Community
Pakistan International School Qatar celebrates Pakistan Defence Day on its premises.

Community
The area around the Checkpoint Charlie, a symbol of German division, has become a tourisy spot.
Seema Raja
DIRECTION: Ponram
CAST: Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Sivakarthikeyan, Yogi Babu, Lal, Manobala
SYNOPSIS: Seemruga is a Tamil movie starring Sivakarthikeyan and Samantha. Seema Raja is the prince of the town who travels in helicopters and has money to spare and Samantha is just another ordinary girl from the town, not so aware of Raja’s existence and his background. When the heir of the royal family tries to save his land and villagers from a greedy man, he meets Samantha on his journey of remorse and action. What happens next is a love story crafted to detail.
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

Seema Raja
DIRECTION: Ponram
CAST: Shraddha Srinath, Dileep Raj, Roger Narayan
SYNOPSIS: Mysterious events occur around a double road flyover in Bengaluru. When a flyover in the city becomes the hotbed of accidents, a young reporter decides to investigate the issue. Her quest for an answer would lead her into a web of intrigue, murder and mystery.
THEATRE: The Mall

QUOTE UNQUOTE
“Lighten up, just enjoy life, smile more, laugh more, and don’t get so worked up about things.”
— Kenneth Branagh

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, 44460537
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888
Qatar Airways 44460000
Hamad Medical Corporation 4492222, 4493333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44594050
Qatar News Agency 44450205, 44450333
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444

Humanitarian Services Office
(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)
Ministry of Interior 40253371, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health 40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation 40253364, 40253365
Qatar Airways 40253374

UTurn
DIRECTION: Pawan Kumar
CAST: Shraddha Srinath, Dileep Raj, Roger Narayan
SYNOPSIS: Mysterious events occur around a double road flyover in Bengaluru. When a flyover in the city becomes the hotbed of accidents, a young reporter decides to investigate the issue. Her quest for an answer would lead her into a web of intrigue, murder and mystery.
THEATRE: The Mall

The Mall Cinema (1):
Seema Raja (Tamil) 2:15pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 5:15pm; Final Score (2D) 7:30pm; The Nun (2D) 9:30pm; Shailaja Reddy (Telugu) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (2):
The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 2pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 4:30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 6:30pm; The Predator (2D) 8:30pm; Jawani Phir Nahi Ani 2 (Urdu) 10:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (3):
The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 2pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 4:30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 6:30pm; The Predator (2D) 8:30pm; Jawani Phir Nahi Ani 2 (Urdu) 10:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (4):
The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 2pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 4:30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 6:30pm; The Predator (2D) 8:30pm; Jawani Phir Nahi Ani 2 (Urdu) 10:30pm.

Landmark Cinema (1):
The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 2.30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 4:30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 6:30pm; The Predator (2D) 8:30pm; Jawani Phir Nahi Ani 2 (Urdu) 10:30pm.
Landmark Cinema (2):
The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 2.30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 4:30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 6:30pm; The Predator (2D) 8:30pm; Jawani Phir Nahi Ani 2 (Urdu) 10:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):
Luis And The Aliens (2D) 3pm; Peter Pan: The Quest Of The Never Book (2D) 5pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 7pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 9:15pm; The Nun (2D) 11:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):
The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 2.30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 4:30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 6:30pm; The Predator (2D) 8:30pm; Jawani Phir Nahi Ani 2 (Urdu) 10:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3):
Seema Raja (Tamil) 5pm; Manmarziyaan (Hindi) 8pm; Ranam (Malayalam) 10:45pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (4):
Luis And The Aliens (2D) 3pm; Peter Pan: The Quest Of The Never Book (2D) 5pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 7pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 9:15pm; The Nun (2D) 11:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (5):
The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 2.30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 4:30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 6:30pm; The Predator (2D) 8:30pm; Jawani Phir Nahi Ani 2 (Urdu) 10:30pm.

Quote Unquote
“Lighten up, just enjoy life, smile more, laugh more, and don’t get so worked up about things.”
— Kenneth Branagh

Community Editor
Kamran Rehmat
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Telephone: 44466405
Fax: 44350474
Round & About

Events

Making Faces with Clay
WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art, Education Centre
WHEN: Till today
TIME: 4pm – 7pm
Join the clay sculpting workshop held at the Museum of Islamic Art.

Boxercise, Drama, Piano, Violin and Salsa, Yoga, Hip Hop, Football, Spinning, and more
Opening its new HUB offering Zumba. kids will love learning about the Salsa and the features that make their figurative art so distinct.

Doha Women Forum
WHERE: The Westin Doha Hotel & Spa
WHEN: September 27
TIME: 4pm – 5pm
Join the gathering of knitters and crocheters to work on projects and share skills in a friendly atmosphere. Participants will be welcome to bring their own supplies and projects or to borrow QNL needles and yarn. All skill levels are welcome including beginners who are interested in learning.

Weekly Knitting and Crochet Circle
WHERE: Qatar National Library
WHEN: Ongoing till September 27
TIME: 9am – 11am
Join the casual gathering of knitters and crocheters to work on projects and share skills in a friendly atmosphere. Participants will be welcome to bring their own supplies and projects or to borrow QNL needles and yarn. All skill levels are welcome including beginners who are interested in learning.

International Wedding Exhibition
WHERE: DECC, Westbay
WHEN: September 28 – 30
TIME: 10am – 10pm
IWED 2018 is to stage a high-profile luxury wedding exhibition in order to position it in the calendar as a key appointment for the luxury market in the Middle East. This event also offers women, who are interested in fashion and luxury, the latest styles and trends in the market.

Free Activities
Swiss International School
- The Swiss International School is opening its new HUB offering Zumba, Salsa, Yoga, Hip Hop, Football, Spinning, Boxercise, Drama, Piano, Violin and ABRSM music theory: enjoy a large range of activities for both kids and adults. No need for registration.

Kannada Film Screening
WHERE: Asian Town Screen 3
WHEN: September 21
TIME: 5:30pm
The screening is to reach out to Kannada speaking audience in Qatar providing premier family entertainment.

Story Time for kids
WHERE: Virgin Megastore, Doha Festival City
WHEN: September 22
TIME: 3pm – 5pm
Experience the magic of getting lost in the wonderful world of books with Virginia Megastore's Story Time session happening at Doha Festival City.

IEC Paris EMBA Session
WHERE: Tornado Tower, West Bay
WHEN: September 22
TIME: 4:30 pm – 6pm
Learn more about this world-class executive programme. Discover the international diversity of participants, blended learning and international mobility options. Find out how it will help you transform yourself and your career.

Toastmasters Speech Craft
WHERE: North Star Kindergarten, Al Khur
WHEN: Ongoing till September 28
TIME: 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Crush your fear of public speaking and learn to speak with confidence in stage by joining the Toastmasters Speechcraft at Al Khur. Speechcraft is a 4 session learn-by-doing workshop, designed to increase your public speaking and leadership skills.

Weekly Knitting and Crochet Circle
WHERE: Qatar National Library
WHEN: Ongoing till September 27
TIME: 9am – 11am
Join the casual gathering of knitters and crocheters to work on projects and share skills in a friendly atmosphere. Participants will be welcome to bring their own supplies and projects or to borrow QNL needles and yarn. All skill levels are welcome including beginners who are interested in learning.

Easy Activities
- Virgin Megastore, Doha Festival City
Enjoy the supreme aerial acrobatics skill show with an exceptional laser act and a haunting music soundtrack that promises to entertain the whole family.

Med Food
WHERE: DECC
WHEN: October 1 – 4
TIME: 3pm – 9pm
For international entrepreneurs, traders, manufacturers, suppliers, food technology companies, and hospitality services on food and beverage, MedFood will be an excellent platform to open new vistas to foray into the emerging markets of Qatar while Qatar economy is rapidly progressing, the demand and supply of food is inevitable increasing due to the growth of local population, foreign worker and its tourism.

International Yoga Day
WHERE: Aspire Zone
WHEN: June
TIME: 10am – 12pm
Celebrate International Yoga Day with live music and yoga classes at Aspire Zone. The event will feature various styles of yoga, including Hatha, Vinyasa, and Iyengar.

International Yoga Day
WHERE: Aspire Zone
WHEN: June
TIME: 10am – 12pm
Celebrate International Yoga Day with live music and yoga classes at Aspire Zone. The event will feature various styles of yoga, including Hatha, Vinyasa, and Iyengar.

Breast Cancer Awareness
WHERE: InterContinental Doha
WHEN: October
TIME: 10am
Breast Cancer Awareness month is an annual observance held in October to focus on detecting breast cancer and raising awareness of the disease.

TCA QATAR Dance Evolution Competition
WHERE: TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building
WHEN: September 25 – October 5
Are you a dancer? Do you love to dance? If yes, then you can come and tap your feet on the your favorite dancing numbers and be a part of Qatar Dance Evolution Competition 2018.

Gymnastics World Championships
WHERE: Aspire Dome
WHEN: October
TIME: 9am – 5pm
Over 700 male and female gymnasts from over 80 countries, including three Team Qatar gymnasts, will compete across 10 days of competition in Doha’s iconic Aspire Dome. Experience the drama, emotions and excitement of gymnastics’ pinnacle event as global superstars go head to head in a bid to be crowned the best in the world.

After School Activities
WHERE: Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
Music & arts Activities for students taking place after they finish their day in school includes Group Music lessons, Hip-hop, Ballet, Drawing & Painting, Drama Theatre & Taekwondo. Ages between 5 and 10 year old after school hours.

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mystic Arts Centre behind Al Hilal Focus Medical Centre
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
Mystic Art Centre, is a holistic performing artist institution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in Carnatic Music, Hindustani Music, Karate, Yoga, Zumba, Classical Dance, Salsa, Hip Hop, contemporary and Bollywood dance forms. For details, call 4723680/33897609.

Dance and instrument classes
WHERE: TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
Learn the movements of dance styles in Bollywood, Hip Hop and also the musical instruments such as Piano, Guitar, Keyboard for adults as well kids and move in the world of music. For details, contact 66523871/33326749.

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change
73,000 years old!

The ancient piece of art predates any other known abstract or figurative drawings from Africa, Europe and Indonesia by 30,000 years and is on the smooth, concave side of a grindstone tool that’s only 1.5 inches long, writes Deborah Netburn

It adds a new dimension to what these people were doing and reinforces the hypothesis that they had a symbolic culture

— Francesco d’Errico, archaeologist

In an ancient seaside cave on the South African coast, archaeologists have found what may be the earliest known drawing created by a human. This ancient piece of art is about 73,000 years old, its discoverers say. It’s on the smooth, concave side of a grindstone tool that’s only 1.5 inches long, and experiments in a French laboratory suggest it was created with a pointed piece of ochre.

The markings are not much to look at. They consist of six relatively straight lines that are intersected by three wavy lines to form a rough crosshatch pattern. But the simple red drawing predates any other known abstract or figurative drawings from Africa, Europe and Indonesia by 30,000 years, according to a report this week in the journal Nature.

Francesco d’Errico, an archaeologist at the University of Bordeaux in France who worked on the study, said the find came as a surprise to the research team. “It adds a new dimension to what these people were doing and reinforces the hypothesis that they had a symbolic culture,” he said.

The drawing was discovered as part of the excavation of Blombos Cave, which lies 190 miles east of Cape Town on the southern coast of South Africa. Teeth found in the cave indicate that it was used as a temporary residence by early modern humans as far back as 100,000 years ago.

The grindstone was found in sedimentary layers that have been dated to between 77,000 and 73,000 years ago. These layers also contained 67 shell beads, including some that had been coloured with ochre. Archaeologists had also found evidence that visitors to the cave were processing ochre to create a liquid pigment and storing it in abalone shells as much as 100,000 years ago.

However, the drawing still came as a surprise. It was first spotted by Luca Pollarolo, an archaeologist and honorary research fellow at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

Pollarolo had already examined thousands of flakes pulled from the cave as part of his work to better understand the technology used to produce stone tools. The markings on this particular flake looked odd to his trained eye, so he passed it along to the leaders of the dig — Christopher Henshilwood and Karen van Niekerk of the University of Bergen in Norway.

The researchers’ first step was to determine whether the lines were just part of the stone tool or if they had been put there by humans. Microscopic and chemical analyses confirmed that the lines were chemically different from the rock, and that they were made of ochre. Next, the researchers wanted to know how the ochre lines had gotten onto the rock. Was it painted? Was it drawn?

To answer this question, they brushed rocks with ochre paint and drew on rocks with ochre crayons (pieces of ochre that have been sharpened to a point on one end.) It was painstaking work.
It may appear as a fun activity to an outsider, but in reality it is a time-consuming endeavour in which you alternate experiments with a lot of time at the microscope," D’Errico said.

Ultimately, the team determined that the ochre lines were almost certainly made by drawing, not by painting.

Finally, the authors wanted to know whether the pattern was deliberately drawn to convey meaning or it was simply the result of processing ochre. Previous work had shown that these ancient people also used ochre as a glue additive and perhaps as a sunscreen.

To test this, they tried grinding ochre in a way that would match the pattern on the grindstone, but this produced less than one milligram of ochre powder — hardly worth the effort. This led them to the conclusion that there was not a utilitarian purpose to the lines.

Reaction to the study has been mixed among the archaeological community.

Adam Brumm, an archaeologist at Griffith University in Australia, said the authors’ claim was premature.

“To make this argument they would need to find and date more such artifacts, not just one among several thousand other unmarked stones,” he said.

Brumm added that there are other explanations for how the lines could have gotten there.

“For example, the red lines could simply be from sharpening an ochre ‘crayon’ on the grindstone,” he said.

His colleague Maxime Aubert, an archaeologist and geochemist at Griffith University, shared his scepticism. Although the study authors have shown that the ochre was applied to the stone on purpose, the reason for it remains unclear, he said.

“To me, it fails to demonstrate that the crosshatched patterns were intentionally made by humans as a sign of symbolic representation,” he said.

However, Pat Shipman, a retired professor of anthropology at Penn State, said the authors made a convincing case that the drawing was deliberately made.

“The hashtag or crosshatched shape often appears in rock art and quite similar shapes have been scratched into pieces of ochre from the same cave,” Shipman said.

“Though they have, so far, only the one piece, I would not be surprised if more are discovered since the one they have recognised so far is part of a larger object.”

Indeed, the researchers report that each red line ends abruptly at the stone’s edge, suggesting that the drawing is a small part of a bigger — and perhaps more complex — pattern.

This is not the first controversy to originate from Blombos Cave. Researchers are also divided on whether several pieces of engraved ochre demonstrate symbolic thinking by the cave’s ancient inhabitants.

As excavations at the cave continue, future finds may shed more light on the murky world of ancient art. — Los Angeles Times/ TNS

EXPLORATION: Scientists at work in the Blombos Cave interior.

COUNTERPOINT

“To make this argument they would need to find and date more such artifacts, not just one among several thousand other unmarked stones.

For example, the red lines could simply be from sharpening an ochre ‘crayon’ on the grindstone.”

— Adam Brumm, archaeologist at Griffith University in Australia
PISQ celebrates Pakistan Defence Day

Pakistan International School Qatar (PISQ) recently organised an event as part of the Defence Day celebrations of Pakistan. The event paid tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan’s armed forces who rendered supreme sacrifices in the defence of their motherland.

The event kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an which was followed by the national anthem. The event was compered by Ahsan Rasheed. The chief guest at the event was Munir Baser, Chargé d’affaires at the embassy of Pakistan. Commodore Irfan Taj, Defence Attaché, also attended the event along with Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of PISQ, vice principals, teachers and students.

The event featured national songs including Ay Raah-e-Haq k Shaheedo and Hamain Pyaar Hai Pakistan Se by a choir of students from the Senior Girls Wing PISQ. An interactive session, a joint session of Senior Girls Wing and Senior Boys Wing, was also part of the event. The participants enlightened the audience about the sacrifices made by both armed workforce and civilian population to protect their homeland and its residents.

Life histories of many eminent martyrs, including M M Alam, Major Shabbir Sharif, Captain Yasir Ali, Captain Astardyar Bukhari, Tahira Qazi, and Attaaz Hassan were also projected to familiarise the audience with the passion and the deep need to protect and cherish one’s country. The segment was concluded with the pledge to do whatever it takes to keep the country safe and prosperous.

Muhammad Moosa, a student of Senior Boys Wing PISQ, delivered a speech in the honour of Attaaz Hassan Bangash Shaheed, reiterating the tale of a fearless patriot who prevented a suicide bomber from entering a school, saving the lives of numerous innocent children.

Irfan Taj, while addressing the audience, highlighted the necessity to remain steadfast and clearheaded and reminded the young students of their duty towards their homeland, and urged them to aim high and work hard to reach the heights of success. He expressed his conviction that Pakistan can progress only if the future generation is competent enough to take the helm and steer the country to success and prosperity.

Division B Toastmasters conduct TLI workshop

Division B the largest division in Qatar, comprising of 19 Toastmasters clubs, recently conducted its first Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) workshop on ‘Moments of Truth’ by Safeer Aziz at the Olive International school.

Surya Narayanan, Committee Chair of Division B Awards, briefed on the awards designed for this term for each member, club and area. The event was attended by over 65 club leaders.

Muthurangan, Mashood, Kanthi and Alar Mel Mangai, Division B Area Directors, presented their plans for the year. Sunita Saini, Division B Director, also presented the Division B progress plan and report at the event.
P3CC elects new office bearers

Province 3 Co-ordination Council - Qatar (P3CC) recently elected its new office bearers in its first general assembly at Shalimar Restaurant. Samir K C has been elected as the new chairman of 29 member working committee.

The event was attended by Dr Dev Kazi Dangol and Nanda Prasad Dhungana, community leaders, along with representatives from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Philippine communities. Hari Krishna Rimal welcomed the guests. The programme was hosted by Kabindra Kandel and Bishnu Shandari. During the event, Sagar Nepal said that all Nepali should unite to make FIFA World Cup 2022 a successful affair.

IIS celebrates Language Day

Various language departments of Ideal Indian School (IIS) recently celebrated Language Day as an aim to develop the language skills among the students, bring out their hidden linguistic talents and promote Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam, Arabic, French, Tamil, Kannada and Marathi.

The event featured folk dances, skits, songs and speeches by the students of all the sections. Speaking on the occasion Syed Shoukath Ali, Principal of IIS, said that the mother tongue education is an important step in language learning for children which facilitates their better learning and connects them to their culture and traditions. He also motivated the students to learn more languages.

Alby Mathew, Assistant Cultural Secretary Boys' Section, welcomed the gathering and Sandhira Greeshikumar, Assistant Cultural Secretary Girls' Section, proposed a vote of thanks. Liya玛丽um Anagha Deleep and Sandhira Greeshikumar, students of Grade – IX, anchored the programme. In Junior Section, the programme kicked off with a welcome speech by Sowbaghyalakshmi.

Students of Arabic Department projected an infotainment presentation about the development and progress of Qatar, 'State Rulers of Qatar and their Achievements'. The students studying French performed a skit 'The Wind and the Sun' with a moral stating that gentleness and kindness always wins. Hindi students also enacted a skit 'Pedom ki Panchayath', insisting on the protection of vegetation. Malayalam students displayed their knowledge of the language with a skit 'Kuttikalam oru Kusruthikkalam' was a skit performed by Malayalam students, sharing a message on the importance of playing more interactive games rather than virtual games. A skit 'Nandrea Saga' with a moral saying always do good to others was presented by Tamil students. Urdu students displayed their knowledge of the language with a skit 'Truth Triumphs'. A song 'Nachre Mora' was also sung at the event by a group of Marathi students which was followed by 'State Anthem of Karnataka' sung by Kannada students. Shobana Menon, Vice Principal IIS, emphasised on the significance of learning different languages.
Six in colour vs identity

The survey, conducted by Northwestern University’s Centre for the Study of Diversity and Democracy (CSDD) in collaboration with DNA testing company 23andMe, looked at people’s perceptions and attitudes regarding race and genetics. By Darcel Rockett

Race isn’t a black and white issue. And it seems many Americans know that, according to a recent study by Northwestern University’s Centre for the Study of Diversity and Democracy (CSDD). The survey, conducted in collaboration with DNA testing company 23andMe, looked at people’s perceptions and attitudes regarding race and genetics.

It found 33.8 percent of Americans think biology totally determines racial identity; 18.8 percent think it somewhat determines race; 30.2 percent believe the two are related but not causal; 17.2 percent see no relation.

“I believed the numbers were going to be far worse,” said Alvin Tillery Jr, Director of CSDD. “I expected two-thirds of every population group would believe that science or biology determines your race. That was a huge surprise.”

The CSDD data, gathered from 3,000 adults this year, found white people to be the most committed to the idea that biology determines race (37.2 percent), followed by Latinx (27.1 percent), Asian-Americans (26 percent) and African-Americans (24.5 percent).

“To some extent, we can’t be too surprised by that,” Tillery said of the last statistic.

“Study after study in race relations research show black Americans are the most committed to democratic personal choice. It’s this unwillingness to be defined by the system.”

Biologically, humans are 99.9 percent genetically identical, according to the Human Genome Project, completed in April 2003. The CSDD study found that about half of Americans think skin colour is the best way to identify a person’s race; 35 percent think culture and history play a role; 18 percent believe race is a personal choice.

To be clear, CSDD defines race as a construct that human beings use to organise themselves and others into groups. This construct often, but not always, relies on phenotypical or gross characteristics, also known as outward appearance.

Tillery explores this in his NU classes. He shows students a genomic pie chart representing someone who is 26 percent Scottish/Irish/UK and 74 percent West/Central Africa. He asks who they think the person is in the class. Most think the person is white, or that it has no relation.

“People get these scans back may shift races for a variety of reasons, so that’s something that we definitely want to understand.”

Fifty-six percent of those polled said race relations are getting worse, not better. But whether DNA testing contributes to that decline, has not been proved, Tillery said.

“I don’t think we have thought about what possibilities there are, but we’ve certainly thought of the kind of situational identity problem in sociology where people choose what identity to stress as it suits their strategic and emotional goals,” Tillery said. “People getting these scans back may shift races for a variety of reasons, so that’s something that we definitely want to understand.”

According to the survey, 33.8 percent of Americans think biology determines racial identity; 18.8 percent think it determines race; 30.2 percent believe the two are related and 17.2 percent see no relation.
Powerful lesson about trusting your gut, voice

Aly Raisman’s book is about her family, lifelong dream of becoming an Olympic gymnast and path to getting there, writes Heidi Stevens

I'm just now catching up with Aly Raisman’s book, Fierce: How Competing for Myself Changed Everything, and there's a passage I want to tell you about.

Raisman is a two-time Olympian with six medals — three of them gold — who served as captain of the US gymnastics teams in both London (2012) and Rio (2016).

Her book is about her family (she’s one of four kids), her lifelong dream of becoming an Olympic gymnast and her path to getting there.

Raisman is also one of more than 100 athletes who spoke out about physical abuse they suffered at the hands of Larry Nassar, a sports doctor for the US Women’s National Team and Michigan State University.

Raisman’s victim impact statement, which was met with applause in the courtroom, is widely credited with crystallising the weight of Nassar’s crimes for the viewing public.

The New York Times devoted a full page to reprinting it.

“Larry, you do realize now that we, this group of women you so heartlessly abused over such a long period of time, are now a force and you are nothing,” Raisman said in her statement. “The tables have turned, Larry. We are here, we have our voices, and we are not going anywhere.”

Nassar occupies very little space in Fierce.

“I am not going into specifics about what Larry did to me — that information is private,” Raisman writes.

She shares some basics — the call she received from USA Gymnastics telling her a private investigator would be visiting her, her yearslong internal conflict over whether Nassar’s methods were as violating as they felt, her hope that her story will inspire other abuse survivors to speak up.

Most of her story, though, is not lived or told under his shadow. As it should be.

The passage in Fierce I was most struck by is about her decision to pose for ESPN magazine’s Body Issue, which is filled with artfully shot images of athletes.

Her first instinct was to say no when the magazine came calling.

“I pictured myself typing my name into Google, knowing that photos of me had been published — and there was nothing I could do if I didn’t like what I saw,” she writes. “I also wondered how the people I knew would react. My coaches, for example?”

She talked it over with her parents and siblings. “Why would you want to?” one sister asked.

“If I were a man, this would be no big deal, I told myself,” Raisman writes. “Men pose for these things all the time. Why is it different because I’m a woman?”

She thought about all the ways girls and women are judged for the ways their bodies look — too small, too big, too muscular.

“They are taught to dislike what makes them stand out,” she writes.

“I had worked my whole life to look the way I did, and I was through letting anyone make me ashamed of my body,” she writes.

“I was now 20 years old, and training for a second Olympics had made me appreciate my body like never before.”

Why shouldn’t she be included in a Body Issue?

“I had always weighed decisions by asking myself, ‘What will everyone else think?’ first and ‘What do I want to do?’ second,” she writes. “It was time to listen to my voice above the others.”

She called the magazine to accept.

“When I spoke, my voice was firm,” she said. “I’ll do it!”

How many of us have spent decades (a lifetime?) weighing decisions, first, by asking what everyone else will think? How many of us have only recently learned — are still trying to learn — to listen to our own voices above others?

How many of us are raising children to listen to and use their own voices?

Raisman’s book, as I said, is about her.

Not Nassar. But I can’t help but place her epiphany next to what she writes about his abuse.

“There seemed to be so many reasons not to speak up,” she writes. “First of all, what if I was wrong? Maybe what he did was a legitimate medical practice, just like he said all along. Maybe people wouldn’t believe me, or would think I was exaggerating and being dramatic, or they’d hate me. Maybe they would think that I was doing it just to get attention. And then there was Larry’s family to think of. What if I ruined their lives?”

In the end, she found the courage to listen to her own voice above the others.

Nassar was sentenced in January to 175 years in prison for multiple sex crimes. That wouldn’t have happened without her voice and the voices of more than 100 other survivors who came forward.

“To everyone reading this,” Raisman writes. “Your story matters. You matter, and you should trust yourself. If something feels off, and you think you may be being manipulated or taken advantage of, speak up. You are strong and tough. You are not alone. You deserve to feel safe. It’s as simple as that.”

And it starts with listening to your own voice above others. — IANS
Watch out for water-damaged used cars after hurricanes

Used-car shoppers: Beware in the months after major flooding. The National Insurance Crime Bureau recommends the following steps to avoid getting scammed with a water-damaged vehicle:

- Select a reputable car dealer and use a VIN checker to ensure the car does not have a salvage title.
- Inspect (and smell) the vehicle for water stains.
- Check for rust around screws in the center console area.
- Inspect the upholstery and door panel materials for fading.
- Inspect the seat belt retractor for moisture, mildew or grime.
- Check to make sure the speakers work.
- Have a mechanic inspect the vehicle prior to purchasing it.
- Trust your instincts. If a deal sounds too good to be true - it probably is.

Source: cars.com
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Swevice
Experts on ways to use ice cubes for an amazing skin

Water benefits skin in many ways, but it is surprising to know that frozen water has many uses in beauty care if applied properly. Shahnaz Husain, founder, Chairperson and Managing Director of The Shahnaz Husain Group, lists down some ways to use ice cubes:

- It helps to shrink the pores and even stops sweating for a while. Yes, rubbing ice on the skin does have benefits, but one should remember not to apply ice directly on the skin because it can damage the capillaries. Wrap ice cubes in a clean cloth and apply it on the face gently for a few seconds at a time. This should be done after cleansing. It can refresh the skin and even add glow.
- To make your foundation last during the hot and humid season, first cleanse the skin and then apply an astringent toner, using cotton wool. After a few minutes, wrap an ice cube in a clean cloth and apply it on the skin for a few seconds at a time. This helps to close the pores.
- Ice applications are also helpful in dealing with acne conditions. If acne eruptions look red and inflamed, ice would help the condition to subside.
- If there is any injury with swelling, we have heard how an ice pack reduces the inflammation and relieves pain. The same principle can be applied to reduce puffy eyes. Again wrap the ice cube in a clean cloth and apply under the eyes for a few seconds at a time.
- The skin under the eyes is very thin and this can result in broken capillaries if you apply the ice for longer periods. After threading or even waxing, ice applications do help.

Aashmeen Munjaal of Star Salon and Academy also has some inputs to share:

- Rub the cubes over your face properly and leave them for 20 minutes and then rinse. It works as a great cleanser and toner if used twice daily. If you have dry skin, add two to three almonds to this paste and it will be a boon for your skin.
- For oily skin, add lime juice odicol for the cube. It keeps your skin odour-free and well nourished. You can also use it for underarms as it helps controlling the excessive sweat and odour.
- If your skin is patchy or is sunburnt, you can use aloevera cubes to cure and nourish your skin. You can add jasmine or neem oil which are very good for skin. Just take one cube and rub it over your neck, knuckles and elbows and leave for 15-20 minutes to remove dark cells and tanning. — IANS

Experts on ways to use ice cubes for an amazing skin

Aries
March 21 – April 19
Idealist romantic notions join with intense sensual passion to create powerful desire that stays with you throughout the day, Aries. If you can schedule some quality time with your love partner, by all means do it. If not, you might have to settle for making a date for later in the week. In the meantime, pamper yourself a bit until then and hang in there!

Cancer
June 21 – July 22
Friends who are interested in psychic and metaphysical matters could visit you today, Cancer. You may discuss a lot of fascinating material, which could alter your value system in a subtle but profound way. Don’t be surprised if you do more listening than talking on this occasion. It’s important to soak in as much as you can.

Libra
September 23 – October 22
Are you looking for a particular piece of information, Libra? A friend, possibly another Libra, has this information but is unaware that you’re searching for it. Don’t be afraid to let all your friends and acquaintances know that you need to find some specific facts. The person who finally comes forward may surprise you. Enjoy your day!

Sagittarius
November 22 – December 21
Have you been having difficulties with career or money matters, Sagittarius? If so, help might come today from a friend who lives far away. This person may not do much but offer words that are so insightful that you know immediately what course of action to take. What this person says could also be of valuable assistance in the future. Write it down so you’ll be sure to remember it.

Leo
July 23 – August 22
A rush of physical energy may hit you this morning, Leo, and you could feel like you have no outlet for it. But a sibling or neighbour may need some help, so you’ll definitely be able to put that energy to work. It should be a good day for everyone. Your friend will receive some valuable help with an important matter, and you’ll be able to make use of all that vigour.

Aries
April 20 – May 20
Your home could be a busy place today as friends from far away come by for a long-overdue visit, Taurus. You’ll probably spend as much time as you can getting the place in order, but don’t go overboard. Your friends are coming to see you, not your house. Dress the place up with some flowering plants and a few accessories, then sit back and enjoy the visit.

Taurus
May 21 – June 20
Some fascinating news could come from a friend who’s presently out of town, Gemini. This might be personal, but it’s more likely involves new discoveries in a field that interests you both. You’ll probably want to do some research of your own, so be prepared to spend time in the library or online over the next few weeks. Keep careful records. You won’t want to forget a thing!

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Capricorn
December 22 – January 19
Today, a flash of inspiration may resolve an obstacle to your career advancement that presented itself in the past few days, Capricorn. This solution could prove so beneficial that you’ll want to remember it for obstacles in any area of your life for the future. You may feel so good about resolving this that you’ll want to go out and celebrate. Go for it!

Aquarius
January 20 – February 18
Are you presently negotiating a contract, Aquarius? If you and the other party disagree on any points, these differences will most likely be resolved. You’ll probably come up with an idea that creates a win-win situation so both of you feel good about it. This will strengthen your relationship considerably, so expect partnership matters to progress smoothly. Enjoy your day.

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Pisces
February 19 – March 20
Professional difficulties could be resolved by outside assistance. Pisces. Equipment may have gone haywire, or miscommunications could have led to snarls. Perhaps you need to call in a consultant. It’s possible that you might come up with the right solution at the right time and earn some well-deserved respect. Whatever the difficulty, it won’t last.
Wordsearch

CODIVIA  OLWEN  OPHRAH
ODESTE  OLWYN  ORIANA
ODILE  OLYMPIA  ORIEL
OLGA  OONA  ORLA
OLIVE  OPAL  OTPOLINE
OLIVIA  OPELIA  OWENA

Codeword

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.

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Sudoku

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

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a grid. The grid is divided into nine 3x3 boxes. You are given a selection of numbers and you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains each number exactly once.

Codeword solutions:

O Girl!

OCTAVIA  OLWEN  OPHRAH
ODESTE  OLWYN  ORIANA
ODILE  OLYMPIA  ORIEL
OLGA  OONA  ORLA
OLIVE  OPAL  OTPOLINE
OLIVIA  OPELIA  OWENA

Wordsearch

OSPEGVMMYTITCHHA
SNYWLUOOPHELIAON
ORIELIBRIFRIECLA
OCEDOTDLAPOTHII
FDUIBUFOSMAAMVR
WBEOGUAVOGVROAIO
RLRTINEIILGNA
NNJECTIONAPWIAEHO
FMCHIOEMTYVOT
NYOHMSLNAGYVOOT
HGOCVTVOGMLHVR
TANPCUTAYYLFOVU
CCAFPSSTRAGOIVL
OCTLFLOUFBRLPF
ALROAPIOTROWISO
Super Cryptic Clues

Across:
1. “Fish and fruit? Goody!” said the Spaniard (5,4)
6. That’s the name, master, of the game (5)
9. Plus being no less hard (5)
10. He helps the man in, as it’s rocking (9)
11. Clowning on the part of the cat? (10)
12. What the lawyer gave you can be given back, too (4)
13. Is faster at cracking our nuts (7)
14. Check the writing and the plot, in case (7)
15. Favour the setter frisking round inside (7)
17. Determines to get seats (7)
18. Point to the left less than the others (4)
22. Cutting the cast drastically in it, but not minding, now (4,6)
25. Nobody could make me do it! (9)
26. Try on the brown for the dance (5)
27. The man is, by the way, a woman (5)
28. Rush and, thriving, beside it a wild flower (9)

Down:
1. The smallest in the Latin Quarter (5)
2. They get fed up with each other! (9)
3. Quite good, as the car looks after you’ve cleaned it? (3,2,5)
4. They’re wise to have a big clear-out in it (7)
5. Guarantees three points: bound to go in (7)
6. He invites one into the blazing sun (4)
7. Will or will not take (5)
8. They work, instead, to counteract poisons (9)
13. Walked off with, lost in thought (10)
14. Loves wandering about: sure is different from us (9)
16. Delay for a flirtation (9)
18. Coats the woman’s put round the boy (7)
19. Deliver to put on the house (3,4)
21. Only about five finish the puzzle (5)
23. The rumbling sound does increase to one side (5)
24. Sole will get caught in it no longer (4)

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword

Yesterday’s Solutions

Across: 1 Dundee; 4 Cobs; 10 Garbage; 11 Titular; 12 Echo; 13 Saxophones; 16 Errone; 17 Decrual; 20 Arsenal; 21 Income; 24 Charitable; 25 Gist; 27 Recoils; 29 Explain; 30 Distends; 31 Prised.

Down: 1 Doggerel; 2 Northumbria; 3 Exam; 5 Outvoted; 6 Butchering; 7 Eilt; 8 Stress; 9 Delay; 14 Neapolitans; 15 Indecisive; 18 Harassed; 19 Destined; 22 Scared; 23 Sleek; 26 Spar; 28 Cos.
Defining bridal trends with bling and intricate details

As is widely acknowledged, the Pakistan L’Oréal Bridal Week is second to none when it comes to supporting and developing new talent. The lineup is always represented by a motley crew of designers mostly diverse, experimental in playing with shape as well as colour but also sometimes almost dirgelike in their grunginess. If Bridal Couture Week gives a commercial appeal to the wedding lines, PLBW accords hoopla of aesthetics to the modern bridal wear. If you have what it takes, no one can take it from you, and if you unfortunately don’t, no one can put it on you. The faux –hawks and metallic makeup, sleek ponytails and silver lids, boho hair and vivid heavy jewellery pieces – unforgettable silhouettes and creativity to binge for and a few collections that never should’ve been made. In plethora of duplication the veterans of Pakistan fashion industry did hold their own understated signature that borrowed the best of tradition and left the volume behind. Menswear may have brought PLBW to a close, but the week’s biggest stories emerged from the womenwear shows. PLBW was a rich source of trends as always – and this season, it seems, the richer the better.

The fashion desk lists the top 6 collections that made an impact on the runway season.

**Ali Xeeshan**

Ali Xeeshan is a name you hear on the red carpet more and more these days. What makes him so popular? The way he mixes colours and fabric together.

He’s one of few designers we have who’ve never been bashful in playing with colours and adding life to bridals. And why not? It’s the wedding day! With dresses moulded in golden wires, neon, powder pink with silver and gold tilla and suzda work was exactly what we were expecting of a glorious showcase to feature. Jiaazul was gauged by the movement of the storm in the desert and the beautiful transformation it creates in the surroundings. Deep red lehnga choli here, with gold and hint of orange there; green neon tops of edgy cuts with heavily embellished lehngas – oh how he made it work!

**HSY**

His dresses are shiny, uncomplicated, and easy to digest. That sums up Sheroo’s collection with the crowd? The way he mixes the best of tradition and left the runway season.

**Faraz Manan**

If the day ended with HSY’s shaadi wear sorcery, it started with a different kind of bridal magic. Faraz returned to Lahore after years and his collection offering quite well. He showed multi-tiered lehngas, layered saris and ghararas in a rainbow of deep rooted shades, nearly all of them with well-fitted layers and neat, intricate embroideries. The details of the clothes were so obsessively conceived and realised, they could have easily sunk the clothes. But Faraz has already won kudos for his touch, which has literally lifted the collection. The collection was a little one-dimensional, but these pieces will be pulled a lot by fashion editors, and some of the more circumspect shoppers.

**Kamiar Rokni**

Kami’s collection best exemplified the designers who are on ball with what they’re doing. The chatta patti lining, ruffles, off shoulder glitter glam, flowing silhouettes, traditional pieces, suits that took the breath away, clarity, precision and lightness in the intricate embroideries handcrafted and interfaced with organza, chiffon and tissue – you name it, he showed it- enhanced the feminine appeal of the collection. Va Va Voom!

**Saira Shakira**

Saira Shakirah is a specialist in the dramatic silhouette, and had clearly been doing their homework, because the brand recaptured that drama featuring heavily embroidered wedding forms and traditional silhouettes. Pleated saris, knee length skirts, traditional tunics and shalwars dominated the runway with gold and gota embellishments on handcrafted net, organza and tissue – spotting lavender a lot, the evidence of brilliance with creativity!

**Nida Azwer**

Her showcased collection was proof that she’s used her tenancy to hone her womenswear to a fine point. This was a strong, well-made, distinctive collection, commencing with a series of hugely appealing lehngas limbed with gold,gota mirror-work and kamdani intricate embroideries. Long showed that she can do more than just knits and prets. Her sari pieces were knockouts, and the quilted capes that spoke all about Mughal cultural heritage were beautifully executed and a lot of fun. From metallic to block colours of elegance, onward and upward!
Delighted: Rasika says it was fun working with Nawazuddin

When Rasika ‘betrayed’ Nawazuddin

Actress Rasika Dugal says that her Manto co-star Nawazuddin Siddiqui felt betrayed as she got paid for working in the forthcoming film. Celebrities like Rishi Kapoor, Gurdas Maan and Javed Akhtar didn’t charge a penny for Manto.

Asked if she also worked for free, Rasika said: “I got paid for it and Nawazuddin still holds it against me because apparently he got only Re 1 which Nandita (Das) has not paid him yet, according to him. In fact, very recently he found out that I was paid.”

“Tahir (Tahir Raj Bhasin) and I were the highest paid actors. Nawaz looked at me with utter disbelief. He was like ‘You betrayed me’. I said ‘I am sorry. Don’t hold it against me’. Nawaz was stunned,” she said followed by laughter. Working with him was a lot of fun for her.

“Nandita and Nawaz come across as such serious people. I keep telling people that they must work with them because they are quite fun. Sometimes, when you meet an actor who is more senior and established than you, you always have respect for them. Very often that respect is not reciprocated.

“With Nawaz, that was not the case. He is a good enough actor to know that all co-actors are to be respected and I think he responded to me with a lot of warmth and respect which gave me a lot of confidence. There was an unspoken and silent understanding of each other’s way of working,” said the Qissa actress.

Manto traces the life of Urdu writer Saadat Hasan Manto, played by Nawazuddin. It has been helmed by actress-director Nandita Das.

“This is the first time that I have worked with a director who is also an actor. Nandita had already taken care of being sensitive to an actor’s needs because she has been acting for so long. She had taken care of things that we might have a problem with, before we came on the set. She addressed that up front.

“Once that was out of the way, we could focus on nuancing our roles better. Many directors might not understand what an actor’s first issue would be. Nandita totally understood that. It was an absolute delight. She would always say ‘Read these lines. I know you will have a problem with this line, but don’t worry. When we will play it out, it will be fine.’

“It was like she read my mind.” — IANS

Happy to go slow and steady: Sanya

Actress Sanya Malhotra, who is gearing up for the release of her films, says she would rather go slow with quality projects than sign films to maintain visibility.

Sanya will be seen in filmmaker Vishal Bharadwaj’s Pataakha which is releasing on September 28 and Badhaai Ho, which is slated to hit the screens on October 12. “I am happy to go slow and steady because I have got opportunity to work with some of the brilliant actors and filmmakers like Vishal Bharadwaj, Ayushmann Khurana, Ritesh Batra, Nawazuddin Siddiqui among others,” Sanya said.

“Yes, some films are yet to release and after Dangal, Pataakha is my big release but I do not think I missed out on anything. It is better to wait for a good film to happen than signing films to maintain visibility. I am not insecure on that matter at all,” she added.

This is the first time Sanya has collaborated with Bharadwaj. She says she had a fan-girl moment when they met.

“I have grown up watching his movies and these are not (just) films, masterpieces that blew my mind! So finally when I came on board for the film, I was pinching myself to believe these things are happening. I am doing Vishal ji’s film. In my first reading session, I was actually trembling and overwhelmed.” — IANS

Always wanted to be a Mani Ratnam heroine, says Aditi

By Durga Chakravarty

Aditi Rao Hydari, who has collaborated with filmmaker Mani Ratnam for the second time, says she always wanted to be a Mani Ratnam heroine.

The actress, who started her acting journey in 2006 with the film Prapchaiti, had previously worked with Ratnam in Kaatra Velipidi. Ever since her debut, she has worked with finest filmmakers like Ratnam, Omung Kumar and Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Apart from Tamil, she has also featured in Malayalam, Telugu and Marathi cinema.

Asked how does she look at her filmography consisting of work by such great names, Aditi said: “I feel really blessed for somebody who does not know the industry... I have not grown up watching too many films, but I just had this dream and in fact that dream was a little girl’s dream when I saw Mani sir’s film.... I saw Mani sir’s Bombay and I wanted to be a Mani Sir heroine.”

They will also work together in the upcoming Tamil film Chekku Chivanta Vaanam.

She said her “intentions have always been to work with directors who inspire me and I respect”.

“People who can actually challenge me and push me and almost push me to breaking point and extract a performance out of me. I really enjoy that,” added the actress, who made her debut in Tamil in 2007 with “Sringaram”.

“I feel that I don’t know anything, I don’t know how to act, but I can surrender myself to a director I respect and love. I feel very lucky to be a part of their vision,” Aditi added.

The Bhoori actress has signed her fourth Tamil film, which will be helmed by renowned filmmaker Myskin.

Talking about the director, she said: “He has a very unique voice and very unique way of storytelling and is an amazing writer. He makes a lot of thrillers. I have not done too many thrillers and I am just very eager to work with a director like that who is very different from the kind of directors I work with.”

The 31-year-old actress hopes Myskin shows her “very differently because of the kind of film that it is”. “I am very excited... He is a very interesting and fun kind of a person. He’s full of ideas,” she added.

But will Myskin’s movie help in breaking her beautiful girl-next-door image?

“What you are is what you are and I don’t think you should ever fight it,” says Aditi Rao Hydari.
Checkpoint Charlie: Once a war spot, now a tourist trap

The area around the checkpoint, a symbol of German division, has become more focused on catering to tourists than properly remembering the Cold War and its effects on the country. **By Stefan Kruse and Jutta Schuetz**

Checkpoint Charlie, a symbol of German division, was the chilling scene of US and Soviet tanks facing each other when the Berlin Wall was built in 1961. Today, visitors barely understand the significance of the former border control point on Friedrichstrasse.

Yet 57 years after the wall was built and nearly 29 since its downfall, the place is a tourist magnet. In front of a reconstructed US Army control post, men dressed up as soldiers pose with US flags and charge 3 euros for a snapshot. A sign still warns ‘You are now leaving the American sector’ in several languages, but on closer inspection, it turns out to be a copy. The original can be found in the private Wall Museum a few metres away - and where a souvenir shop sells everything from Wall remnants to plastic models of the tiny East German car, the Trabi.

Next to a rotunda by the artist Yadegar Asisi with its panorama display illustrating a day in the once-divided Berlin, there is a stall serving up sausages and French fries, while a nearby street vendor is trying to sell gas masks and military caps.

Across the street, a ‘Black Box’ that had been set up by the Berlin Senate as an ‘antithesis to trivialisation’ does inform visitors about the Cold War. But near that is Charlie’s Beach, a spot that invites people to chill out.

“For 28 years, the place has lacked a clear design concept,” charges Axel Klausmeier, Director of the Berlin Wall Foundation. Berlin’s Senate bemoans the current state of affairs. “The way Checkpoint Charlie is used and experienced today, it is a place that attracts large numbers of visitors, but is highly divisive owing to its provisional design and mainly touristic use,” said Urban Development Senator Katrin Lompscher.

It seems “somewhat chaotic and partly overcommercialised,” she says. But improvement may be on the horizon: Politicians and a private investor who is keen to start construction on the site after several changes of ownership have finally agreed on the core of the design.

The extent of the border crossing point is likely to become clear in the future, and an ‘urban square with open spaces’ will be created. The plans also foresee setting up a museum in one of the new buildings as a ‘place of education and remembrance’.

While the opposition party talks about ‘obscure deals’ being made, Klausmeier hails the plans as a ‘great joint effort’ by the Berlin Senate and the investor. The opportunity to explain the historical dimension of the site adequately is thus within reach, he said.

Checkpoint Charlie was one of three control points of the Western powers in Berlin. There was checkpoint A in Helmstedt and checkpoint B in Drewitz. At the C - Charlie - checkpoint, only foreigners, diplomats and Allied military personnel could cross between East and West Berlin.

Today, tourists from around the world stand at the display boards or are led around by tour guides seeking to conjure up the era. Many visitors want to see ‘The Wall’ there and are disappointed, finding instead only the erstwhile boundary line embedded in the pavement. “The Wall was here? Wow, I wouldn’t have thought it,” says Amira, 26, a visitor from the US state of North Carolina. Lucy Gilcrees, 32, from England, says, “It is an impressive place, but really touristy.” Indeed, it’s difficult to find evidence of the city’s division.

In the euphoria after the Wall was breached in late 1989, huge sections of the monstrous concrete barrier, along with its watch towers and signal systems, were torn down, scrapped or sold. Property, some of it in the downtown areas - were sold to private investors. Pondering the Wall’s meaning came only later on. “What is important is that with a museum at a historically important site, history will be made visible and explained,” said Culture Senator Klaus Lederer.

Klausmeier imagines Checkpoint Charlie in the future as a ‘networking place’ where visitors are informed about other sites of the city’s division. Berlin, he says, is “the largest contemporary history open-air museum in the world.” - DPA

HIGH SEASON SPOT: Thousands of tourists come to Checkpoint Charlie daily during high season. However, many of them don’t get a sense of the border crossing’s importance with the area’s set-up.

TOURISTY: Tourists gather near a copy of the original sign at Checkpoint Charlie warning that “You are now leaving the American sector.”