Community

Qatar University’s Al-Bairaqp programme to include students from elementary and preparatory levels.

Community

Bulgarian dance group entertains audiences through dances related to folk tales of romance and heroism.

Cover Story

After Hillary

2020 presidential hopefuls test differing strategies in the long shadow of the last losing presidential candidate. P4-5

Pop Spot

I’m promoting living, not dying, says Russ. Page 14

Bollywood

The best and worst Super Bowl ads of 2019. Page 15
PRAYER TIME

Fajr 4.57am
Shorooq (sunrise) 6.15am
Zuhr (noon) 11.48am
Ajr (afternoon) 6.58pm
Maghreb (sunset) 5.23pm
Isha (night) 6.53pm

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency 990
Worldwide Emergency Number 112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water 901
Local Directory 180
International Calls Enquiries 150
Hamad International Airport 40106666
Labor Department 44508111, 44406537
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888
Qatar Airways 44496000
Hamad Medical Corporation 44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44490450
Qatar News Agency 44490205
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444
Humanitarian Services Office (Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)
Ministry of Interior 40253371, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health 40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation 40253364, 40253365
Qatar Airways 40253374

Manikarnika
DIRECTION: Radha Krishna Jagarlamudi
CAST: Kangana Ranaaat, Danny Denzongpa, Ankita Lokhande
SYNOPSIS: Story of Rani Lakshmibai, one of the leading figures of the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and her resistance to the British Raj.
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

A Dog’s Way Home
DIRECTION: Charles Martin Smith
CAST: Ashley Judd, Jonah Hauer-King, Edward James Olmos
SYNOPSIS: As a puppy, Bella finds her way into the arms of Lucas, a young man who gives her a good home. When Bella becomes separated from Lucas, she soon finds herself on an epic 400-mile journey to reunite with her beloved owner. Along the way, the lost but spirited dog touches the lives of an orphaned mountain lion, a down-on-his-luck veteran and some friendly strangers who happen to cross her path.
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

Quote Unquote
“Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure.”
— Confucius

Community Editor
Kamran Rehmat
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Telephone: 44466405
Fax: 44350474

The Mall Cinema (1):
Manikarnika (Hindi) 2pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 4:45pm; Destroyer (2D) 7:15pm; Nadi Elregal Elserri (Arabic) 9:30pm; Nadi Elregal Elserri (Arabic) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (2):
Minuscule: Mandibles From Far Away (2D) 2:15pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 4:45pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 5:45pm; The Girl In The Orange Dress (Tagalog) 7:30pm; Replicas (2D) 9:30pm; Njan Prakashan (Malayalam) 11:30pm.
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) 8:30pm; Manikarnika (Hindi) 11pm.
Landmark Cinema (2):
Vantha Rajavathaan Varuven (Tamil) 2:15pm; Minuscule: Mandibles From Far Away (2D) 5pm; A Dog’s Way Home (2D) 6:45pm; Manikarnika (Hindi) 9:30pm; Vantha Rajavathaan Varuven (Tamil) 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.
**EVENTS**

**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 44244000.

**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 Bazaar 2019**  
WHERE: Museum Of Islamic Art  
WHEN: Ongoing  
The stalls will be having a vibrant mix of 350 stalls. MIA Park Bazaar is a modern version of the old souq tradition. The stalls are going to offer a wide range of gastronomies from all over the world. You can also browse and grab handcrafted artefacts, accessories, canvases, fashion wears, designer ornaments.

**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 Olympic or Sprint which offers registration for both individuals and team relays. Another choice is the Super Sprint which is only for individuals and open for both adults and kids aged between 11-15 years old. Also, a kids’ triathlon was introduced this year for two age groups 7-9 and 10-12 years old to allow all family members to enjoy the event.

**Arabic Calligraphy Workshop**  
WHERE: Atelier  
WHEN: Ongoing  
Arabic Calligraphy workshops are 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: Mamangam Performing Art Centre  
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday  
Mamangam Performing Art Centre, is a holistic performing arts institution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip-hop and Indian classical dance forms, along with classes for music, art and crafts, karate and yoga. Additional services include dance education and choreography. For details, call 31387609.

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**Artistic Gymnastics Classes**  
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb  
WHEN: Ongoing till February 28  
TIME: 3:35pm – 4:15pm  
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

**Ballet Lessons**  
WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier  
WHEN: Ongoing  
TIME: 4pm – 8pm  
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003839.

**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 – 5pm  
PECS (Picture Exchange Communication Systems) training workshop is available featuring bull riding, authentic cowboy food and drinks. Entrance Fee is QR100.

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

**Dance and Instrument Classes**  
WHERE: TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building  
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday  
Learn the movements of dance styles in Bollywood, Hip Hop and also the musical instruments such as Piano, Guitar, Keyboard for adults as well kids and move in the world of music. For details, contact 65523873/ 33326749.

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

A record number of women are running for president in 2020. They’re operating in the shadow of failure – Hillary Clinton’s unsuccessful White House bid in 2016 – but also the widespread successes of women in the 2018 midterm elections, writes Janet Hook

When Elizabeth Warren launched her 2012 Senate bid in Massachusetts, some Democrats there worried. Another woman had run two years earlier and failed miserably. But Warren ignored warnings that she would be “another Martha Coakley.” She beat the incumbent by more than 7 percentage points and became the first woman elected to statewide office in Massachusetts.

Now Warren is among a record number of women running for president in 2020. Again, they’re operating in the shadow of failure – Hillary Clinton’s unsuccessful White House bid in 2016 – but also the widespread successes of women in the 2018 midterm elections.

Senator Kamala Harris of California joins Warren and New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in the upper tier of candidates seeking the Democratic nomination. Each takes a different tack in navigating the powerful crosscurrents of being a woman in national politics.

Gillibrand plays the gender card most emphatically, emphasising her record on protecting women from sexual assault and her support for female candidates. Explaining why she is running for president, she often begins, “As a young mom … ”

Harris’ campaign rollout, including Sunday’s kickoff rally in Oakland, focused more on her connections with the black community and a career in law enforcement that breaks from gender stereotypes.

Warren tells her story as the daughter of an economically struggling family, putting class, not gender, at the centre of her campaign.

“There is no uniform approach to how these women will navigate gender in the campaign,” said Kelly Dittmar, a scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

“While Gillibrand sees and discusses politics and policy through a gender lens, Warren’s primary focus has been on class. In her rollout, Kamala Harris has already shown that she will embrace and discuss being a black woman in power.”

Representative Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii also has announced a long-shot bid for president, with considerable focus on her status as a military veteran. The field of female candidates may grow if Senator Amy Klobuchar of

I love the fact that we have four women running, and that America gets to see what different forms of female leadership look like

– Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, presidential aspirant
Minnesota, a former prosecutor like Harris, decides to run.

"I love that fact that we have four women running, and that America gets to see what different forms of female leadership look like," Gillibrand said.

In the aftermath of Clinton's failure, however, some Democrats worry about a stubborn strain of sexism in the electorate.

"I don't know if America has changed enough; hopefully they have, with the #MeToo movement," said Brad Lego, 69, a retired teacher in Sioux City, Iowa, who supports Warren.

Women historically have had a harder time winning executive offices than legislative ones. Even with a record number of women running for governor in 2018, just nine of the nation's 50 governors are now women.

"Solo leadership is still tougher for women and people of colour," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster who is an expert on women in politics. "There is still a little concern about the difficulty of electing women to executive office. That wasn't just Hillary Clinton."

But for Democrats in 2020, for the first time in the history of presidential campaigns, being a woman is probably a more political asset than a liability. Women — as voters and candidates — became the vanguard of the party's resistance to President Donald Trump, from the 2017 Women's March to the midterm elections that drew out female candidates in March to the midterm elections that drew out female candidates in March to the midterm elections.

Eight years later, she talked often about the history-making potential of her campaign to "shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling." The current crop of female candidates doesn't follow either of those paths.

Gillibrand, at 52 the least known of the three female senators who have gotten into the race, is moving the most deliberately to build her identity as a defender of women.

"The future of the Democratic Party is with women," an introductory campaign document said. She spotlights her Senate work on combating sexual abuse in the military and other issues related to sexual harassment and assault, and her political work raising money for female candidates through her political action committee, Off the Sidelines.

Pictures of children — her own and others — crowd her campaign website. She describes her rationale for running, offered first in her campaign announcement on Stephen Colbert's Late Show, in explicitly gendered terms: "As a young mom, I'm going to fight for other people's kids as hard as I would fight for my own."

"The approach risks delivering a message so gender-specific that it alienates men. But in the short term, at least, her strategists think that any such risk is worth taking to gain purchase in a crowded field.

"My lifelong mission is for more women to have a voice and seat at the table with men, so that they can bring a new perspective to the problems facing our country," Gillibrand says. "This vision does not exclude anyone, it brings more diverse voices into the conversation."

Harris' introduction to voters put more of a spotlight on race than gender. She announced her candidacy on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, gave her first press briefing at Howard University, the historically black college she attended in the 1980s, and scheduled her first campaign event in South Carolina — at a gala for a black sorority she belongs to.

During her Oakland rally, Harris spoke bluntly about racism in the criminal justice system and society at large. "I'm running to fight for an America where no mother or father has to teach their young son that people may stop him, arrest him, chase him or kill him because of his race," Harris said.

Having advanced in a male-dominated career as a prosecutor, she offered this advice to young women in an interview with Good Morning America: "There are going to be many times you are going to be the only one like you in a room. It could be a meeting room, it could be a boardroom. And the thing I want you to remember is this: When you are in that room, we are all in that room with you, cheering you on."

Harris' tough-on-crime record has drawn skepticism from some on the party's left, but it could appeal to public safety-conscious moms in the suburbs, including white women whose votes for Trump proved pivotal in 2016.

Warren's campaign-launch video gave a personal window onto her life story — speaking from her kitchen, she talked about her family's struggles, her mother's resilience and her own rise to a law professorship at Harvard. The story spoke more to class struggle than a battle against sexism.

At other times, however, she has struck a more explicit note on gender. At an Ankeny, Iowa, campaign event with Democratic women in early January, for example, Warren relished telling how she had been warned against running for Senate after Coulby's failure.

"It was almost as if folks were saying, 'Hey, we tried that. It didn't work. Come back in a generation or two, women!'"

She also paid tribute to how much women — especially those who were newly engaged in politics as voters and candidates — had contributed to Democrats' 2018 midterm victories.

One of the newly engaged women was Lisa Grechen Shirley, a Democrat who ran unsuccessfully against GOP Rep. Peter King on Long Island. She remembers vividly an unexpected phone call of support she got from Warren. Shirley was in the middle of a gruelling day juggling the demands of campaigning with the medical needs of a young son who had broken his leg. Warren listened to her woes and offered this tough-love pep talk that spoke to the continued challenges women face in politics:

"We moms, when we run out of milk, we make breakfast with orange juice." — Los Angeles Times/ TNS
QU's Al-Bairaqq programme all set for extension

Qatar University’s (QU) Al-Bairaqq programme, a non-traditional educational project in which students from local schools work in teams with highly-qualitative university-level scientists, have extended to include students from elementary and preparatory levels. Al-Bairaqq recently started activities and workshops for the 1st Discovering Materials’ track for the fifth cycle of the primary and fourth preparatory cycle.

The 1st Discovering Materials’ provides learning experience based on creativity and innovation, given by experts in the field. The track includes 15 primary and preparatory schools including English and public schools, within and outside Doha. Some 30 schools would be participating in the programme for primary and preparatory stages. In the programme, the students take part in an intensive scientific workshop that covers a field of materials science, including solar cells, concrete, composite materials, and food packaging. They also learn new concepts through experimentation and teamwork and are taught through their school laboratories and activities run by the Al-Bairaqq team.

The programme is scheduled to conclude in March with a conference for innovative learning and education. The conference will showcase student’s posters and will provide them a platform to present their ideas to a diverse panel of judges represented by significant Qatari and international companies. The most innovative posters and projects will be felicitated.

Dr Noora Jabor al-Thani, President of Al-Bairaqq Programme and Head of Outreach and Communications in the Research and Graduate Studies Office at QU, highlighted the importance of supporting the students and encouraging them to develop and expand their potential for the renaissance and development of the country. The partners of Al-Biraqq, includes Unesco and Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science.

SCPD marks its 20th anniversary

Shafallah Centre for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) recently organised a press conference to mark its 20th anniversary. The press conference was attended by notable personalities, including Amal bint Abdullah al Mannaa, CEO of Qatar Foundation for Social Work, and Laalei Abu Al Aftan, acting Director of SCPD.

Speaking on the occasion, Amal bint Abdullah al Mannaa said, “I am honoured to attend a special press conference on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Shafallah Centre for Persons with Disabilities, which over the past two decades has devoted its efforts to contributing to the transformation process of empowering and rehabilitating of persons with disabilities. This year, the centre celebrates its 20th anniversary under the guidance of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, a clear indication of Qatar commitment to the matters of persons with disabilities.”

She added, “Shafallah Centre attempts to fulfill its ambitions and is proud of its outstanding achievements dedicated to empowerment and integration of people with disabilities. Since the establishment of Qatar Foundation for Social Work in 2013, under which the centre operates, Shafallah Centre has adopted a new strategic direction.”

Talking about SCPD’s contribution in creating awareness in Qatar about persons with disabilities, CEO of Qatar Foundation for Social Work, said, “The centre has worked to promote awareness of the matters of disability, to prevent and reduce their occurrence, and to provide all modern devices, compensatory and educational means to involve them in daily life and to integrate them into society. Shafallah Centre has contributed in creating awareness among the families of persons with disabilities through programmes and activities which contribute to enlighten them about the ways and means to deal with their children.”

Shafallah Centre has international licenses and accreditation to use the tools for ‘diagnosing and evaluating Autism Disorder’, as well as, the special rights of the Shafallah Centre for Evaluation of Speech and Language. The centre has developed the skills of its experts holding several courses and workshops for global training and applying them among staff at the centre.

In cooperation with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy during World Cup 2022, Shafallah Centre is the official representative of the ‘Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities’ programme. Laalei Abu Al Aftan, acting Director of SCPD, said, “Due to the increasing number of persons with disabilities in Qatar, there is a waiting list, lack of spaces and experts. Our future strategy for radical solutions is opening of other branches of Shafallah Centre across the country. Shafallah Centre plans to raise and attract Qatari competencies and the Centre currently co-operates with Qatar University to engage Qatari professionals in the field of special education and psychological services.”

Students of DPS-MIS take part in THIMUN Qatar Conference

The students of DPS Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS) recently participated in the 8th annual The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) Qatar Conference held at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC). Some 94 delegates from different schools of Doha represented various countries, including Federal Republic of Brazil, European Union, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Lithuania, Mongolia, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and Federal Republic of Somalia at the conference. The theme for this year’s conference was ‘Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions’. Jaideep Singh, a student from DPS-MIS, was the Deputy Secretary-General for the conference. The delegates were accompanied by Marie Luthria and Amir Khan, Directors of MUJ.

The conference is the result of education co-operation with Qatar University’s (QU) Al-Bairaqq programme, a non-traditional educational project in which students from local schools work in teams with highly- qualitative university-level scientists, have extended to include students from elementary and preparatory levels. Al-Bairaqq recently started activities and workshops for the 1st Discovering Materials’ track for the fifth cycle of the primary and fourth preparatory cycle.

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Nepali Tamang community celebrates Sonam Lhosar festival

Nepali Tamang community in Doha recently celebrated Sonam Lhosar festival at Gulf Horizon Hotel. The event was chaired by Ekka Prasad Tamang. Ramesh Prasad Koirala, Ambassador of Nepal, also attended the festival, along with other notable personalities, including community leaders, entrepreneurs and journalists. The event kicked off with the lighting of the candles, which was followed by the national anthem of Nepal. Addressing the gathering, Kumar Tamang highlighted the importance of the festival. In his address, ambassador Koirala said that the embassy is all set to promote Nepali culture and arts in Qatar. Chhewang Tenzing Lama, Nepali artiste and musician, also performed at the event, along with Usha Pakhrin and Arambha Tamang, local musicians. Ekka Prasad Tamang proposed a vote of thanks.

- Text and photo by Usha Wagle Gautam

APOO World celebrates Qatar’s victory in 2019 AFC Asian Cup

All Pakistanis Overseas Organisation International (APOO World) recently organised a cake cutting ceremony to celebrate Qatar’s victory in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup. The event was attended by Qatari youth and Pakistani community members. Syed Anwar Ali Shah, President APOO World Qatar Chapter, initiated the ceremony in the presence of other dignitaries.

Doha Fighters bags championship title of QPL

The ninth edition of Qatar Premier League recently concluded with Doha Fighters Team bagging the championship title with 58 runs against Mumbai XI. Ibrahim, Captain of Doha Fighters, was awarded with the title of Man of the Match. He scored 61 runs on 31 balls and took two wickets in the final match. Carl Stephen, General Manager at Regency Hotels Management, was the chief guest and Subramaniam Hebbegalu, Ashfaq Amer and Shankar Sundaragiri, President of Telangana Gulf Samithi Qatar, the guest of honours at the event. The QPL organising committee, included Siraj Ansari, Founder and Director; Qamar Qureshi, Chairman; Mr. Suhail President, Ibadur Rahman, Vice President, and Sridhar Abbagourri, Saifulal, Abed Khan and Sharfuddin, Board members.
NAKIS celebrates Qatar’s win in AFC Asian Cup 2019

Noor Al Khaleej International School (NAKIS) recently organised an event to celebrate Qatar’s win in AFC Asian Cup 2019. The students were dressed in Qatari traditional wardrobes. The event featured various traditional dance performances and food. Principal of NAKIS along with Vice Head Boy addressed the gathering.

PS marks 70th Republic Day of India

Pearl School (PS) recently organised an event to mark 70th Republic Day of India. Sam Mathew, President of PS, hoisted the Indian Flag and read out the message of the President of India. A special assembly was conducted for the students of Thumama Campus. The event featured patriotic songs by the school choir along with various cultural dances.

OIS organises workshop on Robox

Olive International School (OIS) recently conducted a workshop on Robox, a self-paced STEM learning tool based on Robotics. Shubham and Dias, representatives from Robox, conducted the workshop. The workshop featured various activities, which was concluded with an exhibit of robots prepared by the students of OIS.
**Two Qatari designers to debut at NYFW’19**

Manjulakshmi Bharathan, the sole authorised consultant and show producer for the New York Fashion Week 2019 (NYFW’19) in Qatar, has recently announced the participation of two Qatari brands, including Harlienz and Ghada Al Buainain Jewellery at NYFW’19.

According to a press release, the brands will take part under the collaborative show category of Debut Designers on February 12 at PIER59 STUDIOS, New York. Manjulakshmi, Professor at VCU, said “The Qatari fashion scene is full of budding talent. Through my continuous work with young designers, I have seen brands that deserve to be highlighted on a global platform. Along with the NYFW, we will be taking Qatari fashion brands to the forefront of the international fashion scene. I am so proud of Harlienz and Ghada Al Buainain Jewellery for their efforts and hard work to make this happen. It is great to see such focused energetic young Qatari who believe in their artistic sense and do not shy away from expressing it.”

“This is only the beginning and I am confident that from now on, we will be taking more and more Qatari designers to the NYFW,” she added.

In 2013, Haya al-Adsani established the label Harlienz with a desire to use apparels as a visual outlet for her travel inspirations. Ghada Al Buainain, is a fine jewellery brand, founded by designer Ghada Rashid al-Buainain. The label is renowned for urban, peerless pieces featuring unconventional materials drawn from regional revelations.

Talking about her participation in NYFW 2019, al-Buainain said, “Our designs are inspired by the beauty of everyday objects. As a designer, I believe in the transformative power of jewellery, a feeling that has been reciprocated by my brand clients. I am so excited about this opportunity to showcase at the NYFW’19, it is certainly time for us to go international and to represent Qatar.”

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**An absorbing, captivating story**

*99 Nights in Logar* by Jamil Jan Kochai is funny, immersive and cracking with a tween boy’s sensibilities. 

**BOOK REVIEW**

Christopher Marlowe, a 16th-century English poet and playwright, is best known for his tragedy “The Tragedie of Doctor Faustus.” In his posthumous works, Marlowe explores themes of time, fate, and the human condition through the lens of the Faustian bargain.

Kochai’s writing throughout *99 Nights in Logar* is lovely and evocative while still hewing to his young narrator’s perspective. Depending on where the family stays, the bombs in the distance are almost orange, or pink, sending lullabies or thunder.

As the hunt for Budabash ebbs and then sparks up again, the book veers into the magical with a maze that seems to swallow those who enter, tunnels filled with bones, a thief who keeps reappearing and a mysterious dry land seasickness that suddenly lays out the entire extended family. Our hero ends up spending the night lost outside his family’s compound more than once, dons a burqa to sneak into a part of his aunt’s wedding that’s for women only and keeps on eating mulberries even though he knows they will make him sick. And his finger just won’t heal, but at least his little brothers understand why.

Marwand, an outsider and an insider at the same time, is so interested in hearing his family’s history that he once leans in too far while eavesdropping on a roof and tumbles down onto a group of women below.

Kochai’s storytelling has the power to make *99 Nights in Logar* readers feel just as absorbed and captivated. – *Star Tribune (Minneapolis)*/TNS

**DEBUT:** Jamil Jan Kochai sets up story after story and tales inside tales in his debut novel
Try This

Hard-working rubber band

When a rubber band works hard, you can feel the results with your fingers.

1. Hold middle of thin rubber band with your fingertips.
2. Hook a finger in each end of rubber band, stretch it as far as it will go without breaking and relax it five times.
3. Feel it again with your fingertips.
4. Quickly stretch and relax it 20 more times, and feel it again.

Do you notice a change?
Repeat steps 1, 2, and 3 with the thick rubber band.

What happened?

Both rubber bands get warmer when stretched many times.

Tiny rubber particles move around against each other when rubber stretches.

The friction (rubbing) between particles converts some of the energy from the stretching movement to heat.

The thick rubber band probably felt warmer than the thin one for two reasons:

There’s more rubber in it creating heat.

The thin band loses heat faster than the thick one because the rubber inside it is close to its surface.

NOTE: Different kinds of rubber behave differently, so you can find some that heat a lot and some that heat a little.

Graphic: Paul Trap, TNS
Fathers experience more well-being and satisfaction than mothers in their parenthood and even when interacting with their children, a new study suggests.

Researchers from the University of California in the US analysed three separate studies consisting of 18,000 people that looked at the scale of happiness, psychological satisfaction, depressive symptoms, and stress among others.

The first two studies compared the well-being of parents with that of people who do not have children.

The findings published in the journal Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, showed that fathers reported greater satisfaction with their lives and feelings of connectedness to others.

They also reported greater positive emotions and fewer daily hassles than mothers, or relatives or peers without children.

They even showed fewer depressive symptoms than men without children, whereas mothers reported more depressive symptoms than women who do not have children.

The third study considered parenthood and well-being while engaging in childcare or interacting with children compared to other daily activities.

Men were found to be happier while caring for their children than women suggesting that gender significantly impacted the association between childcare and happiness.

In terms of daily interactions also men reported greater happiness.

“The findings indicate that fathers may fare better than mothers in part due to how they spend their time with their children,” said Katherine Nelson-Coffey, Assistant Professor at the Sewanee, The University of the South in the US. – IANS
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.

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is divided into nine 3x3 squares. To solve a Sudoku puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row, and every 3x3 square contains each of the digits 1 through 9 exactly once. The numbers provided in the grid help you determine the correct values for the empty cells.

World’s Largest Cities

AIRES
BEIJING
BOMBAY
BUENOS
CAIRO
CALCUTTA
DELHI
JAKARTA
LOS ANGELES
MANILA
MEXICO CITY
MOSCOW
NEW YORK
OSAKA
PARIS
RIO DE
TIANJIN
TOKYO

Codeword

Codeword

Wordsearch

Sudoku
Super Cryptic Clues

ACROSS
1. The dope, you say, does help (7)
5. Dull to eat in and to drink, I had concluded (7)
9. A Greek going back by river to the sea (5)
10. So the cat that got the wren worried is his: nobody else’s (4,5)
11. At the perimeter, having been trampled down (6)
12. Doesn’t question the migrants (8)
14. Twiddles with again, but only during studies (9)
15. Twiddles with again, but only during studies (9)
16. Affirms it about the rain-birds (5)
18. Decide to stop by the excavation (9)
20. There’s a T in ‘fatal’ is the lesson you learn from it (5)
22. On which are the destitute men, covered in perspiration (4-4)
24. Puzzle sold at a cut price? (6)
26. To run down home to one does irritate (9)
27. Point the nun out: the one showing boredom (5)
28. For the issue, carrying a test out on the hat (7)
29. And its contrived connection with the East End is remote (7)

DOWN
1. ‘Celebrity food’ is right (9)
2. In case the scoundrel should fall (7)
3. The dictator’s papers are found to be in poor order (9)
4. She gained eminence (4)
5. Where the poor paddlers are? (2,3,5)
6. Upside-down sacks used as a seat (5)
7. The non-writers are to carry the flags (7)
8. Is after the retreating gunwoman (5)
9. What makes our thoughts go overseas (5,5)
10. Nerves parachutists feel? (9)
11. For the game, the wool’s wound onto this loosely (4,5)
12. Send down, into the starting place, the pupil (7)
13. Getting back the gold coins will be up to her (7)
14. Remains right inside with the wives (5)
15. Moves up to see the dog drop the ball in (5)
16. Take to be a star (4)

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword

Yesterday’s Solutions


DOWN: 2 Oration 3 Gin 4 Torn 5 No stranger 6 Stern 7 Lashing 8 Last attempt 10 Night and day 12 Cases 14 Slight cold 17 Issue 18 Later on 20 Tellers 22 Lance 24 Edna 27 Tin.
I’m promoting living, not dying, says Russ

By Geoffrey Rowlands

There was a recent article headlined: ‘So, Why Does Everyone Hate Russ?’ The writer kept an open mind throughout and ended by saying they didn’t really see what all the hate is about.

Unfortunately, it seems clear why 26-year-old Russ, full name Russell Vitale, is subjected to so much online hate. The New Jersey-born but Atlanta-based rapper, singer, songwriter and producer is totally against the abuse of drugs.

“This is anything but the most fashionable attitude to have,” he smiled. “The genre of my music is one in which a lot of people think but are too afraid to say because they don’t want to be on the receiving end of the kind of hate I’ve had. I’m promoting living, not dying. A lot of rappers have romanticised drug abuse. That’s not cool. Lives get ruined by that stuff.”

Russ is an Italian-American performing in what is essentially an African-American’s musical genre. Does he believe at least some of the hate is racially based?

“I hope not. Music has always been a big part of my family. My grandfather taught me to play guitar. I’ve been writing rhymes since I was about seven and making beats since I was 14. I hope people of all races recognise my musical heritage. I feel that when you make music with a message, soul and substance, it transcends anything to do with race.”

Russ began his musical life as a songwriter and producer. He and his close friend Bugus initially uploaded songs to Mediatrix and Limelinx. They decided to create their own website as a platform for their music. This is how their company, DIEMON, was born.

“DIEMON stands for Do It Everyday Music Or Nothing. We were 17 when we started. We put together a home studio at Bugus’ house. Other people got involved and became part of our DIEMON crew but it was mostly me and Bugus.” Russ was 10 when he created the first of his DIEMON albums.

“I’ve been thinking about rapping rather than just writing and producing. One day, I was in the studio with Bugus and asked him if I should start rapping. He immediately said yes so we got to work on my first track.

“I found I’d learned so much about putting my own vocals on a track from my production work. I learned rhythm. I learned my voice was just like another instrument and how to utilise it in that regard.”

He became a prolific recording artiste. In 32 months, Russ created 11 albums and 87 singles, all of which were made available for free via his SoundCloud webpage.

His music was promoted via social media as were his concerts both across America and overseas. With such a solid following, it was no surprise that major labels became interested and Russ signed with Columbia Records.

“I’d get my first (Billboard) Hot 100 single with What They Want and another with Losin’ Control. Both tracks went multi-platinum.

“They represented my mainstream breakthrough. It was particularly satisfying to know I’d performed, written, produced, mixed, mastered and engineered everything myself. It’s the same with all my songs. Very few people in the music business can say that. It feels super-fufilling that I can.”

His first album for Columbia, There’s Really A Wolf, hit number seven on the Billboard 200. This was followed late last year by his sophomore album, Zoo, which peaked at number four. Despite this success, Russ has still to enjoy a significant hit single.

“The Flute Song and Mississ’ You Crazy, the two singles so far from Zoo, have been played millions of times on SoundCloud. I know I’m giving fans what they want to hear.

“But the haters do play a part in my lack of major singles chart success. It’s not seen as cool for radio DJs to play a Russ track. But I won’t change my anti-drugs stance. If other rappers keep saying drugs are cool, I’ll keep saying they’re not.”

Ariana Grande

Her latest single, 7 Rings, has given American singer / songwriter Ariana Grande her fourth UK chart-topper.

In short, it has been an accomplished four months. 7 Rings was streamed 16.9 million times. This broke the UK one-week streaming record set last December by Mariah Carey’s All I Want For Christmas Is You.

Ariana also took Spotify’s 24-hour streaming record from Mariah and dethroned Drake’s 2018 single, In MyFeelings, by setting a new first week record of 71.4 million streams.

Unsurprisingly, 7 Rings also debuted atop Billboard’s Hot 100. Aged 25, Ariana thus became the youngest female solo artiste to have multiple songs from the same album enter the chart at number one. For some reason, Ariana chose to celebrate her chart success with 7 Rings by having the song title tattooed in Japanese characters on the palm of her left hand.

Unfortunately, there was what might be described as an error in translation. Some characters were omitted and she ended up with shichirin tattooed on her hand. The word translates as a small charcoal barbecue grill. This was doubly embarrassing for Ariana as she is a vegan.

Followers were quick to mock the tattoo blunder after she posted pictures on her social media accounts. Although initially taking everything in good part, Ariana apparently became so irritated by the derision that she firstly asked for herself and her tattoo to be left alone before again undergoing the enormously painful tattooing process to have the mistake corrected.

One wonders if Ariana might soon be branding herself with another celebration tattoo. After all the success of her singles, it seems highly likely that her latest album, Thank U Next, will also storm straight to number one. The record is set for release on February 8.

The Beatles

Beatles fans will soon be able to enjoy a new documentary featuring the Fab Four.

Multi-award-winning director / producer Peter Jackson is currently in the process of creating the as-yet-untilted movie from around 55 hours of footage shot in 1969 during the making of what became the Let It Be album and film.

“Looking at the footage is like being in a time machine and transported back 50 years,” Peter remarked. “We get to sit in the studio with The Beatles watching these four friends make great music together.”

“It’s an amazing historical treasure trove. Watching John, Paul, George and Ringo working together, creating now-classic songs from scratch, is not only fascinating but also funny, uplifting and surprisingly intimate.

“There are 140 hours of audio recordings in addition to the 55 hours of never-before-seen footage. The finished movie will be the ultimate fly-on-the-wall experience that Beatles fans have long dreamt about.”

No release date has been fixed as yet but fans will have the opportunity to contrast Peter’s documentary with a restored version of Let It Be. This will be made available following the release of the new film.

Celine Dion

In more film news, following the Golden Globe-winning success of the Queen biopic, Bohemian Rhapsody, and the eager anticipation for the upcoming Rocket Man movie about Sir Elton John, news now emerges of another film based upon the life and career of Celine Dion. There is just one snag. It will be a French language film.

Valerie Lemercier is set to not only direct the movie but also star as Celine. It will span the French-Canadian singer’s life from her upbringing in Charlemagne, Quebec, as the last of 14 children, her rise to fame as a teenager, world-wide success and her relationship with her manager and husband, the late Rene Angelil.

Entitled The Power Of Love, shooting is scheduled to begin next month with a release date slated for some time in 2020.

Sophie Ellis-Bextor

Known for her dance hits such as Groovejet, Take Me Home and Murder On The Dancefloor, Sophie Ellis-Bextor is releasing a greatest hits album with a difference. The Song Diaries features re-recorded versions of her songs performed with a full orchestra.

The album will be released on March 15. But videos for some tracks can now be found online. Among the many postings at www.youtube.com/user/sophieellibextor are videos for the orchestral versions of Love Is You and Take Me Home. There is also an orchestral disco version of Take Me Home which is one of the bonus tracks on deluxe versions of the album.
The best and worst Super Bowl ads of 2019

By Lorraine Ali

T here were many Super Bowl firsts during Sunday’s telecast from Atlanta’s Mercedes-Benz Stadium: Civil rights icons Andrew Young, John Lewis and Bernice King opened the game. Performers Maroon 5 topped Coldplay by bringing the biggest act of all time. And advertisers paid the highest price ever — $5.25 million — for the chance to wow America with a 30-second ad.

Never mind that Super Bowl LII was also the first time that neither team scored a touchdown during the first three quarters. It was the scripted moments, and those pricey ads in between, that captured the confusion of our times, where a national demand for social change is met by equally fervent calls to pull culture backward. That tension has created one of the more memorable game days in Super Bowl history.

The pre-game opening, which also included snippets of Martin Luther King Jr’s speeches about unity, was most certainly in response to a Super Bowl boycott movement organised against the NFL. Selma director Ava DuVernay encouraged other celebrities to boycott the game because of what she called the NFL’s “racist” treatment of quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

Advertisers took several tactics in addressing the world outside the Super Bowl, and it made for a truly bizarre run of commercials that ranged from freakishly funny to downright maudlin.

For starters, the advertising staple of scantily clad women was utterly absent from 2019’s round of ads. Victoria’s Secret didn’t advertise, which is perhaps the reason Bob Dylan shilled for Budweiser this time. “This bottom, my friend, is blowing in the wind,” he sang as a Clydesdale team pulled the beer through a field of wind turbines because, as we learn, Bud is “now brewed with wind power.” It’s good for the planet.

The ads starring women were of a different sort. Dating app Bumble featured Serena Williams in an Inspiring spot aimed at young women: “Make the first move ... Don’t wait to be given power because here’s what they won’t tell you: We already have it,” she says. The sleek-bodied Brie Larson wears in the Captain Marvel trailer in fact, a superhero unitard. And then there was the commercial for The Handmaid’s Tale, Season 3. The ad takes its inspiration from Ronald Reagan’s Morning in America presidential campaign commercial and opened with an uplifting tune and optimistic narration: “It’s morning in America, and today more women will go to work than ever before in our country’s history.” But the images are from the dystopian series, where Gilead’s women are enslaved as handmaids and Marthas.

Then the scene abruptly stops and June (Elisabeth Moss) appears: “Wake up, America,” she commands. “Morning’s over!”

The other overtly political ad of the night, President Donald Trump’s pre-game interview with CBS’ Margaret Brennan, was less impactful than it lasted much longer than 30 seconds. It was his other pre-game silence — down since taking office; he declined to speak with NBC last year in protest of its coverage of his presidency. It was softball fare for a hardball POTUS and uneventful enough that the Flaming’ Hot Nacho Doritos ad starring Chance the Rapper and the Backstreet Boys seemed incendiary in comparison.

The other big themes among Super Bowl ads played off the reality that we live in a confusing and divisive time. Products that tapped that vein seemed to say “buy this and we’ll help you make sense of it all.”

SimpliSafe’s home security satirical ad opened with a newspaper headline that read “It’s worse than it was yesterday” and TV anchor saying “What you don’t know about your garage door will kill you.” It went on: “Don’t eat wheat bread. Porch pirates are stealing your packages. Robots will be able to do your job in five years.” But at least SimpliSafe is a sure thing.

Google claimed to be bridging global and religious gaps via its translation app.

And then there was the Scientology TV ad: “It’s a force more powerful than armies. It has vanquished ignorance and intolerance and expanded our horizons ... Curious?”

Patricianism and apple-pie nostalgia, other Super Bowl ads staples, were also scant. In their place were messages of perseverance in the face of adversity. Female football star Toni Harris spoke of dashed expectations in a Toyota ad while Microsoft ran a touching spot showing how new gaming hardware helps kids with disabilities do all those things that all their peers love to do — play video games. “He’s not different when he plays,” says the father of one child.

The best, or at least the funniest ads, were the ones that had fun with our daily chaos, and they of course featured more celebrities than a halo-centric Lakers game. Hyundai featured Jason Baeamon as an elevator operator shutting Occasions to different levels of awful experiences — roof canal, middle airplane seat, vegan dinner party. Car shopping was the bottom floor. Pepsi tapped Steve Carell, Lil Jon and Cardi B; Stella Artois featured Maroon 5; the 2018 Super Bowl ad about a #MeToo moment. German manufacturer made a bizarre spot supposedly directed by Ridley Scott that seemed more foreboding than inviting. And Burger King manipulated old footage of Andy Warhol eating a burger and suggested we all #EatLikeAndy.

Amazon won for best oddball humour in its ad themed “Not everything makes the cut.” It listed all the ways Alexa didn’t work when embedding in various devices: in a toothbrush (powered by Forest Whitaker), in the dog collar of a pup owned by Harrison Ford. Never allow your dog to do the ordering or you’ll end up with a truckload of gravy and sausages.

— Los Angeles Times/TNS
Singapore and Bulgaria have artists from Qatar, India, Oman, China, Mexico and different other countries. We also have exchange programmes with other countries. In Bulgaria, we have seven big festivals. Every year, we invited performers from all over the world. In near future, we may invite a group from Qatar. I would also like to congratulate Qatar for winning Asian cup.”

Metin Kazak, ambassador of Bulgaria to Qatar, said: “Really, it was a wonderful performance. It was colourful with vibrant Bulgarian traditional music. It was a mixture of different Bulgarian dances from different regions with different rhythms and costumes. The performers seemed to really impress the gathering.

“I would like to thank Katara Cultural Village for organising the folk dance performances. I appreciate them for hosting the diversity festival for third consecutive year. I also thank Unesco regional office in Doha for their support. Cultural diversity is something that we all have to promote. It is a kind of promotion of dialogue between different cultures. Instead of making conflicts, the dialogue through culture is the best thing to know each other better. “This was the second time that a Bulgarian folk dance group took part in the diversity festival. I am happy to see the group that performed tonight. They are very good. They have been attending different festivals all over the world. We also plan to invite a Bulgarian folk music band to mark our national day in March for our community of 400 expatriates in Qatar. We have also been trying to increase economic ties between the two countries. We are happy to see more and more Bulgarian food products coming to Qatar and strong Qatari investments in agriculture sector of our country. “I would also like to congratulate Qatar for making a historic win against Japan and bringing the Asian cup home.”

By Mudassir Raja

The locals and expatriates of Qatar continue to enjoy folk music and dances from different countries at Amphitheatre in Katara where the third edition of Cultural Diversity Festival is underway. A group of performers from Bulgaria recently enthralled the audience who was present in large numbers at the open air theatre in the pleasant evening.

The young artists both male and female danced on tunes of the folk music of six different regions of Bulgaria. Clad in colourful clothes, the performers danced in lanes often holding each other’s hands. The dance performances were very rhythmical, balanced, musical and engrossing.

Each performance highlighted a story of a distinct region in Bulgaria. The music accompanying the dances was also related to folk tales of romance and heroism. In the two–day long performance, the artists presented 12 different dances.

The cultural festival started on October 18 last year and will continue until March 19. In total, folk music performers from 17 different countries are taking part in the festival. So far, the artists from Qatar, India, Oman, China, Macedonia, Turkey, Spain, Czech Republic, Iran, Kazakhstan, Singapore and Bulgaria have performed. In addition, folk dance groups from Morocco, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Bosnia, and Russia will also perform in Katara.

The Bulgarian dance group was a part of the CIOFF Bulgaria (International Council of Organisations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts). Their two–day performances showed dances on both quick and slow beats of the folk music.

Talking to Community, Emil Pavlov, chairman of CIOFF Bulgaria – a folk dance organisation, said: “We are an ensemble of folklore dancers from Sofia, capital of Bulgaria. We presented different dances from all the regions of our country while wearing traditional costumes. The ensemble consists of 45 people. Only 15 people performed on the stage here as per the regulations. We also have a full fledged orchestra and maybe we will visit against with our orchestra.

“We mostly presented folk dances were Sofia region. In total, we have six fold regions in the country. We have more than 15 different kinds of folk dances. All traditional music from all regions have a kind of story related to romance and weddings. “This was our second performance in Qatar. Two years ago, we performed in Qatar but with a different group. Next time, we are thinking to bring an orchestra. With this ensemble, we have been performing in different countries. Two years ago, we performed in Indonesia. We have performed in Thailand, China, Mexico and different other countries. We also have exchange programmes with other countries. In Bulgaria, we have seven big festivals. Every year, we invited performers from all over the world. In near future, we may invite a group from Qatar. I would also like to congratulate Qatar for winning Asian cup.”

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Vibrant colours of Bulgaria presented through folk dances

ENSEMBLE: The ensemble comprised of folk dancers from Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, and their performances showed dances on both quick and slow beats of folk music.

PERFORMERS: Bulgarian dance group, part of the CIOFF Bulgaria (International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts), showcased dances that highlighted stories of distinct regions in Bulgaria.

GROUP: Performers from the Bulgarian dance group seen with dignitaries.