

Green rescue act

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

ANIMAL welfare champions are hoping to clean up on vet bills thanks to a unique green partnership involving a recycling initiative.

The cash-strapped Bahrain Rescues shelter in the Southern Governorate has collaborated with a hygiene and cleaning service company in a scrap metal fund-raising partnership.

The eBin Company reached out to the non-profit rescue organisation that is run by around 15 volunteers, of which three are full-time, to support them as the costs of treating injured abandoned pets continue to mount up.

"Although we are paying off a big chunk of our bills on a weekly basis, there are constantly mistreated animals finding their way to us and we simply can't turn them away," said Mojda Banahi, the group's public relations representative and spokesman.

"We have tried to minimise our invoices as much as possible but we can't ignore an emergency and even if we manage to pay some of the costs, the bills continue to pile up.

"Hopefully, the funding raised by this initiative will help cover the medical bills for injured animals as well as allow us to purchase food for the animals under our care.

"Currently we have about BD1,800 to pay off at one clinic and around BD400 to another. And, we still have to find the rent money to pay, as



Mojda with some of the beloved Salukis

well as electricity and water and other supplies.

"We hope this campaign will help raise awareness about our struggle, raise funds for our fur babies and also help the environment through recycling metal scraps."

The shelter and recycling company are spreading the word to construction companies, waste management concerns, compounds and other corporations to spare a minimum of one tonne of scrap metal to them and in return eBin will donate the value of that soon-to-be recycled metal to Bahrain Rescues.

"Any individual or company that can donate scrap metal will help us in our cause," Mojda added. "We even have people that can come and assess the materials and help you deliver them to eBin. Or you can contact eBin directly and say you'd like to donate to us. Every little bit helps. We have so many caring animals in need that have gone through enough in their lives."

The shelter currently has approximately 80 cats and dogs, including a mule named Martha, and nine recently-rescued hamsters. They have been involved in rescuing injured and



A rescued kitty

abandoned animals for the past four years, including birds, cats and dogs, rabbits and turtles.

"I do need to point out - because this is a common misconception - we are not rescuing strays," added Mojda. "We rescue animals that have been injured and are in mortal danger.

"Many are domesticated pets that have been abandoned, thrown out or their owners simply lost interest in them. There are a lot of people who buy pets or breed them and then just cannot commit to them, especially if an animal loses its purpose or becomes a financial strain.

"The animals then get dumped on the streets to fend for themselves and because of their domestic upbringing; they do not know how to survive on their own.

"My message would be that if you can't care for an animal or are willing to take that animal in for the next 15 years of its life, or are ready to pay for any kind of

medical issue it might face, you should absolutely NOT get an animal.

"You can volunteer at shelters and support people that do rescue animals instead because we struggle a lot with this kind of issue. And, the more that we feed this profit hungry machine, the more that these poor animals will suffer. So unless you are willing to make this a lifetime commitment, please do not get a pet - help us help these animals instead!"

And once Covid-19 restrictions have eased and people are able to be out and about, Mojda hopes they will stop by the visitor-friendly shelter and give the rescues some much needed TLC too.

"Our aim is to make Bahrain Rescues a home for people that love animals and for those that want to learn more about them," Mojda added.

For details, follow @bahrain_rescues on Instagram.



ARTISTIC CAMPAIGN
Supporting youngsters
SEE PAGE 2



SUMMER FESTIVAL
What's on?
SEE PAGE 4



CUBIST CREATIVE
Started from the bottom
SEE PAGES 4-5



REMIX TRIBUTE
A party hit
SEE PAGE 5



RAW CANDY

Artisan Vegan Chocolate



AVAILABLE FOR
PICK-UP & DELIVERY

Catch 'em young



ART REPORT

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

ASPIRING young Bahraini artists are being given the chance to sharpen their digital art skills by experts in the field, for free, as part of an initiative.

The US Embassy has teamed up with Cartoon Planet, an animation and graphic design studio based in Al Janabiya, to launch the Artists for a Cause programme.

It aims to support the kingdom's talented teenagers and adults aged from 15 to 25, from various charity and philanthropic societies, who want to pursue a career in digital arts.

The programme was conceptualised by digital artist and creative director of Cartoon Planet Mohamed Almahdi, who was supported in the past by the US Embassy when he attended a workshop at the Centre for Cartoon Studies. There he



met well-known cartoonist Josh Neufeld with whom he worked on a graphic novel in 2013.

"I conceptualised Artists for a Cause because I wanted to give Bahraini youth the chance to learn and develop their digital art skills by

introducing free workshops taught by both American experts and local artists," he said.

"The goal is to make it more feasible for creative Bahraini youth to fulfill their treasured dreams and allow them to learn skills that will help the

community and assist them in pursuing their desired career."

The programme kicked off on Sunday in the presence of Dr Shaikha Rania bint Ali Al Khalifa, secretary general of Alia Centre for Early Intervention, in addition to Ethan Goldrich, the Chargé d'Affaires at the United States Embassy in Bahrain.

"The US Embassy in Bahrain is proud to partner with cartoonist Mohamed Almahdi of Cartoon Planet and other Bahraini and US artists to present Artists for a Cause," said Ethan.

"We hope that this partnership will offer them additional tools that will serve them in the workplace and help them continue to advocate for their communities.

"This programme is one example among many of the rich cultural and creative collaborations between the United States and Bahrain."

American cartoonist Paul Karasik, an occasional cartoonist for *The New Yorker Magazine* who is part of the programme, made a speech at the event along with Dr Sawsan Karimi, who is an assistant professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Bahrain and mother of the talented artist Husain Haji.

Dr Sawsan, who represents the Bahrain Society for Children with Behavioural and Communication Difficulties, gave a speech about 'Art from a Community Perspective'.

Meanwhile, a representative from the embassy also said

the programme will create synergies between those who support the cause of art and those in need.

"It gives the youth a chance to co-operate with others in giving back to the community," added the representative.

"It also cultivates a generation of professionally skilled artists, and gives youth the courage to build the future they want to live."

The participants registered in the programme so far hail from different

charities, orphanages and societies including Al Kawther Society for Orphan Care, AIESEC in Bahrain, Bahrain Society for Sickle Cell Disease Patients, Ayadi Relief, Bahrain Society for Children with Behavioural and Communication Difficulties, Fazat Shabab, and the Bahrain Philanthropic Society.

The workshops will teach basic and advanced skills in graphic design, 2D animation, cinematography, voice acting and more. Participants will learn about Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop and Animate.

The classes will be



conducted by Paul, who is a two-time Eisner-award winner, Elliot Cowan, who is a 2D animation academic, Denis St John of Peanuts Studio which is home to *Snoopy*, as well as Andy Warner, Kimberly Schmidt, and others.

The best 12 works of art created during the workshops will be published in a 2022 table calendar – 500 copies of which will be distributed to societies and youths taking part in the programme.

Participants will also receive digital attendance certificates as a token of appreciation.



EMPOWER YOUR VOTE

SECURE ONLINE VOTING MADE EASY



Hilal Computers

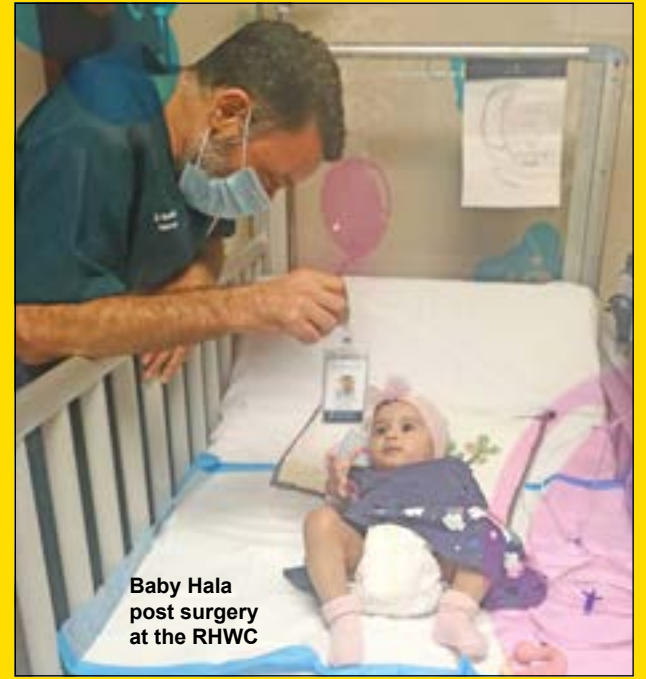
BAH: +973 1729 3749 | KSA: +966 1 3867 6851 | UAE: +971 4551 5434 | OMAN +968 2252 4028
consult@hilalcomputers.com hilalcomputers.com





Baby Hala fully recovered

New lease on life



Baby Hala post surgery at the RHCW



COMMUNITY REPORT

By RAJI UNNIKRISHNAN
rahi@gdn.com.bh

A BABY born with a painful internal health problem has been successfully treated at a leading Bahrain facility.

Baby Hala Majeed Alsadiq started showing symptoms resembling constipation shortly after birth but the restricted bowel movement proved to be much more serious.

Under the expert care of Royal Hospital for Women and Children (RHCW) paediatric gastroenterologist Dr Suhail Shabib, she was diagnosed as suffering from anal stenosis, a condition where the child is born with a narrow anal passage.

A three-hour long surgical procedure was performed at the RHCW bringing an end to the family's nightmare having previously being wrongly advised by friends to treat her condition as constipation.

"When I examined her, she had recto-perineal fistula which is one of the anorectal malformations in children where the rectum and anal



Baby Hala with her parents

area are not well developed," explained Dr Shabib.

"We started her on dilatation and washout for one month then she had an examination under anaesthesia to locate the sphincter - a circular muscle that normally maintains constriction of a natural body passage.

"The fistula opening was outside the sphincter and that indicates the need for surgical correction."

During the operation, medics reconstructed the baby's rectum and anal area successfully. "She had a smooth recovery and she started passing stools normally just a few hours after surgery," added Dr Shabib.

"She completed her hospital course and was discharged home and she now has normal bowel movements, four to five times daily, with no difficulty."

RHCW Paediatric Surgery Consultant Dr Hussein Ahmed Hamdy said that constipation in children was a common problem that can often be managed with dietary modification and medications but it could also be a 'complicated problem needing surgical intervention'.

"A detailed history and a physical examination are the key to diagnosing the underlying cause of



Dr Shabib



Dr Hamdy

constipation and directs the management of the condition," he explained. "We always encourage parents to seek medical advice if their child is constipated.

"It could be also due to a surgical problem which can be corrected giving the child a normal lifestyle.

"Always make sure to give a detailed history and have your child examined by an experienced doctor."

The RHCW boasts one of the most advanced neonatal intensive care units in the kingdom and has been offering a comprehensive range of clinical services exclusively for women

and children since its inauguration in 2019.

The 10,000sqm facility features 65 inpatient beds, three operating theatres, three high-dependency rooms, four labour and delivery rooms and four day-care or minor procedure rooms.

The hospital also offers an extensive range of services including antenatal and a well woman clinic, gynecology, family medicine, endoscopy, gastroenterology for children and adults, bone densitometry, cosmetology, minimal invasive and bariatric surgery, fertility clinic (IVF) and a round-the-clock emergency unit.

Stepping into a brighter future

The New Millennium School Bahrain held a virtual ceremony to bid its graduates a hearty farewell and wish them well on their future endeavours.

The ceremony, which was featured on the online platform created by the school's Year 11 students, started with an official welcome address made by the headmistress followed by the virtual lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

The event featured welcome songs, speeches, a stand-up comedy session and a viewing of the class photo album and digital messages that were

arranged by Year 11 students.

Principal Arun Kumar Sharma delivered a speech in which he applauded the patience and perseverance displayed by students in accepting all the changes during the pandemic.

Meanwhile, chief guest Ganesh Pillai, Director Knowledge Management Group, blessed the outgoing batch of students and extended his good wishes to them for a bright, successful and prosperous future.

During the event, students thanked teachers as they recalled their shared memories of up to 14 years at the school.



The farewell ceremony



Culture

Colourful cubist

ART REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gulfweekly.com

AN artist from the Philippines has risen above his humble origins to create breath-taking cubist paintings of Bahraini culture.

Gary Manalo uses cubism to depict everything from the kingdom's fish vendors to his son's aquaculture inkings, but his childhood artistic memories are coloured in gray just like his earliest pieces, using charcoal from the streets of Calbayog, Philippines.

"I experienced poverty early in life which pushed me to find creative ways to fund my artistic journey," the 43-year-old father-of-two



The triptych of paintings

told *GulfWeekly*.

"I would often take part in competitions with the goal of winning, because that was how I could afford more art

supplies. I used charcoal in crafting my art when I was a child, and when I took part in my first competition, I only had one pencil brush and a borrowed watercolour kit.

"My classmates' renditions were much brighter because they could afford higher quality materials, but the judges were impressed with my technique."

Gary did not win that competition, but it encouraged him to keep going. And he soon went on to win a number of regional and national level competitions, using each

event to further refine his technique.

"Raul Isidro, one of my mentors, used to say, 'Pinta lang ng pinta,' which means you can only be a painter if you keep painting. This has driven me to continue creating art, no matter what else life threw my way."

And life certainly did throw its fair bit at Gary.

When he finished high school, he wanted to become an architect, but was unable to find a programme he could afford. Instead he took up General Drafting at Northwest Samar State

University, but on the side, kept attending art seminars and workshops, as well as participating in competitions.

It was at one of these workshops, at the cultural centre in Calbayog city in Philippines in 1991, that he discovered cubism.

It was a turning point.

Cubism is an early-1900s avant-garde art revolution in Europe, in which objects are analysed, broken down and reassembled in an abstract form, depicting the subject from a multitude of viewpoints to represent it in a greater context.

"In addition to Pablo Picasso, the father of cubism, I was fascinated by Filipino national artists like Ang Kiukok, Vicente Manansala, Botong Francisco, Legaspi, Malang and Raul Isidro," he said.

"To this day, I am fascinated by their styles and techniques especially the colour rendition, shapes, lines, figures and abstract forms.

"I am still working on my own signature approach to cubism, but I like to balance my composition and colour rendition. I use strong colours to visualise my life on the



Gary with his family

Summer festival coming home

The 13th edition of the Bahrain Summer Festival is set to be held remotely next month, bringing a range of events including stage plays, musical concerts, workshops, cooking shows and, of course, the annual Nakhool talent competition, writes Naman Arora.

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Baca) announced during a virtual press conference that the events will be streamed via the festival's YouTube channel from July 1 to 31.

It will bring together events and performances from the Interior Ministry, National Institute for Human Rights and Supreme Council for the Environment, as well as the embassies of France, Italy, United States of



Resto Maryam

America, China, Palestine, Russia, Egypt and the Philippines.

"This year's Bahrain Summer Festival will be closer to the audience than ever before, despite the distance imposed by the global health crisis," said Baca president Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa.

"Our message is that our cultural seasons are sustainable and will

continue. We take equal pride in the fact that this year's festival will coincide with our celebration of the Pearling Path Project, set for completion later this year."

Kicking off the festival on July 1 will be Resto Maryam, a Lebanese stage play which will be broadcast throughout the month on YouTube. Running alongside it will be a series of public

competitions held every Monday and Thursday, as well as educational activities and games, all available on Baca's website.

There will also be a traditional Chinese music concert on July 4 and Tony Memmel and his Band will take the virtual stage on July 7, followed later in the month by two shows from the Embassy of Palestine entitled The Children of



Rehab Metawi



Nakhool and Nakhola — mascots of the festival

Our Neighborhood and The Wonders of Science, and a concert organised by the Egyptian Embassy entitled Rehab Mutawa featuring the Bahrain Music Band.

Local music, with performances by Galali Folklore Band, Mohammed bin Faris Band and the Bahrain Police Band, will entertain audiences throughout the month.

The festival's programme

also includes children's short story writing classes that will serve as the platform for this year's Nakhool Star talent competition, as well as music, arts, and cooking workshops showcasing the cultures of countries around the world.

For more details, visit www.culture.gov.bh or follow @NakhoolBah and @CultureBah on Instagram.

Weekly

t culture



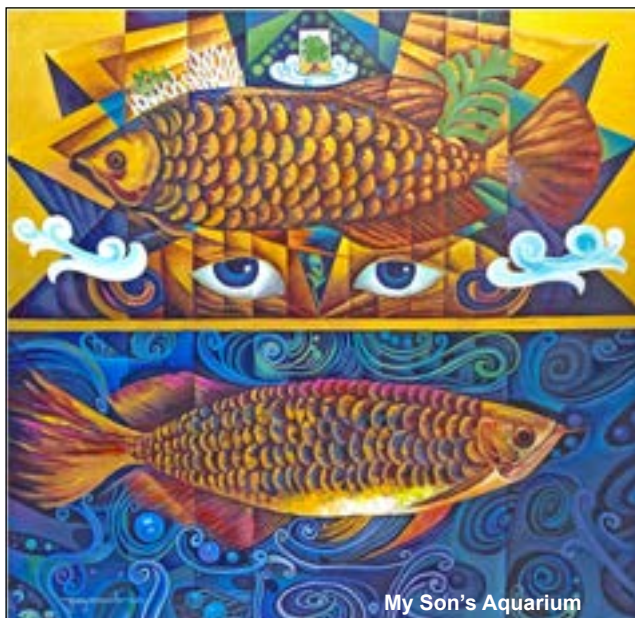
canvas, but I would like to experiment with earthy tones in my future pieces.”

Well-versed in watercolour, acrylic and oil, Gary blends realism and cubism in his works, telling textured tales, which have been exhibited in countless exhibitions including Discovered at The Art Space Bahrain Bay, Ma'Arte-All Filipinos Art Exhibit in Oasis Mall Juffair and Bahrain Through Your Eyes Art Exhibition at Harbour Gate Bahrain.

In 2004, he also won the National Postage Design contest in the Philippines, with an interpretation of 'Rice is Life' as part of the International Year of Rice celebration.

The artist, who has been working full-time as a CAD drafter and 3D visualisation specialist at Egis International for the last six years, is particularly proud of his latest piece *My Son's Aquarium*.

He has also created a triptych set of paintings titled,



My Son's Aquarium

Riddle of the Desert: Images of Peaceful and Prosperous Bahrain.

“These three pieces, done in oil, pose a silent riddle - what is the charm that makes Bahrain such a peaceful and prosperous desert state, despite its size?,” he explained.

“The paintings depict the

answer – its hardworking people, talented artists, and empowered women are the deep held secrets of Bahrain’s ‘Riddle of the Desert.’”

These pieces are exhibited at The Art Space in Bahrain Bay.

For more details, follow @gary.manalo46 on Instagram.

Gary working on his pieces



Baby shark, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo

Music medley makes waves

Bahraini singer and composer Mohammed Qamber is gearing up to release an inspired new medley pulling inspiration from different regions and times, writes Ghazi Alshehabi.

The 31 year-old artist has recently finished recording a new song entitled Medley Miami and Baby Shark, and it is scheduled to be released soon on his official YouTube channel.

The medley includes a beautiful collection of songs from the legendary Kuwaiti band Miami, as well as a tribute to Kuwaiti singer Abdulmohsen Al Muhanna, plus the viral sensation Baby Shark from South Korean company Pinkfong.

Mohammed blended all these songs together in front of an audience at private parties, and the remix was a huge hit in the Gulf and the Arab world, with the video being watched by fans from as far away as Europe.

“The recording of this medley is nothing but a show of love for the artists who have throughout these years entertained us with the most beautiful songs,” said Mohammed.

“It is also at the request of the wide audience who enjoyed this medley when I performed it at the parties.”

The song was recorded at his events management, music production, videography, photography and digital marketing company, MQ Productions.

Mohammed released a



The Miami Band



Mohammed

single titled Ahebak Ziada ('I Love You More' in Arabic) and another song titled Kilak Edmanah (roughly translated to 'You are addictive' in Arabic) at the beginning of this year.

It is noteworthy that Mohamed is preparing new songs with a different style and new dialects with GCC and international artists.

He is currently in the process of preparing and

recording songs carrying a humanitarian message that he hopes will be a surprise to his fans, expressing his wishes that they will like the new melodies.

Mohammed has been active in Bahrain's music scene since 2007, starting his musical career as a guitarist and pianist when he was discovered by Bahraini artist Huda Abdullah.

He started performing live on stage in 2008 at the sixth musical talent concert held by the Education Ministry. Since then he had participated in many talent-discovering competitions, and in 2012 he co-operated with Al Alhan Studios for Artistic Production, and a patriotic song entitled *Bahraini Dreams*.

For details, follow @mohamedqamber1 on Instagram.

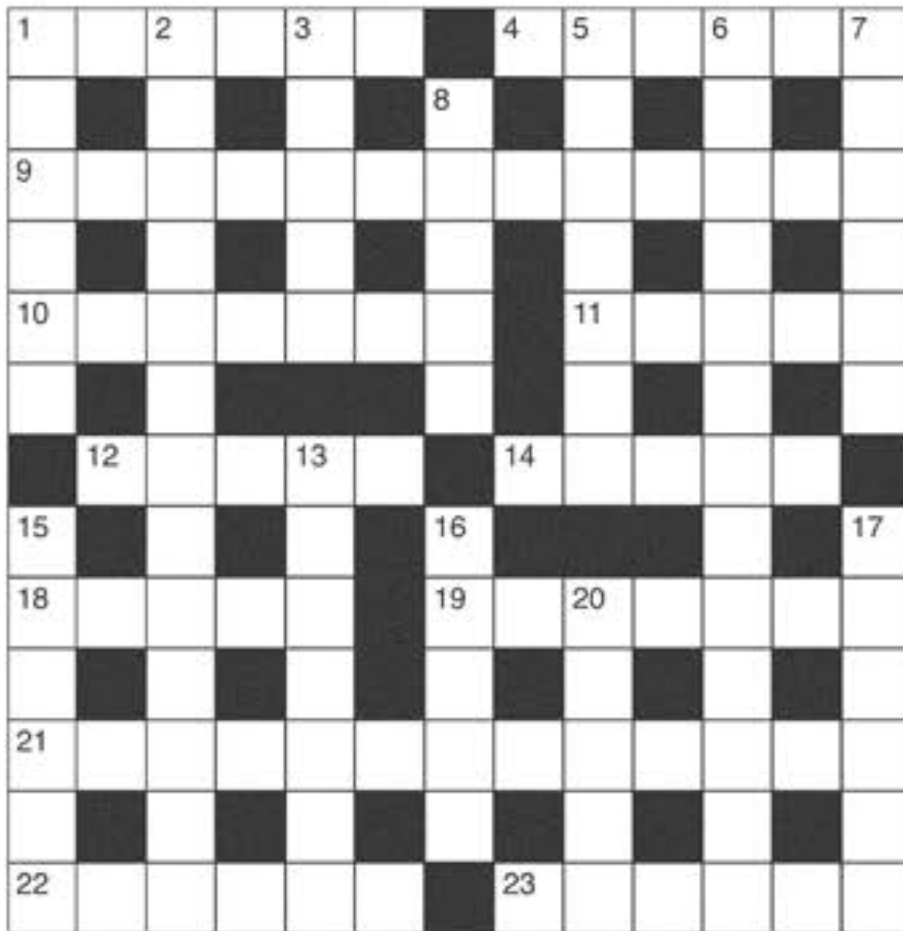
Time Out



Hilal Computers

Maximizing performance and efficiency
Dell service provider
Tel: 1729 3749 ext 2220

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Exchange (6)
4. Coming (6)
9. Rude (13)
10. Shaft (7)
11. Frill (5)
12. Content (5)
14. Scope (5)
18. Nimble (5)
19. Thing that causes anxiety (7)
21. Sweetmeats (13)
22. Weaken (6)
23. Minor (6)

DOWN

1. Cruelty (6)
2. Thought-provoking (13)
3. Belief (5)
5. Proprie (7)
6. Efficiency (13)
7. Cashier (6)
8. Beano (5)
13. Excuse (7)
15. Rank (6)
16. Diminish (5)
17. Entreaty (6)
20. Orb (5)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... was the host in the US of the game show *Deal or No Deal*?
WHAT ... was the name of the cat Bill and Hillary Clinton adopted in 1991?
WHERE ... in the US were the actors Johnny Depp and Tom Fwell born?
WHEN ... did Sam Allardyce become manager of Blackburn Rovers FC?
WHO ... did Yoko Ono divorce in the same year as her marriage to John Lennon?
WHAT ... is the highest point in the English Peak District National Park?
WHERE ... was the first Grand Prix of the 2006 Formula One season held?
WHEN ... did the US animator Chuck Jones die?

just so

π π π

DAISY'S
LOVER

pile
ag
e

t t t t
h h h h
u u u u
m m m m
b b b b

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Conversation; 7 Floor; 8 Stern; 9 Coy; 10 Dissipate; 11 Derive; 12 Morass; 15 Necessity; 17 Hen; 18 Arena; 19 Idler; 21 Illegitimate.

Down: 1 Coincidental; 2 Ego; 3 Stress; 4 Testimony; 5 Opera; 6 Unreasonable; 7 Foyer; 10 Devastate; 13 Abhor; 14 Bikini; 16 Creel; 20 Lei.

JUST SO: The generation gap, The beginning of the end, A square meal, A free hand.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Wayne Coyne; Billy Bob Thornton; Algeria; 1941; Walter Mondale; Marmalade; Poland; 1952.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

F1 plot thickens



RACE REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gulfweekly.com

SUNDAY'S Formula 1 Grand Prix in France was the definitive sign that the championship pendulum this year is swinging away from the Silver Arrows in favour of its new mistress, the Red Bulls.

Max Verstappen took pole and then snatched back first place in Lap 52 of a nail-biting race, also taking the fastest lap to solidify his lead over last year's champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes.

Behind Hamilton were, in order, Sergio Perez (Red Bull), Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes), Lando Norris (McLaren), Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren), Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri), Fernando Alonso (Alpine), Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin) and Lance Stroll (Aston Martin).

While the highlights of what might have been possibly the most exciting race of the season so far are widely available online, there are three key takeaways from this race that are sure to have implications throughout the rest of the year.

* It's audition season!

While a number of multi-year contracts have already been announced including Norris and Esteban Ocon (Alpine), it's the older drivers that are under pressure to perform in the

next two races leading up to Silverstone.

Rumours have already been circulating of George Russell being called up to the partner seat at Mercedes, indicating a possible exit of Bottas, either to Williams or out of F1 altogether.

This weekend's stellar performance from the Finn is proof enough that he does not intend to take this lying down.

Last weekend, Bottas also seemingly changed pace from his usual second-fiddle act, calling out the team for their short-sighted strategy as they went for a tested single pit-stop strategy instead of going for two, like

the Red Bulls.

Despite performing better than he has all season, he called it 'a disappointing race', indicating that he knows he will have to do better to outshine Mercedes team principal's new favourite kid-on-the-block Russell.

* Team cohesion is key

One of the longest-running debates in F1 is whether teams should employ two-driver strategies or the more typical primary-support tactic.

While egalitarians will argue for the former, history has shown that this ends up being counterproductive as intrateam rivalries spill over

on to the standings, typically damaging both drivers.

That being said, Red Bull especially has had a tenuous history with its circuit companions for Verstappen, their golden pony boy. Alex Albon and Pierre Gasly can both tell you about their experience trying to get even half the attention and support that the dastardly Dutchman seems to demand.

This year, however, Perez seems to have come in after earning the team's respect and is so far being utilised just as effectively as his team mate on and off the track.

Even Aston Martin, notoriously owned by Stroll's dad, has been

Cohesion is key...
Verstappen and Perez



* Devilish details

The finest details from pit stop lengths to tyre pressures are proving ever crucial this year, as drivers are winning by razor-thin margins – in fact, no driver has won by more than 29.148 seconds this year, and the closest win was by a mere 0.745 seconds in Bahrain.

Even a few extra tenths of a second in the pits can end up costing precious points, with overtaking getting more and more challenging especially on the European circuits.

The FIA is also closely monitoring these races, policing everything from tyre-change strategies to rule-skirting technologies, like Mercedes' Dual Axis Steering.

Every year, the FIA stewards' office becomes the off-track battleground as team principals keep up their steady stream of complaints to put rivals off their game, and this year, drivers also have stepped in.

Hamilton, last week, accused the Red Bulls of playing with their tyre pressures during Qualification, leading to a rule change after both Stroll and Verstappen's tyres went kaput on the track.

As the season heats up, so will the off-track snitching strategy, which will definitely make for an interesting, albeit mostly inaccurate, season 4 of *Drive to Survive*.

The Steiermark Grand Prix is next on the calendar, running this weekend at the Red Bull Ring in Austria.

equitable with its strategy, giving both Vettel and Stroll chances to shine. And as a result, both drivers seem to be the better for it – best put in the words of Aston Martin team principal Otmar Szafnauer after Sunday's race, "Both of them drove supremely disciplined races to deliver a double-points finish at Paul Ricard today."

While competition between drivers can be good as in the case of McLaren, the top and bottom teams, Mercedes and Haas, have struggled with increasing friction between drivers as the stakes get higher.

McLaren has somehow been able to balance good-natured competition between the drivers while nurturing their golden boy, Norris.



Devil in the details...
Ricciardo at the
McLaren garage



Bottas under
pressure, seen
alongside Kimi
Räikkönen, left

Raring to go

EXCLUSIVE

COMMUNITY REPORT

By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE

mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

THE kingdom's heavyweight hopeful Danis Latypov has spent the past two months in the UK sparring alongside Great Britain's Olympians in preparation for the Tokyo Olympics next month ... and he is not planning on pulling any punches until he wins gold.

The 30-year-old boxer has been dreaming about bringing home an Olympic medal since he was a schoolboy and hopes all his hard work – with Bahrain's national boxing coach Tony Davis by his side – will bring success and inspire young Bahrainis to take up the sport.

"I have dreamt about this my whole life," said Latypov, who followed in his father's and brothers' boxing footsteps. "At the moment, the Olympics are all I have in my head and my aim is to put on some beautiful boxing in the ring and win gold!"

"I hope that by winning a medal I will inspire the youth of Bahrain to play more sports and understand that discipline, hard work and patience pays dividends in all aspects of life.

"For me it has led to the Olympic Games and the chance to turn my dream into reality."

Davis has been delighted with Latypov's work ethic, desire and confidence and hopes his coaching experience can help mold his fighter into reaching his full potential.

"It is a marvellous achievement, not only for Danis but for me too," admitted Davis.

"I thought I had given up that dream of coaching an Olympic contender when



Latypov hitting the bags

I left Great Britain (GB) Boxing. However, I have been able to utilise my experience and leadership to guide Bahrain to the Olympic Games and create history. It really is Guinness Book of Records stuff!

"These Games will be different with many more millions of people tuning in to watch and, hopefully, this will inspire many more children to take up sport, especially boxing within the Kingdom of Bahrain and, more widely, across the GCC.

"Bahrain will be the only country to represent boxing from the GCC and we are the newest country to international boxing."

Latypov has been training at Davis' former stronghold - GB Boxing in Sheffield - at the English Institute of Sport. GB Boxing was established in 2008 to manage the World Class Performance Programme (WCPP) for boxing in a bid to train and

develop the best male and female boxers from England, Scotland and Wales for major international tournaments and the Olympic Games.

During the GB Boxing Camp, not only did Latypov train alongside GB Olympians but also with the current heavyweight champion of the world

Anthony Joshua, who Latypov described as a 'very friendly and humble person'.

He also has been sharing his journey @danisboxing001 on Instagram, describing training with Joshua as the best and most motivational experience of his life. Latypov also applauded the camp on its gym facilities



From left: Assistant coach Artuk Sheikhov with Davis, Latypov, Anthony Joshua and his coach and GB performance director Rob McCracken and Angelo his assistant coach



Latypov and Davis

and the coaching staff.

Davis was also impressed with Latypov's training and progress.

The former England international boxer and one-time army boxing team head trainer, said: "We have been able to maximise all elements along with video analysis of potential opponents at the coming Olympic Games.

"We will move to Dubai tomorrow to carry out our final preparation camp that has been prepared by my former team mate and now World Boxing Council (WBC) president of the Middle East, Amir Khan.

"The aim is to medal, although it will be very tough as we will be facing the very best boxers in the world,

however, we have been able to carry out great preparation.

"This would not be possible without the support of the president of the Bahrain Olympic Committee Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, president of the Bahrain Combat Sports Council Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa and the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

"In a little more than two years we have managed to implement boxing along with a coaching and officiating structure and become the leading force within the GCC.

"Sport is about changing people's lives and, hopefully, we can bring that to reality next month. However, we have gained lifelong memories already within the sport, especially training with the heavyweight champion of the world, for example.

"Nothing is impossible!"

Follow @bahrainnational-boxingcoach on Instagram for further updates.

FACT FILE

Boxing is an ancient sport. The earliest representations date from the Minoan and Mycenaean period. In 688 BC, it became an Olympic event.