

Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain



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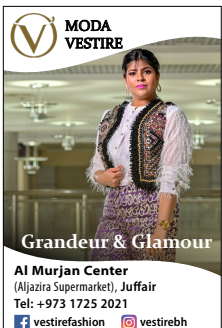


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WRITING ON THE WALL
A Tag for Covid times
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QUARANTINE COOKING
Recipe Exchange
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Capturing culture

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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PHOTOGRAPHERS around the world are being invited to share their snaps and shots of Muharrag for an online exhibition aimed at highlighting the city's architectural beauty.

The open call online exhibition, entitled Inspired by Muharrag, was launched by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities to encourage people who have captured images of Muharrag to join in the photographic fun while staying at home.

Shouq AlAlawi, head of the visual arts unit, said: "Inspired by Muharrag seeks to highlight the architectural scenes and skyscape of the city.

"The city has undergone a series of changes, upgrades and restorations, giving the audience a wealth of inspiring material to work with.

"This online exhibition aims to encourage people who have taken pictures of the city to share their shots. The pictures will then be uploaded onto our website in an online exhibition section under Studio 244."

The concept came about when Muharrag was recognised as the UNESCO Creative City of Design in 2019. According to Shouq, Muharrag is a pioneer city where the combination of history, art and architecture has served as the primary inspiration in revamping urban life.

"With its unique Arabic character, combined with international standards of



Flying Birds by Khalil AlHashi

PHOTOS: BAHRAIN AUTHORITY FOR CULTURE AND ANTIQUITIES



Pearling Path, AlAlawi House



Shouq

We do not only aim to entertain but to educate and inform about our cultural happenings.

modernity, Muharrag plays a very special role within the Gulf region," she added. "The city presents many opportunities for creativity through various types of public events; all of which

serve to reskill Bahrainis, build cultural confidence and create synergies on an international level.

"The magnificent structures are not merely an imprint of the significant past but also an inspiration.

"As a centre of trade, Muharrag has a multicultural character where different nations have lived together as a community for centuries. The development of the city relies on the strong partnership of heritage and creativity.

"These two pillars strengthen the identity and belonging of the community while helping face the challenges of the future in an imaginative way. Especially in the last decade, the government of Bahrain and Invest in Culture initiative have achieved tremendous cultural investment and Muharrag has become a city of inspirational design projects with its impact reaching beyond the Arab region."

The exhibition is open globally to people of all ages with a passion for photography and a cache of photos highlighting architectural scenes, design details, urban life, public spaces, urban fabric and the skyscape of the city.

"The beauty of online exhibitions is that we can accommodate participations from abroad," Shouq said. "It would be nice to see how visitors of Bahrain viewed the city of Muharrag and what parts attracted them."

The deadline for submitting pictures is Saturday. It will take the team a couple of weeks to sort, filter and upload the images.

She added: "This online exhibition will give photographers the opportunity for exposure on our website. It is like having a show at the Bahrain National Museum. Our website has excellent local and global traffic and the pictures will be viewed by people and institutions of

interest."

This is part of the initiatives launched by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities to enhance time spent at home, including virtual tours of exhibitions, musical performances and more.

Shouq said: "Each of our activities targets a certain group including artists, designers and photographers and so on. We do not only aim to entertain but to educate and inform about our cultural happenings."

Guidelines and registration details can be found on www.culture.gov.bh. Follow @culturebah on Instagram or scan the QR Code below to learn more.





Some of Ayfu's tags in Adliya



Ayfu's tag in Thailand

Spraying for solidarity...

ART REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gulfweekly.com

WITH Bahrain continuing its battle against the Covid-19 coronavirus with several social distancing restrictions, there is one group showing their solidarity, for whom facial protection has always been part of the uniform: graffiti artists.

In particular, Aref Mohammed Guloom, better known by his street tag "Ayfu" has collaborated with the island's first female graffiti artist Samar Bushehri to tag one of the walls in Adliya's popular Block 338 to create a simple message of safety and solidarity: "B-Safe".

Ayfu, who has been tagging for the last eight years across the island and the world, told *GulfWeekly* in an interview: "Under the current circumstances, it has been interesting to see how the



streets have been empty and this pandemic has pushed us all inside. So, inspired by this, I was thinking of doing a piece, at first, alone.

"But I like collaborating with others. And I had met Samar at Andalus Garden when she was doing a piece. I found her work to be quite intriguing, so I thought it'd be great to collaborate on this piece. I decided to do

the character and she did the letters. It was our first team-up, the first of many, we hope."

While many graffiti artists like to work alone, some because of the risqué nature of the art and others because of the desire to be able to execute on their individual vision, Ayfu has always enjoyed working with others.

The 25-year-old grew up as part of the underground hip hop sub-culture in Bahrain, which found its cultural centre near the Funland Centre in Juffair. When hanging out with friends there, he was first drawn to the music and dance of the hip hop movement and became a break-dancer, known colloquially as a "b-boy."

He added: "I really have my mom to thank for bringing me into the hip hop world. I used to be a gymnast and when I saw the break-dancers flipping about, I was fascinated by it and started to emulate them. This is also around the time that hip hop

really came to Bahrain and we all started to learn more about the culture."

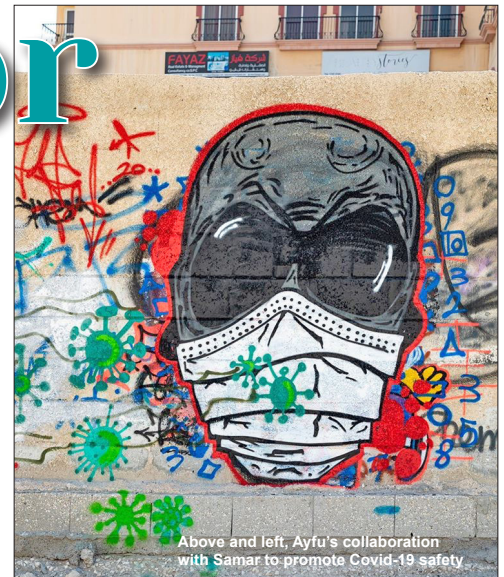
Aref had been drawing since he was ten, trained by his father, Mohammed Guloom and encouraged by his mom, Layla. It was a few years later, when he turned 17, that he started to get into the third aspect of the hip hop sub-culture: graffiti art.

After he watched a movie in which he saw some of the graffiti popularised as part of the United States' golden era of hip hop, he decided to start his own black book of designs, which he finally put to the wall during his teenage years.

Today, he has developed his own unique style with a particularly signature way of showing eyes. He has tagged all over Bahrain, with the approval and encouragement of the property owners.

He has also made tagging part of his travel as he has roamed the region and around the world.

He explained: "When I got married last year and we



Above and left, Ayfu's collaboration with Samar to promote Covid-19 safety



Ayfu at work

decided to visit Thailand for our honeymoon, I was so taken by the beautiful street art they have. I wanted to add my own mark. I tried to get in touch with some of the artists and had little success until the very last day.

"I finally got to meet up with an artist who sold me some cans (of paint) and we decided to go out and do a piece. It was incredible. I have also tagged in Amsterdam, Saudi Arabia and UAE so far. Whenever I travel, I like to leave a little piece of art behind to remember the place."

He credits his supportive wife Sarah, who is also an artist and the work he has done with various taggers around the world for all that he has learned so quickly, from a unique voice and artistic expression to

advanced shading techniques. Incidentally, he had first met Sarah at Funland centre before reconnecting with her a few years later.

As for what's next, he is hoping to bring together a rag-tag group of graffiti artists, under the crew tag "ATK" which stands for "Art Tag Krew" and one day, open his own graffiti supplies shop and promote street art in Bahrain.

Check out Ayfu's work on Instagram: @ayfu.official



Cooking up a connection

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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AS people were being urged to stay at home and practice social distancing in a bid to stay safe during this difficult time, the isolation stirred up new skill sets and hobbies within them.

Some 'quarantiners' picked up paint brushes and expressed themselves on canvases while others whipped up culinary creations that they never dreamed of trying before.

However, even with this time for self-reflection and creative growth, people were still missing one thing... social connection. Hence, chain messages and emails returned from the days of old to feed and nourish the soul, with one in particular going viral called Quarantine Cooking Recipe Exchange.

The cooking chain said: "As the world is social distancing right now, many of us are experimenting in our kitchens to help pass the time. You have been invited to be a part of the Quarantine Cooking Recipe Exchange. Please send a recipe to the person whose name is in position #1 (even if you don't know them) and it should be something quick, easy and without rare ingredients.



Maria



Actually, the best one is the one you know in your head and can type right now. Don't agonise over it... It is the recipe you make

when you are short on time.

"After you've sent your recipe to the person in position #1, copy this WhatsApp into a new message, move (my name, as in the person who sent it to you) to the top and put your name in position #2.

"Only my and your name should show when you send your message. Send to 20 friends via WhatsApp.

"You should receive 36 recipes. It's fun to see where they come from! Seldom does anyone drop out because we all need new ideas. The turnaround is fast, as there are only two names on the list and you only have to do this once.

"In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy and stay home. Happy

#QuarantineCooking."

People loved the idea because it promoted social interaction. It started conversations and built new relationships with like-minded people or fellow food lovers. Family recipes were being passed around globe.

One said foodie is Maria Shakeel. The 26-year-old living in Saudi Arabia, has always cooked for her family and is now experimenting with new flavours.

"Now that we have ample time, I have started to find an interest in trying out different flavours and finding unique recipes to cook up," said the new mum who received her Masters from the Indian Academy in Bahrain. "I like to cook all kinds of foods. My husband is a big foodie so I'm always trying new recipes. I have found baking so therapeutic as well. My family loves to have desserts after meals and I love to make exotic cakes and sweets."

Maria has been sharing her recipes with her relatives through WhatsApp as well as posting them on her account @maria_shakeel on Instagram.

She believes this recipe



Maria enjoying a cuppa and some treats

exchange is a fun way to keep people connected, start new-found friendships as well as keep people feeling positive.

She said: "I love that people are enjoying my recipes. It's as though I'm cooking for them myself and people can always message me about them if they have any

questions.

"All this time we have is a chance to better ourselves. There is time to read that book, watch that movie and focus on our health.

"Though these times are hard, I believe strongly there is always light at the end of the tunnel and make sure to focus more on the positives!"

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RAW CANDY

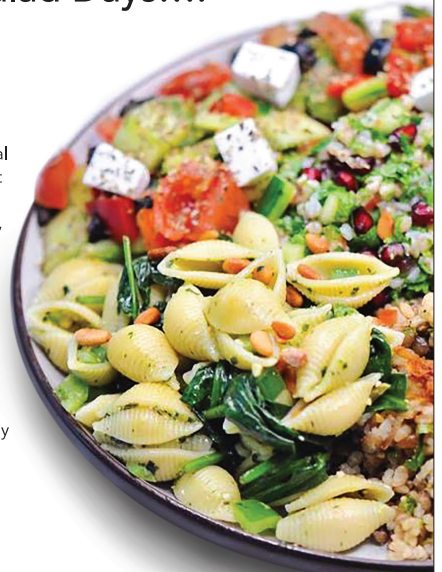
VEGAN ARTISAN CHOCOLATES & DESSERTS

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Raw Candy's healthy and nutritional salads are freshly prepared using a range of superfoods and totally natural ingredients which will delight your taste buds and provide you with a healthy, dairy free, gluten free and satisfying meal.

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Raw Candy...
Make Healthy Choices.



YOGURT LEMON CAKE

Maria has shared with GulfWeekly readers one of her sweet cakes which she says is like a drop of sunshine on any cake stand. She added: "It has a light flavour of lemon with Greek yogurt and is a refreshing sweet devour of goodness."

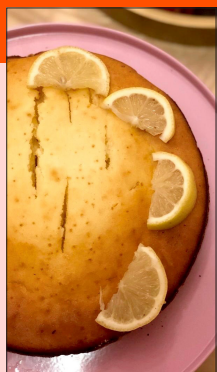
INGREDIENTS:

- Greek yogurt (170g tub)
- 1 lemon
- 2 eggs
- Sugar
- Flour
- Oil
- A half teaspoon of baking powder
- A half teaspoon of baking soda
- Salt

METHOD:

1. Scoop the Greek yogurt into a bowl. Keep the empty tub, wash and dry it to use for measurements.
2. Beat in two eggs until incorporated and mix in sugar (use ¼ sugar measured in the yogurt tub).
3. Add flour (equalling a full yogurt tub). Mix in oil (equal to half of the tub). Mix in a half teaspoon of baking powder and baking soda, a pinch of salt, lemon zest and a tablespoon of lemon juice.
4. Pour the batter into a greased pan and bake for 30 minutes (Check by piercing toothpick holes inside after it's halfway done)

"And voila!" said Maria.



"The best thing is you don't have a pile of dishes to wash after you're done baking. Just serve, eat and enjoy!"



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Leisure Guide



Listings, lifestyle, travel, entertainment and sporting events by Naman Arora

Due to on-going public health concerns, restaurants and hotels are limited to deliveries and takeaway only. Many of our partner hotels are offering limited versions of their regular menus within the comfort and safety of your home.



AL AREEN PALACE & SPA BY ACCOR

Every day from 9am to 9pm, delight in Khaleeji, Indian, Asian and international delicacies as well as pastries and sweets in the comfort of your home with delivery and takeaway service offered for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

❖ Al Areen Palace and Spa by Accor
☎ 36057494

THE INTERCONTINENTAL-REGENCY

From 6:30am until 10:30pm daily, enjoy a multi-outlet menu with Arabic, Indian, American and International cuisines, available for delivery or takeaway. Party platters and ouzi are also available for order, with two days' notice. Takeaway orders enjoy a 15% discount.

❖ Intercontinental-Regency
☎ 17227777 / 36967701



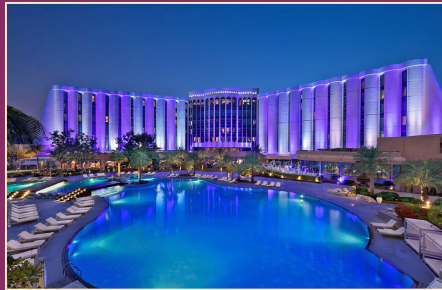
GULF HOTEL BAHRAIN

Margarita Mexicana, Sato, China Garden, Royal Thai and Takht Jamsheed are offering curated menus for delivery and takeaway from 11am to 11pm daily. Call to enjoy Margarita Mexicana's empanadas and tacos, Sato's teriyaki and teppanyaki, Royal Thai's tom yum and curries, Takht Jamsheed's kebabs and khoresh and China Garden's dumplings and noodles, delivered to your doorstep. Prestige club members enjoy 20% off all takeaway or delivery orders.

❖ Gulf Hotel Bahrain
☎ 36445585/ 36551222/ 17746425/ 17746426



THE RITZ-CARLTON, BAHRAIN



At the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, The Gourmet Lounge is offering their existing menus for takeaway only. A selection of items from La Plage will be offered to be enjoyed at home with your family and loved ones. All other outlets at the hotel are currently closed.

❖ The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain
☎ 17580000

CROWNE PLAZA MANAMA

Take home your favourites from a multi-cuisine menu, featuring salmon steak, Oriental mixed grills and butter chicken. Available every day from 11am to 9pm for takeaway, with delivery available only in the Diplomatic area. If you want to try your own hand at cooking, try out one of the recipe boxes, made up of ingredients for your chosen meal, weighed, divided, packaged and delivered to your doorstep. Each box has enough to feed two to three people and includes easy to follow recipes. Try preparing a range of exotic dishes such as Atishe Jhinga, Burani Gosht, Macchi ka Salan, Murgh Soweta, Paneer Makhani and Punjabi Egg Curry. 15% discount on all takeaway orders.

❖ Crowne Plaza Manama
☎ 39242391



JUMEIRAH ROYAL SARAY BAHRAIN

Every day from 7am to midnight, pick up your favourite salad, pasta, pizza, signature sandwich and grills from Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain and relish in the cuisine from the comfort of your home.

❖ Jumeirah Royal Saray Bahrain
☎ 77707070



FOUR SEASONS HOTEL BAHRAIN BAY

CUT by Wolfgang Puck and re/ Asian Cuisine are now offering take-away and home delivery service from noon to 11pm daily. The menus combine specialties from both CUT by Wolfgang Puck and re/ Asian Cuisine and feature your favourite salads, steaks and sides. The Wagyu Cheesesteak will also be available to order. CUT by Wolfgang Puck's famous desserts will also be on offering, featuring Executive Pastry Chef Abderazik's delicious mini pies and also celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck's Grandma's Chocolate Cake. The hotel's chefs will also be offering culinary virtual masterclasses throughout the month of June on their social media platforms.

❖ Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay
☎ 17115000



THE WESTIN CITY CENTRE BAHRAIN



Every day from 10am to 11pm, Furn Bakery is open for takeaway only offering cake slices and other bakery items on display as well as items from the a la carte menu.

❖ Le Meridien City Centre
☎ 17171441

Designed for your absolute relaxation, the Lagoon Beach boasts serene views from sunrise till sunset and is one of Reef Clubhouse's most scenic spots in the kingdom.

The Reef Clubhouse's new indoor pool is open! The large-scale indoor pool is a sight to behold. Whether enjoying the warm water, a beverage poolside, soaking in the Jacuzzi, or relaxing on deckchairs, the pool offers a world-class environment in which to spend moments of leisure. Enjoy their Pre-Launch Special and relax

REEF RELAXATION

and unwind every day until Sunday. For BD10 net/person at the food savoury area, guests can enjoy free access to Lagoon Beach facilities including the new indoor pool while children under five are free of charge. Located at Reef Island, the scenic Clubhouse & Lagoon Beach are perfectly positioned overlooking the panoramic view of Bahrain skyline where guests can create memories with loved ones aboard the

Lagoon Moon floating restaurant as they witness the striking view.

The Clubhouse is a vibrant hub of lifestyle amenities placing you at the heart of a world where dining, well-being, leisure, socializing and relaxation are all yours in luxury surroundings. It also has a playground area where a sphere of entertainment and educational-fun will keep younger guests amused in a safe and engaging environment.

❖ Reef Clubhouse, Reef Island
☎ 77900700



FashionWeekly

Keeping you in on the latest trends and what they wore in the past.

Genesis of the jeans

LEVI'S, the makers of the iconic blue jeans, celebrated 147 years of the birth of its riveted pants last week, with a global virtual cultural festival and the launch of a new capsule collection, writes Naman Arora.

The festival was held on May 20, the official date that the patent for the iconic 501 jeans was approved, and drew musicians, artists and designers from around the world. The festival was broadcast via *Instagram* and featured musical performances, conversations about the history of the 501 jeans and DIY denim personalisation and repair sessions with in-house tailors.

Levi's in-house historian Tracey Panek and head designer Paul O'Neill discussed the history of the iconic blue jean, while showcasing its newest collaborations and styles. *Highsnobility's* Jian DeLeon also discussed the cultural impact of the blue jean in streetwear, music and beyond.

Riveted blue jeans, invented by Jacob W. Davis in partnership with Levi Strauss & Co in 1851 and patented in 1853, have become ubiquitous throughout North America and the world. Their popularity was initially amongst miners, factory workers, farmers and cattlemen

due to the sturdiness of the fabric but has since spread throughout the fashion industry.

While blue jeans had been around before this time, the use of the copper rivets to reinforce points of stress, made the blue jeans extremely popular, with front pockets, rear pocket and watch pocket added by the American company throughout the 19th century.

In the 20th century, the 501 model continued to evolve, starting with the back left pocket addition in 1901, creating the now industry-standard five pocket configuration, with two front pockets, two back pockets and the small

front watch pocket.

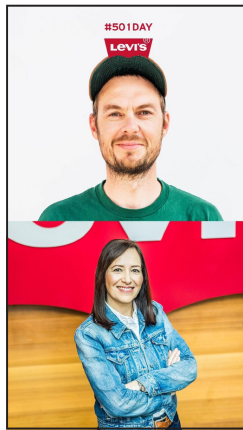
In recent decades, the jeans market has exploded with styles and fits for every iconic look, from loose to skinny and tapered. As the competitors in the market have grown, Levi's has continued to reinvent its styles through the years, but the 501 remains the most iconic and popular. The festival, intended to celebrate this history, also showcased the brand's most recent campaign featuring American model Hailey Bieber and actor/rapper Jaden Smith. Performances included Swae Lee, Ari Lennox, HAIM, Mahalia, Raja

Kumari, G Flip, and Se So Neon.

In celebration of 501 Day, Levi's has teamed up with Golf Wang for a new capsule collection. Released exclusively on the Levi's App, the Levi's x Golf Wang collection features a colourful take on the classic Levi's 501 jean and Trucker Jacket. Inspired by a rainbow polka-dot jean that was first created for the 2016 Golf Wang runway show, this collection includes a 501 '93 Jean and vintage fit Trucker in ecru denim, both of which come covered in a rainbow print polka dot pattern and a special edition co-branded back patch.



G Flip performing during 501 Live



Vintage Clothing Designer Paul O'Neill and Levi's historian Tracey Panek



Last month, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Bahrain (RCSI) hosted a virtual match party via Zoom to celebrate the students and alumni who matched with post-graduate training programmes and jobs in the US, Canada and UK this year, writes Naman Arora.

The event, hosted by RCSI Bahrain president Professor Sameer Ootom, chief operating officer Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, vice president Professor Alfred Nicholson was attended by two senior medical students and five alumni

VIRTUAL MATCH PARTY!

and organised by the RCSI's careers and alumni office.

81% of graduates have received offers this year for postgraduate training and core surgical or medical training jobs in the UK. The RCSI also saw an 89% pass rate in the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 exam. So far this year, 20 students have matched to the US and six to Canada. Professor Ootom commented:

"RCSI Bahrain puts a strong emphasis in its medical programme on clinical competence and the patient's interests, forming the students into international medical graduates who continuously succeed in receiving extensive career opportunities in respected institutions worldwide. We congratulate our students and alumni for their achievements and wish them well in their future endeavours in their careers."

HealthWeekly

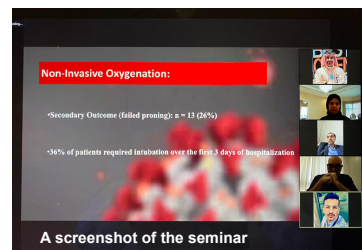
STRENGTHENING SEMINAR

The Bahrain Association of Emergency Medicine at the Bahrain Medical Society held a "remote" seminar on how to deal with critical cases, help them breathe and treat those infected with Covid-19 arriving at hospital emergency, writes Mai Al Khatib-Camille.

The two-hour seminar featured more than 50 doctors from the kingdom and the region, sharing the latest medical developments in the field of tackling coronavirus, focussing on emergency medicine, family medicine and general medicine.

The seminar was attended by the Dr Ghada Al Qassim, the chairman of the Bahrain Medical Society, and Dr Salah Al-Ghanem, president of the Bahrain Association of Emergency Medicine.

Other participating experts included Dr Amjad Obaid, vice president of Bahrain Association of Emergency Medicine, Dr Tariq Al Musawi, the consultant of infectious disease who is also specialised in the field of Intensive Care Medicine, and Dr Khaled Al Salem, an emergency doctor from Saudi Arabia.



A screenshot of the seminar

According to Dr Salah, this seminar comes within the framework of the society's keenness to follow up on the latest developments in tackling Covid-19 and the use of medical expertise from different specialties to better provide health and medical care for infected people.

He said: "COVID-19 is a new virus and this is the challenge that faces everyone. There are no fixed scientific methods and theories in fighting it, so we tried to combine infectious diseases, Intensive Care medicine and emergency medicine in this seminar, with the aim of exchanging views and experiences, and developing our knowledge

and understanding of it. This will contribute to strengthening the treatment services for patients and will contribute to the success of the prominent experience of the Kingdom of Bahrain in tackling the Corona pandemic."

The discussion also covered the steps that hospitals must take to strengthen preparedness for the pandemic or any pandemic in general in the framework of "Disaster Medicine" and the National Committee responsible for tackling the virus in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The measures taken by China and the World Health Organisation (WHO) were also discussed, especially the measures that were taken when the virus was first discovered, the latest information related to vaccines and methods of examination and analysis. The seminar also examined the consequences of Covid-19 on individuals from a psychological and social point of view.

For details, email bhmedicalsociety@gmail.com.

Your window to the Gulf's industrial sector

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EXPORTERS IMPORTERS



A magazine that provides the region's industrial sector with a unique monthly review of everything that is of vital interest to readers.

www.gulfindustryonline.com

MotoringWeekly

Steering you to the best deals on wheels

Aspirations of the Alfetta

MAY marks the 70th anniversary of the very first Formula 1 Grand Prix race ever in 1950 at Silverstone, during which Alfa Romeo nabbed the first ever F1 World Championship, writes Naman Arora

Nino Farina, driving at the helm of the Tip Alfa Romeo 158, became the first ever World Champion during an era where crash helmets were optional, there was no television and spectators were entirely distributed on foot alongside the racing track.

The Alfetta, based on the eight-cylinder straight-line engine of the 1938 Alfetta, was a technological milestone of its time. Alfa Romeo, in the early 20th century, was known for its light alloys and the famous 'transaxle' which has now become ubiquitous in all cars that have the engine placed on the same end of the car as the driven wheels.

But the Second World War ruptured the research and development at the Italian marquee, but a few Alfetta 158s lay hidden in Milan. When Milan was occupied in 1943, Alfa Romeo



The 2020 Alfa Romeo F1 car and driving team

technicians and labourers decided that they must be moved. They began planning to carry them away in trucks. Various passionate Alfa admirers volunteered to hide one, including the speedboat champion Achille Castoldi who had set a world speed record in 1940 using an Alfa Romeo 158 engine.

But a problem arose. Just as the convoy of trucks was about to depart, a patrol appeared with their weapons at the ready. Fortunately, the Alfa test driver Pietro Bonini was Swiss and had lived

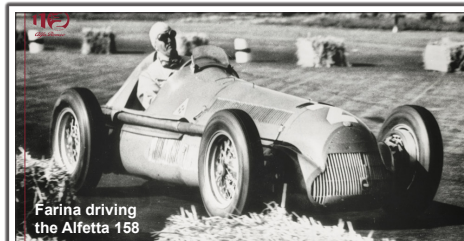
in Berlin for some years. Speaking confidently in perfect German and waving a safe-conduct authorisation he assured the commander and saved the day. The trucks departed. The 158 models were then taken to garages and farm sheds, to be hidden behind false walls or heaps of logs to wait for better times.

After the end of the war, those same Alfetta 158 models were brought back to Portello and carefully restored and prepared to return to racing. The British Grand Prix at Silverstone

in 1950 was the first of the eight races that constituted the first FIA Formula 1 World Championship. Countries that had been at war with one another were united in a single sporting event.

Giuseppe "Nino" Farina conquered the pole position, the fastest lap and the final victory. Second came Luigi Fagioli, and third Reg Parnell.

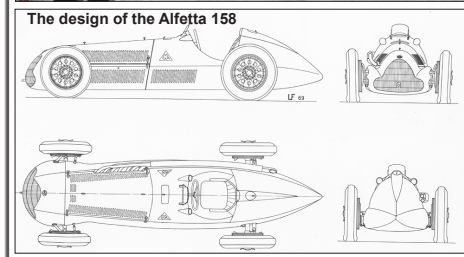
The 158 combined outstanding speed, handling and reliability which made it the ultimate achievement of motorcar technology of that



Farina driving the Alfetta 158



Farina winning the 1950 F1 GP



The design of the Alfetta 158

moment. At its first launch in 1938, it had a 1.5-litre engine and 185hp compressor. For its second launch, after the war, the compressor became dual-stage and the engine reached 275hp and by 1950 it had reached 350hp at 8,600rpm. And to top it off, its weight/power ratio was only 2kg/hp, a value in line with today's super sports cars.

The new Alfetta made its debut with a victory, adding on a second victory next year, before the team retired for 28 years.

After taking the world championship in 1950 and 1951 with its iconic Alfetta engine, the Alfa Romeo constructor team retired, unbeaten, from F1, until 1979.

FinTechFocus

Bridging gateways

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) has entered into a partnership with GrowIN Portugal, a platform that helps entrepreneurs incorporate, fund, expand and move their start-ups to Portugal, writes Naman Arora.

Both the organisations plan to collaborate on the promotion of events and opportunities in both markets, develop start-up markets, arrange introductory meetings with key ecosystem stakeholders and exchange information on the evolution of their respective start-up ecosystems.

Pakiza Abdulrahman, Head of start-ups at the Bahrain EDB, told *GulfWeekly*: "GrowIN Portugal provides opportunities for start-ups to build, grow, and connect their companies within the market. Bahraini companies that choose to expand to Europe can take advantage of this opportunity and set up

in Portugal, gaining access to the entire European market via Portugal's supportive ecosystem.

"I think the most important thing we will get out of this partnership is the opportunity for collaboration and innovation between both Bahraini and Portuguese companies. Both Bahrain and Portugal offer highly skilled workforces, and by combining our approaches we could see real growth. We are offering European start-ups the chance to learn more about the kingdom's opportunities and what #TeamBahrain brings to the table. We also want our entrepreneurs to learn from the experiences of their international peers."

Bahrain and Portugal currently trade mainly in aluminium, paper and cotton products, with a trade relationship valued at nearly USD22 million (BD8.3 million). However, the EDB plans

to expand that to include technology and start-up talent, building on the success of current European start-ups in Bahrain and the Middle-East.

Pakiza added: "Thanks to our continued involvement with Web Summit, we have seen a growing number of European start-ups enter the Bahrain ecosystem over the past five years. For example, French legal tech start-up NoPaperPost expanded into Bahrain last year and UK ICT venture Innervate, which has been fuelling the digital transformation of the Middle East. There are currently no Portuguese start-ups based in Bahrain, but we are keen to change that."

"The relationship between Portugal and Bahrain is historic, one of our UNESCO sites has Portuguese heritage! There are six Portuguese commercial agencies registered in Bahrain, and both countries enjoy a strong and long running

trade relationship.

"This new initiative will also allow Bahraini start-ups access not just to Portugal's ecosystem – which we have been able to experience first-hand over the past five years in Lisbon – but to the wider European markets as well. Just as Bahrain is the gateway to the Gulf, for our start-ups, Portugal can act as the gateway to Europe. From an EDB perspective, we are looking at how to support Bahraini start-ups that provide tech-enabled solutions that facilitate social distancing and provide replacements for traditional essential services. There have been some great examples of home-grown Bahraini start-ups supporting government efforts to combat the Covid-19 pandemic."

"Queue management system Skiplino is providing its services for free for government agencies, medical centres and hospitals. GetBaqala, a Bahrain-



Pakiza



Anas El Arras, CEO of GrowIN Portugal

based grocery delivery platform, allows customers to buy their essentials while practicing social distancing. And Weyak delivers medicine and pharmaceuticals to your doorstep. They provide delivery services for those in need of medication while practicing social distancing. These are the kinds of innovative startups we are looking at. Bringing these digital offerings into new markets is how we'll support their scale up and growth, while also serving as a learning opportunity for our own ecosystem."

Anas El Arras, chief executive of GrowIN Portugal

commented: "Startups need support now more than ever before, so we are delighted to be collaborating with Bahrain EDB to do just that. Bahrain and Portugal each offer supportive ecosystems complete with funding support, highly-skilled labour forces, cutting edge digital infrastructure and world-class accelerators. Moreover, we each sit on the doorstep of major markets: Europe and MENA respectively. By combining forces, combining ecosystems, we can provide a global space to accelerate startups from around the world, and ensure innovation is not hampered by the global crisis."

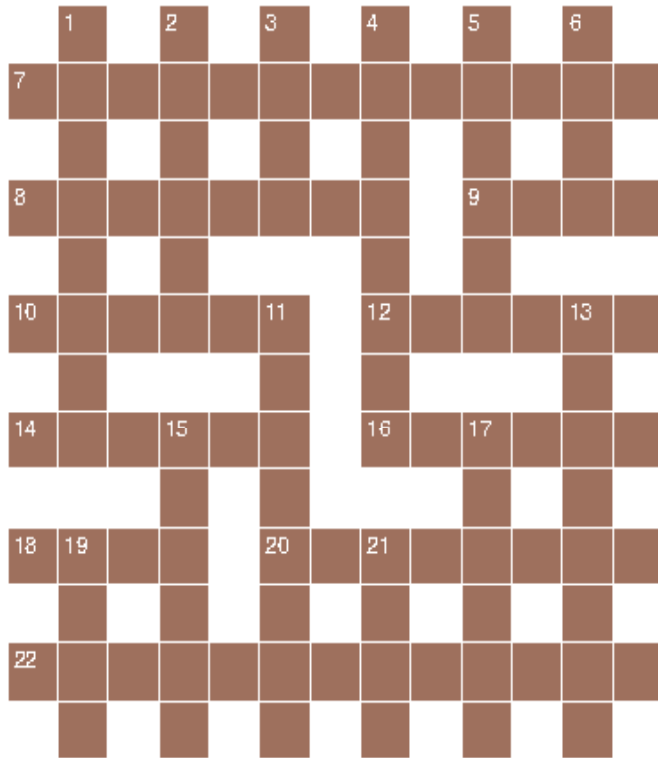
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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

7. Sneaky (13)
8. Journalist (8)
9. Otherwise (4)
10. Impetus (6)
12. Untouched (6)
14. Hinder (6)
16. Bad-tempered (6)
18. Exhort (4)
20. Genuine (4,4)
22. Unfitting (13)

DOWN

1. Tepid (8)
2. Furrow (6)
3. Pimple (4)
4. Shriek (8)
5. Straight (6)
6. Ado (4)
11. Board again (2-6)
13. Avarice (8)
15. Not liable (6)
17. Inequitable (6)
19. Circle (4)
21. Pinches (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... was the Roman equivalent of Athena, goddess of wisdom?

WHAT ... insect does the adjective formicine refer to?

WHERE ... is the second smallest country (by land mass) in the world?

WHEN ... did Geoffrey Rush win his Best Actor Oscar for *Shine*?

WHO ... also wrote under the pseudonym Boz?

WHAT ... does a deltiologist collect?

WHERE ... did the ancient Romans refer to as Albion?

WHEN ... did Ronald Reagan become the 40th President of the US?

just so

CT ASS

SIR



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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Prod;
8 Exasperate; 9 Sentinel; 10 Seat; 12 Cloudy;
14 Stigma; 15 Forced;
17 Regard; 18 Asia;
19 Facility; 21 Contradict;
22 Erne.

Down: 2 Rebellious;
3 Debt; 4 Jaunty;
5 Apples; 6 Pressing;
7 Feat; 11 Admirance; 13 Unchaste; 16 Defeat; 17 Recoil; 18 Arch;
20 Late.

Who, What, Where,
When: Field Marshal Haig;
The bark of the Cinchona tree; Mallorca; 1965;
Thirteen; Norway; 1994.

Just So:

Out with the old in with the new; Square the circle;
The golden rule;
All at once.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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



RETURN OF THE LEAGUES



VOICE OF SPORT

with Kristian Harrison



THE German Bundesliga is back, Spain's La Liga will resume on June 8 and the go ahead has been given for Italy's Serie A to resume on a similar date. Yet the question remains; when will the last of the 'big four' football leagues, and arguably the biggest, return to action?

The English Premier League is still in talks for a return to action next month. Plans are being considered, with numerous options available to clubs. The general feeling is that clubs want to finish, even if there are certain areas where they still disagree a little.

The thirst for a return is matched with the fanbase, who have been digesting games between German mid-table sides like they were El Clasico or Manchester United vs. Liverpool purely as a result of the unexpected drought.

However, when the league comes back, what will it look like? There are a number of differences we could see, including the rules in place, where games will be and how we will watch them. This all adds intrigue, but the main focus right now has to be getting

some form of action back so that we can all tune in and watch.

There are two rule changes which have been approved by FIFA, although they are not forced upon the leagues.

It is up to them whether they want to implement them or not.

The first is regarding substitutions. A team will be allowed a maximum of five subs under new rules, something that has been brought in to protect player welfare with fitness issues likely to be seen in the first few games as things return.

It is up to them whether they want to implement them or not. The first is regarding substitutions. A team will be allowed a maximum of five subs under new rules, something that has been brought in to protect player welfare with fitness issues likely to be seen in the first few games as things return.

This rule isn't straight forward though; to protect the flow of the game, subs are only allowed to be made at three different intervals during play, plus half time. If teams make a sub at the same time, it counts as both using one of their substitution periods. The second rule surrounds the most controversial topic in football, VAR. This can be abandoned by the leagues coming back if they wish. Health and safety of officials is the concern here, with a number of people needed to work close together in the VAR hub to make decisions. With no VAR, this is not needed and these people can stay safely at home.



There will be fans, players and officials all over the country happy if VAR is left out for the remainder of the season.

If you believe the leaks from Premier League meetings, this is the one topic that is causing many of the arguments. Some teams are happy for neutral venues to be used, in an attempt to keep fans away from the ground, while others do not want to lose home advantage in what could be hugely important games.

Those down towards the bottom of the table have the most to lose, so it is no surprise to learn they are the ones against playing on neutral venues. Even without fans, there is a comforting feeling about playing at home, travelling a short distance and using your own changing room. Clubs

don't want to lose that for what is the biggest part of the season for some of them, and relegation-threatened teams who have more 'home games' remaining don't want to lose their advantage when their entire future is at stake.

If or when a return does happen, it will require

stringent Covid-19 testing. Of 996 tests undertaken this week, there have been eight positive results for coronavirus including an unnamed Bournemouth player, Watford's Adrian Mariappa and Burnley assistant manager Ian Woan.

Squads started non-contact training last week for the first time since the Premier League was suspended on March 13 because of the coronavirus pandemic, with 92 fixtures remaining to be completed.

Speaking on Friday, Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said the league was "as confident as we can be" about restarting in June.

The guidance for the second phase of training, which would allow contact, is waiting to be signed off by the government.

The Premier League is due to meet today and tomorrow

for further discussions about restarting the season, with the results of the third round of testing also due later in the week.

However, not all football figures are keen to return, with Watford captain Troy Deeney stating he will not play to protect his new-born son, who has developed breathing difficulties.

Chelsea's N'Golo Kante will also play no part after he lost his older brother to a heart attack just weeks before the World Cup in 2018. A few months earlier, the player himself fainted in training before being given a clean bill of health.

The Premier League has also faced criticism for what many believe is a money-driven urge to return to action rather than safeguarding the health of its players and other personnel at a time when British life is still under heavy restrictions.



Empty stadiums at the Bundesliga