Savitri Grier, a prize-winning British violinist, who visited Doha recently, says she feels free while expressing through violin. P4-5
**USEFUL NUMBERS**

Emergency            999
Worldwide Emergency Number  112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water    991
Local Directory        180
International Calls Enquires  150
Hamad International Airport  44066666
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  44933333
                             4493363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre  44590450
Qatar News Agency        44490205
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation  44464444

Humanitarian Services Office
(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)
Ministry of Interior  40253371, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health  40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation  40253364, 40253365
Qatar Airways          40253374

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**PRAYER TIME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prayer</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fajr</td>
<td>4.47am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoroq (sunrise)</td>
<td>6.11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zuhr (noon)</td>
<td>11.29am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asr (afternoon)</td>
<td>2.27pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maghreb (sunset)</td>
<td>4.46pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isha (night)</td>
<td>6.16pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**QUOTE UNQUOTE**

“With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.”

– Eleanor Roosevelt

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**Community Editor**

Kamran Rehmat

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Telephone: 44466405

Fax: 44350474

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**PUNIPAT**

**DIRECTION:** Ashutosh Gowariker

**CAST:** Arjun Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, Kriti Sanon

**SYNOPSIS:** The film is based on the third battle of Panipat which took place on the 14th of January in 1761 between the Marathas and the King of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Abdali.

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

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**UNBREAKABLE**

**DIRECTION:** Mae Cruzina Cruz

**CAST:** Angelica Panganiban, Richard Gutierrez, Bea Alonzo

**SYNOPSIS:** What are the limits of friendship? A story of an unconditional bond tested by time. Pain brought two friends together, but what will tear them apart?

**THEATRES:** The Mall, Royal Plaza
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
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 – 11:59pm
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.

Gulf of Mexico: A Sign of Change
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.

After School Activities
WHERE: Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing

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.

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.

For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003839.

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change.
“The great thing about music is that we never stop learning”

— Savitri Grier, prize winning British violinist

By Mudassir Raja

Classical western music is like a special language. It is a whole world to be explored. Music is always going to be a language and anyone can relate to it. It is a slightly different way of expressing it.

The classical European music is a tradition that Savitri Grier, a British prize winning violinist, grew up with. Savitri, whose father is a Briton and mother Indian, especially likes the way classical music is structured.

The young violinist was recently in Doha and performed with Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra at Qatar National Convention Center during a programme in connection with Qatar British Festival.

“I started playing violin when I was only four. I have struggled with violin a lot but it has been worth it. I feel free while expressing myself through it. This is why I continue playing violin and hope I will, for the rest of my life,” Savitri said while talking to Community just before her concert at QNCC.

“Violin, for me, is a way of expressing something and means of communicating something with people that I do not know how to do in any other way,” Savitri added, further driving home that the string instrument is not an obsession with her.

The musician, who has a degree in musicology from Oxford, further said: “My father is a pianist and composer. My mother, originally an artist, is a child psychotherapist. My younger sister plays cello. We are a musical family. My father, after I insisted, arranged a teacher for me. Since then, I have been enjoying my music. Probably, when I was 12, I decided that I would make a career as a violinist. I got admiration for my work but I think it kills if someone tells you to play violin. One should play when it comes from within. Appreciation and support definitely give encouragement.”

Savitri, who lives and works in Berlin, is nowadays on trial for a job with the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra in Hungary. “It is an amazing orchestra. I have performed with the orchestra and have travelled a lot with them. I have also been doing solo works and chamber music in UK, Germany, Italy, Hungary, France, Holland, Switzerland and Poland. I have also performed in the US, China, Qatar and will perform in India next March. I hope one day I will make it
to Australia.”

Speaking about her role models in the classical European music, Savitri said: “I am lucky to have some fantastic teachers. I studied for several years with David Takeno, a Japanese violinist in London. He is and will always be a huge influence. I have also played and practised with Nora Chastain, an American violinist in Berlin. The great thing about music is that we never stop learning.

“However, my favourite contemporary violinist is Georgia-born German violinist Lisa Batiashvili. She is very inspiring; Lisa has very strong but quiet presence on the stage. While listening to her, you really feel transformed. She takes everyone along. As I said, music is all about communication. She is very good at it. Being in Germany, I have also learnt a lot from other violinists.”

For Savitri, the classical European music is a tradition. “There is such a huge amount of different kinds within this classical music. There is huge amount of variety. I would never get bored. It is a whole world to explore. I will always find something new in there. The most amazing thing that I love about classical western music is its structure. The pieces of the great composers are very long. You really go on a kind of journey while playing a composition. It is like reading a book and, at the same time, managed with the music.”

Savitri also has an interest in classical eastern music but she is not sure whether she could go deep into it. “I think I will never be able to go deep into it. It is also a life-long journey. The difference between the two classical music forms is very obvious. Eastern music is based around improvisation and the western classical music notation. It is a huge difference. For us, the challenge is learning how to interpret what someone else has written down in different styles. We learn all about it. It makes a big difference when something was written and by whom. In the eastern tradition, it is a whole language based on improvisation. It is about knowing really the language and then making it up as you go along. It needs a different kind of skill. I think both forms find it very hard to cross over to the other side. Once I worked with an Indian musician but it was very hard for me to improvise. It is something that I have never done.”

Savitri, who was in Qatar for the second time, believes that any kind of cultural exchange is very good. “It is fantastic to note classical western music coming to the Gulf region. It is good to have the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra for the last 12 years. I know that a lot of eastern musicians come to London. It is equally great. Though we all have access to all kinds of music on YouTube, live music is always going to be much more meaningful.”

The violinist expressed her interest in exploring Qatar. “My trip was very short, only for three days. One time, I will come only to explore the country. I have heard that desert life here is very beautiful and that is what I would love to see. “I however, got a chance to visit Souq Waqif. There were lots of people in the area. It is busy and vibrant. All kind of things are going on out there. The place is very different from what we have in the west. It gave me a reflection of the local culture and that was what I really loved. I would definitely love to come back here.”

“I have performed with the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra and have travelled a lot with them. I have also been doing solo works and chamber music in UK, Germany, Italy, Hungary, France, Holland, Switzerland and Poland. I have also performed in the US, China, Qatar and will perform in India next March”
NRNA–NCC organises event for members to share suggestions for two-year plan

Non-Resident Nepalese Association — National Co-ordination Council Qatar (NRNA–NCC) recently organised an event for its members to share their suggestions for NRNA–NCC’s next two-year plan. The event also focused on reviewing NRNA–NCC’s work and activities since its establishment in 2003, the issues of Nepali migrant workers, and Visit Nepal Year 2020.

Sarita Bhandari Poudel, female Vice President of NRNA – NCC Qatar, said that Nepal is a perfect blend of nature, diverse culture and thrilling adventures. It is an attractive tourist destination for the residents of Qatar. Moreover, Nepal is a single flight away from here. The event was attended by notable personalities and community leaders, including Homnath Sharma, K B Hamal, Rakam Rai, Kedar Bhusal, Deb Pariyar, Bimal Subedi, Samir Khatri, Prem Chalaune and Amina Khan. Mohamed Muktada Musalman, Chairman of NRNA–NCC, thanked all the members for their participation. Padam Giri, General Secretary of NRNA–NCC, proposed a vote of thanks.

NIS organises 13th Annual Sports Day

Noble International School (NIS) recently organised its 13th Annual Sports Day at Aspire Dome. Abderrahman Samba and Mohmat Hamdi, Qatari athletes, were the guests of honour. Samba was the chief guest on the occasion. He declared the meet open, which was followed by a flag hoisting ceremony by Mohmat Hamdi. Shibu Abdul Rasheed, Principal of NIS, welcomed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, Shoukath Ali Taj, Treasurer at NIS, appreciated the efforts of the members of the Physical Education Department at NIS, including Saril Raj, Antony Jerman, Joyes Manuel, Anju A. Abdul Rahim Kunnummal. Vice Chairman of NIS, also attended the event. Jayamon Joy and Robin K. Jose, Vice Principals at NIS, appreciated the dance performances at the event. Saril Raj, Head of Physical Education Department at NIS, proposed a vote of thanks.

OIS marks sixth Annual Day

Olive International School (OIS) recently organised its sixth Annual Day ‘Olivenite 2019’. OIS campuses across Doha took part in the event. The event featured various dance and musical performances, including ‘The Toy Land’, ‘The Circus’, ‘Acceptance’, and ‘The Nava rasa’. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Kurien Joseph, former judge of Supreme Court of India, Drago Lovric, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia, Saleh Abdulla M S Sulaiti, Patron of OIS, Devi Edakulathur, Chairman of OIS, Rony Paul, Vice Chairman of OIS, and Jacob K M, Principal of OIS, along with the members of board of directors, vice principals and head-mistresses. The event was attended by over 4,200 people. Over 2,000 students performed at the event.
IWA organises beauty pageant ‘Mrs.IWA, 2019’

The Indian Women’s Association (IWA) Qatar recently organised ‘Mrs.IWA, 2019’ at Grand Hyatt Hotel. Twenty-five Indian women participated in the pageant. Various Indian textiles along with Arabic gowns were showcased on the occasion, which were followed by a question and answer session of the contestants. Roshan Sukheja bagged the coveted title of ‘Mrs. IWA, 2019’, which was followed by Abhilasha Singh Panwar and Dr. Tulika Mehta Agarwal as first and second runners up, respectively. The event featured a special performance by Rahul Gupta, classical Indian dancer, along with a humorous speech on weight loss by Anupama. The event was hosted by Shweta Bharadwaj, Patron of IWA, along with Harish Kanjani, Chairman of IWA; Sophia Bukhari, Adviser to IWA; Meenu Prasad, Dean of Institute di moda Burgo Qatar; and Ritu Kumaran, Patron of IWA, along with Harish Kanjani, Chairman of IWA; Sophia Bukhari, Adviser to IWA; Meenu Prasad, Dean of Institute di moda Burgo Qatar; and Ritu Kumaran, Patron of IWA.

Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels sets the tone for the best escapade at Souq Waqif

Set amidst the heart of the vibrant historical Souq Waqif, Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels, with its eclectic and elegant eight hotels, is one of the most unique destinations for travelers seeking to explore Qatar’s heritage and culture. Adorning the charm of its opulent history and the richness of the present, Souq Waqif is considered as the cultural and social haven for locals, expats, tourists: shoppers looking to enjoy its alleys and its special features and characteristics. Be it the architectural design or the collection of shops display, all the varied aspects make Souq a must visit place when in Doha.

Due to the location of Souq Waqif at the centre of the Qatari capital, the liveliness of souq and shops are specialised in diverse commercial businesses varying from silk to carpets, spices, Arabic oud, fragrances, perfumes and others. Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels reflects in its design the rich heritage of the state, marking it a true authentic Qatari hospitality. Guests staying at Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels get the opportunity to explore a complimentary Souq tour, which is aimed at presenting them with the best of local experience to admire the beautiful blend of rich heritage. Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels is a collection of eight hotels, including Bismillah, Al Mirqab, Arumaila, Al Jasra, Al Bidda, Al Jomrok, Mushireeb and Nad. The hotels provide access to the city’s vibrant cultural, historic and commercial centre. Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels are a perfect sanctuary for guests looking to relax and connect to local culture away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels also house a selection of renowned restaurants varying between the specialised restaurants. La Piazza offers International buffet breakfast, Al Matbakh brings the best of Indian flavours to Doha, at Al Terrace guests can indulge in the authentic Lebanese cuisine and the great Arabic music, Al Shurfa is the place for sports enthusiasts to follow the best matches with tasty bites, Argan is the award winning Moroccan restaurant in town, and La Patisserie is the right place for sweet tooth lovers to relish mouth-watering sweet dishes on the beats of live music.

PS marks 6th Annual Day

Pearl School Doha (PS) recently marked its 6th Annual Day at Al Arabi Volleyball Club. P.Senaramakrishnan, Speaker at Kerala Legislative Assembly, was the chief guest on the occasion. The guests of honour, included Salem al-Nuaimi, from Private School Licensing Department at Ministry of Education & Higher Education Qatar; Dr. Sona Soman, Third Secretary (Labour and Information) at the embassy of India; and Abdul Rahman Abdullah al-Ansari, Chief Patron of Pearl School. Sam Mathew, President of PS, and the Board of Directors welcomed the gathering. He also announced the construction of Pearl School’s new Campus at Umm Besher in Al Mafalet area. The event featured various cultural performances that paid a tribute to Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, an Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist, and political activist. The chief guest along with dignitaries unveiled the foundation stone of the new campus of Pearl School on the occasion.
Department of Chemistry and Earth Sciences at College of Arts and Sciences Qatar University recently organised Undergraduate Research Presentations and Honouring Ceremony for Qatar University American Chemical Society (QUACS) Student Chapter for their participation in events and community services.

Professor Yousef Hijji supervised three students on synthesis of Schiff base as chemical sensors for detection of zinc and cyanide in environmental samples. Heba Hassan synthesised and characterised amino sugar Schiff base as zinc fluorescent chemical sensor and Razen al-Qudah synthesised and characterised amino sugar salicylidene as cyanide chemical sensor. Mahmoud Khatib worked on synthesis and characterisation of imines as anion chemical sensors.

Four students supervised by Dr Marwa Elazazy presented their work on recycling of waste from various sources as efficient and novel adsorbents for removal of dyes from wastewater. Sarra Dimassi worked on Bio-waste Aloe Vera leaves as an efficient adsorbent for Titan Yellow Dye from Wastewaters and Bayan Yousef worked on recycling of Green tea Waste into a novel adsorbent for Methylene Blue from Wastewaters. Aya Ashraf presented her work on Eco-structured Biosorptive removal of Basic Fuschin using Pistachio Nutshells and Nuri Akhter presented her work on Watermelon Rinds as cost-efficient Green Adsorbents for Water Purification.

The session ended with a brief presentation by Elkhansa Elbasheir and Zeineb Thiehmed regarding the accomplishments by Qatar University American Chemical Society (QUACS) Student Chapter, which is supervised by Faculty Adviser, Professor Shaml al-Qaradawi. Professor Yousef Hijji said, “The Department of Chemistry and Earth Sciences is committed to provide high-quality research that contributes to the economy, national security and is well aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030. Through the research undertaken, students develop data analysis, effective communication and critical thinking skills.” He added that the Department has maintained the quality of Research Projects offered to meet internationally competitive standard. The outcome is evident by participation of our students in American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meetings where they proudly represent Qatar University. In addition, Professor Yousef stated that the research offered by the faculty is an outcome of their hard work and perseverance.

Two students supervised by Professor Mohammad Mahroof-Tahir presented their work related to the synthesis and characterisation of metal complexes with potential antidiabetic and anticancer potential. Roqaya al-Kurbi synthesised and characterised complexes with vanadium metal with antidiabetic properties and Tahani Alahmad worked on the complexes of titanium metal with anticancer properties.

A Flower Each Spring Programme organises beach clean-up

A Flower Each Spring Programme kicks off its 22nd edition, followed by a Beach Clean-up. The members of International Walking Football Federation in Qatar, the Tanzanian Community in Qatar, Middle East International School (MIS), Stafford Sri Lankan School Doha and National Kindergarten took part in the campaign. The beach clean-up aimed at removing harmful debris before it does serious damage to the environment. The cause was to raise local awareness, bring people together to get involved and prevent unnecessary trash from harming the marine life and birds in that area. Water, soda, and beverage bottles, ropes, light bulbs, cigarette buds, pieces of broken glass, picnic trash, other plastic packaging, fishing nets and wires, styrofoams, and a disposed plastic drum filled with dripping oil were removed along the mangroves of Al Khor, as part of the drive.

“It was a wonderful experience for our school to be part of the opening ceremony of A Flower Each Spring’s scientific trips followed by a beach clean-up. Students learnt a lot as they moved from one station to another. It was important to learn how we can conserve electricity and the benefits that are accrued from conservation. Students also learnt the role of beaches to ecosystem. Birds, fish and other marine mammals can become entangled in or ingest into plastic debris causing suffocation and drowning,” said Elliot Nyamvura, faculty member at Middle East International School.

“We need to stop littering plastic, cleaning up what we can, and prevent water pollutants from entering our waters and endangering our marine life. It truly touched our hearts to see the younger generation very much motivated to collect trash and take action. Cleaning up marine debris is truly a team effort and we thank everyone who participated in the beach cleanup and worked hard in protecting our environment. We ask everyone in Qatar including companies, variety of groups and communities to join together and volunteer their time and effort for a cause,” said Fatma Hassan, Event/School Co-ordinator at Flower Each Spring Programme.
Astrophotography - III

Milkyway full view from Mazrat Al Turayna.

Core of Milkyway from Mazrat Al Turayna. The Galactic Center, or Galactic Centre, is the rotational centre of the Milky Way.

Photos by Ajith Everester (@ajitheverester)
I f you see some people around you who are always happier and healthier than others despite not being wealthy, they must have found a meaning in their lives.

According to researchers, many think about the meaning and purpose in life from a philosophical perspective, but meaning in life is associated with better health, wellness and, perhaps, longevity.

Over the last three decades, meaning in life has emerged as an important question in medical research, especially in the context of an ageing population.

A study by researchers at University of California San Diego's School of Medicine found that the presence of and search for meaning in life is important for health and well-being, though the relationships differ in adults younger and older than age 60.

"When you find more meaning in life, you become more contented, whereas if you don't have purpose in life and are searching for it unsuccessfully, you will feel much more stressed out," said senior author Dilip V Jeste, senior associate dean for the Center of Healthy Aging and Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Neurosciences.

The study, publishing in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, found the presence of meaning in life is associated with better physical and mental well-being, while the search for meaning in life may be associated with worse mental well-being and cognitive functioning.

The results also showed that the presence of meaning in life exhibited an inverted U-shaped relationship, while the search for meaning in life showed a U-shaped relationship with age.

The researchers found that age 60 is when the presence of meaning in life peaks and the search for meaning of life was at its lowest point.

"When you are young, like in your twenties, you are unsure about your career, a life partner and who you are as a person. You are searching for meaning in life," said Jeste.

"As you start to get into your thirties, forties and fifties, you have more established relationships, maybe you are married and have a family and you're settled in a career. The search decreases and the meaning in life increases".

After age 60, things begin to change. People retire from their job and start to lose their identity.

They start to develop health issues and some of their friends and family begin to pass away.

"They start searching for the meaning in life again because the meaning they once had has changed," said the researchers.

The three-year study examined data from 1,042 adults, ages 21 to 100-plus living in San Diego County.

The presence and search for meaning in life were assessed with interviews, including a meaning in life questionnaire where participants were asked to rate items, such as, "I am seeking a purpose of mission for my life" and "I have discovered a satisfying life purpose."

The medical field is beginning to recognize that meaning in life is a clinically relevant and potentially modifiable factor, which can be targeted to enhance the well-being and functioning of patients," said Awais Aftab, first author of the paper. – IANS

Find a meaning in life to stay healthy and live long

You have a pleasant day ahead. Optimism and creativity prevail. You can avail yourself of all the freedom necessary to encounter happiness. Indeed, that newfound happiness may come in the form of a new person who makes your heart beat faster. Don’t fall in love too quickly! There are plenty of opportunities now. A deep and fulfilling commitment will take time to build.

Your private life is probably in the throes of great change. This change is likely related to profound transformations that are taking place in your behaviour, in particular your nervousness. If your daily or family life seems stifling to you, there’s no need to take your frustrations out on loved ones. Look for answers inside.

No one’s more forward thinking than you now. You’re in tune with new inventions and trends, and you may have an irresistible desire to join an avant-garde group. The old way of doing things seems old, and you no longer want any part of it. You can’t stand working according to the old principles any more. You’re in a heated frame of mind. Be careful about stirring conflict.

Devote your energies to human psychology today. It’s a good day to try to sell your ideas. Concentrate your efforts on those whose help you need. If you have faith in your originality, your sales efforts are likely to pay off. In fact, there is some chance you’ll meet an especially dynamic person who can lead you into some fascinating, unexplored territory.
Wordsearch

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

Codeword

Sudoku

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

Across
1 Unready king making girl embarrassed (8)
6 Article I'm to make objective (3)
9 Precise old law? (5)
10 Directors and editor got on (7)
11 Stumble on crude oil in North Africa (7)
13 "Room at the Top" in Greek (5)
14 Teased for being badly dressed (6)
15 Intensely cold (6)
16 Aimed to reform press, TV, etc. (5)
21 Allowances made for disturbance on stair? (7)
22 Just say I may be found in a French resort (7)
23 New gown about right? No, it's not right (5)
24 Observe the bishop's territory (3)
25 Drink that's bad for teenager? (5,3)

Down
2 Dashing in great confusion (7)
3 Dine in The Athenaeum (3)
4 Bunny talk? (6)
5 Mad artist turns playwright (9)
6 Check accounts of German car trader first (5)
7 Another word for doctor found in some dictionaries (5)
8 Superior gambler (6)
12 Working with gear in top form (9)
16 Pair involved in most woe (7)
17 Quit and write one's name again? (6)
18 Royal pop star (6)
19 Mother has second thoughts after contagious disease (5)
20 Needs reform, being stupid (5)
23 Be successful for first half of season (3)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
One-joke movie with charming stars, some light innovation

By Katie Walsh

In 2017, director Jake Kasdan rebooted the ‘90s family adventure film Jumanji by plunking John Hughes-style teen characters into a wilderness-set video game. Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle was a critical and commercial success, anchored by the charms of megastars Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan and Jack Black, and the unique pleasure of watching them all play against type. Kasdan and company (including co-writers Jeff Pinkner and Scott Rosenberg) know a good formula when they see it. So the sequel, Jumanji: The Next Level, simply offers more and more of it: There’s more jaw-droppingly crazy video game hijinks, and especially, more jaw-droppingly crazy video game hijinks, and especially, more jaw-droppingly crazy video game hijinks, and especially, more jaw-droppingly crazy video game hijinks.

The video game setting allowed a motley crew of teens (Alex Wolff, Madison Iseman, Morgan Turner and Ser’Darius Blain) to choose their own avatars and see what happens to them when they get to be someone else for a little while. Self-effacing nerd Spencer (Wolff) learned his own strengths as the muscle-bound Dr Smolder Bravestone (Johnson), but it was also hilarious to watch Johnson play the insecure and jumpy Spencer. However, the breakout player of the Welcome to the Jungle ensemble was most definitely Jack Black, who perfectly inhabited teen queen Bethany (Iseman) in his portly cartographer’s bod. In The Next Level, Kasdan doubles, even triples down on this conceit, to rather hilarious returns.

The film opens with the pals now in college, returning home for winter break. It’s a bit of a rocky opening, especially since it feels like Danny DeVito, as Spencer’s grandfather Eddie, and Danny Glover, as his long-lost friend and business partner Milo, have been seemingly shoehorned into the dynamic. But the reason for their presence all becomes clear when Martha (Turner), Bethany and Fridge (Blaine), discover that Spencer’s gone missing. They once again transport themselves into the game, accidentally bringing Eddie and Milo with them. This time, Fridge ends up in Black’s avatar, Oberon, while DeVito and Glover find themselves in the form of the strapping Bravestone and tiny zoologist Finbar (Hart), respectively.

If you’ve ever needed to hear Johnson attempt (and somewhat master) DeVito’s signature northern New Jersey accent, you’re in luck (though there’s another performer who later takes on the DeVito drawl who is a bit more naturally inclined to the cadence).

For a film that features such eye-popping sequences as aggressive mandrills on floating bridges, inexplicable blimps and an ostrich half/dune buggy race, this is very much a performance-driven picture. The second time around, there’s even less of a plot, with Rory McCann in some impressive post-apocalyptic Night’s Watch gear stretching the jewelry they have to recover to win and escape the game.

The pleasures of Jumanji: The Next Level are visual or story-based, as they revolve around the ability of each of our stars and their abilities to do impressions. Hart’s mannered mimicry of Glover is downright inspired, and the story offers up a few chances for the characters to avatar swap, showing off the actors’ abilities to embody the different jock/nerd/cheerleader/cantankerous grandpa personas. Once again, this is a one-joke movie, but for the time being, that joke still has some tread on the tyres, especially with such charming stars and some light innovation. It remains to be seen how much mileage this franchise can sustain on charm alone, however. — TNS

Victorian hot air balloon adventure falls flat

By Katie Walsh

It’s been a banner year for Tom Harper, who follows his fiery country music yarn Wild Rose with the Victorian hot air balloon adventure picture The Aeronauts. One of these movies is irresistibly infectious with a big, beating heart, and the other, well, it’s all Victorian hot air balloonists. Felicity Jones and Eddie Redmayne team up once again for a tale about a scientist and his muse, with a script written by Harper and Jack Thorne, inspired by the true events of chronicled in Richard Holmes’ book Falling Upwards.

That is not to say The Aeronauts doesn’t have a heart. The writers have taken great pains while inventing Jones’ character, Amelia Wren, an amalgam of real pioneering female balloonists, to give her a tragic backstory in line with the women who took to the skies at great risk of life and limb. When we first meet Amelia, she’s steeling herself for a potentially record-breaking ascent with (real-life) aspiring meteorologist James Glaisher (Redmayne), who has conscripted Amelia and her balloon into his quest for data he can use to predict the weather. Who knew learning about dew was such dangerous and risky business? She still puts on a show for the assembled masses who have bought tickets to the liftoff. She’s not just a showgirl, she’s the pilot, but Amelia knows who pays for the balloon and its various adventures. She’s determined to give her audience their money’s worth, somersaulting and flinging glitter, casting a magical spell about what it means to touch the sky.

This short but potentially monumental flight serves as a framing device for flashbacks that illustrate how James and Amelia find themselves together in the balloon in the first place. An audacious and outsider, James is determined to prove himself in the scientific community, while Amelia needs to get back into the balloon to work through the grief of losing her aeronaut husband in a horrific accident.

The character beats the script hits all feel so perfunctory and predictable, and though the story is wrapped around a novel idea, it’s rather a snooze. What lifts The Aeronauts beyond such standard fare is Jones’ performance as the self-possessed and plucky Amelia. She and Redmayne have an ease together on screen, but the physical limits to which their characters are pushed are truly surprising.

What’s rather unexpected is how extreme the balloon stunts and their adventure gets, and The Aeronauts emphasises the physically harrowing nature of the undertaking. As they ascend higher and higher, their journey becomes closer and closer to something like climbing Mount Everest with a crash landing. Some queasily vertiginous sequences are not for the faint of heart, but the sheen of CGI always reminds us of the unreality of the whole situation.

The Aeronauts details an interesting corner of scientific and expedition history in the Victorian era, but the story is laden with too much reverse-engineered treacle fiction. Although Jones is a joy to watch (as always), honestly, the real-life stories of the brave ballooning women are so much more compelling, and they didn’t deserve to be mashed into such a generic character. — TNS
I do get nervous before film’s release: Sonakshi

By Sugandha Rawal

Sonakshi Sinha understands that the fate of a film is not in one’s hands and audience is the final judge, but that doesn’t deter her from getting nervous before the release of a new project.

“Every film has its own journey in your life, and holds importance. I do get nervous before a release, like anyone,” Sonakshi said when asked if she has the same amount of anxiety almost a decade later, as she had when her first film released.

“I learned quite early in my career to not take it too seriously, since the fate of a film is not in your hands. You do your best and give your 100 per cent and rest is up to the audience eventually,” she added.

Sonakshi, daughter of actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha and Poonam Sinha, entered Bollywood with Salman Khan’s Dabangg in 2010. She credits Salman for making her realise her “true calling”.

“Dabangg is what made me realise what my true calling is. I never thought I would end up being an actor till Salman told me that I am doing this film. But from Day one on set I knew this is where I belong. So the franchise is like homecoming for me,” she said.

Talking about her bond with Salman, the actress said: “My bond with him goes beyond a professional relationship of co-actors. I knew him before I started acting. Our families have known each other for a long time now, and I have known him more as a friend than a co-star.”

After making a successful debut with Dabangg, she has starred in hits such as Rowdy Rathore, Lootera and Holiday: A Soldier Is Never Off Duty. However, many of her films like Tevar, Akira, Noor, Force 2 and Kalank fared below expectations, too.

She returns as Rajo with Dabangg 3. Directed by Prabhu Deva, the Salman Khan-starrer also features Arbaaz Khan, Amole Gupte, Mahie Gill, and Tinnu Anand.

Preity Zinta makes a special appearance, and the film marks the debut of actor-filmmaker Mahesh Manjrekar’s daughter Saiee Manjrekar. Dabangg 3 is scheduled to open on December 20.

Asked if she fears getting trapped in the Rajo image, Sonakshi said: “Not at all! End of the day it was my first film and I take it in a positive stride that I made that kind of an impact on some.”

Sonakshi says she has evolved as an artiste with experience. “I have been lucky enough to have worked on films from different genres enhancing my experience,” she said.

She is quite active on social media, and seems to have mastered the art of tackling trolls over the years. However, she admits she was used to be affected by the trolls initially.

“I have now grown to let social media be a source of communication with me and my fans, conveying what I want,” she said. – IANS

I’m going through a mid-life crisis: Karan

Filmmaker Karan Johar says he is going through a mid-life crisis and that’s why he has added colour and bling to his personal wardrobe.

“Manish Malhotra has a very specific sense of his own. He’s very flashy and flamboyant as a designer but very sober when it comes to his personal sense. I think I’m going through a mid-life crisis so I’m wearing a lot of colour and bling. So, in our own ways we’re combating the age and stage we are at,” Karan said.

Karan opened up about his personal style when he appeared on chat show Not Just Supper Stars along with fashion designer Manish Malhotra. The show is aired in India on Zee Café.

“The filmmaker then looked at Manish, and joked: “My mid-life crisis is in my head, yours is possibly in the bed,” Karan said.

Asked if he enjoys stalking on social media, Karan said: “All the time. I have no problem being on it. I love stalking and it’s my midnight activity. When I’m lying in bed and right before I sleep, I’m at my stalking optimum best.”

Karan also opened up about his plan to lose weight.

“I’ve been on some eight thousand diets and that’s ruined my metabolism. Also, I’ve been one of those silent eaters – those who don’t eat in front of others but eat silently at night. I’ve been so afraid of food and I’ve been on such a diet in some way cause you’re not with someone,” he 29-year-old explained. – IANS

Watson happy with popularity of her ‘self-partnered’ comment

Actress Emma Watson says she is happy that people feel empowered by her “self-partnered” label.

In an interview with Vogue, the actress said that she is entering the next decade with a new perspective on her life as a single woman.

“Why and it’s all my friends messaging me being like ‘self-partnered’? This thing’s gone crazy,” she told E!’s The RUNdown.

Watson said that her “100 percent” committed to being self-partnered even when she is in a relationship.

“It’s much more about your relationship with yourself and the feeling of not somehow deficient in some way cause you’re not with someone,” the 29-year-old explained. – IANS

NEW PERSPECTIVE: Emma Watson is entering the next decade with a new perspective on her life as a single woman.

CAREING FATHER: Machine Gun Kelly said he wrote a song for his daughter to avoid any regrets.
A Qatari businessman, company receive ‘Friends of Spain’ award

By Mudassir Raja

The seventh edition of ‘Premios Amigos de España’ (Friends of Spain Awards) was recently organised with enthusiasm at W Doha hotel.

The award celebrates the promotion of the relations between Spain and Qatar. It gives a special recognition to those companies and individuals who have shown great friendship towards Spain over the years and made great efforts to bring both nations closer.

Organised by the Chamber of Commerce of Spain in Qatar, the recipients of the 2019 awards are HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, as individual awardee, and Agrico represented by Ahmed Hussain al-Khalaf, Chairman and Owner of Agrico in corporate category.

Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani was recognised for his business acumen as chairman of Qatar Businessmen Association, chairman of Al Faisal Holding, founder of Al Faisal Foundation, chairman of Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al-Thani centre for Entrepreneurship in the Middle East and founder and chairman of Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al-Thani Museum.

José Vicente, chairman of the chamber of commerce, in his welcome address congratulated the award recipients and highlighted their achievements. He said:

“In February this year, we were officially recognised as a chamber of commerce. The purpose of the award is to recognise the business achievements, future growth and having special connection with our country Spain. It is important to give recognition to those companies and individuals who show great friendship towards Spain and make great efforts to bring two nations closer.”

He added: “The success story of Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani as a businessman reflects the story of Qatar. Agrico has helped a lot to achieve food security in Qatar. Since its beginning, the company has ties with Spain.”

Speaking on the occasion Belen Alfaro, Ambassador of Spain to Qatar, said: “It is a great pleasure for me to be here for two reasons. First, because it is the first year that the awards take place as an official Chamber of Commerce of Spain in Qatar, having replaced the Spanish Business Council. Second and foremost, this year’s awards have been bestowed upon two relevant members of the Qatari community, who have a very old and strong connection with Spain.”

She added: “From the economic and commercial perspective, the relations between Qatar and Spain are increasingly growing, with the intense activities of more than 170 companies present in Qatar, from the infrastructure to the services sector.

Spain is also an attractive destination for investments, since it is the perfect gateway to Europe, the Mediterranean and Latin-America. Spain is world leader in areas such as renewable energy, fashion retail, plasma production, marine medicine, thermoelectric energy, production of desalinated water, hospital building and transplant surgery.”

“The bilateral trade between Qatar and Spain grew by 5% in 2018, up to 1.2 billion euros and during the first 8 months of 2019 bilateral trade rose by 23% driven by the increasing demand of Qatari products from Spain.”

The ambassador highlighted and appreciated the achievements and contributions made by Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani as businessman and Agrico as a Qatari agricultural development company.

Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani thanked the ambassador and the chamber of commerce for the invitation and the award.

“I started business when I was very young. In 1966, I opened my office in Beirut. My father used to like Spain very much and used to go there very often. I have very strong relationship with Spanish parties I do business with throughout year. I once again thank the ambassador and everyone for this opportunity.”

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