

# Together we rise

**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By MELISSA NAZARETH  
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**A NEW initiative has been launched in Bahrain to support the mental health of breast cancer patients, coinciding with both Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Mental Health Awareness Month this October.**

Spearheaded by Bahraini entrepreneur and breast cancer survivor Sarah Al Bayat, the campaign features the sale of t-shirts with the empowering message: "Miss C Got Nothing On Me."

Proceeds from the sales will go towards mental health initiatives of the Think Pink: Bahrain Breast Cancer Society.

Follow @thinkpinkbahrain for more details.

Breast cancer is a type of cancer that begins with the abnormal growth of cells in breast tissue. According to the World Health Organisation, this year's theme is 'Every Story is Unique, Every Journey Matters'.

"When I was battling breast cancer, I happened to learn about the charity through which I could access counselling and that helped me immensely, so I understand its importance," Sarah told *GulfWeekly*.

"However, I find that there is not much awareness about it despite the fact that mental health is very important for healing," the 31-year-old added.

The café owner from Buquwah has been donating 20 per cent of her outlet sales in October to the charity for the last two years, which is how she met Think Pink Bahrain founder Dr Julie Sprakel who, she says,

introduced her to counselling. "Two years ago, today (September 30) was my last chemotherapy," Sarah recalled.

Think Pink Bahrain already has counselling services in English but there are plans to bring an Arabic therapist on board to cater to a wider audience, according to the charity president Dr Julie.

The society will also be focusing on the Race to A Million Challenge, which it launched in 2024 together

with Bahrain Bricks, a locally-based non-profit company that creates educational products including building blocks.

The campaign aims to raise

BD1 million, brick by brick, in support of the cause to create a giant sculpture of hope and resilience, at least six metres tall. So far, 5,076 bricks have been sold. (Visit [bahrainbricks.org](http://bahrainbricks.org).)

"We are hoping to at least double our sales from last year," Bahrain Bricks founder David Robinson said.

Meanwhile, *GulfWeekly's* sister paper the *GDN*, and *Woman This Month (WTM)*, in collaboration with the Capital Governorate, will stage United in Pink – a day of fitness activities including a walkathon, games, live entertainment, refreshments and more, on October 9, from 5pm to 7pm, at Water Garden City in Seef District.

"We're proud to join hands with Asian Paints and our partners in creating United in Pink—a collaborative initiative that brings art, wellness, and awareness together for a powerful cause. Breast cancer affects all of us, and we believe in using our platforms to amplify voices, promote early detection, and

celebrate survivors," *WTM* publisher George Middleton said.

Bahrain Cancer Society will stage its annual walkathon at Water Garden City on October 24, at 5.30pm in support of the cause.

Every year, bikers in Bahrain come together to stage a ride, to raise awareness and express solidarity. Bahraini biker Zainab Almajed believes that the event shows the positive image of bikers supporting the community.

"It is very personal to me as I have family members and close friends who are cancer warriors. What makes it truly special is the presence of breast cancer survivors within our biker team — their courage inspires us all," she said.

Details about this year's ride will be announced at a later date.



COMMUNITY: Zainab, second from right, with fellow bikers at last year's ride



SUPPORT: Sarah wearing the t-shirt that is up for sale



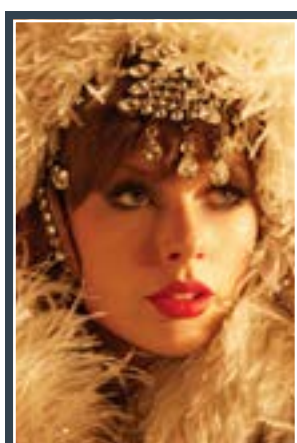
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Bahraini artist spotlight  
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# Weaving wonders



## ART REPORT

By MELISSA NAZARETH  
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**B**AHRAINI artist Tamadher Alfahal is redefining embroidery by weaving threads into photographs of celebrities, transforming familiar images into textured, evocative artworks.

Her latest collection, *Nostalgia*, features embroidered portraits of iconic Arab and Western figures.

She has also collaborated with Bahraini collage artist Ali Alshaikh to produce artworks that blend both styles, which will be showcased at an exhibition next year.

"My fascination with embroidery started during the Covid-19 pandemic when everyone was home and in search of new hobbies or skills," the 38-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

"I took a couple of online courses that combined the medium of photography with embroidery," the Diyar Al Muharraq resident added.

"There are therapeutic aspects of working with one's hands in a world that is becoming increasingly overwhelmed by digital tools. I found that threads and fabric are forgiving mediums, in the sense that I became less worried about perfecting my work and more interested in going with the flow," she added.

The Bahrain University architecture and interior design department assistant professor believes that art is a

ARTY: Another design from the collaboration



form of 'soft power' that can create a positive change in the world.

She has conducted photo-stitching workshops for Dar Amana (Arabic for 'house of Amana') in Muharraq, in collaboration with Amana Creative Collective, a community-based collective fostering art and social programmes. She cofounded the platform last year with four other women based in the kingdom.

"I take my inspiration from many sources, such as textile and embroidery artists and sometimes from the work

of photographers. Archives of black and white fashion photography can also offer interesting narratives when combined with colourful threads," Tamadher noted.

"I usually start by selecting the photos I would like to work with and then, I either print the photo on the fabric or on paper, as this would affect the embroidery method I use.

"I then start looking at all the elements in the picture, and think about what to emphasise, or what imaginative elements to add through embroidery."

Talking about her *Nostalgia* collection, launched four years ago, she said: "I created it because I am fascinated by classic celebrities from the

Arab and the Western World and the glamour that comes through their pictures. With this collection, I wanted to adorn pictures of some of the classic Arab celebrities in a new method as they are often only represented in pop-art prints and vintage posters."

English actor and singer Julie Andrews and her infamous character Mary Poppins, Egyptian film and TV star Faten Hamama and former Princess of Wales Lady Diana are some of the popular names that feature in the ensemble.

"One of my favourite pieces is of Suad Hosni, often called 'the Cinderella of Egyptian cinema', carrying a bucket of embroidered flowers. I enjoyed working on it as I

EXPRESSIVE: Design featuring the 'Cinderella of Egyptian' cinema



WHIMSICAL: A piece from the upcoming collaboration where Tamadher brings alive Ali's collage with her embroidery

knew, for sure, that many people would like it, and they did," remarked the former TEDx speaker and Birmingham City University alumna.

Speaking of artistic goals, the creative talent said that she has plans to conduct more photo-stitching workshops for Dar Amana when they open for the new season. Additionally, she hopes to collaborate with other Bahrain-based photographers

and artists.

"It has been great working with Ali on our upcoming showcase and we have had some interesting conversations about our artwork along the way," she said. "One such design features a lady with mushrooms and it gives whimsical, fairytale-like layers to the piece," she noted, speaking about her upcoming exhibition, dates for which will be announced later.

## BRAIN-BUSTERS

### QUIZMASTER and Radio Bahrain host

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

- 1) What is the fastest animal on two legs?
- 2) The Forbidden City in China was built in the 15th century as the palace for the emperors of which dynasty?
- 3) What was the name of the Grammy-winning barbershop quartet in which Homer (Simpson) was the lead singer?
- 4) What is the name of the war dance that the All Blacks rugby team perform before a match?
- 5) What was the main



- competitor to VHS video?
- 6) Which two metals make up brass?
- 7) In Germany, fermented cabbage is known as what?

### ANSWERS

1. Ostrich
2. Ming Dynasty
3. The Bee Sharps
4. The Haka
5. Beta/ Betamax
6. Copper and zinc
7. Sauerkraut



METICULOUS: Intricate details brought alive





**GOURMET REVIEW**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
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**T**HERE is something mysterious, intimate and timeless about a supper club.

Born in 1930s America, these gatherings were about atmosphere just as much as the food itself, where conversation lingered longer than the last bite, about strangers becoming friends at a table they might never have otherwise shared.

Part restaurant and part social club, the real draw is the table itself and the characters around it.

It's a chance to gather, talk and feel part of something fleeting yet memorable.

The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay has reimagined this tradition with its new limited-time Supper Club experience, seating just 12 guests around a single table on their 50th floor in a celebration of culinary artistry and connection.

We had a chance to experience its vibes during a media preview of the limited-time dining experience.

The table was set as if for a small celebration, intimate and elegant, and the night began with introductions to the Wolfgang Puck team at the hotel, as well as two esteemed sommeliers – Michelin-recognised Imre Rácz of Spago Budapest, and master sommelier Stefan Neumann.

Restaurant director Rumena Begum and director of events Josie Ribeiro told us about the concept behind the club, and their aim to spark community and conversation over cuisine, as we took our seats around the table.

"Reflecting a growing cultural appetite for high-context social gatherings, supper clubs are gaining global traction among cultural vanguards in cities like Paris and New York, and we stand among the first to bring a supper club to the region's luxury hospitality scene," the hotel's public relations and marketing communications director Tugce Goksel added.

Our seven-course menu began with foie gras terrine, served alongside sesame crisps. The richness of the foie gras was lifted by the sweetness of Asian pear and the earthiness of summer truffle, and when spread on the crisps, it had just the right amount of crunch.

Wolfgang Puck regional executive Chef Brian Becher added a local and sweet touch with a sauce prepared from fresh dates sourced from a friend in the kingdom.

**EXPERIENCE: A Four Seasons team member explains one of the courses to eager diners**



**HOSPITALITY: Rumena and Josie**

“Part restaurant and part social club, the real draw is the table itself and the characters around it.”

# Beyond the plate



**PERFECT START: The Foie Gras Terrine**

It set the tone for what followed – food that was thoughtful, layered and perfectly paired with a range of grape beverages.

The Maine lobster juk arrived next, layering something comfortable with the unexpected Szechuan chilli giving the dish just the hint of a kick.

Served alongside glazed carrot and sweet potato, it was a dish that perfectly balanced heat and heart.

The butter-poached Alaskan black cod was perhaps the most refined course of the evening.

When chatting with Chef Brian, he told us that the overall concept of the menu is quite a change in pace, where the staff is letting the pairings become the focus of the culinary adventure, as opposed to the food.

Topped with osiembra caviar and paired with clam-miso, the Alaskan black cod carried a quiet elegance that spoke of the sea without overwhelming it, and letting our conversations also flow calmly and serenely.

By the time the roasted French quail was served with sausage and cabbage, our stomachs and hearts were getting full, but we pressed on, forgetting our dietary limits as the laughter and chatter got louder.

By now the table no longer felt like 12 strangers, but a single group sharing the same rhythm. The perfectly grilled wagyu tenderloin was the star for me – indulgent without being heavy – and served with

wasabi mashed potatoes cutting through with just enough sharpness while the crispy Brussels sprouts added texture.

It was the kind of dish that made me go quiet for just a few minutes as I tried to take a snapshot of the sensory delight for posterity.

And with our main bellies now full, it was soon time to feed our second desserts-only stomachs. First amongst the desserts was a refreshing plate of pear and herbs, lightened with kaffir lime cream and a cooling pear-mint-sage sorbet.

Then the finale: chocolate and lingonberry. Rich, dark cremeux paired with sharp sorbet and a biscuit base that gave it crunch. It was intense, indulgent, and a perfect end to a memorable

meal.

The Supper Club is part of a series of pairing-focused events, which run until October 4, at the Wolfgang Puck outlets at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay - re/ ASIAN CUISINE, CUT by Wolfgang Puck, CUT Lounge, and Blue Moon Lounge.

"As the second edition of this annual event, the programme is designed to nourish both palate and perspective, offering moments of discovery and reflection," Tugce explained.

With special tastings, jazz nights, oyster

**PAIRINGS: Oysters and bubbles are amongst the activities running until October 4**



**DELICATE: Butter-poached Alaskan black cod**

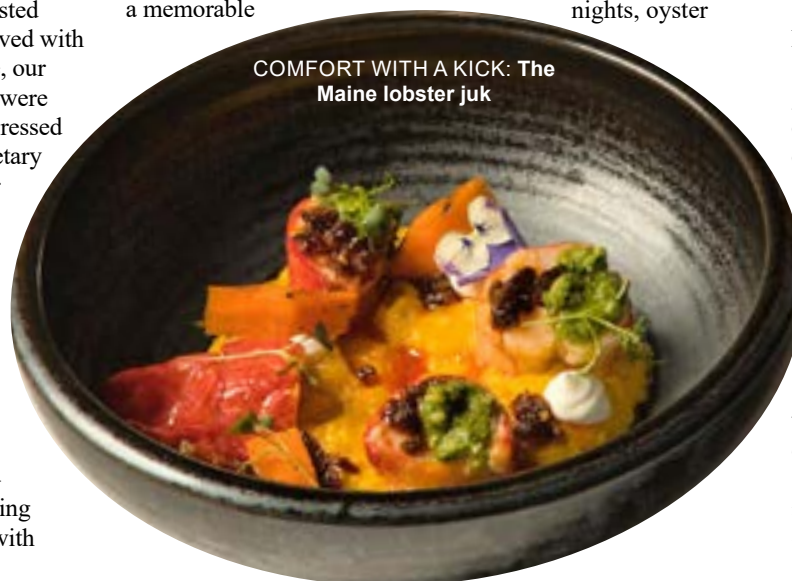
samplings and a special Omakase experience, there is something there to appeal to the most refined of palates, brimming with opportunities for guests to rediscover their passion for elevated experiences.

"This week is about highlighting some incredibly special tastings alongside our guest sommeliers, while also celebrating our community - connecting with our regular guests and welcoming new friends to the table," regional director of restaurants Fabio Marques added.

"It's about discovery, connection, and the joy of shared moments through thoughtfully paired experiences."

For more details about the upcoming events, follow @fsbahrain on Instagram.

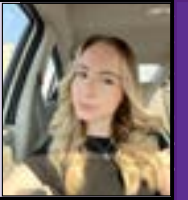
**COMFORT WITH A KICK: The Maine lobster juk**





# Leisure Scene

What's on guide by  
Julia Cassano



## AUCTION FOR A CAUSE AT RITZ

**A** silent auction will be staged at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain to support cancer research, as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Noon by Noor is presenting five luxury clothing items, and collected proceeds will be donated to a charity in Bahrain.

The hotel's restaurants including Cantina Kahlo, Thai Lounge, La Plage, Ritz Gourmet Lounge, Lobby Lounge, Nirvana, Plums and Primavera, will also donate a portion of their profits to the charity.

Switch up your week with a fun gourmet cooking class, where expert chefs will teach you how to make amazing dishes and pastries from around the world. It costs BD45 per person for

regular cuisine and BD40 for pastries.

Subject to availability, early booking is advised to secure a place.

Meanwhile, guests can delight in a vibrant Indian dining experience with a traditional thali platter at Nirvana. From aromatic curries to tender tandoori specialities and fragrant rice, each plate will be a feast of colours and flavours.

Pair your meal with a refreshing glass of lassi for the perfect touch. It's priced at BD24 per person, inclusive of lassi.

The feast is available on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from noon to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm. Diners can avail a special price on Friday, at BD19 per person, inclusive of one glass of lassi, and BD29 for a selected



beverage package.

Celebrate Cantina Kahlo's ninth anniversary with a month-long 'Festival de las Enchiladas', a flavourful journey with handcrafted beverages and lively entertainment. Priced a la carte, the dining affair will be available until October 31, from Monday to Saturday, 1pm to 3pm and 6pm to midnight.

Relish the spirit of Mexico at Cantina Kahlo's Friday Brunch. An array of mouthwatering dishes, made with authentic ingredients, will bring the vibrant taste of Mexican cuisine to your table.

A resident mariachi band will create the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable afternoon, tomorrow, from 1pm to 4pm. It costs BD35 per person, inclusive of soft



beverages and BD45 with selected beverages.

Indulge in the authentic flavours of Thailand with a curated set menu – a choice of one starter and one main, complemented by the dessert

of the day. It costs BD15, and is available until November 30, from 1pm to 6pm, at Thai Lounge.

Visitors can also book a last-minute stay at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, where

## CHEF SLIM DOURI HEADLINES BYBLOS' CULINARY SHOWCASE

**F**OUR Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay invites guests to the second chapter of Arabian Horizons, a culinary series celebrating the region's most creative talents.

This edition showcases Chef Slim Douiri from the acclaimed restaurant Cult Bistro, who is also renowned for reaching the Top Chef finals on *MBC*. He brings a multi-course dining journey shaped by Tunisian roots and Michelin-starred expertise. Dishes include reimagined brik, wagyu with smoked pumpkin, praline and miso, and hammour with cauliflower and vanilla.

Explore the chef's dishes from October 24 to 26, 6pm to midnight, at Byblos.

Visitors can also discover a world of flavour across Wolfgang Puck's restaurants and lounges.

Savour a multi-course dinner with bespoke pairings at CUT by Wolfgang Puck, a creative Afternoon Tea at Blue Moon Lounge, and an Omakase experience at re/ASIAN CUISINE, where each course reveals harmony through refined flavours.

The week concludes in



an intimate tasting room, where distinctive labels and nuanced notes create a memorable finale.

Available until October 4, from 2pm to midnight, it is priced a la carte.

Bay View Lounge welcomes visitors to Pasta Al Forno Mamma Mia, a celebration of Italian oven-based favourites made with premium ingredients. Highlights include creamy béchamel, golden parmigiana, cannelloni with

smoked ricotta and poached lobster, tender chicken in pink sauce, and macaroni and cheese with truffle.

Available until November 30, from 11.30am to midnight, it is priced à la carte.

Celebrate Pink October with a vibrant brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen, where every bite supports a meaningful cause. Guests can enjoy a generous spread featuring pasta, freshly baked pizza, peppercorn glazed chicken, and slow-roasted



wagyu beef. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Think Pink: Bahrain Breast Cancer Society, supporting breast cancer awareness and research. The feast is available every Friday this month, from 1pm to 4pm and costs BD35 inclusive of soft beverages and BD48 with selected beverages.

Byblos has also unveiled a refreshed Lebanese menu, alongside an extended beachfront terrace, offering guests a more spacious and elegant dining experience. Set against the waterfront, the new setting provides the perfect backdrop for evenings under the stars.

Oriental speciality chef Tony Khoury introduces new delicious dishes, honouring authentic Lebanese flavours while reimagining them with a contemporary touch. Available Tuesday to Sunday, from 6pm to midnight, it is priced à la carte.

For more information, contact 17115000.

## FLAVOURS SO WILD

**I**NDULGE in a selection of freshly prepared appetisers, mains and sweets at Sheraton Bahrain Hotel's WILD Chef's Night.

A lavish sharing platter of seasonal crustaceans tossed in Chef Doris's signature lemon garlic butter sauce, slow-roasted beef, and tantalising chimichurri will make for an unforgettable evening. An array of handcrafted signature cakes by Chef Ismail will also be available.

Relish the dishes tonight, from 5pm to 11pm, for BD19.500 per person, inclusive of soft beverages.

Meanwhile, get ready for a flavour-packed adventure at the WILD Brunch, where delicious bites and drinks will leave you wanting more, every Friday, from 12.30pm to 5pm. It costs BD36 with soft drinks and BD46 with selected beverages.

Golestan Persian Grill also invites guests for Sofreye Irani (a Persian lunch), a refined sharing-



PLUSH: Golestan's stunning interior

style dining experience, featuring your choice of a kebab, complemented by fresh juices, soft drinks and traditional Persian tea.

The restaurant also offers a menu of delightful, authentic Persian dishes – from fragrant kebabs to unique house specialities – ensuring there is something for everyone. It's open everyday from noon to 3pm, 7pm to 11pm and on weekends from



# Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment



LUXURY:  
Thai Lounge

serene surroundings and refined comfort set the tone for an unforgettable escape.

For bookings, call 17580000 or email [rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com](mailto:rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com).



noon to 4pm and 7pm to 11pm.

Choose from a variety of 12 scrumptious artisan cakes at Cakes By Sheraton. Whether it is a birthday, wedding or corporate event, the handcrafted delicacies will elevate the occasion.

For more information, call 17533533 or 38885409, or email [bahsi@sheraton.com](mailto:bahsi@sheraton.com).

## NIGHT OF LAUGHTER AND MUSIC AT BRITISH CLUB

**T**HE British Club Bahrain is set to host its iconic Oktoberfest on October 9, promising a night filled with live music, laughter, fun and games.

Headlining this year is the awesome Wunderbar Bass, alongside DJ Shannon Crocket, and supporting them will be 4 Tunes.

Tickets are available on Platinumlist and at the club's reception, priced at BD5 for members and BD7.500 for non-members. The event will start at 7pm. The club will also stage the BC Carnival on October 31. The festival will deliver a 'Nottinghill Carnival' theme, celebrating British street culture. Headlining will be 2 Rude, the UK's premier SKA tribute band, who will perform electrifying classic ska, rocksteady and reggae hits. They will be supported by guest DJs, including Ali Dawood, Refugee Soundsystem and Andrew Bentley.

Tickets are available on *Platinumlist* and at the club reception for BD5 for members and BD10 for non-members.

For more information, contact 17738245.

## DILMUN TO HOST A BOXING SPECTACLE

**E**XPERIENCE the thrill of live action at the GCC Boxing Event at Dilmun Club Bahrain.

Doors open tomorrow, October 3, at 2pm, with the event kicking off at 4pm and the first fight scheduled for 5pm. The night continues with an afterparty from 10pm.

The event is free for members, while tickets for non-members are priced at BD6. Guests can enjoy a full day of entertainment, including food and beverages, a raffle draw, children's activities and live music.

For more information, contact 17690926.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

**A** passionate foodie community in Bahrain, united by their love for one of South India's most iconic vegetarian dishes, is getting together on Saturday.

Bahrain Masala Dosa Meetup began as a casual idea and over the years has blossomed into a 45-member group of gourmands. Members get the chance to explore and savour the beloved dish at restaurants across the kingdom.

The meetup also serves as a much-needed break from the daily routine and offers a chance to chat, bond and share with friends. Open to all, the gathering will take place at 8am, at Mysore Café, Oasis Mall, Juffair.

Masala dosa is a crisp crepe-like pancake made from fermented batter of grains and pulses.

For more information, call 39867041.



**G**ET together with your family and friends to enjoy some of the English language films being shown at Cineco Seef this weekend.

### ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER (18+)

When their devil enemy resurfaces after 16 years, a group of ex-revolutionaries reunite to rescue one of their own's daughter.

**Actors:** Leonardo DiCaprio, Benicio del Toro, Sean Penn  
**Timings:** 10.30am, 1.45pm, 5pm, 11.30pm

### LONDON CALLING (18+)

After fleeing the UK from a job gone wrong, a down-on-his-luck hitman is forced to babysit the son of his new crime boss and show him how to become a man.

**Actors:** Josh Duhamel, Jeremy Taylor, Rick Hoffman  
**Timings:** 12pm, 4.45pm, 9.30pm

### THE STRANGERS: CHAPTER 2 (18+)

On the final day of their cross country road trip, a couple's vehicle breaks down, forcing them to take refuge in a remote Airbnb. As night falls, three masked strangers terrorise them until dawn.

**Actors:** Gabriel Basso, Richard Brake, Madelaine Petsch  
**Timings:** 2.30pm, 7.15pm, 12am.

(Check out *GDNonline's* list of the best movies to watch this weekend on Instagram)

# UNLIMITED DELIGHTS AT K HOTEL



JUICY: Meat at the revamped brunch

**S**AVOUR a lavish buffet filled with exciting new dishes designed to delight every palate at the K Hotel Bahrain's revamped Friday Brunch.

Sip on the finest beverages, expertly crafted to elevate the experience, while a live band sets the perfect mood for an unforgettable day.

Explore the interactive live cooking stations, where culinary magic unfolds, all within a vibrant setting.

The experience costs BD18net per person, inclusive of unlimited soft beverages, and BD25 with unlimited selected beverages, every Friday, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

For bookings, contact 36600433.

**I**NTERCONTINENTAL Bahrain presents a special Pink Afternoon Tea in honour of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, featuring an exquisite selection of handcrafted pink pastries, delicate sweets and more.

Twenty per cent of the proceeds will go towards Think Pink: Bahrain Breast Cancer Society. Support and celebrate in the spirit of hope, strength and unity. It costs BD8.500net per guest, from Thursday to Saturday, 2pm to 7pm, at Noor Lounge.

Meanwhile, start your day in style with Selections Restaurant's Buy-One-Get-One-Free International Breakfast Buffet from Sunday to

## BAKE IT PINK!

Thursday, 6am to 10.30am. It costs BD16.400net. The experience can be further upgraded with a chilled glass of bubbly.

This Halloween, step into a world of frightful flavours, where every dish comes with a wickedly playful twist at Legendz SteakHouse.

Indulge in Lamb Brain with Velvety Pumpkin Sauce, or take a fiery bite of Bat Wings Glazed in Korean Spices.

More than a brunch, it is a spine-tingling feast of flavour that promises chills, thrills and unforgettable moments. It costs BD28net with soft beverages and BD38 inclusive of unlimited

selected spirits.

Children under six dine for free, while those aged six to 12 receive a 50 per cent discount on October 31.

For the ultimate Halloween bash, head to Downtown for a night of spooky glitz, glamour and endless fun. The package, which costs BD34net, includes four hours of unlimited food and drinks, live music, fire dancers and more. Come dressed in your best costume for the chance to win prizes, on October 31, from 8pm to midnight.

For bookings and more information, contact 36967701.

DELICIOUS: Pink treats at InterContinental Bahrain





# Pulse of Pop

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

GLAMOROUS:  
Taylor

## SWIFT GOES SHOWGIRL!

**POP star Taylor Swift is set to release her 12th studio album, *The Life of a Showgirl*, tomorrow, October 3.**

The announcement came during an appearance on the *New Heights* podcast, hosted by her fiancé Travis Kelce and his brother Jason.

The album has already surpassed five million pre-saves on *Spotify*, eclipsing Taylor's own record for *The Tortured Poets Department*.

*The Life of a Showgirl* draws inspiration from Taylor's own life as an entertainer, with the writing and recording process unfolding during her travels around the world for *The Eras Tour*.

The tour, which began on March 17, 2023, in Arizona, US, concluded on December 8, 2024, in Vancouver, Canada.

"It was something I was working on while I was in Europe on *The Eras Tour*," Taylor recalled.

"I'd do like three shows in a row, I'd have three days off, I'd fly to Sweden, go back to the tour. I was physically

exhausted at this point in the tour but I was so mentally stimulated and so excited to be creating," she added.

Taylor explained that the album's aesthetic – right down to its colour scheme and physical production – was designed to reflect the emotions conveyed in the songs.

"It feels like kind of energetically how my life has felt," she said, explaining the album's orange and teal colour theme.

"This album is about what was going on behind the scenes in my inner life during this tour, which was so exuberant and electric and vibrant."

To further emphasise the energy of the album, she chose a high-gloss finish for the cover – a first for her.

"We wanted this album to feel really luxurious and kind of as a nod to the luxury that a showgirl puts on when she's on stage," she added.

The body of work also marks the creative talent's return to the studio with producers Max Martin and Shellback, who helped create some of her biggest hits

including *Bad Blood*, *Blank Space* and *Style*.

The 35-year-old American singer is known for experimenting with many genres throughout her career.

She debuted in 2006, at the age of 14, as a country singer with her self-titled album, and later blended in pop elements for her album *Fearless* in 2008, followed by *Speak Now* (2010) which

had rock influences.

In 2014, she made a complete departure from the country genre with her fifth album *1989*, marking her artistic rebrand as a pop singer. However, she continued to make the hip-hop infused project *Reputation* in 2017 and critically-acclaimed folk albums *Folklore* and *Evermore* in 2020.

## THE WAR WITHIN

TEACHER: Cillian as Steve

**DRAMA film *Steve*, starring Oscar winner Cillian Murphy, releases tomorrow, October 3, on Netflix.**

Set in the mid-1990s, the story follows the titular headteacher as he fights to protect the integrity of his workplace – a boys' reform school for troubled students with behavioural and societal difficulties – while also grappling with his own mental health.

In parallel to Steve's (Cillian) struggles, we meet Shy (Jay Lycurgo), a troubled teen caught between his past and what lies ahead, as he tries to reconcile his inner fragility with his impulse for self-destruction and violence.

*Steve* is a reimaging of the 2023 novella *Shy* written by Max Porter, who also contributed to the film.

Cillian previously collaborated with Max on the 2019 play *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*, based on his 2015 novel of the same name.

In an interview, the

author revealed how the two reunited to build the film and character through conversations.

"Cillian had got back off the very intense period of work he'd been doing, and said, 'Would you consider writing me something again?'" Max recalled.

"I had just come off the *Shy* book tour, people were standing up saying 'I'm a teacher or carer or run a facility for kids comparable to this'. Their feedback was the thing that was most generative for me and most interesting. So I had this idea that we could rewrite the whole book, twist it on its axis from Steve's point of view," he added.

Starring alongside Cillian and Jay are Tracey Ullman, Simni Ajikawo and Emily Watson.

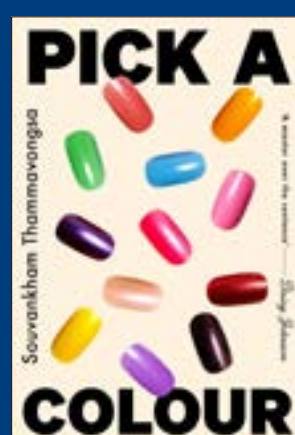
Max serves as the writer as well as an executive producer. Alan Moloney, Cillian and Tina Pawlik are producers. Ben Salisbury and Geoff Barrow composed the music for the film.

## A KNOCKOUT TALE OF NAILS AND NOSTALGIA

**LAOTIAN-CANADIAN author Souvankham Thammavongsa's short story *Pick a Colour* has hit the shelves.**

The novella follows retired boxer Ning, who works at a nail salon where all employees are simply known as 'Susan'.

As she turns up to clip, buff and polish her customers' nails, she finds herself haunted by the what-ifs of paths not taken and lost opportunities. She begins to question her two identities –



as an anonymous manicurist and as an observer of her own circumstances.

"I'm really interested in the way people work, whether they're a bartender or a nail salon worker, or someone who works on a farm. I like to imagine how thinking happens through the body without words, and to portray that as a writer," Souvankham said in an interview.

"To write about boxing, you really have to know it technically, because readers who are familiar with the sport don't take it lightly, so I did a lot of research and got a trainer to teach me

how to box for a year and a half.

"My goal as a novelist, though, was to take these two different worlds that seem so far apart – boxing and a nail salon – and create a universe where they fit together.

"It was such a tremendous joy to find a connection when my narrator makes a mantra out of her former coach's refrain, 'Control the centre line', and applies it to her clients' faces when it's time to pluck their eyebrows," she added.



# MotoringWeekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

# Singapore street test

**FROM** Max Verstappen's resurgence in the Drivers' Championship to Oscar Piastri's response after his Azerbaijan nightmare, the F1 paddock arrives in Singapore with no shortage of intrigue, writes Naman Arora.

The Marina Bay Street Circuit, famed as the sport's original night race, is set to provide a stern test for cars, drivers and teams alike.

After a chaotic weekend in Baku, the narrative shifts to Asia, where the heat, humidity and unforgiving street layout will push the grid to its limits.

Surprising results in recent races have reshaped the title picture, setting up fresh questions to be answered beneath Singapore's floodlights.

## VERSTAPPEN RESURGENCE

**F**EW would have imagined that Verstappen's place in the title race could still be under discussion with a third of the season remaining. A dominant start for McLaren and Oscar Piastri appeared to have settled the matter, yet the Dutchman's recent form has reignited the conversation.

Victories in Monza and Baku have cut a once-daunting 104-point deficit down to 69, helped by Piastri's retirement in Azerbaijan.

Red Bull's set-up sweet spot at low-downforce venues allowed Verstappen to thrive, but Marina Bay presents a very different challenge.

Singapore's high-downforce demands will reveal whether Red Bull's recent engineering gains can truly carry across all types of circuits, or if McLaren's all-round strength will once again tip the balance back in their favour.

## MIDFIELD DISRUPTORS

**T**his entire season has proven that the midfield is no longer playing a passive role, with nine of the 20 drivers on the grid having finished on the podium at



Verstappen



Piastri

least once this year.

Carlos Sainz's podium for Williams marked his first in blue and underlined the ability of so-called midfield cars to mix it at the sharp end.

Liam Lawson, too, demonstrated resilience by holding his own against the Mercedes pair, finishing fifth after a smartly managed race.

With nine different podium finishers already this season, Singapore offers another chance for an outsider to capitalise on the attrition of a demanding track.

## TITLE SHOT

**M**cLaren's march towards a second successive Constructors' Championship could be sealed in Singapore.

Reliability problems and driver mistakes cost them in Baku, but the team remains in complete control of the standings.

The equation is simple – 13 points will be enough to clinch the title regardless of what Ferrari or Mercedes manage.

A single podium would all but guarantee Andrea Stella's squad another crown,

with only the colour of the celebrations left to decide.

## PIASTRI PACING

**F**or Piastri, Baku was a weekend to forget.

A string of issues and errors ended with his first retirement of the season, snapping an impressive run of 44 consecutive race finishes. It was an uncharacteristic blip for a driver whose hallmark has been consistency.

Yet, if there is one trait the Australian has shown, it is composure.

Rarely swayed by highs or lows, Piastri is expected to approach Singapore methodically as he seeks to steady his campaign.

With Verstappen closing and team-mate Lando Norris now only 25 points behind, the championship leader

cannot afford further slip-ups.

Last year, Piastri wrestled his way onto the Singapore podium despite trailing Norris by a considerable margin.

Progression has been a constant in his young career, and another step forward would go a long way to quietening questions about his championship mettle.

## MOONLIGHT MARATHON

**T**he Singapore Grand Prix has long carried a reputation as the ultimate test of endurance. Despite being a night race, the humidity and heat are punishing, and with its 90-degree corners and low average speed, the race often stretches close to two hours. Drivers must fight fatigue, hydration loss and unrelenting concentration

demands.

The event has traditionally produced Safety Cars as mistakes creep in, though last year marked the first exception.

The conditions, combined with the pressure of the championship fight, promise another bruising contest.

The lights of Marina Bay have a way of amplifying drama, and with titles in play, rivals closing in, and the physical strain of one of Formula One's longest races, Singapore is primed for another fascinating chapter in the 2025 season.

LEADING: Norris in action during the race last year



STUNNING: A view of the roads where the Singapore F1 race will take place as seen from Swissotel The Stamford Singapore



## FACT SHEET

- **Lap distance:** 4.927km
- **Total distance:** 305.337km (62 laps)
- **2024 pole position:** Lando Norris (Britain) McLaren
- **2024 winner:** Norris
- **Race lap record:** Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) Red Bull 1:34.486 (2024)
- **The night race is one of the season's biggest physical challenges.** Drivers can lose several kilos of weight during the race through sweating in the heat and humidity.
- **Sunday's race will be the 16th since the first in 2008.**
- **Four active drivers have won – Fernando Alonso (2008, 2010), Lewis Hamilton (2009, 2014, 2017, 2018), Carlos Sainz (2023) and Norris (2024).** Mercedes, Red Bull and Ferrari have won four times each.
- **There are 19 corners, reduced from 23 in 2023, making the track one of the twistiest.**

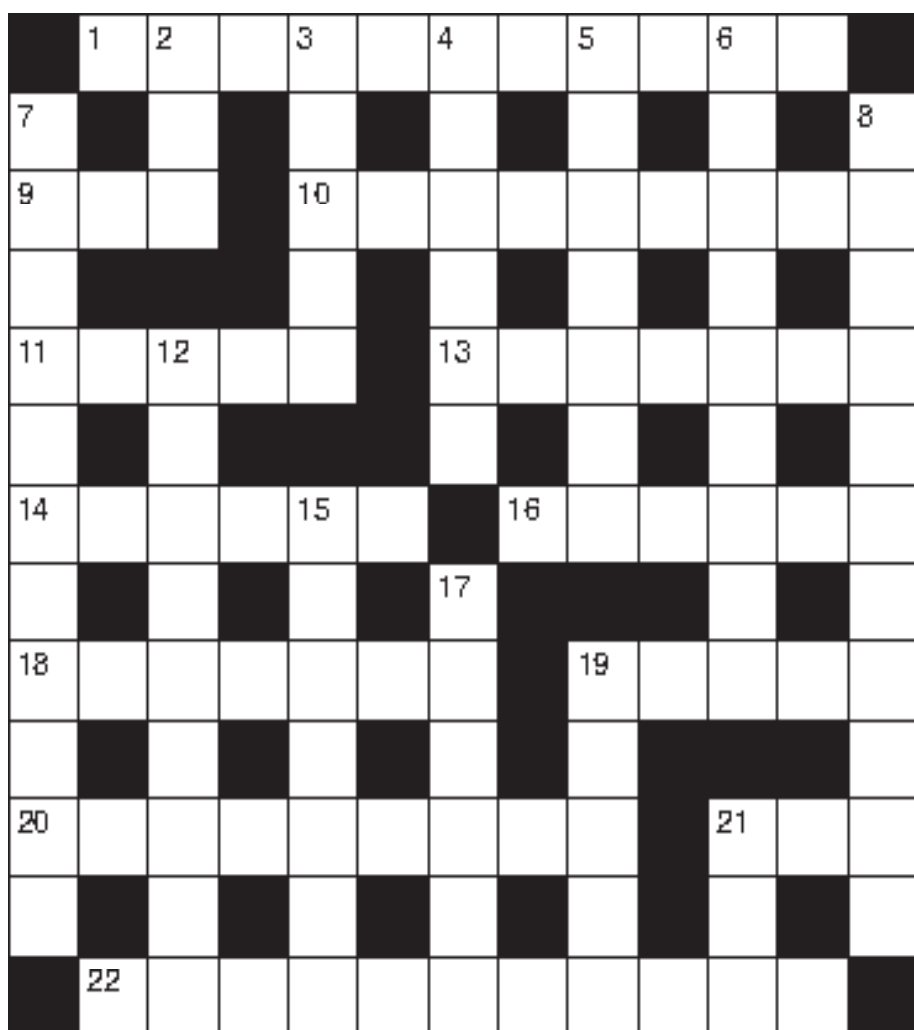


# Time Out



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## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

1. Impartially (11)
9. Permit (3)
10. Revolt (9)
11. Overturn (5)
13. Bounce (7)
14. Maltreat (3-3)
16. Ebb (6)
18. Press release (7)
19. Appointment (5)
20. Beginners (9)
21. Pale (3)
22. Forerunner (11)

### DOWN

2. Gamble (3)
3. Heron (5)
4. Tunic (6)
5. Talkative (7)
6. Unhurried (9)
7. Prosperous (11)
8. Accidental (11)
12. Brilliance (9)
15. Allayed (7)
17. Stationary (6)
19. Jobs (5)
21. Court (3)

### who, what, where, when

WHO...was the society osteopath implicated in the Profumo scandal?

WHAT...was the profession of Joseph Grimaldi?

WHERE...in the human body would you find the ulna?

WHEN...did Arsenal first win the FA Cup?

WHO...played hapless waiter Manuel in *Fawlty Towers*?

WHAT...can be classified using the Mercalli scale?

WHERE...was Rudyard Kipling born?

WHEN...was *It's Not Unusual* a number one for Tom Jones?

### just so



**HUSH**

**#2 00**

**11111 DOZEN**  
2

## 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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

#### CROSSWORD BREAK:

**Across:** 1 Tact; 3 Barbaric; 9 Amateur; 10 Maple; 11 Song of praise; 13 Egoism; 15 Adhere; 17 Stormy petrel; 20 About; 21 Outcast; 22 Abridged; 23 Stud.  
**Down:** 1 Transfer; 2 Chain; 4 Abrupt; 5 Bombardments; 6 Riposte; 7 Crew; 8 Demonstrated; 12 Depleted; 14 Outdoor; 16 Bygone; 18 React; 19 Saga.

#### Who, What, Where, When:

Sir Anthony Eden; K; Cardiff; 1964; Nadia Almada; Mary Ann (Marian) Evans; New Mexico; 1969.

**Just So:** At the end of the day; Broken promises; God forbid; All fingers and thumbs.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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