Cleaning up

A new centre in Afghanistan aims to take down the powerful and confront the deep corruption threatening the country’s stability. P6-7

Judge Shir Aka Munib presides over a trial at the Anti-Corruption Justice Centre in Afghanistan.

AL-SHEFA POLYCLINIC

- Ophthalmology Clinic
- Orthopedic Clinic
- Pediatric Clinic
- Dermatology Clinic
- Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic
- Internal Medicine Clinic
- Rehabilitation & Physiotherapy Clinic
- Orthodontic Clinic
- Dental Clinic
- Obstetric & Gynecology Clinic
- General Practitioner Clinic
- Medical Laboratories & Analysis
- Radiology (X-Ray, M.R.I. & Ultrasound)

D- RING ROAD - Opposite Lulu HyperMarket
Tel - 44089888 Fax - 44567869
Timings: 8AM TO 10PM

AL KHARATIYAT BRANCH
Tel - 44660330 Fax - 44660990
Timings: 9AM-12NM & 4PM-8PM

info@alshefapolyclinic.com
www.alshefapolyclinic.com
**Round & About**

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

- **Emergency**: 999
- **Worldwide Emergency Number**: 112
- **Kahramaa – Electricity and Water**: 991
- **Local Directory**: 180
- **International Calls Enquiries**: 150
- **Hamad International Airport**: 40106666
- **Labor Department**: 44508111, 44406537
- **Hamad Medical Corporation**: 44392222, 44393333
- **Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation**: 44845555, 44845464
- **Humanitarian Services Office**: 44464444
- **Q-Post – General Postal Corporation**: 44464444

**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR**: 40253371, 40253372
**Hamad Medical Corporation**: 40253368, 40253365
**Ministry of Health**: 40253370, 40253364
**Qatar Airways**: 44496000
**Mowasalat Taxi**: 44588888
**Labor Department**: 44490205
**Kahramaa – Electricity and Water**: 999
**Local Directory**: 180
**International Calls Enquiries**: 150
**Hamad International Airport**: 40106666
**Labor Department**: 44508111, 44406537
**Hamad Medical Corporation**: 44392222, 44393333
**Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation**: 44845555, 44845464
**Primary Health Care Corporation**: 44593333
**Qatar Assistive Technology Centre**: 44593363
**Q-Post – General Postal Corporation**: 44464444

**COMMUNITY**

**Quote Unquote**

One cannot and must not try to erase the past merely because it does not fit the present.

- Golda Meir

**Community Editor**

Kamran Rehmat
**E-mail**: community@gulf-times.com
**Telephone**: 44350474

---

**PRAYER TIME**

- **Fajr**: 4.02am
- **Shoroq (sunrise)**: 5.10am
- **Zuhr (noon)**: 11.30am
- **Aur (afternoon)**: 2.58pm
- **Maghreb (sunset)**: 5.43pm
- **Isha (night)**: 7.13pm

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

**Velipadinte Pustakam**
**DIRECTION**: Lal Jose
**CAST**: Mohanal, Reshma Rajan, Arun Kurian, Sarath Kumar and Alencier Ley Lopez

**SYNOPSIS**: When it comes to Malayalam superstar Mohanal, one should always expect the unexpected. The film is a telltale of the relationship between teachers and students. Mohanal plays the role of a vice principal named Professor Michael Idikkula who as a charmer brings about a change in a popular Kerala college.

**THEATRES**: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza

**The Glass Castle**
**DIRECTION**: Destin Daniel Cretton
**CAST**: Brie Larson, Naomi Watts, Woody Harrelson

**SYNOPSIS**: A young girl comes of age in a dysfunctional family of nonconformist nomads with a mother who is an eccentric artist and an alcoholic father who would stir the children’s imagination with hope as a distraction to their poverty. Based on a memoir, four siblings must learn to take care of themselves as their responsibility-averse, free-spirit parents both inspire and inhibit them.

**THEATRES**: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza

---

**The Mall Cinema (1):**
- **Neruppuda (Tamil)**: 2pm; Punjab Nahi Jaungi (Urdu) 4:15pm; The Glass Castle (2D): 7pm; It (2D): 9:15pm; Punjab Nahi Jaungi (Urdu) 11:30pm.

**The Mall Cinema (2):**
- **Velipadinte Pushtakam (Malayalam)**: 2pm; Car Go (2D) 4:45pm; Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature (2D) 6:15pm; It (2D): 7:45pm; London Heist (2D): 9:15pm; It (2D): 11:30pm.

**The Mall Cinema (3):**
- **Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature (2D)**: 2:30pm; Poster Boys (Hindi) 4pm; Daddy (Hindi) 6:15pm; Punjab Nahi Jaungi (Urdu) 8:45pm; Velipadinte Pushtakam (Malayalam) 11:30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (1):**
- **Velipadinte Pushtakam (Malayalam)**: 2:15pm; Al Khalya (Arabic): 5pm; Kathanyagan (Tamil): 7:15pm; It (2D): 9:15pm; Neruppuda (Tamil) 11:30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (2):**
- **Car Go (2D):** 2:30pm; Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature (2D): 4pm; Car Go (2D): 5:30pm; The Glass Castle (2D): 7:15pm; London Heist (2D): 9:30pm; Velipadinte Pushtakam (Malayalam) 11:15pm.

**Landmark Cinema (3):**
- **Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature (2D) 3pm; Poster Boys (Hindi) 4:45pm; It (2D) 7pm; Poster Boys (Hindi) 9:15pm; It (2D): 11:30pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):**
- **Car Go (2D):** 2pm; Car Go (2D): 3:45pm; Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature (2D) 5:30pm; London Heist (2D) 7pm; Al Khalya (Arabic) 9pm; Velipadinte Pushtakam (Malayalam) 11:30pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):**
- **Poster Boys (Hindi) 2:30pm; The Glass Castle (2D): 4:45pm; It (2D): 7pm; It (2D): 9:15pm; It (2D): 11:45pm.

**Asian Town Cinema:**
- **Velipadinte Pushtakam (Malayalam)**: 5:30, 6, 8:15, 8:45, 11pm; Daddy (Hindi) 6:30pm; Neruppuda (Tamil) 9pm; Kathanyagan (Tamil) 11:30pm.
Evolution Sports holding football coaching session
WHERE: Doha College in Al Waab
WHEN: Tomorrow
TIME: 5:30pm
Liverpool FC boss Jurgen Klopp has been praised this season for presenting opportunities to academy players such as Harry Wilson, Ben Woodburn and Trent Alexander-Arnold. But what attributes do players like these possess that others may not?

To answer that, Evolution Sports, alongside their friends from LLS will host an exclusive question and answer session with former Liverpool FC Under 23 coach, Michael Beale at Doha College in Al Waab. Michael will perform a coaching master class, before heading inside to present his coaching story. Only a small number of attendants will be allowed. Tickets are free. For more information please e-mail mike. crockford@llsonline.uk

DFI Presents MIA Exhibition Series
WHERE: MIA Park
WHEN: Sept 14-15
TIME: 7:30pm
Doha Film Institute is pleased to invite you to our second round of screenings as part of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Exhibition series. The series is dedicated to showcasing contemporary films that connect to the main theme of the museum’s current exhibition, Imperial Threads: Motifs and Artisans from Turkey, Iran and India. All screenings take place at the MIA Auditorium. Screenings are free, but a ticket is required for admission.

CISSP Cyber Security Workshop
WHERE: Radisson Blu Hotel
WHEN: Sept 17-21
As companies strive to protect themselves, their assets and their customers from the ever-increasing threat of cyber-attacks, there is a need for knowledgeable and experienced personnel. Many companies regard a CISSP Certification as a requirement for their senior IT management positions. This workshop will give attendees the ins and outs about CISSP.

American Education Event in Doha
WHERE: Sheraton Grand Doha Resort and Convention Hotel
WHEN: Oct 4
TIME: 6-9pm
Studentlane’s American Education Expo promises to be the best place to find the perfect college or university for you. At the event, you will get the chance to speak face-to-face with admissions officers from some of the top 20 US colleges and universities and get the answers you need about the admission process, tuition fees and scholarship opportunities.

Swim For a Cause at Sherq Village & Spa Hotel
WHERE: Sept 16
TIME: 9:00am
Swim for a Cause at Sherq Village & Spa Hotel Beach on 16 September, 21 October, and 25 November from 9 am, partnered with Six Senses, H2O Swim Club, Tri Club Doha and Mad Triathlon under the pillar of Ritz-Carlton Community Footprints. Fee - QRS0 - QRS100 (Individual for 250m/ 500m / 1000m). All proceedings will go towards providing safe drinking water for those who need it. Register now to start making all the miles you cover, time you spend in the pool and calories you burn in the process count for humanity.

Evolution Sports Qatar
WHERE: Evolution Sports
WHEN: Ongoing
Evolution Sports will mark its anniversary by hosting a number of exciting events throughout 2017 as well as some amazing promotions, ten years on from when the club was formed on September 1, 2007. The club has been working with a panel of coaches and directors to plan the events which will be announced over the coming months. Members should look forward to a variety of different occasions suitable for all ages so the whole family can get involved in the birthday celebrations. To kick-off things off, Evolution Sports recently launched their 10-year anniversary logo. The emblem has been designed by Toyan Greaves, the man behind the original Evolution Sports logo and will be used on all documentation, both online and offline for the next 12 months.

Imperial Threads: Motifs and Artisans
WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art
WHEN: Until November 4
This exhibition focuses on the exchange of artistic and material cultures between the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires. Highlighting MIA’s masterpiece carpets, among other artworks, from Turkey, Iran and India, these objects will be contextualised within the historical circumstances of politics and artistic production of their time, primarily from the 16th to the 18th centuries.

Train like a superhero
WHERE: Aspire Zone
WHEN: Ongoing
Kids Classes Now Open! Train like a superhero at CrossFit Doha! CrossFit holds a variety of disciplines from weightlifting to calisthenics to gymnastics. This will help your kids excel in sports & retain the healthy & fit lifestyle! Support your kids’ natural urge for physical activities & train like a superhero, at CrossFit Doha’s in-demand Kids Classes today! CrossFit Doha is located at Aspire Zone Sports City. For more information, call 4438448.

Breakdance Classes
WHERE: Sun-Wed
Breakdancing is part of the Hip Hop culture that originated in New York and has since spread all over the world. Breakdancing is an athletic and acrobatic style of dancing, which can often appear to defy the laws of physics. This extreme dance-sport uses tremendous upper-body strength for tricks and poses and a great way to get into shape and have fun. Register now by calling 53003839 or e-mail registrations@atelierqatar.com

Reggae Beachfest Doha
WHERE: Thursdays and Fridays
WHERE: Oyster Beach Bar at St. Regis Hotel
TIME: 8pm onwards
In collaboration with Reggae Beachfest in Dubai, Qatar will witness the best rasta nights around. The organisers say, “We’ve got the setup sorted to get you feeling the Caribbean vibe. Along with our resident band Earthkry all the way from Jamaica, we have so many big names in the Reggae scene lined up at this huge beachfest!” Entrance fee is QR50 at the door. For more information, please call 44460105.

Salsa Beginners Dance Class
WHERE: B Attitude Spa, West Bay
WHEN: Every Friday
Salsa n Candela offers a variety of dance classes for adults at Beverly Hills Tower West Bay B Attitude Spa, such as Salsa every Friday and other Latin dance during other days of the week.

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change.
DMIS conducts orientation, induction ceremony for new teachers

The Doha Modern Indian School conducted an orientation and induction ceremony for its new staff members at its assembly hall recently. The event gave the new teachers a chance to talk about their fields and demonstrate some of their talents to the larger school body. The teachers were welcomed by the principal on behalf of the school management.

Friends of Tiruvalla celebrates Onam

The expatriate forum Friends of Tiruvalla (Fota) hosted Onam celebrations at a function held recently at Shalimar Restaurant auditorium. The meeting was inaugurated by President of Pulikkeeth Block Panchayat of Pathanamthitta Eapen Kunyian. Kurian was on a visit of Qatar. Fota President Jiji John chaired the meet and Reji K Baby welcomed the guests. Anitha Santhosh proposed a vote of thanks. Patrons K V Thomas and Thomas Kunyian felicitated the participants. At the meeting, more than 15 members of the forum, who completed 30 years in Qatar, were honoured. Some of the seniors were also presented with mementos. Seen here is Eapen Kunyian lighting the traditional lamp to mark the Onam celebrations of Fota.

MGM Higher Secondary School alumni celebrate Onam

Members of the MGM Higher Secondary School (Tiruvalla) Alumni Association (Qatar chapter) held a function recently to coincide with the Onam celebrations. Onam is the harvest festival of Keralites. A variety of cultural events were held to mark the occasion. The meeting was chaired by Alumni President Thomas Kunyian and had forum patrons K V Thomas and John C Abraham offering felicitations. Jiji John welcomed the gathering and Elizabeth Benny proposed a vote of thanks. Manoj Nair and Julie Santhosh led the entertainment events.
PSD wins at 15th OKOR youth inter-school competition

Philippine School Doha (PSD) won for the sixth time the Order of the Knights of Rizal Talents and Skills Competition. The school beat five other Philippine schools in the Middle East in the competition held recently in Bahrain. The three-day competition was held at the Swiss Palace Hotel in Manama.

On the first day, the participating schools all gathered in the hall to have the OKOR regional assembly at the main hall. Students from the Bahrain school welcome the participants. Regional Commander Zane M Thrwal gave the welcome speech.

Competitions were held on the second day. The competitions included on-the-spot painting and essay writing. The search for young Maria Clara and young Jose Rizal also took place on the second day. The last day featured battle of brains competition that consisted of question and answer sessions.

It is the first time in PSD's history to win back-to-back titles in search for young Jose Rizal and young Maria Clara competitions. Hannah Danielle Leanda, mentored by Monette Cayatoc and Carlo Ebrada, was crowned as this year's young Maria Clara and attained top position in oration and in gown. Xandre Immanuel Acosta, trained by Dr Don John A Valleti, was declared this year's young Jose Rizal. PSD Principal Dr Alexander S Acosta said, "Our OKOR participants did their best to humbly represent the school. Their accolades were made possible because of their perseverance, determination and positive attitude towards facing the challenges."

The OKOR, chartered under Republic Act 646, is a civic, patriotic, cultural and non-sectarian organisation in honour of the Philippine national hero, Dr Jose Rizal. The Middle East and Africa Region chapter annually holds an interschool, academic, talents and skills competition in Bahrain which coincides with the annual assembly of the Knights of Rizal.

Steden University Qatar welcomes new students

Stenden University Qatar welcomed the newly admitted students with an orientation programme recently. The programme was designed to help them adapt to the new academic environment and social environment.

The newcomers were taken for a tour of the campus, met lecturers, and learnt more about different student services on campus. They attended various workshops on study skills and had familiarisation sessions about how to use the facilities. The orientation programme included a number of presentations from different faculty members and alumni who shared their own experiences with new students. The programme – which also offered many entertainment activities and games – was a rich experience for both new and senior students who participated in the event, said the university.

St. Regis Doha promises the finest tea experience

Singapore's finest luxury brand TWG Tea and Sarab Lounge, the renowned tea-lounge located at The St. Regis Doha, are celebrating their continued partnership with establishing a new weekly event: The Enchanting Afternoon Tea with TWG Tea every Saturday afternoon.

The Wellbeing Group was founded in 2007 as a luxury concept that incorporates unique and original retail outlets, exquisite tea rooms and an international distribution network to professionals and has spread across 63 locations in 18 cities all over the world. Committed to offering teas directly from the source gardens, TWG Tea's collection is the largest in the world, with fine harvests from every tea producing country and exclusive hand crafted tea blends.

In this elegant collaboration with Sarab Lounge, TWG Tea will present 12 exquisite flavours of tea: St Regis Doha's Summer and Winter Blends, signature 1837 Black Tea, the great classic French Earl Grey, a contemporary masterpiece – New York Breakfast Tea, the prestigious blue tea – Oolong Prestige, a great favourite – Moroccan Mint Tea, elegant Gesha Blossom Tea and Silver Moon Tea – for a very special moment. Tea connoisseurs will be able to savour the rare white tea Pai Mu Tan as well as other exclusive white tea blends - extravagant White Night Jasmine Tea and White House Tea.

Along with the vast selection of sandwiches, this timeless tradition will be accompanied an afternoon tea set with Earl Grey Fortune Madeleines and Matcha Financiers served with TWG tea infused jelly and whipped cream. World famous TWG Tea Macarons in all their varieties will be served for the first time in Qatar.

Tea connoisseurs are invited to visit the unique retail outlet located in Sarab Lounge, where all the bestsellers of TWG Tea Haute Couture Collection are displayed.
Justice centre takes down the powerful and confronts deep corruption

By Ramin Hasanzadeh

When Afghan President Ashraf Ghani established the ACJC by decree in July 2016, it was initially dismissed as a sop aimed at assuaging international donors. No more.

The Anti-Corruption Justice Centre (ACJC), whose detectives arrested the itchy-fingered general a few days later.

“We’ve got a colleague who looks like a businessman – nice and fat,” recalls Alif Urfani, the ACJC’s director of the Independent Joint Evaluation Committee (MEC). “We’ve got a colleague who looks like a businessman – nice and fat,” recalls Alif Urfani, the ACJC’s director of the Independent Joint Evaluation Committee (MEC).

In operation since roughly the beginning of 2017, the ACJC comprises specialised police, prosecution units and courts designed to be independent of political and other pressures in detecting, investigating and prosecuting corruption.

The centre takes on the powerful, be they generals who pocket soldiers’ pay or ministers who embezzle millions. You can see that the ACJC means business as soon as you enter its Kabul headquarters. Visitors have to hike down long passageways that are deliberately labyrinthine. Weapons are surrendered in anterooms, as they’re not allowed in judges’ chambers.

In April, two ACJC police investigators were shot dead on their way to work. Soldiers are present at every court proceeding, since the high-powered defendants sometimes snap if found guilty.

Until the ACJC was established, Afghan elites had seldom been called to account. In 2016, Afghanistan was still ranked only 169th – out of 176 countries – on Berlin-based Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index. Corruption is seen as the main obstacle to reconstructing the war-torn, chronically unstable country.

Because public officials traditionally demand “shukrana” (“thanks,” is a bribe) for services, many Afghans have to do without them and are hugely distrustful of the government.

Corruption also helps the hardline Taliban movement that is fighting Afghanistan’s national unity government. It sometimes buys weapons, fuel and food directly from Afghan army commanders.

What’s more, billions of dollars in development aid have disappeared without a trace. When Afghan President Ashraf Ghani established the ACJC by decree in July 2016, it was initially dismissed as a sop aimed at assuaging international donors.

No more.

In nearly 20 cases since December, the ADJC has convicted more than 40 senior officials, generals and businessmen.

One of the country’s wealthiest businessmen, Abdul Ghafar Dawi, was sentenced to nine years and nine months in prison in August and ordered to pay $38 million dollars.

Among the crimes committed by Dawi, head of an oil company as well as other businesses – and married to Afghanistan’s ambassador to Norway – was using falsified documents to obtain a 16-million-dollar loan from Kabul Bank that he didn’t repay.

“Finally there’s political will at the top of the government,” says Syed Munafar Shah, executive director of the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC), responding to the political pressure, the Afghan army has dismissed hundreds of officers on suspicion of corruption in recent months.

All this is just a small beginning, however, concedes Shah.

Considering the extent of nepotism, bribery and abuse of power in Afghanistan, which extends all the way down to the village level, much larger, years-long initiatives are needed to restore people’s trust in the government, he says.

The government doesn’t have much time, though. Presidential elections are scheduled for 2018, and the opposition is already coalescing.
own Afghan elite

A former deputy education minister, Mohammed Asim Karbalai, defends himself from accusations that he misspent about $44,000 on firewood.

Judge Anisa Rassuli sits at her desk at the newly formed Anti-Corruption Justice Centre (ACJC) in Afghanistan. Rassuli is one of the country’s most well-known judges.

The newly formed Anti-Corruption Justice Centre (ACJC) in Afghanistan comprises specialised police, prosecution units and courts designed to be independent of political and other pressures in detecting, investigating and prosecuting corruption.

Alif Urfani, the general director of the Anti-Corruption Justice Centre in Afghanistan, recalls in his office past cases in which corrupt officials were taken down. Corruption is seen as the main obstacle to reconstructing the war-torn, chronically unstable country.

Soldiers are present at every court proceeding, since the high-powered defendants sometimes snap if found guilty.

The ACJC must continue to grow, Shah says, adding that the main priority is to quickly establish lower courts in the provinces.

Meanwhile, ACJC chief Urfani has a list of more than 120 people who will soon be formally charged with crimes.

Not all charges result in convictions. During a trial in late July, a former deputy education minister claimed to have purchased – without an invitation to tender or a contract – the equivalent of about $44,000 dollars’ worth of firewood for schools.

The prosecutor was sure that the actual amount of wood delivered had been far less in value but couldn’t prove it because the wood had been burned, and he had neither the time nor enough investigators to look into the matter more closely.

“I was in the top five of the ministry’s ethical and devout people!” the defendant shouted during the proceedings, throwing his hands up in the air. He got off with a small fine. – DPA

In Afghanistan aims to take down Afghan elite

By Christine-Felice Roehrs

At a trial in late July at the Anti-Corruption Justice Centre in Afghanistan, a former deputy education minister, Mohammed Asim Karbalai, defends himself from accusations that he misspent about $44,000 on firewood.
Summer is almost over and the school bell is about to ring. To make sure you and your family are set up for success, equip your home with the best technology devices on the market. Consider this your gadget guide for the best school year yet.

Big sound
Studies show that listening to music while studying can help with concentration. Some gadgets, small but packed a powerful punch, giving your kids a soundtrack to homework time. Those gadgets, streams over Wi-Fi, not Bluetooth, so the music never stops – unless, of course you want it to.

Wi-Fi that works
With a bunch of new gadgets and more time spent on the Internet, you’re going to need a strong Wi-Fi signal to make sure everything works properly. Gone are the days where a basic spider-looking router was the go-to networking solution. With smartphones, laptops and all kinds of connected home devices, it’s crucial to purchase a robust Wi-Fi system that will support all your gadgets.

Dependable computer
With a new school year comes book reports, research projects and presentations. Gone are the days of notebook paper and library books, now it’s all about online resources. It might be time to invest in a new computer, like a MacBook Pro. It’s razor thin and feather light so your kids can easily transport it to and from school, plus it’s even faster and more powerful than before.

Home assistant
The newly released Amazon Echo Dot is just the sidekick you need to help get you through the school year. With a built-in speaker, it functions as an alarm clock in the bedroom, a homework assistant in the office. The Echo Dot controls many of your smart home devices, makes calls, sends and receives messages, and provides information so you’ll never question the capital of California or how many centimetres are in an inch again.

Watchful eye
Now that school is back in session, it’s likely that your kids will be coming home while you are at work. To help give you a little more peace of mind, install Ring, the video doorbell that allows you to see, hear and speak with visitors at your front door, all from your phone, tablet or computer. Now, at 2:45pm you can actually see your kids walking through the front door.

Today you could spend a lot of time running errands. There might be delays due to circumstances beyond your control. You could experience that old mounting frustration. There’s no use fighting the invisible foe. Accept the fact that you may not be able to accomplish everything you’d set out to do. Treat yourself to a quiet evening.

A lot of energy might be expended on an artistic project that you probably won’t like. Taurus. You could get halfway through and then toss it away. This could be disheartening as you could lament the time and effort lost. But this happens to all great artists. Go ahead and start over. Maybe this time you’ll accomplish what you want. Don’t settle for mediocre. Go for the gold.

Family members might discuss a possible vacation today, Gemini, but everyone wants to go to a different place! Arguments could occur, taking all the fun out of the discussion. Perhaps you should draw straws! A better solution might be to make a list of all the ideas, give copies to everyone, and think about it. Discuss the subject again in a few days.

Today’s energy might be especially draining for you, Virgo. Your tasks could require more effort than usual, and you could be exhausted by midday. This isn’t the day to prove anything. Work according to your own strengths at your own speed. You’ll probably accomplish more this way than by pushing yourself. Take care and you’ll still have energy for a great evening.

A debate over a controversial subject involving politics or social issues could take place today, Sagittarius. You might find the subject fascinating and learn a lot, but you’ll be less comfortable when the conversation changes from a discussion to a quarrel. At that point, you may want to walk away. You’re too sensitive, so don’t worry about being rude.
**Wordsearch**

Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Squares with the same number in have the same letter in. Work out which number represents which letter.

**Computer Languages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADA</th>
<th>COBOL</th>
<th>LOGO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALGOL</td>
<td>FORTH</td>
<td>PASCAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSEMBLER</td>
<td>FORTRAN</td>
<td>PERL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTOCODE</td>
<td>HTML</td>
<td>PROLOG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASIC</td>
<td>JAVA</td>
<td>SNOBOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COBOL</td>
<td>JOVIAL</td>
<td>XML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMAL</td>
<td>LISP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Codeword**

**Sudoku**

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine 3x3 squares. You are given a selection of numbers and you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 square contain each of the numbers 1-9 exactly once.

**Bound And Gagged**

Joe’s Pet Food

He hasn’t done much for business, but I haven’t seen a mouse in weeks.

**Pooch Cafe**

I’m new to migration, how far is “down South” anyway?

I think it’s pretty far.

Rats, well, I’ll just have to hope that at some point along the way my dad thinks about me.

These in-flight movies just make the flight zip by!

**Garfield**

Laugh, and the world laughs with you

Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

What else you got?

**Adam**

God’s planning a date night for mom.

Yeah...

Yeah, so we need to begin lobbying for a good sitter.

Literally anyone but mean Amy is okay with me.

Yeah, mean Amy is the worst.

Although “stinky Jill” is no picnic either.
### Super Cryptic Clues

**ACROSS**
1. Yal! That’s not far! (4,1,4)
2. He’s been spoken of as the decision-maker (7)
3. Justify the guarantee (7)
4. It’s a strange tree about which there’s a lot of writing (8)
5. The M.O.N or Y of “money”? (4)
6. Is it no longer left in the pot? (7,3)
7. For a day, lie about relaxedly and do nothing (4)
8. No longer taking over for inspection (4)
9. Again find the colour is a camouflage (10)
10. Weak the fun, making the fellow leave the party (4)
11. Allow the tranquillisers to take effect (8)
12. Shorten to “The Lady and the Sword” (7)
13. He has a beer, not a cocktail, in it (7)
14. Decide to let the lovers out with the key (7)
15. Unable to strike, which is very good (9)

**DOWN**
1. The lady’s lost out, in that case (7)
2. Messages for the sufferers (7)
3. Up to, more or less (5)
4. It’s a terrible strain on the workman (7)
5. The back room with the beds in it is the attraction (4)
6. Love animals, we’re told (4)
7. Don’t go back on what you said about the country (7)
8. For the records, there’s a pound among the coins (6)
9. One may be found in the garden, resting (4)
10. Not the man from the brass band! (4)
11. Vessel that took Joey out on the trip (3)
12. Catches putting back the gun (4)
13. A trial that’s over (6)
14. Possibly a white yarn (3)
15. Not known in the dark (7)
16. In short, a dog-cart, not a car (4)
17. Once inside I can’t move, which is not right (7)
18. Cry when the vessel is about to go off (7)
19. Colours at the terrible sneer about the twin daughters (7)
20. An attempt to discomfit (5)
21. Stop and start (4)

### Colouring

![Flower Illustration](image)

### Answers

#### Wordsearch

ACROSS: 3 Holy terror 8 Stella 10 In addition 11 All 13 Pots 14 Blasted 15 Thee 17 Strip 20 Sleep 22 Sort 24 Instant 25 Rota 27 Sol 28 Lion’s share 29 Undo 30 Enable 31 The East End

DOWN: 1 Stand out 2 Slides 3 Habitat 4 Latin 5 Turn 6 Reparate 7 Rolled up 12 Bass 14 Bear 16 Host 17 Slips out 18 Resolve 19 Pearl 21 Entirely 23 Twisted 25 Rehears 26 Force 28 Logs

#### Codeword

```
MAHARAJA SPRUCE
DUNEL M DUNEL M
DELIVERY ITALIC
DEED DEED
DEBTER E
NOONE E

IBEX NAIVETE
TAIRA A

DENDRIO DØLE
DEIDE I DEIDE I
DIDE I

OBUSE LIFEBOO
GBRF FFL

REAMER PUTUPJOB
AGA S ROL

MUKLUK SENTENCE
```

#### Yesterday’s Solutions

ACROSS: 3 Holy terror 8 Stella 10 In addition 11 All 13 Pots 14 Blasted 15 Thee 17 Strip 20 Sleep 22 Sort 24 Instant 25 Rota 27 Sol 28 Lion’s share 29 Undo 30 Enable 31 The East End

DOWN: 1 Stand out 2 Slides 3 Habitat 4 Latin 5 Turn 6 Reparate 7 Rolled up 12 Bass 14 Bear 16 Host 17 Slips out 18 Resolve 19 Pearl 21 Entirely 23 Twisted 25 Rehears 26 Force 28 Logs.
Venice Fest presents a lovely wide canvas of life, sweet and sad

By Gautaman Bhaskaran

If one wants to watch great cinema, at least some great cinema, the Venice Film Festival is certainly an excellent venue, which includes the more illustrious, more glamorous and much more crowded Cannes, is calmer and awesomely serene. Held every year on the quaint little island of Lido – which stands overlooking the historic Saint Marco Square – the Venice Festival floored me with some riveting work this autumn.

Who could have thought of a male mermaid – at least of sorts – in Guillermo Del Toro’s The Shape of Water. Not quite beautiful as “female” mermaids can be, but the creature in this movie has fins and gills, and has been dragged from South America to a dirty tank in a lab by scientists who believe that this living being can give the US an edge over the Soviet Union. Yes, it is the era of the Cold War when the two Super Powers were at each other’s throats.

And a mute girl, Elisa (played by Sally Hawkins), is a cleaner – who takes an awful lot of pity for this guy in the tank, and as she sneaks to the tank during lunch break offering him a bit of her own food, a strange romance develops between the two – leading to frightening consequences. But then the course of true love never runs smooth, does it? Sad and sexy and sweet, and as well, The Shape of Water was lovely and new, and deserved the Festival’s top honours, Golden Lion for Best Picture.

The other film that moved me immensely was Andrew Haigh’s Lean On Pete (which won its young actor, Charlie Plummer the Marcello Mastroianni Award) – which talks about a boy’s love for a race horse, not the phoneky kind we see in India, where bulls are tortured in the name of sport (jallikattu). Also called Charlie in the film, the boy, barely 15, finds his life crashing when his father dies of blood poisoning. With a mother having run away when he was very young, Charlie steals the horse (all set to be shot, because it is wounded) and tries taking it across the countryside to his aunt. It is a journey fraught with problems, and Haigh does manage to weave out of all this sadness a story that ends bright and cheerful. The boy’s affection for the horse was touching to the core, and this is what love for animals is all about.

There were other movies that took us to mankind’s many dilemmas. Alexander Payne’s Downsizing – which opened the Festival – tackles the problem of population by offering a magical solution. Shrink men to the size of a finger – so that there is enough space and food for all.

Narriated with a touch of iconic comic, Downsizing has Matt Damon, Christoph Waltz and Hong Chau all playing miniature men and women. They form a colony where life is simply plentiful. And not just this, they all get to enjoy first-class air travel and live in virtual palaces. Undoubtedly, a breathtakingly beautiful way of addressing the planet’s one overriding challenge of over population.

Captivating in its own way (though the casting could have better without Damon, who remains his wooden best in film after film), Downsizing has, though, as a redemption, Waltz – who as a rich businessman infuses into the plot a lovely piece of performance. His humour, his sarcasm and his wonderful expressiveness (and what a contrast to the role he portrayed as a ruthless Nazi officer in Quentin Tarantino’s Inglorious Basterds) add many stars to Payne’s work, which is science-fiction all right, dangling as it does a sweet pill to free the bursting-at-its-seams earth of one terrible malady. This may sound strange, but in a crowded planet, people are still lonely, and India’s Ritvik Rastra (the man behind The Lunchbox) presented yet another sweet romantic story, Our Souls at Night, with two of the biggest actors the world has ever known, Robert Redford and Jane Fonda.

Batra, who seems to be drawn to English-language fiction (with his second feature, The Sense of an Ending, based on a work by the British writer, Julian Patrick Barnes, who won the Man Booker Prize in 2011), finds his latest inspiration from American novelist Kent Haruf’s novel, Our Souls at Night.

Batra has spun his story around loneliness (a theme we also saw in The Lunchbox) – with Irrfan Khan’s Fernandes pining for love. The movie opens in one of the most unpretentious villages in India, and while not perfect, it is different from the garishly loud manner in which Indian heroes make their entries) when an ageing widow, Addie Moore, knocks on his door. They have lived as neighbours in a small Colorado town for 70 years, but had barely spoken to each other. Addie comes with a proposal. She would like him to share her bed – not really for sex, but for a conversational company. He agrees after contemplating for a day. And so begins a love story without much ado or elaborate preamble, and it turned out to be gripping.

Also harping on the theme of loneliness and, well some kind of love was Stephen Frears’ Victoria and Abdul. Judi Dench – who has been familiar to all of us as M in the James Bond thrillers – essays Queen Victoria in Frears’ latest outing, while Indian actor Ali Fazal – seen in films like Fukrey, Bobby Jasoos and Happy Bhag Jayegi – is Abdul Karim, a munshi or clerk in the royal household. As Karim, a clerk at the Agra Central Jail, his life lights up when he is sent to England, where he finds himself as the personal assistant to the Queen.

Based on a book, titled Victoria and Abdul: The True Story of The Queen’s Closest Confidant by Shrabani Basu, Frears’ examines how a young 24-year-old Abdul soon became a close confidant of an ageing and lonely Victoria – who had recently been devastated by the death of her Scottish gillie, John Brown. Her husband had been long gone. Abdul neatly places himself into this vacuum by becoming the Queen’s teacher. He gives her Urdu lessons and keeps her informed about Indian political and social affairs during the turbulent 1887.

Abdul’s increasingly intimate relationship with Victoria gets the royal household uncomfortable and insecure leading to a near revolt. Pitted against a raging movement in India for independence from years of British rule and a growing hostility inside the royal palace is a tender story between an ordinary munshi and a prim-and-proper elderly Empress.

Gautaman Bhaskaran has covered the Venice Film Festival for 18 years, and may be e-mailed at gautamanb@hotmail.com.
A skull that has been lying for decades in an obscure Italian museum may be finally identified as belonging to 1st-century scholar Pliny the Elder, who died almost 2,000 years ago trying to rescue people from the volcano eruption that destroyed Pompeii.

Pliny is known as the author of *Natural History*, one of the world’s most ancient encyclopaedic works. He was also a naval commander, who mobilised an entire fleet to pick up survivors from the 79 AD natural disaster.

“I have been working on this for 30 years,” military historian Flavio Russo tells dpa. “We cannot have absolute certainty, but we have lots of convincing clues, and more tests may give us a near-definitive answer,” he adds.

Professor Isolina Marota, an anthropologist from the University of Camerino who studied the famous 5,000-year-old Oetzi the Iceman mummy from South Tyrol, has offered to conduct tests on the skull’s teeth and compare its shape against known portraits of Pliny.

Scientists can compare isotopes contained in tooth enamel with isotopes from the soil of a specific region. If isotopes from the Rome skull match with samples from Pliny’s birthplace in Como, a lakeside city 50 kilometres north of Milan, the mystery would be considered solved.

The same procedure is what allowed scientists to pinpoint the Alpine valley Oetzi came from, and it should cost no more than 10,000 euros (11,860 dollars).

Several public and private donors offered to chip in after a fundraising appeal was published in a newspaper.

If a connection can be confirmed, the skull would be the world’s only [identified] human relic from ancient Rome,” Andrea Cionci, an art historian and freelance journalist who penned the *La Stampa* appeal, tells DPA.

Pliny was born in 23 AD, and most of what we know about him comes from the letters of his nephew, Pliny the Younger. He wrote that his uncle died on the beach of Stabiae, overwhelmed by poisonous gas from the nearby Mount Vesuvius volcano.

According to Russo, Pliny the Elder’s actions following the Pompeii disaster qualify as “the first-ever civil protection operation.” He detailed Pliny’s actions and the operation in a 2014 book published by the Italian Army’s chief of staff.

Russo believes Pliny rushed to the scene after being alerted via homing pigeon or smoke signals by a local matron, Rectina, who may have been his lover. He mobilised a dozen ships, powered by about 2,500 oarsmen, and saved roughly 1,000 people, including Rectina.

“My book is not just about military history, it is also a love story,” Russo tells DPA. “I figure that if Pliny went through all that effort, he and Rectina must have been remarkably close, to say the least.”

Pliny’s presumed remains were found in the early 20th century among 73 skeletons. One of the skeletons had been separated from the others and was decorated with precious jewellery, including a gold necklace and rings, and a sword with ivory and seashells.

The engineer who led the dig, Gennaro Matrone, made the link to Pliny, but a leading archaeologist told him that a Roman admiral would not be dressed up as a “cabaret ballerina.”

Later studies revealed that such decorations were common for people of Pliny’s rank. Matrone was allowed to keep the jewels, which he sold, and donated the skull to an army general, who later entrusted it to the National Historic Museum of Healthcare Art, where it is still on display.

The skull has been left “more or less forgotten in a corner,” Cionci says. – DPA