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Bald for a cause

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

COMMUNITY
champion David Axtell has gone under the razor to raise funds for a local cathedral and a children's cancer charity.

The father-of-two also hopes that his shiny dome will raise awareness about alopecia, a hair loss condition which his wife Sara has.

David said: "St Christopher's Cathedral has been unable to hold services for a couple of months. This current situation is simply unsustainable. This is one way for me to highlight the current severe financial challenges that it is facing."

David, who is the president of Bingham Cricket Club in the UK, joined the 'Brave the Shave' initiative in support of his friend Tommy Lloyd, a cancer survivor, and to collect donations for CLIC Sargent, a UK charity that helps children with cancer and leukaemia.

He raised funds for



Sara shaving David

CLIC 20 years ago when he completed a week-long bike ride to assist a friend whose son had been diagnosed with leukaemia. Tommy's endeavours inspired him to stage the sponsored head shave and offer support once

again. David, who moved to the kingdom in 1995 is a former international health insurance executive and now business consultant, is well known for his work with local charities.

He organised the Wheelathon charity spectacular for more than a decade. It involved cycling, skateboarding and being pushed on hospital trolleys for good causes around the F1 track at the Bahrain International Circuit.

Going bald has allowed him to draw attention to his wife Sara's alopecia. David said: "With my bright white dome, hopefully for the first few weeks I can draw some of the attention away from Sara!"

"She does put a brave face on it most of the time, although, there are times when the hurt is plain to see. I have seen the various stages that Sara went through and

to embrace it and, following a few therapy sessions to help me deal with the looks and stares, I haven't looked back!

"David has always reassured me that he thinks I'm beautiful and my children have never been embarrassed by my baldness. They have all been so supportive and caring, as have all our friends."

Sara has alopecia universalis, the loss of hair on the scalp and body from which only 10 per cent of sufferers recover fully. "Losing my eyebrows and eyelashes was nearly as traumatic as losing my head of hair," explained Sara. "But despite having some low points along the journey, I always try to remind myself how lucky I am."

"It would be great to be able to set up a support group in Bahrain for alopecia sufferers."

David hopes Sara will inspire others as she did him. He said: "There are a few very kind strangers and a number of friends who take the time to compliment Sara on her looks and they cannot know the positive effect that this has. However, the vast majority of the time there are people staring and pointing, while some laugh. All of this is extremely hurtful which is more long lasting and felt more deeply."

"I am hoping that, by seeing me bald, she will at least accept that she does look good!"

He set up a crowd-funding page on JustGiving.com and raised more than BD1,000 for his good causes. For more details email itglobal@batelco.com.bh.



David and Sara

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TAKE ZUMBA
Donate a meal
SEE PAGE 2

FOOD TRUCK FEAST
Drive on through
SEE PAGE 3

Dancing for charity



COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

DANCING queen Mai Alurman has been staging virtual Zumba sessions to encourage people to stay fit as well as to support an initiative aimed at feeding families struggling from the outbreak of Covid-19.

The 28-year-old counsellor by day and Zumba instructor by night joined the global Your Moves Matter campaign to help make a difference.

Zumba Fitness, in partnership with The Global FoodBanking Network, aim to donate one million meals. For every person who joins a virtual Zoom session, one free meal will be delivered and the initiative will not stop until the target is reached.

Within weeks, more than 100,000 meals had been handed out. Mai said: "I think the initiative



Working it out

is fantastic. Zumba has managed to find a way to help those in need during this pandemic.

"I have around 15 people per week signing up for my

sessions and the beauty of having virtual classes now is that it allows people from all over the world to join in."

Aside from supporting the cause, participating in



Mai in dance mode

Zumba, she says, is a great way to dance any stay-at-home blues away.

Zumba is an exercise fitness programme created by Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto 'Beto' Pérez during the 1990s.

Mai, a school learning support teacher and counsellor, joined because she loves to dance. She completed a foundation year in performing arts – dancing, singing and acting – in the UK and then received her bachelor's degree in psychology in the US.

"It has always been a way to express myself and I have found it to be an incredible stress reliever too," added Mai, who lives in Mahooz.

She got her Zumba certification in September 2018 after completing an instructor-training workshop in Bahrain and is currently teaching two virtual classes per week.

"It provides a non-judgmental, safe and fun



At a past event

environment to let loose and express yourself," she added.

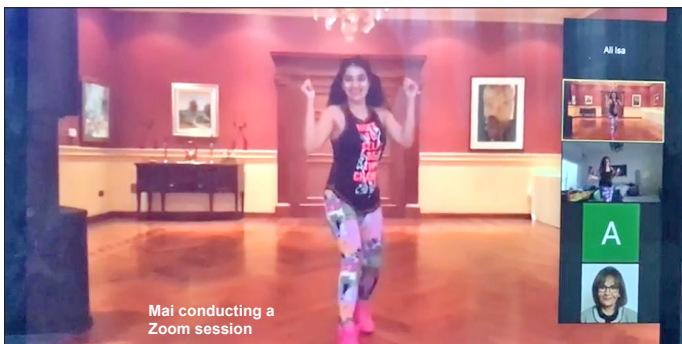
She is also a certified Zumba Kids and Kids Junior instructor, as well as a newly-certified Zumba Gold instructor.

During the month of April she provided free classes to encourage more people to try the fitness sessions during the pandemic. Participants donated the usual fees to local charities such as the Migrant

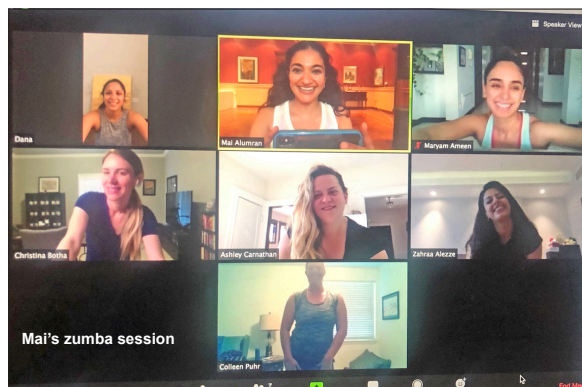
Workers Protection Society (MWPS), Bahrain Animal Rescue Centre (BARC) and Shamsaha.

Her next initiative is a women's empowerment class, held later today, in support of the environment. For each person who attends this session, the restaurant Eighty Thirty has pledged to plant a tree on their behalf.

For more details follow @zumba.mai on Instagram.



Mai conducting a Zoom session



Mai's zumba session



With her family and friends at a session before Covid-19

Meals on wheels

FOOD lovers from across the kingdom have been piling into their cars and parking at Al Aali Shopping Complex to enjoy the mall's first drive-through food truck festival aimed at supporting local businesses, writes Mai Al Khatib-Camille.

The culinary event with social distancing features eight food trucks parked outside one of the entrances to the mall in Seef District, serving people daily, from 6pm to midnight. The festival will run until the end of the month with plans underway to possibly expand the concept further.

Zainab Alhayki, mall marketing head, said: "Our aim for this festival is to help support local businesses during these challenging times while still creating entertainment for people in a safe environment - while staying in their cars."

"Our plan is to update the trucks to give a chance for other local businesses



IMAGES BY AHMED RAJAB

to benefit and to cater for different tastes.

"We wish the best of luck to everyone on the island during these challenging times."

The current trucks in place include Purple Swirl, Eighty Thirty, YaSalam!, The Forge, Street, Tikka 2 Go by Tikka Ameen, Pro Pizza and The Planet Caravan.

Keeping in line with Covid-19 precautionary measures, cars can drive up to the food truck and place their orders with a waiter.

Zainab added: "We have created a very good car flow. The parking area has been packed since we launched the event and on Friday, two trucks sold out of the food they had on offer."

Mariam Ebrahim, 29, from Riffa, who attended the festival on the opening night, enjoyed it so much that she went back for seconds on Friday. She said: "It is great. I got there at 9pm and it was pretty crowded."

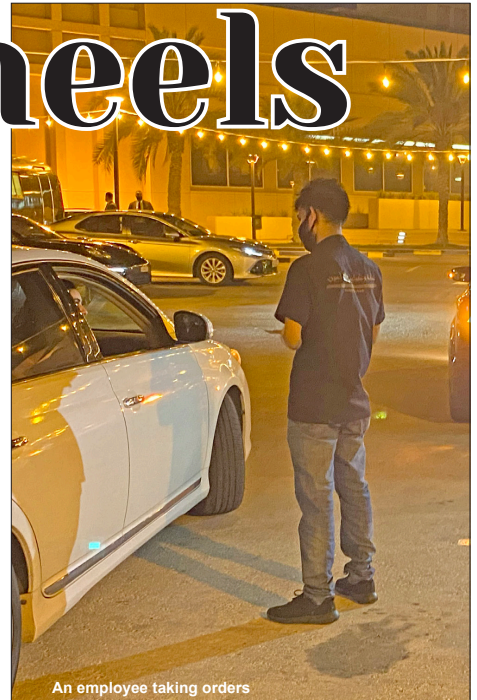
"I ordered my food while I was in my car and had it delivered to me. I then parked on the side and enjoyed my meal. I felt safe that all the staff were wearing masks and gloves and I was impressed with the way people were also abiding by the government rules and not roaming around."

"This is such a great idea because it keeps businesses running and gives people something to do in an entertaining manner, at the same time as staying safe. I also liked the food options offered. They catered to both young and old."

Raw Candy, a vegan chocolate bar and wellness

café, dished out vegan cookies and cinnamon rolls at Purple Swirls food truck.

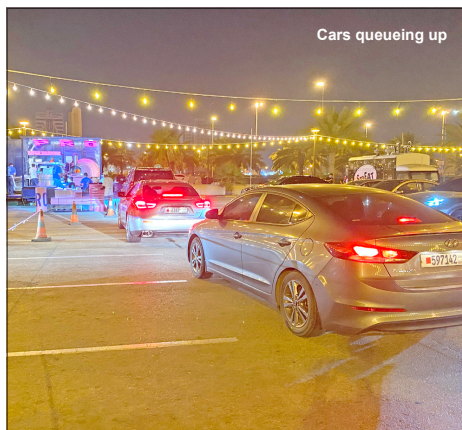
Olivia Middleton, Raw Candy's marketing manager, said: "We are so excited to collaborate with another locally-grown Bahrain-based business such as Purple Swirl that is serving fresh, healthy frozen yogurt at the food truck festival, while we offer 100 per cent vegan baked goods."



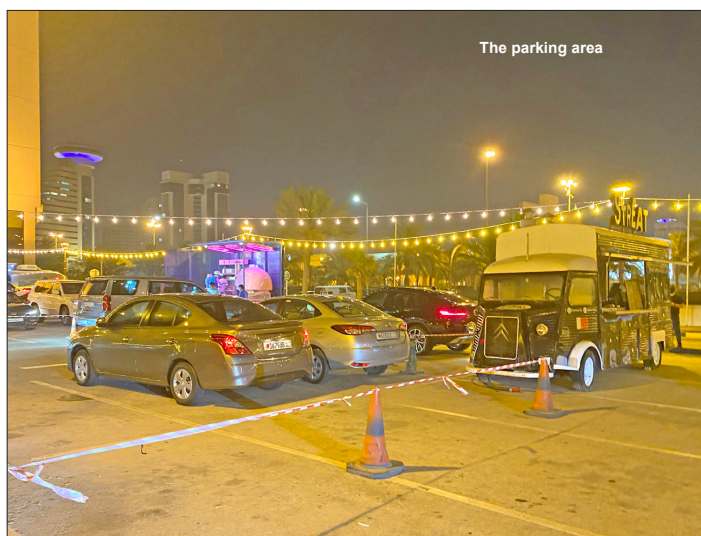
An employee taking orders

"I think now, more than ever, we need to encourage and support one another in the food industry in Bahrain. The food truck festival is

a great showcase of what Bahrain has to offer, whilst also giving customers a safe and easy way to pick up snacks and food!"



Cars queuing up



The parking area

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Culture

Faded shades of love

DEAR readers, I have a confession to make, one that may not surprise anyone – of all the movie genres out there, romantic comedies are my least favourite.

It's not even the subject matter as much as it is that the same formula is repeated time again. There's always the recently ended relationship, the cardboard cut-out male model love interest who is revealed to be a jerk, a couple of forced meet-cutes, the best friends in the peanut gallery and, of course, the quirky eventual love



TV FILM
By NAMAN ARORA
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interest.

But every once in a while, despite knowing what a travesty this familiar tunnel of "love" is going to be, I am lured in, generally because of a comedian I have come to respect.

And this time, it was two of them – Nasim Pedrad and Lamorne Morris, whose characters on *New Girl*, Aly Nelson and Winston Bishop had a fantastic on-screen chemistry without pandering to stereotypes.

And thus, it came to pass that I spent a Saturday afternoon watching

Desperados, a title befitting my state as a critic who had slim pickings for a new release to watch.

The story is straightforward and relatable (to an extent) for any modern-day millennial. Wesley (Nasim Pedrad) is struggling to find that unholy trinity that we are all supposed to aspire to: a job, partner and family planning.

After an abrupt date with Sean (Lamorne Morris), she meets Mr Perfect-for-now Jared (Robbie Amell) and tones down her idiosyncrasies to be with him. This lasts till he ghosts her for five days and after an evening of drinking with her best friends Brooke (Anna Camp) and Kaylie (Sarah Burns), they send a darkly blunt albeit mean email to Jared listing all his flaws.

Of course, within a few minutes of sending the email, she gets a call from Jared only to be told that he had been in a coma in Mexico, as a result of a car accident, for the last five days. So, the only logical solution is to fly to Mexico, magically find out the hotel he had been staying at, and hoping that he doesn't have a password on his devices unlike every normal person, and delete the email.

Yup, that disbelief is suspended way above the Burj Al Khalifa right about now. Anyways, the rest of the movie is spent following her antics as she neglects



DESPERADOS

DIRECTOR: LP

STARRING: Nasim Pedrad, Anna Camp, Lamorne Morris, Sarah Burns

DURATION: 105 minutes

GENRE: Comedy, Romance

AVAILABLE ON: Netflix

NAMAN'S VERDICT: 🍷

her friends, ignores the obvious chemistry when she runs into Sean again and, of course, fistfuls of childish adult humour.

At the end of it all, even though there are false starts towards a different (better) kind of ending, everything works out – friendships are mended, relationships are magically rekindled and kisses are initiated under



LED lights.

Formulas are not always a bad thing. There is something comforting about being able to anticipate

a happy ending but unfortunately, a formula is only as good as the catalyst and its ingredients. And here, neither the chaotic story, nor the poorly written characters, hold up to any kind of scrutiny.

This feels like a comedy skit Adam Sandler would write for *Saturday Night Live*, after a crash course on creating chick flicks, except it has been painfully stretched into nearly two hours. The humour is painfully low-brow and still

Bite-sized trailers

Home Game

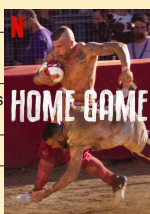
CAST: Riccardo Lo Bue, Lorenzo Marri, Raffaele D'Eligio

DURATION: 8 episodes (22 – 36 mins each)

GENRE: Documentary, Sport

PLOT: This docu-series profiles unique and dangerous traditional sports from around the world, as well as the communities and cultures where they thrive.

AVAILABLE ON: Netflix



Dark (Season 3)

CREATORS: Baran bo Odar, Jantje Friese

CAST: Karoline Eichhorn, Maja Schöne, Stephan Kampwirth

DURATION: 8 episodes (56 – 73 mins each)

GENRE: Crime, Drama, Mystery

PLOT: A missing child sets four families on a frantic hunt for answers as they unearth a mind-bending mystery that spans three generations.

AVAILABLE ON: Netflix



Hamilton

DIRECTOR: Thomas Kail

STARRING: Lin-Manuel Miranda, Phillipa Soo, Leslie Odom Jr.

DURATION: 160 mins

GENRE: Biography, Drama, History, Musical

PLOT: The real life of one of USA's foremost founding fathers and first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton. Captured live on Broadway from the Richard Rodgers Theater with the original cast.

AVAILABLE ON: Disney+ and OSN



Weekly

ove



NETFLIX

unfunny. The shots are unimaginative and completely reliant on prop physicality. The acting is lazy, with perhaps the exception of scenes with Wesley and Sean, which seem jammed into an incoherent plot.

Yes, it took boring biology and pandering physics to ruin established chemistry.

I have enjoyed bad movies as much as good movies, but nothing leaves quite as bad a taste in one's mouth as mundane mediocrity, and that's all this movie is, somehow making it even more abysmal and unwatchable than the worst movies to come out this century.



Passion for fashion

American fashion designer Sidrah Rauf aims to showcase her Pakistani roots through her collection of colourfully crafted clothing.

The 32-year-old founder of Foxy by Sidrah started her career in retail banking in New York before moving to the kingdom to become a managing consultant.

However, her true passion has always been fashion. She said: "Fashion has been an integral part of my life for as far as I can recall. In my house, we never needed an occasion to dress up."

"Growing up, I watched my mum customise her outfits all the time. She ensured that I too was dressed in the latest designs available. I feel she involuntarily ingrained in me a sense of style and passion for fashion, as well as inspired me to share this passion with the world."

In 2018, she stepped off the banking career ladder and during a trip to Lahore in 2019 she took the plunge to pursue her love for design.

"Pakistan is filled with incredible ability when it comes to fabric making and

FASHION REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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textile design techniques," said the bright business management and economic graduate from Empire State College in New York.

"During a visit to Liberty Market, which is dedicated to women's clothing, I decided I would take on a mission to fulfil my desire of showcasing Pakistan's excellence to the world. Believe it or not, it was a decision made on spot; in that place and at that moment."

"My vision for Foxy was to pick up a very ethnic design pallet and customise it to appeal to my target market. As a designer I will let the designs speak for themselves."

"Through Foxy, I want to achieve more. I want to tell women that they are strong and that they are fire!"

In March 2020, her brand was born. As Sidrah describes it, she is providing fierce women with bold, statement pieces in hopes of awakening "foxy's" all over the world. She also has a



Sidrah

collection for children.

Most articles are limited pieces and include intricate design techniques such as block printing, beading, mirror work and embroidery. Of course, all of this is done while main-taining a very lightweight end piece bearing in mind the Middle East's

humid conditions.

She is currently in the process of launching her third collection called Shajar, which means 'trees', and is design planning her fourth line.

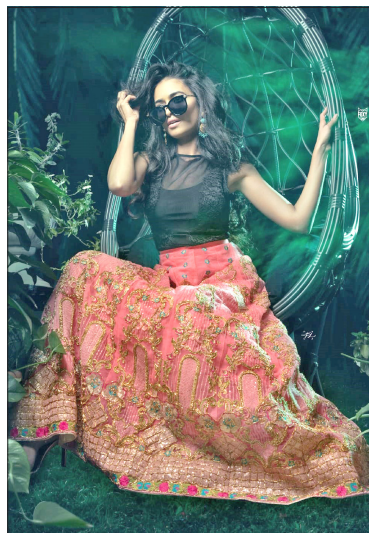
She said: "When someone places an order with me, I stay connected with them and do not consider it a closed sale until they have confirmed that they are in love with their dress."

"I also sincerely hope my customers will enjoy

flaunting the outfits as much as I enjoy creating them.

"I have a desire to reveal Pakistan's unique fashion to the Middle East and other countries. Furthermore, I can also create revenue streams for the deserving craftsmen and women. I'm scouting talent in the villages of Pakistan to ensure the underprivileged can benefit from my initiative."

For details, follow @foxy. bsysidrah on Instrgram, Facebook and TikTok.



DELL | EMC²

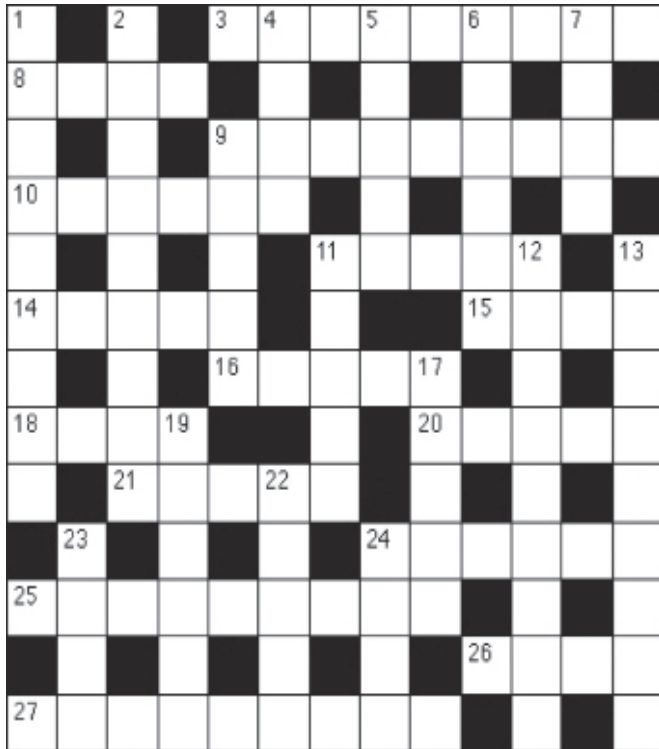
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cerebrally crust & crema

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

3. Miser (9)
8. Be depressed (4)
9. Changeable (9)
10. Odd (6)
11. Surrendered (5)
14. Upright (5)
15. Back (4)
16. Harvest (5)
18. Applaud (4)
20. Wrench (5)
21. Fruit (5)
24. Glimpse (6)
25. Incessant (9)
26. Ringlet (4)
27. Humiliating (9)

DOWN

1. Cheek (9)
2. Transient (9)
4. Eager (4)
5. Recess (5)
6. Pantry (6)
7. Tidy (4)
9. Pithy (5)
11. Unsoiled (5)
12. Conduct (9)
13. Fraternal (9)
17. Reside (5)
19. Vex (6)
22. Possessed (5)
23. Wander (4)
24. Profit (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... was The Hulk's alter ego?

WHAT ... is the lowest weight in boxing?

WHERE ... would you spend leva?

WHEN ... did the Pet Shop Boys win a Brit Award for Best Group?

WHO ... won BBC Sports Personality of The Year in 2000?

WHAT ... was the job of an auriferer?

WHERE ... is Nicosia the capital of?

WHEN ... did James II ascend to the British throne?

just so

FIGURE

station
oneoneoneone

sherfate

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

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

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

tough sudoku

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

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

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

- Across: 1 Pity;
3 Emaciate; 8 Elan;
9 Standing;
11 Exasperating;
13 Vulgar; 14 Stress;
17 Indisputable;
20 Compiled; 21 Pact;
22 Endanger; 23 Send.

- Down: 1 Preserve;
2 Travail; 4 Mature;
5 Constitute; 6 Alien;
7 Edge; 10 Apparition;
12 Assented; 15 Embrace;
16 Sphere; 18 Nomad;
19 Ache.

Who, What, Where, When: Michael Foot; Three; Zagreb; Greece; A; Royston Vasey; 1974.

Just So:

The second coming;
We shall overcome;
Wheelchair;
A bookmark.

Tough Sudoku

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

MotoringWeekly

Steering you to the best deals on wheels

Stylish and innovative

THE Fiat Concept Centoventi won the Concept Car category of the Car Design Award with an international jury praising its innovative modular style and exceptional use of colours and materials.

The Car Design News (CDN) jury, which is made up of 18 directors of style centres at various global car manufacturers, found it to be a 'revolutionary car'.

The Fiat Centoventi EV, an electric concept vehicle, was first unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show last year. It is designed to be customisable and upgradeable with a selection of battery packs, as well as with a standard-base model of one battery providing 100km to



MOTERING REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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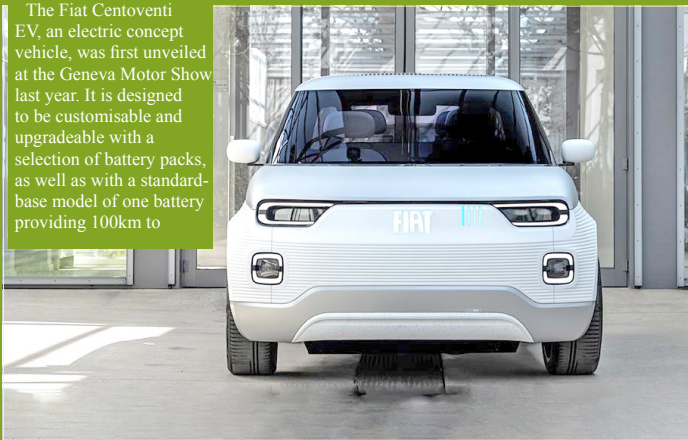
500km of range.

The Italian car will come in only one livery which can be customised, with a choice between four roof covers, four bumpers, four wheel wraps and four paint wraps.

The interior accessories are interchangeable and can be installed in 'plug-and-play'. The bumpers are also customisable and there are various roof covers available too.



The Concept Centoventi



The Concept Centoventi at the Geneva Motor Show

FintechFocus

Search for sustainable start-ups

The global search for the best start-ups in the FinTech space kicked off last week with digital pitches from five top FinTech start-ups, including Mamopay and McLedger, writes Naman Arora.

Over the next five months, the FinTech Abu Dhabi innovation and start-ups teams will digitally visit 23 countries across the globe to scout for the best entrepreneurs, in a lead up to the FinTech festival happening in Abu Dhabi from November 24 to 26 later this year.

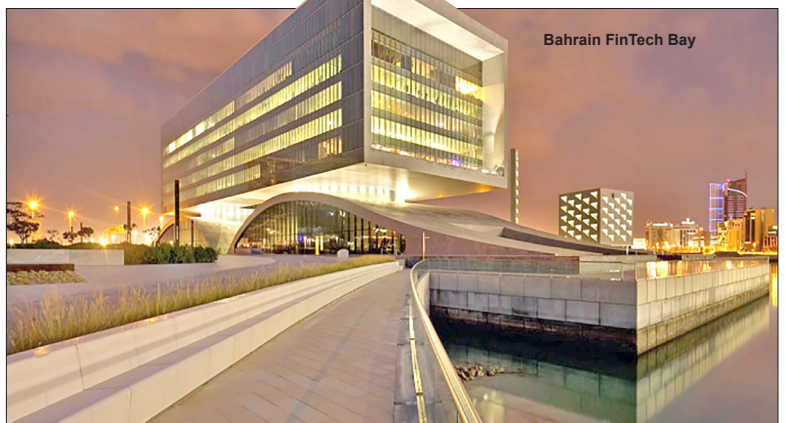
Shu Pui Li, adviser to the governor's office of the Central Bank of the UAE and one of the judges of the digital pitches last week, said: "We're at a time when we are seeing a lot of digital transformation, as banks move from offline to online. But this is not sufficient. They will need to transform their business models in order to stay current and relevant, in the post-Covid

era, not just move their offline services online. This is what we would like to see in the FinTech 100."

The FinTech 100 is a curated set of early and growth stage FinTech companies, that will be selected during The Search over the next five months. These teams will get access to funding opportunities, global connections, mentorship, networking, partner packages and a myriad of other opportunities to scale their company.

Applying companies must have a financially sustainable business model and a viable product in the RegTech, Lending, Blockchain, Capital Markets, Mortgage & Real Estate, Insurance, Personal Finance, Payments & Billing, Wealth Management or Money Transfer & Remittances spaces.

Applications for Bahraini FinTech start-ups are now open on <https://www.fintechabudhabi.com/>



Bahrain FinTech Bay

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TOP OF THE LEAGUE FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORT

July 8 - 14, 2020

F1 back with a bang

A MAZING race ... and fortunately we can do it all again this coming Sunday!

The peculiarities of the 2020 F1 season means that the teams will stay in Austria for the second race of the season which allows fans to see a completely new side of the series – how teams can adapt between one race and another with almost identical conditions.

This adds a degree of intrigue. Several teams have struggled with the kerbs and rumble strips at the Spielberg ring so mechanics will need to make adjustments.

Drivers, having rubbed the sleepiness from the eyes, have tasted competition and will now have a feel for the moves that their competitors will make.

Will Red Bull repeat their strategy of sending out Verstappen on a different tyre in qualifying? He certainly felt that the mechanical failure cost him an 'easy podium' in last Sunday's race.

Mentally both Mercedes and Hamilton committed too many mistakes. Fortunately their car appears so superior that they were almost able to ride it out. The team made several strategic errors, firstly by failing to change tyres when it would have been safe to do so under with the safety car deployed and, secondly, for allowing Hamilton to lose position so drastically in the final laps.

Perhaps distracted by the unwillingness of all the other

drivers to conform with his Black Lives Matter campaign suggestions his problems started by allowing Bottas to claim pole.

The manner in which he was demoted three places on the grid an hour before the race (ironically as Red Bull used an official F1 tweet to overturn an earlier decision) was unusual even by F1's standards.

Given that he had been instructed to stay away from the kerbs he was perhaps also a little unfortunate to concede the five second penalty. Yet Mercedes could have allowed him to pass Bottas and still give him the win.

LeClerc managed to secure second place by simply keeping out of trouble, which is more than can be said of Sebastian Vettel whose race

disintegrated when he crashed into the man who will be replacing him next year, Carlos Sainz.

Admittedly, the Monegasque driver did show strong form in the later stages having switched to the medium compound tyre although the Ferrari will need to improve drastically.

While Albon secured the fans vote as best racer of the day, Lando Norris pushed him close, as he had on the track.

Setting the fastest lap of the race to secure his first

podium was incredible racing. In the process he became the third youngest

driver to ever finish on a podium while McLaren secured their first since 2014 in an opening race. This is also the first time since that year that Hamilton has not been the top-ranked British driver in a race.

No doubt the royal pat on the back he received live on TV spurred him on to third place!

As reported on our sister website, *GDOnline*, a shocked Norris received a call from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister of Bahrain, 24-hours earlier, after securing McLaren's highest grid position since 2016.

The 20-year-old, Formula One's youngest current driver, was quicker than both Ferraris as well as Red Bull's Alex Albon and the Racing Point cars many had expected to be leading the midfield charge.

Interviewed on live *Sky* television in the paddock afterwards, the startled Briton was handed a mobile phone by McLaren Racing chief executive Zak Brown who informed him of the caller's identity.

McLaren are majority-owned by Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund Mumtalakat.

The other notable drive last weekend came from Williams' George Russell who retired while placed 12th, unfortunately unable to benefit from the same consistency available when racing online!

However, for all the thrills and spills of this race, let's not get too carried away – Bottas won the season opener last year too. Although, perhaps it is about time that Mercedes let their second driver claim the championship?

This was not a typical Austrian race. Last year there were no cars retiring – this time there were seven!

Let's see what happens in race two.

VOICE OF SPORT
By ABU GEORGE



■ Action from Sunday's season opening Grand Prix



■ Royal surprise for young McLaren ace



■ Victorious Valtteri Bottas at the Austrian GP