Coming clean

Howard Stern talks about life, death, Donald Trump — and why he can’t stand his old narcissism. P4-5

Showbiz
Playing living legend poses unique challenges: Ranveer. Page 11

Back Page
Uganda Muslim relishes first Ramadan in Qatar. Page 16
PRAYER TIME

Fajr 3:15am
Shorooq (sunrise) 4:45am
Zuhr (noon) 11:33am
Azr (afternoon) 2:57pm
Maghreb (sunset) 6:20pm
Isha (night) 7:50pm

USEFUL NUMBERS

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Qatar Airways                            | 40253374 |

De De Pyaar De
DIRECTION: Akiv Ali
CAST: Ajay Devgn, Tabu, Rakul Preet Singh
SYNOPSIS: A 50-year-old single father faces disapproval from his family and his ex-wife when he falls in love with a 26-year-old woman.
THEATRE: Landmark

Chandigarh Amritsar Chandigarh
DIRECTION: Karan R Guliani
CAST: Sargun Mehta, Gippy Grewal
SYNOPSIS: A girl from Chandigarh comes to Amritsar with the intention of rejecting a prospective groom and ends up spending the day with him. His constant chatter exasperates her, but they share a curious chemistry nevertheless.
THEATRE: The Mall, Landmark

The Mall Cinema (1):
Chandigarh Amritsar Chandigarh (Punjabi) 3pm; Aladdin (2D) 9pm; Neeya 2 (Tamil) 11:35pm.
The Mall Cinema (2):
Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 8:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 11pm.
The Mall Cinema (3):
Sita (Telugu) 2:15pm; Ishaq (Malayalam) 8:30pm; Avengers: Endgame (2D) 11pm.
Landmark Cinema (1):
Muklawa (Punjabi) 3pm; De De Pyaar De (Hindi) 9pm; Ishaq (Malayalam) 11:30pm.
Landmark Cinema (2):
Aladdin (2D) 2:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 8:30pm; Aladdin (2D) 11pm.
Landmark Cinema (3):
Lisaa (Tamil) 3pm; Aladdin (2D) 9:15pm; Chandigarh Amritsar Chandigarh (Punjabi) 11:30pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):
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Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):
Lisaa (Tamil) 3pm; Aladdin (2D) 9:15pm; Muklawa (Punjabi) 11:30pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3):
Ishaq (Malayalam) 2:30pm; Discarnate (2D) 9pm; Avengers: Endgame (2D) 11pm.
compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change

**Community Round & About**

**Events**

**MF Hussain: The Horses Of The Sun Exhibition**
WHERE: Mataf: Arab Museum of Modern Art
WHEN: Ongoing till July 31
TIME: 9am – 7pm
The exhibition presents Hussain’s pluralist approach to the divine and cosmic aspects of being, articulated through the myths, symbols and narratives of the world’s religions and philosophies. M. F. Husain: Horses of the Sun bears witness to a recurrent motif in his art, a personal symbol of self-renewal and vitality.

**Katara Drive Thru Festival**
WHERE: Katara – the Cultural Village
WHEN: Ongoing till June 10
TIME: 6pm – 4am
Join us at Katara – the Cultural Village and enjoy the diverse cuisines at your car step! From first day of Ramadan until Eid holidays starting from 5pm till 2am.

**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: Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 6pm
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 66523871/31326749.

**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.

**Arabic Calligraphy Workshop**
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: 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.

**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 children from age 4 till 10.

**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

**Music and Arts Atelier.**
Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier.

**Phonological Awareness, Motor Skills, Developmental Needs**
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.

**Hobby Classes**
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
Mamangam Performing Art Centre, a holistic performing arts institute 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 33897609.**

**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 66523871/31326749.
Here to stay

The most successful and influential radio personality of his generation and arguably in the history of the medium, Howard Stern has been talking into microphones for most of his life, which in now in its 65th year. He shows no signs of shutting up, writes Rick Kogan.
York again for events surrounding the publication of his second book, *Miss America* (Simon & Schuster), which was riding atop the *New York Times* bestseller list with 1.4 million copies in print. It was, much like his first book, a compendium of intimate fantasies, personal stories, transcripts from the radio show, hundreds of photos, and biting examinations of American celebrities, done up in varying typographic styles.

Sitting in his cozy office, he said, “I don’t know why I touch base with my audience. I guess that it’s because I’m honest, brutally honest. I appeal to the cynic in all of us.”

Some saw his four hours on air every weekday morning as threat to the nation’s morality, his radio show a dangerous feast of crude, racist, sexist and untoward comments. To others he was an often-hilarious voice. Deep-thinkers deemed him a new Lenny Bruce, pushing the bounds of what some consider good taste by frankly exploring life’s conventions, problems and obsessions.

I asked, “What is the one thing you have in mind when you sit behind the microphone?”

“To entertain,” he said. Since last we talked, a lot has happened to Stern. Where to start?

Well, as his lengthy marriage to college sweetheart Alison Berns and the mother of their three grown daughters began to disintegrate in the late 1990s, he began seeing a psychotherapist, eventually visiting the late 2001 and in 2008 he amicably divorced. They are, as you will read, serious interviews. At their best, interviews are not inquisitions intended merely to break down, it does get you thinking about your legacy, what you’ll leave behind, what you’re proud of.”

The cumulative effects of these events has been transformative. “The pose I’ve tried to maintain just doesn’t work for me anymore,” he writes. “It was a safe world but a lonely one — a kind of prison.”

His first two books are not on the shelves of any of the homes he owns (yes, more than one). “It’s like looking at old photographs. I don’t like the way I looked,” he said. “I don’t listen to myself on old radio shows. I don’t like the way my voice sounds. I almost don’t recognise myself in the previous book. I am not proud of them. But I love this new book so much.”

It is, on a number of levels, a terrific book. Only two of its interviews (one with Trump and another with Ozzy Osbourne) are from the pre-Sirius era, when his obsession with ratings combined with his self-absorption “didn’t lend itself to doing serious interviews.”

They are, as you will read, serious now. He deeply researches all of his guests and he is able to get honest emotions and genuine insights from most of them. Yes, his radio shows can still dip into tawdry territory and he remains wildly funny and provocative. His interviews sparkle. There is a great freedom in being able to talk for an hour or more with no commercial interruptions and he has come to realise that interviews are not inquisitions intended merely for a saucy soundbite or “gotcha” moment. At their best, interviews are conversations.

On the phone, he talked a bit about Trump; mentioned that he regrets long ago interviews with Gilda Radner and Robin Williams; spoke of his deep affection and respect for his radio sidekick Robin Quivers who, “more than anyone is my courage on the air”; said that his interview with Conan O’Brien is the best he’s ever done; and he talked about cats.

His wife is an author and animal rights activist. Over the last six years, the couple has opened their homes to nearly 1,000 foster cats and found families to adopt each.

“This has really been a passion and pleasure for my wife,” he said. “We have fostered so many cats here in our house and I have gotten way, way into it.”

You can often see and hear Howard talking to cats on his wife’s Instagram feeds (@bethostern and@bethstern). Earlier this week she posted on the latter a photo of a cute cat named Yoda, paws resting on a photo of Howard in the *New York Times* magazine. This was the caption: “Yoda Stern is so proud of his dad.”

Love! She is a saint!” Well, in 2005 he left terrestrial radio for Sirius XM, the then new subscription-based satellite radio service. He signed a five-year deal worth $500 million. There are now two live channels, Howard 100 and Howard 102, as well as an new app featuring his interviews. His latest contract will expire in 2020. Well, his being a judge on NBC’s *America’s Got Talent* from 2012 to 2015. The job paid $15 million a season but, Stern writes, “My principal motivation for joining the show was to shift the American public’s perception of me. In just one summer, I went from being America’s nightmare to being Santa Claus.”

Well, in 2017 he was operated on for what doctors suspected was cancer. It wasn’t but this experience gave him a hard taste of his own mortality. As he writes, “As you start to get older and your body begins to break down, it does get you thinking about your legacy, what you’ll leave behind, what you’re proud of.”

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IIS conducts investiture ceremony

Ideal Indian School (IIS) recently conducted an investiture ceremony for the newly elected members of ‘Voice Out’, the English literary club of IIS. Asaf Ali, Head of Department of English at IIS, presented an annual report highlighting the events conducted over the year. Speaking on the occasion, Syed Shoukath Ali, Principal of IIS, spoke about the value of improving communication skills to make a mark in the world. The annual in-house magazine ‘Word’s Worth’ was released as a Special Edition ‘Magical Malaysia’ with articles based on the students’ excursion to Malaysia in January, 2019. The office bearers for the new academic session of ‘Voice Out’ include Cenolia Fernandez, Secretary Girls; Zainab, Joint Secretary Girls; Aqil Ahmed, Secretary Boys; Yohan Luke, Joint Secretary Boys; Rajula Sadath, Teacher In-Charge Girls; and Dias Maria, Teacher In-Charge Boys.

PISQ organises ‘Spelling Bee Contest 2019’

Pakistan International School Qatar (PISQ) recently organised ‘Spelling Bee Contest 2019’ for the students of Primary Wing. Students of Grade I-IV. The competition was organised under the supervision of Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of PISQ. The competition kicked off with the recitation of the Holy Qur’an, which was followed by the first round of the contest. The competition was divided into two parts. In the first part, two teams from Grade I-II, comprising of six participants each, were called on the stage. The participants of each team competed against each other. Three rounds were played, and in each round, spelling of four words were asked from each student. At the end of round 3, ‘Win the Bee’ was played to break the tie among students. In Grade I, Amama bagged first position, which was followed by Abdul Wajid and Zainab with second and Qazi Saad with third position. In Grade II, Inshara Imama, Manha Fatima, Abdul Rahim and Azlan Nadeem bagged first position. In the second part of the competition, participants of Grade III-IV were called on stage. Ayesha Mushtaq, Sarim Fazil and Farwa Gillani, students of Grade III, bagged first, second and third position, respectively. In Grade IV, Ayesha Rashid and Dua Fatima clinched first position, which was followed by Maryam Sayeda with second and Ishaal Munshid and Fateh Ali with third position. The winners were felicitated on the occasion.
Palpa Welfare Society (PWS), a Nepali community organisation, is also set to organise a volleyball tournament and musical night as part of Eid al-Fitr celebrations on June 4-6. The prizes for the winning teams of volleyball competition, include QR4,111, first position; QR2,511, first runners up; QR1,511, second runners up; and QR511, third runners up. Around 25 Nepali teams are set to take part in the competition. The musical programme will be held at Gulf Paradise Hotel and will feature various Nepali artistes, including Narayan Rayamajhi, Manju Poudel, Bikram Pariyar, Shirish Devkota, Indra Joshi and Sapana Dangi.

Narayan Rayamajhi is a Nepali composer, lyricist, feature-film script writer, film director, and producer. He is a nationally renowned folk artist and has risen to the level of the top folk singer and movie director of Nepal. He has written more than fourteen dozen folk songs, more than six dozen modern songs, two dozen soap-opera songs, three musical plays, two documentaries and has directed two movies Gorkha Paltan and Pardeshi.

Manju Poudel is popular Nepali singer as well as performer. Shirish Devkota is Nepali folk singer. Bikram Pariyar is also a young energetic folk singer. According to Ishwor Kafle, President of PWS, the event is free for all. Kafle said the event’s purpose is to promote tourism in Palpa district of Nepal.

Text by Usha Wagle Gautam

DPS-MIS organises ‘Scholar Badge and All Rounders Award Ceremony’

DPS-Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS) recently organised ‘Scholar Badge and All Rounders Award Ceremony’ to felicitate the outstanding students of Grade VIII, IX and XI in curricular and co-curricular activities. Yasir Nainar, Vice President at DPS-MIS, was the chief guest and Professor Khalid al-Jufairi a special guest.

Asna Nafees, Principal of DPS-MIS, welcomed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, she said, “It is indeed a consequential moment for those who have toiled tirelessly to reach to perfection in their pursuits.” She also applauded the DPS-MIS multitaskers for their commendable acumen to accomplish a host of activities together with élan and conviction. She also appreciated the visionary patrons and the management of DPS/MIS and urged the parents to spend quality time with their wards, guide them to make the judicious use of technology and reinforce the core values in them to develop them into future ambassadors of goodwill and peace.

Yasir Nainar lauded the young achievers for their enthusiasm, commitment and sheer hard work. He stated that the unique and time-tested DPS-MIS scholar badge ceremony is indeed a motivational force for the students to perform better year after year. Highlighting the importance of peer-learning, he advised the students to share their success with others to add value to their lives.

A total of 182 students were awarded trophies, badges, certificates, blue blazers and blue ties, gold medal and special award for their academic and all round performance.

Text by Usha Wagle Gautam
Fiesta San Antonio is the perfect expression of diversity and heritage.

No one comes to San Antonio without spending time on the Riverwalk, browsing the shops, taking a narrated cruise passing under cypress canopies and elaborate stone bridges, and sampling the food, writes Patti Nickell.

DIVERSITY: The largest of the La Villita celebrations is 'A Night in Old San Antonio (NIOSA), a four-night gathering honouring the diverse cultures that shaped the city. They offer food and entertainment from not only South of the Border, but from unexpected places such as China, the Canary Islands, Germany and the Czech Republic, all of which had an impact on the city.

I agree to this statement by J Frank Dobie, a former journalist, folklorist and rancher: "Every true Texan has two prides: his hometown and the Alamo."

My trip to the Alamo began as a teenager when my grandfather first took me to the storied mission. I was appropriately awed at being in the spot where 189 defenders took their last stand against a Mexican army of several thousand. They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation). They held out for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation (yes, for 13 days, resulting in everlasting glory and the birth of a nation).
ession for a culturally distinctive city

Institute of America, which opened a third branch in the Pearl District. The CIA is open for tours and cooking classes. You’ll have to leave the Pearl District to experience two of San Antonio’s must-visit dining establishments. Reserve a table for brunch at La Panaderia, a Mexican bakery specialising in long-fermented Latin American breads. Then head back to the Riverwalk and try to snag a table at Restaurant Gwendolyn (with only 12 tables, reservations are a must). If you do get in, you’ll have bragging rights over those who tried and failed. The food is superb, all local and within a tight radius of the city. What's remarkable, however, is that in the fishbowl of a kitchen (it’s both tiny and visible to a portion of the dining room), there are no electrical gadgets. The kitchen staff is devoted to preparing food as they did in the 1850s, pre-kitchen technology. Try the seven-course tasting menu, which my friend and I would have done at another time. We had to ‘settle’ for an abbreviated menu as we were dining here before the Fiesta grand finale, the Flambeau Parade.

This year’s theme was ‘Reflections of Music Past’ and the beautifully illuminated floats were worthy of the estimated 750,000 spectators along the 2.6-mile parade route, as well as another 1.5 million watching it on their television sets.

One musical reflection that was definitely not from the past, the University of Texas Longhorn Band, got the loudest ovation from the crowd. In their spiffy burnt orange and white uniforms, the high-stepping band kicked off the parade just as it has for the past 71 years. Fiesta is a perfect expression of the colour and pageantry of this culturally distinctive city, as unique to San Antonio as Mardi Gras is to New Orleans. So, join in the revelry and add your voice to the chant heard throughout the city ‘Viva Fiesta!’ – TNS

LARGEST PARADE: Many of the floats feature princesses decked out in elaborate beaded gowns depicting everything from the Texas flag to the flora and fauna of the state, takes part in Battle of Flowers Parade, one of the largest parades in the country.

PICTURESQUE: Mission Concepcion exterior in San Antonio, Texas.

RIVERSIDE THEATRE: For the best experience, grab a riverside table at the Iron Cactus. Try to see a performance at the Arneson River Theatre where the stage is on one side of the river and the audience on the other.
Reaching out for the moon

“*I want to be in love with you the same way I am in love with the moon with the light shining out of its soul.*”

Poet and writer Sanober Khan is on message here and it is just as well that the celestial body is the metaphor for its luminosity.

Last Thursday, I happened to note a Facebook alert about the moon appearing close. I rushed off to Souq Waqif with the purpose of grabbing some lunar shine — the souq was the chosen rendezvous because I recalled this avid stargazer there with his strategically placed telescope to make the experience worthwhile.

One was not to be disappointed — which is what happens with a Meade LX10 EMC to transport you to another world. Amro Attiah, an Optics graduate who likes to call his 5-riyal adventure spot “Waqif Scope Station” (opposite the Fanar Mosque), was at hand to knock down the weighty telescope and fix the powerful lens that he says he bought online from the US.

How does one describe the experience of getting up, close and personal with the moon, except getting “moony” as they say, in popular parlance. A replica with artificial light hovering over it to make it visible in the dark of the night was nearby for inspiration. It was nearly perfect, but of course not a patch on the real thing. The craters were visible and a shimmer that was hard to beat. One also got a chance to watch Saturn and its rings, which however appeared hazier.

But the moon is a completely different kettle of fish — or astronomical body to be precise. It may be the (only permanent) natural satellite of our planet, but it is a thing of beauty and a joy forever!

—Text and photos by Kamran Rehmat
@kaamyabi
Playing living legend poses unique challenges: Ranveer

REAL HERO: Ranveer Singh is diving into the role of real life cricket icon Kapil Dev.

H e has played a quirky wedding planner, a street-smart con man, a ruthless invader, a rapper, and now he is diving into the role of real life cricket icon Kapil Dev. Actor Ranveer Singh says essaying an icon like the former Indian skipper comes with a set of challenges, which he is well prepared to face.

Ranveer has embarked upon the journey of ‘83, a Bollywood film in which he will be seen as Kapil Dev.

Before leaving for London with the ‘squad’ to begin the shoot, Ranveer said: “I feel prepared and less anxious than was when I started.”

“This is the longest I have prepared for any role. I have been preparing essentially since January, which makes it about six months. I have done three weeks, three and a half weeks, four weeks, six weeks, but six months preparing for a character is unique... But then, it’s a unique film in itself,” added the actor, who was suited, booted and moustached for the role.

As the ‘game’ is about to begin, the actor gave an insight into the preparation that has gone into it.

“Playing a living legend poses a unique set of challenges, and your approach to the preparation for that character has to be all the more intensive. And it has been. But at the same time, it has been very rewarding and fulfilling,” said Ranveer.

In the course of the “absolutely wonderful” period, the actor says he has learnt a lot about being an athlete, about cricket and about the “iconic cricketer” Kapil Dev.

Ranveer not just trained with Kapil Dev in Dharamsala, but also spent about 10 days with him in Delhi, trying to pick on the nuances to bring out the best possible performance on-screen.

The actor says, “It was a process of taking a lot of tips... Cricketing is one aspect and then the characterisation is one aspect. So it has been a two-prong process in essence.

“I think what I gained from Kapil sir has been invaluable. There is no other way I’d do it. I am very fortunate, privileged and honoured that he welcomed me into his home. He was warm, welcoming and forthcoming. Everything I gained from him during those days is going to be invaluable for the construction of my performance.”

Presented by Reliance Entertainment, ‘83 will begin its shoot from June 5 in Glasgow.

Joining Ranveer are Saqib Saleem, Adinath Kothare, Chirag Patil, Harddy Sandhu, Ammy Virk, Jatin Sarna, Pankaj Tripathi, Tahir Raj Bhasin, Dinker Sharma, Jiiva, Sahil Khattar, Dhairya Karwa, Nishant Dahiya and R Badree.

The squad will begin the shooting at a local cricket spot in the Scottish port city for a week, followed by other popular locations like Dulwich College in London, Edinburgh Cricket Club, Nevill Ground at Royal Tunbridge Wells in Kent and The Oval cricket ground.

The film will trace India’s historic victory in the 1983 cricket World Cup. It is slated to release on April 10, 2020 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. – IANS

Sonic the Hedgehog release date moved back amid character’s redesign

The makers of Sonic the Hedgehog are slowing things down.

The film’s release date has been moved back three months after director Jeff Fowler announced a redesign was coming.

“Taking a little more time to make Sonic just right,” Fowler shared Friday on Twitter.

The live-action and computer-generated movie will now open on Feb. 14, 2020, after originally being slated for this Nov. 8.

Fowler announced the redesign on May 2, shortly after Sonic’s appearance in the first trailer became the subject of jokes and memes on social media, many of which focused on the high-speed hedgehog character having human-like teeth.

“Thank you for the support. And the criticism,” Fowler tweeted at the time. “The message is loud and clear... you aren’t happy with the design & you want changes. It’s going to happen. Everyone at Paramount & Sega are fully committed to making this character the BEST he can be.”

Sonic the Hedgehog is based on the SEGA video game series by the same name. Sonic is voiced by Ben Schwartz, while Jim Carrey plays the villainous Doctor Eggman. – New York Daily News/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.

BATHER   SHADE    GOD
DOWN     BURST    STROKE
RISE     FLOWER   DIAL
BELT     SHINE     LAMP
DRY      DANCE     TRAP
SCREEN   GLASSES   DIAL
BURN     SPOT      LIGHT
FISH     DAY       WORKSHINE

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a grid with digits. The digits are one to nine (1-9). Some cells are pre-filled with digits. The goal is to place the remaining digits in the grid so that each row, column, and 3x3 box contains all the digits from 1 to 9 without repetition.

Bound And Gagged

According to my "Around Me" App, there's a dead antelope a mile from here.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Clamber’s another way to put it (8)
6 Whistle-blower in Hereford (3)
9 Float freely up in the air (5)
10 Inquisitive about, for example, a bouquet (7)
11 Fielder - one of daddy’s six? (4, 3)
13 As predicted, drink is knocked back inside (5)
14 View, finally, that is most extensive (6)
15 Boss put right after error (6)
19 Quick attack seizing power (5)
21 Delivery made by down-to-earth supplier (7)
22 First course for race official (7)
23 Short twisted fibre (5)
24 Can it turn north? (3)
25 Pleasure-seeker, curiously, might have done this (8)

Down
2 Outside Geordie territory many people get hit on the head (7)
3 Ace taking some exercise to get fit (3)
4 Harmless guy’s first seen in African country (6)
5 Comfortable situation for a professor? (4, 5)
6 Unyielding soldier breaking free (5)
7 Reception area for you inside (5)
8 Immature beast eating everything (6)
12 Desperate jockey’s final obstacle? (4, 5)
16 The queen is surrounded by chips or ships (7)
17 Cheat or rascal not working (3, 3)
18 The poet, we hear, is excluded (6)
19 Some ignore site for further examination (5)
20 Frank is not attractive (5)
23 Container for a bit of bread at home (3)

Yesterday’s Solutions

Wordsearch

Codeword
Now test stress level at home

Feeling stressed out? Take this newly discovered home-test that can easily measure your stress level and tell you whether you need to consult a doctor or not.

The researchers, including one of Indian origin, from the University of Cincinnati have conducted a new test with a device that uses ultra-violet light to measure common stress hormones using sweat, blood, urine or saliva.

“This may not give you all the information, but it tells you whether you need a professional who can take over,” said Andrew Steckl, Professor at the varsity.

The research, published in American Chemical Society Sensors journal, showed that the device measures stress biomarkers in our blood, sweat, urine or saliva.

“It measures not just one biomarker but multiple biomarkers. And it can be applied to different bodily fluids. That’s what’s unique,” Steckl said.

The researchers, however, maintained that the test is not an alternative for laboratory tests.

“This doesn’t replace laboratory tests, but it could tell patients more or less where they are… If you’re able to do the test at home because you’re not feeling well and want to know where you stand, this will tell whether your condition has changed a little or a lot,” Steckl noted.

Stress is linked to several physical ailments such as diabetes, high blood pressure and neurological or psychological disorders. Understanding how stress affects you individually could be extremely valuable, the researchers said.

“This test has the potential to make a strong commercial device. It would be great to see the research go in that direction,” said Prajokta Ray, the study’s first author and a graduate from the varsity. - IANS
Pardon and forgiveness in Ramadan

Pardon means treating the evil doer and those who are mistaken with tolerance and forgiveness, and not punishing him or treating him in the same way he did.

Pardon is one of the Attributes of Allah The Almighty and a feature of His methodology. Allah The Almighty describes Himself as “Ever Pardoning and Forgiving”, “Pardons much,” and “Pardons misdeeds.” Allah The Almighty shows unique pardon in the month of Ramadan, as He The Almighty Says (what means): {Allah knows that you used to deceive yourselves, so He accepted your repentance and forgave you.} [Qur’an 2:187] In Ramadan, ‘Aa’ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, asked the Messenger of Allah, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam ( may Allah exalt his mention ), “If I get to know the Night of Al-Qadr, what should I say in it?” He instructed her to say: “Allahumma innaka ‘Afuwwun tuhibbu al-‘afwa fa’fu ‘anni (O Allah, Who pardons and loves pardoning! Pardon me.)” [At-Tirmithi: Saheeh]

These two verses provide another reason why people should pardon one another; since they love that Allah The Almighty pardons them and that they themselves benefit from His pardon and that of people, they should pardon and forgive people. In other words, we should pardon people as we seek pardon for ourselves and our mistakes.

Allah The Almighty Says (what means): {And who restrain anger and who pardon the people.} [Qur’an 3:134] This verse calls for a unique level of pardon, which is, pardoning at the moment of anger and agitation. This is a rank that is very high and difficult to attain. When people incline to pardoning and forgiveness, they usually do it when they are relaxed and calm, which is probably preceded by an angry reaction.

Therefore, Allah The Almighty gives special praise to those who restrain anger and pardon people. They pardon while in the state of anger, nervousness, and pain resulting from the harm that befalls them. In this sense, the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam ( may Allah exalt his mention ) said: “Real patience is that which is showed at the first stroke of grief,” and he said: “The strong man is not one who is good at wrestling, but the strong man is the one who controls himself in a fit of rage.” [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Such was the manner of the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam ( may Allah exalt his mention ) and the prophets before him.

Ibn Mas’ood, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “I can still recall as if I am seeing the Messenger of Allah sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam ( may Allah exalt his mention ) resembling one of the prophets whose people scourged him and sted his blood, while he wiped blood from his face, he said: ‘O Allah! Forgive my people for they do not know.’” [Al-Bukhari and Muslim] — Islamweb.net
Muslims live in all corners of the world. Everywhere they experience and observe the holy month of Ramadan in different ways as per their respective cultures.

As there are Muslim expatriates from different countries living in Qatar, their experiences of observing Ramadan in Qatar have been different culturally from their own countries. Most of them find it exciting when they experience Ramadan in Qatar for the first time.

Salman Sayed is a Ugandan expatriate observing Ramadan for the first time in Qatar. He finds it easy here to have time for prayers and recitation of the holy Qur’an. Community recently got in touch with Salman, who shared how he observes Ramadan in Qatar.

Introducing himself, Salman said: “I am from Kampala in Uganda. My mother is a Somali and my father is a Ugandan. I come from a polygamous family that has 28 children. I have been in Qatar for nine months now. I have been working as a CCTV operator with a hospital. I am a born-Muslim and to me it has been a blessing to live a life striving for Jannah.”

When asked to share how he used to observe Ramadan in Uganda, Salman said: “Ramadan in Uganda is exciting in its own way. Normally, the month starts with the first Tarawih prayers. Most masjids prefer the Sunnah of 20 rakaat.

“In the mornings, there are always two adhaans. One adhaan wakes up the Muslims for Suhoor. Then about two hours later the adhaan for Fajr prayer goes as regularly. Following the Fajr prayer, everybody turns to their daily duties.

“Everyone’s routine remains pretty much the same just like before Ramadan. Unlike Qatar, in Uganda there is no reduction in the working hours. The only public place you will find Iftar is at a masjid. It is during Iftar that the masjids get so active. Most of the masjids serve the food in big plates that about five people share. It is mostly only fried rice because it is easy to prepare and that is what most people prefer.”

“Nevertheless, it has given me a first-hand experience of what fasting was like for the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions. We also fast in Qatar two hours longer than back in Uganda but I have been able to cope with it.”

“‘It is incredibly inspiring how much generosity is visible here. Almost every masjid offers Iftar packages for each individual and there is really nice food in it. It makes me look forward to the next Iftar. I cannot tell you how many random acts of kindness I have experienced and witnessed this Ramadan”

— Salman Sayed

He further praised different activities in Qatar during Ramadan. “I am so impressed by the effort everybody puts into Ramadan here. Ramadan is the month mentioned in the Qur’an and the reduced working hours give me more time to recite, reflect and understand the Qur’an more. Working only for six hours leaves you with enough to do extra prayers. I also get enough rest and this helps me stay focused at the workplace the next day. It is really so easy to schedule your day with different forms of worship if you have enough time.

“The Iftar tents, Iftar gathering, and Iftar boxes distributed by different groups among the cab drivers at the intersections is so inspiring. It shows the true spirit of unity among the Muslims and being there for one another. It is incredibly inspiring how much generosity is visible here. It really lifts up your Ramadan spirit. Almost every masjid offers Iftar packages for each individual and there is really nice food in it. It makes me look for Iftar next. I cannot tell you how many random acts of kindness I have experienced and witnessed this Ramadan.”

He added: “It has been a wonderful experience. I still have more than a year left on my contract so obviously I will be looking forward to experiencing another Ramadan in Qatar.”