Community

Dr Salim Akhter, 84, renowned writer and scholar, passes away.

Community

21-year-old Rizwan Aarif says passion drove him to pursue a career in cinematography.

Great Unconformity

Around the world, miles of rock are missing. Could ‘Snowball Earth’ be the culprit? P4-5

Scepticism: C Brenhin Keller, the author of a new study, has termed as “extraordinary” the claim that several freak episodes of global glaciation scoured away miles of continental crust, obliterating a billion years of geologic history in the process.

Pop Spot

Kodak’s Dying To Live shoots to pole position.

Page 14

Showbiz

Golden Globes 2019 celebrates diversity.

Page 15
Backtrace
DIRECTION: Brian A. Miller
CAST: Sylvester Stallone, Ryan Guzman, Matthew Modine
SYNOPSIS: After suffering a brain injury from a bank heist gone wrong, MacDonald develops amnesia and is put into a prison psychiatric ward. Following his seventh year of incarceration, he is coerced by an inmate and a ward doctor to break out of prison, and he’s injected with a serum that forces him to relive the life he’s forgotten. MacDonald must now elude a local detective, a toughened FBI agent, and the drug’s dangerous side effects to recover the stolen money.
THEATRE: The Mall

Thomas and Friends
DIRECTION: David Stoten
CAST: Dona Aderwa, Peter Andre, Richie Campbell
SYNOPSIS: Thomas leaves Sodor to fulfill his dream of seeing the world. This heroic quest takes Thomas across deserts, through jungles and over dangerous mountains as he travels across five continents seeing sights he has never seen before. Thomas and his friends travel to the mainland to save James and show that friendship is more important than being the favourite engine. Can Thomas and the new experimental engines save James and help bring him back to the Island of Sodor?
THEATRE: Landmark

Thattum Purath Achuthan (Malayalam) 2pm; Aquaman (2D) 4:30pm; Mary Poppins Returns (2D) 7pm; Aurora (Tagalog) 9:15pm; K. G. F.: Chapter 1 (Hindi) 11pm.
The Mall Cinema (1):
Thattum Purath Achuthan (Malayalam) 2pm; Aquaman (2D) 4:30pm; Mary Poppins Returns (2D) 7pm; Aurora (Tagalog) 9:15pm; K. G. F.: Chapter 1 (Hindi) 11pm.
The Mall Cinema (2):
Thattum Purath Achuthan (Malayalam) 5:30pm; Simmba (Hindi) 6:30pm; Thattum Purath Achuthan (Malayalam) 8:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (3):
Simmba (Hindi) 2pm; K. G. F.: Chapter 1 (Hindi) 5pm; Backtrace (2D) 7:45pm; Backtrace (2D) 9:30pm.
Landmark Cinema (1):
Simmba (Hindi) 3pm; The Sisters Brothers (2D) 6pm; Simmba (Hindi) 8:30pm; Aurora (Tagalog) 11:30pm.
Landmark Cinema (2):
Simmba (Hindi) 3pm; Mary Poppins Returns (2D) 5:30pm; Aquaman (2D) 8pm; Simmba (Hindi) 10:30pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):
K. G. F.: Chapter 1 (Hindi) 2:30pm; Thattum Purath Achuthan (Malayalam) 3:30pm; K. G. F.: Chapter 1 (Hindi) 8pm; Simmba (Hindi) 11pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):
K. G. F.: Chapter 1 (Hindi) 11pm.
Muslim identity. profound realisations rooted in their exciting adventures that culminate in Together, this intrepid duo embarks on and goofy, with a simple view of the world. Duck is fun-loving with an insatiable appetite for questioning the world around him. The students will discover all details of the Fath Al-Khair journey.

Pakistan Music Fest WHERE: Qatar National Convention Centre. Time: Tomorrow. Strings are about to rock Doha with their nostalgic gigs and all the latest hits. Quratulain Balouch and Ali Sethi will be joining the pop band at Qatar National Convention Centre.

HEC Executive MBA Session WHERE: Tornado Tower, West Bay Time: 5pm – 6:30pm. Learn more about this world-class executive programme. Discover the international diversity of participants, blended learning and international mobility options. Find out how it will help you transform yourself and your career.

The Ilyas and Duck Show WHERE: Qatar National Library WHEN: January 11 Time: 7pm – 8pm. Meet Ilyas and Duck! Ilyas is a typical kid with an insatiable appetite for questioning the world around him. Duck is fun-loving and goofy, with a simple view of the world. Together, this intrepid duo embarks on exciting adventures that culminate in profound realisations rooted in their Muslim identity.

Archives Exhibition WHERE: Qatar National Library WHEN: Ongoing till January 31 Time: 8am – 8pm. 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.

HEC Executive MBA Session WHERE: Tornado Tower, West Bay Time: 5pm – 6:30pm. Learn more about this world-class executive programme. Discover the international diversity of participants, blended learning and international mobility options. Find out how it will help you transform yourself and your career.

Cycling: Losail Circuit Sports Club WHERE: Losail Circuit WHEN: Ongoing Time: 5pm. 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.

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.

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.

Music and Arts Atelier WHERE: Atelierqatar.com WHEN: Ongoing. The lessons will take place every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. For more information, contact registration@atelierqatar.com

The Colour Run WHERE: QNCC 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.

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.

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop WHERE: Saturday – Wednesday Time: 5pm. Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier.

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 13-15 years old. Also, a kid’s duathlon was introduced this year for two age groups 7-9 and 10-12 years old to allow all family members to enjoy the event.

Cycling: Losail Circuit Sports Club WHERE: Losail Circuit WHEN: Ongoing Time: 5pm. 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.

Hobby Classes WHERE: Mystic Arts Centre behind Al Hilal Focus Medical Centre WHEN: Wednesday – Monday. Mystic 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 Carnatic Music, Hindustani Music, Karate, Yoga, Zumba, Classical Dance, Salsa, Hip Hop, contemporary and Bollywood dance forms. For details, call 33897609.

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

GULF TIMES | Tuesday, January 8, 2019
Scientists propose that several freak episodes of global glaciation scoured away miles of continental crust, obliterating a billion years of geologic history in the process.
Around the world, scientists have noticed that the rocks above the Great Unconformity contain obvious fossils, like trilobites and brachiopods, while those below do not.

- Keller and his colleagues hope to convince their peers that the glaciers that crawled across the continents between 720 million and 580 million years ago were responsible for the Great Unconformity.
- Since there are so few rocks from that period, the researchers had to look for other kinds of clues to figure out what happened. They reasoned that the missing layers probably went through the full geologic spin cycle: They would have been broken down into sediment and washed out to sea, then deposited on the ocean floor and recycled into the mantle during subduction before finally melting into the magma that feeds volcanoes.
- If so, a record of this activity should hide in tiny time capsules called zircons. These indestructible crystals grow in magma, and they contain the elements oxygen and hafnium. Oceanic and continental crust have distinct signatures of these elements. Therefore, a huge spike in the amount of recycled continental material should have left a clear chemical signal in zircons that formed at that time — and it did.
- Keller’s team found stark variations in the oxygen and hafnium in zircons, consistent with the continents losing an average of 2 to 3 vertical miles of rock.
- “We are talking about an absolutely a huge amount of crust being eroded,” he said. “In which case, we should have noticed it missing — and we have.”
- The zircons also show that the amount of rock getting recycled ramped up just as Snowball Earth set in, suggesting the two events were connected. If so, this explanation solves the long-standing riddle of why erosion increased so dramatically in so many places at the same time.
- Usually, rocks start to break down in a particular region when a mountain range gets muscled into existence by plate tectonics. But it’s hard to imagine that happening simultaneously on all the continents, Keller said. “Glaciation” — during Snowball Earth, at least — “would apply everywhere.”
- The researchers offer other data to support their hypothesis. They point to the dearth of meteor craters dating back before 700 million years, suggesting these dents got Brillo-ed out in the making of the Great Unconformity. The researchers also highlight the close agreement between their results and records of ancient sea levels, which would have changed as the continents lost rock and bobbed higher in the mantle, the way an unloaded ship rides higher in the water.
- “It’s a really cool and provocative idea,” said Galen Halverson, a geologist at McGill University in Montreal who was not involved in the work.
- Halverson said the researchers have clearly uncovered evidence that something wacky happened at that time in Earth’s history. However, he said other scientists might quibble over whether it really corresponds to the Great Unconformity and whether global glaciation was to blame.
- For instance, it’s not clear that the ice sheets of Snowball Earth could have eaten away so much crust. “If we look at the actual geological record that we have of these glaciations, the sedimentation rates appear to be very, very slow,” he said.
- Marshak agrees that there could be a connection between Snowball Earth and the Great Unconformity but said questions remain about the order of events. He and several colleagues published a study last year suggesting that widespread erosion — caused by the breakup of the supercontinent Rodinia — triggered chemical reactions that drew down atmospheric carbon dioxide, cooling the planet and plunging it into a Snowball Earth state.
- Researchers will have to nail down the timing of erosion and glaciation to see which came first, Marshak said. And, he added, it’s possible that both ideas are correct and multiple forces conspired to create this strange moment in Earth history.
- “It doesn’t mean that it has to be one or the other,” he said.
- What’s clear is that two unusual events occurred around the same time, and a third soon followed: the evolution of complex life, which exploded roughly 540 million years ago.
- Around the world, scientists have noticed that the rocks above the Great Unconformity contain obvious fossils, like trilobites and brachiopods, while those below do not. Many early researchers figured those older fossils had just disappeared with the lost rocks, but now scientists know that no such creatures existed back then. That may be more than a coincidence.
- The Great Unconformity may have set the stage for this transition by providing vast shallow seas where marine life could flourish. And Snowball Earth appears to have bulldozed loads of critical nutrients into the ocean that nourished the diversification of life.
- “It’s just really mixing up the pot in terms of what is possible and what is available,” Keller said. It also goes to show that the planet doesn’t always change slowly and gradually, Marshak said. “There are punctuation points in Earth’s history where things change in new directions,” he said.
- And from that capriciousness came the world — and perhaps life — as we know it.

— Los Angeles Times/TNS
Renowned Urdu writer Dr Salim Akhter passes away

Dr Salim Akhter, 84, renowned writer and scholar, recently passed away in Lahore. He was the recipient of the 18th Aalmi Frogh-e-Urdu Adab Award felicitated by Majlis-e-Frogh-e-Urdu Adab Qatar. He was also a member of Majlis’ Pakistan Jury for more than 15 years. He is survived by his widows, one son and two daughters.

Dr Salim was born in Lahore, on March 11, 1934. He completed his higher education from Fazul Islam School, Rawalpindi in 1953 and got his Bachelor’s degree in 1955 in Library Science from Punjab University. He later on went on to complete his master’s degree in Urdu language. He joined Emerson College Multan in 1962 and after 8 years was transferred to Government Degree College, Lahore. In June 1972, he joined Government College Lahore from where he retired in 1994 as an Associate Professor. He continued teaching there as a visiting professor until August 2005, when he joined the University of Education as a visiting professor. He retired from teaching in 2007.

Salim was fond of writing from his childhood. In Urdu criticism and fiction, his main identity was Psychology. He had written popular books on psychology, including "Teen Budhe Nafsiyatdan" and "Khud Shanasi Dabistan." Salim completed his doctorate from the Punjab University in 1978. His research thesis was "Urdu Niaa Tanzeer ki Nafsiyat Dabistan." A number of students pursuing graduate degrees have written research theses on Dr Salim’s criticism and fictional work. Salim has written more than 100 books on criticism, including "Ghalibiyat," "Iqbaliyat," novellette, fiction, religion, travelogue, satire and humour, psychology, syllabus books, and autobiography. His most popular books to date, include "Urdu Dab Ki Mukhtasar Tareen Tareekh" and "Nishan-e-Jigar Sokhta.

Amar Hasnian, a student at Azhar University Cairo, has written her Masters Thesis on Salim’s personality and novellette "Zabiq Deewar." She also translated the book into Arabic. Well known authors from Pakistan and India have written 9 books on his personality and works. Many of his novels have been translated into different languages, including English, Hindi, Punjabi, Turkish and Assamese.

Salim had been honoured with many awards and titles, including President’s Pride of Performance Award in 2008, Dawood Literary Award for Research and Criticism in 1972, Guild Award for Criticism in 1982 and Bhaarat in 1988, Niaz Fatehpuri Award in 1993, Mohammad Atiq, Chairman of Majlis-e-Frogh-e-Urdu Adab Qatar, describes Salim’s death as a great irreparable loss for Urdu language, literature, Pakistan and Majlis.

Dr Salim Akhter receiving the 18th Aalmi Frogh-e-Urdu Adab Award from Moosa Zainal, then Advisor to Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage Qatar, in November 2014.

TCA Arts organises three-week winter camp

The Creative Academy (TCA) Arts recently conducted a three-week winter camp on its premises. The winter camp featured various activities, including yoga, keyboard and singing sessions, baking, arts, crafts and dance. The closing ceremony of the winter camp was attended by various notable personalities, including Nilangshu Dey, President of Indian Sports Centre; Suma Mahesh, Director of TCA Arts; and Subramanya Hebbagelu.
Texas A&M University at Qatar hosts alumni and university leaders

Texas A&M University at Qatar recently hosted alumni and university leaders to reconnect and discuss various aspects of student and alumni success. Mariam al-Meer, a graduate in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M in 2012 who is now a Commercial Advisor at Qatar Shell, said, “Thank you to Texas A&M at Qatar for this opportunity to reconnect with the university and other graduates. I really enjoyed connecting with former students and university faculty and staff. I am always proud to be a Texas A&M at Qatar graduate.”

PISQ celebrates the Independence Day of Sudan

Pakistan International School Qatar recently celebrated the Independence Day of Sudan to show their solidarity with Sudanese students studying at PISQ. A special assembly was organised in Senior Girls Wing. The event was attended by Afshan Shahid, Vice Principal of Senior Girls Wing. The event was organised and conducted by the Team of iEARN Qatar Project ‘Get to Know Others’. The event kicked off with the unfurling of the Sudani flag, which was followed by presentations by different students about the Independence Day of Sudan, its history, and different cultural aspects of the country, including traditional cuisine, festivals and diversity. The event was concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony by Aftab Hashmi, Project In-Charge at iEARN, along with the Vice Principal and Sudanese students, which was followed by Pakistan and Sudan’s national anthems.

KEF organises Kerala Champions League Season 3

Keralite Engineers Forum (KEF) recently organised Kerala Champions League Season 3 at Old Ideal Indian School grounds. The championship was won by Vision Group Team in a nail-biting final match against Tuskers XI Team. The tournament was sponsored by Zaitoon Restaurant. The partners of the tournament included 98.6 FM, Radio partner; Winners Gym, gym partner; and ITL World, travel partner. Other sponsors of the event included DGrill, Sports Line, Becon, Brooks Café and Digital Store. The winning trophy along with the cash prize of QR9,000 was handed over to Vision Group Team by Safeer, Director of Zaitoon Restaurant. The runners up team was also felicitated with a trophy and a cash prize of QR6,000. The Man of the Series was awarded with a return ticket to India. The players who were felicitated at the prize distribution ceremony included Bipin, from Tusker Team, Man of the Match Semi-final I; Buhari, from Vision Group Team, Man of the Match Semi-final II; Nishad, from Vision Group Team, Man of the Match Final; Buhari, from Vision Group Team, Best Bowler; Thoufeeq, from Vision Group Team, Best Batsman; and Bipin, from Tusker Team, Man of the Series. Captain Jamsheer co-ordinated the tournament. While speaking on the occasion, he thanked all the supporters and confirmed that in the coming years the tournament will become the harbinger of cricket tournaments in Qatar.
In 2014, 32,719 people were killed and 2.3 million injured in automobile accidents in US. It isn’t just other people who are the problem; we are too.
Learning the elegance and grace of Tango dance

By Mudassir Raja

Doha Tango Community (DTC) is all set to organise a 10-day long Tango workshop for those who enjoy the dance form at B Attitude Spa Studio, end of this month. The workshop will be conducted by Fernanda Grosso and Aalejandro Ferreyra, a tango artiste couple from Argentina. The world renowned couple will present their tango performance and will take others on a journey of classic steps and body movements.

In Tango dance, it’s all about elegance and grace and how swiftly you carry your body.

“It is inseparable from its social reality, as tango was created in the first half of the 19th century in Argentina and Uruguay. At the beginning, it was an expression of popular culture, while it shortly became a real artistic expression, later turning into national music. The dance derives from the Cuban habanera, the Argentine milonga and candombe, and is said to contain elements from the African community in Buenos Aires, influenced both by ancient African rhythms and the music from Europe. By 1912, the first European tango craze took place in Paris, soon followed by London, Berlin and other parts of the world,” said Anil Kumar, who is founding member of DTC, while giving a brief history of the dance.

Talking about the upcoming event, Kumar said, “For 2019, as a community, we are hoping to have more tango activities and social gatherings in Doha. The workshop by Fernanda Grosso and Aalejandro Ferreyra will be our first international event in 2019. The workshop will offer a much requested opportunity for the tango loving expatriates in Doha.”

About the artistes, Kumar said, “Fernanda Grosso and Aalejandro Ferreyra are kind people and great teachers, who are travelling around the world since their young age to give people an insight to the dance form. They have been sharing their tango passion with other people and have so far visited more than 30 countries. They will be in Doha for the event called Tango Desire. It will be open for general public to understand and enjoy the culture of tango in Argentina.”

Speaking about TCD, Kumar said, “I founded the group to provide a platform for all the tango admirers to get together and enjoy the music and dance form. We have about 50 active members. We’re not very huge in number; however there is diversity as the members belong to different expatriate countries, including South America, US, Europe and Asia. We meet at least once a week, every Saturday, to have tango parties where we dance in pairs to traditional South American music.”

He added, “Our platform is not only for the enthusiasts to practice tango, it also provides an opportunity to socialise. We also organise different workshops on tango. We have been inviting tango teachers and choreographers mainly from Argentina, Italy, and France.”

“As a community, we are lucky to have the support of Embassy of Argentina in Doha. The encouragement from the embassy keeps us pushing to spread the love and passion of the dance form.”

Speaking about the most recent activities of the tango community, Kumar said, “In last November, we had a big tango festival in Doha. Organised at Intercontinental Doha the City, 6th International Tango Festival was a success. The event was amazing and attracted over 250 participants from across the world in Doha.”

“Malvina Gili and Sebastian Zanchez, from Argentina, Esref Tekinalp and Vanessa Gauch, pre-eminent choreographers from Turkey, and Utku Kuley and Ris Basak Dogdu performed at the festival. The exalted performance by the three couples enthralled the participants of the festival. The couples also attend numerous workshops during the festival and they taught basic lessons about the traditional tango dance.”

The organiser further said, “In the coming months, our group is planning to hold a big tango event where famous tango dancers will be invited. We are planning one such event in April this year.”
Sun Exposure Causes Skin Aging

Did you know? Up to 90% of the visible changes commonly attributed to aging are caused by the sun.

1. Apply sunscreen 15 to 30 minutes prior to going outdoors.
2. Don't forget the commonly missed spots, like ears, hands and feet.
3. Use sunscreen in any type of weather? Yes, even winter months.
4. Reapply if you sweat or get wet.
5. Reapply every 2 hours.
6. Avoid sun exposure between 10am and 4pm.
7. Be aware and avoid reflective surfaces like concrete, water, and sand.

When the sun’s rays are the most powerful.
Ways to revamp your closet

The year 2019 will be a season of contrasts as all the previous fashion rules will be broken. Untraditional aesthetics will take the spotlight, menswear and women’s wear will shift through global cultures and comfort will be the key.


Upcoming trends: This year, oversized, unstructured outerwear will rule the trend. From classic and fitted to unstructured and modern, tracksuits will become a major fashion staple. The trousers will become baggier as hemlines will get wider. This season’s twist comes in the pastel pile-up head-to-toe in layers and tiers upon tiers of same shade. Be it apparel, shoes or bags, this trend will work well in all cases. In accessories, statement belts will be seen everywhere.

Untraditional aesthetics: Following are some of the untraditional aesthetic trends that would be the talk of the town for the coming year. Like heat lock apparels which are lightweight fabrics with micro fibre to regulate the body temperature. Aqua sorb apparels which block rain & snow and allow vapours to dry the heat.

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**Aries**
March 21 — April 19

There may be some serious miscommunication today, so be honest in all your dealings, Aries. Be as straightforward as possible, since issues can backfire if the truth is clouded. Honesty is invaluable and must be maintained at all times. You have the power to make a lasting impression on people. Cult your tendency to snap at others. Watch out for accidents involving fire or metal.

**Taurus**
April 20 — May 20

You may not be sure what to think today, Taurus. Mental confusion could be the day’s theme for you, but don’t let it get you down. Realise that it’s just one of those days when none of the pieces fit right. The truth is that they do fit somewhere, just not now. Lay low and wait for this phase to pass. Things will pick up soon as the fog lifts and you can see clearly again.

**Gemini**
May 21 — June 20

Spiritual concerns are a bigger issue for you today, Gemini. You may have found that you’re drawn to a fanciful mindset and unorthodox way of viewing the world. Pursue this realm of thought and trust that your intuition knows exactly where to take you. Emotional tension may run high, so try not to get down on other people’s “me first” attitude.

**Cancer**
June 21 — July 22

Does it seem like your life is pulling apart at the seams, Cancer? Perhaps it’s time to re-evaluate. Major aspects of your being could be coming into question and you can’t seem to find the answer to why you started down this road in the first place. Have confidence in yourself and your incredible ability to cut to the core of every matter. This is just a phase and you’re able to work through it.

**Leo**
July 23 – August 22

There’s an extra bit of fire in your words and emotions today, Leo. Your sensitivity is heightened and you should consider doing some sort of volunteer work now. You may talk about saving the world, but talk will get you nowhere until you put those ideas into practice. Take part in the lives of people who are less fortunate and seek the truth in all the issues you encounter.

**Virgo**
August 23 – September 22

There may be serious challenges in your daily routine today, Virgo. How can you organise your day more efficiently? Take time to set a plan into motion. Write it down. You may want to drift into another realm, so let those emotions roam free – just make sure you deal with your daily tasks first. This will give you more freedom to take advantage of the blast of creative power that you have now.

**Libra**
September 23 – October 22

You may feel idealistic today, Libra. This is fine, but make sure these ideals are rooted in reality or they may be nothing more than a pipe dream. Feel free to escape to another mindset, but make sure you can still discern what’s real and what isn’t. This is a formative time for you in which you realise that the conventional ways of doing things aren’t working anymore. Spread the word.

**Scorpio**
October 23 – November 21

Your dreams and fantasies are more real than you know, Scorpio. Smile at the people you pass and watch them smile back. Your sensitive and fun-loving nature is infectious. Use it to help heal others’ wounds. Laughter is the remedy that cures all. Be conscious of your tremendous effect on others and spread the beauty that lives inside you.

**Capricorn**
December 22 – January 19

You may be going through a confusing period now, Capricorn. Today’s energy brings these issues into focus. Parts of your life seem to be slipping you in the face, indicating that a drastic life change is coming. Resist the urge to play the victim and let other people grab the reins simply because they act more confidently. This is your life and only you know what’s best for you.

**Aquarius**
January 20 – February 18

Spiritual concerns and fanciful daydreams move into sharp focus today, Aquarius. Perhaps you’re pulled by playful emotions and escapism. Keep one foot on the ground while you send your mind into the clouds, but definitely take time to check the air up there and report your findings to your conscious self. You may feel a greater sensitivity toward others now while your intuition is strong.

**Sagittarius**
November 22 – December 21

Your sensitivity is especially heightened today, Sagittarius. You’re in tune with your emotions and more sensitive to your dreams. Realise the importance of friendship and show someone you care by initiating an outing or dinner at your home. You have greater self-awareness, as well as the energy to get things done. Fantasy worlds may come to life if you let them. Watch out for overindulgence.

**Pisces**
February 19 – March 20

Have you taken someone for granted lately? Today you should give them the thanks and attention they deserve. Pisces. Your sensitivity and psychic awareness are especially strong. You aren’t in the mood to put up with superficialities. Stick with what it real and say it like it is. Tension in your daily life may surface, but if you have things under control, you will ride through it just fine.
Wordsearch

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

San

ANDREAS  FERNANDO  MIGUEL
ANGELO   FRANCISCO  PEDRO
ANTONIO  JOSE  RAFAEL
BERNARDINO  JUAN  SALVADOR
CARLOS   LUIS  SEBASTIAN
CRISTOBAL  MARINO  SIMEON
DIEGO   MATEO

Codeword

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

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Sudoku

3 8 9 7
3 4 6 3
1 5 7 2
3 2 9 8
7 9 5 6
1 2 6 1
5 6 1 5
6 5 1

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is divided into nine 3x3 boxes. You are given a selection of numbers and must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains each number once and only once.

Codeword

Do you ever get lonely in there, fish? Sometimes. There used to be a second fish in here, but they found him floating upside down and flushed him down the toilet.

You have to be careful what you say to others. You never know when they might be the last words you say to them. And then you're left feeling guilty.

Why, what were your last words to that other fish?

“PLAY DEAD”

Adam

How you really took a digger.

Getting healthy is hard, son.

But it's a noble cause, okay?

I'm beat, but not broken, I tell you. I will rise and conquer this.

Like a raccoon that got a bad nose job.

Fetch me the broccoli florets. My peas are squishy.

Pooch Cafe

Garfield

Bound And Gagged

Cats are the smartest beings in the world.

Not that the competition is all that tough.

So, how long did you drive for the Tonka company?
Super Cryptic Clues

ACROSS:
1. The word 'sly' I slurried, in a sleepy way (8)
5. It's difficult to hide the directory and it's dangerous (6)
10. One almost as lovely as the other? (6,4,5)
11. The sot bashed in the vehicle's wheels (7)
12. Not knowing the girl has something to sell (7)
13. The stones outside, it shakes (8)
15. Try to get time to repair the seat (5)
18. Chuck something black at? (5)
20. Stand while a chum catches the runaway steed (8)
23. Made runs and gets run out, which is unusual (7)
24. Marian (7)
25. He plays ball and gets rid of the undesirables (7)
26. With all below, particularly (5,10)
27. Pass round and see in trouble outside (6)
28. An agreement there's nothing wrong with? (3,5)

DOWN:
1. Show to have wrongly cited the president in it (6)
2. A failure to notice the clear indication of unhappiness in it (9)
3. Prepared to oust in some way, embarks on it (4,3)
4. Bring back half a pound of fruit (5)
5. Insistent the man meant me to leave (7)
6. Doubly a fool to enter her name (9)
7. Made the bed lower (8)
8. With the blinking dog unleashed, cased the exterior (8)
9. Having a rear light? (3-5)
10. Trying to find in the burning church (9)
11. The killers that took one's clothes (7)
12. The rest fluttered round the cabin in the shade (7)
13. Being right in the melee gives one a scare (6)
14. Bother! The hour is up, miss! (5)
15. The girl with the instrument has the key raised (5)

Colouring

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword

Yesterday's Solutions

ACROSS:
1. Strapped 5
2. Adults 9
3. Acrostic 10
4. Letter 12
5. Minims 13
6. Prospect 19
7. On the warpath 18
8. Sigmund Freud
9. Outgrown 24
10. Marian 26
11. Prodigious 28
12. Strays 29
13. Heedless

DOWN:
1. Swarms 2
2. Reruns 3
3. Postman 4
4. Eric 6
5. Dresser 7
6. Lutheran 8
7. Scratchy 11
8. drawers 14
9. Shadows 16
10. Espouses 17
11. Agitator 19
12. Unready 20
13. Unaided 21
14. Single 22
15. Angles 25
16. Cree
Kodak’s Dying To Live shoots to pole position

By Geoffrey Rowlands

upper Kodak Black has had more incarcerations than hit records. The Florida-born star enjoyed Christmas atop the Billboard 200 with his new album, Dying To Live. But, he might easily have spent the holiday season in jail. He was only freed from his latest prison sentence this past August. It is beyond belief that any man who has the chart success of Kodak Black should continue to become involved in so much criminal activity. He did once offer the explanation that “there is just too much ‘hood in me.”

Born as Dieuson Octave to Haitian migrant parents, Kodak Black grew up in Pompano Beach’s Golden Acres Development, a grandiose name for an area which was once described by a police attorney as “akin to living in hell.” Violence and drugs were part of Dieuson’s life from an early age. His father, who has several children by other women, was never around. He had no positive male role model.

He began rapping while in elementary school. What role models he had were the older boys who rapped. They invited young Dieuson, by now calling himself Black, to the local trap house. Along with all the drug production and sales, the trap house had a microphone and computer which rappers could use to record their material.

He was also at the beginning of his arrest record. He admits to having been in brawls virtually every day and joined friends on breaking and entering expeditions. During one year, he was placed into youth detention on three separate occasions. He got into so much trouble at school that there was a time when no local school would accept him as a pupil.

It was music which provided his salvation. Now 23, he was 12 when he joined a rap crew called Brutal Youngz under the name of J-Black. He moved on to another rap group, The Koloyons, before adopting Kodak Black as his stage name, going solo and releasing his debut mixtape, Project Baby, in December, 2013. The following December saw him release a second mixtape, Heart of the Projects, while his third mixtape, Institution, was issued in December, 2015. Despite these mixtapes achieving no chart success, Kodak Black was attracting interest from major labels. He signed a deal with Atlantic Records. It came not a moment too soon. Facing a possible lengthy prison sentence for yet another criminal offense, his fate was alleviated by way of a kind-hearted judge listening to the entreaty of an Atlantic executive who said Kodak Black had a bright future in the music business.

His breakthrough came in March, 2017. The track, Tunnel Vision, became his first big hit single. It peaked at number six on Billboard’s Hot 100 and laid the groundwork for his debut album, Painting Pictures. This hit number three on the Billboard 200 and number two on the Top R&B / Hip Hop Albums chart.

“I wasn’t surprised,” he remarked. “My mother always said I was the chosen one. I just kept grinding. I was always going to be rich. I knew my music would get me to where I am today.”

Later in 2017, another mixtape, Project Baby 2, confirmed Kodak Black’s ever increasing popularity. It reached number two on the Billboard 200 and became his first number one on both the Top R&B / Hip Hop Albums and Top Rap Albums charts. Sales might have been even better had he been able to properly promote the mixtape. At the time, he was under house arrest.

It was during his most recent spell in jail that he decided to legally change his name. Rather than Dieuson Octave, his real name is now Bill K. Kapri. The name change was part of a good day. He had been arrested on charges of child neglect, possession of marijuana, grand theft of a firearm and two counts of possession of a weapon by a felon. Three of these charges were dismissed.

“I regarded changing my name as representing a fresh start for me. I wanted to take things day by day and improve my life.”

While in prison, he had released another mixtape, Heart Break Kodak, which featured him singing as well as rapping. This did not fare quite so well reaching number 25 on the Billboard 200. But this blip in his career progression was attributed to lack of promotion for the mixtape.

This conclusion was confirmed by the response to Dying To Live. The single, Zeze, hit number two on Billboard’s Hot 100 and topped the Canadian chart prior to the album being released. Dying To Live then shot straight to pole position on the Billboard 200, Top R&B / Hip Hop Albums and Top Rap Albums charts.

It remains to be seen if this chart success, coupled with his stated desire to make a fresh start in his life, will keep Kodak Black on the right side of the law. Similar thoughts were expressed more than three years ago on If You Ain’t Ridin’, a track from his Institution mixtape. Part of the lyric was I ain’t goin’ back to jail, no more thuggin’, I swear. He has seen the world from behind bars on all too many days since then. Let us hope it will be a different story in the future.
Golden Globes 2019 celebrates diversity

From Egyptian-American star Rami Malek winning the top honour to a film about the relationship between an African-American pianist and his Italian-American driver Green Book scooping away multiple trophies and Sandra Oh making history for Asians — the 76th annual Golden Globes ceremony celebrated the power of diversity, and was devoid of any political comment.

“I said ‘yes’ to the fear of being on this stage tonight because — I wanted to be here to look out into this audience and witness this moment of change,” Sandra Oh said while opening the award gala with Andy Samberg.

Oh, who herself became the first Asian host of the Golden Globe Awards and the first woman of Asian descent to win multiple Golden Globes supported with her win of Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series — Drama trophy for Killing Eve, was referring to the most diverse slates of nominees in the history of the awards.

The night turned out to be an eventful affair for people of colour as they took home the top awards. Freddie Mercury’s biopic Bohemian Rhapsody and the fact-based comedy Green Book won top honours.

While Malek took home the Golden Globe in Best Actor in a Motion Picture, Drama category for tracing the life of late Queen singer Freddie Mercury in Bohemian Rhapsody, the film — which explores the rise of the band with a focus on Mercury’s personal life and the way he dealt with his fame — emerged as the Best Motion Picture, Drama.

The diversity extended to the stories which unfolded on the screen. Green Book won Best Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy, Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, which follows African-American/Puerto Rican Brooklyn teen Miles Morales as Spider-Man, was named Best Animated Feature film. Mahershala Ali won Best Actor in a Supporting Role in any Motion Picture trophy for Green Book.

However, Green Book scored a twin win — for the Best Foreign Language Film Award and Best Original Score — which was aired in India on Colors Infi nity, Vh1 and Comedy Central.

“This year’s awards ceremony also marked the debut of Carol Burnett Award — a Lifetime Achievement Award for distinguished work in television by an actress in her career. Comedy icon Carol Burnett, who has made the audience laugh for decades altogether, became the eponymous award’s inaugural recipient. – IANS

“I am so enormously proud to be a tiny, tiny part of that as the son of a firecracker Filipino woman from Cebu that dreamed of coming to this country and getting to be invited to cool parties like this,” Criss added.

Girl power, women empowerment and the need to stand with one another were other themes which kept the spark of activism at the ceremony ignited. A slew of celebrities also flaunted new “Time’s Up x2” wristbands and ribbons in support of the movement.

Actress Regina King accepted the statuette in Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role category for If Beale Street Could Talk with a promise to produce projects with 50 per cent women.

In an evening in which inclusion and representation were frequently brought up in speeches, actress Glenn Close, while accepting the Best Actress in a Motion Picture, Drama category for her role in The Wife, urged women to chase dreams.

“We have to follow our dreams. We have to say, ‘I can do that and I should be allowed to do that,’” she said in a speech which earned the loudest applause at the ceremony that honours the best of films and television.

This year’s awards ceremony also marked the debut of Carol Burnett Award — a Lifetime Achievement Award in Television recognition. Comedy icon Carol Burnett, who has made the audience laugh for decades altogether, became the eponymous award’s inaugural recipient. – IANS

Outing: Aamir with daughter Ira

Getting back into shape for my next film: Aamir Khan

Actor Aamir Khan, who keeps altering his looks according to what his films demand, says he is now on a strict diet to get in shape for a project.

Aamir interacted with the media at a Sunday brunch at Mia Cucina in Mumbai.

Asked about how his usual Sunday brunch, he said: “Earlier, I used to do so many things but now I am on very strict diet for my new film. So, I have started getting back into shape.”

Refusing to disclose the name of the film for which he has started training, Aamir said: “I cannot tell you which one it is but it’s for my new film.”

He was out for a brunch with his daughter Ira Khan.

Aamir’s last big screen appearance was in Thugs Of Hindostan. – IANS

Bipasha turns 40, Karan says she makes his life complete

On actress Bipasha Basu’s 40th birthday, her husband and actor Karan Singh Grover took to social media and shared a heart-warming message thanking her for making his life beautiful and complete.

Karan tweeted on Sunday night: “It’s the best day of the year again! Happy birthday my love Bipasha. Thank you for being born and making my life so beautiful and complete!”

The Raaz actress took to her Instagram account where she shared a video of herself blowing the candles.

She captioned the video: “I love my birthdays. I live this awesome life full of love, thanks to this day. Well all the emotions do kick in on my birthday... but the focus continues to stay on the cakes and the biriyani(frice). It’s a ritual.” – IANS

Lovebirds: Bipasha Basu with husband Karan Singh Grover

Winner: Sandra Oh poses in the press room during the 76th Annual Golden Globe Awards at The Beverly Hilton Hotel

Best Actor: Best Actor in a Motion Picture Drama for Bohemian Rhapsody winner Rami Malek, centre, flanked by Brian May and Roger Taylor of Queen.
A career in cinematography

By Mirza Ufaq Zehra

Rizwan Aarif, a young South Indian boy who studied in Doha, was like any other average student until he decided to drop out from school. Books were not his cup of tea, so he was never serious about his studies. His mother wanted him to become an engineer because he was good in mathematics, but he neither wanted to do engineering nor medicine. After completing his 10th grade, Rizwan had to fight with his parents to opt for commerce.

"With time, I realised that commerce was just like other subjects. I was not able to do anything creative, so I started losing my interest and I could not perform well in exams," said Aarif.

His mother suggested that he leave the subject and take up science next academic year. The idea of dropping out from school seemed so exciting that he didn’t pay much heed to her other offer which was rejoining school as a science student next year. He stopped going to school and started going out with friends on a daily basis.

In the meantime, Aarif met some people who shared similar interests in photography and making short films.

Aarif and his friend came across a 72-hour film making competition in Doha Film Institution. He made his first film A Drop of Light and won the best film award. The success gave him a boost and he started learning and exploring more about it and finally decided to have a career in film making. Eventually, he gained the confidence to speak about his career choice to his parents but it was instantly rejected. His parents started pestering him to return to school but he always refused. Left with no other option, in late 2015, he was sent to India for further studies immediately.

“My parents got me enrolled in an engineering diploma course so that later I could enter engineering. They just wanted me to join engineering at any cost,” said Aarif.

In India, Aarif started meeting new people who shared similar interests. “I would often meet people of different cultures and traditions and learn different things from them, which I could never learn in any of my text books,” Aarif pointed out.

He would often carry a camera with him and started clicking more and more pictures. His passion for photography increased but that had an impact on his studies.

Aarif’s college performance was low and he failed in semester exams. He started discussing photography with his teacher and he would often show his pictures to him. Impressed by his work, his teacher advised him to continue his passion and leave engineering. He left the course to concentrate on photography.

“I was all alone in this and seen as somebody who would bring shame to his family. I was being rebuked every now and then, but I didn’t lose hope and kept going on. One day, I couldn’t take it and I left home and then joined a 3 months certification course in cinematography,” said Aarif.

After completing his course, he got a job in a media channel as an assistant camera person and then worked as a corporate cinematographer in a corporate film. Few months later he moved on to an advertisement company and started making films.

Things slowly started changing and he could see his dreams changing into reality. He got a chance to experiment with a lot of things and learn from various experts in the field.

“I had a dream of going to the UK and learn film making there but money was the main issue since I left home I stopped getting money from them. I started working hard and made a good portfolio to apply in universities in the UK and luckily in September 2017, I got admission with a scholarship in Bachelors of Arts in Film Production from University of Central Lancashire, UK," Aarif said with a smile.

He is currently working with BBC for a travel documentary.

Aarif, who is only 21, has travelled to over 40 countries. Presently, he is pursuing his B.A and also working on a number of projects. He was selected for BBC cinematography master class, travelled and shot with them on an Asian Europe culture change documentary during his first year of university. He narrowly escaped death during one of these trips, which left a deep scar on his face.

“When I went to Poland with BBC, I had an adventurous drive on the top of the mountains which ended up in an accident. The vehicle turned upside down and I fell from it on the rock hanging, which actually saved me," recalled Aarif.

He did a feature film with LUX films, an Italian film production company and an Irish music company for their music video and signed to work as a director of photography for a feature film produced by University Film School in 2015.

Adding more to his success, he has recently been nominated for 2019 National Geographic award for ‘Young Explorer’ under Asian Category.

When asked if he had a message for youngsters, he said, “I lived for present and found my path after many hurdles and obstacles without giving up. People should dare to dream and never fear about failures in its pursuance. Do not follow the crowd and do something what you love to do and that will lead you to a better and happy life."