Community

Students of The International School of London excel at World Scholars Cup Tournament of Champions.

Community

Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra presents a children musical play Nour, Anna and the Wise Fools at Katara.

Air Taxis

Boeing pilotless air taxi lifts off the ground, but there is no rush to catch a ride. P4-5

Review

A tale of survival coupled with power of silence. Page 14

Showbiz

My censor board is my heart, mind, says Pooja. Page 15
**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr: 4.59am
- Shorooq (sunrise): 6.18am
- Zuhr (noon): 11.47am
- Aza (afternoon): 2.59pm
- Maghreb (sunset): 5.10pm
- Isha (night): 6.49pm

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

- Emergency: 999
- Worldwide Emergency Number: 112
- Kahramaa – Electricity and Water: 991
- Local Directory: 180
- International Calls Enquires: 150
- Hamad International Airport: 40106666
- Labor Department: 44508111, 44406537
- Mowasalat Taxi: 44588888
- Qatar Airways: 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
- Ministry of Interior: 40253371, 40253372, 40253369
- Ministry of Health: 40253370, 40253364
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253364, 40253365
- Qatar Airways: 40253374
- 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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"Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."  
— Abraham Lincoln

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**Quote Unquote**

**Mary Queen of Scots**

- **DIRECTION:** Josie Rourke
- **CAST:** Saoirse Ronan, Margot Robbie, Jack Lowden
- **SYNOPSIS:** Queen of France at 16 and widowed at 18, Mary Stuart defies the pressure to remarry. Instead, she returns to her native Scotland to reclaim her rightful throne.

**THEATRE:** Royal Plaza

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**Charlie Chaplin 2**

- **DIRECTION:** Sakthi Chidambaram
- **CAST:** Prabhu Deva, Prabhu, Nikki Galrani
- **SYNOPSIS:** Being the owner of a matrimonial company, Thiru has conducted plenty of marriages. The 100th marriage he is set to handle happens to be his own. Even though he and his beloved face a few setbacks but he is now finally engaged to be married to her. Chaos take over when planning the wedding. Will everything go well or not?

**THEATRES:** Landmark, The Mall

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**The Mall Cinema (1):**
- Manikarnika (Hindi) 2pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 4:45pm; Destroyer (2D) 7:15pm; Nadi Elregal Elserri (Arabic) 9:30pm; Replicas (2D) 11:30pm.

**The Mall Cinema (2):**
- Manikarnika (Hindi) 2pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 5:45pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 8:45pm; Sarvam Thaalamayam (Tamil) 9pm; Replicas (2D) 11:30pm.

**The Mall Cinema (3):**
- Vijay Superum Pournamiyum (Malayalam) 2:15pm; The Kid Who Would Be King (2D) 4:45pm; Sarvam Thaalamayam (Tamil) 9pm; Replicas (2D) 7pm; Sarvam Thaalamayam (Tamil) 11:30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (1):**
- Manikarnika (Hindi) 2:30pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 5:45pm; Replicas (2D) 7pm; Sarvam Thaalamayam (Tamil) 9pm; Replicas (2D) 11:30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (2):**
- Manikarnika (Hindi) 2:30pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 5:45pm; Replicas (2D) 7pm; Sarvam Thaalamayam (Tamil) 9pm; Replicas (2D) 11:30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (3):**
- Manikarnika (Hindi) 2pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 4pm; Manikarnika (Hindi) 6:45pm; Replicas (2D) 9:30pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 11:30pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):**
- Minuscule: Mandibles From Far Away (2D) 2:30pm; 2030 (Arabic) 4:15pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 5:45pm; The Girl In The Orange Dress (Tagalog) 7:30pm; Replicas (2D) 9:30pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 11:30pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):**
- Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 2:15pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 5:15pm; Replicas (2D) 7pm; Destroyer (2D) 9pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 11:30pm.
participate. Adults and Children are welcome to learning the fundamentals of the game of Try golf with qualified golf professionals those that have never played golf before.

on National Sport Day, Education City Cultural festivals from across the world. food, dance shows, entertainment & festivities will take place each Friday and delicious and rich journey this time of year, heritage and history. Individuals within a community can play in building its identity and preserving its heritage and history.

mix of 350 stalls. MIA Park Bazaar is a modern version of the old souq tradition. The stalls are going to offer a wide range of gastronomies from all over the world. You can also browse and grab handcrafted artefacts, accessories, canvases, fashion wears, designer ornaments.

Baladna Cultural Festival WHERE: Baladna Park WHEN: Tomorrow till March 1 Baladna Park will embark you on a delicious and rich journey this time of year, through the Baladna Culture Festival. The festivities will take place each Friday and Saturday of the month and will include food, dance shows, entertainment & cultural handicrafts from across the world. For further information 44 24 6000.

Golf on National Sport Day WHERE: Education City Golf Club WHEN: February 12 TIME: 9am – 10am If you are looking to participate in Sport on National Sport Day, Education City Golf Club have something specifically for those that have never played golf before. Try golf with qualified golf professionals and experience an introduction to golf, learning the fundamentals of the game of golf. Adults and Children are welcome to participate.

MIA Park Bazaar 2019 WHERE: Museum Of Islamic Art WHEN: Ongoing TIME: 12pm – 8pm MIA Bazaar will be having a vibrant

Artistic Gymnastic Classes WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb WHEN: Ongoing till February 28 TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

Ballet Lessons WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier WHEN: Ongoing TIME: 4pm – 8pm For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 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.

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre WHEN: Wednesday – Monday Mamangam Performing Art Centre, is a holistic performing arts institution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip-hop and Indian classical dance forms, along with classes for music, art and crafts, karate and yoga. Additional services include dance education and choreography. For details, call 33897609.

Dance and Instrument Classes WHERE: TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building WHEN: Wednesday – Monday Learn the movements of dance styles in Bollywood, Hip Hop and also the musical instruments such as Piano, Guitar, Keyboard for adults as well kids and move in the world of music. For details, contact 66523873/ 31326749.
Urban air taxis are coming, but challenges abound

While the basic technology is advancing, the regulatory and safety barriers to deploying air taxis are considerable. By Dominic Gates

Boeing offered a glance at a futuristic alternative to crowded freeways when its prototype autonomous air taxi – essentially a flying car with no driver – lifted off the ground for the first time on a test take-off.

“In one year, we have progressed from a conceptual design to a flying prototype,” said Boeing Chief Technology Officer Greg Hyslop, adding that Boeing will leverage its decades of aviation expertise to create an air mobility technology that’s “safe, innovative and responsible.”

Boeing subsidiary Aurora Flight Sciences, a leading developer of innovative aircraft and autonomous systems that Boeing acquired in 2017, designed the electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. With a range of up to 50 miles, the air taxi is 30 feet long and 28 feet wide. Its advanced airframe uses movable propellers and wings to achieve efficient hover and forward flight.

“This is what revolution looks like,” said John Langford, Aurora’s president and CEO. He said the key to the technology will be autonomy – the aircraft is intended to fly itself, using sensors and artificial-intelligence software to avoid obstacles and other flying vehicles as it delivers passengers. Langford said Boeing’s technology will “make quiet, clean and safe urban air mobility possible.”

Other companies are also rushing to develop similar air taxis to open up the urban skies, supplementing the current clogged ribbons of roadway with flight paths crisscrossing the three-dimensional space above our heads.

A year ago in Pendleton, Ore., European jet maker Airbus completed a similar test take-off of its Vahana autonomous air-taxi prototype at a drone test range, the aircraft rising 16 feet into the air and then descending safely.

The next step in these flight tests will be much more of an engineering challenge: transitioning from the vertical take-off and hover phase to forward, wing-borne flight.

Many other start-ups are exploring the same urban air mobility concept. And Uber, in a partnership with Aurora Flight Sciences that predates Boeing’s acquisition of the company, is developing an urban aviation ride-sharing product called Uber Air, which it claims will be available by 2023 in Dallas and then in Los Angeles.

Skies full of drones? But Uber’s vehicle hasn’t flown yet. And don’t expect to see air taxis in the skies above Seattle for years. While the basic technology is advancing, the regulatory and safety barriers to deploying it are considerable.

Uber ride-share cars stopping in the middle of the narrow streets of South Lake Union to drop off or pick up Amazonians are already a road hazard at peak commute times. Imagine dozens of air taxis converging on the area as executives try to beat the bridge and tunnel traffic.

And realise that in this imagined future, these air taxis will share the air not only with the Kenmore Air seaplanes landing on the lake but with thousands of Amazon package-delivery drones flying low across the skies.

Boeing is separately developing an unmanned, fully electric cargo air vehicle designed to transport up to 500 pounds. It completed an indoor flight last year and will transition to outdoor flight testing this year.

Even a potential killer app...
for urban air taxis – whisking passengers arriving at Sea-Tac International Airport to the heart of downtown Seattle – in reality looms as more of an air traffic safety nightmare when you think about pilotless air vehicles and fully loaded passenger planes flying anywhere near each other.

To address this challenge, another Boeing subsidiary, NeXt, is working with regulators and others “to lead the responsible introduction of a new mobility ecosystem and ensure a future where autonomous and piloted air vehicles safely coexist,” Boeing said in a statement.

At an air safety conference in Seattle last November, Boeing CTO Hyslop talked about how air mobility can overcome the shortcomings of the increasingly overloaded “terrestrial infrastructure” as the world’s cities grow ever bigger.

He said he can fly from St. Louis to Chicago in 44 minutes, then spend an hour and a half in a car driving to his office from O’Hare airport.

Yet he said the technical challenges to an air mobility solution to this problem revolve around assurances of safety. He asked attendees to imagine an air traffic control system “that suddenly instead of having a few thousand things in the air has, say, 10 million things in the air.”

“What are the requirements to make that safe?” he asked. “We probably won’t have a human being talking to a human being in that scenario. But there’s going to be some decisions where the consequences are just so dire where we want to have a human being in the loop.”

He said certifying flight controls managed by artificial intelligence as safe is “a very difficult technical problem.”

“Our industry still begins and ends with public safety,” said Hyslop. “We have a responsibility to get into this. It will be a walk, crawl, run approach.”

The recent test was just the first little hop into the air.

Speaking on a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Boeing Chairman Dennis Muilenburg said the air taxi revolution “is happening now and it’s going to accelerate over the next five years and ramp up even more beyond that.”

“Traffic in dense urban areas is going to quickly go from two dimensions to three dimensions,” he said. “Today, 25 percent of the world’s commute times are greater than 90 minutes. Think about the time savings that are available when you go to three dimensions.”

Aviation expert Richard Aboulafia of the Teal Group is a sceptic.

Last May, he wrote that such urban mobility technology “is decades away from readiness.”

“The costs will be way higher than planned. Utilisation, as a result, will be much lower than anticipated,” he predicted.

In reality, this air taxi technology will likely debut as a passenger service not in the US but somewhere with a government that can completely control conditions and has plenty of money to pour into the system.

— The Seattle Times/TNS

**In one year, we have progressed from a conceptual design to a flying prototype**

**UBER AIR:** Uber is also developing an urban aviation ride-sharing product called Uber Air, which it claims will be available by 2023 in Dallas and then in Los Angeles.
SIFQ to organise Science Gala 2018

Science India Forum Qatar (SIFQ) is all set to organise Science Gala 2018, an award ceremony for student of Indian schools in Qatar, at Birla Public School Auditorium. The gala will follow the theme ‘Science, Technology and Innovation for Clean, Green and Healthy Nation’. Kuruna Gopal, an internationally acclaimed thought leader and Founder President of Futuristic Cities, will be addressing the gathering. P Kumaran, Ambassador of India, will be chief guest at the event. Kuruna Gopal will also be interacting with the students and professionals.

Malarvadi Children’s Group Rayyan Zone marks 70th Republic Day of India

Malarvadi Children’s Group Rayyan Zone recently organised various competitions for children to mark 70th Republic Day of India. Hamida Samad bagged first position in Quiz Competition, which was followed by Swathi Subu and Jawal with second and third positions, respectively. In Kids Colouring Competition, the winners included Adnan, first position; Mehrin Haris, second; and Hajara, third.

In Junior Colouring Competition, the winners included Muhammed Ayan, first position; Farsan Jaleel, second; and Shahyan Shiraj, third. In Elocution, the winners included Athif Sayan, first position; Yahya Zakaria, second; and Shahyan Shiraj, third. In Henna Design Competition, the winners included Zahra Afsa, first position; Amna Fahad, second; and Aysha Farhana, third.

The winners were felicitated by Ahmed Shafi, CIC Rayyan Zonal Secretary; Abdul Rahman Kavil, member of ZEC; Ilaihi Sabeela, Malarvadi Zonal Co-ordinator; and Khamarunneesa and Sunila Jabbar. The event was co-ordinated by Abdul Jaleel M M, Malarvadi Zonal In-Charge.

Students of ISL Qatar excel in World Scholars Cup (WSC) Tournament of Champions

Students of The International School of London (ISL) Qatar recentlyexcelled at World Scholars Cup (WSC) Tournament of Champions, held at Yale University US. The theme of the tournament was ‘An Entangled World’. The WSC enables students to make connections to the curriculum in particular, linking the experiences from each event to some of the learner profile traits with the help of the coaches.

Patricia Indico, one of the participants of ISL, said, “The tournament was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I recommend future scholars to participate in next year’s round.” Another participant, Sebastian Santoni, said, “Travelling to Yale University for the last round of this World Scholar’s Cup season was challenging, rewarding and an enjoyable experience. The season’s theme was quite fitting as the friends I made from countless countries will most definitely stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Raed Asad, a student from ISL who took part in WSC, said, “This trip was a very life-changing and incredible experience that I will forever remember for the rest of my life. I saw many cultures and new ideas, through the many people I met there.”

Putu Narayanan, one of the other participants from ISL, added, “This year’s World Scholar’s Cup season was an incredible learning experience which ended in a memorable trip to the prestigious Yale University. We had our ups and downs but we worked well as a team and most importantly experienced a lot of fun.”

Youssef Barakat, a student from ISL, said, “Before my passion for excelling academically and competing, I condemned learning new things and challenging myself academically. World Scholar’s Cup has changed that in me, as it gave an opportunity to discover what I was truly interested in and loved doing (from an academic perspective). In the Tournament of Champions round hosted by Yale, we were faced with new challenges, with higher stakes and tougher competition, yet we still thrived, worked hard and achieved tremendous results despite being followed up with exams the week after. This not only shows our passion, ambition and self-motivation, but also our love for the WSC programme.”

Andrew Elizaga, the trip leader from ISL, said, “As trip leader, I would say it was working with the needs of the group to anticipate conflicts and repair group dynamic. Sometimes there will be disagreements, so in order to be an effective mediator, I must strive to show them that, just as the 18 states, other people, with their differences, can also be right.”
British Council celebrates success of first stage of YSLP

The British Council, in partnership with the Qatar Ministry of Education, recently celebrated the completion of the first stage of its Youth Sports Leadership programme with two fun and engaging sports festivals. The event was attended by over 50 students at Rufaidah bin Kaab Independent School for Girls and 50 students at Ibn Khaldoun Independent School for Boys. The festival was the culmination of international training delivered by the UK’s Youth Sports Trust, designed to assist teachers and coaches to work together with young people so they can take charge and lead their own sports festivals in their schools and communities. Youth Sports Leadership is aligned with Qatar’s Vision 2030 increase community participation in sport. Youth Sports Leadership is a three-year sports transformational education programme, which helps practitioners to develop key future skills such as leadership, teamwork, resilience and communication through sports. From March 24-28, a selection of coaches and teachers will have the opportunity to train for phase 2 of the programme, to ‘national trainer’ level, which certifies them to deliver the training in Arabic and English as independent instructors across Qatar. Schools across Qatar will also have the opportunity to take part in the Youth Sports Awards training modules on 04 March. Commenting on the success of the programme, Moza Albader, Head of Physical Education Curriculum Standards Section at Qatar Ministry of Education and Higher Education, said, “We are proud to partner with the British Council on this fantastic initiative which, not only improves sports education in Qatar, but also contributes to the country’s vision of building strong and active communities. Sport can play a fundamental and lasting role in transforming the lives of young people and, through Youth Sports Leadership, we are helping them become leaders of the future. Congratulations to all the participants and everyone who contributed to its success.” Samantha Ayton, Director at British Council Qatar, said, “We are honoured to collaborate with the Qatar Ministry of Education and Training and Educational Development Centre to improve sports participation across the country. Together we have a shared goal to unleash the potential of students through physical activity in line with Vision 2030.”

ICAI Doha Chapter organises seminar

The Doha Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) recently organised a seminar on ‘IFRS-16 & new excise tax in Qatar’ at Hotel Crowne Plaza – The Business Park. The event was attended by over 130 people, including chapter members, eminent finance professionals from leading organisations and students. The event was sponsored by Deloitte & Touche, Qatar. Speaking on the occasion, CA Saumya Krishna, Director of Financial Advisory at Deloitte & Touche, said, “In a world where ‘change is the only constant’, the beginning of the new year 2019 is marked by two key developments which directly impact businesses, book keeping and the finance professionals. These are IFRS 16 and the new Excise regime. She added that at Deloitte & Touche, Qatar, we assembled a team of subject matter experts to discuss these important topics for the benefit of the Chapter members”. Syed Samar Abbas, Principal Audit and Assurance, analysed the provisions of IFRS 16 and enlightened the audience on various requirements of IFRS 16 by giving an illustration of ‘vehicle & delivery service agreement’. He also discussed the core principles, including identifying a lease, lease term, determining discount rate and accounting by lessee and lessors. During the second segment of the event the learned speakers and subject matter experts, including Robert Tsang, Partner at Indirect Tax, Zoltan Farkasim Director Indirect Tax, and Sunita Taijwani Senior Manager Indirect Tax, spoke about various provisions and intricacies of new ‘Excise Tax in Qatar’. Rupalakshmi Setty, Chairperson of ICAI, gave an update to the members on the chapter activities and thanked the members for the immense support. She re-emphasised on the importance of the growth of the CA fraternity and gave brief outline of the future events. She further, discussed the relevance of the topic selected for the finance professionals across various industries and introduced the speakers. Rukkaiya Pachisa, Vice Chairperson of ICAI, proposed a vote of thanks.
NMA organises an event to celebrate cultural festival

Qatar Chapter of Nepal Magar Association (NMA) recently organised an event to celebrate the culture festival ‘Maghe’ at Public Garden. Some 1000 community members attended the event. The programme was chaired by Dolaraj Baraghare, Secretary of NMA. Speaking on the occasion, Dolaraj Baraghare said the festival marks the start of spring season. "It distinguishes the hurting winter and the warm spring", he said. He also thanked Qatar-based Magars for retaining the cultural legacy, including festivals, foods and dresses. Min Bahadur Gharti Magar was appointed as Bang or Cultural King by NMA for the event, a Nepal tradition. The event featured various traditional dance performances, including Hurra, Kauraha, Salaju, Chudka and Tappa. The dances were choreographed by Jana Thapa Magar and Yogen Khamcha Magar. The event also featured a musical chair and tug-of-war competitions.

— Text and photos by Usha Wagle Gautam

LISD celebrates 70th Republic Day of India

Loyola International School Doha (LISD) recently celebrated the 70th Republic Day of India. The event also honoured Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi on his 150th Birth Anniversary. PKV Prasad welcomed the gathering. Sri. Koduru Prasad, member of the Advisory Committee, LISD, hoisted the national flag. Sarat Chandra, member of Board of Directors of LISD, disturbed the certificates to the winners of various competitions. The event featured various speeches by the students of Primary Section and dance performances by the students of KG Section.

Students of DPS-MIS participate in ‘Science and Qatar History Exhibition Quest 2018-19’

Students of DPS-Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS) recently took part in ‘Science and Qatar History Exhibition Quest 2018-19’. Asna Nafees, Principal of DPS-MIS, congratulated the students as well as the teachers for the efforts they had put in. She extended her gratitude to all the science and social studies teachers who had guided the students to make this exhibition a successful one. She was contented that most of the students were able to answer her queries related to their projects. She said that the students, apart from the scientific knowledge, learnt to respect each other’s views and thoughts, share experiences and co-operate with each other. A P J Abdul Kalam Memorial Trophy was awarded to Milind Sudheer, a student of Grade-VI K at DPS-MIS, for his project ‘Small Scale production of Biogas and its Uses’.

Students of IIS visits Malaysia

Some 38 students of Ideal Indian School along with five faculty members recently visited Malaysia to provide holistic education and opportunities to students to develop their interpersonal skills. They visited various places, including Royal Selangor Pewter Factory, Harrison Chocolate boutique, KL Bird Sanctuary, Kuala Gandah Elephant Conservation Centre, Firefly Resort Park, Jadi Batek Gallery, Petronas Towers, National Monument, Putra Jaya and Independence Square.
Low unemployment is both a blessing and a curse for Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is experiencing an economic boom, with businesses fighting fiercely for employees and the government recruiting workers from abroad to fill the remaining gaps. However, some wonder how long it will last, with an eye on how Germany’s economy performs in 2019. By Michael Heitmann

There are more jobs than applicants. It's easier to find work now than it has been for the past 20 years. The budget is showing a small but surprising surplus. There's even talk of a boom. The Czech Republic is quickly becoming a front-runner in Eastern Europe.

In November, there were 215,000 people registered as unemployed with the Czech authorities – the lowest figure since June 1997. In contrast, there were 323,000 job vacancies. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 1.9 per cent for that month gave the Czech Republic the lowest rate of all EU member states – once again.

"There is lower unemployment in the Czech Republic again. The trend of increasing employment has not changed; at the end of last year, there were over three-quarters of the total number of persons of productive age working," says Dalibor Holy, director of the Labour Market and Equal Opportunities Department in the Statistical Office.

Businesses are engaged in a fierce competition for workers. Many are attempting to lure potential employees with benefits such as gym memberships, holiday pay and family leisure activities.

"The engine of this economic boom is not hard to identify: the automotive industry, with a little help from the IT and chemical sectors. Last year, a record 1.4 million passenger cars rolled off the assembly line. In addition to Volkswagen subsidiary Skoda, Hyundai, Toyota and the French PSA Group also produce in the Czech Republic. There are also many automotive suppliers. But the lack of skilled workers is threatening to put the brakes on the automotive boom," says Jan Vejmelek, chief economist for KB Bank.

"They are the ones who know best what they need their young workers to be able to do," he says.

Michael Valasek, a professor at the Czech Technical University in Prague, sees one possible way out: "I see great potential for the use of robots and automation in Czech industry," he says. Valasek teaches a study programme with a focus on "Industry 4.0" and creating the flexible factories of the future. All data is collected and analysed in the cloud to optimise operations and meet quality standards.

But there is a problem. Investing in robots is expensive – much more expensive than human labour, at least for now. The average monthly salary in the Czech Republic is around 1,230 euros (1,395 dollars) – in neighbouring Germany, that figure is a good three times as much.

"Economies thrive on dynamic growth," he says. "The inability to expand capacity is the opposite of that." Politicians need to consult more with businesses to help them expand their capacity, he says.

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Bernard Bauer of the Czech-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce confirms this hypothesis. Last year, the situation for German investors in the Czech Republic deteriorated significantly, he says – despite considerable wage increases and attractive work conditions.

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To fill the skills gaps, especially in the low-income sector, the government is recruiting workers from Ukraine, Mongolia and the Philippines. Prague is providing up to 12,000 work visas per year in an accelerated procedure.

While these “guest workers” from Eastern Europe and Asia are welcome, Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis continues to refuse to accept refugees, for example from the civil war in Syria.

Over the coming year, the focus in Prague is likely to be on Germany in particular. Jakub Seidler, chief economist at the ING Bank in the Czech Republic, says the economy is very sensitive to developments at its largest trading partner.

The news in early 2019 that growth had slowed in the German economy last year will certainly have been a cause for concern in the Czech business world. A slower pace in Europe’s largest economy could present one of the biggest risks for 2019. It’s not for nothing that the saying goes: “When Germany sneezes, the Czech Republic catches a cold.” – DPA
Try This

Windows with a secret

Some windows, called “thermal windows,” help keep a house warm in winter and cool in summer; with this simple tool you can tell whether a window is thermal or not:

1. Make hole in tape with pencil and put it over front of flashlight

2. Stand next to a home or school or store window and shine light at it

3. Look at the reflection. Do you see one or two dots of light? Do this to several windows and notice the reflections.

4. Go to a grocery store and test the windows of a frozen food case.

What happened?

An ordinary window is made with one piece of glass
Heat passes fairly easily through it
If you see one dot of reflected light, it’s a regular window

Thermal windows have two pieces
Heat has trouble passing through the space between them
Some also have a special gas in the space to block heat
If you see two dots, it’s a thermal window; each piece of glass reflects light

Graphic: Paul Trap, Tribune News Service
Being a ‘morning person’ can lower risk of schizophrenia

Being a “morning person” can lead to greater well-being as well as lower the risk of developing schizophrenia and depression, finds a research. However, for some it is hard to be a morning lark, and they would rather be a night owl. Various researches have explained an individual’s genetics as the reason behind this.

Now, a large-scale genomic analysis has identified 327 new genes, from earlier known 24, associated with a person’s sleep time or chronotype.

The study, published in Nature Communications, revealed some of the inner workings of the body clock, shedding new light on how it links to mental health and disease. It suggests that being genetically programmed to rise early is associated with better mental health, but does not affect body mass index (BMI) or risk of Type-2 diabetes. “This study highlights a large number of genes which can be studied in more detail to work out how different people can have different body clocks,” said lead researcher Professor Mike Weedon, from the University of Exeter Medical School.

Importantly, the study also showed that the genetic variants the researchers identified could shift a person’s natural waking time by up to 25 mins – changing some people’s waking time from 8am to 8.25am, for example. The researchers found that the genetic areas influence sleep timing, but not the quality or duration of sleep.

“Our work indicates that part of the reason why some people are up with the lark while others are night owls is because of differences in both the way our brains react to external light signals and the normal functioning of our internal clocks,” Samuel E Jones of the University of Exeter Medical School explained.

“These small differences may have potentially significant effects on the ability of our body clocks to keep time effectively, potentially altering risk of both disease and mental health disorders.”

The study was based on genome-wide data from 697,828 UK Biobank and 23andMe – a UK-based DNA testing website – participants.

The study further analysed 85,000 people through the use of wrist-worn activity monitors, confirming that the desire to either sleep in or get up in the morning is genetic. – IANS

**LIFESTYLE/HOROSCOPE**

**Being a ‘morning person’ can lower risk of schizophrenia**

A financial windfall might come your way, Cancer. This may not be a lottery win or surprise inheritance. It’s probably something you’ve worked hard for; but more than you expected. As a result, you could walk around in a daze for much of the day. Don’t try to make plans for it. Put it aside until you’re used to the idea of having it. Only then will your practical nature kick in.

**ARIES**

March 21 — April 19

Are you involved in an ambitious, creative project of some kind, Aries? You might have so much to do that you decide to take on a partner. If you haven’t already. When you and this person work together, the whole is definitely greater than the sum of the parts. Without him or her, you might try to do the whole project yourself, which won’t do you or the project any good.

**TAURUS**

April 20 — May 20

The desire to improve your home’s appearance might suddenly come over you today, Taurus. Whether you’re planning some redecorating, landscaping, refurnishing, or simply a thorough cleaning, you will probably take the bull by the horns and concentrate on nothing else. The results will speak for themselves. Get family members to help you. You won’t want to be too tired to enjoy what you’ve done.

**GEMINI**

May 21 — June 20

Much of your day may be spent running around your neighbourhood. Gemini, perhaps in the company of your partner. You may have a lot of errands to run, or perhaps you’re just antsy and unwilling to spend the day indoors. Whenever it is, you may come into contact with some unusual people and events. Take a notebook and camera. You might want a record of it all.

**CANCER**

June 21 — July 22

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**LEO**

July 23 — August 22

You’re probably feeling full of energy, Leo, and looking for an outlet for it. Put it aside from the usual jog or workout. A hike along a scenic path would be just the thing. Phone a friend and see if you can arrange to do it together. Your friend will probably be as enthusiastic as you. You may enjoy yourselves so much that you decide to make it a weekly event.

**VIRGO**

August 23 — September 22

Your subconscious mind is active today, Virgo, perhaps releasing old traumas from the past. Memories from long ago could pour into your mind as though floodgates were opened. Many of them won’t be pleasant. This is good nonetheless. You’re releasing obstacles caused by these memories. By the end of the day you will feel so much lighter. Make the most of it.

**LIBRA**

September 23 — October 22

You tend to be an adventurous soul by nature, Libra. Today the desire to do something you’ve never done before could be overwhelming. You might toy with outrageous ideas like learning to skydive or bungee jump. You probably won’t go that far, but you could opt for something like river rafting or mountain climbing. You have a lot of options open to you. Think about them.

**SCORPIO**

October 23 — November 21

If you’ve been thinking about studying astrology, Scorpio, this is the day to do it. Even if you already know the field, you might decide to branch out into a newer or more radical aspect, such as Draconic or galactic astrology. You will learn more quickly and retain more of what you learn, so no matter what interests you, this is the day to put some effort into learning more about it.

**SAGITTARIUS**

November 22 — December 21

Your innate sense of adventure is active today, Sagittarius. Travel is on your mind. You and some friends may kick around ideas for an unconventional trip to an exotic place, such as sagin to Safi. The urge could pass, but it might not. Do some research and find out what your options really are. It might not work out as you visualised, but a little adventure could do you some good.

**CAPRICORN**

December 22 — January 19

Career matters may involve some touchy circumstances that require ingenuous methods to solve; Capricorn. You’re in the right frame of mind to come up with them. You’re definitely up for a challenge, and you will probably dig right in and come up with lots of great ideas. These concepts will not only get you through the current situation but also prove useful in the future. Go to it.

**AQUARIUS**

January 20 — February 18

A social event could bring you into contact with some interesting people in fascinating fields; Aquarius, some from distant places. Discussions could turn you on to one or more new interests, which you will probably want to pursue later. You might receive an invitation to visit an exotic place. If you’re single, you could meet a potential lover. This will be an evening to remember.

**PISCES**

February 19 — March 20

A burst of physical energy might have you spending hours working out today, Pisces. You might decide to try a new and ambitious exercise programme. Take care not to push yourself past your limits. A heightened sense of adventure combines with a powerful desire to be fit, and it might drive you to exhaustion if you aren’t careful. You have to learn to crawl before you learn to walk.
Family Gathering

ANCESTORS    FATHER     OFFSPRING
BROTHER      GRANDPARENTS RELATIONS
CHILDREN     INLAWS      RELATIVES
CLAN         KINFOLK    SIBLING
Cousin       MOTHER      SISTER
Daughter     NIECE       SON
DYNASTY      NIECE       UNCLE

Codeword

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

Sudoku

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

Bound And Gagged

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

**ACROSS**
1. And, as the tide’s about to turn, get out of the way (5,5)
6. Ran after the man getting on (4)
10. Porridge and a meat-loaf, cooked but left unfinished (7)
11. The flowers the little girl stole off with (7)
12. The plant, dispatch properly (9)
13. Game to make an enormous hole to accommodate the pole (5)
14. Put the question to a returned Greek (5)
15. So there’s a note for you to take round (9)
17. Gave to others and did without oneself (9)
20. Insist on getting out of entertainment (5)
21. The first part of Sea Serpent is silly, but it gets better (5)
23. Will try to get at the fellows trapped inside (9)
25. Joe’s come back with a girl: a foreign wife (7)

**DOWN**
1. Stays and sees it’s coming back (5)
2. The performers found the lock in the case forced (9)
3. What you feel when the dentist says ‘A big cavity’? (4,10)
4. A prominent foreigner got in the way (7)
5. Indulge the quartet, you reveal (7)
6. The dope again is put in the shade (5)
7. A stunner set on reforming a crook (9)
8. Not twice! (6,8)
9. Spoke to before taking a swing at? (9)
10. Generally speaking, will have one conceal a grave error (2,7)
11. Give one too much and one gets into a state of confusion (7)
12. With sun and sand all about, it’s sweet (7)
13. See this key fits in upside-down (5)
14. Are off between times, which is enjoyable (5)

**Answers**

**Wordsearch**

ACROSS:
1. Pedestal  5 Edward
2. Lapwing  12 Address  3 Sergeant  15 Somme  18 Doris

DOWN:
1. Pickle  2 Disappear  3 Smiling  4 Along  6 Decides  7 Alice  8 Disaster  9 Decanter  14 Alsatian  16 Minuscule  17 Advanced  19 Sterile  21 Buckram  22 Houses  24 Gerda  25 Pivot.

**Codeword**

- B  E  N  A  N  A  R  A  I  N  D  R  O  P
- B  S  N  E  R  O  Y  B  L  K  D  I  S  Q  U  A  L  I  F  Y  T  E  E  T  L  U
- G  U  T  T  U  R  A  L  E  X  H  A  L  E
- A  R  E  N  Y  A  L  M  A  N  A  C  S  T  O  P  G  A  P
- A  Z  A  L  E  A  B  E  A  U  T  I  F  Y
- E  T  Y  B  E  E
- A  P  O  T  H  E  O  S  I  S  N  I  C  K
- H  O  U  M  O  U  T
- H  Y  S  T  E  R  A  R  A  S  H  E
- R  E  S  L  B  E  D
**A tale of survival coupled with power of silence**

**By Katie Walsh**

To reach a global audience, Brazilian YouTuber Joe Penna had to harness the power of visual storytelling, making his videos accessible to anyone around the world. Communicating through images and across language barriers is a practice he honed online. For his debut feature film, he’s put those skills to use, with the nearly-silent survival tale *Arctic*. This gripping, taciturn and wintry film set on a nameless frozen landscape isn’t necessarily what you would expect from the former YouTube sensation *MysteryGuitarMan,* but the film is a fine reminder of how cinematic language can and should transcend the spoken word.

Danish actor Mads Mikkelsen is the perfect performer to star as Overgård, a man who has survived his Scandinavian landscape. His Scandinavian flintiness brings an authenticity to Overgård’s knowingsness and ability to survive in the harsh environment. He’s an actor who seems timeless, indestructible and determined. There is no doubt this man knows how to ice-fish.

Penna, who co-wrote the script with collaborator Ryan Morrison, doesn’t bother with backstory for his lead character, or even with an explanation for his plight. There is no fiery crash, and the film is all the better for this careful restraint. All we know is Overgård is digging SOS messages into the snow, bungking in the downed aircraft, dutifully packing his fish in an ice chest, caught with an elaborate rigging system. He arrives sooner than expected, but the rescue helicopter is caught in a vicious winter storm and goes down. Overgård can only rescue the badly injured female co-pilot (Maria Thelma Smáradóttir). With a map and a sled scavenged from the helicopter, Overgård decides the best course of action is to hike to a seasonal way-station, in the hopes of saving himself and the incapacitated woman. All he knows about her comes from snapshot of herself with her partner and baby. That’s enough motivation for him.

*Arctic* is made up of Overgård’s patterns and rituals. His watch beeps, telling him when to stop and when to go. He carefully charts his progress with marker on the map. He feeds and cares for his charge, digs ice caves for shelter. But Mikkelsen’s performance is the most compelling in the moments in between, when he stops to pause, think and feel. Transporting her, he leans into her weight for a second, feeling the closeness of another human body in this barren, lonely landscape. Every time he looks up to the sky, taking in the weight of the situation. Mikkelsen is truly captivating in these moments – this is when the real acting happens, emotions barely but tangibly crossing across his face.

As good as he is, and as compelling as the film is, it is frustrating that the female character is nothing more than dead weight the male hero drags across the tundra. Smáradóttir’s performance had to have been innovative, it’s a shame that in their script, Penna and Morrison rely on the tired trope of the vulnerable, wordless female character as merely motivation for male action. It’s the one flaw of this otherwise meticulous portrait of survival and human determination. – TNS

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**A cockamamie grief parable**

**By Michael Phillips**

The Matthew McConaughey hq headquarters are looking fine in *Serenity,* for the record. Their latest screen appearance, in the name of love scene realism and box office incentive, arrives in the context of a tropical bedroom encounter with Diane Lane, portraying the leading man’s sometime fling and fellow mysterious islander. A cockamamie grief parable disguised as a mystical film noir contraption, the movie holds up not at all. But at least one part of the movie does.

The rest, meantime, dog-paddles around trying to figure out what to do with its own story, and how to do it, and who swipe the narrative compass, and where it’s all going, and why the payoff is so very, very not quite right.

We’re venturing into heavy spoiler waters here, so let’s avoid the reveals, big or small. In a faraway place called Plymouth Island (played by the Indian Ocean isle of Mauritius), battle-scarred Iraq war veteran Baker Dill has remade himself as a fishing boat skipper, renting out to drunken louts.

Dill knows his stuff. With the single-minded ferocity of Herman Melville’s Ahab, and despite the pleas of his wise, soulful first mate Duke (Djimon Hounson), he takes every oceangoing opportunity to chase a certain special tuna that’s out there, somewhere. Everyone knows about Dill’s obsession; everyone on Plymouth Island knows everybody else’s business. Even the local radio station exclaims: “Get out there and catch that damn fish!”

Back on shore, Dill’s ex-wife, Karen (Anne Hathaway), shows up with her abusive millionaire husband Jason Clarke. Back home, Karen has a son (Rafael Sayegh) fathered by Dill, but Karen’s second husband doesn’t know the father’s identity. In flashbacks, and scenes suggesting an interstellar-ish psychic link between Dill and his thousand miles away, we’re shown glimpses of the boy, hiding in his bedroom from his loathsome stepdad, typing away at a computer at all hours.

The noir angle of *Serenity* emerges early on, when sulen, murmuring Karen offers Dill $10 mil to kill her tormentor. The rest of the story dwells on stranger tides. This we know going in, from the poster tagline: “On Plymouth Island, no one ever dies … unless you break the rules.” And what’s the deal with the peculiar man with a briefcase, looking like a fish out of water? Long before the midpoint, *Serenity* suggests rather too strongly that all is either *Lost* (as in the TV show) or simply lost (as in missing in action and lacking in persuasion). Some may find the endgame powerful and moving. The writer-director Steven Knight has written some fine screenplays, including *Dirty Pretty Things,* *Eastern Promises* and the one-man Tom Hardy showcase *Locke,* which he also directed.

Knight has also written his share of disappointments, among them the WWII romance *Allied* and the Bradley Cooper vehicle *Burnt,* a portrait of a brilliant but temperamental chef. The atmosphere in *Serenity,* by design, imparts a slightly uneasy and hermetic feeling. In Baker Dill, who sounds like a line of gourmet pickles, Knight has the makings of a compellingly messed-up antihero. That’s a start. If movies were all start, then this one might’ve worked. – Chicago Tribune/TNS
Osbourne postpones European tour

Singer Ozzy Osbourne has postponed his upcoming European tour ‘No More Tours 2’ following his illness.

Earlier this week, Osbourne had announced that he had been diagnosed with bronchitis and doctors had ordered him to take rest. “I’m completely devastated for having to postpone the European leg of his tour. It just seems that since October everything I touch has turned to bad. First the staph infection in my thumb and now coming down with the flu and bronchitis,” said Osbourne, reports variety.com

“I want to apologise to all of my fans who have been so loyal over the years, my band, my crew and to Judas Priest (band) for letting you all down. However, I promise the tour will be completed. It’s being rescheduled right now to start in September. Again, I apologise to everyone. God Bless. Love you all, Ozzy.”

Osbourne last performed on New Year’s Eve here. – IANS

Dawson to star in Zombieland sequel

Actress Rosario Dawson has been finalised for Zombieland 2. The next instalment of the Sony Pictures post-apocalyptic zombie comedy will feature original stars Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone and Abigail Breslin.

Ruben Fleischer will return to direct the sequel, reports deadline.com.

The details on the 39-year-old actress’ role have not been disclosed.

Written by original Zombieland team Paul Wernick and Rhett Reese, the sequel revolves around the comic mayhem with several new types of zombies trekking across the US on a quest for survival.

Dawson joins franchise newcomers Zoey Deutch and Avan Jogia. Gavin Polone will produce, while Reese and Wernick are executive producers. The film is slated to release in October this year.

At the moment, Stone is looking forward to 91st Academy Awards. She is in race to get The Best Actress In A Supporting Role trophy for her role in The Favourite. The awards show will be held on February 24 and will air in India on Star Movies. – IANS

My censor board is my heart, mind, says Pooja

Filmmaker Sooraj Barjatya says he is proud to give a platform to newcomers under his Rajshri Productions banner.

“Ever since Rajshri opened its doors in 1947, it has been home to many newcomers. We’ve taken pride in being the first platform for many actors, directors, music composers, singers and technicians,” Barjatya said in a statement.

Now with the Rajshri banner’s 58th production Hum Chaar: Friends Bhi Family Hai, they are launching four new faces. The film is slated to release on February 15.

“We at Rajshri take pride in introducing four more new faces in main roles to the big screen. Rajshri with Hum Chaar... welcomes debutantes, Priy Kamani, Simran Sharma, Anshuman Malhotra and Tushar Pandey,” Barjatya added. – IANS

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Candid: Pooja Bhatt says, “I can never look at a female body in a vulgar manner.”

By Arundhati Banerjee

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Sweet performance of gripping storyline

By Mudassir Raja

A place where east met west - a dash of musical evening recently enthralled the audience, which was followed by a short play presented at the Drama Theatre at Katara.

Nour, Anna and the Wise Fools, a children and family concert brought the story of two girls coming from two different parts of the world. The musical told the story of Nour, a girl from desert who moves to a big city and finds a new friend named Anna. The musical was the second show of an ongoing Children and Family Festival. The first concert Nour, A Girl of Desert was presented at the same venue on January 25.

Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO), in partnership with the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) and Qatar Music Academy (QMA), has been organising the festival at Katara. The next and the last concert is Peter and the Wolf. It will also be presented on February 1. After the concert, there will be a workshop by WISE highlighting and talking about children's art.

Nour, Anna and the Wise Fools unfolds when one day Nour visits Anna to play hide and seek in her house. Suddenly, in the attic they find boxes full of toys, clothes, old stuff and books. The books tell stories about wise fools from old times, including Djuha, Till Eulenspiegel and Nasreddin Hodja. One lives in the west and the other two in the east, yet Nour and Anna in the story discovers that all three have lots of things in common, including being wise, funny and their silly stories.

The engaging story of the children was coupled with the orchestral music performed by the musicians from QPO. Further, there were many interesting and attention-grabbing scenes in the musical. The actors presented some of their dialogues through puppets where the children cheered the puppets and their dialogues.

The best part of the show was when a donkey reads a book with a funny approach. To engage the cheering children, the actors picked eight kids from the audience and turned them into horses and had a funny chat with them. After the play, majority of children gathered around the actors and got their photographs done.

Talking to Community, Svetlana Schmitz, who played the role of Nour, said, “I am a trained theatrical actress from Germany. We both (me and Tamara) have been doing theatre together for a long time now.

We produce and perform theatrical pieces for kids in Germany. “The history of this piece is that we wanted to create a connection between the East and the West and create a mesh of both the worlds. In the play, the wise fools are coming from different places but they are a kind of same characters, with almost same stories and qualities. The two girls are from two different places and bring the stories together from the old times.

“This was not our first concert in Qatar. We have already done two other performances with QPO. We also performed in two schools recently. However, this is our first time that we are performing in Qatar. I feel very good to be in Qatar. It is very good to bring theatre to this country and to have kids around us and enjoy the performances.”

Tamara Schaefer played the role of Anna. She said, “I am an actress and a drama teacher as well. Me and Svetlana have studied theatre together and that is how we know each other so well. We both have created the story ourselves. We also took some parts of the story regarding the Wise Fools that was already written. I mean that part was an adaption. However, the script itself is our production.

“It is absolutely stunning to collaborate with QPO. We love to work with them because they are extremely professionals. It is very inspiring to bring music and theatre together. We run a company with the name of Actory, a creative factory”

Phoapa Sranthivik, a student of Grade-V student at Doha English Speaking School, said, “It was wonderful how the production team employed orchestra to give the background music to the theatre. I liked the donkey part and as a matter of fact the whole play.”