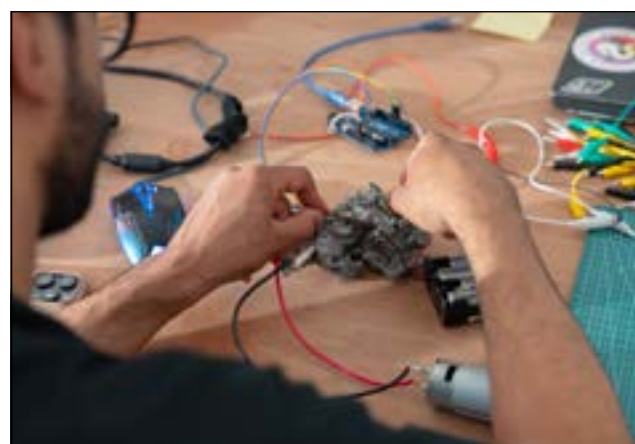
LEISURE SCENE
What's on in Bahrain
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP
Movies, music & more
SEE PAGE 6



PROTECTED BELIEFS AUTHORITY: One of Shaikha Dwa's signs



STRIVING THESIS: Ebrahim working on his project

Cocoa magic

VELVET on the tongue, bittersweet on the palate, and unforgettable in our memories – there are few things that match chocolate to turn ordinary moments into something special, writes Naman Arora.

With a history spanning more than 5,000 years, chocolate has evolved from a rare luxury to a daily delight enjoyed worldwide, and International Chocolate Day is set to be celebrated this Saturday, September 13, marking the birth of Milton S Hershey, the American chocolatier who made chocolate as ubiquitous as it is today.

Last year, the global chocolate market was valued at approximately \$130.72 billion and is projected to reach \$172.89bn by 2030, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 4.17 per cent.

From pralines in Paris to chilli-spiked sips in Mexico or a square of pistachio kunafa chocolate after dinner in Dubai, it's truly astounding to think of the ways the humble cacao bean has transformed as it travelled the world, and in turn, transformed the world around it.

For a flavour of something different, this International Chocolate Day, we decided to take a look at some pairings that might sound strange on paper but just might tickle your taste buds in the best possible way!

CHEESE

Cheese and chocolate might sound like a culinary crime, but trust us it is pure magic.

Whether it's creamy brie melting against the richness

of dark chocolate, or sharp cheddar cutting through milk chocolate's sweetness or even tangy blue cheese, the combination is indulgent, surprising, and downright sophisticated – perfect for a tasting platter or an after-dinner treat with friends.

OLIVE OIL

Internet foodies have been raving about olive oil on vanilla ice cream but have you tried a drizzle of the high-quality stuff on a square of dark chocolate? Instant flavour upgrade.

The fruity, slightly peppery notes of the oil bring out hidden depth in the cocoa while adding a luscious, silky texture.

Sprinkle a little sea salt on top and you have a combination that is simple yet sophisticated, decadent yet deceptively easy to pull off at home.

SEAWEED

This is another one that might raise eyebrows, but give it a chance.

The salty, umami-rich crunch of nori contrasts beautifully with chocolate's sweetness, adding texture and depth.

Don't believe us? Get a nori sheet from your local Asian supermarket and wrap it around a square of your favourite dark chocolate for an unexpected sensory experience that is daring, delicious and satisfying.

BALSAMIC VINEGAR

This one is for the more adventurous pâtissiers out there.

A splash of balsamic vinegar over chocolate may seem strange, but the vinegar cuts through richness, brightens the cocoa's flavours, and adds a subtle tang that lingers



CHARCUTERIE: Chocolate and cheese dance well together, making for satisfying and sumptuous bites



SEAWEED: Chocolate-covered seaweed is sure to tickle your tastebuds

delightfully on the palate.

Chocolate tarts or ganache drizzled with balsamic reduction feel like a fine-dining experiment you can recreate at home with minimal effort but maximum wow factor.

BEEF STRIPS

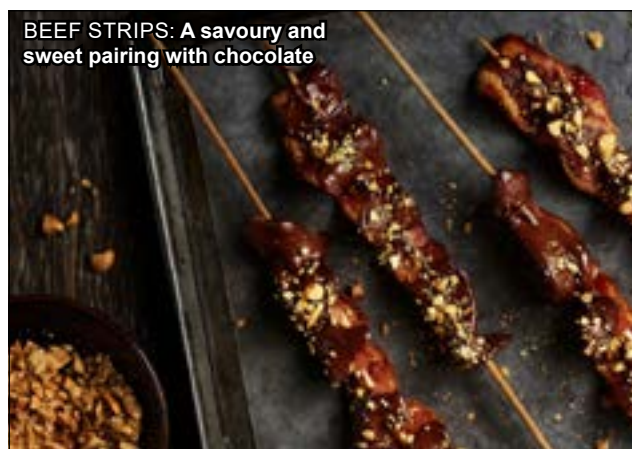
This sounds like it started off as a culinary dare, but the combination works surprisingly well.

The smoky, salty intensity of the beef strips contrasts

beautifully with the sweetness and creaminess of chocolate, creating a flavour balance that keeps your taste buds intrigued.

Think chocolate bark studded with crisp beef bits or a dark chocolate-covered beef bite.

Every mouthful is a satisfying mix of salty crunch and rich cocoa, proving that chocolate is just as happy with savoury partners as it is with sweet ones.



BEEF STRIPS: A savoury and sweet pairing with chocolate

SPECIALITY CHOCOLATES

TWO Bahrain-loving artisanal chocolatiers showcased their love for chocolate at the Speciality and Fine Food Fair at the Olympia exhibition centre in London, UK yesterday.

Mariam Dawani of Bon Bahrain participated in the fair and showcased the company's hand-painted 'Made in Bahrain' chocolates at the UK's leading showcase of artisanal food and drink products.

"I love it this year and it's much more organised," Mariam told *GulfWeekly*.

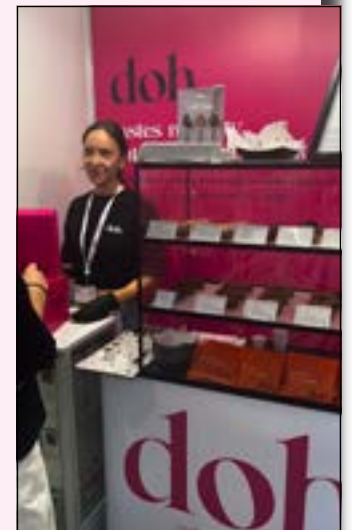
"We are showcasing our hand-painted artisanal chocolates at the fair this year."

In addition, UK-based former Bahrain resident Phoebe Middleton showcased her vegan, gluten-free and refined sugar-free cookie brand 'Doh' at the fair, attracting a crowd of interested gourmands.

The 'Doh' brand has made a name for itself experimenting with unique salty and sweet combinations like potato chips, corn flakes and more, sometimes paired with chocolate, atop their delicious and healthy cookies.

The Speciality and Fine Food Fair is London's premier annual event for showcasing artisan and fine food and drink products.

It brings together buyers,



PHOEBE: The 'Doh' stand at the fair



ARTISANAL: Bon Bahrain's hand-painted chocolates retailers, hospitality professionals, and producers for two days of product discovery, networking, expert insight, and new product launches.

Key features include the Start-Up Village for new companies, insight-led seminar sessions, and the Speciality and Fine Food Fair Awards, celebrating excellence in the industry.

It has been described by industry insiders as a 'treasure trove' to find the next big names in the food and drink industry.



BALSAMIC VINEGAR: Feel like a professional pastry chef, when you blend in balsamic vinegar into your next chocolate glaze

BAHRAIN'S history-making jiu-jitsu star Pedro Bisi de Jesus is hoping to add yet another major milestone to his already glittering career in combat sports – and he is looking forward to doing it very soon at home, writes Patrick Salomon.

At just 16 years old, the Bahraini of Brazilian descent has already achieved success like no other in the kingdom before him.

He is now set to be one of Bahrain's top medal hopefuls when more than 5,000 of the continent's best athletes, representing 45 countries, descend on the island for the third Asian Youth Games from October 22 to 31.

The mega sporting event is to be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad and will feature 24 exciting sports, with jiu-jitsu being one of a handful in the combat sports arena.

Pedro is excited to be part of the team that will fly the kingdom's flag in the competition, especially with the opportunity to perform in front of his family, friends, and Bahrain's tight-knit jiu-jitsu community.

"I feel grateful for having this chance to show what I can do on a big stage such as the Asian Youth Games," Pedro told *GulfWeekly*.

"It is even more exciting to be able to compete at home, to be able to show my peers and all who have helped me throughout my development how much I have grown in the sport."

Pedro is no stranger to hitting the mat at the highest levels of jiu-jitsu.

Earlier this year, he became the first-ever fighter from Bahrain to win a gold medal at the European IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2025 in Lisbon, and he has since captured gold medals in all competitions he has entered – be it local, regional, or international.

In early August, Pedro triumphed at the inaugural Abu Dhabi World Grappling Championship 2025 in Al Ain, and then just last weekend, was a gold-medallist in the AJP Tour Asia Continental Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2025 for Youth, which took place in Abu Dhabi.

Pedro just keeps on winning and winning...and winning some more.

But despite all his success – and the plaudits that have come with it – he remains humble and focused, and isn't about to take the Asian Youth Games lightly.

"One thing I have always given great importance in this sport is to never underestimate my opponents

Pedro on a roll!



AMAZING:
Pedro with
his medals

and to always respect them," Pedro explained. "But I also try to impose my game by showing dominance from the very beginning of a fight.

"The Asian Youth Games will certainly be the highest level of competition, as it will bring athletes from so many different countries together.

"For sure, I consider this event in the top five of the biggest tournaments I have ever joined. I've competed in huge stages too elsewhere, but this is special as it will be at home here in Bahrain."

Pedro trains at Reza's Martial Arts Centre (RMAC), owned by Bahrain Combat Sports Council member and Bahrain Jiu-Jitsu Federation president Redha Monfaredi. It is he who personally gave Pedro the news that he had been selected to fight for Bahrain at the Asian Youth Games.

"About two months ago, I was having a normal session in RMAC, when Mr Monfaredi invited me to compete and represent Bahrain in the Asian Youth Games," Pedro recalled.

"Ever since then, I have continued to train hard with that competition being one of my main goals.

"I have made a programme with my jiu-jitsu coach and strength trainer, so I can have a peak performance on competition day.

"I am also working with my nutritionist to prepare a schedule for my weight cut and recovery.

"I am very excited and I look forward to representing Bahrain to the best of my ability."

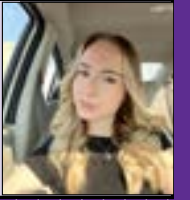
Pedro expresses his

sincerest thanks and appreciation to all those who support him in his young jiu-jitsu career, particularly to His Majesty King Hamad's representative for humanitarian work and youth affairs and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) chairman Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa; SCYS first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority chairman, and Bahrain Olympic Committee president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa; RMAC; and Al Jazeera Shipping.

Aside from jiu-jitsu, the other sports at the fast-approaching third Asian Youth Games are athletics (track and field and cross country), 3x3 basketball, badminton, volleyball (indoor and beach), handball, road cycling, equestrian (endurance and showjumping), golf, futsal, Muay, judo, kabaddi, mixed martial arts, table tennis, E-sports, taekwondo, wrestling (indoor and beach) boxing, triathlon, weightlifting, teqball, swimming, and camel racing.

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



SPEC-TACO-LAR RITZ!

JOIN expert chefs for a hands-on cooking class, where participants can learn how to create authentic dishes and pastries from around the world.

Designed to refine skills, the special experience costs BD40 per person for pastry cuisine and BD45 for regular cuisine.

Subject to availability, early bookings are advised.

Meanwhile, enjoy a curated taco selection at Cantina Kahlo on Tuesday. From tender marinated chicken and spiced meats to zesty shrimp and bold vegetarian options, each dish bursts with flavour.

It costs BD28 per person, inclusive of three glasses of a special beverage on Tuesday, from 6pm to 10pm.

To continue with the



FRUITY: A beautiful cake made in the cooking class

vibrant Mexican flavours, join Cantina Kahlo for its Sabado en Familia, a lively family lunch experience featuring authentic dishes.

Get immersed in the festive atmosphere, while the mariachi band performs an epic musical performance.

It costs BD25 per person, inclusive of soft beverages, and BD35 with selected beverages, on Saturday, from 1pm to 4pm.

This summer, indulge in a midday Solei Select Lunch by the sea. The refined three-course menu featuring a choice of salad, main and dessert, paired with a soft drink will make for an unforgettable dining experience.

It costs BD18, inclusive of soft beverages and BD23, inclusive of a selected beverage, at La Plage from Sunday to Thursday, noon to 4pm.

Host your next business lunch at Primavera with a refined three-course set menu. Perfect for client meetings or a stylish midday break, the feast is priced at BD19 per person, on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 12.30pm to 3pm.

Visitors can also enjoy an exclusive manicure and pedicure offer at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Bastien Gonzalez Studio.

Available from Tuesday to Thursday from 11am to 8pm, the treatment blends a holistic and medical approach, designed to support the health and appearance of your hands and feet. It's priced at BD55 per person, inclusive of a pedicure and manicure, and the offer is available until September 15.

Gather your family and friends for a villa barbecue



experience at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain. Enjoy grilled delicacies tailored to your tastes, prepared

by dedicated chefs in a beachfront villa.

Perfect for warm evenings, book this

AUTHENTIC GREEK EXPERIENCE AT INTERCONTINENTAL

EXPERIENCE a special culinary journey that captures the essence of Greek cuisine this weekend at the InterContinental Bahrain.

Step into the restaurant Rigani which promises to transport guests to the sun-soaked shores of the Mediterranean with authentic flavours.

It is open Saturday to Thursday, from 6pm to 10.30pm, and on Friday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and 6pm to 10.30pm. Delivery is available from 11am to 11pm.

Relax with loved ones at Noor Lounge's Afternoon Social Tea. Available every Thursday and Friday, the leisurely high tea features a selection of treats, sandwiches and beverages.

The experience can be upgraded with unlimited bubbly for BD4. It costs BD6.500 per guest, from

2pm to 7pm.

Gather the family and head to Medzo for a warm and hearty Italian weekend feast. Enjoy unlimited pizza, pasta and salads, all served in generous family-style platters.

Perfect for sharing of groups of three to six, it costs BD8.900 per adult and BD4.500net per child (under 15), on Friday and Saturday, from noon to 10pm.

Don't miss out on a curated international buffet experience at Selections. Crafted for professionals on the move, savour a rotating lineup of global dishes to recharge in just under an hour.

Enjoy a complimentary power juice and a granola bar to fuel your next move.

The Power Lunch: 45 costs BD9 from Sunday to Thursday, noon to 3pm.

Seafood lovers can head to the Regency Tent for an extraordinary Seafood Night,

DELICIOUS BITES: Afternoon tea



every Thursday, featuring interactive stations, seafood stations and refreshing ocean-inspired cocktails.

It's priced at BD24net, and BD32net with unlimited selected beverages. Children

under four dine for free, while those aged six to 12 can enjoy a 50 per cent discount every Thursday, from 6.30pm to 10.30pm.

For more information or reservations, call 36967701.

TASTY: Pizza at Medzo



HEAD down to the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay this weekend for an array of delicious dining experiences.

Byblos has unveiled a refreshed menu of Lebanese favourites, where guests can savour eggplant Raheb with crispy kunafa, freekeh shrimp, kibbeh short ribs and more – all served in a seaside setting.

It is open from Tuesday to Sunday, 6pm to midnight.

For a lively Friday, head to Bahrain Bay Kitchen for a lovely Family Brunch. Guests can enjoy an array of fresh salads, nachos, tacos, Japanese takoyaki and more.

It's priced at BD35 with soft beverages and BD48 with a selected beverage package. Children under five dine with the hotel's compliments and those aged four to 12 enjoy 50 per cent savings, from 1pm to 4pm.

Bay View Lounge has introduced soft, steamed buns filled with bold flavours. Options include slow-cooked beef brisket, spicy lobster, mango chicken and more. It is available throughout this month from 11.30am to midnight.

Experience an amazing view of Bahrain at Blue



Moon Lounge. Located on the 50th floor, the lounge offers panoramic views of the kingdom, alongside premium sushi selections, on Sunday from 12.30pm to midnight and Wednesday to Friday from 6pm to 2am. The restaurant is open from 6pm until midnight on Saturday.

Meanwhile, visitors can head to CUT by Wolfgang Puck for a lively brunch featuring black bass ceviche, beef sliders and more on Friday, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. It costs BD70 inclusive of selected beverages.

At re/Asian, guests can

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment



FLAVOURFUL: Taco experience at Cantina Kahlo

experience for an unforgettable summer evening.
For more information,

call 1758 0000 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.

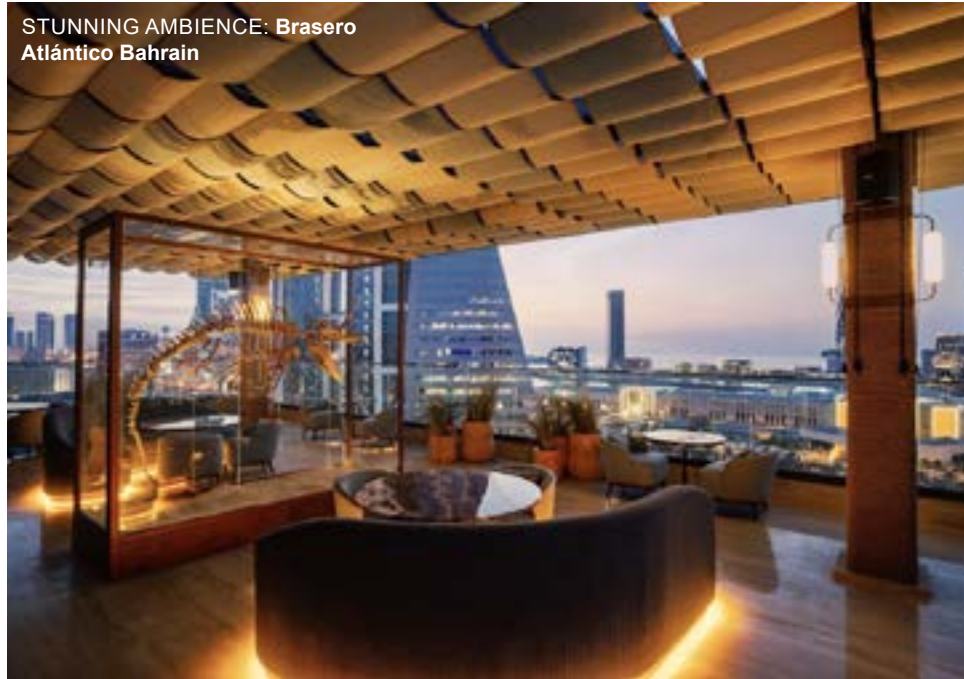


BEAUTIFUL: The Blue Moon Lounge

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

share vibrant plates including pan-seared dumplings, Korean fried chicken, Hokkaido scallops and more. It is available from 7pm to 11pm on Tuesday, 7pm to 11.30pm from Wednesday to Friday and 7pm to 11pm from Saturday to Sunday.

Visitors can gather under the night sky for a New Moon Yoga session at the hotel, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on September 19. It costs BD6 for members and hotel guests and BD12 for non members.
For more information contact, 17115000.



STUNNING AMBIENCE: Brasero Atlántico Bahrain

WILD, WILD TREATS

H EAD down to Sheraton Bahrain Hotel for an exclusive chef-curated dining experience.

Indulge in a night featuring signature dishes, showcasing the very best of culinary offerings at WILD.

Savour beautifully plated delicacies, shareable appetisers, salads and delectable desserts, every Thursday, from 6pm to 11pm. It costs BD19.500 net per person, inclusive of soft beverages, tea and coffee.

Now, get ready for a flavour-packed adventure at The Wild Brunch. Indulge in premium shareable cuisine and sip on handcrafted beverages, while live entertainment electrifies the atmosphere.

It is available every Friday, from 12.30pm to 5pm, and costs BD36net per person for soft beverages and BD46net per person inclusive of selected beverages.

Meanwhile, guests can relish an exquisite Afternoon Tea in the hotel's lobby. Enjoy a variety of delicate pastries, freshly-baked scones with clotted cream and homemade jams and sandwiches.

Available everyday, from 2pm to 5pm, it costs BD15net per person.

Experience the vibrant flavours of modern Persia at Golestan Persian Grill. The menu features a delightful array of authentic dishes – from fragrant kebabs to unique house specialties.

It is open from noon to 3pm, 7pm to 11pm throughout the week, and on



FLAVOURFUL: A dish at The Wild's Brunch



FRESHLY BAKED: Pastries at afternoon tea

weekends from noon to 4pm and 7pm to 11pm.

For a dinner with stunning views and an amazing ambience, opt for Brasero Atlántico Bahrain.

In a unique fusion of Argentine culinary traditions, chefs have expertly created an array of dishes using traditional wood fire techniques inspired by the rich heritage of the region.

The experience is elevated with a carefully curated beverage menu, where each ship celebrates the vibrant country of Argentina.

The restaurant is open for lunch everyday, from noon to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm.

The lounge is available from 4pm to 2am.

For more information or reservations, call 17517715 or 38885409.



W ATCH the latest English-language films being shown this weekend at CINECO Seef.

RELAY (PG-15)

A broker of lucrative payoffs between corrupt corporations and the individuals who threaten them breaks his own rules when a new client seeks his protection to stay alive.

Actors: Riz Ahmed, Lily James, Sam Worthington
Timings: 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

HIGH ROLLERS: CASH OUT 2 (15+)

A master thief must pull off a dangerous casino heist when his nemesis kidnaps his lover. Caught between rival criminals and FBI pursuit, he risks all to save her and score big.

Actors: John Travolta, Gina Gershon, Lukas Haas
Timings: 12.45pm, 5pm, 9.15pm

TAFITI: ACROSS THE DESERT (PG)

Tafti, a young meerkat, initially rejects a friendship with Bristles, a bush pig. When his grandma is bitten by a snake, Tafti sets off to find the flower for the future. Bristles wants to prove that adventures are always better with friends.

Actors: Cosima Henman, Kathleen Renish, Dustin Semmelrogge
Timings: 11am, 12.45pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm

JUNGLE BEAT 2: THE PAST (PG)

The animals from the African jungle fall through a time portal that the aliens forgot to close behind them. To return to the future, friends will need the help of dinosaurs.

Actors: Sandra Dickinson, John Guerrasio, Ed Kear
Timings: 10.45am, 12.45pm, 2.45pm

Check out *GDNonline's* list of the best movies to watch this weekend – today – on Instagram.

Pulse of Pop

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

PLAY TIME!

ENGLISH singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran is releasing his eighth studio album, *Play*, tomorrow.

The pop project is expected to explore the sonic threads that connect Indian, Persian and Irish folk music. This experimental direction can be heard in his hit singles *Azizam* and *Sapphire*, which include Persian and Punjabi musical influences respectively.

In an interview, the artist revealed that the new album will feature a lot of Indian instruments as it was recorded across continents and completed in Goa, India.

"Most of the record has Indian instruments all over it, so we've got tablas on most songs, sitars on the last song, and santors on a lot of songs," he revealed. "It is a pop album, but all the instrumentation on it, is sort of from everywhere," he added.

Lyrically, the singer shared that he wanted to create 'joy and technicolour', while also tackling a rollercoaster of emotions that reflect his life as a 'human, partner and father'.

Play marks the first of Ed's five symbol-themed albums, with titles based on electronic media buttons Pause, Fast Forward, Rewind, and Stop set to eventually follow it.

Prior to the new release, he completed his mathematical-themed album collection, which included *Plus* (2011), *Multiply* (2014), *Divide* (2017), *Equals* (2021) and *Subtract* (2023).

The creative talent has been writing music since the age of 11. He started his career independently releasing EPs (extended plays) in hopes to be signed to a record label. In 2011, he released the EP *No. 5 Collaborations Project*, which earned him mainstream attention and a record deal.

The musician's live shows stand out for their simplicity, as they are one-man shows including only the guitarist, a keyboard and a loop pedal, a recording and playback music tool.

He performed in Bahrain earlier this year as well as last year as part of his *Mathematics* tour.



POP:
The new
album
cover

ED AND LORRAINE RETURN FOR ONE LAST FRIGHT!

SUPERNATURAL horror film *The Conjuring: Last Rites* is out now in theatres.

Directed by Michael Chaves, the film follows the franchise's paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren (Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga) as they try to vanquish a demon from a family's home.

James Wan, who created the property, and Peter Safran return as producers.

The film is based on the true life investigations of the 'Smurl haunting', which refers to claims made by Jack and Janet Smurl that a demon inhabited their home between 1974 and 1989.

It is also set to be the sequel to *The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It* (2021), and overall the ninth and final instalment of The Conjuring Universe, which dates back to 2013.

As the chapter comes to a close, long-time acting duo Patrick and Vera expressed their feelings on their experience working together, as well as how fans received the films.

"We've really kind of grown up in our 40s with each other, we still are just the same kind of goofballs that we've always been. So we haven't changed, our work ethic hasn't changed," Patrick said.

"These movies are not easy to make. It's very heightened stuff, fighting and



screaming in tears and things blowing at you and blowing up around you and wind blowing your face fire and exercising demons, all that.

"It's got all that. So it's quite a ride over the years," he added.

"What has moved me most over the years is seeing what the franchise has meant to kids, to people, and to the fans. They're the soul of the franchise. It's incredible fan art, it's incredible tributes, cosplay, fan fiction, and art, they're not just watching the films," Vera said.

The Conjuring universe, which includes several sequels and spinoffs such as *The Nun* and *Annabelle*, is the highest-grossing horror franchise in history with more than \$2.3 billion.

CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIPS

FRIENDSHIP, womanhood and ageing gracefully collide in a new novel from Angela Flournoy, which will hit the shelves on September 16.

The Wilderness tackles five black women – Desiree, Danielle, January, Monique, and Nakia – over the course of their 20-year friendship as they navigate life between young adulthood and middle-age.

Sisters Desiree and Danielle tackle bitter family wounds, January feels ambivalent about her relationship with a 'good' man, librarian and aspiring blogger Monique unexpectedly rises to fame after calling out the university where she works for whitewashing fraught history, and Nakia is trying to get her restaurant off the ground without relying on her upper middle-class family.

"*The Wilderness* is a kind of coming-into-middle-age novel, and I consider

that journey, from young adult to a person navigating their 40s, to be just as full of mystery, self-discovery, and conflict as the one portrayed in a traditional bildungsroman," the author explained in an interview.

"There are many road maps a young person might follow to come into their own as a teenager, but the paths are less clear for people leaving young adulthood, as what once felt certain begins to feel less so. I had an inkling of this, and I wrote into my own curiosities."

A bildungsroman is a novel that deals with a person's formative years.

Angela published her debut novel *The Turner House* in 2015, which was positively received by critics and readers. It was named a *New York Times* notable book of that year. It also won the First Novelist Award and was shortlisted for the National Book Award for Fiction, among many other accolades.



Motoring Weekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

Rise and shine

HAMILTON WILL BE ON THE PODIUM THIS YEAR, SAYS FRED VASSEUR

LEWIS Hamilton has yet to stand on the Formula One podium as a Ferrari driver but team boss Fred Vasseur has no doubt the seven-times world champion will get there before the end of the season.

Hamilton started 10th in Sunday's Italian Grand Prix after a grid penalty and finished sixth, with Ferrari fans showing him plenty of love on his Monza debut in the red overalls worn by so many greats before him.

Vasseur said the support had been a boost and Hamilton's performance in following former Mercedes teammate George Russell – a race winner in Canada – across the line suggested the results would come for the

40-year-old.

"Yes, we can expect him to be on the podium," said the Frenchman, who had also expected Ferrari to be on the podium at Monza.

Ferrari are second in the constructors' standings, a massive 337 points behind runaway leaders McLaren, but the only team in the top four yet to win – other than Hamilton's victory in a Saturday sprint in Shanghai in March.

There is no podium celebration after the sprint.

"I think the energy he received from the tifosi on Wednesday, Thursday in Milano was something very special for him," Vasseur said of Hamilton, who joined from Mercedes in January and had previously raced at Monza as a Ferrari foe.

"It was something mega and I think this gave him an extra boost all over the weekend."

Hamilton's teammate Charles Leclerc was fourth on Sunday, at a circuit where he won last year, but qualified on pole in Hungary and has a season's best of second in his home Monaco Grand Prix.

Vasseur said the gap to McLaren, beaten by Red Bull's Max Verstappen on Sunday, had been close all weekend.

"I think we were in better shape this weekend, not enough because they are in front of us, but I think at least we closed the gap," he added.

"I think we have a couple of tracks where we are supposed to be also in good shape, starting with the next one. We are historically always in good shape in Baku.



Hamilton

"But for sure the goal is to finish P2 in the championship. McLaren is on another planet."

Vasseur said Ferrari were now fully focused on their

2026 engine and car, and expected other teams to have turned off the development tap.

"I think only one team brought an upgrade this

weekend except the wing, because we have to adapt the car to the level of downforce, but I think for everybody now we are focused on 2026," he added.

STELLA EXPLAINS MCLAREN'S TEAM ORDERS AT MONZA

MCLAREN team boss Andrea Stella said a team orders controversy in Sunday's Italian Grand Prix was about putting McLaren's racing values first as well as fairness.

The reigning Formula One champions and runaway leaders asked Oscar Piastri to hand back second place to teammate Lando Norris after the Briton suffered a slow pitstop through no fault of his own.

The decision, accepted by both drivers, cut the Australian's overall lead to 31 points from 34. The pair are effectively the only drivers fighting for the title, such is their advantage over the rest.

"The pitstop situation is not only a matter of fairness, it's a matter of consistency with our principles," Stella said. "However the championship goes, what's important is that the championship runs within the principles, and the racing values that we have are clear."

Piastri had initially suggested that a slow pitstop, apparently caused by a wheelgun problem on the front left, was just a part of racing but he did as he was told and handed back the place.

Stella said the pitstops were dictated by strategy, with Piastri coming in first



Stella



TEAM: Norris and Piastri

despite Norris being ahead on track and normally having priority.

This was because McLaren had wanted to cover Piastri from Ferrari's Charles Leclerc behind him in fourth and were also waiting until the last moment to pit in case a safety car was deployed.

"We pursued the team interest ... the clear intent was that this is not going to deliver a swap of positions," added Stella, who worked at Ferrari through the Michael Schumacher era when team orders were commonplace in the German's favour.

"We thought it was absolutely the right thing to go back to the situation pre-existing the pitstops and then let the guys race. This is what we think is in compliance with our principles."

In the end the Australian was unable to

get close enough to Norris to pass and they finished second and third behind Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who trails Piastri by 94 points in the title race.

Piastri said it was important to protect everyone in the team, including the pit crew, to have the best chance of long-term success and Norris agreed.

"The team is number one, then the drivers are second. That's how it works," said the Briton.

"Normally when you see teams who don't have enough respect for the team and the opportunities the team gives, it (success) doesn't normally last long.

"We want to try and be in this position for a longer period of time ... without the team then we're just fighting for 10th and none of us want that. The team and morale, the spirit of the team, is priority and we're below 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. In which country is the southern most point of mainland Europe?
2. What city was Martin Luther King killed in?
3. The Russians have cosmonauts, the Americans have astronauts, what do the Chinese have?
4. Which Italian city would you have to visit to view Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*?
5. Which popular sport was also a Nato code name for a class of Soviet ballistic missile submarine during the Cold War?
6. In 2014, which Middle

Eastern artist's album peaked at No. 1 on the Billboard World Albums Charts, making them the first performer from the region to achieve this?

7. What was the first movie ever released on DVD?

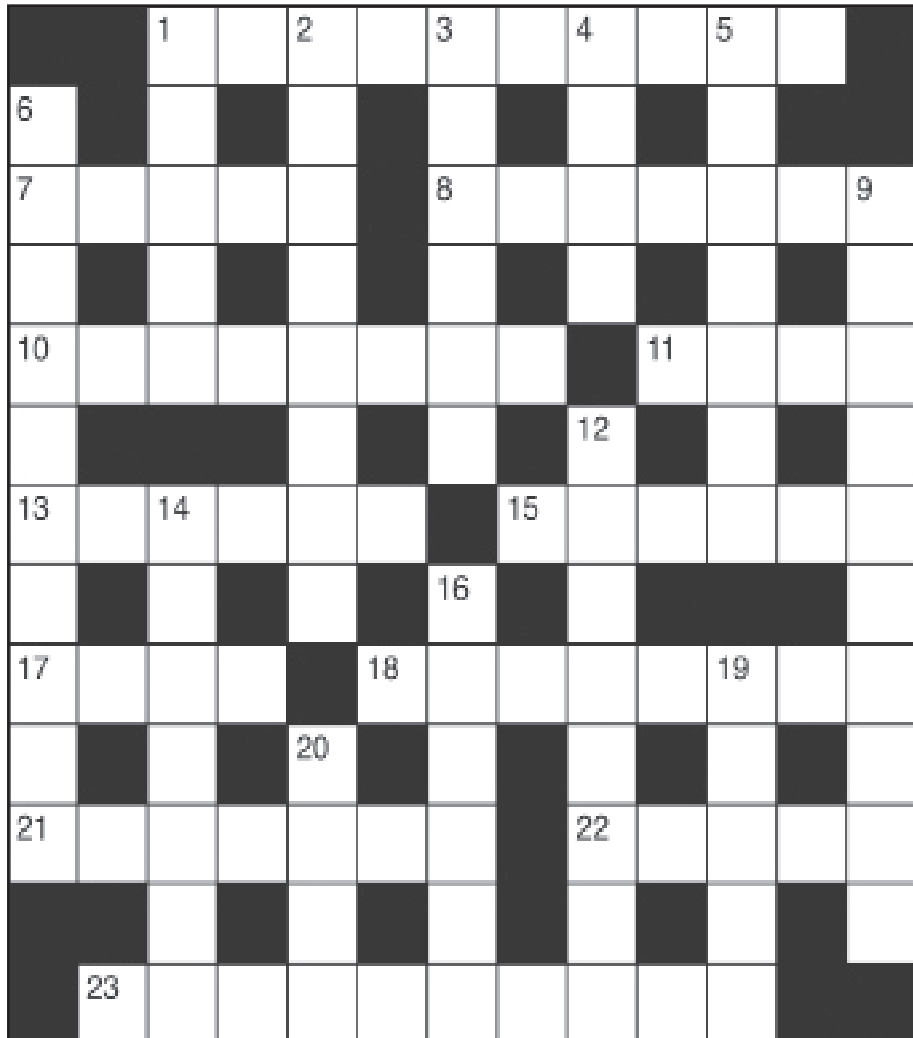
- ANSWERS**
1. Spain (Punta de Tarifa)
 2. Memphis
 3. Taikonauts
 4. Milan
 5. Golf
 6. Amr Diab
 7. *Twister*

Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Wed (3,7)
7. Frighten (5)
8. Impatient (7)
10. Tranquil-lising (8)
11. Yield (4)
13. Fix (6)
15. Attractive (6)
17. Egg-shaped (4)
18. Inclination (8)
21. Threefold (7)
22. Angry (5)
23. Undecided (2,3,5)

DOWN

1. Dignified (5)
2. Love-apples (8)
3. Get there (6)
4. Trick (4)
5. Clear (7)
6. Facade (5,5)
9. Alternate (5,5)
12. Fragment (8)
14. Post (7)
16. Infrequently (6)
19. Accumulate (5)
20. Hit (4)

who, what, where, when

- WHO ... became Chancellor of West Germany in 1982?
 WHAT ... is the full name of T.N.T.?
 WHERE ... would you find the Lascar volcano?
 WHEN ... did Bucks Fizz win the Eurovision Song Contest?
 WHO ... is the creator of Dame Edna Everage?
 WHAT ... does a pluviometer measure?
 WHERE ... was the 1990 football World Cup held?
 WHEN ... was John McCarthy released?

just so



turn turn turn turn turn

13579 end end end



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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

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

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

- Across:** 6 Jocular; 7 Among; 9 Nip; 10 Hexagonal; 12 Malevolence; 15 Reverberate; 17 Regarding; 19 Vow; 21 Cower; 22 Fatuous.
Down: 1 Movie; 2 Cut; 3 Daze; 4 Immodesty; 5 Infancy; 8 Labour; 11 Barefaced; 13 Embody; 14 Develop; 16 Vogue; 18 Neat; 20 Rue.

JUST SO:

- Come to the point;
 Cut to the chase;
 Good afternoon;
 It's all Greek to me.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

- Angles of elevation; Bavaria; 1891; Belinda Carlisle; The skin; St Helena; 1997.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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