Hello, everyone!

Today, is the English Language Day as well as Spanish Language Day. A Community special report asks experts if English language — as lingua franca — is the only gateway to success; young Qataris speak on a cultural transformation; and lastly, a word on the growth of Spanish. P4-9

Pop Spot
Lil Nas X’s controversial Old Town Road gets massive chart success. Page 14

Showbiz
Indian psychiatrists object to new controversial film. Page 15
**PRAYER TIME**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>3.44am</td>
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<td>5.07am</td>
<td>Shorooq (sunrise)</td>
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<td>11.34am</td>
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<td>Isha (night)</td>
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**USEFUL NUMBERS**

- **Emergency:** 999
- **Worldwide Emergency Number:** 112
- **Kahramaa – Electricity and Water:** 991
- **Local Directory:** 180
- **International Calls Enquiries:** 150
- **Hamad International Airport:** 40106666
- **Labor Department:** 44508111, 44406537
- **Mowasalat Taxi:** 44588888
- **Qatar Airways:** 44496000
- **Hamad Medical Corporation:** 44392222, 44393333
- **Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation:** 44845555, 44845464
- **Primary Health Care Corporation:** 44593333, 44593363
- **Qatar Assistive Technology Centre:** 44594050
- **Qatar News Agency:** 44450205, 44450333
- **Q-Post – General Postal Corporation:** 44464444

**Humanitarian Services Office**

(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)

- Ministry of Interior: 40253371, 40253372, 40253369
- Ministry of Health: 40253370, 40253364
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253364, 40253365
- Qatar Airways: 40253374

**Quote Unquote**

“The English language is nobody’s special property. It is the property of the imagination: it is the property of the language itself.”

— Derek Walcott

**Kalank**

**DIRECTION:** Abhishek Varman

**CAST:** Varun Dhawan, Alia Bhatt, Aditya Roy Kapoor

**SYNOPSIS:** Long-buried secrets come to light when romance blossoms between a young daredevil and a beautiful woman in 1945 India. A complex love story set during India’s Partition era, where the young Roop (Alia Bhatt) is torn between respect for husband Dev (Aditya Roy Kapur) and her newfound love for Zafar (Varun Dhawan). While their back stories and heart-breaking love saga unfolds, the history of India takes an epic turn, from where there is no coming back.

**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

**The Mall Cinema (1):** Jersey (Telugu) 2:30pm; Kanchana 3 (Tamil) 5:30pm; Madhura Raja (Malayalam) 8:30pm; Kanchana 3 (Tamil) 11:15pm.

**The Mall Cinema (2):** Mera Naam Shaji (Malayalam) 2pm; Missing Link (2D) 4:30pm; The Curse of La Llorona (2D) 6:15pm; Kalank (Hindi) 8pm; Kalank (Hindi) 11pm.

**The Mall Cinema (3):** Vellai Pookal (Tamil) 2:15pm; Madhura Raja (Malayalam) 4:30pm; Shazam! (2D) 7:15pm; Triple Threat (2D) 9:30pm; Mera Naam Shaji (Malayalam) 11:15pm.

**Landmark Cinema (1):** Mera Naam Shaji (Malayalam) 2:30pm; Kanchana 3 (Tamil) 5pm; Kanchana 3 (Tamil) 8pm; Kanchana 3 (Tamil) 11pm.

**Landmark Cinema (2):** Missing Link (2D) 2:30pm; Missing Link (2D) 4:15pm; Dumbo (2D) 6pm; Kalank (Hindi) 8pm; Madhura Raja (Malayalam) 11pm.

**Landmark Cinema (3):** Vellai Pookal (Tamil) 3pm; Shazam! (2D) 6pm; Madhura Raja (Malayalam) 8:30pm; Mera Naam Shaji (Malayalam) 11:15pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):** Mera Naam Shaji (Malayalam) 3pm; Shazam! (2D) 5:30pm; Kalank (Hindi) 8pm; Madhura Raja (Malayalam) 11:15pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):** Mera Naam Shaji (Malayalam) 3:30pm; Kanchana 3 (Tamil) 5:15pm; Kanchana 3 (Tamil) 8:15pm; Kanchana 3 (Tamil) 11:15pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3):** Jersey (Telugu) 2:30pm; Dumbo (2D) 5:30pm; The Hummingbird Project (2D) 7:30pm; Mission of Honor (2D) 9:30pm; Kursk (2D) 11:30pm.
EVENTS

Baraka: Blessing of the Garden
WHERE: Oxygen Park
WHEN: Ongoing till May 2
TIME: 5pm
If you’re interested in plants, their medicinal benefits, gardening, botany and history, be sure to check out the ‘Baraka: Blessing of the Garden’ exhibition in Education City. The exhibition highlights the use plants mentioned in the Qur’an and Hadith, and their significance to society. The narrative of the exhibition aims to inform and engage visitors, and, encouraging them to think about how our everyday life involves and depends on plants, is divided into four categories: cosmetic-medicinal; edible; lifestyle; and fragrance.

Sunset Desert Safari
WHERE: InLand Sea Off Rd, Qatar
WHEN: May 3
TIME: 2pm – 7pm
Enjoy a day out in the relaxing singing sand dunes of Messeed along with a thrilling dune bashing experience. This 5-hour getaway takes you all the way to the breath-taking inland sea beach a.k.a Khor Al Aaid to watch the Sunset. Only for QR170 per person.

TIME: 8:30am – 12:30pm
This workshop is designed for primary and high school teachers who teach from grade one to year 13 who are looking for new and exciting ways to conduct physical education and outdoor sessions. Energetic Education is excited to announce one amazing full day FunShop. This workshop has been conducted in over ten different countries around the world with fantastic results aimed at both primary and secondary teachers.

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop
WHERE: Saturday – Wednesday
TIME: 6pm
Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier.

The lessons will take place every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. For more information, contact registration@atelierqatar.com

Career Guidance
WHERE: Right Track Consultants, Al Sadd
WHEN: Sunday – Thursday
TIME: 6pm – 8pm
Career guidance for course, country, college and entrance for students of Grade IX-XII, of all curriculum. Career assessments administered for stream preference, career test, branch preference, personality, multiple intelligence and learning styles and productivity. For more information, 55448835.

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

Dr. Masnoon Gulati Clinic live in Doha
WHERE: Al Dana Club, Doha, Qatar
WHEN: April 26
TIME: 6pm – 10pm
Witness the genius of Indian stand-up comedian, Sunil Grover live as he plays his popular characters ‘Dr. Masnoon Gulati’ and ‘Guthli’ from Kapil Sharma show. Sunil Grover will be performing live at Al Dana Club in Doha.

Syria Matters Exhibition
WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art
WHEN: Ongoing till April 30
TIME: 9am – 7pm
Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) in Doha presents a major exhibition, co-curated by MIA Director Dr Julia Gonnella and Rania Abdellatif, as part of the MIA ten-year anniversary celebrations.

Ballet Lessons
WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 4pm – 8pm
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33005839.

Asian Athletics Championships Doha
WHERE: Khalifa International Stadium
WHEN: Ongoing till tomorrow
TIME: 8am – 10pm
Athletics fans in Qatar, Asia and all over the world can now secure their tickets for the 23rd Asian Athletics Championships after the competition’s Local Organizing Committee put the tickets for online sale on the competition’s official website.

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
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 children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip hop, Indian classical dance, music (Hindustani and Carnatic), arts and craft, karate, yoga, percussion (Chenda, Thimila, Elathalam and Madhalam), violin, harmonium, public speaking.

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.

Craft and Animal Workshop
WHERE: Al Dana Club, Doha, Qatar
WHEN: April 26
TIME: 6pm – 10pm
Witness the genius of Indian stand-up comedian, Sunil Grover live as he plays his popular characters ‘Dr. Masnoon Gulati’ and ‘Guthli’ from Kapil Sharma show. Sunil Grover will be performing live at Al Dana Club in Doha.

Business English
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 children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip hop, Indian classical dance, music (Hindustani and Carnatic), arts and craft, karate, yoga, percussion (Chenda, Thimila, Elathalam and Madhalam), violin, harmonium, public speaking.

Additional services include dance education, choreograph music videos and dance cover albums, choreograph dance musical projects, corporate workshops and events, choreograph events for schools, colleges, alumni meets and corporate and choreography events. For details, call 33497690.

 Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change
English or bust?

Azmat Haroon talks to experts to determine if English language as lingua franca is the only gateway to success in life and, if so, how is it that millions around the world are able to make the cut without recourse to it at all.

“The success of China, Japan and Turkey is a great example in that economic success is not dependent on or facilitated by English. Of course, international political and trade agreements are negotiated through translators if the leaders themselves are not able to communicate.”

– Dr Rizwan Ahmad, Associate Professor at Qatar University’s Department of English Literature and Linguistics

Many historians and linguists see 17th century British colonialism as the global point of the departure of English language. The Industrial Revolution and the rise of America as economic and political superpower in the subsequent two centuries consolidated the expansion of English language.

Today, English is spoken in at least 118 out of the total 195 countries in varying degrees. In other words, basic fluency in English language gives you the power to communicate with people on six continents. Add to that the fact that the international language of trade, aviation and oil industry among other sectors is English. Science and technology are also overloaded with English —
more than half the content on the Internet is in the English language. Yet there is an alternative discourse emerging that challenges the hegemony of the English language. The dominant new language on the world map is Mandarin Chinese. About 1.2 billion people in the world speak some form of Chinese as their first language. With the Chinese economy booming in the 21st century, as evident in how the Chinese products are flooding industries all over the world, some analysts would have you believe that Mandarin Chinese is the language of the future.

But China is not the only country that saw social and economic prosperity without some form of dependency on the English language. France, Germany, and Japan are also prime examples of countries where not only do the local languages remain dominant, but English speakers usually have a tough time until they learn French, German and Japanese in order to survive in each one of these countries.

According Dr Riwan Ahmad, Associate Professor at Qatar University’s Department of English Literature and Linguistics (DELL), the significance of English language in the international communication is important, but it has been blown out of proportion by people and institutions that benefit from the dominance of the English language.

“Success of China, Japan and Turkey is a great example in that economic success is not dependent on or facilitated by English. Of course, international political and trade agreements are negotiated through translators if the leaders themselves are not able to communicate.”

The socio-linguistic expert argues that the relevance of the English language in a given country varies and it largely depends on the social and market situation.

“It is a myth that the ability to communicate in English is gateway to success everywhere. The skills and content are often times more significant from a market perspective than the language to communicate them.” He quotes the example of leading economic powers such as France, Germany and China, where local languages have given English a hard time in terms of market share and penetration.

“Similarly, the fact that English is the official language in Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya does not necessarily mean that they are economically powerful countries,” says Dr Riwan, who is currently teaching a course at Qatar University in which the issue of native and non-native varieties of English is discussed extensively.

Speaking about the expansion of the English language, Peter Prystupa, Principal of Edison International Academy, says there were a number of reasons that led to the spread of English language globally.

“In the past, it was the French language that was used in the high society circles but English was spoken by the common masses. I think one of the reasons of the rise of the English language was the ease of grasping it due to its simple syntax, vocabulary and pronunciation, but most of all, it was through the quality of English teaching science that has developed greatly over the centuries.”

Peter suggests that development of the British Academia during the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century played a huge role and its effects can be seen on many sectors, including educational institutions, trade and technology.

“As an educationist, Peter believes that the use of English language in communication in diplomacy, industry and scientific world seems to be rooted so deeply into the global societies that it seems irreplaceable.

On the other hand, Dr Irene Theodoropoulou, Associate Professor of Sociolinguistics at Qatar University, argues that although it important to qualify as an effective communicator in spoken, written and also computer-mediated communicative English, the idea of effective communication goes beyond the grammar and syntax of a language. The socio-cultural conventions of a language are of equal importance.

“The knowledge of other linguistic, paralinguistic, exolinguistic resources is equally important to professional, social and personal success in life.”

She explains that the linguistic context refers to culturally specific words from languages that are not necessarily spoken fluently; paralinguistic is a variation of pitch, tempo and loudness of voice, including the knowledge to use pauses effectively and strategically; and exolinguistic resources teach how to use body language and facial expressions as per cultural and social norms.

“Just to give an example from my own linguistic trajectory, I have found it really useful to use Allah-based Arabic expressions with my Muslim friends, students and colleagues, even though I am not Muslim, as a way to establish rapport with them and to express my respect for their religion.”

Similarly, when interacting with people from East Asian countries, the knowledge of bowing is important.

“If you use as your basis of communication English, because this is after all the lingua franca (i.e. a shared code of communication for the vast majority of people), but enriched with linguistic, paralinguistic and exolinguistic elements from other languages and cultures, which are tailored to professional, social and personal success in life.”

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of other languages, English remains the dominant language in international communication, and its influence continues to grow. 

“The knowledge of other linguistic, paralinguistic, exolinguistic resources is equally important to professional, social and personal success in life”

— Dr Irene Theodoropoulou, Associate Professor of Sociolinguistics at Qatar University
Continued from Page 5

According to Dr Irene, although recent sociolinguistic studies predict that Mandarin Chinese will be the emerging lingua franca, English remains the dominant language all over the world — not only because of the role of the US in all domains of global life, but also because technology, education, science and media are coded primarily in English, and that is something which cannot change very easily.

Meanwhile, Dr Michael Grosvald, Assistant Professor of Linguistics, at Qatar University’s Department of English Literature and Linguistics (DELL), says the significance of English language in anyone’s life varies depending on their circumstances and environment.

“It depends completely on one’s own life circumstances. Just as an example, if one is a reporter for the New York Times, good use of English would probably be very important. But many, many other people all over the world can do just fine in life without any knowledge of English at all.”

Dr Rizwan shares a similar idea when he says that in a country like Qatar, effective communication in Arabic is just as important as English. Arabic is the fifth most spoken language in the world with an estimated 300 million Arabic speakers across the world. Some linguists suggest that it is one of the most difficult languages to learn. Earlier this year, Qatar issued a new law on the protection of the Arabic language. The Law No. 7/2019 consists of as many as 15 articles and stipulates that universities and higher education institutions teach, conduct studies and scientific researches in Arabic language. There are other measures such as negotiation procedures, memos and correspondences of government institutions, and agreements that the State signs with governments, regional and international bodies and organisations that need to be in Arabic. Institutions that found to be violating the law can be fined up to QR50,000.

Dr Rizwan says that with the advancement in the field of communication technology in the last few decades and the emergence of social media, a new challenge has emerged for communicators worldwide.

“We are facing what is referred to as ‘information overload’; we are constantly bombarded with information from multiple platforms and sources. So there is a real challenge in today’s world for all communicators to figure out how to deliver their message in an efficient and effective way. The communicator knows who their audience or client is and based on that information they would choose the language of communication. In a country like Qatar, where Arabic is the official language, effective communication in Arabic is equally important, if not more.”

He says that regardless of the challenges, it is crucial that countries chalk out ways to develop local languages. “A consequence of the push for English, especially by the elite, has been that in many countries local languages have not been able to develop and flourish.”

Then, there is the issue of bilingualism.

“I think most people would agree that all else equal, it’s better to have two skills than one. With respect to brain development specifically, I believe the consensus among experts whose research focuses on bilingualism and cognition is that in general, it is more advantageous to be bilingual than monolingual,” says Dr Michael Grosvald.

But then who is better-off — a native English speaker or a bilingual? That’s another myth which has to be rooted so deeply into the scientific world seems to think that English is somehow ‘better’ or more ‘superior’ to other varieties of English such as Indian English or Arabic English. This is nothing but a myth about English. There is no one variety of English that is better than others.”

The expert says that English developed differently in different parts of the world to serve the interests of the people. For instance, Indian English developed many expressions that are different from British English or American English but that does not mean they are incorrect.

“In Indian English people ask, “what is your good name?” From a native English perspective this is incorrect but from an Indian English perspective this is correct.”

But the niceties of any language take many years of experience to master and, as Dr Irene suggests, they are not monolithic, in the sense that nowadays new varieties of English or World Englishes such as Hinglish and Chinglish, to mention a handful have emerged.

“Both native and non-native speakers should be always alert and try to expand their sociolinguistic knowledge, in order to be effective communicators when interacting with the numerous users of these varieties,” she says.
‘Language of love’ a major draw

By Mudassir Raja

I t was in 2010 that Unesco decided to mark April 23 every year as the UN Spanish Language Day. It was initiated to celebrate the multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six of UN’s official working languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

There are expatriates from Spanish speaking countries living in Doha in large numbers and other people have also been taking interest in learning the language.

Francisco Navarro is Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Panama in Qatar. He is a native speaker and teacher of the language. Further, the Panama embassy also offers Spanish learning opportunities.

Sharing brief history of the language, Francisco said: “Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world after only Chinese. It is the official language of 20 countries namely, Puerto Rico: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and, of course, Spain. Though it is not the official language, Spanish is commonly spoken in the United States, Belize, Andorra and Gibraltar. There are more than 400 million native speakers of Spanish. It is the third most studied language in the world, after English and French.”

In tribute to the writer Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, who passed away on April 23, 1616, the day is celebrated as Spanish Language Day. “Known as ‘El Ma nco del Lepanto’, Cervantes left among their works the novel The Ingenious Hidalgo Don Quijote de La Mancha, a monumental text that contributed to the enhancement of world literature and Spanish language. Described as the first modern novel, this has been the most translated and edited book in history, only after the Bible,” he claimed.

“The celebration also commemorates the contributions of another great writer of Spanish language, Colombian Gabriel García Márquez, who died in Mexico City in April, 2014. He is considered one of the most celebrated authors of the 20th century and one of the best in Spanish language. He was awarded the 1972 Neustadt International Prize for Literature and the 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature,” Francisco said.

Speaking about characteristics of the language, he said: “Spanish, like French, Italian, Romanian and Portuguese, is a Romance language that evolved from Vulgar (Common) Latin. It originated on the Iberian Peninsula, the southwest corner of Europe, which includes present-day Spain and Portugal.

“The Castilian continuation of Vulgar Latin (from Spain’s Castile region) mixed with the Arabic dialect spoken by the Moors, the first group of Arabs that crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and conquered parts of the region. In the late 15th century, the Spanish conquest of the Americas started through the expeditions of Christopher Columbus. In the case of Panama, the city is also celebrating this year, the 500 years of its foundation. In 1519, the conquistador Pedrarias Dávila, founded Panama city which is the oldest European settlement on the Pacific coast of the Americas.”

For many reasons, the interest in studying Spanish is growing.

“Research conducted for the Telefónica Foundation found that bilateral trade increases by almost 300 percent when Spanish is the common language of commerce, suggesting that it is in the best interest of countries and companies looking to expand into the fast-growing Latin American markets to ensure they have Spanish-speaking employees and representatives. The interest in the language is also increasing both in US and China.”

The interest in learning Spanish in Doha is growing rapidly, too, promoted by the strength of Qatar’s relations with many Spanish speaking countries. “There are many learning Spanish opportunities in Qatar; in the Embassy of Panama we offer free Spanish lessons with our programme ‘Se habla español’ as well as the popular ‘Club Latino’ which is a cultural and networking space to practice Spanish for those with short time, more busy lifestyle, or with basics of Spanish for those who want to keep on practising,” Francisco added.

“There is very easy to learn the language with new technologies and applications. There is even a new recently opened radio station in Qatar called ‘Golfo Radio – 88.3’, which plays only Spanish songs. This reflects the growing interest in the language and the community as well.

“The Panama diplomat is hopeful that more people in Doha will take to Spanish language in the coming days, Qatar’s FIFA World Cup 2022 is all set to have many visitors from the Spanish speaking countries.

Ana Bravo is from Spain. She is a Spanish language teacher with International School of London, Qatar. For her, Spanish is a language “to hear out for.”

She said: “The number of people who speak Spanish as a second language is close to 60 million. The numbers are increasing rapidly as many countries are choosing to teach Spanish as a second language in their educational system.”

She added: “It is estimated that approximately, 4,000 words in Spanish originate from Arabic. May be that is the reason it is becoming increasingly popular in the Arab world.”

“As a Spanish teacher, I believe one of the beauties of the language is that it is phonetical, making it easier to spell and learn than other languages. Students love to be able to listen to it, spell it and then enquire the meaning of their new word, giving them great independence in learning. It is also easier to pronounce than other languages. Additionally, it is a language of love and happiness, linked to popular music that feeds the soul.”

“People in Doha do seem to love to learn Spanish. Most of the international schools teach Spanish as a second language.”
Transforming cultures and relationships: Does George Bernard Shaw’s take about language being the distinction amongst social classes still hold true?

Muhammad Asad Ullah speaks to Ghanim al-Sulaiti and Fahad al-Obaidly to talk about the changing trend of speaking English language in Qatar.
people and cultures and to be able to understand, express, reflect and relate to different people from all over the world.

“English is an international language and in order to have a better understanding and clear communication with others, English plays a role for a very effective communication,” adds Fahad al-Obaidly, fashion designer, curator and founder of Qatar Fashion Society.

Over half of the global population speak more than one language and that number appears to be on the rise. The ability to switch between languages at the drop of a hat gives one unparalleled social and cognitive ability. As travelling exposes one to new people, and often to new cultures, religions, languages and customs, breaking the communication barrier and hitting common ground with English is always a plus.

“We live in such a global world that everyone seems to be engaged now, one way or another, where everyone wants to be a part of what’s happening or just wants to say something. We are not divided anymore. We see something happening in the US, and we can talk about it here in Qatar. So being bilingual definitely helps to cope with all of that, with every sort of communication,” says Fahad in suggesting being bilingual gives him an edge, and Ghanim agrees. “I definitely agree, I wouldn’t have been the same. I can see other people who do not have the English language skills, they do not have as much opportunities as I do. Yes, in this era, the English language is very important as it bridges people together. Of course, having different languages that you’re skilled in is not an edge specifically, but I think it gives you an opportunity, an extra skill you can use to connect with other people.”

Language prominently influences the way people see the world. Charlemagne, King of the Franks from 768, King of the Lombards from 774, and Roman Emperor from 800, proclaimed that “to have a second language is to have a second soul! Does it affect and contribute to the transforming lifestyles?”

Ghanim says, “The older generation of Qataris didn’t learn English in their schools or still use English as much as we do. I think there have been lots of changes that have had happened in the last 10 years in Doha where you have seen so many of the older generation being forced to learn English, to even adapt to talk in English in public places; to be able to communicate, connect and be a part of the community. I think this has been a huge transformation in culture in Qatar where people have been compelled to learn English. I agree that Arabic is very important and it is our mother language but I also think that because the world is changing and we have a melting pot of many different people and cultures in Doha, you need to have a language that connects us all.”

Adds Fahad, “Back in the days, wherever one used to go they had to talk or communicate in Arabic. But now, it has all transformed to English. So you need to know basic English for communication. But at the same time, several laws have been enforced now to preserve Arabic language.”

And what about changing cultures?

Ghanim says, “I think language definitely defines the changing culture. Languages have opened up barriers, discussions and debates. We are able to talk about certain subjects that we wouldn’t have been able to talk about. In general, a language can fill in the gaps between cultures and allow us to be more open, have dialogue and speak with confidence. I think English language has given us a platform to be able to share our experiences, our culture and show people what we are doing here in Doha. It’s interesting how language has given us this platform.”

It is quite evident that the older generation tends to differ with the younger one in their use of language. Language barriers tend to affect communication between the young generation and old. There does seem to be some language trends that are particularly favoured by generations born in the 80s and 90s. Each generation develops its own vernacular so it has an identity and so people of its own generation generate a unique vocabulary. But the case of developing communication gaps is even tense, when there’s a shift from one language to another. Speaking about the differences existing between older generation of Qataris and English speaking millennials, Fahad says, “I don’t think English language is creating differences. I think it is inspiring the older generation to adapt and have better communication with the younger one. It’s keeping the two generations interested.”

Adds Ghanim, “We live in a world where English is taking over. I do not like to look at it as a negative thing because, at the end of the day because of English many people are connecting, communicating better and as long as that’s happening, I think the language is very beneficial. I know a lot of people who disagree with me. They don’t like that younger generation is speaking English and some of them don’t even know how to speak Arabic. So I think, as long as you can communicate with your community and deliver your message, you’re on the right track. But, if, in learning another language, you’re giving up your mother language and you’re not able to communicate with your own people, then that’s a problem for sure. But if you can do both and express yourself and be able to use the language at the right time and place, it is a wonderful thing. I think, yes, the gap between the two generations can be bridged with emphasis on both languages and being able for both the generations to sacrifice a little bit for each other and learn the language of the other.”

“Every one has a reason to speak English. What’s yours?”

“I don’t think English language is creating differences. I think it is inspiring the older generation to adapt and have better communication with the younger one. It’s keeping the two generations interested.”

– Fahad al-Obaidly, fashion designer, curator and founder of Qatar Fashion Society.
LWS organises musical event

Lamjung Welfare Society (LWS) recently organised a musical event to mark Nepali New Year celebrations at Al Dosari resort and park. Sunita Adhikari, Nepali folk singer, along with local Doha Nepali singers, including Raj Shrestha, Nabaraj Shrestha, Magal BK, and artistes of Tamu Cultural Family performed at the event. The event kicked off with a performance by Tamu Cultural Family, which was followed by a performance by artistes from Nepali Lamjung Welfare Society. Sunita Adhikari performed three songs at the event. Performing second time in Qatar, Sunita said, "It gives me a unique feeling whenever I perform in Qatar." Live folk duet competition was also organised at the occasion. Singer Nabaraj Shrestha performed four of popular songs at the event. Raj Shrestha, local Nepali singer, touched the base of pop, folk and modern music during his performance. Sonika Gurung, Nepali dancer, also performed at the event. The event was chaired by Nabaraj Nakhola, President of LWS. Purna Pokhary, Adviser of LWS, was the chief guest at the event. Various Nepali community leaders, including Bishnu Shrestha, Rajeswor Dhakal, President of Gorkha Welfare Society, Tilu Sharma Poudel, President of MONA Qatar, Sabindra Shrestha, Ghanshyam Joshi, Vice President of Shyanja Service Society, Narayan Bista, President of Kawra Service Society, and Kedar Sharma, Chief Adviser of Baglung Service Society attended the event. The event was hosted by Yubaraj Gurung. Binod Basyaula welcomed the gathering. – Text and photos by Usha Wagle Gautam

Division B Qatar holds its Annual Conference

Toastmasters Division B Qatar recently held its Annual Conference ‘Eloquence 2019’ at Radisson Blu Hotel. The event was attended by over 180 toastmasters and guests. Sunita Saini, Division Director, opened the evening. Speech contests, divided into four categories, including Table Topics, International Speech, Evaluation and Humorous Speech were also conducted. Dr Nasser Saqer al-Mohannadi, author and writer, presented a keynote speech ‘Reach Your Goal’ on the occasion. The winners of the speech contest were announced on the occasion. The top two winners from each category will represent Division B at the District 116 Toastmasters Annual Conference at Grand Hyatt Doha on May 3rd and 4th.

IEI-Qatar Chapter bids farewell to ex-chairman

The Qatar Chapter of the Institution of Engineers of India (IEI) recently organised a farewell event for Aniruddha Kulkarni, former chairman of IEI Qatar. Speaking on the occasion, Abdul Sathar, Honorary Chairman of the Chapter, spoke about the valuable contributions made by Anruddha towards the IEI community. Abdul Sathar wished him good luck for his future life in all his endeavours. Fayad al-Khatib, Chief Development Officer at Al-Fardan Group, was the chief guest at the event. Fayad along with Seenu Pillai, Adviser at IEI-Qatar Chapter, and Abdul Sathar presented a farewell plaque and a memento of appreciation to Anruddha. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Abdul Hameed, Honorary Secretary, and Sajeet George, Treasurer, paid a hommage to Anruddha’s services. Fayad al-Khatib said that Anruddha had been a benchmark and a role model for many of the new generation engineers and the members of the chapter. Other engineers and executive committee members of the chapter, including Salihudeen, Sunil Kulkarni, Anand Nadigir, Abhijit, Shyam Sundar, Dipak Dahake, Afsar Pasha, Maqbool Ahmed, Ajay Singh, Durai Manivannan, Aishik, Sanjay, Vineet Nambiar, Venu Madhav, Venkat Reddy and Thomas also spoke on the occasion.

LLC-D postpones ‘Lanka Lions Nite’

The Lanka Lions Club – Doha (LLCD) have decided to postpone the annual ‘Lanka Lions Nite 2019’ indefinitely that was scheduled to be held on April 26 at Radisson Blu Hotel. The decision was taken as respect for the Sri Lankans who lost their lives in the recent acts of terror in the Island Nation. New date when decided will be published in due course.
OIS elects members of the students council

Olive International School (OIS) Nua Ja Campus recently organised an oath taking ceremony for the newly elected members of the Students Council. The ceremony featured a performance by the school choir along with a dance performance by the students. Vinod K Nair, Chief Financial and Transformational Officer at Gulf Drilling International and President of ICC, was the chief guest at the event. Jacob K M, Principal at OIS, welcomed the gathering and administered the oath of the newly appointed Head Boy, Head Girl, Sports Captain and Cultural Captain.

Geeta Somasekharan, Vice Principal of OIS, along with Anupama Sajith, Co-ordinator, and Sarika Pandey, Assistant Co-ordinator administered the oath taking of the Vice Captains and Prefects. Vinod Nair and Principal of OIS handed over the badges to the council members of their respective position. Speaking on the occasion, Nithen Aswath, Head Boy, pledged to serve his fellow students, treating them fairly to become a positive influence for all to follow. Vinod urged the leaders of today to be an inspiration to all other students to create more leaders in the times to come. The principal encouraged the students to make use of freedom in school.

SIS organises Investiture Ceremony

Shantiniketan Indian School (SIS) recently organised Investiture Ceremony to elect the members of Students Council. K C Abdul Latheef, President of SIS, presided over the event. He handed over the badges to the members. The newly elected members of students council, include Smart Suresh Alapatt, Head Boy; Hiba Yoosuf, Head Girl; Thijas Vinay, Sports Captain; Kaniz Fatima Sinethy, IT Secretary; Hafsia Binte Anwer, Literary Secretary; Tabarak Gulrez, Cultural Secretary; Bharath Prabhu, Assistant Head Boy; Riya Jayaprakash, Assistant Head Girl; Vishnu Mohan, Assistant IT Secretary; Kevin Sajeeve, Assistant Literary Secretary; Jemeleine Cerbito, Assistant Sports Captain; and Muneef Muneer, Assistant Cultural Secretary. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Subhash Nair, Principal of SIS, congratulated the new student council members and emphasised on participatory leadership and advised the leaders to maintain uncompromised integrity.

CAMPING: Scout and Guides Unit of Ideal Indian School (IIS) recently participated in the ‘Qatar Scouts Expats Nationality Jamboree and Camp Cooking’ organised by Qatar Scouts and Guides Association at Marine Scouts Camp, Al Khor.

HONOURED: Kings University USA recently presented Honorary Doctorate to M S Bukhari, a resident of Qatar, a leading businessman, industrialist and a prominent leader of Indian community also involved in many socio-cultural Indian organisations, for entrepreneurship and service to humanity at Marriot Marquis Hotel Washington, DC.
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.

**Codeword**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BALANCE</th>
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<th>LOOK</th>
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<tr>
<td>HEAR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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 to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row, and every block contain each digit from 1 to 9 exactly once.

**Garfield**

YOU HAVE MANY FAULTS, GARFIELD

AND A DONUT

IS THAT ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT?

AND A CUP OF COFFEE

**Bound And Gagged**

PET FOOD

WILL THAT BE CASH OR CHARGE?
SUPER CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1 Agree to keep in touch (10)
7 Some Northern Ireland actors get depressed (8)
8 Evangelist making an impression (4)
9 Error made by fielder (4)
10 Carry on upsetting priests (7)
12 South American or possibly Nigerian ant (11)
14 Seeks food for a long time (7)
16 A young lady in glasses (4)
17 Parasites preserved in primeval iceberg? (4)
20 Five imps are turning into blood-suckers (8)
21 Teenager given the French perfume after a party (10)

Down

1 Birds sound like doves with empty tummies (5)
2 Right conclusion? That’s ripping! (7)
3 Some refused a mouldy cheese (4)
4 It’s pitiful when father gets the twitch (6)
5 Possible means of identification? (5)
6 Quietly Ron is taken off to jail (6)
11 Break arranged in travel (8)
12 Who’s a pretty boy? A Mafia boss is! (6)
13 Fancy a John Lennon song? (7)
15 Change people in advertisement (5)
17 Fish detected by its odour? (5)
18 Birds, half of them American (4)

Colouring

Answers

WORDSEARCH

CODEWORD
Having their record banned or removed from a chart can sometimes be the best thing to happen to an artist. It rarely occurs nowadays but there have been numerous occasions in years past when a song banned from being played on BBC radio has shot straight to number one on the UK chart.

It is in America this time where controversy arose after Billboard banned Lil Nas X's country rap track, Old Town Road, from the Hot Country Songs chart. It had made a strong debut at number 19 and seemed set to hit top spot before the powers that be at Billboard decided the song was not country enough to be included in the chart. According to a Billboard spokesperson: "This song does not currently merit inclusion on Billboard's country charts. When determining genres, a few factors are examined but first and foremost is musical composition. While Old Town Road incorporates references to country and cowboy imagery, it does not embrace enough elements of today's country music to chart in its current version."

Billboard stating their decision has nothing to do with race would appear to be perfectly genuine. There are very few African American country artists but there are some and most of these enjoy successful careers.

For his part, while he may disagree with Billboard's decision, Lil Nas X accepts and understands the chart establishment's negative reaction to what is essentially a different style of music.

BANNED: Billboard banned Lil Nas X's country rap track, Old Town Road, from the Hot Country Songs chart.

"The song is country trap," stated 20-year-old Lil Nas X, real name Montero Hill. "It's not country, it's not trap, it's both. Old Town Road should be included in both charts. "I think anything new like this is always going to get some kind of bad reception. It was the same when rock and roll began and then again when rap started."

"It's happening now with country trap. I don't regard myself as the pioneer of this musical style. Young Thug should take the credit for that. It's just that my song has made the news with the country chart ban."

SoundCloud and iTunes category Old Town Road as country. So too do many highly regarded country artists who have expressed their support for Lil Nas X. Billy Ray Cyrus, even lent his vocals to a remix of the track.

"I've been a Ray Cyrus fan for years," Lil Nas X remarked. "I actually released Old Town Road last December and I put a message on Twitter two days later asking my followers to help me get Billy Ray on the song."

The remixed version makes no significant change to the musical core. But the addition of Billy Ray Cyrus has greatly increased the number of plays on country music radio stations.

Not that Lil Nas X should be too concerned about his absence from the country charts. Old Town Road has hit number one on Billboard's Hot 100, looks set to match this mark on the UK singles chart and has become massively successful throughout the world.

So many people wanted to hear the track that Old Town Road broke the record for most US streams in one week. The song was streamed 43 million times in the week ending April 11 eclipsing the record held by Drake's In My Feelings which racked up 116.2 million streams last July.

"I'm very grateful to all the music fans and country artists who have supported me. I also have to thank the Beyonce Challenge meme on TikTok. I promoted Old Town Road with some memes incorporating cowboy fashion and culture. This was picked up by TikTok users who created their own cowboy themed short videos sound-tracked by my song."

Old Town Road was created during a difficult period in Atlanta-based Lil Nas X's life. He had initially found fame four years ago through his Nicki Minaj fan account on Twitter. This was eventually expanded to include his personal life and it was his large number of Twitter followers who encouraged him to make his own music.

"I created a mixtape, Nasvati, and put it on SoundCloud. I wanted to try to make it in music but my parents had insisted that I go to college. When I dropped out, I knew what would happen if I went back home so I stayed with my sister."

"I couldn't stay at her place forever and she eventually said I had to leave. I didn't think much of my immediate future and imagined myself like a lonesome cowboy. I wanted to take my horse to the Old Town Road and run away. But I decided to put a reverse spin on things by saying the Old Town Road is like a path to success."

It certainly has been for Lil Nas X. Being denied what would have been a Hot Country Songs chart number one is nothing compared to the international pop chart success of Old Town Road and the enormous respect he has earned from other country artists. It was Billy Ray Cyrus who told him; "If you get thrown off the chart, it just means you're doing something great."

Lil Nas X’s controversial Old Town Road gets massive chart success

Despite being banned from Billboard's country charts, Lil Nas X's Old Town Road has become massively successful worldwide. The song originally included vocals from乡村歌手Billy Ray Cyrus, but a remix featuring Cyrus added significantly to its popularity.

The controversy surrounding the song's classification highlights the challenges for new artists trying to blend genres. Lil Nas X's response shows resilience and creativity in the face of criticism.

The success of Old Town Road illustrates the power of social media in promoting music. The song gained attention on TikTok, which played a significant role in its chart success.

The story of Lil Nas X's journey to success also touches on the importance of family support. His ability to navigate the music industry with the support of his sister is a testament to the impact of a strong social network.

In brief

BTS

It didn’t take long for the two YouTube records set last week to be broken.

The previous column gave news that all-girl K-pop quartet Blackpink had taken the record from Ariana Grande’s Thank U. Next by amassing 56.7 million views for their new single, Kill This Love, in the first day after release. BTS also took more than a day off Blackpink’s record for registering 100 million views. This milestone was reached in just one day, 13 hours and 38 minutes.

Unsurprisingly, BTS have been named in Time magazine’s list of the ‘Most Influential People of 2019’. Reacting to the news, Halsey used social media to relate her views on the band. BTS.

"Behind those three letters are seven astonishing young men who believe that music is stronger than the barriers of language. They give positive messages of self-confidence and are role models for their millions of fans. They have the ability to dominate the music world through the love and effort BTS put into each and every step of their career."

Ariana Grande

Ariana Grande was another music star named in Time magazine’s ‘100 Most Influential People of 2019’ list. She recently used social media to share an image of her brain scan to highlight the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder. Ariana has been badly affected by PTSD since the terrorist bombing after her Manchester Arena concert in May, 2017, left 22 people dead and many more injured. She has used her high profile to raise awareness about mental health issues and posted scans of a healthy brain alongside that of someone suffering PTSD. She freely admits it is still impossible for her to come to terms with what happened in Manchester.

"It’s so hard for me to talk about because so many people suffered such severe, tremendous loss. I don’t believe I will ever be able to think about it without crying."

LSD

No New Friends is the recently released single from super-group LSD.

The group is made up of British singer, songwriter and rapper Labrinth, Australian singer / songwriter Sia and American songwriter, DJ and producer Diplo.

Considering the popularity of each constituent member, their previous singles have surprisingly failed to achieve significant success. LSD’s biggest hit to date is Thunderclouds which could only reach number 67 on the Billboard Hot 100. It did fare better in Britain where the song peaked at number 17.

The project was initially conceived as a duo featuring Labrinth and Sia. Diplo was invited to create a song with his two colleagues. Labrinth and Sia are two of the craziest, most creative people I’ve ever met," Diplo laughed. "But their ideas can be so crazy. I helped to put together these ideas and produce the finished songs."

Their debut album, Labrador, Sia & Diplo Present LSD, was originally scheduled for release last November. It was finally issued on April 12. The album is posted in full at www.youtube.com/watch?v=pr220zeokTI. Official videos for Audio, Thunderclouds and No New Friends can be found at www.youtube.com/channel/UCKp7UVaoVuiW1qtyPLPVFMQ
Oscar-nominated director John Singleton has been hospitalised after suffering a stroke, his family members said.

“John is currently in the ICU and under great medical care. We ask that privacy be given to him and our family at this time and appreciate all of the prayers that have been pouring in from his fans, friends and colleagues,” his family said in a statement on Saturday.

The stroke has been characterised by doctors as ‘mild’.

Sources confirmed to variety.com that Singleton, known for movies including Boyz N the Hood, the 2000 remake of Shaft and 2 Fast 2 Furious, checked himself into the hospital earlier this week after experiencing pain in his leg.

Recently, Singleton was active in television. He is creator and executive producer of the drama series Snowfall. He earned an Emmy nomination in 2017 for directing an episode of network FX’s The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story.

“The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story” was produced by FX, with each episode subtitled “The People v. (insert celebrity).” Singleton directed the episode titled “The People v. Las Vegas.”

Singleton’s last film was the critically acclaimed The Big Short, which chronicled the 2008 financial crisis. He was also known for his roles in Boyz N the Hood and the Shaft franchise.

Singleton’s family said in the statement that they were sad to learn the news of John’s condition.

Singleton was a prominent figure in the film industry and was known for his work as both a director and actor.

He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, reports mirror.co.uk

“My name is Jimmy, and I’m a mental patient,” he said in a 2017 interview on ABC’s The View. “I’ve been on and off medication for most of my life and I’ve been in therapy for most of my life. I’ve been through a lot.”

Singleton was active in television and film production, with his last feature film being the 2019 drama Sierra Burgess Is a Loser.

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Laugh out loud and forget stress with Sunil Grover this Friday

By Mudassir Raja

Laughing is an excellent way to reduce stress in our lives, which can help cope with as well as survive a stressful lifestyle.

According to experts, laughter provides a full-scale workout for your muscles and unleashes a rush of stress-busting endorphins. Anything that makes you giggle will have a positive impact.

Laughing can be fun when it is done with your family and friends. A rare opportunity of laughing and enjoying a family comedy is around the corner in Doha.

Sunil Grover, a well-acclaimed Indian actor and standup comedian, will be performing for the first time live in Doha on April 26, coming Friday. The comedy show will be held at Al Dana Club’s Al Jowan Hall at 7pm onwards.

The event is being organised by WiroHub events that are renowned for bringing Indian artistes to Qatar for the South Asian expatriate communities.

Sunil Grover came into limelight for his portrayal as Gutthi on Comedy Nights with Kapil, a very popular comedy show in India, but gained popularity for playing the role of Dr Mashoor Gulati on The Kapil Sharma Show. Grover will next be seen in Bollywood film Bharat. He has also worked in many films and numerous TV plays.

Nidhi Sharma, one of the organisers, said: “Grover will be giving us laughter therapy with all his famous characters. Prominent among his characters are Gutthi, Rinku Bhabi and Doctor Mashoor Gulati. To do justice with his character the comedy show is named Dr. Mashoor Gulati Ki Clinic.”

“The opening act will be supported by Kiraak Hyderbadiz, famous Hyderabadi YouTubers’ group that is well known for their mimicry. Tickets are available at wanasatime.com. This event will be the last event of the season before Ramadan and will be ideal for families to wash away their stress and laugh their hearts out,”

She added: “This event will be one of a comedy drama where Sunil will play three different characters. The first one is Dr Mashoor Gulati, who is a humorous but fake doctor. The second one is Rinku Bhabi who shares her married life problem and the character of Guthi who is a unmarried woman who shares her life experiences. Kiraak Hyderbadiz group will also treat people with their funny Hyderabadi accent.

Mohammad Salman Khan is from Hyderabadi community in Doha. He is very excited to have the first ever Hyderabadi show in Doha by Kiraak Hyderabadi, a group that is well known for their mimicry. He said: “Grover is a very good comedian. I see him as a better comedian than Kapil Sharma in India. Though, he rose to fame from the show hosted by Kapil Sharma, I believe he is more talented than Sharma. I especially admire his character of being a funny doctor. I think people in Doha will enjoy his talent.” About the YouTube group from Hyderabadd, Khan said: “The group is very talented and I am happy that I will be able to see them live in Doha. It is going to be big fun.”

Lokesh Walia has been living in Qatar for 33 years. He is also keen to see the live comedy by Grover. He said: “For the Indian living in Qatar get fewer opportunities to see their beloved artistes performing alive. They visit India for a brief period of time. This show is going to be rarest opportunity where the families will enjoy live comedy.”

He added that Grover is equally famous in North and South India. The audience surely is going to be enthralled by his acrobatic acts and instant jokes.

Anshu Jain is an active member of the Indian community. She has been living in Qatar for seven years. She has been the compere of many community events. She said: “It is the year of culture between India and Qatar. There have been musical, artistic, dance and cultural programmes taking place in Qatar almost every week.

There has however been a dearth of comedy shows. Especially, there have been no significant comedy events that one can enjoy with one’s family. Kapil Sharma Show in general and Grover’s characters in particular have been a household name in India. The upcoming event will provide a genuine family comedy that all and sundry will enjoy.”

COMIC STAR: Sunil Grover, popular Indian actor and standup comedian, will be performing for the first time live in Doha on April 26.