Community

The Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka-Qatar Chapter organises its 5th Annual General Meeting.

P6

Community

British artist and educator Shahida Ahmed inspires Pakistani women with art and motivating words.

P16

COVER STORY

Despite no formal training, Shehla Khalid Khan is so adept at art that she has even turned in masterclasses on cue. P4-5

India cinema should end censorship: Gopalakrishnan. Page 14

Diverse mix of winners at Sundance Film Festival. Page 15
USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency 999
Worldwide Emergency Number 112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water 991
Local Directory 180
International Calls Enquiries 150
Hamad International Airport 40106666
Labor Department 44406537
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888
Qatar Airways 44466405
Hamad Medical Corporation 44592222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44594050
Qatar News Agency 44450205
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444

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

PRAYER TIME

Fajr 4.58am
Shoroq (sunrise) 6.16am
Zuhur (noon) 11.48am
Ajr (afternoon) 6.57pm
Maghreb (sunset) 5.22pm
Isha (night) 6.52pm

MINUSCULE - Mandibles From Far Away
DIRECTION: Hélène Giraud, Thomas Szabo
CAST: Bruno Salomone, Thierry Frémont, Stéphane Coulon
SYNOPSIS: When a young ladybug gets trapped in a cardboard box shipped to the Caribbean, his father sets off for Guadeloupe to rescue him and save others from a human construction site.

THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall

Njan Prakashan
DIRECTION: Sathyan Anthikad
CAST: Fahadh Faasil, Sreenivasan, Nikhila Vimal
SYNOPSIS: Prakashan is a Malayali man who aspires to lead a luxurious life without too much effort. As he tries to achieve this, a few insignificant figures changes his life.

THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza

Quote Unquote

“Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose.”
— Lyndon B Johnson

The Mall Cinema (1):
Manikarnika (Hindi) 2pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 4:45pm; Destroyer (2D) 7:15pm; Nadi Elregal Elserri (Arabic) 9:30pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (2):
Manikarnika (Hindi) 2:15pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 4:45pm; The Girl In The Orange Dress (Tagalog) 7:30pm; Replicas (2D) 9:30pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (3):
Sarvam Thaalamayam (Tamil) 2:15pm; The Kid Who Would Be King (2D) 4:45pm; Replicas (2D) 7pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 9pm.

Landmark Cinema (1):
Manikarnika (Hindi) 2:30pm; Sarvam Thaalamayam (Tamil) 5:30pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 8:15pm; Manikarnika (Hindi) 11pm.

Landmark Cinema (2):
Vantha Rajavathaan Varuven (Tamil) 11:30pm; Minuscule: Mandibles From Far Away (2D) 2:15pm; Replicas (2D) 6:30pm; Vantha Rajavathaan Varuven (Tamil) 8:30pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 11:15pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):
Vantha Rajavathaan Varuven (Tamil) 3pm; Manikarnika (Hindi) 5:45pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 8:30pm; Vantha Rajavathaan Varuven (Tamil) 11:15pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):
Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 2:30pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 5:15pm; Replicas (2D) 7pm; Destroyer (2D) 9pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 11:15pm.
Baladna Cultural Festival
WHERE: Baladna Park
WHEN: Ongoing 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 of February and will
include food, dance shows, entertainment
and cultural handicrafts from across the
world. For further information 44246000.

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 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.

The Rodeo Doha
WHERE: Sheraton Grand Doha Resort
         and Convention Hotel
WHEN: February 7 – 8
TIME: 6pm – 12am
Where the Middle East meets the Wild
West. For the first time ever in Qatar,
experience the biggest Wild West Party
featuring bull riding, authentic cowboy
food and drinks. Entrance Fee is QR100.

PECS Level 1 Certified Workshop
WHERE: Doha College
WHEN: Ongoing till February 13
TIME: 8am – 3 pm
PECS (Picture Exchange Communication Systems) training workshop is available
in Doha on March 18th and 19th 2019. This amazing opportunity to provide
parents and professionals the chance to get certified in PECS Level 1 is brought
to you by Mind Institute in collaboration with The Pyramid Educational Consultants
and Doha College. To register, visit www.
mindinstitutes.com Registration closes on February 13. For more information
44181968.

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.

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop
WHEN: Saturday – Wednesday
TIME: 8pm
Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of
Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier.
The lessons will take place every
Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at
6pm. For more information, contact
registration@atelierqatar.com

After School Activities
WHERE: Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
Music and arts activities for students
taking place after they finish their day in
school includes Group Music lessons, Hip-
hop, Ballet, Drawing and Painting, Drama
Theatre & Taekwondo. Ages between 5 and
10 years old after school hours.

Mehaseel Festival
WHERE: Katara Cultural Village
WHEN: Ongoing till March 31
Mehaseel Souq will be open every
Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 31st of
March. It is a perfect market to get amazing
local fresh produce.

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

 rounded & about
“A true artist is not one who is inspired, but one who inspires others”

— Shehla Khalid Khan, Doha-based artist

FAVOURITE WORK: Shehla Khalid Khan says 'The Great King' is her favourite work. It follows the marble base abstract technique.

Photos by Jayan Orma
Community Report

Shehla Khalid Khan was perhaps, born with the gift. She used to draw sketches and portraits as a child on any medium she could find — from walls to paper, wood, logs and floors. Her talent and passion for aesthetically showcasing the world through her art has never dissipated.

Despite the lack of formal training, Shehla feels art is in her blood and you can see that in her works. Her love and appreciation for Qatar is abundantly reflected in her art.

Besides commissioned work, Shehla is active in the art community in Qatar. A member of MAPS Qatar, she gives master classes at Qatar International Art Festival and participates in live painting shows at Doha Fire Station, Katara and Qatar Foundation.

In a freewheeling interview, Shehla delves into her boundless first love. Excerpts:

Tell us a bit about yourself

I am a self-taught artist from Pakistan. I did my graduation from Wah Cantonment, a military city in the Punjab province. I got married to Khalid Jahangir Khan in December 2009 and moved to Qatar with him. Since then, I am residing here. We have three children.

I have been interested in art since childhood but never received any formal education in it. I remember drawing sketches, portraits etc. on walls, paper, wood, logs, floors etc. I was very good at sketching.

My skills improved with the passage of time and I continued sketching at home and participating in art competitions at college and always got first position.

But I took a hiatus of four years following my marriage and having kids. After the break, the first sketch I made was of my husband — it was really appreciated by everyone. I began to regularly paint at home and tried many mediums. My husband was a pillar of strength all along.

I am a member of MAPS Qatar and my art journey as a visual artist started with it.

How do you relate to art? What best describes the medium?

To me, art is a colourful expression of ideas, thoughts, imagination. The language of art has no barriers. I use different mediums like oil acrylic, water colours and mix media but I love acrylic the most.

What genre of art do you practice and what — or who — inspired you to get into it?

A true artist is not one who is inspired, but one who inspires others.

I love to paint — it’s my passion, colours my inspiration. I fancied realism and started with it but I always wanted to create something different and unique. In my leisure, I love to experiment with colours and also watch art work videos. I have seen marbling art and fluid art designs that look very interesting and relaxing. I tried both works on the same canvas because I didn’t have marble art materials so I tried these techniques with fluid art and created beautiful designs. My first painting for the exhibition was also in fluid art and got much appreciation. Then, I added more ideas to my repertoire and created so many unique pieces.

What themes appeal the most to you and where do you get the inspiration to get down to work?

After my marriage, I’ve spent around 10 years in Qatar. Arab life and culture has always fascinated me. My major interest is nature and my surroundings. I love Qatar and so you can see its reflection in my art. I don’t do art along a specific theme; I paint whatever attracts me.

What do you consider to be your best work and why?

I like all my work but perhaps, “The Great King” takes the cake. I displayed it in my first ever exhibition at Katara. It is my first art work that follows the marble base abstract technique and it was widely applauded.

Have you exhibited your art works? Do you sell art?

I have exhibited my art works many times. My next exhibition is going to be held at Katara on Monday (today). It is a group exhibition of four Pakistani artists and I am leading the group. I have sold many paintings and also commission work at home.

Tell us about an interesting anecdote from your life that brings a smile, a tear or just fond remembrance.

When I got the chance to exhibit my work the first time at Katara, every artist was allowed to display only one art work but they allowed me to bring two and both were showcased up front at the gallery. The second was when I was amongst the six artists selected from a pool of 147 to give master class at the Qatar International Art Festival.

The end of 2018 was the best time of my life. I have done three live painting shows at Doha Fire Station, Katara and Qatar Foundation and these all make for good memories.

What is the most important life lesson that you think held you in good stead, and would probably everyone else?

Never depend on anyone — if you set high goals, you should have focus and courage to achieve these.
IESL-QC organises annual meeting

The Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka-Qatar Chapter (IESL-QC) recently organised its 5th Annual General Meeting at Concorde Hotel, Professor Ajantha Dharmasiri, Director and Chairman of the Postgraduate Institution of Management University Sri Jayawardenepura and President of the Institute of Personnel Management (IPM) was the chief guest at the event. Jagath Gunasekara, outgoing chairman of IESL-QC, welcomed the gathering. A video presentation ‘A flashback of Qatar Chapter last year,’ prepared by Shakeel Badurdeen, was also showcased on the occasion. Kamil Ariff, Chairman IESL-QC, also addressed the gathering. A financial report for the past year was presented by Mohamed Irfan, Treasurer at IESL-QC. Speaking on the occasion Ajantha Dharmasiri highlighted the 3Ps of motivation, including purpose, passion and performance. Prabuddha Lokuliyange, Secretary at IESL-QC, proposed a vote of thanks. The newly elected executive committee of IESL-QC, include Kamil Ariff, Chairman, Prabuddha Lokuliyange, Secretary, Prasanna Jainakasiri, Vice Chairman Irfan Mohamed, Treasurer, and Manoj Veliyapillai, Editor. Other committee members, include Asoka Jayalath, Chanaka Guruge, Amila Mapa, Mahesh Ratnayake and Mohamed Fazil.

Doha College becomes a member of IAPS

Doha College has recently become a member of the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS), a renowned organisation of the world’s leading preparatory schools. “We are delighted that another prestigious international school has joined IAPS,” said Christopher King, Chief Executive of IAPS. “Although each of our schools is independent and has its own ethos, they are all committed to delivering an excellent, well-rounded education to the pupils in their care. We are very pleased to welcome Doha College as a new member,” he added.

Grant Gillies, Head Teacher at Doha College Primary, said, “We are thrilled to be part of the Independent Association Prep Schools (IAPS). It demonstrates our commitment to ‘Excellence For All, Excellence From All’ and extends the associations we have with the top independent schools around the world. Over 700 of the very best schools are part of IAPS, and membership is dependent on a range of very strict criteria. At Doha College, we continue to lead innovation in education, and it is excellent to develop wider networks. The range of support offered will ensure our amazing school continues to grow in both strength and stature.”

OIS organises special assembly

Olive International School (OIS) recently organised a special assembly for the students of Grade-I. The assembly kicked off with a prayer, which was followed by news reading segment. Glenwin Babu, class teacher of Grade-I, also spoke on the occasion, which was followed by a thematic skit on the negative impact of social media. Geetha, Vice Principal at OIS, along with Indrani, Co-ordinator at OIS, and Kanishka, Assistant Co-ordinator, appreciated the students and their performance. The assembly was concluded with the national anthem of India.
To toastmasters Division-A conducts humorous skit competition

Toastmasters Division A of District 116p recently conducted a humorous skit competition at Olive International School. Some eight toastmasters club participated in the competition. First position was bagged by NIA Toastmasters, which was followed by Doha Advanced Toastmasters and Qatar Toastmasters as 1st and 2nd runners up, respectively.

Girish Jain, Director of Division A, welcomed the gathering. He said that this concept of drama is to promote the spirit of teamwork and communication together with humour to entertain the audience as opposed to individual speaking performances. The panel of judges, included Soumya Naidu, Phayas Abdul Rahman, Swetha Bhardwaj, Nayana Wagh, Sindhu Nair, Suhairinda Atid Ghan, Manohar, Joseph Armande and Swapakas Philip Cherian, veteran toastmaster, was an assistant judge. The event was attended by notable personalities of toastmasters fraternity, including Rajeswar Sundaresan, District Director; Thayalan, District CGD; along with Sonny Varghese, Ram Mohan Rai, George Thomas, HPS Bhular, Rajesh VC and Sudhir Gujar. Rajeev Talwar and Kanwar Iqbal of NIA bagged the Best Male and Female Performers Award, respectively. The event was co-ordinated by Manzoor Moideen, quizmaster and anchor. Radio Olive was the Radio partner and Olive Internatioanl School venue partner of the event. The volunteers at the event, included Sudhanva, Sabeena MK, Dinesh Kumar, Abbas, Zafar, Nagaraj, Sonia Jain, Bhavyata and Sethupathy.

CBSE appoints new Counsellor for Qatar Region

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) India recently appointed Hameeda Kadar, Principal of MES Indian School, as the Counsellor for Qatar Region. She'll be providing pre-examination psychological counselling to the students of Grade X and XII. The CBSE pre-exam annual counselling is an outreach programme offering voluntary service at free of cost to the heterogeneous students, population and vast geographical network of schools spread all over India and abroad.

Hameeda Kadar is one of the 87 tele-counsellors including principals and trained counsellors appointed by CBSE. The counselling will go on till April 04. While students are focusing on the immediate task of completing the pre-board exams successfully, parents have evinced keen interest in receiving guidance in matters related to overcoming exam-related stress and other general conduct during the days of exam,” said Hameeda Kadar.
VCUarts Qatar to organise interactive sessions with Taekyeom Lee

Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar) is all set to conduct two interactive sessions on campus and at Qatar National Library (QNL) with Taekyeom Lee, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, US. Lee will discuss about technological convergence and digital manufacturing processes using computer numerical controls that have broadened creative possibilities and the perception of the three-dimensional experience for artists and designers.

In his lectures ‘Digitally Crafted: Digital Design and Fabrication,’ he will talk about the success and failure of the toolmaking process, along with his ongoing research efforts to develop, test, and find the place of the emerging technologies in creative practices.

The first lecture will take place tomorrow at the Atrium at VCUarts Qatar. The second lecture will take place on February 7 at 4pm at Qatar National Library. The lectures will be presented in English.

Lee’s research, which has drawn interest nationally and internationally, explores 3D type as a series of typographic explorations to strive challenges and seek a new way to create tangible letterforms in three-dimensional space. The Crossing Boundaries Lecture series is an initiative of VCUarts Qatar.

Mövenpick completes 2018 with recognition award and community service

Mövenpick Hotel West Bay ended year 2018 on a high note, from hotel awards to corporate and social outreach programmes and employee event, taking the momentum into 2019 with greater gratitude and positive attitude ahead, says a press note from the company. Notably, for the third consecutive year, the hotel is honoured and privileged to have received the ‘Luxury City Hotel’ from World Luxury Hotel Awards 2018. Subsequently, in support of AccorHotels’ diversity and inclusion plans, comprising the International Days of Persons with Disabilities, Jennifer Stirling from Definitely Able and Accessible Qatar was invited to share educational information about disability awareness and promote social acceptance for disabled individuals among employees. Moreover, the hotel also took part in AccorHotels Solidarity Week initiative, partnering with The Qatari Centre of Social Cultural for the Deaf during the yearly Darb Al Saai event for volunteer works and breakfast food box contributions.

"As part of Mövenpick Hotel West Bay Doha’s community outreach plans, it is with immense joy and pride to be involved in worthwhile causes and to be able to contribute to social change", said Ghada Sadek, General Manager. The hotel annual staff party was also organised to recognise the employees of Mövenpick Hotel West Bay. “The event is a celebration and appreciation of the accomplishments and outstanding efforts shown by all employees”, said Ghada.

Welcoming 2019, Mövenpick Hotel West Bay Doha will continue to offer rewarding and unique experiences to loyal and new guests, guests comprising of families, leisure and business travellers on the go. The hotel will continuously uphold environmental initiatives and be involved with Corporate Social Responsibility activities in the local community.

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Learning another language is so fun it’s embarrassing

Learning a second language puts you in good company these days, Francois Grosjean wrote in Psychology Today. In 1980, about 11 percent of the US population was bilingual. Today it’s nearly double that. **By Catharine Hamm**

A reader recently wrote to ask about a language-immersion programme. How in the world do you narrow your choices and figure out whether that programme is right for you? Will the Spanish you learn in Mexico be comprehensible in Spain and vice versa? What if you make horrible mistakes and embarrass yourself?

Learning a second language puts you in good company these days, Francois Grosjean wrote in Psychology Today. In 1980, about 11 percent of the US population was bilingual. Today it’s nearly double that.

“The position of prominence that English has in the US is in no danger, but some room is now being made for other languages,” he wrote. “This can only lead to a person’s personal enrichment, increased ties between generations and cultures, and more diversity in job opportunities.”

Some pretty great reasons to undertake this, but before you plunge headlong into this adventure for yourself or your child, consider these factors that you may need to be successful:

**Interest in the language:** Taking on a new language isn’t easy, but if you have the desire and the interest, your chances are better. Attention parents who are forcing their kids to learn another language. Please consider their interest first.

**Time:** Language acquisition takes time for formal classes if you pursue that route, but hanging out with people who are native speakers can be time-intensive too. Both are time well spent, but they are time.

**Resilience:** Admitting what you don’t know is often more difficult than showing off what you do know. “To learn a language, you have to humble yourself,” said Juliane Bryant, an associate professor of Spanish at Biola University in La Mirada. Marc L. Greenberg, a professor of Slavic languages and director of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, noted that language learning is an exercise in ‘humility.’

So why subject yourself to such an ordeal these days? Aren’t there translators that will turn another language into yours? Doesn’t much of the world speak English? Both of these things may be true to a certain extent, but there’s also a sense of pride in accomplishment and a sense of belonging to a community that’s different from your own.

Further, Bryant said, having a second language can benefit your brain. Making the commitment may be more difficult than finding the right fit for you, but here are some of the ways you can begin to explore:

**Classes do help:** You can do some online learning through, say, extension classes to help with language basics or with such learning tools as Rosetta Stone.

**Immersion helps too:** There are different ways to immerse yourself, Bryant and Greenberg said. You might listen to TV or music in that language or listen to music. You might hang out with people in your community who speak only that language. An away-from-home stint in which you are surrounded by that language may be the best teacher of all, perhaps aided by formal classes.

**BENEFICIAL:** Taking on a new language isn’t easy, but if you have the desire and the interest, your chances are better.

“Students have greater gains in oral proficiency and higher self-confidence,” when they are immersed, she said. “They have larger gains in cultural competence.”

Interestingly, budding up with a person in another country who speaks some of your language is a bigger help than someone who knows none, Bryant said.

How do you begin narrowing the choices?

Ask friends who have done an immersion. Don’t be shy. They have no reason not to be frank.

If you have a specific language in mind, check with the faculty at a community college or university and get their advice on what works, Greenberg said.

You may notice different words are used in different countries to mean the same thing; just as American and British English differ (trunk vs boot, diaper vs nappy), other languages do as well.

How do you adjust what you’ve learned to the language you’ll now be hearing? Bryant, who studied in Spain, ended up working in a community that spoke Caribbean Spanish. Here are her suggestions:

- If you have the basic structure of the language, you can do two things: learn to tune in to that accent or way of speaking and ask questions when you don’t understand.

- It’s important, she said, to learn strictly the language you will be speaking than to have the framework for it and know you will need to substitute some expressions for others. Be prepared to make mistakes. Even knowing you will stumble, be fearless, Greenberg said. Your mistakes are unlikely to be fatal. Unless you die of embarrassment.

He told this story. He was in Croatia and was ordering a pizza in Croatian, which he read and wrote pretty well, he said. He asked for various toppings, none of which was available. In frustration he asked the woman what was available to put on the pizza.

At least, that’s what he thought he said. Instead he had just asked her what was available to put on a body part. “She cracked up,” he said.

He realised what he had done, and although it was cringe worthy, laughter knows no language barrier. Plus he will always have a story to tell. Like said. You know. Like you wear on your feet. – Los Angeles Times/TNS
COLD FACT: A boat cuts through the ice in the Chicago River near the Michigan Avenue Bridge as the frigid temperatures continue in Chicago.

The coldest temperatures ever recorded

The continental U.S. has seen temperatures drop below zero in every state at some point in history. Even Florida dropped to 2 degrees below zero on Feb. 13, 1899, in Tallahassee.

The only state that has not seen a subzero temperature is Hawaii. The coldest temperature recorded in Hawaii is 12 degrees at the Mauna Kea Observatory, which is at an elevation of 13,796 feet, on May 17, 1979.

Source: NOAA
Graphic: Staff, TNS
Train your brain to form good habits through repetition

If you want to form good habits – like going to the gym and eating healthy – then you need to train your brain by repeating actions until they stick, a new study suggests.

The researchers have created a model which shows that forming good (and bad) habits depends more on how often you perform an action than on how much satisfaction you get from it.

“Psychologists have been trying to understand what drives our habits for over a century, and one of the recurring questions is how much habits are a product of what we want versus what we do,” said Amitai Shenhav, Assistant Professor at Brown University.

“Our model helps to answer that by suggesting that habits themselves are a product of our previous actions, but in certain situations those habits can be supplanted by our desire to get the best outcome,” Shenhav added.
**Wordsearch**

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

**Candy**

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**Codeword**

Adam

*Adam* is blowing the snow off our drive because of your back.*

If he ever needs a kidney, I'm his man.*

If he's ever on the run from the law, I'll gladly hide him away. I will.*

Maybe I should invite him in for coffee.*

*What would not the special roast? I'm down to my last few pots.***

**Pooch Cafe**

*Pooch Cafe*

*I invited you to lunch because I'd like to have a better connection with you, brother.*

We were born together under the same rickety old porch.*

Yes, I'm rich, but underneath we're still the same... exactly the same.*

Mostly the same.*

**Garfield**

*Garfield*

Why does everyone spend so much time on their phones?*

Let me look that up!*

While you're at it, look up *irony*!

**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 all the digits from 1 to 9 with no repetition.

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**Bound And Gagged**

Seminar: Overcoming Shyness

Okay, everyone! Come out from under your seats.
Super Cryptic Clues

ACROSS
1. Be over-presumptuous, but be totally altruistic (6,7)
2. After a trio, turned on a discourse (7)
3. The seventh letter in ‘intoxicant’ (3)
4. Unable to decide if it’s damaged (4)
5. It’s not any odder than ‘an habitue’ (2,8)
6. Back at sea (5)
7. Tying up: it’s really bad weather (7)
8. The stab that ended it all? (4,7)
9. Leave it be, child: it’s a hat (7)
10. Air for twenty-four hours (5,3,3)
11. Change quarters long after (6)
12. A lot of over-seas luggage (5)
13. And take it with you outside for marking (8)
14. Fair give one a wigging about a minor complaint! (6,4)
15. She and Al prepared the food in ‘18 Across’ (5)
16. And fish about at the top of the stairs (7)
17. Isn’t a crinkly material (5)
18. The way in which gas cooked pasta (7)
19. Retired (7)
20. Neglect (7)
21. Give the sailors tea and plenty of it (8)
22. Make an opening for him (5)
23. Shut up about the man being a first-class player (6)
24. Not joking at the Pearly Gates? (2,4,7)
25. To return or not to move from Canada (7)
26. Indecisive, I got the unsweet out (7)
27. It may contain food or money (3)
28. Not joking at the Pearly Gates? (2,4,7)

DOWN
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2. After a trio, turned on a discourse (7)
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Answer

Wordsearch

Codeword

Yesterday’s Solutions

ACROSS: 1 Right back 8 Incisor 9 Tea time 10 Spartan 13 Resolute 14 Note 16 Discharged 20 Ashy 22 Vera 24 Maintained 28 Undo 29 Strange 31 Sonnets 34 Looters 35 Obscure 36 Presented.

Indian cinema should end censorship: Gopalakrishnan

By Milinda Ghosh Roy

Dadasaheb Phalke awardee Adoor Gopalakrishnan, whose oeuvre prominently placed Malayalam cinema on the world map, feels it is time for India to completely do away with censorship in films as that would help the art form thrive.

In an interview, the auteur, considered one of the greatest filmmakers of India and a pioneer of the New Cinema movement in Kerala, delved into issues like censorship, protests by fringe groups over films and the rise of the web series culture in the country.

“It is time we did away with censorship. Having censorship in cinema is a big mistake. But this mistake has been perpetuated by the commercial cinema of Mumbai because they want the censor board’s certificate as a shield against any litigation filed by other parties, both inside and outside the industry.

“If feel abolishing censorship would certainly help cinema to thrive as an art form. Nobody should be allowed to interfere in filmmaking, not even the government. They are no specialists in this, so how can they interfere? The government often uses its authority in a wrong way,” Gopalakrishnan contended.

Referring to a 1979-committee that he, Shyam Benegal and Bengali filmmaker Mrinal Sen were part of, Gopalakrishnan said they decided to recommend that censorship be abolished from Indian cinema but faced strong resistance from a number of director-producers of commercial cinema.

“When the time for the final decision came, there was a strong plea from both Ramanand Sagar and BR Chopra against it. They said censorship gives protection from unnecessary legal battles over films. So the recommendation couldn’t be made,” he reminisced.

Gopalakrishnan, who has often highlighted the socio-political issues through his use of symbolism in films, said talking openly about the loopholes in the censor board and the government’s malpractices against films that question institutions have turned him into “an enemy of the administration”.

Talking about the recent surge in viewership of online streaming media services like Netflix and Amazon Prime in India, the director said the trend cannot be termed another “new wave” unless the makers come up with something new in terms of filmmaking and content.

“The OTT (over-the-top) platforms like Netflix are buying the big films of Mumbai. Unfortunately, that does not provide much variety in terms of its filmmaking or content. Even while producing original content, they are imitating what is coming out as popular. So it is not making much difference to the art.”

“It was Netflix that produced a film like Roma. If they make films of that standard here, then welcome. That will be a real service to the cinema... Otherwise, they would further popularise the rubbish,” he contended.

Gopalakrishnan, who has made 12 features, several shorts and documentaries, many of which fetched him National Awards in a career spanning over half-a-century, said he loves making films in his own unhurried pace and believes that making a “good film” is still a tough job.

“I admire films by Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak and Mrinal Sen as they opened a completely new track for the next generation filmmakers to pursue and develop upon. But I do not want to make films like them. I make films the way I like,” he said.

Asked about the protests and violence over a number of recent films, including Padmavat, The Accidental Prime Minister and Manto, Gopalakrishnan said the trend of resorting to protests even before a film releases, is propaganda.

“People have their right to protest as long as they first see the film. We cannot stop that. But if people or groups are protesting even before they have seen the film, it must be some sort of a propaganda,” he added.

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Diverse mix of award winners at Sundance Film Festival

By Mark Olsen and Geoff Berkshire

This year’s Sundance Film Festival was not just inclusive in its selections, but in its awards as well. Female filmmakers cleaned up, claiming top prizes in the festival’s US dramatic and documentary and world dramatic competitions, as well as several other key awards throughout the Saturday evening ceremony.

Of the 28 prizes awarded to 23 films – comprising the work of 27 filmmakers – 13 (56.5 percent) were directed by one or more women and eight (34.8 percent) were directed by one or more people of colour.

In accepting a special jury prize for “vision and craft” in the festival’s US Dramatic competition section, Honey Boy director Alma Ha’ye made it clear that female filmmakers deserve a shot beyond the festival circuit. “The hustle is real,” she said. “We can do this, let us work.”

The top prize in that section went to the death row drama Clemency, starring Alfre Woodard and directed by emerging filmmaker Chinnonye Chukwu. The bleak but well-received film had yet to find a distributor as of the awards ceremony.

In an emotional and impassioned acceptance speech, Chukwu noted the difficulty in getting financing for the film: “You, Sundance, and the people who have seen this film have proven that there is an audience for this film.”

Top honours in the corresponding documentary section went to Nanthu Wang and Jialing Zhang’s harrowing One Child Nation, which explores the lingering effect of China’s “one child” policy.

Rachel Lears’ Knock Down the House – which followed a handful of women running for the House of Representatives in 2018, including Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez – won the US documentary competition audience award.

In accepting the award, Lears noted, “This film is about ... making the politically impossible possible. ... We really hope it can be part of a huge groundswell of movement and conversation around changing the face of representation in our democracy.”

Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert’s American Factory, about a Chinese-run glass factory in Ohio, took the US documentary directing prize. The US dramatic audience award went to Paul Downs Colaizzo’s crowd-pleasing comedy Brittany Runs a Marathon, starring Jillian Bell as an overweight woman who undergoes an exterior and interior transformation. It sold to Amazon in one of the festival’s several high-profile acquisitions.

The high school drama Share, which A24 sold to HBO during the festival, nabbed the Waldo Salt screenwriting award for Pippa Bianco and a special jury prize for leading lady Rihaan Barreto. A24’s buzzy The Last Black Man in San Francisco took the directing prize for Joe Talbot and a special “creative collaboration” prize for its artistic team.

The world cinema dramatic grand jury prize was unanimously awarded to British helmer Joanna Hogg’s The Souvenir, another A24 title, which juror Jane Campion noted was selected for its “poetic sophistication and absolute honesty.” Hogg sent in a video acceptance which was shot by the film’s star, Honor Swinton-Byrne (daughter of Tilda Swinton).

Another female filmmaker, Lucia Garabaldi, won the world cinema narrative directing prize for the Spanish-language coming-of-age romance The Sharks. And the female-helmed Queen of Hearts from Danish director May El-Toukhy, about the romance between a middle-aged woman and her teenage stepson, won the audience award.

Special jury awards went to actress Kryz Uyenda Janda, the leading lady of immigrant romance Dolce Fine Giornata, Japan’s We Are Little Zombies by Makoto Nagahisa for its “originality” and Alejandro Landes’ hostage drama Monos for its “vision.”

Macedonian environmental documentary Honeyland, directed by Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov, won a trio of prizes in the world cinema doc section including the grand jury prize, a special jury award for “impact for change” and a special jury prize for cinematographers Fejnil Dant and Samir Luma.

The section’s audience award went to Richard Linklater’s Sea of Shadows about the nearly extinct vaquita whale, and directing award to Mads Brugger for Cold Case Hammarskold, an investigation into the death of a UN secretary-general. An additional special jury award for “no borders” went to Midnight Traveler, in which director Hassan Fazili chronicles his own experience as an Afghan refugee.

The Infiltrators, a drama about and starring a group of Dreamers, directed by Alex Rivera and Cristina Ibarra, won both the audience and jury prize in the Next section, which spotlights up-and-coming filmmakers.

– Los Angeles Times/TNS
Shahida Ahmed, a British visual artist and educator, moved an audience with her work and inspiring words recently while attending ‘Best My Guest,’ a programme regularly organised by Pakistan Arts Society – Qatar (PASQ). Her accomplishments and philosophy of life instantly grabbed the attention of the people present in the audience – particularly women.

The programme was held at the auditorium of Pak Shamaa School where Pakistani community expatriates, particularly women, were present in large numbers. PASQ regularly organises the interactive programme by inviting multi-talented people for their gathering. She said that interactive sessions with successful people bring source of motivation to the audience. She also praised the speaker for her success and variety of works. She said that such kind of interactive sessions always help both the staff and the students at her school.

In his welcome speech, Muhammad Abrar Hussain, President of PASQ, introduced the guest speaker and thanked Hafiz Junaid Amir Sial, community welfare attaché Pakistan embassy, who attended the event as a guest of honour. He said that the number of people present in the auditorium showed that how much they were interested in hearing from our guest speaker.

Speaking on the occasion, Hafiz Junaid said that he appreciated the efforts and ideas of PASQ. It is a good event providing an opportunity to interact with a successful person. The audience had learned a lot from the experiences of the artist. The embassy is planning to organise some community events in collaboration with PASQ.

The format of the programme was an interview with the guest. Aimen Zeb, a PASQ member, hosted the interactive session. She asked different questions from the guest and later audience members also asked Shahida’s opinion on different issues.

When asked how she got interested towards art, Shahida said that when she was a child, her parents used to tell her that she would become a doctor. However, she always had an inclination towards spirituality. One day, she was taken to a pottery class during winter. The moment she had clay in her hand, she thought that it was clay that the man was made of. She started playing with clay and started developing interest in ceramic making.

When asked as a working woman how she takes care of her house, Shahida said that she always kept her private and professional life separate. She said that women should learn how to manage both aspects of their lives. Sharing her personal experience, the artist said that the women should stand up against all kinds of domestic maltreatment. They should not put up with intolerable behaviour and respect their lives.

She added that once she refused to give one of her artworks to Prince Charles for free and asked him to pay if he wanted to have art piece. She urged the audience – especially women, to develop self-confidence. She asked the audience not to force children follow a certain kind of field.

Her work is a modern concept of merging traditional Islamic arts into clay forms and sculpture. These works are in collections of Prince Charles, Downing Street, Foreign Commonwealth Office in London, Baroness Saeeda Warsi, and the British High Commission Karachi.

The event started with recitation of the Holy Qur’an. Nabila Kokab, Principal of PSS, greeted her with a floral bouquet. The principal appreciated PASQ for always inviting multi-talented guest speakers.

By Mudassir Raja