Community
Karnataka Sangha Qatar, a socio-cultural organisation, completes two decades of excellence.

Community
Students in Qatar University’s Al-Bairaq programme present 29 scientific projects at Research and Innovation Conference.

Cover Story
The tiny plastic packages that are fuelling Asia’s waste crisis. P4-5

Review
Stewart gives comedic performance in woke Charlie’s Angels.
Page 14

Showbiz
I want to be a pop star like Beyonce: Shalmali Kholgade.
Page 15
**Terminator: Dark Fate**

**DIRECTION:** Tim Miller  
**CAST:** Linda Hamilton, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mackenzie Davis  
**SYNOPSIS:** In Mexico City, a newly modified liquid Terminator – the Rev-9 model – arrives from the future to kill a young factory worker named Dani Ramos. Also sent back in time is Grace, a hybrid cyborg human who must protect Ramos from the seemingly indestructible robotic assassin. But the two women soon find some much-needed help from a pair of unexpected allies – seasoned warrior Sarah Connor and the T-800 Terminator.

**THEATRES:** The Mall, Royal Plaza

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**Kaithi**

**DIRECTION:** Lokesh Kanagaraj  
**CAST:** Karthi, Narain, George Maryan  
**SYNOPSIS:** What happens when an injured cop and a convicted criminal who wants to meet his daughter for first time in life cross each other’s path? Find out!

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

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**Quote Unquote**

“Change your thoughts and you change your world.”  
– Norman Vincent Peale

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**COMMUNITY**

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**Fax:** 44350474

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**USEFUL NUMBERS**

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**PRAYER TIME**

- **Fajr:** 4.30am  
- **Shoroq (sunrise):** 5.11am  
- **Zuhr (noon):** 11.20am  
- **Asr (afternoon):** 2.26pm  
- **Maghreb (sunset):** 4.48pm  
- **Isha (night):** 6.18pm
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’s aspiring physicians offer basic healthcare services to the locals as a way of giving back to the community and learn about the lifestyles, traditions, socioeconomic hierarchies and health systems of the local Tanzanian communities. A collection of photographs of the wildlife, landscapes and people of Tanzania taken by WCM-Q professor Dr Dietrich Büsselberg 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 productivity. For more information, 55448835.

Education Fair
WHERE: City Centre Doha
WHEN: November 22 – 23
A one stop place for school leavers. All prospective students who are planning to study in Malaysia are welcome to the exhibition. Come and be a part of the truly Asian culture in Doha.

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 33005839.

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 instrumentals. 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 minds and brains too.
For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in

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.
Two dozen children fanned out along a creek near their elementary school, filling sacks with litter left by residents of the concrete shacks lining the waterway.

When they’d finished the morning cleanup, the students emptied a large garbage bag to study its contents. A stream of shiny plastic scraps spilled onto the school’s driveway.

Bearing the names of familiar international brands of coffee creamer, biscuits, laundry detergent and candy, the discarded packaging illustrated one of the biggest environmental challenges facing Asia’s booming cities. The palm-sized packets known as sachets have exploded in emerging economies, allowing low-income consumers to buy single servings of almost any product.

But the packaging cannot be easily recycled, and in cities like Manila with spotty waste collection, the used pouches have piled up in empty fields, collected in sewers and spilled into rivers and oceans — adding to a glut of plastic waste that Asian countries have begun to regard as an environmental crisis.

“For people who live on a day-to-day basis, sachets are a reality of life — but they are also one of the biggest waste problems we face,” said George Oliver De La Rama, a spokesman for the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, the government agency overseeing the cleanup this month.

As environmental groups sound the alarm over harmful plastic debris, Western consumer goods companies are searching for ways to reduce the use of sachets and make them easier to recycle. In Manila, manufacturers are investing in plans to turn used plastic into bricks, tiles and classroom chairs.

Meanwhile, the number of sachets in the environment continues to explode.

The Philippines, an archipelago with more than 105 million people spread across 7,600 islands, consumes about 59.7 billion sachets every year, according to the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, or GAIA, an advocacy group. That’s enough to cover all of metropolitan Manila — or roughly half of Los Angeles — in one foot of plastic.

For consumer goods giants, sachets were “a brilliant marketing tactic to capture the low-income market and good
The Philippines, an archipelago with more than 105 million people spread across 7,600 islands, consumes about 59.7 billion sachets every year, according to the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, or GAIA, an advocacy group for brand visibility, but no one thought of the consequences," said Von Hernandez, a Philippine environmental activist and global co-ordinator of Break Free From Plastic, an advocacy group.

Since Americans Harold Ross and Yale Kaplan patented the flexible, single-use plastic food pouch in 1955 — making the first ketchup and soy sauce packets possible — multinational corporations have used sachets to sell tiny quantities of every conceivable product.

The first to realise the potential of sachets in Asia was a family-run Indian company called KavinCare, which in the early 1980s introduced 0.3-ounce pouches of shampoo, good for one wash.

Sold for pennies, it was such a hit with villagers — some of whom had never used shampoo before — that competitors began packaging salt, talcum powder, toothpaste, soap and skin cream in small, throwaway packages.

Management expert C.K. Prahalad, in his 2004 book "The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid," wrote that companies could realise $13 trillion in profits every year by selling to the half of the globe that lived on less than $2 a day. A sachet revolution rippled across the developing world: brightly coloured packets with corporate logos dangling from roadside stalls and market shelves everywhere, promising safe and hygienic products for all.

But all those pint-sized pouches ushered in a waste nightmare.

In Philippine cities, waste pickers who gather plastic for recycling leave sachets behind because they have no value.

“"The industry knew that there was little collection or recycling capacity when they started selling here," Hernandez said. "We are shouldering the burden of their product — they are profiting at our expense.""

Scientists Laurent Lebreton and Anthony Andraly recently estimated that in 2015, metropolitan Manila — a coastal megacity of more than 15 million people — generated at least 810,000 metric tons of plastic litter that wasn’t properly disposed, the most of any urban area in the world.

In their analysis, the Philippines trailed only China and India in the quantity of plastic debris it allowed to seep into the ocean, where scientists believe it is endangering aquatic species and contaminating the food chain.

“They’re very light, easily blown and carried by the wind and the water — so there are coastal communities that are just inundated with sachets," said Bea Baconguitis, regional plastics campaigner for GAIA.

The group recently analysed collection efforts in 21 Philippine cities and found that sachets made up more than half of all household plastic waste. The lion’s share of consumer packaging came from just a handful of companies — including Nestle, Unilever and Procter & Gamble.

Each company has announced plans to phase out hard-to-recycle plastics over the next decade. Unilever — maker of Dove and Vaseline — has said it will reduce its use of plastic by 2025 by enhancing collection efforts, increasing the use of paper and other alternatives and introducing new delivery models such as refill stations.

Last month, the company introduced an incentive programme in Manila that lets people trade in used sachets for vouchers for new Unilever products.

“Sachets are one of the most efficient ways to deliver these products, but when our packaging ends up in the environment, that’s not OK with us," said Ed Sunico, vice president for sustainable business at Unilever Philippines.

But a pilot shampoo refill project last year showed little success, environmental groups said, because Unilever placed the dispensers at upscale Manila shopping malls — not ideal to reach customers who buy 10-cent sachets.

“Until they show these can be rolled out at sari-sari stores" — the ubiquitous neighbourhood stalls where most Filipinos do their daily shopping — “this all just looks like a show," Hernandez said.

Activists say the Philippine government has failed to enforce its waste management law, which requires local governments to collect trash from every neighbourhood and prohibits manufacturers from using “non-environmentally acceptable” packaging material.

Philippine officials have resisted toughening rules around plastic products, saying they don’t want to harm consumers. At an event on marine pollution this year, Ricardo Calderon, a senior environment department official, said "the sachet economy ... is basically part of (economic) development."

Despite environmental concerns, forecasters believe the global market for plastic packaging will continue to grow by more than 3% annually, reaching $260 billion by 2024, according to one analysis.

“You can’t change from plastic packaging without a clear substitute," said Bert Guevara, vice president of the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability, a consortium of manufacturers and industry groups that includes Unilever and Coca-Cola. The group opposes proposals to ban single-use plastics or restrict sales of sachets.

“We have over-demonised plastic, and now people want to solve the problem in one or two years," he said. "We are pushing for science-based solutions.""

In the industrial Manila suburb of Paranaque, GAIA and local authorities recently opened a factory to manufacture parking bumpers and bricks using shredded sachets.

The “eco-bricks“ — made of sand and gravel, mixed with 15-16% sachets — are said to be five times as strong as standard bricks, Guevara said, and could soon be used in city construction.

Over the noise of jets landing at Manila’s nearby international airport, Guevara touted the potential of a 20-foot mound of sachets rising from one corner of the tin-roofed warehouse. Once it gets going, he said, the facility could process 1 ton of sachets per day.

That sounds like a lot, but consider this: According to government statistics, the Filipinos generate more than 4,600 tons of plastic waste daily.

"We have to start somewhere," Guevara said.

— Los Angeles Times/TNS
Doha College launches 4th edition of Qatar Primary School of the Year Competition

Doha College is all set to organise the fourth edition of Qatar Primary School of the Year Competition with a new format, at a new venue and featuring new categories. Following the continuous rise of competition, the country has seen choirs emerging or doubling in size, grander performances in local events and widened participation in the competition itself year on year. Owing to this success, the event is opening this year to secondary students aged up to 14, which will see it potentially doubling in size. Greg Beardsell is the head adjudicator of QSCoY and Dana Al Far’dan, a Qatari composer of international prominence, an alumnus of Doha College and a champion of music education, the Competition Ambassador. She composed the competition anthem Wings of the Falcon, a rousing song that was the set piece of the inaugural QSCoY edition and has since been recorded with the Qatar Junior Choir and with members of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.

Doha College has announced Qatar National Convention Centre as its new venue. The launch event will take place today at 4pm at QNCC, and will see performances from past medallists, including Dukhan English School, Doha English Speaking School, King’s College Doha and Doha College.

Galfar Al Misnad organises blood donation drive

Galfar Al Misnad, in association with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) Blood Bank, recently held a blood donation campaign at the company’s Umm Salal Al camp. The company has been regularly running this campaign with its employees since 2012. A total of 214 employees from Galfar’s camps, sites, and offices took part in the campaign.

Galfar Al Misnad, a 100% Qatari construction company, has been operating for nearly 25 years in Qatar and is an integral partner in several nation building projects. Galfar is known for its commitment to social responsibility and organises regular company-wide health awareness campaigns. The company also executes environment awareness sessions for the community at large, participates in corporate sports events like cricket and football, and runs an educational initiative to teach their workers English and financial literacy. The Galfar Clinic caters to company’s nearly 6,000 workforce. The clinic personnel regularly conduct periodic health check-ups of all employees in addition to providing medical care.

“The success of the blood donation programme is due to the enthusiastic support of all Galfarians in mobilising donors and participating in this blood donation,” said Dr Abdul Vadood, Medical Officer at Galfar Al Misnad. To facilitate the accessibility for its employees, the company provided special transportation for all volunteers to reach Umm Salal Al. The donation drive was handled by 29 staff members of HMC Blood Bank.

Qatar Tec W.L.L inaugurates new office

Abdulla Nasser A M al-Kaabi recently inaugurated the new office of Qatar Tec W.L.L. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Khaled Mohd E A al-Boinin, Mathias Kavungal, K M Varghese, ICC Advisory Council Chairman; Dr K C Sabu, Alachen M Thomas, K Girish Kumar, former president of ICC; Dr Viveesh Philip, CEO of Al Maaref, and Dr Amanulla Vadakkangara, CEO of Mediaplus. Jebi K John, Managing Director of Qatar Tec, Asha Jebi, Managing Partner, Jeas Jebi, Binu Kuriakose, Operations Manager, Alias Kurian, Finance Manager, Laju Varghese, Admin Manager, Shibu Nair, Project Manager, Joby K John, Sales Manager, and Saji Kuriakose, IT Manager, also attended the event.
KSQ completes two decades of excellence

Karnataka Sangha Qatar (KSQ), a socio-cultural organisation of expatriates from Karnataka India living in Qatar, an associated member of Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) under the aegis of Embassy of India, was formed on November 12, 1999. The organisation was inaugurated by Dr Aralu Mallige Parthasarathy, renowned writer and prolific orator. Satish Deshpande as Founder President, Dr V C Murthy, Vice-President; and Surya Narayana, General Secretary; along with other governing members were unanimously elected for the first management committee for two years term. Since its inception KSQ has grown unanimously, from only 40 members KSQ has grown to over 1,500 subscribed members. On the occasion of celebrating 20 years of its formation, KSQ paid tribute to late A N Nagaraj, second President KSQ. KSQ gained its prominence with presentation of skits at the cultural programmes organised to mark Independence Day and Republic Day of India over the years. The programmes, including Vasanthotsava (Kannada New Year) and Rajyotsava (State Formation Day) have become the hallmark signature events of KSQ. Along with organising free Kannada coaching classes for students, KSQ has been honouring personalities who have immensely contributed to Kannada language, art and literary works with Qatar Kannada Samman.

As it marks its 20th anniversary, the current and former presidents of the organisation share their messages of pride and storyline for being the part of the organisation.

Venkat Rao
President of KSQ

KSQ is like a big family for all its members and provides a stage for cultural and entertainment events. KSQ has always been actively taking part in the charitable works and socio-environment causes. I feel fortunate to head KSQ on its 20th anniversary and wish all the members to join the celebrations.

Satish Despande
Founder president of KSQ

The Kannada seed sown 20 years ago has grown into a big tree! KSQ is what it is today, standing tall with pride, because of innumerable volunteers, members and management committee. Wishing KSQ all the best and hoping it to go places for its social work.

Prakash Babu
Former president of KSQ

KSQ should focus more on teaching Kannada language to children. More workshops and seminars about the rich heritage, culture, lifestyle, attire of Karnataka along with care for environmental and water saving issues should be organised.

K Prabhakara
Former president of KSQ

KSQ has grown to be one of the best associations in Qatar. The credit goes to all the presidents, the team and the support from ICC and the Embassy of India. Wishing a great success to KSQ on its 20th anniversary.

Arun Kumar K M
Former president of KSQ

It has been a tremendous journey for the last 20 years to be a part of KSQ, for me and for my family. We have made a good number of friends and we will cherish this forever. Wishing KSQ success for all the years to come.

V S Mannangi
Former president of KSQ

I am blessed to have been associated with KSQ since its inception and be a part of its journey for the last 20 years. Undoubtedly, KSQ’s platform has been beneficial for the members who got recognition, rewards and awards. All members must put efforts for the growth of KSQ for the future to come.

V R Prabhakara
Former president of KSQ

KSQ’s Immediate past president and Chairman of Advisory Board

The emotional bondage with KSQ is infinite. I’ve been blessed to be a part of KSQ’s big family since its inception. KSQ is inseparable companion and is part of our lives. Wishing KSQ new heights of success as it completes its 2 decades.

Deepak Shetty
Former president of KSQ

KSQ has completed two decades with flying colours. During my tenure, KSQ got a trophy from Qatar Environment Ministry for the campaign to spread the message across the society to save the mother Earth. I have fond memories of my association with KSQ to cherish
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Sweet music?

Here is how to make a real musical instrument — what it makes is not exactly beautiful, but it is music.

You’ll need

- Paper tube
- Sharp pencil
- Wax paper
- Rubber band

Source: Bill Nye Science
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

What happened?

You hear a buzz when you hum and make the wax paper vibrate.

Putting your fingers over the holes changes the tone.

This musical instrument, a “kazoo,” is mostly used to make sounds like a person singing.

Try This

1. Punch some holes in side of tube with pencil
2. Attach wax paper to end of tube with rubber band
3. Cover holes with your fingertips, put mouth on open end of tube and hum
4. Lift fingers one by one as you hum

You’ll need

- Paper tube
- Sharp pencil
- Wax paper
- Rubber band

Source: Bill Nye Science
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
I said the study.**

Acquired through age and experience, reliably recognise dog emotions is mainly recognised from early on, the ability to do so, said the study.

The findings, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, showed that the probability of recognising dog emotions was higher for participants who grew up in a cultural context with a positive attitude towards dogs, regardless of whether they owned a dog themselves.

“These results are noteworthy, because they suggest that it is not necessarily direct experience with dogs that affects humans’ ability to recognise their emotions, but rather the cultural milieu in which humans develop,” said study lead author Federica Amici from the Max Planck Institute in Germany.

In order to test how well humans can understand the emotions behind dog facial expressions, the researchers collected photographs of dogs, chimpanzees, and humans displaying either happy, sad, angry, neutral, or fearful emotions as substantiated by the photographers.

They then recruited 80 adult participants and 77 child participants and categorised them according to their age, the dog-positivity of their cultural context and the participants’ personal history of dog ownership.

Each participant was presented with photographs of dogs, chimps and humans and asked to rate how much the individual in the picture displayed happiness, sadness, anger, or fear.

Adults were also asked to determine the context in which the picture had been taken (e.g., playing with a trusted conspecific partner; directly before attacking a conspecific).

The results of the study showed that, while some dog emotions can be recognised from early on, the ability to reliably recognise dog emotions is mainly acquired through age and experience.

In adults, the probability of recognising dog emotions was higher for participants who grew up in a cultural context with a positive attitude towards dogs, regardless of whether they owned a dog themselves.

A dog-positive cultural background, one in which dogs are closely integrated into human life and considered highly important, may result in a higher level of passive exposure and increased inclination and interest in dogs, making humans better at recognising dogs’ emotions even without a history of personal dog ownership.

The researchers also found that regardless of age or experience with dogs, all participants were able to identify anger and happiness reliably.

Other than anger and happiness, the children in the study were not good at identifying dog emotions, the study said.

–IANS
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.

AMUSED
GLAD
JOYFUL
BLITHE
BEAMING
MIRTHFUL
GLEEFUL
HAERY
LAUGHING
BLESSFUL
GRATIFIED
MERRY

BLITHE
HAPPY
JOYFUL
MIRTHFUL
CHEERFUL
DELIGHTED
HEARTY
JOLLY
PLEASED
CHEERY
EUPHORIC
JANUTY
JOVIAL

Codeword

AMUSED
GLAD
JOYFUL
BEAMING
GLEEFUL
LAUGHING
BLESSFUL
GRATIFIED
MERRY

BLITHE
HAPPY
MIRTHFUL
CHEERFUL
HEARTY
PLEASED
CHEERY
EUPHORIC
JANUTY
JOVIAL

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a grid. The grid is divided into nine (3x3) boxes. You must place a selection of values in each box so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains each value exactly once.

Bound And Gagged

Bound And Gagged

Adam

Pooch Cafe

Garfield

Codeword

Sudoku

Bound And Gagged
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
7 Unintentional sort of invader gets temporary accommodation (11)
8 Get on in time for an award (6)
9 Get to grips with equipment (6)
10 The name of a woman staggering in the bar (6)
13 Observe the diocese (3)
14 Naughtly child allowed outside for shellfish (6)
16 Cook clouts insect (6)
18 Transport setback leads to quarrel (4,2)
20 Sporting event has started, so go away (3,3)
22 Mountaineer scrambling list (11)

Down
1 Queen of Carthage swindled by love (4)
2 Exit far from correct (3-3)
3 More than shy - gloomy! (8)
4 Indomitable courage - King George has it (4)
5 Be a prisoner or a guiding light (6)
6 Is a Latin translation for Europeans? (6)
11 Gourmets providing us with recipe? (8)
12 A vegetable Eric and Alec cooked (8)
15 Offended, having been expelled (3,3)
17 Frank is a little unrealistic and idealistic (6)
19 Look both ways (4)
21 An excellent punishment? (4)

Colouring

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword
Stewart gives divinely comedic performance in woke Charlie’s Angels

By Katie Walsh

Good news, movie fans: if you’ve ever wanted to see Kristen Stewart as a slightly randy, very random, butt-kicking international dirbhag of mystery, you’re in luck. Even if you never knew you wanted that, you’re still in luck, because that is exactly what Elizabeth Banks’s Charlie’s Angels delivers. And it’s a treat. Swinging a seemingly gender-inspired rapscallion “tude, Stewart is not only pretty darn great at it, but she appears to be having a ball too. Liberated from the confines of moody teen fare and international art-house dramas, it seems Stewart hasn’t had this much fun in ages, so forgive her for eating up every comedic opportunity she gets. For whatever else you think of Banks’s Charlie’s Angels, we have her to thank for this rather ingenious and refreshing comedic turn from K-Stew.

With the help of co-writers Evan Spiliotopoulos and David Auburn, Banks has dusted off the lady spy franchise that was once a cheeky ’70s sitcom, and of course, a McG-directed cinematic franchise that was once a creepy ’00s sitcom. And it’s being sold to the world as a sequel to the one-third of Doctor Sleep sequels. That makes Balinska the breakout star of Charlie’s Angels, not only due to her impressive physical presence, lowering over Stewart and Scott, but with her jaw-dropping stunts and combat skills. It’s simply a joy to watch her absolutely wreck the shark-eyed, steampunk assassin Hodak (Jonathan Tucker), then land a punchline on it to boot.

Charlie’s Angels isn’t rocket science, but thanks to a charm offensive of stars, it’s an easy breezy blast of an action flick that delivers as many laughs as it does roundhouse kicks, and proves to be another fascinating entry in the Kristen Stewart canon. If every generation gets the Charlie’s Angels they deserve, this one’s is lucky. – TNS

A sequel to Stanley Kubrick’s 1980 horror masterpiece The Shining

By Chris Hewitt

It’s usually hard to quantify the quality of a movie, but in the case of Doctor Sleep, it’s easy: Precisely two-thirds of it is good.

A sequel to The Shining, Doctor Sleep incorporates elements of the Stanley Kubrick film The Shining, although writer Stephen King dislikes it, in telling the story of that movie’s main character. Danny was a child who had the ability to “shine,” to see into the past and communicate telepathically. Danny is now Dan, an adult who inherited both his father’s alcoholism and purposelessness. As the film opens, Dan (Ewan McGregor) is visited by the ghost of his friend Hallorann (Scatman Crothers in The Shining, Carl Lumbly here), who advises that just as Hallorann helped young Danny, Dan eventually will be called upon to assist a young Danny who has the shining.

Probably my favourite thing about Doctor Sleep is its structure, as classic as a triptych in the art world or the building of four movements within a symphony. Doctor Sleep has three central characters with three separate story lines that, pretty clearly, will come together in a finale set at a place that has special meaning for The Shining fans. There’s Dan. There’s Abra (Kyliegh Curran), whose parents try to ignore her paranormal powers. And there’s Rose (Rebecca Ferguson), who masterminds a roving band of free-loving hippie vampires that travels the US in search of children to torture so they can feast on their fear and pain.

The heavy involvement of children in Doctor Sleep sounds disturbing and it is, particularly since one of them is that nice Jacob Tremblay from The Room. Folks who carry trauma from the mistreatment of children should be warned that this film could be a trigger. (And everyone should be warned that the movie contains an astonishing number of scenes of people blowing chunks.)

Of the three main characters, Dan and Abra are the first to meet and their interaction provides Doctor Sleep with its heart. McGregor invests Dan with a deep well of pain, and after Dan begins going to AA meetings, it makes sense that he would reach out to assist Abra as she begins to have visions of children in torment. He is, after all, one of the few people in the world who has experienced what she’s going through. Newcomer Curran also is terrific, her Abra suggesting intriguing possibilities for Doctor Sleep sequels. That brings us to the one-third of Doctor Sleep that doesn’t work: Rebecca Ferguson’s Rose. Ferguson, who made a splash with an amusing performance in Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation, is adequate in a performance that should be a showy, spectacular avatar of evil. Essentially, the producers sent in a Rebecca Ferguson when what they needed was a Cate Blanchett, an Elisabeth Moss or, based on her work in 12 Years a Slave, an Alfre Woodard.

As Doctor Sleep builds toward its climax, the “Shining” references begin to pile up: the thunderous tones of its main score, aerial shots of cars in the wilderness, that kind of thing. Those elements make Doctor Sleep unnerving, if never scary, but writer/director Mike Flanagan errs when he re-creates iconic shots from The Shining and asks Henry Thomas (yup, E.T.’s friend) to do an eyebrow-heavy impression of the inimitable Jack Nicholson.

It was always going to be a balancing act, figuring out how much of The Shining to repurpose in this sins-of-the-father sequel, but the closer Doctor Sleep gets to actually duplicating its predecessor, the more the power of The Shining was a much better-made movie. – Star Tribune (Minneapolis) / TNS
By Arundhuti Banerjee

Singer Shalmali Kholgade says she aspires to be a pop star like Beyoncé.

“I aspire to be a pop star, we don’t have many here in India. My biggest dream is to become one. We admire Beyoncé and while she has done films, she is known for her stage performances, as a vocalist. I love acting, I find myself alive when I am preparing the ammo and I very well know that I am going to be one,” Shalmali told IANS.

She released her first non-film single, Ruk ruk, which she has co-created with Digvijay Singh Parthiyar and Sunny MR.

Dwelling on her desire to see herself as a pop star, Shalmali said: “When I do my solo show, I put it up with dance, performance, dress, and prop because it is a performing art, and acting is a part of it. The audience should come and engage with the performer. We need a pop star in Hindi music.”

Citing the example of the Punjabi non-film music scene, she added: “Look at Badshah, Diljit (Dosanjh) and all those Punjabi musicians. They are no less than Bollywood stars, and in Punjabi culture pop stars are celebrated. Now, with the whole entertainment scenario changing, and with (the act of) engaging with the audience becoming the main objective for an artiste, we need to create space for a pop star.”

Ruk ruk is a Gaana Original song and will be available on the Gaana app.

While the independent music has been overshadowed by Bollywood music and its marketing machinery, the Paresuan fame singer said: “It was important for musicians like us to get platforms like Gaana, because they have the conviction that original audio can reach out to people. The pressure is not there that if the video is not good the song will not reach out.

Of course, I have acted in the video and there is a different kind of creativity involved in making a video, but the conviction that these people have, makes singers like us feel that we are in good hands.”

Starting her career in 2012, Shalmali lent her voice for several superhit songs including Balam pichkari, Daru deset, Lat lag gayee, and Shayyana.

Shalmali’s love for acting probably stems from the fact that her parents hail from a theatre background. “I am reading a few scripts and I might end up doing a film if the story is exciting,” she claimed.

The song Ruk ruk is presented by Big Bang Music. — IANS
Students in QU's Al-Bairaq programme present 29 scientific projects at RIC

Following the completion of their three-month journey at Qatar University's (QU) Al-Bairaq programme, 112 pre-preparatory and secondary students presented 29 projects and ideas at the Research and Innovation Conference (RIC) held at QU's Bin Khalifa Hall. The conference was designed as an educational research platform that allows students the experience of participating in scientific competitions and conferences and prepares them efficiently for future careers.

Al-Bairaq is a non-traditional educational project of QU in which students at QU's secondary school work in teams with highly qualified university-level scientists on practical scientific problems in authentic contexts. A panel of judges from national and international companies, along with a large number of guests from different institutions and organizations attended the conference. The conference also provides opportunities for students to exhibit their scientific findings or projects, which are sponsored by Ras Alftan Industrial City Community Outreach Programme, to provide scientific solutions to one of the problems in the fields of industry environment or the community. The groups also presented a presentation and a scientific poster in which they demonstrated the skills of communication and presentation of scientific projects.

Students in Al-Bairaq had the opportunity to present a scientific project as an application of what they learned during the workshop, to participate in scientific competitions, and to learn through scientific experiments, taught in a unifying framework to acquire knowledge and skills. Students of this cycle participated in workshops at their respective school laboratories, where they performed scientific experiments and learned about observation and engagement in stimulated discussions. Students were highly skilled and enthusiastic for Al-Bairaq’s unique approach to teaching. At the conference, all the participating groups presented a product or a project idea as an application of what they learned during the workshop, to provide scientific solutions to one of the problems in the fields of industry environment or the community. The groups also presented a presentation and a scientific poster in which they demonstrated the skills of communication and presentation of scientific projects.

NorthWestern University Qatar (NU-Q) recently organised a luncheon to honour the students who made it to the Dean’s List for their academic achievements. To earn a place on the Dean’s List, students in the Communications Programme need to demonstrate a 3.75 GPA and students in the Journalism and Strategic Communication Programme are required to achieve a 3.7 GPA. The students from Communication Programme who have made it to the Dean’s List, include Mohamed Khaled al Thani, Ahmad Abdel Fattah Abudayyeh, Afra Ali A A al Baqiri, Hisa Ghazi A H Al Mannai, Meryam Abdessadok, Abdullah Fahad A E Kamal, Dana Sami Hammed Abu Shanab, Abdullah Yousef S Y Al-Hor, Hassan Mohammed H A Al-Jabir, Bohuthayna Talal S S al-Mohammad, Noor Abdalaziz A A Al-Kuwari, Sobia M M Al-Badr. The students from Communication Programme who have made it to the Dean’s List, include Albandari Mohd KH N Al-Kuwari, Lolwa Faleh N. A. al-Thani, Nawal Faisal S. A al-Abdali, Maryam Adil Gamar, and Giordana Fogaca Bido.

Record number of NU-Q students recognised for academic distinction

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