

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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SEVERAL initiatives are being staged across Bahrain to raise awareness about autism and celebrate the abilities and achievements of individuals on the spectrum, coinciding with World Autism Awareness month in April.

Special Families Support (SFS) Bahrain group has made a striking collage of handprints, showcasing their commitment to the cause.

The artistic initiative is part of their special campaign entitled 'Growing together in autism acceptance'.

SFS families and friends were invited to share handprints of any colour with their name on it and the submissions were compiled to produce the collage.

"This month, we celebrate our neurodiverse children and the SFS family," a representative of the support group told *GulfWeekly*.

"While spreading awareness is important, our campaign stresses on acceptance and advocacy, post awareness, as both of these are equally needed.

"Those who shared the handprints took an oath pledging their support to the cause," she added.

SFS has creatively defined 'AUTISM' by giving a new meaning to each letter, with 'a' standing for advocate acceptance, 's' for support independence and so on.

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave.

The United Nations designated April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day, however, supporters of the cause worldwide focus on activities and campaigns throughout April.

This year's theme is 'Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)', highlighting the intersection between neurodiversity and global sustainability. It aims to showcase how inclusive policies and practices can drive positive change for autistic individuals worldwide and contribute to



COMMUNITY: Run for Autism staged at Exhibition World Bahrain last year

The art of caring

the achievement of SDGs. The Bahrain Society for Children with Behavioural

and Communication Difficulties, in partnership with the Interior Ministry and

Exhibition World Bahrain, will stage the annual Run for Autism on April 19, from 8am until noon, at Exhibition World Bahrain in Sakhir.

"This year's Run for Autism is made even more meaningful through the generous support of our partners. Together, we are sending a strong message of unity, inclusion and compassion," Alia for Early Intervention and Alia Rehabilitation Centre director Dr Shaikha Rania Al Khalifa said.

Both Alia for Early Intervention and Alia Rehabilitation Centre operate under the Bahrain

Society for Children with Behavioural and Communication Difficulties.

"This important community initiative aims to raise public awareness, foster inclusion, and celebrate the abilities of individuals on the autism spectrum. We invite people of all ages and abilities to participate – whether by running, walking or joining the festivities in support," society public relations head Khalid Al Awadhi said.

In addition to the three- and five-kilometre runs, the event will also feature entertainment activities for families and children, awareness booths and support resources, giveaways, refreshments and more.

Individuals with autism will receive special recognition as well.

"We are planning to stage a motorcycle ride for the cause on April 25," Shahzaib's Club House founder and director Amena Shahruckh said, adding that more details will be announced soon.

Shahzaib's Club House is a local community of differently abled people. It was founded by Amena three years ago, as an extension of her personal journey with her late son, Mohammed Shahzaib Lali, who was differently abled, and died of pneumonia at the age of 21.

For more details, follow @sfs.bahrain, @aliaautismcenters and @shahzaibclubhouse.



TOGETHER: The SFS collage with the handprints exhibiting the group's pledge for the cause

SFS' campaign

- A: Advocate acceptance**
- U: Understand neurodiversity**
- T: Tolerate sensory stimming**
- I: Integrate and educate**
- S: Support independence**
- M: Mandate equality**



LARGER THAN LIFE
Fun caricatures
SEE PAGE 2



SHUTTERBUG!
Ski snaps
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE
Flavourful feasts
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP
Music, books & more
SEE PAGE 6

Beyond the lines

ART REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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BAHRAIN-LOVING caricature artist Amani Ali Badir uses her creative cartoons to capture and immortalise timeless moments, with a fun twist.

The 26-year-old South African has been caricaturing her way through ghabgas, comic conventions and private events across the GCC, ever since she flew from her home several months ago.

“I got into caricaturing about three years ago, starting off with sketches of people’s pets,” the self-taught artist told *GulfWeekly*.

“Bahrain has been home to my two sisters for a couple years now. Up until the beginning of this year, I had only seen photos of Bahrain they shared, and on *Instagram*. So I decided to pack a bag, get on a plane and check it out for myself!” Although a lifelong artist, it has been her live caricaturing that has been feeding Amani’s creative soul for the last several years.

This, more than anything, is why she believes Artificial Intelligence (AI-generated) art can never replace a live caricature experience.

“For me, caricature art stands out from any and every art - not just AI,” she explained.

“Creating a caricature is an in-the-moment experience



RIZZ: Geekend attendee Ahmed Elsabah with his portrait

and in a few minutes, you get to take an original artwork home! Nothing like it anywhere else. Along with the memory of a sweet moment you had with the artist. It’s such a gift.”

Amani’s journey into caricaturing live was almost accidental, when she was contacted for a unique commission.

“A man wanted to propose to his girlfriend, so he asked me to set up in a flea market so I could pretend to draw while they browsed around,” she reminisced.

“He had to convince her (girlfriend) to do a caricature ‘just for fun’ and when it was time to show them the

final piece, I pulled out the drawing I had previously done, which had ‘Will You Marry Me?’ written over it.

“I just loved the experience and two years later, after dabbling in candles, T-shirts and other creative mediums, I decided to get into caricature full-time.”

Since she flew out to the GCC from Pretoria, South Africa, a couple of months ago, Amani has done much of her caricaturing in Bahrain, with a short trip to Qatar for Geekend last month.

Nerdy pop culture conventions like Geekend in Doha and Comfest in Bahrain have been especially fun for Amani, who plans



BEGINNING: Amani’s journey into the art form began with pet caricatures



TOGETHER: A couple with their caricature, created by Amani

to travel to Kuwait and the UAE for more such events.

To keep up with her regular travels, she has kept her artist kit lean, just using Japanese brush marker pens, Faber Castell charcoal pastels and a Monte Marte paper in addition to the mixed media

paper on which she draws her creations.

Amongst the many skills she has picked up along the way is ‘how to balance humour with respect’.

“This is a skill that is learned every day, and with every interaction and connection with my clients,” she added.

“I begin with the most visible part of the face for me - the eyebrows, and from there I go on to develop the face.

“A key part to making people recognisable in a caricature is to focus on the distance of facial features in conjunction to each other.

“The actual features (eyes, nose, mouth) can be played with and are exaggerated to one’s style.

“I am so grateful that I get to draw, and have drawn delightful, giving and open people. This makes creating art an honour and something very special.”

For more details, follow @amani.caricatures on Instagram.



FAMILY: A group caricature created by Amani for a client and their three cats



JOKER: A Comfest attendee with his portrait

SPEAK YOUR MIND

WE’RE celebrating World Autism Awareness month and individuals and groups in the kingdom are coming together to spread awareness about ASD and express solidarity towards the cause.

GulfWeekly is joining this ‘movement’ with its own initiative through the Speak Your Mind platform. There couldn’t be a better time to educate ourselves on autism and the challenges it entails for not just the individuals on the spectrum but also their families.

Our April topic tackles ‘how being a care giver for autistic individuals affects mental health’.

We invite you, our family of readers, to write to us with personal anecdotes (your experiences or those of others that you might have observed); social challenges like judgement, anxiety worrying about the individual’s future, physical strain ultimately impacting mental well-being, etc.

Share your views in no more than 100 words by emailing gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on *Instagram* by April 23. We will publish a selection of the comments received in *GulfWeekly* - only ‘original’ entries will be considered for the top submission and win a box of Raw Candy vegan chocolates as a token of our appreciation.

Together, let’s keep the conversation going!



PHOTOGRAPHY REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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NO matter where his passion for photography has taken him, from the red-hot Bahrain International Circuit to the freezing Swiss Alps, Bahrain-based shutterbug Premjith Narayanan has been unwaveringly focused on finding the moments that click.

Recently, the Indian expatriate's stunning shots at the Lauberhorn Alpine Ski World Cup were featured in the March 2025 edition of *Photo Plus: The Canon Magazine*, and not one to rest on his laurels, he is already gearing up to cover the 2025 Formula 1 Gulf Air Grand Prix, taking place next weekend, from April 11 to 13.

"I've always been drawn to challenges in photography," Premjith told *GulfWeekly*.

"When I first heard about the unique difficulties of ski photography, I knew I had to give it a try. The combination of technical skill, physical endurance and artistic vision required was irresistible to me.

"And ski photography is not for the faint of heart. It's a unique challenge that sets it apart from other sports photography.

"Picture this: you're standing in -15 to -20 Celsius weather, your fingers barely able to press the shutter button. The air is thin, making each breath a conscious effort. But that's what makes it so exciting!

"The cold is your constant companion. It's not just about bundling up; it's about finding ways to keep your gear functioning and your creativity flowing."

Stunning ski shots have dazzled fans all over the world, but Premjith knows what it takes to capture each one.

He has to trudge through snow with his Canon cameras and 400 to 500mm lenses, or, as he describes it, 'what feels like a small canon' through the snow, and that's even before his



ACTION: A panning shot capturing the thrill of the moment

Freeze frame!

photography starts!

Since his first time doing ski photography in 2013, he has perfected techniques ranging from the freeze frames with fast shutter speeds to panning shots with slow shutter speeds capturing the thrill of the moment.

And many of these skills and techniques were perfected over more than 20 years of covering the Bahrain Grand Prix, although the Ski World Cup was even more unforgiving - where 'if you mess up, the whole picture gets spoilt and you don't get a second chance', he explained.

"I find F1 photography more comfortable overall," he added.

"The controlled environment of a race track is a stark contrast to the unpredictable mountain slopes.

"Plus, the repeated laps in F1 give me a sense of security, I know I'll have another chance if I miss a shot.

"That said, there's something special about capturing that perfect moment on the ski slopes. The challenge makes the reward even sweeter.

"My experience in F1 photography didn't just help - it transformed my approach to ski photography. The skills I'd developed over years of capturing high-speed action translated beautifully to the slopes."

The engineer by profession is currently road-tripping around the US, where his eldest son is based, before returning to Bahrain in time for this year's Grand Prix.

"There are still lots of 'next's' in my photography life even though I have travelled far and wide around the world to capture exotic places," he noted.

"Easter Islands, Galapagos islands, Pyramids of Mexico, Brazil carnival, Iguazu Falls, Seychelles, Machu Pichu, Angkor Wat, Nazca Lines in Peru, Antarctica's penguins and more... the list is eternal!"

For more details, follow @premjith_narayanan on Instagram.



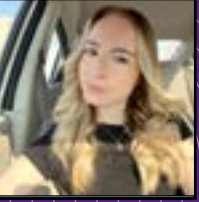
F1: One of Premjith's shots capturing a moment from the 2019 Bahrain Grand Prix



BLITZ: Legendary Swiss downhill ski champion Marco Odermatt caught in freeze frame by Premjith

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



ARABIAN BARBECUE NIGHTS AT RITZ

H EAD down to the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain for an unforgettable weekend filled with delicious food and entertainment.

La Plage invites guests to its special Arabian BBQ Nights, featuring a family-style offering and a captivating performance by an Arab singer, tomorrow, 7pm to 11pm. It costs BD29, with soft beverages and BD34, inclusive of house-selected beverages.

Enjoy an electrifying night of music, magic and entertainment at La Plage's and Thai Lounge's White Party.

Let the beats of DJ Mysterioo Arif, DJ Katrin Love and DJ Kristina V set the vibe, alongside roaming magicians, a fire show, stilt walkers and dancers.

BEST OF LONDON:
Big Ben Brunch



Entry costs BD20, inclusive of one selected beverage. Prices at the door start from BD30, tonight, from 8pm to 1am. Visitors can also escape to the heart of London at

La Med's Big Ben Brunch. It features a delightful selection of British classics and an array of international flavours. Immerse yourself in the iconic sites of London as

you dine amidst replicas of Big Ben, the London Bridge and classic red phone booths. It costs BD33 inclusive of soft beverages, BD44 with selected beverages and

SUCCULENT:
Perfectly
cooked steak



BD60 for a bubbly brunch, tomorrow, from 1pm to 4pm. Children aged four to 12 dine for BD16.500.

Discover the perfect fusion of sweet and savoury with chocolate kunafeh. Available everyday, from 10am to 10pm at the Ritz Gourmet Shop and La Gourmandise, the kunafeh takes you on a journey of flavours.

It is priced at BD6.

Meanwhile, don't miss out on Plum's Tomahawk Tuesday, which features a perfectly grilled Angus tomahawk steak expertly paired with a premium bottle of a grape beverage, from 7pm to 11pm. It costs BD69.

For more information contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.



FEAST: Pit stop at Bahrain Bay Kitchen

FOUR SEASONS BECKONS WITH FLAVOURFUL F1 CELEBRATIONS

THE Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay has lined up exclusive events to celebrate the Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, set to be held from April 11 to 13.

People gearing up for a weekend in the fast lane can make a pit stop at Bahrain Bay Kitchen's brunch on April 11.

Bringing the racing spirit from the track to the table, this vibrant brunch features stunning decorations and an extravagant buffet with an array of live stations.

Savour dishes such as wagyu beef burgers, tacos, nachos, naan, roti, chicken tikka and more, from 1pm to 4pm, for BD35 per person, inclusive of a soft drinks package and BD48 with a special beverage package.

Don't miss out on the pre-race lawn party.

Executive chef Brian Becher and his team are turning up the heat with a South American twist at the lush gardens of the hotel. Relish dishes such as lamb asado, wagyu brisket, empanadas, house-made chorizo, tres leches cakes and more.

STUNNING
VIEW: Byblos



Enjoy a perfect blend of bold flavours and rhythmic beats on April 12, from 8pm. The celebration costs BD110 per person, inclusive of beverages and after party at Blue Moon Lounge.

Meanwhile, seafood lovers can discover Byblos's newly-crafted seafood menu, where authentic Lebanese flavours meet culinary artistry by Chef Tony El Khory.

Delight in refreshing crab and smoked salmon salad, kebbib samak and siyadiya risotto, from April 8 to June 30 (Tuesday to Sunday). It is available from 6pm to 12am, at BD52 for two people.

Join Bahrain Bay Kitchen for its extraordinary Hawaiian

Brunch tomorrow (April 4), from 1pm to 4pm. Savour vibrant flavours and island favourites, at BD35 including soft beverages and BD48 inclusive of a selected beverage package.

Pamper yourself with a relaxing Moroccan Hammam Experience at The Spa. The application of black soap deeply cleanses and purifies, followed by a full-body exfoliation with kessa gloves and a Miel d'Ambre body scrub. It is available everyday, from 10am to 10pm. The 60-minute experience is priced at BD85 from Sunday to Wednesday, and BD95 from Thursday to Saturday and on public holidays.

For details, contact 17115500 or 17115045.

DELICIOUS DINING AT DILMUN CLUB

GATHER your family and friends and head down to the Dilmun Club in Saar for an array of decadent dining experiences.

Indulge in any curry and a beverage on Monday for BD5.500.

On Tuesdays, guests can enjoy a pie and a beverage for BD5.

The club also hosts its steak night every Wednesday, which costs BD20 for two steaks and a beverage.

The club's famous brunch will also be held tomorrow, from 1pm to 5pm, along with live music. It costs BD18 (all inclusive), BD12 for food only and BD6 for children aged above six. Don't miss out on the club's Saturday Roast. Guests can enjoy a full carvery buffet, from noon to 4pm for BD5.500.

For bookings, call 17690926.

GRAND NATIONAL RACES TO BE SCREENED LIVE

THE British Club Bahrain will host a live-screening event to watch the Grand National races, a series of world-class races held at Aintree Racecourse in Aintree, Merseyside, England. The event is open to all on Saturday, and non-member rules apply.

For more information, contact reception @britishclubbahrain.com or call 17728245.

Weekly Entertainment



SUMPTUOUS: Brunch at Wild

SHERATON LINES UP WILD BRUNCH

GATHER your loved ones and visit Sheraton Bahrain for a flavour-packed weekend.

Enjoy delicious bites, refreshing beverages and live entertainment at The Wild Brunch, tomorrow from 12.30pm to 5pm. Guests can also enjoy music by a DJ, as well as additional foods and drinks from 5pm to 9pm at an extra cost. It costs BD36net per person with soft beverages and BD46net per person with selected beverages. A free flow package is also available at BD186net per person.

Don't miss out on The Wild's Express Lunch, which features a new menu with vibrant flavours from around the world, including Spanish, Asian, British, Italian, Peruvian, and many more. Explore the dishes every day from noon to 3pm, at BD10.500net, inclusive of water and homemade iced tea.



Be mesmerised by authentic Persian cuisine at Golestan Persian Grill. Vibrant flavours and an array of traditional dishes, from fragrant kebabs to unique house specialties, will make for an unforgettable evening. It is open everyday, from noon to 3pm, 7pm to 11pm on weekdays, and noon to 4pm and 7pm to 11pm on weekends.

For details and bookings, contact 17533533 or 38885409.

BRAIN-BUSTERS

Quizmaster 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) In China, it was discovered that what breed of dog was being disguised to look like panda bears at a zoo?
- 2) In 1997, David Wolf became the first American to vote from where?
- 3) What paper is used to test acid and alkali?
- 4) Whose treasure was buried in *Treasure Island*?
- 5) What does UHF stand for when tuning a radio or television?
- 6) Which well-known American musician

1. Chow Chow
2. Space
3. Litmus
4. Captain Flint
5. Ultra High Frequency
6. Steve Wonder
7. Pitelli

ANSWERS

MOVIE TIME

HEAD down to CINECO Seef to watch an array of English-language films being shown this weekend.

A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG-15)

A mysterious portal pulls four misfits into the Overworld, a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination. To get back home, they will have to master the terrain while embarking on a magical quest with an unexpected crafter named Steve.

Actors: Jason Momoa, Jack Black, Emma Myers
Timings: 10.45am, 3.15pm, 7.45pm, 12.15am

THE DAY THE EARTH BLEW (PG)

Porky and Daffy, the classic animated odd couple, turn into unlikely heroes when their antics at a local bubble gum factory uncover a secret alien mind control plot.

Actors: Eric Bauza, Candi Milo, Peter Macnical
Timings: 11am, 1pm, 5pm, 7pm

A WORKING MAN (15+)

Levon Cade left his profession behind to work construction and be a good dad to his daughter. But when a local girl vanishes, he is asked to return to the skills that made him



a mythic figure in the shadowy world of counter-terrorism.

Actors: Jason Statham, David Harbour, Michael Peña

Timings: 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.30pm, 2am

NOVOCAINE (15+)

When the girl of his dreams is kidnapped, a man turns his inability to feel pain into an unexpected advantage as he fights a bunch of thugs to get her back.

Actors: Jack Quaid, Amber Midthunder, Jacob Batalon
Timings: 1pm, 5.30pm, 10pm, 2.30am

LOCKED (15+)

When Eddie breaks into a luxury SUV, he steps into a deadly trap set by a vigilante who delivers his own brand of twisted justice. Trapped inside the car, Eddie soon discovers escape is an illusion and survival is a nightmare.

Actors: Anthony Hopkins, Bill Skargard
Timings: 11.15am, 3.30pm, 7.45pm, 12am

HOOKED ON SEAFOOD!

GET ready for a variety of delicious offerings at the InterContinental Bahrain this weekend.

Don't miss out on the Hook's Seafood Night at Regency Tent. It features interactive live stations, signature dishes and refreshing ocean-inspired beverages. Indulge in freshly grilled fish with butter sauces, seafood ramen, squid ink seafood pasta, lobster and prawn thermidor and more.

Available on April 10, from 6.30pm to 10.30pm, it costs BD24net for soft beverages and BD32net for unlimited selected beverages.

Elements Pool and Lounge is hosting Soulful Evenings with the talented duo Emna and Rafaat, a limited-time live performance that blends traditional Arabic melodies with modern lounge vibes.

It will be held every night starting from tonight until April 19, except on Mondays, from 9.30pm to 12.30am. The schedule could change on days when football matches are held.

Join Rigani for a lovely Easter Brunch with a Greek twist, blending Orthodox and Catholic

traditions. Guests will enjoy an exquisite culinary experience, live entertainment and cultural activities, all set in an elegant and family-friendly atmosphere. It will be held on April 20, from 2pm to 6.30pm at Rigani, Regency Tent. It costs BD18net, inclusive of the buffet, and BD26net with unlimited house spirits. Children aged six to 12 eat for BD10.



EXQUISITE: Duck confit with vegetables

Guests can also celebrate Easter with a dinner on April 19, from 9pm to 1am. A variety of classic dishes will be served including mageiritsa soup, tsougrisma and sweet tsoureki. It's priced at BD16net for the buffet and BD24net inclusive of unlimited house beverages. Children aged six to 12 dine for BD10net.

Meanwhile, guests can head to Legendz SteakHouse on April 30 to savour a unique seven-course menu inspired by classic French haute cuisine. Celebrate the essence of French gastronomy with refined flavours, elegant plating and masterful technique. It costs BD42, with beverage pairing, on April 30, from 6.30pm to 10pm.

For details, call 36967701.



FESTIVE: Easter table decoration



VARIETY: Seafood Night

Pulse of Pop

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



HERO: Dante in the series

A DULT animated series *Devil May Cry* is out now on Netflix.

Based on the namesake Japanese video game franchise by Capcom, the show follows demon hunter Dante, voiced by Johnny Yong Bosch, who fights sinister forces at the portal between the human and demon realms, with the fate of both worlds resting in his hands.

Creator and showrunner Adi Shankar said that fans of the beloved game will have a good time watching the eight-

DEMON HUNTER

episode adaptation, which he has been tirelessly working on with his development partner Alex Larsen since its announcement in 2018.

“Rest assured, we are working very hard because we love the franchise and because we want to deliver something great,” Adi said in an interview.

“Our goal wasn’t just to pump out another animated

show. My goal is to make one of the best shows on the Netflix platform,” he added.

Released in 2001 for PlayStation 2, the game is loosely based on the Italian poem *Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri, with allusions like the lead character’s name - players assume the role of ‘Dante’.

During its development, it was initially intended

to be a part of Capcom’s *Resident Evil* franchise, but later became its own title as the staff felt it fit better as a standalone.

The game was met with positive critical acclaim and quickly earned a dedicated fan-base. The franchise currently consists of five video games released across several gaming consoles and on PC.

MUSICAL CROSSROADS

A MERICAN actor and musician Djo, aka Joe Keery, is set to drop his third studio album *The Crux* tomorrow.

The synth-pop creation dives into themes of community, collaboration and character, with the concept being a hotel that houses guests who are at crossroads in their lives.

The project is expected to be a follow-up to Joe’s previous release *Decide* (2022), which earned breakthrough success last

year when the song *End of Beginning* became the sixth most streamed track of 2024 on *Spotify*, after it became viral on *TikTok*.

“I didn’t plan for that to happen, you know? The fact that people really connect with the song is amazing. Then, to be able to sing it as a massive group is beyond my wildest dreams,” Joe said in an interview.

The artist is best known for playing Steve Harrington in the *Netflix* series *Stranger Things*.



TALENT: Joe

SLICE OF CULTURE

V IETNAMESE-AMERICAN author Carolyn Huynh’s second novel *The Family Recipe* has hit the shelves.

Father of estranged adult children Duc Tran, who is the founder of the national Vietnamese sandwich chain Duc’s Sandwiches, has decided to retire.

He informs the five siblings that in order to get their inheritance, they must revitalise run-down shops in undesirable, old-school locations across Houston, San Jose, New Orleans and Philadelphia within a year.

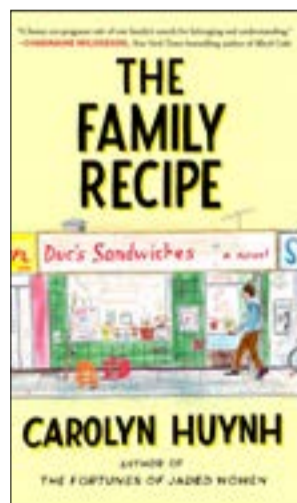
The only one without a shop is the bachelor son, but

if he gets married before the year’s up, the inheritance goes to him.

Carolyn’s writing tends to focus on the Vietnamese-American identity in a humorous manner, taking inspiration from her mother’s tall tales, superstitions, the diaspora, and memory, both real and imaginary.

“I use memory as a way to write stories I wish I could have had,” she said in an interview.

“I always have hopecore endings. It’s part of my writing ethos to create the happy endings I wish we could get as a diaspora and move more towards



RELEASED: The book cover

generational healing,” she added.

‘Hopecore’ is an emerging narrative, where individuals actively seek joy and positivity in the world around them.

A GROUP of Bahrain-based creatives is set to bring alive a tragic love story on screen, following the release of the single *Thirike* (‘return’) from the short film, *Dice Death*, which is set to release this year, writes Melissa Nazareth.

The track’s video on *YouTube* has hit more than 1,000 views since it dropped on Sunday.

Directed by Ranju Ransh, 35, the Malayalam language movie was shot across five days at various locations in the kingdom, including Buri, Um Al Hassam and Andalus Garden in Manama.

“*Dice Death* is the story of a young, vibrant person and his tragic love,” a representative of the production told *GulfWeekly*.

OF LOVE AND DEATH



PROMOTIONAL: The film’s poster

“*Thirike* is the lyrical video of the song. We can’t wait for everyone to watch it and we look forward to the release of the film,” she added.

Insurance professional Sreejith Sreekumar has penned the lyrics for the track, composed and sung by corporate executive

Unni Krishnan, mixed by Kerala-based programmer Biju Rajan and recorded at Gouri Digital Bahrain studio. Accountant Hariz Ekachu, known for his many albums and short films, is the editor and photography director.

The song is available on *Ransh Creations* on *YouTube*.

Extra spice for Tsunoda's homecoming at Suzuka

YUKI Tsunoda's elevation to a Red Bull seat in time for his home Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka this weekend has changed the whole dynamic of the third round of a Formula One season so far dominated by McLaren.

Red Bull's brutal demotion of Liam Lawson to the Racing Bulls team after just two races has finally handed Tsunoda the chance to take on the role of teammate to four-time world champion Max Verstappen.

As the only Japanese driver on the grid, Tsunoda was always going to get plenty of attention but his weekend will now be the subject of intense scrutiny as he navigates the RB21 around the figure-of-eight track south of Nagoya. "(It) couldn't be a crazier situation than this, like first race, debut with the Red Bull car, also in the home grand prix," Tsunoda said.

"You know, I think the amount of pressure I'm going to get will be definitely one of the most I'm going to get in my life.

"And also the big challenge



ALL SET: Tsunoda poses in front of the Red Bull car

ahead is that you have to get used to it as soon as possible in order to perform straight away in Suzuka, which I need to."

Tsunoda, in his fifth season in Formula One, has perhaps wisely limited his expectations to finishing in the top nine as he takes up a role that has proved a poisoned chalice to many a driver before Lawson.

New Zealander Lawson has put a brave face on his demotion but will surely be determined to do his best to make Red Bull regret their decision as he returns to a familiar car at a circuit he knows well from his days in Japan's Super Formula.

From the evidence of Melbourne and Shanghai, Red Bull will have to show clear improvement to

challenge McLaren at Suzuka unless Sunday's forecast rain produces the sort of chaos in which Verstappen thrives.

The Dutchman, who trails McLaren's Lando Norris by eight points in the drivers' standings, will otherwise need to squeeze a bit more pace out of his car if he is to become the first driver to win four straight Japanese Grands Prix.

Mercedes are already 21 points ahead of Red Bull in the constructors' championship after the team's best start to a season since 2021.

George Russell's two third places along with a fourth and eighth for teenager Andrea Kimi Antonelli are evidence of a consistency the team has struggled to produce in recent years and they are

the most likely challengers to pacesetters McLaren.

Oscar Piastri's victory in China gave McLaren three straight wins for the first time since 2012 and he and Norris, who won in Australia, will resume their personal duel while looking to collect as many points as possible while some rivals struggle.

Ferrari's threatened challenge has yet to materialise despite the twin threat of Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc and it hit a major roadbump in China where both cars were disqualified for technical infringements.

The team will be certain to ensure both cars are compliant on Sunday but they will also need more performance if seven-times world champion Hamilton is to have a chance of a sixth win, or Leclerc a first, at Suzuka.

Fernando Alonso won twice in Japan in 2006 and 2008 but has yet to finish a race this season for Aston Martin, while Carlos Sainz, third last year for Ferrari, is another grand prix winner yet to look entirely comfortable in his new home at Williams.

MAX SAYS GOODBYE 'FOR NOW' TO HONDA

MAX Verstappen has hinted at a future relationship with Honda after the Japanese engine maker's highly successful partnership with Red Bull finishes at the end of the Formula One season.

Honda engines have fired the 27-year-old Dutchman to four successive world titles with Red Bull but from 2026 they will be powering the cars of the Aston Martin team.

At a Formula One fan day run by Honda in Tokyo yesterday, ahead of this weekend's Japanese Grand Prix, Verstappen expressed his gratitude.

"It's been a ride that I

enjoyed a lot," he told fans after driving the RB16B, the car in which he won his first world title, on the streets of Japan's capital.

"Of course before we started working with Honda, we had our success. But I could have never imagined the heights that we got to, winning four championships together.

"I want to try and just enjoy the weekend, try to go as fast as you can, but it's more about also just remembering all that we have achieved together in the sport and who knows, of course, in the future as well?"

"You know what can be done. So it's like a goodbye for now, but that's it. I'm still quite young and you never



CHAMP: Max

know what happens in the future."

Verstappen's comments will further fuel speculation that he may not see out his contract at Red Bull, which runs through the 2028 season.

Media reports have suggested that the Dutchman has performance-related exit clauses that would allow him to leave if the Red Bull car was not competitive.

Former F1 driver Juan Pablo Montoya said he thinks Aston Martin would make Verstappen a hugely tempting offer if he had cause to trigger those clauses.

03 Japanese Grand Prix Suzuka

Apr 6 Distance: 53 laps – 307.471km Lap: 5.807km

SUZUKA INTERNATIONAL RACING COURSE

2024 winner
Max Verstappen
(Red Bull)

Lap record: 1:30.983, **Lewis Hamilton** (2019)

Max speed: 311.5km/h
Average speed: 161.3km/h

Timing sector
Corner / gear
DRS detection
DRS
Overtaking opportunity

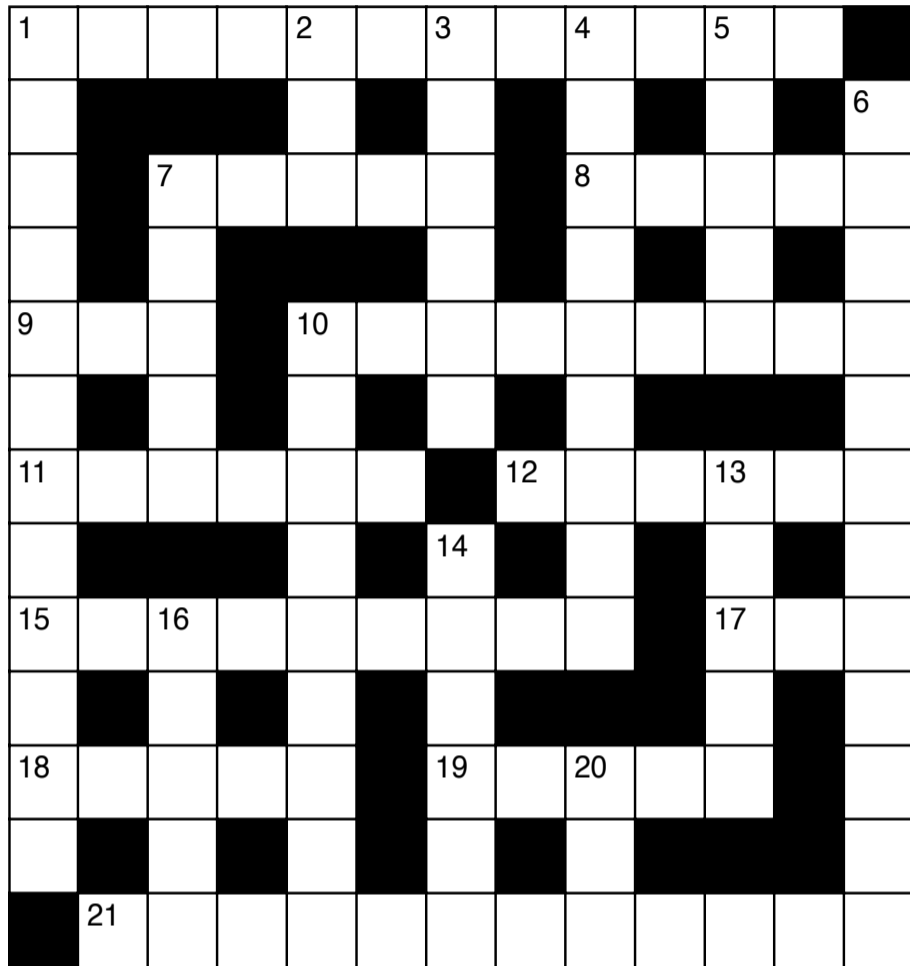
Sources: FIA, Mercedes F1 DRS: Drag Reduction System © GRAPHIC NEWS

Time Out



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 Dell service provider
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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Relation by marriage (7-2-3)
7. Frock (5)
8. Bet (5)
9. Throw (3)
10. Flags (9)
11. Thespians (6)
12. Minor (6)
15. Will (9)
17. Circuit (3)
18. Approaches (5)
19. Tale (5)
21. Steam (12)

DOWN

1. Hair oil (12)
2. Gardening tool (3)
3. Holiday place (6)
4. Paper-seller (9)
5. Quarrel (5)
6. Pharmacist's instructions (12)
7. First public appearance (5)
10. Exceeded (9)
13. Inane (5)
14. Logic (6)
16. Plumed military headdress (5)
20. Eggs (3)

who, what, where, when

- WHO...plays Chili Palmer in the films *Get Shorty* and *Be Cool*?
- WHAT...was named Best Motion Picture of the Year at the 2005 Oscars?
- WHERE...is the television soap *Coronation Street* set?
- WHEN...did Zimbabwe gain independence from the UK?
- WHO...was picked to lead the European Ryder Cup team in 2008?
- WHAT...two countries border Uruguay?
- WHERE...was Geir Haarde the Prime Minister?
- WHEN...did flanker Neil Back make his England rugby union debut?

just so

TALK
P

C MUTT ♂

LINE
LINE
LINE
LINE
LINE
LINE

hour hour hour dawn

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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK

ACROSS: 4. Apology; 8 Ambush, 9 Germaine; 10 Secret; 11 Edible; 12 Gangster; 18 Greenery; 20 Cohere; 21 Desist; 22 Insight; 23 Rebuff; 24 Primary

DOWN: 1 Massage; 2 Obscene; 3 Assess; 5 Preserve; 6 Limpid; 7 Gentle; 13 Together; 14 Devious; 15 Mystify; 16 Corner; 17 Medium; 19 Eleven

JUST SO: Hot dog, Made in Japan, Money, Old maid.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN: George I; Play it - its a brass instrument; Croatia; 1690; Reginald Maudling; Terence; South Africa; 1982.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work pad space ...