

Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

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RAMADAN KAREEM

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Futuristic idea



COMMUNITY REPORT

BY AVINASH SAXENA
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A smart robot that dispenses medicines, files lab reports and sets up appointments will be coming soon to a hospital near you, if an ingenious Bahrain-based teenager has her way.

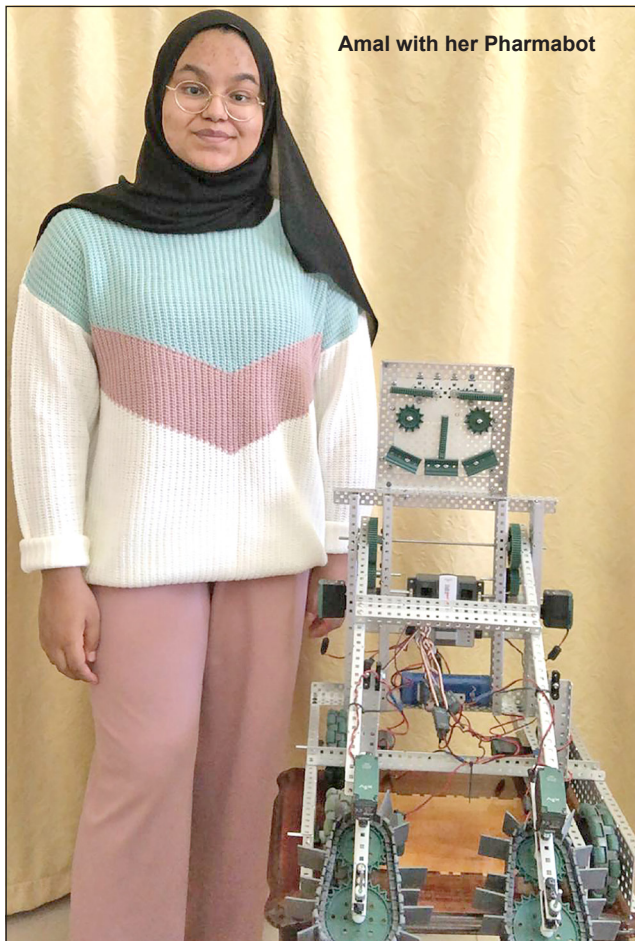
Amal Albadawi, a Creativity Private School student, has devised an artificial intelligence (AI) powered Pharmabot that uses responsive sensors and screens to carry out medical and healthcare tasks that don't require human intervention.

Amal's inspirational idea won her \$2,000 in the 'Tatawwar: Building Tomorrow's Minds' and second place in the competition which featured more than 5,000 students aged 15-18 from 1,800 schools across the Middle East and North Africa region.

"When the spotlight turned on me during the live-streamed final awards event on Zoom, I thought that was a mistake, I was surprised at first, then I started crying and was left speechless!" said the 16-year-old Mahooz resident.

The interactive online and face-to-face contest, which is a joint initiative of HSBC and potential.com, brings together schools, parents and the business community to innovate for a sustainable future by addressing one of three United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals:

1. Climate Action,
2. Human Health and Well-being,



Amal with her Pharmabot

3. Clean Water and Sanitation.

For Amal, robotics and AI are a new-found passion, as she has always wanted to become a surgeon.

"The Pharmabot is a robot that functions using AI and responsive sensors and screens that will serve non-human needing tasks, dispensing medications, lab reports, setting up appointments, and communicating with other departments in a hospital," said the Egyptian who has lived in Bahrain since she was two-months-old.

The idea has its origin in

Amal seeking to find ways to get machines to do boring, repetitive tasks, reducing errors and leaving humans free to think and be creative.

According to a ResearchGate publication, extensive work schedules, especially amid the pandemic, have led to medication inaccuracy rates of up to 30 per cent in hospitals.

"Pharmaceutical transactions are facilitated by linking the pharmabot to a secure and personalised patient ID," explained Amal, allaying fears about patient confidentiality.

Inspired by her success,

the young student aspires to win a place at the University of Toronto's biotechnology programme.

"For me, Tatawwar was not just a competition but a journey. I met amazing people who inspired me and I learned so many new things. It was a truly transformational experience," said Amal.

Her prototype will be showcased at Expo2020 in Dubai alongside first place

winner Asma Bey, from Algeria, and third place Abdulmohsen Alghanim, from Kuwait, and they will also receive a total of \$8,000 in prizes.

Asma bagged first place and a \$5,000 prize purse with her 'PVM Supply' invention which is a portable, affordable and accessible ventilator that works with both solar and battery power.

Meanwhile, Abdulmohsen walked away with a cash prize of \$1,000 for his R 2 Filter, a sink filter to recycle water.

They will also be supported to crowdfund their projects and develop them further.

The talented trio, alongside the top 17 that were shortlisted from 245 students, went through a rigorous acceleration programme that included twice-weekly webinars to help project owners fine-tune their pitching skills, and learn

key business skills including financial projections, raising funding, future career fitness, technology trends and marketing.

Each webinar brought together international experts on each of these topics to help the students.

In addition, each student was provided with four one-on-one coaching sessions and will get a one-year free membership to their local

fablabs, where they can continue to develop their prototypes.

The seven judges that listened to two-minute pitches from the 20 talented finalists before choosing their top three included

Bahrain's Youth and Sport Affairs Ministry, the Education and Higher Education Ministry in Qatar, the Education Ministry in the UAE, Zayed University, The British University in Dubai, Al Tamimi & Company and Global Ventures. They provided diverse perspectives when evaluating the finalists' projects.

They also recognised three other finalists from Bahrain, Egypt and Qatar with a special award for their commitment to scientific research, market research and innovative prototypes development.

For me, Tatawwar was not just a competition but a journey. I met amazing people who inspired me and I learned so many new things.



ENROLLING NOW FOR 2020-2021

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an Esol Education school



SPREADING GOODWILL
Ramadan initiatives
SEE PAGE 2



FASHION SWAP
Being eco-conscious
SEE PAGE 5



EMPOWERING WOMEN
Business contest
SEE PAGE 7



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Hearts of gold

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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THE community-driven OneHeartBahrain social media initiative aimed at spreading goodwill across the island through acts of kindness is running several Ramadan campaigns to help people in need throughout the holy month.

More than 100 big-hearted people have joined the caring campaign that is planning to donate thousands of fresh meals and grocery boxes full of non-perishable items to labourers and the less fortunate across the island

... and more volunteers and donations are welcomed by the philanthropic organisers.

"As a unity-focused goodwill movement, we are open to all different belief systems, cultures, races, and religions," said Birthe van der Heijden, a social strategist and teacher in meditation practice who started the *Instagram* account in September 2019.

"We respect that all individuals have different traditions and values. It is important to accept each other in our uniqueness and embrace one another in our differences.

"The observing of Ramadan traditions encourages people to step into greater levels of compassion, understanding of the human need, sharing and charity. And, this is exactly what goodwill is about.

"It is both a state of mind and a way of life, where service or charitable practices and actions can be incorporated into our daily living - being there for another and actively doing something to help lift the lives of others.



Andrea and Birthe distributing LuLu food boxes



Birthe handing over a LuLu food box

"This is why Ramadan is actually the perfect opportunity for us to share and come together in this like-minded spirit of

goodwill and giving.

"What we hope to achieve is greater levels of unity and oneness between different communities of Bahrain."

This year the giving group is ramping up

its efforts with a more co-ordinated approach to reach as many people as they can.

For example, the Chef & the Whale Café in Budaiya offered a food box donation for their cause for every breakfast that was purchased earlier in the week. OneHeartBahrain also has a drop-off box at the location for people to donate non-perishable items which the volunteers will later gather up and distribute to those in need.

The Almodina Restaurant also teamed up with the group to feed the less fortunate. They are preparing 6,000 fresh meals to be delivered to a group of 100 labourers for 30 days. The meals will be given twice-a-day, at Iftar and Sohoor.

"We encourage donations,"

said Andrea Mocay, the OneHeartBahrain group operational facilitator who is the regional business development manager at Al Hilal Publishing.

"We have ambitious goals of feeding as many people as we can during the holy month of Ramadan and we can only do it through the generosity of the community.

"Ramadan after all is a month of introspection and devotion and only through solidarity and sharing you can reach your higher self. We want to touch as many underprivileged communities and make sure they are

reminded there is kindness and generosity in the world and that are putting our best efforts forward to support them."

The group will also be distributing 50

LuLu Hypermarket grocery boxes every week to people in group accommodation. One food box costs BD4 and can be purchased from the LuLu stores in Dana Mall and Atrium Mall.

For details, contact Dana Mall branch manager Shibu Abraham on 36560456, or

Atrium Mall branch manager Anas N A on 36561216 to place an order.

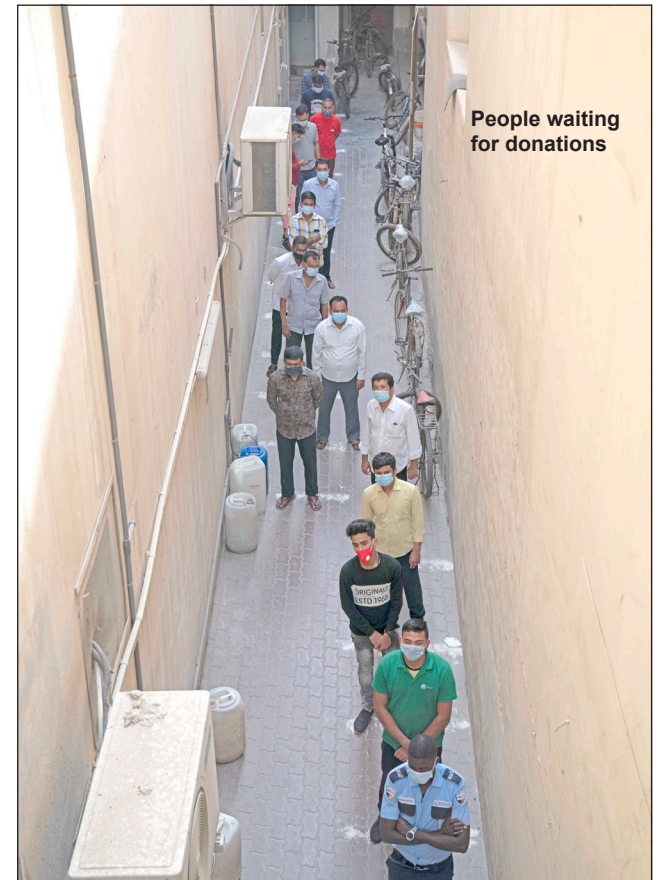
On the last day of their Ramadan food distribution, which will take place at Eid, the group will stage a special activity planned for children-in-need and their families.

"In collaboration with Catopia Cat Café in Adliya, we are gathering secondhand and new toys which will then be handed out to children-in-need on this Eid day of celebration, alongside food boxes for the families," added Andrea.

Toy donations are welcomed until May 5 and for details can WhatsApp the team co-ordinator Rajat Sachdeva on 39467348.

The team also works closely with The Bangladesh Society Bahrain and its general secretary Sabuj Milon. He said: "Usually I lead and manage different programmes to support financially distressed people of the community by arranging food, medical facilities and financial assistance in co-ordination with different sponsors," said Sabuj who was with the team last weekend distributing food boxes.

"During this pandemic, we have served thousands



People waiting for donations

of people in financial distress due to job loss. Last Ramadan, with the help of sponsors, we were able to distribute 33,000 packets of fresh food to people in desperate need.

"I feel really privileged that my organisation inspires me a lot to keep working for social development and provides me with every possible support to go the extra mile."

Those wishing to

volunteer can connect with @oneheartbahrain on *Instagram* or on *Facebook* or by WhatsApping Andrea on 33095283 or Sabuj on 33502322.

Andrea added: "We have a volunteering group called Helping Hands as well through which all the activities are being co-ordinated. This group is open for anyone to join at any time, even if it's just for the Ramadan period."



The happy volunteers

THE SPIRIT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A leadership training programme to build students' real-life skills has been unveiled at the American School of Bahrain (ASB), in partnership with Injaz Bahrain, writes Naman Arora.

The programme covers topics like personal economics, smart investing, a practical understanding of the local business market, money-management skills, entrepreneurship and hands-on classroom activities to demonstrate the economic benefits of staying in school.

"Leadership in the community can take on many forms and may look different depending on the age of the students," said Dave McMaster, founding director of ASB.

"Our school practises invitational and distributed leadership based on the belief that all students have the potential for growth and development and that everyone has a different profile for leadership.

"Shared leadership and community leadership demonstrates our mutual

respect and trust for each other and the community and this development is superbly supplemented seamlessly through the Injaz programme."

Injaz, established in 2005, is a not-for-profit organisation as part of the Junior Achievement global initiative with the aim of empowering young people to make smarter economic choices.

In the last year, the programme has been implemented digitally, on the Junior Achievement CrossKnowledge Learning Suite



ASB and Injaz Bahrain officials

platform, connecting thousands of students.

"We are pleased to have ASB on board with us this year," Hana Sarwani, Injaz Bahrain's

executive director, added.

"Despite the challenges, we are keen to ensure students keep learning and instil the entrepreneurial spirit.

"We look forward to having continued engagement and provide students with greater opportunities that would help in their growth and development."

World-class care

A cutting-edge holistic Assessment, now available at the American Mission Hospital (AMH), aims to provide a clear snapshot of one's health, on a wellness spectrum, and has already alerted some patients to underlying health concerns.

The Soza Health Assessment, being conducted by the AMH in partnership with UK-based Soza Health, consists of several short health tests that look at the heart, lungs, blood, kidney, bladder, and other body systems.

"At AMH, we now focus more on wellness initiatives because illness treatments can be avoided with healthy lifestyles," Dr George Cheriyan, corporate CEO of AMH, said when the pilot study was launched in December last year.

"With organisations like Soza Health, which base their testing systems and algorithms on excellent medical research, we can show a health report card to customers so that they can take appropriate corrective steps in nutrition and fitness. And, these remedial lifestyles could even result in greater immunisation against illnesses."

The assessment takes more



HEALTH REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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than 90 data readings from nine tests within 45 minutes.

Starting with a urine sample, saliva test and blood sugar test, the assessment covers the gamut with a cholesterol measurement, triglyceride level test, lung function exam, blood pressure test and digital



Sam

pulse test.

Each patient then receives an overall health rating between 0 and 100, with 0 – 30 indicating significant health concerns, 31-60 indicating average

wellness level and anything over 60 indicating a relatively good health condition. The score is then broken down into categories to identify issues in specific body systems.

The test has already proven highly-effective at identifying potentially life-altering conditions.

"We had a gentleman in his 50s come in a few weeks ago, complaining of a suspected lung issue," explained Sam Jacob, AMH clinic manager.

"But his lung function test showed no issues. However, when we completed the whole assessment, we noticed that in the heart health segment, he received a score of 17. He also told us about running out of breath very quickly during a walk.

"After we had a chat with some of his family members, he followed up with a doctor and was told he had multiple blocks in his arteries, which may not have been identified in time without this assessment."

The assessment is being offered to individuals as well as organisations looking to ensure the wellbeing of their employees.

In order to ensure accurate results, one must not consume anything except water during the four hours preceding their appointment.

By also assessing the overall status of an individual's immune system, the Soza Health Assessment also provides a snapshot of one's Covid-19 risk assessment.

"A strong immune system is crucial in fighting this virus and the risk assessment, includes an analysis of your cardiovascular health, respiratory healthy as well as the inflammatory and immune response," Sam added.

"We have noticed that life, for a lot of our clients, has become much more sedentary during the pandemic and this lack of exercise has a negative impact on overall wellness.

"And in general, nutrition is a concern so we have a dietician and diabetic counsellor on the team who can provide more advice if this is identified as a concern."

In addition to Sam, three

clinicians – Mithu Cheriyan, Prince Thomas and Susan John have been trained in conducting the assessment so far.

The Soza Health Assessment is conducted every Saturday morning at the AMH in Manama, and must be booked at least 48 hours in advance. It costs BD40 per person.

For more details, visit <https://www.amh.org.bh/soza/>



Soza testing equipment



The testing equipment

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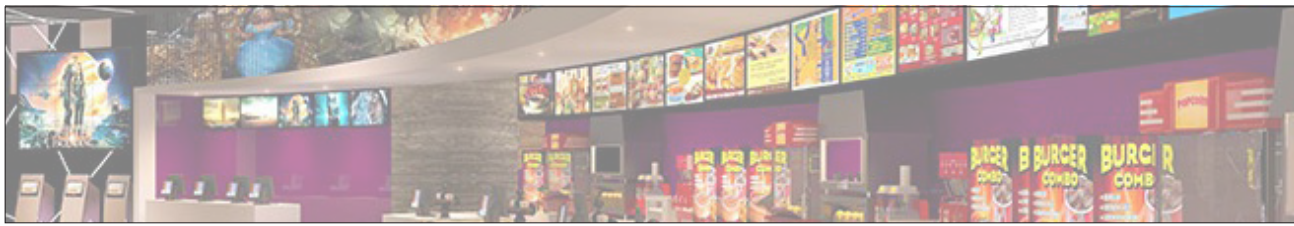


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Culture

Dripping with emotion

ART REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
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INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED artist Thajba Mohamed Afdhal Najeeb has poured her heart and soul in her upcoming series of colourful canvases in a bid to pay homage to a Persian poem and honour her beloved brother.

In October last year, the Najeeb family suffered a tragic loss when 38-year old Ali, suffered a sudden, fatal heart attack. It left everyone who knew him in a state of despair, shock and disbelief.

His sister Thajba, a 40-year-old Ibn Khuldoon National School (IKNS) IB art teacher and head of the visual arts department for the high school, started developing a sketchbook aimed at honouring her younger brother's memory.

"I started the sketchbook in November because I wanted to document stories about him," said the mother-of-two, known for her vibrant art featured on canvases, abayas, perspex boxes and other materials.

"I collected pictures of him on his own as well as with family members and friends and asked different people to write their stories about



Thajba with one of her paintings

him. I wanted this to be like a memoir about him for future generations.

"However, I felt the sketchbook wasn't enough. Also, every time I opened the book and saw the pictures, I'd cry. I had so many things going on in my head and I knew the only place to take it out on positively would be in my paintings."

In January, Thajba decided to challenge herself

artistically by stepping out of her comfort zone and painting something completely different.

The Bahraini, with Pakistani roots, explained: "You know I've always been inspired by my love for Lahore. My collection called *My love affair with Lahore* has been ongoing for seven years now. But this time, I wanted to challenge myself with something that's so out-of-the-box that it terrifies me.

"The *Love Affair* collection is a longing for my identity but this series is a longing for my brother because I miss him so much. It's the only way I could express my emotions."

The concept for her expressive series was developed even further when she decided to use Farid ud-Din Attar's poem for inspiration. The *Conference of the Birds* or *Speech of the Birds* is a Persian poetry book created by the Sufi poet. The title is taken directly from the holy *Quran* where Suleiman (Solomon) and Dāwūd (David) are said to have been taught the language or speech, of the birds.

In the book, the birds of the world gather to decide who is to be their sovereign, as they have none. The hoopoe, the wisest of them all, suggests that they should find the



legendary Simurgh (which is a benevolent, mythical bird in Persian mythology and literature). The hoopoe leads the birds, each of whom represents a human fault which prevents human kind from attaining enlightenment.

Thajba, a co-founder for Artology Bahrain art studio in Saar, said: "So the series is called *12*. I kept it simple. I just thought 12 hours, 12 months so 12 paintings.

"And, I love the Sufi poetry book and birds. In my first painting, you will see one bird and one woman. Then in the second there will be two birds and two women and so

on it goes until it reaches 12. And of course, all the birds are different in each painting and my number one painting features the wisest of them all- the hoopoe.

"The birds and women are all interconnected through a single line as they are all single line drawings. Also, it's not just the same brush strokes, there are details and layering involved as I use mixed mediums such as acrylic, paper and acrylic markers.

"I have scribbles and words on paper that I've torn up and added to my pieces such as saying 'miss you Ali'. The art



has been very therapeutic and it's coming out as a beautiful expression.

"They aren't cohesive right now but I think what makes them cohesive are the colours I've used, the scribbles, name and words."

Artist Jamil Naqsh inspired the birds and artist Janet Skates motivated the chaotic background of colours and patterns.

Thajba also added slogans from Pakistan's Women's Day march like 'Warm your own food' on the side of one of her canvases. Not wanting to limit her art either, she did not stick to a one-size-fits-all canvas.

"I didn't inhibit myself with sizes this time," she added. "I wanted the chaos in my head on canvas. Even if smaller paintings have more birds; who cares? I will make them fit. My paintings boast bold



Interconnected women

The cost of modernity

Environmental sustainability and the interdependence of humans and nature are the underlying themes of a new exhibition now open to the public at the Higher Grounds Café in Tubli, writes Naman Arora.

The exhibition was launched last weekend at The Art Space in Bahrain Bay, alongside a panel discussion by the kingdom's young environmental activists - Dr Fay Al Khalifa, Noora Al Amer, and Esraa Alasabah - and a presentation about the evolving coastline by Dr Reem Al Mealla.

Hesham Al Ammal, Mariam Alnoaimi, and Muhammed Almubarak's works focus on different ecosystems in the kingdom and will be on display for the next two weeks in Tubli.

Hesham's series of analogue photographs, titled *Hardboiled Wonderland*, documents the transformation of our coast and beaches through land reclamation.

"In this series, I try to capture the effects of modernity and recent land reclamation work around the shores of Muharraq," Hesham added.

"The photographs cover Busaiteen's Alsayah, as well as Alhalat and Aldair coastal areas. I've

chosen the medium of analogue photography due to its aesthetic quality as well as its appropriateness for the subject matter.

"The series records shifting landscapes and the relationship of the people with the newly developed areas; the distance created between island communities and the sea and the effects of modernity on the areas that were interacting previously with nature and the sea through fishing and recreation.

"The project is not just nostalgic it also addresses many social and environmental concerns, and poses questions on the effects of this rapid change on the community and the environment."

During the panel discussion, Noora, Dr Fay and Esraa discussed the state of solar energy in the country, highlighting the two solar factories in Bahrain, while also acknowledging that high capital investment currently required to make buildings solar-friendly.

Dr Reem drew on her experience as a marine biologist to discuss how climate change and ocean acidification could lead to the devastation of the pearling industry in the kingdom.



ions Fashion for future



Bright and beautiful

lines, bright colours and motivational words.”

With four paintings at Artology pretty much done, two still in progress in IKNS and six more to go, Thajba hopes to be ready to exhibit by the end of the year. Her curator in Pakistan has already slotted her in for December but she hopes to showcase her work in Bahrain first.

“This series has been fuelled by my love for my brother and I’d like to share it with family and friends, and others that have been sharing their love for Ali, in Bahrain first,” she said.

“This series has been off the charts for me and truly challenging. I can’t wait to see how it will all end. Only the paintings will let me know when they are done.”

For details, follow @tnajeeb on Instagram.

FASHION friends Hala Ibrahim and sisters Shereen and Naseem Fekri launched a fun-filled clothing swap day in a bid to tackle retail overconsumption as well as highlight the benefits of second-hand shopping on the environment, writes Mai Al-Khatib-Camille.

A clothing swap is when a group of people get together to exchange apparel and accessories that are no longer being put to use. It’s not only a wardrobe refresher but it also promotes slow fashion and helps reduce the environmental footprint.

Hala, Shereen and Naseem, who are the founders of the

eco-conscious ‘The Undressed Company’, loved the clothing concept so much that they collaborated with marine biologist and environmental enthusiast

Dr Reem Al Mealla to stage a swap, geared towards Ramadan.

“We buy jalabiyas abundantly and only wear them once a year,” explained Shereen who is a fashion and graphic designer as well as involved in media and communications.

“We thought a swap like this would be a fun and sustainable way for women



Swappers checking out apparel



Shereen

to upgrade their wardrobes without any negative environmental impact!”

Keeping in line with Covid-19 health guidelines, 15 masked females attended

the gathering which was held at the Higher Grounds Café in Tubli and swapped 36 pieces.

“We also did this to warm people up to the idea of second-hand shopping,” said Hala, an entrepreneur. “The main problem the planet is facing is overproduction and overconsumption.

“We are consuming resources too fast and discarding them even faster,

filling out dumpsites with a shocking number of textile and other kinds of waste.

“While many people donate their old clothes, it is estimated that only 10 per cent of these donations actually reach families in need while the rest is shipped off to dumps, or to third world countries, which causes another economic problem. Therefore, second-hand shopping is a great act of environmentalism.

“You get together, you upgrade your wardrobe with unique finds and you leave no negative impact whatsoever doing so.”

Aside from landfills being full of wasted textiles, environmental experts estimate that it takes about 2,720 litres of water to make one cotton shirt and a whopping 7,000 litres to make one pair of jeans.

Plus, fast fashion clothing is often made from petroleum-based materials including acrylic, nylon, and polyester. These materials can find their way into the waterways and have harmful effects on the people making it, the people wearing it and the environment.

Meanwhile, sustainable fashion utilises materials made from natural or recycled fabrics that require little to no chemical treatment, less energy, less water and no pesticides or fertilisers to grow. Materials like linen and hemp are even biodegradable, resulting in

less environmental pollution.

“Sustainable fashion was always important to me,” added Shereen.

“Straight out of university, I couldn’t, in good conscience, keep contributing to an industry that had such a high cost on the planet and its people. I educated myself on how to do it sustainable while diving into media design.

“Life went on from there and my sister, who



Hala



Naseem

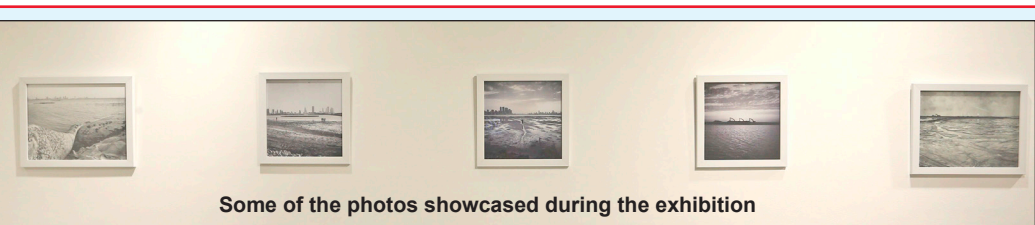
is in public relations and business development, and I realised how we had to bend over backwards to make sustainable and ethical shopping decisions – and thought this shouldn’t be the case. People need to understand the problem and have access to these brands without thinking it would be an inconvenience to them.”

The trio had such great feedback and are currently brainstorming new ideas to take the initiative further.

For more details, follow @theundressed.co on Instagram.



Reem trying on one of the swaps



Some of the photos showcased during the exhibition



Dr Al Khalifa speaks during the panel discussion

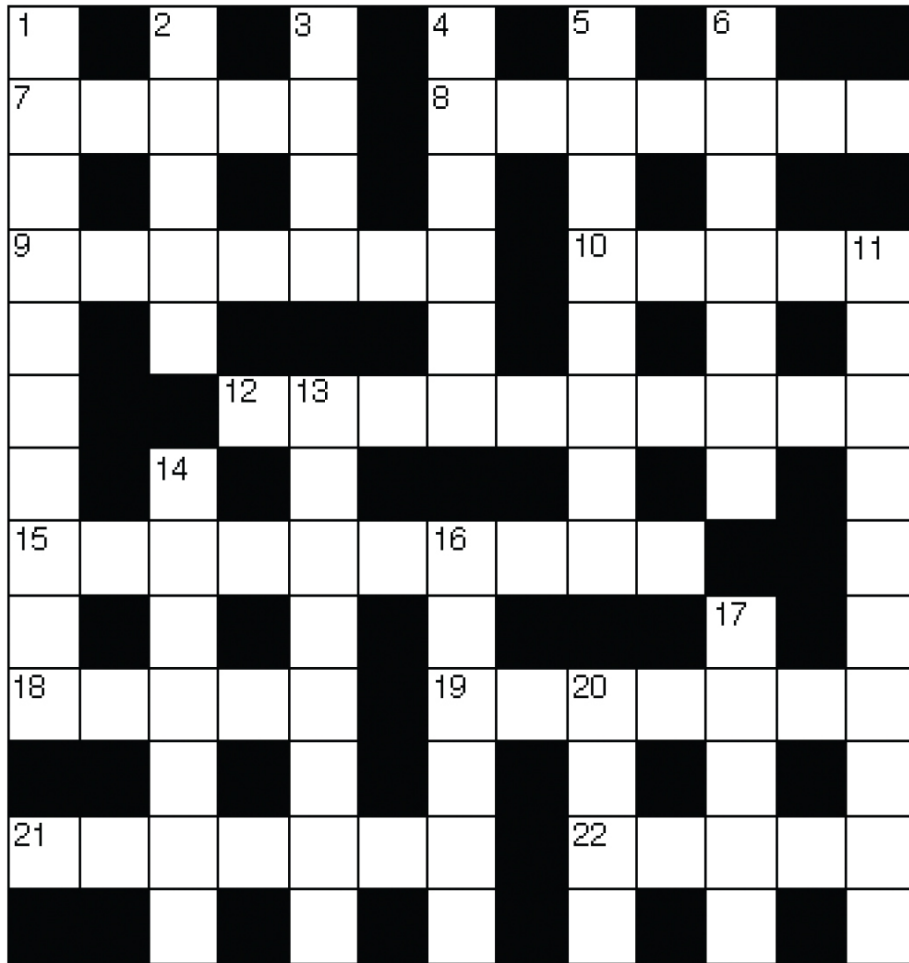
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cerebrally crust & crema

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

7. Keen (5)
8. Obtain (7)
9. Atone (7)
10. Shoot (5)
12. Footpad (10)
15. Entangle (10)
18. Additional (5)
19. Sword (7)
21. Go before (7)
22. Banquet (5)

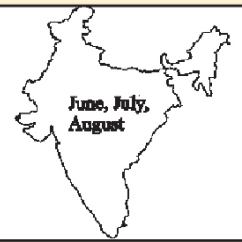
DOWN

1. Container (10)
2. Yawning (5)
3. Yard (4)
4. Address (6)
5. Perpetual (8)
6. Paramount (7)
11. Kindness (10)
13. Doomed (3-5)
14. Stifle (7)
16. Prestige (6)
17. Trite (5)
20. Quarrel (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... is the leader of the Mechanicals in Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?
WHAT ... is the capital of the Kingdom of Jordan?
WHERE ... in England is the town of Oakham?
WHEN ... did the English ballerina Alicia Markova die?
WHO ... stars as Dr Meredith Grey in the US television series *Grey's Anatomy*?
WHAT ... novel by Charles Dickens features the character Poll Sweedlepipe?
WHERE ... in Africa was Kwame Nkrumah the President from 1960-66?
WHEN ... did the New Zealand rugby union player Andy Haden win his last cap, against Argentina?

just so



revird taes

STA IV NCE

police man

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

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Brought up; 8 Own; 9 Imprecation; 11 Breathe; 12 Ample; 13 Animal; 15 Rescue; 17 Idiot; 18 Abscond; 20 Assiduously; 22 Dot; 23 Stratagem.
Down: 2 Rim; 3 Greet; 4 Travel; 5 Primate; 6 Conspicuous; 7 In the lead; 10 Precipitate; 11 Beatitude; 14 Attests; 16 Larder; 19 Short; 21 Lie.

JUST SO: The plot thickens, Join the club, Come a full circle, Full of beans.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Ray Milland; Guy Mitchell and Tommy Steele; Surrey; 1836; Jean-Luc Godard; Theodore Roosevelt; Germany; 1926.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

The top motoring and motorsport news

EXCITING RAMADAN DEALS ON MERCEDES-BENZ CARS

Al Haddad Motors is celebrating the holy month of Ramadan with exclusive deals on its new Mercedes-Benz models.

All new Mercedes-Benz vehicles are inclusive of an on-road package with a year's insurance and registration as well as a three-year-service package and a Topaz Detailing voucher. The Ramadan offer also

includes an exclusive two-day Mercedes-AMG experience, a Mercedes-Benz collection items gift package and a complimentary night stay at one of the kingdom's finest five-star hotels.

Call the Al Haddad Motors showroom on 17785454 or visit the website visit www.bahrain.mercedesbenzme.com for more details.

Ramadan Kareem



Ladder of success

START-UP REPORT
By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE
mai.alkhatib@gulfweekly.com

FEMALE entrepreneurs from across the kingdom could win up to \$100,000 as well as support from mentors and investors by entering a global competition aimed at empowering women.

The Dubai chapter of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) has launched its second edition of TiE Women – an initiative dedicated to helping women across the globe realise their full business potential.

"Today, there are 114



Anastasiya

per cent more women entrepreneurs than there were 20 years ago," said Anastasiya Golovatenko, TiE Women's Dubai chapter programme co-chair. "Terms like

'momtrepreneur' and 'women empowerment' are helping cultivate the right image and motivation among young women and mothers, who may believe they lack business acumen, time or courage.

"As we see an increase in female-led businesses across the region, the inspiration is spreading outward. Women are taking the bold step to emerge out of their comfort zone and come up with fresh ideas to start a business. We are sure initiatives like TiE Women will help others follow suit."

Participants will undergo a year-long comprehensive programme designed by

TiE Dubai. They will also be provided mentorship sessions with experienced industry leaders, besides financial advisory services, strategy coaching, workshops on practical business planning and tips to nail the perfect investor pitch.

Apart from being a women-run or women-owned business, participating start-ups should be in the early stage of at least three years or late-stage of up to seven years to meet the eligibility requirements.

Nominations will be open until July 1 and participants will be presenting their

business ideas to a panel of independent jury members comprising entrepreneurs, investors, corporate experts and women leaders.

The Arab region winner, along with three runner-ups, will be declared on September 1.

The initiative will conclude with a grand finale to be held during 'Expo 2020' in the UAE. Finalists across TiE chapters will take part in the event.

These competitors will then have the opportunity to win valuable prizes, including up to \$100,000.

Participants can submit their nomination on <https://bit.ly/3rY2v7K>.

LAUNCHING TIE WOMEN MENA 2021 PROGRAM
EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS ACROSS THE GLOBE AND OPPORTUNITY TO WIN \$100K

TIMELINES

- MAR 31, 2021: APPLICATIONS OPEN
- APR - JUN 2021: WORKSHOPS + 11 CLINICS
- JUL 1, 2021: APPLICATIONS CLOSE
- DEC 6 & 7, 2021: TIE WOMEN GLOBAL FINAL PITCH COMPETITION 2021
- SEP - NOV 2021: 11 MENTORING & ACCELERATION PROGRAM
- SEP 1, 2021: MENA PITCH COMPETITION

Double delight

Race ace Raed Raffii proved his mettle in the 2020/2021 BIC 2,000cc Challenge as he was crowned champion over the weekend at the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir, writes Mai Al-Khatib-Camille.

The 32-year-old ended his title-winning season in style with a double victory in the seventh and final round of the highly competitive 12-driver field.

Raffii, who races in the Pro Category, brought his season total to eight wins from 14 races. He was also on the podium for the other six races, making for a spectacular campaign.

"Last year we were second in the championship and we said that this year we need to aim for victory," said Raffii who is the team leader of roaming services for stc Bahrain. He also races for the Saudi telecommunications

company in a Honda S2000.

"Being able to compete with the best talent in Bahrain and get that result is something I am particularly proud of because this event has been making the headlines for 14 years. That's probably the longest running championship in Bahrain. I am honoured to be a part of it and to be crowned champion is amazing.

"It's also an honour to represent stc Bahrain and be their motorsport ambassador. I'd like to thank them and, of course, my racing chief for all the support. They helped build me the winning package and to materialise that into a championship victory and fastest lap of the season is super. I'm hoping for a lot more."

In Race One, Raffii and Raed Himmo were engaged in a tough battle during the first half but then Himmo was forced to retire on the seventh



Raffii in race mode

lap. Raffii took advantage and powered on to take the chequered flag in 15:40.763 after 12 laps.

Andreas Buelow was the overall runner-up in his Honda Civic while also taking the win amongst the novice class runners a distant 26.164

seconds behind Raffii. Ramzi Al Qassab, in an Acura DC5, came third 28.604s from first place, also in the novice category.

Tareq Al Tajer in a Ford Focus was fourth overall and second behind Raffii amongst Pro class participants.

Majed Himmo in a Honda Civic was fifth and Martyna Al Qassab in an Acura DC5 sixth. Rounding out the classification from seventh through 11th were Ali Al Mansoori, Giovanni Salerno (Ford Focus), Mohammed Janahi (Honda Integra) and Wiebke Buelow (Honda Civic).

Raed Himmo clocked the fastest lap of 1:16.932 before retiring from the race.

In the round's second sprint, Martyna Al Qassab was at the front of the start grid but it was Majed Himmo who was in the lead by the end of the first lap. He and Raffii were engaged in a two-horse tussle and Raffii was able to gain the upper hand on lap six. He held on to the lead from there and took the chequered flag in 15:41.394.

Majed Himmo continued to fight but on lap nine was overtaken by Raed Himmo, who eventually finished runner-up 8.577s off Raffii's winning pace. Majed Himmo had to settle for the final overall podium step 20.599s adrift, while also being classified first in the Novice class.



Al Mansoori, Andreas Buelow, Martyna Al Qassab, Salerno and Wiebke Buelow were all in the top eight, while Janahi and Al Tajer completed the results.

Raed Himmo once again set the fastest time of 1:17.185.

The winners were presented their trophies in separate podium ceremonies.

The event was organised by the BIC in co-operation with the Bahrain Motor Federation and Circuit Racing Club and Motorsport Marshals Club.



Nothing but gold



Brownlee

WITH nine young talents aiming for Tokyo glory, the Bahrain Endurance 13 will probably be sending its largest contingent yet to the Olympic Games, writes Lisa Pringle.

Selection of individual athletes during this disrupted Olympic cycle is more discretionary, as many of the events that determined automatic selection have been cancelled or postponed.

As Olympic qualification events resume through May to mid-June, athletes will race to improve their standing in selectors' eyes and show

their value.

Each national federation can secure a maximum three spots each for men and women, dependent on being in the Top 25 of the individual Olympic qualification rankings, Top 7 in the mixed relay Olympic qualification rankings, and topping qualification events. Most nations are set to finalise their Olympic squads by the end of the qualification period.

Officially, Vicky Holland has been named to the Team Great Britain women's squad off the back of her podium performance at the Tokyo Olympic qualification event in

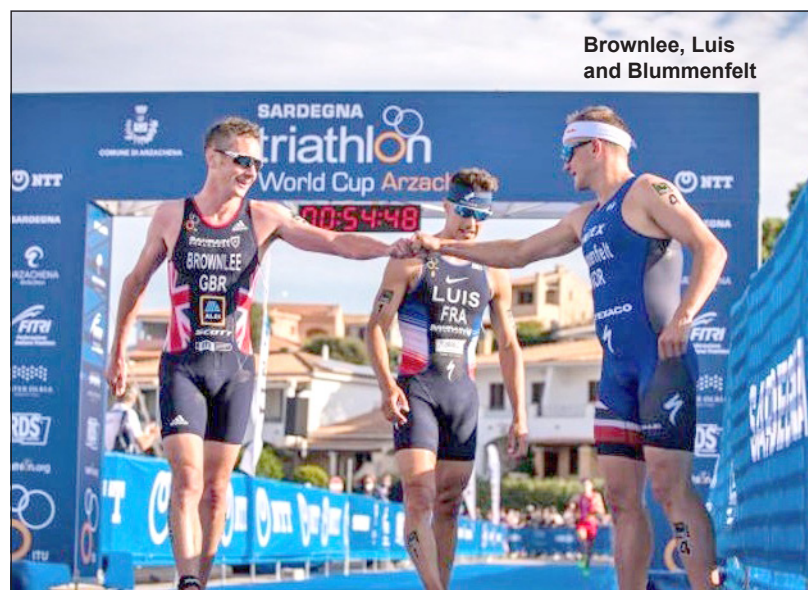
2019. She won the fifth place in individual Olympic qualification rankings.

On the men's side, Alistair Brownlee will be campaigning strongly for selection, as Great Britain will have one or two more men's spots to fill.

Vincent Luis, Tyler Mislawchuk, Kristian Blummenfelt, Henri Schoeman, and Javier Gomez are all within the Top 25 of the individual men's Olympic qualification rankings, securing one spot each for France, Canada, Norway, South Africa, and Spain respectively.

Cassandre Beaugrand's path to selection for the French team lies in her 17th rank as well as being part of the French mixed relay, currently at the top of the team rankings.

Lauren Parker sits atop the rankings for the paratriathlon and is certainly competing in Tokyo. However, she has also been



Brownlee, Luis and Blummenfelt



Parker

campaigning hard for selection by Cycling Australia to the Olympic paracycling team, racing time trials and road races and simulating how she can back up from the paratriathlon to go into the paracycling races.

Count on the Bahrain Endurance 13 team to do all that is possible to get to Tokyo and aim for gold.



Luis



Holland

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