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BAHRAIN.OURS.YOURS.

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Italy's style story



TALY has been synonymous with the art of fashion for centuries and the embassy in Bahrain is featuring a colourful collection of ensembles from design giants Gattinoni in a glamorous two-day exhibition for all to admire.

The 'Racconti di Moda Italiana' (translated to Tales of Italian Fashion) is being curated by the honorary president of the Gattinoni Fashion House, Stefano Dominella, tonight and tomorrow at the Memory of the House-Bin Mattar in Muharraq.

According to Italian ambassador Paola Amadei, the stylish showcase is being organised by the embassy in co-operation with the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research to promote the Italian culture of fashion.

"It will be a surprising exhibition itinerary with clothes and fabrics never shown before, in a creativeartisan excursion suitable for both the professional public and visitors," the ambassador told *GulfWeekly*.

"The exhibition was conceived by Stefano, who is one of the most influential and leading experts in the fashion sector."

Visitors will witness creations being unveiled for the first time, coming from Stefano and Gattinoni's historical archives, as well as contemporary ones that have written some of the most important pages in the history of international fashion, and which are still created today.

"Visitors will be able to learn more about the excellence of the Italian fashion industry and the culture and values behind it," added ambassador Paola. "In other terms, why fashion is not only one of the main Italian production sectors but also constitutes a true form of fine and delicate



COLOURS OF JOY: Sneak peek of what will be showcased tonight. Photograph: Paolo Belletti

art, recognised and admired throughout the world for its elegance, refinement, creativity and innovation."

GDN*life*

The Gattinoni fashion label's story began in 1946 when it was founded by Fernanda Gattinoni following her experience in London with Molyneaux and the stylistic direction of the Atelier Ventura in Milan. For 30 years, the Gattinoni Maison in Rome was a compulsory stop-off for movie stars and women of the international jet set. At the end of the 80s, Raniero Gattinoni took over, revamping the style of the designer label and consolidating numerous 'Pretà-Porter' lines in addition to

successfully continuing the



BEAUTY: Images of models wearing some of the designs



tradition of couture. Following his untimely death, Guillermo Mariotto took the artistic direction of Maison Gattinoni. He brought numerous success stories while being courted by famous stars such as actresses Gong Li and Qu Ying. Other celebrities include Audrey Hepburn, Ingrid Bergman, Anna Magnani, Kim Novak, Lucia Bosè, Monica Vitti, Charlotte Rampling, Vanessa Redgrave, Amanda Lear, Sabrina Ferilli, Sophie Dahl, Marla Maples Trump and Beyoncè. "Italian fashion has

traditionally been behind many international movies," shared ambassador Paola. "During the exhibition, people will be able to admire a collection of original dresses worn by Hollywood divas, including the dress worn by Audrey Hepburn in the 1956 film *War and Peace* and by Anita Ekberg in the iconic Italian film *La Dolce Vita*, directed by Federico Fellini in 1960."

Meanwhile, the colours, the quality of fabrics used, the creativity of the design, the sustainability of the production processes and the well-established culture of beauty characterising



Ambassador Paola

the Italian fashion houses continue to spread the prestige of 'Made in Italy' throughout the world.

"It is not surprising that the fashion industry is one of the key sectors for Italian exports not only in Bahrain but throughout the world," added the ambassador.

"And according to the event confirmations already received, that in itself confirms the genuine passion of Bahrainis for 'Made in Italy', and for Italian fashion and its immense and priceless heritage of creativity, skills, refinement and innovation that it traditionally expresses."

The exhibition, which is free for all, is open from 5pm to 7pm tonight and then from 8am to 1pm and 4pm to 7pm tomorrow (September 28).

For details, follow @italyinbahrain and @shaikh_ebrahim_center on Instagram.



SPREAD SMILES Ride for a cause SEE PAGE 2



CULTURAL EXCHANGE Art and jazz SEE PAGE 3



CREATIVE SHOWCASE Expressive works SEE PAGES 4-5



LocalNews

COMMUNITY REPORT By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE nai@adnmedia.bh

IKERS from across the kingdom and neighbouring Saudi Arabia will be revving their engines and setting off on a charity ride this Friday in a bid to spread smiles for little ones struggling with childhood cancer, as well as to raise awareness and support.

Every September, people around the world rally to raise awareness about childhood cancer by pinning on golden ribbons that symbolise and honour the youngsters suffering from the disease, as well as staging activities...and the kingdom's bikers have joined the noble fight for their plight.

"The Bahrain Future Society for Youth's 'Smile Initiative' carries out numerous activities throughout the kingdom in September to raise awareness on childhood cancer, and collect funds for parents to support children suffering from cancer," said Sri Lankan Roy Ribeira, one of the founders of the Falcon Group of riders.

"We started riding in the name of Smile in 2021 to raise awareness of this dreaded disease that affects many children as well as their families. Every year, we organise a ride with the support of various biker groups in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Thus far, we have seen more than 300 riders participate in every ride and there has been a huge turnout and support for this initiative."

People are expected to gather at 6.30am for the Smile Ride at the Avenues Mall, Bahrain and they will all zip around the island at 7.30am before ending the charitable journey at IKEA Bahrain.

"Since we will have many riders, we prefer to split them into different groups led by road captains," said







Bahraini Yasser Al Saleh. another founder of the Falcon Group which started in 2021 and now features

50 Bahraini and expatriate members.

The other founders of the biking crew includes Hamad and Emad Al Sindi, as well as Jalal Alqattan.

According to Yasser, the team will ride through different areas of Bahrain to the end-destination, whilst maintaining all regulations and safety.

"We welcome you to join us as a rider or a pillion for the Smile Ride in full safety and riding gear," added Yasser.

"For any support towards



Smile Initiative, we urge you to visit their Instagram page #SmileofBahrain.

"Like every other charitable cause that needs our time, we believe that bringing attention to childhood cancer is our way of giving back to our community. We also want to say that riding a bike can be

safe, fun and for a cause." The Falcon Group has thanked the Bahrain Future Society for Youth 'Smile Initiative' for their great work in this field, and are thrilled to be able to support them. They also appreciate all the riders and their families that will be showing their great support in raising awareness.

"They always have a kind initiative every year by participating with us to spread awareness on childhood cancer," said society chairman Sabah Al Zayani.

"Usually they come to our centre and start their ride from there and distribute awareness flyers wherever they go.

"This year, they will have a huge group coming for the event and maybe, we will invite some of our children to take rides with them and meet the bikers. They will also promote our walkathon on September 30 at Bahrain Harbour, from 4pm to 6pm, for all to showcase their solidarity."

The walkathon is part of the 10th Kids 'R' Golden campaign launched by the Smile Initiative, which provides psychosocial

support to children with cancer and their parents. The campaign is held

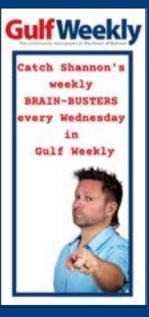
every September to educate people across the country about childhood cancer, its symptoms and the importance of early detection. For details on the ride and the Society, follow @falconriders.bh and @smileofbahrain on Instagram.

BRAIN-BUSTERS

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 brainbusters.

- 1) What is the only animal that cannot stick out its tongue?
- 2) Dr Suess wrote a book based on a bet that he couldn't in 50
- words or less. Which book was it? 3) What country has the most islands in
- the world? 4) Astronomers have recently been left puzzled after noticing that clouds had virtually disappeared form which planet? 5) Heliculture is the science of growing what animal for

food? 6) What is the French



word for equal to, or to describe a live-in provider of child care? 7) Who is the murder

victim in Cluedo/ Clue?

7. Doctor Black Vis Vair S. Snails 4. Neptune a. Sweden 2. Стееп Еддя & Нат 1. Crocodile

ANSWERS

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American art from the heart



RT connoisseurs will delight in an array of colourful canvases and powerful photographs that will be showcased tonight at US Ambassador Steven Bondy's residence ... to create cross-cultural dialogue and foster mutual understanding through dynamic artist exchanges.

In 1963, the US Department of State's office established Art in Embassies (AIE) to play a vital role in the nation's public diplomacy and in the early 1960s, it was formalised by President John F Kennedy naming the programme's first director.

Now, with more than 200 venues, AIE curates temporary and permanent exhibitions for the representational spaces of all US chanceries, consulates and embassy residences worldwide — such as Ambassador Steven's home — featuring contemporary art from the US and the host countries.

"In any form, art is meant to change our perspective and push us to think," ambassador Steven told *GulfWeekly*. "At its finest, art is transcendent, moving us to a higher plane



PICTURE PERFECT: Louis Armstrong in Cairo with wife Lucille

of understanding. The exhibition, invited guests will see tonight, is designed to encourage the spirit to soar."

These events provide international audiences with a sense of the quality, scope, and diversity of both countries' art and culture as many of them might never travel to the US to personally experience the depth and breadth of America's artistic heritage and values.

This particular exhibition will focus on two primary themes – abstract representation of natural scenes and America's unique art form, jazz.

"Shell Rummel's pieces, *Remembering the Day* and *Misty Knoll*, might be landscapes, seascapes, or cloud banks – contemplating

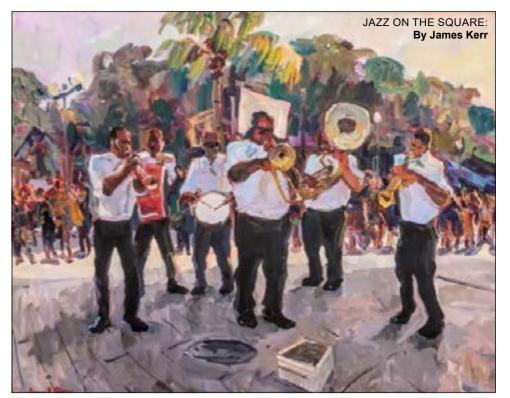


Ambassador Steven

them brings serenity," shared the ambassador. "Eileen Olson's *Sail at*

Daybreak shows a stylised classic seashore montage familiar to us all, and your imagination fills in the details."

He added that Soo K Chang's *Stored Memories* and Carol Ryan's *Native*



Truth could well be companion pieces, with their exquisite use of colour and geometric design creating a palette upon which we project our thoughts and emotions.

Claudia Cappelle's *Living Waters* evokes the power and motion of the sea with bold brush strokes and colours. "And how can depictions of

jazz players not improve your mood?" Ambassador Steven questioned.

"James Kerr's *Jazz on the Square* and *The Block Party* incorporate the soul and groove of the music, taking you to New Orleans's Congo Square and Frenchmen Street.

"The photographs of jazz legends Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie playing in far-three flung locations while on US State Department-sponsored Jazz Ambassadors programmes conjure an earlier era

when American superstars personally spread their music, and American values, through extended tours. "We are grateful to the artists for allowing us to display their works in our exhibition." He also thanked the Louis Armstrong House Museum

LIVING WATERS: Claudia Cappelle

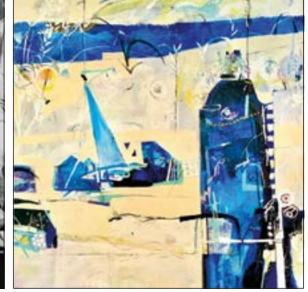
in Queens, New York, and the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey for lending the Jazz Ambassadors photographs. "The State Department's Office of Art in Embassies kindly assembled the pieces, and we benefited from Imtiaz Hafiz's guidance and support," he continued. "I hope the invited guests share in the delight we feel in displaying this exhibition. Enjoy!"

While this event is not open to the public, find out more by following @usembassybahrain on Instagram.





TIMEOUT: Dizzie Gillespie charming a snake in Pakistan



SAIL AT DAYBREAK: Eileen Olson

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LocalNews

September 27-October 3, 2023



ART REPORT By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE mai@gdnmedia.bh

HE BAH-Bahrain Art Hub, made up of an eclectic artistic group, is captivating onlookers with their pretty and poignant pieces in the Art & Us exhibition.

The colourful showcase, organised by BAH-Bahrain Art Hub member Sudeep Deshpande at the Bahraini Artistic Frames Centre in Budaiya, boasts the creations of nine talented painters and sculptors with the aim of spreading joy and reflection.

"Art & Us is the coming together of artists with their individualistic approach towards art and how their art speaks to the viewers," said architect, painter and metal sculptor Sudeep, who also represents the In Art World (IAW) group in Bahrain. "As an artist, it has always been my intention to help other artists prosper and get recognised.

"This group art exhibition is one such effort; an objective



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to give an ambience, a platform for committed and passionate artists who are sincere in their discipline and

execution of their work. "And just as the name of the exhibition suggests, art is one of the focal elements of society. It reflects upon various aspects that are an integral part of society. Art is for the people just as people are for art." Sudeep featured a series of canvases in acrylics and charcoal in the

exhibition, which he says is a 'reflection of human relationships, bonds and togetherness we have in our daily lives'. "It is the vibrancies that we

face at times, while holding on to those who matter the most to us in our lives," added the Indian expatriate who owns a design firm and lives in Adliya. "I am an abstract artist who likes to explore his daily living and to interpret that on canvas. I believe that various emotions, moods or thoughts have their own geometry, their own lines, mass and space.

"To have experienced quite often, that improvisation

Art is one of the focal elements of society. It reflects upon various aspects that are an integral part of society. Art is for the people just as people are for art.

leads to

minimalism, thus, one can find a minimalistic approach in the expression of subjects in my works.

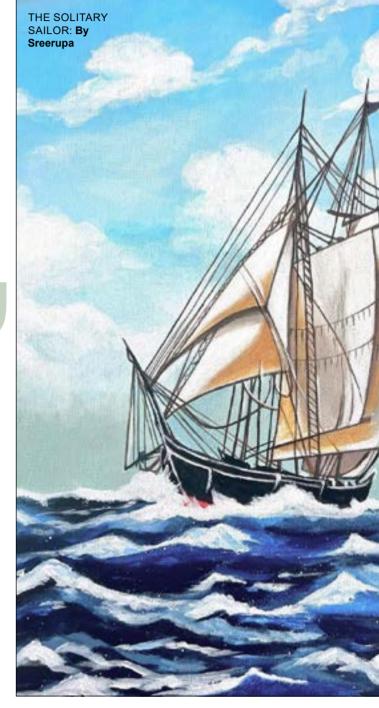
"My compositions hold a tight palette to be in context with the subject matter and its strong symbolism. They are purely a self-expression of bohemian ideas with their austere execution, being an honest interpretation of my world."

The opening of the exhibition was a glittering success with art lovers from across the kingdom enjoying the works alongside the event's chief guest-author, multi-lingual poetess and former radio jockey Nivedita Roy.

Meanwhile, works from Sudeep, Niju Joy, Atamjeet Singh Bawa, Pia Banerjee, Yusra Ahmed, Ali Al Hawaj,



COLOURS: Another of Sudeep's creations



Sneha Raj, Sriparna Ghosh and Sreerupa Roy, will be up until September 30.

IAW member Sreerupa Roy featured eight of her art pieces made up of charcoal sketches, realistic portraits and acrylic paintings.

"This event organised by Bahrain Artistic Frames and Bahrain Art Hub is a great opportunity to each and every artist to showcase their talent," said Sreerupa who has been living in Bahrain since 2015. "I don't have any formal education in art. It's my hobby and passion, which I want to continue.

"I want to share my feelings and expressions through my art works as, for me, art is a medium of expression which has no language bar."

She had attended several workshops during the Covid-19 pandemic to help her brush up on her work.





Weekly

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"I have always been fond of interesting eyes, not only among humans, but also among animals," she





explained. "And I want to depict those lively eyes in my art. So nowadays, I am concentrating in making realistic portraits. I want to say to my audience that if you are interested about expressions of various eyes, then my art pieces will definitely give you enjoyment."

Trained Indian classical dancer Pia, who is also a selftaught artist that has been in Bahrain for 24 years, is featuring two works called *Annapurna* and *Sifr*. "I've always been a creative

r ve always been a creativ person," she said. "I've dabbled in art for some time now, experimenting and learning with every canvas. My preferred mediums are



INNOCENCE: By Sreerupa

acrylic, charcoal, pastels and watercolours. I also like the abstract and expressionist style of art as I find more freedom there to create. I'm very much an instinctive artist and like to translate my ideas onto a canvas."





For Pia art is a medium for learning and expressing. But the journey - from finding the inspiration and developing an idea - is meditation, she said.

"The *Art & Us* is a celebration of their support for us, artists," she said. Indian artist, sculptor and engineer Niju has exhibited three artworks and two

sculptures. "All my works exhibited in the show are a visual treat to the eyes, and the metal sculptures add an essence of overwhelmed feeling within ourselves," said Niju, who enjoys working with different mediums such as acrylic and oil on canvas, paintings on recycled wood, watercolour and metal scrap.

"Several artists have told

me that I should do only one style and get known for that style, so that my work is instantly recognisable," he said.

"But I am an eclectic

person with diverse interests, and so my paintings reflect that. I firmly believe artists need to push their boundaries to feel the passion of art within ourselves."





Pulse of Pop

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



S Usher is going hard for 2024 with the launch of a new album and setting the Super Bowl Halftime Show ablaze with his musical prowess.

The Atlanta Grammywinning rhythm and blues icon is ushering in a new era with his *Coming Home* album that will be unveiled to music lovers on February 11 next year, which happens to be the same as his Super Bowl Halftime Show presented by *Apple Music*.

It's been eight years since the *My Way* superstar has released an album. His last was in 2016 called *Hard II Love* and that had peaked at number five on the Billboard 200.

He also teamed up with Zaytoven for the eight-track project, *A*, in 2018.

His 2023 track *Good Good*, featuring Summer Walker and 21 Savage, is already putting fans in a trance and reached No 12 on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart.

"I'm coming home, I'm back with my team," Usher had told *Apple Music*'s Zane Lowe, sharing that he is also working with Antonio 'LA' Reid on this. "Even when you see the artwork, you will understand it. When you see the peach. You get it. You understand where I'm from and what we're doing."

The album's artwork features Usher, shirtless and holding a peach behind the back of his neck. The word 'peach' translates to 'Georgia' and 'Atlanta' which is where the singer grew up.

"More than anything, it's a celebration of music," he added. "Coming home in many other ways as you get more acclimated. When I put out more records and more visuals, you actually begin to really understand it. But I think that it is something to be celebrated."

Usher is also elated to be taking the stage at Las Vegas' Allegiant Stadium to perform the 2024 Super Bowl Halftime Show.

"It's an honour of a lifetime to finally check a Super Bowl performance off my bucket list. I can't wait to bring the world a show unlike anything else they've seen from me before," the singer said in a statement. "Thank you to the fans and everyone who made this opportunity happen. I'll see you real soon."

Usher

This is the NFL and Roc Nation's fifth year partnering up to produce the Halftime Show which had resulted in spectacular halftime performances in the past including shows by Shakira and Jennifer Lopez (2020), The Weeknd (2021), a hiphop showcase anchored by Dr Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J Blige and Kendrick Lamar (2022), and Rihanna (2023).



HE new drama mini-series spin-off to Keanu Reeves' popular John Wick franchise has fans in a frenzy for being a tight, stylish thriller.

This three-parter called *The Continental: From the World of John Wick* is named after the hotel where assassins featured in the films gather; particularly around the imposing New York Hotel in the 1970s.

The edgy show explores the origin behind the iconic hotel-for-assassins centrepiece of the John Wick universe through the eyes and actions of a young Winston Scott (played by Colin Woodell)

"What we're exploring in *The Continental* is the young Winston and how it came to be that he and his team of confederates found their way into this hotel," shared Lionsgate TV chairman Kevin Beggs.

"The Continental is about a crumbling New York in the 1970s with a garbage strike that has piled up bags of garbage to the third floor of most brownstones.

"And, other things that are really real as an interesting backdrop to explore the origins of *The Continental*."



Winston basically charts a deadly course through the hotel's mysterious underworld in an attempt to seize it as his future throne. The show has already made its debut on September 22 and is off to a good start with a cast including Mel Gibson as Cormac, Mishel Prada as KD, Ben Robson as Frankie, Hubert Point-Du Jour as Miles, Nhung Kate as Yen, Jessica Allain as Lou, Ayomide Adegun as Charon, Jeremy Bobb as Mayhew and Peter Greene as Uncle Charlie.



KUNG FU FIGHTING

HE kung fu martial arts panda is going to be kicking butt and taking names next year as he returns to the silver screen with another epic adventure.

Po fans are particularly excited as the first official *Kung Fu Panda 4* poster has been released, giving viewers a glimpse into what's to come and showcasing DreamWorks' commitment to bringing the panda to life. In the fourth flick, Po the panda (played by Jack Black) is going to face his new adversary, the Chameleon, who has uncanny powers that are capable of resurrecting the spirits of past antagonists. As he fights for justice and what is right, Po will also be going on a quest to find his successor.

There are talks that a trailer may be up for all to giggle at as early as December and if the ongoing writers' and actors' strikes doesn't cause a delay, then the movie will debut on March 8, next year.

DRIVERS PARADE Verstappen waving to the crowds

MotoringWeekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

Waiting for title double

R ED Bull were able to celebrate their second Formula One title double in a row in Japan at the weekend, even if Max Verstappen must wait until October to be confirmed as a triple champion.

The team's sixth constructor's championship in their 19-year existence was secured at Suzuka, despite Mexican Sergio Perez failing to finish, after Verstappen dominated from pole position.

The fact that Perez is now the only driver who can mathematically beat Verstappen to the title meant Red Bull had done the double for a sixth time.

"We can't lose it now," said team boss Christian Horner. "Only a Red Bull driver can win the championship which is a great way to go into the next few races."

Realistically, Perez has no chance and any sense of suspense disappeared long ago.

Verstappen, who turns 26 this week, will not need to do even one more lap if Perez, who started the campaign strongly with two wins in four races, continues his current form.

The 33-year-old Mexican had a nightmare on Sunday with collisions, penalties, a retirement and subsequent un-retirement in a race that ended Red Bull's 100 per cent finishing record for the season.

"It was a shocker of a race for him," said Horner. "He got off to a bad start where he sort of got concertinaed on the run down to turn one and picked up some front wing damage.

"Then we needed to change the front wing and he overtook Fernando (Alonso) on the way in to the pit lane, then picked up a penalty and then he went out and divebombed one of the Haases."

Perez retired but returned towards the end of the race to serve a penalty and avoid it being carried over to Qatar as a grid drop.

Even if he suddenly

achieves perfection he is for fas now too far behind for it to make a difference against the winner of 13 of 16 races. points Verstappen is 177 points After

clear with 180 available to be won from the remaining six rounds - 25 per grand prix win plus a total of six for fastest laps and three Saturday sprints paying out a maximum eight additional points to the winner of each. After Qatar, the first of the remaining sprint weekends, there will be only 146 available.

That means Verstappen

needs only three points to be champion even if the Mexican bags a maximum score at Lusail. Perez won the Saturday

sprint and Sunday race in Azerbaijan this year for a haul of 33 points, but Verstappen took 24 points from the same weekend and won the subsequent sprint races in Austria and Belgium.

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It has been 36 races since Verstappen last came away from a weekend without scoring at least three points. Perez, on the other hand, has made it to the podium in only half the races this season.

If Verstappen clinches the title in the Saturday sprint in Qatar, it would be the first time since the 1983 South African Grand Prix that the championship has not been won on a Sunday.

HAWKINS IS FIRST WOMAN IN FIVE YEARS TO TEST AN F1 CAR

STON Martin driver ambassador and former W Series racer Jessica Hawkins has become the first woman in nearly five years to test a Formula One car, the Silverstonebased team announced yesterday.

Hawkins, a 28-year-old former British karting champion who has also worked as a James Bond movie stunt driver, did 26 laps in Aston's 2021 car at the Hungaroring outside Budapest last Thursday. She alternated in the car with Brazilian test and

reserve Felipe Drugovich. "It's taken me every bit of blood, sweat and tears to get here," said the Briton, of what she described as a dream come true. "Nothing will compare

to the acceleration and

braking of a Formula One car and, having looked at the data, I'm really proud of my performance," she added.

"I'll keep pushing for more and, in the process, I want to inspire other women and let them know they should follow their dream no matter what it is."

Daughter of an airconditioning fitter, Hawkins' racing career stalled for lack of cash until the Formula Threelevel W Series, an allfemale platform which has since folded, came along in 2019 with all costs paid. She joined Aston Martin as a driver ambassador in

2021. "We were really impressed by Jessica's preparation for the test -- she worked incredibly hard with our simulator



team and that made it an easy decision to put her in the AMR21," said Aston Martin team boss Mike Krack.

"Jessica approached the opportunity with great maturity; she was up to speed quickly and found a nice rhythm."

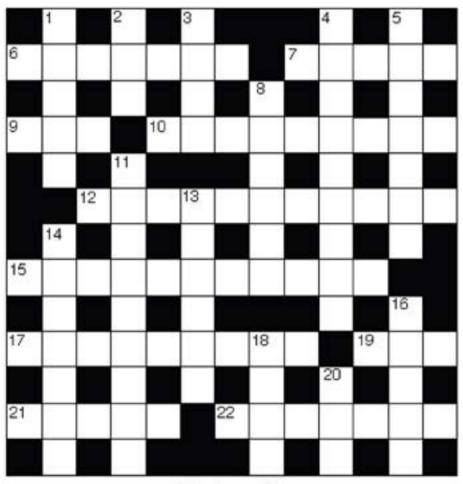
Formula One has not had a woman driver start a grand prix since Italian Lella Lombardi in 1976 but a number have tested the machinery. The last female driver to test before Hawkins was Colombia's Tatiana Calderon with Sauber, now Alfa Romeo, at Mexico City's Hermanos Rodriguez track in October 2018.

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Time Out





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Solutions in next week's issue.

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

WHEN ... was William Congreve's play The

Way of the World first published?

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Last Week's eisure Solutions. ROSSWORD BREAK: Across: 7 Unaccompanied; 8 Relegate; 9 Else; 10 Tissue; 12 Detain; 14 Urgent; 16 Detail; 18 Plea; 20 Mechanic; 22 Parenthetical. Down: 1 Inferior; 2 Access; 3 Sofa; 4 Splendid; 5 Intent; 6 Mess; 11 Estimate; 13 Inimical; 15 Eraser, 17 Tragic; 19 Leap; 21 Chef. JUST SO: Every dog has his day, Social climber, See eye to eye, The agony and the ecstacy.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Richard Nixon; Madeley and Finnigan; Armenia; January 26; Perrie Mans; Bleak House; The island of Funen; 1992.

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