Lessons on a bus

In a converted bus in Tijuana, a school emerges for asylum-seekers. P4-6

Engrossed: Valeria and Ashlee do classwork in a bus that is a school run by Yes We Can Mobile Schools, a project of the Yes We Can World Foundation, a nonprofit formed to support migrant children staying on Mexico’s northern border while they wait for US authorities to accept or deny their asylum applications in November in Tijuana, Mexico. The school began operating in July and serves about 45 students.
PRAYER TIME

Fajr 4.47am
Shorooq (sunrise) 6.10am
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 Enquires 150
Hamad International Airport 40106666
Labor Department 44508111, 44406537
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888
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 44504050
Qatar News Agency 44450205
44450333
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444

Humanitarian Services Office
(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)
Ministry of Interior 40253373, 40253372,
40253369
Ministry of Health 40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation 40253364, 40253365
Qatar Airways 40253374

Pati Patni Aur Woh
DIRECTION: Madassar Aziz
CAST: Kartik Aaryan, Bhumi Pednekar, Ananya Panday

SYNOPSIS: Chintu Tyagi is an ordinary, middle class man who finds himself torn between his wife and another woman.
THEATRE: Landmark

Le Mans ’66
DIRECTION: James Mangold
CAST: Matt Damon, Christian Bale, Jon Bernthal
SYNOPSIS: American car designer Carroll Shelby and driver Ken Miles battle corporate interference, the
laws of physics and their own personal demons to build a revolutionary race car for Ford and challenge Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1966.
THEATRES: Royal Plaza, Landmark, The Mall

Quote Unquote
“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”
– Helen Keller

Community Editor
Kamran Rehmat
e-mail: community@gulf-times.com
Telephone: 44466405
Fax: 44350474
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 enthralls 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 jewels 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 aims to congregate car enthusiasts, prospective buyers, and automotive retailers with the best deals of the year in a single location. 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.

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.

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.

Short Executive Programme
WHERE: HEC Paris in Qatar
WHEN: Today
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: glisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change.
The bus school

The mobile school is a palliative for a crisis that worsens by the day. (US president Donald) Trump’s critics say that is due, in part, to his immigration policies, particularly the separation of families under the “Remain in Mexico” programme, writes Alejandro Maciel

They come depressed, with the anguish of not knowing what’s going to happen, with the uncertainty of knowing if they’re going to be able to cross into the United States or will have to return to their places of origin

— Sandra Rodríguez, teacher

It’s a Friday morning and, as at any other school, children are cutting paper, drawing, reading aloud and playing with friends. There’s some shouting and pushing too, and their teacher patiently arranges the desks and gives instructions.

What’s unusual is the setting: the inside of a passenger bus that has been converted into a classroom.

The school is part of the Yes We Can Mobile Schools project of the Yes We Can World Foundation, a nonprofit formed to support migrant children staying on Mexico’s northern border while they wait for US authorities to accept or deny their asylum applications.

The effort was brought to life by Estefanía Rebellón, a Los Angeles actor who knows the pain and uncertainty of being an asylum-seeker. Eighteen years ago, at age 10, she fled her native Colombia after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, better known as Farc, threatened to kill her family.

“One day, my parents were waiting for me outside of school and took me home. On the way,
they told me we had to leave," she recalled.

The family abandoned their house in a prosperous neighbourhood in the city of Cali, and her parents gave up their work as well-known lawyers. "Without understanding what was going on, I put some clothes in a suitcase, a doll, and nothing else. My life and my memories stayed there," Rebellón said.

Exiled overnight, within a matter of days her family was in Miami and soon sought asylum with US authorities.

Memories of that uneasy time came back last December when Rebellón first visited El Barretal, a shelter set up by Mexican authorities in Tijuana to receive caravans of migrants from Central America. Seeing the children, uncertain and anxious, she felt her heart shrink and resolved to do something – in the same way that a relative offered her home as shelter for Rebellón, her siblings and parents when they sought asylum.

"From that time, I remember the feeling of security that came from knowing that someone was holding our hand," she said.

Now it was her turn to lend that helping hand. In less than a month after returning to Los Angeles, she had formed Yes We Can World Foundation.

Before her visit to Tijuana, Rebellón had participated as an activist in some political movements, primarily against President Donald Trump's immigration and border policies, and on behalf of women's rights. But this cause was different, more personal. The children at El Barretal had emigrated from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and from the Mexican states of Guerrero, Guanajuato and Michoacán, where violence has forced thousands to seek safe haven in the United States. Some children walked for months to get to Tijuana. Some have lost relatives to gangs and organised crime.

"They come depressed, with the anguish of not knowing what's going to happen, with the uncertainty of knowing if they're going to be able to cross into the United States or will have to return to their places of origin," said Sandra Rodríguez, a teacher.

Another teacher, Clarisa Carrasco, plays soft, meditative music to help the students decompress. This morning she placed herself at the back of the classroom and asked the children to breathe. "Inhale. Exhale," she said, slowly raising and lowering her arms. "Inhale. Exhale."

The effect was immediate. Classroom noise yielded to silence, broken only by the delicate music. Carrasco said that the children "play, study, talk with their new friends, and have fun discovering the similarities and differences between one country and another."

"But only they know what they have lived and what they have suffered," she added.

The mobile classroom contains many stories. One belongs to Isabel, a 5-year-old from Guatemala, who hugged a teddy bear and chattered away about her experiences in a San Diego migrant detention centre. Migrants call them hieleras – iceboxes – because they're often cold.

"They took us to the icebox," Isabel said. "It's freezing, and all they give you is an aluminium blanket."

Isabel's mother, who said she had fled her homeland to escape an abusive husband, had pleaded for asylum. US immigration officials were unconvinced. They denied her application.

"We're going back to Guatemala now," Isabel said. "I'm going to miss my school, my teachers and my friends."

The school began operating at full capacity in July and each day serves about 45 children ranging from 5 to 15 years old. But the need is so great that Rebellón and her colleagues immediately set up tents in an adjacent playground to provide additional classroom space for teenagers up to 18.

The bus is parked on the grounds of the Pro Amore Dei (For the Love of God) shelter in Tijuana, where dozens of immigrant families receive help. Starting in December, thanks to Badrap, a Bay Area organisation, that donated a shuttle bus, they will start picking up children from different shelters and bring them to school.

The mobile school is a palliative for a crisis that worsens by the day. Trump's critics say that is due, in part, to his immigration policies, particularly the separation of families under the "Remain in Mexico" programme.
Since its implementation in January, with the co-operation of the Mexican government, more than 30,000 asylum-seekers have been sent back to the border cities of Tijuana, Mexicali, and Ciudad Juárez to await immigration court hearings.

For Rebellón, the challenges facing the immigrants echoed her own family's struggles, even after they won asylum. Her father, Carlos Rebellón, gave up his law briefs to work in a Walmart.

"Yes, we had to start over and made a big sacrifice, but for the family, you do whatever it takes," said Carlos Rebellón, 64.

As for Estefanía, she grew up, learned a new language and customs, and dreamed of becoming an actress, travelling to Hollywood and being famous. Rebellón has had roles in series such as Jane the Virgin and in films including the short On the Other Side.

"There was nothing that she could not do," said her mother, Sara Manzano.

She brought that resolve to creating her school. With the support of her boyfriend, Kyle Schmidt, she created Yes We Can World Foundation and set about acquiring a bus and transforming it into a mobile classroom. With a lot of work, they tore out the seats, lined the interior with wood and set up desks.

Using social media, Rebellón and Schmidt began asking for public support.

"People responded with incredible speed," Rebellón said. "I stood in a Home Depot and wrote on the social media that I needed plywood, and in a few hours, I got all that I needed!"

"The key," said Schmidt, "is that everything is transparent."

The hardest part was finding a place to park the bus. "We went through all the immigrant shelters in Tijuana," said Mario Medina, an official who ran El Barretal before the Mexican government shut it down in January. He and the foundation eventually chose Pro Amore Dei, which houses about 120 families and "has a great tradition of helping," Medina said.

Once the site for the bus was selected, a series of problems had to be solved, such as improving conditions in the surrounding area, which had to serve as a playground.

"We convened a team of volunteers, and in less than a day, we cleaned and prepared the land next to the shelter," Medina said.

Vince Young of the LA-area pest control company Warrior Termite donated the resources to build a fence around the school's perimeter. Gero Sosa, owner of a Tijuana electrical maintenance business called PYME, gave a lighting system to improve security, and the group This Is About Humanity donated playground equipment.

Thanks to such donations, each student receives a new backpack with pencils, pens and notebooks. They also receive uniforms and shoes.

World Central Kitchen provides school lunches through an agreement with Yes We Can World Foundation. The effort relies on volunteers and four paid staffers — three teachers and a co-ordinator.

Students, on average, stay at the school 45 days. The school mainly serves as a transition to other schools, and teachers try not to waste the limited time they have with their students. With the help of the volunteers, they distribute books in English and Spanish.

"I already know English," one boy, Marcos, told a companion. His family hopes to travel to Minnesota and he was already practicing his vocabulary: "Pollito ... chicken. Gallina ... hen. Lápiz ... pencil. Amarillo ... yellow."

The passenger bus that today has become

“People support and trust us because we immediately show them the great impact we are making on the lives of these migrant children and because we show them exactly how the money that they donated is spent”

— Estefanía Rebellón, Los Angeles actor

a school required the work of dozens of people and contributions from more than 500 donors, most reached through social media networks.

"People support and trust us because we immediately show them the great impact we are making on the lives of these migrant children and because we show them exactly how the money that they donated is spent," said Rebellón.

But, as the need is great, Yes We Can World Foundation already is working on expanding its project to Ciudad Juárez, next to the Texas border.

"We’re ready to take the next step," Rebellón said as she shepherded a group of volunteers from Los Angeles who had come to build the playground and construct the fence.

"All help is welcome," she said while helping her volunteers set up a set of swings and slides. Nearby, groups of children were eagerly waiting to climb on.

— Los Angeles Times/TNS
PISQ organises 7th edition of Inter-School Literary Competition

Pakistan International School Qatar (PISQ) recently organised the 7th edition of Inter-School Literary Competition featuring various categories, including dramatic declamation, storytelling, humorous speech, essay writing (senior) and essay writing (junior). A total of 17 schools from Doha participated in the competition. The jury panel included 18 co-ordinators and academic mentors from different educational institutions in Doha. The Principals of Iranian School and Qatar Turkish School also attended the event.

The event kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an, which was followed by a brief introduction about the competition. The competition was hosted by Amina Ahsan and Munib Jamal, students at PISQ. Six participants took part in Dramatic Declamation category. Reem Saeed and Hassan Ilahi, students of PISQ, introduced the rules of the humorous speech category. Nine contestants took part in humorous speech category. Story Telling and Essay Writing contests were held at PISQ library and language rooms, respectively. A total of 12 students participated in storytelling and 13 in essay writing competition.

The winners of the dramatic declamation, included Haala Qamar, student of Bright Future International School, first position; Jan Erika Mari D. Castro, Philippine School, second; and Sayed Burhan Saqib, PISQ, third. Alfredo R. Sanchez III, a student from Philippine School, bagged first position in humorous speech category, which was followed by Tamim Ryad, from Alsaylia Secondary School for Boys, and Fatima Yousaf, from PISQ, with second and third positions, respectively. The winners of storytelling competition, included Khadija Yousef, a student of PISQ, first position, Athelah Yuni R. Castaneda, Philippine School, second, and Amani Ghaloor, Bright Future International School, third. Of 13 contestants in Essay Writing (Senior), Ahmed Hasson, a student of PISQ, bagged first position, which was followed by Alzya Reigh C. Platitas III and Laiba Sher, student of Bright Future International School, with second and third positions, respectively. Speaking on the occasion, Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of PISQ, appreciated the efforts of all the contestants and congratulated the award winners. She highlighted the importance of organising such events as an opportunity for students to exhibit their creative and innovative ideas outside the academic domain, and hoped for the maximum participation of expat schools in the said competition every year.

Students of CISD win Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute Young Innovators Award

The students of Compass International School Doha (CISD) recently won the prestigious Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute Young Innovators Award in their age category out of 300 teams from around Qatar. The team of seven Primary students from Compass’ Madinat Khalifa Campus were announced as winners and received their award at the International Conference on Sustainable Energy – Water – Environment Nexus 2019 held at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

With the Unicef’s Global Goals for Sustainable Development forming the foundations of the event, the Compass Young Innovators’ video project aimed towards Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. The students researched water sustainability in Qatar and innovative ways to use water more responsibly and to reduce water consumption around the school. As part of their research, the students visited Hamad Bin Khalifa University and Texas A&M University at Qatar. Jimmy Frawley, Head of Primary at Compass International School Doha’s Madinat Khalifa Campus, said, “Winning the Young Innovators Award is a fantastic achievement for our students and is a fitting reward for their hard work, diligence and determination to make a positive difference in our school and the local community. At Compass, we encourage every child to ‘Be Ambitious’ and these students have certainly shown their ambition throughout this project.”
Walking in ballerina shoes

Elsbeth Blekkenhorst, founder of Elisabietta shoes, speaks to Ria Maria Jose about the idea behind her ballerina shoes and struggle with high heels.

"You can have an idea and you can start running with it but you won't last unless you are really passionate about doing something. So once you have something that you love to work on, don't wait. And keep working on it no matter what. Even when you feel really down and low, just keep believing in yourself.”

— Elsbeth Blekkenhorst
Unsurprisingly, it fit in perfectly in a city like Doha. Elsbeth had been living in the country for more than nine years and slowly, she had learned about the Qatari community and how the Qatari market worked. In fact, she saw that opening her business here was met with warm welcome. “I find the Qatar community quite amazing. There are so many people out there having wonderful ideas and businesses and helping each other. So opening my brand here was very special because I got a lot of support from the community.” She found that working in such an environment encouraged female entrepreneurs like herself and also promoted a collaboration of all of their work through the launch of workshops and fairs all across Doha. “It enables us to showcase our brands and make them a part of all the activities they do. So yeah, it’s great to be working in a community that’s so active and energetic.”

Talking about her journey as an entrepreneur, Elsbeth says that it has been great and exciting, but being in business has its challenges. “When you open a business by yourself, you sometimes find the journey being very lonely. In that regard the Qatari community is so great because there’s always people you can talk to and go to for help and support. But there are other challenges, like getting your foundation in place, your website, your marketing, your sales and social media, which plays a big part now. It’s showing up every day and being creative. Plus, the shoemaking – the world of shoemaking is magical, but at the same time it’s very challenging. It’s a big learning process and I need to keep learning about it every day.” She doesn’t want new entrepreneurs to be deterred by the challenges, however, hoping that they learn to see the fun in it and to enjoy the ride. At least, that’s what she has learned from her fashion icons, like Steve Madden. “His story is amazing, he has so much energy and creativity. He comes up with the most beautiful things, so I love watching people like that and learning from them.” Most of her ideas also tend to come from observing things around her because inspiration sometimes comes from the simplest things like flowers, sunsets, colours or even art. So she keeps her eye open for ideas everywhere.

Right now, she feels that she is on the right path as Elisabetta continues to grow. She is all set to showcase her brand at the Fashion Innovation in New York City next year and she has also been invited to a panel to talk about the story behind Elisabetta, her foundation as well as women empowerment. Slowly but surely, it is opening up her opportunities to exhibit her designs and expand her brand. With her achievements pushing her, she aims to expand her business by adding more styles to the mix. “I want to keep innovating and changing from shoes and bags to maybe mules, flats, silk scarves and leather bags. I want to continuously keep changing my styles to keep the excitement and curiosity going for the people.”

In her advice to young entrepreneurs, she says to not wait for the right time to act on the ideas and to be passionate. “You can have an idea and you can start running with it but you won’t last unless you are really passionate about doing something.” Elsbeth had worked on many ideas before but she really took off with Elisabetta because her heart was in it. “So once you have something that you love to work on, don’t wait. And keep working on it no matter what. Even when you feel really down and low, just keep believing in yourself. Keep it going and never stop dreaming!” Now two years in the running, Elsbeth Blekkenhorst really is conquering the world, one pair of right shoes at a time.

Follow Elisabetta on Instagram @elisabetta-shoes

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Our new Business Unlimited 5G and GigaBusiness 5G plans

GigaNet 5G is more reach, more locations and more 5G expansion. It is widespread coverage across the country including 70% of Doha.

Save QR200 monthly for 12 months with GigaBusiness 5G Wi-Fi and now also sign up for our new Business Unlimited 5G plans.

Gulf Times
Wednesday, December 11, 2019

COMMUNITY

TALK: Elsbeth talking about her brand at Heya Fashion Exhibition.
Horsehead Nebula from Mazrat Al Turayna. The Horsehead Nebula is a small dark nebula in the constellation Orion. The nebula is located just to the south of Alnitak, the easternmost star of Orion’s Belt, and is part of the much larger Orion Molecular Cloud Complex.

Photos by Ajith Everester (@ajitheverester)

Astrophotography - II

Orion Nebula from Khor Al Udaid. The Orion Nebula is a diffuse nebula situated in the Milky Way, being south of Orion’s Belt in the constellation of Orion. It is one of the brightest nebulae, and is visible to the naked eye in the night sky.
Physical illness ups suicide risk in men, not women: Study

When it comes to identifying who is more at suicide risk, scientists have found that physical illness and injury raises the risk of suicide in men but not women, along with a plethora of other insights into the complex factors that may increase a person’s risk of suicide.

The study, led by Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) and published in JAMA Psychiatry, is the first to use data from the population of an entire country (Denmark) and parse it with a Machine Learning (ML) system to identify suicide risk factors.

“Suicide is incredibly challenging to predict, because every suicide death is the result of multiple interacting risk factors in one’s life,” said lead study author Dr Jaimie Gradus, associate professor of epidemiology at BUSPH.

Dr Gradus and her colleagues looked at thousands of factors in the health histories of 14,103 individuals who died from suicide in the country from 1995 through 2015, and the health histories of 265,183 other Danes in the same period, using a machine-learning system to look for patterns.

The findings, however, point to new factors to examine in working to prevent this persistent public health issue. – IANS

Many of the study’s findings confirmed previously-identified risk factors, such as psychiatric disorders and related prescriptions. The researchers also found new potential risk patterns, including that diagnoses and prescriptions four years before a suicide were more important to prediction than diagnoses and prescriptions six months before, and that physical health diagnoses were particularly important to men’s suicide prediction but not women’s.

“The findings of this study do not create a model for perfectly predicting suicide”, said Dr Gradus, in part because medical records rarely include the more immediate experiences — such as the loss of a job or relationship — that combine with these longer-term factors to precipitate suicide. The findings, however, point to new factors to examine in working to prevent this persistent public health issue.

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The findings, however, point to new factors to examine in working to prevent this persistent public health issue. – IANS
Wordsearch

V M W L O B E V L A V I N G
H T W S T T A U Y T U F H I B
U G L T S W W C D E N G D L S
F A Y R L S S W I K X R O R P
R D F A E T T U H O H E M M A
P L R C E E O A B M R T E W R
P R A K H A P E N S O A D E K
U E F O W M R S D K T W G N S
M L P A C I F I C M A V G G C
P I S C F R E D N I L Y C I I
S Q D N O G N I L P U O C N N
O B E L L L L E M S G E C E D
U E S B G W R E D N E T S E E
W H I S T L E V W P R Y F R R
P F A V E G Y N O T S I P N S

Bell
Cinders
Cylinder
Firebox
Piston
Smell
Steam
Track
Wheels
Boiler
Coal
Dome
Mogul
Pumps
Smoke
Tank
Valves
Whistle
Cab
Coupling
Engineer
Pacific
Regulator
Sparks
Tender
Water

Codeword

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

Sudoku

6 5 2
1 4 6
3 7 9

1 4
5 3

6 2
7 1
8

Bound And Gagged

Your man bun is too tight.

Garfield

Hoi! Hoi! Hoi! It’s me, again... Spider Claus!

Puzzle courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Smack

And may all your Christmas cookies have raisins!

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine 3x3 boxes. You are given a selection of values and to complete the puzzle; you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains all the digits 1 to 9.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 A lighter of mine (4,4)
5 Cash dispenser containing nothing or tiny amount (4)
8 Bitter cold in very dry environment (5)
9 Bird going round an Italian city (7)
11 Chips with an odd vegetable (7)
12 Name of man taking Dolly out (5)
13 Large girl finding way to have two husbands? (6)
15 A car that’s made of glass? (3,3)
18 Flat obtained by a woman in the Fifties (5)
20 Gallery constructed in a royal manner (7)
23 Meat cooked in ovens? (7)
24 Biblical patriarch’s investment account (5)
25 Objectives set in Siam (4)
26 Communist beginning to get a bird (8)

Down
1 Rolled turf makes a picture (5)
2 Altering navy rig at sea (7)
3 She requires daily movement (5)
4 Spud for lawman? (6)
6 It takes two to make colour vanish (5)
7 Terribly dear men wander aimlessly (7)
10 Home team? (5)
13 Country girl following bishop (7)
14 Manuscript about beer for men (5)
16 After half a month tropical vine is seen by Dutch queen (7)
17 Edge hoop in iron (6)
19 Poison that makes some live no more (5)
21 Profits in gas distribution (5)
22 Cathy’s new boat (5)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
Affan, Hira taking the leap of their career with new serial

Watching a love story unfold on television is magical, especially with Pakistani drama industry in focus. Everything is kept so real, whether you’re tuning in every week to catch the latest episode of your favourite show or binge watching on YouTube. It’s thrilling to watch as the best TV couples find each other, fall madly in love and give power packed performances. Some keep you waiting on the edge of your seat through breakups and makeups and back again. Some stories open the door for something more. And then there are fairytale endings where the girl gets her prince – fate right from the start, and some have been together forever, providing an anchor for the show. Whether you call it on-screen chemistry or charisma, there are certain pairings that have gone down in history, for their legendary mass appeal. We rarely mention Fawad Khan without Mahira Khan, ditto Osman Khalid Butt and Maya Ali. Nowadays, there is that young lot of actors who are joining the bandwagon of on-screen chemistry, Affan Waheed and Hira Mani being the very recent addition to the list with their popular pairing in Do Bol (2019), a drama serial on premier entertainment channel ARY Digital. Do Bol garnered over more than 181 million total views just on YouTube alone; it instantly struck a chord with masses owing to its relatable storyline and heartfelt performances by the lead cast.

The duo, Hira and Affan will be love interests yet again in an upcoming drama serial Ghalati (Mistake), directed by veteran actor-turned-director, Saba Hameed. In today’s young and fascinating entertainment industry as nutty as Pakistan, the rest of us do. She remains the celebrity on screen couple who have taken pressure then you lose on performance. “Add says, “It is different compared to Do Bol. Because that was another project and Ghalati is an altogether different project, I do not compare both of them. I don’t take Do Bol as pressure, I’m just happy that in such a short period of time in the industry, I’ve given such a hit. I will always just feel proud and happy of Do Bol. I believe if you start taking pressure then you lose on performance,” she says.

The celebrity on screen couple is becoming a phenomenon now in Pakistan as well, and Affan agrees. “There’s nothing wrong in the concept of on-screen couples. And I’m glad that me and Hira have been loved by people so much that we’ve been able to establish ourselves along the lines. But people have so much expectations now. However, you know it’s very rare to establish such an on-screen couple concept in Pakistan. Because you’ve almost working every day with new people and new co-stars. So, from that chatter, if something is established – then why not.”

Saba Hameed is one of the renowned veteran actors of Pakistan with a matchless legacy of performances. As she dives into directing, Affan and Hira talks about their experience of being directed by a maestro. Hira says, “Saba Hameed has directed it way too well. The experience of working with her was phenomenal. It made me feel, that I’ve finally achieved something in my career. I’m finally on that level of my performance that I’ve achieved such a fine director. Saba herself has been a wonderful actress, so if she has chosen me for her first project – that meant everything to me.” adds Affan, “I had a great experience with Saba as a director. She has a vision an and her hold on content is very strong. You can just rely on her as a director. If I wanted to contribute something as a performer, she would understand it completely and she was conservative with the idea that actors can also contribute. If I must in all fairness say, Saba will emerge as a great director.”

How is Ghalati different? Affan says, “It is different compared to Do Bol for sure. The storyline revolves around just one element, which I cannot disclose right now” adds Hira. “The serial has got just a regular storyline but it’s bombarded with twists and turns and climax; which audiences would be able to relate to. In short: it’s about a woman who stands up for her dignity, respect and right. Everyone needs to watch this drama because in this Ghalati, is a ‘Ghalati’ which after watching, you won’t repeat that same ‘Ghalati’"
Globe nominations boost Oscar contenders The Irishman, Marriage Story

By Josh Rottenberg

This year’s fairly wide-open awards season came into sharper focus with Monday’s Golden Globe nominations, which boosted several early Oscar front-runners, including Marriage Story, The Irishman and Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood, and also gave a leg up to other potential contenders like Joker, The Two Popes and 1917.

In the run-up to the early morning announcement, there were a number of questions on the minds of awards prognosticators. To what degree would Netflix, which is fielding arguably its strongest slate of Oscar contenders to date, flex its muscle? How would the critically divisive comic-book smash Joker fare? Would the Hollywood Foreign Press Assn. recognise any female fare? Would the Hollywood Foreign Press Assn. recognise any female directors? And would there be any love for the as-yet-unseen but highly anticipated Maleficent: Mistress of Evil?

Representing a significant showing for Netflix, director Noah Baumbach’s divorce drama Marriage Story led the field overall with six nominations, including best picture, best director, and best screenwriter, along with nods in the lead drama category for stars Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson.

Martin Scorsese’s mob epic The Irishman (also Netflix) and Quentin Tarantino’s Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood followed closely behind with five nominations apiece, and earned nominations in the best picture drama and comedy categories, respectively. Joker also had a surprisingly strong showing, with four nominations, including best picture in the drama category.

The other best picture nominees in the drama category were the World War I drama 1917 and Netflix’s The Two Popes. Rounding out the comedy or musical category were Rocketman, Jojo Rabbit, Knives Out and Netflix’s The Irishman.

Nominated for lead actor in a drama are Driver, Joaquin Phoenix (Joker), Christian Bale (Ford v Ferrari), Anthony Banderas (Pain and Glory) and Jonathan Pryce (The Two Popes). Nominees for lead actress in a drama are Johansson, Cynthia Erivo (Harriet), Saoirse Ronan (Little Women), Charlize Theron (Bombshell) and Renée Zellweger (Judy).

Among the nominees for lead actor in a comedy or musical are Daniel Craig (Knives Out), Roman Griffin Davis (Jojo Rabbit), Leonardo DiCaprio (Once Upon a Time), Taron Egerton (Rocketman) and Eddie Murphy (The Irishman). In the lead actress category, the nominees are Ana de Armas (Knives Out), Awkwafina (The Farewell), Cate Blanchett (Where’d You Go, Bernadette?), Beanie Feldstein (Booksmart) and Emma Thompson (Late Night).

Boostered by The Irishman, Marriage Story and The Two Popes, Netflix racked up a total of 17 nominations in film only, leading the pack for distributors by a wide margin.

In recent years, the Hollywood Foreign Press Assn. has worked to invest the Globes – which have long been regarded as the Oscars’ fluffier, boozier cousin – with greater credibility. It’s been nearly a decade since the organisation gave three nominations, including best picture, to the critically reviled flop The Tourist. Still, Globes nominations can often be counted on to deliver some curveballs, if not outright head-scratchers, and Monday’s announcement contained a few, including a surprise snub of Robert De Niro for The Irishman and the unexpected nod for Blanchett, who hadn’t been on the awards radar this year.

Greta Gerwig, who failed to score a directing nomination two years ago for her acclaimed debut Lady Bird, was again passed over for her period adaptation, Little Women. Other potential contenders

**In Focus:**

Robert De Niro, left, and Joe Pesci in a scene from Martin Scorseses The Irishman.

**UNUSUAL:** Kriti Sanon says, “It is very entertaining and a beautiful script.”

Chuppi fame Laxman Utekar, “We’ve shot 40 per cent of the film. It’s been a beautiful script. One of the most beautiful scripts I have read. You will have a lot of humour and situational humour. At the same time, there are a lot of characters you will take back home.” The film is directed by Luv Ranjan.

**Kriti ‘excited’ to play surrogate mother in Mimi**

Actress Kriti Sanon, who is currently busy shooting for Mimi, expresses excitement about the film.

The film has an unusual story by Bollywood standards. It casts Kriti as a young surrogate mother.

“I am very excited. It’s based on the subject of surrogacy but actually it’s the story of this young girl who wants to be an actor. She’s a dancer in Mandawa and she ends up being a surrogate for couple. Then, the things that follow change her life and also change her as a person,” Kriti said.

She added: “It’s a lot on me. It’s around this character Mimi. It is very entertaining, a beautiful script. One of the most beautiful scripts I have read. You will have a lot of humour and situational humour. At the same time, there are a lot of characters you will take back home.” The film is directed by Luv Ranjan.

**Dilip Kumar’s warm note for ‘choti behen’ Lata**

Bollywood legend Dilip Kumar has tweeted a warm message for “choti behen” Lata Mangeshkar, expressing joy at her release from hospital.

“Overjoyed to hear the good news that My ‘choti behen’ Lata, is feeling much better and is at her home now. Please take good care of yourself @mangeshkarlata,” tweeted @TheDilipKumar.

Dilip Kumar posted his tweet along with an old picture where he is seen with Lata Mangeshkar and his wife Saira Bano. Melody queen Mangeshkar was admitted to Mumbai’s Breach Candy hospital after she complained of chest pain and breathing trouble. The doctors diagnosed that she was suffering from pneumonitis and she had to stay in hospital for 28 days, during which she was in the ICU and was also put on ventilator.

**OverJOYED:** Dilip Kumar, centre, with Lata Mangeshkar, right, and wife Saira Bano.
Sindhi society in Pakistan is dominated by great Sufis and the mystics. It has always been the land of peace, love, romance, and great cultural and artistic values.

Natives of Sind province in Pakistan have been residing and working in Qatar in large numbers for many years. The community is distinct for its traditional and colourful attire and folk songs.

The Sindhi community under the umbrella of Qatar Sindhis (QSindhis), a group that works for welfare of the expatriates and organises their cultural programmes, continues to enjoy their social gatherings and meet-ups with other expatriate community groups from Pakistan.

The QSindhis recently organised their annual event ‘Sindhi Cultural Programme’ that coincides with the yearly Sindhi festivities in Pakistan in first week of December. Families, children, and other members of the QSindhis joined prominent representatives of the expatriate Pakistani community in celebration of their poetic culture and melodies music at Salt n Pepper Hotel.

The pick of the cultural activity was a comedy act presented by Ali Gul Malah and Sohrab Soomroo, two well-known Sindhi comedians from Pakistan. The celebrated comedians mimicked different politicians and actors of Pakistan and made satirical and funny comments on political and social issues of the country. Their amusing comedy was well received by the expatriates who were clad in traditional Sindhi cap and ajrak (shawl). Two Qatar-based singers Shoaib Baloch and Jamshaid Rajwa presented different songs to enthral the gathering.

Speaking to the gathering, Sarwar Shaur said: ‘It was a great honour to say goodbye to one of the stalwarts of our expatriate community. He will be remembered for a long time for his selfless commitment towards the community service. Mushfaq Shaikh’s contributions deserve due recognition and appreciation. He has been role model for many Pakistani expatriate workers.”

Zeeshan Memon highlighted his long association with Mushfaq Shaikh and said: “We have known each other for a very long time and we have shared common ethos in several areas. Hailing from the same province at different Pakistani events, we have also been representing our province at different Pakistani events of national significance in Qatar.”

The QSindhis since its formation has been taking part in different national events of Qatar and Pakistan. Our aim is to stay connected with our culture while living in Qatar and promote the peaceful nature of our people here. We as the community group have been carrying our yearly cultural programmes and providing regular guidance and assistance to Sindhi people here and back in Pakistan. We have received all kind of support from our embassy in Qatar.

“Talking to Community, Asif Memon recognised altruistic and selfless spirit of Mushfaq for the community service. He said: ‘He along with other Sindhi expatriates formed QSindhis in November 2014. Our aim is to stay connected with our culture while living in Qatar and promote the peaceful nature of our people here. We as the community group have been carrying our yearly cultural programmes and providing regular guidance and assistance to Sindhi people here and back in Pakistan. We have received all kind of support from our embassy in Qatar. The QSindhis since its formation has been taking part in different national events of Qatar and Pakistan. Our members have been going to different events organised by Qatari authorities with our traditional dresses. We have also been representing our province at different Pakistani events of national significance in Qatar.”

Folk songs, traditional attire bring Sindhi culture alive in Qatar

By Mudassir Raja

The other part of the annual event was cultural performances by Sindhi children, who in their colourful traditional dresses, presented folk songs and Sufi poetry and earned thorough appreciation from the gathering.

The organisers took the opportunity to bid farewell to Mushfaq Shaikh, one of the founding members of QSindhis. Mushfaq is an electronics engineer by profession and has been working with Qatar Airways for many years. He will be leaving the country soon.

QSindhis honoured Mushfaq Shaikh by presenting him with a memento and some gifts.

Asif Memon, co-founder of QSindhis, presided over the event. The event was also attended by QSindhis’ other core committee members namely, Junaid Mahar, Magsood Mangi, Asif Dogar, Mohammed Shalikh, Iftikhar Jatoi, Jam Sarfaraz, Riaz Shaikh, Umesh Kumar, Adnan Soomro, Talib Bostar, Tariq Mangrio and Ghulam Murtaza Baloch. The other notable guests included: Riaz Bakati, CEO TNG School; Qatar Faeer, community welfare worker; Faisal al-Hudawi, community reach-out office and co-ordinator at Ministry of Interior; Janan Bangash, Puram Paracha, Arif Raeesani, Vasi Muhchandani, Rashem Bulchandani, and Rana Anwar, all noted and active members of the Pakistani community.

Speaking to the gathering, Sarwar Shaur said: “It was a great honour to say goodbye to one of the stalwarts of our expatriate community. He will be remembered for a long time for his selfless commitment towards the community service. Mushfaq Shaikh’s contributions deserve due recognition and appreciation. He has been role model for many Pakistani expatriate workers”.

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