



## COMMUNITY REPORT

By NAMAN ARORA  
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**A**S the Israel-Hamas conflict continues to devastate the residents of Gaza, a community group is launching an awareness campaign around the mental anguish from witnessing such death and destruction from afar.

Rotaract Bahrain will be holding its latest initiative, 'Bahrain Cares: A War Every Person Is Fighting Silently' this Friday from 10am to 8pm at Water Garden City.

"Many of our friends, family and loved ones are struggling to process the situation and all that is happening around them," Rotaract Bahrain president Hassam Hameed told *GulfWeekly*.

"So we wanted to bring people together and raise awareness around mental health, both within the context of the geopolitical conflict and November being men's health awareness month."

After Hamas killed 1,200 Israelis and took more than 240 others hostage on October 7, the Israel army has struck Gaza from the air killing more than 11,000 Palestinians, imposed a siege and launched a ground assault, stirring global alarm at humanitarian conditions in the enclave.

Every day, tragic news with traumatic imagery has been emerging and circulating on social media.

The Rotaract Bahrain initiative hopes to offer residents and citizens an opportunity to show solidarity for Palestine and a chance to discuss their own mental health struggles stemming from reading about and watching the conflict.

As part of the event, there will be mental health

# THE WAR WITHIN



REACHING OUT: The canvas for the hand prints

practitioners onsite offering support to those who feel like talking to someone about mental health concerns.

The organising team is centring its efforts around six pillars - peace, love, freedom, friendship, kindness and harmony.

"People want and need to express themselves at this time, so we also have a unique collaborative art project planned," Rotaract Bahrain's former president Tanima Tapan Chakravorty, who is organising the initiative added.



Hassam

"There will be a canvas where people can leave their hand print, in a colour based on the emotion they are feeling, to show support for the cause."

"It is important for all of us to spread positivity and embody peace, love, harmony, kindness and freedom in these difficult times."

The day-long event is being organised by a group of Rotaract members including Abdullah Zafar, Aashna



SUPPORT: Tanima, right, helping a student during the Each One Teach One initiative

Anand Asarpota, Yasser Al Abbasi, Mai Mohammed, Hisham Al Moosa, Paa Kwesi, Qasim Stein and Nabeel Shams.

It is the latest initiative by Rotaract Bahrain, which has been organising blood donations, breast cancer awareness campaigns and the Each One Teach One project in collaboration with Dream Big.

For more details, follow @rotaractbahrain on Instagram.



MIGHTY MONFARADI  
Dreams of fruition  
SEE PAGE 2



BLOSSOMING PASSION  
For the love of nature  
SEE PAGE 3



SAY IT WITH ART  
Supporting Palestine  
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP  
Movies, music & more  
SEE PAGE 7



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BEAMING WITH PRIDE: Monfaradi with his dad

**B**AHRAIN martial arts star Ali Monfaradi has proved that teen dreams can come true after clinching the coveted gold in the AJP Tour Abu Dhabi World Masters Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2023 in the UAE capital earlier this month.

Fifteen years ago, Monfaradi faced off against fighters from around the globe in the fierce competition and while he may have thought his golden glory was out of reach, over the years, his sheer drive and will to succeed in the sport that he loves did not allow him to let up.

Finally, the 30-year-old Jiu Jitsu athlete and coach achieved the gold in this championship .. ending his year on a high note.

"I fought in the very first edition of this championship 15 years ago, as a 15-year-old kid thrown into the adult division as there were no teen divisions at the time," the owner and head coach of Elements Jiu Jitsu Academy told *GulfWeekly*. "Throughout the years, I earned six bronze medals and a silver. Year after year, the gold medal eluded me.

"It finally came because of how thick-headed and stubborn I was. It would've been completely understandable to quit after five, six, 10 or even 12 years... assuming that the day wouldn't come. I guess the moral of the story is — don't do the thing for a particular goal, be it a medal, money or fame. Do it because you love it and everything else will eventually follow!"

Monfaradi had no easy fights in this championship.

"I prepared in a way to theoretically outclass the competition, but life



## SPORT REPORT

By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE  
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doesn't work that way," he explained. "Everybody at that level trains hard. My first fight was against Russian Magomed Ansarov, who had a very tricky game, one that I specifically trained for numerous times."

Monfaradi won 5-3 and took on the Italian Mario Urbani next.

"He shocked me with his physical prowess," said Monfaradi. "The amount of strength he displayed was surprising. I've rarely met people in my weight division of 77kg who are that strong."

He was able to play a tight game, however, and began racking up the scoreboard towards the second half of the fight, winning 9-0.

For the semi-final, he went head-to-head with Russian Ilez Khashagulgov.

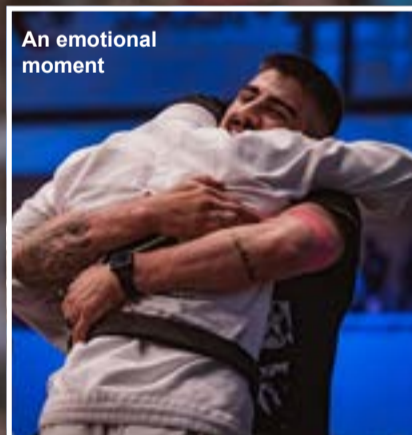
"We've fought twice before this season, and while they were tough battles, I did win," added Monfaradi, who was the Best Asian Athlete two years in a row, from 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, by the AJP. "This time though, he had a very good game plan — prevent me from scoring, end on a draw (0-0) and then win during Golden Score; where admittedly he would've had the advantage.

"He blocked me at every attempt during the fight, and with a quick last-minute change in my strategy, I managed to score a single point with 10 seconds remaining. I won 1-0!"

The final was against a rival of his — Talison Soares from Brazil, who has beaten him twice this season, both in very close fights.

"I went in with a good mindset, knowing that I've only lost on technicalities and minor errors (not to discredit

# Bahrain's golden boy!



An emotional moment

him in any way), but I knew the key was to not make mistakes," Monfaradi said.

"Sure enough, I made a mistake. He started with a takedown attempt and a back attempt which had him winning 2-0 from the start of the fight.

"Now losing, and in three successive vulnerable positions (back, front headlock and side mount), I defended and escaped each one, calmly but with a sense of urgency as well. I was able to do that because I trained for all of those scenarios countless times.

"And so, I began attacking

again and managed to tie the scoreboard 4-4 with 20 seconds left. In a 0-0 draw, the last person to score is declared the winner. We both knew that and he tried to outpace me, but I held my lead and just like that, a dream came true."

His Elements Jiu- Jitsu Academy teammates Ema Janahi, 48, and his father, Seena, also swept their opponents to grab gold medals.

"My father fought on the same day in his age division (Master 4, black belt) and won as well, after three impressive fights," said a

proud Monfaradi.

"I believe this is his fifth gold medal in this event. By the time it was time for the main event finals, he was in the spectator box, cheering me on, and I had nothing to worry about except my own performance. I was grateful to share this moment with him!"

Monfaradi started his Jiu Jitsu journey at the age of 12. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu or BJJ is based on grappling and ground fighting, focusing on the skill of controlling opponents through techniques that force them to submit.

As an adult, he spent five years training at the Alliance

Headquarters in Sao Paulo, Brazil, under legendary professor Fabio Gurgel and is the first and only Bahraini black belt competitor to have been trained by him.

Over the years, he has won more than 200 medals in various competitions around the world. He is now preparing for the AD Grand Slam in Tokyo on January 13-14. The Grand Slams are a series of events that are the largest and most prestigious in the AJP Tour, second only to the aforementioned World Championship.

For details, follow @alimonfaradi on Instagram

GLORY: A proud Monfaradi

# Bloom in the breeze



## ART REPORT

By NAMAN ARORA  
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**B**AHRAINI artist Khalid Fairouz, has unveiled his first-ever solo exhibition in his home country, taking inspiration from nature and

his family to create a series of oil paintings.

The 66-year-old artist's showcase, titled *Breeze*, opened last week at the Mashq Art Space in Al A'Ali Mall, and is set to conclude tomorrow.

"I love and always look for a connection with it through my artistic work," Khalid told *GulfWeekly*



Khalid



FLORAL: A few of the pieces on display. PHOTOS: ABDULLAH AL AMEERI



NATURE: One of his pieces on display at the exhibition

at the opening of the exhibition, being held under the patronage of Member of Parliament Dr Hassan Bokhammas.

More than 20 pieces are being showcased during the nine-day exhibition, much of which feature abstract floral themes.

Most of them are recent creations, although the artist has been active since 1989.

"I have been active in the UAE for much of my career, teaching and creating art," Khalid added. "I have held exhibitions in UAE throughout the 1990s but I took a break from them for a while as I continued to teach, study and travel. It's only after I settled back in Bahrain that I was able to resume my artistic activity."

Khalid participated in a number of art exhibitions, before his break, including a few affiliated with the Fine Arts Society of Sharjah, as well as the International Biennale Exhibition in Sharjah and the Flower



Exhibition held in Dubai in 2003. He was also the supervisor of drawing courses at the Emirates Society for Fine Arts as well as the Nahda Association of Women in Dubai and the Institute of Fine Arts in Sharjah.

Khalid graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Damascus University in 1987, and also studied Spanish through Spanish language courses in UAE and Spain.

"I was only 10 when I started drawing using just a



INAUGURATION: Khalid showcases his art to Dr Hassan

pencil and a paper," he added.

"I started with realistic pieces, but after I experimented with abstraction, I fell in love with it.

"There's more magic in oil too, because you can really feel the painting come alive."

Khalid's process involves working on as many as three or four paintings at a time, switching between them as inspiration strikes. One of his pieces in this exhibition is titled *Jasmine*, depicting the eponymous flower, and

was inspired by his daughter Yasmine.

"With these pieces, I have tried to express a variety of emotions," he added.

"For example, in one of them, I heavily rely on the colour yellow to express joy. When I start to paint a piece, I draw inspiration from whatever is around me, and then blend in realism, impressionism or abstraction to distil it onto the canvas."

*Breeze ends tomorrow at the Mashq Art Gallery.*

## FORGING HUMAN CONNECTIONS



ACTION: A scene from the film

**BAHRAIN CINEMA CLUB –**  
Wednesday, 7pm, Juffair

**Film:** *Compartment Number 6*

**Director:** Juho Kuosmanen

**Duration:** One hour and 47 minutes

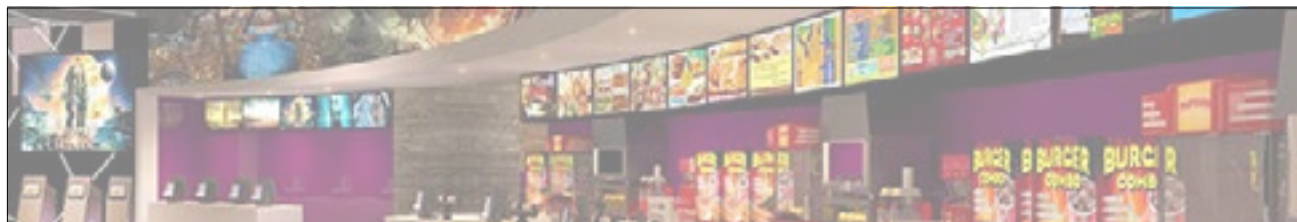
**Cast:** Seidi Haarla, Yuri Borisov, Dinara Drukarova and Julia Aug

**Plot:** A young Finnish woman escapes a love affair in Moscow by boarding a train to the arctic port of Murmansk. Forced to share the long ride and a tiny sleeping car with a larger than life Russian miner, the unexpected encounter leads the occupants of Compartment No 6 to face major truths about human connection.

For details, call Huda Tabbara on 39682323.



VIBRANT: Khalid uses bright colours to depict his emotions



# Culture

# Painting the plight of



## ART REPORT

By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE  
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**A** COLLECTIVE of creatives from Bahrain Arts Society and the island's art scene will be showcasing their works today to raise awareness and funds for Palestine that has been bombarded by Israel since October 7.

More than 11,000 Gazans, including 4,500 children, have been killed in the attacks.

The artistic community based in Budaiya, which has been spreading colour and culture throughout the kingdom since 1983 and boasts more than 170 members of different nationalities, has teamed up with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) to stage the expo - *From Bahrain to Palestine*.

According to the organisers, 100 per cent of the proceeds from the sales of the art will be donated towards the Bahrain National Campaign to Support Palestinians in Gaza.

"Our members wanted to show support to those in Gaza, and they are showing their solidarity using the language they know best - art," said a Society spokesperson, who added that more than 55 artists from the collective and afar will be participating in the fundraiser tonight at 7pm.

Popular Bahraini abstract expressionist Areej Rajab is proud to be one of the painters featuring a vibrant mixed media on canvas.

"This is my contribution towards the Palestinian cause and my display of support and hope," said the mother-of-three who has participated in a series of exhibitions in Bahrain, Oman, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UK over the past few years.

Well-known Bahraini artist Balqees Fakhro, 73, has donated a BD750 acrylic painting for the heart-warming event, which she said, aims to support



VIBRANT: Jess's work



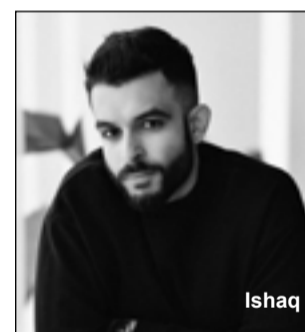
SYMBOLIC: Ishaq's print



VISION: Elyas's painting



JOINING HANDS: Jess, left, with Dr Mustafa, right



Ishaq

as well as 50,000 pregnant women, according to data from UN organisations, and many are no longer receiving treatment.

Palestinian Ambassador Taha Mohammed Abdul Qader attended the opening of the art event, held under the patronage of RHF secretary general and committee chairman Dr Mustafa Al Sayed, and provided a heartfelt speech. Dr Mustafa praised the art, which reflected the 'heritage and beauty of Palestine' as well as the 'love of those in Bahrain'.

BTF board of trustees chairperson Dr Fatima Mohammed Al Balooshi was also present, and highlighted the importance of people's participation to help our 'brothers and sisters in Palestine'.

Artists such as Filipino Jesus Ramos Tejada, who goes by the name Jess, was thrilled to partake in the event.

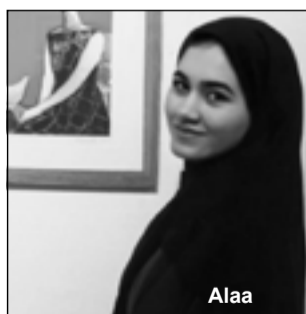
"It brings me immense

the 'children and people of Palestine'. Her paintings revolve around the themes of belonging and memories of places.

"Through my abstract style, my paintings showcase the mystery of places that belong to a very basic form of living, such as the caves and tents of our ancestors," she said.

Other reputable artists involved in the exhibition include Abbas Yousif, a printmaker, collage maker and writer, along with artist and architect Mustafa Al Nasheet, who is displaying his mixed media art called *Watermelon Seedling*.

Meanwhile, another



Alaa

fundraiser - the *Gaza in the Heart* exhibition - being held at the charity-based community centre Safeya Ali Kanoo Hub in Manama, is still drawing crowds.

The showcase, organised by the non-for-profit Bahrain Trust Foundation (BTF) - which started on November

11 and runs until November 22 - boasts more than 70 pieces made by more than 30 artists of different nationalities...also on sale to support the plight of Palestinians in war-torn Gaza.

According to the United Nations (UN), 1.5 million of the 2.4m people living in the densely populated territory have been displaced by the war. Gaza's health system, which has been flooded with trauma patients and is running out of medicines and fuel, is close to being non-existent due to the air strikes. There are 350,000 patients with chronic conditions in Gaza, including cancer and diabetes,



Areej

pride and joy to be chosen as one of the local artists to join this group exhibition for the benefit of the people of Gaza," said the educator and visual artist known for his public murals, both regionally and internationally, and his vibrant collection of art.

"I donated two artworks,

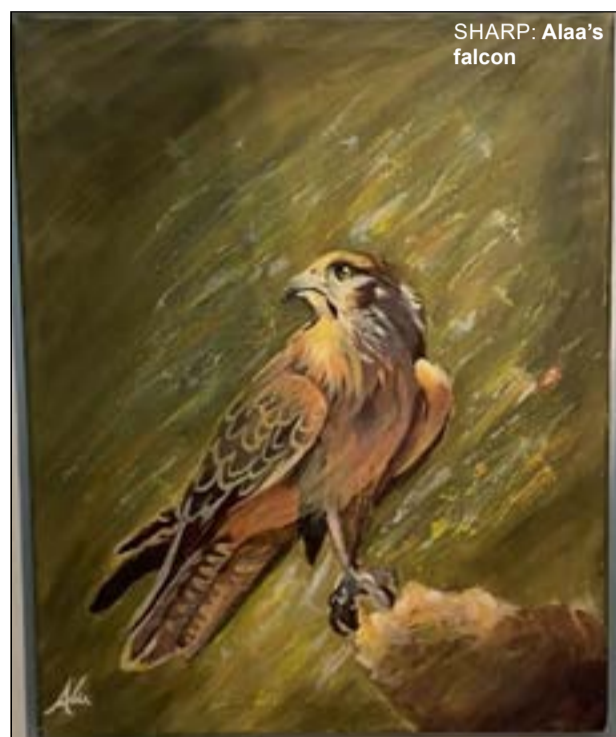
Weekly



# of Palestinians



**DARK REALITY:** A close-up of Dr Amani's piece



**SHARP:** Alaa's falcon



**BELONGING:** Balqees' work of art



**Elyas**



**SOLIDARITY:** The opening of *Gaza in the Heart*



**Dr Amani**



**Balqees**

which were then purchased for BD200, with all the proceeds to be donated to the RHF," Jess added.

Bahrain Polytechnic student Elyas Ismail Rasti also featured an oil painting, which was sold for BD150.

"I wanted to share a story, the same way art is used to document and share what is happening in the world and add a twist of hope and love using our creativity," said the 23-year-old Bahraini. "I have a vision and a mission

to represent my culture and Bahrain to the world by creating the best I have in the most artistic way."

University of Bahrain student Alaa Alahmed from Isa Town, also shared one acrylic painting for BD150.

"My goal is to spread messages in an artistic way to support any event, because art is an important element in all societies," said the 20-year-old. "When I participate in a work or painting, I may contribute to conveying the

voice of truth in a different way, and for this event, I wanted to help contribute and collect donations for the people of Gaza."

Meanwhile, self-taught artist Dr Amani Al Hajeri, a consultant in clinical genetics, donated two mixed-media paintings for the cause.

"When I saw the invitation for artists to donate their pieces for the people in Palestine, I didn't hesitate," said the oil media artist, who also dabbles with

watercolours, acrylic, and mixed media.

"I participated, because this is the least we can do for the people in Gaza, and to show how powerful art can be in raising awareness and motivating others," Dr Amani said.

Internationally-acclaimed photographer and philanthropist, Ishaq Madan, whose pictures have either inspired or raised funds for charitable causes, was at it again with his poignant print.

"I've been selling prints on my own to raise as much as I can for Palestine, and I participated in this group exhibition to help raise funds for the Gaza relief initiative, as well," said the 30-year-old Bahraini visual artist, who is also a curious adventurer, with his artwork inspired by still life renaissance paintings.

The picture that Ishaq has on display is of a mighty watermelon placed before the traditional Palestinian 'keffiyeh'. Israeli authorities have barred people carrying and displaying the Palestinian flag, and so they use the fruit to symbolise the flag.

For those wanting to collect pieces of art for a great cause, the exhibition is open from 9am to 10pm.

For details, follow @bahrainartsociety and @safeya.kanoo.hub on Instagram.



**HOPE:** Areej's painting

# Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY JULIA CASSANO

## GRUMBLE, GRUMBLE ZELDA IS BACK

**I**n an exciting development, Nintendo and Sony Pictures are working together to transform the epic video game series *The Legend of Zelda* into a live-action film.

Iconic video game designer Shigeru Miyamoto and chairman of Arad productions and former founder and chief executive officer of Marvel Studios Avi Arad will co-produce the film, alongside *The Maze Runner*'s Wes Ball, who will direct the movie.

*The Legend of Zelda* is an action-adventure game franchise created by Japanese game designers Shigeru Miyamoto and Takashi Tezuka. The game features three heroes who must unite to battle a witch known as The Lady, who's cast a curse on the princess of Hytopia.

A young boy named Link must then travel to Death Mountain

and defeat the monster, Ganon, to save the Kingdom of Hyrule and restore peace.

Miyamoto revealed in a post on Nintendo's Japanese account on X, formerly known as Twitter, that the film 'has been in the works for many years now' and that he had asked Arad to produce the movie with him.

"It will take some time until its completion, but I hope the fans look forward to watching it," Miyamoto said.

Debuted in 1986, *The Legend of Zelda* is Nintendo's second most successful series, as they have sold around 150 million copies worldwide.

While the film will be a co-production between Nintendo and Sony, Nintendo will finance more than 50 per cent of the film, according to the company.

Details covering the plot of the movie, the cast or a release date have not yet been released.



THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: Tears of the Kingdom



British rock band Smile

## THE EYES HAVE IT!

**E**NGLISH rock band The Smile have announced their new album *Wall of Eyes*, which is due for release on January 26.

To tease fans and mark the exciting news, the trio - consisting of Tom Skinner, Radiohead's Thom Yorke and Jonny Greenwood - have released their title track *Wall of Eyes*, accompanied by a music video directed by Paul Thomas Anderson.

The eight-song album, which was recorded in Oxford and at Abbey Road Studios, is set to feature strings from the London Contemporary Orchestra.

Shortly after the release of their much-awaited album, the trio will kick off their 2024 UK and European tour at Dublin's 3Arena in March.

Smile will tour venues in Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Brussels, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, and Brighton.

The band formed during the Covid-19 lockdown, making their debut performance which was streamed by Glastonbury Festival in May 2021.

A year later, Smile released their debut album *A Light for Attracting Attention*, produced by Radiohead's long-time producer Nigel Godrich.

## SWIFTIES REJOICE!

**P**OP sensation Taylor Swift has broken yet another record when the 2024 Grammy nominations were announced on Friday.

Swift has scored seven nominations in the Grammy's Song of the Year category 2024 for her hit *Anti-Hero*, making her the first person to be nominated in the category seven times throughout her career.

Her recent nomination means she has passed the likes of Sir Paul McCartney and Lionel Richie, who both have six nominations in the Song of the Year category.

The nominees for Song of the Year include artists Miley Cyrus, Billie Eilish, Jon Batiste, SZA, Dua Lipa, Lana Del Ray and Olivia Rodrigo.

Swift, who is currently selling out shows on her legendary Eras Tour, has also been nominated in the Album of the Year category, for her latest album *Midnights*, alongside other artists, including Lana,



Swift performing on her Eras Tour

Olivia and SZA. This makes her tied with music icon Barbra Streisand for the most nominations by a female artist in the Album of the Year category.

And, if she were to bag another Album of the Year award, it would make her the first artist to win the award four times.

The *Anti-Hero* singer seized her first Song of the Year nod with her iconic track *You Belong With Me* in 2010, and she was also nominated in 2015 for her hit *Shake it Off*, in 2016 for *Blank Space*, 2020 for *Lover*, 2021 for *Cardigan* and in 2023 for *All Too Well*.

The epic news comes as Swift's Latin America tour kicked off, with the star performing in Buenos Aires on Thursday, heading to Brazil next week. And, next year she will be touring Japan, France, Australia and Canada.

# On track in Vegas

**B**ERNIE Ecclestone, the one-time supremo who twice took Formula One to a Caesars Palace parking lot in the 1980s, accepts the sport is finally on the right track the third time around in Las Vegas.

The 93-year-old Briton would still not want to bet on the race’s long-term success, however.

Red Bull’s dominant triple world champion Max Verstappen and his rivals will be speeding down the famed Strip this Saturday, past the lit-up landmark casinos and hotels, in a night-time spectacular.

Ecclestone said it was the layout he had always wanted and never got.

“The only problem last time was we couldn’t run on the Strip, which is what I wanted to do,” he said. “I wanted to make sure when somebody turned their television on they knew they were in Vegas, not in the desert. They promised me ‘yes, we can do it’.

“The first year we ran in this area which was Caesars Palace car park, or part of it, but it was on the understanding that the following year we’d be able to do what I had in mind. But it never happened because the people in Vegas, all the hotels, couldn’t see that it was going to be any good for them. So that’s why we never went back to Vegas (after 1982).”

This time the race will be the third in the US this season, after stadium-centred Miami and Austin’s purpose-built Circuit of the Americas.

The race is set to be a sell-out and Formula One and sponsors are pulling out all the stops and spending big to attract the high-rollers and A-listers.

“I hope it is (a success) but I’m not sure it’s long term,” said Ecclestone.

“I think the last thing they are concerned with is the race itself.

“The most likely is there will be as big a crowd as you can get, this time around. Whether it will hang on, especially with some of the prices ... why would people pay this sort of money to be in Vegas when they can go to Austin and everything is much, much better and much easier? They’ve got a bit of a battle. I hope they win but



LIT UP: An artist's impression of the Las Vegas circuit

I wouldn’t want to put my money on it.”

The season-ending 1981 and 1982 races, held amid the concrete expanse of a hotel and casino car park, hardly fired the imagination.

“F1 didn’t take to Vegas, it was mutual,” recalled journalist Nigel Roebuck 30 years later in *MotorSport* magazine. “Not many of the local populace had the remotest interest in the race,

even situated as it was in the middle of town; fewer still bought tickets.”

Roebuck also quoted Australian Alan Jones, the 1980 world champion who was retiring after winning the

1981 race, as saying: “What a bloody place to be ending your career.”

Ecclestone said he went there to try and grow the sport in America, where interest has surged in recent years.

“In America in those days, nobody knew what Formula One was and those that did didn’t even care,” he said.

“Formula One today, we’re lucky. I’m pleased to say because *Netflix* have done an awful lot. Also the people who bought Formula One have made an effort.”

US-based Liberty Media, who took over the commercial rights in 2017 and moved Ecclestone aside, have changed the conversation with the help of the hugely successful *Netflix* docu-series *Drive to Survive*.

For them, Vegas is central to their vision of the future.

“I think once we have the event in Vegas there’s going to be a whole new recognition for Formula One in the US,” said Liberty Media CEO Greg Maffei. “A night race down the Strip that’s going to be iconic ... that’s going to be on every piece of television imaginable.”

## DOUBLE DELIGHT

**B**AHRAIN Victorious 13 dominated Ironman 70.3 Melbourne with its two Kiwi powerhouses: Hayden Wilde and Amelia Watkinson topped the men’s and women’s fields respectively, writes Lisa Pringle.

Wilde made a smashing debut over the middle distance with a wire-to-wire victory, recording the day’s



Watkinson

best splits over swim, bike, and run. The Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist swam the modified 800-metre course in 11:32, cycled 90km in 1:56:37, and then ran the half-marathon in 1:08:01 to stop the clock at 3:19:29, nearly eight minutes ahead of the nearest competitor.

With this victory, Wilde has now clinched his spot at the Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Taupo, New Zealand next year - a hometown race and a main target after the Paris Olympic Games.

“What a way to finish the season, absolutely fizzing about this one, and proud of the way I attacked the race,” said Wilde.

“Exciting to know personally there is more to give out on course, which has given me a big

confidence booster heading into world champs next year,” he added.

The race for Watkinson was a different storyline, but with the same end result: a win and a world’s spot at the home race. She emerged eighth out of the swim with a 2:44 deficit to the leader, then made her way up the field to finish the bike leg, with the day’s fastest split in fifth and only 41 seconds back. Watkinson moved into second halfway through the half-marathon, then surged to the front in the final kilometre to log the day’s fastest run and clinch the victory.

“I had to dig deep for that one,” said Watkinson. “But that’s the best kind of racing. I’m proud of putting a solid race together; landing the top step feels pretty good.”



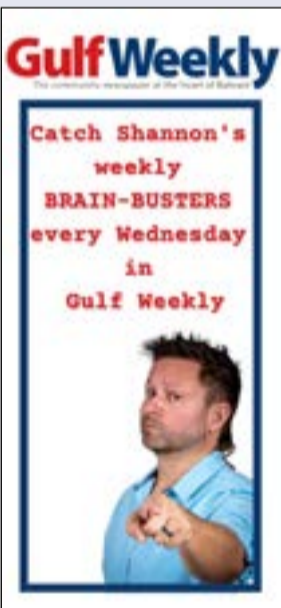
Wilde

PICTURE: By Alexander Polizzi

## 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) What’s the name of the *Looney Tunes* cowboy with a walrus moustache and anger management issues?
- 2) Which everyday household item comes from a conjugation of the Hindi verb *champo/ champna* meaning ‘to press or knead muscles’?
- 3) Which country’s flag features a shield and two crossed spears?
- 4) Which animal has the highest blood pressure?
- 5) Other than cars, Rolls-Royce is known for making what?



- 6) Which was the first country to introduce Daylight Saving time?
- 7) On November 4th 1924, which sport was legalised in California, US, after being banned for 10 years?

- ANSWERS**
1. Yosemite Sam
  2. Shampoo
  3. Kenya
  4. Giraffe
  5. Plane Engine
  6. Germany
  7. Boxing

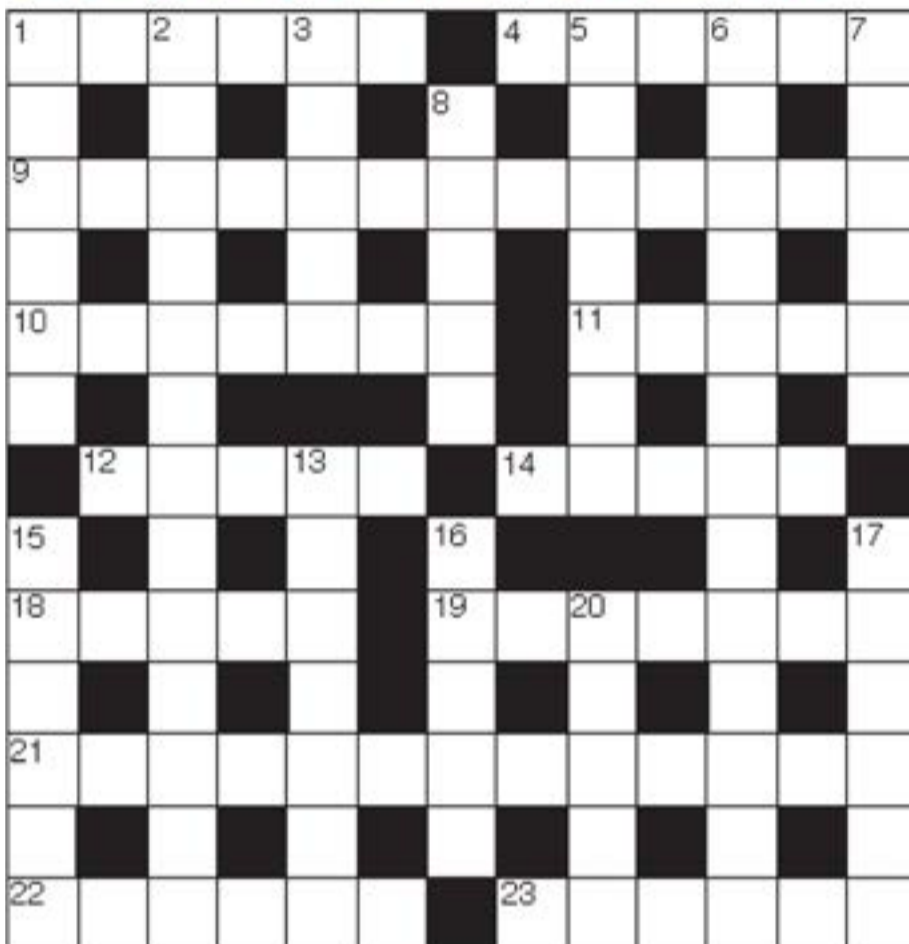
# Time Out



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## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

1. Most broad (6)
4. Mollycoddle (6)
9. Unintentionally (13)
10. Outstanding (7)
11. Sea (5)
12. Horrify (5)
14. Fables (5)
18. Topic (5)
19. Fend off (7)
21. Official (13)
22. Slumbering (6)
23. Association (6)

### DOWN

1. Caprice (6)
2. Evolutionary (13)
3. Ointment (5)
5. Rhetoric (7)
6. Frightening (5-8)
7. Wearisome (6)
8. Fuse (5)
13. Dreadful (7)
15. Layers (6)
16. Corn (5)
17. Ebb (6)
20. Put (5)

### who, what, where, when

WHO ... wrote the volumes of poetry *I Found This Shirt* and *Perfect Catch*?  
WHAT ... is the capital of Gauteng province, South Africa?  
WHERE ... did Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen graduate from with a Fine Art Honours degree in 1986?  
WHEN ... was Fidel Castro born?  
WHO ... won the men's marathon gold medal at the 1986 European Championships?  
WHAT ... is the nickname of the character John Denham in the television series *Casualty*?  
WHERE ... in South America is Lake Arapa?  
WHEN ... did Leo Sayer have a No 1 single in the UK with *When I Need You*?

### just so

**£ back**

**b fruit & X**

10p

**phrase**

10p



## 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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

#### CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Psychiatrist; 7 Spent; 8 Polar; 9 Ode; 10 Senseless; 11 Defame; 12 Vendor; 15 Recollect; 17 Top; 18 Thorn; 19 Alter; 21 Interruption.

Down: 1 1 Preponderate; 2 Hue; 3 Acting; 4 Represent; 5 Solve; 6 Proscription; 7 Shelf; 10 Semblance; 13 Deter; 14 Repair; 16 Clown; 20 Tip.

#### JUST SO:

The morning after the night before, Point of no return, Sinking heart, It's all over.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Graham Greene; David Blunkett; Bangladesh; 1956; Red, blue, orange; On the Zambezi River between Zambia and Zimbabwe; February 11th.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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