

Animation to feed the soul



AN ANIMATED fantasy-adventure series made by Bahrain-based artists will bring infinite joy to children while also imparting knowledge during Ramadan later this month.

Exploring the world of gemstones and minerals, the second season of the award-winning cartoon *Secret of the Cave (Sirr Al Kahf)* is due to be televised on Saudi Arabian kids' channel MBC3.

Created by Bahraini director Inas Yacoub, the Arabic-language show follows an adventure-loving girl named Shahd, who stumbles upon a

TELEVISION REPORT
By ZAINAB ALMAHDI
zainab@gdnmedia.bh

magical realm of gemstones while exploring a cave with her brothers Ali and Adam. Becoming the centre of a fight of good against evil, the protagonist soon goes on a series of adventures in the world of Al Durr (Gem World) and undertakes perilous journeys.

The series aims to teach children about gems and minerals, their chemical interactions and their perceived spiritual effects.

The first season was aired in April last year and re-released as a feature film

in July and dubbed into English. It was screened in movie theatres in at least 11 countries, including South Korea and India.

The *Secret of the Cave's* second season explores in depth the character of the gang's arch-enemy, the Stranger, who comes from another plane to wreak havoc on Earth.

"When I came up with the concept of *Secret of the Cave*, I was looking for an unusual story," Inas told *GulfWeekly*.

"I wanted a cartoon that went deep into the universe of minerals and portrayed how it affected humans."

Inas added that since the last season ended on a cliffhanger with the evil forces not completely vanquished, she wanted to make a second season where 'good' finally wins.

"The show aims to instil in children the importance of teamwork, along with a



AWAITED: Poster of the second season of *Secret of the Cave*

love for exploration and knowledge," she said, adding that it could help develop kids' problem-solving skills and ability to come up with theories and solutions.

While Inas came up with the concept of the cartoon and its character design, the show's screenplay was written by Hanan Kanaan, with dramatic development by Mahdi Salman and art supervision by Hasan Kareem.

The cartoon features voice actors Hasan Mohamed, Ali Hussain, Alaa Al Banna, Joori Al Qattan, Ghada Al Musalli, Sabeeka Al Shehhi, Shouq Al Othman and more.

"Inas casts voice actors that match the looks of the characters they play," professional voice actor Alaa, who plays the character of Sara, said.

"What I have in common with Sara is that we're both romantics and dreamers

who adore the lives of kings and princesses," said the Bahraini who has worked with the director for the last seven years.

The cartoon was produced by Baby Clay Broadcasting and Media Production, Inas's own Bahrain-based animation studio, with parts of the animation work done in Egypt and South Korea.

Inas has previously directed at least 10 Ramadan cartoons, including *Lantern's Tales*, *In Your Name*, *Allah*, *Ibn Battuta* and several cartoons about Prophet Mohammed's life and times.

The first season of *Secret of the Cave* won awards at the GCC and regional levels.

The 30 episodes of the second season will air on MBC3 every night during Ramadan, and will also be available on demand on MBC Group's *Shahid* streaming platform.



EXPLORATION: A scene from *Secret of the Cave* season 1 where Shahd, third from left, is on an adventure in the woods with her brothers and friends.



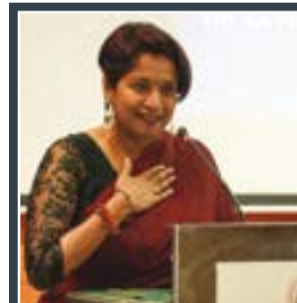
UPCYCLING GOAL
Bagging old T-shirts
SEE PAGE 2



CAPTURED MOMENTS
A solo showcase
SEE PAGE 3



CELESTIAL CREATIONS
Moon matters
SEE PAGES 4-5



HEARTFELT VERSES
A micro collection
SEE PAGE 5



RAW CANDY

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AVAILABLE FOR
PICK-UP & DELIVERY

Waste not, want not!



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

ARTISTIC
ecowarrior
Pallavi Jain aims to collect thousands of second-hand t-shirts to upcycle them into something that will benefit the community, while also eliminating the use of plastic.

The 50-year-old poet and blogger who has won recognition for her sustainable garden in the past, as well as her creative ways of turning 'old into gold', is transforming tees into bags to be used in the Indian Community Relief Fund's (ICRF) initiatives.

"Every year the non-profit organisation runs its Thirst Quencher campaign in the months of July and August, wherein members and volunteers go to different construction sites to donate water, laban and other things," said the former chemistry assistant professor who lives in Saar with her husband Akshay, a managing director at a diagnostic firm. "They also



ART: Putting her creations to good use

educate workers on how to protect themselves from Bahrain's scorching heat.

"In one of the events, I saw that most of the workers didn't have bags or anything to carry the donated stuff. So I suggested to ICRF members that we could make no-stitch old t-shirt bags for them to carry their items. It



would be better than giving them plastic bags. They liked the idea and now we are looking to collect around 5,000 t-shirts to turn into bags. I believe that even if every family donates one t-shirt, we will be able to meet our target."

Many have answered Pallavi's call on social media



ECOFRIENDLY: Pallavi upcycling a t-shirt

and she is holding a free bag-making workshop at her home today at 4pm.

"All you need is an old t-shirt in good condition, a pair of scissors and 10 minutes of your time," she added. "Anyone aged seven and above can participate. I initiated this 'no stitch t-shirt' campaign a couple of years ago and had done several workshops online with freelance educator, researcher and self-taught artist Dr Anamica Bhattacharya. I've also participated in a 'save soil' campaign offline with some other groups, including the author of the beloved Baloo children books and former resident Dr Sarah Clark.

"I always believe in following the five 'R's of

the environment which are: refuse, reuse, reduce, recycle and recreate ... and being an artist, I love to recreate."

In 2020, Pallavi upcycled soft toys into garden art in a bid to raise funds for Sneha, the Indian Ladies Association's recreation centre for children with special needs.

She also started recycling t-shirts after reading about the textile industry being among the biggest polluters. "The textile industry uses 98 million tonnes of non-renewable sources a year," she said. "Twenty-five per cent of the world's chemicals are used for textile production and it contributes to 20 per cent of industrial water pollution.

Landfills received 10.5m tonnes of textiles in 2015 and textile production uses around 93 billion cubic meters of water annually, representing four per cent of global freshwater withdrawal.

"I hope to create awareness of the need to save resources and protect the environment."

Pallavi's son Arihant, who is currently studying computer science at the University of California, San Diego, and her husband are proud of her eco-ways and hope others join the cause.

For details on the upcycle workshop and how to support, message her @bhoomi_our_land on Instagram.

DREAM COME TRUE:
Achieving her Kilimanjaro goal



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CLIMB

MANDALA artist and adventurer Madhu Sarla is aiming to scale Australia's tallest mountain next month as part of her 'Seven Summit Vision', writes Mai Al-Khatib Camille.

The 'Seven Summits' are the highest mountains on each of the seven continents, with a varied list including Everest, Aconcagua, Denali, Kilimanjaro, Vinson, Mont Blanc and Australia's Kosciuszko.

The mother-of-two had started her climbing journey from Kilimanjaro in Africa in June last year. In April, with the support of the Rashid Al Khalifa (RAK) Art Foundation's \$5,000 expedition pledge, she plans to summit the 2,228 metres (7,310ft) Mount Kosciuszko.

"My mission is to raise the Bahraini and Nepalese flags on the seven highest

summits on seven continents and spread the message of the importance of fitness, yoga and meditation for healthy and stress-free living," said the 45-year-old trekking mountaineer and yoga instructor from Barbar.

Aside from preparing for her feat, she recently launched her third book *Moon Mountain, Trek to Kilimanjaro* on International Women's Day, at a 'Woman Talk' event at Ramee Grand Hotel and Spa.

"The summit of Kilimanjaro was indeed difficult but that's the beauty of it," she said. "It pushes us to a potential and an edge we didn't know we had, until then. The exquisite natural wonder that Africa is; the people were amazing and their culture so rich and vibrant. The sense of contentment I had upon reaching the summit was exhilarating and gave me the confidence to go further in



this journey of mine.

"Through my book, I hope to spread awareness of the rawness of life out there in the wilderness and how it helps you to reflect upon yourself, about what you can achieve when you step out of your comfort zone.

"You cannot climb mountains from the comforts of your sofa. It can be any kind of mountain, a project, a start-up, a painting or a marathon. Act on it before

having second thoughts. Life is too short to not do what you love. If you do what you love, you love what you do."

Madhu thanks her husband Sandip, a finance director, and her daughters Sejal and Sumedha, for all their encouragement and support. She also appreciates Meera Ravi, Nepalese Ambassador Tirth Raj Wagle, Bimala Mam from the Nepalese embassy in Bahrain, Jamuna Kadle and Mahdi T Al Jallawi for their efforts.

The 'Woman Talk' event was hosted by former GDN journalist Raji Unnikrishnan, who has also recently launched the cover of her first collection of micro poetry entitled *Alwani, Life is Colourful*.

For details on Madhu's journey, follow @madhusarla.bh on Instagram.

● See page 5 for details on Raji's book.

An artistic timeline

ART lovers will have the opportunity to view the vibrant works of one of the kingdom's most talented artists at a special exhibition to be held tonight in Um Al Hassam, writes Kristian Harrison.

Amina Aiubova, 30, will present her colourful creations at the British Club under the theme *Captured Moments*, aiming to wow visitors with her array of works crafted in a variety of mediums.

This is the second solo exhibition featuring the native Russian, who studied at the Stroganov Moscow State Academy of Fine Arts and has been living and working in Bahrain since 2017.

"*Captured Moments* is a collection of my favourite works from the past few years," said Amina. "Each piece in the exhibition is entirely individual; not necessarily linked explicitly to each other thematically or by subject matter. However, taken as a whole, they portray the history of a person: thoughts or memories I've had, people I knew, and places I've been to. It's a stream of consciousness spanning several years, each work a fragment of human life."

"Most of my work is in painting – oil, acrylic, watercolour – but I enjoy experimenting with different styles of art and material, and have worked with metals,



HISTORY: Amina with her works over the years

modelling, plaster, jewellery as well as performative mediums such as dance.

"All of the pieces I'm displaying will be for sale. This is a double-edged sword for me, because in one sense it's always nice to have someone appreciate your work so much that they want to buy it, but it feels strange too, like I'm selling my children!"

Amina first took an interest in art at the age of seven, when she visited her artist uncle's studio and he painted a tiny portrait on her fingernail. Struck by what she described as "magic", the ability to create something

unique out of nothing, she knew from that moment she wanted to follow in his footsteps.

One of the key reasons why Amina's art is so expressive is that she has been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Whilst she admits that this often helps with creativity, it also leaves her at great difficulty to focus on just one style, hence her eclectic mix which covers a vast spectrum.

"As for trying to plan something," she explained, "let's just say that I once planned to enjoy a quiet evening with my friend and the next morning we found ourselves on the Albanian border in a stranger's house starting a business which involved selling hummus

over Instagram.

"That's pretty much how my attempts at planning for my art go too! In other words ... I don't make plans for my art; it makes plans for me."

As for the future, Amina promises to continue creating her powerful art pieces and showcasing them on her Instagram account [@amino_acid_](#).

Furthermore, she is looking to expand her roles in performing arts. Whilst she's remaining tight-lipped about the project, she can reveal that she'll be starring in an upcoming romantic drama directed by Ahmed Zayani. Filmed and set in Bahrain, it is intended to be released this October.

Captured Moments will take place at the British Club from 7.30pm tonight.



DEEP: One of her works

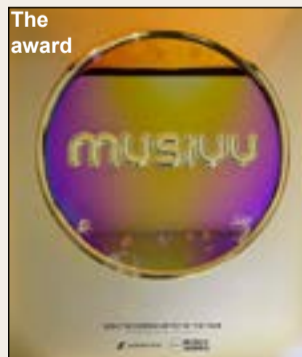


Top honour for Hotboxgroove

ONE of the kingdom's beloved bands has won a major accolade at a mega music competition in the UAE ... proving the psychedelic group has plenty of groove, funk and soul, writes Mai Al-Khatib Camille.

The seven-strong members of Hotboxgroove are over the moon about winning 'Debut Recording Artist of the Year' for their song *Midnight Blooms* - their first single release in October last year - at the Musivv Awards.

"It is a great honour for us to be recognised for



our hard work and win 'Debut Recording Artist of the Year', said Khalil Qureshi, one of the band leaders from Riffa, who is currently serving in the US Navy as operations lead for entertainment on the base

in Bahrain. "It's indeed a proud moment for us to be representing Bahrain and Bahrain's music scene in the region. This was a great night for independent artists."

Musivv is a platform, in a digital magazine format, that discovers and develops independent musical artists in the UAE and the Middle East, and their awards has honoured more than 50 independent creatives since its inception in 2019.

"We are grateful and hope to inspire all Bahraini and MENA region's artists to keep going and make great music," added Khalil, the band's rhythm and lead

guitarist who is also involved in three other music projects - *Posthypnotik*, *Native Tourists* and *Habitat*.

The rest of the cool crew includes Ryan John (drums), Karl Roderick (rhythm and lead guitar), Joshua Pandit (vocalist and synth), Szabi Nigo (trumpet), Rod Collins (saxophone) and Ryan James (bass guitar).

The group is currently working on their next single *Gut Bucket* followed by *Silhouette* and *Indus*, expected to be released by the end of this year.

For details, follow [@hotboxgroove](#) on Instagram.



Culture

MOON MANIA

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

EGYPTIAN artist Salah EI-Meligy is showcasing his adoration for the big circle in the sky that shines so bright at night and all its cosmic phases as part of the Spring of Culture festivities.

The selenophile - a person that loves the moon - is featuring several of his mixed-medium pieces at the Art Concept in Gudaibiya. The exhibition is titled *Treinta Caras de la Luna* (30 faces of the moon).

"I love the word moon in Spanish as I adore the language," said the 66-year-old who lives in Cairo near the pyramids.

"The first humans were puzzled to comprehend how the moon is suspended in the air, swimming in space and made of cosmic matter.

"Humans' interpretation of the moon gave it some holiness. Different cultures thought the moon was mythical or imaginary, while others considered it sacred. The various moon descents have led me to address it as an old traveller, which is how I feel



AT WORK: Salah

about its continuous journey.

"The moon affects our mood, energy, spiritual being and bodies, as well as the sea tides and it has been scientifically proven that it impacts all creatures. The moon, indeed, has a powerful presence on all beings.

"I aim to take the viewers on a journey and a dream through my artworks. Sometimes we lose sight of the beauty and nature around us. A beautiful journey where the elements of nature add energy and love to the day. Get closer to nature, contemplate the plants and

creatures around us to take the cosmic side of life and elude the seriousness."

Salah's artworks are meticulously drawn in ink on Canson paper in circles with a diameter of 37:60cm. Of the 36 artworks about the moon — 34 are ink drawings on paper and two were created using different printmaking techniques including etching, soft ground and aquatint, with limited editions of 10 available.

Eleven of his artworks were created using handmade paper from his previous abstract experiment in 2002 and he has seven more from another project, called 'Souls and Trees', using drawing ink on paper. His

inspiration for the project, which took almost a year to complete, is nature and the universe.

"I use different techniques such as intaglio print and drawings with ink on paper," explained Salah who was always fascinated by art and started experimenting early in the 1960s. "Intaglio printing is acid-etching with a needle. I also use monochrome with a quill that looks like a metal pen, and printing with the effect of watercolours is called aquatint.

"With experience, I discovered my tendency towards expressionism and abstraction school, not devoid of surrealist visions. I believe the moon is a source of energy, light and love that inhabits the consciousness, and in this exhibition, I invite viewers to a world of imagination, where they can contemplate the universe."

The exhibition runs until March 23 and is open from Sunday to Thursday from 10am to 2pm and 3pm to 6pm, and on Saturday from 3pm to 7pm.

While this is his first personal exhibition in Bahrain, Salah is no stranger to the island.

"I have conducted printing workshops in 2014 at Albareh Art Gallery and another workshop in 2019 at Art Concept," said Salah who earned a PhD in fine arts in 1993 and currently works as a Professor of Graphics at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Egypt. "This is my third visit to Bahrain as part of the Spring of Culture and I will be conducting another workshop.

"I am honoured to deal with Bahraini artists. It is essential to exchange experiences with artists from around the region. My next project is underway and it is a process that requires time and patience."

Since the eighties, Salah has worked in graphic art, drawing and photography using ink, oil and acrylic colours. His art navigates the worlds of dream, myth and imagination, inspired by his Egyptian heritage.

He received several local and international awards, including the Fifth



On *Treinta Caras de la Luna*

"Oh old traveller, who never stopped revolving. Since eternity, you have witnessed our lives in majestic silence, dwelling in darkness, with your luminous energy of love.

Hence, you are known as 'Khonsu' or 'The Traveller' for ancient Egyptians, 'Celine' in Greek culture and as 'Luna' for the Romans. The Chinese call you 'Chang' while the Japanese identify you as 'Tsukuyomi'. The Indians call you 'Chandra', in Babylon you are 'Sin' while Arabs call you 'Wed' or 'Amiability'.

"The moon has been a source of many myths and stories in different cultures. Since we were young, we have seen many imaginary faces on your surface. We did not know 'Pareidolia' yet! We did not realise that the black spots on your face are mountains and craters from the impact of meteorites and meteor showers."

Salah says...

International Cairo Biennial in 1994.

In 1997, he won the Arbitration Prize at the Second Egyptian International Print Triennial

and in 2001, he took home the International Bronze Prize at the International Graphic Art Biennial of Dry Point in Serbia and Montenegro - Yugoslavia.

DEEPER LOOK: Salah sharing his thoughts with visitors





ENTERTAINMENT UNLIMITED

THE end of the Spring of Culture festivities may be right around the corner but do not fret as there are still a few events to enjoy.

The 17th edition, which runs until the end of this month, features the following programmes:

* Inaash, a Lebanese organisation producing the finest quality hand-made artisanal products, is featuring an exhibition with the history of Palestine in every embroidery stitch, colour and motif from March 15 to 17, from 10am to 6pm. Inaash has trained and empowered more than 200 women in refugee camps across Lebanon and provides work for more than 400 women.

Venue: House of Poetry - Ebrahim Al Arrayed.

* Italian curator and designer Federica Sala is staging a lecture on March 15 on 'The quality that enlightens; the energy of



MAESTRO: Mubarak Najem

design for people and the environment' at 8pm on the occasion of Italian Design Day, promoted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Italian Embassy in Bahrain. Federica will focus on the basic ingredients of Italian design, quality and research.

Venue: Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Centre for Culture and Research.

* An event by Diego Valdivia featuring music from his *Aromas Del Sur* album will be held on March 16 at 8pm. In 2021, Diego was awarded the Novia

del Sol Award for culture in Algeciras, and in 2022, he was named the Ambassador of the Campo de Gibraltar Region.

Venue: Cultural Hall * The Bahrain Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by maestro Mubarak Najem will take the audience on

a nostalgic journey on March 17 at 8pm with a set of classical pieces, along with Bahraini and Khaleeji tunes.

Venue: Bahrain National Theatre.

* Dar Al Riffa Al Sagheera, famous for reviving songs sung during the wheat harvest season, as well as Mjailis and Al-Wda'a during the last days of Ramadan, will perform at 8pm on March 18.

Venue: Dar Al Riffa.

* Egyptian artist Nouran Abutaleb, who specialises in Opera and Arabic songs, will entertain citizens and



ARTIST: Nouran

residents on March 20 at 8pm.

Venue: Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Centre for Culture and Research.

* Celebrate Arab and world poetry day on March 21 at 8pm.

Venue: Bahrain National Museum.

* The Shaikha Hessa

Girls' School IB Visual Arts students will feature their work for all to see on March 21 at 11am and the showcase will continue until January 23, 2024 (open from 9am to 8pm daily).

Venue: Art Centre.

Visit springofculture.org for details.



He has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions locally and internationally, including the 'Buzz' at Dai Gallery in 2017, the Egyptians and Saudis group exhibition at Jeddah Atelier in 2019 and the Fifth International Beijing Biennale in China in 2012.

His artworks, acquired by collectors in Saudi Arabia, Germany, Canada, Brazil, New York and France, are also available at various institutions including the Museum of Egyptian Modern Art and the Cairo Opera House, among others.

For details, follow @salahelmeligy and @artconceptbh on Instagram.



VIBRANT VERSES

AFTER years of writing about the lives and news of others as a journalist, Raji Unnikrishnan is now sharing her colourful life experiences in book form, writes Mai Al-Khatib Camille.

The 53-year-old former GDN reporter put together 'a collection of thoughts painted in words', and unveiled the cover of her literary creation *Alwani - Life is Colourful* on March 8, which is International Women's Day, at Ramee Grand Hotel and Spa in Seef, to an intimate group of invitees that are near and dear to her heart.

"This 60-page book *Alwani*, which means 'my colours' in English, is a collection of micro verses to mark my 25 years in Bahrain," said Raji, who lives in Seef with her husband Binu Samuel, GDN's senior sub editor,

25-year-old daughter Anupama who works in the private sector, and adorable pup Ore.

"It's also a return gift to the country and its people.

"It's a limited edition to be distributed to selected people who helped me be what I am and where I am today. It's not for sale."

Raji had been collecting these 'micro verses' during her days in the kingdom and compiled them over the past two years with efforts to complete the collection to mark her silver anniversary.

It doesn't look like Raji will be slowing down any time soon on the writing front as she is already sorting out short stories and more to be released in the future.

"This is definitely one of many for me," she explained.

"I hope to bring out a short story collection and though I have compiled



LAUNCH: Raji with Soman, centre, and Nepalese Ambassador Tirth Raj Wagle

a few, which are ready to be published, my dream project is a special 'autobiography' of my pet Ore.

"In the meantime, I am thankful to God who I believe is in control, to my parents, my teachers, my mentors, my friends, my

family and this beautiful island nation for making my life colourful like *alwani*."

The cover was unveiled by senior journalist Soman Baby in the presence of Nepalese Ambassador Tirth Raj Wagle.

Raji's book is set to be released in May.

The cover picture was taken by Premjith Narayanan and the design was carried out by Sajith Raj and Two Cats Media.

For details, follow @raji111 on Instagram, Raji Unnikrishnan on Facebook and @rajiunikrishnan on Twitter.

Pulse of Pop

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

WHAT A SHOCKER!

THE music industry bid farewell to South African rapper Costa Titch who sadly passed away after collapsing on stage at the Ultra Festival in Johannesburg.

The 28-year-old, who started his career as a back-up dancer before transitioning to spitting rhymes, had recently partnered with music mogul Akon's record label Konvict Kulture. His future seemed bright as even Akon was featured on the remix of his song *Big Flexa*.

His death, while performing at the Nasrec Expo Centre during the Ultra Music Festival, took his family and friends by surprise. He apparently died shortly after his collapse on stage and the cause of death has not yet been revealed.

"It is with deep pain that we find ourselves having to acknowledge his passing at this time," his family wrote on *Instagram*.

"Death has tragically knocked at our door, robbing us of our beloved son, brother and grandson Constantinos Tsobanoglou,

who South Africa had come to love and idolise under his stage name Costa Titch.

"We are thankful for the emergency responders and all those present in his last hours on this earth. As a family, we are faced with a difficult time as we try and make sense of what has befallen us and ask that we be afforded the time and

space to gather ourselves.

"The Tsobanoglou family thanks you for the love and support you have given to our son and may you continue to uplift him, even in spirit."

Tributes have been pouring in from fans and musicians alike. English electronic music group *Clean Bandit* took to *Twitter* to share how devastated they are by the

news while photographer, designer and web developer Jairo Takan thanked him for helping many fall in love with amapiano—a subgenre of house music that emerged in South Africa in the mid-2010s.

Others that performed at the festival include Adam Beyer, Alesso, Fisher, Timmy and Oliver Heldens.



REST IN PEACE: Titch

WHO'LL BE CROWNED?

WHEN *The Last Kingdom* on Netflix came to an end, many Uhtred of Bebbanburg fans were left wondering what they will do with themselves next. It was as if *Game of Thrones* had ended and left viewers at a loss ... all over again.

Fret not, because Netflix heard the cries and responded with the *Seven Kings Must Die* movie.

The series star and executive producer

Alexander Dreyfuss will again play Uhtred, who rides once more across a fractured kingdom with several of the series' much-loved characters returning. The movie follows the death of King Edward and the battle for the crown, with rival heirs and invaders competing for power.

An alliance comes seeking Uhtred's help in their plans and he faces a choice between those he cares for most and the dream of forming a united England.

Why wait to find out when

you can watch it now on the streaming network, which had picked up the series from the *BBC* when they cancelled it after two seasons.

The streaming service had already been working with the *BBC* on the show, outside of the UK, and *The Last Kingdom* was distributed as a *Netflix Original*.

Three further incredible seasons were produced, and the film is a dramatic and epic conclusion to the story of Uhtred of Bebbanburg.



DOESN'T DRAG

DUNGEONS and Dragons tabletop role-playing gamers are in for a fantastic treat as movie critics can't get enough of the action-packed story.

Dungeons & Dragons: Honour Among Thieves has been dubbed a 'truly fun ride with some great one-liners and comedic timing' as well as 'one of the most entertaining fantasy films seen in a while'.

It tells the tale of a bard named Edgin, played by Chris Pine, who teams up with an unlikely group formed by a barbarian (Michelle Rodriguez), a sorcerer (Justice Smith), a paladin (Regé-Jean Page), and a druid (Sophia Lillis). They all work together in order to retrieve a lost relic. The cast also features Hugh Grant, Chloe Coleman, and Daisy Head.

After the premiere, many took to *Instagram* to share their positive reviews and it seems that directors and screenwriters John Francis

Daley and Jonathan Goldstein have been elevated to geek royalty status once and for all.

There must have been a lot of pressure to get it right as it also used to be a popular animated series which was epic...unlike the first *Dungeons and Dragons* movie in 2,000 which was pitiful.

The movie will be out at the end of this month.



A TURBULENT TALE

STRAP in and keep your seat in the upright position as pilot and media aviation commentator Terry Tozer takes readers on a journey - from being in the cockpit to what goes on in the airline industry and the different horrific flight incidents - in his factual feature.

All flights or incidents in this book, entitled *Confessions of an Airline Pilot - Why Planes Crash* (Including Tales from the Pilot's Seat), are based on first-hand accounts, his personal experience or industry reports. The analysis of aircraft crashes are based on official accident reports and according to the author, 'the foundations of this book are facts'.

"These facts have been used to examine the airline industry," he said.

"This examination is further informed

by feedback from pilots from around the world. Where there is speculation, it is either clear or identified as such.

"This book is a bona-fide attempt to bring the reader onto the flight deck of the aircraft as close a manner as possible to actually being there.

"My aim is to take you on the journey but as part of a detective story, and in safety.

"You will gain a general insight into, and an analysis of, the airline industry previously unavailable to the travelling public. This analysis, however, leads me to conclusions, which I present to you clearly as my opinion.

"I leave it to you to judge if I am correct, as it is you, the passenger, who will reap the ultimate consequences of the airline industry's actions."

Therefore, know if the airline you are planning to fly with is safe and find out



from experts what really happened in certain cases such as Concorde's only fatal accident.

It's like the *Air Crash Investigation* documentary TV series but in book format.

Motoring Weekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

Showstopping smoke

THE Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is offering motorsports fans lots of entertainment to help them not burnout during the Holy Month.

Put your cars through its paces instead!

The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East is bringing back one of its most popular yearly events – Ramadan Burnout Nights – back onto the roster for four successive weekends at the Sakhir track.

The action-packed series, known for attracting huge crowds, features participants putting on a fantastic show of rising white smoke at BIC's Vehicle Dynamics Area.

The four nights of burnout will be held on Saturdays, including March 25, April 1, April 8 and April 15. Prior to

the start, a testing night will take place on March 18.

Those interested in participating can register at the BIC from 4pm on each night, with the action-taking place from 8pm until midnight.

This Saturday's testing will be held from 5pm to 9pm and registration can be done on site from 3pm to 5pm.

All entrants' vehicles must meet specific eligibility criteria before being permitted to take part.

Visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on 17450000 for details.



A CHANCE FOR REDEMPTION

AS teams race ahead to compete in this weekend's Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, the BWT Alpine F1's team principal Otmar Szafnauer reflects on the season-opener in Bahrain and how to steer the squad in the right direction at the fast and enthralling Jeddah Corniche Circuit.



LOOKING AHEAD: Gasly and Ocon

“Right now, we know the A523 has potential. We just have not exploited everything to the maximum yet and there's work ahead of us to achieve that. I'd like to see a smooth weekend from the team with no operational errors and to have both cars well inside the points. It will be interesting to see the competitive order on a completely different track

The team scored two points at the Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix at the start of the 2023 FIA Formula 1 World Championship season and Pierre Gasly moved up from last to ninth position in his team debut.

Meanwhile, Esteban Ocon had an unfortunate afternoon at Sakhir and had to retire with only 16 of 57 laps remaining. “We left Bahrain with mixed feelings,” said Szafnauer. “On one side, we were satisfied to come away with points, given Pierre raced from the back of the grid to ninth place and his drive required good decisions, a well-executed strategy and strong race pace; all of which we showed.

“On the other side, we made too many mistakes across the weekend, and we can all do a better job to improve on those. I believe Esteban's race was a one-off, a culmination of a string of errors, some on his side, some operationally, and his side of the garage will undoubtedly bounce back in Saudi Arabia.

to what we've seen so far, and I firmly believe there's much more to come from us. The team is determined for a much better race in Jeddah and it's great to see everyone's motivation to deliver an improved performance.”

Gasly is fired up for a better performance in Saudi Arabia and is also determined to make it two top 10s from two races in new colours.

“I enjoyed my debut in Alpine colours,” the Frenchman said. “The entire team is so talented and motivated to succeed and I'm excited to see what we can achieve when we execute a smoother race weekend.

“I enjoy racing in Jeddah. It's one of the best street circuits as it's so quick with no real slow corners and it's a great challenge, physically, for us drivers.

“Qualifying is usually very exciting, and I'm determined to do better than I did in Bahrain, and I see this as an opportunity for redemption. I've scored solid points in Saudi Arabia in 2021 and 2022, so it would be good to keep that trend going this year.”



6-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Rotary Club of Manama Annual fundraiser

MAY 12 2023

FRIDAY

Time: 4:00 PM Location: Bahrain Rugby Football Club

For registration and sponsorship

Contact : +973 3676 6499

@rotaryclubofmanama

Sponsors:



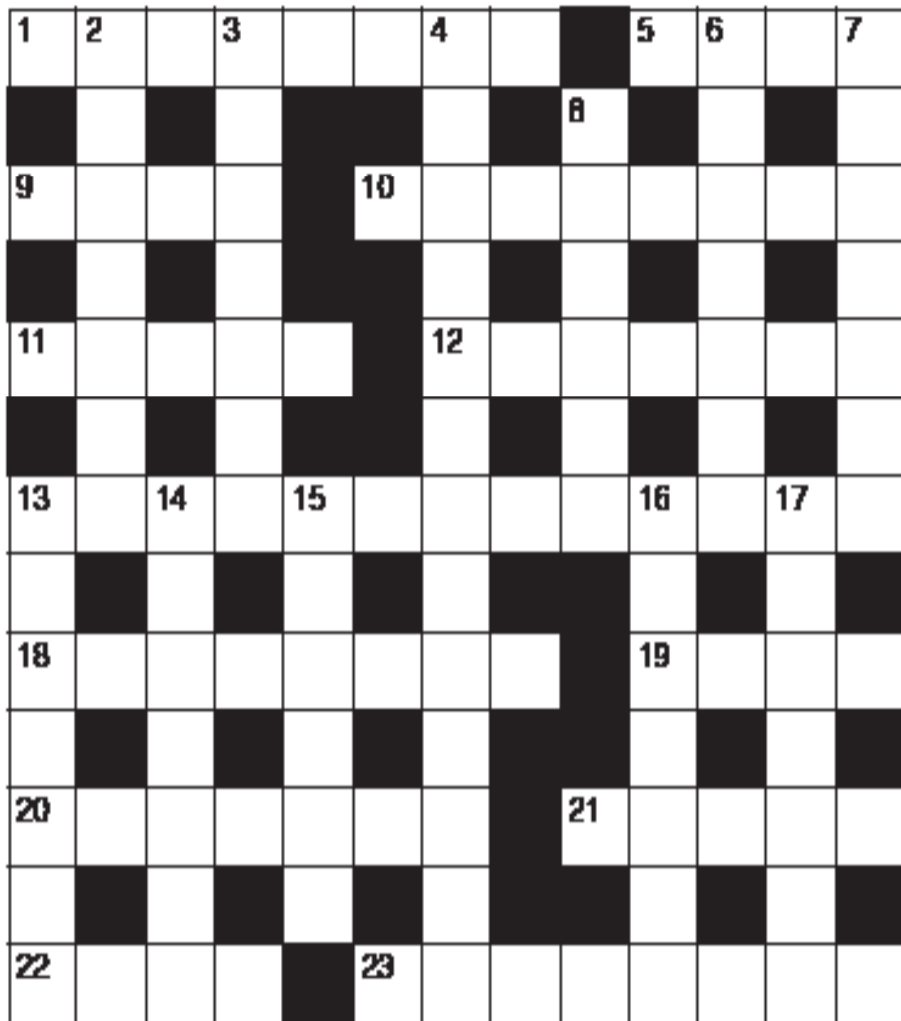


Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Manager (8)
5. Norway's capital (4)
9. Catalogue (4)
10. Belladonna (8)
11. Collier (5)
12. Contain (7)
13. Insomnia (13)
18. Thorough (8)
19. Cylinder (4)
20. Treachery (7)
21. Intellect (5)
22. Remark (4)
23. Perplex (8)

DOWN

2. Beginning (7)
3. Utmost (7)
4. Remote possibility (7,6)
6. Confiscation (7)
7. Unity (7)
8. Compels (6)
13. Curtail (7)
14. Implore (7)
15. Minister (6)
16. Innate (7)
17. Sink (7)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... won the Oscar for Best Actress in 1939?

WHAT ... is a flokati?

WHERE ... is Christmas Island?

WHEN ... did Martina Navratilova win her first Wimbledon singles title?

WHO ... was the Egyptian Sun God?

WHAT ... is clinophobia?

WHERE ... is Pakistan's largest city?

WHEN ... was Derby winner Shergar stolen in County Kildare?

just so

word yyy yyy

OT 1²

good0000

Fe
 Fe
 FeFeFeFeFe
 Fe
 Fe
 Fe

tough sudoku

So you think you're good enough at Sudoku to crack this baby? Remember, we were the first in the Gulf to bring you this bit of Japanese mayhem...so we don't kid around

Last week's sudoku

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

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

tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Bedraggled; 7 Odium; 8 Raiment; 10 Vastness; 11 Palm; 13 Recent; 15 Studio; 17 Alum; 18 Guileful; 21 Tuition; 22 Alter; 23 Interested.

Down: 1 Bliss; 2 Dominant; 3 Arrest; 4 Grim; 5 Emerald; 6 Conversant; 9 Tomfoolery; 12 Stalwart; 14 Caution; 16 Nuance; 19 Fated; 20 Rite..

Who, What, Where, When: Brazil; Shipworm; Jayapura; Third Monday of February; Pre-Roman inhabitants of Scotland; Curacao; Japan; 1941.

Just So:

An inside job;
 Palm pilot;
 The fifth estate;
 A sore point.

Tough Sudoku

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