

## Making a mark!



GREAT EFFORT:  
The proud Team  
Bahrain 41

**A**CE racers Carina Abdulrahman and Sahar Darwaa of Team Bahrain 41 hope to inspire and rally more women onto the motor sporting track as well as the off-road circuit, writes Mai Al-Khatib Camille.

The driven duo has returned from their Rally Jameel Saudi Arabian racing debut with more motivation to get behind the wheel in future competitions such as the Hail Toyota International Rally that takes place usually in the neighbouring country sometime in December.

In the meantime, the speed squad is thrilled to have represented the kingdom in the second edition of the all-female Off-Road Navigation Rally in Saudi, going up against 86 drivers in 43 teams from 25 countries.

"It was amazing," said 38-year-old Bahraini-British Carina from Riffa, who is also a horse trainer and instructor for private clients. "Overall we were placed 17th, which is great. It was Sahar's first-ever rally and first time to navigate and she did an amazing job."

Bahraini Sahar started dabbling in

motorsport racing in 2006 and was recruited by her teammate for an All-Female Racing Team starting with karting and then various events held at the Bahrain International Circuit. This was her first experience as a co-driver.

"As a team we worked well because we know each other and can be the voice of reason for each other when we need it," Carina added.

"We were the only Bahraini team and our car carried Bahrain's flag, which is an honour.

"We wanted to do this for Bahrain and all the women that live here. As

a team it was our first event, but it will not be our last. I would like to thank Bahrain Motor Federation for approaching us with this opportunity and Rally Jameel for their initiative as well as for running this kind of an event. There is nothing a woman cannot do!"

The roughly 1,600km five-day rally started from AlUla on March 7 and ended at Hail AlQassim on March 11. The first desert stage started on March 8, which was International Women's Day.

Read more about Team Bahrain 41, turn to page 7.



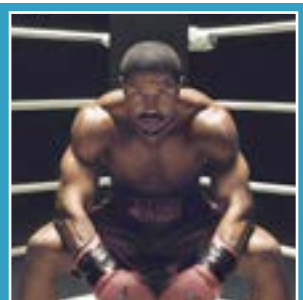
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RAWCANDY

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AVAILABLE FOR  
PICK-UP & DELIVERY



# Healthy and hearty bakes



COMMUNITY REPORT  
By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE  
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**B**IG-HEARTED bakers from Bahrain are aiming to promote healthy eating and raise funds for children with special needs through a month-long baking bonanza.

The Ovenderful Mom Bakers' Community (OMBC) has organised the Ramadan Bake Sale Charity event from March 22 to April 22, boasting a menu that includes vegan and gluten-free delights and all proceeds from sales will go to the Sneha Recreation Centre run by the Indian Ladies Association (ILA).

"The Ramadan bake sale is very close to my heart because Ramadan is the month of charity and giving, and we feel blessed to have the event during this time," said OMBC member and the initiative's organiser Ekta Sethi, 47, from Barbar.

The baker, instructor and recipe developer from Saisha's Sweet Treats has been baking for the past seven years and teaching for five. She is passionate about creating healthy recipes and likes to involve herself in charity work.

"I have been involved in various bake sales to raise funds for good causes," said Ekta. "One of my recipes was included in the *Healthy Baking Book* which was the first of its kind compiled by Simran Multani and Samira Pillai and the proceeds went to support two worthy causes."

"I feel bake sales bring joy to both the giver and the receiver of goodies, and this event will also bring cheer to the children of Sneha."

Aside from Ekta, Kavitha Chowdhary, Amrita Darshan Bhatia, Manjula Akula, Siji Binu, Soni khadilkar, Ema Ridhi, Samra Usman and Anushka Sharma will also be whipping up a bevy of healthy bakes that will be available online.

"This bake sale will also help in spreading awareness about eating healthy and avoiding refined flour and sugar in our diet," Ekta explained.

"It promotes health benefits of eating healthy flour and



Anushka



Kavitha

millets. Some people think – what's a healthy bake – it's filled with calories anyway. However, using alternate flours and sugar is always better and less harmful for children and adults.

"The pandemic has made us realise the importance of good health like never before. Many also feel the healthy bakes are not delicious, but



that's not true. A good recipe and accurate baking can result in a delicious and healthy treat."

The Ramadan Bake Sale, which is in its third year, is being supported by Let them Eat Cake and the ingredients are being sponsored by Megamart.

Kavitha, who participates every year, is delighted to be a part of the caring campaign.

"I feel blessed to be able

to use my baking skills for a good cause," said Kavitha, 50, from Sanabis. "Each year I get to try new healthy recipes and add to the menu which also helps to spread awareness."

Meanwhile, 22-year-old Anushka from Saar, who is studying finance, is participating for the first time.

"This initiative is a humble way to share a small contribution from my side to



READY:  
Chef Ekta

the children of Sneha who hold a special place in our hearts," said Anushka. "I will feel blessed if I can bring a smile on their faces."

Ekta - who has been staging online training courses for young adults with special needs, living in the 'Nischhinta' community in Kerala, for the past 18 months - also hopes this delightful drive will encourage other bakers from around the world to take part.

"I'm hoping more people in other countries are inspired to organise bake sales as fundraisers to promote healthy eating," she said.

"My niece and my friend are planning a bake sale in two different cities in India. We are looking for bakers

in Kerala to support a local special needs village project. Those interested may get in touch with me.

"I have had youngsters from Bahrain, Kuwait and India join in my online course, held every Tuesday. Mums also enjoy baking with them. Pastry chefs and experts can participate and I'd love to do a class for special needs children and young adults in Bahrain."

The bake sale is a virtual event similar to last year, and Ekta will be co-ordinating the collection and delivery of items purchased during the charity drive.

For more details, follow @bake.with.ekta.at.saishas and @saishas\_sweet\_treats on Instagram.

## NO SUGAR DATES & WALNUT WHOLE-WHEAT CAKE

### ● INGREDIENTS:

Dates - 20-25  
Warm Milk - 1 1/4 cup  
Oil - 1/2 cup  
Whole wheat flour - 1 cup  
Baking powder - 1/2 tsp  
Baking soda - 1 tsp  
Walnuts - 1/3 cup for the cake batter

1/4 cup walnuts for garnishing (1 cup=250 ml)

### ● LET'S BAKE:

1. Soak dates in warm milk for

15 - 20 mins.

2. Grind it into a fine paste.  
3. Pre heat oven at 180 C  
4. Sieve the dry ingredients (flour, Baking powder and baking soda).  
5. Take out a small spoon from the flour to roll the (1/3 cup) chopped nuts in and keep aside.  
6. Add oil to the fine dates paste.  
7. Fold the sieved flour into it and mix with a spatula.

7. Fold in the floured nuts till you get a smooth batter. Do not overmix.

8. Pour the batter into desired shaped tins.

9. Top with (1/4 cup) chopped walnuts.

9. Bake at 180 C for 20-25 mins or till the toothpick comes out clean.

The cake can be made vegan by using non-dairy milk.



## CARROT WALNUT CAKE

### ● INGREDIENTS:

Whole-wheat flour 1 cup  
Baking soda 1 tsp  
Cinnamon powder 1/2 tsp  
Salt 1/4 tsp  
Buttermilk 1/2 cup (1/4 cup thick yogurt + 1/4 cup water)  
Vinegar 1 tsp  
Oil 1/4 cup  
Jaggery powder (or brown sugar) 3/4 cup heaped  
Carrot (grated) 1 cup  
Vanilla essence 1 tsp  
Water 2 tbsp  
Chopped Walnuts/Almonds (optional)  
Chocolate chips (optional)

### ● LET'S BAKE:

1. Take a bowl. Add 1/4 cup thick yogurt and 1/4 water to make 1/2 cup buttermilk. And 1 tsp vinegar to it. Keep it aside for 5 minutes.  
2. Add 3/4 heaped cup jaggery powder and 1/4 cup oil to it and mix for 40-50 seconds or till blended.  
3. Add grated carrot and vanilla essence to it and mix for a few more seconds.

4. Now add the sieved dry ingredients (flour + Baking soda + salt + cinnamon powder).

5. Mix for 40 seconds. Do not over-mix.

6. Add 2 tbsp water and mix for another few seconds.

7. Pour the batter in a greased 8" pan. Top with lots of chopped almonds and walnuts. You can add chocolate chips too.

8. Bake at 180 C (only lower rod) till done or till toothpick comes out clean.

You can put the upper rod on for 5-10 minutes in the end if you like a crunchy top (Recommended).

9. You can bake cupcakes too!

Ekta's tips:

1. You may substitute the jaggery with an equal amount of raw cane/brown sugar if you wish.

2. It's very important to sift the dry ingredients four to five times to get a light cake if you are using whole wheat flour.





ACTION: BRCS volunteers



JOY OF GIVING: Rotary members and their loved ones distributing boxes



# For goodness sake

**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE  
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**T**HE Holy Month of giving is upon us with several charity champions and community campaigners rallying to distribute packages of goodness across the kingdom to ensure no one goes hungry during Ramadan.

● The Royal Humanitarian Foundation has launched its caring campaign called 'Let's Make Them Happy', which aims to fulfil the needs of all the families affiliated with the foundation.

According to RHF's Secretary-General Dr Mustafa Al Sayed, the Ramadan campaign, which is in its third edition, collects donations throughout the Holy Month to aid an array of families in addition to supporting projects that help orphans, widows and those in need.

Visit RHF's website [www.rhf.gov.bh](http://www.rhf.gov.bh) for details. There are drop-off points in different commercial complexes and Batelco customers can also contribute by texting 94977.

● The Rotary Club of Salmaniya will have two major charitable initiatives starting with its annual Ramadan Box distribution programme.

The club has partnered with Al Osra Supermarket in a joint project to distribute 500 Ramadan boxes to many charitable societies and NGOs across Bahrain.

"Club members will also perform door-to-door box distribution across various neighbourhoods," said club president, Hasan Almansoor. "The next annual event is



CAMPAIGN: A box of goodness

the Gurgaon night which we jointly organise with other Rotary Clubs in Bahrain at Nakheel Centre in Saar towards the middle of the month.

"The clubs invite mentally and physically challenged children from various societies, including the Bahrain Down Syndrome Society, Friendship Society for the Blind, the non-profit Al Rahma Centre and the Bahrain Association for Parents and Friends of the Disabled, to celebrate this glorious occasion."

The event includes traditional games, live music performances, food stalls and distribution of gifts to children.

Follow @rotarysalmaniya on Instagram for details.

● The non-profit Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has already begun its

charitable campaign to bring cheer to thousands of families by giving boxes of much-needed supplies.

Last year, it distributed aid to more than 4,000 families registered with it in 73 towns and villages. This year BRCS secretary-general Mubarak Al Hadi called on companies and organisations operating in the country as well as philanthropists to donate generously for the success of the drive.

For details, follow @rcsbahrain on Instagram.

● The Southern Governorate also has a Ramadan drive called Majalat Al Khair (which roughly translates to areas of goodness) and has distributed more than 1,000 boxes of essential supplies to underprivileged families across Bahrain.

Governor Shaikh Khalifa



CELEBRATION: Children enjoying the Rotary Club's Gurgaon event

bin Ali Al Khalifa and several volunteers have kicked off the sixth edition of the campaign. This is the first of many community initiatives to be unveiled by the governorate during the Holy Month.

For details, follow @southerngov\_bh on Instagram.

● The unregistered 'A Box of Goodness' charity is launching its Ramadan Food Drive with the aim of collecting and handing out parcels of non-perishable products to locals and expatriate Muslims in need.

"We are collecting food items such as rice, dates, flour, dhal, green gram, chickpeas, oil, harees, jereesh, sago, spices and more to be added to these boxes for distribution," said its founder Miranthe Dole known as Miro.

Other products needed include pasta, noodles, sugar, milk powder, tea, coffee, ghee, coconut milk powder, tomato paste, jelly, custard or canned foods.

They are also organising an all-women friendly run called

HELPING HANDS: Volunteers with the Southern Governorate in action



'Run for Ramadan' on March 28 with the Lettuce Run ladies, and the event is being organised by triathlete and three-time Ironman finisher Dana Zubari.

Motivational speaker and Paralympian Shaikha Al Shaiba will also be supporting the event with her participation.

The only entry fee would be donation of non-perishable food items for the Ramadan Food Drive.

Drop off locations for all

donations, which started on March 15 and will continue until April 20, will be in Saar, Amwaj Islands and Juffair. Members of the public are also welcome to donate dry, non-perishable food items to the Nadeen, Bahrain Rugby Football Club, St Christopher's School and all Costa Coffee Outlets in Bahrain.

For details, follow and message @aboxofgoodness and @lettuce.run on Instagram.





# Ramadan

## Relish treats at Khaimat Al Khaleej

**T**HE Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention and Spa is excited to announce the opening of its much-awaited Ramadan Tent - Khaimat Al Khaleej.

Offering an unparalleled dining experience, Khaimat Al Khaleej will feature a wide array of traditional and international cuisines for both iftar and ghabga.



Guests can indulge in a lavish buffet, featuring authentic Ramadan dishes such as lamb ouzi, harees and thareed. This is in addition to live cooking stations highlighting both Arabic and international BBQ with freshly baked bread, manakish and savouries from the oven, shawarma as well as international specialties like sushi, pasta and grilled meats.

Dessert lovers will also be delighted with the vast selection of Arabic sweets, including kunafa, baklava, and umm ali.

The tent will also feature traditional Arabic entertainment, including live music and performances by a four-piece band. The ambience will be enhanced by the stunning decor, with colourful lights and intricate Arabic patterns adorning the tent.



The Khaimat Al Khaleej at Gulf Hotel opens tomorrow (March 23) and will continue until the end of Ramadan.

For more information and reservations, contact 17713000 or 36551333.



## Turkish delights beckon

**M**AHYA, the tradition of displaying devotional messages on a string of lights from the soaring minarets of the Ottoman-era mosques, is unique to Turkey and dates back hundreds of years.

This year, Baharat Restaurant located on the ground floor of Le Meridien City Centre Bahrain, offers a glimpse of Turkish Ramadan tradition from its décor highlighting the Blue Mosque and other religious landmarks in Turkey.

Diners can enjoy the iftar offering from sunset to 8.30pm, costing BD21.5 net including Arabic juices, water, soft drinks and chilled juices for adults, while children between six and 12 years can enjoy the same at BD10 net. Children below six will dine for free.

The restaurant also has a ghabga service for BD14.5 catered between 9pm and 2am; while sheesha is available from sunset to 12.30am for BD9 net.

A combined sheesha and ghabga package costs BD21 net. Guests can also enjoy breakfast at Furn Bistro, from 6.30am to 11am on weekdays and 6.30am to 11.30am over the weekends, with a choice between a buffet spread costing BD12.5 net and an a la carte option.

Additionally, diners can savour lunch between 12.30pm and 4pm, with a buffet package available for BD11.5 net; an iftar buffet costing BD18 net from sunset to 8.30pm and an a la carte menu available for dinner from 8pm to 1am.

For more information and bookings, call 17171000 or WhatsApp 38885862.

The hotel is offering a special iftar package that includes stay at a superior room and an iftar buffet at Baharat Restaurant.

It costs BD55 for single occupancy and BD65 for double occupancy, exclusive of taxes. Book this package by calling 17171111 or email [reservations.bahrain@marriott.com](mailto:reservations.bahrain@marriott.com)

## A memorable feast for the

**C**ELEBRATE the true spirit of Ramadan this season at one of the kingdom's largest and most elegantly designed Ramadan tents.

Bridging elements of traditional Islamic architecture with modern design, The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's expansive Masaya Pavilion by stc Bahrain will amass into a place of opulence and grandeur, taking guests on a journey to the Land of a Million Palm Trees - Bahrain.

The epicurean journey



over iftar and ghabga offers a wondrous selection of authentic Middle Eastern favourites like ouzi, koshary, shawarma, tajine, majboos, Bahraini grills, bread and dates ice cream, as well as

international specialties, highlighted by local ingredients from Bahraini farmers and artisans.

Step into Masaya and be entertained by a three-piece band headed by talented





# Kareem



Every year, Muslims around the world anticipate the sighting of the new crescent moon that signifies the first official day of Ramadan.

Considered the most sacred month in Islamic culture, Ramadan is a time for Muslims to grow spiritually and build stronger relationships with Allah by praying and reciting the *Quran*, making their actions intentional and selfless, and abstaining from gossiping, lying, and fighting.

Throughout the month, fasting between sunrise and sunset is obligatory for all Muslims. Days missed fasting can be made up throughout the rest of the year, either all at once or one day at a time.

Meals are opportunities for Muslims to gather with others in the community and break their fast together.

Pre-dawn breakfast, or suhoor, is observed before the first prayer of the day (fajr), and iftar can begin after worshippers hear the call for sunset prayer (Maghreb).

## the senses

singer Ali Alrasheed, daily from 9.30pm, while enjoying the legendary warmth of Arabian hospitality.

Prices for iftar are set at BD34 per person and ghabga is available at BD37 per person.

Masaya Pavilion is brought to you in partnership with stc Bahrain, and in collaboration with Behbehani Brothers (Bentley, Lamborghini and Porsche centre Bahrain)

For reservations or more information, call 17586499 or email [rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com](mailto:rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com).



## The magical world of Arabian nights

**H**ILTON Bahrain, the upscale new destination located in the heart of Juffair, announces the launch of its annual Ramadan experience, 'Arabian Nights', inspired by the tales of Scheherazade.

The hotel's grand Ramadan tent will be transformed into a magical suq, featuring an elaborate setting complete with traditional Arabic decor, live entertainment and sumptuous cuisine from around the world.

The menu features a variety of regional and international delicacies along with traditional Ramadan specialties.

Guests can indulge in a lavish iftar feast, available at BD22 net per person, inclusive of soft beverages.



Those looking to enjoy a unique dining experience can opt for ghabga and be serenaded by the soft music of live oud. It's available at BD25 net per person, inclusive of soft beverages.

For an exclusive private dining experience, Hilton Bahrain's Arabian Nights will be featuring four VIP dining spaces.

"We are thrilled to announce our first Ramadan offering at Hilton Bahrain, featuring an unforgettable iftar and ghabga experience," general manager Tamer Farouk said.

"Our team has

curated a magical culinary journey that celebrates the spirit of the Holy Month, with a diverse selection of traditional dishes and contemporary favourites.

"We invite our guests to indulge in this unique feast for the senses and create lasting memories with loved ones."

The 'Arabian Nights' Ramadan experience at Hilton Bahrain is a celebration of culture, tradition, and gastronomical wonders that bring together families and friends to break their fast.

Guests can also enjoy live entertainment that includes traditional music and other activities.

For reservations or more information, call 33692013.



## An opulent dining destination

**A**N exquisite Ramadan experience returns to Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay for 2023, as the luxury hotel welcomes guests to celebrate the traditions of the Holy Month in its award-winning Ramadan Tent - an opulent dining destination featuring stunning Arabesque-inspired décor.

New for 2023, the Ramadan Tent is further elevated by the addition of the Premium Experience, tables with a number of added value services during Ghabga, a special opportunity to enjoy full table-waited service, with a dedicated Four Seasons Butler on hand to attend to every request.

Laid with tasteful tableware and a selection of Executive Chef Leonardo Di Clemente's

recommended menu of Arabic mezzes, mains and more, Premium Experience also enables guests to select any additional items from the extensive buffet to be served at their table.

"The Holy Month of Ramadan is a special time of year for our guests and staff, and we are proud to be elevating our award-winning celebrations to even great heights in 2023," hotel manager Jason Rodgers said.

"Special waited-tables with enhanced set-up and butler service in the Ramadan Tent, an outdoor dining area, and our best-ever culinary offers are set to make this year's events our most memorable to date," he added.

Arabic cuisine takes centre

stage at the celebrations, including the world-renowned Lebanese delights of Oriental Specialty Chef Tony El Khoury.

Hot and cold mezze delights and a dedicated Bahraini cooking station featuring ouzi, saj, halwa, and machboos line up alongside 18 different live Arabic and Lebanese cooking stations. These are complemented by a vibrant range of global cuisine, plus dreamy desserts prepared by Executive Pastry Chef Imad Boukli and his team. It includes Turkish delight shawarma, a Teppanyaki ice cream station and made-to-order crepes.

Adding to the enchanting ambience are a series of live music and performances by the

lead vocalist and four members of the famous Opera House of Egypt.

In addition, a special programme of activities for children, overseen by experienced Four Seasons Kid's Club team, will keep little ones entertained while adults celebrate in style.

This year, guests will soak in the spirit of the Holy Month at the spectacular Ramadan Tent or under the stars at the outdoor extension of the tent.

Iftar will be served daily from sunset to 8pm, with rates from BD35 net per person (including food, house water, Ramadan juices, Arabic coffee and Moroccan tea). Children aged six to 12 dine for BD18.

Ghabga will be served daily from 9pm to 2am, with rates from BD38 per person (including food and Ramadan juices). Children aged 6 to 12 dine for BD20; while those aged five and below dine with the hotel's compliments for both offerings.

Premium Experience is available daily from 9pm to 2am, with rates from BD55 per person and tables can be booked for a minimum of four people.

Special group rates are available for bookings of 20 people or more (Saturday to Wednesday).

For bookings or more details of the celebrations, contact 17115500 or [diningreservations.bahrain@fourseasons.com](mailto:diningreservations.bahrain@fourseasons.com)



# Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE



## PACKING A DRAMATIC PUNCH

**C**REED III is knocking out the competition in the global box office, clobbering the previous instalments in the spin-off series, proving the Rocky Balboa franchise is still a champion.

The sports drama brought in \$12 million across 75 markets, taking its global box office cumulatively to an exceptional \$224.3m,

with international markets contributing to \$96.6m of the overall figure.

The first *Creed* racked up a total of \$173.5m globally whilst *Creed II* rounded off its run with a worldwide total of \$213.5m.

This is an epic victory for Michael B Jordan's directorial debut, making good on its estimated \$75m budget.

Apparently, the boxing

tale also enthralled critics and audiences with the movie's renewed take on Rocky's memorable mantra, 'It ain't about how hard you hit, it's about how you can get hit and keep moving forward'.

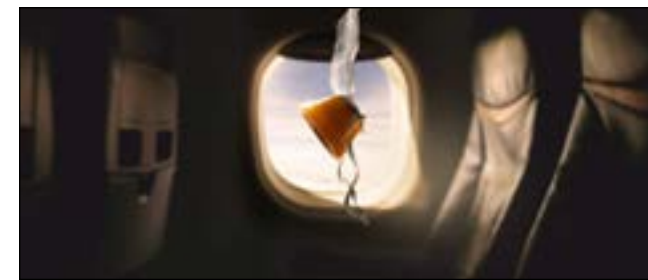
The film is about a freshly retired Adonis Creed (Michael) who is at the top of his fame and fortune until his childhood best friend Damian Anderson (Jonathan

Majors) – now steeped in vengeance – threatens to uproot his life following a hefty prison sentence.

According to Michael, *Creed 3* is not just your typical boxing movie'.

He said in an IMAX featurette, "We really wanted to take advantage of the emotional journey of the characters, and put that into the ring and have it pay off in a physical way."

## STILL UNANSWERED



**P**EOPLE are still scratching their heads at the disappearance of the Boeing 777 carrying 239 passengers and crew simply on a routine red-eye flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

The plane vanished on March 8 in 2014 and nine years later, the airliner remains missing and the cause has yet to be resolved.

There are so many questions that Netflix launched a limited docuseries entitled *MH370: The Plane That Disappeared* to help piece together what may have happened.

The documentary, produced by Harry Hewland, best known for the National Geographic Channel's *Locked Up Abroad* series, and directed by Louise Malkinson, features interviews with experts, journalists, amateur sleuths, and family members of the plane's missing passengers.

According to Collider writer Patrick Fogerty, the documentary offers far too little in the form of actual documentation and far too much in the form of wild speculation, conspiracy theories, and ill-conceived sensationalism.

"Ultimately, it does a disheartening disservice to the documentary form, and more



importantly, to the anguished loved ones of MH370's passengers who desperately seek closure," he added. "Each episode takes the limited concrete information from that fateful night and uses it to present three different theories about what may have happened to the aircraft. Suffice it to say, with each episode, the hypotheses get more outlandish and unbelievable, with scant data and verifiable material to back them up."

Nonetheless, the show has taken flight on the streaming channel so buckle up for the ride.

## HIS MUSIC WILL GO ON

**T**HE beloved 'Gangstas Paradise' rapper may be gone ... but his musical prowess is definitely not forgotten.

Coolio, whose real name is Artis Leon Ivey Jr, sadly passed away in September last year.

However, his first posthumous album *Long Live Coolio* is set to be released later this year, with the first single *TAG, You It* featuring Too Short and DJ Wino already out alongside a music video.

The record will feature material the rapper was working on before he died at age 59.

Although his cause of death was never officially disclosed, his manager told *TMZ* that medical services at the scene claimed he died of cardiac arrest.



The video was filmed before his passing so fans will be able to see the legendary rapper appearing with Too Short in a boxing ring.

Coolio's *Gangster's Paradise* also got a new lease on life as it re-entered Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart and Hot Rap Songs chart and made a comeback in countries like Greece, Belgium and the UK among others. It was the first time the track had re-entered the charts since 1996.

## PASSION FRUIT FOR THE SOUL

**W**HEN things start getting too serious, why not pick up a smart, escapist novel that is full of loveable — if fallible — characters wrapped up in hilarity and emotional truths.

Jenny Jackson's *Pineapple Street* is apparently 'rife with the indulgent pleasures of life among New York's one-percenters'.

Darley, the eldest daughter in the well-connected old money Stockton family, followed her heart, trading her job and her inheritance for motherhood.

However, she gave up quite a bit in the process. Meanwhile, middle-class New England Sasha has married into the Brooklyn Heights family and finds herself cast as the arriviste outsider. Then there is Georgiana, the baby of the family, who has fallen in love with someone she can't have and must decide what kind of person she wants to be.

The book has received many positive



reviews such as from *The New York Times*' Jean Hanff Korelitz and *NPR*'s Maureen Corrigan.

"Not only does she succeed in getting us not to loathe the Stocktons, the family at the centre of her debut novel, *Pineapple Street*, but she even succeeds in persuading us to love them," said Jean.

Maureen said that *Pineapple Street* stands on its own as a smart comedy of manners.



# Rallying for more women

**RACE REPORT**  
By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE  
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**F**EMALE racers from around the world took up the 1,600 kilometres off-roading desert adventure in Saudi Arabia in a bid to bring more women together in motorsport ... a hope that Team Bahrain 41 is also driving towards.

The second edition of Rally Jameel, a first of its kind navigation off-road rally for women, had attracted competitors from 25 countries on a mission to conquer Saudi's terrain from March 7 to 11, starting in AlUla and ending in Hail Al Qassim.

Carina Abdulrahman and Sahar Darwaa took up the challenge and are delighted with their number 10 class ranking out of 25 vehicles and their overall 17 ranking out of 43 vehicles in their first rally race together. "This was a great introduction and training for Sahar," said Abdulrahman, who met her at a track event in 2006. "We stayed friends and she works with my dad, Abdulrahman Ghuloom, in scrutineering for track events such as F1. My dad is the chief scrutineer for F1 and



other car events and Sahar is part of our family." According to Abdulrahman, her dad, now 75, focuses on technical aspects of racing, used to be a racer and even rallied before she was born. She hopped on the motoring bandwagon in 2006 after graduating from university in interior design. She started track racing, rally co-driving and then rally racing. She even took part in AutoX and Karting.



"Racing and the love of cars are in my blood," said Abdulrahman. "It's something I was always exposed to and I am very lucky that my dad has always been supportive. So when I decided to race, I had the best support, mentor and trainer. I cried when I saw him at the end of Rally Jameel waving the Bahraini flag for our arrival. He came to celebrate after he finished with the Formula One Gulf Air

Bahrain Grand Prix. "As for this competition, it's great and it shines a spotlight on women racing. I had a few years off from racing so this kick-started my motivation to keep going. I am looking to race now at Hail Baja, which is a speed rally that usually takes place in December and my dad now has the challenge of building me a car. The 2023 season ended in February and the new dates have yet to be announced. I hope Sahar accepts the challenge and agrees to come as my co-driver again."

Darwaa, who is in the process of acquiring her MBA from the American University of Bahrain, specialises in management audit and is currently the chief Scrutineer of F3 in Bahrain, enjoyed the experience. "The shift to co-driver felt natural as it felt like doing calculus while falling out of an airplane," said the vice-team captain of Bahrain for International Spartan Races, mountain biker, dragon boater and member of the National Rowing Team. "My training consisted of studying the road books to navigate our way simply and to communicate the route to the driver. Think of it as a human



SUPPORT: Abdulrahman, left, with her dad and Darwaa, right



more Bahraini women interested in motorsports to participate in off-road racing. This is my first and definitely not my last experience." According to Abdulrahman, Rally Jameel 2024 will be in their schedule for sure. The next likely race is the Hail Toyota International Rally in Saudi, which is usually on the FIA Cross Country World Cup calendar. Hail was once a key part of the route taken by pilgrims for Haj by camel, and today, it is known for its agriculture in particular wheat and dairy products. Motorsport isn't new to the city with the Hail Rally first taking place in 2006 and later becoming an FIA-sanctioned event in 2008. It has become a key location in Saudi hosting the Dakar Rally since 2020.

## BRAIN-BUSTERS

**Q**UIZMASTER and *Radio Bahrain* host Shannon Crockett, who has been entertaining people across the island with his brain-teasing quiz night sessions, has offered to put *Gulf Weekly* readers' general knowledge to the test. Join in the fun every Wednesday with Shannon's 'seven brain-busters'.

1. Team Haas competed in the F1 for which country?
2. How many countries still have the shilling as currency?
3. What Was the First Animated Feature To Be Nominated For Best Picture at the Oscars?
4. What is the new spelling for the country, Turkey?
5. Which vegetable derives its name from the Latin word for milk?
6. What is the collective name for a group of owls?
7. What is the name of the plastic or metal end of a shoelace?



- ANSWERS**
1. USA
  2. 4 (Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda)
  3. Beauty & the Beast
  4. Türkiye
  5. Lettuce
  6. Parliament
  7. Aglet

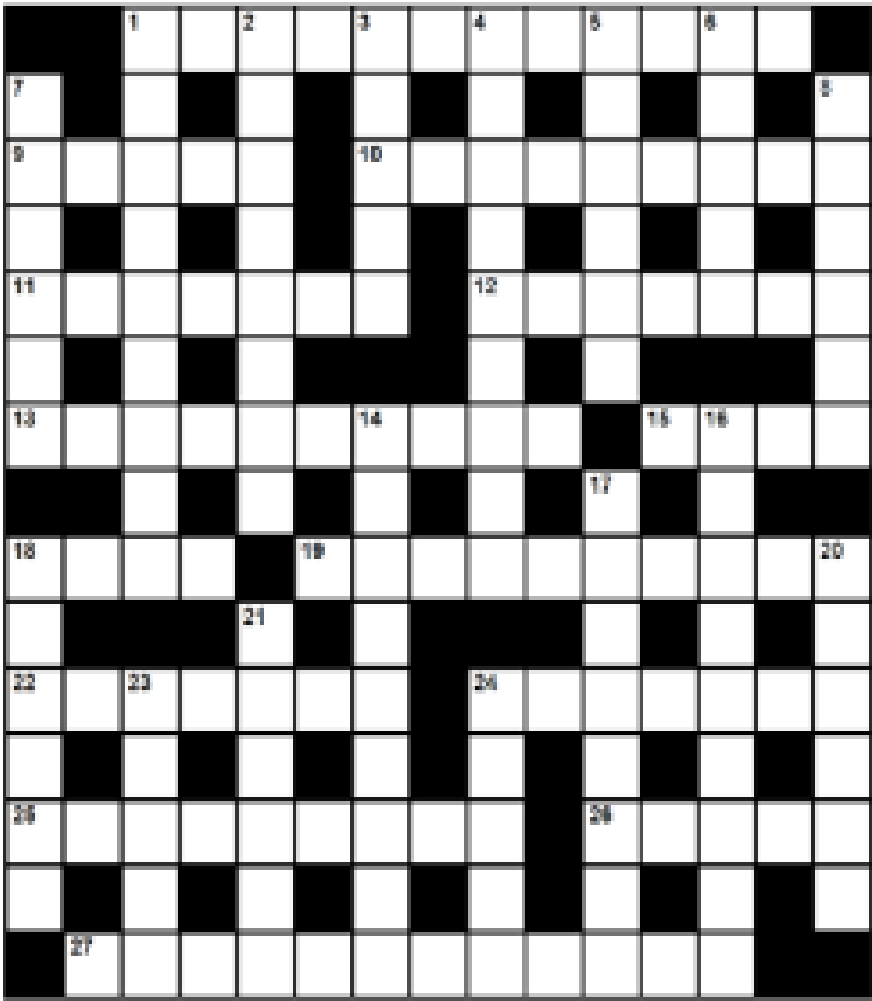


# Time Out



**Hilal Computers**  
Maximizing performance and efficiency  
Dell service provider  
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## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

1. Like Los Angeles a lot? Permit no construction! (12) 9. Starting to appreciate something solid before morning tea (5) 10/18. Pothead struggling with flight change on the way to 12 (9,4) 11. Excitement at first person adopted by heartless minions (7) 12. Eve ran and stripped in pouring rain - it's blissful! (7) 13. Recycling graphs in colour? (10) 15. Reducing nasty eye infection (4) 18. See 10 19. Given the wrong idea about story I ran off with typos (10) 22. Substitute salesman getting final figure to the right of 100,000 (7) 24. Cheerful Irish fast food joint (7) 25. Fake tea has initial red note, then brown (9) 26. One denied credit after screening? (5) 27. Catholicism, Anglicanism and Lutheranism's beginnings in Oxford, e.g. (12)

### DOWN

1. Villain's terrible crimes against absent one (9) 2. Model's heartless act in church (8) 3. Signs carried by women, say (5) 4. Sitar song arranged for keyboard players (9) 5. Lock up one after the other, as per proclamation (6) 6. Return a Spanish greeting with a Hawaiian one? (5) 7. Do something in nervous response to plan ... (6) 8. ... I had almost had to think up (6) 14. Like Beowulf, go into the heart of the earthquake! (9) 16. They leapt about with unusual power (9) 17. One following both halves of North African condition (8) 18. Stealing movies is irrational and naughty! (6) 20. Uprising to purge pork from Moroccan capital (6) 21. Old scientist not finishing dessert (6) 23. One buried in plot that's unmarked (5) 24. Scotsman's unable to get tropical plant (5)

### who, what, where, when

WHO ... played Krystle Carrington in the 1980s TV show *Dynasty*?  
WHAT ... is pomology the study of?  
WHERE ... was the Temple of Artemis?  
WHEN ... did Johann Gottfried Galle discover Neptune?  
WHO ... invented the aqualung?  
WHAT ... sort of animal lives in a form?  
WHERE ... is the name of Tottenham's under renovation home?  
WHEN ... did Dana International win the Eurovision Song Contest?

### just so

LINELY

COMBANY  
COMBANY

CCCC 24 HOURS

linklinklinklink  
↓  
linklinklinklink

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

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

tough sudoku

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

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

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

#### CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Director; 5 Oslo; 9 List; 10 Atropine; 11 Miner; 12 Include; 13 Sleeplessness; 18 Outright; 19 Tube; 20 Treason; 21 Brain; 22 Note; 23 Bewilder.

Down: 2 Initial; 3 Extreme; 4 Outside chance; 6 Seizure; 7 Oneness; 8 Forces; 13 Shorten; 14 Entreat; 15 Priest; 16 Natural; 17 Subside.

#### Who, What, Where, When:

Vivien Leigh; A Greek rug; Indian Ocean; 1978; Khepri; Fear of going to bed; Karachi; 1983.

#### Just So:

A word to the wise; Back to square one; Good for nothing; Iron cross.

Tough Sudoku

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