

NEW GENERATION OF GIVERS

BAHRAIN'S 'digital generation' is walking the talk, turning social media activism into real-world philanthropy, coinciding with World Humanitarian Day this month.

A rising number of young individuals in the kingdom are exhibiting an inclination for community service, nodding to the island's humanitarian spirit that nurtures a drive for social work from a grassroots level.

Observed on August 19, World Humanitarian Day is a time to honour humanitarian workers and to stand with people affected by crises around the world. The theme this year is 'Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities'.

Echoing the same spirit are many social and charity groups, which focus on encouraging young minds to explore this selfless pursuit. Among them is the Rotaract Club of Bahrain, which is sponsored by the Salmaniya Rotary Club. They are staging a visit to a geriatric centre in Muharraq on Saturday, August 15, during which volunteers will spend time with the residents, talking to them and gaining valuable lessons in empathy, care and respect.

"We are excited about the visit and meeting the residents at the centre," Rotaract Club president Ali Zainal, who took office last month, told *GulfWeekly*.

"Serving as president has been an incredibly rewarding experience so far. It has given me the opportunity to work alongside a passionate and dedicated team, turn our ideas into meaningful initiatives, and see firsthand the positive impact we can create within our community," added the 26-year-old financial analyst from Amwaj.

Last month, the Rotaract

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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HUMANITARIAN: Jawaher



YOUNG: Philanthropist Ali

Club of Bahrain staged a free medical camp. More than 150 people benefited from the campaign. The group also organised a fun movie day for orphans, aligned with the international platform's goals for community service.

Rotary is a global network of 1.2mn neighbours, friends and leaders who volunteer their skills and resources to solve issues and address community needs.

Another such historic platform in the kingdom is the Bahrain Young Ladies Association (BYLA). Since its inception in 1955, the group has been committed to empowering Bahraini women and advocating for their rights.

In the last year, many young women have joined the group, like 28-year-old Jawaher Alrowaiei. The Bahraini marketing and communications professional



CAMP: The medical team gives visitors a health check

has always supported women's and human rights.

"I think young people sometimes underestimate how much influence we can have on the communities around us. Volunteer work gives us something that education and professional life alone cannot always provide – direct exposure to our society, its needs, gaps and institutions and, most importantly, its people," noted the Janabiya resident.

"What attracted me was the opportunity to move beyond simply discussing social issues and actually participate in organised community work that can create practical solutions," said the BYLA representative on the Family Protection and Support Services Coordination and Referral Network project.

Meanwhile, 17-year-old

"
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"

Indian expatriate Arjun Subramanian was also drawn to making an actual difference.

The Mahooz resident, who attends St Christopher's School, joined the Interact Club last year. Sponsored by Manama Rotary Club, the group engages students aged

12 to 18 years.

"Some of my highlights have been handing out essentials and food to migrant workers and helping to distribute eco-friendly reusable bags. Being able to contribute, even in a small way, is something that makes the experience meaningful and rewarding," added the aspirant author, who plans to pursue a career in the legal sector.

For her part, Princess Alhamadah, 16, recounted participating in a bake sale at her school to raise money for orphans during Eid. The Britus International School student from Seef has been a part of the Interact Club for more than two years.

"One of the girls we were supporting, held my hand as we walked around, which really stayed with me," she added.



GO GREEN: Manama Rotary Club volunteers during the Impact for Good initiative to reduce single-use plastic waste



INDOOR JUNGLE
Safe plants to grow
SEE PAGE 2



THE LOST ART
Sticker collection
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE
Fun-filled flavours
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP
TV, books & more
SEE PAGE 6



LIFESTYLE REPORT
By KAWTHAR EBRAHIM

FOR many in Bahrain, bringing the outdoors inside is a favourite way to soften the rigours of modern living and create a cool, relaxing sanctuary against the island's scorching summer heat.

However, for pet owners, some plants might present a hidden danger. Understanding which plants thrive in our climate while keeping four-legged family members safe is essential for every pet-loving home.

While many popular plants sold across local nurseries are completely harmless, a few widely available varieties pose serious risks if ingested by pets.

Charis Vets veterinarian Dr Hansel Thomas highlighted that dieffenbachia (dumb cane), monstera, sago palm (cycas revoluta), desert rose (adenium obesum) and oleander are toxic to pets.

He proceeded to warn against the most common poisoning cases he treats from plants like lilies, sago palm and aloe vera.

"True lilies are among the most dangerous because even a small amount of pollen or a leaf can cause life-threatening kidney failure in cats," Dr Hansel told GulfWeekly.

"Cats don't even need to eat a whole flower — a few grains of pollen on their fur can be swallowed during grooming.

"Sago palms are another major concern, as every part of the plant — especially the seeds — is highly toxic and can cause severe liver failure in both dogs and cats. Oleander is also extremely poisonous and can affect the heart. Many owners assume aloe vera is harmless because it's beneficial for people, but it can cause vomiting and diarrhoea in pets," he added.

It's important to remember that even plants deemed 'non-toxic' can cause mild

stomach upset if consumed in large amounts, so it's best to discourage chewing.

Providing cats with safe alternatives, such as cat grass or enrichment toys, can help redirect their natural curiosity away from houseplants.

Safe alternatives for indoor plants include spider plants, Boston ferns, African violets, orchids (especially phalaenopsis or moth orchids), parlour palms, areca palms, zebra haworthia, calatheas and prayer plants.

For those designing outdoor patios or courtyard spaces in Bahrain, veterinary surgeon Dr Khun Thura suggests focusing on pet-friendly flowers, functional herbs and safe lawn covers.

"Outdoor green cover



VETERINARIAN: Dr Hansel

should rely on dog-safe grasses like wheatgrass and oatgrass without chemical pesticides, herbicides, or synthetic fertilisers. Grass, marigolds, petunias, snapdragons, sunflowers, rosemary, basil, thyme and other non-toxic herbs are safe," explained the expert, who specialises in advanced care for dogs, cats and exotic species at Home of Veterinary Medicine.

"Regularly checking the garden for fallen leaves, flowers, or seeds can further reduce the risk of accidental poisoning."

Plant safety isn't just about

leaf toxicity. Pet owners should also keep a few environmental factors in mind.

Dr Khun highlighted that pets like to dig and may ingest soil containing additives such as perlite or chemical fertilisers.

Additionally, she advised keeping floor cleaners, insecticides and rodenticides completely sealed and stored out of reach from pets. Early signs of chemical ingestion often include drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea, pawing at the mouth, loss of appetite, lethargy, or unusual behaviour.

"When animals nibble on hazardous stems or leaves, the physical consequences can escalate quickly. After ingestion, they suffer moderate to severe gastrointestinal upset, vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling and tremors," Dr Khun added.

If a pet has been seen chewing on a plant or has suddenly developed signs of poisoning, owners should

contact a veterinarian immediately. Bringing a photo or sample of the plant can help with identification and treatment.

The sooner treatment begins, the better the

outcome. Many plant poisonings respond well when treated early, while delays can allow toxins to cause serious damage to organs such as the kidneys, liver, or heart.



TOXIC: Even safe plants if consumed in large amounts can lead to an upset stomach

Some non-toxic plants:

- Spider plants
- Boston ferns
- African violets
- Orchids
- Parlour palms
- Areca palms
- Zebra haworthia
- Calatheas
- Prayer plants
- Marigolds
- Sunflowers
- Snapdragons
- Petunias
- Fuchsias
- Wheatgrass
- Oatgrass
- Rosemary
- Basil
- Thyme



Some toxic plants:

- Dieffenbachia (dumb cane)
- Monstera
- Sago Palm (cycas revoluta)
- Desert Rose (adenium obesum)
- Oleander
- Lilies
- Tulips
- Aloe vera



CAREFUL: Pets like to dig and may ingest soil containing additives or chemical fertilisers

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 country is currently hosting the Women's Africa Cup Of Nations?
- 2) January King and Golden Acre are varieties of which vegetable?
- 3) What material were stethoscopes originally made out of?
- 4) British military hero the Duke Of Wellington was born in which capital city?
- 5) Which element is named after the founder of prestigious prizes for science and literature?
- 6) In which country can



- the Bitter Lakes be found?
- 7) Indian composer AR Rahman won the Academy Award for best music with which original song?

ANSWERS

1. Morocco
2. Cabbage
3. Wood
4. Dublin
5. Nobelium
6. Egypt
7. Jai Ho

Sticker mania



NATURE: Feline-inspired and other latest designs by Zainab



ARTISTS across Bahrain are restoring a prized childhood currency through unique designs and local activations, sending millennials and Gen Zs down the road of nostalgia.

Those who grew up on the island during the 90s and early 2000s will fondly recall the 'golden years' characterised by peelable art, collectible cards and tazos.

"My older brother and I used to collect Suntop stickers when we were kids," creative talent Shaikha Maryam bint Khaled Al Khalifa told *GulfWeekly*.

"The cold store would hand out the sticker books and filling those pages became our little obsession. There was something deeply satisfying about the ritual of it all – peeling the stickers free, trading them with friends and slowly watching the pages come together," added the 32-year-old from Riffa.

She recounted that it was not just the collection that mattered, but also the sense of anticipation and joy that came with it.

The artist went on to train at Parsons School of Design,



ART REPORT

By MELISSA NAZARETH
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New York, and eventually opened her own studio. Most of her work is inspired by Bahrain, the Gulf and broader Arab culture.

"Many of my stickers incorporate old Bahraini phrases, which often spark interactions with patrons. Sometimes, the words arrive wrapped in laughter and nostalgia and, at other times, they open doors to conversations about their meanings and origins. In those moments, the stickers become more than objects – they become vessels of memory and cultural inheritance," added the founder of Camel in the City design studio.

In addition to stickers, the three-time New York Design Week participant pursues diverse techniques, from 3D to screen-printing. A few years ago, while screen-printing a new batch of designs, she realised they would also translate really

well as stickers. Since then, she has been creating sticker versions of her t-shirt designs in addition to the original peelables.

Once used as trading symbols, stickers entered the mainstream in the 70s and, by the 90s, were a major pop culture sensation. Sticker books became a global trend with students using the artistic labels to decorate journals, folders, lunch boxes and lockers, all as a way of personal expression.

Even brands started producing them, from the ubiquitous Pokémon collectibles to Disney and several music bands like Linkin Park and Nirvana.

In 2015, Suntop launched a social media campaign, inviting fans and collectors to upload a photo of their booklets for a repost on the brand's Facebook page.

Over the years, new styles of the art have also emerged, including holographic, fragrant, puffed and glossy.

For *GulfWeekly* and GDN news reporter Zainab Almahdi, the sticker mania took over during school. "Everyone had sticker folders and would collect



ARTIST: Aliyah



ARABESQUE: Culture-coded prints by Shaikha Maryam

varied designs," said the illustrator and comic artist from Muharraq, who took a shine to the hobby, eventually creating her own peelables. The 28-year-old has facilitated sticker-making workshops at the Art Station in Muharraq with a major portion of her work inspired by felines and anthropomorphising nature. She has also painted murals and released comic books, with some drawings published globally.

Stickers can also be used to send strong social messages and many artists use the style

to raise awareness about important causes. Among them is Aliyah Sultan, who designed a special collection for the *Gaza in the Heart* exhibition at the Safeya Kanoo Hub in 2023.

"Knowing that every single sale went directly to support Palestinians in Gaza changed how I viewed my purpose as an artist," said the Muharraq Secondary Girls School pupil, who won second place in Bahrain Summer Nakhool Star competition in 2021.

The milestone spurred her on to pursue her love for illustration and storytelling.

CUTE: Aliyah's 'nerd-chic'

Recently, she compiled a charity sticker collection entitled *Bun Reads* for local volunteer group Far7a that stages the Annual Charity Used Books Fair in the kingdom.

"I designed a super cute, 'nerd-chic' character who wears glasses and has her hair up in a bun, completely obsessed with reading and collecting books," said the 15-year-old.

Aliyah's love for stickers goes back to when she would patiently wait for *Majid* magazine to come out each month.

"It always came with a sheet of colourful stickers and I used to joyfully plaster them all over my notebooks and sketchbooks and the wall right above my study table.

"What makes sticker-making so unique when compared to storybook illustration or animation is that you don't have a background to help explain the scene. The character or object must have a 'stand-alone' impact. It must tell the entire story, show an emotion and express a mood all by itself at just a single glance. To achieve this, I make my colours much brighter and keep the illustrations clean with fewer details," she added.

Bahraini antiques collector Khalid Alhijazi noted that stickers on certain objects can sometimes increase their value. Vintage suitcases adorned with peelables are a prized part of his ensemble, drawing attention from many of his patrons. "These

suitcases from the 80s are decorated with stickers and quite popular," said the Hamad Town resident, who is known to own Bahrain's most extensive collection of vinyls from the 60s to the 80s, spanning numerous musical genres.



Leisure Scene



**What's
on
guide**

By Julia Cassano

EXQUISITE GASTRONOMY AT RITZ-CARLTON

THE Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain is turning the spotlight on culinary indulgence this month, with a selection of dining experiences that bring together fine ingredients, international flavours and distinctive gastronomic traditions.

La Table Krug sets the tone with an elegant four-course set menu centred around indulgent ingredients and refined flavours.

The selection includes foie gras, scallops, Australian Wagyu, and an exquisite soufflé, creating an intimate dining experience for those looking to savour something special. The menu is priced at BD50 per person and is available from Tuesday to Saturday, 7pm to 11pm.

For a touch of luxury, La Terrace is offering 50g of Kaviari Oscietra Premium Caviar, served alongside sour cream, chives, shallots, capers, lemon, egg, delicate blinis, and crispy and boiled potatoes.

Priced at BD90, the caviar experience is available Monday to Saturday, from 1pm to 11pm.

Meanwhile, The Ritz Gourmet Lounge



SPICED: Traditional Indian flavours at Nirvana

is putting a refreshing spin on the classic cold brew with its Cold Brew Craft Edition. Specially crafted flavours bring added depth and character to the smooth, refreshing drink, making it an ideal pick-me-up throughout the day. The selection is priced at BD5.500 and available daily from noon to 10.30pm.

Tuesdays are dedicated to the flavours of India, with guests invited to enjoy authentic vegetarian or non-vegetarian tandoor platters.

Priced BD15, it is available from 7pm to 10.30pm.

The culinary journey continues on Saturday



STUNNING: Interior at La Table Krug

with a specially curated thali celebrating India's Independence Day, featuring traditional flavours and refined creations. Live entertainment adds to the experience, creating an evening inspired by the country's vibrant culture.

Priced at BD24 per person, the thali is available on Saturdays from noon to 3pm and

from 7pm to 11pm.

Sundays take a Japanese-inspired turn at Thai Lounge, where guests can enjoy an unlimited selection of Uramaki sushi rolls and freshly prepared bites at BD18.500. Available from 6pm to 9pm.

Meanwhile, Wednesdays at Cantina Kahlo are dedicated to a lively ladies' evening special.

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SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY AT ITS BEST

DISCOVER the ultimate vibe 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 and 20 per cent off the full menu.

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 30pc 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 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



VIBE: Unlimited entertainment awaits at CLAW BBQ

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 bookings and more information, contact 33692013.

MAKING A SPLASH

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, 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 waffles, 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

MAKE the most of the season unwinding at **Grand Swiss-Belhotel Waterfront**, where a range of packages offers something for every kind of escape.

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 bookings and more information, contact 17177333.

AN UPGRADED STAYCATION



VIEW: Get yourself a room overlooking the skyline

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

RITZ CARLTON



ing. Guests can enjoy two
lly selected beverages alongside
imentary pink churros, with the
ence priced at BD10.
ffer is available from 6pm to 10pm.
bookings and more information,
t 17580000 or email rc.bahrz.
rant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.



OFF: Waterpark fun at Four Seasons

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
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 bookings and more
information, contact 17115500.

REFINED FLAVOURS TO SAVOUR



CLASSIC: French creations

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 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



DECADENT: Variety of
cakes at the hotel

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
savory 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
culture and gastronomy.
The restaurant welcomes
guests daily from noon
until 10pm.

For bookings and more
information, contact
36967701.

CREATE
unforgettable
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 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 memorable
island experiences, 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 bookings and more information,
contact 32183610 or email
reservations@hawarresort.com.

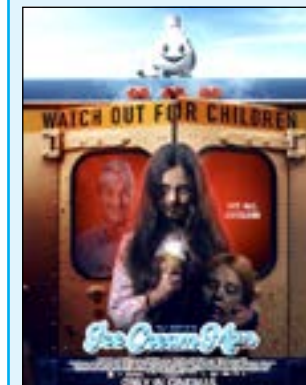


BREATHTAKING: Overwater villas

SURROUNDED BY NATURE



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



ICE CREAM MAN (18+)

An idyllic summer town
descends into madness when
an ice cream man serves
children sweet delights with
horrifying results.

Actors: Eli Roth, Ari
Millen, Benjamin Davis

Timings: 11.30am,
1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm,
7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

**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,
1.45pm, 2.45pm, 5.45pm,
7.45pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm,
11.45pm

THE ODYSSEY (15+)

Odysseus, king of Ithaca,
embarks on a perilous
journey to return home after
the Trojan War. Crossing the
Mediterranean Sea with his
fellow soldiers, they soon
find themselves battling not
only the elements, but an
array of deadly obstacles
and mythical creatures along
the way.

Actors: Matt Damon, Tom
Holland, Anne Hathaway

Timings: 11am, 4.30pm,
10pm

Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY KAWTHAR EBRAHIM



DRAMA: A gamut of emotions brought alive on screen in the last season

SEASON three of hit workplace comedy *Tires* is now streaming on Netflix.

Returning for a third season, the series continues to follow the chaotic day-to-day antics, awkward interactions and low-stakes drama of the auto repair shop crew.

Fans can expect more fast-paced deadpan humour, sharp workplace banter and unscripted charm as the team navigates new management hurdles, corporate expectations and customer mishaps this season.

Created by and starring comedian Shane Gillis alongside Steven Gerben, *Tires* originally built a loyal following through its authentic portrayal of working-class connection and absurdity.

The third season doubles down on the show's signature style, tracking store manager Will (Steven) as he attempts

Shop floor high jinks

to keep the struggling Valley Forge Automotive Centre afloat while dealing with his wildly unfiltered cousin and co-worker, Shane (Shane).

"It's just me and my friends," the latter said in an interview, reflecting on the show's ongoing success and authentic atmosphere.

"The guy that's in it with me, his name's Steve; it was actually his dad's tyre shop that we filmed it at. It's all real... we're not that good!"

"They're like, 'You could have

a stage in LA', and we were like, 'No, we like Pennsylvania'. And then we filmed it in the winter this year, and it was a huge mistake," Shane joked. "We were freezing the whole time."

As the new episodes spread, the crew faces a series of unexpected challenges, from mandatory corporate restructurings to absurd local promotions gone wrong.

Returning cast members Chris O'Connor, Kilah Fox and Stavros Halkias bring their signature comedic timing back

to the shop floor, adding layers of cringe comedy and relatable office politics that keep the narrative moving at a fast pace.

The series has earned praise for its minimalist, straightforward storytelling, avoiding overly polished sitcom tropes in favour of raw, character-driven humour that resonates with audiences instead of standard formulaic television.

Viewers have highlighted the natural chemistry among the cast as the driving force behind its success on the platform.

Evolution of a 'Starr'



TALENT: Ayra

AYRA Starr is set to drop her highly-anticipated third studio album *Starrgirl* tomorrow.

The Nigerian afrobeats artist is best known for her global breakthrough single *Rush*, which entered her onto international charts and earned her widespread acclaim across the music landscape.

The new 16-track album follows her critically acclaimed 2024 record *The Year I Turned 21* and marks a personal evolution for the Mavin Records star.

The production rollout officially kicked off with a series of hit singles, including *Tornado*, *Who's Dat Girl* featuring Rema, and the high-profile collaboration *Gimme Dat* featuring Wizkid.

Rather than simply referencing fame, the album title reflects a deeper creative philosophy centred on personal diversity and artistic growth.

"We're in my 'grown woman living in New York City' era," the singer said in an interview.

"When people get to hear this album, they'll see how far I've come and how far my sound has evolved and how confident my sound is," she added.

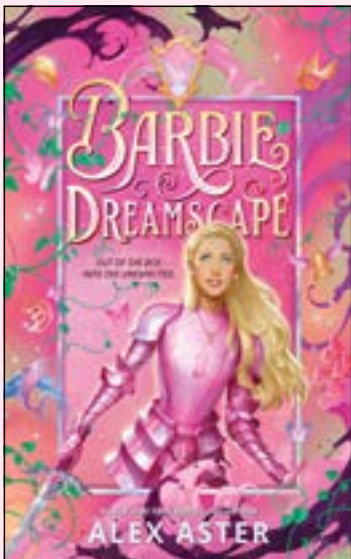
The other creations on the record are expected to feature a vibrant mix of confidence, vulnerability and genre-bending sounds, with Ayra staying true to her authentic African roots while expanding her global reach.

"I just got to exist in multitudes in this album, and I allowed myself to try new things and fail and fail again and fail again and try it again, and it worked out," she noted.

A distinct aesthetic theme for the new release revolves around the colour purple, which holds a special creative meaning for the singer.

"Purple for me was a mixture of pink and black; it represents both sides, yin and yang, and masculine and feminine. I feel like *19 and Dangerous* and *The Year I Turned 21* were different eras; *Starrgirl* is both of them merging," she added.

On *Starrgirl*, she is accompanied by a stellar list of guest collaborators, including Wizkid, Rema, Leon Thomas, KWN, and Zayn Malik.



Where dreams and reality collide

ALEX Aster's first official young adult novel *Barbie: Dreamscape* is set to hit the shelves on August 18.

Rather than a retelling of established storylines, the new book, published directly by Mattel Press, introduces readers to an expansive, standalone story in a world where dreams and reality collide, testing courage, friendship and identity.

The bestselling author is known for her fantasy series *Lightlark* and *Emblem Island*.

"Playing with Barbies (dolls)

when I was a kid was the start of my creativity and storytelling; being able to tell one of Barbie's many stories has been such an honour," Alex said in an interview.

"I wrote a book that I needed in times of doubt and change in my life with Barbie magic and nostalgia."

"*Barbie: Dreamscape* is a journey of self-discovery across magical worlds. It is a story about finding your strengths and forging your own fate," she added.

"When things go wrong at graduation, and Barbie is the

only one who isn't handed a fate, she decides to undergo a quest across magical worlds to find a fate of her own."

Mattel Press expressed high expectations for the launch, emphasising that the project marks a significant milestone in expanding the intellectual property beyond traditional media, live-action films and toys into premium literary fiction.

Barbie: Dreamscape will be available in hardcover, digital ebook formats and audiobook editions at major booksellers worldwide.



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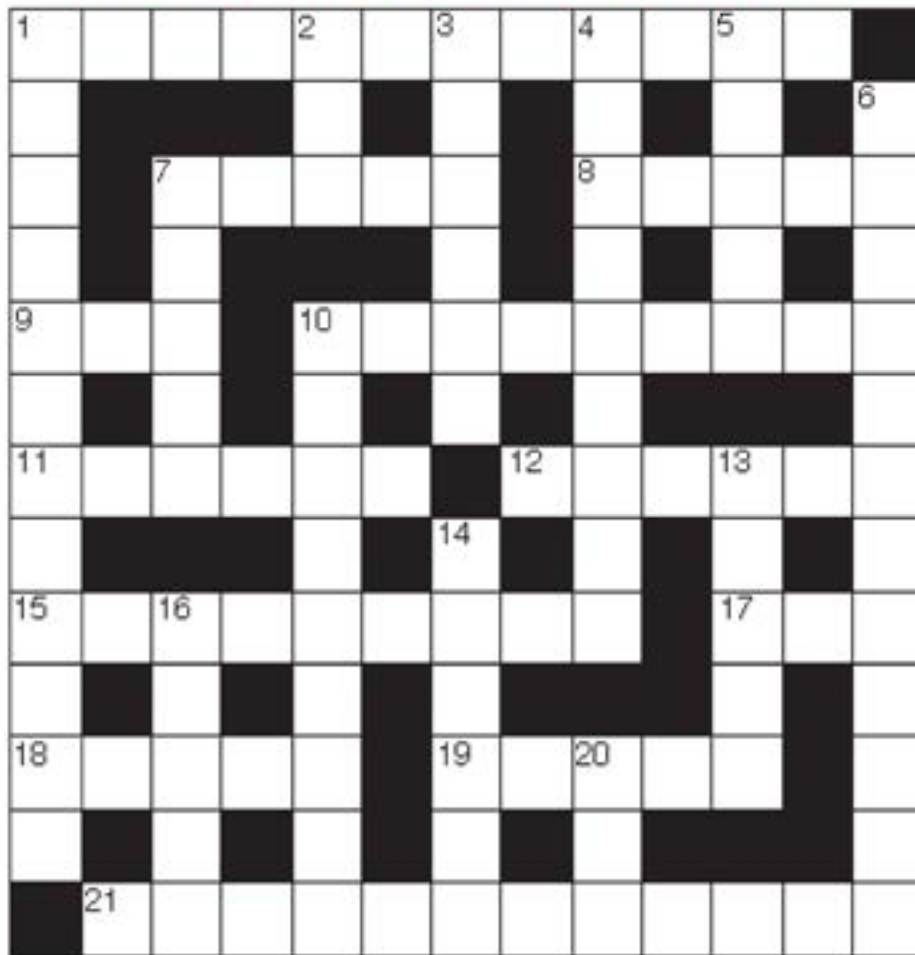
Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Mind-doctor (12)
7. Effete (5)
8. Of the Arctic or Antarctic (5)
9. Poem (3)
10. Stupid (9)
11. Traduce (6)
12. Seller (6)
15. Remember (9)
17. Summit (3)
18. Prickle (5)
19. Change (5)
21. Stoppage (12)

DOWN

1. Outweigh (12)
2. Colour (3)
3. Temporary (6)
4. Stand for (9)
5. Work out (5)
6. Ban (12)
7. Ledge (5)
10. Likeness (9)
13. Put off (5)
14. Mend (6)
16. Buffoon (5)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... wrote the novels *The End of the Affair* and *Our Man in Havana*?

WHAT ... politician has owned the dogs Ruby, Teddy, Offa, Lucy and Sadie?

WHERE ... in Asia do 100 poisha equal 1 taka?

WHEN ... was the actress Geena Davis born?

WHAT ... are the colours of the three bands on the flag of Armenia?

WHERE ... in Africa is Lake Kariba?

WHEN ... is National Inventors' Day in the US?

just so

night morning

. of no er

HEAD

all
it's

darn tough sudoku

So you think you're good enough at Sudoku to crack this baby? Remember, we were the first in the Gulf to bring you this bit of Japanese mayhem...so we don't kid around

Last week's sudoku

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 4 Cabinet; 8 Amulet; 9 Despise; 10 Detour; 11 Ignore; 12 Epidemic; 18 Tentacle; 20 Eskimo; 21 Robust; 22 Contain; 23 Terror; 24 Beneath.

Down: 1 Dawdler; 2 Curtail; 3 Refuge; 5 American; 6 Impend; 7 Ensure; 13 Motorist; 14 Acquire; 15 Lectern; 16 Ashore; 17 Little; 19 Trowel.

JUST SO:

Look up and down, A man about town, Run on the spot, Grateful for small mercies

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Armin Zoeggeler; Rockall; North Pacific Ocean bordering El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua; Christmas Day, 2004; Erle Stanley Gardner; American; Montserrat; 1975.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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