Close watch

Built for counterterrorism, this high-tech machine is now used to detect fentanyl — a synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than heroin. P4-5

Cover Story

Pop Spot
Martin, Shirlie's LP In The Swing Of It becomes a big UK hit.

Showbiz
Ian Somerhalder wants more than acting roles on TV shows.

Page 14
Page 15
**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr: 4.46am
- Shoroq (sunrise): 6.30am
- Zuhr (noon): 11.28am
- Asr (afternoon): 2.26pm
- Maghreb (sunset): 4.46pm
- Isha (night): 6.16pm

**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
- Mowasalat 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
- Q-Post – General Postal Corporation: 44464444
- Ministry of Interior: 40253371, 40253372, 40253369
- Ministry of Health: 40253370, 40253364
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253368, 40253365
- Qatar Airways: 40253374

**QUOTE UNQUOTE**

“Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose.” - Lyndon B Johnson

**Code 8**

**DIRECTION:** Jeff Chan  
**CAST:** Stephen Amell, Robbie Amell, Kari Matchett  
**SYNOPSIS:** A desperate young man possessing special powers clashes with a militarised police force after committing a petty crime.  
**THEATRES:** Royal Plaza

**Arctic Dogs**

**DIRECTION:** Aaron Woodley  
**CAST:** Jeremy Renner, Heidi Klum, James Franco  
**SYNOPSIS:** Swifty the fox discovers a devious plan by Otto Von Walrus to drill beneath the Arctic surface to unleash enough gas to melt all the ice. With help from his friends – an introverted polar bear, a scatterbrained albatross, a crafty fox and two paranoid otters – Swifty and the gang spring into action to foil Otto’s plot and save the day.  
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Royal Plaza, Landmark
Mughal-e-Azam Grand Musical
WHERE: Al Mayassa Theatre, QNCC
WHEN: December 19 – December 20
TIME: 7:30pm – 10pm
With live singing on stage, strong cast of talents, and fairy tale sets that intensify Mughal imperial opulence, this modern-day version breathes new life into the classic story of forbidden love. The magic continues in this “must-see” musical that enthralled everyone to watch over and over again. Iconic acts in one unforgettable show, Mughal-e-Azam, takes you back in time where two hearts justified that against all odds, love conquers all. Tickets available through www.q-tickets.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 Qatar-India 2019 Year of Culture 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.

Al Wakalat Car Market 2019
WHERE: Parking opposite to Khalifa International Stadium
WHEN: December 19 – 28
TIME: 4pm – 11:50pm
Al Wakalat Car Market will enable visitors to have access to cars at their best offers of the year, which ensure to clear out stocks of approved cars.

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.

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

Winter School for Grade IX-XII Students
WHERE: Inspire Training Academy, Najma St.
WHEN: December 25 – 29
TIME: 8:30am – 1:30pm
Developing the leader within every teen today — for a better world tomorrow. Each student deserves to discover their potential and acquire the skills, confidence and motivation to make things happen and bring about change. The five-day leadership and innovation programme is an exciting series of interactive workshops, energetic activities and fun-filled challenges specifically designed to inspire and enable each and every student to uncover their unique abilities, develop greater confidence and master strategies for success in the classroom and beyond. Programme leader, Dr Ram B. Ramchandran is Vice Dean and Professor of Strategy and Planning at the O.P. Jindal Global School, India. The event is organised by Right Track Consultants.
For registration details, contact 55448835.

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.

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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 instrumental. 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

Short Executive Programme
WHERE: HEC Paris in Qatar
WHEN: Ongoing till tomorrow
HEC Paris in Qatar offers ‘General Management – The Navigator Programme’ Executive Short Programme with HEC Paris Affiliate Professor Wolfgang Amann. This two-day programme will give aspiring and current and future managers a solid, hands-on introduction to the challenges and key tasks of general management. By the end of this session, participants will have gained a profound understanding of the roles and tasks, the opportunities and challenges, and the necessity to bridge as well as combine insights from leadership, governance, and strategy.

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change
Under the scanner

MX908, a mass spectrometer, was initially marketed as a counterterrorism tool. Now it has been commandeered in the fight against fentanyl, one of the US’s top killers. It rapidly analyses a sample of drugs and can detect and identify dozens of types of fentanyl, writes Martha Bebinger

Sarah Mackin runs a cotton swab around the inside of a tiny plastic baggie that appears empty. She spreads whatever residue the swab picked up onto a test strip that resembles a Band-Aid, then slides the strip into a buzzing machine about the size of a boxed, take-home pie. Then she waits, hoping for information that she can share with Boston’s community of opioid users.

Mackin is using an MX908, a mass spectrometer initially marketed as a counterterrorism tool. The machine can help military teams looking for traces from biological or chemical weapons, or hazardous material specialists trying to identify materials present in spills or explosions.

But now the MX908 has been commandeered in the fight against fentanyl, one of Boston’s—and the nation’s—top killers.

The machine rapidly analyses a sample of drugs and can detect and identify dozens of types of fentanyl—a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin.

Increasingly, fentanyl is mixed with heroin and cocaine, often without the user’s knowledge, and it has become a major contributor to fatal drug overdoses in recent years.

“Drug-checking is a legal gray area. There are provisions in Massachusetts law and the laws of pretty much every other state that might be interpreted to consider drug-checking devices as ‘drug paraphernalia’.”

— Leo Beletsky, law professor

Drugs-checking is a legal gray area. There are provisions in Massachusetts law and the laws of pretty much every other state that might be interpreted to consider drug-checking devices as ‘drug paraphernalia’.
The MX908 can identify 70 specific types of fentanyl in a tiny sample, and alert users about the presence of more than 2,000 not-yet-named fentanyl analogues.

Green will evaluate this trial run of the MX908 in Boston. She said she’s especially interested in learning whether its deployment can attract hard-to-reach drug users, the ones who traditionally avoid contact with any institutions or medical care. Access to the MX908 might bring them into a setting where they ultimately beneficial: When drug users have the power to test what they buy, they seek out drug dealers with the safest supply.

“So this improvement in consumer knowledge and confidence in what they’re getting, and how to use it, can improve the safety of the larger supply,” Green said.

This could actually spur use, unintentional advertising that draws people seeking an ever-more powerful high. But Traci Green, a researcher in emergency medicine at Rhode Island Hospital and Brown University, said her research, as well as some European studies, show that drug-testing is begin to interact with outreach workers, and possibly begin a conversation about treatment.

One other city, Chicago, also is testing the MX908 as a harm reduction tool for the opioid crisis. But there are reasons why it may not be more widely adopted. One is the price tag: $65,000.

In Boston, the city paid for the device through a grant from RIZE Massachusetts, a foundation focused on combating the opioid epidemic.

“Cost is one concern,” said RIZE CEO Julie Burns. “But what is the value of a human life? If we decide through the evaluation that this is something that is reducing overdoses, I believe it is worth the investment.”

Still, there are cheaper ways to find out if a drug baggie contains fentanyl.

Street outreach workers have been distributing fentanyl test strips, which cost about $1 apiece, for more than two years. The current Massachusetts state budget includes $350,000 to expand access to these test strips.

Like the MX908, the strips show the presence or absence of fentanyl — though the machine can offer much greater detail, as well as information about the presence of several types of stimulants.

(Whether the machine nor the test strips can reveal how much fentanyl is in a baggie.)

For now, harm reduction programmes will have to decide which drug-testing tool is most cost-effective, based on their goals and budget, said Greg Scott, who leads the Chicago Recovery Alliance, or CRA. The CRA began an extensive drug-checking programme in March that includes two MX908s.

Scott said that, so far, the MX908 is delivering on two goals: helping people use drugs more safely and offering real-time information about the drug supply in Chicago.

But Scott said unless drug-checking becomes much more widespread, it won’t force drug dealers and suppliers to “clean up” the drug supply.

“Getting to that scale and that level of impact is a very costly endeavour,” Scott said.

Another reason public health workers may hesitate to use the MX908 is that doing so may be illegal in their jurisdiction.

“Drug-checking is a legal gray area,” said Northeastern University law professor Leo Beletsky.

“There are provisions in Massachusetts law and the laws of pretty much every other state that make it illegal to consider drug-checking devices as ‘drug paraphernalia’… That includes fentanyl test strips. Illinois enacted legislation in August that exempts people who test their drugs from prosecution. In Massachusetts, lawmakers are reviewing a proposal to make use of drug-checking tools legal. — Kaiser Health News/TNS
WCM-Q welcomes medical students from across the globe

Eighteen medical students from colleges in various countries, including Iraq, India, Pakistan, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Oman, Kuwait and Tanzania spent a week at Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar (WCM-Q) as part of the International Exchange Programme (IEP).

The programme, which is now in its fifth year, brought two students and one faculty member from each of the participating medical colleges to WCM-Q to learn about the college’s integrated six-year medical programme, view its cutting-edge teaching and research facilities, and meet students and faculty. The programme also provided an opportunity for WCM-Q students, faculty and staff to learn from the visiting students and their school programmes. Following the success of previous editions of the programme, which is co-ordinated by the WCM-Q Division of Student Affairs (SA), the IEP was this year expanded from eight to nine participating colleges. The colleges that took part this year, included An-Najah National University of Nablus, Palestine; Dow International Medical College of Karachi, Pakistan; Kasturba Medical College of Mangalore, India; the American University of Beirut; the College of Medicine and Health Studies at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman; the College of Medicine of Kuwait University; Al-Zahra Medical College of Basrah University, Iraq; the University of Jordan School of Medicine, Amman, and Weill Bugando School of Medicine, WCM-Q’s affiliate college in Tanzania.

“Bringing students and faculty from across the region and beyond gives us a fantastic opportunity to share knowledge of the many different ways that medicine is taught in different countries,” said Dr Ravinder Mamtani, WCM-Q’s Vice Dean, Student Affairs, Population Health, and Lifestyle Medicine. “We were delighted to be able to expand the programme this year to bring more students from more countries than ever before to WCM-Q to take part in what was an extremely enriching and valuable experience for all involved.”

During the eight-day trip, the international students had the chance to compare the WCM-Q curriculum with other medical curricula, observe clinical encounters with students during clinical rotations, examine varying educational methods, including problem-based learning, and to learn about various aspects of country- and region-specific population health programmes. The students also visited WCM-Q’s Clinical Skills and Simulation Lab where they saw hi-tech learning aids including an anatomage table – a human-sized touchscreen display for visualising the human anatomy – electronic medical mannequins, and digital audio-visual recording and playback equipment.

The international students also had the chance to tour Education City and healthcare institutions around Doha, including Hamad Medical Corporation and two Primary Health Care Corporation facilities, Gharrafat Al Rayyan Health Centre and Rawdat Al Khal Wellness Centre.

Talking about the programme’s achievements, Faten Shunnar, Director of Student Affairs, commended the efforts of Amjad Abdo and Elizabeth Thomas and other members of the Student Affairs team in ensuring the success of the programme. Faris al-Farsi, a fifth-year medical student at the College of Medicine and Health Studies at Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat Oman, said, “The facilities and the curriculum here are fantastic but I think what has really impressed me most is the diversity of the students and faculty at WCM-Q. I think that being able to interact with and learn from people from all over the world has definitely been the most beneficial part of this trip for me as a trainee doctor.”

TOURNAMENT:
Keralite Engineers Forum (KEF) recently organised Engineers Cup 2019. Team of Al Ameen Engineering College, Shornur bagged the championship title. Ten teams participated in 23 matches. Manikandan, President of Indian Cultural Centre, along with Mibu Jose, Chairman of Castle Group, and Sajeet George, Chairman of KEF, attended the prize distribution ceremony. Masood Mansoor of ESIK bagged the player of the tournament title.
PMG to mark Qatar National Day with musical evening

Punjab Music Group (PMG) is all set to organise a musical evening as a part of Qatar National Day celebrations. Prominent singer and artistes from India and Pakistan, including Shiva Priya Suresh, Fardan Ali Khan and Touqeer Ahmed along with local artistes will be performing at the event, which will be followed by a cultural vendor market. For further details, Nazakat Ali Khan, Chief Organiser at PMG, can be contacted at 77862320.

Banana Island Resort Doha introduces the end of season offers

Banana Island Resort Doha has recently launched a series of end of season offers, stated a press release. The resort is offering an alluring experience to all guests and visitors in all its facilities including group activities to enable them to live an exceptional upscale hospitality experience filled with luxury and comfortable offerings.

Starting December 20, ‘Azraq’- the resort’s all-day dining restaurant will introduce the ‘Winter Brunch’ on every Friday. The brunch will offer cuisines from around the world allowing guests the opportunity to enjoy a rich buffet featuring winter flavours including a wide array of soups, salads, and home-made pastas, in addition to a diverse selection of hot and cold mezze along with international courses. The buffet will also feature delicious desserts ranging from freshly baked pastries to chocolate fountain. Guests availing the Friday brunch will also be entitled to access the beach and the swimming pool.

Furthermore, on Tuesday, December 24, ‘Azraq’ will introduce the ‘Festive Dinner Buffet’ whereby families and friends can enjoy a variety of international dishes, seafood and live cooking stations from 7pm till 10:30pm, while on Wednesday, December 25, guests can relish the ‘Festive Brunch’ from 1pm till 4pm.

Starting this month till December 30, ‘Q Lounge’ - the well-known sanctuary for all guests and visitors, will be offering its famous poolside Arabian BBQ, which includes authentic Middle Eastern dishes from across the region, comprising a vast range of cold mezze and irresistible main course. On December 31, guests and visitors can bid farewell to 2019 while enjoying a lavish buffet on the waterfront, and welcome 2020 in style.

‘Zest’ Café is joining the cheerful season and will welcome kids and grownups during December and January from 11am till 8pm where they can enjoy the winter wonderland décor, nibble on fresh gingerbread and delicious handmade sweet treats in the life size gingerbread house.

‘Al Nahham’ is inviting guests to treat themselves and refresh their sense by enjoying freshly shucked oysters on ice accompanied by some of the world’s finest caviar along with a rich selection of authentic Arabian dishes, the catch of the day, charcoal grill and authentic Qatari recipes. Guests can complete the night with local and international desserts on the unmatched balcony overlooking the Arabian Gulf.

To ease the stress of daily routine life and experience the real meaning of tranquillity and beauty treatments, Anantara SPA has introduced a range of special offers during December inspired by the sense of elegance and modern taste that characterises Banana Island Resort Doha since its inception. Guests will be able to enjoy an array of SPA treatments such as the Hammam Indulgence where guests can indulge in a luxurious traditional Hammam for 120 minutes, the Winter Warmer where guests can relax with a soothing 90-minute hot stone massage, and finally guests can treat their body to ultimate luxury through the Amra Gold Massage, a relaxing gold-oil massage followed by a nourishing gold masoul body wrap.

On this occasion, Neelam Bhika, Director of Sales at Banana Island Resort Doha said, “2019 has been an exceptional year of achievements for Banana Island Resort Doha. We have witnessed an unprecedented demand in all of our facilities due to the unparalleled luxury hospitality services we provide to our guests and visitors. As an appreciation and tribute to share the joy of the year-end revelry, we have launched a wide range of offers which we aim to provide them a unique haven to enjoy the most beautiful time with their families and friends. We are eagerly waiting for our guests and visitors to provide them with the best services in all our facilities in a distinct atmosphere they will not forget.”
The beauty contest was a symbol of hate and division for feminists in the 1970s.

Now Miss World is on a humanitarian charm offensive, writes Tanya Gold

GAME OF THRONES: Miss World 2019 contestants at Tower Bridge London.

What is Miss World in 2019?: ‘The beauty contest was a symbol of hate and division for feminists in the 1970s.

Now Miss World is on a humanitarian charm offensive, writes Tanya Gold

WINNING VOTES: Morleys out canvassing with Margaret and Denis Thatcher in south London.

When I arrive at the Miss World hotel at Tower Bridge, London, the contestants are sharing the hotel with an insurance claims and fraud summit. The cognitive dissonance is amazing.

Young women in blue spangled sashes – Miss This and Miss That – loiter at the check-in desk and mingle with insurance executives, who are as grey as you could imagine. They are two flocks of birds: pigeons and peacocks; and the pigeons stare at the peacocks not with lust, but with awe.

I am here because when I was a child I loved Miss World. It was like contemplating a doll’s house I would never be admitted to – and that was fine. I think I knew it, even then, that such beauty is a complex gift. Even so, I used to watch it with my mother and wonder which, of all of them, was the most beautiful. Then I grew up, became a second-wave feminist and felt queasily guilty, for the Miss World of that era is now remembered as the very definition of objectification.

Am I here because I am still wondering which, of all of them, is the most beautiful? Obviously. Objectification dies hard; or, in the culture that produced Love Island, not at all. But there are other, more interesting questions to ask: what is Miss World’s place now, in the era of body positivism and fourth-wave feminism? What comportions has she made in her 65th year? Why is she still here, when food rationing has gone?

The official answer is humanitarianism, which seems like public relations until you look at the numbers. Since 1971, when Julia Morley, the wife of the competition’s founder Eric Morley, became more involved, Miss World has raised more than £1bn for charity. The beauty is undeniable – the smell of shampoo emanates through this brutalist hotel; it is the hot UN – but it is put to work.

This is the week the contestants are going to the Oxford Union and to visit Zandra Rhodes, and they update their websites that function as the wall of shame through this brutalist hotel; it is unnecessary, because the more time you spend here, the better I like it. It’s odd, of course, like wandering up a Magic Faraway Tree. But we are in the middle of a fierce election, and this much politesse is soothing, wherever it comes from.

If it is a pastiche of good manners, it is better than the original and I am fond of oddness of all kinds. “Today, of course, you would say Women’s Lib,” Morley says, “but you have to look at the era.”

Morley tells me a story about a charity worker she met in Singapore, whom she saw tending to beggars from her hotel room. She tells the

WINNING VOTES: Morleys out canvassing with Margaret and Denis Thatcher in south London.

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story in great detail, and slowly, because it is important: her creation story. “I said to the woman: ‘Don’t you ever get tired of this?’ It wasn’t quite as I meant it to come out. ‘Is it not better,’ the woman replied, ‘to light one candle in the darkness than not to see at all?’ It’s not usual,” says Morley, “for me to jump at something like that, but it did mean a lot to me. I thought: that is what I should be doing. Was I comfortable seeing them wander about in swimsuits? They didn’t really have a chance to show who they were. And,” she adds carefully, “there was nothing wrong with that.”

She changed Miss World’s course with a programme called Beauty with a Purpose: what a pointed title. Today all the contestants promote a cause in their homeland, and a willingness to do so is essential to success; beauty pageantry reinvented as workaholism. Miss World is a job now, and the job is decency in silks. They are not social justice activists, although their impact, with their humanitarian work, is the same: they do it, rather, without anger and without politics.

In 2011, to mark its 40th birthday, Nelson Mandela sent a message of congratulations. Morley spends the rest of the hour speaking about her causes: parasites in children’s feet; easily cured if you care; an unstable bridge which maimed a child; the production of food. They are more interesting to her than the logistics of Miss World, which she has lived with for 60 years.

I also meet the current Miss World, the former Miss Mexico, Vanessa Ponce. She seems extraordinarily alive; very emotionally porous; and winning; that is, she is the kind of person it is impossible not to love.

There wasn’t much money growing up – she applied for a scholarship to study international business in Germany and failed. “I wanted to be free,” she says. That had been her idea of freedom, but she knows better now; this is her considered narrative. Instead she won Mexico’s Next Top Model: “I started feeling very empty. People are not very nice to you. They treat you as a product.”

She did one last commercial for a migrant shelter. She stayed for three weeks; peeled carrots; helped a woman give birth. That, then, is her creation story. They all have one. She spends more time in airports than she does in Mexico now. She speaks about Miss World as if it is a spiritually transformative experience: “It makes you more patient, more tolerant, you start seeing everyone as an equal.” She says she needs “to feel useful.” Then she says: “The job is to be there for people, to show them there is faith. People need to feel that warmth from you. That is what Miss World is – a light to guide you on.” That looks ridiculous in print, but it wasn’t from her mouth. “I have never been the most beautiful,” she says, “I’m an average beauty.” I’m aghast by how coolly she measures it; it is the most mortal she sounds. “And I don’t really care about that.” Her job is to “be that person that inspires all this. Imagine the figure of a woman that you admire. What are the qualities?”

I meet many others – pageant queens, lawyers, doctors, professional rugby players – and they all carefully, or dramatically, emit some version of this in unembarrassed rote, with varying degrees of intensity and eloquence; and it is soothing. It is narcotic and, though I don’t believe in it all – some are simply models burnishing their brand, or holidaying in London – I like listening to them try to conjure it into being, even if they do sound a lot like the Duchess of Sussex; and I don’t know what it costs them, and I don’t know how long it will last.

Certainly, they seem happy, and who wants a depressed beauty queen? Miss World is also a place in which they can exist online, protected from abuse; no such protections exist on Instagram.

– The Guardian

THIS YEAR’S MODELS: Some of the 96 contestants hoping to be crowned Miss World. Next week’s final will be watched by more than 900 million people in 140 countries.

This year’s models: Some of the 96 contestants hoping to be crowned Miss World. Next week’s final will be watched by more than 900 million people in 140 countries.
Astrophotography – 1

Starting today Community will run a series of photos of astronomical objects, celestial events and areas of the night sky by Ajith Everester. He describes the experiences in brief:

It is great to share my experience of doing astrophotography in Qatar. Qatar is one of the safest countries in the world, which makes the sky filled with light that makes the sky illumination to bortle scale 9.

Travelling to the desert carrying all the equipment, setting them up leaves me with less time for photographing. The adverse weather both in summer and winter is another adventure to be taken into consideration.

Sitting lonely under the sky on a dark location 100kms away from home will make you afraid sometimes, but the view of the eternal bodies will give you the courage to face the darkness.

When the image of the objects starts to appear in the screen of the laptop, I feel immense pleasure and forget all the hassles which I faced to achieve my result.

Sitting under the dark sky filled with stars will make you feel that you are so tiny in this boundless universe.

I use a Celestron German Equatorial mount to track the deep space objects and a ZWO ASI 1600MM Cooled Mono Camera along with an Explore Scientific ED102 Apochromatic Refractor for photography. The Orion mini guidescope allows me to guide the mount to track the DSO.

Pacman Nebula
Life-threatening bacteria found in make-up products: Study

The vast majority of in-use make-up products such as beauty blenders, mascara and lip gloss are contaminated with potentially life-threatening superbugs, researchers have warned.

“Make-up products used every day by millions of people in the UK are contaminated with potentially deadly bugs, such as E. coli and Staphylococci, because most are not being cleaned and are used far beyond their expiry dates,” said study lead author Ameen Bashir from Aston University in the US.

According to the study, published in the Journal of Applied Microbiology, bacteria that can cause illnesses ranging from skin infections to blood poisoning if used near eyes, mouth or cuts or cause illnesses ranging from skin infections to blood poisoning if used near eyes, mouth or cuts or cause infections from opportunistic bacteria. The relatively new beauty blenders – sponges used to apply skin foundation products – were found to have the highest levels of potentially harmful bacteria – with the vast majority (93 per cent) not having ever been cleaned, despite more than two thirds (64 per cent) being dropped on the floor at some point during use.

The research looked at beauty blender products – hugely popular make-up sponges used to blend foundation and contouring on the face.

Often endorsed by celebrities, these sponges are estimated to have sold over 6.5 million worldwide. The researchers found these products are particularly susceptible to contamination as they are often left damp after use, which creates an ideal breeding ground for harmful bacteria.

“Consumers’ poor hygiene practices when it comes to using make-up, especially beauty blenders, is very worrying when you consider that we found bacteria such as E. coli – which is linked with faecal contamination – breeding on the products we tested,” Bashir said.

The findings reveal that consumers are unwittingly putting themselves at risk, and that manufacturers and regulatory bodies should do more to protect their customers by making expiry dates and cleaning requirements more prominent on packaging.

“EU guidelines hold make-up brands to strict hygiene standards of manufacture and states that E. coli in particular should not be found in any concentration in new cosmetic products.

However, there is currently limited consumer protection around the risks of contaminating products while in use.

According to the study, post-Brexit, UK consumers could be at even greater risk as they will no longer be protected by EU regulations and could find themselves purchasing more beauty products from the US – for example – where there are no regulatory requirements to put expiry dates on make-up packaging at all. – IANS
Codeword

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

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Sudoku

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 in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains each digit from 1 to 9 exactly once.

Bound And Gagged

“No, this is a museum, not Instagram.”
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Negligent about failure (6)
4 Bird for a magician (6)
8 Quarrel with some popular guests (5)
9 Everyone that’s left has finished (3,4)
10 Common name - name of a girl, we hear (7)
11 This girl sound in the pink (5)
12 Much fine wood? (1,4,4)
17 Ernie goes crazy for this girl (5)
19 Soldiers dance (7)
21 Large loan requested by Antony for Noddy’s friend (3-4)
22 Complete western part of golf course (5)
23 Robin’s last missile may be pinched (6)
24 Birds - they pick up heavy weights (6)

Down
1 Provinces concerning charity (6)
2 Get a man to change colour (7)
3 Piece of meat found in small wood (5)
4 General disorder? That’s swell (7)
6 Is Elvis rocking? (5)
7 They tend to be in hospital (6)
8 Eccentric is a dealer in dogs (9)
9 Duck with bits of orange and spice (7)
13 Take a rest, possibly being idle now (3,4)
15 Ape an old historian (6)
16 Male teachers don’t start getting flowers (6)
18 Composer employed in hotel garage (5)
20 Introduction of naval vessel that’s not so old (5)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
One of the most heartwarming music stories was the recovery of a seemingly hopeless brain tumour by Spandau Ballet bassist Martin Kemp. It was the love and support of his wife Shirlie and their friend George Michael which effectively kept him alive. They refused to accept the diagnosis and left no stone unturned in their quest to find a surgeon whose specialised procedure would give Martin some hope of survival.

“I owe my life to Shirlie and George,” said 58-year-old Martin. “I don’t just mean in the sense that I’d have been long dead if it wasn’t for what they did regarding my brain tumour. I owe all the happiness I’ve had since 1981 to Shirlie for being the love of my life and to George for bringing us together.”

Shirlie felt like she wanted to marry Martin before the couple had even met.

“I saw his picture in a magazine,” recalled the former Shirlie Holliman, 57. “I thought he had a really kind face. I showed the picture to a friend and just said ‘I’m going to meet this guy.’” The picture to a friend and just said...

“Happily married and with two young children, Shirlie was devastated by the diagnosis of Martin’s brain tumour.

“He had two tumours, both benign. One could be removed but we were told the other couldn’t and it would eventually kill him. I was in shock but I had this determination that I somehow had to save him. I couldn’t just let Martin die. I wouldn’t let anything take him away!”

Their children were kept unaware of Martin’s true condition. They were just told ‘Daddy has a bump on his head.”

“We wanted the kids to keep enjoying their carefree lives,” Shirlie continued. “People would say I was strong but I wasn’t. I was dying inside. My heart was broken. But I had to put on a brave face for the kids while still trying to find someone who could save Martin.”

The operation to remove Martin’s first tumour was bad enough. He spent months in hospital, seven weeks totally horizontal, suffering terrible pain when medical staff attempted to raise him.

“I’d be there watching with tears streaming down my cheeks,” Shirlie recalled. “I’d go home to the kids and pretend nothing had happened. I’m sure the kids were my driving force. If I’d not had them to go back to, I would probably have broken down completely.”

The effects of the second procedure left Martin unable to walk. He literally had to learn how to walk again. When his health issues were finally behind him, he was able to re-establish himself as an actor.

“I started out as an actor. I attended the Anna Scher Children’s Theatre drama club with my brother Gary. I had parts in numerous TV programmes as a child actor.

“Gary had moved into music. When his band’s bass player left, their manager suggested me as the replacement. The problem was I couldn’t play bass guitar. I learned in about three months. The band was becoming more popular. We changed our name from The Gentry to Spandau Ballet and the rest is history.”

“After the band broke up, I returned to acting. I’ve played all kinds of roles on TV, in films and on the stage. I’ve also done some directing, TV presenting and performed with the reunited Spandau Ballet since 2009.”

With no plans for the band, Martin took the opportunity to suggest he and Shirlie should create an album together.

“I wondered how Shirlie might feel about it so, at first, I just said ‘let’s sing a song together.’ When that went so well, the idea of making a full album came naturally.”

“I still felt a bit reluctant,” Shirlie admitted. “But after the first song, I realised I’d never done anything so quickly that felt so right. I also realised how happy I felt singing again.

“Even so, I still felt unsure about doing an album. It was only the reaction of our son (radio DJ) Roman that convinced me. He said it was so much better than he thought it was going to be and insisted we had to make an album.”

The resulting LP, In The Swing Of It, has become a big UK hit. Most of the 14 tracks are covers of classic love songs such as The Way You Look Tonight, A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square and You Make Me Feel So Young. But two tracks are new songs written by Martin and Shirlie’s daughter, Harleymoon.

“She not only wrote those songs but photographed us for the album cover,” Shirlie remarked. “She also made all the videos and filmed the whole making of the album. She has a media company that makes TV commercials so she did that side of it too.”

“If Roman plays us on his radio show after he gets back from the Australian jungle he is currently appearing in I’m A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here then it will be a real family affair,” Martin laughed.

The couple has scheduled a concert tour supporting their album. They are clearly delighted not just to have made the record but that the response to it has been so positive.

“I’m pleased that critics and fans have recognised how well Shirlie’s voice fits the songs we’ve chosen. It’s such a beautiful voice, something I don’t think people appreciated on the Wham! or Pepsi & Shirlie records.”

“The critics have also been kind enough to say our voices blend well together. They’ve also recognised how much music really means to us. We’re not two singers acting out the lyrics. We’re two people who are very much in love so there is genuine emotion and meaning in the words for us.”

Happy as Martin and Shirlie are to have such a big hit, they would be so much happier if George Michael was still alive to enjoy their success with them.

“George’s death left us absolutely devastated,” Martin confessed. “Our whole family were due to have lunch with him on Boxing Day. Getting the news on that Christmas Day three years ago made it the worst Christmas ever for us.

“Even so, I still felt unsure about doing an album. It was only the reaction of our son (radio DJ) Roman that convinced me. He said it was so much better than he thought it was going to be and insisted we had to make an album.”

The Untold Story Presents Girls Tyme was released to various streaming services by Beyoncé’s father, Matthew Knowles. It features songs recorded by the group when they were a quartet consisting of Beyonce, Kelly Rowland, LeToya Luckett and LaTavia Roberson. Despite the group splitting up in 2006, Matthew is still officially their manager. He insists he still has “a lot of responsibilities that folks don’t know.”

He has also written a book, Destiny’s Child: The Untold Story, which is available now and is working on a Destiny’s Child stage musical. Destiny’s Child: The Untold Story Presents Girls Tyme can be heard in full at www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3am8dTLdOM &list=OLAK5uy_kkZDE9q_ySNf_ &v=DM6lxpxjIlWuJ9fYojYo.

Ally Brooke

Former Fifth Harmony singer Ally Brooke is fresh from finishing third on the US television version of Dancing With The Stars. She is undoubtedly hoping the increased popularity she gained from doing so will on the show will help her to find chart success with her new single, No Good.

Taken from her as-yet-untitled debut album, which will hopefully be released in the spring of 2020, No Good follows five largely unsuccessful singles. Some of her songs have found places in dance or pop listings and been reasonably successful in other countries. Brooke has yet to have a solo hit on the Billboard Hot 100 or UK singles chart. A lyric video for No Good is posted at www.youtube.com/watch?v=saozXPqWwUc
Ian Somerhalder wants more than acting roles on TV shows

By Natalia Ningthoujam

The Vampire Diaries star Ian Somerhalder wants to make use of his skills and go beyond acting. He doesn’t think he will ever take up a TV show again if he doesn’t get a creative role in the storytelling.

The new show V Wars has him as an actor, a director and an executive producer.

“It’s a perfect opportunity for me to use the skill set that I learnt on being a lead actor, eventually a producer and director on The Vampire Diaries. There were about 101 episodes of that show and I learned a great deal. I honestly don’t think I’ll ever be on a TV show again if I didn’t get a creative role in the storytelling and I love the job too much to ever be just an actor again,” Somerhalder told IANS.

Of course, there are exceptions.

“If it’s Tarantino or Scorsese or Spielberg, then of course I would be excited just to be an actor on their show,” he said and added that “you should really dive in every way” possible.

But taking up so many roles, doesn’t it take a toll on him?

“You never gonna hear me complain. I love to work. I have been working since I was 10. My mom had three jobs just to keep us going. I have been working since I was 10.

Saw him in a movie. Is TV more like his space, but it’s been a while since the audience am not afraid of work, “ said the 41-year-old.

“My mom had three jobs just to keep us going. I have been working since I was 10. I honestly don’t think I’ll ever be on a TV show again if I didn’t have a creative role in the storytelling. I think everybody, from time to time, needs to give back to the society,” said Usha.

“Child abuse, human trafficking and women issues or what’s happening to our rivers...I am working for in the capacity of being a singer. I am not a political person. I don’t believe in going for ‘morchas’ and shouting about this or that. I feel not much really gets done then,” added the Jai jawan jai kisan singer.

As of now, she is looking forward to doing many more shows and songs. She is also thrilled about the release of her book.

“It’s called Ullas Ki Naav by Vikas Kumar Jha. The amazing thing is that for a pop singer who would be labelled only in English, it’s quite a thing (to have a book) being written in Hindi,” said Usha. – IANS

NEW PROJECT: The new show V Wars has Ian Somerhalder as an actor, a director and an executive producer.
People with disability are finally on the global agenda. The voice of about 1.5 billion people around the world is being heard at every important international stage. Everybody is speaking about inclusiveness.

Community recently spoke to a group of people with disability who were taken on a tour of Qatar National Museum post their participation in the recently concluded Doha International Conference on Disability and Development (DICDD). The two-day-long conference was organised at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC). The conference was under the theme: ‘Leaving No One Behind’.

The visitors were seemingly happy while having the tour of the splendid piece of architecture and were upbeat about the final outcome of the international conference.

Eddie Ndopu, an award-winning activist, humanitarian, and public intellectual from South Africa, also one of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Global Advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals, expressed his satisfaction over the success of the conference. “The people with disabilities are finally on the global agenda. I am tremendously thankful to the organisers for the conference and affirming the humanity of 1.5 billion people,” he said.

Eddie, who holds Master’s degree in Public Policy from Oxford University, further added, “If we speak about inclusion and if we speak about the importance of leaving no one behind, then it is absolutely imperative that we include and reflect the aspirations of the people with disabilities.”

Eddie, who was all out praise for the hospitality he received in Qatar, said, “In September, the UN Secretary General announced that we are now embarking on the decade of action. We have 10 years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and most of the countries around the world are off track. Inequality is deepening. Climate change is upon us and it is really precarious right now for the planet as a whole. I think now more than ever we require international solidarity to not only ensure that we achieve the SDGs but we do so in a true inclusive manner and that we reach the most vulnerable population first. In Qatar, I love the push for innovation. I think people are thinking in terms of innovation.”

Sebastian Flores, co-founder of Accessibility Consulting, and active participant at international forums and agencies, including Young Americas Forum, Unesco, OAS, YABT platform, RULA and Juventud LAC, believes that business can do a lot in terms of accessibility and inclusiveness. “I do not focus on what I cannot do. I just focus on what I can do. I have my own way to see the world like every other single person has his or her own way. I am simply another individual. I went to mainstream educational institutions and got my university degree in International Relations. I see my role in the world as a catalyst.”

Abia Akram, who works with Special Talent Exchange Programme, an NGO in Pakistan, and runs a forum for women with disability, said, “This conference was well devised because the Government of Qatar had invited all important stakeholders.”

“I think this is important because now we are moving towards the 2030 agenda and we are moving towards implementation of the UN conventions on right of the persons with disability. This medium was really important to move forward and to share some good practices and the gaps and situations that we are facing.”

“I talked about the sexual health and reproductive rights of the women with disabilities in a panel discussion.”

Abia, who holds master degree in gender and international development, said, “I really like my disability because that is my identity.”