

MORE POWER TO YOU!

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE
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THE Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs continues to empower the kingdom's new generation through its Youth City 2030, which features an array of vocational training programmes to develop skills and boost confidence and creativity.

The national project, put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, has returned this year and is being held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad's representative for humanitarian work and youth affairs and Supreme Council for Youth and Sport chairman Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

More than 2,100 Bahrainis have registered for the 11th edition of the event, being run by 200 volunteers at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre in Sanabis.

"Bahrain is keen to empower young talents with the necessary skills that transform creative ideas into reality, provide them with

new experiences, enable them to develop themselves, build self-confidence, and expand their creative and intellectual abilities," said Youth and Sport Affairs Minister Aymen Almoayed.

"We are proud to point out that Youth City 2030 is a labour of love and pride for our nation built by local hands in its entirety. Those who implemented all aspects of the city and its centres are

Bahrainis, fully administered by the ministry as well as local volunteers. All the trainers and lecturers are from Bahrain, the restaurants and participants in the youth market are Bahraini projects and their management and staff are also fully Bahraini. We are proud to support and have this programme, led by the Bahraini youth."

The city, launched on July 24, runs until August

25 and features an array of programmes, especially with this year being tagged the 'Year of Bahrain Youth' by His Majesty King Hamad.

There are activities and sessions in the morning for youngsters aged nine to 14 and other programmes set in the evening for those aged 15 to 35.

Meanwhile, the city is divided into five centres with each offering a different set of vocational training programmes. The Pioneers Factory provides leadership programmes and develops personal skills while the Art District offers sessions on fashion design, art and cooking. There is also the Innovation Workshop for those interested in technology, engineering and mechanics, the Sports Academy, which provides health and sports activities and The Creativity Studios, which offers training programmes in theatre, media, music and photography.

Experts of all ages are sharing their wisdom such as 27-year-old yoga instructor Fatema Majdi who is staging Youth Fit courses. She has a boot camp for youngsters

INQUISITIVE: Youngsters at a robotic workshop



CREATIVE: Youngsters enjoying the products at Youth City 2030



FIRST BAHRAINI PREZ
Netting more athletes
SEE PAGE 2



FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Khaleeji on menu
SEE PAGE 3



PALMS AND DATES
A cultural festival
SEE PAGES 4-5



ROARING RACE
Red Bull flies
SEE PAGE 7



Celebrating the Year of Bahraini Youth 2022

aged nine to 14 on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 1pm and then on Monday, she has a Women Power class from 7pm to 8.30pm. Her Woman Power class on Wednesdays, held at the same time, is appropriate for wheelchair athletes.

Other activities include Lamea, Badir and Neighbourhood Playgrounds.

More than 70 programmes have been launched and the Youth City is providing 2,400 training opportunities in various fields including creativity, innovation, artificial intelligence, software and electronic games design and cybersecurity. The landmark project was launched in 2010 and is staged annually during the summer.

For details on activities and timings, follow @mysbhr on Instagram.



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JOINING HANDS: Khulood and her British Club teammates

In a league of their own

ATHLETE Khulood Sabah is thrilled to be the first Bahraini president of the kingdom's netball committee and aims to inspire more women to take up the fast-paced sport.

Roots of the sport took hold in the kingdom on October 23, 1983, and since then expat clubs have been battling on the courts for glory as part of the Bahrain Netball League (BNL).

It started with around 60 members and its first president was Ann Macgregor. Now, there are about 160 netballers on the island from different clubs with Khulood leading the fray in a bid to spread awareness about the game as well as make the league official.

"I am excited and privileged to be leading BNL into this new phase by getting even more people, including Bahrainis, involved in this sport," said the

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34-year-old Bahrain School administrative officer, who has been playing the game since the age of 12.

"I also feel proud to be a part of the initiative to put Bahrain Netball on the GCC map. The committee and I are working towards making this league an official federation. We have been participating in inter-gulf tournaments for many years and I would like to represent Bahrain internationally as well."

For the uninitiated, netball is played on a rectangular court with raised goal rings at each end and features two teams of seven players. The game was derived from early versions of basketball in England in the 1890s. Each team attempts to score goals by passing a ball down the court and shooting it through the goal ring.

While Khulood has played different sports in her



Khulood

younger years, including basketball, it was netball that she fell in love with ultimately.

"I started playing netball in middle school at the age of 12, for the Sri Lankan Club," she said. "I have played for all the prestigious clubs here on the island throughout my netball life including the Sri Lankan Club, the Dilmun Club, the Rugby Club and Top Shots. I am currently the club captain at the British Club and I play for the A Team as the goal shooter. It has been 22 years."

BNL currently consists

of four clubs - the British Club, the Dilmun Club, the Rugby Club and Top Shots - with players from different nationalities such as British, South Africans, Sri Lankans, Indians, Australians and Kiwis. Each club consists of at least two to four teams with junior netball geared for those aged seven to 14 and the senior league open to those aged 16 and above.

At the moment, a mixed summer netball league is held every Saturday at the Bahrain Rugby Football Club. The official league will start in September, but most clubs will be hosting trials and introduction to netball in August. They train every Sunday night and the league matches are held every Tuesday evening.

Khulood recommends people to join the Bahrain Netball community and welcomes anyone interested to come down for a trial.

"There are many benefits to netball," she explained. "It is a fun sport to play.

ALL SET: The athletes in action



Physically, it builds up muscle strength and stamina, improves flexibility and upper body strength by working key arm muscles and it also develops depth perception and increases reaction time.

"Mentally, it is a great way to make new friends and encourage teamwork.

Especially being in a team of nine to 10 people, you have to work together and that is when those teamwork skills become useful throughout life anyway."

Those interested can email Khulood on chairbenl@gmail.com or follow [@netball_bahrain](https://www.instagram.com/netball_bahrain) on Instagram.



YUMMY: A collection of appetizers

CULINARY REPORT
By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE
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A retired Bahraini mum has put her family's favourite Khaleeji recipes in book form to bring households together over tasty treats, while also motivating the next generation to keep culinary traditions alive.

Layla Bushehri was encouraged by her children Ahmed, 40, Amin, 30, and Iman Ben Chaibah, 37, to share the dishes they love with others to enjoy and her daughter, who runs Sail Publishing in Dubai, helped release her English and Arabic cookbook, *Mama Layla's Recipes*, last year.

"After retiring, I was looking for a way to invest my time and create something useful for others to benefit from," said the 65-year-old, who studied journalism in Egypt and had an accounting career in the UAE. "That's when the cookbook came about. I gathered a bunch of recipes that my children love, including appetizers, main dishes, sweets and hot beverages.

"The book features a mix of traditional and modern dishes. "I also included dishes



MAIN MEALS: Savoury dishes

Serving up tasty treats

that are commonly loved in every household, with my own signature on them. I want to reach out to the new generation that thinks the kitchen is not inviting enough and present them with the

right mix of dishes that can bring their families together."

According to Layla, many of the dishes in the 110-page book were passed on to her by her mother, but she ended up modernising them and making them healthier by

cutting out ghee and reducing oil and sugar. She also made sure to use ingredients that are easy to find in today's markets.

Layla even added recipes for traditional tea and coffee pots.

"I find that many youngsters haven't learned this basic skill of making tea and coffee that is required for any social gatherings in our region," she added. "Nothing brings family and friends together better than social gatherings revolving around food!"

Tea (chai) and coffee (ghawa) are staples in Arab culture as it denotes hospitality and if rejected can be considered rude.

The book includes a mix of traditional Khaleeji dishes and modern treats such as machboos and pasta, rangeena, basboosa and, of course, samboosa, which are

essential Ramadan dishes for any household.

"My favourite recipe is Khanfaroush, which is a traditional dessert that is in the book as well," said Layla. "My mother used to make it and it will always reminds me of her."

She explained that the book was produced and published in a standing calendar format to make it easier when cooking.

"People don't have to worry about keeping the book open on the right page or how to make it stand so they can read it easily," she said. "I would like to thank everyone who bought my book and supported me. I try to put new dishes on my Instagram to help more people enjoy cooking, they can also share them with their families so that our tradition stays alive."

Layla is now considering another book for those who are already familiar with cooking and would like to learn more advanced traditional dishes.

For details, follow @laylabushehri on Instagram.



SWEET: Treats

LAYLA'S SCRUMPTIOUS KHANFARROUSH RECIPE

(Quantity suitable for family gatherings)

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup rice flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp ground cardamom
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup rose water soaked in it 1 tsp saffron
- 2 tbsp powdered milk
- 1 tbsp baking powder

DIRECTIONS:

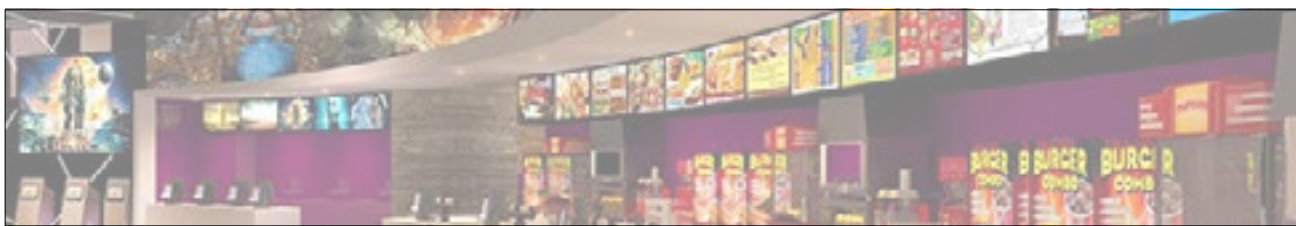
- 1) Mix all ingredients together
- 2) Let the mixture rest

for an hour

- 3) Put oil in a regular frying pan and heat it up
- 4) Take a tablespoon of the mixture
- 5) Pour the portion into the hot oil in the pan (do not put the spoon in the oil, just put the mixture) After the bottom side is cooked, turn it over to cook on the other side

(Note: The mixture can be placed in the refrigerator for two days)





CELEBRATING THE



CULTURE REPORT

By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE
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PEOPLE from across the kingdom flocked to the Farmer's Market in Hoorat A'ali over the weekend in a bid to raise awareness and celebrate the prominence of palm trees and dates in Bahrain.

The National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD), in co-operation with the Farmers Market Department of the Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) and the Municipal Affairs and Agriculture Ministry, staged the third edition of the cultural heritage event 'Khairat Al Nakhl - Palm Tree 3 Festival', to encourage and support the local production of palm products and to preserve its agricultural identity.

The three-day fruitful festivities were inaugurated by NIAD secretary general Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa who stressed the importance of the event as it represents a significant aspect of Bahraini heritage.

"I love this festival because it's such a happy occasion that brings everyone together after so long," said Shaikha Maram. "I see the joy in people's eyes - be it the stall owners or visitors. It's a beautiful and happy occasion to celebrate our harvest of dates because this is the time of year for it and it's everywhere you look."

NIAD's objective is to enhance the sustainability of the palm cultivation sector, to increase the local production of dates and to develop local industries based on palm's assets.

"Also, it takes everybody to put in an effort towards propagating palms, taking care of plants and increasing greenery in Bahrain," added Shaikha Maram. "All I can ask is for each person to do their bit to contribute towards greening Bahrain and making our environment more healthier and



PROUD MOMENT: Shaikha Maram meeting farmers

beautiful."

BDB chief executive Dalal Al Qais and assistant under-secretary for agricultural affairs at the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry Dr Abdulaziz Mohammed Abdulkarim, were present at the opening ceremony along with a number of Bahraini farmers, agricultural companies, artisans and productive families.

Visitors browsed through stalls boasting a variety of dates and products made using parts of the popular tree, while the Interior Ministry's Police Band played patriotic songs.

Ghada Shawki, a stay-at-home mom and a virtual teacher, from Malkiyah, heard about the festival from her friend and attended it with her son Salman, 12, a student at Kanoo International School.

"I liked the idea of celebrating the palm tree because it's such an integral part of Bahrain's culture," she said. "It is a symbol for the kingdom."

Farmers Mirza Hassan Mansour from Bu Mohammed's Farm and Bu Ahmed from Sadiq Mirza's Farm showcased a variety of dates for all to savour including the most favoured type of all, Khlass. The date



MUSIC FOR ALL: The Bahrain Police Band

mascot, which entertained children at the market, was even named Khlassi after the much-loved delicacy.

"The best one and most favoured is the Khlass for its sweetness and all its nutritious benefits," said Bu Ahmed, who featured four types of dates including the top seller and Barhi, Shishi and Khunzi.

Meanwhile, Mirza is thrilled for the return of this festival which he says was even bigger in 2019.

"This festival is grand and we look forward to it every year," said Mirza, who had nine types of dates at his stall. "Our land is that of a million palm trees and we should celebrate it. This festival brings back a sense of nostalgia, reminding us

of the beauty of the palm and a time when everyone celebrated the palm tree."

A selection of food items made from dates such as date jam, date ice cream, milk flavoured with dates and date pickles were also featured.

The Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry also showcased types of insects such as red palm weevil, fruit stalk borer and termites that harm palm trees as well as the different methods such as pheromone traps being used to preserve the trees.

According to a spokesperson from the ministry, Bahrain has around 500,000 palm trees which we should strive to protect from insects. The termites, for example, attack the branches while the weevil goes for the



PICTURES BY HUSSAIN AL MOUSAWI



DELICACY: Mirza showcasing dates at his stand

trunk.

Godfrey Kuo, a consultant of tissue culture laboratory

from a Taiwanese company, is working alongside the ministry to help protect the



Weekly

THE LAND OF PALMS



AUTHENTIC:
Artist Ali
Alfardan
showcasing
his dates art



ARTISTIC:
Zainab making
baskets



Bu Ahmed

the palm and wove baskets to put their belongings in or wash rice, for example. "We don't waste anything from the palm."

Cut fronds are also used for fishing nets, the leaves are used to weave baskets and pollen is scraped from the leaves to produce pollen water for medicinal purposes. Dates are also considered a holy fruit in the Middle East, which is why the date palm is regarded as the 'Tree of Life'.

Historians believe that dates are ancient fruits that were cultivated around 8,000 years ago. There are more than 200 varieties of dates with different shapes and flavours. However, all of them are the same in nutrition.

Farmer's Market manager Nermin Salem was pleased with the festival's success.



**DATE FRUIT
MASCOT:**
Khlassi



COLOURFUL:
Basket weaving

are trying to protect the trees and propagate them as well. We want to help Bahrain be more green. These problems are serious in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the region so we need to do our best to save them."

Tools including sickles, made by Bahrainis, were on display.

The festival also featured a number of entertainment and cultural activities with the participation of productive families and craftsmen.

Exhibitors such as Zainab Abdul Jabar Juma, known as Umm Mousa from the Bahraini Productive Family, showcased products extracted from palm trees such as ropes, baskets, cages and furniture.

Zainab proudly displayed her basket weaving and palm making skills that she has been practising for 22 years and learned from her mum Madinat and grandmother Fatema.

"The palm tree is a treasure to those that know how to truly capture its essence," she said. "Sadly, a few people care about palm trees but that's why it's great to have festivals like this. It will remind people of the significance of the tree. Palm roots, for example, were used as pillars in homes in the past."

"Fronds were used as walls and ropes were made using materials from the leaves. There was even a time when women made mats using

"The market features nonstop events, and hopefully within the coming months, we will have a few pop ups coming up aside from major events such as the one for National Day," explained Nermin. "We do have different seasons. The season for vegetables and fruits starts from September and we will be focusing on different categories and taking it forward with events and activities. It's always busy and packed here."

For details, follow @farmersmarketbh on Instagram.

palm. "The number of palm trees is reducing in Bahrain

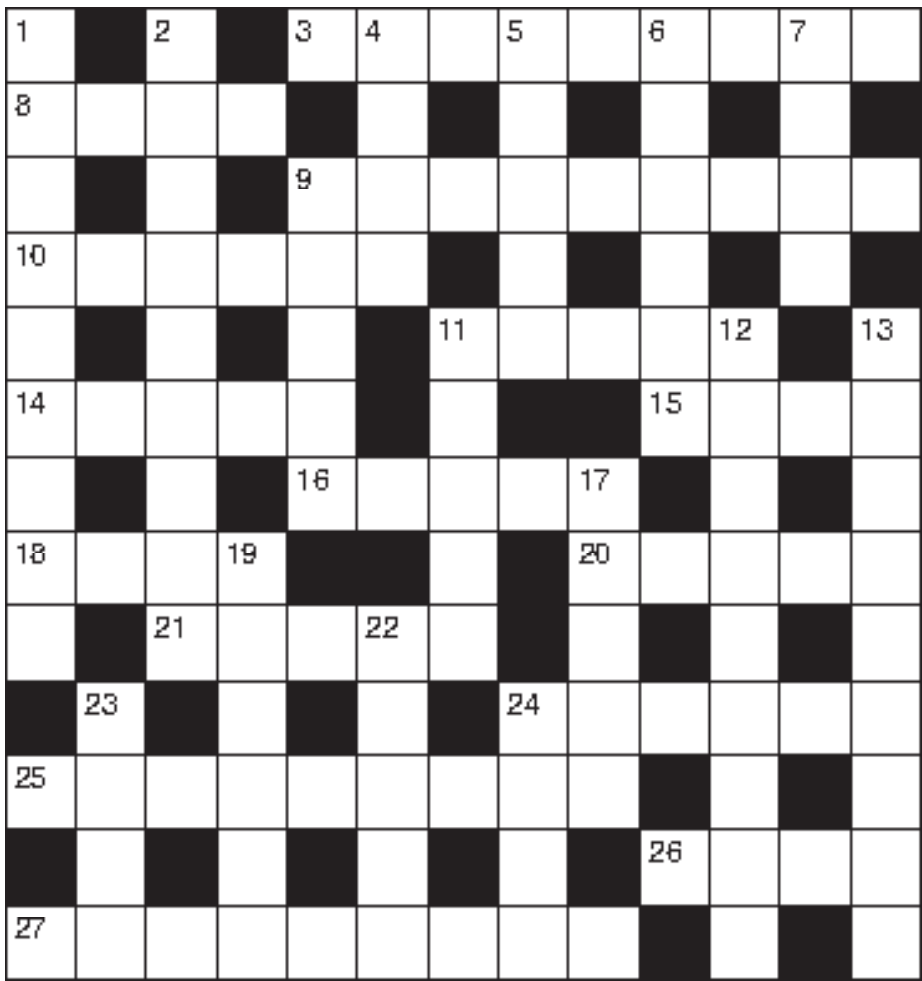
because they are being affected by these kinds of insects," said Godfrey. "We

Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 3. Purpose (9)
- 8. Lazy (4)
- 9. Cowardly (9)
- 10. Parcel (6)
- 11. Inhuman (5)
- 14. Extent (5)
- 15. Weed (4)
- 16. Bring up (5)
- 18. Fling (4)
- 20. Unrestrained (5)
- 21. Rascal (5)
- 24. Represent (6)
- 25. Behaviour (9)
- 26. Hinge (4)
- 27. Wretched (9)

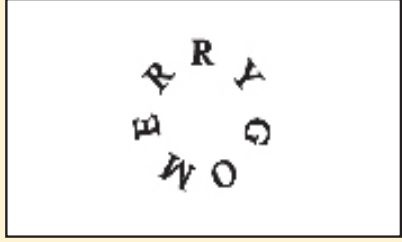
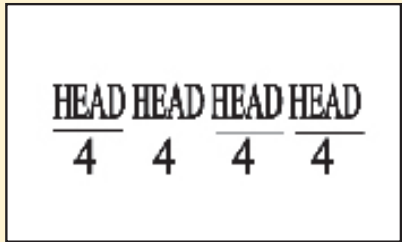
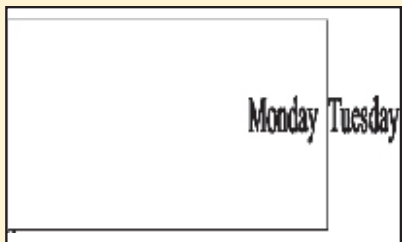
DOWN

- 1. Incongruity (9)
- 2. Laxity (9)
- 4. Thrash (4)
- 5. Penetrate (5)
- 6. Goal (6)
- 7. Base (4)
- 9. Discourage (5)
- 11. Clear-cut (5)
- 12. Toilsome (9)
- 13. Contrite (9)
- 17. Senior (5)
- 19. Plan (6)
- 22. Craze (5)
- 23. Fairy (4)
- 24. Overcast (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... wrote the children's novel *Silverfin*?
WHAT ... type of fruit is a pearmain?
WHERE ... is the home port of the Russian navy's Pacific Fleet?
WHEN ... did Best Mate first win the Cheltenham Gold Cup?
WHO ... was the UK Secretary of State for culture, media and sport in 2001?
WHAT ... is the colour of the triangle on the flag of South Africa?
WHERE ... is the village of Tolpuddle?
WHEN ... did Wales win their last rugby union Five Nations grand slam, prior to their 2005 Six Nations win?

just so



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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Show; 3 Purchase; 8 Chef; 9 Vainness; 11 Irregularity; 13 Centre; 14 Adhere; 17 Constriction; 20 Obedient; 21 Pile; 22 Extended; 23 Lens.
Down: 1 Succinct; 2 Overrun; 4 Unable; 5 Contradict; 6 Avert; 7 Ease; 10 Aggression; 12 Keenness; 15 Edifice; 16 Prance; 18 Overt; 19 More.
JUST SO: A flea circus, A handful of dust, A leap year, Below par.
WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN: Thomas Hardy; Nairobi; Greece; 1947; Victoria Wood; Saudi Arabia; Bulgaria; 1969.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

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'DISGUSTING'

VERSTAPPEN SLAMS FANS FOR BURNING HAMILTON MERCHANDISE

Hamilton



Hungary potential fuels Hamilton's victory hopes

S EVEN-TIMES world champion Lewis Hamilton said Mercedes' form in Hungary on Sunday had fuelled his hopes of a first Formula One win of the season when he returns from the August break.

The Briton finished second ahead of team mate George Russell at the Hungaroring, with the pair chalking up their second successive double podium.

"If we are able to take this pace into the second half of the season, for sure we can start to fight with the guys," Hamilton told reporters, saying second place behind

Red Bull winner Max Verstappen was "hugely satisfying".

"This is the first time we've been able to fight and battle with Ferrari."

"That's huge for us," added the 37-year-old, who started seventh after suffering a problem with his rear wing Drag Reduction System in qualifying.

The reigning champions are now just 30 points behind Ferrari and, with the Italian team's challenge imploding, could even snatch second from the Maranello-based outfit in the overall standings. The season resumes in Belgium on August 28.

FORMULA One championship leader Max Verstappen on Sunday slammed fans who burned Lewis Hamilton-branded merchandise, calling their actions disgusting.

"That's of course not acceptable," said the Red Bull driver, who beat Mercedes rival Hamilton to last year's title in a controversial season-finale, told reporters after winning the Hungarian Grand Prix.

"These individuals, I definitely don't agree with that because that's just disgusting."

Verstappen, Formula One's youngest race winner and the first Dutch world champion, has a legion of fans dubbed the 'Orange Army' that follow him around the world.

Footage circulating on social media over the Hungarian Grand Prix weekend appeared to show fans burning Hamilton merchandise.

It followed reports of drunken males harassing female fans and racist abuse at the Austrian Grand Prix earlier this month, Red Bull's home race which was packed with Verstappen supporters.

The next race in Belgium, where Verstappen was born, is another Orange Army stronghold with the Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort, the 24-year-old's home race, following the week after.

The incidents in Austria prompted Formula One to launch its 'Drive it Out' anti-abuse initiative on Saturday.

Verstappen, sitting alongside second-placed Hamilton in the post-race press conference, said the majority of his fans were generally respectful.

"Overall I think the majority of the fans... which also were cheering a lot throughout the race and also on the podium for every driver, I think that's how it should be," he said.

"The video of burning merch, I think that's disgusting," he said.

Verstappen



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Triumphant Camels complete grand slam

BAHRAIN'S favourite cricketing tourists, the Awali Camels, are at last back from their latest tour, this time of Bristol, Gloucestershire and Somerset, writes ABU GEORGE.

It was a stunning tour; a thorough success with brilliant cricket, brilliant weather and brilliant results.

Two millennia ago, the Romans invaded and conquered this beautiful corner of Ancient Britain. Now, it was the Camels' turn to claim 'Veni, vidi, vici'! Where Julius Caesar once walked tall, the Awali Camels strutted their inimitable stuff, beating all opposition and having marvellous fun doing so.

The one difference - while the Romans were never invited back, this team of cheerful cricketers have already been booked in for future visits to every club they have played.

First, it was Oldbury Cricket Club, nestling comfortably on the Severn estuary.

The locals were well prepared for the onslaught and put up a great fight, but in the end were edged by the batting prowess of Matt Rees (100) and George Axtell (94) and four wickets by Guy Parker. Of course, there were 11 heroes on the field, all contributing. If it wasn't Tom Wooding's all-round performance, or Haniel Robert's cool-headedness under pressure, it was the tumbling catch by Gerwyn Caffrey and the athleticism of Fergus Shaw in the vast outfield (leading to a graze or two), also the quiet efficiency of 'keeper Dave Mason. The sizeable crowd remained after the game well into the balmy evening, while the Camels were entertained by



The Camels at Bristol University

a harmonious Welsh choir. It couldn't have been a better start to a tour.

On to Thornbury, a club steeped in history, founded by the great WG Grace's brother, and with its own 300-year-old 'WG Tree' inside the boundary. This victory came on the back of curmudgeonly bowling by two Daves: Starkie and Hilton. Mumtaz and Charles Forward chipped in with outstanding catches. Then Mason (34) and Rees (75*) put the game beyond Thornbury's reach, preparing the way for the final flourish of boundaries from Huw Caffrey.

The next venue was different - the distinguished playing fields of Bristol University.

After two matches played in glorious sunlight, this evening fixture was played in dim conditions that only got dimmer as the Camels chased down 137 in 40 overs - a target that could have been higher but for the tightest of spells from veteran spinner Steve Turner.



WITNESS: Camilla the Camel during the tour

Wooding, skippering for the first time, now led from the front. Thanks too, to Graham Hoar, Dave Hilton and Fergus Shaw for guiding the Camels through to win in near darkness with just two balls to spare.

Next, it was off to the rural idyll of Blagdon for fixture number four. A total of 114 in 20 overs was a piece of cake for the strong Camels line-up. However, the pitch was tricky, with variable



PLAYER OF THE TOUR: Haniel Robert alongside legendary WG Grace who found Thornbury

bounce and pace. The Camels lost six wickets in the chase and were grateful for the consistent Forward and Hoar who both reached 30 before their regulatory retirements. Mumtaz, Hilton and Starkie inched slowly nearer the target, and it was up to batsman of the tour, Rees, to smite the winning runs with two balls to go.

Not only was the fifth game by far the greatest challenge of the tour, it was also played

in a completely different setting - the historic city of Bath. The city ground, home to the current leading cricket club in England, Bath CC, provided the perfect backdrop for probably the Camels' best ever tour performance. That the home side didn't exceed a daunting 150 in their 20 overs was down to a superb collective effort. To single out Fergus Shaw's diving catch, or Rees's two in two balls, or Wooding's inspired spell of pace bowling, wouldn't be fair to the exploits of the whole team. Still, 150 needed getting and the Camels were equal to it. Indeed, Charles Forward was in supreme command, crashing a cultured 50 to set them on their way, keeping Camels' scorer, Kate Fellowes, busily recording fours and sixes and eliciting raucous cheers from the crowds of overseas tourists patrolling the perimeter. Robert, Rees (again), Hilton, Wooding and Hoar chipped in with valuable contributions to bring the Camels home with four balls to spare.

Now the talk on the team train back to Bristol was all about the grand slam of cricket. Could the Camels complete their tour not only unbeaten, but with six victories out of six? Only the knotty issue of Easton in Gordano CC (EiG) stood in their path. Injuries, illness and early departures left the Camels with a bare 11. EiG sensed a possible weakness and rattled up 177 in 30 overs, only losing two wickets. Things started badly for the tourists when Robert feathered an unplayable ball to the 'keeper in the very first over. Now it was the turn of Mumtaz to step up to the mark and justify his eponymous 'excellent Camel' status. With exquisite cuts, drives and pulls the stocky

BEST BATTING:

- + Matt Rees 213 runs (6 innings)
- + Tom Wooding 119 runs (6 innings)
- + Charles Forward 100 runs (5 innings, 4 not out) - highest average of 100.
- + George Axtell 94 (1 innings)

BEST BOWLING:

- + Guy Parker 8 wickets
- + Tom Wooding 7 wickets
- + Haniel Robert 6 wickets

BEST FIELDING:

- + Charles Forward 7 catches, 3 stumpings

opener guided the Camels home with his best score (79) of the tour.

At the other end, Parker provided solid support with 37 runs, the majority of which came from his trademark reverse swipe. It was fitting that skipper Charles Forward should strike the winning hit with four balls to go.

The Camels were almost too exhausted to celebrate after six consecutive days of cricket. Bahrain cricket can be proud of the Camels' achievements. Touring every summer since 1995, the Camels have made friends wherever they go - leaving their trademark Camel in every clubhouse they have ever visited. The Camels can also thank the Axtell family; David, George, Sara, Charlie, Mick and Jem for organising, running and generally keeping the herd of Camels from straying in prep for the tour.

The name 'Awali Camels' is remembered in every touring venue and now the debate is - where to next year?