

Voice of courage

MUSIC REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

ENGLISH expatriate and gifted singer Annie Kennaugh has embarked on a noble mission – to use her musical talent to support those suffering from cancer.

The 25-year-old former British School of Bahrain (BSB) student recently took centre stage at the Dilmun Club in Saar, raising more than BD1,000 for the Bahrain Cancer Society through a heartfelt performance.

For Annie, this initiative is deeply personal.

Just 18 months ago, the Janabiya resident faced a life-altering diagnosis – a brain tumour that required surgery. Her first charity concert on November 27 wasn't just a show; it marked the anniversary of her operation.

"Instead of it being a sad day, I wanted to turn it into something that could help other people," Annie, who presently lives with her fiancé Ross Laing and younger brother Alfie Kennaugh, told *GulfWeekly*.

"We raised just more than BD1,000, including BD120 raised by my older brother Jack who shaved his head at the charity gig."

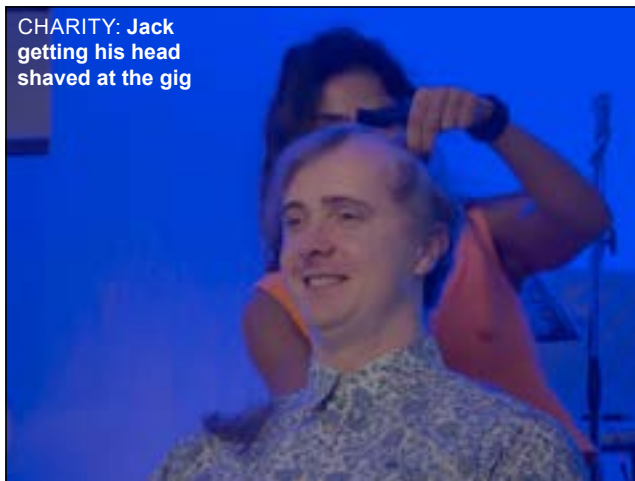
Annie arrived in the kingdom in 2018 with her parents: dad Rob Kennaugh, who works in Saudi Arabia, mum Dawn, a teacher at an international school in Bahrain, and brother Alfie, 22, who studied at St Christopher's School. He just completed his Master's in cinematography from Bournemouth University, England and returned this year. Her older brother Jack, who was working in the UK at the time, also joined them this year.

After two years in Bahrain, Annie moved to the UK to pursue her higher education.

"I had come back for my summer holiday in September 2023 when I learned about the tumour. I have hormonal issues and was recommended to get an MRI done to ensure there was nothing wrong with my



FLASHBACK: Annie during a past gig in Bahrain. Inset, post-surgery recovery



CHARITY: Jack getting his head shaved at the gig

pituitary gland. The tumour was spotted incidentally," Annie explained.

Although the surgery was successful, recovery has been challenging.

"I'm still undergoing physical therapy for some balance and co-ordination

issues. Reading has become quite difficult and my memory has become a lot worse than it used to be. I was in a wheelchair last January but am happy to be on my two feet now."

Grateful for her progress, Annie hopes to transform

her personal journey into a force for good, pledging to make charity gigs in support of cancer patients an annual tradition.

While last month's event marked her first official charity performance, Annie's love for music runs deep – she has been singing for as long as she can remember.

"I come from a very musical family – my mum plays the cello and my dad, the guitar. So we always grew up with music and did a lot of karaoke," she said.

"When I almost turned 14, I played at the summer fair for my school in China where we lived at the time. My friend's dad happened to be there, he owned a restaurant, and he asked me to play in his restaurant. From there, I've had weekly gigs pretty

much until now," added the talent, who has already sung a few times at the Dilmun Club.

Annie's repertoire spans covers of international artists across genres – from pop to rock – but she admits most fans know her best for her soulful renditions of Adele.

She often shares the stage with popular guitarist and Filipino expatriate Jared Simangan, creating soulful performances that captivate audiences.

Looking ahead to the New Year, Annie plans to devote more time to her music while also working towards completing her education. "I'm studying special educational needs at the University of East London and definitely want to finish that," she said.



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Gala night
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New children's book
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WOMEN LEADERS



COMMUNITY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

SEVENTEEN high-achievers across diverse sectors have clinched coveted titles of excellence at the Woman of the Year Awards 2025, inspiring scores of women to pursue their dreams.

The spectacular grand finale was staged by *Woman This Month*, in association with GDN Media and Porsche at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, on Saturday, as highlighted in the GDN on Sunday.

The gala commenced with a scintillating musical performance. Many ambassadors and other dignitaries attended the event, which was graced by guest of honour and pioneering British engineer and innovator Dr Heba Bevan OBE and chief guest and National Arts Council chairman Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Shaikh Rashid, a world renowned interdisciplinary visual artist and member of the Bahraini royal family, highlighted the role of women in the community, emphasising how the standard of the kingdom's art scene developed after the entry of women artists.

The evening continued with a short film about the Woman of the Year Awards. A video featuring Red House Marketing publisher and founding director George Middleton and managing director Anne Middleton was also aired,



CELEBRATION: Event sponsors and guests at the ceremony



HAPPY: Organisers at the gala

THANK YOU: Thajba addresses the audience



HONOUR: George felicitates Dr Heba

lending the event a personal touch.

"We launched the Woman of the Year Awards last year, which was a grand success, but we have surpassed ourselves this year," George

told *GulfWeekly*.

"We introduced the Woman of Arabia Achievement Award and it is a privilege to have a woman of this repute grace our platform," he added.

"The support that we have received from our sponsors has been overwhelming and instrumental in making this event possible. And it gives me great joy to announce that next year, the awards will be going regional," George revealed.

Renowned Saudi businesswoman Lubna Al Olayan, the first woman to chair a publicly listed bank in Saudi Arabia and the wider Gulf region, was presented the Woman of Arabia Achievement Award. She was appointed chairwoman of the Saudi British Bank in 2019 following its merger with Alawwal Bank.

Adding to the list of firsts this year was the new trophy design fashioned to resemble a golden lady.

Over hundreds of applications were carefully whetted in the months leading



PROUD: Eman receives the award from Foreign Affairs Ministry chief of the organisations and UNIDO-ITPO Bahrain head Hatem Hatem and, right, Jaya with her award



up to the gala, by a technical jury, which shortlisted more than 50 finalists, who were then evaluated by the main jury.

The main jury comprised six successful Bahrainis: digital innovator Ubaydli Ubaydli, creative entrepreneurs Sonya Janahi and Huda Janahi, communications leader Noora AlNusuf, fashion and education pioneer Tamara Hostal and marketing

trailblazer and mental health advocate Nivedita Dhadphale.

More than 23,000 voters cast their ballots online across categories, including the arts, literature, fashion, hospitality, health, beauty and wellness, sports and more.

The Orange Economy Rising Star Award was also launched this year, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

Investment and Technology Promotion Office (UNIDO-ITPO), following the announcement of 2025 as the Orange Economy Year in May. The national initiative aims to bridge the gap between creativity and entrepreneurship.

The award was presented to Bahraini talent Eman Sharif, who founded Campfire, a travel platform focused on connecting Arab

SHINING BRIGHT



ACCOLADE: Winners and their representatives



ATTENTIVE: A section of the audience



ALL SMILES: George and Anne with Al Hilal managing director Ronnie Middleton, right



FUNTIME: Entertainment at the event



HONOUR: Prominent Saudi businessman Abdul-Mohsen Ajaji receives the award on behalf of Lubna

women through the spirit of wanderlust.

Several Bahraini talents featured among the winners, nodding to the kingdom's inclusive efforts that continue to put women at the forefront of entrepreneurship and community endeavours. One such Bahraini was humanitarian Rayana Sayyar, who clinched the Woman in Social Services award for her commendable work with orphans.

"This is such a wonderful gesture and I am so honoured to have won," said the founder of non-government organisation Our Responsibility, which helps orphans and children in need through sponsorships, healthcare services, education and more.

"The biggest highlight though is making an impact on someone's life. And the more we are able to do that, the more rewarding it is. I

hope to always be worthy of this responsibility," Rayana added.

"I have been running this NGO for three years and I am also an architect so, we do a lot of renovation projects to serve our community. I have also been appointed to the National Commission for Childhood in Bahrain, where we continue to introduce different strategies for human rights in the kingdom."

Honouring Bahrain's

diverse and cosmopolitan fabric, the awards recognised several expatriate women as well.

Indian Jaya Menon, who won in the Woman in Literary Arts category, reminisced arriving in the kingdom with a suitcase full of dreams. She hailed Bahrain for being the land that makes dreams come true.

"This is such a wonderful moment and I am so happy," the screenwriter and filmmaker remarked, revealing that she is soon set to produce a new short film in Arabic featuring Bahraini talents.

Internationally acclaimed Bahraini artist of Pakistani descent Thajba Najeeb, who bagged the Woman in Visual Arts award, was 'pleasantly surprised and honoured' and thanked her 'village' – friends, family and fellow creatives – who made this milestone a reality.

"I cannot wait to see what happens next and am excited to exhibit my latest collections of works in the

New Year," Thajba noted.

On the sports front, Bahrain's first female jockey and renowned equestrian Manal Fakhrawi broke the bridge.

"Thank you for this honour and for creating such a beautiful platform for women. It is not just my successes but my setbacks that have paved the way for me - it is your race and your pace," said the member of Bahrain's Royal Endurance Team.

Some of the winners shared their inspiring stories, which further elevated the award ceremony.

A raffle draw with many exciting prizes, including a yacht trip for two, added to the evening's excitement. Guests also enjoyed an extensive buffet featuring scrumptious dishes from around the world.



RIDING HIGH: Manal

Festive

A TOUCH OF RITZ MAGIC

SAVOUR the magic of the festive season at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, where an array of exceptional holiday dining experiences awaits.

Celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with exquisite four-course set menus at La Table Krug (BD60), Primavera (BD45) and Plums (BD45).

Guests may also enjoy a la carte dining at Cantina Kahlo and Nirvana (minimum spend BD35 per person), as well as at La Terrace, The Ritz Gourmet Lounge, Café Gourmandise, Thai Lounge, Burlington Club, La Plage and Lobby Lounge.

This is available on

December 24 and 25, from 7pm to 11.30pm.

Enjoy the holidays from the comfort of your home with the hotel's Holiday Takeaway. It includes a full turkey, a starter, pie and a generous spread of trimmings, serving eight (BD175). A rib eye option, serving five, is also available for BD170.

Orders must be placed at least 24 hours in advance.

For a cosy winter retreat, visit Le Coin Chalet at La Terrace. Enjoy the warm, rustic ambience and comforting classics such as apple strudel, raclette and bubbling fondue, available until February 16, Monday to Saturday, from 1pm to 11pm. Little ones

can immerse themselves in festive fun with Gingerbread House Workshops on December 13 and 20, from 2pm to 4pm. Children aged four to 12 can build and decorate their own holiday creations for BD30 per child.

Welcome 2026 in unforgettable style with an open-air New Year's Eve celebration at Thai Lounge and La Plage. Dance into the New Year with live entertainment, upbeat music and delectable bites.

WARM: Festive dining



VIP tables are available with advance reservation and prepayment. It costs BD30 per person for an entry ticket, on December 31, from 8pm to 1am. Additional New Year's



COSY: Le Coin Chalet at La Terrace

Eve dining options at the hotel include a four-course Italian menu at Primavera for BD65 per person, a five-course gourmet experience at La Table Krug for BD70

per person and a four-course artisan menu at Plums for BD55 per person.

Cantina Kahlo and Nirvana will also offer a la carte dining with a

FESTIVE CLASSICS AT FOUR SEASONS

FOUR Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay has transformed its grounds into a captivating winter wonderland, featuring an array of festive experiences for guests to enjoy.

The hotel's lobby and Bay View Lounge are adorned with chalet-inspired decor and elegant olive trees, creating an ambience reminiscent of the Swiss Alps. Guests can enjoy seasonal delights including cheese fondue, raclette, and mushroom crostini, available a la carte until January 7.

At the elegant Bay View Lounge, visitors can indulge in a starlit afternoon tea featuring a curated menu that blends timeless classics with creative twists – ranging from warm savoury delights to exquisite sweet treats.

The festive event is available daily until January 7, noon to 9pm, with the regular experience priced at BD22 and the royal afternoon tea at BD26.

Celebrate Bahrain National Day with an exclusive tea experience at Bay View Lounge. From December 14 to 20, between noon and 9pm, indulge in a menu featuring savoury bites infused with local spices and

sweets inspired by traditional Bahraini desserts.

It's available at BD22 per person for a regular package or BD26 with selected beverages.

CUT by Wolfgang Puck, celebrated among the top 25 restaurants in the Mena region, is hosting a la carte Christmas Brunch and Dinner, featuring festive dishes such as beef wellington and colcannon potatoes. Lunch is available on December 25 from 12.30pm to 3pm and dinner on December 24 and 25 from 7pm to 11pm.

For those celebrating at home, the hotel offers festive takeaway feasts. A roast turkey with all the trimmings and sweet treats serves up to six people for BD105net, while a full festive feast is available for BD190net.

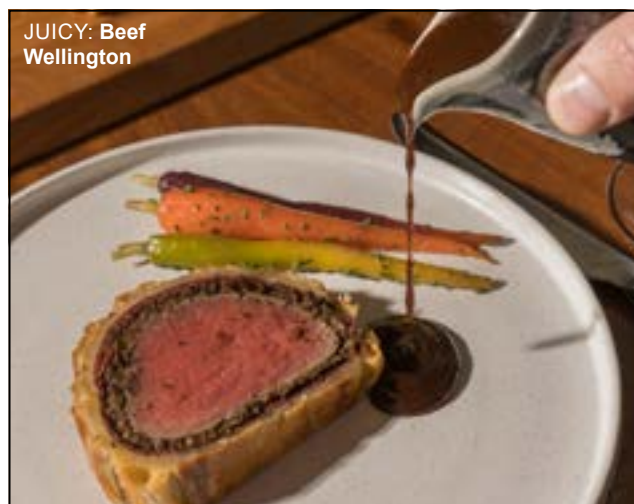
Do not miss out on the exquisite holiday creations from Wolfgang Puck's executive pastry chef Pierre Chambon. He has crafted delicious take-away delights, available throughout this month, priced a la carte.

New Year's Eve celebrations are also planned across re/ASIAN CUISINE, CUT by Wolfgang Puck, Byblos and Bahrain Bay Kitchen.

For more details, contact 17115000.



TUCK IN: Festive feast at the hotel



JUICY: Beef Wellington

MERRY MOMENTS!

THIS holiday season, let the spirit of celebration shine at InterContinental Bahrain.

The hotel presents an array of exclusive festive hampers and cakes, thoughtfully crafted by its culinary team and filled with indulgent treats to delight every guest. Orders must be placed 24 hours in advance, with collection available at Noor Lounge.

Guests can also unwind at Noor Lounge's Festive Afternoon Tea, where warm welcome drinks, savoury bites, seasonal pastries and freshly baked scones with clotted cream and jam create an unforgettable seasonal escape.

The experience is priced at BD8.500net per guest and is available every Friday and Saturday from 2pm to 7pm, as well as on Christmas Eve and Day.

Celebrate Christmas Eve in style at Legendz SteakHouse, where warm holiday traditions blend seamlessly with modern luxury.

A specially curated menu of starters, mains

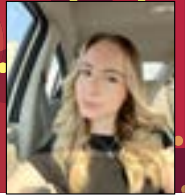


and desserts, paired with welcome drinks and seasonal touches, promises an intimate dining experience perfect for couples, families or small gatherings. The event takes place on December 24 from 7.30pm to midnight and is priced at BD29 with soft beverages, BD39 with a selected beverage package and BD18net for children aged six to 12.

Mezdo will host a La Vigilia Seafood Set Dinner on Christmas Eve, featuring an exquisite selection of fresh seafood, hand-crafted pasta and indulgent desserts. This celebration runs from 7.30pm to midnight and is priced at BD18net with soft beverages, BD29net with a selected

Special

What's on
guide by Julia
Cassano



minimum spend of BD45 per person.

For details, call 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.

CREATIVE: Children making gingerbread houses



beverage package and BD10net for children aged six to 12.

On Christmas Day, families and friends can gather for a joyful brunch, complete with holiday cheer, delicious food and the timeless pleasure of sharing a festive meal with family and friends. Experience a magical atmosphere complete with live music and a special visit from Santa to delight the little ones — an ideal way to embrace the season. The brunch takes place from noon to 4pm and costs BD29net with soft beverages, BD39net with a selected beverage package and BD18 for children aged six to 12.

For details, call 36967701.

HILTON'S EARLY BIRD OFFERS

HILTON Bahrain is ushering in the festive season with an array of exciting celebrations at Origin Kitchen and Culture, perfect for those looking to dine and indulge in style.

The celebrations begin with the lively Festive Brunch, where guests can join the elves for an afternoon filled with merry mischief and sparkling delights.

Taking place tomorrow, December 12, from 12.30pm to 4pm, the brunch is priced at BD28net with soft beverages and BD39net with selected beverages.

Guests can also take advantage of the hotel's early bird offers, available only until December 15.

A Christmas Eve dinner is available for BD20net with soft beverages or BD22 with selected beverages, while the Christmas Day Brunch costs BD27net with soft beverages and BD30net with selected beverages.

New Year's Eve early bird offers are BD45net with unlimited beverages or BD55net with unlimited premium beverages.

For those looking to enjoy a festive feast at home, Hilton Bahrain is offering a perfectly roasted turkey with trimmings and more, serving six to eight people for BD65net.

Little chefs are invited to roll up their sleeves and get creative in the kitchen, mixing, shaping and decorating holiday treats to take home. The workshop is on December 21, from 2pm to 5pm, and is open to those aged five to 12, at BD5 per child.

Make Christmas Eve extra magical with the hotel's Stay and Dine escape,

FUN: Festive creations for the little ones



which includes a cosy studio for two with a complimentary upgrade to a sea view or balcony, a festive dinner at Origin Kitchen and Culture and a delicious breakfast the next morning.

With early check-in and late check-out, it is the perfect holiday treat at just BD79 on December 24.

The New Year's Eve stay package for two costs BD129 and includes a studio room, lazy breakfast, and NYE showtime with unlimited selected beverages.

Guests can also explore the restaurant's vibrant new Pan Asian Night, where sizzling live stations, bold flavours and karaoke fun transform Wednesday evenings. The experience is priced at BD26 with unlimited soft beverages, and karaoke open from 8pm to 10pm.

Seafood enthusiasts are invited to indulge in Origin Kitchen and Culture's Seafood Night, taking place tonight from 7pm to 10pm. The experience is priced at BD30net with unlimited soft beverages and BD32net with unlimited selected beverages.

For more information, call 33692013.

CHRISTMAS CAMP FUN

THE British Club Bahrain invites family and friends for a month filled with festive cheer.

The celebrations begin with the club's Christmas Market on Saturday, offering a charming selection of handcrafted gifts, stocking fillers and seasonal delights. Entry is free for all.

A Christmas Camp will also be held from December 14 to 26, noon to 4pm. It features an array of activities and games to keep the little ones occupied over the holidays.

Week one includes sensory play, creative arts and crafts, and swimming and week two includes music and instruments, modern dance, rhythmic gymnastics, movie and popcorn and puppet theatre. It's open to children aged four to 12 and costs BD37.500 for members and BD45 for non-members per week, from noon to 4pm.

A daily rate of BD8.500 for members and BD10 for non-members is also available. Lunch is included.

On December 16 at 4pm, the club will celebrate Bahrain National Day with a lively party featuring a national dress parade, traditional Bahraini dance and music, creative crafts, henna and a variety of fun games. The event is open to everyone and free for children, with a BD1.500 entry fee for non-members.

Later that evening, at 7.30pm, guests can join in the fun at Bad Santa's Christmas Karaoke. Non-members may attend for a BD1 entry fee.

The festivities continue with the Juniors Christmas Party, where children can enjoy singing, dancing, goodie bags and plenty of festive cheer. The event is priced at BD3 for members and BD4 for non-members.

For details, call 3994206.

SPECIAL CULINARY SPREAD

HHEAD to the Dilmun Club Bahrain this season for a festive lineup of celebrations and culinary delights.

The festivities begin with the End of Term Brunch and Children's Christmas Party tomorrow, from 1pm to 5pm, featuring a delicious spread of seasonal favourites, live music, bouncy castles and a special visit from Santa Claus.

The event is priced at BD25 for adults and BD15 for children under 18.

For a truly memorable Christmas celebration, the club's Christmas Day Brunch will take place from 1pm to 4pm. Priced at BD27.500, it includes food, drinks and live music, while guest tickets are available for BD32 all inclusive.

Adding to the festive spirit, a Christmas Jazz Night will be held on December 4 from 8pm onwards. Entry is free for members, while guests may attend for BD2.

For bookings, call 17690926.

TONNES OF TREATS AT SHERATON

CHRISTMAS is here and Sheraton Bahrain Hotel has a range of festive experiences to make the season unforgettable.

Bring the holiday cheer home with the Turkey Takeaway Box, available until January 7.

Choose from a 5.5kg whole roasted turkey serving four to six guests for BD145, or a 7.5kg turkey serving six to eight guests for BD165.

Celebrate Christmas Eve at WILD from 6pm to 11pm for BD22.500, inclusive of soft beverages. Upgrade to the premium experience with an additional BD18 and enjoy a complimentary glass of a

selected beverage to start your evening.

Enjoy a festive Christmas Brunch at WILD on December 25 and 26, with a family-style menu, live entertainment, and activities for children. Prices are BD40 with soft beverages and BD50 with selected beverages, from 12.30pm to 5pm.

For a memorable Christmas dinner, visit Brasero Atlántico on December 25 from 7pm, where guests can indulge in a specially crafted holiday menu, including Chef James' signature Beef Wellington — a true centrepiece for the festive table. It's priced a la carte.

For more information, contact 38885408.

SHARE: Delicious Christmas dinner



CLUB TURNS 72!

THE Young Goans Club Bahrain is set to celebrate 72 remarkable years in the kingdom alongside the Feast of St Francis Xavier.

The celebration will take place tomorrow at 7pm at the Olive Hotel in Juffair.

Guests can look forward to an unforgettable evening, featuring a captivating performance by local band The Past Masters and keep the party going with DJ Noel, who will keep guests dancing all night long.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, children under 12 can delight in a Christmas Tree Party, complete with a cheerful visit from Santa Claus and delightful goodie bags. Early arrivals will receive complimentary gifts and exciting prizes await lucky attendees. Convenient parking is available at the hotel and in the surrounding area.

Entry is free for members.

For enquiries, call 33310712 or 39881984.

Pulse of Pop

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



TALENT: Pebe

A MAGICAL JOURNEY

FORMER Bahrain resident Archana Narayanan has released her new fantasy fiction chapter book *The Treasure Seekers: An Otherworldly Quest*.

The story for children aged eight to 12 is illustrated by children's literature artist Bhavana D and tackles the adventure of ten-year-old Keshav, who stumbles upon something he cannot explain; is it just a forest, or is it a gateway to another world?

This puts the little kid on a quest that began centuries ago: to bring back a sacred idol once given to a maharaja for safekeeping.

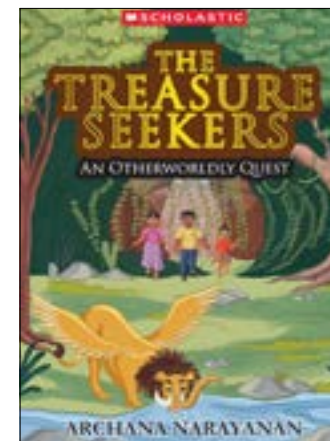
"The book is mostly about friendship and adventure," the 37-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

"There's also some focus on change and adaptability. The lead character Keshav moves from the city to a small town.

"He had to leave his friends, the vibrancy and the comforts of city life. The story takes him through a magical journey that helps him see the town in a new light," she added.

The IIT Madras graduate, who laid the foundation of her career in the kingdom, made the shift to writing after quitting her job, which did not excite her as much.

The former Asian School pupil began by creating a travel



ADVENTURE: The book cover

blog, which was her first foray into writing. Later, she started self-publishing, eventually working with independent publishers.

The creative talent stated that she was inspired to pursue children's literature when she was reading picture books to her son when he was about a month old.

"I used to read to him every day.

That's when the first thought of writing a book came to me. I wrote several picture books and sent out manuscripts to publishers. I experimented with plenty of career options after I quit my job, and nothing gave me as much joy as writing stories for children," she noted.

Archana is currently a full time writer living in Kerala, India with her family.

The book is available on Amazon.

AUTHOR: Archana



RETRO REVIVAL

LONG-TIME singer and songwriter Pebe Sebert, aka pop singer Kesha's mother, drops her first and only album tomorrow, December 12.

The self-titled project unearths the 'hidden talent's' original recordings from the 1980s, which have been newly remastered for modern listening.

The 69-year-old creative's career began in the 1970s as the pen behind the songs of country artists including Dolly Parton. She eventually set out to record her own music. However, a series of unfortunate events, including her marriage falling apart, put a hold to her venture; she stopped showing up to recording sessions and completely disappeared.

Pebe kept the 11 tracks throughout the years, expecting to do nothing with them, until a few friends who heard the songs encouraged her to revisit the project, believing that they stumbled upon '80's pop gold'.

Her daughter supported her too and is releasing the work through her label Kesha Records.

"Kesha started her own record company, and she said, 'Hey, the first record I'm going to put out that's not my record is going to be your record'," she recalled.

Pebe describes the album release to be a happy ending,

as it is not only coming out at a time when she is healthy and stable but also after her daughter's personal and professional struggles; her long legal battle with former record label Kemosabe Records, which allegedly had her trapped in a contract that was stripping her creative freedom.

"There's been a lot of very high highs and very low lows for me as a person, and for my daughter and our family and her career," Pebe noted.

"The whole point is to



BEACHY: The album cover

touch people with your stories and maybe make somebody's life just a little bit better for a minute. I

know Kesha's definitely done that with her music, and I'm so proud of her. I've had so many people tell me how she's changed or saved their life, and I'm just happy to have what I did so long ago come out and maybe change someone's life a little bit for a minute."

Pebe is credited as the co-writer for a number of her daughter's songs and has also written hits for a number of modern-day artists, including Ariana Grande, Miley Cyrus and Pitbull.

WASTELAND QUEST

THE second season of American post-apocalyptic drama television series *Fallout* is set to premiere on December 17 on Amazon Prime Video, with a scheduled release running weekly until February 4.

Based on the namesake role-playing video game franchise, the series is set two centuries after the Great War of 2077, in which society has collapsed following an apocalyptic nuclear exchange between the United States and China.

It stars Ella Purnell as Lucy MacLean, who leaves her home in Vault 33 to venture into the dangerous wasteland of a devastated Los Angeles to look for her father, who has been kidnapped by

wasteland raiders.

Along the way, she meets a Brotherhood of Steel squire Maximus (Aaron Moten) and a legendary ghoul bounty hunter Cooper Howard (Walton Goggins), each having his own past and agenda to settle.

In the second season, Lucy accompanies Cooper to New Vegas to discover the truth about her father and Vault-Tec while Maximus prepares for war.

Bethesda Game Studios executive producer Todd Howard, who also directed the third and fourth games of the franchise, revealed that he was sold on executive producer Jonathan Nolan's series pitch because it wasn't an exact adaptation. Instead, it is a whole new story set nine years after the events of *Fallout 4*.




ADVENTURE: A poster of the new season

As for the new season, Todd promises fans of the game that an incredible set was built for the upcoming episodes.

"The scale of New Vegas as a proper set is incredible, it's a location that gamers know," he said, referring to the game *Fallout: New Vegas*.

Who will win at Ally Pally?

By LAURENCE JONES



Preview of the World Darts Championships brought to you by The Bahrain Darts Masters

IT'S that time of year again. Whilst Bahrain gets set for National Day celebrations and the festive period, the best darts players in the world are about to battle it out for the three-week epic of the World Darts Championships in London.

The event's place in sporting history is unmatched for the unique atmosphere, fancy dress and merriment which have become a hallmark of Alexandra Palace, or 'Ally Pally' as the venue is known. At the same time, there is a serious sporting side to this, as well as some not inconsiderable prize money. It's the one that every player dreams of winning.

Performances at Ally Pally can also have an impact on who we may see in Bahrain for the Darts Masters in January. We are fortunate to be the first event to take place after the World Championships. Not only does that mean we can bring the Ally Pally buzz to Bahrain, but there is the chance for one or two players to put in a stellar performance and earn their place for our event on January 15 and 16 at our new home at Exhibition World.

When looking at the title contenders, most would look no further than the two Lukes.

Luke Littler and Luke Humphries have dominated the world of darts in the last couple of seasons.

Since winning his first major title (The 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters, no less), Littler has become a household name winning last year's World Championships, with wins this year in the World Matchplay and Grand Slam of Darts. But he has also shown to be beatable, having lost in the final of the Premier League this year, as well as the World Series



final. Despite that, he is the world Number One and clear favourite as the defending champion.

As for Luke Humphries, his consistency has remained strong this year despite losing in the semi-final this year in Bahrain. Having won the World Championships in 2024, his most notable triumph this year came in The Premier League final in summer, as well as three appearances in other major finals this year. He is second in the world rankings and has every chance of repeating his 2024 success.

Amongst the other top contenders are three fan favourites from previous editions of Bahrain Darts Masters.

Gerwyn Price 'the Iceman' won three Darts Masters titles this year and was runner up in Bahrain in January. His two semi-final appearances in the Grand Slam of Darts and Players Championship this year showed a strong return to form and given his history at Ally Pally (he won four years ago), he should certainly be in the mixer.

Michael Van Gerwen can certainly never be written off as a three-time winner and last year's beaten finalist. He also won the World Series final this year, so comes into the tournament with some momentum. He is also in a section of the draw which

avoids many of the big guns, so should have a good chance of reaching the latter stages.

Stephen Bunting, current Bahrain Darts Masters champion, is seeded fourth and has a reasonable path to the latter stages. He was a semi-finalist last year but has had mixed fortunes since. He performed well in the World Series this year, in addition to his win in Bahrain, but struggled in some of the majors and the Premier League. Fans will be hoping he has a long run in the tournament, not least because his walk on song is always one that gets the crowd going (*Titanium* by David Guetta featuring Sia).

Outside of these favourites, Nathan Aspinall, ever popular with the fans, has had a mixed season by his high standards, has a tough draw and could face Luke Humphries as early as the fourth round. And, don't rule out Michael Smith, who won the first ever Bahrain Darts Masters in 2023. Whilst his world rankings have dropped a fair bit since then, his recent quarter final at the Grand Slam of Darts gave a glimpse of his old form.

It's also been great to see a return to form recently for Jonny Clayton. He was last seen in Bahrain at our first event in 2023 doing 270kph on the Bahrain International Circuit drag strip in our



VENUE: The much-awaited event will be held at Alexandra Palace



Luke Humphries



Luke Littler

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 what year was the Queen's first and only visit to Bahrain?
- 2) Who was the first artist to sell out the Desert Garden at Beyon Al Dana Amphitheatre?
- 3) What do the five white triangles represent on the Bahrain National Flag?
- 4) British Airways launched its commercial Concorde service by flying from London to Bahrain in January 1976. How long was the flight?
- 5) Who did Bahrain play against in the 1985 Arab Cup final?
- 6) Between 1957 and



2018, the King Fahd Causeway was the only one of its kind in the world, for what reason?

7. Last year, Bahrain opened a world academy for which sport?

- ANSWERS
1. 1979
 2. Metro Boomin'
 3. The five pillars in Islam
 4. Four hours
 5. Iraq
 6. Women could only drive on one side of the bridge
 7. Padel

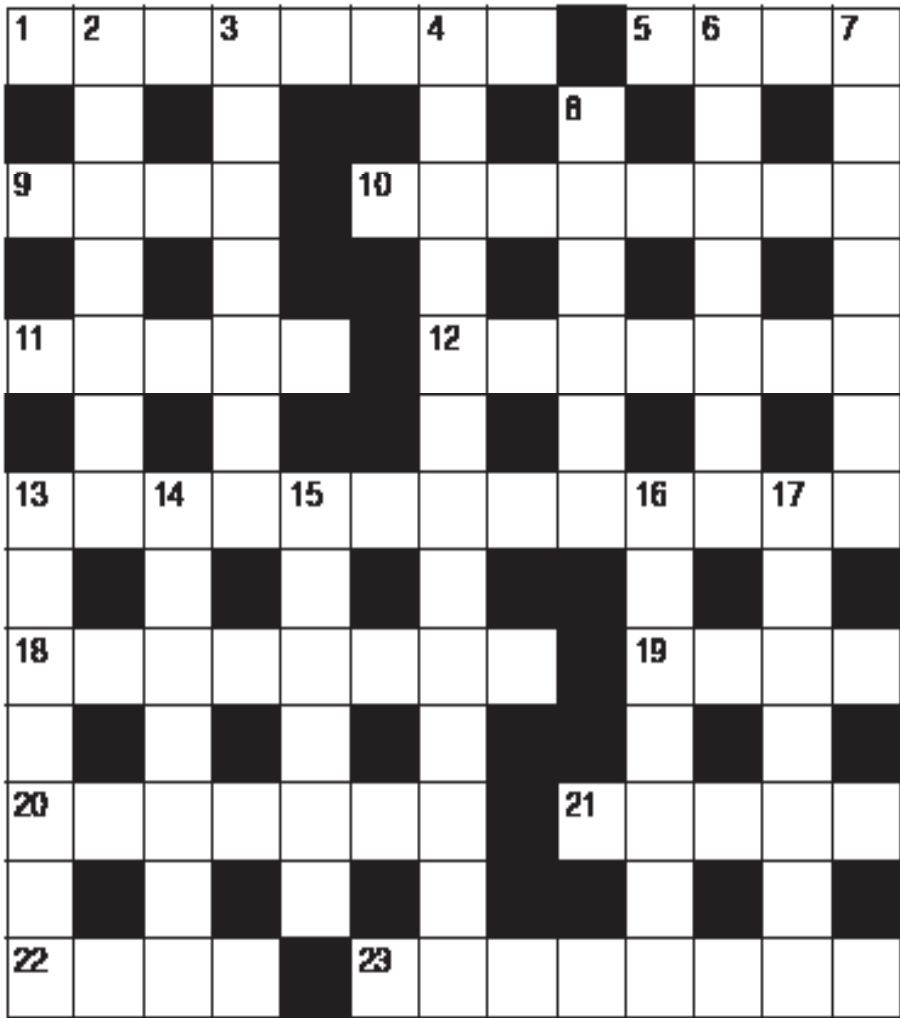
– Laurence Jones
Senior Manager,
Marketing and
Communications, Bahrain
International Circuit

Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 1. Manager (8)
- 5. Norway's capital (4)
- 9. Catalogue (4)
- 10. Belladonna (8)
- 11. Collier (5)
- 12. Contain (7)
- 13. Insomnia (13)
- 18. Thorough (8)
- 19. Cylinder (4)
- 20. Treachery (7)
- 21. Intellect (5)
- 22. Remark (4)
- 23. Perplex (8)

DOWN

- 2. Beginning (7)
- 3. Utmost (7)
- 4. Remote possibility (7,6)
- 6. Confiscation (7)
- 7. Unity (7)
- 8. Compels (6)
- 13. Curtail (7)
- 14. Implore (7)
- 15. Minister (6)
- 16. Innate (7)
- 17. Sink (7)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... won the Oscar for Best Actress in 1939?
WHAT ... is a flokati?
WHERE ... is Christmas Island?
WHEN ... did Martina Navratilova win her first Wimbledon singles title?
WHO ... was the Egyptian Sun God?
WHAT ... is clinophobia?
WHERE ... is Pakistan's largest city?
WHEN ... was Derby winner Shergar stolen in County Kildare?

just so

word yyy yyy

OT 1²

good0000

Fe
Fe
FeFeFeFeFe
Fe
Fe
Fe

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

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

tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Bedraggled; 7 Odium; 8 Raiment; 10 Vastness; 11 Palm; 13 Recent; 15 Studio; 17 Alum; 18 Guileful; 21 Tuition; 22 Alter; 23 Interested.
Down: 1 Bliss; 2 Dominant; 3 Arrest; 4 Grim; 5 Emerald; 6 Conversant; 9 Tomfoolery; 12 Stalwart; 14 Caution; 16 Nuance; 19 Fated; 20 Rite..

Who, What, Where, When: Brazil; Shipworm; Jayapura; Third Monday of February; Pre-Roman inhabitants of Scotland; Curacao; Japan; 1941.

Just So:

An inside job;
Palm pilot;
The fifth estate;
A sore point.

Tough Sudoku

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