

Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

June 3 - 9, 2020

BAHRAIN.OURS.YOURS.

Vol 19 - Issue 23

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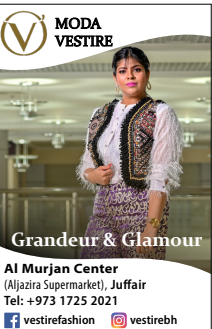
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ARTAX THE AKITA

Road to Recovery

SEE PAGE 3



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GAMER GIRL

Beating the build battle

SEE BACKPAGE



A food donation

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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AYADI Relief, a youth-led international humanitarian NGO known for its creative fundraising events supporting vulnerable communities across the MENA region, has launched a new project to respond to those in need across the kingdom.

Ayadi Responds, which means 'hands that respond', will feature various initiatives to aid the community during these difficult times.

According to Shaikha Showaiter, the Bahraini general manager for Ayadi Relief, they have been monitoring the Covid-19 situation along with the rest of the country since STREAT, which is their street food fundraising festival.

She said: "We started to hear stories about people not getting paid, businesses shutting down and so many other problems that happened because of Covid-19."

"Normally, Ayadi works in only two sectors which support housing and education, in and out of, Bahrain. However, during these events, we decided as

an organisation that we have to provide help and support within our community as soon as possible.

"That is the reason behind Ayadi Responds. We are going to continue researching the best projects and response methods needed to support the needs of the people around us."

Their first "response" initiative is called Suфра.

"In Arabic, suфра means setting up a space for a meal," said Shaikha. "The suфра is what brings people together over food and conversation. But what does it have to do with Covid-19?"

"More than any other time, people with limited, unstable or lost incomes in our communities are facing a challenge to provide basic necessities and food items for their families. The generosity of donors in Ramadan has provided for so many, but the challenge extends to the months ahead. Through Suфра, we aim to provide food to people in need and deliver

them in partnership with The Conserving Bounties Society."

Since starting the initiative, the generous group has received 300 donation boxes from the Capital Governorate and Ayadi aims to distribute them to labour workers and those in need.

"We have partnered up with Conserving Bounties (food bank) to help us with the food boxes, donations and distribution," said Shaikha.



Shaikha

"Depending on the amount of donations we receive, we are aiming to help as many people from as many nationalities as we can. There is no limit, our goal is to be able to support and help the majority of people that are suffering."

In terms of donations, they are leaning more towards the basic food necessities which can be stored at room temperature since some families don't own refrigerators. The food boxes would typically last about a month.

Shaikha added: "As the name of our project suggests, Ayadi Responds, we will continue to read the circumstances of our community and develop appropriate responses in different fields where necessary. We will continue to see possible areas of responses which we may contribute in such as education, livelihood and wellbeing."

"However, as the situation evolves, we would like to provide as much help as we can following the Ministry of Health guidelines. Everyone is doing their bit for the community and being a youth-led NGO, we hope to do the same."

"The government has been doing an amazing job dealing with Covid-19 in Bahrain. However, there is always room for us to help and reach out to those in need, especially to those who have lost their jobs, those who have had salary deductions or those that aren't getting paid at all."

"As citizens, it's our duty to check up on those who have left their countries and

families behind to serve our country since some can't afford to eat, pay their rent or even support the families that they have left behind. Each and every one of us can help out by donating or simply spreading the word. We aim to build on our strength and reach, while partnering with experts in the field."

"These are just some simple steps we can take to support one another whilst staying safe and healthy and not jeopardizing our health. If you are in need or know someone in need, please feel free to reach us at any time through @ayadi_relief on Instagram or contact 36668997."

Donate to the Suфра program today by using the "Scan to Pay" option on your Benefit Pay mobile app.



Saving Artax

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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ANIMAL-LOVING activist and soulful Scottish singer Sandi Thom has given abandoned Artax a second chance at life and reminds people to never give up on their furry friends.

A couple of months ago, Artax, an American Akita, was taken from a kennel where she was found in a devastating state.

Sandi, who is the chairwoman and voluntary manager for the Bahrain Animal Rescue Centre (BARC), said: "I was sent a video of Artax by fellow rescuer Fathiya Al Bastaki. Artax was in some kind of gravel pit kennel struggling to stand let alone walk. I couldn't believe my eyes and immediately asked for the location to get her out of there."

After research, it seems that she was imported from Russia in 2017 as a trophy dog and when she fell ill, from what was believed to be Tick Paralysis; she was then surrendered to a facility.

"We also discovered that Artax had her own Instagram account and was previously a very healthy looking dog," she added. Artax was so weak she couldn't even lift her head. She was incredibly dehydrated, horribly thin, had cuts all over her paws



Artax in the garden

and mouth and was covered in ticks. While some people advised Sandi to put poor Artax out of her misery, the platinum selling recording artist refused to give up on her.

She said: "I am not a trained dog therapist nor am I a vet, but I believed in Artax from the very beginning

and that belief, love and hope is what stopped me from putting her to sleep. Because of her condition, I didn't want to bring her to the shelter so I took her home with me."

Artax's journey to recovery began with giving her several IVs with fluids and tick prevention. She was positive for tick fever and was started on a medicine commonly used for it called doxycycline.

"This was the first crucial step forward," explained Sandi. "Then gradually, I began to build up her strength again as her appetite started to slowly reappear. After some time, she began to feel a bit better in herself and I had gained a little of her trust. Trust was a huge factor in all of this because think how incredibly vulnerable she was feeling in the beginning unable to move. Then, from the advice of physiotherapist Lana Peters, we started daily exercises to re-engage her spine and gradually she began to move more."

The next step was to bring in Anissa Carew and her holistic health practices. Anissa specialises in alternative medicine and therapies for both people and animals.

Sandi said: "I strongly believe if anyone is in a state

of disease it is a by-product of a much larger internal issue. Whatever is out of balance within Artax needs to be put back into balance in order for her to be able to walk properly again. Anissa treats many of our dogs at the shelter successfully who are traumatised or abused."

Anissa started Artax off with three sessions a week to encourage the recovery process.



Artax with Sandi at home

Anissa said: "I used Bach flower remedies, applied Zoopharmacognosy and Jin Shin Jyutsu, to help support Artax's energetic systems to bring her back into balance so her body can then heal itself. Since I started treating her, I have been delighted with the great progress that she has made. She is choosing a lot of the essential oils, herself, to help with both her emotional trauma and physical pain. I love working with Artax. She has such a strong personality, is incredibly determined and is clear with what she wants."

In addition to that, Artax began hydrotherapy at Delmon Boarding Kennels and Caterly which involves short bursts of swimming two minutes at a time and rests in between. She is now doing hydrotherapy every other day.

"Couple all of this together with just the feeling of love and trust that she gets from me and other volunteers who

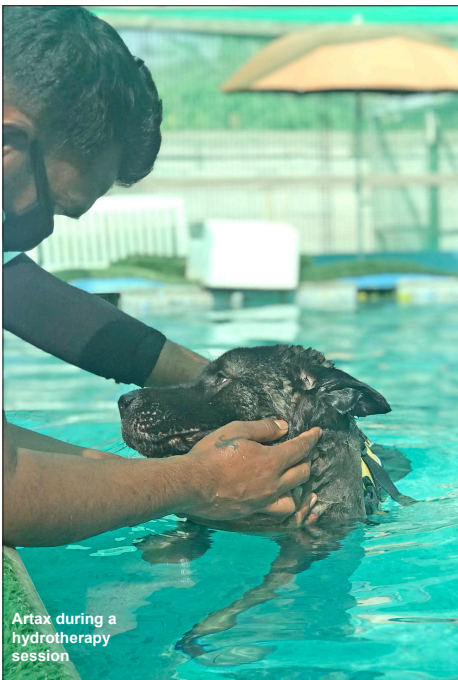
visit with her, the recovery so far has been remarkable," said Sandi. "She is now able to take six to seven consecutive unaided steps, albeit wobbly, by herself. I believe that within one month she will be able to walk fully again and within three months she will be running around like nothing ever happened."

While Artax has been able to find joy again, other pets have not been so lucky which is why Sandi urges people to be more knowledgeable when bringing a pet home.

She said: "I feel that in Artax's case, it was more down to ignorance than evil. People buy these dogs because of their breed. A dog like Artax can go for anywhere in the region of BD1,500 to BD2,000 so selling Akitas is a lucrative business! At the end of the day, knowledge is everything. If you decide to own a dog, a cat or any animal, for goodness sake, educate yourself first on what to do and how to do it. Don't just get a dog and then hand them over like faulty goods when they run into problems. Owning a pet is like a marriage – through sickness and through health."

"Rehabilitating Artax has been hard both physically and emotionally and it will continue to be until she is fully recovered. The reward of seeing her walk and run again is greater than anyone could imagine so I encourage everyone to volunteer because there is no better feeling. People can help by sharing Artax's story as a great example to the dedication we have to our animals and the passion we put into their care and ultimately their recovery. Our motto is to rescue, rehabilitate and rehomed."

Check out @artaxtheakita on Instagram to follow her journey.



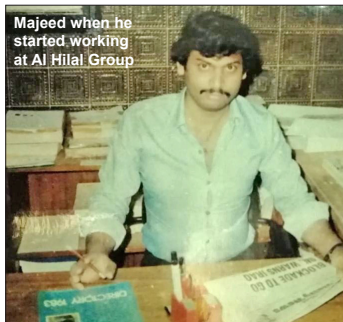
Artax during a hydrotherapy session



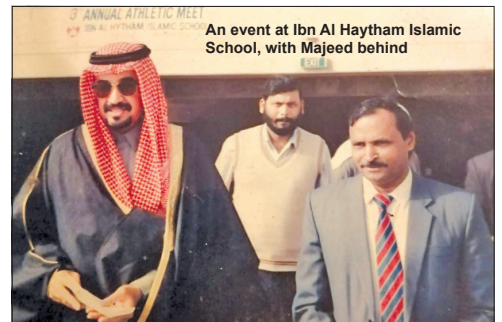
Sandi and Artax having a swim



Majeed at the launch of *Gulf Madhayamam* with then Indian ambassador to Bahrain S S Gill



Majeed when he started working at Al Hilal Group



An event at Ibn Al Haytham Islamic School, with Majeed behind

Glorious past

AFTER more than four decades on the sunny shores of Bahrain, Indian expat Majeed Kuniyil has left the kingdom to continue his charitable contributions in his home state of Kerala, India.

Majeed, a stalwart of Al Hilal Publishing Group where he was the distribution manager and has worked for 40 years, first landed on the shores of Bahrain in February 1980.

A member of the 2.5 million-strong Keralite Gulf diaspora, his journey in the region started in Dubai in 1974, where he worked in the Kuwait embassy for four years and witnessed the birth of the modern Gulf region and its many branches.

In an interview with *GulfWeekly*, Majeed reminisced: "Back then, most of Dubai lay empty. After I moved in 1974, I witnessed how much and how quickly it changed. I remember, back during my time in Dubai, M. A. Yusuff Ali, who is today managing director of LuLu Group International joined his uncle who ran a small food store at the time. I used to shop there all the time and now, it's amazing to see how much that store has grown into."

After his stint in the UAE, he moved to Bahrain in 1980. With a plan to secure a job, he met with then circulation manager of Al Hilal John

COMMUNITY REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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Dunn who offered him the position of distribution assistant in the group's growing magazine division.

Four years later, Majeed got married to Aisha and the young couple settled down in Bahrain to start their family. A few years later, their first son, Muhammed Ershad was born, followed by daughter Majida Majeed and sons Abdul Jumal and Muhammad Yaseen.

As his children started to go to school at Indian School Bahrain, Majeed and a few

idea for the Ibn Al Haytham Islamic school came about. We began in 1989 with seven teachers and 200 students, with the support of the chairman Shaikh Isa bin Mohammad Al Khalifa."

Majeed continued to be a member of the school's activities committee as the institution expanded in the decades since. Concurrently, he founded the Bahrain chapter of the Centre for Information and Guidance India, a not-for-profit organisation aimed at the uplift and empowerment of marginalised segments of society.

Meanwhile, when the King Fahad Causeway between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia opened in 1986, Majeed's job often required him to commute between the two countries on a daily basis.

Majeed added: "When I first landed here, much of Juffair and Hooraa had not been reclaimed. There were just a handful of buildings that were 15 storeys or higher. As I drove back and forth every day, I could see the country change before my eyes. I also was lucky to be part of the growing Keralite community and the many social organisations, and community media like the Gulf Madhayamam that came to positively impact expat life in the kingdom."

Later, as he was promoted to distribution manager of Al Hilal, overseeing the distribution of the numerous publications of the group across the region, Majeed's kids grew up and started to relocate. His son Muhammed Ershad is now married to architect Alifa and living in the USA. His daughter Majida is a doctor and his younger two kids are also on their way to securing professional designations.

About three years ago, Majeed underwent a coronary angioplasty and after that, approached Ronnie Middleton, managing director of Al Hilal Group asking to

retire. But after a 'heart-to-heart' conversation, Ronnie told him: "Majeed, if I can run around everywhere at my age, you can too. Take it easy and when it's time to retire, I will let you know when you can leave."

Now, Majeed is back in India, in the NIT hostel in India under a seven-day quarantine due to the Covid-19 health crisis. Once he goes back to his home town of Kurukkiladu, he plans



Majeed speaking at the inauguration of KMSK

to continue his work as the chairman of the Kakkad Mahal Sas Karika Kootayma (KMSK), a social organisation that runs the PSC coaching centre, supplies drinking water and provides medicines to the poor. KMSK was started, under the name of Majeed's father, as a way of giving back to society and has provided

meals and supplies to over 500 families during the current Covid-19 crisis.

He concluded in a farewell letter: "I would like to take this moment to mention a special thanks to Ronnie, Jubran Abdulrahman, Sunny Mathai, Muhammed Iftekhar and Ahmed Suliman for their unending support and appreciation for all that I have tried to do. Your support is forever engrained in my heart and even my children have fond memories of meeting and spending time in the company. I wish to also extend my thanks to the staff of all departments, including the offices at Dubai, Saudi and the UK. It has been a privilege to associate with all of you."

I was lucky to be part of the growing Keralite community and the many social organisations that came to positively impact expat life in the kingdom.

other members of the community began to see that there were few options for expats, in terms of schooling and education on the island.

Majeed said: "We wanted to provide a more affordable option for expats, especially for those in the Keralite community. That's how the



Majeed and his family

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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

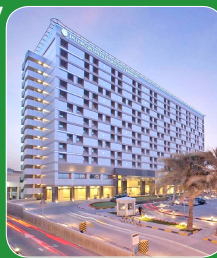
Every day from 9am to 9pm, delight in Khaleeji, Indian, Asian and international delicacies as well as pastries and sweets in the comfort of your home with delivery and takeaway service offered for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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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.

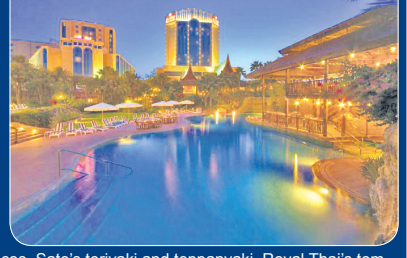
✦ Intercontinental-Regency
☎ 17227777 / 36967701



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 menu 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, Furr 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 by Mai Al-Khatib-Camille

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The fashion game

A famous fashion house has launched a digital game in which one lucky player can win a shopping experience.

People living in Dubai, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia can participate in the *Maison KARL LAGERFELD* game on desktops, tablets and mobile devices and once-a-week, the winner with the highest score will receive a shopping experience worth BD25 (AED 250).

The interactive game was inspired by the luxury brand's Spring 2020 Pixel collection which features pixelated artworks of Karl, the German creative designer, and his cat Choupette.

The player must help Choupette navigate her way through the iconic KARL LAGERFELD Maison at 21 Rue St-Guillaume in Paris, as she searches for this season's must-have styles and avoids the neighbourhood dogs.

The goal is to collect as many pixel points as



Karl and Choupette

possible. Choupette can also score bonus points by collecting special accessories like sunglasses, a camera, a handbag, Karl's lucky number seven and the Eiffel Tower.

The ready-to-wear collection, featuring artwork in primary shades of red, yellow and blue, includes a bouclé jacket and matching A-line skirt with a slightly fringed finish and piping. Chic colour blocking appears on blouses, knitwear and tunics. A pixelated image

of Karl is featured as both a high-density print and in 3D studs on sweatshirts, t-shirts and sweaters. There is also a pixelated QR code print with embroidery and a terry effect.

The accessories boast a range of playful pieces in textured leather. There's a tote bag, small and medium top handle bags with removable shoulder straps and a large pouch featuring pixelated artworks of Karl.

To play the game, visit www.karlpixel.com



Karl Lagerfeld's interactive game



Pixel hoodie



Pixel tote

HealthWeekly

HEALTHCARE OF THE FUTURE

HEALTH REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gulfweekly.com

The American Mission Hospital (AMH) has been recognised globally by receiving two honours for its world class quality and community contributions in the *Business Worldwide Magazine (BWM) 2020 GCC Business Excellence Awards*.

The GCC Business Excellence awards honour both organisations and individuals behind innovations driving increased growth and development to their sector. AMH was named "Best Private Non-Healthcare Provider - GCC" award and group chief executive Julia Maria Tovey RN, RSCN, BSc, MBA, LHCRM, won the "Business Leadership and Outstanding Contribution to Healthcare - GCC" award.

Since being established in 1893, AMH has always provided high quality healthcare at an affordable cost, to everyone who needs it, and was the first hospital in Bahrain to be accredited by the Australian Council of International Hospital Standards in 2006.

AMH has been busy reinventing itself as a new



Julia

digital healthcare hospital that connects the individual to home, hospital and the wider community. Patients can now access appointments and medical information through a phone app, bringing health management to their fingertips.

Julia is dedicated to ensuring the execution of its mission is "patient-focused, safe and exceeds patient expectations." In a career spanning over thirty years, she has worked at some of the biggest and most respected hospitals in England, America and The Middle East. Her appointment at AMH was a historic moment for the hospital and for women, as she became the first female group chief executive in its 120 year history. She explained her leadership approach, "My philosophy is simple - put people before profits. If we look after our employees they in turn will give their best to ensure a positive patient experience."



Volunteers carrying bags of rice

Families receive aid

The Bahraini Red Crescent Society's campaign to support thousands of needy families in the kingdom during Ramadan has come to an end, writes, Mai Al-Khatib-Camille.

According to the society's records for registered underprivileged families, the volunteers delivered aid to 4,500 families in 73 regions, villages, cities and governorates after Iftar, wearing masks and gloves and ensuring social distancing.

Mubarak Al Hadi, BRCS director general/act general secretary, praised the efforts of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to distribute the boxes as well as for the difficulty of reaching a number of families whose addresses have been changed. He said: "Delivering this aid

required double the efforts of the Society to fulfil its obligations this year to needy families under the slogan "giving with dignity".

The Express Rent a Car company offered around 14 cars from its fleet to be used by the Society, for free, to distribute aid. A number of social media influencers and athletes participated as volunteers as well.

Mubarak added: "We'd like to thank all the Society's partners for their support. We also urge companies and institutions, as well as beneficiaries of citizens and residents, to provide their hoped-for donations for the success of this aid programme in the same way this year as it did in the previous years."

Your window to the Gulf's industrial sector

GULF Industry
EXPORTERS IMPORTERS

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Motoring Weekly

Steering you to the best deals on wheels

Vision of perfection

MAZDA unveiled its newest virtual race car, the Mazda RX-Vision GT3 Concept for the driving simulator *Gran Turismo Sport* last week.

As digital motor sports have seen a significant growth during the current Covid-19 social distancing restrictions, more and more gamers are turning to the PlayStation 4-exclusive driving simulator, connecting online to enjoy the experience of driving in racing conditions.

The original Mazda RX Vision was selected as the most beautiful concept car of the year at the 33rd Festival Automobile International held in France in January 2016.

Based on that design, the GT3 has a SKYACTIV-R naturally aspirated 4-rotor rotary engine and a strong connection with Mazda's KODO: Soul of Motion design language, particularly in the evocative shape of the grille, the expressiveness of the headlamps, and the twin-ring LED design of the taillights, which look like they came straight from the new Mazda3.

Players who use the RX-Vision GT3 Concept, in *Gran Turismo Sport* will automatically be granted seed rights to participate in the FIA certified Gran Turismo Championship to be held in various locations around the world throughout the year. Players can also use the RX-Vision GT3 Concept to participate in the eSports competition at Japan's 2020 National Sports Festival in Kagoshima.



The interior of the virtual car



FinTechFocus



Banking on the unbanked

**STARTUP REPORT**By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gulfweekly.com

Two UAE-based fintech startups are expanding their service offering and targeting the underbanked migrant population in a push across the region.

Jingle Pay, founded by Amir Fardghasemi and Nadeem Hussein, previously digitised the on boarding process and customer due diligence to cover over 7600 government IDs in 160 countries. Now the company is launching a digital-only social bank with cash accounts, instantaneous payments and easy money transfers to friends and family.

"We're seeing tremendous demand for a new way of offering banking services in the Middle East. Bricks and mortar banks don't have the immediacy of response that a new generation of



always-connected consumers want," says Amir. "Jingle Pay will be offering a multi-currency account and card, remittance, nano financing, instant and free money transfer services in addition to other value-added services. We're seeing mobile phones and FinTech come to the fore in key global markets that haven't been ideally served by traditional markets. We're looking to deliver financial inclusion in new ways to global audiences, starting with the

Middle East. Here, we're not just talking about the completely unbanked but also low-income individuals who can't avail themselves of financial services in any meaningful way."

According to the World Bank, as many as 1.7 billion adults remain unbanked globally, without an account at a financial institution or through a mobile money provider. The report also states that in the Arab world, only eight per cent of the adults are considered suitably banked. Financial inclusion measurement in the Arab world resulted in a large unmet demand for financial services with 168 million people lacking access to a basic bank account.

Rise was launched in the UAE in 2016 to offer bank accounts that don't require a minimum balance or salary, remittances, insurance products and consumer loans in both the UAE and migrant home countries. Last year Rise launched cross-border unsecured loans in the Philippines, and a credit fund through Astra Amco.

Recently, Rise announced a "Buy Now, Pay Later" partnership with HomeShopping.

pk, one of Pakistan's largest managed marketplaces, enabling overseas Pakistanis to buy durable goods in Pakistan by making payments in instalments in their country of residence.

Pakistan has one of the largest diaspora in the world, with almost 9 million overseas sending home USD22 billion (BD8.3 billion) every year accounting for seven per cent of the country's GDP.

Shayaan Tahir, HomeShopping.pk Founder and CEO said, "We are delighted to expand our reach to bring easy instalment purchases for overseas Pakistanis. During these challenging times when our fellow Pakistanis are not able to travel back home, we are pleased to offer them a means to take care of their loved ones back home."

Jingle Pay is currently in the process of getting licensed in the UAE and other GCC markets. Rise plans to start operations in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain later this year as well as expand its reach to merchants in other markets.

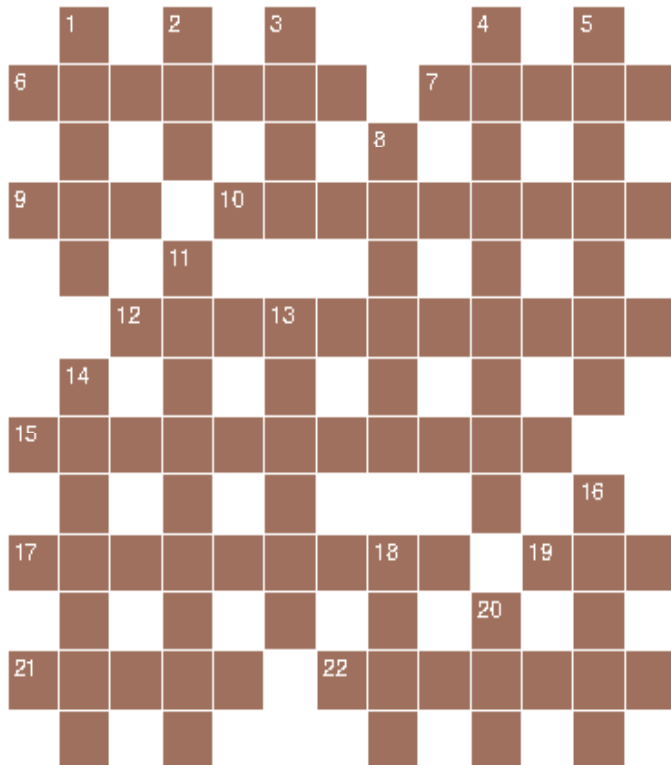
cerebrally crust & crema

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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

6. Abridge (7)
7. Command (5)
9. Attempt (3)
10. Spellbound (9)
12. Copy (11)
15. Conflict (11)
17. Not taught (9)
19. Uncooked (3)
21. End (5)
22. Erudite (7)

DOWN

1. Question (5)
2. Pig-pen (3)
3. Fish (4)
4. Steep cliff (9)
5. Carousal (7)
8. Picture-house (6)
11. Gathering (9)
13. Limited (6)
14. Trail-blazer (7)
16. Antic (5)
18. Still (4)
20. Curve (3)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... was the last wife of Henry VIII?

WHAT ... is the last book of the Old Testament?

WHERE ... was the 2006 football World Cup held?

WHEN ... was *Dr No* released?

WHO ... won the 2005 Grand National on Hedgehunter?

WHAT ... does the musical term legato mean?

WHERE ... was the mausoleum that is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World?

WHEN ... was Benedict XV inaugurated as Pope?

just so



↓ ↓
BOOK



**BAKERBAKERBAKER
BAKERBAKERBAKER
BAKERBAKERBAKER
BAKERBAKERBAKER**

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 7 Surreptitious;
8 Reporter; 9 Else;
10 Career; 12 Intact;
14 Impede; 16 Grumpy; 18
Urge; 20 Bona fide;
22 Inappropriate.

Down: 1 Lukewarm;
2 Groove; 3 Spot;
4 Piercing; 5 Direct;
6 Fuss; 11 Re-embark;
13 Cupidity; 15 Exempt;
17 Unfair; 19 Ring;
21 Nips.

**Who, What, Where,
When:** Minerva; The ant;
Monaco; 1997;
Charles Dickens; Postcards;
England; 1981.

Just So:
Top of the class;
White knight;
A man for all seasons;
Crossed eyes.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

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TOP OF THE LEAGUE FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORT

June 3 - 9, 2020

IT'S GAME ON!

BAHRAINI eSports professional athlete Maryam

Maher, better known by her handle "Mary Gaming" is seeing a stronger viewership of her Fortnite adventures amid the current Covid-19 lockdown, as she continues to break down barriers for female gamers across the region.

The teenager, who is the first female gamer in the Middle East to sign with a professional eSports team, has already won a host of Fortnite tournaments and exclusive partnerships on *Twitch*, netting more than USD50,000 (BD18,400) since 2017.

Maher told *GulfWeekly*: "I got into gaming at a very young age. I started playing video games with my



EXCLUSIVE
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gulfweekly.com

cousins which is when my first obsession with gaming started. We used to sit in the living room from 2 pm till midnight just playing video games. We used to play GTA, Midnight Club or Bully."

About three years ago, Maher discovered Fortnite, an online game during which players collect basic resources and then use these to build fortifications while combating up to 100 competitors in a battle royale type arena.

Then, about two years ago, Maher uploaded footage of herself taking out 24 opponents in a row, attracting over 85,000 views and the attention of the professional gaming community in the Middle East.

Maher added: "When it was



Sayed "Tekken Master" Hashem with Maher

announced that the game will have in-game tournaments and prize pool, I started to practice daily and work on myself and my mistakes. I also found the gaming scene in Bahrain through friends and events such as Comic-Con, Animanima and Dreamland Expo. Finding the

gaming scene in the Middle East was easy through social media."

Since then, the teenager has worked on creating content for her *YouTube* channel and streaming on *Twitch*, today boasting 146,000 subscribers on *YouTube* and 39,100 followers on *Twitch*.

Maher has also differentiated herself from other creators by commenting and responding, almost exclusively in Arabic, a conscious choice to promote gaming in the region, with support and encouragement from her parents.

"My parents always knew what I did and they always supported me and inspired me to keep going," she said, "Their reaction was an unexplainable excitement. They will always be proud of who I am now."

While the gender ratio of male and female participation in video games is roughly equal, professional eSports are dominated by men, who take up 95% of the spots. Within Fortnite as well, last year's World Cup did not have a single female competitor amongst the finalists. Even amongst Maher's following, 87% are male and only 13% female.

Advocates for greater female representation at the professional level attribute this to gendered advertising, social stereotyping, lack of female video game creators and especially, the online abuse to which



Maher



Maher competing

female eSports athletes are subjected.

Maher noted: "Hate will always be there usually stemming either from jealousy or gender. A lot has changed. Female gamer communities are starting to grow more and more with time. People are starting to accept women in the gaming scene. But as I mentioned, hate will always be there no matter what happens."

"From my experience, your experience as a gamer depends on who you should and shouldn't trust especially when it's online. We don't really know who we talk to behind the screen. I don't really see anything scary but limits are set when it comes to meeting new people."

Maher hopes to change this landscape as she continues to compete globally as the region's first female gamer

to be a part of professional eSports team Nasr eSports and sponsored by Lenovo Legion. Last winter, Lenovo launched the Legion Girl Cup, an event aimed at encouraging female gamers in the region to compete professionally.

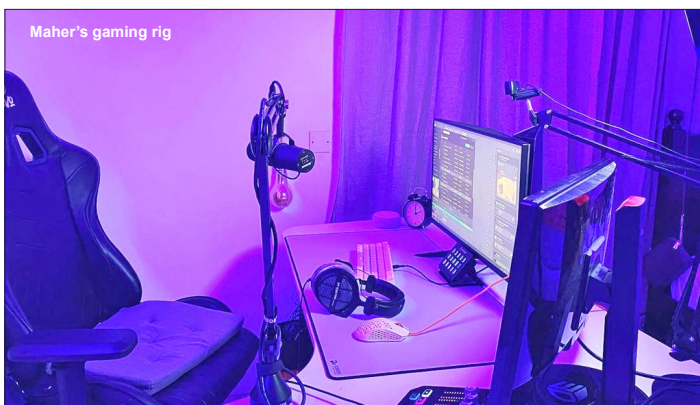
Of course, this will not be easy as she trains five to six hours a day regularly and in the current lockdown, she has been training for eight to nine hours a day.

Despite all this training and the online following, she sees her backup career in a completely different field. She told another media outlet that her fall-back is law, exhibiting a unique maturity and proactive thinking outside the box of competitive online gaming.

Check out Mary Gaming's online pursuits on *Twitch*: @mary and Instagram: @marygamingyt



Maher streaming online



Maher's gaming rig