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The Buzz

Fifty-eight years on, Al Hamra is still standing

On June 8, 1968, Al Hamra opened as Bahrain's first air-conditioned cinema. Almost six decades later, films are still being shown under that name. Nearly everything that opened around it has disappeared.

The beginning of cinema in Bahrain was far less comfortable. The country's first cinema was a cottage in 1922. The first official cinema followed in 1937, lacking both air conditioning and heating. In winter, screenings moved to an open-roofed building, where one of the walls served as the screen.

Black-and-white films were shown, mostly Egyptian productions alongside some American titles. Tarzan and westerns drew crowds, although some older citizens objected to cinema at the time, fearing it would erode traditional values.

By the 1950s and 1960s, eight more cinemas had opened, including Pearl, Al Hamra, Al Nasr and Awal. Bapco had also oper-



A photo of Al Hamra Cinema dating back to 1968.

ated its own cinema in Awali for staff since the early 1940s.

The business took on a more formal shape on June 30, 1967, with the charter establishing the Bahrain Cinema and Film Distribution Company.

What appeared on Bahrain's screens also followed changes in the population. Awal opened showing English-language

films and drew packed audiences.

Al Hamra itself nearly went the way of the others. It closed on 5 May 2000, the same day Al Nasr shut permanently, and remained dark for nine months before reopening on 7 February 2001.

The others did not return.



An old Al Hamra Cinema ticket for an Indian movie.

Awal closed on January 3, 2016, clearing the way for a shopping complex on Al Zubara Avenue. Al Jazeera in Muharraq followed on the final day of 2018, bringing another chapter of Bahrain's old single-screen cinemas to an end.

Yet the newer cinemas were not guaranteed permanence either.

Saar opened on December 26, 2000, with four screens, representing the new multiplex era and a very different way of watching films. It closed on November 30, 2019, after 19 years.

Newly married? These games only work when you work together

Some couples cook together. Some travel. A growing number sit down on the same sofa, pick up two controllers and try to save the world — or at least a burning kitchen.

Co-op games, where two players are on the same team rather than against each other, have become one of the most popular ways for couples to spend an evening. The best ones are impossible to finish alone: one partner holds the door while the other runs through it. Here are the ones worth starting with.

It Takes Two



The one everyone recommends first, and for good reason. A husband and wife on the edge

of divorce are magically turned into tiny dolls, and must cross their own house together to get back to normal. Every chapter brings something new, from flying on squirrel-made planes to fighting a very angry vacuum cleaner. It was named Game of the Year at The Game Awards in 2021.

Split Fiction



From the same makers, released in 2025. Two young writers are trapped inside their own stories and jump between science fiction and fantasy worlds, with the rules changing every half hour. It was the highest-rated game of 2025 on the review site Metacritic.

A Way Out

The studio's first two-player game. You play two prisoners



planning an escape, each with his own story, and the screen stays split in half the whole time so you can see what your partner is doing. It is more serious in tone.

Sackboy: A Big Adventure



A bright, silly platform game

starring a little knitted hero, on PlayStation. It is forgiving when you make mistakes, which makes it ideal if one of you rarely plays games.

Unravel Two



Two small creatures made of yarn, joined by a single thread, must help each other through a beautiful world. If one falls, the other pulls them back up. It is hard to think of a sweeter game for newlyweds.

Coming soon: Orbitals

A new two-player adventure arriving on Nintendo Switch 2 later this year. Two explorers must save their space station from a cosmic storm, and nothing works unless both players cooperate.

Turkish Drama's New Season Is Here

Autumn is when Turkish television launches its new shows, and this year more than 20 are on the way.

Among the most talked about is Sevdan Bir Ateş (A Love Like Fire), a love story set among the fairy chimneys of Cappadocia, starring Özge Özacar. Cevher (Genius) is a Turkish version of the popular French series HPI, about a woman whose unusual intelligence helps her solve crimes. And Haysiyet (Dignity) follows a big-city family fighting to protect its name and values.

Not every show survives. Nature of Love was the most-watched programme of the day when its third episode aired, but its audience fell away and it is now being taken off air.

The show everyone is still talking about is Uzak Şehir (Far



City). One of its episodes last year gave the channel Kanal D its highest ratings in 15 years, and this year it was named TV Series of the Year at Turkey's Anadolu Media Awards.

Turkish drama is also winning online. Legacy and Ambition (Enfes Bir Akşam) was the most-watched Turkish series on Netflix in the second half of 2025, with viewers spending 95.7 million hours on it in its first three months.

One Piece Is Going Back to Its Most Famous Battle

The next One Piece film will tell the story of the God Valley Incident — one of the most important events in the entire series.

It happened decades before Luffy set sail. On an island called God Valley, two men who would become legends — the pirate Gol D. Roger and the navy hero Monkey D. Garp, Luffy's grandfather — did something unthinkable. They fought on the same side. The island vanished from every map afterwards.



For years, readers only heard the story in passing. The comic finally showed it in full recently. Now it is coming to the cinema screen.

No release date has been announced yet.

Anime Is Slowing Down — On Purpose

Two episodes of Bleach were meant to air this month. They won't. The studio has pushed them to October, giving one simple reason: to improve quality.

A few years ago that would have been unusual. Japanese animation studios were famous for working at exhausting speed to keep weekly shows on air, whatever the cost to the pictures on screen.

Now the delays are everywhere. One Piece, on air almost every week since 1999, cut down to around 26 episodes a year so each one looks better. Demon Slayer is leaving years between its final films. And JoJo's Bizarre Adventure released one single



episode in March, then disappeared for six months before returning yesterday, because the team needed more time.

Fans complain about the waiting. But they have also noticed the results: the slower shows are the best-looking anime has ever been.

The Typhoon That Stopped the World's Biggest Japanese Games Show

Tokyo Game Show turned 30 and planned its longest-ever run — then the weather had other ideas

Tokyo Game Show is where Japan's biggest games companies show off what they are making next. This year was meant to be special. It was the show's 30th birthday, and for the first time in its history it was running for five days instead of four, from 17 to 21 September, with nearly 4,000 stands.

It only made it to four. The final day was cancelled as a typhoon approached the Tokyo area.

By then, though, the show had already produced the biggest games story of the week.

Hideo Kojima is one of the most famous names in video games — the man behind Metal

Gear, a spy series played by tens of millions. His recent games were made with Sony's PlayStation. So fans were surprised when he walked out during Xbox's broadcast instead, confirmed he is now working with Xbox, and revealed the star of his new spy game, PHYSINT.

It is Bill Skarsgård, the Swedish actor best known for playing the terrifying clown Pennywise in the It films. The cast also includes Korean star Don Lee, from the zombie hit Train to Busan. Kojima has described the game as the culmination of more than 40 years of his career.

It was not the only news. An



Attack on Titan game, based on the famous anime about giants attacking a walled city, arrives on 10 December. And Crazy Taxi, the arcade classic

where players race passengers through traffic against the clock, is coming back in 2027 — this time on the streets of Japan.

'Avengers: Endgame' Returns With \$3.8M in Box Office Previews

Avengers: Endgame is returning to North American cinemas seven years after its original release, leading a crowded box office weekend alongside several major new films.

Disney's Avengers: Endgame: Encore earned \$3.8 million in Thursday previews and is playing across 3,060 theaters. The studio expects the re-release to earn around \$25 million domestically.

The 2019 Marvel blockbuster opened to \$1.2 billion worldwide and eventually



grossed \$2.7 billion globally.

The re-release includes an exclusive look at Avengers: Doomsday, due in December.

Meanwhile, Robert Pattinson's Primetime earned \$2.7 million in previews, while Brad Pitt's Heart of the Beast collected \$2 million.