



# VERVE

**A STUDENT-LED E-MAGAZINE  
OF JSS PRIVATE SCHOOL AL  
SAFA, DUBAI**

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**MARCH 2023  
ISSUE-11**

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# EDITOR'S DESK

On behalf of TEAM VERVE, we welcome YOU to the 11th Edition - a MONTHLY e - magazine of JSS Private School. We are extremely proud and happy to share some exciting events and programs that were conducted in our school, alongside few excellent contributions from parents and staff. This edition will update you on modern happenings and amuse you with games and riddles, in addition, to exhibiting the capabilities of our faculty community to the world. We would like to thank CEO Sir, Mr. Govindrao Naik, our Principal Ms. Chitra Sharma, and Vice-Principal Ms. Bindhu Rajiv for their ongoing support in our endeavor. We will continue to give our best by enriching our content for your entertainment. You are welcome to share your contributions to Verve on or before the 20th of every month.

Sit back and enjoy this edition of VERVE! and do share in your comments and suggestions to [vervejssps@gmail.com](mailto:vervejssps@gmail.com). Thank you all for your continued support!



# HIGHLIGHTS

*From Kindergarten*

## Sanskriti – The Pride of India

The lovely kindergarteners from more than 13 schools across the UAE gathered in the JSSPS auditorium to participate in an inter-school event, Sanskriti - the Pride of India showcasing their singing and dance talent. The audience was thoroughly entertained and in awe of the budding artists.



## Diversity in Education

Diversity among students in education has a direct impact on their performance. Students tend to perform better in a diverse environment. The lovely bond between The Japanese School and JSSPS have been a remarkable example of diversity in education where the students of both the institutions strive for nothing but the best. This consistent friendship has not only nurtured the students but also given them a platform to exchange educational opportunities.

# Royal Spelling Bee Competition

Words cast Spells in children! That's why they are called Spellings!

They are a form of energy and a gateway to become an effective reader in future! JSSPS Kindergarten is proud to share their school level winners of the Royal Spell Bee Competition 2022-23 conducted on 30th and 31st January.

22 of our little champions have qualified for the next level to be held soon! They were awarded with a winner's certificate and the top 3 ranks with a medal!

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**ROYAL  
SPELLING  
BEE  
KINDERGARTEN  
Winners**

**KEEP TRYING  
KEEP GOING**

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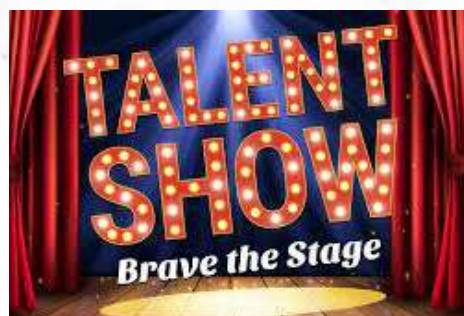
# Introduction to Techno Mania

Introduction to the last and final theme of KG2 - Techno Mania took the lovely kindergartners by surprise where they were introduced to JSSPS Robocop. Their theme would be revolving around robots and its technology including coding. We are looking forward to an amazing learning experience enriched with technology.



# Talent Show - Rising Stars

Talent Show - "Rising Stars" was a much-needed event for our senior most kindergartners, the KG2! It gave them a platform to unwind from the mundane and showcase their hidden talent in front of all. The stage saw some amazing dancers, melodious singers, budding artists, spell bee champions, instrument players, gymnasts, story tellers among many other talents. It was surely an afternoon to remember.



# Run for Reading

Shivansh Singh of KG1-C, JSSPS Kindergarten participated and won a medal in RUN FOR READING, an event organized by the Dubai Municipality at Zabeel Park running track on the 5th of March 2023. It was an achievement for him as well as for the school to run for a stretch of 2 km competing with participants of various age groups.



# Edible Robot

The creative students of KG2 created an edible robot using healthy ingredients available at home. This helped them use their imagination and creativity to create something unique and also fostered the need for healthy fruits and vegetables in our diet.



# Toy Wash

The students of KG1 indulged in a toy care day where they were taught how to take care of their toys. Various stations were set up like scrubbing, cleaning and drying and they diligently took part in the activity.







# HIGHLIGHTS

*from Primary school*

# SCHOOL COUNCELLING WEEK

Every child you pass in the hall has a story that needs to be heard. Maybe you are the one meant to hear it.”- Bethany Hill School Counseling Week 2023, " Let's Connect ," was celebrated from February 6th - 9 th, 2023, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors. School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

Mindset Challenge:

Grade 3-5: Mask Making: The students were encouraged to make 2 masks;

How we feel the world sees us,

How we see ourselves



# TOGETHER WE LEARN BETTER

Students from Sections A and B of Grade 5 visited Al Safa Public School on February 22, 2023. Their visit turned out to be beneficial because it improved both their reading and speaking abilities.



# RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

In JSSPS schools, students play an active role in shaping the school culture. Through the random act of kindness students are empowered to take the lead in efforts to create an inclusive, welcoming environment. Recently, at JSSPS we have decided to appreciate our ancillary staff who work from the wings. Throughout the school, students participated in this Random Act of Kindness.



# WORLD RADIO DAY

Radio is a medium that has remained popular for a long time. It's a platform where we can get information from across the globe, educate the masses, express ourselves across cultures, and of course! Listen to our favorite music.

To commemorate the journey of Radio over decades, Upper Primary celebrated 'World Radio Day' on February 13th with a flurry of events, New Reading for Grade 3, World Radio Day Quiz for Grade 4 where each student came prepared with few questions and conducted a quiz about Radio Day and lastly Grade 5 students pretended to be radio hosts and chatted about anything which came to their mind. They discussed topics that they believed were essential



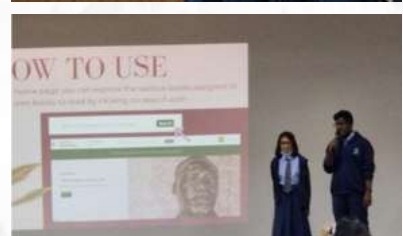


# HIGHLIGHTS

*From Middle school*

# ACHIEVE 3000

Achieve3000 is a reading platform which helps us in several ways like improving our lexile score, reading and writing skills. There was a competition between Middle school classes in November, where the class with the most points by the end of the month would win. Our class-8E won this competition by earning 20,000 points by the end of the schedule. We made a plan for the competition wherein everyone of our class would've to read 3 to 4 books every week. So that we could keep a good pace throughout the competition. Additionally, our teacher-Fareeda ma'am, assigned books to us every week, which encouraged us to use Achieve3000 regularly. It was exciting to compete with other classes as a class together. We developed spirit of teamwork and I believe this was the differentiator, instrumental in us winning the competition. Achieve 3000 has immensely helped our class to improve our reading and writing skill in various levels. Our class was awarded a trophy and each of us got certificates of achievement which made us feel proud. We enjoyed the success and were deservedly recognized; we are indeed privileged to achieve this goal of reading.



# 6B ASSEMBLY DAY

The class assembly of grade 6B was a memorable event, where the theme of forgiveness was explored through a skit and a few thought-provoking quotes. The skit featured a little girl who had accidentally stepped on a wasp but chose to stay still and endure the pain, as she believed that by moving, she might hurt the wasp more than it was hurting her. This powerful act of forgiveness demonstrated how sometimes, we need to let go of our own pain to show compassion towards others. The assembly also included several quotes on forgiveness that emphasized the importance of forgiveness in our lives. Overall, the class assembly of grade 6B was an inspiring and thought-provoking event that encouraged everyone to practice forgiveness in their daily lives.





The image shows two white marble busts of classical figures, likely from the Roman or Greek periods, displayed on a light-colored pedestal. The bust in the foreground is shown in profile, facing right, and features a head with thick, curly hair and a garment with deep, flowing folds. The second bust is positioned slightly behind and to the right, also in profile. The background is a dark, textured wall. A semi-transparent grey horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the word 'GALLERY' in a large, black, serif font.

# GALLERY

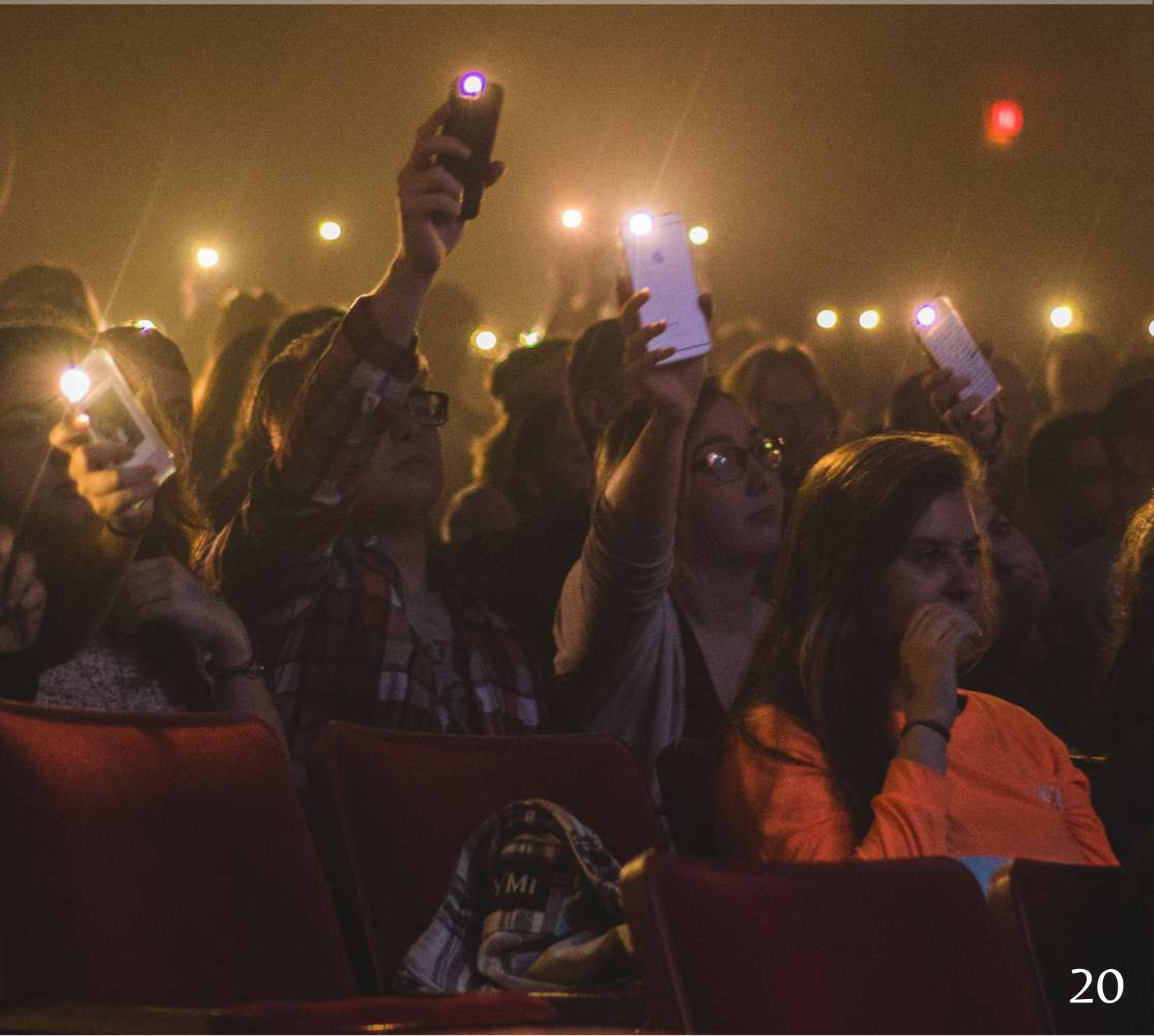


-Shubh Dubey 1E



# NEWS CORNER

# ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



# U2 REWORKS PAST IN THRILLING 'SONGS OF SURRENDER'

Imagine walking into your living room and all your stuff is there, but it's different. The sofa has moved, the bookcase is leaning on a different wall and the framed photos have swapped locations. That's the feeling you get listening to U2's new album.

Songs of Surrender is a “reimagining” of 40 songs from the Irish quartet's deep catalogue, cleverly presented from One to 40. Think of it as a thrilling home makeover.

“I want to tear down the walls that hold me inside,” Bono sings in the new *Where the Streets Have No Name* — lyrics that perfectly fit this sonic experiment. This version of the song is virtually unrecognizable from the one the band made famous in 1987.

That's the point of this exercise led by Bono and The Edge. “Once we surrendered our reverence for the original version, each song started to open up to a new authentic voice of this time,” The Edge writes in the liner notes.



# ACTOR INNOCENT LAID TO REST WITH FULL STATE HONOURS

The mortal remains of noted actor and former MP Innocent were laid to rest on Tuesday at the cemetery of a church in Irinjalakkuda with full state honors. Hundreds, including stars from the tinsel town and state ministers, took part in the funeral procession of the actor-comedian-turned politician. Several people thronged St. Thomas Cathedral to catch a glimpse of their favorite actor.

On Monday, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, state ministers, leaders of various political parties, and senior actors including Mammooty and Mohanlal paid their respects to the actor, along with thousands of people from all walks of life.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled his demise. Innocent began his acting career in 1972, and the last film he acted in was Pachuvum Atbuthavilakkum directed by Anoop Sathyan, son of ace director Sathyan Anthikad.



# ADELE CONFIRMS SHE IS EXTENDING HER LAS VEGAS RESIDENCY AND WILL RECORD SHOWS FOR FILM RELEASE

Adele is extending her Las Vegas residency, telling fans that playing 34 shows to 4,000 people a night was "not enough".

The singer announced the new shows on what was supposed to be the last night of her Weekends With Adele residency in the Colosseum Theatre at Caesars Palace.

The 34-year-old said the concerts will be recorded and later released on film.

In videos shared on social media, Adele can be heard telling the crowd: "Playing to 4,000 people for 34 nights is not enough, and I know that. I know it's not enough, so I am coming back."

She added: "I'll be back for a few weeks in June and I'm going to film it, and I'm going to release it to make sure that anyone who wants to see it can.

"And then I'll be back in summer, from the end of August until fall."



# EX-DRAGONS' DEN STAR KELLY HOPPEN REVEALS BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSIS AFTER AVOIDING MAMMOGRAMS FOR EIGHT YEARS

Former Dragons' Den star Kelly Hoppen has revealed she was diagnosed with breast cancer after eight years of avoiding mammograms. The 63-year-old shared that she was "out of the woods" after being given the all-clear, but acknowledged she could have had a "less happy outcome".

Writing in the Daily Mail, Hoppen said she could not believe her "own stupidity" after missing the routine appointments and said it was a "foolish thing to do".

She wrote: "It's a cautionary tale, a warning to others, not to be too frightened, too harried by the demands of work to go to your appointments."

As she was getting older, Hoppen said she thought she had less of a chance of developing the disease and had "dodged the bullet".





# OASIS FANS THINK REUNION MAY BE ON CARDS AFTER NOEL GALLAGHER'S LATEST COMMENTS

Noel Gallagher says his brother Liam should "get his people to call my people" about an Oasis reunion.

Noel made the comments in an interview with radio station France Inter, days after Liam sparked fresh hope that a reunion may be on the cards by telling a fan on Twitter that "it's happening".

Speaking to the French media outlet, Noel said there's "something in the papers back in England today".

"He should get his people to call my people. They know who they are, they know where we are, stop talking on the f\*\*\*\*\* internet, let's see what you've gotta say," he says.

The interviewer then asks if it's "just a question of a phone call?"

"You would think, right? You would think. He's got my number, he's got my manager's number, call us."

Noel then adds: "But you know what? He won't call."

Asked why, Noel responds: "Why indeed. Why indeed."

The group disbanded in 2009, with Gallagher quitting following a confrontation with his younger brother Liam at the Rock en Seine festival near Paris.





# SPORTS NEWS

# IPL 2023: CSK SPOTS MS DHONI'S SUCCESSOR

CSK IPL 2023: On Monday, a curious event happened at the MA Chidambaram stadium in Chennai. Unsurprisingly, a large gathering of MS Dhoni-intoxicated fans swarmed the arena, cheering 'Dhoni Dhoni' during CSK's practice game, crowding outside a glass-panelled gym room to cheer their 'thala' pulling down weight on a power rack, but it was the baton-passing cheers that sparked the interest. After 25 minutes of cheering for their beloved Dhoni from three galleries, the fans started to chant 'Ben Stokes'.

There is no official word yet on the succession plan, but there is definite hope and belief that in Stokes, Chennai have found their heir apparent. "That call is for Dhoni to take and we have left to his choice," a CSK official said. "Our role as always ends with assembling the team that Dhoni asks for and we are a team that is always process oriented. And that process has started since the time the players landed in the city on March 2 for the preparatory camp," the official said.



# BADMINTON RANKINGS: PV SINDHU DROPS OUT OF WORLD TOP 10

Having failed to defend her women's singles title at last week's Swiss Open, double Olympic medalist P V Sindhu dropped out of the world's top 10 in the latest BWF rankings issued on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old from Hyderabad, who has been struggling this season since returning to action following a long injury lay-off, slipped two places to the 11th spot with 60,448 points.

Swiss Open champion Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty strengthened their world number six position, while women's doubles pairing of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand was static at the 18th position.



# SARINA WIEGMAN RECALLS GOALKEEPER HANNAH HAMPTON AND DEFENDER ESME MORGAN

Sarina Wiegman has handed recalls to Hannah Hampton and Esme Morgan while uncapped Lucy Parker also returns to the fold as the Lionesses prepare for back-to-back fixtures against Brazil and World Cup co-hosts Australia in April.

Twice-capped Aston Villa goalkeeper Hampton returns for the first time since last summer's Euros triumph.

Manchester City defender Morgan won her three senior caps last October and November, while fellow defender Parker, of West Ham, is the only uncapped member of the 25-player squad.

Dropping out from February's selection are the injured Emily Ramsey along with Lotte Wubben-Moy, Katie Zelem and Ebony Salmon. Chelsea forward Fran Kirby continues to be absent as she recovers from a knee injury, while Bethany England also misses out despite scoring six goals since joining Tottenham from Chelsea in January.



# MESSI STATUE TO STAND NEXT TO MARADONA, PELE AT CONMEBOL MUSEUM

Lionel Messi stepped out of Diego Maradona's shadow by leading Argentina to World Cup victory last year and a statue of the diminutive forward will stand alongside those of his predecessor and Brazil great Pele at the South American federation's museum.

Messi, holding a replica of the World Cup trophy, stood beside the life-size statue at an unveiling ceremony at the South American Football Federation (Conmebol) headquarters in Luque, Paraguay before the Copa Libertadores draw on Monday.

The 35-year-old emulated the late Maradona by leading Argentina to its first World Cup triumph in 36 years in Qatar in December.

"I had a very long road, many decisions and defeats, but I always looked ahead and wanted to go for a triumph, for a victory.

"I think that is the most important thing, to fight for your dreams, that everything is possible and to enjoy the game, which is the most beautiful thing there is."



# RONALDO STILL 'VERY IMPORTANT' FOR PORTUGAL, SAYS MARTINEZ

Cristiano Ronaldo remains a "very important" player for Portugal, coach Roberto Martinez said on Sunday after the veteran striker scored a second successive brace in Euro 2024 qualifying against Luxembourg.

The 38-year-old opened the scoring for the Euro 2016 winners by turning in Nuno Mendes' header and slotted home another in the 31st minute as Portugal won 6-0.

Ronaldo, who also netted twice against Liechtenstein on Thursday, increased his records of most men's international appearances and goals to 198 and 122 respectively.

"Cristiano is a unique player in the world, with the highest number of international caps," said Martinez, who has restored Ronaldo to the starting line-up after he was dropped during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

"The experience he has for the dressing room is very important.

"All players have an important role. The younger ones due to their willingness to play and players like Cristiano Ronaldo, Rui Patricio and Bernardo Silva bring experience.



# SAKA SCORES WONDER GOAL AS ENGLAND EASE PAST UKRAINE

Harry Kane underlined his status as England's greatest international goalscorer and Bukayo Saka dazzled again in a comfortable 2-0 win over Ukraine to put Gareth Southgate's team in control of Euro 2024 qualifying Group C on Sunday.

Fresh from scoring his 54th goal in the 2-1 victory over Italy on Thursday, Kane made up for a couple of missed chances to break the stalemate in the 37th minute.

Arsenal youngster Saka, again England's brightest spark, then doubled the lead before halftime with a sensational curler that left the visitors and their 4,000 fans deflated.

"That (goal) was definitely up there. As soon as it left my foot I knew it would be on target so it was one of my better goals," Saka told Channel 4. "I think we've been really mature. We can't just look past these games and magically be in the Euros. We have to qualify first. Football is fun and it's always fun. I just hope the happiness can continue to the end of the season."





# WHY DUBAI WORLD CUP WILL CONTINUE TO MESMERISE RACING FANS

Since its beginning in 1996, the Dubai World Cup meeting has been the biggest annual sporting event in the UAE and the Middle East.

It has repeatedly set new standards and demonstrated why it unfailingly attracts the Who's Who of the horse racing world.

Saturday's 27th edition was no exception and arguably the best meeting ever staged, numerically and statistically.

As many as 130 horses representing every racing jurisdiction on the planet, ridden by the finest jockeys and trained by the greatest tacticians and methodologists of the sport, vied for prizes worth a staggering \$30.5 million across nine world-class races.

What is it about the Dubai World Cup that attracts such a diverse group of horses and horsemen every year to seek out fame and glory at a venue far away from where they belong?

The answer is simple. But nobody sums it up better than Saeed bin Suroor, the most successful trainer in the history of the Dubai World Cup and the winner of over 30 races at the meeting, including nine in the \$12 million showpiece itself.



# ALCARAZ DOMINATES LAJOVIC IN MIAMI OPEN

Carlos Alcaraz swatted aside Serbian Dusan Lajovic 6-0 7-6(5) to keep his title defense on track at the Miami Open on Sunday, as Canadian Bianca Andreescu cruised past American Sofia Kenin in straight sets. Spain's teen sensation won Indian Wells to retake the top ranking last week and kept the momentum going at Hard Rock Stadium as he fired off 26 winners to set up a fourth-round meeting with Australian Open semi-finalist Tommy Paul.

Former US Open champion Andreescu harnessed her mighty serve to topple Kenin 6-4 6-4, sending over seven aces as the 2020 Australian Open winner failed to mount much of a defense after an early exit from Indian Wells.

Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands stunned third seed Casper Ruud 3-6 6-4 6-4, while Denmark's Holger Rune sent over seven aces and 27 winners to stop Argentine Diego Schwartzman 6-4 6-2. The seventh seed next faces American Taylor Fritz.

Fourth seed Daniil Medvedev advanced by walkover after Alex Molcan withdrew, while his Russian compatriot Andrey Rublev beat Miomir Kecmanovic 6-1 6-2. Italian Jannik Sinner beat Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov 6-3 6-4.



# IT'S SO FAST! HAMILTON STUNNED BY THE SPEED OF VERSTAPPEN'S RED BULL CAR

Lewis Hamilton, winner of a record 103 Formula One grands prix and seven world championships, said on Sunday he had never seen a car as quick as Max Verstappen's Red Bull.

The Mercedes driver was overtaken by the double world champion as Verstappen powered from 15th on the grid to second in a Saudi Arabian Grand Prix won by Red Bull's Mexican Sergio Perez.

It was Red Bull's second one-two in two races this season and the only point they have missed so far was the bonus for fastest lap in Bahrain. But we know we didn't make the right decisions over the winter and I think we can regain some of that performance quicker than you would do ordinarily. So everything's not all lost."

Mercedes won eight constructors' titles in a row from 2014 until Red Bull dethroned them last year.

Hamilton, who made his F1 debut with McLaren in 2007, has won six of his titles with Mercedes.



# FRANCES TIAFOE SAYS TENNIS FANS SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE FREEDOM AT MATCHES

American Frances Tiafoe said tennis should loosen its strict rules governing the behaviour of fans attending matches to help attract a younger audience.

According to tennis etiquette, fans should not make any noise during points and should only move to and from their seats when players take a break during the change of ends.

"I think fans should be able to come and go and move around and speak during matches," Tiafoe told Forbes.

"Imagine going to a basketball game and not saying anything."

Tiafoe told the magazine that certain events like Wimbledon should retain some tradition but "outside that, let's start to change things to bring younger fans to the game."

At last year's US Open, Tiafoe electrified the New York crowd during his win over Rafa Nadal in the last 16 en route to reaching his first Grand Slam semi-final.





# ECONOMIC NEWS

# BAHRAIN'S ECONOMIC GROWTH HITS FASTEST IN ALMOST A DECADE, FUELED BY NON-OIL SECTOR

Bahrain's economy grew at the fastest pace since 2013 last year, fueled by an acceleration in non-oil growth, according to preliminary government data.

Overall economic output grew nearly 5 percent, driven by 6.2 per-cent growth in the non-oil sector, higher than anticipated by the government's recovery plan launched in 2021 in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Hotels and restaurants led growth in the non-oil sector, followed by government services and then real estate.

The oil economy shrunk 1.4 percent last year according to the fi-nance ministry, as a result of a decline in production. Higher oil prices have helped neighboring Saudi Arabia become one of the world's fastest growing economies.

Bahrain still relies heavily on energy prices to help balance the budget due to its high debt levels. The IMF estimates the oil price needed for Bahrain to balance its budget is \$122 per barrel this year, the highest among neighbors and way below current levels.



# UAE AND ISRAEL SIGN CUSTOMS AGREEMENT TO ACTIVATE CEPA AND STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Jerusalem: Mohamed Al Khaja, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the State of Israel, and Eli Cohen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, signed a customs agreement between the two countries in the presence of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem.

The signing of the customs agreement will allow the UAE-Israel Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), signed in May 2022, to enter into force.

Commenting on the occasion, Mohamed Al Khaja remarked, "The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the UAE and Israel will serve as a major engine to strengthen economic and commercial ties between the UAE and Israel. We expect the agreement to produce significant mutual economic benefits."



# BLACKROCK WARNS THAT INVESTORS ARE MAKING A MISTAKE BY BETTING ON THE FED TO CUT RATES

Investors are too confident the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this year and could pay the price later, according to asset management giant BlackRock and others on Wall Street.

Market pricing as of Tuesday morning pointed to the Fed holding its benchmark interest rate at current levels and then starting to reduce as early as July, according to CME Group calculations. Those cuts could total as much as a full percentage point by the end of the year, the firm's FedWatch gauge shows.

That comes despite multiple public statements from central bank officials, who indicated in their "dot plot" unofficial forecast last week that they see probably another quarter percentage point hike and then no cuts at least through the end of 2023.

The expectation for cuts would be consistent with a recession and an accompanying fall in inflation, assumptions that Wall Street strategists think are dubious.





# ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE FED WILL DO NEXT IS TO LOOK AT REGIONAL BANK STOCKS

Markets have changed their mind — again — about what they think the Federal Reserve will do next week regarding interest rates.

In a morning where more banking turmoil emerged and stocks opened sharply lower on Wall Street, traders shifted pricing to indicate that the Fed may hold the line when it meets March 21-22.

The probability for no rate hike shot up to as high as 65%, according to [CME Group data](#) Wednesday morning. Trading was volatile, though, and the latest moves suggested nearly a 50-50 split between no rate hike and a 0.25 percentage point move. For most of Tuesday, markets indicated a strong likelihood of an increase.

Chairman [Jerome Powell](#) and his fellow Fed policymakers will resolve the question over raising rates by watching macroeconomic reports that continue to flow in, as well as data from regional banks and their share prices that could provide larger clues about the health of the financial sector.



# LONG-AWAITED FED DIGITAL PAYMENT SYSTEM TO LAUNCH IN JULY

The Federal Reserve's digital payments system, which it promises will help speed up the way money moves, will debut in July.

FedNow, as it will be known, will create "a leading-edge payments system that is resilient, adaptive, and accessible," said Richmond Fed President Tom Barkin, who is the program's executive sponsor.

The system will allow bill payments, money transfers such as paychecks and disbursements from the government, as well as a host of other consumer activities to move more rapidly and at lower cost, according to the program's goals.

Participants will complete a training and certification process in early April, according to a Fed announcement.





# CURRENT AFFAIRS

# MCCARTHY SENDS LETTER TO BIDEN URGING MORE ROBUST NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DEBT CEILING

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy urged the White House in a letter sent Tuesday to start more robust negotiations over raising the nation's borrowing limit, the first major action in weeks on either side of the debt ceiling issue.

McCarthy writes “with each passing day, I am incredibly concerned that you are putting an already fragile economy in jeopardy by insisting upon your extreme position of refusing to negotiate any meaningful changes to out of control government spending.”

McCarthy also proposed a series of places to start saving money including reclaiming unspent Covid-19 relief funds and strengthening work requirements for social programs. As of the end of January, some \$90.5 billion in federal Covid-19 pandemic funding has not been obligated and has not expired, according to the US Government Accountability Office.

That's out of the roughly \$4.6 trillion in pandemic relief and recovery funding that Congress approved in six packages since early 2020



# BLINKEN SUBPOENAED BY TOP REPUBLICAN INVESTIGATING BIDEN ADMINISTRATION WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

The Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Michael McCaul, electronically transmitted a subpoena to the State Department on Tuesday morning for a dissent cable written by US diplomats serving in Afghanistan before the US withdrawal from the country, according to a committee aide.

The subpoena will be physically delivered to the State Department later on Tuesday, the aide said.

The issuing of the subpoena comes after months of McCaul asking the department for the dissent cable, which his team views as a vital piece of information as they investigate the Biden administration's withdrawal from Afghanistan. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has told the committee that he opposed sharing the document because he was concerned about it having a chilling effect on diplomats' use of the channel, which is a confidential way for them to share concerns with top State Department officials.

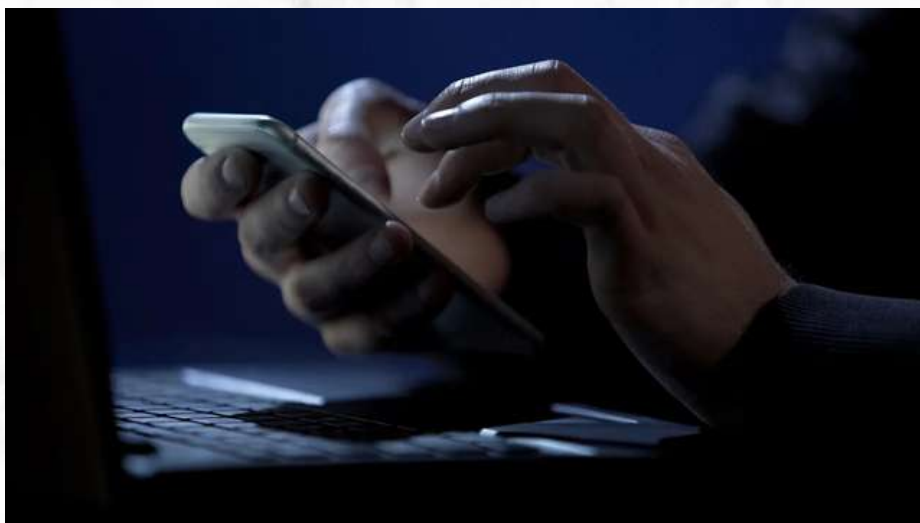


# WHITE HOUSE SAYS 50 US OFFICIALS TARGETED WITH SPYWARE AS IT ROLLS OUT NEW BAN OF HACKING TOOLS

At least 50 US government officials are suspected or confirmed to have been targeted by invasive commercial spyware designed to hack mobile phones, a senior US administration official told reporters on Monday, revealing a far bigger number than previously known.

The revelation came as President Joe Biden on Monday issued an executive order banning US government agencies from using spyware that is deemed a threat to US national security or are implicated in human rights abuses.

Pressure has grown in recent weeks on the administration to do more to curb the use of the hacking tools among fellow democracies following press reports that multiple European governments have used spyware on their citizens. A bipartisan group of US lawmakers wrote to Secretary of State Antony Blinken this month urging him to form an “international coalition” to combat spyware.



# UAE CABINET PLANS TO DOUBLE RE-EXPORTS AND HOST GLOBAL CONSERVATION EVENT

The UAE is set to host the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress in 2025.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, hosted a Cabinet meeting at Qasr Al Watan on Tuesday, where he approved plans to host the event.

He said the event in Abu Dhabi would be attended by 10,000 environmental experts and specialists from 160 countries.

“The UAE's economic journey will remain sustainable, preserve the environment and protect resources for future generations,” he said. Razan Al Mubarak of the UAE is the current president of the ICUN, a major global environmental organisation with 1,400 members representing 150 countries. It has a special status as a permanent observer member of the UN General Assembly.

It is best known publicly for maintaining the Red List of Threatened Species



# COLLECTIVE ACTION NEEDED TO ADDRESS GLOBAL WATER SCARCITY, SAYS AL MHEIRI

Mariam Al Mheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Minister of State for Food Security, has said collective action needs to be taken to address the challenge of global water scarcity.

Addressing the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York, which coincides with World Water Day, Ms Al Mheiri said innovative solutions are needed to overcome the impact of climate change.

“The stress on our water systems is contributing in evermore concrete ways to food shortages, farmer-herder tensions and migration, ultimately undermining stability in the most fragile areas,” Ms Al Mheiri said.

“With impacts of climate change manifesting most concretely through water — via droughts, flooding, tsunamis — these trends are only likely to worsen.

“The UAE will continue to work with its partners to ensure that the council focuses on practical ways to warranty that climate risks inform its decision-making.”

The UAE depends heavily on desalination — a process that removes salt from seawater — to supply water for drinking and industrial purposes.





# PRESIDENT SHEIKH MOHAMED MEETS ROMANIAN PRESIDENT KLAUS IOHANNIS

President Sheikh Mohamed and Romanian President Klaus Iohannis discussed relations and opportunities to expand collaboration during a meeting in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

Mr Iohannis is in the UAE on an official visit and is accompanied by first lady Carmen Iohannis.

They were welcomed by a guard of honour and a 21-gun salute at Qasr Al Watan in the UAE capital.

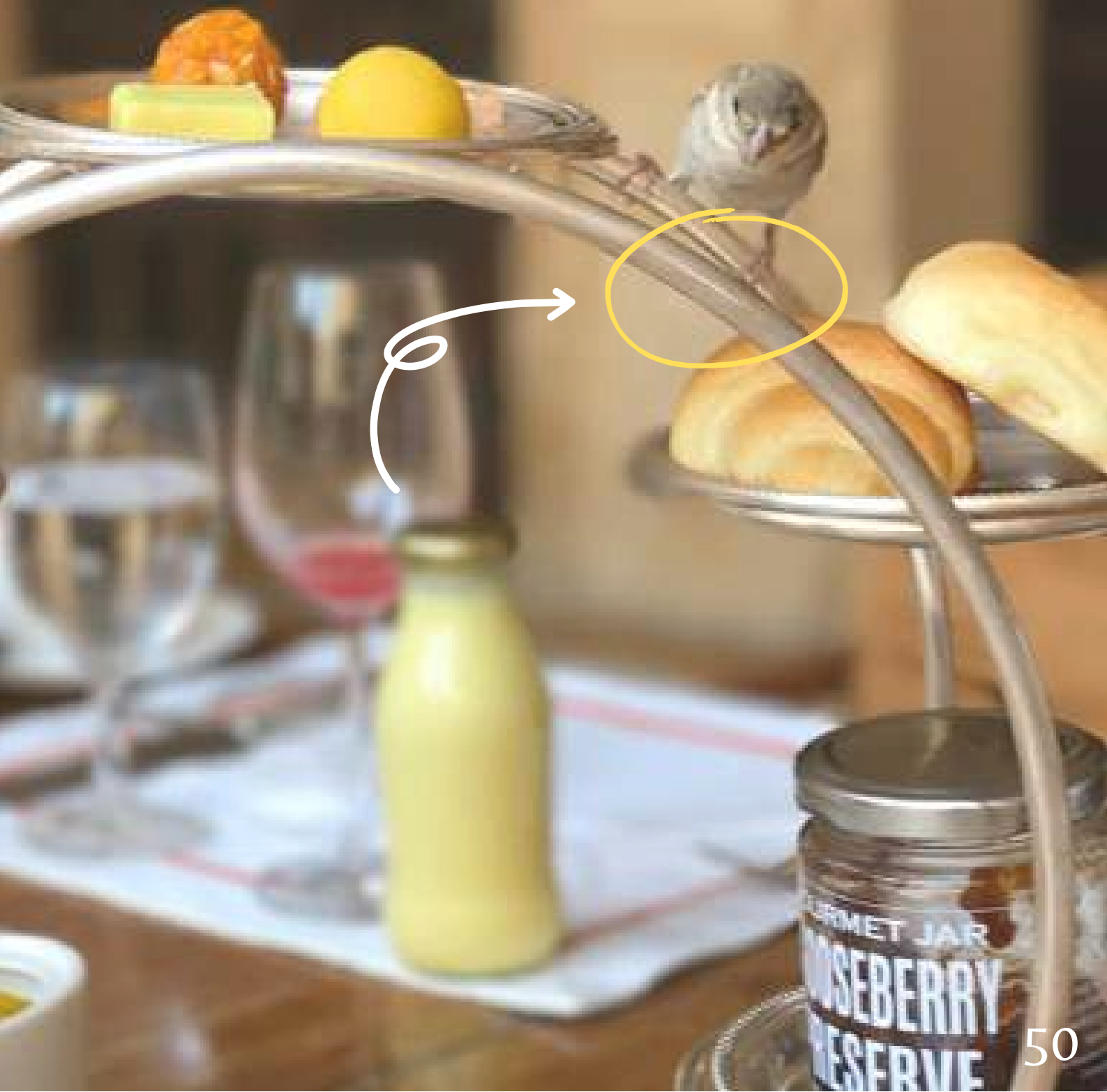
“Today I met with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis to further strengthen the existing ties between our two countries and explore opportunities to develop them further,” Sheikh Mohamed wrote on Twitter. “We also witnessed the signing of several agreements aimed at accelerating collaboration between the UAE and Romania.”

During the talks, Sheikh Mohamed said he wished to further strengthen relations between the two countries.

The leaders also discussed opportunities to expand collaboration, including in the areas of trade, sustainability, food security, renewable energy and the economy, news agency Wam reported.



*delicious*  
**FOOD RECIPES!**



# NO-BAKE CHOCOLATE COOKIE POPS!

## INGREDIENTS:

- 18 chocolate sandwich cookies with cream filling
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 1 1/2 cups milk chocolate or semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- Assorted sprinkles, crushed nuts or toasted coconut flakes

## EQUIPMENT:

- Lollipop sticks



Prep Time: 20 mins  
Cook Time: 0 mins  
Total Time: 20 mins

Servings: 14 pops

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place the cookies in the bowl of a food processor and pulse them until roughly chopped. Add the cream cheese and continue pulsing until the mixture is well combined and there are no large pieces of cookie remaining.
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Using your hands, squeeze and roll the cookie mixture into 1-inch balls. Insert a lollipop stick into each ball, place them on the baking sheet and freeze them for 30 minutes.
3. Melt the chocolate and vegetable oil in the microwave on 30-second intervals, stirring between each interval, until fully melted. Dip the cookie balls in the melted chocolate then immediately garnish them with sprinkles, crushed nuts or toasted coconut flakes. Return the pops to the baking sheet. Loosely cover and refrigerate them for 1 hour or until the chocolate is set.

# BADAM MILK

## (BADAM DOODH)



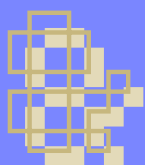
### INGREDIENTS:

- 35 almonds 40 grams
- 1 liter whole milk
- generous pinch saffron dissolved in 1 tablespoon milk
- 4-6 tablespoons granulated white sugar 50-75 grams, or to taste
- 5-6 green cardamom pods seeds removed & crushed using a mortar and pestle
- 1/2 teaspoon rose water optional

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Soak almond in hot water for 20 minutes. After 20 minutes, discard the water and then remove the skin from each almond. It will come off easily.
2. Transfer blanched almonds with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk to a blender. Blend to a smooth paste. Set it aside.
3. Now transfer the remaining milk to a pan and put in on medium-high heat.
4. As the milk warms up, take out 1 tablespoon of the warm milk from the pan into a small bowl and add crushed saffron strands to it. Set aside.
5. Once the milk in the pan comes to a boil, add the prepared almond paste to it. Stir to combine.
6. Lower the heat to low medium and let the milk simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. Stir often so that milk doesn't get stuck to the bottom of the pan. The raw smell of almonds should disappear completely.
7. Add in the saffron milk that you had set aside.
8. Then add the sugar and stir until it's dissolved.
9. Finally add in the crushed cardamom seeds. You may also add rose water (if using) at this point. Mix everything together and turn off the heat.
10. Serve badam milk hot or cold. I personally love it chilled.

GAMES



RIDDLES



# WORD SEARCH

## Final Exams

EXRQUXKQOESOBPSTNPROCTORP  
KSLESRRNVXPPMJSSRXTDXPWOQ  
OTSNCJ BIOEEMEAYXE OFFEEHQM  
ORSASATKNWJVFC ELCULIAFRPU  
BUKNYCLBYMRKCNFOGAGNYMZQL  
DVXUEQOLSHARPENEDPENCILST  
EARJMOUSIEGFJCMATSMVDAKI  
STBEKXLERNEUEHASTBMANVCQP  
OOEGAWPBSRGNAOSIEMBFXIAPL  
LSIEUDYNOTTGNIREBMEMERDOE  
CCRFHHICORIAWWEKSQXUTDESC  
MTHATSSNAIPONSTBEGINMTMSH  
QTNLSWETGSTYNEYATFZQOFIQO  
WJAKFELWURSVSUNOWGBPLCYI  
XEKDSFEEBUQCERC SN OJHEWFJC  
HEIVCSOCMBZTZUBWCRBDNCGGE  
CVYSLULAWIUMHOQEEADCOMELN  
QQHJIULREBRBRCDRRLXIJQGWM  
FWEGEYLITMCPERNOTALKINGFK  
OKSSHJGNIMMARCACUYGQEDARG

ACADEMIC  
BUBBLE SHEET  
CONCENTRATE  
ESSAY QUESTIONS  
GUESS  
MULTIPLE-CHOICE  
OBJECTIVE  
PASS  
READING  
SCORE

ANSWER  
CLOSED BOOK  
COURSES  
FAIL  
HEALTHY BREAKFAST  
NO TALKING  
OPEN BOOK  
PROCTOR  
RECALLING  
SHARPENED PENCILS

BEGIN  
CLUES  
CRAMMING  
GRADE  
KNOW  
NOTES  
ORAL  
QUESTION  
REMEMBERING  
WRITTEN

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# SOLUTIONS:

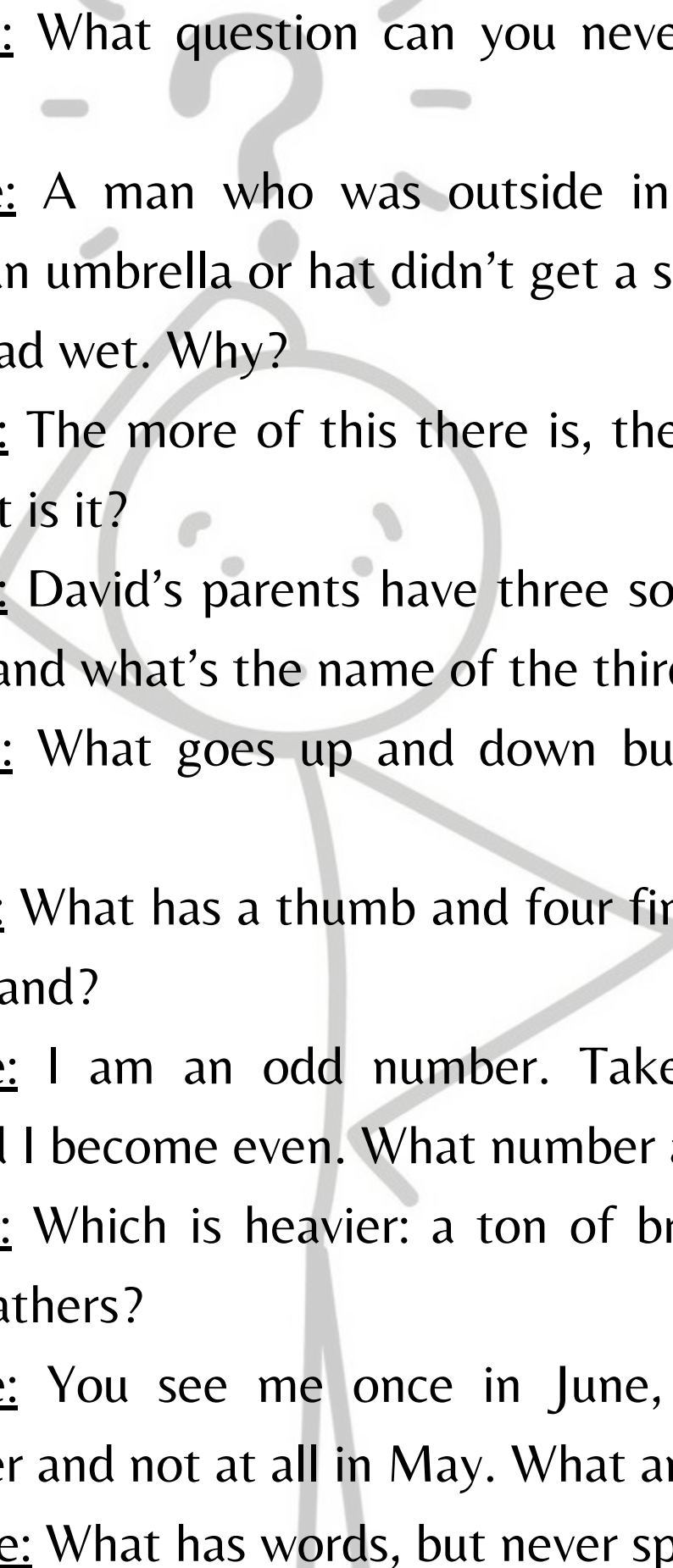
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5	7	1	8	6	2	9	4	3
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9	2	8	5	1	6	7	3	4
3	1	4	9	2	7	5	8	6
7	5	6	4	3	8	2	1	9

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





RIDDLE ME  
THIS?!

- 
1. Riddle: What question can you never answer yes to?
  2. Riddle: A man who was outside in the rain without an umbrella or hat didn't get a single hair on his head wet. Why?
  3. Riddle: The more of this there is, the less you see. What is it?
  4. Riddle: David's parents have three sons: Snap, Crackle, and what's the name of the third son?
  5. Riddle: What goes up and down but doesn't move?
  6. Riddle: What has a thumb and four fingers, but is not a hand?
  7. Riddle: I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?
  8. Riddle: Which is heavier: a ton of bricks or a ton of feathers?
  9. Riddle: You see me once in June, twice in November and not at all in May. What am I?
  10. Riddle: What has words, but never speaks?



# RIDDLE ME THIS?!

-- SOLUTIONS --

1. ANSWER: ARE YOU ASLEEP YET?
2. ANSWER: A TOWEL
3. ANSWER: DARKNESS
4. ANSWER: DAVID
5. ANSWER: A STAIRCASE
6. ANSWER: A GLOVE
7. ANSWER: SEVEN
8. ANSWER: NEITHER—THEY BOTH WEIGH A TON.
9. ANSWER: THE LETTER “E”
10. ANSWER: A BOOK



WE WHOLE HEARTEDLY THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS EDITION OF VERVE! WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU WITH YOUR VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS AND FEEDBACKS.

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