



MUSIC REPORT

By NAMAN ARORA
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FOR novice listeners, bass can sometimes just feel like another part of the melody, but in his debut album, Salman Marzooq has given it centre-stage, letting it shine beyond its traditional role.

The 23-year-old Bahraini bassist is set to release *Fading Signals* next Saturday, September 19, after a concert last week showcasing the album.

"I've been playing bass for around five years," Salman told *Gulf Weekly*.

"During that time, I've explored different styles and approaches to the instrument, gradually discovering the bass as my main form of musical expression.

"I'm particularly interested in experimenting with sound and pushing the instrument beyond its traditional role."

Bass in music refers to the lowest part of the musical range, covering deep pitches and frequencies roughly between 16 and 250 Hz, with its low vibrations being felt more than distinctly heard in most songs.

It provides the emotional and physical foundation of a song, connecting the rhythm of the drums with the harmony of chords.

In Bahrain's thriving music scene filled with Arab, indie, pop, rock and metal records that traditionally centre vocals, beats and chords, *Fading Signals* stands out as one of its few bass albums, highlighting the oft-overlooked role that bass plays in a song.

"A bass album is one where the bass becomes the main course of the song, not just an accompanying part," Salman explained.

"*Fading Signals* is about proving that the bass isn't just an instrument that tags along with the melody - it can be the lead voice carrying the song on its own.

"At the same time, it's deeply personal to me. It's about my own feelings and emotions, and channeling them through the bass."

The 11-track album was recorded in just 40 days - an intense process of experimenting with different sounds, textures, and arrangements, with Salman handling much of the recording and production singlehandedly.

His friend and pianist Hussain Nasser helped him throughout the process, as did Salman's former bandmate Shukrallah,

who handled the mixing, and well-known saxophonist Elton Shera who collaborated on the project.

"The most rewarding part was watching individual ideas gradually become a complete body of work," Salman explained.

"I've only been playing bass for five years, so completing an entire album felt like a significant milestone.

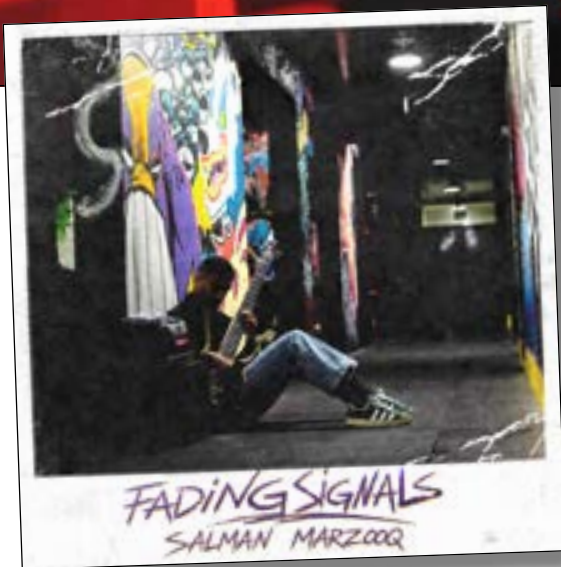
"Being able to finally share something that represents where I am as a musician right now was incredibly rewarding."

The process of crafting it, while daunting,

ALL ABOUT THAT BASS!



LIVE: Salman, Shukrallah and Hussain on stage during the album concert last week



COVER: *Fading Signals*

was also rewarding, and for Salman, finally hitting that 'publish' button felt like submitting his homework as a bassist, though, not one to rest on his laurels, the young musician is already working on several upcoming projects.

While he has played in bands in the past, including The Darkling Travellers, *Fading Signals* was more of a personal journey for Salman, giving him the space to go deeper on his craft, and tell stories from his life through his tunes.

"I imagine people listening to it late at night, on a long drive, through headphones, or somewhere quiet where they can really sit with the music," Salman added.

"*Fading Signals* has a chill, unique groove to it, so I'd like listeners to find their own connection with it and attach their own memories and emotions to the music."

Fading Signals will be available on all streaming platforms on September 19 and for more details, follow @salmanobass on Instagram.

BASS HUNTER: Salman



VISUAL FEAST
Art showcase
SEE PAGES 2-3



LEISURE SCENE
Dining deals
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PULSE OF POP
TV, movies & more
SEE PAGE 6



SHAH OF BLAH
New book release
SEE PAGE 6

Weaving stories with



ART REPORT

By MELISSA NAZARETH
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A VIBRANT celebration of art, culture and creativity is set to unfold in Bahrain this weekend as artists bring diverse themes to life through a vivid display of tropical colours.

Tropical Spectrum, taking place at Bahrain Financial Harbour in Seef District on Saturday, September 12, will showcase striking works inspired by nature, expatriate experiences and local traditions.

The exhibition will be inaugurated in the presence of chief guests – Bangladesh Ambassador Mohammed Sarower and his wife Dil Ruba Akhter, and Bahraini artist Abbas Al Mosawi.

Artists Sudeep Deshpande and Zainab Al Halwachi, who are among the 25 participating creatives, have curated the display.

“Rather than limiting the concept to a literal representation of tropical landscapes, the exhibition invites artists to interpret the theme through their individual artistic languages,” architect and Indian expatriate Sudeep, 46, from Adliya told *GulfWeekly*.

“The exhibition therefore becomes a visual dialogue between colour and emotion, nature and imagination, tradition and contemporary expression.”

Sudeep’s works explore fish as both an element of ornamentation and a symbol of survival.

“Fish, traditionally associated with water, abundance, movement and life, become more than a representation of the natural world in my work. They become a visual metaphor for the ways in which life adapts, exists and survives within its surroundings,” he added.

Bahraini art educator Zainab, 43, shared her curating experience, noting how the works evoked tropical landscapes, flora and fauna, coastal environments, human experiences, cultural memories and imagined worlds.

“Some works communicate the theme through recognisable imagery, while others may approach it through abstraction, symbolism, texture, gesture and colour. This diversity is central to the curatorial



STRIKING: Artwork by Richa



TALENT: Zainab



ARTIST: Anisa



CREATIVE: Margaret



PAINTER: Richa

approach of the exhibition,” explained the entrepreneur from Jeblat Hibshi, who has her own art studio.

“The two pieces I’m exhibiting explore nature, transformation, and the contrast between fragility and strength. I was inspired by organic forms – particularly leaves, flowers and plants – and the way nature can continue to grow and transform even through difficult surroundings. “I worked with acrylic paint combined with textured elements, allowing the surface itself to become part

of the artwork. The raised, expressive marks and layered brushwork give the plants a sculptural quality and create a sense of movement,” she added.

The exhibition, organisers revealed, gives artists a freehand where they can focus on their personal stories. For Riffa-based self-taught talent Richa Maurya, this approach tied well with her present state of mind – exploring a free-flowing style as an avenue of emotional expression.

“In one of my pieces depicting the Bahrain

skyline, you can see the Bahrain World Trade Centre. Instead of focusing on perfecting the buildings, I painted something that resembles it and conveys the message well. If you are too concerned about getting the right building there, the entire essence of the creative process is lost and can be draining,” noted the 49-year-old.

Talking about her artworks, the art educator and mother-of-two highlighted how they are connected to her experience as an expatriate in Bahrain for the last 15 years.

“All those times when we took our children to the park and had picnics, or dropped them off to classes and waited for them inspired my pieces. It is quite personal,” said the software developer, who turned to art fulltime after the Covid pandemic.

So far, she has participated in many exhibitions and her work is presently displayed at the Indian Embassy. A ‘turning point’ in her artistic journey was when Bahrain’s National Arts Council chairman and founder of RAK Art Foundation Shaikh



ICONIC: An ode to karak tea by Margaret

a spectrum of colours

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

1. Sudeep Deshpande

2. Zainab Al Halwachi

3. Abdulla Al Manami

4. Adel Al Thawadi

5. Aneesa Al Saad

6. Anju Kapoor

7. Abbasi Sarhan

8. Atam Jeet Singh Bawa

9. Samara Gabriel

10. Ebrahim

11. Issa Al Nuaimi

12. Jacqueline de Freitas

13. Margaret Casey
14. Nasreen

15. Nitasha Biju

16. Richa Maurya

17. Saira Qureshi

18. Salah Al Sayed

19. Shruthi Ranjith

20. Sriparna Ghose

21. Mohamed Taha

22. Thamer Al Reefy

23. Khalil Kazerooni

24. Aysha Rais

25. Shreen Farid

Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa bought one of her pieces at an exhibition.

"It was after that I decided to teach and pursue art more intentionally," Richa said.

Also drawing from her expatriate experience is art teacher Margaret Casey from Seef District. One of her pieces brings alive the island's karak (tea) culture.

"I focused on my experience as an expat and things that are central to my experience in Bahrain. Karak is something that I have never experienced anywhere else," said the avid traveller, who has previously lived in Brazil and South Korea.

"Typically, I work with quite bold and vibrant colours. I work with quite transparent layers so, sometimes, you can see through to the background or through to other things, which kind of ties into the moment in time where it is still such a concrete memory, yet it is also fading and not so concrete in some other ways," added the American national, elaborating on her style.

While this is her first exhibition since she moved



TRADITIONAL: Anisa brings alive Arab heritage

to Bahrain over two years ago, the self-taught talent has participated in live art events and is part of local on-location sketching groups.

"I am most prolific and comfortable in ceramics, but with moving around quite often, ceramics is not a very mobile art form. So, I went into the world of travel

sketching. On my travels, I captured small details in the buildings or the way that the leaves reflected the sunshine. For me, a lot of it has been finding the beauty in these moments in everyday normal life," she noted.

Meanwhile, Bahraini artist Anisa AlSaad from Hamad Town will bring alive her Gulf heritage with a vibrant piece featuring local elements like the date palm, a camel and a tent.

"I am drawn to incorporating heritage, nature and Gulf identity into a contemporary artistic language, with particular attention to colour, detail and texture. I enjoy vibrant colours and their interplay, and I strive to make each painting carry a feeling and a story, rather than being simply a visual scene," said the 63-year-old.

"I was inspired by the environment, heritage and the

spirit of traditional journeys. I wanted to present the camel and traditional attire within a vibrant atmosphere filled with colour and life. To me, heritage is not simply the past; it is a beautiful memory that can



CURATOR: Sudeep

be reinterpreted and presented through a contemporary artistic vision. "I aspire to continue developing my artistic practice and expand my presence through participation in local and international exhibitions. My goal is to create works that reflect Bahraini and Gulf identity through a contemporary perspective, reaching a wider audience and leaving a meaningful and lasting impression," added the retired banker.

Tropical Spectrum supported by Bahrain Artistic Frames Centre will run until September 24.



NATURE: Zainab's piece inspired by blooms

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 is the oldest university in the US?

2) In which country did the term Smorgasbord originate?

3) How old was Edward VI when he became king in 1547?

4) Which country was suspended from the Arab league for 10 years from 1979?

5) Which burger was the subject of a conversation in the film *Pulp Fiction* about it being called a Royale with Cheese in France?

- 6) Kelvin is a unit to measure what?

7) What is the national animal of Scotland?

1. Harvard

2. Sweden

3. Nine years old

4. Egypt

5. Quarter Pounder with Cheese

6. Thermodynamic temperature

7. Unicorn

ANSWERS

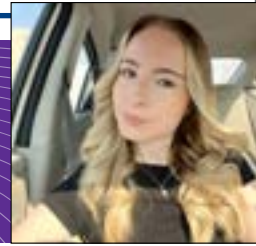


LIFE: Sudeep's works exploring fish

Leisure Scene

**What's
on
guide**

By Julia Cassano



SCRUMPTIOUS: Primavera's Italian creation

PREMIUM CUTS AT RITZ-CARLTON

THERE is something for every palate at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain this week, with an array of dining experiences taking guests from smoky tandoor specialities to Mexican brunches and indulgent desserts.

At Plums, guests can enjoy a modern steakhouse experience that combines bold design, premium cuts and rich flavours in a stylish setting. The restaurant is open daily, except Tuesdays, from 7pm to 11pm.

For a taste of Italy, Primavera offers a contemporary take on the traditional Italian osteria. The restaurant celebrates authentic Italian cuisine through signature dishes that showcase local and seasonal ingredients, while reinterpreting classic recipes with a modern touch.

It is available everyday, except Saturdays, from 12.30 to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm.



GORGEOUS: Interior at Plums

Over at Cantina Kahlo, guests can embrace the spirit of Mexico with the Weekend Brunch Fiesta, taking place tomorrow and Saturday from 1pm to 4pm. The brunch features an array of traditional Mexican-inspired dishes, festive flavours and lively rhythms from a resident mariachi band. It is priced at BD35 per person, inclusive of soft beverages, or BD45 per person with

selected beverages.

For a midweek dining experience, Nirvana presents Tandoor Tuesday, featuring an elegant selection of vegetarian and non-vegetarian tandoori platters served alongside freshly baked Indian breads, signature sauces and a curated beverage selection. Priced at BD15 per person, the experience is available every Tuesday from 7pm to 10.30pm.

RAISING THE STEAKS

INTERCONTINENTAL Bahrain has several dining highlights on the calendar this week, offering guests a choice of special menus, promotions and seasonal creations.

At Legendz SteakHouse, guests can indulge in a grilled Tenderloin Paillard served with mushrooms, accompanied by unlimited crispy truffle and Parmesan pommes frites. Live piano music will add an elegant touch to the evening, with the experience available every Tuesday from 6pm to 10pm. It is priced at BD16net per guest, with cocktail attire or smart casual dress recommended.

Mondays at Legendz bring an added incentive, with guests able to take advantage



TREAT: Meaty affair at Legendz SteakHouse

of a buy-one-get-one offer on steaks of equal or lesser value. The promotion runs from 6pm to 10pm.

From September 18, the steakhouse will also introduce a new brunch experience featuring a selection of signature à la carte creations. Highlights include Surf and Turf beef fillet with béarnaise sauce, Teriyaki Glazed Duck Leg with sweet potato purée, slow-cooked BBQ Angus Beef Brisket with wild mushroom sauce and Miso Hamachi finished with

Korean chilli and roasted parsnip.

The à la carte dishes will be accompanied by a vibrant buffet featuring seafood, barbecue and burrata stations, alongside a selection of crafted beverages. The brunch is priced at BD28net with soft beverages or BD38 with unlimited selected beverages. It will be available on September 18 and 25 from noon to 4pm. Children under six dine free, while children aged six receive a 50 per cent discount.

At Medzo, burrata takes centre stage with the Burrata

and Bubbles experience, bringing together the creamy Italian cheese with a selection of fresh seasonal accompaniments. Guests can choose from heirloom tomatoes, Parma ham, wild mushrooms, basil oil, aged balsamic, melon and rocket leaves, each adding a different flavour and texture to the dish.

Available daily from noon to 10pm, the experience is priced at BD8,900.

For an afternoon indulgence, guests can also experience a vibrant take on the traditional afternoon tea with an ube-inspired selection. The menu features handcrafted pastries, savoury bites, freshly baked scones served with ube jam and signature desserts, accompanied by premium teas and speciality coffees.

The ube afternoon tea is available tonight and tomorrow from 2pm to 7pm, priced at BD8 per person.

For bookings and more information, contact 36967701.

FAR EASTERN FLAVOURS

JAPANESE culinary artistry takes centre stage at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

Chef Kiyoshi Udagawa invites diners to experience an intimate Omakase journey at re/ASIAN CUISINE. Each course showcases the precision, seasonality and craftsmanship at the heart of Japanese gastronomy.

Available from Wednesday to Sunday, the 10-course Omakase is priced at BD69 per person, with an optional pairing available for an extra BD60 per person.

Bahrain Bay Kitchen is bringing back its popular Friday Brunch this month, offering diners an indulgent spread of salads, appetisers, hearty mains and tempting desserts. The sweet selection includes warm kunafa and soft-serve ice cream, adding a sweet finish to the weekend feast.

The offer runs from 1pm to 4pm and is priced at BD35 with soft beverages and BD48 with a selected beverage package. Children under five dine with the hotel's compliments, while those aged six to 12 receive a 50 per cent discount.

Over at CUT by Wolfgang Puck, Friday afternoons take on a lively feel, with flowing bubbly,



energetic DJ beats and a trolley serving drinks tableside. Each glass is paired with a selection of Wolfgang Puck favourites created by executive chef Brian Becher, including yellowtail Hamachi ceviche, beef sliders and premium steak selections.

It is available every Friday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, and costs BD70, inclusive of the free-flow



TASTY: Delights at the hotel's six-hour brunch

AN EXTENDED WEEKEND

MAKE your way to Hilton Bahrain this weekend for a six-hour brunch experience, bringing together an afternoon of good food, refreshing drinks and lively entertainment.

Kicking off tomorrow, the Friday Brunch event will run from 1pm to 7pm and is priced at BD29net per person, including selected beverages, or BD38net with premium drinks.

Meanwhile, seafood lovers can dive into an evening of ocean-inspired flavours at Origin Kitchen and Culture's Seafood Night, taking place tonight from 7pm to 10pm.

The experience features an array of fresh seafood, from sushi counters to live-cooking

stations, showcasing a selection of ocean treasures. Prices start at BD32 per person, including soft beverages. Mornings at Origin Kitchen and Culture come with a generous breakfast buffet, available daily from 6.30am to 10.30am for BD13net.

Over at CLAW BBQ, guests can enjoy food, games, entertainment and panoramic views of Bahrain's skyline from the 44th floor.

Sundays come with an extra dose of indulgence, with two hours of unlimited beverages for BD12,500. The offer can be extended for another two hours for an extra BD10, while also enjoying 20 per cent off the full menu.

Monday is dedicated to the ladies, with Ladies' Night running from 8pm to 11pm. The

offer includes four complimentary drinks a sharing platter for BD15, along with 30% off the full food and beverage menu.

CLAW BBQ turns up the flavour midweek with Taco Tuesdays, running from 6pm to midnight. Guests can enjoy unlimited tacos and drinks for BD16, with the option to add unlimited selected beverages for an additional BD3,500.

Come Friday, CLAW's signature brunch brings together food, drinks and entertainment from 12.30pm to 4pm, with tickets starting at BD24. The fun continues afterwards with two additional hours of Happy Hour from 4pm to 6pm.

Meanwhile, Lamar Café and Lounge is open daily and serving its iconic Matcha Latte, with prices starting at BD3,500.

For bookings and more information, contact 33692013.

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

RITZ CARLTON

Meanwhile, Thai Lounge is offering an all-day-can-eat selection of hand-rolled sushi and expertly crafted bites on weekdays from 6pm to 9pm at BD18,500 per person.

If you're looking to cool down, you can head to the pool deck, where an indulgent selection of handcrafted gelato creations is available daily from 10am to 11pm, and is priced at BD7. For sports fans, La Med offers the perfect setting to catch all the action on TV. From Formula 1 and the Tour de France to major football tournaments and sporting events, guests can enjoy a beverage alongside a specially curated day menu.

For the latest viewing schedule, guests can check @ritzcarltonbahrain on Instagram. For bookings and more information, call 17580000 or email rc.bahrz. For reservations, contact @ritzcarlton.com.

FOODS TO SAVOUR



SKILLED: Chef Kiyoshi exhibiting an eye for detail

bubbly package.

For something a little sweeter, Bay View Lounge is transforming afternoon tea into a chocolate lover's dream with its Chocolate Dreamscape Afternoon Tea.

The experience combines savoury bites, handcrafted chocolates, elegant pastries and more. Available daily until October 31, the experience runs from noon to 9pm at BD22 for a regular package or BD26 for the Royal package, including one premium tea and one mocktail.

Meanwhile, Byblos is inviting diners to rediscover Lebanese flavours in a refreshed beachfront setting.

The restaurant will feature lively DJ performances every Thursday and Friday from September 15, running from sunset until midnight. The refreshed à la carte menu brings together Lebanese favourites including mezze, fattah, shawarma and freshly prepared saj bread, alongside an expanded selection of live cooking stations.

For bookings and more information, contact 17115500.

THE PERFECT GETAWAY



RADIANT: The hotel's well-lit interior welcomes guests

AQUA Vista Bahrain has plenty on offer to make this season even more tempting.

Guests can choose between a bed and breakfast package at BHD55net per room per night or a half-board package at BD65net per room per night, both including a complimentary room upgrade.

Guests who book an executive suite will receive an upgrade to a club suite with a balcony, with the bed and breakfast package priced at BD75net per room per night.

Those looking for a day of relaxation can opt for the pool day pass, which includes pool access from 8am to 7pm, waterfront

views and a complimentary beverage. It is priced at BD9,900 per person.

Weekend mornings can be spent with The Waterfront's breakfast buffet, featuring fresh ingredients, live cooking stations and sweeping views. The buffet is available tomorrow, September 11, and Saturday, September 12, from 6.30am to 11am, priced at BD10 per person.

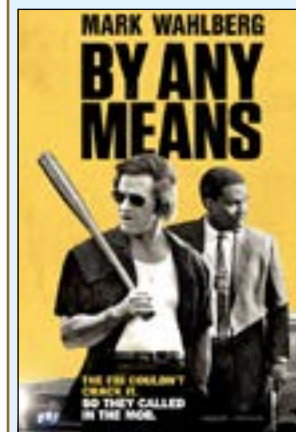
As the day winds down, Maestro Lounge offers a chance to relax with its Happy Hour, available daily from noon to 2am.

Maestro Lounge's Ladies' Night awaits, featuring three complimentary drinks for the ladies. Daily from 5pm to 9pm.

For bookings and more information, contact 17177333.



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



BY ANY MEANS (18+)

The FBI couldn't crack it, so they called in the mob. Forced to work alongside a notorious mafia hitman, a young FBI agent finds himself pulled into a deadly hunt where justice and vengeance begin to blur.

Actors: Mark Wahlberg, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II
Timings: 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

FALL 2: DEADPOINT (PG-15)

Grieving her sister Shiloh's death, Jax Hunter bonds with Shiloh's friend Luce. They tackle Mount Kwan's dangerous plank walk in Thailand. When a rockslide traps them on a narrow plank 3,000 feet up, Jax must face her fears to survive.

Actors: Virginia Gardner, Grace Currey, Harriet Slater
Timings: 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

IT ENDS (15+)

Friends on a late-night food run become trapped on an infinite highway with otherworldly terrors lurking beyond. Confined in their jeep, they must decide whether to accept their fate or attempt escape.

Actors: Mitchell Cole, Akira Jackson, Noah Toth
Timings: 11.30am, 3.30pm, 7.30pm, 11.30pm

STUNNING: Evening views at Brasero Atlántico



ROOFTOP DINING ADVENTURE

SHERATON Bahrain Hotel is inviting guests to enjoy a selection of dining experiences, from sunset drinks and Latin American-inspired flavours to traditional feasts and globally inspired dishes.

At Brasero Atlántico, Atlántico Hour offers a sophisticated rooftop setting, bringing alive the spirit of Latin America. Enjoy bold flavours, expertly crafted bites and refreshing beverages.

With panoramic views of the Manama skyline, the experience

is ideal for after-work gatherings, sunset sips or relaxed evenings with friends. Atlántico Hour is available from Sunday to Thursday, from 4pm to 7pm. Brasero Atlántico is open daily from noon to midnight.

Meanwhile, Golestan Persian Grill celebrates the rich cultural heritage and cuisine with its Royal Golestan Feast Platter, created for special occasions and group gatherings.

The feast features a selection of the restaurant's signature grilled dishes, including Kabab Koobideh, Kabab-e Tikke Masti, Kabab Shishlik lamb chops, served alongside fragrant

saffron rice and grille vegetables.

Available for groups of six or 12, the feast concludes with Golestan's signature saffron ice cream. Golestan is open daily from noon to 11pm.

At WILD, fresh ingredients, bold flavours and globally inspired cuisine come together in a relaxed yet stylish setting. The menu, prepared by the hotel's culinary team and complemented with herbs grown on-site in the hydroponic garden, takes inspiration from global flavours. Highlights include Peruvian-style smoked cauliflower with lentil chimichurri, char-grilled



RUSTIC: A traditional feast being prepared at Golestan

miso eggplant and a grilled seafood platter.

Guests can enjoy WILD's breakfast buffet daily from 7am to 10.30am, with pool access also available. From Sunday to Thursday, lunch is served from noon to 4pm, providing an option for business meetings and casual gatherings.

In the evenings, WILD offers its à la carte menu until 9pm, with guests able to choose between indoor and terrace seating.

For bookings and more information, contact 17533533 or 38885408.

Pulse of Pop

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

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE NEWSROOM

THE second season of mockumentary series *The Paper* is out now.

Co-created by Greg Daniels and Michael Koman, the 10 new episodes are set to premiere on a number of streaming services, including *NBC's Peacock*, *Apple TV* and *Amazon Prime Video*.

Taking place in Ohio, *The Office* sitcom spin-off tackles the happenings at Toledo Truth-Teller, a once well-respected newspaper that is now declining and shares a floor with a toilet paper brand.

Editor-in-chief Ned Sampson (Domhnall Gleeson) wants to hire more reporters to expand coverage. However, he is unable to do so due to budget constraints and resorts to get the office's

accountants, salespeople and truck drivers to volunteer as reporters, while also doing their paid jobs.

After sweeping the Ohio Journalism Awards, the new season sees Ned searching for a journalistic crusade while he and co-worker Mare Pritti (Chelsea Frei) try to figure out their romantic attraction.

Meanwhile, managing editor Esmeralda Grand (Sabrina Impacciatore) is struggling to find her place within the paper while the once unqualified staff she undermined gradually mature as reporters.

In an interview, Sabrina teased that the audience will get to see more of her character's personality, which would showcase her soft side that is concealed

by her sassy behaviour.

"Hopefully, people will understand her fragility, her vulnerability," she said.

"Sometimes people who look resplendent outside, like a cactus, it has those spines, but inside there is that sweet liquid. And so I see her like a kind of succulent," she added.

Reprising his role as Oscar Martinez, Oscar Nuñez has also hinted at the possibility of the ex Dunder Mifflin accountant, who is traumatised by his previous invasive work environment, turning a new leaf.

I think he's always been a pragmatist and he's in a new town and he just hopes for the best. And so I think it's a plus for him to even make friends at this new place, begrudgingly and despite himself," he noted.



REPORTERS: The series' poster

Duo on the dark side

ROMANTIC fantasy sequel film *Practical Magic 2* is out now in theatres.

Set 25 years after the 1998 release's events, Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman reprise their roles as sisters Sally and Gillian Owens, descendants from a long line of witches, who are raised by their aunts after their parents' death from a family curse.

The new story follows the duo as they face a new crisis when Sally's daughter Kylie, portrayed by Joey King, uncovers hidden secrets regarding the Owens' family history and origins of their magic, and begins to develop her own dark abilities.

In an interview, the long-time friends and actresses expressed their thought process behind approaching the second instalment and bringing back their characters after a long time.

"We forget that our mothers and



WITCHES: Sandra and Nicole portraying their characters

grandmothers were young women with dreams and hopes and desires as well," Sandra said.

"And we never looked at them as human beings like that. They were just mom and grandma. So in this, we get to look behind the curtain and go, 'I didn't know you felt that way, I didn't know you were longing'."

"I remember being on the phone and we were like, 'Okay, what's the story? Why should we make it?'"

And we just started riffing," Nicole recounted.

"A lot of it was based on how every family carries something and how do you deal with it and remove the patterns that have been existing for so long from generation to generation? As sisters, we were both like, 'Oh yeah, you now carry the family as people pass and move on.' That was something that I so related to," she added.

Personal reflections

BAHRAIN-BASED author Hemendra Killawala's new book *Oceans of Notions from the Shah of Blah* has hit the shelves, writes Melissa Nazareth.

The phrases 'Oceans of Notions' and the 'Shah of Blah' are popular nicknames for the professional storyteller Rashid Khalifa in Salman Rushdie's 1990 children's novel *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*.

Hemendra uses them as an homage to explore life's deepest questions, blending personal stories, poetry, and a contemplative concept he calls Zehen ('mind'). The Indian expatriate and wordsmith believes there is a little 'Shah of Blah' in all of us – a part that overthinks, overanalyses and carries endless 'internal commentary' about life.

"The book is a collection of experiences, observations and questions accumulated over a lifetime," the 59-year-old from Juffair told *GulfWeekly*.

"Gradually, these reflections found a voice, further enriched



AUTHOR: Hemendra with his new book

by Urdu shayari (poetry) that is naturally a part of me. My love for it comes from my late father, who was fluent in Urdu.

"If there is one thought I would like readers to take away, it is: you are allowed to be a work in progress and still be enough," added the Bahrain resident of four years.

The book, released in April 2026 by Puffins Publishers, is available on *Amazon India*. It was preceded by his self-published title, *Tales from Talegaon and Other Short Stories*.



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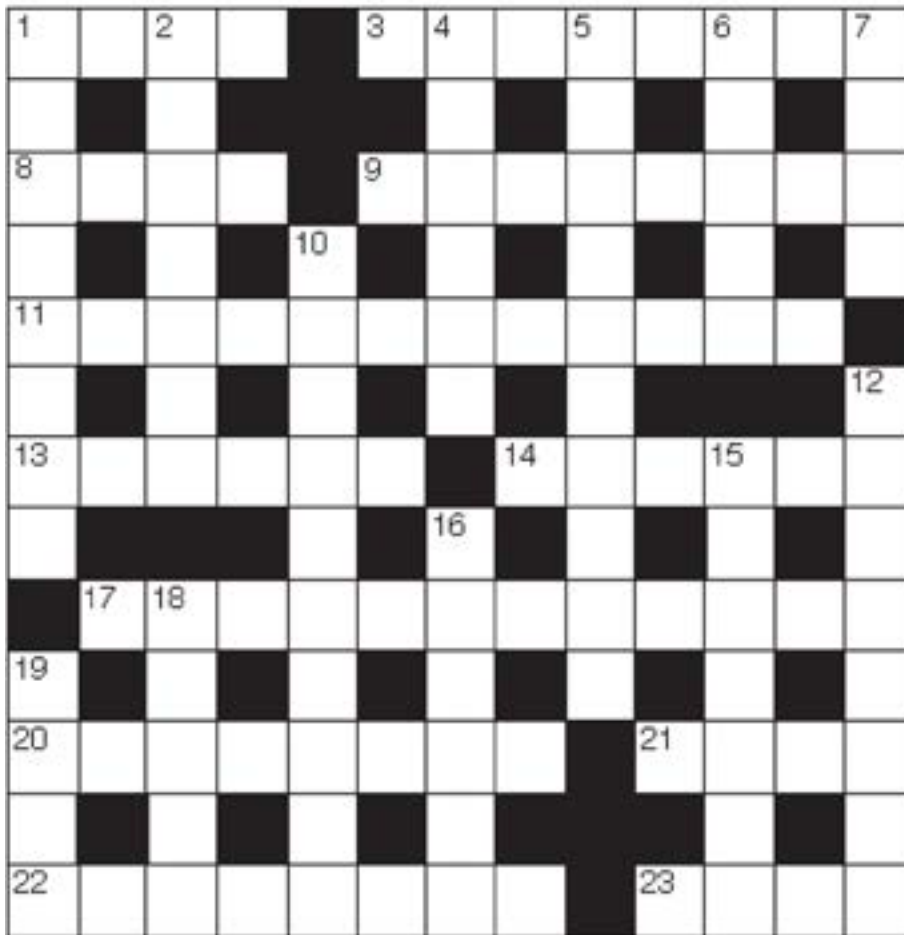
Time Out



Hilal Computers

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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Cook (4)
3. Far on (8)
8. Tidy (4)
9. Scholarly (8)
11. Preliminary (12)
13. Get away (6)
14. Trumpet (6)
17. Speeding up (12)
20. Uncatable (8)
21. Couch (4)
22. Explode (8)
23. Sell (4)

DOWN

1. Think (8)
2. Resilient (7)
4. Diversion (6)
5. Extra (10)
6. Singers (5)
7. Twilight (4)
10. Fulfilment (10)
12. Flag (8)
15. Offensive (7)
16. Little ball (6)
18. Ridge (5)
19. Discover (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... released the singles *Bad Day* and *Free Loop* in 2005 from his eponymous debut album?
WHAT ... is the name of the Market Capitalisation-Weighted Index on the Mumbai Stock Exchange?
WHERE ... do the English football team West Bromwich Albion play their home games?
WHEN ... did Sir Richard Dearlove take over as the head of MI6?
WHO ... was a member of Hear'Say and had hoped to represent the UK at the Eurovision Song Contest in 2006?
WHAT ... is the character name of Ricky Gervais in the comedy show *Extras*?
WHERE ... was the lateral thinker Edward de Bono born?
WHEN ... did England win the Rugby World Cup?

just so

@ 1/4/4/4/4



an early 19th-century word

**lean
sdraw**

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Frustration; 9 Retired; 10 Steer; 11 Visit; 12 Lasting; 13 Slight; 15 Boggle; 18 Orderly; 20 Avert; 22 Again; 23 Twitter; 24 Intermingle.

Down: 2 Rites; 3 Stretch; 4 Riddle; 5 Tasks; 6 Opening; 7 Provisional; 8 Fragmentary; 14 Indrawn; 16 Ovation; 17 System; 19 Range; 21 Extol.

JUST SO:

Faint praise, A pat on the back, High and dry, Income tax

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Dick Cheney; The Futurist; The Bahamas; Wimbledon 2004, Dean Koontz; Graffiti art; Tanzania; 1986

Darn Tough Sudoku

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