

A month of giving



COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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COMMUNITY champion Miranthen Dole and her crew of carers are preparing to spread acts of kindness throughout Ramadan by collecting food donations for families in need.

The Ramadan Appeal, which is run by a group of volunteers working under the label of 'A Box of Goodness', aims to provide packages full of non-perishable products and fresh vegetables.



Miro

"The fundamental concept of 'A Box of Goodness' has been to inculcate the habit of sharing our blessings with the less fortunate," said Sri Lankan Malay Miranthen, better known as Miro, who is the founder of the initiative. "Our belief is that there are ample provisions in this world to go around for everyone – if we only shared."

Collections of the items, which include dates, rice, dhal, lentils, flour, salt, oil, spices, sugar, tea, milk, coffee, harees, pasta, noodles, oats, potatoes, nuts, baked beans, dried fruits, Vimto and canned foods, have already started and will continue until May 10. They are mostly being dropped off at Al Suwayfiyah.

"This year the Bahrain Rugby Football Club is also collecting food on our behalf so donors can



Donations

also drop off food at their reception desk," she added.

This is not their first drive as the giving group has shared more than

3,000 food packs since the initiative was launched in 2016 with members of the Migrant Workers Protection Society, women assisted by the Shamsaha women's crisis intervention group and families in need.

"Since launching, our group has grown in leaps and bounds and we are happy to share more happiness and goodness with those who need it the most," said Miro regarding the Holy Month initiative.

Collections for first time mums are still underway and will end

next Wednesday. The 'Mommy Starter Pack's' started as a tribute to International Women's Day.

Miro added: "Help us help the needy and support first-time mums beginning their journey into motherhood. Please share items such as diapers, blankets, wet wipes, loose clothing, nursing bras and more."

The community crusaders are also in need of reusable eco-friendly grocery bags to assist them with their ongoing projects.

For more details check out @aboxofgoodness on Facebook and Instagram.

also drop off food at their reception desk," she added.



Miro donating to Al Noor Charity Welfare last year

A volunteer donating a bag of food items



ARTISTIC KAFTANS
Ramadan collection
SEE PAGE 2



SOULFUL SINGER
Celebrating women
SEE PAGE 3



YOUR GUIDE TO THE F1 ACTION THIS WEEKEND!

PAGES 4 & 5

THE FIRST EDITION
Where the action begins

VACCINATED | RECOVERED

FORMULA 1 GULF AIR SAUDI GRAND PRIX

26 - 28 March
BAHRAIN GP.COM
1745 0000

Artistic tribute



Abdel Halim Hafez kaftan

CONIC Egyptian singers and their songs that have been imprinted in the hearts of many around the world are now making artistic impressions on kaftan keepsakes.

Bahraini artists Shaikha Muneera bint Isa Al Khalifa and Sara Al Rumaihi, have created a collection of long loose dresses for Ramadan featuring the faces of Abdel Halim Hafez and Umm Kulthum on one side and lyrics from their popular tunes on the back.

"We wanted to pay homage to the singers that have inspired us all," said Shaikha Muneera. "They are the greatest singers in

FASHION REPORT
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Arab history of music that have touched our lives in so many ways.

"They evoked emotions in all of us – after all, Abdel Halim Hafez is known as 'the king of emotions and feelings' while Umm Kulthum is 'the voice of Egypt' and also known as 'Egypt's fourth pyramid'.

"We wanted to turn the artworks we created of them into wearable art. Then again, what is fashion if not wearable art?"

The dynamic duo drew artworks of the legends using charcoal, that can be framed and placed in homes, and then printed the designs on silk.



Lyrics from Ahwak

The songs used on the kaftans are *Ahwak* (which means I love you in Arabic) for Abdel Halim Hafez and *Enta Omri* (which means you are my life in Arabic) for Umm Kulthum.

Abdel Halim's music is still considered among the 'Great Four of Arab Music' along with Umm Kulthum, Mohammad Abdul Wahab and Farid Al Atrash.

When he died in 1977, the *New York Times* referred to him as the Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra of the Arab world. And, he was also called the 'king of romance', 'ambassador of love' and nicknamed the 'dark-skinned nightingale' for his sweet, soft and tender voice.

He received notice in the Western world in 1999 when elements from one of his songs were used in one of rapper Jay-Z's tracks.

He recorded more than 300 songs and starred in 16 classical and successful films, including *Dalilah* which was the Middle East's first colour motion picture. To date, he has sold more than 80 million records.

As for Umm Kulthum, she also sold more than 80 million records worldwide and was known for her vocal ability and unique style.

She recorded around 300 songs over a 60-year career about love, loss and longing. She also had significant influence on a number of musicians, including English bass guitarist Jah Wobble and was praised by Bob Dylan, Maria Callas, Marie Laforêt

and Bono.

The designers have created five kaftans of each.

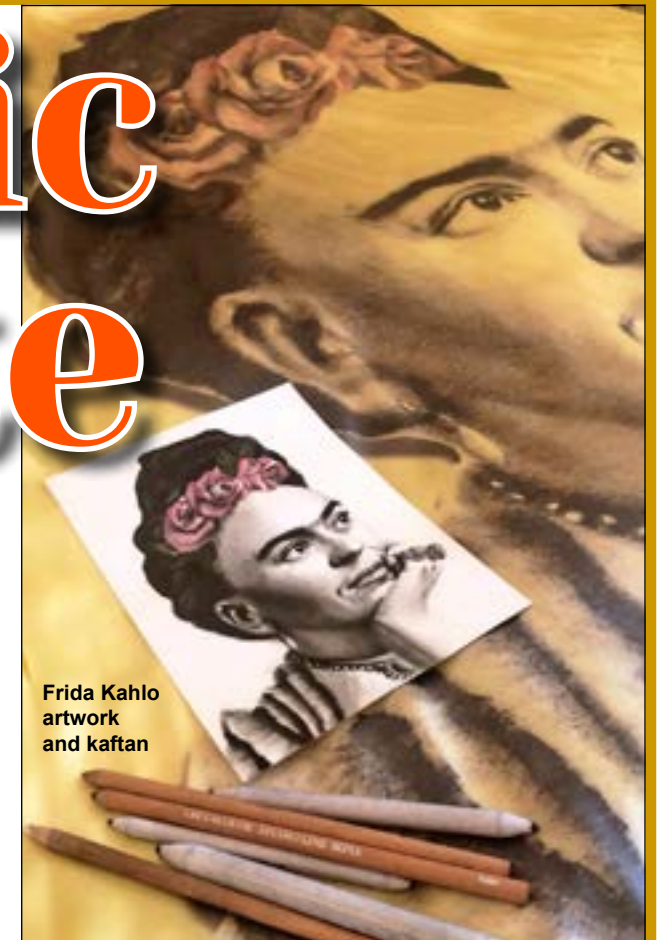
This is their second collection, their first being a tribute to famous Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.

They also drew pictures of the kingdom's ruling family and presented it to designer Shaikha Marwa bint Abdulrahman Al Khalifa to use for her 'Khalifa Al Khair' campaign aimed at raising funds for the needy during the pandemic.

Shaikha Marwa had created a series of colourful handwoven bags featuring pictures of His Majesty King Hamad and members of the ruling family in celebration of Bahrain National Day.

It was part of her Bayanah brand that highlights the kingdom's heritage through handmade accessories. The bags were hand drawn on A4 using charcoal by Shaikha Muneera and Sara and then printed on canvas.

For details, follow @astrokeof.art on Instagram.



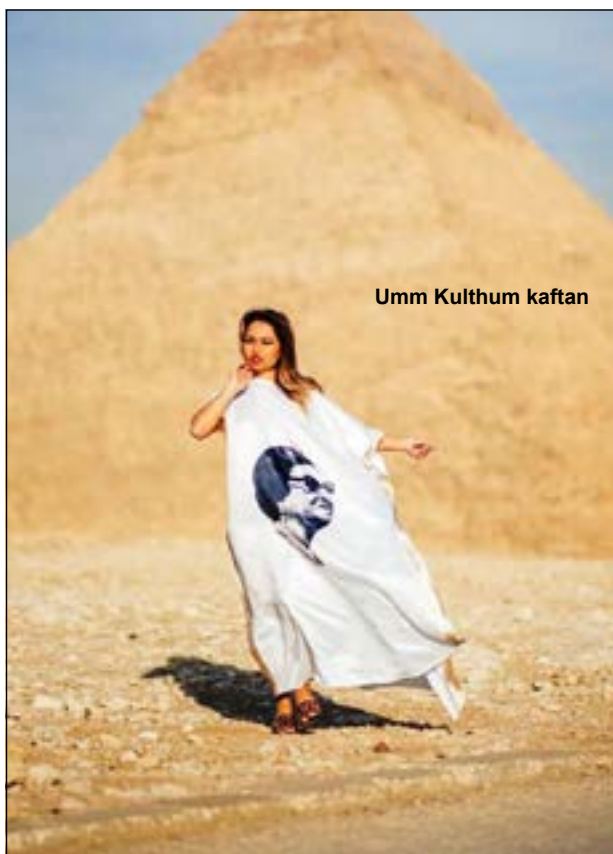
Frida Kahlo artwork and kaftan



Legendary Egyptian singer Abdel Halim Hafez artwork



Umm Kulthum



Umm Kulthum kaftan



Umm Kulthum's song Enta Omri shot in Cairo



The Royal bag featuring HM the King

Food bank to prevent food waste

The equivalent of 44 tonnes of leftover food has been saved from being added to Bahrain's food waste, thanks to 44,210 meals contributed to the Conserving Bounties Society by Carrefour Bahrain, writes Naman Arora.

The Conserving Bounties Society is the first specialised food bank in the kingdom and advocates reducing food waste while supporting vulnerable communities through donations.

Carrefour Bahrain, owned and operated by Majid Al Futtaim, has partnered with the organisation since January last year to donate leftover food items and raise awareness on the importance of food security.

"I am pleased that we are involved in such a great initiative, as it demonstrates our continuous commitment to the environment and the welfare of our community, two of the core values we believe in at Majid Al Futtaim," said Jerome Akel, the country manager for



Jerome

Carrefour Bahrain.

"The Conserving Bounties Society has a very diligent process in collecting perishable food products every day, while adhering to the highest hygiene and safety standards. As a leading retailer and a responsible corporate citizen, we are committed to reducing food waste in the country and supporting the Bahraini society."

The company's contributions account for three per cent of all food donations collected by Conserving Bounties. Of this, 19pc comes from Carrefour's Centre location, 13pc from the Enma Mall branch and 12pc from the Jawad Dome outlet.

In total, the Conserving Bounties Society has contributed 1,393,638 meals since 2014.

"We aim to continue this partnership throughout 2021 by continuing to provide more meals than before to families and individuals in need, while actively tackling the issue of food waste in Bahrain," Akel added.



Members of the Carrefour team donating leftover food to the Conserving Bounties Society

On the right note

MUSIC REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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SOULFUL singer and former Bahraini School student Sonia Alsowaiegh, who has been sharing her struggles and emotional journeys through her music, has joined a festival in Dubai aimed at celebrating women.

Femme Fest 2021 features an array of female DJs, musicians and panellists marking March's international women's month through their love of art, words and sound.

"I was beyond excited to join this amazing movement," said the content creator for a clothing brand in Dubai. "And since it also went digital due to Covid-19, it felt special that my friends and family in Bahrain could watch it too!"

"I'm excited to be taking part on this platform that celebrates all types of women. As a woman, it's hard to express myself and be vulnerable at times when you have to be strong and I aim to change that stereotype with my music."

Sonia, 26, of Bahraini and Saudi heritage, describes her Neo-soul, Rhythm and Blues music style as vulnerable with lyrics that express a



The EP cover

lot of pain, confusion and emotions. In fact, her EP *Adulting and Adapting*, which she performed over the weekend live and virtually in the festivities, is near and dear to her heart because she wrote it during a difficult time.

"It was written at a time where I felt lost and didn't know what

the next step of my life would be," said Sonia who graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK in digital media and communications. "I wrote three of the songs between May and August last year."

"Those months were very hard for me mentally and the only way I could let those emotions out was through

writing and recording. Once life started to pick up again, I felt motivated to create the album cover and release it on all platforms last October."

"This EP discusses all the hardships of adapting to adulthood and all the emotions that come along with it."

Sonia started singing

at a young age, taking vocal lessons at 12 and auditioning for several musicals in Bahrain. She even joined competitions such as Bahrain's Got Talent twice, where she sang covers. She has performed at Market 338 and in her school's talent shows.

She posted her covers on YouTube up until she moved

to Manchester where she took a four year break that she says pushed her back.

"I got into an insecure cycle with music and felt like I wasn't good enough until I learned the lesson that I need to make music for me and not for anyone-else," said Sonia.

"It's not a matter of taste but expression. That is what inspired me to release my first official single called *Mello* in 2018. After that, I dedicated my time to writing and recording which led to the release of my EP."

"With all the hardships of adjusting to being an adult and finding peace in a very busy world, music grounds me and helps me express myself in ways I could never do."

Sonia grew up in a musical household. Music always played in the background and her father would sing to her and the family every night. She always knew she'd become a singer and says her biggest inspirations are her mum and sisters.

"I'm happy to have a beautiful support system that allows me to express myself the way I do and I wouldn't have it any other way," she added. "I'm waiting for things to cool down with cases so that I can come back to Bahrain. I miss everyone so much!"

Sonia's next Femme Fest performance is due on April 2 and 3.

For details on her music and upcoming performance, follow her @shessonia_ on Instagram.

Sonia performing songs from her EP

TIMETABLE

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

Formula 1 Press Conference 16:00 - 19:35

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

PSCME Practice Session 11:55 - 12:40
FIA Formula 2 Practice Session 13:05 - 13:50
Formula 1 First Practice Session 14:30 - 15:30
Formula 1 Press Conference 16:00 - 17:00
FIA Formula 2 Qualifying Session 16:30 - 17:00
Formula 1 Second Practice Session 18:00 - 19:00
PSCME Second Practice Session 19:25 - 20:05

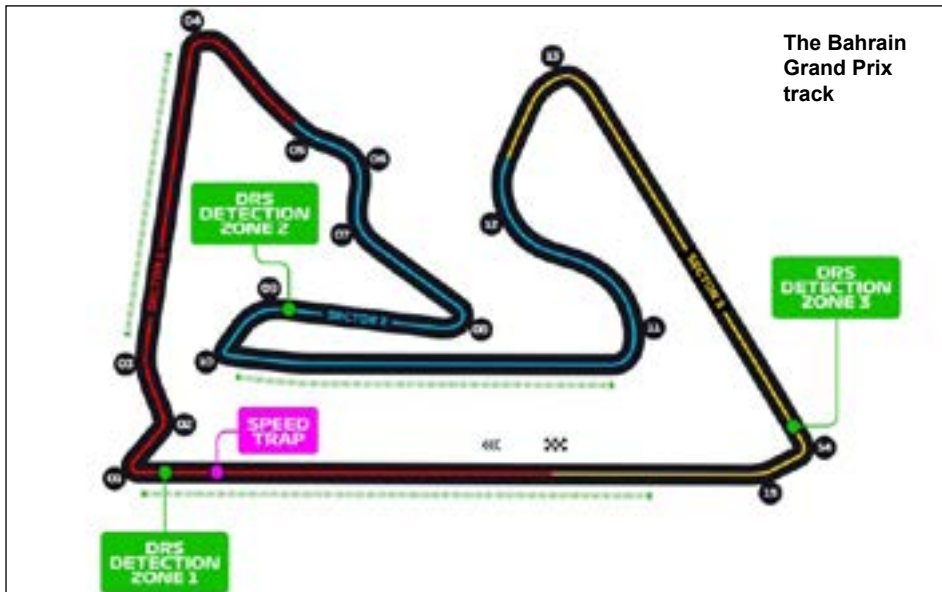
SATURDAY, MARCH 27

PSCME Qualifying Session 12:15 - 12:45
Formula 1 Team Pit Stop Practice 12:20 - 12:40
FIA Formula 2 First Race (23 laps or 45 minutes) 13:25 - 14:15
Formula 1 Third Practice Session 15:00 - 16:00
PSCME First Race (11 laps or 25 minutes) 16:45 - 17:15
Formula 1 Qualifying Session 18:00 - 19:00
Formula 1 Press Conference 19:40 - 20:30
FIA Formula 2 Second Race (23 laps or 45 minutes) 19:40 - 20:30

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

FIA Formula 2 Third Race (32 laps or 60 minutes) 13:50 - 14:55
PSCME Second Race (11 laps or 25 minutes) 15:20 - 15:50
Formula 1 Drivers' Presentation 16:10 - 16:50
Formula 1 End Racism Recognition 17:43 - 17:44
Formula 1 National Anthem 17:44 - 17:46
Formula 1 Grand Prix (57 laps or 120 minutes) 18:00 - 20:00

PSCME - Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East



44 – LEWIS HAMILTON

Team: Mercedes
Country: United Kingdom
Podiums: 165
Points: 3778
Grands Prix entered: 266
World Championships: 7
Highest race finish: 1 (x95)
Highest grid position: 1
Date of birth: January 7, 1985
Place of birth: Stevenage, England

77 – VALTTERI BOTTAS

Team: Mercedes
Country: Finland
Podiums: 56
Points: 1512
Grands Prix entered: 157
World Championships: N/A
Highest race finish: 1 (x9)
Highest grid position: 1
Date of birth: August 28, 1989
Place of birth: Nastola, Finland

33 – MAX VERSTAPPEN

Team: Red Bull Racing
Country: Netherlands
Podiums: 42
Points: 1162
Grands Prix entered: 119
World Championships: N/A
Highest race finish: 1 (x10)
Highest grid position: 1
Date of birth: September 30,

1997
Place of birth: Hasselt, Belgium

11 – SERGIO PEREZ

Team: Red Bull Racing
Country: Mexico
Podiums: 10
Points: 706
Grands Prix entered: 193
World Championships: N/A
Highest race finish: 1 (x1)
Highest grid position: 3
Date of birth: January 26, 1990
Place of birth: Guadalajara, Mexico

4 – LANDO NORRIS

Team: McLaren
Country: United Kingdom
Podiums: 1
Points: 146
Grands Prix entered: 38
World Championships: N/A
Highest race finish: 3 (x1)
Highest grid position: 3
Date of birth: November 13, 1999
Place of birth: Bristol, England

3 – DANIEL RICCIARDO

Team: McLaren
Country: Australia
Podiums: 31
Points: 1159
Grands Prix entered: 188



World Championships: N/A
Highest race finish: 1 (x7)
Highest grid position: 1
Date of birth: July 1, 1989
Place of birth: Perth, Australia

18 – LANCE STROLL

Team: Aston Martin
Country: Canada
Podiums: 3
Points: 142
Grands Prix entered: 78
World Championships: N/A
Highest race finish: 3 (x3)

Highest grid position: 1
Date of birth: October 29, 1998
Place of birth: Montreal, Canada

5 – SEBASTIAN VETTEL

Team: Aston Martin
Country: Germany
Podiums: 121
Points: 3018
Grands Prix entered: 258
World Championships: 4
Highest race finish: 1 (x53)
Highest grid position: 1

Date of birth: July 3, 1987
Place of birth: Heppenheim, Germany

31 – ESTEBAN OCON

Team: Alpine
Country: France
Podiums: 1
Points: 198
Grands Prix entered: 67
World Championships: N/A
Highest race finish: 2 (x1)
Highest grid position: 3
Date of birth: September 17, 1996

Place of birth: Évreux, Normandy

14 – FERNANDO ALONSO

Team: Alpine
Country: Spain
Podiums: 97
Points: 1899
Grands Prix entered: 314
World Championships: 2
Highest race finish: 1 (x32)
Highest grid position: 1
Date of birth: July 29, 1981
Place of birth: Oviedo, Spain

16 – CHARLES LECLERC

Team: Ferrari
Country: Monaco
Podiums: 12
Points: 401
Grands Prix entered: 59
World Championships: N/A
Highest race finish: 1 (x2)
Highest grid position: 1
Date of birth: October 16, 1997
Place of birth: Monte Carlo, Monaco

55 – CARLOS SAINZ

Team: Ferrari
Country: Spain
Podiums: 2
Points: 372
Grands Prix entered: 119
World Championships: N/A
Highest race finish: 2 (x1)
Highest grid position: 3

for speed

Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2021
Bahrain International Grand Prix Circuit
First Grand Prix – 2004
Number of laps – 57
Circuit length – 5.412km
Race distance – 308.238km
Lap Record – 1:31.447 (Set by Pedro de la Rosa in 2005)



Date of birth: September 1, 1994
 Place of birth: Madrid, Spain

10 – PIERRE GASLY

Team: AlphaTauri
 Country: France
 Podiums: 2
 Points: 199
 Grands Prix entered: 64
 World Championships: N/A
 Highest race finish: 1 (x1)
 Highest grid position: 4
 Date of birth: February 7, 1996
 Place of birth: Rouen, France

22 – YUKI TSUNODA

Team: AlphaTauri
 Country: Japan
 Podiums: N/A
 Points: 0
 Grands Prix entered: N/A
 World Championships: N/A
 Highest race finish: 0 (x0)
 Highest grid position: N/A
 Date of birth: May 11, 2000
 Place of birth: Sagami-hara, Japan

7 – KIMI RAIKKONEN

Team: Alfa Romeo Racing
 Country: Finland
 Podiums: 103
 Points: 1863
 Grands Prix entered: 332
 World Championships: 1

Highest race finish: 1 (x21)
 Highest grid position: 1
 Date of birth: October 17, 1979
 Place of birth: Espoo, Finland

99 – ANTONIO GIOVINAZZI

Team: Alfa Romeo Racing
 Country: Italy
 Podiums: N/A
 Points: 18
 Grands Prix entered: 40
 World Championships: N/A
 Highest race finish: 5 (x1)
 Highest grid position: 7
 Date of birth: December 14, 1993
 Place of birth: Martina Franca, Italy

47 – MICK SCHUMACHER

Team: Haas F1 Team
 Country: Germany
 Podiums: N/A
 Points: 0
 Grands Prix entered: N/A
 World Championships: N/A
 Highest race finish: 0 (x0)
 Highest grid position: N/A
 Date of birth: March 22, 1999
 Place of birth: Vufflens-le-Château, Switzerland

9 – NIKITA MAZEPIN

Team: Haas F1 Team
 Country: Undefined
 Podiums: N/A

Points: 0
 Grands Prix entered: N/A
 World Championships: N/A
 Highest race finish: 0 (x0)
 Highest grid position: N/A
 Date of birth: March 2, 1999
 Place of birth: Moscow, Russia

63 – GEORGE RUSSELL

Team: Williams
 Country: United Kingdom
 Podiums: N/A
 Points: 3
 Grands Prix entered: 38
 World Championships: N/A
 Highest race finish: 9 (x1)
 Highest grid position: 2
 Date of birth: February 15, 1998
 Place of birth: King's Lynn, England

6 – NICHOLAS LATIFI

Team: Williams
 Country: Canada
 Podiums: N/A
 Points: 0
 Grands Prix entered: 17
 World Championships: N/A
 Highest race finish: 11 (x3)
 Highest grid position: 15
 Date of birth: June 29, 1995
 Place of birth: Montreal, Canada

OFF THE TRACK

Off-track entertainment options at the Bahrain Gulf Air F1 Grand Prix, set to take place between March 26 and 28, will offer fans plenty of thrills and magnificent sky-high views of the race circuit.

A 42-metre-high Ferris wheel, a reverse bungee jumping machine, 40m high Konga ride and the classic Wave Swing will be among the range of activities at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

Tickets for the three-day motorsport spectacular, priced at BD100 across stands and open to Covid-vaccinated and Covid-recovered fans, are selling fast, ahead of Bahrain's first season-opener since 2014.

All outdoor attractions will have sanitisation and social distancing protocols in place, in line with Health Ministry guidelines.

In addition, a dozen socially-distanced outlets will provide food options in the vending area. Spectators will not have an opportunity to interact in person with their favourite drivers but virtual autograph sessions are being arranged for lucky ticket-buyers by the BIC.

In addition, one lucky ticket-holding fan attending the Bahrain Gulf Air F1 Grand Prix will be walking away with an invaluable framed licence



The signed licence plate



plate from the Bahrain Grand Prix in November last year – signed by every F1 driver from the 2020 season.

TECHNICAL RULE CHANGES

One might be tempted to think that not much will be changing rule-wise for the 2021 season, given that the 2020 chassis are set to be carried over this year, ahead of the arrival of the delayed – and radical – 2022 regulations. But there are some significant changes this year, leading up to the overhaul next year.

Here are the six most notable ones.

CHANGES TO CAR FLOORS

The most obvious visual change is the cars' floor shape. In recent years the visible part of the floors, when seen from above, has looked rectangular, with various longitudinal and lateral slots poking out of them. These slots were used by teams to increase the amount of downforce generated near the floor edges and create stronger suction underneath the car, as well as fine-tune the vortex that forms at the floor edge to further improve ground effect.

This year, the regulations state that the whole floor must be solid – while the floors will also feature triangular cutaways at their rear, reducing the downforce-generating surface area on cars.

A NEW SLIDING SCALE FOR AERODYNAMIC TESTING

Another new development for 2021 will be the introduction of sliding scale aerodynamic testing regulations – an especially important factor given that this year will see the teams finalising the cars they'll field when the revolutionary 2022 regulations kick in next year.

Basically, the lower a team finished in the championship table in 2020, the more time they'll be afforded to hone the aerodynamics of their 2022 car, be that in the wind tunnel or with their Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) simulations.

Mercedes is set to get the least simulation time in 2021, while Williams get the most. Those changes, will be even more pronounced from 2022 onwards, with the championship-winning team getting 45 per cent less time for aero testing than the bottom ranked team.

CLAMPING ON COPYING

After the furore caused by Racing Point's RP20-named copy of the Mercedes W10 last year, the FIA has moved to shut down the possibility for teams doing that in the future.

The rules now state that "although it is permissible to be influenced by the design or concept" of a rival team's car and its individual, exclusive components, any information used to create your own car's parts "must potentially be available to all competitors" and "only be obtained at events or tests" through the use of

standard photography, observation, videos and so on, rather than teams being able to strike deals to have access to another competitor's tech.

Of course, this didn't stop Aston Martin inking an agreement with Mercedes to use some of their tech, as part of an increased investment in the British team by the German one.

Additionally, the rules ban "reverse engineering" another competitor's car – including a ban on the use of 3D cameras to scan other teams' machinery.

DAS BANNED

As a result of the outrage last year by the lower-ranked teams like second-placers Red Bull, the Mercedes' Dual Axis Steering system has been outlawed. The last season saw Lewis Hamilton, Valtteri Bottas and, for a short stint, George Russell able to push and pull their steering wheels to change the front tyre grip, helping with tyre warm-up and cornering.

No more is that the case. Now, the Mercedes steering will have to stick it out like the commoners, while other motorsport leagues borrow the technology in a few years.

NEW MATERIALS PERMITTED

With F1 trying to curb its carbon footprint, the Technical Regulations have been opened up to allow new 'green' materials to play a part in the sport – with the FIA giving the greenlight for "flax, hemp, linen, cotton [and] bamboo" to feature in F1.

It is yet to be seen how these will be used and if it will significantly impact the sport's 256,000-CO2-equivalent-tonne-sized footprint.

COST CAP INTRODUCED

The biggest change coming in 2021 is the introduction of Formula 1's first ever cost cap, set this season at a baseline of \$145 million – although it will actually be \$147.4m, with teams afforded an extra \$1.2m per race in the regulations – while that baseline is set to be reduced to \$140m in 2022, and \$135m for 2023.

That cap has some notable exceptions: marketing costs, driver salaries and the salaries of the three highest earners in the team aren't included. Neither are the costs of employees' maternity, paternity and sick leave, as well as the cost of medical benefits for team personnel and redundancy packages.

Teams are also permitted to run up costs of \$45 million relating to 'capital expenditure' – for things like purchasing machinery for their factories – between now and the end of 2024.

The cost cap is expected to reduce the financial gap between the largest and smallest teams, making the sport more competitive.

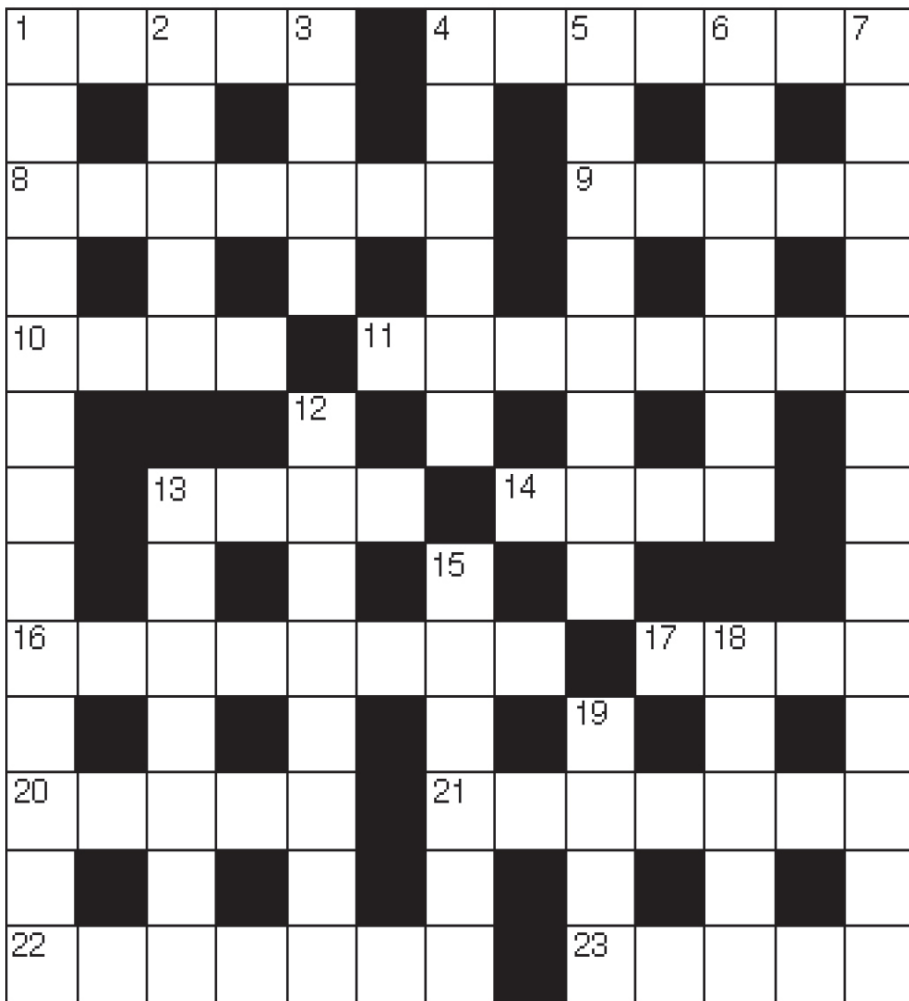
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cerebrally crust & crema

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Due (5)
4. In addition (7)
8. Coach (7)
9. Zest (5)
10. Touch (4)
11. Trader (8)
13. Munch (4)
14. Let it stand (4)
16. Maintain (8)
17. File (4)
20. Sluggish (5)
21. Frankness (7)
22. Beg (7)
23. War horse (5)

DOWN

1. Rusty (3,2,8)
2. Angry (5)
3. Crew (4)
4. Margin (6)
5. Wisdom (8)
6. Far (7)
7. Irascible (5-8)
12. Disparage (8)
13. Vanity (7)
15. Sweet (6)
18. Solitary (5)
19. Responsibility (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... co-founded the computer manufacturer Apple?
WHAT ... nationality is the tennis player Nicolas Massu?
WHERE ... was the scientist Sir Humphry Davy born in 1778?
WHEN ... did John Wesley, a leader of the Methodist movement, die?
WHO ... scored two goals for Manchester United in the 2006 League Cup Final?
WHAT ... is the book by Michael Baigent, Henry Lincoln and Richard Leigh that was the subject of a copyright case in the High Court in 2006?
WHERE ... in Europe is the royal residence of Drottningholm Palace?
WHEN ... did The Honeycombs have the No. 1 UK single *Have I The Right*?

just so

1 a.m. 2 a.m. 3 a.m.

never
never

♡
♡
♡ or £
♡

this

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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 3 Adversity; 8 Leer; 9 Behaviour; 10 Eluded; 11 Sever; 14 Incur; 15 Rein; 16 Dying; 18 Tire; 20 Radio; 21 Empty; 24 Terror; 25 Disregard; 26 Snag; 27 Celebrate.

Down: 1 Alleviate; 2 Sepulchre; 4 Deed; 5 Erase; 6 Shiver; 7 Thus; 9 Beard; 11 Spicy; 12 Rendering; 13 Encourage; 17 Greed; 19 Emerge; 22 Tiger; 23 Lime; 24 Trot.

JUST SO: Rise to the bait, The great divide, Female intuition, None of the above.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg; Sorry; Ruthwell, Dumfries; 1973, Simon Stephens; Fat Tuesday; Exeter, Devon; 1955.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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



FinTechFocus



The path to success

A select group of Bahraini women behind a series of fledgling businesses are to be supported by a new programme that will see them flying to the US capital for training.

Wafa AlObaidat, founder of the Women Power Network; Hana Al Tareif, a co-founder of Daresni; and Kawthar Al Gallaf, founder of E-Jam'ia, are three of eight fellows making up the 2021 Bahrain Women's Intensive – a project that aims to foster leadership in women-run ventures and enable them to scale-up their operations.

GulfWeekly spoke to them on how they plan to make the most of the opportunity.

Announced last October, the 2021 Bahrain Women's Intensive is an incubator programme resulting from a collaboration between US-based startup incubator Halcyon, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Startup Bahrain.

The cohort will receive skills training, cloud computing credits and personalised support from AWS, culminating in a week-long residency at Halcyon's headquarters in Washington D.C. this July.

First off the blocks, Wafa said: "The Women Power Network is dedicated to

accelerating the success of women founders and professionals to build a world where women are leading and shaping the future."

According to her, one of network's greatest successes is hosting the Women Power Summit which over three years



START-UP REPORT
BY AVINASH SAXENA
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has engaged with 4,500-plus women and girls, building a community and allowing them to learn, grow and be connected with opportunities and mentorship.

Describing her selection to the Bahrain Women's Intensive as a 'great privilege', she has a sense of responsibility to 'not only present my true self, but to also be an ambassador for Bahraini women'.

"It is truly exciting to be part of an initiative that supports women and eradicates the belief of women being underrepresented in start-up ecosystems," she added.

Wafa also finds it motivating and vows to continue developing her skills.

"I'm also taking this opportunity to learn from the seven other inspirational women who have been selected," she said.

Next up is Hana Al Tareif, of the co-founders of Daresni Education & Training – a web-based platform and booking system connecting teachers

with students for private, hourly in-home learning.

Hana says Daresni, which means 'teach me' in Arabic – has provided positive outcomes for parents, students,

tutors, as well as Bahrain's economy.

"For parents, the platform

has made the process of finding tutors much easier," she said, "and students get the extra support they need."

"For tutors, it is a secure platform for booking sessions and unemployed professionals get the chance to earn some money through private tuition services."

Being selected to participate in the 2021 Bahrain Women's intensive was 'an honour', added Hana. "This has been quite a journey so far and the Daresni team are looking forward to building a better future for all students, tutors and coaches."

"We want to put Bahrain on the map by offering unique support from the excellent community we have managed to build and will continue to build for our country."

Looking to break stereotypes is Kawthar Al-Gallaf, the founder and chief executive of

E-Jam'ia – a community-based financial system for individuals.

Kawthar came with the ingenious idea of using a mobile app to digitise the traditional concept of Jam'ia –

which means 'cooperate in good deeds' in Arabic, creating a platform for pooling funds to help people to collaborate in savings.

"I want to show that being a female founder and chief executive of a fintech startup is not as challenging as it might sound at first," she said.

"Getting this opportunity with Halcyon would only make me feel more determined to scale and extend to different markets around the world to create a financial support system for communities by themselves beside I'm privileged to represent my beloved country and eager to inspire other females."

While gender-equality is still a long way off as the tech sector, not just

in Bahrain but around the world, is still heavily dominated by men, Halcyon's chief innovation officer Ryan Ross is confident that the 2021 Bahrain Women's Intensive will put participants in a position to grow their impact and 'act as beacons' for other women entrepreneurs in the tech space.

Research has shown that women leaders of US social enterprises have more diverse teams: they lift other marginalised people up alongside them.

"We look forward to seeing this be true of these Bahrain-based women-led tech ventures as well," added Ryan.



Hana

He believes impact-driven businesses are the future of the global economy, and that in the long run they'll out-perform traditional counterparts as they work

to solve for the great 21st century challenges.

Ryan feels seeing women-led businesses with impact at their core scale and grow will inspire others to pursue more impact-driven work.

The other fellows of the programme are Daresni co-founder Thanaa Rabeea; Nadia Miujrers, founder of mental health app Circles; Huda Radhi, founder of Kinderhaus – a learning platform for special needs children; Saba Javed, founder of MallofWork – a platform that connects businesses with freelancers and Sahar Ghuloom, founder of On the Go, an online workout solutions provider.

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RACE REPORT

By **NAMAN ARORA**
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THE entire three-day F1 weekend at the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) will be packed with plenty of excitement as the Formula 2 season kicks off and the 2020-21 season of the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East (PSCME) comes to a close.

F2 is widely accepted to be F1's leading feeder category, with many of its top drivers graduating to even greater success in the top flight.

This year's F1 rookies, AlphaTauri driver Yuki Tsunoda as well as Haas drivers Mick Schumacher and Nikita Mazepin, all raced in the F2 support races in November and December last year.

"F2 drivers and teams are fresh off after pre-season testing at BIC, which was their first and only chance to get a good indication of where their 2021 challengers are ahead of the new campaign, which is set to be different from past years," a BIC spokesperson said, in a statement.

"From 2021, each F2 event will comprise three races instead of two. A pair of sprint races will now take place on the Saturday of each weekend and will



both consist of 120km or 45 minutes, whichever comes first.

"The Feature Race will then take place on Sunday morning ahead of the F1 Grand Prix. It will remain over 170km or more than an hour long, whichever comes first, and will keep a compulsory pit stop, in which all four tyres must be changed."

Drivers are not the only ones who may be jumping from F2 to F1 – as the idea of sprint races is being floated

around F1 paddocks, with active support from some of the top team principals.

Mattia Binotto, Ferrari's F1 chief, has endorsed the idea and revealed that sprint qualifiers may be tested out this year at certain race weekends.

"By having a little race on Saturday, we will have a large increase in audiences," added Toto Wolff, Mercedes team boss.

"I've seen it in DTM (Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters), in touring cars

that we were almost able to double the TV audiences with a second race.

"I think if done in a responsible way at tracks that you can overtake without putting too many gimmicks to it – reverse grid is absolutely something we wouldn't support – I think we should give it a go and be really honest with ourselves."

In addition, the PSCME, based at BIC, offers the region's home-grown driving talent an opportunity to realise their racing potential

while enhancing personal circuit experience.

It features the region's leading drivers, all competing in the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup. The season finale will be staged in support of the F1 Grand Prix.

The first two rounds of the season were also held at BIC, both supporting Bahrain's F1 double-header last year. Two more races are to be held, each over 17 laps, with the first on the Saturday of the weekend followed by the second on Sunday.

The second sprint will be a memorial race dedicated to Austrian motorsport legend, the late Walter Lechner, "who was a great friend to BIC and the Bahraini motorsport community, having established the championship in 2009."

Lechner passed away in December last year.

Races and practice sessions for both F2 and the PSCME will kick off on Friday and run till Sunday.

● **For a detailed schedule, turn to Pages 4 and 5.**