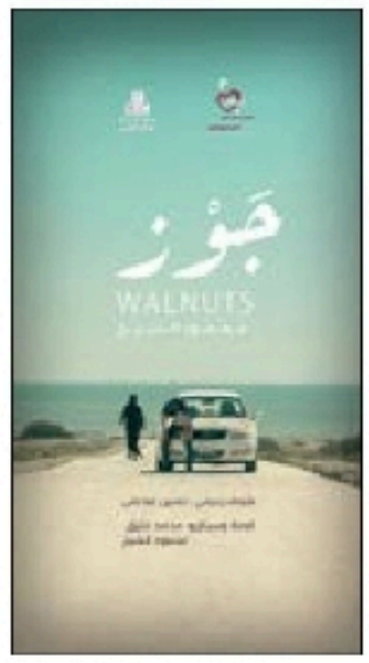
Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

June 20-26, 2024 | BAHRAIN.OURS.YOURS. | Vol 23 - Issue 25

www.gulfweekly.com | GDNlife | facebook.com/gulfweeklyonline | gulfweekly | gulfweeklyonline

Fighting the enemy within



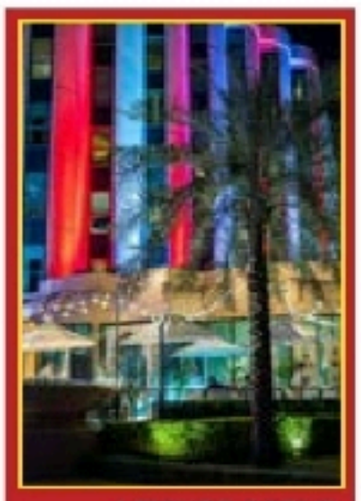
POWERFUL: The film's poster



ART MEETS POETRY
Book release
SEE PAGE 2



SOULFUL SOUNDS
New music album
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE
Culture, dining & more
SEE PAGES 4-5



BREAKFAST OF CHAMPS
Meet, greet and eat
SEE PAGE 5



FILM REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

A BAHRAINI filmmaker is highlighting the struggles of women with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) and celebrating their resilience and the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity.

Director and co-writer Mahmood Alshaikh wrapped up the shooting for *Jooz* (Arabic for walnuts) last month, which powerfully portrays a woman's battle to secure a better future for herself and her family, despite the severe health and social challenges that she faces.

It's so named as the walnuts cracked and eaten in the film symbolise Narjes, the main character in the story.

Jooz is poised to make an impact at film festivals and special screenings soon, following its presentation at a Bahrain Sickle Cell Society event recently.

SCD is an inherited blood disorder that interferes with the delivery of oxygen to the tissues.

World Sickle Cell Day is observed on June 19 each year and the Global Alliance of Sickle Cell Disease Organisations announced this year's theme as 'Hope Through Progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally'.



EMOTION: A scene from the film

"The Bahrain Sickle Cell Society reached out to collaborate on creating a short film that highlights the struggles of women with the disease," Mahmood told *GulfWeekly*.

"Inspired by this, Mohamed Atiq, the co-writer of this film, and I decided to craft a deeply human story filled with emotions, portraying the challenges faced by sickle cell patients.

"The film follows Narjes, a 30-year-old woman suffering from SCD, who tries to restart her life after the death of her daughter. She works as a school bus driver and plans to have another child, but faces a setback with her husband who has lost his zest for life," he added.

Jooz is set to be shown at film festivals and special screenings have also been planned, details of which will be announced soon, according to Mahmood.

"As of now, the film has only been shown at an event organised by the Bahrain Sickle Cell Society," the 39-year-old added.



DIRECTOR: Mahmood

Though Mahmood and his team are thrilled at what the future holds for *Jooz*, the director reminisces memories of making the film.

There were many challenges, from delayed filming to subsequent time constraints, but the crew, determined to share Narjes' story with the audience, persisted.

"One of the primary challenges was the tight schedule and limited budget," Mahmood, who owns Frame Box for Artistic Production and is a director at *Bahrain TV*, revealed.

"Although the screenplay was completed three months before the event, filming was delayed due to various issues from the organisers.

"This left the team with only two days for filming and two days for editing before the premiere and we had to maintain high production quality.

"We also had to move between filming locations across Bahrain and complete shooting before sunset, which placed immense pressure on the team to accomplish their goals within the tight time-frame."

Despite the hurdles and budget limitations, the team managed to complete filming.

Jooz has been jointly produced by Frame Box for Artistic Production and Bahrain Sickle Cell Society.

"The film powerfully portrays the struggles and resilience of women with sickle cell disease and we cannot wait to see the impact it makes," the Sanad resident, who has a degree in multimedia from Bahrain University, noted.

The team's previous feature film *Rose Water* was screened at several international festivals and won multiple awards. The crew is currently preparing for another feature film, scheduled for production in 2025.



CREW: The *Jooz* team

THE TEAM

DIRECTOR: Mahmood Alshaikh
WRITERS: Mohamed Atiq and Mahmood Alshaikh
CAST: Hussein Abdali, Shaima Rahimi
GUEST STAR: Yahya Abdulrasool

Verses of hope



BOOK REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gdnmedia.bh

EXPLORING the power of visual and lyrical imagery, Bahrain-based poet and artist Sudeep Deshpande is set to release his first solo book of poems by the end of this summer.

In his Hindi book titled *Tairti.. Doobti.. Lakeerein Meri* (Hindi: My lines... sinking in love and floating on hope), the 43-year-old creative is inviting readers on a captivating journey through life, society, women's empowerment and patriotism, through 50 poems and 50 abstract paintings.

"This unique book blends the power of poetry with the evocative beauty of abstract paintings, creating a multi-sensory experience for the reader," he told *GulfWeekly*.

"Each poem delves into a different theme, offering a poignant and thought-provoking perspective on the world around us."

Curated from a two-decade-long collection, the book is Sudeep's first foray into publishing on his own, though his work first appeared in *Angst of Belonging and Not Belonging* in the form of an English poem.

This was followed by co-authoring *Hum Seerat* (Hindi: Our nature) with Bahrain-based writer Nivedita Roy earlier this year.



EXPRESSIVE: **One of Sudeep's previous artistic pieces**

"I have been writing in both English and Hindi," he explained.

"I enjoy Hindi's structure of expression and to be able to explore this 'structure' has always been my intention and in doing so, it becomes education.

"Writing in Hindi has its own beauty. Having been brought up in an art environment, listening to Hindi music and Urdu poetry, Ghazals (poems reflecting spiritual and romantic love) have been a crucial part of my upbringing for which I sincerely thank both my parents.

"And as I said, writing in Hindi allows you to express in a certain structure, it allows you to blend with Urdu where one word can express the emotion of an entire line. That is what intrigues me.

"Although my mother tongue is Marathi, writing in Hindi and English has always been something I look forward to."



ABSTRACT: **The book cover of the new collection**



BRUSH: **A piece of art featured in Sudeep's latest book**



Sudeep

Published by India-based Puffin Publishers, four major themes interplay throughout the book - exploring life's depths, celebrating the strength of women, patriotism and national pride; and an homage to great minds.

When exploring life's depths, Sudeep dives into its various facets, encouraging readers to embrace a positive outlook and find meaning in love, loss, hope, and resilience.

In the second theme, he celebrates the strength, resilience, and achievements of women, urging readers to recognise and appreciate their contributions to society.

The third section showcases Deshpande's deep love for India through simple yet evocative words, while also pondering on some of his concerns about the country, inviting readers to engage in meaningful dialogue and strive for a better future.

In the fourth section, his compositions pay tribute to the countless inspiring individuals who have shaped India's history and culture, offering a glimpse into their lives and achievements.



CO-AUTHOR: **Sudeep's last book, co-created with Nivedita**

Paired with each poem is one of Sudeep's abstract art pieces, carefully chosen to mirror the emotions in the written piece.

"Some thoughts demand a certain palette of colour and need to be expressed in the form of a painting," he explained.

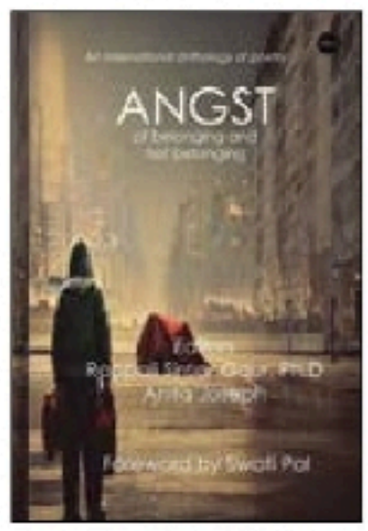
"Some emotions need a certain dimension, they need to be shown with their shadows and therefore are best interpreted through sculpture.

"Similarly, some emotions can be precisely said through lines, through text and hence they are transformed into poetry.

"And then there are some experiences that come with a range of emotions. They can be said, expressed, interpreted in both a poem and painting.

"In this collection, my poetry is a series of abstractions - episodes of my time that are best revealed through my pen and my brush."

Although many in Bahrain's art world are familiar with Sudeep's work with his brush, poets and writers can explore his brushes with the pen and his journey over the last 20 years.



ANGST: **The first anthology to which Sudeep contributed**

Throughout this journey, Sudeep's wife Snigdha and his friend Vishal Changrani have been pillars for the creative, helping him grow and evolve as an artist.

And although editing work continues on the book, which is expected to be published by the end of August, Sudeep is already busy working on his next group abstract exhibition titled *Symphony*, featuring 10 international artists.

For more details, follow @sudeep_deshpande3 on Instagram.

Feel the vibe!


DEEP IN THOUGHT: Debbi and Sean

GET ready to dance your worries away with Bahrain-based band Juniper's Club as their new indie dance EP titled *Goldfish Tears* is set to be released this summer, *writes* Rima Alhaddad.

This is local talents Debbi Francisco and Sean Fernandes' first collection of music put out together as they previously have been dropping singles.

The band explained that the title takes inspiration from the term 'goldfish memory', referring to the popular belief that goldfish have a three-second memory span.

"So imagine this: You're crying, and then you cried so much and then all of a sudden 'what was I crying about? I totally forgot. it's not that big a deal'," Filipino expatriate Debbi told *GulfWeekly*.

The duo are yet to complete their forthcoming indie dance EP, however, Debbi said the song-writing inspiration has been coming from a conversation that took place on a particular night.

"We have a song in the EP called *Message Received*, and literally, that whole thing was based off a single screenshot, and we have a song called *DONTWANTANYBODY* and it's also about that conversation I had with someone, and so are the other songs. the EP is just based on one night, technically."

The song *DONTWANT-ANYBODY* is set to be the band's upcoming single, as they recently dropped a teaser of its music video shot with a Sony Cybershot digital camera, giving the visuals a nostalgic feel.

The indie act revealed that Debbi took the lead for song ideas and concepts for this project.

"What we usually do is, Sean sends me an instrumental idea. And I just pop in on it, see what I can do melodically. And I send it back to him," 26-year-old Debbi explained.

"But for this EP, I sent him three songs in three days and he was like, 'Oh I like this.' Especially the first song that we wrote, there was barely any change. He gave a thumbs-up."

Indian expatriate Sean added that Debbi 'had the ideas' and all that he did 'was to follow that without stepping out of line'.

They also credit their live set members John Goodwin on drums and Ryan James on bass for inspiring them throughout their creative journey.

"We started up with a super dream pop sound, even our live performances were so much more different than they are right now," Debbi added.


LIVELY: Debbi and Sean with John and Ryan

"Back then, our music was twinkling, and cutesy, also our live performances were strictly me and him.

"Over the past year, we started experimenting by adding new members to the live set. That changed us completely. Compared to 2022, when we released our debut single, it's now very punk."

"You could argue that our music lost its original sound, but I would say it gained its soul," Sean added.

Following requests from fans, the two recently performed along with their live band at Bohemia Art Café for the second time in Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

"I mean, the Saudi crowd, wow," Sean, 29, said. "For the first Bohemia show we did, we actually got popular on *TikTok* with hundreds of views, so people came to know more about us and they wanted to see us perform live," Debbi said.

The two emphasised their admiration for the Saudi crowd for 'being there for the music' as they know the songs by heart and sing along.

Juniper's Club's next live performance will take place at The Warehouse in Riyadh on June 28. In their first performance in the Saudi capital, the duo will co-headline with Saudi alternative act Gimmix.

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. **Which country has qualified for the Euro Championship for the first time this year?**
2. **Which DJ performed at the closing ceremony of Euro 2020?**
3. **Who won the very first Euro Championship in 1960?**
4. **Which American band has cowritten and recorded the official Euro 2024 anthem *Fire*?**
5. **Which country was disqualified for the 1992 Euro Championship?**
6. **Which two countries will be hosting the 2032 Euro Championship?**
7. **How many times has England won the European Championship?**

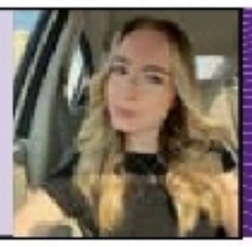


ANSWERS

1. Georgia
2. Martin Garrix
3. Soviet Union (Russia)
4. OneRepublic
5. Yugoslavia
6. Italy and Türkiye
7. Zero

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by Julia Cassano





GAME ON: The hotel's Game Night

GAME FOR SOME FUN?

THE Ritz-Carlton Bahrain has lined up an exciting array of promotional activities this week.

Head down to La Med's Arabic Night for an evening filled with cultural richness and captivating flavours.

It costs BD29 inclusive of tea and Arabic coffee, BD35 with soft beverages, BD45 inclusive of selected beverages and BD55 for a private 'legendary' experience.

The offer is available tonight from 7pm to 10.30pm.

Meanwhile, gather your family and friends and indulge in Thai Lounge's Suay Ma (Ladies' Night), which offers ladies 50 per cent savings on selected beverages. It is available from 6pm to 9pm.

For a night of fun and games, opt for La Plage's Game Night. Visitors can catch the Euro Cup league matches on multiple screens, tuck into delicious food and enjoy great company, as per the game schedule.

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

VIBRANT FLAVOURS ON FOUR SEASONS' MENU

KICKSTART your weekend by choosing from the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay's list of exclusive offers this week.

For a one-of-a-kind seafood extravaganza featuring the best Lebanese cuisine in Bahrain, opt for Byblos Seafood Feast by the Beach.

The menu offers an irresistible six-course menu crafted for seafood enthusiasts. The dishes include grilled lobster, jumbo prawns, seabass and mussels. Dig into the spread from Tuesday to Saturday, 6pm until midnight, at BD45 for two people.

Gather your family and friends and head down to Bahrain Bay Kitchen's Latin American Brunch, where you will be transported to a world of vibrant flavours and pulsating rhythms.

Children under the age of six dine with the hotel's compliments and those aged six to 12 receive a 50 per cent discount.

The brunch is available tomorrow, from 1pm to 4pm, and costs BD35 including soft beverages, BD48 including a selected beverage package and BD65 inclusive of a premium beverage package.

Meanwhile, guests can treat themselves to the hotel's Around the World Tea. Executive pastry chef Imad Boukli and his talented team have specially crafted a delectable assortment of sandwiches, mini tacos and more at Bay View Lounge.

Available every day from 11am to 11pm, it costs BD18 per person with a cup of Brazilian coffee or Asian tea, and BD22 inclusive of sparkling jasmine tea.

Gather your family and friends for the ultimate Japanese dining experience at re/Asian Cuisine, from Wednesday to Sunday, from 7pm. A 10-course set menu costs BD69 per person and BD60 per person for beverage pairing.

Elevate your evenings at Blue Moon Lounge for sky-high bites and drinks. It's available Saturday to Friday, 6pm to midnight, and Sunday 12.30pm to midnight, priced a la carte.

Guests can embark on a relaxing journey with the hotel's Spa Ayurvedic Treatment, which includes all types of massages. It's available from Thursday to Saturday, 10am to 10pm, and the prices start from BD75.

For more information, call 17115046, 171145044 or 17115500.



PRESERVING HERITAGE

FUN and exciting workshops covering a range of activities are back at Al Jasra Handicrafts Centre, organised by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Baca).

A Copper Shaping Workshop will teach participants about the types of copper and their properties. They will see copper artworks and learn about the methods of forming and working on the metal, as well as copper embossing.

The workshop will take place on Sunday and Monday (June 23 and 24) from 4pm to 7pm for those aged 18 and above.

A Rope Carpet Making Workshop will introduce participants to the innovative methods in rug design, especially multi-coloured rope winding techniques. They will learn rope shaping and ways to make two carpet pieces.

The workshop will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday (June 25 and 26), from 4pm to 7pm for those aged 14 and above.

SUMMER ESCAPADES

FOR the ultimate summer experience, choose the Royal Golf Club's (RGC) epic Summer Camp.

Children can enjoy everything - from sports to dance and kindergarten activities. Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) athletes will also give youngsters the opportunity to learn new skills.



DECADENT: **Sweet treats at RGC**

Set to begin from June 30, 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. Special discounts are available for RGC members as well as Riffa Views residents. To register, call 33001261 or 17750777.

Meanwhile, for a one-of-a-kind culinary experience, opt for Links Steak Night. Relish the highest quality cuts, all cooked to perfection, every Wednesday from 6pm. The feast is 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 more information or bookings, call 39007546.



VIBRANT: **Latin American Brunch**

Weekly Entertainment



ALL SMILES: **Children enjoying the hotel's lobby activities**

IT'S FUN-TASTIC CELEBRATIONS

CONTINUE the fabulous and fun Eid celebrations at the Hilton Bahrain this week.

Dive into a refreshing escape and enjoy a range of amenities with the hotel's Day Pool Pass.

Guests can have a whale of a time with full-day access to the pool, free use of inflatable toys, relaxing jacuzzi, gym, steam/sauna, and a free refreshing beverage or ice-cream.



SIZZLING: Hilton Bahrain Wild Wild West Brunch

It's available from 7am to 6pm, priced at BD15 for adults and BD5 for children aged six to 12. For bookings, call 33692007.

The hotel lobby is also offering sweet treats, face painting, meet-and-greets with favourite cartoon characters and more, from 11am to 4pm.

All activities are available until Saturday (June 22).

Get ready for Origin Kitchen and Culture's Wild Wild West Brunch for the most fun-tastic treats in town. It costs BD39net with unlimited beverages and BD28net inclusive of unlimited soft beverages.

Meanwhile, visitors can also explore Origin Kitchen and Culture's Seafood Night filled with an array of the best fresh catches, tonight from 7pm to 10pm. It costs BD32net with unlimited selected beverages and BD25net with unlimited soft beverages.

For a relaxing morning, dig into a lavish breakfast spread from Sunday to Friday, 6.30am to 10.30am, at Origin Kitchen and Culture.

A Lazy Breakfast is also available on Saturday, from 6.30am to 11.30am. Both breakfasts cost BD13net per person.

Visitors can start their weekend off right at Block 44's Afro Series tonight, from 9pm to 2am. A 50 per cent discount will be offered on selected beverages from 9pm to 11pm. Ladies get two complimentary drinks.

Don't miss out on Cocoluna Lounge's fun Fridays, where a DJ and flowing drinks will make for an unforgettable night from 5pm to 7pm for BD10. The lounge also offers three complimentary beverages on Wednesdays, from 7pm to midnight, for Ladies' Night.

For more information, contact 33690081 or 33692013.

POSE AND PEACE

YOGA enthusiasts are being encouraged to take part in an event this weekend as part of International Yoga Day.

The Indian Embassy, in partnership with the General Sports Authority, is celebrating the 10th International Yoga Day tomorrow at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town. It will start from 6.45pm. Visit @indiainbahrain on *Instagram* to register via the Google form.

Spice up social gatherings

A GROUP of foodies in Bahrain are celebrating six years of nourishing their stomachs and souls through monthly meet-ups over breakfast, *writes* **Melissa Nazareth.**

Masala Dosa Meetup, a one-of-its-kind clan in the kingdom, marks its sixth anniversary this month, with plans to host a fun gathering to commemorate the occasion at the end of June.

Masala dosa is a South-Indian breakfast dish resembling a crepe stuffed with a flavourful potato preparation, typically served with lentil and vegetable curry and coconut chutney as sides.

While the love for the dish is what keeps these breakfast champions glued together, it's also a love for face-to-face gatherings, a fast disappearing phenomenon in this day and age of text messaging.

"The meet-ups are a stress buster at the end of the month," radiologist and food enthusiast Dr Asha Pradeep, who has been a member for a year, told *GulfWeekly*. The non-stop banter interspaced with peals of laughter throughout the Eid breakfast session (and even after) were the proverbial proof of the pudding.

Asha even got everyone her homemade kheer, a milk-based dessert with raisins and vermicelli, which was relished and appreciated by all – a testament to the close-knit, encouraging vibe of the tribe.



MEMORIES: **Keyem, left, presenting Neil a farewell card**

The club's motto is 'Meet, greet and eat', and members uphold it by gathering on the last Saturday of every month, for a morning of fun and flavour. They also catch up to celebrate festivals – any excuse to hang out and tuck into delicious masala dosa is welcome! A different location is selected each month, which has led them to discover a host of restaurants in Bahrain, serving interesting versions of the humble dish.

The group's co-ordinator Keyem Thomas, along with Sushma Anil and Neil Desai, founded the club in 2018. Since then, they have met each month, barring during the Covid-19 pandemic, when in-person socialisation had stopped.



SATIATED: **Foodies at the Eid meet-up this month**



HAPPY: Dr Asha

Neil left the island for his hometown in Mumbai, India, in November 2019 as did some other members. However, new ones have joined and at present there are around 40 active members across nationalities including Indian, Pakistani, Filipino, German and English.

Diversity is a common feature not just in nationality but also work-wise, with members from the teaching profession, corporate sector, and athletes, to name a few.

"Everyone works in different fields but at the table we're the same," member Ravi added.

The club also offers a platform for members to exchange knowledge and share experiences with each other. Cooking tips, biking adventures, health advice, photography ideas…

Keyem said the club intends to continue its meet-ups and do something special for the sixth anniversary.

"We're yet to finalise the plans but one thing is for sure, it's going to be a gala time for all of us," he added.

For more details or to join, follow @masaladosameetup on Instagram.



Speak your mind!

GULFWEEKLY has launched a new 'Speak Your Mind' feature where we invite you, our family of readers, to share your queries on the chosen subject with our panel of mental health experts who will respond to a selection of them.

Together, let's get the conversation started!

June's topic is 'Are festivals and holidays an opportunity to reconnect with family?'. Some points to ponder over:

- **Being far away from family.**
- **Face-to-face bonding instead of online messages.**
- **A time to rekindle lost or wounded relationships.**

Share your thoughts in no more than 100 words on gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on *Instagram* by June 23.

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.

Pulse of Pop

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



ARTIST: Levant

POETRY FOR PALESTINE

PALESTINIAN polyglot and rapper Saint Levant's new album *Deira* is out now on all streaming platforms.

The album title, which translates to 'old city', honours a now demolished hotel of the same name in Gaza, which was built by the rapper's parents the year he was born.

"He (Levant's father) built this hotel with mud because it was impossible to import cement at the time," Levant said in an interview.

"Located on the beach, this hotel was one of the most beautiful in Gaza, made up of 22 rooms. It was a true architectural marvel," he added.

The concept album, released on June 7, takes place in what Levant envisions to be a free Palestine. It features several artists including Grammy-nominated R&B singer Kehlani on the track *Allah Yahmeeki*, which is Arabic for 'may God protect you.' The title track, which features 15-year-old Palestinian rapper MC Abdul, was released on February 23.

Levant called the song a 'celebration of Palestinian daily life' and a mixture of his parents' cultures.

"*Deira* is anchored in Algerian culture through its sound (where my mother is from) and in Palestinian culture through its words (the land of my father)," he said.



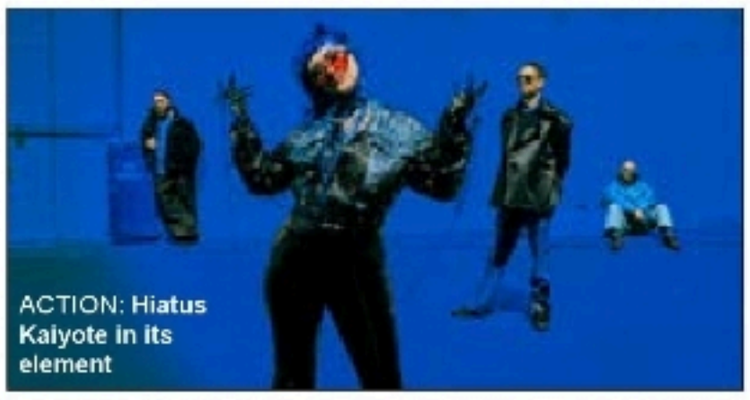
RUSTIC: The album's cover

The rapper and musician, Marwan Abdelhamid, was born in October 2000 in Jerusalem to a Palestinian-Serbian father and a French-Algerian mother. He credits his multicultural upbringing as inspiration for his music, which he considers to be a fusion of backgrounds, specifically French, Arabic and English. His previous work titled *From Gaza, With Love*, released in March last year, was dedicated to the 10 years Levant got to spend in Gaza while growing up.

He is known for his 2022 debut song *Very Few Friends*, which earned two million views on *YouTube* in one month and later gained popularity on *TikTok* and *Instagram*.

The rapper tends to emphasise his Palestinian identity and culture, as well as the Palestinian cause as a whole through his art and performances. He recently highlighted the ongoing 'genocide' in Gaza during his Coachella set.

"As I hope all of you are aware, the people of Gaza have been undergoing a brutal, brutal genocide for the past six months. And the people of Palestine have been undergoing a brutal occupation for the past 75 years," Levant said while addressing his audience.



ACTION: Hiatus Kaiyote in its element

UNINHIBITED MELODIES

JAZZ and soul fans are in for a treat as Australian band Hiatus Kaiyote is set to release its fourth studio album titled *Love Heart Cheat Code* on June 28.

In a recent interview, lead singer and guitarist Nai Palm revealed the different direction taken with recording this album, claiming it was less complex and structured than the band's previous work.

"I'm a maximalist. I complicate everything. But the more you go through things in life, you become more relaxed and uninhibited," Nai said.

"Sometimes you can still have depth and reach people and really stop dancing around the fact: What do you want to communicate to people? And I feel like this album is a result of that clarity for us. We didn't need to spell out complexity if the song didn't call for it."

The album's debut single titled *Everything's Beautiful* was released on January 24. It was followed by the album's announcement on March 27 and release of the second single, *Make Friends*, a celebratory song that honours platonic love.

The captivating cover art is a painting by Toronto artist Rajni Perera, whose work is set to be showcased at the 16th edition of the Sharjah Art Foundation's Sharjah Biennial next year.

Rajni expressed her gratitude for being a part of the album's creative process in a social media post. "This is an exercise in gratefulness to the universe for its intelligence and impeccable timing," she said. "They are one of my favourite bands to ever grace the corner of this Milky Way."

OUT OF THIS WORLD

FASTEN your seat belts as *Space Cadet* is set to fly you to the stars!

The movie will be streamed on *Prime* on July 4.

Emma Roberts plays Rex Simpson, a party girl whose interesting application and help of her best friend Nadine (Poppy Liu) get her into the Nasa training programme, putting the protagonist in a position where she determines to prove herself in a class of qualified astronauts.

Directed and written by Liz W Garcia, the movie marks Emma Roberts' return to comedy.

In an interview, Emma expressed her excitement over re-entering the genre.

The actress said the movie reminded her of her old roles in films such as the 2008 hit *Wild Child*, as well as other staples in the same genre.

"This is one of my favourite scripts I've ever read!" Emma said.

"It reminded me of *Legally Blonde* and *Private Benjamin*.



UP SO HIGH: The movie's poster

Writer/director Liz Garcia is someone I've wanted to work with for so long," she added.

"She wrote the character Rex to inspire people to follow their dreams and I was excited to bring that to life. This is a feel-good movie with lots of laughs, which is what I want to see these days!"

The film is also set to exclusively screen on June 27 at the Space Centre Houston theatre, promising the attendees an otherworldly experience.

MotoringWeekly
The top motoring and motorsport news

Spanish spectacle

THE echoes of Montreal's dramatic Grand Prix still linger, as Formula One hurtles towards Europe, with the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya poised to ignite a pivotal chapter in the 2024 season this weekend during the Spanish Grand Prix.

Buckle up for the storylines both on and off the track which are set to sizzle under the Spanish sun.


WINNER: Red Bull's Max Verstappen crosses the line to win the Spanish GP last year

RAGING RED BULLS

Red Bull emerged victorious in Canada, with Max Verstappen extending his championship lead. Yet, a closer look reveals a potential vulnerability. The car that dominated the early races seemed to struggle with the bumpy Montreal track, particularly on the kerbs.

While the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya is expected to suit Red Bull's strengths, the fierce competition from McLaren and Mercedes in Canada suggests a much tighter battle.

If either team can consistently challenge Red Bull, it could completely reshape the championship picture.

UPGRADE FRENZY

The Spanish Grand Prix has always been a hotbed for upgrades, and with the cost cap in play, teams are likely to be even more strategic this year.

The circuit's location, a short flight from most factories, allows for last-minute tweaks.

Additionally, the upcoming triple-header incentivises early upgrades for maximum impact.

A flurry of aerodynamic tweaks and power unit advancements are expected as teams jockey for an edge.

Barcelona itself, with its diverse mix of corners, serves as a perfect test bed for these upgrades, allowing for data-driven analysis of their effectiveness.

FERRARI STUMBLING?

After a strong start to the season, Ferrari's Montreal performance was a major setback. Failing to reach Q3 with either car and suffering double retirements raised serious concerns about their ability to maintain a title fight.

Whether this was a one-off blip caused by the mixed conditions and a power unit issue with Charles Leclerc's car, or a symptom of a deeper problem, remains to be seen.

Barcelona offers a crucial opportunity for Ferrari to dissect the Canadian debacle, and bounce back and reassert themselves as Red Bull's main challenger.

FRIGIDITY AT ALPINE

The simmering tension between Alpine teammates Esteban Ocon and Pierre Gasly threatens to boil over once again.

After a controversial team order in Montreal, where Ocon was asked to let Gasly pass despite feeling he deserved the position, both drivers remain frustrated.

The situation highlights the delicate balance Alpine needs to maintain.

With two talented drivers vying for similar results, similar internal conflicts could erupt in the future.

Alpine needs to find a way to manage their driver dynamic effectively and unlock the full potential of their duo.

SPOTLIGHT FOR SAINZ

This weekend will be a deeply personal affair for Carlos Sainz. While his fellow Spaniard Fernando Alonso's future is secured at Aston Martin, Sainz remains at a crossroads.

Kick Sauber, poised to become Audi in 2026, and Williams, with hopes pinned on the new regulations, are the frontrunners. Both teams offer opportunities, but the choice is far from straightforward.

While Barcelona could be the stage for a big announcement, Sainz seems determined to prioritise the long-term trajectory of his career over the immediate fanfare of a home race announcement.

The upcoming races in Spain promise a gripping spectacle. The Barcelona heat will not only test the limits of the machinery on track, but also the strategies and decisions made off it.

The answers to these questions will paint a clearer picture of the remaining season, with Barcelona acting as a crucible from which a new championship narrative may emerge.


REEL LIFE: The APXGP car expected to be featured in the film

Brad Pitt returns to grid!

AN exciting fast-paced Formula 1 cinematic experience is set to hit theatres next year.

Created in collaboration with Apple Original Films, the untitled movie will be hitting theaters and IMAX screens in June 2025.

Directed by Joseph Kosinski (*Top Gun: Maverick*) and produced by Hollywood heavyweights Jerry Bruckheimer and Chad Oman, the film promises an adrenaline-pumping immersion into the world of F1.

Adding to the star power is Brad Pitt, who portrays a seasoned driver returning to the grid. He will be joined by Damson Idris as his teammate on a fictional 11th team, APXGP.

This unique collaboration between F1 and Hollywood boasts the involvement of all 10 real F1 teams, drivers, the FIA governing body, and even race promoters, making it a true landmark project.

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton, whose Dawn Apollo Films company is also involved, expressed his excitement: "We want everyone to love it and feel the essence of this sport."

"We've seen all the camera positions... trying to make sure we've got the best positions."

The movie's impact is expected to surpass the popular *Netflix* series *Drive to Survive*.

"There are so many people excited about this sport," Hamilton added, "and the fact that we'll have all the original characters... and then Brad, is pretty cool!"

Hamilton even teased a meeting with Pitt, praising his quick learning and passion for racing.

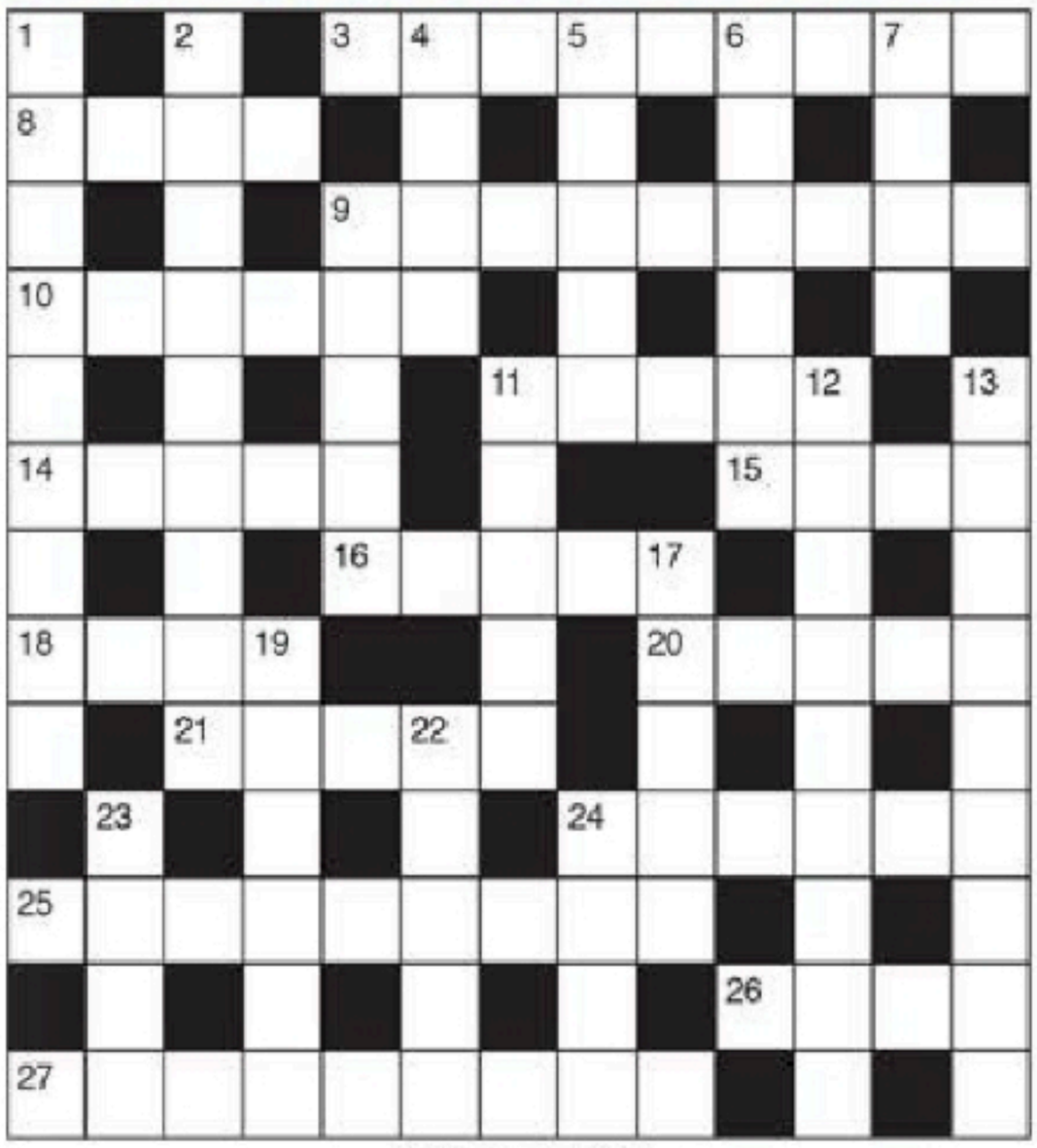
Filming began in 2023 and will continue throughout the F1 season, culminating at the Abu Dhabi finale in December.

Joining the star-studded cast are Academy Award nominees Kerry Condon and Javier Bardem, along with Emmy-winning Tobias Menzies.

Time Out

Hilal Computers
Maximizing performance and efficiency
Dell service provider
Tel: 1729 3749 ext 2220

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

3. Deign (9)
8. Nearest (4)
9. Skill (9)
10. Herald's coat (6)
11. Morsel (5)
14. Ravine (5)
15. Plot (4)
16. Outline (5)
18. Flavour (4)
20. Call up (5)
21. Savoury (5)
24. Envoy (6)
25. Uncivilised person (9)
26. Eager (4)
27. Former (9)

DOWN

1. Incite (9)
2. High-spirited (9)
4. Was in debt (4)
5. Provide (5)
6. Save (6)
7. Destiny (4)
9. Parched (5)
11. Frenzied (5)
12. Slaughter (9)
13. Cruel (9)
17. Wood-joint (5)
19. Opening move (6)
22. Flashlight (5)
23. Couple (4)
24. Name (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO... is the subject of the Philip Glass music-drama *The Photographer*?

WHAT... are the two main languages of Finland?

WHERE... in Africa is the Rufiji River?

WHEN... did Switzerland became a full member of the UN?

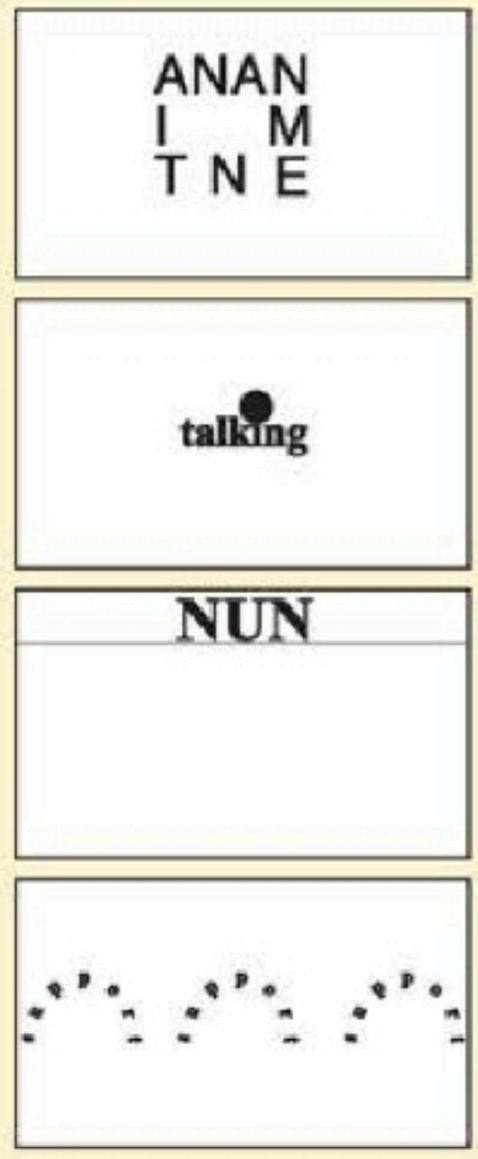
WHO... won the 2006 London Marathon women's race?

WHAT... lake are the Swiss towns of Rapperswil and Richterswil situated on?

WHERE... was the 2006 European Capital of Culture?

WHEN... was the 50th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

just so



darn tough sudoku

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

Last week's sudoku

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Core; 3 Narcotic; 8 Luck; 9 Ligament; 11 Nevertheless; 13 Scrape; 14 Inmate; 17 Overpowering; 20 Tactical; 21 Abet; 22 Cylinder; 23 Mean.

Down: 1 Colonist; 2 Recover; 4 Alight; 5 Challenger; 6 Tress; 7 Cute; 10 Proportion; 12 Heighten; 15 Amiable; 16 Homage; 18 Vocal; 19 Otic.

JUST SO: September. Thirty pieces of silver, Pie in the sky, In a spot.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Robert Peel; Suri; Ukraine; 1958; Renée Zellweger; Bouillé; Romania; 1901.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

GulfWeekly is published by Al Hilal Group and printed at Dar Akhbar Al Khaleej Press and Publishing House (WLL). Editorial: P.O. Box 5300, Manama. Tel: 17620222. Fax: 17622141. Website: www.gulfweekly.com. Managing Editor: Stanley Szecowka. Associate Editor: Andrews Victor. Advertising: P.O. Box 1100, Manama. Tel: 17293131.