



COMMUNITY REPORT  
By MELISSA NAZARETH  
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**B**AHRAINI mountaineer Mohamed Isa has accomplished the second milestone in his quest to conquer the Seven Summits Challenge, an ambitious goal to scale the highest peak of each of the seven continents.

The 45-year-old climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest in Africa at 5,895 metres above sea level – a total distance of 64km both ways.

“It was an exhilarating experience with some challenges along the way, from mild frost bites to even a fall, but I’m happy to say that I overcame them and am proud of what my fellow mountaineers and I have achieved,” Mohamed told *GulfWeekly*.

The expedition team of 10 adventurers – six from Oman, two from Kuwait, and one each from Bahrain and Qatar – all made it to the top.

The Seven Summit list, which can vary, includes Mount Everest, Kilimanjaro, Denali, Aconcagua, Vinson Massif, Elbrus and Kosciuszko.

Earlier this year, the adrenaline junkie became the first Bahraini to conquer Mount Kosciuszko, the highest mountain in mainland Australia at 2,228m, a challenge comprising a 26.1-km trek, which he described as ‘walking from University of Bahrain’s Sakhr campus to The Avenues-Bahrain mall, but uphill’.

“It took me 22 hours to reach my hotel in Moshi, Tanzania. We chose the popular Machame route because it offers spectacular sceneries and allows for ample acclimatisation opportunities and high climbing success rate.

“Unfortunately my body did not get accustomed to sleeping in the tents at freezing temperatures and the night before the summit I did not sleep a minute. Furthermore, despite having a variety of food options, I lost my appetite when I reached the Shira Camp at 3,850m.



ON THE TOP: Mohamed proudly waves the Bahrain flag on Mount Kilimanjaro

## Climbing high

Discomfort, uneasiness and a strong sensation of nausea set in on the third day when we reached Lava Tower at 4,600m. My team members and our expedition leader Nahid gave me slices of lemons and salt to chew on and were very supportive,” he revealed.

After marching from one camp to another and moving up and down to allow their bodies to adjust to the oxygen levels, it was time for the final lap – the ‘summit push’. Locally, it’s called Uhuru Peak – Swahili for ‘freedom’.

“While the plan was simple, the execution was challenging. We left Barafu Camp at 10pm with the aim of catching the sunrise. On the zigzag way to Stella Point, I felt so weak and the sleep deprivation caught up with me. I was thirsty and tried to drink from my camel bag only to discover the pipe was frozen, but my fellow climbers especially Hamad Al Riyami from Oman and my guide Lameck Minja motivated me to push forward.

“We reached Stella Point



ADVENTURERS: Mohamed, backrow second from left, with the expedition team

at 6.30am and I was relieved to see it, knowing I was getting closer to the summit. Witnessing the majestic glaciers was surreal. It has been my wish to see them before they vanish due to global warming.

“At exactly a minute past eight, I touched the

summit of Kilimanjaro - the Roof of Africa. Mission Accomplished!” he said.

The finance professional from Saar fell in love with mountains two years ago when he successfully scaled a height of 5,364m to the Everest South Base Camp in Nepal. It was on that trip that

he met Suleiman Al Naabi, the first Omani national to complete the Seven Summits Challenge, who he considers a role model.

“Next on the agenda, Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe. If I’m lucky, I will climb Elbrus during my birthday in September, if not, next year. I aim to finish the Seven Summits by 2030,” the toastmaster and author of several books said.

Mohamed has written on a range of topics, including investor relations, entrepreneurship and startups, management, and public speaking, and plans to publish a book entitled *Everest Inspiration* in October, documenting his experience and journey.

“One of the guides, Florence, gave me a new name: Mr Kipara. Kipara means ‘bald’ in Swahili. Not only that, the crew made a song about me. I will cherish these memories forever,” he added.

For more details on Mohamed’s adventures, follow @mohamedisa3ds on Instagram.



ORIENTAL TUNES  
New electronic EP  
SEE PAGE 2



MEMORABLE MONSTERS  
Digimon in Bahrain  
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE  
Dining and fun  
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP  
Books, music and more  
SEE PAGE 6



# Mesmerising melodies



TALENTED: Banah in *Galbi ma Yinam*



**MUSIC REPORT**  
By MELISSA NAZARETH  
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**O**N the heels of dropping her latest original single after a one-year hiatus, Bahraini-Palestinian artist Banah Anabtawi has announced the release of an EP this month, featuring her *Elektroniya* compositions that blend Arabic classics with international and modern touches.

Entitled *Elektroniya – Volume I*, the album will showcase three of the musical talent's fusion creations, including classic like Umm Kulthum and Shadia. The project is a collaboration with Joel Gershom, a Bahrain-based producer who has previously been signed by international artists like Paul van Dyk.

"Commercial Arabic music is so diverse nowadays and the trend is moving toward a fusion of sounds. This is what I'm going to try to do with my music as well," the 39-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

"My previous original music was very Oriental sounding until maybe the last couple of months, with *Majaneen* and *Ayna Anti* having more Western sounds in them. I'm working on bringing some Arabic instrumentation into an electronic sound, which is not

always easy because of the various Arabic scales that we have but, if done correctly, it's beautiful and extremely inviting for the Arabic and Western ear," she added.

Last month, the singer and songwriter released the single *Galbi ma Yinam*, which means 'my heart can't sleep' or 'my heart can't rest'. Characterised by her signature fusion style of Oriental sounds with modern touches, it is a love song inspired by the 'fear of losing someone you love' and has attracted 253,331 views on *YouTube*. In it, the creative is seen wearing designer gowns with flowy silhouettes from Saks Fifth Avenue – a fitting aesthetic to the mood of the song.

"This track is something I'm super proud of as it features my own musical composition and lyrics – I usually get melody writers and lyricists to help me out, but I decided a couple of months back to take my artistic journey to the next level.

"I collaborated with (director) Ramy Nabha for the track and have many times before as well. He is extremely creative and has a lot of out-of-the-box ideas. The inspiration for the track, shot in Faraiya, Lebanon came from losing a family member. Even though the song is about (romantic)



love, I drew my emotions from my experience," she revealed.

Banah was born in Canada before moving to the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia when she was four. After returning to Canada to study business at university, she finally settled in Bahrain 19 years ago. She had a passion for performing at a young age, but life took her on a different career path. In 2019, Banah quit her corporate job to pursue music full-time.

Moving forward, the songstress from Saar is determined to release new creations every six to eight weeks, and is already working on another melodic house single that will release in

September, as well as a couple more before year end. A *Jazziyat* (Arabic classics with jazz touches) tour, including a performance in Bahrain, is also on the cards.

"While I'm making more music, I'm trying to get away from just releasing for numbers and success and more because I enjoy what I'm doing," she added.

Banah's songs are available on various platforms including *Anghami*, *Spotify* and *YouTube*.

For more details, follow @banahofficial on Instagram.

## BRAIN-BUSTERS

**Q**uizmaster and *Radio Bahrain* host Shannon Crockett, who has been entertaining people across the island with his brain-teasing quiz night sessions, has offered to put *GulfWeekly* readers' general knowledge to the test. Join in the fun every Thursday with Shannon's seven brain-busters.

1. Which country has the largest sporting stadium in the world?
2. From what was aspirin originally extracted?
3. What *Top Gun* character is Captain America's cat named after?
4. Who fled his 'Peacock Throne' into exile in 1979?
5. Which is the only US state named after an English county?
6. Which South American dish is made from fresh raw fish cured in citrus juice?
7. Which cartoon character is featured swimming in gold coins?

**GulfWeekly**

Catch Shannon's weekly  
**BRAIN-BUSTERS**  
every Thursday  
in *Gulf Weekly*



- ANSWERS**
1. India
  2. Tree Bark – Weeping Willow
  3. Goose
  4. Shah of Iran
  5. New Hampshire
  6. Ceviche
  7. Scrooge McDuck





## COMMUNITY REPORT

By RIMA ALHADDAD  
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**A** CARD game based on the *Digimon: Digital Monsters* TV series that first aired through 1999-2007 is seeing a high-spirited resurgence among fans of the show in the kingdom.

Bahraini youth, who grew up watching the anime, have been participating in tournaments and collecting rare cards as a way to revisit their childhood.

*Digimon Adventure*, known as *Digimon: Digital Monsters* in English speaking territories, first aired in Japan, and later spread across the world, including the Middle East. As of today, the franchise includes nine television series and 19 films, all of which focus on a group of teens who are unexpectedly sent to the mysterious Digital World and paired up with their own powerful, morphing monster 'Digimon'. Together they set out on an adventure to fight evil and save the world.

Isa Ali, 25, started off with exploring the nostalgia, which happened to turn into 'bonding' with like-minded people over their love for the anime. "I can talk to them about the cartoon for hours and they would get it, which I really appreciate," the marketing executive told *GulfWeekly*.

The Digimon Card Game is a competitive trading card game where each player has a companion Digimon in the 'battle area' to attack the opponent. As the game progresses and depending on your strategy, your



PLAYERS: Isa, left, with Miranda, centre, and Christy

Digimon evolves, gets stronger, and gains new powers. The franchise has its roots in the series of digital pets that were created in 1997 as 'masculine counterparts' to the famed Tamagotchi that was perceived as 'feminine'.

Malkiya resident Hussain Aref, 26, who was gravitated

towards the art style of the 'shiny cards' said: "Each card is unique with a different colour, approach and perspective, which pushed me into trying the game, which eventually turned into a source of comfort and an escape from the stresses of life."

While the monsters were first designed to look 'cute and iconic', later developments had them created with a 'harder-edged style',

which was influenced by American comics. Even the cards bearing the striking creatures have a distinct, arty aesthetic that's hard to miss.

Digimon Card Game, sometimes shortened to DigiCa, was released by Japanese multinational toy manufacturer and distributor Bandai in 2020. While the show has a fan following of its own, many young Bahrainis like Christy Bishay, documentation intern from Isa Town who is currently working for a food-tech platform, jumped on the bandwagon after learning about the game.

"I was intrigued to try the game after being introduced to it by my friend. Honestly, I didn't watch Digimon growing up, but since playing, I watched a few of the movies, so I guess it's like reverse nostalgia for me," added the second of only two female payers in Bahrain.

Besides the joy of gameplay, card collectors tend to also enjoy

putting together their deck and opening booster packs, which contain 12 random cards, with the possibility of pulling 'Rare' ones, which are sought after for their high value. They are distinguished for including an alternative artwork of the standard edition or a shiny texture.

Thai expatriate Miranda Boonthan, who was born and raised in Bahrain and runs a bubble tea shop, recalls a moment when she pulled a rare 'ghost card that is worth BD90' from a booster pack.

"It was a big tournament day at the store where we gather, so we'd pay an entry fee and get packs, and that's how I got it. I didn't win the tournament that day but getting this card was the real win," the 30-year-old beamed.

The Adliya resident recalls her first tournament win when she first joined as the only girl in the community at the time. "It was

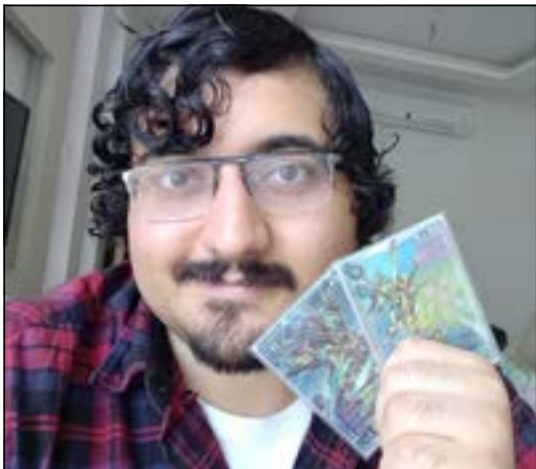
a big accomplishment for me, because it was also around one month within my involvement in Digimon," she added.

Digimon tournaments are regularly held at a local store in Tubli, where fans and players gather for casual game sessions or to compete.

Majd Saif, 25, who is a player of the game and an employee at the store, credits a Saudi based business for introducing the game to Bahrain, which resulted in a community that is continuing to grow.

"We have new people coming into the store every now and then wanting to learn Digimon. They are always welcomed by other players and given free cards, which encourages them to build their own collection and continue playing," the Isa Town resident said.

For more details, follow @howayte on Instagram.



MONSTER FAN: Hussain



ANIMATED: Majd at play

**G**ULFWEEKLY has launched its latest 'Speak Your Mind' feature where we invite you, our family of readers, to share your concerns and challenges on a chosen subject with our panel of mental health experts who will respond to a selection of them.

Together, let's get the conversation started!

July's topic is: 'The challenges parents face with children forced to stay indoors during the summer'. Some points to ponder over:

- Reducing screen time
  - Working parents' concerns
  - Insufficient opportunities for fun, constructive activities
- Share your thoughts in no more

**Speak  
your  
mind!**



than 100 words on gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on Instagram by July 25.

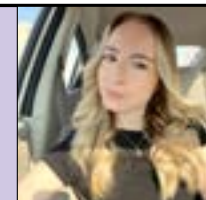
We will publish a selection of the

comments received in *GulfWeekly* and one 'star entry' will be awarded a box of Raw Candy vegan chocolates as a 'thank you' gift.



# Leisure Scene

What's on guide by  
Julia Cassano



## INNOVATIVE AND UNIQUE DINING

**J**OIN the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain on a fantastic culinary journey unlike any other this weekend.

Primavera is offering guests traditional Italian cuisine with a twist. This includes irresistible gourmet pizzas – Neapolitan style. In addition to timeless classics such as pastas and risottos, a one-of-a-kind tableside 'dessert theatre' experience will also be offered.

Priced a la carte, it's available from Wednesday to Monday, 12.30pm to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm.

Meanwhile, guests can experience true Mexican cuisine at Cantina Kahlo. Indulge in a celebration of traditional and innovative enchilada dishes, specially crafted with authentic Mexican ingredients and spices.

It's available until July 27, from 4pm to midnight,



LUXURIOUS: La Table Krug's stunning interior

Monday to Wednesday and 1pm to 1am on the weekend (Thursday, Friday and Saturday).

Guests can also look forward to an unparalleled dining experience as La

Table Krug makes its grand return to the hotel. An extraordinary tasting menu will be offered to guests and they can savour a curated selection of dishes.

Priced a la carte, the unique

dining experience is available from Tuesday to Saturday, from 7pm to 10.30pm.

■ For more information, contact [rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com](mailto:rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com) or 17586499.



COLOURFUL: A Mexican-inspired dish at Cantina Kahlo

**K**ICKSTART your weekend with Hilton Bahrain's Aloha July Brunch.

Escape to paradise tomorrow and enjoy island-inspired delights and good vibes from 12.30pm to 5pm at Origin Kitchen and Culture.

It costs BD39 with unlimited selected beverages and BD28 inclusive of unlimited soft beverages.

For a one-of-a-kind seafood adventure, opt for Origin Kitchen and Culture's Seafood Night tonight, featuring the freshest catch from 7pm to 10pm.

It costs BD32net with unlimited selected beverages and BD25 inclusive of unlimited soft beverages.

Guests can also enjoy a fabulous breakfast spread at Origin Kitchen and Culture's Breakfast Buffet.

It's available from Sunday

## FUN AND FOOD AT HILTON



GIRL FUN: Ladies' Night at Cocoluna Lounge

to Friday, 6.30am to 10.30am at BD13net per person.

On Saturdays, the restaurant also offers a Lazy Saturday Breakfast,

featuring a fantastic spread of continental, Asian and Arabic favourites, from 6.30am to 11.30am.

It costs BD13net per

person.

Meanwhile, the hotel invites guests to start their weekend off right at Block 44's Afro Series tonight, from 9pm to 2am. A 50 per cent discount will be applied on selected beverages from 9pm to 11pm. Ladies receive two complimentary beverages.

On Fridays, visitors can also enjoy non-stop fun as a DJ keeps the party going at the property's lounge from 5pm to 7pm.

Tomorrow, guests can move to the groove at Block 44's Salsa Nights, from 9pm to 2am. Ladies receive two complimentary drinks.

The hotel's Society Club is open everyday from 9pm to 2.30am. On Tuesdays, it



VARIETY: Origin Kitchen and Culture's Brunch

offers three free beverages for female guests from 8pm to 2.30am for Ladies' Night.

■ For more information, contact 33690081 or 33692013.



**G**ET together with your family and friends to enjoy some of the English language films being shown at CINECO Seef this weekend.

**FLY ME TO THE MOON (PG 15)**

Fly Me To The Moon is a sharp, stylish comedy-drama set against the high-stakes backdrop of NASA's historic Apollo 11 moon landing. Brought in to fix NASA's public image, sparks fly in all directions as marketing maven Kelly Jones (Johansson) wreaks havoc on launch director Cole Davis's (Tatum) already difficult task.

Actors: Scarlett Johansson, Channing Tatum, Nick Dillenburgh

Timings: 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm

**THE LAST BREATH (PG 15)**  
A group of old college friends reunite on a Caribbean scuba diving trip, exploring the wreckage of a WWII battleship, and find themselves trapped inside an underwater labyrinth of rusted metal surrounded by great white sharks.

Actors: Julian Sands, Kim Spearman, Jack Parr

Timings: 12pm, 4pm, 8pm, 12am

**DESPICABLE ME 4 (PG)**  
In the first Despicable Me movie

## MOVIE TIME

in seven years, Gru, the world's favourite supervillain-turned-Anti Villain League agent, returns for an exciting, bold new era of minions mayhem in Illumination's *Despicable Me 4*.

Actors: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Will Ferrell

Timings: 11.15am, 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm, 11.15pm

**A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE (PG 15)**  
Experience the day the world went quiet. As aliens crash land into the streets of New York, people realise they are in trouble and begin screaming. They soon

discover that these monsters can only detect their prey by one particular sense – and the world goes quiet. *Deadly Quiet*.

Actors: Lupita Nyong'o, Joseph Quinn, Alex Wolff

Timings: 8.45pm, 11pm

**BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE (15+)**

This summer, the world's favourite Bad Boys are back with their iconic mix of edge-of-your-seat action and outrageous comedy, but this time with a twist: Miami's finest are now on the run.

Actors: Will Smith, Martin Lawrence, Vanessa Hudgens

Timings: 6pm, 8.30pm, 11pm



## Weekly Entertainment

## SEASONAL TREATS



DECADENT: Sweet treats at RGC

**G**ATHER your family and friends for a one-of-a-kind culinary experience at the Royal Golf Club (RGC).

Links Steak Night offers an array of the highest quality steaks, all cooked to perfection. Dig into the delightful feast every Wednesday from 6pm. It's priced a la carte.

Guests can also satisfy their sweet tooth cravings with the club's decadent cakes and desserts. Order your cake today at 32184647. All orders must be placed 24 hours in advance.

For the ultimate summer experience, choose RGC's epic Summer Camp which has everything from sports to dance and kindergarten activities. Even more, PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) athletes will give youngsters the opportunity to learn some new skills.

The camp will be held on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am to 1pm, and costs BD25 per day or BD60 per week.

It also offers add-ons, including a one-hour golf session with a PGA-certified coach for BD8 (one hour a week) or BD32 per month.

To register, call 33001261 or 17750777.

Special discounts are available for RGC members as well as Riffa Views residents.

■ For more information or bookings, contact 39007546.



UNWIND: Lazy Breakfast

## GASTRONOMIC DELIGHTS, ELEVATED EXPERIENCES

**H**EAD down to the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay for a weekend of good food and fun.

Take a special journey to the shores of Portugal with CUT by Wolfgang Puck for a taste of exquisite Pastel de Nata – Portuguese custard tarts.

Specially crafted by Wolfgang Puck's executive pastry chef Pierre Chambon and his exceptional team, each bite will have you dancing with joy.

Orders can be placed four hours in advance by calling 17115500. For bulk orders one day in advance is required.

It costs BD1.500 for one piece and BD6 for six pieces.

Be transported to Italy's Mediterranean coastline with Bay View Lounge's Gelato Gourmet.

Savour affogato al caffe, tiramisu, coconut tapioca or your favourite icecream flavour from 11am to midnight. It costs BD7.500 per plate.

Meanwhile, guests can dig into the best Lebanese cuisine Bahrain has to offer at Byblos.

Dining is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 6pm to midnight, and the restaurant's Seafood Feast offers an irresistible six-course menu. Some of the dishes feature grilled lobster, jumbo prawns, sea bass and scallops. It costs BD45 for two.

Feed your soul with re/Asian Cuisine's innovative summer delights this season. Guests can indulge in grilled prawns, braised beef short rib, grilled asparagus and fried rice, all while enjoying a spectacular view of Manama, on Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday from 7pm to 11pm and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 7pm to 11.30pm. It's priced a la carte.

Kickback and relax at Bahrain Bay Kitchen's Lazy Breakfast and enjoy a delightful spread of all-time breakfast favourites on Saturday from 11.30am to 3pm at BD20 per guest.

Guests can also experience the hotel's Night Spa for Two offer, which features an aromatherapy couples' massage at the indoor pool. It also includes a bottle of sparkling, alongside chocolates, macarons, mixed berries, roses and a romantic set up.

It costs BD280 from Sunday to Wednesday and BD290 from Thursday to Saturday, 10am to 10pm.

■ For more information, contact 7115500, 17115045 or 17115046.

## Culture Weekly



SHIFTING SANDS: The group exhibition is set to explore how our futures have evolved over time

## Change is the only constant

**E**XPLORING the shifts that continuously reshape our existence, one of Bahrain's leading art spaces is set to unveil a new exhibition next Tuesday.

On July 23 at 7pm, Al Riwaq Art Space will be opening *Tomorrow is Not What It Used to Be*, an exhibition featuring 14 artists.

"*Tomorrow is Not What It Used to Be* explores how the world we live in is ever changing, socially, culturally, environmentally and structurally," a spokesperson for Al Riwaq said, in a statement.

"With these constant shifts, the human

ART REPORT  
By NAMAN ARORA  
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experience continues to evolve and integrate with the universe. "The exhibition invited artists to examine the nature of these changes, their manifestations, and their implications on the human experience and existence, focusing on one of, or an intersection between, the social, cultural, environmental or other elements." Curated through an open call process that received over 80 submissions, the exhibition features nine local and five regional artists.

Aya Sabry, Ahmed Alasad, Omnia Elamir, Hussain Milad, Rania Atef, Dur Kattan, Salman Alnajem, Ola saad Znad, Virginie Dreyer, Maryam Waleed AlNoaimi, Huda Jamal, Hesham Alamaal, Hana El-Sagini and Yaqeen Yamani are participating in the exhibition.

The art space originally opened its doors to the public more than 25 years ago, offering three rooms as an independent gallery for contemporary Bahraini and regional artists.

Over the past 20 years, it has become a major hub, establishing partnerships and networks with international institutions and creative practitioners.

## SOLITARY REALISATION

**Film: Aloners**

**Bahrain Cinema Club – Wednesday, 7pm, Juffair, July 24**

**Director: Hong Seong-eun**

**Duration: One hour and 31 minutes**

**Cast: Jung Da-eun, Seo Hyun-woo, Park Jeong-hak, Gong Seung-yeon**

**Plot:**

A solitary woman re-evaluates her isolated existence after her neighbour dies alone in his apartment. Jina, who works at a credit card company call centre, avoids building close relationships, choosing instead to live and work alone.

When one day her irritating neighbour is discovered dead, having died alone in his apartment, the relationships that Jina decided



RELATIONSHIP: Dynamics set in modern day Korea

to ignore in the past suddenly start to 'bug' her. In 2021, the movie bagged the Blue Dragon Film Award for best new actress (Gong) and the Bronze Pyramid Award for best first or second work (Hong).

For details, call Huda Tabbara on 39682323.



# Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY RIMA ALHADDAD

## QUIT PLAYING GAMES

**M**USIC and crime documentary *Dirty Pop: The Boy Band Scam* is set to release on Netflix on Wednesday, July 24.

Viewers will learn about Lou Pearlman, the mastermind behind famous 90's boy groups NSYNC and Backstreet Boys, among others, and the accusations against him.

Lou's entertainment industry career started when the American businessman launched a record label, following his fascination with pop and R&B boy band New Kids on the Block's success, resulting in forming the Backstreet Boys in 1993 as the label's first band from a \$3-million talent search. It was said that the ads he placed expressed a desire to compose a vocal group with a New Kids on the Block look and a Boyz II Men sound.

Following the major success



GOOD TIMES: Lou with the Backstreet Boys

of the Backstreet Boys, the talent manager was introduced to NSYNC a year later, and managed them alongside former New Kids on the Block manager Johnny Wright and his wife, resulting in another successful boyband being taken to

stardom under Lou's wings.

However, Backstreet Boys were the first to file a lawsuit against the music mogul in 1998 for their dissatisfaction with the contract, after the artists only received \$300,000 for all of their work over the

preceding four years while Pearlman allegedly took in \$10m. Later, the members of NSYNC followed suit for similar reasons.

In 2006, Lou was accused of running one of the longest Ponzi schemes, in which investors are tricked into

paying for and profiting off non-existent business activities.

A year later, he pled guilty to conspiracy, money laundering, and making false statements during bankruptcy proceedings that took place the same year.

In 2016, the scam artist passed away in federal custody from cardiac arrest. NSYNC's Justin Timberlake was among the public figures that reacted to the news. He shared his condolences on social media, hoping that the talent manager 'found some peace'.



IN SYNC: Lou with the NSYNC band

**R**OMANTIC comedy *Find Me Falling*, set against the striking scapes of the beach-studded island country of Cyprus, drops tomorrow on Netflix.

The movie follows rock star John Allman, played by Harry Connick Jr., as he navigates through his life, following the fall of his popularity. In an attempt to keep a low profile, the musician decides to move to an isolated cliffside home in Cyprus, however, John finds himself in a complicated situation when he gets recognised by many and attempts rekindling a



LOVESTRUCK: The film's poster

romance with an ex-partner.

The movie, which is expected to feature the scenic beauty of the Mediterranean Sea, promises a light hearted watch.

"This film is a love letter to Cyprus, and I hope that

it transports audiences and gives them a little bit of magical escapism. This is a love story about many kinds of love: romantic, family, lifelong dreams, and what you're willing to sacrifice

for the people or the things you love. John essentially has to decide whether the love of his life is his music or the woman he left behind," director Stelana Kliris said in an interview.

## IN BLACK AND WHITE

**N**OLIWE Rooks tells the story of American educator and philanthropist Mary McLeod Bethune in her upcoming book *A Passionate Mind In Relentless Pursuit* set to hit the shelves on July 23.

Born in 1875, Mary is remembered to this day for her life-long passion for black women's and girls' right to education, integral to the larger struggle for freedom at the time.

Her contributions include starting a private school in Florida for African-American students, which later became the Bethune-Cookman University, as well as founding and becoming the president of several organisations that were dedicated to African-American women.

The activist passed away in 1955 of a heart

attack. Her death was followed by tributes in newspapers around the US, honouring her legacy and achievements.

Born in 1963, author Noliwe, who is also the chair of African studies at Brown University, dedicates her work to race and gender impact and how they are influenced by popular culture and social history in the US. This is going to be her sixth book release, following works that tackled different angles of identity matters.



**A**ERICAN rapper Donald Glover's final musical chapter under the stage name Childish Gambino is set to release tomorrow.

The soundtrack album *Bando Stone & the New World* has been scored by the multi-talented personality for his directorial feature debut of the same name. The movie stars Donald who plays a famous musician navigating a world empty of people. He meets a woman and her child, and together they journey

## DYSTOPIAN TUNES

through a dystopian, post-apocalyptic world. The release date of the film is yet to be announced.

The artist co-produced the film alongside Swedish giants, producer Max Martin and composer Ludwig Göransson, who previously worked on Donald's 2013 album *Because the Internet*, as well as American producer Michael Uzowuru.

Ahead of the album's release, the rapper sold out an amphitheatre in New

York where he hosted a listening party for his fans who were said to enjoy the 15 tracks ranging stylistically from soulful and electronic to funk and hip-hop tunes.

It is unclear if the 40-year-old creative retiring the Childish Gambino persona signifies him fully leaving the music industry, however, fans are hoping he will release music under his real name.

Born on September 25, 1983, Donald McKinley Glover Jr. is also a writer and comedian.



CREATIVE: Donald

He created, occasionally directed, and starred in the FX series *Atlanta*, which earned him two Primetime Emmy Awards and two Golden Globe Awards in 2017.



# Ruckus before the hiatus

MERCEDES: Are their performance issues finally resolved?



**T**HE F1 season is reaching its halfway point this weekend with fireworks. Six different winners in the first twelve races showcase an incredibly competitive year. As the championship heads to Hungary for the first of a double-header before the summer break, several key storylines are kicking into high gear.

## SILVER ARROWS ON TARGET

The question surrounding Mercedes isn't their recent win in Austria, but rather the dominance they displayed at Silverstone. George Russell's victory at the Red Bull Ring came after a collision between Max Verstappen and Lando Norris. However, at Silverstone, Mercedes secured a commanding one-two finish in qualifying, leading for most of the race before Lewis Hamilton clinched his first win since 2021. This back-to-back success suggests Mercedes might be genuine contenders again.

Both Russell and team boss Toto Wolff believe their car can consistently challenge Red Bull and McLaren. Hungary, where Mercedes is expected to introduce further upgrades, presents a golden opportunity. Additionally, with Lewis Hamilton aiming to match his record of nine wins at a single circuit (currently eight in Budapest), another strong weekend for the Silver Arrows seems likely.

## MCLAREN'S QUEST FOR CONSISTENCY

While Mercedes' resurgence steals the headlines, McLaren faces questions after Silverstone. Early pit stops cost Oscar Piastri

a podium finish, and a questionable tire strategy for Lando Norris saw him settle for third. This is a recurring theme for McLaren – they've been close to victory in Imola, Canada, Spain, and Austria, but haven't been able to convert.

While a small margin often separates them from the winner, McLaren needs to address strategic errors that cost them crucial points. Building confidence in race execution is paramount if they're to challenge for the top step.

## FERRARI'S NEED FOR REDEMPTION

The season's unpredictability makes Ferrari's current struggles even more surprising. After a promising win for Charles Leclerc in Monaco, their competitiveness has dropped significantly. Leclerc has only managed 12 points in the last four races, leaving Ferrari 71 points behind Red Bull and just seven ahead of McLaren.

Upgrades brought to Spain failed to deliver, and Ferrari needs to learn from the data and adapt their approach. With Hungary and Belgium offering contrasting circuit challenges, the next two weeks are crucial for Ferrari's recovery.

## PRESSURE ON PEREZ

The intense competition this season isn't just impacting teams – Red Bull's Sergio Perez is facing immense pressure. After a



PITTED: McLaren has been struggling with consistency

strong start with three second-place finishes and a third, Perez's results have taken a hit with increased competition from McLaren, Mercedes, and Ferrari.

In the last six races (including the Austrian Sprint), Perez has only scored 15 points compared to Max Verstappen's impressive 119. Team Principal Christian Horner demands more points from Perez, with the upcoming races being his last chance before the summer break to deliver. Strong finishes in Hungary and Belgium, where Perez has historically done well, could ease the pressure.

## DRIVER MARKET BUZZ

Perez's struggles could become a factor in the driver market during the summer break. Despite a recent contract extension, his performance could trigger movement. Several teams – Mercedes, Red Bull, Haas,

Alpine, Sauber, and Williams – have vacant seats for 2025, and the next two weeks could see crucial meetings leading to contract finalisations.

The 'silly season' might have started early this year, but the period before the summer break is often when movement intensifies. Teams and drivers want clarity on their futures before the halt. Carlos Sainz remains a key player in transfer rumours, with Toto Wolff hinting at Mercedes' possible interest. Drivers like Daniel Ricciardo, Esteban Ocon, Valtteri Bottas, Zhou Guanyu, and Logan Sargeant are all waiting for news on their future destinations.

With the championship wide open, driver performance under pressure, and the driver market simmering, the next two races in Hungary and Belgium promise to be a thrilling prelude to the summer break in this year's world championship.



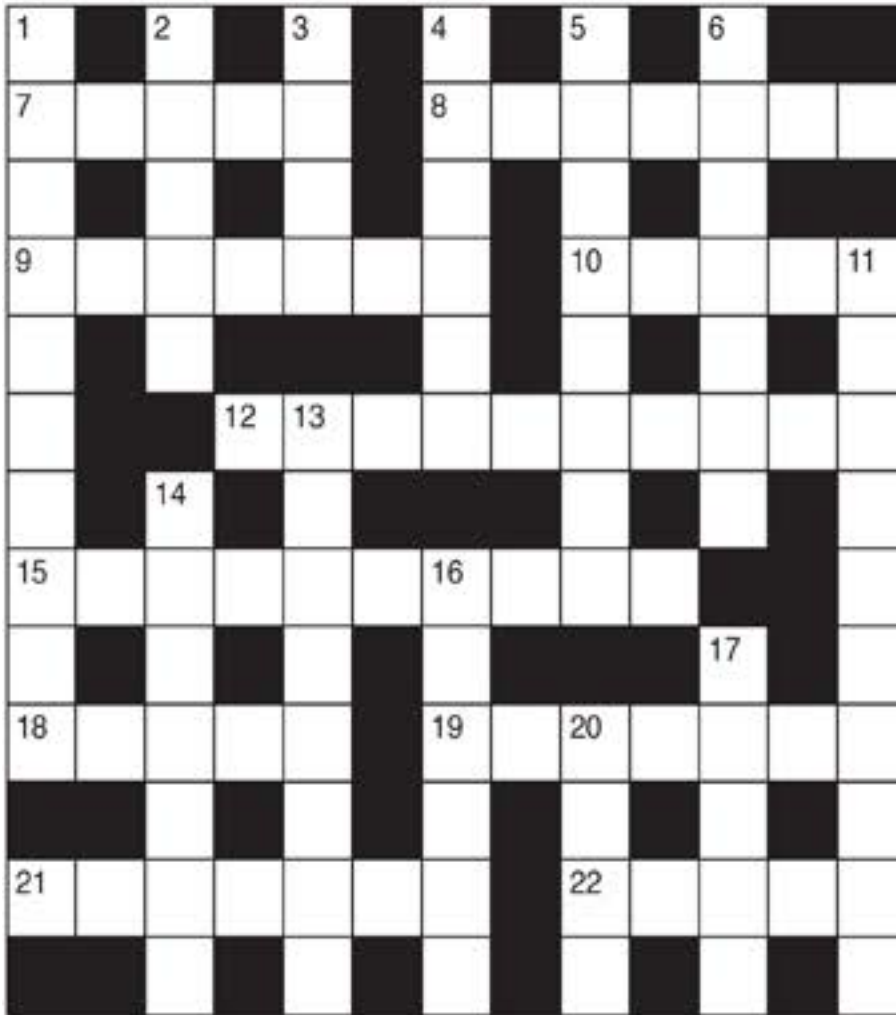
# Time Out



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## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

- 7. Dwelling (5)
- 8. Invigorate (7)
- 9. Workman (7)
- 10. Call forth (5)
- 12. Hindrance (10)
- 15. Disguise (10)
- 18. Memorize (5)
- 19. Help (7)
- 21. Co-operate deceitfully (7)
- 22. Wrong (5)

### DOWN

- 1. Stagy (10)
- 2. Completely (5)
- 3. Smaller (4)
- 4. Border (6)
- 5. Oblation (8)
- 6. Win back (7)
- 11. Undertaking (10)
- 13. Lugubrious (8)
- 14. Friendly (7)
- 16. Reduce (6)
- 17. Funny (5)
- 20. Applaud (4)

### who, what, where, when

WHO ... played the lead title role in the 2006 Broadway musical *Tarzan*?  
WHAT ... film did Richard Dreyfuss win Best Actor in a Leading Role Oscar for?  
WHERE ... in Europe is the city of Zgierz?  
WHEN ... did Winston Churchill become UK Chancellor of the Exchequer?  
WHO ... directed the 1967 film *Billion Dollar Brain*?  
WHAT ... was the name of the debut album by the rock group Sigue Sigue Sputnik?  
WHERE ... in Africa are the regions of Hardap and Erongo?  
WHEN ... was the telecommunications company Motorola founded as the Galvin Manufacturing Corporation?

### just so

PRIVATE

#1 most most most most

FEDORA

iiiiii

## 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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

#### CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Different; 8 Ode; 9 Destruction; 11 Pungent; 12 Ideal; 13 Routed; 15 Allege; 17 Erase; 18 Attract; 20 Intelligent; 22 Apt; 23 Retaliate.

Down: 2 Ire; 3 Eerie; 4 Excite; 5 Trivial; 6 Confederate; 7 Recollect; 10 Singularity; 11 Perpetual; 14 Erector; 16 Hamlet; 19 Trial; 21 Net.

JUST SO: A piece of cake, Turn the corner, Iron cross, Up to date

#### WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Alfred Sisley; Andrew Hoy; North Yorkshire; 1953; Porter Goss; Tannhäuser; Norwich, Norfolk; 1993.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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