Deena Khamis al-Tebaishi, former Qatar National Shooter, attends 5th Annual Athletic Meet of MES Indian School.

The German police trade union is discussing the proposition of using bees for police work, just like sniffer dogs.

The German police trade union is discussing the proposition of using bees for police work, just like sniffer dogs.

Shehzad Bhanji, a Pakistani instrumental rock guitarist based in Doha, on the importance of establishing a connection with the listeners.

Alfonso visually energises Edison’s AC versus DC story.

Intent of my film is to keep Sindhi culture alive: Bhavani
PRAYER TIME

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<td>Fajr</td>
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<td>Shorooq (sunrise)</td>
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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
- Mowassalat Taxi: 44458888
- Qatar Airways: 44490000
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 44392222, 44393333
- 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: 40253372, 40253372
- Ministry of Health: 40253370, 40253364
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253368, 40253365
- Qatar Airways: 40253374

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil
DIRECTION: Joachim Rønning
CAST: Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning, Harris Dickinson
SYNOPSIS: Maleficent and her goddaughter Aurora begin to question the complex family ties that bind them as they are pulled in different directions by impending nuptials, unexpected allies, and dark new forces at play.
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

War
DIRECTION: Siddharth Anand
CAST: Hrithik Roshan, Tiger Shroff, Vaani Kapoor
SYNOPSIS: An Indian soldier is assigned to eliminate his former mentor and he must keep his wits about him if he is to be successful in his mission. When the two men collide, it results in a barrage of battles and bullets.
THEATRE: The Mall

Quote Unquote

“Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking will.”
— Zig Ziglar

For movie timings and further details please scan the QR code above with your mobile phone camera or visit qatarcinemas.com
Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change.
A gifted left hand on the guitar’s right

Shehzad Bhanji’s principle of making instrumental music is basically something that people can listen to while they want to relax, writes Mudassir Raja.

While you are producing an instrumental song, it is very important to narrate the story to establish a connection with the listeners. That is where the whole magic of instrumental comes into play.

– Shehzad Bhanji, musician

His new album has strong and powerful melodic structure. It also goes into experimental genres. Keeping himself within the instrumental rock genre, he explores himself in different sub-genres like blues, punk, ballad and acoustics.

This is the kind of uniqueness which Dreams — the new album — by Shehzad Bhanji, a Pakistani instrumental rock guitarist based in Doha, brings to the table. The third album of the guitarist is far different from his two earlier ones as it has an experimental genre attached to it.

“It is not going to give you one sound across all. It has so much variety. It is going to appeal to much broader audience. There is something for everyone in this album,” said Bhanji who recently released the album.

Bhanji has tried to create a perfect balance in the new album. “While I was bouncing ideas about the third album in my mind,
one aspect was very clear to me that it should have a perfect balance of melody, experimental genres, harmony and groove.”

Dreams contains 10 songs and is all about key moments in Shehzad’s life that occurred over the last two years. The songs are: Matched Hearts (featuring T Juliet), Dreams, Papa’s Got A New Car, Uncertain Certainties, Misplacin’ Love, A Butterfly’s Wings, In Your Embrace, What the Funk, Dancing in the Rain, and Wishing Upon A Flying Star. His two earlier albums were Never Say Goodbye and Profound Beginnings.

The guitarist, who was speaking to Community on the eve of the album launch, spent more than two years writing, making demos and eventually recording them at his home studio. “The 10 songs that appear on Dreams, culled from upwards of 40 musical ideas in various forms of completion, cover considerable and even surprising sonic and emotional ground. I had to be brave enough to be light-hearted. But how do you do that and still maintain the perfect balance between melodic appeal of the track and guitar techniques!”

The musician often finds it hard to explain to people what exactly is an instrumental guitarist all about. “Basically, an instrumentalist is one who creates melodies just like a typical song but is played through guitar. It is expressed through guitar. It is a very difficult kind of job because you have no vocals involved. So, you need to create a right kind of story first, then the highs and lows, ups and downs through the variations of guitar. That is something extremely challenging. While you are producing an instrumental song, it is very important to narrate the story to establish a connection with the listeners. That is where the whole magic of instrumental comes into play.”

This is something that entices Bhanji and keeps him going. There were times when he was collaborating with vocal artists. “Honestly, the sense of satisfaction which you get while doing an instrumental is far more for me. The journey started when I was 14 when I went for the concert of very famous band Iron Maiden. The guitarist just caught my attention.”

The guitarist found it really hard learning how to play the instrument. He was not accepted by a music school in Karachi because he was left-handed and the guitars are made for only the right-handed. “I do all the stuff with my left hand. The problem is if you want to play left-handed, all the strings need to go the opposite side. There is a specific guitar for southpaws. To save the hassle, the school told me that southpaws cannot play the guitar. However, practised on an acoustic guitar with my right hand just to make sure that I play the guitar. Now, I am a right-handed guitarist.”

His passion towards music composition started after he watched the show Music ‘89 hosted by the subcontinent’s first pop star Nazia Hassan. “It was the same year ~ 1989 ~ that all pop music bands came into being. Vital Signs, for instance. The show provided a key platform that inspired the youth towards music. So, I and three of my cousins also decided to form a music band. We had a guitarist, drummer, keyboard player and vocalist. Initially, we had some success.”

The young boys had to quit music to follow higher studies. Their families did not give them the required support. “I think our parents were right. Even the music industry at that time was not evolved as such to be a full-time professional musician. Eventually, all four of us had to give in. We went abroad for studies in 1994. We also made a commitment to each other that we would come back and start again. We came back, got jobs and married. It became difficult to start it again. It never happened again as a band.”

Bhanji, a banker by profession, came to Qatar in 2013. He however, always felt that something was missing in his life. “My wife Shazia, who is a painter/artist, and I made a resolution on 2015 New Year night that we will pursue our artistic dreams. In pursuit of the resolution, I have so far launched three albums”

Shehzad Bhanji, a banker by profession, came to Qatar in 2013. He however, always felt that something was missing in his life. “My wife Shazia, who is a painter/artist, and I made a resolution on 2015 New Year night that we will pursue our artistic dreams. In pursuit of the resolution, I have so far launched three albums”
MES holds 5th Annual Athletic Meet

MES Indian School recently held its 5th Annual Athletic Meet. Deena Khamis al-Tebaishi, National Technical Official for Athletics and former Qatar National Shooter, was the chief guest at the opening ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Deena congratulated the school for identifying and fostering students’ athletic abilities to excel in sports and games and urged the students to strike a balance between their scholastic and co-scholastic endeavours.

The opening ceremony kicked off with a march past of the students representing Blue, Green, Red and Yellow Houses of the school. A welcome mass-drill was performed by the students of Junior Section, which was followed by a flashmob drill and the well-co-ordinated pyramid formation by the students of Girls’ and Boys’ Sections, respectively. The roller skaters also put up a performance, which culminated with the formation of pledging their support to the 2022 FIFA World cup. Azhar Ali Akbar, the Sports Captain, Boys’ Section, led the oath-taking ceremony for the contestants.

UNIQ organises cricket tournament

United Nurses of India Qatar (UNIQ) recently organised a cricket tournament ‘UNIQ Cricket League Season 1’ at Qatar Petroleum Stadium Mesaieed, for the Indian nurses working in different health sectors in Qatar. The tournament was inaugurated by Manikantan AP, President of Indian Cultural Centre. Eight teams participated in the tournament. In the final match between RC Boys and Gladiators, Gladiators emerged as the winning champions. Speaking on the occasion, Nizar Cheruvathi, Head of UNIQ Sports and Recreational Wing, thanked all the team members and co-ordinators for the successful completion of the tournament.

Students of Compass excel in IGCSE exams

Noemi Pajak-Grigorean and Ada Egilmez, both students at Compass International School Doha (Compass), recently bagged the award of ‘Top in Qatar’ by Cambridge International Education for securing highest marks in Qatar in IGCSE examinations.

Noemi Pajak-Grigorean achieved the highest marks Art and Design IGCSE and Ada Egilmez in the Co-ordinated Science IGCSE.

This is second year in a row that Compass students at the Madinat Khalifa Campus have achieved the highest mark in Co-ordinated Science in Qatar. Compass students also performed well in other IGCSE subjects, with many achieving A* to A grades including 96% in Economics, 64% in ICT, 50% in Business Studies and 43% in Maths.

Paul Holyome, Executive Principal at Compass, said, “Everyone at Compass is extremely proud of Ada and Noemi. To achieve the highest marks in Qatar is an incredible achievement and a testament to their hard work, determination and ambition. We encourage all children to be ambitious and to see no limits to what they can achieve academically, personally and socially. Noemi and Ada truly display our ‘be ambitious’ philosophy and are excellent role models for our younger children.”

Tom Douch, Head of Secondary at the Madinat Khalifa Campus, added, “Our IGCSE students continue to excel year on year and our school is delighted with their performance. We are committed to supporting our students to become ambitious learners and strong performers, whilst also developing their confidence in their own abilities.”
IIS organises inter-school debate competition

Ideal Indian School (IIS) recently organised an inter-school debate competition ‘Ideal Literati 2019’. Seven Indian Schools in Qatar, including Bhavan’s Public School, Birla Public School, DPS-MIS, Noble International School, Shantiniketan Indian School, MES Indian School and IIS participated in the competition.

Shantiniketan Indian School was adjudged the Champion Team. The runner-up trophy was bagged by IIS. Jyotisha Pillai, a student of IIS, won the Best Speaker award. Judge’s choice award was shared by Lilian Biju, a student of MES Indian School, and Christo Byju, a student of Bhavan Public School. The award for speaker with substance was bagged by Kanzi Fatma Shreymish, a student of SS. The best question in rebuttal went to Jineshwar Nair, Birla Public School. The best answer in rebuttal was won by Mohammad Intesar Najm, a student at MES Indian School. The competition was judged by Sameer Moosa and Nirmala Raghuraman. Syed Shoukath Ali, Principal of IIS, appreciated the winners and gave away the prizes.

Karwan-e-Urdu Qatar marks 202nd birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

Karwan-e-Urdu Qatar, a well-known Urdu literary organisation in Qatar, recently organised a literary and poetic gathering to mark the 202nd birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a Muslim pragmatist, Islamic reformist, philosopher of nineteenth century British India and founder of Aligarh Muslim University, at the residence of Ateeq Anzar, an eminent poet and Founder-President of Karwan-e-Urdu Qatar. Dr Nadeem Jilani, famous poet and Head of the paediatrics Department at Sidra Hospital, presided over the gathering.

Mohammad Akbar Khan from Hyderabad, India was the chief guest, and Yusuf Kamal the guest of honour. Poets from all over Doha took part in the gathering and recited their poems as a tribute to Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. The poets who recited their poetry on the occasion, included Ateeq Anzar, Shad Aakolwee, Yusuf Kamal, Nadeem Jilani Danish, Shaukat Ali Naz, Irfan Ali Khaliq, Qaiser Masood, Asif Shafi, Roza Murtaza, Aftab Ali Rashed, Raza Aamir and Syed Shafi Ahmed. The event was concluded by Syed Shafi Ahmed. The event kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an. Mohammed Shahid Khan, general Secretary at Karwan-e-Urdu Qatar, proposed a vote of thanks.

PWA hosts ‘Think Pink Hi-Tea’

Pakistan Women’s Association Qatar (PWA), in collaboration with Crowne Plaza Doha and Qatar Centre Society, recently organised an event ‘Think Pink Hi-Tea’ to mark Breast Cancer Awareness month at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Heba Nasir, Head of Health Education Department at Qatar Cancer Society, conducted a session on risk factors, prevention methods and early detection of Breast Cancer on the occasion, which was followed by a seminar moderated by Dr Mahvash Qureshi, Medical Consultant from Hamad Medical Corporation. The seminar also highlighted the causes and symptom of this disease. Dr Mahvash emphasised the importance of making an appointment with the doctor as soon as anyone notice any physical changes. She also invited breast cancer patients to share their success stories with audience, among them was recently diagnosed Humaira Tahir who shared how she is battling the disease without stressing herself and keeping up with positivity.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahat Mansoor, President of PWA, said, “Prevention is better than cure. PWA has been organising Think Pink event every year to create awareness among its members and community ladies and will continue to do so.”
QU law students and faculty participate in HBKU event

Students and faculty from Qatar University (QU) College of Law’s (LAWC) Legal Skills Department recently participated in Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) College of Islamic Studies’ ‘Maker-Majlis Islam in a Global World’ event. The students and faculty emphasised on the importance of law student engagement to advance the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the four-day event, more than 1,100 students and 500 visitors participated in a range of activities designed to create awareness about the SDGs and its relevance for the Islamic world and Qatar’s strategic objectives.

More than 25 QU law students volunteered during the event while two QU law students, including Shamma Khalid al-Hajri and Munira Jabir al-Marri presented research regarding SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) at ‘Halaqa Talks.’

In addition, QU sponsored a research exhibit titled ‘Voices of Qatari Women in Law and International Diplomacy,’ an oral history project conducted by Melissa Deehring, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, with significant contributions from Sara A. al-Mohanadi, Teaching Assistant of Private Law, Sharouq S Bawazir, Law Student Research Assistant; and additional student members from QU LAW’s Human Rights Club.

The exhibition memorialised the stories of female pioneers in law, development, international law, and diplomacy in Qatar while inspiring youth by introducing them to new role models, and encouraging advancement of Global Goals 5 and 16 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Speaking on the occasion, LAWC’s Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Dr. Muna al-Marzouq said, “The participation of the LAWC students and faculty research at the Maker Majlis event is a significant step towards ensuring our law students and graduates actively contribute and advance the role of law and the legal profession in our society. We are very happy for this collaboration.”

Dr. M Evren Tok, Assistant Dean of Innovation and Community Development and Associate Professor of Islam and Global Affairs at HBKU, added, “Collaboration between QU College of Law and HBKU College of Islamic Studies Islam and Global Affairs Programme has been yielding fruitful results. Maker Majlis showcased how common interests, such as Sustainable Development Goals, act as a fertile ground to conduct interdisciplinary dialogue. Students from both entities produced collaborative teaching products, produced exhibitions and engaged in collective capacity building and proved ample evidence the very needed collaborative mindset fostered by Qatar’s educational leadership.”

Dr. Deehring, a current UNODC Education for Justice (E4J) Ethics Champion, said, “We are delighted to collaborate with HBKU CIS to advance the SDGs, particularly SDGs 5 & 16 in Qatar. Our College continuously emphasises on the importance of law student engagement with the public and the significance of Qatar’s legal community leading on important social issues such combating corruption and human rights abuses. But, it remains experiential learning opportunities like this, during which law students get direct experience researching, teaching, and engaging with others that make the law students understand what ethics, integrity, justice, equality, and leadership in law really stand for and why the concepts are so important.”

NU-Q marks Student Research Week

Northwestern University – Qatar recently marked Student Research Week. The week highlighted a wide range of research opportunities available to students on campus. The event featured presentations of student research projects that have either been completed or are still in progress. NU-Q faculty also worked with students on a series of collaborative projects that cut across disciplinary boundaries and explore a variety of regional themes.

The week also included informal sessions where students discussed potential research ideas with faculty and research specialists. “Northwestern is one of the leading research universities in the world and at NU-Q, we continue this tradition with both faculty and students. Our support for student research is an integral part of our programming and constitutes an indispensable component of the NU-Q experience,” said Everett E Dennis, Dean and CEO of NU-Q.

Research Week was organised by the research office, to support students in exploring funding opportunities and refining grant proposals to pursue their research activities. During the event, the students who have received various grants and funding opportunities presented their research to the NU-Q community and discussed the status of their projects and their experience in the programme.

Inaara Gangi, a student who received a grant from the Qatar National Research Fund for a research project on migrant entrepreneurship as part of her participation in the Undergraduate Research Experience Programme with Professor Hasan Mahmud, also presented on the occasion.

“Through this project, I am looking forward to learning about the process by which cobbler, watch-smiths and other migrant business owners earn their income and contribute to the Qatari economy,” Gangi said. “I’m excited to see what we will find as it’s not something that has been studied before.”

A recipient of the Undergraduate Research Grant from the NU Office of Undergraduate Research, Noor Abunaba’a researched the educational constraints affecting Palestinians in the West Bank. “Applying to the grant was a rewarding experience that taught me a lot about the methodological challenges of working with research subjects,” Abunaba’a explained.

Mohamed Eltayeb spent his summer studying French in Paris via Undergraduate Language Grant. “The unique thing about language grants,” he noted, “is that on top of giving you the opportunity to learn a new language, they also support your process of self-discovery by teaching you who you are and what you want to be.”

Omer Alaaou received a Media and Research Award for his analysis of marriage practices in Qatar and had the opportunity to present his findings at the Undergraduate Research and Arts Exposition in Evanston over the summer.

“In my experience, NU-Q has been an ideal place to conduct research as an undergraduate because classes are not limited to lectures only but encourage interactions with the wider community,” Alaaou said. “We are in turn allowed to use this ethnography as primary sources for class papers and even get credit for it.”
The experience of driving the world’s fastest supercars and the incredible thrill it generates has for long felt to many an exclusive privilege to experienced petrol heads, capable of exploring the limits of the world’s finest automobiles.

Having long lead the way in automotive excellence, Ferrari is all set to mark a new market benchmark with the F8 Tributo, making the exhilarating performance levels of the best 8-cylinder in the world, accessible to all drivers, with unprecedented handling and superior ride comfort, stated a press release.

In the automotive world, Ferrari’s V8 engine is seen as the very epitome of sportiness and driving pleasure. This is particularly the case when it is mid-rear-mounted in a two-seater. Ferrari has been honing the scope of abilities of this architecture, which creates an optimal weight balance, and thus delivers unparalleled thrillingly sporty driving, to perfection for over four decades.

To achieve their goal of making the car’s impressive performance easy to access and use, Ferrari’s engineers worked on integrating engine and aerodynamics performance with the latest iteration of the vehicle dynamics control systems. The Side Slip Control system, which improves drivers’ control on the limit for even more engaging involvement, has been further evolved. The transition from version 6.0 to 6.1 reflects the fact that the Ferrari Dynamic Enhancer system now also activates in the manettino RACE (FDE+) position. The new car offers drivers pure emotions. Instantaneously accessible power is matched by exceptional handling thanks to advanced vehicle dynamics solutions. That performance is also now accessible to a larger number of drivers thanks to vehicle dynamics systems that make driving on the limit an easier and more confidence-inspiring experience. These include a steering wheel with a rim that is smaller in diameter with a thinner rim.

The F8 Tributo sports the multi-award-winning Ferrari V8 turbo which is best in class in its segment as well as being voted the best engine of the last 20 years by industry experts. In 2018, it was nominated for the Engine of the Year title for the third consecutive year, a title it went on to win with more than double the points of its closest contender.

The F8 Tributo’s engine makes both the car’s handling more intuitive and its performance more accessible. A slew of high performance features have been introduced to allow drivers exploit to the very fullest the potential afforded by the best engine of the last 20 years. These include a new boost reserve control strategy which optimises response time and performance in sporty driving on the limit, making all the power the driver asks from the throttle available virtually instantaneously.

Today, Ferrari V8s sport solutions that are masterpieces of engineering and this engine in particular further enhances the typical traits of all Maranello engines with smoothly progressive, limitless acceleration and zero turbo lag combined with a unique soundtrack courtesy, in part, of a new exhaust system.

Ferrari is all set to mark a new market benchmark with the F8 Tributo, making the exhilarating performance levels of the best 8-cylinder in the world, accessible to all drivers, with unprecedented handling and superior ride comfort.
Five ways to deal with head lice

Parents dread discovering an infestation of the itchy menaces, but with the right approach you can stop them in their tracks.

Act fast
“People are not treating an infestation at the earliest stages,” says Ian Burgess, the director of the Medical Entomology Centre in Cambridge, whose research is cited in the Nice guidelines for this persistent problem. “We quite often find people with hundreds and occasionally thousands of lice,” he says. Dee Wright, the owner of The Hairforce, a chain of self-styled “lice assassins”, says: “If you check your child’s hair and find a bunch of nits [eggs], you should be combing immediately, rather than waiting to see if a live one. It’s good to do a weekly check.”

Choose your weapon wisely
Many of Britain’s bestselling nit combs are ineffective, says Burgess: “They have gaps so wide that lice and nits can slip through.” He recommends using a plastic detection comb. “It needs to be rigid, and the front needs to be squared, to catch the legs of the lice.” The Bug Buster Kit sold by the charity Community Hygiene Concern contains these types of combs, with different sizes for lice and nits, and is available on the NHS (free for children diagnosed with lice). “It’s not going to be done in five minutes,” says Burgess. “With thick or long hair, you need to spend 20 to 30 minutes per session. If you’ve found a dozen and think you’ve done a good job, you probably haven’t – there’ll be at least another dozen.

Comb with care
“Lice are movement-sensitive and scarper when you touch the hair,” warns Wright. Dividing the head into sections helps avoid missing any. Detangle the hair first and use conditioner. Metal combs, especially, can shred individual hairs, says Burgess. “We have even come across pseudo nits, where the comb has peeled back little knots that look and feel like nits,” he says. “So if you’re going to comb, you need to use a lubricant and do it carefully.”

Forget chemical pesticides
Burgess says that we have known about pesticide-resistant lice in the UK since 1995, yet chemical pesticide treatments are still sold – and frequently recommended by pharmacists and prescribed by doctors. “GPs aren’t listening,” he says. “It’s hardly surprising there are a lot of lice.”

Play the long game
Silicone-based shampoo treatments, otherwise known as physical pesticides, may effectively smother the lice, but some of the dreaded nits can survive. “We looked at nearly 1,895 case records,” says Burgess. “Most of those who had baby lice appear after a treatment had them within the first week, but the longest case was 13 days.” Either treat again a week or so later, or keep combing for a few weeks to catch any late hatchers.

– The Guardian
Wordsearch

BEACON  GLARE  LANTERN  BEAM  GLEAM  LIGHT  BLAZE
GLIMMER  SHINE  RADIANCE  GLITTER  SPARKLE  RAYS  GLOW
ILLUMINATION  SPARKLE  GLOW  LAMP  TORCH

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.

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine (3x3) boxes. You are given a selection of values and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains each number exactly once.

Bound And Gagged

MAN BUNS ARE MANDATORY, SIR. IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, WE’LL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE ONE FOR YOU.

Adam

DAD, CLAYTON’S HALLOWEEN SOUNDS CO IS DRIVING ME CRAAAAAZY?

IT’S CONSTANT ZOMBIE-CRAWLING AND CHOMPING AND SLURPING AND THE MOST HORRIBLE SOUNDS YOU CAN...

NEVER MIND.

SOUNDS AWFUL. I’LL HAVE A GAP-TALK WITH HIM.

Pooch Cafe

I’M GLAD YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE GOLDFISH WITH BULLY EYES, THOSE FISH ARE FREAKY!

Codeword

Puzzle courtesy: Puzzlebook.com

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine (3x3) boxes. You are given a selection of values and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains each number exactly once.

Bound And Gagged

MAN BUNS ARE MANDATORY, SIR. IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, WE’LL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE ONE FOR YOU.
Colouring Answers

Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Diamonds seen by river in partial darkness (4)
3 Colliery boss in a Somerset town (6)
9 Starved in order to get publicity (7)
10 Jeremy the actor performs pressing work (5)
11 Poets start drinking in pubs (5)
12 Curt is moving from the country (6)
14 Copper prohibits islanders (6)
16 Flag seen when queen is captured by bishop and rook (6)
19 Shake a container for arrows (6)
21 Clothing provided initially by social workers (5)
24 Foreign articles below (5)
25 Please do arithmetic in valley (7)
26 It may be deadlier off the tracks (8)
27 Stains on top of dress? That’s right! (4)

Down
1 Recoil from disadvantage (8)
2 Pole always cut off (5)
4 One nurse forced to seek cover (6)
5 Torn veils are bad things (5)
6 Feeling poorly, omit one (7)
7 Run - (4)
8 Quietly Ron is taken off to jail (6)
13 Journalists accepting ten varied gifts (8)
15 He’s no gentleman, perhaps, unrobed (7)
17 A soft-fruit show (6)
18 Scoundrel going after black shoe (6)
20 Opera-lover did hold opera composer (5)
22 An Enid Blyton character would appear strange in New York (5)
23 Regretted sounding coarse (4)

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword
Alfonso visually energises Edison’s AC versus DC story

By Michael Phillips

Two years ago at the Toronto International Film Festival, a movie about Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, Nikola Tesla and, in the climactic, dazzling illumination of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, failed utterly to ignite the movie world.

En route to its premiere, The Current War met with more than the usual amount of saber-middling from distributor Harvey Weinstein of The Weinstein Company. A few weeks after the Toronto festival, The New York Times published the first history-making story by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey detailing a gathering storm of sexual assault and serial harassment allegations against Weinstein.

After decades of one mogul’s predation and dozens of actresses’maligned and sucker-punched careers, suddenly, that was that. The unreleased Current War, meantime, went into turnaround and became an asterisk. Now there’s a director’s cut of The Current War, already released in England, featuring newly shot footage, various cuts, re-orderings and additions, a new musical score and a 10-minutes-shorter running time. I never saw the earlier version. This one remains a bit of a mess but a pretty interesting one, as well as one of the few films this year deserving (in both admirable and dissatisfying ways) of the adjective “instructive.”

Director Alfonso Gomez-Rejon (Me and Earl and the Dying Girl) swells like crazy to visually energise a story largely about alternating current versus direct current, embodied by the driven, competitive but very different inventors and industrialists at the story’s centre. The fictionalised history covered by The Current War takes place in the last two decades of the 19th century. Benedict Cumberbatch stews and furrows his way through the role of the perpetually distracted Edison, in a performance more than audience love. Unkempt, increasingly unscrupulous in his competitive tactics, Edison also lives in the shadow of personal tragedy; Tuppence Middleton portrays his wife in a few quick early scenes.

With the sometime assistance of the brilliant Serbian-born Tesla (Nicholas Hoult), Edison scores a conspicuous early victory in the electrical race by lighting up a good chunk of New York City with his direct current. His wily but fair-minded competitor is Westinghouse (Michael Shannon), reminding the world he can play subtle and intriguing men of honorable character), boasting the most efficient DC system. As The Current War proceeds, Westinghouse’s company powers more and more of the city, drawing the nation, away from Manhattan’s bright lights. And while the movie lacks a conventional structure – it’s based on a musical play screenshot Michael Mitnick wrote in grad school at Yale – the third act concerns who will win the contract to illuminate the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The movie offers one peculiarity after another. The director’s cut edition foregrounds the supporting character of Tesla, if only to explain the audience his relationships to Edison and Westinghouse. (The scene where Tesla’s upbraided by his boss as a newly “immigrant” wasn’t in the original cut.)

The current and much-loved Spider-Man headline, Tom Holland, plays another secondary character, Edison’s devoted assistant Samuel Insull. He comes into prominence late in the game; as Marguerite Westinghouse, Katherine Waterston does a lot with a little. Smart actors, and this ensemble’s full of them, know they needn’t do a lot of extraneous anything with elegant Gilded Age period costumes handling so much of the work for them.

The movie’s cool to the touch, deadpan performances that might be considered chilly or remote. Nervous about boring the audience, director Gomez-Rejon and cinematographer Chung-oon Chung spin the camera ‘round and ‘round, here a twirling overhead zoom, there a nostril–proximity fish-eye close-up. It’s strenuous, though the settings and production designs shine. The movie, which began filming in late 2016, was made mostly in England, and the digital effects bringing the Chicago World’s Fair to life tantalises with its glimpses of a long-vanished, blindingly bright revolution in technology. Westinghouse was, by most accounts, an unusually progressive and humane industrial giant, crediting his engineers and inventors by name in his company’s many patents. Edison, by contrast, led with his egotistic belief in self-branding and put his name on everything. The Current War may be tough on Edison, properly, but it’s a better movie because of it.

— Chicago Tribune/TNS

An unnecessary 10 years later sequel!

By Michael Phillips

In the misty glade and dusky bog of your memories, can you recall a time when zombies were cool? Zombieland came out in 2009, a year after The Walking Dead premiered on AMC, back before that kooky Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides movie with Blackbeard’s zombie crew. Back a lot of things.

Zombieland didn’t try to change the world; it was just out for a few laughs along those familiar Georgia highways, strewed with apocalyptic set dressing. It had the guts (literally) to proclaim itself a comedy first, rather than an action movie larded up with a few wisecracks in between hackings. I enjoyed it. Nobody asked for it, really, but Zombieland: Double Tap has its moments, too. It arrives 10 years and one Emma Stone Oscar after the first one. You think that La La Land Oscar winning was a slightly larger role this time, but this harsh and merry world remains primarily in the control of top-billed Woody Harrelson and second–billed Jesse Eisenberg, with Stone and Abigail Breslin making do with what they have, somewhere between the foreground and the background.

Briefly: It’s still the zombie apocalypse, and our makeshift family of unemployed heros–survivors enjoys one day at a time, residing in what’s left of the White House, now tricked out with anti-zombie security measures. Fussy, extraordinarily well–organised Columbus (Eisenberg) and sardonic Wichita (Stone) are now fully a thing, though his proposal of marriage sends her into gotta–go mode. Tallahassee (Harrelson) remains the quasi–father figure, with Little Rock (Breslin) now a young woman and chafing at the quasi–parental oversight. She wants to break out on her own, and screenwriters Dave Callaham, Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick whisk the women away so they can retrieve the men if only to explain the audience their new strain of hardier–to–kill zombies. These prove more lethal than the Homers (slow, easily outwitted), Homies (smart, crafty) and even the ninja–like stealth zombies who appear out of nowhere.

The sequel moves from D.C. to what’s left of Elvis Presley’s Graceland. Rosario Dawson swings into frame as a new character, Nevada; Luke Wilson is Albuquerque, fellow survivor and Tallahassee’s virtual doubleganger. Zoey Deutch joins the ensemble as Madison, a dizzy survivor bearing a lot of pink luggage. She scores a surprising number of laughs off a weary Legally Blonde stereotype, while Stone must content herself with muttered jealousies in the corner. Everyone on screen is good enough to do this sort of thing in their sleep, which isn’t to say Harrelson, Eisenberg, Stone, Breslin and Delotch laze through the assignment. The first Zombieland remains director Fleischer’s best movie by a mile; this one acknowledges, brazenly, the familiarity of it all. Eisenberg’s opening voiceover includes a line about the audience having “a lot of choices” when it comes to the zombie genre. Screenwriters Reese and Wernick wrote the Deadpool movies, which trade in a related form of snark. Recently the writers Boated the idea of a crossover movie. Call Double Tap an act of fan service, no less than Downton Abbey or, in an entirely different and inferior grade of glibness, Joker.

— Chicago Tribune/TNS
Intent of my film is to keep Sindhi culture alive: Bhavnani

By Arundhuti Banerjee

Until very recently, when she started talking about her cultural roots as a Sindhi, the vivid memory of Sapna Moti Bhavnani that people had was of a red-haired, dimpled and tattooed tomboy who’s a celebrity hairstylist, and who grabbed eyeballs on Bigg Boss 6.

Bhavnani is out narrating the forgotten story of the Sindhi community through the documentary Sindhustan. She says that the story remains incomplete until she gets a chance to visit her ancestral land, the Sindh province in Pakistan.

Bhavnani’s film has been showcased under the category of India Story at the Jio MAMI 21st Mumbai Film Festival with Star.

The story of Sindhustan revolves around the migration of the Sindhi community to India during the partition in 1947. It also encapsulates many anecdotes of the community and their culture, including Sindhi cuisine, the fun-loving and loud nature of Sindhi people, their sense of humour as well as the stories of those elderly people who experienced the partition and how they lost everything overnight.

Bhavnani says people were initially, interested in knowing her personal story of being a Sindhi girl of the Mumbai city.

“Of course, a transformation happened within when I realised I am the daughter of refugee parents. The Sindhi community is a refugee in India. I made several attempts to cross the border and go to the Sindh province, which is my native place, from where my forefathers came. But it is yet to happen. Let me tell you unless I cross the border and go to Sindh, Sindhustan is incomplete,” Sapna said.

Born and brought up in Bandra, Mumbai, Sapna was quite ignorant of her cultural roots till one day when her grandmother told her that the tattoos on her body were a sign of Sindhi culture.

Asked about when she felt the story was compelling enough for her to get her whole body tattooed to relive the history of Sindhi culture, Sapna replied: “What I found extremely fascinating is how the migration of Sindhi community to India was unnoticed and non-violent. It was quite a silent migration. There are so many stories on the migration of Punjabis from one part of the border to another during the partition in 1947. There were so many heart-wrenching stories, yet around the same time, the Sindhi community had also migrated but you rarely get to hear any story of violence about them. The simple reason was, our community was highly influenced by Sufism and we did everything in a much non-violent way.”

“This was so fascinating for me. Our family members came here around that time, so that they could put us in a safe place, but later couldn’t go back because all their properties were taken away and they were left with nothing. However, they wanted to avoid violence and migrated silently.”

Talking about how to keep Sindhi culture alive, Sapna said: “Unfortunately, the new generation does not know how to speak, read and write in Sindhi language. If the language dies, the culture dies. Even I do not know how to speak in Sindhi, though I understand the language. These days, the way Indian youngsters are settling down in different countries, it is quite obvious that they will adapt the culture of that place. Forget Sindhi, they do not even speak much Hindi.”

She continued: “It is almost a dying culture. So my intention to make the film is to keep the culture alive through conversation and relive the history of Sindhi community that was not a part of regular partition story of India, for the longest time.”

She also mentioned that after watching the film, if people are curious to know about the Sindh province and the culture of the Sindhi community, her purpose will be served.

“There are Sindhi activists who are demanding a channel in Sindhi language on Doordarshan and I think that will be helpful to talk about our literature, culture and more, through entertaining programme on the channel,” Sapna added.

The documentary Sindhustan will be screened again on October 24.
Flying detectives: Bees could soon be tracking scents for the police

Bees as sleuths? The German police trade union is discussing a curious proposition: using bees for police work, just like sniffer dogs, writes Nico Pointner.

“Personally, I don’t think it’s feasible,” says Hans-Juergen Kirstein, the police trade union boss for the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. “We can’t imagine how to operate the bees in a practical way — though he says he is generally open to innovation.

Ulrich Kinkel, president of a local apiculture association, is sceptical as well. “Many questions are still unanswered,” he says.

And the idea of using bees at customs? “We read it with a chuckle,” says spokesman Thomas Seeman. In Stuttgart, they use nine dogs to detect drugs and narcotics, but also cash and tobacco. He doubts bees could be trained to do this job.

Nevertheless, the Stuttgart customs office is not bee-phobic: In fact, it hosts several bee colonies on its roof which yield around 30 kilograms of delicious “Customs honey” each year.

Sonja Kessler, a 22-year-old German police officer and bee enthusiast, caused quite a buzz when she published her undergraduate thesis this year. Titled “Sniffer Bees — a Revolution in Police Work,” it proposes using bees instead of sniffer dogs.

Dogs can only be used for short periods of time, are usually bound to a caregiver, and their training is long and costly, according to her research. So why not bees?

The European Police Congress has honored Kessler’s thesis with a special prize. But experts have doubts about the practicability of her ideas.

Bees have an excellent sense of smell, according to specialists, and can be trained to recognize and signal specific scents. To achieve this, they are confined in a small tube and given a sugary solution while they are exposed to a scent, explains Peter Rosenkranz, a bee expert at the University of Hohenheim.

After this process has been repeated a few times, they are conditioned to the scent. When they smell it again, they extend their tongues, expecting a sip of the sweet substance.

“Bees’ sense of smell is very sensitive. They are in the same category as sniffer dogs,” says Rosenkranz. With his students, he has trained bees to distinguish the smells of different cigarette brands.

Twenty bees in a locked case could easily be used to detect drugs or explosives at train stations or airports — something that has already been tested, Rosenkranz says.

Kessler is even more optimistic. “We could condition entire bee colonies with the rewards method,” she wrote in a piece for the German police trade union magazine. Free-flying “detection bees” could cover areas as large as 50 square kilometres, identifiable by drones through markings with fluorescent powder.

“They could be used especially to find drug plantations or explosives like TNT, for example in old bombs left from the world wars,” Kessler wrote.

The use of such flying detectives would, however, be dependent on weather and seasons, concedes the bee enthusiast. Some legal questions would also have to be answered first: What happens if a detective bee accidentally stings a target while investigating? Do bees count as a valid piece of evidence in a court?

But Kessler is convinced bees can be an asset to police work. She dreams of “bee action squadrons.”

“It would be too bad not to use their potential.”

The police trade union is not against her ideas. “We shouldn’t sneer at it. We’re taking the proposal seriously,” says spokesperson Michael Zielasko.

In his opinion, the federal police especially could be interested in supplementing their dog forces with bee sleuths, though they have not commented on the subject.

According to Rosenkranz, using bee sleuths trapped in a case is not impossible, but there are practical obstacles such as their short lifespan and the complicated process of training them.

He is also sceptical about using free-flying bee detectives. “If there is a blooming field nearby they are going to forget all about the drugs,” he says, arguing that it would be very difficult to find and capture them as well.

“Personally, I don’t think it’s feasible,” says Hans-Juergen Kirstein, the police trade union boss for the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. He can’t imagine how to operate the bees in a practical way — though he says he is generally open to innovation.

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— DPA