

Gulf Weekly

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COMMUNITY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

CHARITABLE groups across Bahrain are staging summer bazaars and other fun activities, energising the community while also engaging them for the greater good.

The kingdom is home to several social and not-for-profit organisations that regularly run campaigns to support diverse causes, from solidarity with the differently abled to women's rights and animal welfare.

Among them is unregistered charity One Heart Bahrain. The platform is set to host its Community Bazaar tomorrow, July 31, at Al Hilal Hospital in Salmabad.

The event seeks to advocate sustainability by inviting donors to give away pre-loved items in good condition. Articles can include clothing, stationery, toys, books and utensils, all for families in need.

"Following the incredible success of last year's Community Bazaar, our team is once again coming together to create a meaningful impact," One Heart Bahrain operations director and project manager Amal Ishaq told *GulfWeekly*.

"What began as a simple act of kindness has grown into a heartwarming movement," she added.

Unlike previous editions where the families were presented with the donations, tomorrow's event invites them to enjoy a shopping experience, organisers have revealed.

"Every family has been carefully verified to ensure support reaches those who need it most. Rather than receiving handouts, families can shop for the items they need," she explained.

Volunteers, who can help transport, sort and organise the items for the bazaar, from 6pm to 9pm today, can reach out to @oneheart.bh on *Instagram*.

The island has always had a lively thrifting culture. Many local second-hand stores support charitable causes like the Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BSPCA) thrift shop located in Budaiya. Proceeds from their sales go to support the animal shelter, which



TOGETHER: PWA volunteers and officials set for the Refreshment Drive

Joy of giving



HAPPY: Workers with their bottles

supports more than 150 strays.

According to a recent announcement on their social media, 'BSPCA Boutique' will be joining Market Street, a popular local bazaar that supports homegrown artists, crafters and designers, for a limited time.

"Building on the success of our thrift shop, the boutique offers a carefully curated selection of quality donated items in a dedicated retail

space, with all proceeds helping to fund the BSPCA's rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming work. Our goal this year is to continue growing support for the charity, raising awareness of our work and ensuring we can help even more animals in need," BSPCA chairman Mahmoud Faraj said.

Located in Um Al Hassam, Market Street is open seven days a week from 10am to 8pm.

For more details, follow @bspcathriftshop on *Instagram*.

While retail therapy offers the Bahrain bound a fun indoor activity this summer, elsewhere in the kingdom local groups are focusing their campaigns on those labouring in the heat, like the Pakistani Women's Association (PWA). The expatriate women's society distributed more

than 85 Thermos bottles to workers at various locations in the kingdom as part of its annual Refreshment Drive this month.

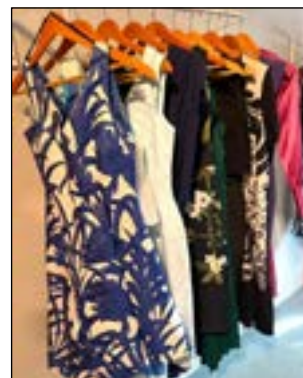
The campaign not only seeks to help workers to stay hydrated in the extreme heat but also promotes using reusable bottles instead of single-use plastic bottles, encouraging eco-friendly habits. "The next drive is planned a few weeks from now as some of our members are travelling," PWA president Shahmeen Islam noted.

Launched in 1998, the group is celebrating the 20th anniversary of being conferred with one of Pakistan's prestigious awards, the Tamgha-e-Eisar, for its humanitarian contributions to the community.

For more information on their campaigns, follow @p_w_a_bahrain on *Instagram*.



COMMUNITY: One Heart Bahrain volunteers and officials at last year's bazaar



STYLISH: Dresses available at the BSPCA Boutique at Market Street



MUSICAL 'ABEL'-ITY
New single drops
SEE PAGE 2



ABAYAS FOR ALL
Global fashion trend
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LEISURE SCENE
Dining delights
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PULSE OF POP
Movies, books & more
SEE PAGE 6



MUSIC REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gdnmedia.bh

FOR Bahrain-loving bedroom musician Abdullah Ali Mutawa, who performs under the monicker 'Abel', making music is not about rushing through releases but letting the lyrical ideas breathe and bringing the melody to life naturally.

The 23-year-old Saudi musician who used to live in Saar and routine returns to the island to perform is working on his second single *Someone I Am*, set to be released soon.

"I never rush the songwriting process," he told *GulfWeekly*.

"I believe every song needs time to develop naturally, so I allow ideas to evolve until they feel authentic.

"I draw inspiration from other musicians, everyday experiences, and the world around me.

"Most of the time, I begin with a melody, and that melody inspires the lyrics and the story I want to tell," he added.

Abel's music blends elements of pop, rock, and blues with a strong focus on storytelling and influences from his own life.

Through his original tunes and lyrics, Abel hopes to connect with people around him on a deeper level.

"While performing covers helped me grow as a musician, I realised that I wanted to share my own stories and connect with people on a deeper level," Abel noted.

"One of the most rewarding feelings is seeing listeners relate to my songs and find comfort or inspiration in them.

"I believe music is one of the first languages human beings understand – even before words.

"For example, when a baby hears music, they instinctively begin moving or dancing to the rhythm.

"That natural connection reminds me of music's ability to bring people together regardless of age, language, or background."

His musical journey began in 2017, when the young musician taught himself to play the piano.

Since then, he has expanded his repertoire to include the ukulele, oud, classical guitar and electric guitar, as well as singing.

It was only five years later in 2022 that he finally took the plunge into creating original music, with his first

SOLO: Abel stages one of his singles



Let the music breathe

single *Cuz U Are*.

"Music is a powerful way to connect people and communicate emotions that words alone cannot always express," he explained.

"My songs explore themes of self-discovery, hope, love, resilience, and personal growth.

"I aim to create music that is honest, relatable, and emotionally meaningful.

"Through my music, I want to share messages of hope, love, and kindness while encouraging others to believe that nothing is impossible.

"If my songs can positively impact even one person's life,

"Music is a powerful way to connect people and communicate emotions that words alone cannot always express"

then I feel I have achieved my purpose as an artist."

While his originals are solo projects, Abel continues to hone his stagecraft with

cover music performed with his band Extra Sauce, with whom he has performed at a number of open mic acoustic events around the kingdom.

"Practicing and performing with a band is a collaborative experience that requires teamwork, communication, and trust," he explained.

"Every member plays an important role, and it teaches responsibility, adaptability, and how to work toward a shared goal.

"Recording or performing as a solo artist is different because every decision and responsibility falls on you.

"While it can sometimes be more challenging, it also allows complete creative freedom and is incredibly rewarding for artists who enjoy expressing themselves independently."

With music inspired by the likes of John Mayer, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Chris Buck, Abel is drawing from their fountain of inspiration to combine technical skill with heart-felt emotion and powerful storytelling, as he continues to let several new additions to his discography blossom in the coming days and months.

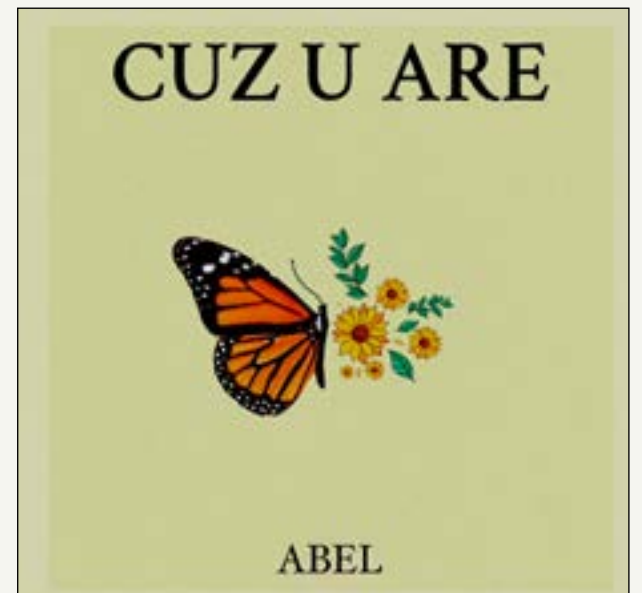
For more details, follow @abbbbbb on Instagram.



ACOUSTIC: Another Extra Sauce gig



TRIO: Performing with his Extra Sauce bandmates Danah Alsaegh, left, and Isa Aljowder, centre



DEBUT: *Cuz U Are* cover

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) Which one of the three Baltic states is furthest north?
- 2) Male mountain goats are known as 'billies' and babies are 'kids'. What are female mountain goats called?
- 3) Released in Japan under the name Famicom in 1983, this would go on to be released globally two years later as what?
- 4) Used in cookery in Asia, Africa, Latin America and The Caribbean, what is 'jaggery'?
- 5) Which of Jane Austen's six novels did she write first?

- 6) Which imaginary line of navigation passes through the middle of the Pacific Ocean following the 180-degree line of longitude?
- 7) Who tutored Alexander the Great?

1. Estonia
2. Nannies
3. Nintendo
4. Sugar
5. Sense and Sensibility
6. International Date Line
7. Aristotle

ANSWERS

Regal robes



FASHION REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

AS Arab-inspired fashion continues to woo style aficionados around the world, a growing number of designers are rethinking the aesthetic from an international lens.

Earlier this year, British actor Emily Blunt wore a number by Saudi couture house Ash Studio to the Met Gala. The all-black ensemble nodded to the modest abaya, featuring royal-coded fabrics like silk and tulle. Nomadic tassels and hand-embroidered glass beads were reminiscent of Arab luxury.

Closer to home, Bahraini womenswear label Noon by Noor's Spring-Summer 2026 collection brings alive desert-core; earthy tones framed in flowy silhouettes, all with a contemporary touch.

These designs blend modern functionality with heritage, making them appealing to an international audience. For the Arab wearer, a modern spin on traditional wear offers a chance to be creative while staying true to one's roots.

Reflecting this amicable fusion of the modest grace of the East with international sensibilities is Selhaya, a London-based luxury abaya label.

Founded by British designer Aisha Hossain and technology leader Sajjad Choudhury, the brand is well known for its ethnic silk robes. It recently hosted its first cultural salon at Mansion House in London to announce the fashion house's first official royal patron – Queen Temitope Morenike Enitan-Ogunwusi – who was draped in The Coronation, a gold crystal and pearl silk piece from Selhaya's Royal Collection.

The salon brought together guests from around the world including Bahrain, presenting the brand's ceremonial silk pieces and the maison's first



ART: The Sovereign Jewel

ELEGANT: Sovereign Night woven with black silk velvet, gold silk satin and crystal embellishments

LUXURIOUS: The Violet Inheritance fashioned with deep plum silk velvet and sculptural floral detailing



set of framed silk artworks. It also featured discourse on fashion and identity.

"I was invited to the salon, where I had the pleasure of performing and spending

the afternoon with an extraordinary mix of royalty, diplomats, founders and creatives," Bahrain-based singer and songwriter Sara Watson told *GulfWeekly*.

"I wore a bespoke design coined The Azure Covenant

created especially for me by Aisha – a two-tone abaya-gown in royal blue silk crepe layered over sky-blue silk satin, entirely hand-finished with crystal and pearl embellishments.

"I felt like a princess



GRACEFUL: Sara performing at the event draped in The Azure Covenant



ICONIC: Queen Temitope wearing The Coronation

wearing it. The cape flowed beautifully, but it was the unique design and craftsmanship that really stayed with me," added the Irish expatriate and luxury business and events consultant.

The Bahrain resident of 10 years noted that living in the kingdom, she has observed a keen taste for beautifully made abayas. "What excites me now is seeing international audiences beginning to appreciate them not simply as modest dress, but as works of design and luxury craftsmanship in their own right.

"Selhaya takes that one step further. Rather than following seasonal trends, the maison creates pieces that feel timeless. You are immediately drawn to the quality of the silk, the handwork and the storytelling behind each design. I think today's luxury customer cherishes meaning and beauty, and that's exactly what I experienced," she explained.

Other standout designs showcased at the event included Sanctum Aurea, which celebrates light and ceremony through rich gold silk and intricate embroidery. The Violet Inheritance explores heritage through deep plum silk velvet and sculptural floral detailing. While Sovereign Night



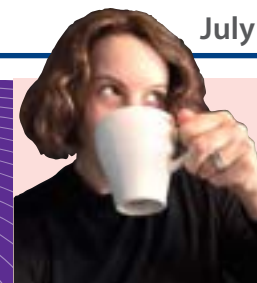
DUO: Founders Aisha and Sajjad

interplays black silk velvet with gold silk satin and crystal embellishments.

The salon also featured the brand's silk artworks, which feature the label's couture techniques used in its garments, transforming them into framed works for the home. The Sovereign Jewel, presented to Queen Temitope, is created on gold silk taffeta with more than 800 individually applied crystals.

The Eternal Order is inspired by the geometric beauty of Eastern empires and a classic example of designers dipping into Arab culture for their pieces. As is The Veil of Continuity, which is inspired by the battoulah – the traditional facemask worn by Muslim women in the Arabian Gulf.

Leisure Scene



**What's
on
guide**

By Olivia Middleton

ULTIMATE SPORTS HUB AT RITZ-CARLTON

THE Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain is rewriting the script on city escapes, dropping a high-energy mix of live sports thrills, gourmet dining, and laid-back retreat wellness across its premier venues.

La Med has established itself as the ultimate indoor destination for live sports broadcasting. Motorists and fans can catch every thrilling moment from Formula One and the Tour de France to major global football tournaments in a vibrant atmosphere.

The indoor, ground-floor venue complements the action with a specially curated match-day menu featuring crowd-pleasing bites and signature beverages. Viewing schedules are released in advance across the hotel's social media channels. La Med operates daily from 1pm to 11pm.

Guests can watch live sports while ordering from La Terrace and Burlington Club menus. Open daily from 1pm to 11pm.

At La Terrace an elegant ladies' night takes place every Thursday from 6pm to 10pm, offering guests a complimentary welcome drink

CHILLED: Decadent gelato at the hotel



and signature bites. Specialised beverages start from BD6, and guests can enjoy a 50 per cent discount on their second. Operating from Monday to Thursday between 5pm and 11pm, and Friday to Saturday from 1pm to 11pm.

Satisfy your sweet tooth with a selection of premium, handcrafted gelatos featuring refined flavours for BD7.

Available daily from 1pm to 11pm.

At Primavera, enjoy 'The Perfect Ending' package, which features a handcrafted beverage paired with an exquisite cake for BD12, available Sunday to Friday from 7pm to 10.30pm.

The venue also offers the 'Festa Italiana', a sharing-style lunch tailored for corporate groups of 10 or more guests. The midday experience showcases authentic Italian flavours with prices starting from BD28 per person.

Operating Sunday to Friday from 12.30pm to 3pm.

Experience the rich heritage of India at Nirvana with Swatantrata Diwas (Independence Day), featuring a curated thali with traditional flavours and refined culinary



SCORE: La Med becomes the year-round destination for live sports entertainment

creations, complimented by live entertainment. Priced at BD24 per person and runs from 7pm to 11pm.

Also offering a mid-week dining spicy upgrade with Tandoor Tuesday, with authentic vegetarian or non-vegetarian tandoori platters. Served with freshly baked Indian bread, signature sides, and a selection of house beverages, the offer is priced at BD15 and runs every Tuesday from 7pm to 10.30pm.

Enjoy bold Mexican flavours with live entertainment from a resident

mariachi band at Cantina Kahlo. Hosting a vibrant ladies' night every Wednesday from 6pm to 10pm, featuring two selected beverages for BD10 alongside complimentary pink churros and popcorn.

Experience the art of slow-steeped coffee at the Ritz Gourmet Lounge. The Cold Brew Craft Edition selection is priced at BHD5.500, and available daily from 12pm to 10.30pm.

For more information or bookings, call 17580000 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

HAPPY TIMES AT HILTON

THE ultimate vibe can be found at CLAW BBQ, Hilton Bahrain, where jaw dropping city views meet retro arcade battles and legendary comfort food.

The fun starts on Sundays, where hospitality professionals can enjoy two hours of unlimited selected beverages from 4pm to midnight for BD12.500, with an option to extend the experience for another two hours for BD10.

Early birds can dive into Happy Hour running from opening time until 8pm every Saturday through Thursday, with select beverages starting at just BD2.

Mondays belong to the ladies, who receive four free drinks from 8pm to 11pm, alongside a curated sharing platter for BD15. Ladies can also enjoy a 30 per cent discount on all standard-priced food and beverages all night.

Taco Tuesdays serve up a Mexican-style feast, delivering bottomless tacos and selected beverages from 6pm until midnight for BD16. Guests can upgrade their package for BD3.500 to secure unlimited selected beverages.

Midweek brings Wednesday Madness, treating patrons to a fast-paced two hours of free-flowing select beverages from 7pm to 9pm for BD12.500.

And then ease straight into the weekend with the infamous Friday Brunch, from 12.30pm to 4pm, followed by an immediate after-party Happy Hour continuing until 6pm. Packages start



FLAVOURFUL: A Mexican-style feast at CLAW BBQ from BD24.

Elsewhere at Hilton Bahrain, Origin Kitchen and Culture invites you to start your day with an extensive breakfast buffet. The morning spread is available Saturday to Friday from 6.30am to 10.30am, and extends until 11.30am on Saturdays for BD13net.

And don't forget that green is the new bold with the matcha takeover at Lamar Café and Lounge starting from BD3.5.

For more information or bookings, call 33692013.

SOULFUL DINING

EMBRACE the vibe at InterContinental Bahrain with offers ranging from chic French classics to unbeatable ladies' nights.

Discover the very soul of France right here in Bahrain at Legendz SteakHouse. Elevate your evenings with French classics, featuring exquisite new à-la-carte creations. Indulge in rich foie gras, delicate sole meunière, crisp mesclun salad, and a show-stopping steak frites — served with your choice of green olive tapenade butter or classic Bordelaise sauce. Thursday and Fridays between 6pm and 10pm.

Celebrate simple elegance at Medzo with Burrata and Bubbles. Savour creamy artisan burrata alongside a bubbly beverage. Customise your plate with premium seasonal accompaniments, including heirloom tomatoes, Parma ham, wild mushrooms, basil oil, aged balsamic, melon, and rocket leaves. It



DIG IN: A scrumptious plate featuring creamy artisan burrata

is the ultimate sophisticated afternoon indulgence. BD9.9 per person, every Friday and Saturday from 12pm to 10pm.

Mondays at Downtown Bar belong to the girls for Red Night. Wear something red — a dress, lipstick, or any red accessory — and receive three complimentary beverage vouchers per lady. The offer is available on selected beverages every Monday from 8pm to 12am.

You can also gather the girls every Monday at Noor Lounge between 9am to 10pm, for a delightful afternoon tea, a casual catch-up over coffee, or a post-work unwind, and enjoy a spectacular 50 per cent off all food and beverages from the menu.

Cool down with the Summer Sips Collection featuring

Coconut Affogato, a tropical dream featuring rich espresso, creamy vanilla ice cream, and grated coconut, served inside a real coconut shell. Try the Avocadoria, a silky, decadent fusion of creamy avocado, juicy mango, fresh milk, and vanilla ice cream, or the Coffee Jelly Float, a smooth blend of avocado and milk, topped with coffee jelly and a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Available daily from 9am to 10pm at Noor Lounge for BD4.500 per drink.

And finally, get 40pc off all cakes purchased on the day, and 50pc off cakes ordered today for next-day (subject to availability or the Chef's selection). Available daily between 9am and 10pm at Noor Lounge.

For more information or bookings, call 36967701.

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

PACK your bags for the ultimate island escape at Hawar Resort by Mantis, where outdoor escapades meet premium suite luxury.

The first package features breakfast for two adults, complimentary stay and dining for a child under six, alongside a choice of a guided island excursion covering dolphin watching, snorkelling, fishing, or a desert culture tour.

Alternatively, families can opt for a one-night stay in a spacious Family Suite, including breakfast and dinner for two adults, with complimentary stay and dining for two children under six. Both options incorporate a curated range of child-friendly activities engineered to provide an ideal setting for family recreation.

For more information or bookings, contact 32183610 or email reservations@hawarresort.com.

ISLAND ADVENTURES AWAIT



FUN: Enjoy watching the dolphins on your next holiday

NATURE-INSPIRED OFFERINGS



UNWIND: Botanical Afternoon Tea at Bay View Lounge

ESCAPE the summer heat at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay, blending premium dining with immersive wellness.

Boasting a stunning private island sanctuary, Bahrain residents are invited to enjoy an exclusive 20 per cent saving on room rates alongside special privileges.

Enjoy a nature-inspired Botanical Afternoon Tea at Bay View Lounge, available daily from 12pm to 9pm until September 30. Embracing a garden-to-table philosophy, the curated menu features delicate creations such as king crab waffles, lobster and courgette wraps, matcha and rose macarons, and lavender honeybee cake, served alongside freshly baked scones. Offer priced at BD24 inclusive of one botanical tea, or BD28 inclusive of two teas or signature beverages.

Bay View Lounge is running its Gelato and Affogato experience until October 31. Available daily from 11am to 12am, this menu features artisanal gelatos inspired by the four seasons, alongside sophisticated affogatos featuring Espresso, Karak, or Matcha. Affogatos are priced at BD4.500 each, and gelatos at BD5.900 each.

Enjoy contemporary Asian cuisine with Californian influences at re/ASIAN CUISINE. The fresh à-la-carte rollout delivers

deep layers of umami, highlighting the crisp Chinois Vegetable Salad, zesty Prawn Ceviche, and a rich, decadent Australian Wagyu Ribeye. Weekends feature live DJ performances. Diners can experience the new menu from Tuesday to Sunday between 7pm and 11pm, with extended hours until 11.30pm on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

CUT by Wolfgang Puck is offering a spectacular family-style brunch made for sharing. Masterfully prepared by executive chef Brian Becher and his team, expect an array of exquisite dishes, from Black Bass Ceviche and juicy beef sliders to line-caught fish and premium steak selections. A curated selection of beverages is served table-side. Offer runs every Friday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, with packages priced at BD36net for the soft drinks option, BD50net for the selected beverage package, and BD70net for the ultimate premium bubbly experience.

Discover the restorative traditions of Ayurveda at The Spa, from Shirodhara, a time-honoured ritual of warm herbal oil poured across the forehead, to Abhyanga, a full-body massage designed to ease tension and restore overall well-being. Available daily from 10am to 10pm, single treatments range between BD75 and BD99 net.

For more information or bookings, call 17115500.

REFINED GASTRONOMIC DELIGHTS

ELEVATE your lifestyle this summer with the Sheraton Bahrain Hotel's premier lineup of vibrant rooftop dining, curated business lunches, and rejuvenating wellness options.

Experience the award-winning Brasero Atlántico, which effortlessly blends contemporary rooftop elegance with the bold flavours and culinary traditions of Argentina.

Renowned for its premium cuts, expertly grilled specialties, and a vibrant South American-inspired menu cooked a las brasas ('over a wood fire'), the hotspot offers sophisticated dining complemented by sweeping views of the Manama skyline. Whether you are planning a relaxed business lunch, celebrating a special occasion, or gathering with friends for an evening of exceptional food and drinks, the restaurant delivers a refined yet welcoming atmosphere that transitions effortlessly from day to night.

Diners can also experience Atlántico Hour, providing the perfect, laid-back setting to unwind and enjoy handcrafted, organic beverages in a lively rooftop setting before dinner. Available from Sunday to Thursday between 4pm and 7pm.

Brasero Atlántico is open daily from 12pm to 12am.

WILD brings together bold international flavours, contemporary dining, and a vibrant social atmosphere in one stylish destination.

Diners can tuck into a show-stopping hanger steak with chimichurri and confit garlic butter, a charcoal-oven sea bass, or an Angus beef burger. For those seeking lighter or vegetarian-friendly options, the kitchen serves up a rich wild mushroom pappardelle alongside fresh, vibrant poke bowls.



STUNNING: Views from Brasero Atlántico

Weekday Lunch is priced at BD15 per person, Sunday to Thursday from 12pm to 4pm.

Unwind with an extensive menu of therapeutic massages, revitalising facials, and bespoke rituals at the award-winning Shine Spa. Delivered by elite therapists

using premium skincare within elegant surroundings, treatments include tailored wellness packages for both ladies and gentlemen. Open daily from 10am to 10pm.

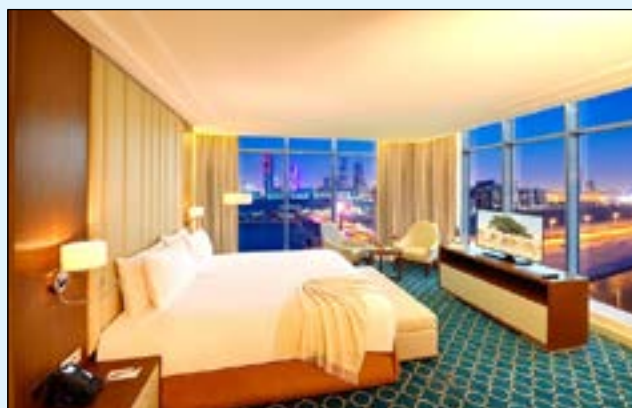
For more information or bookings, contact 17533533.

SUMMER ESCAPE

ESCAPE to Grand Swiss-Belhotel Waterfront where a selection of seasonal packages promises the perfect getaway.

Guests can enjoy a bed and breakfast package from BD55net per room, per night, or opt for a half-board stay from BD65 per room, per night. Every summer package also includes a complimentary room upgrade.

For those seeking added



VIEW: Get yourself a room overlooking the skyline

luxury, Executive Suite packages come with a complimentary upgrade to a G-Club Suite with a balcony. Rates start from BD75 per room, per night for bed and breakfast, while the half-

board option is available from BD90 per room, per night.

The offers are available for a limited time. Terms and conditions apply.

For more information or bookings, contact 17177333.

Pulse of Pop

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

Evolution of a superhero



ACTION: Spidey in the film

MARVEL superhero film *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* is out now in theatres.

The story takes place four years after the events of *Spider-Man: No Way Home* (2021), in which the world has forgotten Peter Parker (Tom Holland), after fellow superhero Dr Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) cast a spell on him.

The former investigates a powerful new threat while his superpowers undergo a surprising and potentially dangerous evolution.

In the new release, Zendaya reprises her role as Michelle 'MJ' Jones-Watson, Peter's former classmate and ex-girlfriend, alongside Jacob Batalon as Ned Leeds, who plays Spidey's former best friend.

In an interview, Jacob revealed that his character creates the Spidey Tracker in the hopes of finding the superhero to thank him for saving his and their fellow classmates' lives.

"Ned and MJ live really great full lives but I think there's also that sort of veil. They do feel like something's kind of missing," Jacob said.

"For Ned, the Spidey Tracker thing is kind of like his way of finding that missing link between them and Spider-Man," he added.

Film director Destin Cretton highlighted the film's

dramatic ironical moments that will leave fans of the franchise 'on edge' in the theatre.

"What's really cool is you get to have a scene where two characters are meeting for the first time, but the audience has a very deep understanding of where they

should be, and they are not. So you have all that history the audience is already leaning forward on," Destin explained.

"You have a character who is looking at the love of his life who doesn't know who he is. That's just a really emotional place to start."

The creative also shared how his personal connection to Spider-Man gravitated him toward the project. He said that he related to the fourth instalment's theme of 'loneliness and isolation'.

"In my twenties, I felt like this, where I had gone through a big breakup, and

some people close to me had passed away. It was very easy to feel like nobody else was going through this. And

my gut instinct was, I'm just going to work. That's the place Peter is at the beginning of this movie," he added.

Monsters in my head

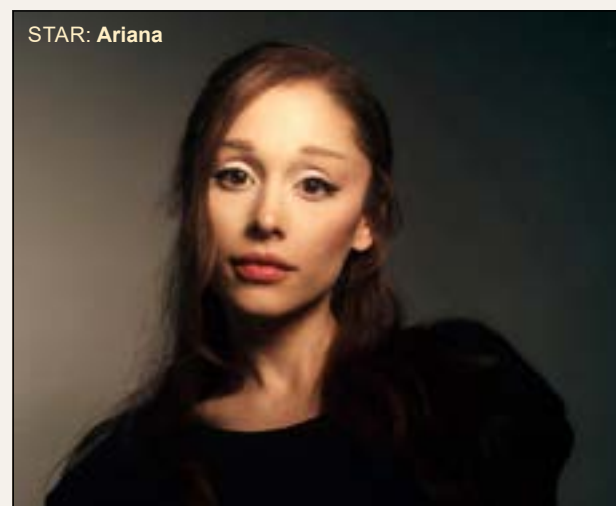
POP superstar Ariana Grande drops her new album *Petal* tomorrow.

The new project is expected to be a 'little feral', the artist revealed in an *Instagram* post. The songs draw on feelings she had previously been 'too shy' to tap into.

The music has a theme: 'growing through the cracks of something cold, hard and challenging'.

"It's kind of about breaking up with all different kinds of negative attachments, whether it's my own monsters in my own head, or external voices, things that no longer serve me," the creative talent said in an interview.

"I could be talking about one thing, sharing something, and people could use it however they want and apply it to their own lives," she added, inviting listeners to take what they resonate with from the 12 tracks.



STAR: Ariana

The release coincides with the artist's concert tour for *Eternal Sunshine* (2024), with fans anticipating possible set-list additions at the shows.

Last year, Ariana revealed that the 41 shows are going to mark 'one last hurrah for now', as she plans an indefinite hiatus to focus on her acting and theatre career.

Following her portrayal of Glinda in musical films *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025), the Oscar nominee's upcoming projects include *Focker-in-Law*, hitting theatres in November, and an animated film adaptation of Dr Seuss's book *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* (1990), which is expected to release in 2028.

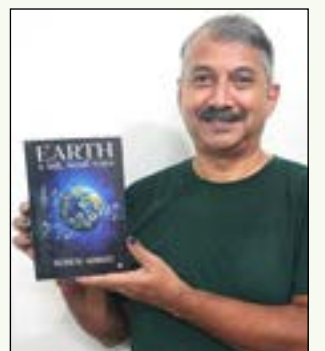
Humanity's homecoming

ENVIRONMENTAL activist and author Suren Abreu's new book *Earth: A Still, Small Voice* is now on shelves, writes Kawthar Ebrahim.

The 308-page paperback challenges readers to confront the devastating consequences of human neglect on the planet. It recognises Earth as the human race's true home, urging humanity to do everything in its power to preserve it. Blending humour and environmental awareness as fictional stories, it is 'a spiritual guide' focused on the philosophy: if we quieten ourselves, the still, small voice of Earth speaks to us.

"This publication is the fruit of nine years of writing monthly articles," Suren, who is a microbiologist, told *GulfWeekly*.

"There is one chapter in particular, *Phantasmagoria*, which drops us into an



AUTHOR: Suren with his new book

adventure of horror – a brief experience of what animals undergo at the often callous, very often brutal hands of humans," added the Indian talent.

Exploring burning issues like animal rights, pollution, deforestation and human impact, the book will introduce readers to fantastical tales, which Suren hopes will inspire them to make tangible changes. Whether that means reducing fuel consumption, cutting down on food waste, or simply advocating online or in the streets.



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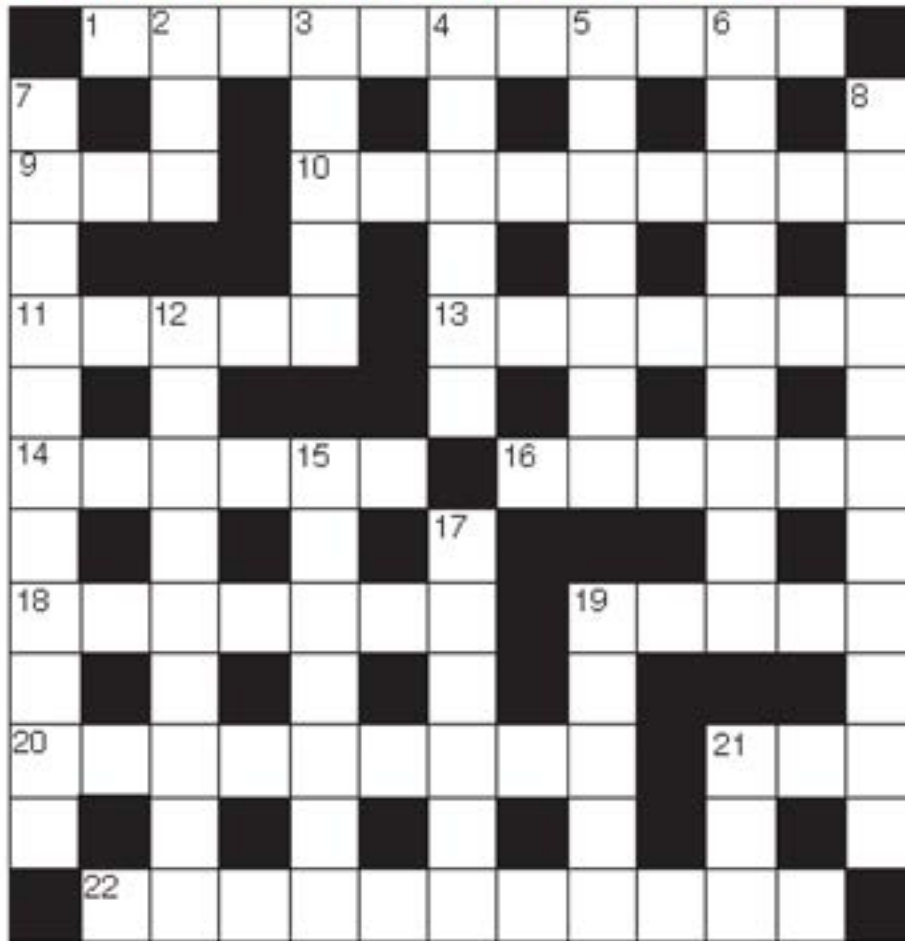
Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Inexactness (11)
9. Conclusion (3)
10. Warranty (9)
11. Incident (5)
13. Intensify (7)
14. Happens (6)
16. Self-assurance (6)
18. Stimulus (7)
19. Coach (5)
20. All-embracing (9)
21. Wager (3)
22. Irrational (11)

DOWN

2. Frenzied (3)
3. Correct (5)
4. Cowardly (6)
5. Crash (5-2)
6. Utter (3-3-3)
7. Formal (11)
8. Echo (11)
12. Objection (9)
15. Ease (7)
17. Against (6)
19. Claw (5)
21. Small cake (3)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... wrote the stage play *The Lady's Not for Burning*?

WHAT ... rock star married Melia McEnery in 2002?

WHERE ... was the artist Frank Auerbach born?

WHEN ... were the first British Empire Games held?

WHO ... was known by the nicknames the Thin White Duke and Ziggy Stardust?

WHAT ... play by George Bernard Shaw is the basis for the musical *My Fair Lady*?

WHERE ... in Europe was Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej the President until his death in 1965?

WHEN ... was the cyclist Lance Armstrong born?

just so

ten all all ts & purposes

BD rope rope rope rope

no say it

comm
ccc

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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Side; 3 Splinter; 9 Revenue; 10 Panic; 11 Conventional; 13 Employ; 15 Hinder; 17 Nevertheless; 20 Reach; 21 Exclaim; 22 Greeting; 23 Held.

Down: 1 Stricken; 2 Divan; 4 Pretty; 5 Improvidence; 6 Tankard; 7 Rich; 8 Under one's hat; 12 Presumed; 14 Prelate; 16 Strewed; 18 Evade; 19 Drag.

JUST SO:

All in all, Good for nothing, Rock bottom, Friends in high places

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Rolf Harris; The Bends by Radiohead; York; 1963; Archie Rice; The Squirrels; Dublin, Ireland; 1969.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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