

Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

August 5 - 11, 2020

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The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain



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Music unites

MUSIC REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gulfweekly.com

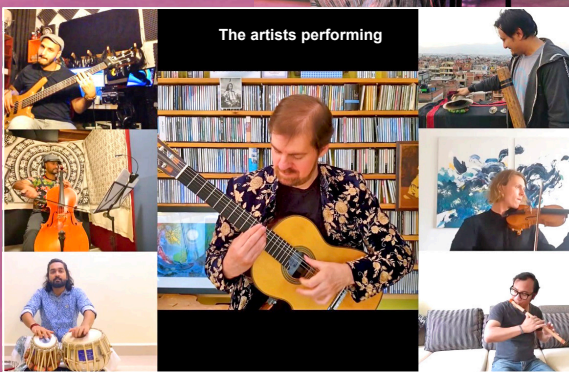
TWO of Bahrain's top musicians are representing the region in an international collaborative rendition of a 120-year-old song in response to Covid-19.

Jehad Al Halal and Salah Alawi Sharakhat, members of Bahraini band *Majaz*, are part of 19-artist ensemble performing *We Shall Overcome*, reimaged by Scottish composer Simon Thacker.

Salah said: "This version of *We Shall Overcome* is a beautiful testament to the force for positivity and unity that music will always be. We hope it will lift your spirits during the time of Covid-19. I'm very proud to be part of this amazing work, which has an important message of solidarity."

We Shall Overcome is a gospel song, lyrically descending from a hymn penned by Charles Albert Tindley in 1900 that has been reinvented at significant moments in the last century, in particular the civil rights movement in the US.

Simon approached bassist Salah and cellist Jehad after taking a liking



The artists performing

to Majaz's live show a couple of years back and watching a number of their YouTube videos.

They are the only musicians participating from the region. The group also includes musicians from India, Poland, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Nepal and the UK.

Salah said: "It felt great to perform a piece with such a historical lineage. This song also transformed as it went around the world; for example, every Bengali learns it in school as *Amra Korbo Joy*. It's a great example of how universal music is and how it unites us. This new transformation is another stage in the song's journey."

Simon's rendition features a base of guitar, bass and tabla layered

with multilingual lyrics, with each musician and singer's parts recorded independently.

Salah explained: "Simon started off with the guitar track then added me on bass and Praveen Narayan from Chennai, India on tabla. That was the guide track that was sent to everyone to add their parts. We discussed a lot of nuances in the process. This is a pretty unusual way of working as normally each person would add a layer having heard what everyone else had played."

"Simon explained to each person, and in many cases was on video call when artists were recording, to make sure that all the parts would fit when he came to put it together, with most artists only having the guide track to perform to.

Each singer was asked to record verses three and four in their native languages. Hence, verse three starts off with a medley of Hindi, Urdu and Polish lyrics.

Through the dulcet duo's bits in the song, the global community has a chance to experience contemporary music emanating from the Gulf. Salah added: "International audiences and musicians are often amazed at how diverse our influences are and how we incorporate them into our sound. We have the greatest respect for the previous generations in Bahrain that lived and breathed music since the 60's and pioneered new sounds."

"We hope that our music will continue to evolve while maintaining an unbreakable link to our cultural and regional identity."

During Covid-19, *Majaz* has been working on

recording more songs while honing their online performance skills. They recently put out a show through the Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation programme on YouTube entitled *An Evening with Majaz Band*.

They will soon be unveiling *Shuruppak* ("the healing place" in Ancient Sumerian), the third single from their upcoming EP.

Salah concluded: "It takes equal effort as playing live in front of an audience! Capturing a good live sound for a virtual performance is an art in itself."

"The greatest lesson learned is that, despite the circumstances, we must remain determined to connect with our fans and keep making the best music that we can."



Check out the song by scanning the QR Code!



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BRINGING CHEER
Smile summer camp
SEE PAGE 2



A CARING CAMPAIGN
Helping hands
SEE PAGE 3

Bringing cheer to little hearts

AS the Covid-19 pandemic has restricted socialisation, those with compromised immune systems due to ongoing medical treatments are all but secluded to their homes.

The Smile Initiative, part of the Bahrain Future Society for Youth (BFSY), has been bringing cheer and comfort to children with cancer and their parents, with ongoing activities and a recently launched summer camp.

Mohamed El Sokary, board member of BFSY, and supervisor of the "Smile" summer training camp, stressed the importance of this programme in developing the talents of



CAMP REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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sick children and inspiring them to innovate according to educational basics that help the child to practice his favourite hobbies and talents.

The remote summer camp is being conducted for the next month, every week from Sunday to Thursday for an hour per day. It includes fun workshops on drawing, colouring and other kids' activities as well as a slew of educational sessions.

The camp is being run by the society's volunteers via Zoom to keep children's minds and bodies engaged, even if they are stuck at home due to their weakened immunity systems.

Volunteers delivering care packages and gifts to children with cancer and their families



Mohamed added: "There is a remarkable and growing interaction by participants of this programme, and the initiative is keen to

develop its tools and methods continuously to adapt to remote education and training, and to capture children's attention.

"The psychological support is an essential criterion for the necessary care for children with cancer. We must understand that childhood cancer is not only a physical disease, but a psychological disease as well. Therefore, helping children to strengthen their psychological aspect is necessary, as this reflects on their immunity and their ability to fight disease and recover, God willing, and that's what our programme strives to do."

This summer camp is the latest in a series of campaigns



A child showing off some of his summer camp creations

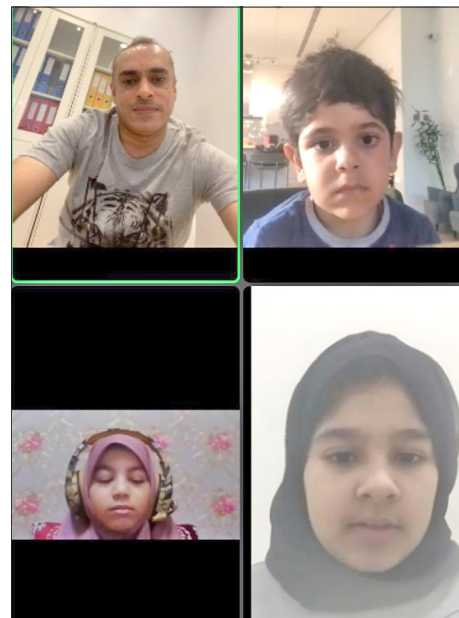
run by the organisation since the onset of the pandemic. The volunteers have been

spreading awareness amongst parents on the best measures to maximise protection for their children, especially those who need special and permanent care.

While social activities have been suspended for the time being, the organisation's new headquarters are open to receive children individually to ensure that they continue to receive psychosocial services during these critical times.

The organisation told *GulfWeekly*: "In April and May, we distributed coronavirus protection kits to sick children and their families, which included masks, gloves and sterilisers. Our volunteers delivered these to homes across the kingdom, after sterilising the kits, and advised parents on their correct use."

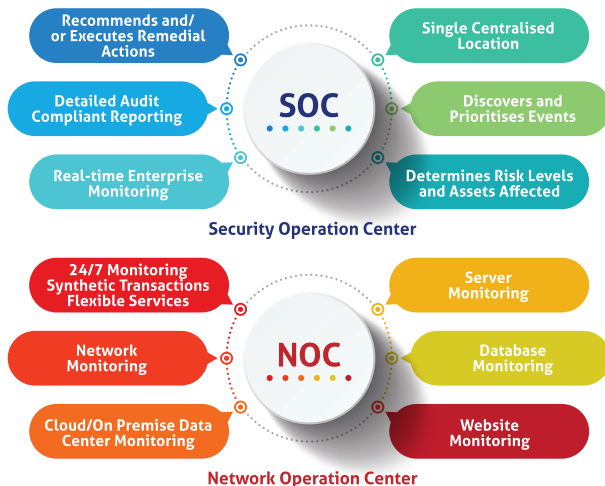
The volunteers also distributed gifts at the start of the summer, to encourage children to continue staying at home and following precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease.



Summer Camp Zoom session



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The power of giving

FORMER *GulfWeekly* columnist Noor Al-Alaweyat and social media maven has launched a caring campaign to support families affected by Covid-19.

The 30-year-old teaching assistant, better known as @Khaleejgirl on Instagram, came up with the KhaleejGirl Gives initiative to collect everyday essentials such as groceries, sanitary products and more to donate to families in need that are struggling to make ends meet

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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during the pandemic.

"The concept came to me after witnessing the impact Covid-19 was having on families and individuals," said Noor, from Saar. "The virus hit and took away their livelihoods making them and their families desperate to fulfil basic needs."

"My team and I are currently reviewing a long list of families and individuals in need to match them with a list of

community members who have already contacted me to support the cause.

"We aim to support and look out for as many families and people living in Bahrain so that we can get through these unprecedented times together and come out of it as a stronger community and a stronger Bahrain."

Noor is a firm believer in the motto of 'better together' in particular in empowering women across the region. She founded the virtual magazine *KhaleejGirl* in which she interviews various women from the Gulf as well as shares her own thought-provoking stories and columns in a bid to inspire others.

Noor said: "When I was younger I remember reading so many magazines like *CosmoGirl* and *Seventeen*. I would see how the magazines featured different women and their unique stories which were also inspiring. I wanted to create a similar style for Bahrain and that is how *KhaleejGirl* was born. It is a digital magazine made up of like-minded women aimed at

empowering women living in the Middle Eastern region.

"We do this by writing articles based on personal experiences, conducting live stories on Instagram and more. We believe that every woman can learn from one another and only then a *KhaleejGirl* can realise she is not alone."

Noor has also written several columns for the

GulfWeekly.

Those interested in volunteering their time, effort along with donations including non-perishable food and other necessities, can fill out a form in the KhaleejGirl Gives category found on www.khaleejgirl.com.

She added: "Money donations are not involved in this initiative. We are only

involved in donating essential goods that will help families during their time of need.

"Every little bit helps and will make a significant impact in the lives of the people who have been affected directly and indirectly."

For details, visit @khaleejgirl on Instagram or email khaleejgirl15@gmail.com.

"Every little bit helps and will make a significant impact in the lives of the people who have been affected directly and indirectly."



Noor





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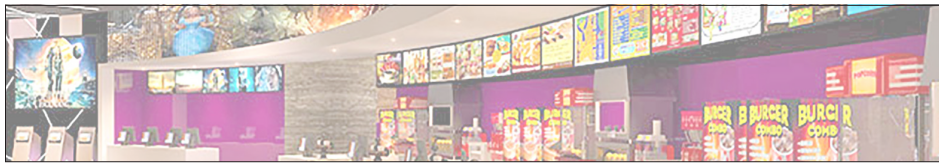
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Shimmy and shake



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

BAHRAINI-SEYCHELLOIS rapper Abdulla Abdulhakeem, known across the kingdom as Confait, has fans shimmying and shaking with the debut of his single *Fortnite Dance*.

The 26-year-old's award winning *TikTok* Arabia song and dance challenge called *Fortnite Dab* has been transformed into a full on song and music video recorded and produced by Outlaw Productions, the hip hop label he also signed with last year.

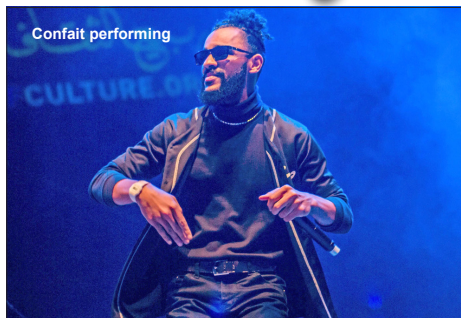
Confait, from Saar, said: "This is my first debut single and video and it feels great! It's satisfying to see how a little silly idea can turn into something so big, so if you see potential in any idea, no matter how small, don't give up on it."

The concept originally came about last year after Confait decided to give the 15-second-or-less video creation app a shot based on a suggestion made by his friend @k.a.a.rh.

He always wanted to create something based on the popular *Fortnite* game and its dance moves. Hence, Confait wrote a song and choreographed a dance routine including moves from the game as well as some of his own to be used on *TikTok*. His *Fortnite Dab* video and challenge went viral and racked up more than 140 million views. It also won him the award for *TikTok* Arabia's Most Popular Original Song in 2019. The awards were announced at *TikTok*'s end of the year ceremony on New Year's Eve in Dubai. It was his first award in his musical career.

Now, the cool *Fortnite* moves and vibe are further emphasised in his single.

"The same vibe fans got from the shorter version has simply been turned into a longer one," explained Confait. "The chorus of the song is all about dancing, but the lyrics heard throughout the song may sound like it's about playing the game and there



Confait performing



Confait

is a hidden meaning behind it. I'll leave that for the listeners to figure out."

It took him around 30 to 40 minutes to bring the whole idea to life and a week to complete the whole song.

"It was also my first experience shooting a

professional music video with a full-on camera crew and set," he added. "I never realised how difficult it is and how much time and effort it takes, but it was an exciting process. Because of social distancing, it was challenging to do but we



Fortnite Dance

found a way around it. We shot the video in green screen and limited the crew as much as possible. Seeing what it looked like after the VFX and edit was done was exhilarating."

The single is picking up positive feedback from his

fans which is driving him to create more music and challenges in the future.

He said: "There are a lot of plans in the pipeline than I'm working on with the team. I'm constantly working on new ideas and I also have some projects and

features lined up."

People can watch the video by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/c/outlawproductions> and the song is also available on all digital platforms including Anghami, Spotify and Apple Music.

BAHRAIN SUMMER FESTIVAL



Mohammed Bin Faris Band

August 6 – Mohammed bin Faris Band (Bahrain)

A traditional and renowned folk group of distinguished Bahraini musicians that is recognised for music paying homage to the kingdom's cultural heritage and pearling past.



Ningxia

This week, in Bahrain's first ever digital summer festival, there is an eclectic mix of Bahraini and international entertainment.

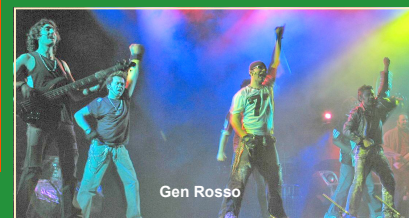
August 6 – Gen Rosso (Italy)

An international performing arts group which was awarded the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in 1996 as a recognition of their diverse membership, support of cultural dialogue and messages of peace and universal brotherhood.

August 7 – Ningxia Performing Arts Group (China)

Established in 2011, the group is the largest Chinese art group with a range of outstanding works with national influence ranging from operas to dance poems to musicals.

To check out these events and more, follow @culturebah or @nakhoobahon on Instagram or visit www.bahrainsummer.bh.



Gen Rosso

August 9 – Qalali Folk Band (Bahrain)
A century-old band from the village of Qalali in Muharraq that performs authentic songs, dances and rhythms revolving around Bahrain's rich history and marine life.



Qalali

Weekly



Angel wings hoodie



Stay at home

Hoodies of happiness



Thajba and Reem

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

A group of talented teens have created a series of hoodie designs to inspire and unite people in Bahrain during Covid-19.

The cool creatives collaborated with sisters Reem and Thajba Najeeb, founders of Artology Bahrain in Saar, where they used to practice their art skills before schools, studios and centres were closed.

Thajba, a popular painter known for her vibrant art featured on canvases, abayas, perspex boxes and other materials, wanted to provide the youngsters with activities to keep them entertained whilst stuck at home.

The 39-year-old Ibn Khuldoon National School (IKNS) IB art teacher and head of the visual arts department for the high school, said: "It was our job as artists to document this time whichever way we could. At a time where



Frida Kahlo hoodie

our teens were staying at home and sleeping in during quarantine, we came up with Quarantology where we made them think of fun ways to express themselves using their hip and young lingo. We wanted them to create something they could use to communicate their age and reflect the times

they are in. "After a brief talk with the teens, the hoodie initiative was decided which was a true reflection of the hashtag era, their quirky comments and care-free attitude about life. "What better way to raise awareness than this? When youngsters were resisting



Ayesha and Thajba

something as necessary as wearing a mask, we thought let's bring a positive spin using fashion during a depressive and confined time in our lives. It was a great way to cheer people up, to document a pandemic in history and to support local businesses."

The sisters, along with their mum and aunt, teamed up with IKNS senior student Ayesha Tyabji to guide the teens in the design concept.

Together, the team came up with six designs and colour

options to suit all styles featuring embroidery made by local artisans and using local products to support Bahrain's businesses.

Ayesha said: "Each piece was a mash up of diverse cultures to better suit the influences we have in our lives.

"Music, art and entertainment impact us greatly during these uncertain times and by wearing these hoodies, we unite."

There is a white, black and red hoodie with the words 'Stay Home Habibi' written in English along with a white and ash grey hoodie saying 'Stay at Home' in Arabic, priced BD18. Ayesha added: "This hoodie symbolised us all standing together, united to support the community by asking everyone to stay at home to protect our front-liners as well as the elderly and our families."

The ash grey gold, white and silver angel wing hoodies, priced at BD20, state that the wearer stands for kindness which is needed during this time. Reem, a 44-year-old mother of three who

manages the art commune, said: "We should be kind and sensitive to others knowing that we are in the same boat but the ride is different for all."

Another popular purchase is the Frida Kahlo white and ash grey hoodies for BD20. This symbolises creativity and supports artists. Frida was a visionary in her time and the person adorning this hoodie represents her resourcefulness, talents and innovation.

At the moment, the team is creating new designs to be launched in the next few weeks. Thajba said: "The first set of hoodies proved to be quite popular and the initiative was successful in promoting our message which was to support local business and culture as well as showcase the beautiful products that can be made in our very own home Bahrain. At a time when our studio has become silent, our teens still made noise in a positive way. They truly shined and we can't wait to see more of their colourful creations."

For details, visit @artology.bh on Instagram.

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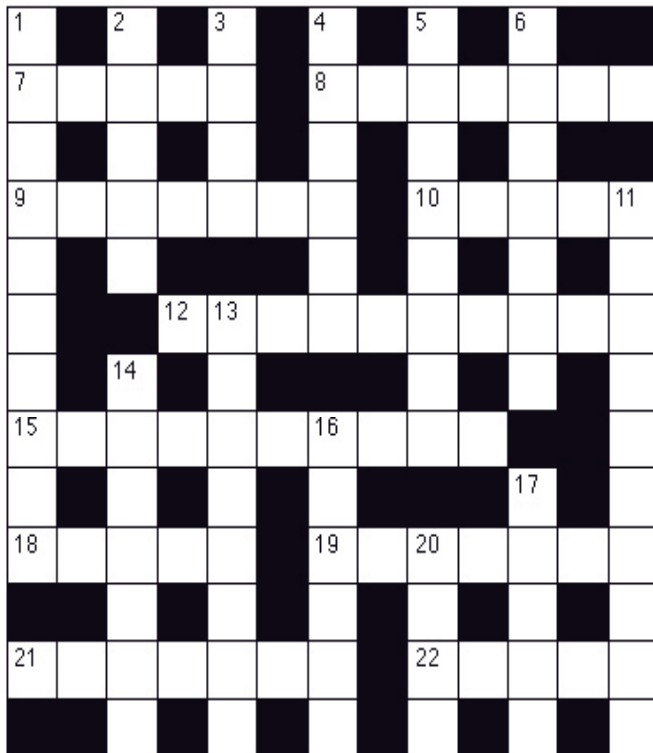
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cerebrally crust & crema

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

7. Malice (5)
8. Take counsel (7)
9. Idleness (7)
10. Power (5)
12. Dormancy (10)
15. Odious (10)
18. Dodge (5)
19. Sorrow (7)
21. Sideboard (7)
22. Flood (5)

DOWN

1. Digest (10)
2. Bolt (5)
3. Tidy (4)
4. Abrade (6)
5. Hostile (8)
6. Acrid (7)
11. Intruder (10)
13. Cosmos (8)
14. Comforted (7)
16. Ridiculous (6)
17. Postpone (5)
20. Twilight (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... was the second man to set foot on the surface of the moon?

WHAT ... is the only Wonder of the Ancient World to still be standing today?

WHERE ... would you be if the zloty was the local currency?

WHEN ... was the film Fight Club released?

WHO ... was shot dead on the doorstep of his Miami mansion in 1997?

WHAT ... Greek letter is used to mean micro-?

WHERE ... was Buffy the Vampire Slayer set?

just so

UNI
RIPPER

time time

uuy

CAS

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

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

tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Devastate; 8 Err; 9 Stateliness; 11 Reverie; 12 Above; 13 Gender; 15 Demand; 17 Theft; 18 Premier; 20 Entertained; 22 Urn; 23 Extremity.

Down: 2 Eft; 3 Steer; 4 Arisen; 5 Elevate; 6 Restoration; 7 Pretender; 10 Advancement; 11 Righteous; 14 Entitle; 16 Spirit; 19 Erase; 21 Eat.

JUST SO:

Diamonds are forever; Middle of the road; Silence is golden.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN: Dr Leonard 'Bones' McCoy; Antimony; Germany; 2003; The Shamen; Swede; In the ear; 1960.

Tough Sudoku

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

MotoringWeekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

Ire of the Tyre

RACE REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gulfweekly.com

LAST Sunday's race had some of the most bewildering final laps of a Formula One race ever, as Mercedes-AMG's Lewis Hamilton limped to a three-wheeled victory at the 2020 British Grand Prix.

Pulling in just 5.8 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, Hamilton's final-lap tyre puncture nearly cost him his third victory of the season and a record-breaking seventh home Grand Prix win. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc pulled into third place.

Hamilton said, after the race: "I have never experienced anything like that before. That last lap was one of the most challenging laps I have ever had. Up until that point, everything was going relatively smoothly, the tyres felt great and I was doing some management. When I heard Valtteri (Bottas)'s tyre had



Hamilton with his trophies

gone, I looked at mine and everything seemed fine, but I started to back off. Then, it just suddenly deflated down the

"I think the gap was 30 seconds at one stage, but it was



Hamilton's tyre puncture

straight. It was a heart-in-your-mouth feeling and then I was just trying to keep the speed up without damaging the car.

coming down quite quickly and I was thinking "How far is it to the end of the lap?". But we managed to get the car across the line. That last lap is definitely

one to remember, I feel so grateful that I got it back and could secure the win. It was difficult standing up there on the podium without the crowd, but hopefully I did everyone proud who was supporting us from home."

Hamilton's team mate Bottas was not so lucky; his tyre puncture with three laps remaining just as he crossed the pit lane dropped him from second to 11th position. The Silverstone circuit has always been tough on tyres

because of its hard turns but last Sunday's race was even more brutal with Hamilton, Bottas and McLaren's Carlos Sainz suffering punctures.

Tyre supplier Pirelli has opened an investigation into the tyre troubles ahead of next week's 70th anniversary race, with boss Mario Isola saying that in addition to the excessive wear on the tyres by the demanding track, the punctures could also be attributed to debris left on the track after Alfa Romeo's Kimi Raikkonen broke off his front wing after going wide on the track.

Ignoring the carnage, Verstappen also made one of the race's more contentious decisions as he pitted in order to secure the extra point for fastest lap, with analysts saying that he might have been able to close the gap behind punctured Hamilton had he raced through to win the race.

Hamilton now leads the championship with 88 points, 30 points ahead of Bottas and 36 points ahead of Verstappen. The 70th anniversary Grand Prix takes place next weekend at the same circuit.



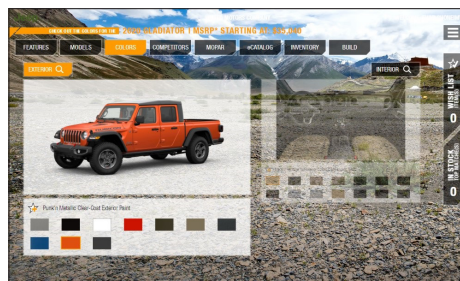
Hamilton and Bottas pre-puncture

Digital drive

MOTORING enthusiasts fond of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) range of rides can now scroll through an array of models using the global carmakers' contactless new showroom, writes Mai Al-Khatib-Camille.

FCA, which is the manufacturer of Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, RAM, Fiat, Abarth and Alfa Romeo vehicles globally, is providing its dealerships in the Middle East with iShowroom, a virtual sales tool which offers customers a chance to shop digitally from their screens at home.

This state-of-the-art initiative is built on the success of its Car@home programme which allows customers to order test



drives to their doorsteps.

The iShowroom enables shoppers to interact with dealerships from the comfort and safety of their own abodes via popular video conferencing applications.

Orhan Sozen, FCA Middle East's network development director, said: "Our sales consultants are able to highlight every single aspect of any of our models with

the tap of a finger and broadcast this experience directly to the homes of our customers. This wholly digital experience maximises comfort, convenience and safety for both our clients and our employees."

The digital sales tool is available in web (desktop, laptop and tablet) and mobile web (smartphones) versions. It contains information about



every model of every FCA brand, including features and benefits as well as videos about how key features work, brand advertising and animations. It even allows customers to make model-to-model comparisons between different FCA cars.

Another element is the

'Wish List' which allows users to compile a list of desired features such as Adaptive Cruise Control or Lane Change Assist. It also can help determine which vehicles in the dealership's inventory have those features, helping sales consultants match the correct

models to customers' specific needs.

The iShowroom can also be hosted on popular video conferencing applications such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

For more information regarding FCA, please visit www.fcagroup.com

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TOP OF THE LEAGUE FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORT

August 5 - 11, 2020

Island Classic tee time

Gulf Weekly
The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain



Flashback: Some shots from last year's tournament

GOLF REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gulfweekly.com

THE 23rd annual American Mission Hospital (AMH) Island Classic tournament is set to tee off in November at the private golf course of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Saffriya Palace.

The event, which attracted 46 teams and more than 180 golfers last year, hopes to attract even more teams this year since this will be the first tournament since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr George Cheriyan, AMH chief medical officer and corporate chief executive, told *GulfWeekly*: "The Covid-19 crisis has made us more resolute and stronger, to remind ourselves that the human spirit is resilient and will overcome all challenges. The Island Classic embodies this spirit of playing the game for the greater good of quality healthcare for all, for which the American Mission Hospital exists."

Last year, the event raised BD26,500 in cash and BD39,000 in kind from corporate and community sponsors, including *GulfWeekly* and our sister publication *GDNOnline*.



Photographs by Honey Sharma

Businesses and companies can sponsor under the various levels, namely Diamond, Platinum, Emerald, Gold, Silver and Hole and enter

teams to play during the three-day tournament from November 5 to 7.

The tournament is played in the Florida format, in



Former US ambassador Justin Siberell teeing off at last year's tournament

which after all players on a team tee-off at each hole, the team picks one of their four shots (generally the one closest to the hole) and

all the players move their ball to that position. All the team members, except for the person whose shot was picked, then play this shot and then pick one of the three shots to continue from, repeating the cycle until the ball is holed.

The nine-hole golf course where the event will be taking place attracts veteran golfers year after year, challenging both high and low handicappers with its demanding design and wily winds set amidst a beautiful course.

The teams are divided into two categories – the championship flight and the premier flight – depending on their handicaps. Due to social distancing guidelines

and event restrictions, there may be some changes to the format of the closing gala dinner as well as the social aspects of the tournament, which will be announced closer to the date.



Dr Cheriyan

The funds raised support AMH's community outreach programmes, including their diabetes, elderly care, autistic care and cancer

awareness campaigns as well as free medical check-ups for labour camps conducted regularly by the hospital,

In the past few months, much of their outreach has shifted to online media including psychological support for people and children coping with Covid-19 and staying at home.



Dr Cheriyan with dignitaries at last year's tee off