In Death Valley, fighter jet aficionados have a good feeling about ‘Star Wars Canyon’. P4-5

Reviews
John Wick 3 doesn’t break the violent action film formula. Page 11

Back Page
Non-Muslim expat celebrates Ramadan with perseverance. Page 16
**USEFUL NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide Emergency Number</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahramaa – Electricity and Water</td>
<td>991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Directory</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Calls Enquiries</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamad International Airport</td>
<td>40106666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Department</td>
<td>44508111, 44460537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowasalat Taxi</td>
<td>44588888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Airways</td>
<td>44406000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamad Medical Corporation</td>
<td>44392222, 44393333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation</td>
<td>44845555, 44845644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Health Care Corporation</td>
<td>44593333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Assistive Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre</td>
<td>44594050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar News Agency</td>
<td>44490205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q-Post – General Postal Corporation</td>
<td>44464444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Services Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)</td>
<td>40253372, 40253373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>40253370, 40253364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>40253364, 40253365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamad Medical Corporation</td>
<td>40253370, 40253364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Airways</td>
<td>40253370, 40253364</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRAYER TIME**

- *Fajr*: 3.22am
- *Shorooq (sunrise)*: 4.30am
- *Zuhr (noon)*: 11.32am
- *Ajr (afternoon)*: 2.40pm
- *Maghreb (sunset)*: 6.13pm
- *Isha (night)*: 7.43pm

**COMMUNITY ROUND & ABOUT**

**Quote Unquote**

_Just living is not enough… one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower._

— Hans Christian Andersen

**PRAISE TIME**

**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, 44460537
- Mowasalat Taxi: 44588888
- Qatar Airways: 44406000
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 44392222, 44393333
- Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation: 44845555, 44845644
- Primary Health Care Corporation: 44593333, 44593363
- Qatar Assistive Technology Centre: 44594050
- Qatar News Agency: 44490205
- Q-Post – General Postal Corporation: 44464444

**HUMANITARIAN SERVICES OFFICE**

(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)

- Ministry of Interior: 40253372, 40253373
- Ministry of Health: 40253370, 40253364
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253364, 40253365
- Qatar Airways: 40253370, 40253364

—

**COMMUNITY:**

**Kamran Rehmat**

e-mail: community@gulf-times.com

**Telephone:** 44466405

**Fax:** 44350474

---

**Ugly Dolls**

**DIRECTION:** Kelly Asbury

**CAST:** Kelly Clarkson, Nick Jonas, Janelle Monáe

**SYNOPSIS:** An animated adventure in which the free-spirited UglyDolls confront what it means to be different, struggle with a desire to be loved, and ultimately discover who you truly are in what matters most.

**THEATRE:** Royal Plaza

---

**The Convent**

**DIRECTION:** Paul Hyett

**CAST:** Michael Ironside, Rosie Day, Hannah Arterton

**SYNOPSIS:** In the early 17th century, innocent young Persephone is falsely accused and put on trial for her life. Her fate seems sealed except for the timely intervention of the mysterious Reverend Mother offering her not just sanctuary, but hope. The Reverend Mother is the leader of a small religious retreat where her fellow Sisters seek atonement for their pasts. But upon arrival, Persephone is plagued with visions and soon realises that it’s not salvation that awaits but a battle for her very soul.

**THEATRE:** Royal Plaza

---

---

**The Mall Cinema (1): Ugly Dolls (2D) 3pm; Student of the Year 2 (Hindi) 9pm; The Convent (2D) 11:30pm.**

**The Mall Cinema (2): De De Pyaar De (Hindi) 2:30pm; De De Pyaar De (Hindi) 8:30pm; De De Pyaar De (Hindi) 11pm.**

**The Mall Cinema (3): A Dog’s Journey (2D) 3pm; Avengers: Endgame (2D) 8:30pm; Uyare (Malayalam) 11:30pm.**

**Landmark Cinema (1): Ugly Dolls (2D) 3pm; The Convent (2D) 9pm; Student of the Year 2 (Hindi) 11pm.**

**Landmark Cinema (2): De De Pyaar De (Hindi) 2:30pm; De De Pyaar De (Hindi) 8:30pm; Uyare (Malayalam) 11pm.**

**Landmark Cinema (3): Uyare (Malayalam) 2:30pm; A Dog’s Journey (2D) 9pm; Lizzie (2D) 11pm.**

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1): De De Pyaar De (Hindi) 2:30pm; De De Pyaar De (Hindi) 8:30pm; De De Pyaar De (Hindi) 11pm.**

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2): Uyare (Malayalam) 2:30pm; A Dog’s Journey (2D) 9pm; Lizzie (2D) 11pm.**

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3): Ugly Dolls (2D) 3pm; The Convent (2D) 9pm; Avengers: Endgame (2D) 11pm.**
EVENTS

India to Qatar – Symbiosis of Cultures
WHERE: FBQ Museum
WHEN: Ongoing till July 31
Under the context of cultural exchange, FBQ Museum brings together the treasures of the museum owned collection in order to promote mutual understanding, recognition and appreciation between Qatar and India. Composed of five main topics, including community, trade, arts, food and incense, the exhibition takes one on a journey to explore the rich and diverse Indian cultures, the long historic links between Qatar and India, and cultural similarities between Qatar and India.

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.

Sunset Desert Safari with Iftar
WHERE: Sealine Beach
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 2pm – 10pm
Enjoy a day out in the relaxing singing sand dunes of Mesaieed along with a thrilling dune bashing experience. This 8-hour getaway takes you all the way to the breath-taking inland sea beach aka Khor Al Adaid to watch the Sunset. Break your fast with lavish Iftar at the resort. Only for QR280 per person.

Summer Camp for Special Needs
WHERE: Step by Step Centre for Special Needs
WHEN: June 30 – August 1
TIME: 8:00am – 12:30pm
During this time, all therapists and teachers will be working together, running individual, peer and group sessions within classes. The children will continue learning age-appropriate concepts, work on social skills, life skills training, arts and crafts, music, and fun activities such as water play.

Artistic Gymnastic Classes
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
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.

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, contact 55448835.

Hobby Classes
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, 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 3307609.

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

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 6652871/31326749.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND ME! – A Parent-Child Workshop
WHERE: Inspire Training Academy, C-Ring Road
WHEN: May 18
TIME: 3:30pm – 7pm
Right Track presents *PLEASE UNDERSTAND ME!* – a unique parent-child workshop aimed at helping you create a deeper bond with your child by understand his/her motivations and stressors, preferred learning styles and multiple intelligences. Early bird registration closes on May 15. (Includes Iftar boxes for fasting participants). For further details, contact 55448835.

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change
A power show to beat

‘Star Wars Canyon’ is part of a restricted military airspace called the R-2508 Complex, used for air-combat training, supersonic flight tests and other military operations, and it’s been a magnet for plane spotters for several years, writes Ruben Vives

POWER (SHOW) COUPLE: For six years, Richard, 71, and Candace Campbell of Pacific Cove, California, have been making the eight-hour trek in their 2001 Dodge 2500 cargo van that was converted to a camper, to Rainbow Canyon to watch fighter jets blast through the gorge.

Sometimes they’ll come down and turn so you can see their face and you can take their picture. We’ve seen one enter, swing and go right over us — Candace Campbell, veteran plane spotter
The canyon — more than five miles long and up to 5,000 feet wide — is about a three-hour drive northeast of Los Angeles, off State Route 190. On paper, it’s known as Rainbow Canyon because of its gray, orange and red strata. The US Air Force refers to it as the Jedi Transition, but almost everyone else refers to it as ‘Star Wars Canyon.’

For first-timers, it may seem like an odd place to pull over. The desolate landscape offers little beyond the craggy hills, rocks and tufts of brittle flora that look as though a month of rain could never revive them. But the canyon is part of a restricted military airspace called the X-2508 Complex, used for air-combat training, supersonic flight tests and other military operations, and it’s been a magnet for plane spotters for several years.

There’s only one requirement for membership in the fellowship: “You have to be bananas for aviation,” says Koningsveld.

Plane spotters who were interviewed over the course of two days in March spoke about the power and the speed of jets that zoom through the area at speeds up to 500mph. That brief moment in time when feats of engineering obliterate any prior notions about aircraft — and gravity. When a fighter jet transcends its role and becomes a testament to mankind’s technological achievements.

Wearing an orange hat with a back flap, Candace “Candy” Campbell of Pacific Grove, California, tried to catch her breath as she explained the thrill she gets by default, “Koningsveld said, laughing. Jose smiled and remained silent as the desert.

The origins of the canyon’s nickname are up for debate. Some aviation enthusiasts talk about desert scenes in the Star Wars movie franchise that were filmed in Death Valley. The exposed rocks on the canyon walls remind them of Tatooine, the home planet of Anakin and Luke Skywalker.

Others suggest that the pilots who fly into the canyon feel as if they’re dropping into the trench of the Empire’s Death Star, avoiding fire from laser cannons — just like Luke in A New Hope.

But the nickname was not a hot topic among the plane spotters — the European aviation photographers, military brats, veterans and the Campbells — stationed along the canyon rim on a breezy March day. Their focus was elsewhere.

Hours passed. People napped. A woman worked on her tan. Some of the visitors made small talk, stopping mid-sentence whenever they heard the crackling of a radio scanner. A few of them would jump up with their cameras the second they heard a rumble.

For Campbell, each pass is graceful,” she said. “It’s like ballet. It’s gorgeous.”

The Air Force and Navy have used ‘Star Wars Canyon’ as a training area since World War II, long before it became part of the national park in 1994, according to Patrick Taylor of the US National Park Service.

Most of the aircraft that pass through come from nearby bases such as Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Naval Air Station Lemoore, Edwards Air Force Base, Fresno Air National Guard Base and Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. Foreign allied forces are also known to make flybys.

Over the years, Taylor said the number of plane spotters has increased, in part because of social media. In 2010, the National Park Service installed a parking lot, a railing along the edge of the canyon and a bathroom at Crowley Overlook to accommodate the growing number of visitors.

Larry Grace, a former Air Force veteran and president of the International Society for Aviation Photography, said the Mach Loop in the United Kingdom and ‘Star Wars Canyon’ in Death Valley National Park are two of the most publicized plane spotting areas in the world.

“As pictures got out,” he said, “people asked about where they were taken, and that’s how those areas got popular.”

Ten years ago, Koningsveld drove to the canyon and waited for half an hour hoping to see a plane. The gravelly voiced Dutchman, who became obsessed with aircraft as a child, was not successful in his quest. But he and his wife, Jose (pronounced Josea), were already frequent visitors to the United States, attending annual air shows in Nevada and California, when four years ago, Koningsveld, 61, decided to give ‘Star Wars Canyon’ another try. This time, he spotted a fighter jet, and since then, he and his wife have made annual trips to the desert.

“Now I’m a little more patient. I can stand around all day here, getting old,” he said, chuckling.

Success at ‘Star Wars Canyon’ is frequently about luck. Some days the only things in flight are crows (or as some of the more frequent regulars have come to dub them: “Bi-KD!”) And then there are those holy mackerel days when dozens of military aircraft make an appearance.

Experienced plane spotters (many of whom are professional photographers) come prepared. They bring meals. They unfold their chairs, apply sunscreen — and they keep their eyes to the sky.

“If you’re talking to someone or looking somewhere else, you could miss it,” Koningsveld said.

Koningsveld and his family lived in the town of Zest, not far from a Royal Netherlands Air Force base in the centre of the country. He was a toddler when his father took him to his first air show and introduced him to the world of aviation.

Eventually, Koningsveld channelled his interest in military aircraft into a freelance photography career. By the early 1990s, he was flying with — and shooting photos for — flight demonstration squadrons such as the United Kingdom’s Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, known as the Red Arrows, and a Royal Canadian Air Force display flight squadron, called the Snowbirds.

As he sat at the overlook for the next jet to fly through, Koningsveld said he was hoping to spot his favourite plane, an F-15 Strike Eagle — and he did, the following day. “It looks good and it’s enormously powerful,” Koningsveld said.

His wife was sporting a denim shirt with the picture of an F-15, a suggestion, perhaps, of a shared enthusiasm.

“She’s married to me, so it’s by default,” Koningsveld said, laughing. Jose smiled and remained silent as the desert.

AFICIONADOS: Three Los Angeles photographers, sitting at Father Crowley lookout point, wait for military jets to buzz through canyon below them in Death Valley.

FLIGHT: A fighter jet F-18 from NAS Lemoore dives into Rainbow Canyon, aka Star Wars Canyon, near the western edge of Death Valley National Park in Inyo County, California. The canyon, accessed from Father Crowley Overlook off California State Route 190, gives visitors a place to witness and photograph jets flying beneath them.
AMAB organises graduation ceremony

Al Maha Boys Academy recently organised graduation ceremony of the students of Grade VI at Katara Hall. The ceremony celebrated the achievements of the graduating students.

Sean Dennis, Deputy Head of the Primary School, welcomed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, Mukhtaur Rahman, Head of Grade VI, praised the graduating students’ progress. The event also featured a reprise of the AMAB winning theatre production from the Qatar National Day events at Darb Al Saai. The short play was performed by Hussien al-Khayat, Jumaa al-Hitmy, Fahad al-Marri, Ali Naaser and Hamad al-Balam. The play focused on the message of working together for family and country. The event also featured mock traditional Qatari sword dancing.

Speaking on the occasion, Michael Myford, Head of Primary School, emphasised on the growing success of Al Maha Boys’ Primary School through an unwavering focus on high expectations also stressing on the Islamic values which underpin all that the school seeks to achieve.

Shuja Uddin, Principal of AMAB, thanked the parents for their support in close partnership with teachers and pupils.

Ahmed al-Mannai, CEO of Ta’allum, said “There is great spirit of camaraderie and respect amongst the Grade VI Al Maha Boys and their committed staff. They are truly demonstrating the maxim ‘Together we are stronger’.”

Faculty of DPS-MIS attends training session

Suleena Manoj, Neethu Adthikaka and Mini Devadas Gopan, faculty members at DPS-MIS, recently attended a training session organised by Science India Forum on Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP). The session was conducted by Avinash Deshpande, NLP AND BSC Practitioner. The interactive session aimed at enabling the participants to get better equipped to face the challenges in their day to day interactions and learn how to convert a challenge as a take away. A guidance to apply the NPL Model of Communication was explained by the trainer. The participants were also awarded with the certificates of participation.

QVPF hosts Annual Iftar Meet

Qatar Vanimal Pravasi Forum (QVPF), an expat community hailing from South Indian state of Kerala, recently hosted its Annual Iftar Meet at Asian Town Cricket Stadium Recreation Hall recently. Around 450 members and guests attended the event.

Habeeb Rahman, Executive Director of Friends Cultural Centre, was the keynote speaker on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the importance of bringing community together. A free diabetic check-up by Imara Healthcare was also part of the event.

Blood Donation Drive

Qatar Indian Thowheed Centre (QITC), in association with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) Blood Donor Centre, recently organised 31th Mega Blood Campaign at Thumama community centre. Around 200 volunteers donated the blood. All the volunteers and members of QITC were also served with breakfast and lunch. HMC provided five beds and one mobile blood bank for the drive.
Doha College teacher presents work at COBIS International Conference

The COBIS Innovation in Education Conference recently partnered with the first ever ResearchED event in the Middle East. COBIS is the Council of British International Schools and ResearchED is a grassroots, teacher-led organisation which started in 2013 and is led by founder Tom Bennett, independent behaviour adviser to the UK Department for Education. The event brought together leading experts from the field of education, thought leaders and educational practitioners to address ways in which teachers can explore educational innovations.

The expert speakers’ lineup included Kirsten Burnett, a faculty member at Doha College, an educator who is passionate about teacher autonomy and elevating the teaching profession, as well. Through the school’s Enhanced Leadership Programme, she has introduced a programme of action research, while she is finalising her Master of Education in Professional Practice. Drawing on her experience of teaching in the international setting offered by Qatar, Kirsten’s work expounds on ‘Why Being an International Teacher can Drive Action Research’. Her talk focused on the introduction of Action Research into Doha College Primary this year, as a means of professional development. “Action Research’s aim is to raise the professionalism of teachers by providing autonomy to research ‘what works’ in a classroom and also promotes democratisation within schools because change comes from teachers,” she explained.

Kirsten’s research fits into a larger framework that came into existence at Doha College this academic year. Each year group in DC Primary has collaborated to investigate a research question about either the curriculum, content knowledge, a teaching strategy, professional identity, or something contextual. This first cycle started at Doha College in November 2018 and will finish in June 2019, culminating in a Learning Festival on 18 June, where each team will share their research findings with the whole school.

BPS takes part in 17th Annual Inter-School Scrabble Tournament 2019

Members of Birla Public School Scrabble Club recently took part in 17th Annual Inter-School Scrabble Tournament 2019, organised in Stafford Sri Lankan School. The team from BPS bagged 1st runners up title in Overall Championship. Eshan Azami, a student of BPS, secured 1st runners up position in Under 14 category.

A P Sharma, Principal of BPS, congratulated the students and said, “It’s been great to watch the club grow, the kids come in excited to play and learn. This also helps to grow the weaker students’ interest in words. It helps them learn to play around with words and letters. And the students are learning more than this, like making new friends, weaning themselves away from TV and the digital world.”

The BPS Scrabble Club team was led by Dimple Verma, Area Co-ordinator, and assisted by Shweta Kumari Koundal.

IIS releases annual magazine

Ideal Indian School recently organised a special ceremony for the release of its annual magazine Idealite. Mehré Alam, Deputy Editor of Qatar Tribune, was the chief guest at the event. He presented the first copy of the magazine to Dr Hassan Kunhi M P, President of IIS, and Syed Shoukath Ali, Principal of IIS. Speaking on the occasion, Mehré Alam spoke about the importance of reading. He said that reading helps us to discover new things and how we develop a positive self-image and it is important because reading habit expands the mind and develops the imagination. He also spoke about the impact of greater use of digital media in todays world.

Dr Hassan Kunhi M P commended the efforts of the editorial board, teachers and students for bringing the magazine. Idealite is a multilingual magazine, which provides a platform to the budding artists and writers of the school to display their talent. Further, it also provides a panoramic view of the cultural, academic, sports and literary activities and achievements of the School. Aasaf Ali, Head of Department of English at IIS and Editor in Chief of the Magazine, welcomed the gathering. Zemina Suffcker proposed a vote of thanks.
PISQ students unveil projects at iEARN-Qatar 2019 Open House

Students of Pakistan International School Qatar (PISQ) recently displayed their projects during the iEARN-Qatar 2019 Open House, hosted by Reach Out to Asia (ROA) at the Qatar Foundation Student Centre. Every year teachers from PISQ take up iEARN-Qatar projects, which aim at teachers’ professional development and benefit students’ educational process. The motto of iEARN is learning with the world not just about it. While the students work on their projects, they also collaborate online with schools from 140 countries around the globe. The projects are chosen from a list of iEARN Projects and students research, design activities and set projects for producing the project outcome. The exhibition featured students’ projects on various initiatives, including gardening and studies on animals in Qatar; science works, embrace other cultures; and projects that aim at teachers’ professional development and benefit students’ educational process.

One-hundred and six students from all sections of the school unveiled the projects. The four projects of Girls Wing, included My Culture, thy Culture-let’s Embrace other Cultures; The Science Festival; My Culture; and Research in Animal Conservation. The events were attended by Syed Ahsan Raza Shah, Ambassador of Pakistan; Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of PISQ, and Atifah Shafi, Vice Principal of Girls Wing. The students and faculty members were presented with the certificates of participation.

Charles & Keith collaborates with couture designer Rami al-Ali

Charles & Keith has recently created a special capsule collection in collaboration with fashion designer, Rami al-Ali, stated a press release. Glamorous and romantic, this collection – featuring exquisite embroidery – encapsulates the refined elegance that is a signature of al-Ali’s brand. A new brand, al-Ali is known for his sophisticated aesthetic, beautiful red carpet gowns and use of unconventional materials, such as sequins made of laser-cut organza. His stunning creations are coveted by celebrities and sociables all over the world. He graduated from the College of Fine Arts in Damascus, Syria in 1995 and created his eponymous label in 2000. Having found success in Europe after showing a couture collection in Rome, he debuted at Paris’ Couture Fashion Week in 2012. For this collection, al-Ali was inspired by the Spring 2019 season and its key elements. Embellished with shiny pearls and sparkling crystals, this exclusive range of shoes and clutches perfectly reflects the unique DNA of his brand. The Rami Al Ali X Charles & Keith Collection consists of five designs, including three pairs of shoes and two clutches, that feature neutral, bold and metallic hues. This classically feminine range would make a quiet statement on occasions when you need to look your best. The sling-back stiletto sandals, ankle strap platform heels and kitten heel mules are all adorned with chic asymmetrical bows – a lady-like yet quirky embellishment. This eye-catching bow is also found on a compact boxy clutch. A classic trapezium clutch with a bejewelled push lock wraps up the collection. In addition to the main capsule collection, the collaboration introduces a special limited edition designs that consist of the boxy clutch and slingback stiletto sandals in dark grey and burgundy, featuring hand-embroidered bows.

Al Sulaiti Law Firm organises Third Annual Ramadan Gala

Al Sulaiti Law Firm recently organised its Third Annual Ramadan Gala in Support of Education Above All Foundation (EAA) at Ritz-Carlton Hotel Doha. This year, Al Sulaiti Law Firm focused on raising funds for the First Ihsaan School Project. The event consisted of ambassadors’ and representatives’ from various countries, including South Korea, South Africa, Sweden, Georgia, Canada, Austria, Burkina Faso, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Turkey, Argentina, France, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain and others. Speaking on the occasion, Mubarak al-Sulaiti, Chairman of Al Sulaiti Law Firm, discussed the importance of education and said, “We are inspired by EAA’s dedication and efforts towards education and securing those less fortunate and undergoing unfortunate circumstances to still receive a right to their education. They build schools and maintain that these schools are safe and operating, like the First Ihsaan School Project. The event’s main purpose is to highlight their efforts and accomplishments.” Mohammad Jassim al-Naama, representative from Education Above All Foundation, also discussed the importance of donations and how they can help children get a decent education. The event also featured a musical performance by the choir club of Sherborne School Qatar, a partner of Education Above All Foundation. More than 20 children performed a sequence of songs related to the Holy Month of Ramadan, which was followed by the screening of a special film highlighting the importance of education and the lack of access of education to those less fortunate. During the entire evening a silent auction was held with 2 paintings donated with a minimum bid from artist, Andril Chernovil. The highest bidder was announced during the event.

One of the event supporters, provided guests with a promo-code for a VIP Medical Insurance package and that promo-code will be used to donate QR1,000 to the First Ihsaan School Project for every package purchased. The event was concluded with a raffle draw with prizes from Turkish Airlines and Wojooh. The event was supported by Turkish Airlines (Strategic Supporter), Seib Insurance, Sherborne School Qatar, and Wojooh.
SC visits TNG as part of ‘Tamreen’ programme

Ahead of the opening of the Al Wakrah Stadium, Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) has recently developed a programme ‘Tamreen’ for students to learn more about the lasting positive changes the 2022 FIFA World Cup is bringing about in Qatar. Tamreen offers teaching resources and toolkits to be incorporated in existing lesson plans for students to enhance their skills of Maths, Science, English and citizenship.

As part of the programme, SC has a series of activations to build excitement throughout the country by introducing a bus which is equipped with facilities related to FIFA 2022. The team of SC recently visited The Next Generation School (TNG) and introduced the bus to students of TNG. Students had a chance to hop on to the bus and learnt how to use arts and crafts to create a paper-shirt for themselves representing football players. Students were excited to use props and flags of different countries and were presented with several gifts to take back home as a memory.

Al Najada Hotel: Where Heritage meets Arabian Hospitality

In Qatar’s fast expanding capital, residents and travellers are invited to discover the charms of Qatari heritage at Al Najada Hotel. As a new addition to the collection of hotels in Souq Waqif, Al Najada offers new heights of Arabian hospitality to hotel and apartment guests, stated a press release. Centrally located on a heritage site between Grand Hamad street and the hustle and bustle of Souq Waqif and the Gold Souq, the new hotel is inspired by Qatari homes and hospitality, showcasing a mix of Arabic flair and European elegance.

The hotel’s design gracefully blends traditional architecture and façades with modern Arabic design and a contemporary colour palate. This is complemented by crafted tile work in vibrant yellows and blues, creating a sophisticated yet lively ambience throughout the property. The open and expansive guest rooms and suites have been designed to feel elegant yet relaxed with plush interiors and classic hues. Private balconies open over the piazza with views of the city, with guests staying on the upper floors of the hotel able to enjoy vistas of the West Bay skyline.

With 151 guest rooms and suites, Al Najada Hotel places an emphasis on privacy with a variety of accommodation including the luxurious Al Najada Suite, split-level Duplex Suites and exclusive rooms and suites that are perfect for large families. In addition, neighbouring Al Najada Hotel Apartments, part of Souq Al Najada, offers a home away from home for long-stay business travellers and families.

The restaurants at Al Najada Hotel are more than places to simply eat and drink; they are places to discover new flavours and revisit old favourites. Al Baraha is a light, bright restaurant lit by the Qatari sunshine streaming through the windows which overlook the spacious outdoor terrace and across the piazza to Souq Al Najada. With its high ceiling and vibrant colourful furniture, Al Baraha, which means comfortable and cosy, is the perfect place for guests to start their culinary journey. Al Baraha Restaurant offers a sumptuous daily breakfast buffet, while for dinner guests choose from an array of international and Arabic specialties including Middle Eastern mezzah, freshly prepared salads and local desserts. Other distinctive features include live cooking stations, a barbecue for dinner and Friday Brunch.

Missan, a dessert-only restaurant, is a unique gastronomic experience – an experimental journey created by the hotel’s talented pastry team to stimulate the senses. Dishes are expertly prepared and served, balancing colours, aromas, textures and flavours. Missan is made for those searching for a one-of-a-kind dining experience in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

For those who want to entertain friends and family, Canela Café is the perfect place to unwind and enjoy a mid-morning coffee, small bites and an array of sweet treats. In Canela, meaning cinnamon in Portuguese and giving a nod to brand’s heritage and roots, guests can also enjoy a calm ambience with lots of space to sit both inside on the laid-back furniture or outside on the terrace overlooking the piazza and Souq Al Najada.

Alongside the hotel’s outdoor swimming pool, the Pool Bar offers seasonal menus with a wide selection of tropical mocktails, refreshing chilled juices and light snacks. Nestled on the first floor of the hotel, it is the ideal place to relax, unwind and bask in the sunshine while enjoying a refreshing drink – truly a modern oasis in the middle of the bustling city. For guests feeling a little more energetic, a 24-hour fitness centre is also available.

The hotel is also home to the impressive Al Najada Ballroom, opening onto a tranquil courtyard. Designed to stylishly host weddings, social occasions and corporate meetings for up to 400 guests, it is the venue of choice in downtown Doha.
Catching up with the catch

Purely from an aesthetic sense, Doha Corniche lends itself to a photographer’s dream. It is a touch overdone perhaps, thanks to the never-ending picture perfect opportunities, but let’s not forget it also serves as a bargain rendezvous for fish consumers. Yes, Corniche and fish rhyme for good effect!

The tidy fish stalls at the Corniche offer enough to tempt the taste buds with the day’s fresh catch. ‘Fresh’ is the catchword since there’s plenty at the central fish market, too, and at cheaper rates, but the ‘fresh’ quotient is what distinguishes the Corniche fish stalls from their bigger rivals elsewhere.

So how do you determine the freshness? An unsuspecting customer can be easily waylaid by the overly used sales pitch. Here’s a thumb-rule guide: Look for a firm and shiny flesh; it should have the odour of the ocean (ever smelt the fresh ocean breeze?). Next scrutinise the retina and gills: a fresh fish will have clear eyes and a slight bulge; the gills should be pink/red, not having turned white. Also, these should be wet, not dry or slimy. Look out for discolouration as well — brown or yellow edges and a spongy consistency are signs that you had better let go.

But overall, there’s little to worry since the traders are bound to rid of the stock after three days. Then, there’s medical oversight, too, which means more likely you’re not going to be fishing in troubled waters!

— Text by Kamran Rehmat (@kaamyabi), photos by Ram Chand
John Wick 3 doesn’t break the violent action film formula

By Katie Walsh

At this point, the words “John” and “Wick” used together signify something very specific. Mostly: sharply choreographed, creatively efficient violence. We know there will be a brooding Keanu Reeves killing dozens (only because he has to). There will be eye-popping stunts and a network of sharply dressed assassins. There will be gun fu. Does John Wick: Chapter Three – Parabellum break the formula? It most certainly does not. Director Chad Stahelski wouldn’t dare. But you almost wish he would.

The film picks up directly after the second film ends, with a bloodied John (Reeves) running through the streets of New York, moments away from being declared “excommunicado” from secret society proceedings of the Continental Hotel. With a $14 million dollar bounty on his head, everyone in New York wants to kill John Wick, so now John Wick has to kill everyone in New York with whatever he has on hand.

Like most John Wick movies, the first two acts of Parabellum are a thrill of adrenaline and origination, the dates when Reeves is surging on a board. What’s that all about? John, seeking shelter, heads to an old theatre where Anjelica Huston marshals a combination ballet/wrestling school and indicates John trained there as a youth. But “Parabellum” frustratingly offers only morsels of the strange world that birthed Keanu Reeves.

John Wick has an unstoppable will to live. He only kills when he has to, in self-defense. But when you’re the world’s best assassin, with a huge bounty on your head, a lot of people are going to try and kill you. What keeps him going? That question is answered, to poetic and tragic ends, when he says he lives simply to remember his wife and pup. Their memory lives in him, so if he lives, they live. That love keeps him going.

The startlingly emotional admission is the one thing that shakes up the predictable proceedings of Parabellum, and it matches the sorrowful soulfulness with which Reeves imbues his character. One can’t help but wonder if it’s inspired by the personal tragedies of his own life. In this ballet of bloodshed, this hail of headshots, this monsoon of murder, it’s easy to become desensitised. But Reeves always makes the more human rockabilly pin-up-style secretaries with arms full of Sailor Jerry tattoos shouting out status updates while chalking them on a board. What’s that all about?

General Magic profiles the people who created a smartphone, and then lost everything

By Kenneth Turan

General Magic is such an involving documentary for so many reasons it’s hard to know where to begin. The title itself, as it turns out, might be best. General Magic is the name of a group that, as former Apple chief executive John Sculley puts it, could be “the most important company to come out of Silicon Valley no one has ever heard of.” That’s because General Magic is not legendary for the usual reasons. Far from being a unicorn success, it was a crescendoing failure, ultimately filing for bankruptcy in 2002.

But, as someone else in this engaging film—directed by Sarah Kerruish and Matt Maude—puts it, “failure isn’t always the end; failure is often the beginning.”

So attention is being paid today because General Magic failed by being too soon with a brilliant conception—for having the idea for smartphones. But, as someone else in this engaging film—directed by Sarah Kerruish and Matt Maude—puts it, “failure isn’t always the end; failure is often the beginning.”

That’s because General Magic’s other throughline was to cost real money. As it turns out, co-director Kerruish had shot some of that 1990s footage herself, and her first-hand familiarity with what the company was like back in the day is invaluable.

A key player for General Magic was its CEO and co-founder Marc Porat, a charismatic futurist who says simply, “I went into the future and saw it.”

What he saw, and what he described and pictured in a massive 1980 manifesto called Pocket Crystal, was essentially today’s smartphone, “a beautifully crafted item you would fall in love with. Once you use it, you won’t be able to live without it.”

Porat connected with Apple CEO Sculley, determined to “create what came after the personal computer.”

General Magic became an Apple spin-off, which enhanced its status as both the hottest and coolest place to work in Silicon Valley. Aside from Porat, the documentary’s other throughline is Tony Fadell, later key to the birth of the iPod but introduced here as a young computer geeks from Detroit who more or less nagged his way onto the General Magic team. Because a project of this scope was going to cost real money, AT&T, the only entity at the time with a phone network, was brought in as a partner, as were numerous companies including Sony, Motorola and Philips, who were natural enemies but worried about missing the boat.

Helped by the prestige of Goldman Sachs, General Magic became the first concept to merit an initial public offering of stock, which resulted both in a lot of money and enough adulation that the company began to believe its own publicity.

As many witnesses testify, things were not always so rosy inside the company. “No one was saying ‘blow this deadline and you’ll miss the opportunity to change the world,’” remembers Fadell, while Hertzfeld says “we were too dazzled by what it could possibly do to realize we were biting off more than we could do.”

There were other problems, including tunnel vision. When the first inklings of the Internet appeared, for instance, no one saw its potential importance.

Which points out the crucial problem the General Magic device—called the Magic Link—faced. In a world where digital technology and the world wide web didn’t exist, putting out a mobile phone was, as journalist Kara Swisher puts it, “like inventing television in the 1880s: The shows were not there.”

Being so close yet so far ended up having a huge impact on the personal situations of the General Magic team, with Porat, in an emotional on-camera moment, agreeing to be in the film to help his children understand what happened in their lives.

If there is an overall lesson here, it may have been best put in a classically California comparison. “If you start paddling too early,” one witness says, “the wave will leave you behind.” – Los Angeles Times/TNS
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 grid. The grid is divided into nine 3x3 boxes. You are given a selection of numbers and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains all the numbers from 1 to 9 and every number is repeated.

Codeword

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

Across
1 Major finally meeting new group of soldiers (6)
5 Some problem, maybe, in a Jane Austen novel (4)
8 Good wet weather for cereal crop (5)
9 Is American in sea badly treated? (7)
11 Leading Irish father has begun (7)
12 Cab heading off to the centre of Rome? That’s taken for granted (5)
13 They hold cold lanterns (6)
15 Number of team members seen one after another (6)
18 Including everything spent (3,2)
20 Bore stopped outside ancient city (7)
23 Applaud bad actor somewhere in London (7)
24 Journey to the east? Nonsense! (5)
25 Don’t work for bread (4)
26 One means to arrange flowers (8)

Down
1 Long time after end of winter storms (5)
2 Elderly relative with girl in Spanish city (7)
3 Artist producing some Roman etchings (5)
4 Damson cultivated by wanderers (6)
6 Africans as puzzled as I am (5)
7 Tummy upset? Bad sign! (7)
10 Garment a playwright has left (5)
13 Risk taken by learner in part of church (7)
14 A drink for Judy’s companion (5)
16 Non-U souvenir, funny variant (7)
17 Pests in silver mine (6)
19 In the morning everyone turns up to see this animal (5)
21 Bit of information given by trade union in current stoppage? (5)
22 Costume for groom? (5)

Yesterday’s Solutions

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword
Why certain employees always call in sick

If you are tired of certain employees skipping work, look at the constitution of the team. According to an interesting study, women in purely male teams and older employees in very young teams are absent almost twice as much as their colleagues in teams where they have a good fit.

Professor Florian Kunze and Max Reinwald from University of Konstanz in Germany investigated workplace behaviour of employees who are in the minority in their teams.

The two researchers observed more than 800 teams in a big Swiss-based service company over the course of seven years.

They focused on two attributes of new team members – gender and age.

They found that the more unequal a new team member, the earlier and the more easily they find themselves in situations where they will be subject to discrimination.

These so-called anchoring events then go on to shape the subjects’ perceptions of teamwork for years to come.

“Of course non-average team members don’t automatically and constantly skip work! We have not been looking into individual workloads and performance or into individual work biographies, that remains for a follow-up study to tackle.

“Our study is limited to a blue-collar environment, where prejudices towards women and older co-workers are more pronounced. We can safely draw the conclusion that women in male-dominated, as well as older employees in younger environments experience more discrimination. And this experience of discrimination increases over time,” said Professor Kunze.

The team evaluated 2,711 persons – date of team entry, team composition, team swaps, absenteeism – all completely anonymously.

“The trend is pretty obvious: during their first year on a new team, new members remain inconspicuous regardless of their fit.

After that, the curve rises, and quite steeply in many cases. After a few years, women in purely male teams, and older employees in very young teams, are absent almost twice as much as their colleagues in teams where they have a good fit.

“It comes down to about eight annual days of absence compared to four, which is pretty significant,” said the researchers in a paper published in Academy of Management Journal.

Reinwald and Kunze hope the results would give companies and organisations looking to increase diversity some pointers on how to do so successfully.

“Employees that do not fit their teams demographically require increased attention and support, especially when just starting out – and team leaders ought to be sensitised to and prepared for these needs,” they suggested. – IANS
Say, “O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful.”

Qur’an 39:53, Sahih International

The importance of seeking forgiveness

We should never lose hope or stop asking Allah The Almighty for forgiveness for our sins and mistakes. The importance of seeking forgiveness is shown to us in a narration of the Prophet sallAllahu `alayhi wa sallam (may Allah exalt his mention): O people! Turn to Allah in repentance and seek His forgiveness, for surely I make repentance a hundred times every day. Repentance is such a great act of worship that it can completely erase one’s sins altogether, as the Noble Prophet sallAllahu `alayhi wa sallam (may Allah exalt his mention) said: One who repents from sins is like one without sin.

When a person commits a sin and then sincerely turns to Allah The Almighty for forgiveness, he will find Allah The Almighty ready to accept his repentance and to forgive him. Allah Says (what means): (“And whoever does a wrong or wrongs himself, but then seeks forgiveness from Allah, he will find Allah forgiving and merciful.”) [Qur’an, 4:10] [Qur’an, 4:48]

Repentance is an act of worship which purifies the soul and brings the slave closer to His Lord. It puts the heart at rest from guilt. It protects a believer from falling prey to desires and lusts and increases his faith.

Allah The Almighty then Says in a Hadeeth Al-Qudsi (The sacred narration): “O son of Adam, if you were to come to Me with sins close to filling the earth and then you would meet Me without ascribing any partners with Me, I would certainly bring you forgiveness close to filling it.” Look at how great is the mercy, compassion and love of Allah The Almighty! The least Allah The Almighty asks for is that one not ascribe any partners and gods with Him, for, He is alone in His Sovereignty. After that if one commits sins and seeks sincere forgiveness, Allah The Almighty promises that He will forgive him and shower His mercy upon him. However, one is not forgiven if he seeks repentance from Allah The Almighty at the time of death when he sees the angels or when the sun rises from the west at the approach of the Day of Judgement. This is confirmed by the following Words of Allah. Allah Says (what means): “And of no effect is the repentance of those who continue to do evil deeds until death faces one of them and he says, Now I repent, nor of those who dies while they are disbelievers. For them, We have prepared a painful torment.”) [Qur’an, 4:18]

Allah The Almighty never forgive to the one who commits Shirk (polytheism), which is the association of partners with Allah The Almighty. Forgiveness will only come to those who die while adhering to Tawheed (Islamic Monotheism) and avoiding any form of Shirk. Allah The Almighty emphasized this in the Qur’an. He Says (what means):

• (“Verily, Allah does not forgive to the one who commits Shirk, for whatever is less than that for whomever He wills.”) [Qur’an, 4:48]

We must ask ourselves this question: Would we be willing to forgive anyone who hurts us and disobeys us constantly as easily as Allah The Almighty is Able to forgive? Most probably, the answer would be no. However, our Creator is the Most Kind and He is the Most Perfect as He Says in the Qur’an (what means): “Lo! Allah is a Lord of Kindness to mankind, but most of mankind give not thanks.” [Qur’an, 2:143] – Islamweb.net
Ramadan is not just a month of hunger for Muslims. Considered to be the holiest month of the year for Muslims, this month goes far beyond fasting before sunrise to sunset. It is a month for spiritual connection, self-discipline, reconnecting to faith and religious practices, remembering those who are less fortunate, and spending time with family.

With about 7.6 billion people in the world, around 24% of them, 1.8 billion, are fasting from sunup to sundown. Every day. For an entire month.

In a population of about 2.74 million people in Qatar, more than 80% being expatriates from different countries around the world, the religious spread of the population residing in Qatar is split at roughly 67.7% Muslims and 32.3% population belonging to other religions.

In a Muslim majority country, Ramadan is celebrated with a passion of longing and love. But what if you’re not a Muslim – just a caring, considerate person. How do non-Muslim expatriates in Qatar spend their Ramadan?

Sharice Tan, a makeup artist from the Philippines residing in Doha for the previous 10 years, talks about cherishing the month of Ramadan and standing side-by-side with her Muslim friends and acquaintances.

The Islamic holy month of Ramadan is a time for Muslims all over the world to renew their focus on spiritual life and its practical application in daily life. Sharice completely agrees that a conscious fasting develops a sense of compassion in an individual especially towards the needy and poor along with spiritual well-being.

Food Tips: What to eat?

By Azmat Haroon

Celebrated poet and scholar of medieval India Amir Khusro (1253–1325) was perhaps the first to write about the triangular shaped savoury goodness of samosa in South Asia. Around 1300, the royal poet of the Delhi Sultanate wrote that the princes and nobles enjoyed the “samosa prepared from meat, ghee, onion and so on”. But many historians say that this popular snack was introduced to South Asia by the Middle Eastern chefs, who had themselves received the recipe from Central Asia centuries ago.

Even in the old days, people would cook the mince or vegetables filled triangles over campfire and eat them as snacks during travel.

Samosa without a doubt is one of the most popular snacks all over the world. Its biggest secret to popularity has remained the various varieties of fillings that cater to different tastes across the globe.

For the sake of this review, we are only looking into the South Asian variety of samosa and here are our top picks of restaurants where you can grab this snack in Qatar.

Top samosa places

- Delhi Bakery
- Zafran Café
- Soghaat Sweets & Bakers
- Bombay Chowpatty
- MBA Bakery Sweets & Resturants