

Rooting for green

BAHRAIN'S 'agri-entrepreneurs' dream of growing more local produce and fostering healthy, sustainable living can come to fruition through a North East and North Africa (NENA) regional competition.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation Investment and Technology Promotion Office (Unido ITPO), through its Arab



COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE
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International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Investment in Bahrain, has partnered with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to launch the AgriNation Startup Cup in Bahrain and across the region.

"Such competitions facilitate the development of new technologies, yet provide a global platform for Bahraini 'agropreneurs' to start and grow," said a Unido ITPO representative. "The AgriNation Startup Cup is showing how young people in Bahrain and across the region are finding ways to produce more food with less resources, capture

more value locally through downstream agrifood products and services, and promote more healthy, safe and environmentally sustainable consumption. This is all while safeguarding the livelihoods of small producers, including women and vulnerable groups, and creating more decent jobs in rural areas."

For the uninitiated, agrifood is the business of producing food agriculturally as opposed to through hunting, fishing, gathering and so on. The non-profit non-governmental organisation Industry Disruptors Game Changers (IDGC), platform Future Agro Challenge and entrepreneurship support ecosystem Berytech have also collaborated for the contest, which aims to support youth-led start-ups addressing key agrifood challenges and transforming systems to be more sustainable, equitable,

nutritious and resilient.

Over the course of 2019, 127.2 million people were not able to access sufficient food, and hunger in the Arab region has been rising since 2014. The number of undernourished people reached 69m in 2020.

By 2020, unemployment reached 26 per cent among youth and 40pc among young women in the NENA region. Food loss and waste in the region, is estimated at up to 250kg per person and worth more than \$60 billion annually.

According to FAO, agriculture and food systems have come under intense pressure over the decade due to a growing demand and declining productivity caused by climate change, natural resource degradation and rising prices of fertilisers and seeds.

Economic disruptions caused by Covid-19 and conflicts in different countries have further complicated the situation, making food imports more expensive and leading to rising insecurity as well

as poverty among small producers and agriculture dependent households.

"Youth have a central role to play in making food healthier, safer, cleaner and accessible for all across the region," said FAO regional programme leader Jean-Marc Faurès. "They need to be empowered through access to innovation and entrepreneurship so that they can contribute actively to address the region's many food challenges."

The competition is open to entrepreneurs aged 35 and under, with early-stage start-ups in the field of agrifood and rural development. The 10 winning start-ups will benefit from a customised incubation and mentoring programme including support for product testing and market research as well as linkages to new market opportunities, partnerships and funding sources.

For details, visit <https://agrination.io/> and the deadline to apply is Saturday (August 27).



PAWS FOR A CAUSE
Fashion fun day
SEE PAGE 2



FESTIVE MODE
Onam and Navratri
SEE PAGE 3



FOCUS ON BAHRAIN
The roundabouts
SEE PAGES 4-5



MERCEDES-AMG ONE
Get hyped
SEE PAGE 7



RAW CANDY
Artisan Vegan Chocolate



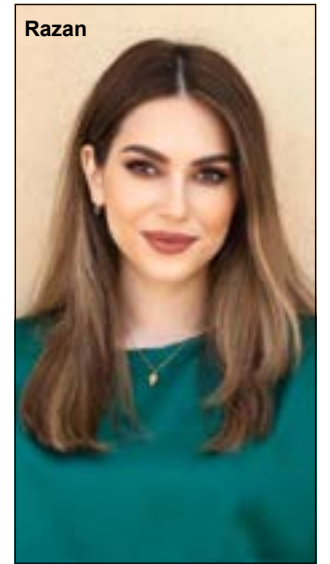
AVAILABLE FOR
PICK-UP & DELIVERY



SUPERDOG: Whisk



PROUD: Captain the cat



Some pets might not find an outfit comfortable, but could simply have a tiara or a collar on. Their walk and behaviour could become the winning factor though. The runway is for dogs, but those that have cats can walk them down the ramp in the carrier

Pawfect fashion!



COMMUNITY REPORT
By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE
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An array of fashionably-addressed dogs will strut their stuff on the catwalk in a bid to raise funds for a shelter as well as awareness for strays in need of aid and fur-ever loving homes.

Rotaract Bahrain and Bahrain Animal Rescue Centre (BARC) will be staging a Pet Fashion Show on Friday (August 26) at Wagalag dog park in Hamala, featuring a fun evening out for the entire family and their four-legged friends from 5pm to 10pm.

The concept came about after the not-for-profit Rotaract group reached out to the caring centre to lend a helping hand.

“One of our directors contacted BARC’s Soha Al Awadhi and asked how we could help,” said Rotaract Bahrain president Razan Jamal, who suggested the fashion show idea.

“The response to this question was heart-wrenching. Food was, of course, a huge priority, but she mentioned diesel and it

was a bit confusing. “Apparently, the shelter is built on an agricultural land which means they cannot have electricity there. They use generators and due to insufficient funding, they can only run them six hours a day. Shelter animals were passing out from the heat.

“They need diesel to run generators and hence the need for diesel donation. Razan also mentioned that there are more than 500 animals in a place which can only hold 250, and like any other shelter, they have massive pending veterinary bills that they need help with.

“We discussed their needs at our next board meeting and needless to say, every board member was up for the project. The idea to make it a bazaar environment was developed so that people with or without pets can enjoy their Friday evening while watching the show.”

Registrations for the event were still rolling in during the beginning of the week. The organisers expect a minimum turnout of 50 attendees and at least 20 pets participating in the show. *YouTuber* KAJ, who has more than 1.5 million followers, will be joining the panel of judges.

“As for the outfits, we aren’t putting any rules,” explained Razan. “It’s for the owner to decide as some pets might not find an outfit comfortable, but could

simply have a tiara or a collar on. Their walk and behaviour could become the winning factor though. The runway is for dogs, but those that have cats can walk them down the ramp in the carrier.”

Entry is BD10 per person inclusive of dinner and all proceeds will be donated to BARC in the form of prepaid vouchers for food, fuel and veterinary bill payments. Pets will enter for free.

“We want people to understand the situation at BARC,” added Razan. “Raising funds is our main goal, but we also want to shed light on volunteering at the shelter and the flight buddy programme that BARC needs help with.”

The winner of the fashion show will receive a one-day staycation with their pet at Hilton Bahrain, the first pet-friendly

hotel in the kingdom. Other prizes include premium pet grooming.

“We are excited to participate in this event and taking some of the shelter dogs out for a good time at the park,” said Muna Aldaaysi, a 30-year-old BARC volunteer team leader from A’ali. “This opportunity is valuable because it gives us exposure. It also puts our lovable dogs in the spotlight as people can interact with them and get to know them as individuals.

“When people visit the shelter, they are overwhelmed by the number of animals, so it becomes difficult to have a one-on-one interaction with the intention to adopt.

“Taking dogs out of the shelter and into a more calm and fun environment gives them a chance to shine and perhaps bond with potential adopters. At the end of the day, that is our ultimate goal - finding loving homes for our furry residents.”

For details, follow @rotaractbahrain and @bahrainanimal-rescuecentre on Instagram.



FRIENDS: Muna with Whisk



FESTIVE JOY

COMMUNITY REPORT
By RAJI UNNIKRISHNAN
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CELEBRATIONS have begun at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) to mark two Indian festivals – Onam and Navratri.

The almost two-month-long Shraavanam 2022 which kicked off earlier this month is a ‘mega event’ which will run until October 7. It will feature performances by some of the greatest artists besides showcasing nostalgic traditions and games at the association’s Segaiya premises.

The 10-day-long Onam marks Kerala’s harvest festival symbolising prosperity and spring, while nine-day Navratri celebrates Hindu goddess Durga.

A panel comprising BKS executive committee members will oversee the daily programmes from a temporary office opened at the samajam last week. The committee is headed by its chairman, senior BKS member MP Raghu, alongside Shankar Palloor, as its convener.

“This could be the largest Onam celebration ever held worldwide by any Keralite expat association,” BKS president P V Radhakrishna Pillai told the *Gulf Weekly*.

The events started with *Pilleronam* (a celebration prior to Onam

SPREAD: An elaborate Onam feast



meant especially for children) and Kabaddi competition. *Pilleronam* heralds the big day of Tiruvonam, which is the culmination of the festival, with children enjoying scaled-down festivities and feast.

“*Pilleronam* is nostalgic, which unfortunately, over the years has lost its significance – I remember how I looked forward to it in my younger days – our attempt was to relive those memories as well as to help our children understand our rich culture,” said Mr Pillai.

The event saw an overwhelming response with participation from both members and non-members.

Two major competitions are lined up for the weekend (Aug 26) – the *pookala malsaram* (floral carpet display) and the *vadamvali malsaram* (tug-of-war), both unique to the Onam season.

“Onam is a time of fun and enjoyment, it is spring and nature celebrates with flowers, which is used to make these pookalams or floral displays,” explained Mr Pillai.

“Every home in Kerala would have a *pookalam* in the frontyard – symbolic of receiving King Mahabali.

“Now, like everything else, these simple celebrations have become elaborate – BKS is waiting to see spectacular floral displays.”

Onam, as per

myths, celebrates the homecoming of the legendary and generous demon-King Mahabali. This year the festival kicks off on August 30 and culminates on September 8.

The festivities will officially open at BKS with *kodiyettu* (flag hoisting) on August 30 and the auspicious 10th day of Tiruvonam will feature Indian national award winning singer Nanjiyamma. The folksinger from Kerala bagged the prestigious award for her debut singing of her own lyrics in Irula language in a Malayalam movie. Alongside will be young playback singers from Kerala, Najeem Arshad and Nithya Maman.

On September 2, Indian magician and celebrity chef Raj Kalesh will lead the *ruchimela* or festival of tastes at the BKS, showcasing dishes of India - from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

The official opening of Shraavanam 2022 will be held on September 9 by Indian businessman and LuLu Group International chairman M A Yousufali. The day will feature a musical concert by Kerala’s melody queen KS Chitra and her team.

A mega Thiruvathira featuring more than 100 women will be held the next day, while on September 12, the BKS stage will witness *Onapudava*, a contest for the best traditional Onam attire. On September 14, a contest of the traditional dance Thiruvathirakali will be held.

Stage craft and founder director of Soorya Stage and Film Society Soorya



TRADITION: Women perform Thiruvathirakali



CONTEST: A tug of war held as part of BKS Onam celebrations in 2017



POPULAR: Singers Hariharan and Chitra are set to perform

Krishnamoorthy will be honoured for his contributions to the Indian cultural arena on September 15. The day will also stage Mr Krishnamoorthy’s dance and music show *Agni 2*.

An Onam-themed procession contest is scheduled for the next day, while *Charadupinnikali* – a traditional Onam art form which will see the participation of more than 100 men and women - will be held on September 17.

One of the highlights is the big feast or *Onasadya* - the signature vegetarian spread on a banana leaf. After the pandemic-imposed two-year break, Chef Maestro Pazhayidam Mohanan Nampoothiri will once again fly into Bahrain to prepare the feast for more than 5,000 people on September 23. A magic show led by renowned magician Prof Samraj will be staged on September 29.

Curtains will officially fall on Shraavanam 2022 on September 30 at a function in which Kerala Co-operation Department Minister V N Vasavan will be the chief guest. The evening will also



ELEGANT: Kathakali

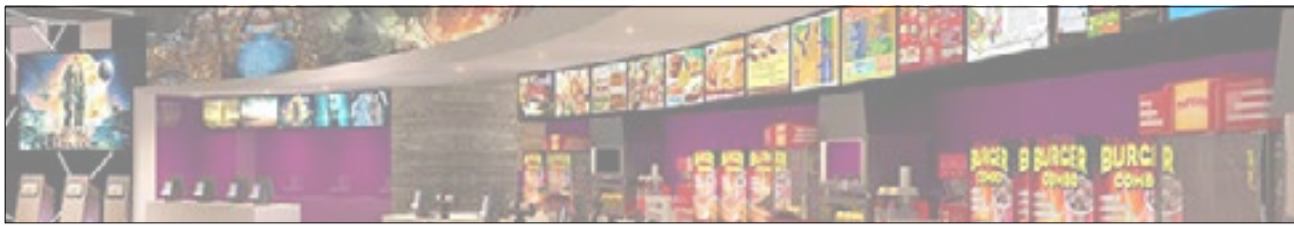
feature renowned singer Hariharan and his band.

On October 5 - Vijayadashami, the final day of Navratri, renowned oncologist Dr VP Gangadharan will lead hundreds of children on Vidyarambham, a Hindu tradition of introducing children into the world of learning.

The following day (October 6) musician and playback singer Kottakal Madhu and his team will perform the traditional art form of Kathakali. Veena virtuoso Rajesh Vaidya will perform on October 7.



COLOURFUL: Floral carpet display



The merry go round



BAHRAIN resident Shikha Varma is paying homage to the kingdom's iconic roundabouts by capturing their beauty in picture form.

The kingdom is known for its bountiful roundabouts, otherwise known as rotaries or traffic circles, with Hamad Town alone boasting 22 of them; which the Works Ministry aims to beautify based on a proposal made two years ago.

The Indian expat who has been living in Awali for the last 16 years featured a series of stunning images of roundabouts on her social media as her way to commemorate World Photography Day on August 19 – because she believes in its symbolic significance and functionality.

“The geometry of



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a roundabout helps in slowing down traffic to maintain vehicle flow,” said the mother-of-two who is a freelance travel photographer, filmmaker and a versatile playwright.

“In Bahrain though, other than preventing traffic from locking-up and hindering free movement of vehicles, these roundabouts showcase the rich culture and heritage of our beloved island. Most of our roundabouts are symbolic of a specific heritage.

“For example, Al A’ali is famous for its traditional handcrafted pottery and the big clay pot situated in the centre-island of the roundabout is a mark of the village’s identity.”

She said the oyster and pearl near Al Ghous Corniche was another example of Bahrain’s legacy of pearl diving, while the oil well roundabout in Awali

represented Bapco and the first oil well situated nearby.

“There was a mini dolphin roundabout in Awali a few years ago, which again reminded us of the adorable sea creatures found in Bahrain’s waters,” added Shikha, who is on the board of directors of the charitable American Women’s Association (AWA). She is also the founding member and current chairperson of AWA’s Shutterflies photography group.

“The fish and sail roundabout in Juffair is a representation of the inheritance of fishing and

sailing in Bahrain and as for Hamad Town, each roundabout is crafted in a unique way,” she said.

“One can also see dhows, date trees, pearls, camels, forts, Islamic architectural features, the Bahrain map and other heirlooms as part of the roundabouts which keep us glued to the roots of this otherwise cosmopolitan and rapidly developing country.”

While the kingdom uses roundabouts to showcase culture, they are also essential for boosting safety and providing safe passage to motorists.

“It’s mandatory for aspiring drivers in Bahrain to learn the roundabout rules to clear

their driving licence test,” she said.

“Though well-planned roundabouts are a boon to roadway infrastructure and traffic efficiency, complex looping junctions can be a nightmare and the challenging intersections must be replaced by signals or flyovers, which has been happening in Bahrain lately.”

Nonetheless, Shikha is delighted to have shared Bahrain’s rotaries and still giggles whenever she comes across huge roundabouts as it reminds her of a humorous scene from the 1985 comedy *National Lampoon’s European Vacation*.

“The protagonist gets stuck in a multi-exit roundabout in busy London and goes round-and-round in circles for the whole day as he is unable to figure out how to navigate the lanes and exit,” she said. “Hope it hasn’t ever happened to you!”

For details, follow @shiks_clicks on Instagram.



Shikha





MAJESTIC: The historical Riffa clock tower



UNIQUE: The fish on Al Nakheel Highway



STANDING TALL: Representing Al A'ali's popular pottery scene



ICONIC: Bab Al Bahrain



BEAUTY: Awali's roundabout

STEEPED IN HISTORY: The Bu Maher Fort



SHOWCASING THE POWER OF MUSEUMS

A youth-focused lineup of events aimed at inspiring interest in museums and history kicked off last week at the Bahrain National Museum and concludes this weekend.

The events, under the 'Power of Museums – Youth' umbrella have been organised by the Bahrain Authority of Culture and Antiquities (Baca).

Two events remain on the 10-day lineup, both of which are for those aged 18 and above.

On Friday, August 26, at 5pm, there is a guided tour around the Bu Maher Fort, where attendees will be regaled with historical information and entertainment revolving around the significance of the fort. Registration is required.

The fort, built in 1840, atop Portuguese fortification from the 16th century, is part of the kingdom's Pearling Trail, which has been identified as a Unesco World Heritage Site.

On August 27 at 6pm, the Bahrain National Museum will host a discussion panel shedding light on the creative production of artworks

COMMUNITY REPORT
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inspired by the Object of the Month collection at the museum.

A group of participants, including graphic designers, architects, photographers and illustrators will provide their perspective, under the oversight of Bahraini architect and photographic artist Jaafar Al Haddad.

The programme kicked off last week with a discussion on Dr Ghazi Al Gosaibi's book *The Amphibian Abu Shallakh*, unravelling the novelist's classic black humour and unveiling the mysteries of history, events, facts and people.

Last Friday, visitors embarked on a tour of the museum, followed by a scavenger hunt, during which teams solved puzzles in different areas of the museum.

Bahraini writer Nada Fardan also led a workshop last weekend exploring 'The Art of the Story', where children aged nine to 13 explored creative writing and thinking with activities to help them craft a compelling story.



OBJECT: A 700-year-old limestone artefact, which was once part of the historic Khamis Mosque, is among the objects in the limelight during the Power of Museums calendar of events

Time Out



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crossword break

1	2		3		4		5	6		7
						8				
9				10						
11					12					
13		14		15				16		17
18								19		
20							21			
22					23					

Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- Equip (8)
- Suspend (4)
- Bother (4)
- Drinking-bout (8)
- Journal (5)
- Break (7)
- Not helped (13)
- Menace (8)
- Squad (4)
- Transgression (7)
- Bet (5)
- Cultivate (4)
- Status (8)

DOWN

- Wariness (7)
- Remark (7)
- New order (13)
- Beating (7)
- Balcony (7)
- Pair (6)
- Opening anthem (7)
- Horrible (7)
- Prairies (6)
- Miser (7)
- Lamp (7)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... was deposed as the UK's Conservative Party deputy chairman in March 2005?

WHAT ... is the currency of Egypt?

WHERE ... in Asia are the Liancourt Rocks?

WHEN ... was the Walk of Fame in Hollywood installed?

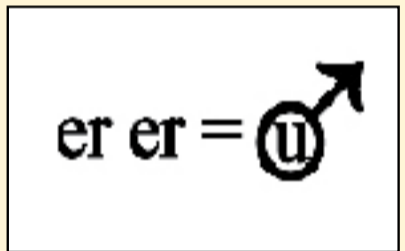
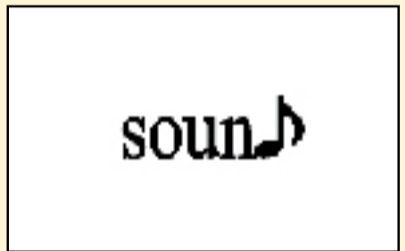
WHO ... wrote the novels *Affinity* and *Tipping the Velvet*?

WHAT ... horse won the Dubai World Cup in 2006?

WHERE ... did the artist Rembrandt die in 1669?

WHEN ... was England's Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts opened?

just so



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

5	1	3	4	9	7	1	6	2
4	7	0	1	2	8	9	5	3
9	2	8	5	0	1	1	7	1
3	9	2	0	5	4	7	8	1
1	5	7	2	3	0	8	1	5
3	8	7	8	7	1	2	9	5
2	4	9	7	6	8	5	1	3
5	4	1	8	7	5	6	2	7
7	6	0	3	1	2	1	5	9

5	5	4	0	1	7	6	5	2
2	1	8	9	1	4	7	5	8
6	7	9	2	8	5	1	3	4
1	5	5	4	0	2	2	5	7
6	1	2	7	9	1	5	6	3
0	6	7	8	0	3	1	2	1
1	2	3	5	7	9	3	1	8
5	4	1	8	7	5	6	2	7
7	9	0	3	1	2	1	5	9

darn tough sudoku

5	6	8	1	3	2	5	3	7
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8	4	7	5	6	2	3	1	9
6	7	1	3	2	3	9	5	1
0	5	5	6	1	5	7	1	2
2	1	5	7	1	9	6	3	8
1	5	3	9	7	1	2	5	8
7	4	2	1	5	6	1	1	9
1	6	9	2	8	3	1	7	5

Sudoku

9		3	6				1	5
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Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 7 Amazed; 8 Madden; 10 Sharpen; 11 Nerve; 12 Vole; 13 Greed; 17 Torso; 18 Fete; 22 Tacit; 23 Outcast; 24 Fettle; 25 Teaser.

Down: 1 Massive; 2 Manacle; 3 Tempt; 4 Saunter; 5 Adore; 6 Under; 9 Intrusion; 14 Hostile; 15 Because; 16 Vesture; 19 Staff; 20 Acute; 21 Steer.

JUST SO: Open sesame, Sign of the times, Split hairs, The five senses.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN: Jake Arnott; Auckland; Madrid; 1969; Oxford; Granny Smith; Finland; 1976.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work pad space ...

Motoring Weekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

HAND-CRAFTED: Production of the Mercedes-AMG ONE



ONE of a kind!



AT WORK: The hypercar being assembled by the team

AUTO REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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GEARHEADS and racing fans have a new reason to celebrate as one of the world's most venerated names in motorsport is unleashing a hypercar with Formula 1 technology on the road.

The Mercedes-AMG ONE hypercar is entering small-series production and 275 road-ready units will be built, with delivery expected by the end of the year.

"The Mercedes-AMG ONE is the most ambitious project we have ever undertaken - from development to production," explained Mercedes AMG chairman Philipp Schiemer.

"The production of the exclusive small series is a truly unique challenge. For the first time, the hypercar brings current F1 hybrid technology almost one-to-one from the race track to the road and combines overwhelming performance with exemplary efficiency.

"This world first is now becoming a reality



UNIQUE: The Mercedes-AMG ONE unibody



FLASH FORWARD: The Mercedes-AMG ONE on the road

thanks to the great teamwork between Mercedes-AMG in Affalterbach, the F1 experts at Mercedes-AMG High Performance Powertrains in Brixworth and our production partner Multimatic."

The beast of a car is capable of jumping from 0-200kmph in less than six seconds, with a top speed of 350kmph. Under the hood, the engine produces 740kW of power, equivalent to more than 1,000 horsepower.

The F1 based hybrid powertrain with a 1.6-litre V6 turbo engine and four

electric motors is being built by Mercedes-AMG High Performance Powertrains, who are also responsible for developing and producing the Power Units for the company's F1 racing cars.

The production of the complete vehicle will be implemented in Coventry, UK, where a dedicated small series factory has been set up.

The Mercedes-AMG ONE's production is completed by hand at 16 assembly and testing stations, with the company comparing the process to that of high quality

luxury watches.

"Some sub-systems are first pre-assembled and tested for function, then disassembled again and only then finally installed in the vehicle," the company explained in a statement.

"This applies, for example, to the carbon-fibre chassis with a bonded-in roof as well as all detachable body parts, which are also made of the light and stable, but also costly material."

After the exterior skin is completely assembled, the 1.6-litre V6 turbo engine, the high-voltage battery and the total of four electric machines are assembled with the same processes as the company's F1 power units.

In total, more than 50 specialists work on each Mercedes-AMG ONE. After each station, there are in-depth quality checks based on defined characteristics, resulting in extensive documentation of the production process.

The final stage of production is marked by a roll-out at a nearby proving ground, where each Mercedes-AMG ONE undergoes final acceptance testing by a factory test driver.

A close look at mighty BRX Hunter

UNIVERSITY students from across the kingdom aided in designing parts of Bahrain Raid Xtreme's (BRX) mighty Hunters that will be competing in the tough Dakar Rally race.

BRX, a partnership between Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, the sovereign wealth fund of Bahrain, and Prodrive, provided internships for six students from different universities to help build new Hunter chassis for this year's two remaining World Rally-Raid Championship (WRRC) rounds in Morocco and Spain in October.

They were involved in design, construction and everyday operations with the BRX Hunter car driven by legendary rally star and WRRC leader, Sebastien Loeb, in the heart of the UK's multi-billion 'motorsport valley'.

"We were delighted to offer these Bahraini engineering students the opportunity to have an insight into all the technology behind the Bahrain Raid Xtreme team," said Prodrive chairman David Richards.

"They were able to learn how we design, manufacture and run the BRX Hunter on the world's toughest motorsport event, the Dakar. We have also confirmed that, when they finish their studies at university, we will consider those who are interested for a full time role within the team."

Fares Alqutami, a third year student at the American University of Bahrain, modified a cover that's part of the engine to be used on

the Hunter in the Dakar, while Fared Abusaqer, a mechanical engineer from Bahrain Polytechnic University, designed a hand brake for the Hunter hypercar. "I want to do this as a career, and want to follow this high level prototype engineering through," said Abusaqer.

The other Bahraini students involved included Hasan Alasfoor and Mohamed Nader from the University of Bahrain, Salman Ahmed from the American University of Bahrain and Jasim Althawadi, who studies at Bahrain Polytechnic University.

The Hunter was designed by Prodrive to win Dakar for BRX. Prodrive has so far notched six FIA World Rally titles, six Le Mans 24 Hours titles, nine FIA World Sports Car titles and five British Touring Car titles.

BRX currently leads the inaugural WRRC, and has its sights on an historic first Dakar Rally victory in Saudi Arabia in January.

There will be a new itinerary for the fourth edition, which will be held from December 31 to January 15, 2023, and first round of the FIA-FIM World Rally-Raid Championship.

The route will take rally racers from the beaches of the Red Sea to the sands of the Arabian Gulf in Dammam. This crossing of the country will be, in fact, a complete tour as the 14 stages will first lead the Dakar to the north-western mountain regions before heading to the deep southeast for a three-day journey through ocean of dunes in the Empty Quarter.

For details, follow @dakarrally and @braidxtreme on Instagram.



CURIOS: Richards with the Bahraini students



Salman strikes again



MOMENT OF GLORY: Salman receiving his medal from Qambar

SPORT REPORT
By MAI AL-KHATIB CAMILLE
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TEEN mixed martial artist (MMA) Saud Salman is having a knock-out year as he adds another medal to his combating career and aims to continue bringing pride to the kingdom.

The 13-year-old fighter from Muharraq competed in the 31kg C category in the International MMA Federation's 2022 Youth MMA World Championships held in the UAE, taking on athletes from Ireland, Tajikistan and Armenia.

The youngster, who started training in the fast-paced sport three years ago, had competed in the same event last year and nabbed a



PROUD: Salman

bronze. This time, he battled in five fights and brought home a silver.

"I'm proud that I won this silver medal for my country Bahrain," said Salman, who attends Al Hidd Secondary

School.

"I will continue training and bring medals to my country and I will be a professional fighter in the future just like Bahrain's pride Hamza Al Kooheji."



TOUGH: Salman in fight mode

His future in the sport looks bright as he trains with top-notch coaches and experts such as Eldar Eldarov, Alaa Alroghani, Yousif Al Kooheji and Ahmed Saleh.

Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation president Mohammed A Qambar and the team are proud of Salman's accomplishment. "We had six fighters competing in this

championship and we are proud of Saud's achievement," said Qambar who returned to Bahrain with Salman on Sunday night.

"This victory has added to Bahrain's record as the best MMA team in the world! Also, I would like to thank Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, chairman of the General Sports Authority and president of Bahrain Olympic Committee for his continuous support, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for the instant follow-up."

For details, @bahrainmma_fed on Instagram.

ON A WINNING STREAK

THE Bahrain Victorious 13 had another triumphant weekend of racing both individually and as part of a team effort, writes Lisa Pringle.

Alistair Brownlee is back to his winning ways over the full distance, topping Ironman Kalmar in Sweden. This guarantees him a start at the 2022 Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii in October.

After exiting the 3.8-kilometre swim in second

place, he had company staying in the pointy end throughout the 180-kilometre bike leg. Once on the run though, the Brit put on the afterburners to set the day's best marathon time and win with an eight-minute margin.

"Very happy to win Ironman Kalmar today. The course and crowd were awesome. Some of the cheers (and people dressed as Abba!) kept me going when the going got tough. Thank you for the support out there," said Brownlee.

Teammates Daniela Ryf, Holly Lawrence, and Kristian Blummenfelt won their respective matches and helped a dominant Team Europe defend the Collins Cup title by winning eight of 12 match races and taking 53 points overall, 15 more than the next team.

Ryf won Match 1 with a nearly seven-minute margin ahead of Team International's bet, reigning Olympic and Commonwealth champion Flora Duffy. Lawrence in Match 5 edged out Team

US's Jocelyn McCauley for the top spot, avenging last year's performance that had been marred by a bike crash. In Match 7, Blummenfelt the Olympic gold medalist showed that even in long distance he has the edge over bronze medalist Hayden Wilde racing for Team International.

Ryf said, "We did it again... Proud to win the Collins Cup with this amazing team. Being able to contribute max points with a strong performance in all three disciplines makes it



TRIUMPH: Brownlee

even sweeter."

David Plese capped the racing weekend for Bahrain Victorious 13, finishing in fourth place at Ironman

Mont Tremblant to snatch his sixth career qualification for the Ironman World Championship.

(Credit: Ironman Sweden)