Community
Phoebe Musandu, Professor at GU-Q wins Eugenia M Palmegiano Prize in the History of Journalism for her book.

Community
EF Toastmasters, a toastmasters club for Engineers Forum members, marks its 200th meeting.

Breathtaking!

Indian expat Ajith Everester has honed astrophotography with passion and perseverance. A few of his glimpses into space from Qatar. P4-6

Reviews
A sturdy, wordy politically minded and wholly engaging whodunit. Page 14

Showbiz
I resembled my grandfather much after Bala prosthetics says Ayushmann Khurrana. Page 15
**PRAYER TIME**

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<tr>
<th>Prayer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fajr</td>
<td>4.22am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shorooq (sunrise)</td>
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<td>Zuhr (noon)</td>
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<td>Asr (afternoon)</td>
<td>2.31pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maghreb (sunset)</td>
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<td>Isha (night)</td>
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**USEFUL NUMBERS**

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</tbody>
</table>

**Quote Unquote**

“You can control two things: your work ethic and your attitude about anything.”

— Ali Krieger

---

**Housefull 4**

**DIRECTION:** Farhad Samji  
**CAST:** Akshay Kumar, Pooja Hegde, Kriti Sanon  
**SYNOPSIS:** In 1419 Sitamgarh, 3 couples have parted away due to an evil conspiracy. 600 hundred years later in 2019 in London, the couple’s souls meet again but this time each one of them is marrying the wrong person. How they come to realise about their true love is what forms the crux of the story.  
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Royal Plaza, Landmark

---

**Vikrithi**

**DIRECTION:** Emcy Joseph  
**CAST:** Soulib Shahid, Vincy Alosihous, Suraaj Venjaramoodu  
**SYNOPSIS:** Vikrithi tells the story of Sameer, an immigrant, and Eldho, a school peon. Both of their lives take an intriguing turn because of the misuse of social media.  
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Royal Plaza, Landmark

---

For movie timings and further details please scan the QR code above with your mobile phone camera or visit qatarcinemas.com
Gems and Jewels Exhibition  
WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art  
WHEN: Ongoing till January 18  
TIME: 9am onwards  
The exhibition comes in celebration of the 2019 Year of Culture Qatar-India and presents a look at magnificent gems and jewellery from India. Set in Stone: Gems and Jewels from Royal Indian Courts showcases more than 100 pieces from across Qatar Museums’ (QM) collections, including many masterpieces that have never been displayed before.

Photo Exhibition: ‘Experience Tanzania’  
WHERE: Multaqa (Student Center) Art Gallery at Education City  
WHEN: Ongoing until December 1  
TIME: 4pm  
‘Experience Tanzania’ is a yearly project supported by Student Affairs Division of Weill Cornell Medicine–Qatar that allows students and faculty to explore and immerse themselves in Tanzanian urban and rural cultures. During their trip, WCM–Q professor Dr Dietrich Büselsberg will be exhibited.

Career Guidance  
WHERE: Right Track Consultants, Al Sadd  
WHEN: Sunday – Thursday  
TIME: 6pm – 8pm  
Career guidance for course, country, college and entrance for students of Grade IX-XII, of all curriculum. Career assessments administered for stream preference, career test, branch preference, personality, multiple intelligence and learning styles and productivit. For more information, 55448835.

Qatar International Art Festival 2019  
WHERE: Katara Cultural Village  
WHEN: Tomorrow - 5 November  
The festival offers other benefits to participants, including the promotion of their work, interaction with print, electronic, digital, and social media, interaction with selected art collectors, art investors, and potential buyers. QIAF, one of the largest art festivals in Qatar, is organised every year. For further details, info@mapsqatar.com, qiaf.maps@gmail.com

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

Artistic Gymnastic Classes  
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb  
WHEN: Ongoing  
TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm  
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

Ballet Lessons  
WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier  
WHEN: Ongoing  
TIME: 4pm – 8pm  
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003839.

Hobby Classes  
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre  
WHEN: Saturday – Friday  
Mamangam is an art and performance centre started with a vision of spreading our knowledge, interests and experience in various disciplines in arts across different countries for children and adults. Mamangam has become the favourite centre for learning. We offer regular classes in the following disciplines like traditional classical and folk dance forms, art and craft, drawing and painting, personality development and public speaking, Bollywood dance, contemporary, hip hop styles, music both vocals and instrumentalis. To develop health consciousness, we train them karate, yoga with special sessions for kids and adults. Mamangam has also come up with chess and robotics in regular batches in an attempt to give a better learning experience, as they sharpen their mind and brains too. For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in

ISC Yoga Championship 2019  
WHERE: MES Indian School, Abu Hamour  
WHEN: Tomorrow  
TIME: 1pm onwards  
ISC Inter-School Team and Individual championship is open to all schools in Qatar in U-12 & U-19 Boys and Girls categories. Yoga Championship is also open for Men and Women category separately. Entry is free. For further details, 55956008, 77353255, 55005964
“We are very lonely in the cosmos”

— Ajith Everester, astrophotographer

In the last two years, I have spent about QR40,000 to fulfil my interest in capturing celestial objects

— Ajith Everester

Human beings have long been fascinated by and infatuated with celestial objects and phenomena. Man has indulged the cosmos using different means from telescopes to astronomical flights.

With advanced knowledge and technology, the interest of the inhabitants of Earth has grown deeper and deeper into what lies above in the skies. Thanks to the advanced equipment and gadgets, his interest in astrophotography that allows enthusiasts to see and capture what is happening in the skies, has risen manifold.

Astrophotography is photography of astronomical objects, celestial events and areas of the night sky. The first photograph of an astronomical object (the moon) was taken in 1840, but it was not until the late 19th century that advances in technology allowed for detailed photography. Besides being able to record the details of extended objects such as the Moon, Sun, and planets, astrophotography has the ability to image objects invisible to the human eye such as dim stars, nebulae and galaxies.

Ajith Everester, an expatriate from Kerala, India, has been living in Qatar for 15 years. He started developing his photography skills in 2011. Starting as a bird photographer, he became a wildlife photographer, capturing the wildlife of Qatar – especially the desert fox. Gradually, Ajith got interested in stars and the sky and started doing...
wide field astrophotography (Milky Way). For the past two years, he developed more interest in the sky and stars and became a dedicated astro-photographer, photographing the galaxies and nebulae in the deep space which are thousands and millions of light years away from the Earth.

Community recently caught up with Ajit and discussed his interest in astrophotography which involves costly equipment and gadgets. A health and safety manager with a construction company as a professional, Ajith actually bought his first camera in 2011. "I got it to photograph my daughter. One odd day, I met Dileep Anthikad, a Doha-based wildlife photographer. He later became my mentor in photography. I pursued my love for wildlife photography for about seven years. Some of my photos capturing Qatar’s wildlife have been published in known European magazines. Though Qatar is a small country, we have 316 species of birds here. There are two species of desert fox.”

Besides the wildlife photography, Ajith has been doing sky photography. He however, got interested in astrophotography in 2017 by a stroke of luck. “Actually, my daughter wanted to have a telescope when she was in Grade VI. She was interested in seeing the planets. I also started observing stars and other celestial objects with the telescope. At the same time, I thought why not take photos of these objects. I studied about how to photograph the stars and how to handle the required equipment for one long year.”

Pursuing astrophotography does not come cheap for the man who has a regular job and has to support his family in Qatar. “In the last two years, I have spent about QR40,000 to fulfill my interest in capturing celestial objects. My real interest is photographing deep space objects and not the planets. Initially, I was inspired by exquisite deep space photos by Nasa and some world-renowned astrophotography gurus. I just love the colours out there up at the night sky. The unseen in the skies is much more beautiful that what we see on the Earth.”

Ajit does not find astrophotography an easy job. He has to face different natural and man-made challenges. “Here, in Qatar, the major challenge is urban light pollution. The cities are so illuminated that the cameras cannot have clear skies at night.”

Elephant-Trunk Nebula from Mazrat Al Turayna.

Horsehead Nebula from Mazrat Al Turayna.

Continued to Page 6
“I love the silence of the night when I focus on certain objects. It is really splendid watching the magnificent colours of the far off objects. I feel that we are very tiny in the universe. I agree with an astrophysicist who once said ‘Earth is a pale blue dot in the universe’”

— Ajith Everester

Continued from Page 5

“The Bortle scale is a nine-level numeric scale that measures the night sky's brightness of a particular location. It quantifies the astronomical observability of celestial objects and the interference caused by light pollution. John E Bortle created the scale and published it in the February 2001 edition of Sky & Telescope magazine to help amateur astronomers evaluate the darkness of an observing site, and secondarily, to compare the darkness of observing sites. The scale ranges from Class 1, the darkest skies available on Earth, through Class 9, inner-city skies. It gives several criteria for each level beyond naked-eye limiting magnitude (NELM).

“Doha city is in Class 9. Turayna is a place that is darkest in Qatar with Class 4. I have not come across a site where I can have Class 1 night view of the sky. I came across the Class 1 view in Ladakh, India.”

Ajith travels most days of a week to Mazrat Al Turayna — from 80 to 90 kilometres from his home — at night to capture the best possible views of the nebulae and galaxies.

For one photograph, I have to expose the skies to my camera for three to four hours. When we take a normal photo, we expose the image to be captured for .40 second — the speed of one click. In astrophotography, the camera click will remain open for four to five minutes taking continuous photos. It takes hundreds of photos. We stack them together. Then, we process the photos thorough special software. I use the software PixInsight to process the photos. Any image you take will be very dark. You will find nothing in the photos. You have to retrieve the data from the file.

“I am actually doing narrow band imaging. In this, you have three kinds of filters — hydrogen filter, oxygen filter and sulphur filter. Each filter gathers one particular wave length. The filters are added separately with the camera. Filters work as lens do in the normal camera. These filters are placed in between the telescope and the camera. The other technique is called LRGB — Luminance, Red, Green and Blue — a photographic technique used in amateur astronomy for producing good quality colour photographs by combining a high-quality black-and-white image with a lower-quality colour image.”

Ajith lays stress on the importance of knowing about the object that is to be captured. “We should know what time the particular object rises in the horizon and what time it sets in. Andromeda Galaxy, for example, comes out by 8pm and sets in by 2 to 3pm. We can see the galaxy with binoculars but not with its beautiful colours. Our eyes have special filters that filter out all those colours. It is seen like a cloud. Another important aspect is arc angles. There are also arc minutes and arc seconds. This is special measurement in the sky that relates to how many degrees the object is above in the horizon. We can start photography when the celestial object is 25 arc angles above the horizon. Below that level, the equipment cannot capture the image of the object. There is a particular period. It is good when there is no moon.”

Ajith’s next target is to capture Eagle Nebula. “It is called the pillars of creation. The centre of the nebula will look like three pillars. The nebula is the birth place of stars. Unfortunately, the nebula is setting in very early nowadays. Most of the times, it is on the horizon during day time. I have to wait for a year or so to capture the nebula. Some photographers have already captured the nebula.”
Food and Beverage at The Westin

meat grills. American cuisine and all types of new trends, particularly in Latin skills and keeps up to date with a strong foundation and innovative region as Head Chef. He developed with iconic restaurants in the Gulf in several renowned international experience, of which he worked of knowledge with 15 years of release. Esteban brings a wealth of experience, of which he worked of knowledge with 15 years of release. Esteban brings a wealth

Hunters Restaurant, stated a press release from Mahaadeg’s terrace, which serves a selection of delectable international cuisine. Whether needing from Mahaadeg’s terrace, which serves a selection of delectable international cuisine. Whether

Souq Al Wakra Hotel recently conducted the first exploratory tour for local media, bloggers and social media influencers to introduce them to the features and services that the hotel offers to guests from Qatar and all over the world. During the show-around, attendees were briefed about the property’s 101 rooms and suites, which were remarkably designed to combine the heritage of the State of Qatar on one hand and contemporary style on the other. Multiple units can be blocked off to create private areas for groups or big families who desire to hold intimate gatherings.

The Westin Doha appoints new Chef de Cuisine for Hunters Restaurant

The Westin Doha Hotel and Spa has recently announced the appointment of Esteban Guevara as Chef de Cuisine at Hunters Restaurant, stated a press release. Esteban brings a wealth of knowledge with 15 years of experience, of which he worked in several renowned international restaurants. During his career, he has worked with iconic restaurants in the Gulf region as Head Chef. He developed a strong foundation and innovative skills and keeps up to date with new trends, particularly in Latin American cuisine and all types of meat grills.

The Westin Doha appoints new Chef de Cuisine for Hunters Restaurant

The Westin Doha Hotel & Spa, said, “It is such a great honour to welcome Chef Esteban, a culinary enthusiast and an innovative expert. We promise our guests with the newest and highest quality dishes that will be served soon at Hunters Restaurant.”

Commenting on his appointment, Chef Esteban said, “Here at Hunters, I am working on creating new concepts which will be launched soon. We will offer our guests distinctive dishes and a totally new crafted menu, prepared with the finest quality of ingredients. It will be the most important aspect of the concept and we will certainly deliver an excellent guest experience.”

Souq Al Wakra Hotel hosts local media and social media influencers for the first preview

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The hotel is easily accessible for business engagements as well as both a multipurpose meeting room equipped with the latest audio-visual equipment, and a business centre available in case guests need to use a computer or print important documents. The media also had the opportunity to see The Spa, which aims to provide an absolute state of relaxation and well-being for both men and women. Facilities vary between genders, including a hydro pool, steam room, Vichy shower and jacuzzi. Those who are into fitness can use the multifunctional gym as they wish.

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**A collection of strip ads in the Gulf Times COMMUNITY every Thursday**

**only QR. 500**

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email: advr@gulf-times.com
Cocoa for your heart

Just one cup of cocoa a day may help prevent the formation of blood clots in arteries.

What’s in the cocoa bean?

- **Flavonoids**, or plant pigments, which may help prevent cardiovascular disease
- **Polyphenols**, antioxidants that may inhibit clotting

Source: Southampton General Hospital, TNS Photo Service

What to drink

A guide to the recommended maximum number of drinks a day:

- **Sodas/fruit drinks with sugar**: 1
- **Fruit/vegetable juice, whole milk, sports drink**: 1
- **Nonfat or low-fat milk, soy drinks**: 2
- **Diet beverages**: 4
- **Unsweetened coffee**: 4
- **Unsweetened tea**: 8
- **Water**
  - Women **4 or more**
  - Men **6 or more**

Source: Beverage Guidance Panel, University of North Carolina
How to take care of your trainers so they last longer

By Jino Jinowat

A light clean after every wear, deodorise overnight and never put them in the washing machine. Ideally, give trainers a quick brush or wipe —down after every wear. Most of the time, there will be just a layer of dust, which you can wipe off easily. More than that and you may need a brush and cleaning solution.

If you have been working out, sweat / moisture / funky stuff means you will have to concentrate on the insides. If you can, take out the insoles, clean with a brush and let them air separately. If you want to go a step further, remove the laces, flip the tongue over and clean out and air the entire shoe.

I would then recommend putting a deodorising insert inside the trainers overnight. You can get sprays that just add another layer of smell on top, but what you really want is an odourless insert that absorbs all the moisture and scent.

Don’t put trainers in a washing machine. They will come out clean but, over time, the material takes a beating. Also, there are so many materials on a single shoe – plastic, rubber, mesh, glue, suede – and a washing machine isn’t designed for all those different elements. The shoe might take a different shape, peel, crack; the paint might come off. Once cleaned and aired, trainers should be stored at room temperature. If they get too hot, the material can go soft, lose its shape and form. If too cold, certain materials stiffen, which can lead to cracking and breaking later on. — The Guardian
**Wordsearch**

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

- BEANY
- STETSON
- HOOD
- FEDORA
- BONNET
- TOQUE
- PILLBOX
- HELMET
- CLOCHE
- BERET
- STRAW
- KEPP
- FELT
- BOWLER
- TURBAN
- SOMBRERO
- HOMBURG
- DERRY
- BOATER
- TOPPER
- PANAMA
- FEZ
- CASQUE

**Codeword**

- BEANY
- STETSON
- HOOD
- FEDORA
- BONNET
- TOQUE
- PILLBOX
- HELMET
- CLOCHE
- BERET
- STRAW
- KEPP
- FELT
- BOWLER
- TURBAN
- SOMBRERO
- HOMBURG
- DERRY
- BOATER
- TOPPER
- PANAMA
- FEZ
- CASQUE

**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 numbers and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9, with no repetition.

**Adam**

- CAN’T BE SICK FOR HALLOWEEN! IT’S MY DAY!
- I'M SICK!
- (COUGH)
- MOM SAID I HAVE A FEVER!
- THIS IS THE WORST THING THAT’S EVER...
- (COUGH) WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
- WITH THOSE KLEENEX IN YOUR NOSE YOU LOOK LIKE WILFRED BRENDL!
- NOT HELPING!

**Pooch Cafe**

- WELCOME, FRIEND, WHAT CAN I GET YOU?
- POOH CAFE?
- DOGS ONLY
- STEWART
- BONNIE
- TOQUE
- SOMBRERO
- HOMBURG
- DERBY
- BOATER
- TOPPER
- PANAMA
- FEZ
- CASQUE

**Garfield**

- AND NOW BACK TO "THE WOLFMAN’S JOB INTERVIEW"
- SO, MR. TALBOT, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL SKILLS?
- ON A FULL MOON, I CAN SIT AND ROLL OVER
- SOUNDS LIKE MANAGEMENT MATERIAL

**Bound And Gagged**

- ZOMBIE LOST AND FOUND
- YES! THAT’S MINE!
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1. Clergyman has clay thrown out? Precisely! (10)
2. Sewing implements not quite unnecessary (7)
3. Carpenter is to go in without fish (5)
4. North-east race, after deductions (4)
5. I can roam about for pasta (8)
6. A group of directors on a ship (6)
7. Meant to be at home, getting looked after (8)
8. Help with a Verdi opera (4)
9. Never-failing courage (5)
10. Make up your mind to do the puzzle again (7)
11. Agree to write (10)

Down
1. Proficient in a small department (5)
2. It’s a little higher than the ankle - or a little lower! (4)
3. A little mischief-maker, a scallywag, a rogue (6)
4. Green tea brewed for a youngster (8)
5. Not lewd, wild or disappointed (3,4)
6. Swirling in and out in flood (10)
7. Part of the harness said to be put back (10)
8. Magnificence makes Edgar run (8)
9. Part of Canada - and parts of Iran too! (7)
10. Thirteen cards for eleven players in Scotland? (6)
11. I had been first but didn’t work (5)
12. Norwegian capital in Czechoslovakia (4)

Solution

Accurately:

Gulf Times

Wordsearch

Codeword

Answers

13 Thursday, October 31, 2019
A sturdy, wordy politically minded
and wholly engaging whodunit

By Katie Walsh

Edward Norton spent 20 years working to get his adaptation of Jonathan Lethem’s 1999 novel *Motherless Brooklyn* to the screen, adding a few substantial, challenging and chewy elements to the oddball detective tale. And while he shepherded the project, the movie business evolved in such a way that a moderately budgeted mystery with a starry cast could be seen as a gamble for a Hollywood auteur. In the age of blockbuster superhero entertainment vs. micro-budget indie films, Norton has delivered a movie of another era: a sturdy, wordy politically minded and wholly engaging whodunit.

About that era: Norton transposed the time period of the novel from 1959 to 1987. It’s a New York City of private eyes careening around the boroughs in heavy cars, Harlem jazz clubs and racial strife roiled by a housing crisis as a modern New York with a vague condemnation at the dark history of development that expands the story, weaving a largely unknown history of Moses and his influence on the city into the story of Lionel Essrog (Norton), a Brooklyn gumshoe detective with Tourette’s syndrome.

It takes a beat to fall into step with the rhythm of *Motherless Brooklyn*, punctuated by Lionel’s tics and twitches, obsessive habits and verbal outbursts. Although he apologises for it often, Lionel’s Tourette’s is in many ways his superpower. His quirky behaviour renders him non-threatening during investigations. And he’s quick on his feet, mentally and physically, skills no doubt honed from a childhood spent in a Brooklyn Catholic orphanage with a disruptive neurological disorder.

But Lionel also has a near-perfect echoic memory for words and voices, details and clues erupting in involuntary bursts of sing-songy rhymes that serve, in part, as mnemonic devices.

Lionel was scooped up out of the orphanage by Frank Minna (Bruce Willis), and now he’s one of “Minna’s Boys,” aiding the war vet in his private investigation business. When Frank is whisked during a meeting with a mysterious group of men, Lionel becomes hellbent on solving Frank’s murder, plunging into the unknown territory of New York politics, rolling with class and racial strife as black neighbourhoods are condemned and razed for development under Randolph’s all-powerful hand.

The snappy investigative procedural is a pleasure to watch unfold, especially with the offbeat detective at the centre. Norton’s performance could be cartoonish, but he executes it with aplomb, the twitches and tics motivated and authentic to the character and his experience of the world. Seen through Lionel’s eyes, the perspective is deeply empathetic, but in some ways, myopic. He wants to do the right thing for the people that he cares about, like Frank, and his new friend Laura (Gugu Mbatha-Raw), a young aide to a city official tackling the housing crisis. But that’s about as far as Lionel’s humanitarian streak goes. It seems a bit strange that Norton would insert the Moses story and engage with the city’s dark history of development without saying much more than a vague condemnation at the idea of “power” and the morally corrupt nature of people who seek it. This is a solid and enjoyable mystery flick, but through all the twists, turns, tics and twitches, *Motherless Brooklyn* works hard to impart its message. However, what comes out is ultimately somewhat hollow. – TNS

A lean, mean corrupt cop thriller

By Katie Walsh

It seems like director Deon Taylor might be the only filmmaker actively keeping the mid-budget thriller alive in this age of extinction. Plus, he’s prolific: His topical corrupt cop drama *Black and Blue* is his second 2019 film, arriving just a few months after his surprisingly entertaining and campy home invasion horror thriller *The Intruder*.

Taylor’s work is broad melodrama; subtle it is not. But he has a knack for efficiently executing a killer premise, and he works with excellent cinematographers, Daniel Pearl, who shot the original *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Lensed the Intruder,* and Dante Spinotti, the legendary director of photography who shot the likes of Michael Mann’s *Heat,* is appropriately behind the camera for the cops and dealers tale that is *Black and Blue* (he previously worked with Taylor on 2018’s *Traffik*).

Set in New Orleans’ Ninth Ward, the contained chase film follows a female police officer, Alicia West (Naomie Harris), who has captured an officer-involved shooting on her body camera. As she tries to make her way back to her precinct to upload the footage and enter it as evidence against the cabal of cops murdering their informants, Alicia has to dodge both the black folks in the neighbourhood who are suspicions of her uniform, and the boys in blue who can’t be trusted. *Think Walter Hill’s The Warriors,* but with a lone woman trying to cross town while dodging gangsters and law enforcement.

Taylor’s film uses the current news moment to play with the idea of being watched, and to underscore the power of images in pursuit of truth and justice. It reminds us we live in a “pics or it didn’t happen” world, where video (whether body-cam or viral) has the power to condemn or exonerate. This is a point Taylor drives home with visual storytelling. As Alicia faces her foe, Malone (Frank Grillo), during a climactic confrontation, smartphones capture the showdown. Taylor’s camera picks out images of graffiti eyes looming down on them like silent witnesses.

It’s a brutally obvious metaphor, but Taylor makes the effort to show it, not tell.

Both Grillo and Harris are powerful actors, and Taylor unleashes them in a way they don’t often get to do. Tyrese Gibson and Mike Colter, who play Alicia’s reluctant ally Mouse and a drug kingpin, respectively, feel miscast. Colter, who can’t hide the inherent decency he projects, would have excelled in Gibson’s role, which is a bit of a stretch for him, while Gibson would have appropriately stunted as the flamboyant, sadistic gangster.

*Black and Blue* is big and broad. There is no stone unturned, no symbol unexploited, and the emotional tenor is at an 11. It’s melodrama for sure, and there’s absolutely no chance of interpreting his film differently than the way he intended, for better or for worse. Too late in the game, Peter A. Dowling’s script overreaches, trying to connect the corruption to disasters like Hurricane Katrina and federal neglect. They don’t quite pull that one off, but damn if the rest of this lean, mean thriller isn’t exceptionally effective. – TNS
Andrews ‘too stoned’ for role in The Wolf of Wall Street

Cinema legend Julie Andrews has opened up about her near-appearance in Oscar-winning film The Wolf Of Wall Street.

The 84-year-old actress said she was forced to reject the role of playing Margot Robbie’s aunt due to being ‘truly so stoned’ after undergoing a surgery, reports mirror.co.uk.

The role of Aunt Emma was then taken on by Joanna Lumley in the final movie.

Andrews confessed her reasoning behind refusing to play the role during her recent appearance on Watch What Happens Live. She said: “I do regret it. I wasn’t able to do the movie. I had an operation. I’m a bionic woman and I have a titanium ankle. I was so truly stoned from all the drugs that I had to take to take the pain away. Really, it was mostly the anaesthetics.”

She was then unable to star in the film adaptation of Jordan Belford’s life of financial fraud and debauchery, starring Hollywood sensation Leonardo DiCaprio.

During her interview, Andrews also addressed a potential Princess Diary 3, after Anne Hathaway said there was a script. Andrews has been busy promoting her new book Home Work: A Memoir of My Hollywood Years and talked openly about how she regrets not being able to star in Martin Scorsese’s hit movie The Wolf Of Wall Street.

The book follows Andrews’ career from 1963 to 1986, starting with her arrival in Hollywood for Mary Poppins and The Sound Of Music and ending with her role in That’s Life!

Sheeran’s personal wealth has jumped from £94 million in 2017 to £170 million this year.

£64 million in the bank:

Other names on Heat’s annual rich list include Cara Delevingne and Little Mix. Heat magazine’s annual guide looks at the accounts, sales and endorsements of the UK’s most famous celebrities aged 30 or under.

Last year, Adele toppled the top with an estimated fortune of £145.3 million but she turned 31 in May so can no longer be included.

The Harry Potter magic worked for Emma Watson, 29, as well as Daniel Radcliffe, 30, with an estimated fortune of £90 million while Harry Styles, 25, is third with close to £64 million in the bank.

I resembled my grandfather much after Bala prosthetics, says Ayushmann Khurrana

National Award-winning Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who went through a look transformation in his upcoming film Bala, says he looked just like his grandfather after the prosthetic makeup was done.

Talking about how drastically different he looked after the makeup, Ayushmann said: “It was a different person altogether, and I did not recognise myself. I thought I looked like my grandfather because he had scanty hair. But I could relate with the reason why there is the complex (among people who are suffering premature balding). My father is quite gifted that way. I remember I used to play cricket at that time and I so wanted to become tall and should have good-looking love stories and action-packed commercial potboilers.

However, the actor said that it is not easy to crack the code of right script every time.

“It is difficult to choose a topic that has taboo and is important to address, but I am glad that I am born in a country which is full of taboo subjects. Our country is on one hand full of conservative people and on the other hand full of progressive people. When they meet, that is when comedy emanates. Seventy per cent of the population living in rural areas is migrating to the urban cities for jobs and a better lifestyle, and they get a culture shock. Cinema gets fodder from that kind of a situation,” said the actor.

He added: “Even in our film Bala, there are certain dictats that the guy has to be tall and should have good hair, while the girl has to be fair. We have to challenge such thoughts. My aspiration is always to choose a topic for my film that is noble and different,” said Ayushmann.

Directed by Amar Kaushik, Bala also features Bhumi Pednekar, Yami Gautam and Saurabh Shukla among others.

The actor has worked with both the leading ladies earlier – with Yami in Vicky Donor and Bhumi in Dum Laga Ke Haisha and Shubh Mangal Saavdhan. How was it working with them again?

“When we reunite with our co-stars again, there is added pressure. We make a conscious effort that the camaraderie between two actors should not be repeated, but it should be different. In Bala, I am glad their characters are well-edged out. Bhumi’s character Nikhila is quite interesting because although she is a dark-skinned girl, she has no complex. She is confident. Bala is the one with a complex and insecurity (for his premature balding), so he takes inspiration from her. It has a lot of layers, of killing insecurity and coming out of all complex like a phoenix,” he said.

So, was there any complex Ayushmann had while growing up? “I was a very skinny kid. I am still lean but this is a much better version of me. I remember I used to play cricket at that time and I so wanted to become a fast bowler. But my coach said that I am too skinny for that. So, I started bowling spin. That was one of the complexes I had as a child,” he recalled.

Bala releases on November 1.
EFTM marks 200th meeting

EF Toastmasters (EFTM), a Toastmasters club for Engineers Forum members, recently marked its 200th meeting under the theme of ‘Creating Legacy’ at Millennium Hotel. Ram Mohan Nair, President of EFTM, presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended by notable personalities from toastmasters fraternity including Thayalan K, District 116 Programme Quality Director; Arvind Iyer, Division C Director; and Kunhikoya, Area B Director. Ram Mohan Nair welcomed the gathering. The meeting was anchored by Muhammad Anseer. Vinod Kumar, Vice President Membership, conducted the induction ceremony for the new members of the club. The assigned mentors along with other members of the club welcomed the new members to the club. Harris Babu conducted the Table Topics. Haseeb CM was the General Evaluator and provided a thorough evaluation of the overall conduct of the meeting. The Best Speaker Award was bagged by Hari Prasad. Vinod Kumar won the Best Table Topics Speaker award and Shajil Kader the Best Evaluator award. Thayalan presented the District 116’s memento to Sabari Prasad, past president of EFTM, on ranking 6th in the world.

PISQ organises seminar on ‘Engineering Solutions to the Global Challenges’

Pakistan International School Qatar recently organised a seminar for the students of higher secondary classes on ‘Engineering Solutions to the Global Challenges’. The seminar was conducted by Dr Ashfaq Bengali, Professor at Texas A&M University at Qatar. His research is focused on the photochemistry of transition metal containing organometallic complexes. The session kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an, which was followed by a brief introduction of the guest speaker. Dr Ashfaq spoke about ‘Climate Change, its causes, impacts and their solutions’. He pointed out the main challenges facing the world today, including Environment (climate change), Health (diseases), Energy (alternative sources), Inequality (poverty), clean water (pollution) and others. He explained about the main causes of climate change and its impact, including sea level, destructive weather, wars for food and migration (rise and fall of civilisations). He also discussed about “What should we do to solve this global threat?” He listed down steps for consideration, including conversion of CO2 into useful substances, developing alternative fuels and the reduction of the consumption of beef.

DPS-MIS marks ‘Hindi Diwas’

Hindi Department of DPS-Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS) recently organised an event to mark ‘Hindi Diwas’ highlighting the importance of Hindi language as one of the official languages of India. The event kicked off with a prayer, which was followed by a theatrical play by the students of Grade-X. The students of Grade III-IV also performed on the occasion. The event was organised under the guidance of Suhaila Mohsin, Head of Department of Hindi Language. Speaking on the occasion, Asna Nafees, Principal of DPS-MIS, appreciated the efforts of the students and the teachers and enlightened the students with various insights into the novelty and beauty of Hindi language.