

A GROUP of Indians passionate about cricket is set to kick off the fifth season of their self-created community league championship on Saturday, inspired by the glitz and glamour of the Indian Premier League (IPL), write Avinash Saxena and Melissa Nazareth.

The Abraj Premier League (APL) will see six teams – Abraj Strikers, Abraj Gladiators, Abraj Supergiants, Abraj Rocking Royals, Abraj Violets, and Abraj Daredevils – fight for the winner’s trophy in a fierce yet friendly series of matches at Water Garden City in Seef District.

Two matches will be played every Saturday until December 7, when the league takes a winter break. Play will resume on January 7 next year with the final scheduled for February 22. Each of the six teams will play a total of 10 matches, facing off twice in a home and away format. The top four teams will qualify for the next stage, with the table topper getting two chances to qualify for a spot in the final.

Cricket is a bat-and-ball game that is played between two teams of 11 players.

The league, registered with Bahrain Cricket Federation, was founded by seven residents of Abraj Al Lulu residential complex: Abhishek Srivastava, Atul Malhotra, Ashwani Bhatia, Manish Jangid, Rohit Srivastava, Vinit Maroo and Vinod Rathi, mirroring the excitement and competitiveness of the IPL, a men’s Twenty20-format cricket league held annually in India.



EASY VIEWING: Screenshot of a past match live streamed on the CricHeroes app

Howzat!

VICTORY: APL 4 winners Abraj Violets



“What started as a casual gathering of friends eager to play cricket in an organised manner has evolved into a six-team spectacle involving 84 amateur players,” chartered accountant Vinod told *GulfWeekly*.

“The Abraj Premier League’s appeal has resonated with the Indian

expat community, attracting participants of all ages, as young as 15 and as old as 58,” he added.

According to Vinod, membership to the club is only open to Indian Abraj Al Lulu residents as there is a common cultural heritage that creates a sense of community. Vinod, Vinit, Ashwani, and Manish have been joined by Ankit Bhutda, Rakesh Bhujang, Surendra Singh Jaggi and Vinay Gupta in the club’s current executive committee.

Like the IPL, the APL conducted an auction in a competitive bidding process with team captains using virtual money to purchase

players to form their teams.

“Players are graded based on past performance, with newcomers starting in the lowest grade. We list them with base prices, and teams bid for their desired players within their budget. Teams must also adhere to player category limits. The highest bidder wins the player,” chartered accountant Ashwani explained.



SPORTY STYLE: Team uniforms

One of the key factors behind the league’s growth has been its commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive environment. It has served as a platform for social interaction, cultural exchange and community building.

“We are a diverse group, hailing from all parts of India, speak different languages at home, have different religious beliefs, but what we have in common is our passion for the sport,” risk management executive Vinit noted.

The upcoming season has seen a surge in interest, with sponsors coming on board to support the tournament.

Two trophies and a range of prizes are up for grabs.

“As the league’s organisers, we have made a lot of effort in fostering a positive and competitive environment, ensuring that everyone feels

welcome and valued,” entrepreneur Manish added.

Despite challenges like Bahrain’s scorching heat, the organisers have worked tirelessly to create suitable playing conditions. Matches are played on improvised cricket grounds on vacant plots of land with artificial turf laid on a cement surface to make the pitch.

APL has helped to raise awareness of cricket as a sport in Bahrain, and the league’s success has demonstrated the potential for grassroots sports development in the kingdom, paving the way for other community-driven initiatives. To follow the tournament, download the CricHeroes app.



TREASURY OF TALES Continuing the collection SEE PAGE 2



THINK PINK! Cancer awareness month SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE Dining & entertainment SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP Music, movies & more SEE PAGE 6



FAMILY FUN: Spouses and children at a past game supporting the players

The tales must go on

BOOK REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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A new treasure trove of tales from all walks of life across Bahrain is being put together, with the storyteller behind 100 Bahrain Stories hard at work on a sequel to her popular anthology.

Australian expatriate Tanzeel Jabbar-Khadir, 45, has started collecting stories for the new book, hoping to capture another snapshot of time in a more technologically advanced and post-pandemic Bahrain.

“The last 100 Bahrain Stories ran between 2016 and 2018,” she told *GulfWeekly*.

“It was a snapshot of a moment in time.

“Bahrain has evolved since then.

“Perspectives on life have shifted in the post-pandemic, technologically advanced world we are living in and I thought it would be interesting to capture this.”

In this edition, Tanzeel will continue to collect stories from all strata of society - the three tales she has shared so far on the book’s *Instagram* include Bangladeshi fruit-seller Mohammad Saleem Ahmed, Bahraini entrepreneurs Jaffer and Khulood and Russian artist-engineer Irina Kotova.

“In the previous anthology, I initially chose not to include participants’ names when posting the stories on social media, believing it was more important to focus on their content rather than preconceptions about the individuals,” she explained.

“This was meant to create a level playing field, showing that each story was equally valuable. However, this decision sparked many questions, and I later added the names in the published book as a gesture of appreciation.

“While still committed to the idea of a level-playing field, this time, I’ve accepted the feedback from my audience and have decided to include the names from the outset.

“It’s important to me to include a diverse range of experiences, highlighting how people, regardless of their background, are more



FEATURED: Khulood and Jaffer, Bahraini husband-wife entrepreneur couple who were interviewed for the second story in the new volume

alike than different and their stories are equally valuable. This diversity enriches the collection, reflecting shared human experiences across different walks of life.”

Most interviews that Tanzeel conducts are in English with anyone she might find interesting, although being fluent in Hindi and Urdu also helps her connect with those more comfortable in those languages.

When interviewing people in Arabic, she relies on friends to help her interpret and make the process easy and smooth for each person.

In June this year, Tanzeel released a reprint of the original 100 Bahrain Stories, first printed in 2018, including within it a small tribute to those who had since passed away, like late journalist and entrepreneur Abdullah Jonathan Wallace.

In his foreword to the original book, Abdullah had spoken of how it reflected “not only the broad spectrum of the multinational community of expatriates living in Bahrain today, but the diversity of Bahrainis themselves, whose ancestry has been shaped over five millennia of recorded history.”

With stories from nationals hailing from Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh,

Belarus, Belgium, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, the UK and the US, the book was a true mosaic of the kingdom’s cultural canvas, and Tanzeel got a glowing response to the reprint as well.

“The response to the reprint of the first book has been overwhelmingly

positive,” she added.

“It’s resonating not only with the original audience but also with new readers discovering the stories for the first time.

“I love receiving messages of support from those rediscovering or engaging with the collection. Even people who weren’t living in Bahrain during the initial project are now connecting with it.

“The diversity of voices and perspectives continues to resonate widely, making the reprint feel truly worthwhile.” Tanzeel is currently completing a graduate degree in writing, with a focus on how personal perspectives shape

“It’s important to me to include a diverse range of experiences, highlighting how people, regardless of their background, are more alike than different and their stories are equally valuable.”



PENSIVE: Irina’s portrait accompanying her story in the new collection



AUTHOR: Tanzeel

stories, and is hoping to integrate lessons from her studies into her stories.

The first volume of 100 Bahrain Stories is available at Jashanmal

bookstores, Bahrain International Airport and the Bahrain Fort gift shop.

For more details, follow @bahrain_stories on Instagram.



GulfWeekly is continuing its ‘Speak Your Mind’ feature series where we invite you, our family of readers, to share your mental health concerns and challenges on a chosen subject, with our experts who will respond to a selection of them. Together, let’s get the conversation started! October’s topic is: ‘The mental health impact on individuals and families living with or battling cancer.’ Some points to ponder: Fear, anger and confusion over the uncertainty of life. The financial strain of treatment and the

emotional impact of witnessing the ordeal. The pressure of ‘showing up’ for day-to-day activities amidst the gamut of emotions. Share your thoughts in no more than 100 words by emailing gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on Instagram by October 30. We will publish a selection of the comments received in *GulfWeekly* and the top submission will win a box of Raw Candy vegan chocolates as a token of our appreciation.

* Congratulations to our September winner Hanah!

In the pink of health



COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNERS: From left, Travis, Julie, Bahrain Rugby Football Club sponsorship manager Ashleigh Aitken, and RCSI marketing, communications, student recruitment and admissions head Adam Wallace

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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AS Bahrain shines a 'pink' spotlight on breast cancer awareness this month, Think Pink: Bahrain Breast Cancer Society is set to stage a series of events in support of the cause.

Breast cancer is a disease in which abnormal breast cells grow out of control and form tumours.

This year, the global campaign is being driven under the theme 'No-one should face breast cancer alone'.

Every year, Think

Pink Bahrain, a non-governmental organisation founded by Dr Julie Sprakel, is at the forefront of the national campaign against the illness.

"From staging a 'one-off' dinner in 2004, which raised BD10,500, to completing 20 years in the kingdom this year, it's been a fulfilling journey, and the community support towards the cause has only grown stronger," the society's president Julie told *GulfWeekly*.

This year, the charity is organising a range of activities in collaboration with its Platinum Sponsors – the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Bahrain (RCSI), Bahrain Rugby Football Club, Gulf Brands International (GBI), and Gulf Hotels Group – to raise awareness about the disease and funds for breast cancer treatment, equipment and research.

RCSI is committed to advancing cancer research, thereby supporting evidence-based practices and enhancing Think Pink Bahrain's data-driven

campaigns. The university has collaborated with the charity since 2006 and will host expert-led lectures on campus, and raise donations through the sale of Think Pink Bahrain's merchandise, as well as tickets for themed giveaways and activities hosted on campus this year.

"We are proud to collaborate with Think Pink Bahrain in the fight against breast cancer," RCSI nursing and midwifery school head and community engagement committee chair professor Kathryn Strachan said.

"Together, we are making a meaningful impact on the health and well-being of the community, while empowering individuals with

the knowledge and resources needed to address one of the most prevalent health challenges facing women today," she added.

Bahrain Rugby Football Club will be organising a series of tournaments, including one specifically for women, at the club's premises in Janabiya, with supporting activities for Think Pink Bahrain running alongside the events.

"Bahrain Rugby Football Club has been proud to partner with Think Pink Bahrain over the years to



JOINING THE CAUSE: Mr Szczowka with GDN Media client editor Jayne Houghton

support their important work in raising awareness and funds for breast cancer research and support services," club general manager Paul Terblanche said.

"Rugby is a sport that brings our community together, and we believe it's vital to use that platform to shine a light on critical health causes like this one. Through joint fundraising events, jersey sponsorships, and other initiatives, we've been honoured to play a small role in the fight against breast cancer."

GBI has sponsored the Think Pink Gala dinners for over a decade and this year, the event will be hosted on October 25, marking the

charity's 20-year anniversary in Bahrain.

"At GBI, we believe in the importance of supporting causes that make a meaningful difference in people's lives. That's why we are honoured to once again be a Platinum Sponsor for the Think Pink 20th anniversary," general manager Travis Thompson noted.

Returning after a seven-year gap, the Think Pink Gala will be a glitzy black-tie event and major fundraising initiative, featuring an auction and raffle with exciting prizes.

"As part of our corporate social responsibility initiatives, we are proud to support the Bahrain breast cancer society (Think Pink Bahrain) through community engagement," Gulf Hotels Group chief executive Ahmed Janahi said.

"Our contributions aim to enhance awareness campaigns, fund educational programmes, and provide resources for early detection and support for patients. By partnering with this vital organisation, we strive to empower the local community, promote health education, and contribute to the fight against breast



cancer, ultimately fostering a culture of awareness and support in Bahrain."

GDN Media has been a supporter of the fight against breast cancer, and Think Pink Bahrain over the years. And *GulfWeekly*, part of *GDN Media*, continues to spotlight the cause every year.

"We are delighted to support Think Pink Bahrain in its 2024 endeavours to

raise awareness about breast cancer as well as funds for research and treatment. We always receive a tremendous response from readers to our community campaigns and I am positive that together we can make a difference once again," *GDN Media* managing editor Stanley Szczowka said.

For details, follow @thinkpinkbahrain on Instagram.

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 name given to a breast X-ray?
2. In which film will you find the 'Pink Ladies'?
3. Which pink mayonnaise-based salad dressing is flavoured with tomatoes and green peppers?
4. On which remote group of islands can the pink land iguana be found?
5. In which South American country is the presidential palace known as the Pink House?



6. Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin funded which 1975 movie?
7. What type of fruit is a Pink Lady?

- ANSWERS**
1. Mammogram
 2. Grease
 3. Thousand Islands
 4. Galapagos Islands
 5. Argentina
 6. Monty Python and the Holy Grail
 7. Apple

The most important aspect of breast self-examination is being breast aware.

- Look for
- A lump
 - A bump
 - A rash
 - An orange peel area
 - Certain colour discharge from the nipple – clear or white is normal. If it is a light brown or a red, it doesn't mean you have breast cancer, but it needs to be investigated.

For tutorials and other resources, download the free iCheck – Think Pink Bahrain app available on *Android* and *Apple*.

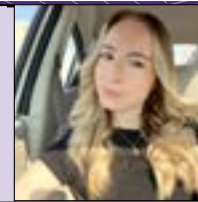
For details about the events throughout this month, check out *GulfWeekly* on Thursdays.

WARNING SIGNS



Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



RITZ LINES UP TEAS AND TREATS FOR PINK OCTOBER

JOIN the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain for an enchanting weekend of memorable experiences and delicious food.

The Ritz Gourmet Lounge and Lobby Lounge is hosting the Pink Afternoon Tea to celebrate breast cancer awareness month. It will feature delicate flavours, exquisite teas and delightful pink treats.

It costs BD28 for Floral Afternoon Tea, inclusive of two beverages, or BD31 for Bubbly Floral Afternoon Tea, inclusive of two grape beverages.

It is available until October 31, from 3pm to 7pm.

Meanwhile, guests can experience the taste of London with a special touch of pink at the hotel's new Big Ben Brunch in La Med.

The brunch promises to



SWEET: Flavours galore at the hotel's Pink Brunch



BEST OF BRITAIN: Dine amidst enchanting décor at La Med

transport your taste buds across the Atlantic with a feast of British favourites and international flavours tomorrow, from 1pm to 4pm.

Immerse yourself in the charm of London as you

dine amidst enchanting décor, featuring iconic landmarks such as Big Ben, the London Bridge and the classic red phone booth.

The experience costs BD33, inclusive of soft beverages, BD44 inclusive

of a selected beverage package and BD60 for a bubbly brunch.

Children aged four to 12 can dine for BD16.500.

Cantina Kahlo invites guests to join its Brunch Fiesta, a vibrant event filled

with spectacular Mexican flavours and authentic dishes. Savour the taste of Mexico with a lively Mariachi band setting the perfect vibe.

It costs BD25 per person, including soft beverages and

BD35 including selected beverages, on Saturday 1pm to 4pm.

For more information and bookings contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG

HEAD down to Al Jasra Handicrafts Centre for a range of fun workshops.

The Young Artisan-Embroidery on Paper workshop will teach children, aged eight to 12, umpteen ways to get creative with paper.

It will be held on Monday, from 4pm to 6pm, in Arabic and English.

Young adults aged 18 and above can join another workshop that teaches participants how to make pottery using the wheel. They will learn about the types of pottery and the tools used in shaping, discover methods of pottery wedging and kneading, and ways to sculpt items. The creative sessions will be held on Saturday, from 10am to 12.30pm.

Meanwhile, citizens can learn some new skills at a Traditional Boat Making



Workshop, to be held on Saturday, from 10am to 12.30pm. It aims to identify the types of wood used for manufacturing boats while also teaching ways to chop and carve on pieces of wood. The event is open to those aged 14 and above.

ICONIC GERMAN DELIGHTS TO EXPLORE AT FOUR SEASONS

THE Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay has lined up spectacular events that are sure to make your weekend a special one.

Don't miss out on Bahrain Bay Kitchen's Oktoberfest Brunch, a bountiful feast featuring iconic German specialties tomorrow, from 1pm to 4pm. It costs BD35 including soft beverages or BD48 inclusive of a selected beverage package. Children under six dine with the hotel's compliments and those aged six to 12 can enjoy a 50 per cent discount.

Join Bahrain Bay Kitchen for its Pink October Brunch in honour of breast cancer awareness month.

The day will feature pink-themed dishes and an exquisite selection of appetisers, mains and delicious desserts. A percentage of the funds will be donated to Bahrain Cancer Society.

The special brunch will be available on October 11, 18 and 28, from 1pm to 4pm and costs BD35 including soft beverages and BD48 inclusive of a selected beverage package.

Children under six dine with the hotel's compliments and those aged six to 12 enjoy 50pc savings.

The hotel is also hosting a 'Hope in Motion' event, which promotes physical activity as a way to reduce the risk of cancers and other diseases. All the funds will be donated to Bahrain Cancer Society. It will be held on October 12, 3pm to 7pm.

A 'Dance for Hope' will also take place on October 19 from 10am to 3pm and costs BD10.

Guests can discover a symphony of notes through a spectacular week of dining experiences by Wolfgang Puck at re/Asian Cuisine, Blue Moon Lounge, CUT by



SPECTACULAR: Delicious bites at the hotel's Oktoberfest Brunch

Wolfgang Puck and CUT Lounge, until October 5, 1pm to 11pm.

Indulge in an exquisite tea experience at Bay View Lounge, from noon to 11pm. It costs BD18 per person and BD22 inclusive of sparkling apple juice.

Enjoy a range of relaxing treatments at the hotel's spa this month, everyday from 10am to 10pm. The price ranges from BD70 to BD95.

For more information and bookings, call 17115500, 17115044, 17115046.

SIZZLING STEAK EXPERIENCE

HEAD down to the Royal Golf Club (RGC) for a weekend of delightful dining experiences.

Dig into premium steaks, all cooked to perfection, at Links Steak Night, every Wednesday, from 6pm. It's priced a la carte.

Guests can also satisfy their sweet tooth cravings with the club's decadent cakes and desserts. Order your cake today at 32184647.

All orders must be placed 24 hours in advance.

For more information or bookings, contact 39007546.



DECADENT: Cakes and desserts at RGC

Weekly Entertainment

Culture Weekly

Embrace nature

ART REPORT
By RIMA ALHADDAD
rima@gdnmedia.bh

A BAHRAIN-BASED creative is hoping to spread his love for nature through art and is currently hosting workshops for aspiring artists on the island.

Egyptian interior designer and painter Mustafa Abobakr is passionate about bringing landscapes alive, which according to him comes from his experience growing up in his hometown, surrounded by nature.

"I grew up next to a river, so all my visual memory consists of greenery, landscapes and the Nile," the 38-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

"I believe your surroundings, as you grow up, shape who you are as a person and I think if I were born near a desert, for example, I would be a different person and would have had different influences. Growing up around bodies of water and greenery has turned me into a calm person," he said.

Mustafa strongly believes nature can positively impact the human mind and soul.

"I believe every house in Bahrain needs a green painting because the colour makes a huge difference to one's wellbeing and regulates their emotions, just like how looking at nature in real life does. That's what I hope people feel when they look at a painting I made," the Adliya resident added.

The creative talent also finds inspiration in paintings from the renaissance era and says the details and techniques in 'such divine art' never fail to



TALENT: Mustafa



HOME: A house painted by Mustafa

fascinate him. "I frequent Italy to surround myself with renaissance art, specifically the Vatican museum," he said.

"I spend around five to six hours studying its corners and pieces. I admire the colouring techniques and mediums and the amazing artists from that era, such as Leonardo Da Vinci.

"One renaissance technique

around 60 per cent to 70pc confident," he explained.

The landscape artist has been passionate about art since childhood, however his family wanted him to pursue a degree in engineering.

"So I settled for something in between, which is interior design," the Minia University graduate added.

A member of the Egyptian Fine Arts Syndicate and Bahrain Contemporary Art Association, Mustafa is currently conducting acrylic on canvas workshop and a furniture design course, both at Art Concept gallery in Andalus Garden.

Mustafa moved to Bahrain for work 15 years ago.

"I was working on projects with Saudi companies after I graduated and eventually came to Bahrain. I fell in love with the country and made a lot of good friends and so I moved here," he said.

A fan of classical art, he calls the lovely country a 'home away from home'.

Mustafa has been conducting art and design sessions for children and adults over the last nine years. He also hosts acrylic painting workshops and believes 'everybody is an artist'.

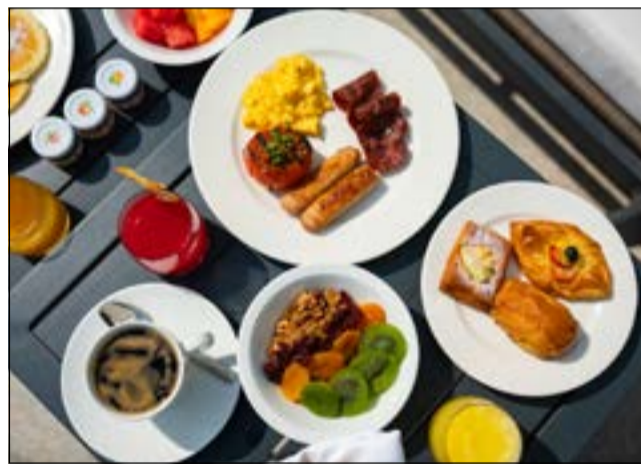
"I want everyone to join art classes and I believe it's good for our well-being.

We are constantly busy on our phones and social media. It's important to put your phone aside and reflect your feelings on a painting. Everybody can do it, all you need is to find the best medium and artistic direction, whatever makes you comfortable, and not think about others' judgement," he added.

For more details on the artist and workshops, follow @artconceptbh and @mbakrart on Instagram.



ALL SET: A chef at his station at the brunch



FANTASTIC: Breakfast spread at Hilton Bahrain

PAN ASIAN DELIGHTS ON HILTON'S MENU

GET ready to enjoy an array of enticing events at Hilton Bahrain this month.

Oktoberfest is back with promises of a memorable experience for guests, with treats, beverages and good vibes, every Friday of this month, from 12.30pm to 4pm. It costs BD39 with unlimited selected beverages and BD28 with unlimited soft beverages at Origin Kitchen and Culture.

The restaurant is also celebrating the unique flavours of Asian cuisine with its Pan Asian Night, every Wednesday, 7pm to 10pm. Explore Japanese, Chinese, Indian and Thai delicacies, among others. The tantalising spread costs BD22net with unlimited soft beverages and BD28net with unlimited selected beverages.

Meanwhile, Origin Kitchen and Culture invites guests to try out its Seafood Night, which features the freshest catch and live cooking stations tonight, 7pm to 10pm. It's priced at BD32net

with unlimited selected beverages and BD25net with unlimited soft beverages.

A spectacular spread of breakfast favourites is also available at the same location tomorrow, 6.30am to 10.30am.

Late risers can also enjoy a sumptuous breakfast on Saturday from 6.30am to 11.30am. Both events cost BD13 per person.

Start your weekend off right at Block 44's Afro Series tonight from 9pm to 2am. A 50 per cent discount will be applied on drinks from 9pm to 11pm and ladies can enjoy two free beverages.

They will also receive two complimentary beverages at Block 44's Salsa Nights, tomorrow, from 9pm to 2pm.

Discover a new definition of nightlife at the hotel's Society Club, Monday to Saturday, from 9pm to 2am.

Don't miss out on Hip Hop and R&B Night with DJ Aaron Wolf on Wednesday, from 9pm to 2am. Ladies get two free drinks.

For bookings and enquiries call 33692013 or 33690081.



VISUAL: Memories artistically expressed



HOMES: Bringing alive personal spaces

Pulse of Pop

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

A MERICAN musical psychological thriller film *Joker: Folie à Deux* (French for 'madness of two') is now out in theatres.

Starring Joaquin Phoenix reprising his role as Arthur Fleck, known as Joker, and Lady Gaga as his love interest Harleen 'Lee' Quinzel or Harley Quinn, the DC comics-based film is set two years after the events of the 2019 crime drama, *Joker*.

It follows the now Arkham State Hospital patient as he falls in love with fellow inmate, resulting in the two experiencing life as a musical through their linked insanity.

Despite the 2019 film being intended as a standalone with no sequels, director Todd Phillips had revealed that Joaquin pushed for the idea of a sequel because he did not feel ready to leave the character behind.

"I remember I posted a picture from the last day of the first *Joker* many years ago, and Joaquin was hugging me with tears in his eyes," Todd said in an interview.

"That's not because he wasn't going to see me again; that was really because we kind of fell in love with Arthur, and we thought there was more to tell in Arthur's journey," he added.

In June 2022, it was officially announced by the director that the sequel was in development.

BONDED BY MUSIC AND MADNESS



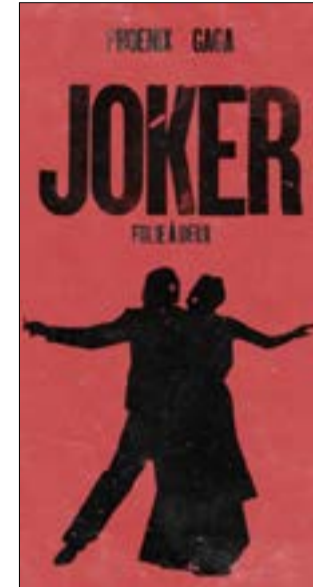
MUSICAL: Joaquin and Gaga in a promotional poster for the movie

On August 4 of that year, Gaga took to social media to officially announce her involvement in the film.

The actress and singer also released an album inspired

by the DC comic character, titled *Harlequin*, on Friday, and said the project came up as she was 'not done with Harley' when the filming wrapped up.

"This idea of dual identities was always something that was part of my music-making, I was always creating characters in my music and when I made Lee

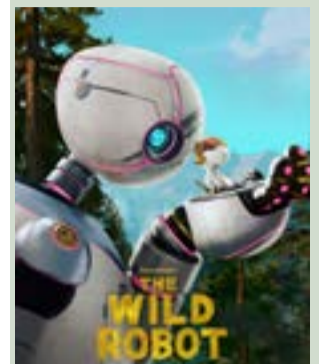


for *Joker*, she just really had this profound effect on me," Gaga said in an interview.

"The film had so much music in it, so much music that I love, and I was able to discover the character through the story, through the music that we did live every day as well as dance and the costumes and the makeup.

"So I kind of had this deep experience with the character and she just didn't really leave me creatively and I decided I wanted to make a whole album inspired by her," she added.

MOVIE TIME



H EAD down to CINECO Seef to watch some of the English language films being shown this weekend.

JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX (15+)

The film finds Arthur Fleck institutionalised at Arkham awaiting trial for his crimes as Joker. While struggling with his dual identity, Arthur not only stumbles upon true love, but also finds the music that's always been inside him.

Actors: Joaquin Phoenix, Zazie Beetz, Lady Gaga
Timings: 11pm, 11.30pm

BAGMAN (PG-15)

When a sinister threat from his childhood returns to haunt him, a father desperately struggles against his deeper inner fear. Only this time, the fight isn't for himself; it's for his family.

Actors: Sam Claflin, Frankie Corio, Steven Cree

Timings: 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm

MR-9: DO OR DIE (PG-15)

The story follows Masud Rana (ABM Sumon), a special agent for the Bangladesh Central Intelligence Agency known as BCO Agent Mr-9.

He has been tasked with investigating the terrorist group known as the TLF and their connection to the high-tech company RNR Robotics, owned by billionaire brothers.

Actors: Frank Grillo, Michael White, Matt Passmore

Timings: 7.30pm, 9.45pm, midnight

THE WILD ROBOT (PG)

Shipwrecked on a deserted island, a robot named Roz must learn to adapt to its new surroundings. Building relationships with the native animals, Roz soon develops a parental bond with an orphaned gosling.

Actors: Lupita Nyong'o, Pedro Pascal, Catherine O'Hara

Timings: 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

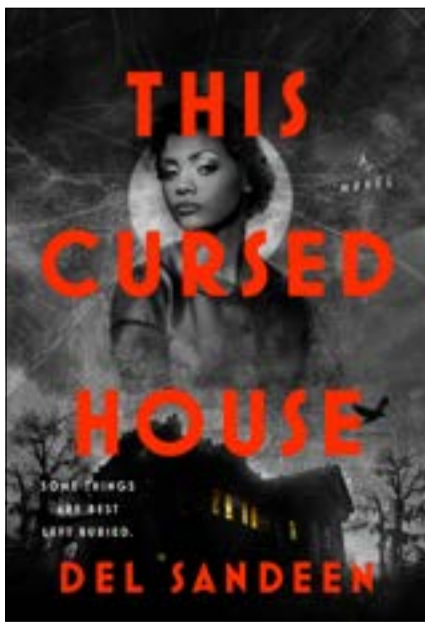
BREAKING A CURSE

H ORROR novel *This Cursed House* by Del Sandeen is set to hit the shelves on October 8.

Set in the 1960s, the plot follows 27-year-old Jemma Barker who abandons her life in Chicago for a job position in New Orleans with the Duchon family in hopes to start over, and escape the spirits she has always been able to see ... only to find

out they are depending on her to break a curse they have been under.

"If stories about New Orleans, ghosts, curses, decrepit mansions and weird families are your thing, you'll be all set for spooky season!" Del shared on social



media.

Specialising in speculative fiction, Del's previous work include young adult books, *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: Joined by Fate*, *Coping with Racial Profiling* and *Maya Angelou: Writer and Activist*.

SPECTACULAR: Coldplay performing live



TO THE MOON AND BACK

B RITISH rock band Coldplay's 10th studio album, *Moon Music*, comes out tomorrow.

Referred to as Volume 2 of their space-themed concept project *Music of the Spheres*, *Moon Music* serves as a sequel to the band's ninth album titled *From Earth with Love*, released in 2021.

The 10-track album's closure *One World* is set to feature a number of Coldplay fans who were asked by the band to record and submit their singing through the band's website, provided by a video that served as a guide.

"We have nearly finished *Moon Music*. If you'd like to be on it too, perhaps you could add your voice to a song called *One World*," the band had said in a statement.

"All you have to do is record yourself

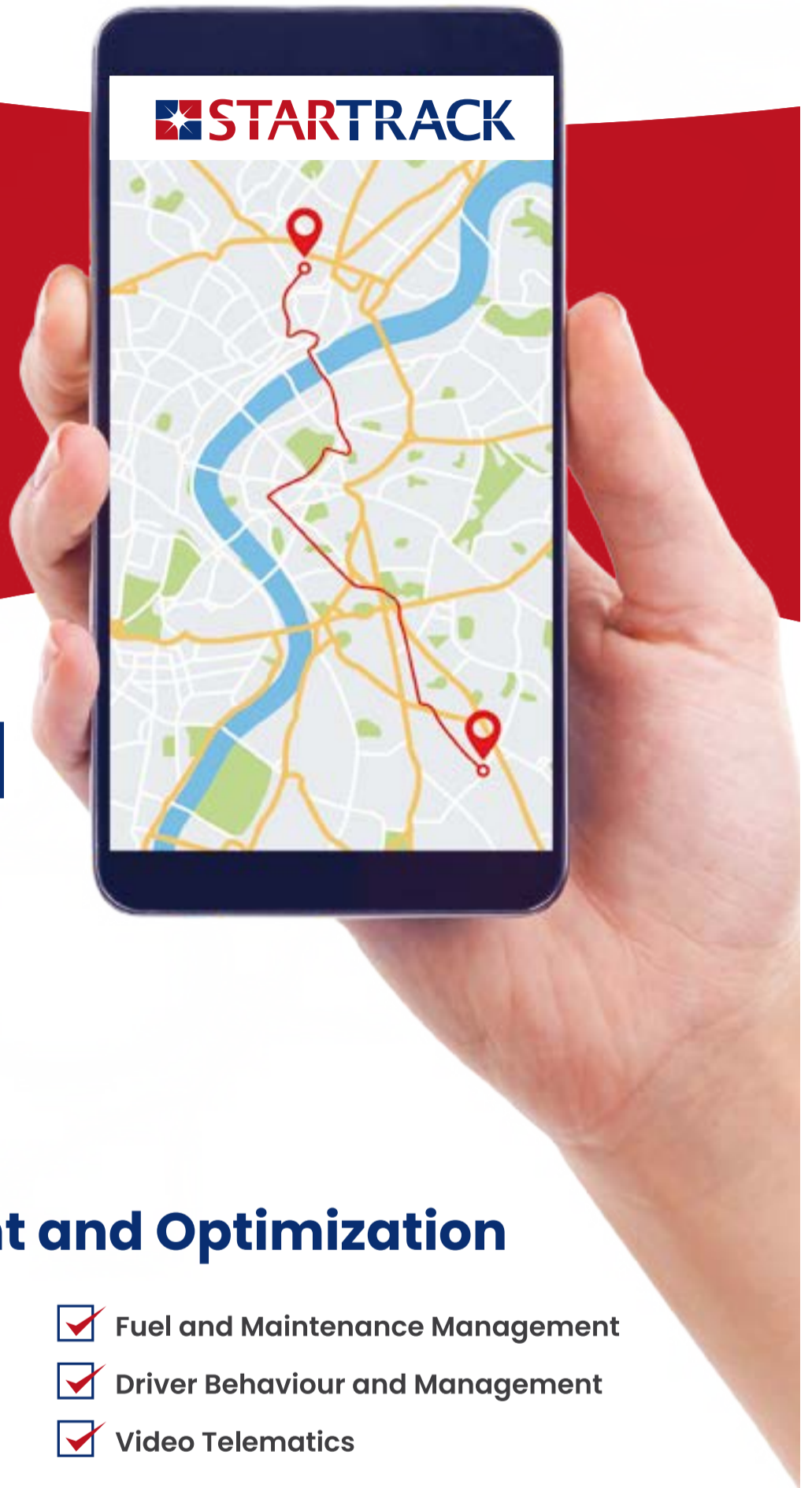
singing 'Ahhhhh' for a few seconds. You can either copy the note on the site, or sing a G or C in any octave."

The Grammy Award-winning band was formed in London in 1997 and consists of vocalist and pianist Chris Martin, guitarist Jonny Buckland, bassist Guy Berryman, and drummer and percussionist Will Champion. They are known for experimenting with music genres and creative ideas throughout their career, as well as their magnificent stadium live performances that use fireworks, lasers, confetti canons and LED wristbands that guarantee all attendees a great time regardless of their seating area.

The band is set to perform several shows in Abu Dhabi in January as part of their *Music of the Spheres* world tour.

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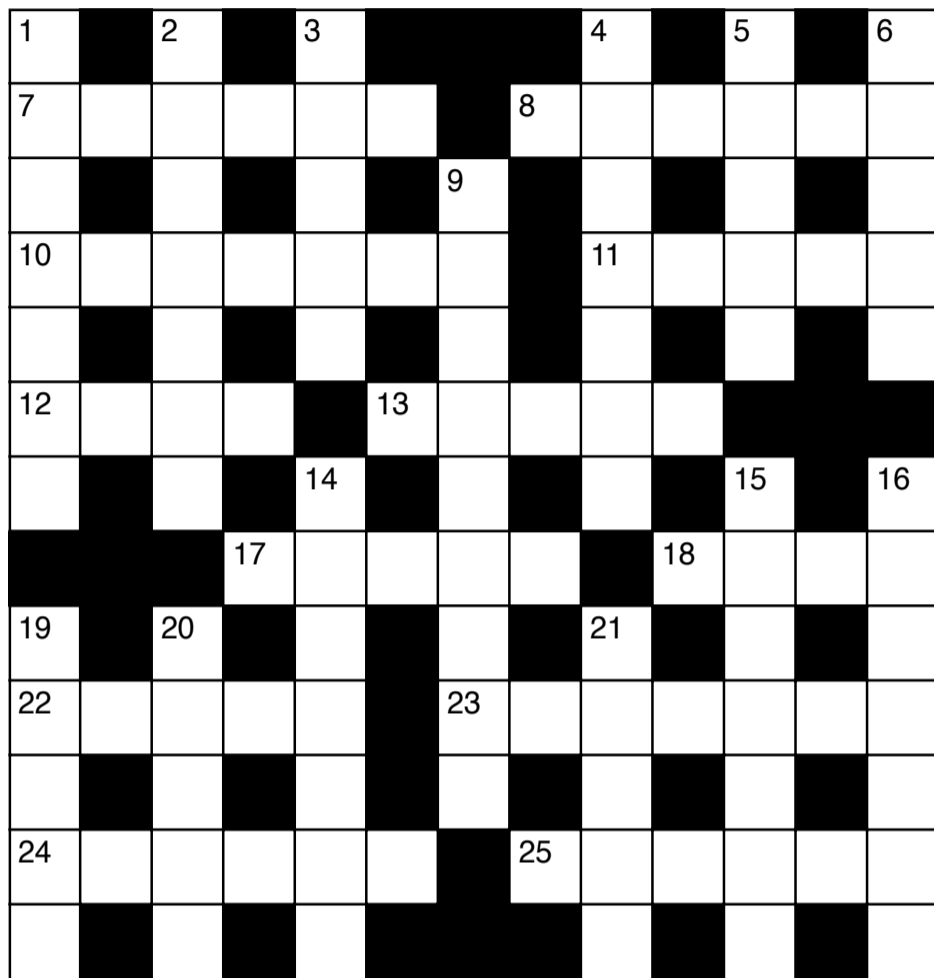
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Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 7. Grain (6)
- 8. Zeal (6)
- 10. Contain (7)
- 11. Boast (5)
- 12. Huge (4)
- 13. Despise (5)
- 17. Hasten (5)
- 18. Besides (4)
- 22. Slack (5)
- 23. Shorten (7)
- 24. Fix (6)
- 25. Bearing (6)

DOWN

- 1. Accomplish (7)
- 2. Operation (7)
- 3. Indefinite (5)
- 4. Courage (7)
- 5. Knave (5)
- 6. Hackneyed (5)
- 9. Fickle (9)
- 14. Pacify (7)
- 15. Cheer (7)
- 16. Under (7)
- 19. Fissure (5)
- 20. Cavalry (5)
- 21. Impudent (5)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... wrote the children's story *The Children of the New Forest*?

WHAT ... was the value of the former US gold coin a half eagle?

WHERE ... in Europe is the mountain the Wetterhorn?

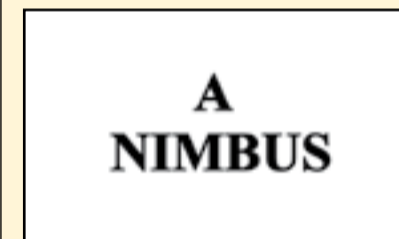
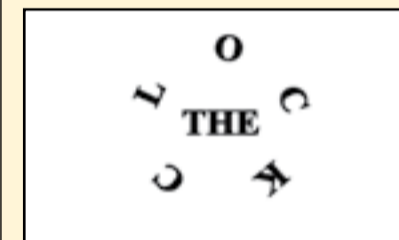
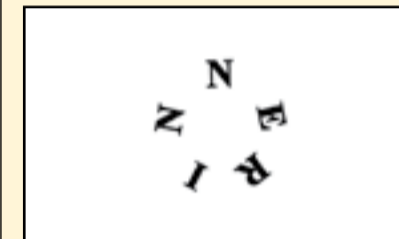
WHEN ... did the Antarctic explorer Sir Douglas Mawson die?

WHO ... wrote the 1997 novel *Timequake*?

WHAT ... is distinctive about a Woulfe bottle?

WHERE ... is the Hamersley Range of mountains?

just so



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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Quail; 4 Steward; 8 Abreast; 9 Basis; 10 Rude; 11 Belabour; 13 Ever; 14 Tend; 16 Two-faced; 17 Scan; 20 Raise; 21 Outlast; 22 Lengthy; 23 Poser.

Down: 1 Quadrilateral; 2 Acrid; 3 Leap; 4 Settee; 5 Embraced; 6 Abscond; 7 Discriminator; 12 Decadent; 13 Emotion; 15 Melody; 18 Class; 19 Stop.

JUST SO: Not long for this world, Noah's Ark, Lo and behold, Too big for one's boots

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Wilhelmina; Red and yellow; Mexico; 1967; Joseph Wright; Xe; France; 1960.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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