Community
Principal of Ideal Indian School receives ‘Best Results in Humanities Stream Award’ at 31st CBSE Gulf Principals’ Conference.

Community
12 books you must include in your reading list this year.

Cover Story
If California wants to get out in front of its wildfire problem, scientists advise to start more forest fires. P4-5

Quiz
First Grand Slam tennis event of the year. Page 10

Showbiz
A Dog’s Way Home is worth a tail wag. Page 15
PRAYER TIME

Fajr 5.01am
Shorooq (sunrise) 6.21am
Zuhr (noon) 11.42am
Asr (afternoon) 6.43pm
Maghreb (sunset) 5.06pm
Isha (night) 6.36pm

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 44588888
Qatar Airways 44496000
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, 44450333
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

“I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.”
— Confucius

Community Editor
Kamran Rehmat
e-mail: community@gulf-times.com
Telephone: 44466405
Fax: 44350474


cinema

The Mall Cinema (1): How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (2D) 2pm; How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (2D) 5:45pm; Holmes And Watson (2D) 7:45pm; The Accidental Prime Minister (Hindi) 9:30pm; Viswasam (Tamil) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (2): Viswasam (Tamil) 2pm; Petta (Tamil) 8pm; Petta (Tamil) 11pm.
The Mall Cinema (3): Viswasam (Tamil) 5pm; Viswasam (Tamil) 6:45pm; The Mule (2D) 9:30pm; Isha The Surgical Strike (Hindi) 11:30pm.

Landmark Cinema (1): Viswasam (Tamil) 2pm; Uri: The Surgical Strike (Hindi) 4:45pm; How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (2D) 7pm; The Accidental Prime Minister (Hindi) 9pm; Ntr: Kathanayakudu (Telugu) 11pm.

Landmark Cinema (2): Petta (Tamil) 2pm; Petta (Tamil) 5pm; Petta (Tamil) 8pm; Petta (Tamil) 11pm.

Landmark Cinema (3): Ntr: Kathanayakudu (Telugu) 2pm; Uri: The Surgical Strike (Hindi) 7:15pm; The Accidental Prime Minister (Hindi) 7:15pm.

The Hidden World (2D) 5pm; Viswasam (Tamil) 7pm; I22 (Arabic) 9:45pm; The Accidental Prime Minister (Hindi) 11:30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1): The Super (2D) 2:15pm; Holmes And Watson (2D) 4pm; How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (2D) 6pm; Petta (Tamil) 8pm; Petta (Tamil) 11pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2): Vinaya Vidheya Rama (Telugu) 2:15pm; The Mule (2D) 5pm; Viswasam (Tamil) 6:45pm; The Mule (2D) 9:30pm; Isha The Surgical Strike (Hindi) 11:30pm.

Viswasam
DIRECTION: Siva
CAST: Ajith Kumar, Nayanthara, Sakshi Agarwal
SYNOPSIS: Viswasam delves into the world of Thooku Durai - a charismatic village chieftain who is beloved by his people and strikes fear in the heart of his enemies.
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

Petta
DIRECTION: Karthik Subbaraj
CAST: Rajinikanth, Vijay Sethupathi, Simran
SYNOPSIS: Though he works as a hostel warden, there is more to Kaali than meets the eye. Things take an interesting turn when Kaali’s path crosses with a group of dreaded gangsters.
THEATRE: The Mall

Quote Unquote

““I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.”
— Confucius

COMMUNITY
Arqit Singh Live in Doha
WHERE: Losail Sports Arena
WHEN: January 18
TIME: 5pm onwards
With more than 200 songs in just 5 years, Arqit Singh enjoys an immense fan following thanks to his soulful voice and unparalleled talent. Come and witness the magic live.

Autism Football
WHERE: Student Center Education
WHEN: Ongoing till January 17
TIME: 11am – 4pm
Qatar Foundation is excited to launch new inclusive sports programmes for the Autism community. The assessment will identify what session will be suitable for each participant based on their football ability and age.

Archives Exhibition
WHERE: Qatar National Library
WHEN: Ongoing till January 31
TIME: 6am – 9pm
The exhibition explores the history of Qatar through several family collections. It presents selected items from previously unseen private archives of photos, artefacts and documents to show the role that individuals within a community can play in building its identity and preserving its heritage and history.

EVENTS

Getting Started with Makey Makey
WHERE: Qatar National Library
WHEN: January 19
TIME: 4:30pm – 5:30pm
How can everyday objects be used to control computers? In this session, you’ll learn how you can use the Makey Makey invention kit to turn ordinary objects into computer keyboards.

Robotics Junior Course
WHERE: Recreation Centre
WHEN: January 19
TIME: 1pm – 3pm
Children are invited to build their own robot and make it move however they want. It will be a fun chance for them to delve deep into the world of robotics and explore how computer programming and robot design can solve all kinds of problems.

Katara Beach - School Students
WHERE: Katara
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 9am – 12pm
By participating in the programme ‘Our culture is a school’, Katara Beach emphasises the Qatari marine tradition and introduces to students the meaning of Dasha, Al Qafal and various type of pearls. The students will discover all details of the Fath Al-Khair journey.

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.

Cycling: Losail Circuit Sports Club
WHERE: Losail Circuit
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 9pm
Losail Circuit Sports Club, in association with Qatar Sports For All Federation, invites all cyclists, runners and walkers to train under the floodlights of Losail International Circuit every Wednesdays.

The Colour Run
WHERE: QRCC
WHEN: January 26
TIME: 8:30am
Celebrate the hero in you in a realm where nothing is impossible and you are unstoppable. Soar to new heights in the all-new Super Zone and suit up in gear fit for only the most super of heroes as you collect your medal at the Finish Line! 2019 will also include the Foam Zone. Gates will open at 7am on January 26, with our first Color Runners setting off at 8.30am.

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mystic Arts Centre behind Al Hilal Focus Medical Centre
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
TIME: 6pm
After School Activities
WHERE: Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 5pm onwards
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.

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop
WHERE: Saturday – Wednesday
WHEN: 5pm – 6pm
Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier. The lessons will take place every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. For more information, contact registration@atelierqatar.com

Theatre & Taekwondo. Ages between 5 and 10 years old after school hours.

Doha Triathlon 2019
WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art
WHEN: February 8
Doha Triathlon has opened registration for its third edition. Those wishing to participate in the event can visit www.doha-triathlon.com to register in either the Olympic or Sprint which offers registration for both individuals and team relays. Another choice is the Super Sprint which is only for individuals and open for both adults and kids aged between 11-15 years old. Also, a kids’ triathlon was introduced this year for two age groups 7-9 and 10-12 years old to allow all family members to enjoy the event.

Contacts:
Doha Triathlon: registration@atelierqatar.com
Arabic Calligraphy: registration@atelierqatar.com
Music and Arts Atelier: registration@atelierqatar.com

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gflisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change
California can use fire to kill wildfire

By Julia Rosen

If California wants to get out in front of its wildfire problem, scientists have some clear but counterintuitive advice: Start more forest fires.

Decades of research shows that lighting fires under safe conditions not only clears out the dead plants and thick underbrush that fuel many severe wildfires, it also restores a natural process that once kept forests healthy and resilient.

It can be tricky to pull off because all fires, whether natural or intentional, are inherently dangerous and smoky. Even so, experts say the benefits far outweigh the risks.

California's overgrown forests came under scrutiny when President Donald Trump blamed them for the state's recent fires and called for more aggressive management.

Experts say the diagnosis was misplaced; the fires in both Paradise and Southern California drew their deadly power from extreme weather conditions exacerbated by climate change, not from the buildup of dense trees and brush.

Nevertheless, scientists and land managers agree on the importance of reducing flammable fuel in California's vast conifer forests. And they say that fire is the best tool for the job.

“We really have to understand that what's really needed on the landscape is more fire, not less,” said Kelly Martin, the fire chief of Yosemite National Park.

Some fires will happen no matter what, scientists say. The question is: Do we want fires we can control, or fires we can’t?

Until the 1800s, when settlers flooded into California, many parts of the state experienced far more wildfire than they do today. Natural fires burned unimpeded, and Native Americans lit blazes to reduce future risks and boost the growth of desirable plants, as they had done for thousands of years.

The state’s ecosystems evolved not just to tolerate burning, but to depend on it.

“California landscapes were really truly born and bred of fire,” Martin said.

Then the federal government intervened. After several massive wildfires ripped through the West in the early 1900s, the newly formed US Forest Service began extinguishing flames as quickly as possible. Managers believed that suppressing fires protected both communities and forests, Martin said. And for decades, it did.

But over time, the plan backfired. That was especially true in conifer forests, which used to burn every five to 20 years and grew denser with each missed cycle.

Then came drought, tree-killing beetles and climate change – plus a booming population that kept expanding into forested areas. Californians are all too familiar with the consequences: catastrophic wildfires that are nearly impossible to contain.

“‘If you want to really, fully restore the forest, you have to get fire back in there,’” said Malcolm North, a research scientist at the US Forest Service’s Pacific Southwest Research Station in Davis, Calif.

Beyond removing saplings and pine duff, fire creates natural variability in the spacing of trees, he said. It typically leaves denser stands in wetter places and creates gaps in dryer areas that prevent flames from spreading.

“That’s one of the features which made forests so resilient to fire and drought,” he said.

Fire also plays a critical role in breaking down material on the forest floor and recycling nutrients.

Except near communities, the goal of prescribed burns is not to prevent future fires, but to allow more wildfires to burn safely, North said.

The 2013 Rim fire was a prime example. It started with a runaway campfire on National Forest land east of Groveland, Calif., and quickly metastasised. But then it spread into nearby Yosemite National Park, where for decades Martin and her predecessors had been lighting prescribed fires and allowing natural ones to burn.

When the Rim fire hit previously treated areas, it suddenly became tamer. It dropped from the canopy back down to the ground, burned less intensely, and didn’t require much suppression, Martin said.

The controlled burns also protected staff buildings near the Hodgdon Meadow Campground.

“We didn’t lose any homes,” she said.

Despite its effectiveness, prescribed burning remains vastly underutilised in California and across the West.
“You’ve got a whole bunch of things which make it difficult,” North said. Like smoke, which is unhealthy to breathe, particularly for those with asthma and other health conditions. Then there are the lives and property at risk in the roughly 1 percent of fires that escape. In one tragic case, a prescribed fire just west of Denver destroyed about two dozen homes and killed three people.

Such accidents are rare, however, and managers can minimise the public’s exposure by lighting fires under favourable weather conditions. “Yes, there’s some risk. Yes, there’s some smoke. But what’s the trade-off?” said Jeff Kane, a fire ecologist at Humboldt State University.

Some California forests are so clogged with overgrowth that it’s unsafe to introduce fire without first pulling out some of the smaller trees and shrubs. “In many cases, particularly in the Sierra Nevada, 85 percent to 95 percent of the forest is in an extremely explosive condition,” North said. Thinning gives managers a toehold.

Outgoing Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke endorsed both prescribed burning and thinning in a recent op-ed on CNN advocating for more aggressive forest management. However, he has more often emphasised the need to cut trees, arguing that the additional logging will benefit rural economies.

“You’ve got a whole bunch of things which make it difficult,” North said. Like smoke, which is unhealthy to breathe, particularly for those with asthma and other health conditions.

SOLUTION: A firefighter lighting the Loomis Prescribed Burn on July 16, 2010. Fire is often the only way to deal with large downed logs on the forest floor, which can’t be removed with machinery.

CONTROLLED BURNING: A pile burning near the Manzanita Lake Dam at the Lassen Volcanic National Park on November 13, 2007. Fire crews burn large debris piles in the fall and winter, after cooler and wetter weather prevails.

“Until the 1800s, when settlers flooded into California, many parts of the state experienced far more wildfire than they do today. Natural fires burned unimpeded, and Native Americans lit blazes to reduce future risks and boost the growth of desirable plants, as they had done for thousands of years.”

In 2015, a coalition of state and federal land management agencies, local air quality districts, tribes and nonprofit organisations came together to reduce barriers to prescribed burning. They are working to make controlled burns easier to co-ordinate and smoke easier to track.

The momentum picked up in May, when Gov. Jerry Brown created a forest management task force to identify windows of opportunity for prescribed burns and streamline the permitting process. In September, Brown signed a bill aimed at expanding the use of prescribed fires by, among other things, creating ways for landowners and agencies to share costs and liability.

“I kind of had to pinch myself,” said Craig Thomas, the recently retired conservation director of Sierra Forest Legacy. “I love being in California because we can have that complicated conversation. We need to stop the bad fire and dramatically increase the good fire.”

But other hurdles remain, including a lack of firefighters, equipment and funding, according to research by Courtney Schultz, a forest policy expert at Colorado State University. Fire suppression has become such a monumental task that it often occupies all available personnel and funds, leaving nothing left for things like prescribed burning.

The US Forest Service will get some help starting in 2020, thanks to congressional action that will free up funds for forest management. – Los Angeles Times/TNS
Principal of IIS receives award at 31st CBSE Gulf Principals’ Conference

The 31st CBSE Gulf Principals’ Conference, under the aegis of Council of CBSE Affiliated Schools in the Gulf Region, was recently organised in Bengaluru, India. Syed Shoukath Ali, Principal of Ideal Indian School (IIS), received the ‘Best Results in Humanities Stream Award’ on behalf of IIS for outstanding results in Grade-XII in CBSE All India Secondary School Examination.

- Samar Abdul Gafoor: Qatar Chapter 1st topper in class XII Hum Stream 96.00%
- Sahar Abdul Gafoor: Qatar Chapter 2nd topper in class XII Hum Stream 93.20%

UKB organises blood donation drive

Uttara Karnataka Balaga Qatar (UkB), in association with Sing Seva Group, Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Trust and Mirrikh Contracting, recently organised a blood donation drive at Hamad Medical Corporation Blood Donor Centre. Some 100 volunteers took part in the drive. The drive was attended by the management committee and members of UKB, including Shashidhar Hebbar, Founding President of UKB, and Sanjeev Sharma, Dharampal Singh, Anup Singh, Poostia, Managing Committee members.

SNF elects new office bearers

Shaeqee Ne Fun (SNF), a socio-cultural organisation of Pakistani expatriates in Qatar, recently appointed its new office bearers. The new office bearers include Mohammad Ali, Chairman of SNF, Dr. Fartash Syed, Governor of SNF, Nawaz M Akram, President, Javed Humayun and Noor Anis, Vice Presidents, Qamar uz Zaman Bhatti, Secretary-General, Fuzail Ahmed Paracha and Farzana Safdar, Joint Secretaries, Murtaza Raza Naqvi and Sanwal Abbas, Information Secretary, and Irfan Haider, Finance Secretary. Ali is a prominent member of Pakistani community in Qatar and has been living here since 1973. He is also the Chairman of Majlis-e-Frogh-e-Urdu Adab, a reputed Urdu literary organisation based in Qatar. SNF was founded by Malik Moeedur Rehman in 1993. Since its inception, SNF has been organising high profile musical concerts of top ghazal classical and pop singers from Pakistan, including Iqbal Bano, Ustad Hamid Ali Khan, Abida Parveen, Gulam Ali, Ali Humaira Arshad, Rustam Fateh Ali Khan, Rafiq Ali, Sharmila Khan, Saira Naseem, Rabi Peerzada, Shahid Hussain, Irum Hassan, Nizar Blatt, Ali Sher and Wazir Atta. 
Carbon-neutral country feels global warming’s pinch

Bhutan, a remote kingdom nestled in the Himalayas, claims to be the only carbon-negative country in the world. And yet, it is more vulnerable to climate change than most other countries. By Nick Kaiser

Nestled in the Himalayas between India and China, the tiny kingdom of Bhutan is a place where, for the most part, nature reigns. Small towns, serpentine roads and paddy fields are sparsely distributed across its mountain slopes and valleys.

The Buddhist kingdom is similar in size to the Netherlands, and its population is just upwards of 800,000. More than two-thirds of Bhutan’s territory is forested, and according to its constitution, that proportion must always remain above the 60-per-cent mark.

With hardly any industry to speak of, Bhutan is the only climate-neutral country in the world. Its intention to remain so – which it declared at the 2015 Paris climate conference – was considered the most ambitious pledge of any country at the event.

Bhutan claims not only to be carbon-neutral, but in fact carbon-negative – its forest consumes three times as much carbon dioxide as Bhutan produces. In other words, there is no country in the world that is less to blame for climate change than Bhutan.

And yet, it is particularly vulnerable to its consequences.

‘I can see with my eyes ... the changes in the snow in the high mountains, a distinct change,’ says Dasho Benji, a former ambassador to the UN and an adviser to the former king of Bhutan, whose son is now in power.

‘There are some peaks which used to be beautifully covered in snow, now it’s just black rock,’ he says, adding that low water levels in Bhutan's rivers and the disappearance of glaciers are also visible to anyone who cares to look.

Bhutan almost exclusively uses hydropower to fuel its energy needs, an endeavour that also fills its state coffers as much of the electricity is sold to neighbouring India.

Bhutan uses run-of-the-river hydropower without major dams, meaning energy production is subject to seasonal river flows.

Bizarrely, this means that in winter, electricity has to be imported from India at a higher cost and without a guarantee that it does not come from coal-fired power plants.

‘Weak river flows are becoming more common because water sources are drying up across the kingdom, according to experts.

‘It seems that it’s due to precipitation patterns changing,’ says Thinley Namgyel, head of the Bhutan government’s Climate Change Division.

‘Precipitation in winter is really important for farming communities – before they begin work in spring breaking the ground for the crops, some moisture is needed,’ he says.

‘We used to get a lot of snow in the winter, in high elevations. Now it’s drier and drier.’

In the summer, on the other hand, there is too much precipitation.

‘The change in the climate makes the monsoons more unpredictable,’ says Namgyel, adding: ‘When it rains, it pours – we’re getting flash floods and landslides.’

Due to possible negative consequences for ecosystems and local communities, a government committee recently recommended limiting the number of new hydropower plants.

Namgyel believes that in order to become less dependent on hydropower, it would make sense for the country to start widening its focus.

‘Everything in Bhutan is dependent on hydropower,’ says Nawang Norbu, executive director of the Bhutan Ecological Society.

‘We cannot do [without] it, because we need revenues and foreign exchange,’ Norbu says.

‘but if climate change is for real, we should look at alternatives – wind, solar, geothermal.’

‘Clean energy – we need to focus more on that,’ says Norbu.

Namgyel, who acted as Bhutan’s chief negotiator at the Paris climate talks in 2015, is currently on a one-year sabbatical and did not attend climate talks in Poland in December.

He is not optimistic that the agreed goal of limiting global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius would be achieved. Even if it were, he says, it would not be enough to protect Bhutan.

‘If you look at poorer countries, mountain countries like Nepal or Bhutan, 2 degrees doesn’t mean 2 degrees here – it means much more,’ says Namgyel. ‘Mountain areas get much warmer than the global average, so 2 degrees global average is like 3 or 4 degrees in mountain areas.’

Bhutan’s ambitious declaration in Paris in 2015 was intended to signal that the country wanted to do its part, but not without the help of richer countries, says Namgyel.

‘This is what all the poorer countries are saying: We’re committed, but we need your help. We cannot do it by ourselves,’ he says.

Former UN ambassador Benji did not expect much of the conference in Poland. ‘Is anybody really interested in the poor islands or the poor small countries? Nobody really gives a shit about us,’ he says.

– DPA
Striking the perfect chord

Strings, Quratulain Balouch and Ali Sethi recently performed in Doha at PK Music Fest

As the most prolific bands of our time, it’s perhaps not surprising that there was a public celebration planned for this milestone in their unfathomable career; 30 years of Strings. Strings is internationally acclaimed Pakistani pop rock band composed of two members, plus four live band members from Karachi. The band was initially formed by four college students – Bilal Maqsood (vocals and guitar), Faisal Kapadia (vocals), Rafiq Wazir Ali (synthesiser) and Kareem Bashir Bhoi (bass guitar) – in 1988. Along the way of blueprinting pop rock in Pakistan via their signature sound and inimitable body of work, the band disbanded in 1992. But, after a hiatus of eight years, Kapadia and Bilal together made a comeback later in 2000 to usher a revival of Pakistani music industry.

Strings recently caterwauled Doha for its three decades of success along with two other prominent Pakistani singers, including Quratulain Balouch, better known as QB, and Ali Sethi at Al Mayasa Auditorium Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), as a part of the ongoing third edition of Shop Qatar festival.

To those of us who grew up with Strings as a constant barometer for the zeitgeist, they know that Strings’ professional existence has never been marked by anything banal. No one today wants to go to a Strings concert and not enjoy the live performance featuring Sajni and Urr Jaun. They know it and it’s their greatest ammunition.

All charged up in the glittering atmosphere, the audience, mainly from Pakistani expatriate community and they danced and danced on the live performances. There was nothing and nobody to stop them to enjoy the live performances of their favourite singers, all at one place.

The marathon concert, PK Music Fest, was organised by QTickets. The concert kicked off with Ali’s performance featuring cover tracks of old songs and some classic original singles, which was followed up by QB’s sensational voice that took the audience by storm. Opening her performance with her track Woh Humsafar Tha, the OST of drama serial Humsafar (2011) that propelled her into the limelight and fame. QB moved to her other soundtracks, including Sajniyan, Tere Neul Mein Latan, Meri Jehay and Humsafar. She also transitioned into more desi songs and maintained the charged atmosphere for the concert’s duration, till Strings took over the stage.

Bilal Maqsood and Faisal Kapadia performed live on stage after four years as they told the audience. Faisal said that he was excited to see the response of the gathering. They sang soundtracks from their upcoming album 30 that includes six singles along with their ever green soundtracks. It won’t be erroneous to say that Strings is one of the best pop bands from Pakistan with a huge following in India as well. Spider Man soundtrack was composed and played by them. They have quite some Indian Bollywood soundtracks to their credit as well. They successfully ran the Coke Studio franchise in Pakistan and increased the fan base along with the introduction of new names in the music industry.


Talking to Community, Muhammad Asif Aslam Rao who with his wife Shamila Rao attended the concert, said, “I am from Karachi. I have been a big fan of Strings for a long time. In Qatar, I work in aviation sector. The concert was a wonderful opportunity to listen to Strings live abroad. It was like feeling at home. My wife is a big fan of QB and she came primarily for her performance. She loves Humsafar. We are really thankful to the organisers for organising this concert and taking his down the memory lane.”

Syed Ali Muntazir Rizvi said, “I am also from Karachi and have been in Qatar for many years. I grew up listening to Strings. I have attended almost all of their concerts in Karachi. I’m happy to see them live, again, young and energetic. These boys are going to entertain the music lovers for a long time. My family loves QB and Ali as well as they both are young and energetic with soulful voices.”

Organised by Qatar National Tourism Council, Shop Qatar’s activities offer special offers for the bargain-hunter, the style-savvy and the fashion-forward. Shop Qatar, the country’s only nation-wide shopping festival, brings a host of new features for the residents and the visitors to enjoy until January 20. Besides offering discounts and promotions, the festival’s 14 retail partners will also host exclusive entertainment and roaming mall shows for families and children.

Unique shopping tours at Souq Waqif, fashion-focused events, concerts, and other live performances also await festival-goers and shoppers.
A qawwol with raving songs

Q8, held at Al Mayasa Auditorium Qatar National Convention Centre. By Mudassir Raja

PERFORMANCE: Ali Sethi during his performance. Photo by Hasan Zaidi

CLAIM TO FAME: QB opened her performance with her track Woh Humsafar Tha, the OST of drama serial Humsafar (2011) that propelled her into the limelight and fame.

OPENING: The concert kicked off with Ali Sethi’s performance featuring cover tracks of old songs and some classic original singles. Photo by Hasan Zaidi
The holidays are over. And the best of world's tennis are already headed Down Under to play at the much awaited and the first Grand Slam tennis event of the year. Australian Open is now arguably the largest annual sporting event in the Southern Hemisphere. Host city Melbourne always saves its best for the Australian Open, with an array of art, culture and music adding to the atmosphere. The tournament also does hold the record for the highest attendance at a Grand Slam event, with 743,667 people attending the 2018 edition.

The Australian Open was first held in 1905. It is the youngest of all the four Grand Slams, the oldest being Wimbledon (1877) followed by US Open (1881) and French Open (1891). Interestingly, when it was first held, the very first game was played in a cricket field at the Warehouseman’s Cricket Ground. Since its inception, the Australian Open has been staged in five Australian and two New Zealand cities.

Due to the remote location of Australia in the context of many international players, very few foreign players entered this tournament in the early 20th century. In the 1920s, the trip by ship from Europe to Australia took about 45 days.

Initially, the Australian Open was played on grass. Starting 1988, the surface shifted from grass to hard courts. Mats Wilander holds the record for being the only player to win the title on both grass and hard court. January is actually the summer time in Australia. The mercury can rise up to 45 degree Celsius which is well above 100 degrees in Fahrenheit. The blazing conditions pose challenge to players. They feel like playing tennis in a sauna or a frying pan that sizzle their soles. They are forced to make use of braided ice towels. Many players have to put on intravenous drips in order to cope up with the hot weather conditions. Extreme temperatures also cause the tennis balls to shrink and expand and behave differently. From 1988, Extreme Heat Policy or EHP came into effect wherein the match can be halted upon the referee’s decision if the temperature crosses the threshold barrier.

**INDOOR:** Australian Open is the first Grand Slam tournament to feature indoor play during wet weather or extreme heat with its three primary courts.

**BINDING:** Egg yolk is used to bind colour pigments together when painting with tempera.

**TRIBE Nl.yays**

1. In which country was fortune cookie invented? (Ambar Gosh, Qatar Trading Company, Doha)

   USA, and not China, as many believe.

2. What is the tiny plastic covering of the tip of a shoe lace called? (George Avdou, Alhia School, Beirut)

   An aglet

Do you have some interesting bytes to share? And, does your vibe attract you to the “Tribe Nl.yays!” Every week two of your best questions will be featured here. Please do write to us at nl.yays@zoho.com.

Martina Navratilova pulled off a remarkable double in 2003 when she won both the Australian Open and Wimbledon mixed doubles, aged 46, playing alongside an Indian tennis player. Name him.

Leander Paes. Considered to be one of the best doubles and mixed doubles players of all time, he has achieved a career Grand Slam in both disciplines.

What was “Soybean Car” which was unveiled by Henry Ford on August 13, 1941 and patented by him on this day (January 13) in 1942?

It was a prototype car built with agricultural plastic. The car body and fenders were made from a strong material derived from soy beans, wheat and corn. The body was lighter and therefore more fuel efficient than a normal metal body.

What is a group of frogs called?

Army

Which actress said, “Fasten your seatbelts. It’s going to be a bumpy night,” in All About Eve?

Bette Davis as Margo Channing.

If you were painting with tempera, what would you be using to bind together colour pigments?

Egg yolk.

Identify the company from the image below?

(Answer next week. Answer to last week’s photo-quiz: Backgammon.)

**What’s the Good Word?**

1. Zoetic: (a) amusing (b) dreamy state (c) litter (d) concept

2. Blinnen: (a) shame (b) abysmal (c) differ (d) resemble

3. Doppelganger: (a) king (b) maniac (c) foe (d) double

4. Lumpsomphony: (a) leap year (b) loudness and clarity of voice (c) severe pain in limbs (d) phonetics

5. Pauciquo: (a) determined (b) striking (c) brief in speech (d)

6. Dwai: (a) chaos (b) dreamy state (c) litter (d) concept

7. Amok: (a) rampage (b) irony (c) plan (d) treachery

8. Floopoodle: (a) hoooligan b) flaco (c) splurge (d) idioxy

9. Noozi: (a) steady (b) nonsense (c) dazed (d) ultimate

10. Moniker: (a) folly (b) logo (c) quiz (d) nickname

Answers: 1 (c); 2 (a); 3 (d); 4 (b); 5 (c); 6 (a); 7 (a); 8 (d); 9 (c); 10 (d)
Science Matters

When does dementia make drivers unsafe?

Not everyone diagnosed with a dementia, especially in the early stages, needs to stop driving immediately.

Many families have to make difficult, delicate decisions about whether a person with dementia should no longer drive.

New study lists these signs that a person’s driving is becoming unsafe:

- Fails to check for hazards before pulling out
- Has trouble changing gears or misses gear changes
- Forgets to release parking brake
- Inability to hold a steady course in lane
- Seems “overwhelmed” in everyday driving
- Difficulty in following subtle bends in road
- Less ability to make decisions when driving
- Erratic steering when confronted with changes in road or driving environment
- Repeated failure to respond in intersections, busy places
- Driving too close to parked cars or when passing
- Passengers are aware of person’s changed driving ability when traveling
- Passengers have to prompt or warn driver when moving

Source: John-Paul Taylor of Newcastle University (UK) and National Institute for Health Research Newcastle Biomedical Research Centre; TNS Photos Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
**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.

**The Old West**

| AMBUSH | FORT | ROPE |
| BOOT   | GUNFIGHT | SADDLE |
| BOUNTY | HIDEOUT | SALOON |
| COACH  | HILL | SETTLER |
| CORRAL | HORSE | SHERIFF |
| COWBOY | OUTLAW | SPURS |
| DEPUTY | POSSE | TRAIL |
| DRAW   | RANCH | WAGON |
| DRIFTER | RANGER |
| FAST   | REDEYE |

**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 every 3x3 box contains all the numbers from 1 to 9.

**Bound And Gagged**

*It’s like a tablet. You swipe it to get to the next page.*

**Garfield**

*Pooky never complains when I cheat.***

**Pooch Cafe**

*Okay, fish. One more “walk” and we gotta go.*

**Adam**

*What’s that? An old typewriter. I bought on eBay a while back. I can’t be trusted to work on my computer or phone.*

*I can’t resist that game. So... Old School.*

*MyKay. Hours it working. Terrible cut-and-paste actually requires scissors and paste.*
Super Cryptic Clues

ACROSS
1. Over the water (5,3-5)
8. Gifts of money (7)
9. Frame holding hot drink (7)
11. Woman fighting for a flower (6)
13. Set out in a ship, one hears (8)
15. Intensely disliked cover provided by the journalist (5)
16. Do beware! It's hollow (7)
18. Mean to turn with the coiled ropes (7)
19. Graduates in charge of developing a computer language (5)
21. Goes ahead and makes a profit (8)
23. First Turkish composer to go abroad (6)
25. Walk over when one's not quite ready in the heavyweight division (5,2)
26. Capital cover provided after the rainstorm (7)
28. Packed picture in a frame, perhaps (7,6)

DOWN
2. Dance away extra weight (7)
3. I escape from useless position at the front (3)
4. Frame made of prime spruce wood (4)
5. One cries a lot (10)
6. Do court a girl first (5)
7. Being the sense, roughly, the church provides (7)
8. The favourite in form (8,3)
10. Colin's later to be made a knight (3,8)
12. Sequence of command (5)
14. Bill Horn takes steps to bring about an agreement (10)
17. She's forever in a book (5)
20. In South Africa figure a girl's plain (7)
22. Grant some women do work as well as men (5)
24. Stylish little touch I considered adding (4)
27. The maid would spoil him (3)

Yesterdays Solutions

ACROSS: 1 Kitty Hawk 8 Ingenue 9 Tricars 10 Esquire 13 Hatstand 14 Idie 16 Persuasion 20 Amps 22 Fall 24 Cannonball 28 Oder 29 Apostles 31 Rustles 34 Upright 35 Guerdon 36 Dream home.


Wordsearch

Codeword

Answers
High-fibre diet lowers risk of death and non-communicable diseases

Eating up to 30 grams of naturally-occurring dietary fibre — such as whole grains, pulses, vegetables and fruits — daily may prevent the risks of developing non-communicable diseases, finds a review of studies published in the journal The Lancet.

The results suggest a 15-30 per cent decrease in all-cause and cardiovascular related mortality; and reduced incidence of coronary heart disease, stroke, Type-2 diabetes and colorectal cancer by 16-24 per cent.

Increasing fibre intake is associated with lower bodyweight and cholesterol, compared with lower intake or synthetic and extracted fibre.

“Our findings provide convincing evidence for nutrition guidelines to focus on Increasing dietary fibre and on replacing refined grains with whole grains. This reduces incidence risk and mortality from a broad range of important diseases,” said Professor Jim Mann, from the University of Otago, New Zealand.

“Fibre-rich whole foods that require chewing and retain much of their structure in the gut increase satiety and help weight control and can favourably influence lipid and glucose levels.

“The breakdown of fibre in the large bowel by the resident bacteria has additional wide-ranging effects including protection from colorectal cancer,” Mann said.

Protection against stroke, and breast cancer also increased. Consuming 25-29 grams each day was adequate but the data suggest that higher intakes of dietary fibre could provide even greater protection.

The researchers included 185 observational studies and 58 clinical trials involving 4,635 adult participants. The study also found that diets with a low glycaemic index and low glycaemic load provided limited support for protection against Type 2 diabetes and stroke only. Foods with a low glycaemic index or low glycaemic load may also contain added sugars, saturated fats, and sodium.

However, high intakes might have ill-effects for people with low iron or mineral levels for whom high levels of whole grains can further reduce iron levels, the researchers noted. — IANS
A Dog’s Way Home is worth a tail wag

The Homeward Bound movies of the early ’90s solidified the family film subgenre of cross-country adventures by lovable, anthropomorphised pets. The latest entry, A Dog’s Way Home, doesn’t do anything new with the formula, but it does deliver exactly what it promises — a movie that’s cute, with just enough tension to not scare youngsters.

The script was adapted by W. Bruce Cameron and his wife, Cathryn Michon, from his book — part of a series that also led to the 2017 film A Dog’s Purpose. Like that charmer, Way Home has an episodic plot seasoned with dog-centric musings about “my humans” and the glories of foraging from garbage cans.

The star of the show is Bella, whose thoughts are given voice by Bryce Dallas Howard. Via a story that takes longer than necessary to get into gear — the title is basically a plot synopsis, so do we really need half an hour of setup? — Bella ends up separated from her human family (the term “owners” is never used). Pulled by “an invisible leash of love,” she sets out to hike the 400 miles home.

The scenery will be a saving grace for grown-up viewers. Bella has to make her way across the Colorado Rockies, which provide a stunning backdrop. At times, this almost looks like a nature film, with Bella marching past moose, sipping from pristine, gurgling streams and gazing at snow-covered peaks.

There also are some well-known faces among the cast, including Ashley Judd, Ed Helms and Victor Garber. The main human is played by Jonah Hauer-King (from the BBC adaptation of Little Women), who manages to sound not at all British.

It was directed by Charles Martin Smith — yes, the guy who played Terry the Toad in American Graffiti, who has segued to a solid career as a filmmaker. He was a good choice. As the director who unleashed “Air Bud” on the unsuspecting public, he’s worked with four-legged protagonists before. And his wilderness adventure The Snow Walker made great use of its setting.

Cat lovers, take note: There are a couple of nice nods toward felines, too. Cameron and Michon reportedly are working on a third dog movie, but if they ever run out of cutely dialogue for poosies, it’s not a bad idea to expand their audience base. — Star Tribune (Minneapolis) / TNS

Accidental Prime Minister mints Rs4.5 crore despite resistance

The Accidental Prime Minister, which presents Manmohan Singh’s tenure in office, collected Rs4.5 crore in India, where protests were staged by Congress activists in some parts.

“The first day collection of The Accidental Prime Minister is Rs4.5 crore. Eastern sector had disturbances with the release,” a statement from the film’s presenter, Pen Studios, said.

Actor Anupam Kher, who plays Manmohan Singh in the film, tweeted yesterday: “An appeal to the authorities to stop a section of people who are indulging in acts of violence and hooliganism during the screening of our film The Accidental Prime Minister. Also a call out to other sections of people who believe in selective outrage towards Freedom Of Expression.”

The film released on Friday amid tight security as Congress activists protested at some places.

The Delhi Youth Wing of the Shiromani Akali Dal on Friday wrote to cinema halls urging them not to show The Accidental

Prime Minister as the film defames both Manmohan Singh and the country across the globe.

The film is based on a similarly titled book written by Sanjaya Baru, the former Prime Minister Singh’s media advisor. Baru’s book was published in April 2014. In Punjab’s Ludhiana city, the film’s screening was stopped in a multiplex following protest. The activists held a protest outside the Pavilion Mall following which the multiplex management did not start the show to prevent untoward incidents.

The film was however, screened in multiplexes in Chandigarh.

In Kolkata, the screening of the film was cancelled at a theatre due to security reasons amid protest demonstrations by youth Congress activists, police said.

According to the viewers at the Hind Cinema near central Kolkata’s Chandni Chowk area, the show was cancelled after screening for just 10 minutes on its opening day.

“There was an agitation by a certain group outside the hall,” a senior police officer told IANS. — IANS

Bollywood’s veteran actor Anupam Kher stars in The Accidental Prime Minister as Manmohan Singh.

VETERAN

Brie Larson and Alex Greenwald exchanged rings in Tokyo back in 2016.

Brie Larson, Alex Greenwald call off engagement

Actress Brie Larson and musician Alex Greenwald have called off their engagement after nearly three years.

The 29-year-old actress and 39-year-old Phantom Planet frontman exchanged rings in Tokyo back in 2016. “They have taken a step back from their engagement for the time being but they remain close,” people.com quoted a source as saying.

The 400 miles home.

It’s important to have style: Alia Bhatt

Alia Bhatt is investing in a fashion-tech startup and recently announced the launch of ‘The StyleCracker Box Club’.

“With the launch of ‘The StyleCracker Box Club’, which makes the concept of personal styling accessible to all via a membership programme. Through this, a personalised box of fashion, curated every 6 weeks by a celebrity stylist, will reach customers.”

Every box will include around four products per box, depending on the mix selected including apparel, bag, footwear and accessories.

Alia said in a statement: “I think that’s really cool because basically you’re just making sure you’re stamping that all year round you’re cool because basically you’re just making sure you have a box coming every six weeks.

“You will always be stylish and in life it is important to have style.”

On the film front, the actress will next be seen in True Story. — IANS

BIOGRAPHY

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There also are some well-known faces among the cast, including Ashley Judd, Edward James Olmos and Wes Studi. Bella’s main human is played by Jonah Hauer-King (from the BBC adaptation of Little Women), who manages to sound not at all British.

It was directed by Charles Martin Smith — yes, the guy who played Terry the Toad in American Graffiti, who has segued to a solid career as a filmmaker. He was a good choice. As the director who unleashed “Air Bud” on the unsuspecting public, he’s worked with four-legged protagonists before. And his wilderness adventure The Snow Walker made great use of its setting.

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Actress Brie Larson and musician Alex Greenwald have called off their engagement after nearly three years.

The 29-year-old actress and 39-year-old Phantom Planet frontman exchanged rings in Tokyo back in 2016. “They have taken a step back from their engagement for the time being but they remain close,” people.com quoted a source as saying.

They had been dating for several years prior to the engagement as they had been romantically linked since 2013. Greenwald joined Larson at numerous awards seasons events that year when Larson received recognition for the 2018 thriller Room. She even gave Greenwald a shout-out while accepting the Academy Award for Best Actress at the 2016 Oscars.

“Jacob Tremblay (has been) my partner ever since — I’ve never been so happy to see him in a room,” Larson said in her acceptance speech.

“Okay, my real partner, Alex Greenwald, I love you,” she added. — IANS
New books to look forward to in 2019

Maid by Stephanie Land

“My daughter learned to walk in a homeless shelter.” This is the opening line of Land’s memoir of life on the margins, subtitled Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother’s Will to Survive. With a foreword by Barbara Ehrenreich (Nickel and Dimed), the book tells how Land raised a child while working part time cleaning rich people’s houses and shines a powerful light on the stigma faced by the poor in America. (Hachette, Jan. 22)

Black Leopard, Red Wolf by Marlon James

Fantasy fiction gets a shot of adrenaline in this first book of the Dark Star trilogy, written by the Booker Prize-winning author of A Brief History of Seven Killings. Inspired by the richness of African mythology and landscapes, Black Leopard tells the story of Tracker, a hunter charged with finding a boy who has been missing three years. (Riverhead, Feb. 5)

Parkland by Dave Cullen

Ten years after the publication of Columbine, his acclaimed chronicle of the Colorado school shooting that rocked the nation in 1999, journalist Cullen travels to Parkland, Fla., to report on the aftermath of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. This time, however, he focuses on the survivors and the gun control movement they launched, along with young black activists from Chicago, Baltimore and elsewhere. (Harper, Feb. 12)

The Lady From The Black Lagoon by Mallory O’Meara

None but the most diehard of Hollywood fanatics is familiar with the name of Milicent Patrick. But if you’ve seen The Creature from the Black Lagoon, you know Patrick’s most iconic creation — for which a jealous male colleague took credit. Filmmaker and podcaster O’Meara resurrects the story of this path-breaking animator, who designed monsters in the special effects makeup department of Universal Studios in its 1950s heyday. (Hanover Square Press, March 5)

We Were Rich And We Didn’t Know It by Tom Phelan

Born in Ireland’s County Laois in 1940, Phelan is a former priest, longtime custodian in the Garden City public schools and a novelist. In this evocative memoir, with echoes of Frank McCourt, he recalls his upbringing on an Irish farm without electricity, telephone or indoor plumbing. A glossary of Irish vernacular is helpfully provided. (Gallery, March 5)

Queenie by Candice Carty-Williams

The protagonist of this debut novel has been billed as the “black Bridget Jones” and comes from England buoyed by praise from Jojo Moyes. Queenie Jenkins is a 25-year-old Jamaican-British woman, a newspaper reporter in London, forced to re-evaluate her life choices after a bad breakup with her white boyfriend. A trio of girlfriends offers support via text messages: we can’t wait to meet them all. (Scout Press, March 19)

Lost And Wanted by Nell Freudenberg

Professor Helen Clapp receives a text message from an old friend — nothing out of the ordinary, except that Charlotte Boyce, her Harvard roommate, has just died, tragically young, of lupus. Is it really Charlotte? The texter seems to know things only Charlotte could, and the realization rocks Helen’s world. From the author of The Newlyweds. (Alfred A. Knopf, April 2)

Exhalation by Ted Chiang

The Port Jefferson-born science fiction author — winner of several Hugo and Nebula awards — is out with a second collection of mind-bending stories, (A story from his first book, Stories of Your Life and Others, was the basis for the film Arrival with Amy Adams.) Chiang publishes so rarely — Stories of Your Life came out in 2002 — and is so good that this book qualifies as an event. (Alfred A. Knopf, May 8)

Floyd Harbor by Joel Mowdy

Raised with 12 siblings in Mastic Beach, Mowdy tells 12 stories of working-class life on the East End in the 1990s. Among the touchstones you’ll find in this collection: Kool cigarettes, bowling alleys, Suffolk County Community College, Greek diners, 7-Eleven hot dogs, LIRR stations. This is an unvarnished Long Island book that many local readers will passionately relate to. (Catapult, May 14)

— Newsday/TNS