



JEWELLERY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

BROOCHES have re-emerged as a massive global jewellery trend this season, prompting many Bahrain-based stylists to embrace the accessory in unique ways.

Previously reserved for the 'elite' and 'mature' wearer, these lapel adornments have gone from being exclusive family heirlooms to a more deliberate fashion choice.

Lately, high-fashion runways have been awash with the statement ornament, showcasing couture houses styling it in diverse ways.

Several celebrities have been seen donning rare pieces at major fashion events this year, from Dwayne Johnson 'rocking' a 28-carat Art Deco design studded with emeralds and diamonds at the Met Gala to Miley Cyrus attending the Grammys wearing a supersized, custom gold brooch featuring her initials. More recently, Tom Holland wore a custom Pragnell spider brooch to the premiere of *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* in London.

"We're seeing jewellery become a key styling element for younger generations," Bahraini fashion designer Fatema Abdulaziz told *GulfWeekly*.

"It's no longer associated with age or tradition alone – it's a versatile fashion statement that adds personality, layers, and individuality to everyday dressing," she added.

The earliest known brooches date back to the Bronze Age when they were used mainly to fasten garments together. Fast forward to the medieval period, and these embellishments began reflecting the artistic patterns of the time, from vivid Migration Period art to animal motifs and later Viking art.

Then came the Renaissance, which marked the modern era of jewellery, with gemstones like emeralds, diamonds, rubies, amethysts and topaz making their way onto brooches.

It was not until the mid-20th century that brooches transitioned to high-fashion runways. As minimalism makes way for 'extra-coded' styling this season, these accessories are becoming the easiest way to elevate any outfit.

"Personally, I've always worn brooches, and they're something people know me

MAKE A BOLD STATEMENT



PRAGNELL: The spider design



MILEY: Wearing her custom gold brooch



DWAYNE: At the Met Gala

for on set and in the fashion industry," Fatema said. "I rely on accessories—brooches, bracelets, and rings—to add character and personality to my outfits. I often style them around a theme or colour, and they instantly elevate a look, giving it a fresh, modern feel," added the 51-year-old

Lending structured shirts personality, these adornments are replacing cufflinks.

While traditionally people used just one brooch at a time, the latest fashion looks feature a collection pinned onto either ties or jackets for an overstated aesthetic.

"Growing up, my mother



CLASP: Scarf styled with an accessory for an elegant look

from Diyar Al Muharraq.

Furthermore, younger audiences are finding innovative ways to style brooches, including fastening scarves or simply pinning them onto hats, bags and even the hems of trousers.

and grandmother were huge collectors of brooches.

They would always have one on their blazer, or their scarf around their necks would have a brooch on it," recounted Bahrain-based jewellery designer Shahrazad Amoudeh-Alireza aka Sherie.

The creative talent is known for her pieces, including rings, necklaces and more. Her brooches are fashioned with French bullion wire, a delicate, tightly coiled metal spring used in high-end couture embroidery.

The Canadian expatriate from Jasra has since embraced new and unique ways of styling the accessory.

"I like to play with brooches. If it is a shirt, I use brooches to close the neckline. I like to use them on my jacket pockets to create a kind of design element. For

me, it's more of a creative fashion statement," she added.

True to the fashion world, the accessory has stirred its fair share of controversies, most recently at Sabyasachi, one of India's leading luxury couture houses. The brand was called out by independent designer Ila Anoop, who alleged that they had plagiarised her Brooch Saree – a design she created back in 2017. Another brooch controversy that made the news in 2017 was Princess Michael of Kent wearing a Blackamoor bust brooch depicting an African man in a gold turban; Blackamoor art is widely criticised as racist.

Despite the negative press, brooches continue to find their space in wardrobes, evolving into an intentional accessory this season.



BOOK A HOLIDAY!
New travel platform
SEE PAGE 2



THE ART OF COFFEE
Featuring local baristas
SEE PAGE 3



OUT & ABOUT
Dining deals
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP
Music, TV & more
SEE PAGE 6

Artistic Arab symbols

POWERFUL: Marwa's Watermelon design



ART REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

BAHRAIN-BASED designers are drawing inspiration from Arab symbols to create jewellery that resonates with fashion enthusiasts in the region, nodding to an increasingly personalised approach to style.

Among them is Bahraini talent and 'Thread Architect' Marwa Ahmed, who recently relaunched her popular Qinwan ('cluster of dates') collection of brooches, paying tribute to the kingdom as 'the land of a million palm trees'.

Bahrain is home to more than 100 varieties of dates. The ongoing harvest has produced a rich bounty of 'gharrah' dates. Other popular types include 'khalas', 'khanaizi', 'barhi', 'shishi' and 'khawaja'.

The ensemble comprises two pieces – a palm tree and a date. Sewn together with Japanese glass beads, the bespoke wearable jewels showcase high-end, tactile precision, blending photorealism with architectural geometry.

"Heritage, to me, is about spatial memory and has no geographical limits," noted the professional architect and creative studio owner from Muharraq.

She highlighted that her specialisation and the lessons she learned while studying architecture have contributed



MOTIFS: Sherie donning her designs

immensely to her artistic pursuits, spanning jewellery design and large-scale conceptual wall art.

"I apply those exact engineering principles on a micro-scale," she added.

Other collections that her patrons have embraced include Azm, featuring sport-inspired designs, and the iconic Watermelon brooch. One of the most powerful symbols of resistance to have emerged from the region in recent times, the watermelon honours victims of the war in Palestine.

Marwa's piece nods to the same spirit through the

medium of art.

In addition to symbols, the colours of the East are also making it onto the drawing board. Canadian jewellery designer Shahrazad Amoudeh-Alireza aka Sherie from Jasra has always been drawn to the colour turquoise.

"My favourite colour is turquoise, but I work with different hues of blue, as well as pastels," said the creative talent and owner of Sherie Boutik, a mother-daughter jewellery and home decor shop.

Blue is deeply woven into Middle Eastern culture, as seen in the ubiquitous Evil Eye motif. Cobalt and turquoise tiles adorn historic shrines, domes and interiors across the region. Not to forget the Babylonian blue on the historic Ishtar Gate crafted by ancient Mesopotamian artisans around 575 BCE.

"Since my childhood, I have been drawn to the Evil Eye motif. I love the symbolism behind it and over the years it has become fashionable as well. I am also inspired by the sun and moon and the mystical tales behind them.

"The palm tree is known for its resilience and strength and also appears in my designs. It is very dear to everyone in the Gulf and is symbolic of the culture," she said, highlighting some of the motifs that appear in her designs, including her jewellery, from brooches to necklaces, rings and more.

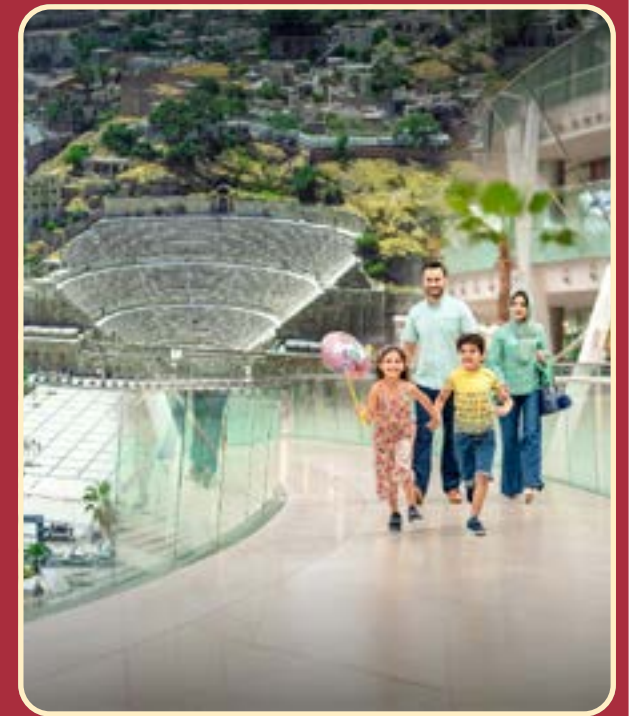
GulfWeekly previously reported on Bahrain-based Egyptian designer Sally Moussa's 'golden tribute' to Bahrain.

The micro-photographer and artist recently showcased her debut jewellery collection in Milan, Italy, inspired by traditional Bahraini Naqda thread work. The earrings resembled a 'ball of thread' commonly left behind by Naqda artists and the neckpiece, the thread 'loops' formed as part of the process.



HERITAGE: Pieces from the Qinwan ensemble

Your one-stop travel guide



ESCAPE: Book a trip with your family

CHOOSING a travel destination for the summer can be tricky especially in this day and age of information explosion. There are several websites offering good deals and pushing attractions and sights to visit, which can be confusing. In such a situation, having a comprehensive platform makes holiday planning much simpler.

Jordan's Tourism and Antiquities Ministry, in collaboration with Jordan Tourism Board and associations, has officially launched the integrated digital platform *Ahlan Jordan*, designed to promote the country as a leading travel destination across Arab markets.

The platform has a particular focus on neighbouring countries including Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq and Syria, as well as Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia.

The platform aims to strengthen inbound tourism to Jordan by providing visitors with easy access to a wide range of tourism programmes and travel services through a single, user-friendly digital platform.

Ahlan Jordan offers a diverse selection of tourism packages

tailored to the interests and preferences of Arab travellers, encouraging them to explore Jordan's archaeological sites, natural attractions and cultural experiences across the kingdom. The platform delivers comprehensive offers that make planning easier and more convenient.

Jordan Tourism Board director general Ramzi Al-Maaytah stated that the launch of the platform reflects the board's ongoing efforts to further strengthen Jordan's position as a preferred destination in Arab markets.

He noted that the initiative comes at an ideal time, as Jordan is experiencing a vibrant summer season, supported by its rich natural, cultural and historical attractions.

Ramzi added that this year's summer calendar features a wide variety of cultural and entertainment events, including the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts and Amman Waves Festival, as well as numerous concerts featuring leading Arab artists in Amman, Jerash, Aqaba and Petra, offering visitors an exceptional tourism experience.

For bookings and more information, visit ahlanjordan.com



FOOD REPORT
By NADER ADNAN
nader@gdnmedia.bh

COFFEE, which was once a quick caffeine fix grabbed on the way to work, has evolved in recent years and become an experience shaped by craftsmanship, creativity and personality.

In cafés across Bahrain, the cup has become a canvas, with baristas transforming brewing into an art form through beans, precise techniques and signature styles that reflect their own passion and perspective.

From intricate latte art to experimental brewing methods, every cup tells a story, proving that today's coffee culture is about much more than what's in the mug—it's about the people behind it.

For Muntaser Al-Obaidly, a 33-year-old from Sanad, affectionately known as Mansoor, who works at Coffee House in Isa Town, his journey as a barista began when he traded binders for beans after finding his calling.

"My journey began when a close friend introduced me to speciality coffee," said Mansoor, who has been involved in coffee making for eight years.

"He would brew different coffees for me, and we would spend time exploring their unique flavours.

"At the time, I was working in a traditional office job and dealing with the stresses of a daily routine.

"What surprised me was that I found more joy and relaxation in the brewing process itself than in drinking the final cup.

"I've always been passionate about cooking, so coffee felt like a natural extension of that creativity.

"What truly made me fall in love with the craft was seeing people's genuine reactions when they enjoyed something I had prepared. That feeling is incredibly rewarding.

"I began viewing coffee as an art when I realised it combines skill, knowledge, and emotion."

For Mansoor, creating the perfect cup means unlocking the full potential of the bean and showcasing the unique story it has to tell. He enjoys working with a wide range of origins and discovering how different regions, processes, and roast levels influence flavour.

His favourite is Colombian

BARISTA: Mansoor finding peace in the perfect brew



What's in the mug?



ARTIST: Tyrhone with a freshly brewed cup of coffee

coffee, as he naturally gravitates towards brighter, fruit-forward coffees with vibrant acidity, and Colombian beans consistently offer the complexity and balance he enjoys.

As for his brewing and creative process, Mansoor believes that while he enjoys the art form and presentation of it, in the end, a cup only feels like a masterpiece when one element stands above the rest – the taste.

"Taste is non-negotiable," he said. "No matter how beautiful a coffee looks, flavour always comes

first. A great cup should be balanced, allowing its sweetness, acidity, and body to complement one another.

"Presentation is important and can enhance the experience, but it should never come at the expense of flavour, texture, or proper extraction. A great cup of coffee should taste as good as it looks.

"The chemistry and engineering that allow me to get the perfect taste are what make coffee relaxing and rewarding for me."

Meanwhile, Tyrhone Ramirez, a 41-year-old



PLAYFUL: Tyrhone's latte design

Filipino from Gudaibiya, who works at Neo Books and Coffee in Riffa, expressed his love for Bahrain, stating that it partly comes from the fact that this is where he developed his skills and latte art.

He came to the kingdom in 2010 and worked at a coffee shop for six years and started his training as a barista, before moving to another establishment where he truly developed his passion for latte art.

"It was there that I began to develop my skills," said Tyrhone.

"I practised a lot during

my four years there before working at my current place, where I continued to hone my skills.

"At first I drew things like flowers, especially tulips. Over time, I began to expand my horizons and started drawing animals, such as cats, bears and rabbits.

"I even started to use melted chocolate to make art.

"You need more than just skill, you need passion for coffee and passion for making customers

happy."

Tyrhone said that he took his skills to the next level one seemingly normal day, when a family walked into the café.

He had no idea that it was about to change his life and his relationship with coffee for the better.

"The family asked me if I could make a cat," he said.

"I remember feeling nervous because I did not want to let the customer down, but I tried my best.

"I made the best cat I possibly could and handed the cup to the customers.

"Their reactions to the art alone made it worthwhile and inspired me to keep working on my skills and try more kinds of art.

"And when they tasted it, they told me how much they loved it, and it made me feel like the best barista in the world.

"I have always loved latte art, but this was the moment that took my passion to the next level," he added.



CREATIVE: The art that started it all for Tyrhone

Leisure Scene



What's on guide

By Julia Cassano

SPORTING FUN AT RITZ-CARLTON

A WINNING combination of live sports, international cuisine and indulgent treats awaits at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain this week.

Sports fans can catch every exhilarating moment at La Med's Fanzone, the hotel's go-to destination for live screenings of major sporting events. Whether it is the adrenaline of Formula 1 or the excitement of the Tour de France, guests can enjoy the action alongside a specially curated match-day menu.

La Med is open daily from 1pm to 11pm, with dishes available à la carte.

The latest viewing schedule is available on *Instagram* @ritzcarltonbahrain. For something sweet, savour handcrafted gelato made with premium ingredients and refined flavours, available daily from 1pm to 11pm for BD7.



GORGEOUS: The intimate 'fanzone' at La Med

Coffee lovers can also discover the Cold Brew Craft Edition, a collection of expertly crafted cold brews featuring unique flavour combinations that elevate the classic iced coffee. Smooth, refreshing and full of character, the drinks are available daily from noon to 10.30pm for BD5.500.

Sushi enthusiasts won't want to miss Thai Lounge's

unlimited uramaki experience, featuring everything from classic California rolls to spicy salmon and other freshly prepared favourites. The Sunday special is available from 6pm to 9pm for BD18.500.

Ease into the weekend with a lively Mexican brunch, where a generous family-style set menu showcases

authentic dishes and elevated classics bursting with bold flavours at Cantina Kahlo. Available every Friday and Saturday from 1pm to 4pm, the experience is priced at BD35 per person including soft beverages, or BD45 with selected beverages.

Round off your meal at Primavera with an elegant dessert experience pairing handcrafted beverages with



REFRESHING: The Cold Brew Craft Edition

beautifully crafted cakes. The sweet finale is available from Sunday to Friday, between 7pm and 10.30pm, for BD12.

On Tuesdays, Nirvana invites diners to experience the rich flavours of India with its Tandoor Night. Guests can enjoy a selection of authentic vegetarian and non-vegetarian tandoori platters, accompanied

by freshly baked Indian bread, flavourful sauces and a curated beverage selection. The experience is available from 7pm to 10.30pm for BD15.

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

ISLAND ADVENTURES AWAIT

CREATE unforgettable family memories with a one-night getaway in a spacious Family Suite at Hawar Resort by Mantis, complete with breakfast and dinner for two adults.

Two children under the age of six stay and dine free, while a host of fun-filled activities keeps younger guests entertained, making it the perfect escape to reconnect and enjoy quality time together.

For those seeking adventure, Hawar Island offers a bespoke island retreat that goes beyond the ordinary. Alongside breakfast for two adults and complimentary stay and dining for one child under six, guests can choose from a memorable island experience, including dolphin watching, snorkelling, fishing or a desert culture tour.

Whether you're planning a relaxing family break or an adventure surrounded by nature, every stay promises lasting memories and a story worth sharing.

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



ACTIVITY: Snorkelling in crystal blue waters at Hawar

REFINED FRENCH CLASSICS



ELEGANT: Creations at the hotel

GOOD food, great company and unforgettable moments await at InterContinental Bahrain, where every day of the week brings a new reason to dine out.

Transport your taste buds to France at Legendz SteakHouse, where a new à la carte menu showcases refined French classics.

Savour rich foie gras, delicate sole meunière, crisp mesclun salad and steak frites, served with your choice of green olive tapenade butter or classic Bordelaise sauce.

The special menu is available for dinner tonight, August 6, and tomorrow, from 6pm to 10pm.

Monday nights are all about celebrating the ladies. Downtown Bar's popular Ladies' Night brings style, music and lively energy to the heart of Manama from 8pm until midnight. Add a splash of red – whether it is lipstick, heels, a handbag, or a dress and enjoy three complimentary beverage vouchers.

The celebrations continue at Noor Lounge, where ladies receive 50 per cent off all food and beverages every Monday from 9am to 10pm,

making it the perfect excuse to catch up with friends over great food and refreshing drinks.

Looking for a refreshing escape from the summer heat? Noor Lounge's Mango Afternoon Tea is a tropical delight, featuring five tiers of sweet and savoury creations inspired by premium Alphonso mangoes, complete with a signature Mango Blossom welcome drink. Available from Thursday to Saturday between 1pm and 5pm, the experience is priced at BD8net.

Those with a sweet tooth can also enjoy irresistible cake offers at the lounge, with 40pc off cakes purchased today or 50pc off cakes ordered today for next-day, subject to display availability or the chef's selection. The offer is available daily from 9am to 10pm.

For Mediterranean flavours, Medzo invites diners on a culinary journey to Greece with a menu inspired by authentic Greek traditions. Featuring fresh ingredients and timeless recipes, Rigani Just Greek captures the essence of the Mediterranean. The restaurant welcomes guests daily from noon until 10pm.

For bookings and more information, contact 36967701.

MEXICAN FIESTA

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 guests 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 BD2.500.

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



VIBRANT: Tacos at CLAW BBQ

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 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 BD3.500.

For more information or bookings, call 33692013.

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

OLD FLAVOURS TO SAVOUR

MAKE your dining experience to new heights at Sheraton Bahrain Hotel, where rooftop views, authentic flavours and indulgent wellness experiences are together under one roof.

Perched atop the hotel, award-winning Brasero Atlántico brings old flavours of Latin America to Bahrain with a temporary menu featuring premium ingredients and South American classics. From expertly grilled steaks to fresh seafood to cur-packed starters and handcrafted desserts, the dish showcases quality ingredients and authentic cooking techniques. The stylish rooftop restaurant offers the perfect setting for everything from business meetings and romantic dinners to celebrations and hangouts with friends. As the sun sets, DJ sessions create an energetic yet sophisticated atmosphere that carries guests effortlessly into the night.

Guests can also unwind during Atlántico Hour, available Sunday to Thursday from 4pm to 7pm, with handcrafted beverages served against the stunning rooftop backdrop. Brasero Atlántico is open from noon to midnight. For a taste of nostalgia, Sheraton Bahrain welcomes Chef Hassani, the culinary talent behind the much-

loved Golestan restaurant that was once a favourite destination for family celebrations and special occasions.

Diners can savour traditional favourites including Khoresh-e-Kharafs (vegetarian dish), Shami Pook (meat patty) and Borani Esfenaj (yoghurt creation), alongside Chef Hassani's signature kebabs featuring premium lamb, beef, chicken and seafood, all served with a choice of fragrant saffron, zereshk (berries) or sabzi (herb) rice. Seasonal highlights include the return of Homemade Saffron Ice Cream and the nostalgic Ab Haveej Bastani (float). The restaurant welcomes guests daily from noon until 11pm.



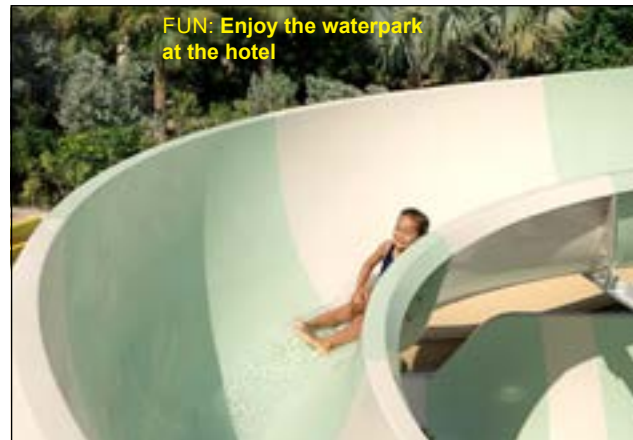
AUTHENTIC: Flavourful cuisine at Golestan

Complete your visit with a moment of relaxation at Shine Spa by Sheraton. Experience a range of therapeutic massages, revitalising facials and bespoke treatments delivered by expert therapists in a serene setting.

Throughout the summer, guests can enjoy

50 per cent off spa treatments valued above BD60, along with a complimentary pool day pass, making it the perfect excuse to unwind, recharge and enjoy a leisurely day by the water. Open daily from 10am to 10pm.

For more information or bookings, contact 17533533.



FUN: Enjoy the waterpark at the hotel

SOAK UP THE SUN

SUN, sea and unforgettable experiences await at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay, where a private island sanctuary offers the perfect setting for a luxurious summer retreat.

Spend sun-soaked days relaxing on the hotel's white-sand beach, making a splash at the water park or unwinding at the Beach Club with panoramic sea views. Recharge with rejuvenating spa treatments before exploring the hotel's award-winning restaurants. Bahrain residents can also enjoy an exclusive 20 per cent saving on room rates, along with a range of special privileges.

Cool off with Bay View Lounge's handcrafted gelato collection, celebrating the flavours of the season with everything from vibrant fruit and delicate floral notes to warming spices and rich chocolate. Pair your scoop with a warm vanilla brioche or indulge in one of the lounge's signature affogatos, available with espresso, karak or matcha. The seasonal menu is available until October 31, daily from 11am to midnight. Affogatos are priced at BD4.500 each, while gelato is BD5.900.

For an elegant afternoon overlooking Bahrain Bay, the Botanical Afternoon Tea at Bay View Lounge is inspired by the beauty of nature. Guests can savour delicacies including king crab daffles, lobster and courgette wraps, matcha and rose macarons, freshly baked scones and a carefully curated selection of premium teas.

Available until September 30, from noon to 9pm, the experience is priced at BD24 including one tea, or BD28 including two teas or two mocktails.

Perched on the 50th floor with sweeping views of the Manama skyline, re/ASIAN CUISINE has introduced new additions to its contemporary

Asian menu, infused with Californian influences. The restaurant welcomes diners from Tuesday to Sunday, between 7pm and 11pm, extending to 11.30pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Dishes are available à la carte.

Round off the month with Moon Yoga, an outdoor wellness experience inspired by the lunar cycle. Guests can flow through gentle movements and breathwork beneath the evening sky during the New Moon session on August 12 or the Full Moon session on August 28, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Sessions are priced at BD6 for hotel guests and members, and BD12 for non-guests.

For more information or bookings, call 17115500.



ENJOY some of the English language films being screened at Cineco Seef this weekend.

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY (PG-15)

It is a brand new day for Peter Parker. Fighting crime full-time as Spider Man in a world that doesn't remember him and the pressure of seeing his old friends move on without him sparks a change in Peter he may not have the power to control.

Actors: Tom Holland, Zendaya, Sadie Sink

Timings: 11.45am, 12.15pm, 2.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm, 12.15pm

THE ODYSSEY (15+)

After the Trojan War, Odysseus faces a dangerous voyage back to Ithaca, meeting creatures like the Cyclops Polyphemus, Sirens and Calypso along the way.

Actors: Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway

Timings: 2.30pm, 8.15pm, 11.30pm

MOANA (LIVE ACTION) (PG)

Leaving her island for the first time, young Moana embarks on an epic seafaring adventure to restore prosperity to her people.

Actors: Catherine Laga'aia, Dwayne Johnson, John Tui

Timings: 12pm, 5.45pm

LUXURIOUS SUMMER STAY AWAITS



VIEW: Get yourself a room overlooking the skyline

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 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.

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 only cereal commonly grown in standing water?
- 2) Which sport has the highest ratio of officials to players?
- 3) Which singing competition was the first to feature Simon Cowell as a judge?
- 4) What colour did the blue M&M replace?
- 5) Of the ten largest islands in the world, three are in which country?
- 6) A horse named Pilgrim



is a central character in which 1998 film?

- 7) The Renaissance began in which country in the 14th century?

1. Rice
2. Tennis
3. Pop Idol
4. Tan
5. Canada
6. The Horse Whisperer
7. Italy

ANSWERS

Pulse of Pop

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

Into the mud and the grime



SPORTY: The series poster

SPORTS comedy drama show *Ted Lasso* returns with a fourth season on Apple TV, with the first episode out now.

It tackles the titular American college football coach, portrayed by Jason Sudeikis, who is unexpectedly recruited to train a fictional English Premier League football team, AFC Richmond, despite having no experience coaching the sport.

Rebecca Welton (Hannah Waddingham), who gained ownership of the team in a divorce from her unfaithful ex-husband, has hired Ted in hopes that it will result in their downfall.

However, Ted's charm, personality and humour begin to win over Rebecca, the team and those who had

been sceptical about his appointment.

In an interview, show co-creator Brendan Hunt opened up about the major reset awaiting fans, as the new episodes will see Ted embarking on his biggest challenge yet: coaching a second tier Women's League team.

"We're getting into the mud and the grime of it, that climb of football," he said.

"Women's football, particularly at the second division level, is under-funded. They have the good luck of being attached to a Premier League team, but still, they've got their own budget. And they don't play in a big stadium. They play where the men train. Everything's just rather humble all around.

"And being a brand new team, they're looked at with suspicion by the

people of Richmond who, not entirely correctly, fear that this team will drain resources from their beloved men's team. So, they're seen as outsiders in their own home. They've got to win people over," he added.

Since its first season premiere in 2020, *Ted Lasso* is considered one of Apple TV's most watched shows since its launch in 2019. It currently sits at number five in the streaming platform's 'most popular now' list.

In 2022, it was announced that the show's fictional Nelson Road stadium and AFC Richmond would appear in the football video game *FIFA23*, with the ability to select Ted as the team manager.

Season four is set to have a weekly release scheduled, continuing until October 7.

TALE OF A TOWN

HISTORICAL fiction novel *Sunrise* by Téa Obreht hits the shelves on August 11.

It tells the stories of three individuals, who are separated by time and circumstance but share the experience of the strangely well-maintained but seemingly abandoned titular town, which holds the missing link to a 100-year-old ghost story.

In 2024, Nina Terzić is lost, alone and freezing on the shore, after her plane crashes into a lake, and her boyfriend, who was flying it, goes missing.

With a dying phone and four protein bars, she stumbles upon *Sunrise* where she takes shelter in a stable, but then, she discovers a corpse.

In 1902, 45-year-old town founder and gunslinger Anton Vargas returns to *Sunrise* after two decades, where he reunites with an old friend and quickly takes charge of a group

searching for a missing boy.

In 2003, Coll is putting together *Sunrise*'s annual play honouring the legacy of Anton, but then an upstart, would-be author comes to him with questions about the beloved figure, which threatens everything he thought he knew about the city and himself.

"I'd been trying to write about a dying gunslinger since at least 2015," the author said in an interview. "At the same time, I've always been fascinated by ghost towns and, since 2018 I'd been

slowly clattering away at a novella about a young woman who ends up in one after surviving a plane crash in the wilderness.

"It wasn't until I landed on Coll's story that I finally realised that all three weren't just connected, but inseparable. After that, the first draft came together in about a year," she added.



AUTHOR: Terzić

The space in between



ARTISTS: The band members

AMERICAN rock band Citizen is set to drop its new album *Halcyon Blues* tomorrow.

The title track was released earlier this year and explores a 'silent disconnect between two people', in the words of vocalist Mat Kerekes.

"You both know you're no longer meant to be in each other's lives but instead of accepting it, you sit in the space between and watch one another become strangers in real time," he said, explaining the inspiration behind the track.

The other 10 creations are expected to feature similar 'moody' themes, with the band staying true to its vision rather than feeling pressured by following a certain sound.

"A lot of bands try to do anything they can to be the hottest thing of the moment and we've just never

operated like that," guitarist Nick Hamm noted.

"We don't think in moments, or months, or record cycles. Some bands end up getting sick of whatever walls they exist in, but I see Citizen as this long-term creative project where there's always somewhere new to go, and that's kept me exhilarated through all these years.

"And we've trusted that people who like our band will want to come along. A lot of people grew with us and we're really thankful for that."

Citizen is best known for its 2013 debut record titled *Youth*, which earned critical acclaim for how it approaches coming of age and adolescent angst.

Mat and Nick are accompanied by their bandmates Eric Hamm on bass, Ben Russin on drums and Mason Mercer on rhythm guitar.





EXECUTIVE AI IMMERSION SPRINT

Understanding AI. Identifying Opportunities.
Defining the Path Forward.

Develop a board-ready AI strategy,
prioritize high-impact use cases,
and define a practical roadmap
for AI implementation.



**Executive AI
Readiness**



**AI Opportunities
Identified**



**Leadership
AI Empowered**



**Pilot Scope
Defined**

The Executive AI Sprint Journey

01



**Strategic
Understanding**

Understand AI,
its business value,
and why it
matters now.

02



**AI In Your
Business**

Explore global AI
trends, industry
benchmarks, and
how market leaders
are adopting AI.

03



**Opportunity
Discovery**

Identify and prioritize
2–3 high-impact
AI use cases
aligned with
your business.

04



**Readiness &
Decision Framework**

Assess data readiness,
governance, and
Build vs Buy vs Partner
decisions.

05



AI in Practice

Apply AI in
leadership and
daily operations
to confidently
drive enterprise
AI adoption.

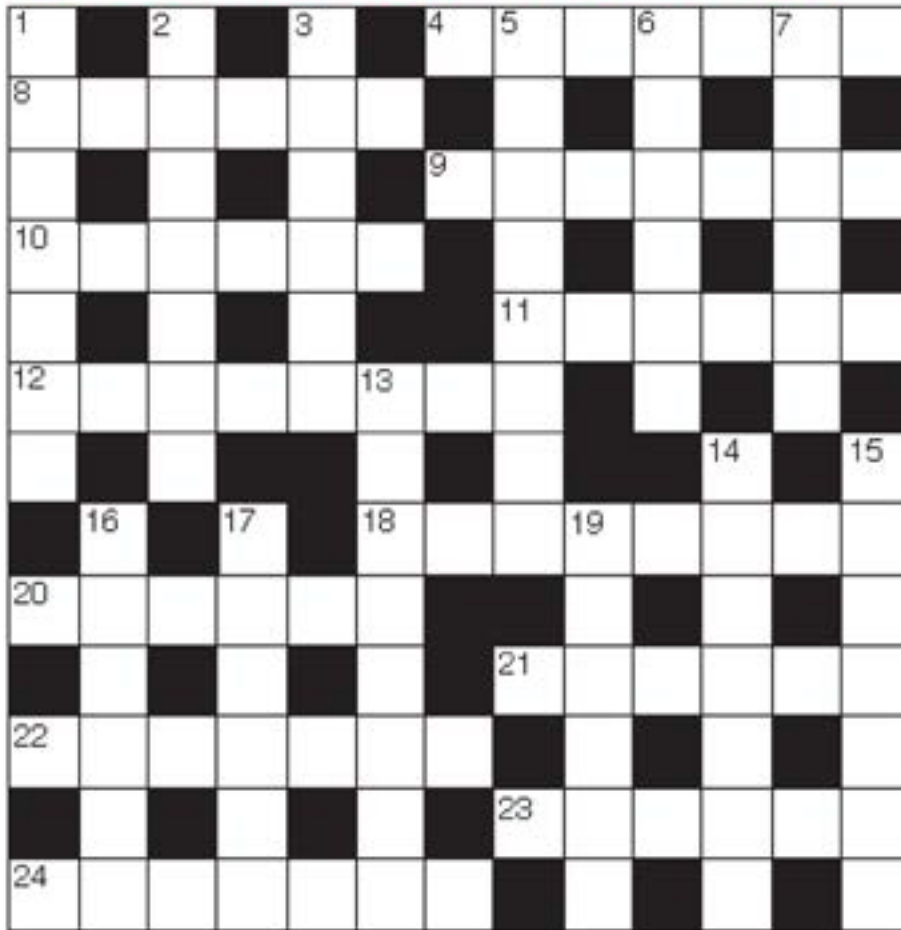
Time Out



Hilal Computers

Maximizing performance and efficiency
Dell service provider
Tel: 1729 3749 ext 2220

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

4. Show-case (7)
8. Charm (6)
9. Scorn (7)
10. Diversion (6)
11. Disregard (6)
12. Widespread disease (8)
18. Feeler (8)
20. Inuit (6)
21. Sturdy (6)
22. Include (7)
23. Dread (6)
24. Under (7)

DOWN

1. Laggard (7)
2. Shorten (7)
3. Sanctuary (6)
5. Of the U.S. (8)
6. Overhang (6)
7. Make certain (6)
13. Car driver (8)
14. Obtain (7)
15. Reading desk (7)
16. On land (6)
17. Tiny (6)
19. Mason's tool (6)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... won the men's singles Luge event at the 2006 Winter Olympics?

WHAT ... island is located at 57° 35' 48"N, 13° 41' 19"W?

WHERE ... in Central America is the Gulf of Fonseca?

WHEN ... did Sienna Miller and Jude Law get engaged?

WHO ... wrote the novel *The Case of The Drowning Duck*?

WHAT ... nationality is the golfer Arron Oberholser?

WHERE ... did the Soufrière Hills Volcano erupt in 1995?

WHEN ... did the Surrealist artist Hans Bellmer die?

just so

k l
o o
o o
l k



RUN
•

full

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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Imprecision; 9 End; 10 Guarantee; 11 Event; 13 Enhance; 14 Occurs; 16 Aplomb; 18 Impulse; 19 Tutor; 20 Universal; 21 Bet; 22 Unreasoning.

Down: 2 Mad; 3 Right; 4 Craven; 5 Smash-up; 6 Out-and-out; 7 Ceremonious; 8 Reverberate; 12 Exception; 15 Relieve; 17 Versus; 19 Talon; 21 Bun.

JUST SO:

To all intents and purposes, Money for old rope, No two ways about it, Common sense

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Christopher Fry; Eric Clapton; Berlin, Germany; 1930; David Bowie; Pygmalion; Romania; 1971.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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